

A Message From Our President Wes Speake

Dear Members,

The year continues to be a whirlwind of activities, May/June is traditionally a huge month for the CHPS and this year was no exception. 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 founding (as South Riverside) on May 4, 1886, making Corona 133 years old. May 14 of 2019 also marked the 36th birthday of the Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS). 36 years of celebrating and preserving Corona History.

The 2019 Vintage Home Tour (VHT) was a rousing success, in fact, the most successful VHT to date and none of this would be possible without the tremendous support of the community, our board, volunteers, members and most of all extensive planning by Mary Winn. Sadly, our 2nd Annual VHT Gala had to be canceled because of the weather. Ticket sales were brisk, and we had high hopes for a great turn out. Planning for our 2020 VHT has started and I am pleased to say we already have a couple of amazing houses lined up, but we are always looking for a couple more! If you are interested in participating, please contact me or any other board member.

June started off with the big SQUEEZE, with CHPS opening our annual FREE freshly squeezed lemonade stand at Heritage Park as part of the 18th Annual Corona Antiques and Collectibles Faire. Our little stand raised almost \$500 on donations alone! I personally squeezed over 9 gallons of lemon juice! We THANK YOU if you made it by for a free glass. As a reminder, 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 updating one of the original markers, Marker #3 placed in 1996 to reflect corrected information. Stay tuned for an update.

WHAT ABOUT THE 1915 RACES??

Last month, I received an email from a descendant of William L. Peeler, the chairman of the Citrus Belt Racing Association. Mr. Peeler was the proprietor of the

Crown Garage and Machine Works and is mostly known for organizing the ill-fated 1916 road race. However, this wasn't his first attempt at organizing a road race. Mr. Peeler organized two race dates for 1915.

First, In February 1915, he organized a series of races as part of the celebration of the Pacific Electric Depot opening in Corona on March 5, 1915. The program included a series of races: 10 Mile marathon (3 laps around the circle), Push-mobile race, with 9 entrants, a bicycle race (once around the Boulevard), a Firemen's Race between Corona Fire Department and Riverside Fire Department; a 100-yard race for men, 50-yard race for women and my personal favorite, the 100-yard "Fat man Race" in which entrants must weigh 200 lbs or more. All competitors in the pushcart race received a prize, all donated by Corona businesses: from a hat worth \$2.50 for 1st place to a \$.50 tie for 9th place.

Talk of Races in 1915 came to a head in August 1915 when Mr. Ott, organizer of the 1913 and 1914 races, refused to organize a race. He claimed that conditions had changed, the purse would have to be larger, and entry fees could not be charged to drivers as they had been in past years. Lastly, 1915 was a "year of expositions and if one has a dollar to spend it's going in one direction or another." Later in August, there was a meeting held at City Hall where Mr. Peeler took up the mantle and announced that all needed capital had been raised and November 20th was the date of the 1915 race. Three Mercers had agreed to race, and with 20 other international race cars already in America, the chances were excellent. Just days after agreeing on the date, the new association was informed that a race in Phoenix was already scheduled on November 20th. By September 4th, 13 cars had officially entered Corona's 1915 race without a hard date. An emergency meeting of the trustees was held on September 7th, and the new association was told that a race would not be held until all conditions were perfect. Mr. Peeler and his group were still hopeful for a winter race date. The final nail in the coffin for a 1915 race was the highway department decision to start construction on three of the roads leading into Corona the week of November 20th. Does this sound familiar?

Sincerely,

Wes



2019 Vintage Home Tour a Success - By Doris Osko

May 11, 2019 was a time to celebrate the 36th anniversary of the Corona Historic Preservation Society as well as the 54th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. What better activity to do this than the Society's Vintage Home Tour which this year featured five local properties that propelled visitors as far back in time as 1890 and into the early 1900s.

The tour was not only a financial success in raising funds to benefit local preservation projects and the Home Preservation Grant Program, but was an opportunity for visitors to tune in on a bygone era in Corona's History. Volunteer Docents, dressed in attractive period-style clothing, heard many comments such as, "I have always wondered what this house looked like on the inside," or "I could move into a house like this tomorrow." Mayor Jason Scott appeared at each site to present current owners with a special award certificate from the City of Corona. Places on the tour included:

1839 S. Main St. built in 1892, by the Bloom Brothers who also built Corona's Carnegie Library, as a vernacular wood frame farmhouse with little Victorian ornamentation.



