

A Message From Your President Wes Speake

Dear Members,

May is a very special month in Corona. Every May is observed as National Historic Preservation Month. It is because of this national recognition that CHPS has traditionally held our Vintage Home Tours in the Month of May. Of special significance in May is the anniversary of Corona’s (as South Riverside) founding on May 4, 1886, making Corona 131 years old. May of 2017 also marked the 34th birthday of the Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS). The CHPS celebrated this milestone with a delicious lemon cake, of course, at Heritage Park on May 13, 2017 at the *Grand Tour* event.



advertisements for land sales, land swaps and land speculation. These speculations included everything from crop land, water and various mining claims of clay, mineral paint (or ocher.) The National Paint and Color Company of Corona produced 20 different colors all mined between Main Street Canyon and Hagador Canyons. Yes,

MAY
is
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
MONTH

It was such a great opportunity to present our inaugural *Grand Tour: A curbside view of the Heritage and Architecture of the Circle City*. The tour was very successful and we will be planning on another bus tour next year. We are also planning to offer the Vintage Home Tour again in 2018. Also in May, in conjunction with the City of Corona; we participated in another historic community clean-up event *Corona Beautiful 2.0 Polishing the Crown*.

June started off with bang, with CHPS hosting our **free** freshly squeezed Lemonade Stand at Heritage Park as part of the 16th Annual Corona Antiques and Collectibles Faire. Our little stand raised over \$400 on donations alone! All money the CHPS raises goes right back into the community, through our Home Preservation Grant Program, Historic Marker Program and our education, preservation and advocacy programs. More of these great programs are planned for the future.

In the coming months, we will be announcing some big changes to our Historic Marker Program, including placement of three new Historic Markers: #23 at the original Washington School, #24 the original Municipal Plunge, and #25 the Pacific Electric Depot on Third and Main streets.

I am constantly amazed by the history all around us, just sitting there waiting to be uncovered. Recently when researching a future story on Hagador Canyon and Tin Mine canyon. I kept finding stories, notices and

even coal and oil have been found around Tin Mine and Hagador Canyon. Yes, this speculation drew settlers from all over the country. However, citrus ended up being Corona’s claim to fame and to grow citrus you need water. Many of you are aware of stories about the diversion of water from Temescal Valley that helped make Corona’s citrus future viable. Water has always been the life blood for the west, and it was no different when Corona was founded. Domestic water was needed and it was first found in Hagador Canyon and was the source of Corona’s first domestic water supply. There is currently an old existing steel pipe that extends into Hagador Canyon. However, I believe this pipe was used to bring water out of the canyon for citrus that was planted much later. Most likely these pipes were made from clay. Apparently, Hagador Canyon couldn’t produce enough water as Corona grew so other water resources were tapped sometime between 1902 and 1907.

Sincerely,
WES



Arriving at South Riverside, we paid our respects to the hospitality of landlord Fawcett, of the Hotel Temescal, made THE BEE a call, and then taking fresh horses started for Tin Mine canyon, which we were informed was about three miles from the town of South Riverside. A good road lead to the canyon, which, by the way, supplies the domestic water for the town. Not more than half a mile up the canyon—or more properly speaking, a branch of the canyon—is found

The source of the news clipping to the left is *South Riverside Bee*, November 3, 1887.

The source of the news clipping below is *Corona Daily Independent*, January 18, 1954.

Practically all Canyons and Streams where surface flowage water was present in Corona District years ago, today, these streams are dried up. In 1907 when Hagador Canyon, south of Corona, furnished Water to City of Corona, that source has also dried up.

The Grand Tour: A New Fundraising Event for CHPS

In lieu of a Vintage Home Tour this year, the Corona Historic Preservation Society staged a luxury bus *Grand Tour* to provide a curbside view of the history, heritage and architecture of the Circle City. Three tours departed from Heritage Park (10: 00 and 11:15 A.M. and 12:30 P.M.) Nearly 100 ticket-holders took advantage of this opportunity to have explained to them, in some detail, the places, buildings,



Each participant received a 20 page pictorial program in full color. The cover is shown above.

In front of the bus, to the left, is President Wes Speake and narrator Rich Winn just prior to the departure of the last tour.

To the right is the ticket and "wares" table with Mary Winn and Doris Osko welcoming our guests and minding the store.



homes, parks, Historic Marker Sites and Historic Districts that they had driven by for years without knowing the history behind them.

Rich Winn and Tom Richins split up the narrator duties based on the tour departure times and Wes Speake accompanied all three tours and provided the "color commentary" as each tour went along.

