

Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

Newsletter

January - February 2017

“Preserving the Best of Corona”

Editor: Mary Winn

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A Message From Your President Fred Parr

Dear Members,

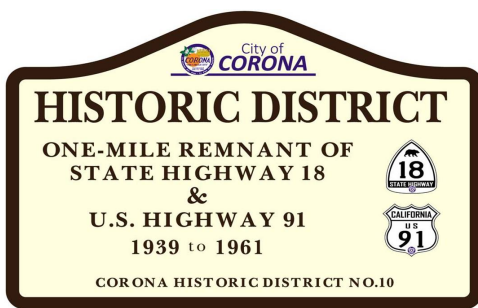
2016 was another great year for the CHPS. We continued to direct our effort and fundraising towards the preservation and protection of Corona’s historic sites, buildings, neighborhoods and resources. We worked to improve our communication and cooperation with governmental and private partners.

Our Quarterly Meeting programs provided excellent educational opportunities for our members.

The Vintage Home Tour was another tremendous success and allowed members to take a tour of three unique and historic properties inside and one outside the Boulevard. The Home Preservation Grant Program provided funds which helped to protect and beautify historic structures. We continue



to receive overwhelmingly positive feedback and support for our bi-monthly *CHPS Newsletter*. Our website and social media efforts continue to grow into very effective avenues for communicating and educating. We placed new historic markers and signage and you can look forward to more information and development of the historic marker/site program this year.



We completed our planning



process and our new Strategic Plan which will guide all our efforts and re-

sources in 2017. The Strategic Plan is now on our website under the CHPS tab.

We have enlisted the University of California, Riverside and their “Source” program to help analyze and make suggestions regarding significant goals which were identified in our strategic planning process.

We look forward this year to some major preservation efforts including the rehabilitation of the Veterans Memorial Wall at Butterfield Park built during the escalation of the Vietnam War and dedicated on Memorial Day in 1969.

I hope you will join us on Saturday, February 18th for the fourth part of our series “Growing up in Corona” which will feature a panel of Corona High alumni from the 1970s - see page 3 for details. If you did not get a chance to attend the previous events in the series, they can be viewed on our YouTube channel. The icon can be clicked on our website home page. You can also simply go to www.youtube.com and type “Corona Historic Preservation Society.”

It has been my pleasure to serve as the President this last year and I would like to thank the Board and membership for the support, help and friendship. Happy New Year and I wish all who read these words a healthy and rewarding 2017.

Sincerely,

FRED PARR



Another Historic Holiday Party By Eric Bergreen

On Monday, December 5th, the Corona Historic Preservation Society held its annual Christmas party at the beautifully decorated Woman's Improvement Club clubhouse located on the corner of Main and Eleventh Streets and the turnout was wonderful. Members brought appetizers from fresh veggie platters to casseroles and main dishes of ham and turkey. The event started at 6:30 and carried on until 9:00.

ful celebration in their clubhouse. Eugene and Paula Montanez of Allegra also gifted attendees with their 2017 calendars focusing on the "Faces and Places" of our hometown. You can't go wrong with celebrating the holidays in Corona.



President Fred Parr got the evening started by welcoming our members and guests and updating all on what has been happening over the last year and also about future projects being planned by the CHPS. While we dined, we got to play trivia with Tom Richins who came up with fifteen fun facts about the history of our city. For all interested there was a photo booth set up with different outfits available to wear for pictures. Be sure to check out the fun photos of Tom and Paula Muñoz to the right.



Dress attire was casual with some of the members dressing up in period themed outfits. A prize was given out for best dressed and another for most right answers on Tom's quiz. Trisha Henson-Cabrera made Christmas lantern center pieces and a lucky person from each table got to take one of these beautiful creations home with them at the end of the night.



To cap off our evening, the Corona High School Madrigal Choir performed for us. They started by singing the National Anthem and moved on to a heartfelt set of international Christmas songs and even an interpretation of "Yellow Submarine." They finished their last song to a standing ovation. In all it was quite a party and we are looking forward to the next big event.