1024 S. Main St. (American Legion Hall,) Built in 1929, in the Spanish-Mission Revival style of architecture, from plans of architect Cuthbert "Cap" Gully under the supervision of Frank



Pinkerton who were members of the Post. The Legion Hall contains much memorabilia contributed by its members: Civil War ribbons and medals, World War I and II wartime posters, uniforms, helmets, hats or caps, a World War I Maxim machine gun, bayonets. Pictures of most Post Commanders can also be found on the walls. Displays include the Vietnam conflict and a patch board covered with unit patches from the 1990-91 Iraq war (Operation Desert Shield/Storm.)

818 Howard St., Built in 1890 by Corona's first mayor, W. C. Barth, this Queen Anne Victorian cottage retains its Victorian integrity with outstanding elements of Queen Anne architectural design including spindled porch pillars and gabled fret work.



1215 E. Grand Blvd., Built in 1902, by B. E. Savery, this Victorian Farmhouse has had many of its Victorian elements removed or modified over the years while still reflecting a Vernacular Wood Frame cottage style with Victorian features.



1208 Palm Avenue, built in 1911-12 this well cared for Craftsman Bungalow's historic architectural elements have been remarkably well preserved. Modern treatments to the interior make it a very modern vintage home for the enjoyment of the occupants.



All of the homes have received Historic Preservation Society Heritage Home Awards. A booklet giving extensive descriptions of each property and its owners was prepared for tour patrons. Information on past and present owners, architectural changes and interesting anecdotes are included. CHPS is grateful for the owners who allowed others to share their wonderful properties, but also to the sponsors who helped fund the expenses of the tour. There were so many familiar faces and faithful Tour attendees that the Vintage Home Tour could also be called a "Vintage Friends Tour." Our thanks to all of these with the hope we will see you again at our next tour.

"War of the Worlds" Showing for Our 3rd Quarterly Meeting

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, September 14!
CHPS will feature *War of the Worlds* on the BIG screen at Dos Lagos, Starlight Cinema theater.

Date: Saturday, September 14

Time: 10:30 A.M.

Location: Starlight Theater at Dos Lagos

Released in 1953, this film captures visually what Orson Welles spoke about on October 30, 1938 during the Mercury Theater's "*War of the Worlds*" radio broadcast about a Martian invasion.

Images of Corona's downtown are seen in the film. See two on the right.

Free admission for official CHPS members
\$5 for all others

Order tickets online here:

<https://chpswaroftheworlds.eventbrite.com>



Silver Dollar Pancake House By Wes Speake

A couple of years ago when I was writing about the Chuck Wagon/Park Inn, I repeatedly kept finding great nuggets of information about the Silver Dollar Pancake House. So, I decided to dive in and see what else I could find. The Silver Dollar has this look and feel about it, it feels familiar, the building holds memories for so many people in Corona. The bottom line is the Silver Dollar Pancake House "feels like Corona..." I spent some time talking to Robert Hernandez, the current owner, about the restaurant, his mentors, his experiences and his 43 years at the Silver Dollar Pancake House. 43 YEARS!!! I shared the research I'd done on the restaurant names and the type of food served in the past by former owners. What a rich history this restaurant has!

The Silver Dollar Pancake House is the oldest continuously operating restaurant in Corona. The name on the building has changed over the years. The business was first known as the Copper Kettle which debuted on September 15, 1936. Mrs. Barger built the restaurant for a Mrs. Gertrude Moore. The Copper Kettle served lunch and dinner and was open until midnight. The Copper Kettle as well as other restaurants on 6th Street, catered to local folks as well as travelers. A curb service was advertised at the time, to serve motorists traveling through Corona on the way to Riverside. In 1936, this was the last restaurant before Riverside. The Park Inn



(Chuck Wagon) would be opened two years later in October 1938. On August 23, 1937, new hours were advertised including breakfast from 8-10 am. Breakfast has been served at this address for 81 years.