Some Historic sites that were pointed out were the sites of Corona's Carnegie Library, its first General Hospital, first high school building, first Municipal Plunge, City Hall, and grammar schools, as well as the sites of early packing houses and the location of founder Robert B. Taylor's home at Eighth Street and Victoria Avenue. Other sites that were pointed out were the Start/Finish Lines for Corona's historic races around Grand Boulevard (The 1913 and 1914 races began at Grand Boulevard's intersection with Washburn Avenue. The 1916 race began at the intersection of East Third Street and Grand Boulevard.) Some historic structures that were seen were the Corona Woman's Improvement Club clubhouse, built in 1913, the First Congregational Church, built in 1911, the First Baptist Church, built in 1937, replacing an earlier structure that had burned down, second Santa Fe Railroad Depot and Corona Citrus Association - Sunkist packing house, on Sheridan Street, built in 1947. Corona City Park, on East Sixth Street, that opened in 1913, Victoria Park, between Victoria Avenue and Howard Street and Eighth and Ninth streets, that came about in the 1960s when that school site was abandoned and the two remaining "pocket parks" located at Tenth and Merrill and Tenth and Joy that were included in South Riverside's (Corona's) first property maps were also commented upon.

One of the less well known historic sites was the pit area for the race cars in the 1913 and 1914 races that was located on West Eleventh Street, west of Merrill Street, and its historic cast iron street light poles.

Some of the homes viewed from curbside were the home of founder George L. Joy, early pioneer citrus ranchers William H. Jameson and Samuel Hampton, founder of Corona Foothill Lemon Company, South Riverside land & Water Company (the developer of South Riverside [Corona] in 1886) executive N. C. Hudson and the home of character actor Charley Grapewin. Examples of many styles of architecture were viewed: Adobe brick, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Mission Revival, many Victorian styles: Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Mixed Victorian, Eastlake, Vernacular Wood Frame, Mid-Century Modern, Minimal Traditional, Monterey, Prairie style and many more.

Matiebelle Stiles' Treasures By Eric Bergreen

Recently the Corona Historic Preservation Society was given some wonderful items from our city's past. These memorabilia have been passed down through the generations to get to us in this day. We were fortunate enough to receive donated scrapbooks from one of Corona's most well liked and dedicated teachers; Ms. Matiebelle Stiles.

Matiebelle V. Stiles was born on July 1, 1907 and grew up in Corona. She attended Corona Jr. High and went on to graduate from Corona Senior High in 1925 with high marks. After attending college, she became a teacher at Lincoln School (located where Victoria Park is today) and taught second and third grade up until her retirement. She appeared to be highly respected and very well liked in the community.

Jeremy Hall's father, who used to live next door to Ms. Stiles, and helped care for her in her later years, was willed her house and her possessions when she passed on. Some of the items were then given to Jeremy and his wife Lynda who were nice enough to then give them to CHPS for preservation. A beautiful purple velvet portfolio was among the items. Inside were Matiebelle's report cards, graduation invites, party invitations and classmates' name cards. Also inside was a playbill for a production of *The 1913 Corona Road Race*, performed by the seniors at Corona High School and an original postcard of Grand Blvd. from the 1920s.

Ben and Lena Walter donated a wonderful leather portfolio, also belonging to Ms. Stiles, although in this one



Tom Richins' guard cat watching over the collection.

were collections of her, later in life, as a teacher. Black and white class portraits of her and her students sitting out in front of Lincoln School. PTA meeting schedules. Student projects and fundraiser information. Parent/Teacher night agendas with parent's signatures dating back to the 1930s. And thank you cards from her pupils praising what a great teacher she really was.

After I shared her information on Facebook, some folks commented that they remembered her teaching them decades ago and how kind she was.

Although she never married or had children of her own, she always referred to every one of her students as her kids. Matiebelle Stiles lived to be almost 98 years old. She died on June 6, 2005 and rests in Sunnyslope Cemetery near our city's founding fathers.



Implementing Our CHPS Mission Statement



Our mission statement says that we are "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."

During June, CHPS had the opportunity to deliver on this promise. The City's Parks and Recreation Services conducted a Day Camp at the Auburndale Community Center and invited CHPS to provide a local history element to their program. Mary and Richard Winn dressed up and showed up on three successive Monday mornings to provide a slideshow overview of Corona history of the first three decades of the 20th century. About 40 children took a break from their physical activities to watch and listen attentively. Wes Speake will do additional presentations during July. Richard did a brief assessment to see what the kids had learned and found out that they remembered that Corona had five founders and that three road races were held in 1913, 1914 and 1916. Mission Accomplished!



Corona Historic Preservation Society Heritage Home Awards - Update

The Corona Historic Preservation Society periodically identifies and honors homes that are more than 75 years old or more than 50 years old of a unique architectural style whose owners have been excellent stewards over their historic resources and who have made outstanding efforts in restoring or preserving such properties.