The CHPS would like to thank all members for helping out, all guests for coming and providing dishes for the buffet, the CHS Madrigals for filling the room with harmonious sounds of the season and to the Woman's Improvement Club for allowing CHPS to host this wonder-



First Quarterly Meeting: "Growing Up in Corona - 1970s"

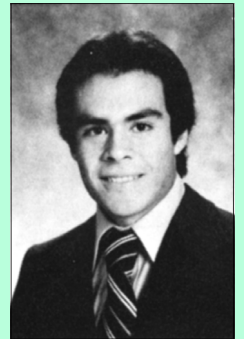
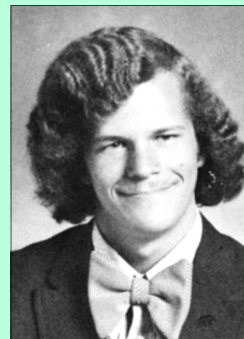
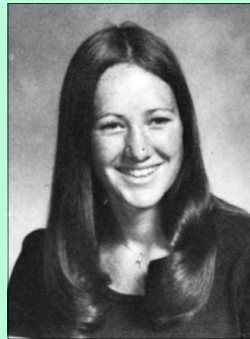
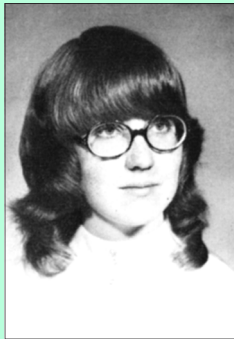
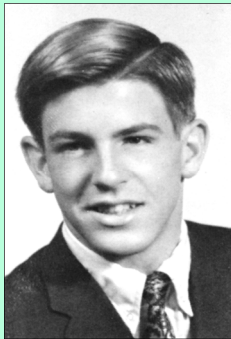


CHPS will host a panel discussion made up of men and women who graduated from Corona High School between 1970 and 1979. They will share stories and describe what it was like to grow up in Corona during the 1970s era.

WHEN: Saturday, February 18 at 10:00 A.M.

**WHERE: Community Room of the Historic Civic Center
815 West Sixth Street**

This meeting is free of charge and is open to the public.



Panelists and their graduation year from Corona High School L-R:

**Randy Rawson '70, Paula Danner Montanez '73, Elaine Bechtel Norland '74,
Bret Keesler '76, Cyndi Sandoval Yancu '77 and Peter Espinoza '78**



Former Coronan Henry E. Stiles' Story By Mary Winn



This calendar was a spontaneous Ebay purchase from long ago. I recently rediscovered it and knew I had to research it further. I didn't expect to find much but was delighted to discover the fascinating man behind my purchase, Henry E. Stiles, turned out to be a colorful character from decades ago when he resided in Corona. Although Henry was unknown to me before, his often outrageous antics and consistent criticism reminds me of other local personalities I've been aware of in my 40+ years of being a Coronan.

Henry was born in Kentucky in 1880 and arrived in Corona in 1923. There were 180 "hits" when I did an online search of his name in Corona newspapers. So I methodically reviewed them one by one until his tragic death on January 13, 1957 at age 76. Although I searched, unfortunately, I was unable to locate a photo of Henry.

Lizzy Murphy married Henry in 1904 in Wichita, Kansas but he was listed as divorced in 1930 Census records. In 1936, he was remarried to May Elizabeth Pratt in the "first wedding solemnized in City Park." This fact was emphasized as noteworthy in several news articles.

It turns out that Henry worked in a variety of jobs such as oil field worker in World War I documents, a carpenter in 1942 Draft records, all before becoming a physio-therapist.

Stiles Sanitorium was first located in his home at 601 Joy Street, as listed in the above calendar. In 1953, the building was demolished so he moved his home and business a few doors down to 615 Joy Street.

Anecdotal evidence of Henry's advocacy:

- Henry crafted the catchy slogan "The Circle City, good all the way around" in a letter to the editor. He loved Corona and often heralded the city's good drinking water, great weather, clean air and that it was located in the center of the Citrus Belt.
- Henry was prolific at writing letters to the editor of the

Corona Daily Independent; in fact the editor stated he had to limit printing just one of Henry's letters per week. ● Henry often "left the audience gasping" when he spoke at City Council meetings about a myriad of topics: i.e., 1- building public restrooms in the downtown area, 2- using the Plunge all year, 3- increasing recreational facilities "to keep children off the delinquent list," 4- changing to a ward/district system to elect city council members, 5- doing a "clean sweep of city hall from cellar to garret" including a recall.