In June 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Martin bought the business and renamed it Martin's Coffee Shop

It was operated by Mrs. Martin and her mother. Mrs. Barger continued to own the land and building and remarked in the announcement that she would be willing to expand to the surrounding lot if warranted. The Martins came from Fullerton and lived at 1024 East Ramona (AKA the Terpening House). The Martins advertised homemade pies and a Chicken Dinner for 65 cents! Martin's Coffee Shop became Martin's Fine Foods, a year later in 1940.

On the eve of WW2 on August 1, 1941, Emma Jane's Finer Foods debuted, owned by George and Emma Jane Dawson. It is always tough to succeed in the restaurant business and Emma Jane's struggled from the very beginning. To add insult to injury, Emma Jane's became a victim of food shortages during the war. During WW2, food rationing was in place for everyone, including restaurants. In late 1943 and again in January 1944, Emma Jane's had to close for weeks at a time because of a shortage of points needed to buy provisions for the restaurant. The restaurant closed permanently as the business and all its furnishings and equipment were sold to two couples in July 1944.

Cont'd on page 5



2nd Quarterly Meeting: Our Meeting at the Museum By Eric Bergreen

On Saturday, June 15th, the Corona Historic Preservation Society held its second Quarterly Meeting at the World Museum of Natural History located on the beautiful campus of La Sierra University in Riverside. The private college was founded in 1922 as La Sierra Academy and since becoming independent in 1990, has won multiple national and world titles in the Enactus competition.



As we rounded each corner of the museum, we were treated to different gems and minerals, fluorescent minerals, meteorites and tektites, petrified wood, shells, American Indian artifacts and contemplative stones. Finishing out the tour was a display of one of the world's largest

and finest collections of mineral spheres. In all, another great turnout to another awesome meeting.

Curator, Carolyn Wilcock, was very generous in allowing our CHPS members a private tour of the museum located in the distinguished Constantine Hall.



Upon entering, the first thing to greet us was "Minnie the Dragon Lady," a 365 lb, 10-foot long Komodo dragon. Minnie once lived at the St. Louis Zoo but sadly died in 1933 possibly due to the pneumonia she contracted on the chilly boat ride over from Indonesia to the U.S. via Alaska.

Past the dragon can be found many display cases

full of well preserved and life-like animals such as primates, reptiles, amphibians, hundreds of bird species, water fowl and other various mammals

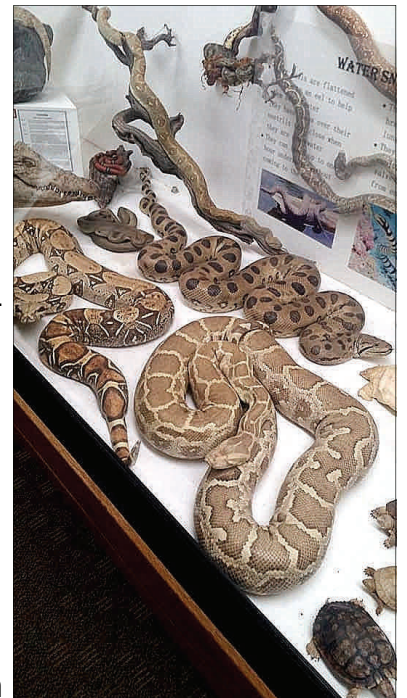
from around the world. The specimens are prepared either by the most up-to-date museum sculpture taxidermy methods or by a revolutionary freeze-dry taxidermy process. Most of the birds were prepared by the former method while the majority of the mammals and all amphibian and reptiles were prepared by the latter freeze-dry process.



To check out more pictures from our tour, visit the Corona Historic Preservation Society's Facebook Group. To get more information about the World Museum of Natural History or to make a reservation for a tour, visit:

www.lasierra.edu. or call: (951) 785-2500. All tours are a free service of La Sierra University and the museum is open on Saturdays from 2:00 to 5:00 PM.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming 3rd Quarterly Meeting. On Saturday, September 14th at 10:30 am the CHPS will be showing the 1953 version of "The War of the Worlds" at the Starlight theater at Dos Logos. We will also have two film historians on hand to do a brief presentation after the show. We will see you at the movies!