Three such homes have recently been selected as meritorious of our Corona Historic Preservation Society Heritage Home Awards: 119 E. Kendall St., a 1910 Vernacular Wood Frame style; 948 W. Tenth St., a 1947 California Ranch style; and 212 W. Tenth St., and a 1908 Craftsman Bungalow style home.



Vernacular Wood Frame home located at 119 East Kendall Street is owned by Blake and Kimberly Ryan



Craftsman Bungalow located at 212 West Ninth Street is owned by Sean and Jennifer Moore



California Ranch Style home located at 948 West Tenth Street is owned by Juan G. and Carmen Suarez

Corona's Former Mayor Collected Buttons? By Mary Winn

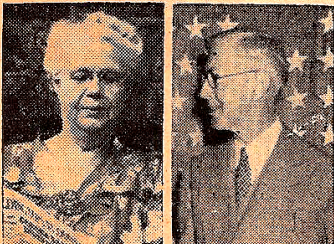


To begin with, I want you to know that I have the full permission of the person in this interview to tell you about the unusual objet d'art which he possesses. As you may have noticed, if you're a fairly close reader of the Independent, I wrote about another objet d'art the first of this week and then was scolded for it. It was a deft and artistic scolding, too.

(This is a little off the track. I don't usually use la-de-dah words like "objet d'art" but I did it on purpose just to see if it comes out right in the paper. The few occasions that term has been used in the Independent, it always comes out "objects d'art" and I've felt badly about it, because if you're going to stick your neck out with a fancy word, the least you can do is spell it correctly.)

Yesterday morning, bless his heart, Charley Miller dropped in at the office and said, "If you can stop by my house, I've got something unusual to show you and it's a lot prettier than what you were writing about the first of the week."

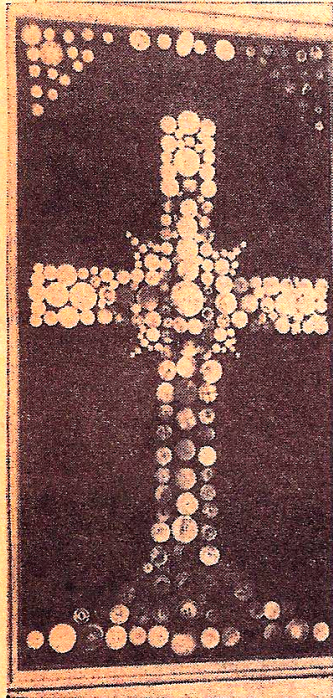
"I'll come over as soon as we've gone to press," I told Charley. He understands exactly what I mean by that. Old-timers in Corona will remember that Charley worked at the Independent for years and years. In fact, he was working here when we bought the paper 12 years ago and so was his late wife, the lovely Maude Miller.



Mrs. Miller * * * Mr. Miller

Charley met me at the door in a bright sports shirt, looking fresh and dapper as always and completely recovered from his recent illness, which was the reason for his resignation as mayor. I always did say Charley was the most photogenic mayor in California.

The minute I entered the living room, I spotted what Charley wanted to show me. It was a stunning and unusual thing, a cross made of pearl buttons with—I learned later—no two buttons alike. The 212 buttons are mounted on black velvet and the display is elegantly framed, about 36x24 in size. The graceful and unique display was the work of Mrs. Miller who had the hobby of collecting buttons.



Charley said that his wife always had been interested in buttons, ever since he could remember. One day several years ago he decided to help with her collection. He wrote a letter to Mary Pickford asking her for her picture and for a button from one of her costumes. Within a few days, he received the picture and the button from Miss Pickford. From then on, every Sunday he wrote some actor or actress asking for a picture and a button. He showed me this collection, too, dozens and dozens of pictures mounted on heavy cardboard with a wide variety of buttons sewed on them.

I am not a collector by nature and I doubt if I fully understand the pride collectors take in their hobbies. But I felt there was something sweet and appealing about Millers' button collection. Mrs. Miller was a truly wonderful woman and I always admired her for her sweetness, her dignity, and charm. The cross of buttons she made is so fitting and so in keeping with her character that it seems like a warm and friendly bit of immortality.

That's all for now,

The undated *Corona Daily Independent* column above was from the 1940s since Mrs. Miller died in 1949. The article and both photos are from granddaughter Caren Erickson's Collection. **Above:** Charley overwhelmed with buttons. **Below:** Maude and Charley pose with their display of buttons and movie star photos.

Who knew that collecting buttons was once quite the rage here in Corona? The National Button Society was founded in 1938 because the hobby became very popular during the Great Depression since just about everybody could afford to do it during the lean years. Many of us recall playing in button baskets, cans and boxes of our mothers and grandmothers, but some took it to the next level and beyond.