● The Brown Act wasn't enacted until 1953, so city council members were known to hold "secret sessions" years prior to this. This enraged Henry so he ran unsuccessfully for City Council in 1946 (see campaign ad below) and again in 1950.

● He was consistently outspoken about improving Corona as seen in a December 1950 letter: "We are postponing any further efforts on our part until the people get the jelly out of their knees and backbones and are willing to stand up for decency."

In April 1951 and at age 71, Henry was arrested and charged with practicing medicine without a license by the California Board of Medical Examiners. Although the charges were eventually dropped, the experience seemed to "take the wind out of his sails" as far as his political advocacy went. He ceased speaking at city meetings and writing letters to the editor, except in 1953 when he penned a letter to dispel the rumor that he had died. From then on, his business newspaper ads included: "We are not doctors, we are doers."

The rest of Henry E. Stiles' story is heartbreaking. In late December 1956, he was arrested and charged with beating his wife to the point that she almost died. He posted bail and became "markedly upset and despondent" over his situation.

At age 76, Henry took his own life under very sad circumstances on January 13, 1957. His body was discovered by his lawyer who had come by to discuss his arraignment hearing.

Behind the façade of the lovely and staid Stiles Sanatorium 1951 calendar, there exists the story of a unique Coronan. Historical curiosity always seems to lead to new and interesting revelations about citizens of our fair city.

HENRY E. STILES

Councilman Candidate

HENRY E. STILES OF STILES SANATORIUM, WHO IS NOW A CANDIDATE FOR CITY COUNCILMAN OF CORONA, Pledges himself that if elected, April 9, he will stand for the laboring man of Corona, for better wages and working conditions, better equipment and machinery, for needed changes, beautifying of the city, more safety, and everything that will benefit the city and induce more development and more people to come to Corona and more money to be spent in Corona, more amusements and better living conditions.

He also pledges that there will be no secret council meetings of the council, and says that he will have to be the goat for this term of office, but demands that the council room be filled with the citizens on every council night. That if he is the goat he wants the common people to be there to do the herding and not the old bosses as in the past.

(Paid Political Advertisement)

2016 Holiday Party History Trivia Quiz By Tom Richins

Everyone at the Holiday Party enjoyed the Corona History Trivia Quiz created by Tom Richins. If you were unable to join us, we have included it here in the *CHPS Newsletter*. **The correct answers are in bold font.**

1. Make your best guess, write a number between 1 and 1000, guessing how many Corona locals served in World War II. **920**
2. **True** / False: At one time in Corona's history, Del Taco's world headquarters was located in the city of Corona.
3. **True** / False: There is an Indian Chief buried within city limits.
4. Circle the town or towns listed that during World War II had airplane observation towers.
 - A. **Corona**
 - B. **Norco**
 - C. **Prado**
5. True / **False**: At one time, Walt Disney considered building Disneyland in Corona rather than Anaheim.
6. Which packing house was the first built in Corona?
 - A. Flagler Packing House
 - B. Call Packing House
 - C. **Sunset Packing House**
 - D. Thieme Packing House
7. What was the name of Corona prior to the 1896 name change? **South Riverside**
8. One of the reasons that Corona incorporated a circular Grand Boulevard was for the purposes of having horse races. Therefore, Yes or **NO**, were there ever officially sanctioned horse races conducted on Grand Boulevard?
9. **True** / False: At the time of race car driver Bob Burman's death during the 1916 races in Corona, Bob Burman held the world speed record in an automobile.
10. **True** / False: Corona was once considered the "Lemon Capital of the World."
11. Which President of the United States filmed a movie in the city of Corona? **Ronald Reagan**
12. Now many nicknames can you come up with for the city of Corona? **Circle City, Queen Colony, Crown Colony, Crown Town,**
13. **True** / False: Corona at one time in its history had a Pacific Electric trolley station in the downtown area.
14. Best guess or do you know? The first baby born in Corona was a:
 - A. Boy
 - B. **Girl**
15. **True** / False: Before Prado Dam was built, there was an actual town named Prado located there.