Silver Dollar Pancake House (HISTORY CONTINUED)

In September 1944, Rocco "Shorty" Scaturro and his wife Louise bought the business and renamed it Lindy's. Shorty Scaturro was a well-known and respected restaurateur. Shorty and his wife arrived in Corona a few years before from Chicago via Riverside, where Shorty owned an orchard/farm, ran several grocery stores, and drove a produce truck before he opened his first restaurant, Henrici's. Henrici's was a restaurant specializing in Italian and Spanish food, located across the street from what would become the Silver Dollar Pancake House. No doubt he saw the struggles that were happening at Emma Jane's. The Scaturros jumped full force into the restaurant; by 1946 he doubled Lindy's size, and built a substantial dining room, called the "Rose Room" that could seat 100 people, to compliment the coffee shop and car hop businesses. The Scaturro's owned three restaurants by 1946: Henrici's (everyone called it Rocco's), Lindy's and the Airport Café. The Grand Reopening was a huge deal - 2½ pages of the newspaper were devoted to everything from a dozen well-wishers to detailed descriptions of the furnishings, audio system, unique kitchen items like a gas-electric toaster and a sanitary dishwasher operating at 180°. A full article appeared on the four Filipino Chefs he hired from Los Angeles who happened to be related to each other. In addition, Shorty brought in Chef Jung-Un Loo formerly of the Hollywood Inn in Los Angeles and introduced Chinese Food to Coronans. Numerous neon sign permits were pulled in 1946. In 1949, he built beautiful neon and back-lit signs to emphasize his brand and to show off featured menu items, "LINDY'S WAFFLES, STEAKS, CHOPS and CHOP SUEY." Tom Richins found a wonderful interior photo that illustrated how great this place looked in 1949, from the signs, to the Wurlitzer in the Coffee Shop. A full biography of Shorty and Louise's life to date was featured as well. Lindy's was really 3 restaurants, a fine dining restaurant, a coffee shop and car hop service. The car hop service was so popular that an image of a car hop is featured on the cover of the dinner menu. In 1952, Lindy's announced it would be closed Wednesday's and in late 1957 he moved Lindy's to 119 East 6th Street. I've heard several stories for this move, from "he had lost a bet" to "he wanted to be downtown"... I couldn't find anything that supported any specific reason. Lindy's remained at 119 East 6th until urban renewal. One fact of note is that in 1949 almost every address on 6th street that wasn't on a corner changed. Strangely Lindy's has kept its 710 East 6th Street address to this day.

In October 1956, there was an ad for a car hop for the Circle H Café (formerly Lindy's). In December 1956, the owner was noted as Jack Leeson, and it was managed by Paul Ryan and Gary Killingsworth, and it appeared to have a western theme. Restaurant hours were 6 am to midnight. In 1959, the business was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Roy, who lived at 510 East Grand Blvd. The restaurant struggled, and just a year later the restaurant was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Wong. They changed the menu a couple of times, but it didn't seem to do well.

Then in July 1962, Jack Leeson pulled an alteration permit to change the partition in the Circle H. Less than a month later the name Silver Dollar Pancake House appeared on a permit for a neon sign, valued at \$1,000, affixed to the building. On Oct 26, 1962, an ad for the Silver Dollar appeared in the newspaper advertising



Shorty Scaturro

"Swedish Pancakes and Iowa Corn Cakes" and open 7 days a week from 6 am to 8 pm. The Silver Dollar changed hands in 1965 and then in 1970 Roland Ossko bought the business, with Jack Leeson retaining ownership of the land and building. The Silver Dollar iconic neon sign was built in 1965. The sign is still there.

WHICH JEANS - LEVI'S OR TOUGHSKINS?

In 1976, Robert Hernandez was told that if he wanted a pair of Levi's and Wallabies and not the Toughskins his mother wanted to buy him, he needed to get a job. So, in June 1976, Robert Hernandez at the tender age of 13½ walked in the door of the Silver Dollar to apply for a dishwashing position.