Former Corona mayor (from 1948-1956) Charles R. Miller's wife, Maude, began earnestly collecting buttons in 1941. "Charley" told others "it was the craziest hobby I ever heard of." After his wife's passing, Charley continued the hobby at break-neck speed and accumulated thousands of buttons from which he strung "button charm strings" such as the colorful one measuring 4 feet recently donated to the Society.



16th Annual Corona Antiques and Collectables Faire by Eric Bergreen

On June 3rd, the Sixteenth Annual Corona Antiques and Collectables Faire was held at the beautiful Heritage Park & Museum. And there's not a better day upon which it could have been held! With the sun shining and a mild breeze blowing, the day was a spectacular success. From the many wonderful Coronans to the out-of-towners who showed up, everyone made that Saturday a special day.



"Monster" lemons made juicing easier!

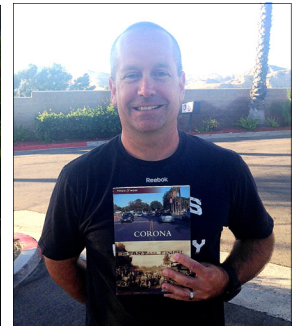
There were tables and tents full of wares, antiques and homemade crafts. The smell of kettle corn filled the air and Mendoza's snow cones were a huge hit with all, especially those who grew up here eating them. As folks wandered from table to table around the park, everyone was invited to the CHPS booth for free lemonade. Our own president, Wes Speake, procured the Corona-grown lemons and used a juicer to extract the tart liquid himself turning 14 gallons of lemon juice into 40 gallons of delicious and refreshing lemonade for all to enjoy.

Former CHPS President Fred Parr beckoned to passersby to stop in for a drink as Rich Winn and Tom Muñoz served up the thirsty Faire goers. Mary Winn helped the Corona Historic Preservation Society raise funds by selling reproductions of citrus crate labels and her books about Corona's wonderful, rich history. Memorabilia, from our city's early years, was on display; currency from some of our first banks and matchbooks from some of our nostalgic restaurants that were operating in the 1970s and 1980s. There was also a contest to guess the number of buttons on a "button charm string" collected by former Corona mayor, Charles R. Miller. The prize for guessing closest was a signed copy of one

of the three Corona pictorial history books written by Mary Bryner Winn. Coronan Kevin Piper opted for *Then & Now: Corona* as his reward with his guess being the exact number of buttons.

In all, the day was perfect and represented what a great city event should be. Families having fun. Children learning. People coming together. Folks talking. And everyone sharing what they could with one another.

Thanks to all those who stopped by, shopped, crafted and just plain old had a good time at the Faire. All of us working and having fun together is the reason why Corona is beautiful.



Kevin Piper won this book with his correct guessing prowess as to number of buttons strung decades ago on 4 feet of monofilament line. See page 5 for details.



We Continue to Support W. D. Addison Heritage Room



We are once again delighted to announce that Corona Historic Preservation Society has been able to make a donation to the Corona Public Library's W. D. Addison Heritage Room to facilitate our Heritage Room Librarian fulfill the needs of those library patrons who use this tremendous resource for research, study or just for fun.

The image to the left shows CHPS President Wes Speake presenting Heritage Room Librarian Jennifer Marlatt with a check for \$500 which will be deposited into the dedicated Heritage Room account overseen by the Library Foundation.

REMEMBER: Heritage Room hours are from 3-7 P.M. on Monday and Tuesday and 10 A.M. - 1 P.M. on Thursday.

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 _____



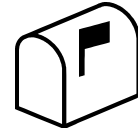
Membership Status: Renewal New

Please complete form and mail to:

CHPS

P.O. Box 2904

Corona, CA 92878



We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Michael Barker
 Bennie & Marla Benson - Patron Member
 Dr. Robert Brandt Benson
 Roger & Noella Benvenuti
 Deana Craft
 Bob Garland - Patron Member
 Burt Hogue & Sharon Allen
 Marty & Merrilee Howard
 Helen Hughes
 Hazel & Barbara Lohman

McManaway Interior Design
 Sean & Jennifer Moore
 Mary Poulson
 Jason Scott
 Michael & Tamie Segert
 Dave & Laura Seltzer
 Megan Smith
 Ola Talbert - Patron Member
 George & Joan Thacker
 Bill & Vickie White

❄ Donating, Renewing or Joining CHPS Online

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 (located at the top of this page) that is printed, filled out and then 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 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.



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

Board of Directors

President - Wes Speake
Vice President - Eric Bergreen
Secretary - Doris Osko
Treasurer - Richard Winn

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Trisha Henson-Cabrera
Paula 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, July 20, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office

Thursday, August 17, 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



Let Freedom Ring!