Extra Credit: One point for each correct answer. Name the first six churches that were built in Corona (in no particular order):

- 1- **First Baptist**
- 2- **First Congregational**
- 3- **Christian Science**
- 4- **Methodist**
- 5- **Episcopal**
- 6- **Catholic**

Annual CHPS Election Results

The annual election took place at our CHPS Annual Holiday party on Monday, December 5, 2016.

The slate of officers proposed by the Nominations Committee was elected without a contrary vote. Results:

Directors

Eric Bergreen
Paula Muñoz
Tom Muñoz
Mary Winn

Advisors

Marla Benson
Tom Richins
Ted Taylor

Directors are elected to a two-year term, Advisors are elected to a one-year term.

Save the Date - March 4, 2017



We invite you to take advantage of the upcoming **Riverside County History Symposium** on Saturday, **March 4, 2017** in the historic Hemet Theater from 8AM-3PM.

CHPS members have attended these annual symposia in the past and have thoroughly enjoyed them.

For more details and registration visit:

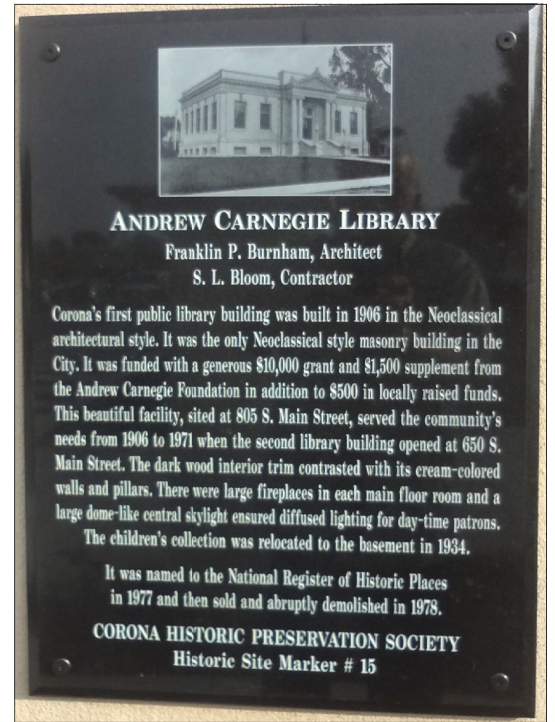
www.rivcohistorysymposium.weebly.com

Carnegie Library Historic Site Marker Placed By Richard Winn

At long last, CHPS recently affixed the permanent Historic Site Marker #15 commemorating Corona's Andrew Carnegie Public Library (1906-1971.) Additional history regarding this site will soon be found on the CHPS website under the AWARDS / MARKERS tab. Placement of the plaque is a culmination of our agreement with Dr. Bruce Houman, who proposed and developed the medical office building with its historical architectural elements. The library was razed in 1978; the site remained a weed lot until 2015 when building of the plaza began.



Looking to the northeast at the southeast corner of Main and Eighth Streets, one sees both the building monument sign and the Historic Site Marker plaque



Donating, Renewing or Joining CHPS Online

By Richard Winn

The following explanation has been added to the CHPS website home page to explain how to join or renew your membership in the Society electronically using PayPal or in the traditional manner with a hard copy application that is mailed to the CHPS P.O. box..

How to join or donate:

To join electronically, you may use the PayPal "Add to Cart" **PayPal** button at the top of the CHPS home page or you may obtain a membership application from the website or from any issue of the bi-monthly *CHPS Newsletter*. The completed application, or a donation in any amount, may be mailed in with a check, in the correct amount for the desired category of membership, to:

Corona Historic Preservation Society
P. O. Box 2904
Corona, CA 92878

To donate electronically please use the "Donate" **PayPal** button at the top or bottom of this page. If the donation is to be directed to a special project or activity (historic markers, road signs, Veteran's Memorial Wall, etc.), please describe the activity or project in the "Message" block.