He lied, said he was 15½, and Roland Ossko, the owner, hired him, and Robert began a journey that continues some 43 years later. Robert was smart. He excelled at school. He went to Lincoln Elementary and was in the Mentally Gifted Minor Program (MGM), a program for students who scored in the 98th percentile or higher on standardized intellectual ability tests. The MGM program allowed him to take additional classes so that by the time he got to high school, he had accumulated many units and only had to attend a few more classes to graduate. Robert took "work experience" which allowed him to work 30-35 hours a week at the restaurant where he made \$1.60/hr. Robert was naturally inquisitive and could mimic movements and remember recipes and timing. He was a sponge in the kitchen, which Roland recognized early and after 6 months, Robert was promoted to a "prep" cook. The cook at the time was a surly French-Canadian man named Maurice who was very talented as a cook but wasn't pleasant to be around. Maurice gave Robert his first nickname, "Crockpot", because he was so slow. Maurice warned him if he couldn't work faster he would never last. Robert was a quick learner and soon learned to be just as fast as Maurice. Roland also had an amazing baker named Dottie, who daily made fresh hamburger buns and amazing pastries. Maurice wasn't fond of women in the kitchen and was rough on Dottie so she left a year or two after Robert started. Robert learned everything he could from Dottie before she departed. Shortly after Robert's 18th birthday, Roland offered him the head cook's job and fired Maurice. Roland told Robert he'd been waiting for him to turn 18 so that he could fire Maurice, since Robert had been running the kitchen for the past three years. Roland and Robert became close over the years so much so that Roland lent him money to buy his first car, a Pontiac Firebird. Sometime in the 1980s Robert was offered a job at the Chuck Wagon, but he realized he could never leave Roland and The Silver Dollar Pancake House.

In 1991, Roland decided to sell the business and had one person in mind to take over, Robert. At age 28, Robert took out a loan and bought the restaurant. Just three years later, there was a devastating fire that gutted 90% of the kitchen, the office and walk-in refrigerator. The rest of the restaurant suffered extensive smoke damage. The massive wooden walk-in refrigerator door from the 1940s had to be cut into pieces to be removed. Thankfully, the 1940s counter survived and is basically unaltered to this day. He was closed for 18 months for extensive remodeling. Not a week goes by

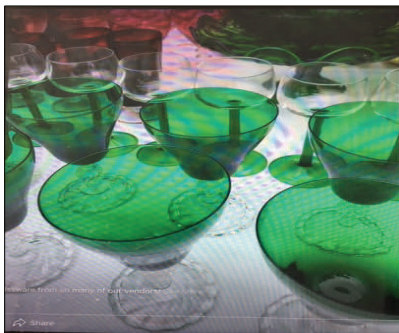
Recap: Antiques & Collectibles Faire By Amelia Nieves

The Corona Antiques Faire was an outdoor antiques and collectibles marketplace held Saturday, June 1 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at Corona Heritage Park and Museum. Over 50 vendors from throughout Corona and beyond were on hand selling antique and vintage goods such as silver, porcelain, furniture, toys, clothing, jewelry, garden items, glassware, collectibles, dishes, vintage pieces, and so



macrame items and various pots with plants. The Master Gardeners furnished and displayed many plants. The Master Gardeners were also there to educate Faire goers on how to care for plants. They provided enjoyment and information to many gardeners at their booth.

The Art Colony had a fine display of photographs and various styles of paintings by local artists. If one was looking for stained glass, there were plenty of items at the Faire



Once again, for the 18th year, CHPS brought its vintage Lemonade Stand out of storage and offered real lemonade, free of charge. It was a big success. Many thanks to Wes Speake for gathering the lemons and juicing them. We used about 9 gallons of juice to make approximately 70 gallons of lemonade. Amelia Nieves, Tom Muñoz, Helen and Akio Yoshikawa, Chris McCoy and his daughter distributed cold lemonade and accepted donations.

The Railroad Club had a model layout on display for all to see, along with the antique automobiles.

The show attracted over 500 collectors as well as first time buyers wishing to collect and invest in REAL antiques. Parking was not a problem because the location of the event

much more! It was a huge treasure hunt...you never knew what you might find, there were so many hidden treasures to be found. And best of all, the event was free.

This was not a garage sale, flea market or swap meet. There was no new merchandise or craft items. In fact, "if it's not old, it won't be sold" was the motto for the day. The weather was just perfect for the Faire. There was a lot of foot traffic with families, friends, and collectors who enjoyed the experience.