New CHPS Preservation Effort

By Wes Speake

The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is sponsoring the preservation / restoration of a seemingly forgotten piece of Corona history. We are seeking the community's assistance in contributing funds, donating materials or donation of services in order to preserve for future generations the rapidly deteriorating Veteran's Memorial Wall at Butterfield Park.



The Memorial Wall was dedicated on Memorial Day 1969 (image above left). Sadly, due to the political climate at the time, the wall was vandalized shortly after its dedication and then pretty much abandoned due to the unpopularity of the Vietnam War and left to deteriorate (image upper right). Bricks are \$100 each and can be purchased as described at the left. A December 15, 2016 posting on the City's *Inner Circle* electronic newsletter explains the intent of this program in greater detail.

Membership Information

**When joining or renewing your membership, please make your
tax deductible check payable to "CHPS"**

Individual Member	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer!	
Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitality refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter writing articles	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vintage Home Tour	
Patron	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	docent / volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Gift from _____



Membership Status: Renewal New

Please complete form and mail to:

CHPS

**P.O. Box 2904
Corona, CA 92878**



We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Patricia Barker
Barbara Bucher
Richard & Martha DeBlois
Ed Dillon
Gary & Doris Osko
Chuck & Anne Hirbour
Linda Linville
Gerry & Camille Page

Marian Perez
Georgia L. Randall
Alan & Nancy Royce
Blake & Kim Ryan
Sue Simmons
Ted & Cindi Taylor
Dick Tichy
G. Carleton & Patricia Wallace

Our Home Preservation Grant Program

The CHPS Grant Committee along with the Board of Directors of the Corona Historic Preservation Society would love to assist local homeowners in making exterior improvements to their historic homes.

We will process any application within 60 days after submittal. Once a grant has been approved and reimbursement limits established, funds will be made available upon completion, inspection and onsite final approval.

Take this opportunity to do some fixing up and have part of the material cost covered by CHPS. Remember we are interested in helping people beautify their homes for others to see, so applications are primarily for curb appeal projects. If you have a place that you feel needs help, either your



own or a neighbor's, please contact CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program Chairman Tom Richins at thomas-richins@outlook.com or 949.231.8596. We will assist you in any way possible to provide the information you need to complete the application process.

Grant applications are available at the Community Development Department at Corona City Hall at 400 South Vicentia, and at the Heritage Room of the Corona Public Library.

More information and grant applications may also be downloaded from our website:
<<http://corona-history.org/grants.html>>

Please share this information with others!



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

Board of Directors

President - Fred Parr
Vice President - Wes Speake
Secretary - Doris Osko
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors

Eric Bergreen
Trisha Henson-Cabrera
Paula Muñoz
Tom Muñoz
Mary Winn

Advisors

Marla Benson
Tom Richins
Ted Taylor



To contact us call
951.898.2044

*Please leave a brief
message*



Our Mission Statement

The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is a nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the PRESERVATION, PROTECTION and PERPETUATION of Corona's historic sites, buildings, neighborhoods and resources. We do this through education, community events, preservation projects and tireless advocacy for the benefit of present and future generations.

Monthly Meetings

CHPS Board meetings are held each month to transact Society business, discuss issues affecting the Society and preservation of local historic resources.

All members are invited to attend.

The next Board meetings will be:

Thursday, January 19, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office
Thursday, February 16, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS Office

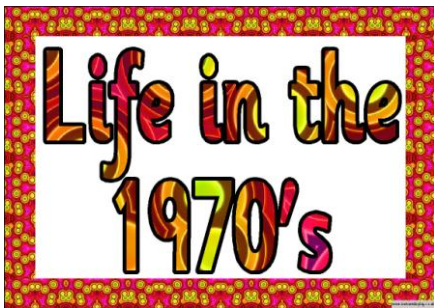


Visit our Website at www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

P.O. Box 2904
Corona, California 92878-2904



Panel discussion on February 18th



Happy New Year

Hear from 1970s Corona High Alumni on Feb. 18th