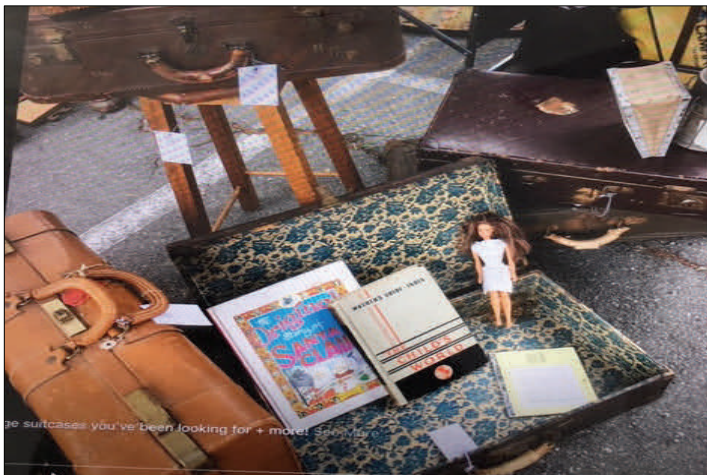
The plant show had so many succulents to choose from. There were various colors and styles of hanging

was great, with plenty of room. Heritage Park was a perfect location for this type of event in Corona.



Besides our ice cold lemonade, delicious food offerings were available such as BBQ tri-tip sandwiches, breakfast burritos, fresh fruit, shaved ice, and yummy freshly popped kettle corn.

After viewing all the booths and thinking it over, I began to wonder about the contents in my closet or attic. Since then, I have wondered to myself: Do I have an antique or a family heirloom that might be a missing part of an American legacy?



Membership Information

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

Individual Member \$30.00
 Family \$40.00
 Student \$15.00
 Business \$100.00
 Patron \$125.00
 Life \$600.00

I'd like to volunteer:

Hospitality refreshments
 Newsletter writing articles
 Vintage Home Tour
 docent / volunteer
 Board of Directors

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Gift from _____

Membership Status: Renewal New

Please complete and mail to:

CHPS
P.O. Box 2904
Corona, CA 92878



We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Dr. Robert Brandt Benson
 Roger & Noella Benvenuti
 Charles & Heather Bolle
 Janice Ann Coleman
 Thomas & Mary Conklin
 Nancy Fay
 Bob Garland - Patron Membership

Burt Hogue & Sharon Allen - Patron Membership
 Helen Hughes
 Patricia Johnson Knoeckel
 Hazel & Barbara Lohman
 Jason Scott
 Sara Seltzer
 Steve & Karen Shultz
 Michele Watts

Silver Dollar Pancake House (HISTORY CONTINUED)

closed for 18 months. Not a week went by that a customer didn't poke a head in to offer a hand, such as labor, drywall, or whatever was needed. Another fire took place in 2004. Robert rebuilt again.

Robert's tenacity and the Silver Dollar's longevity are testimonies to endurance, commitment and the willingness to learn. The restaurant welcomes four times the number of customers it did in 1976 and he credits his success to family, loyal customers and commitment to doing it right every time. However, when asked about others that helped him along the way, he credits Ron Bell of Bell's Truck Sales who made think outside the kitchen and to not forget the financial part of the business. Ron Bell came in a few times each week to quiz Robert on what it cost him to make this sandwich, this meal, this drink and made him think about the business side in ways he never considered with Roland. Ron always asked him if



he could get a discount and "What's the cash price?" At first, Robert dreaded seeing Ron. Ron mercilessly taunted him about food prices, labor ratios and once made him bring him the heel of the loaf and a top of a tomato and told him that he would eat that because "that was his profit." Robert and Ron remained friends until his death about 15 years ago in a tragic boating accident. Robert's biggest honor, outside of family, was receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and serving as Grand Marshal of the Cinco de Mayo Parade.

Robert still uses the same recipes he learned in 1976 and says they are the same as when the Silver Dollar first opened in 1962. The menu hasn't changed much, and he doesn't plan on changing anything. He says, "If it's not broke don't fix it." Remember, next time you sit at the counter... people just like you, have sat in this building filling their bellies for the past 83 years. I hope it continues for another 83 years



Corona
Historic
Preservation
& Society

Board of Directors

President - Wes Speake
Vice President - Eric Bergreen
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Chris McCoy
Paula Muñoz
Amelia Nieves
Mary Winn

Advisors

Marla Benson
Ted Taylor



To contact us call
951.898.2044

Please leave a message



Our Mission Statement

The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is an active nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)3 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 meetings will be:

Thursday, July 18, 5:30 at CHPS office

Thursday, August 15, 6:30 at CHPS office

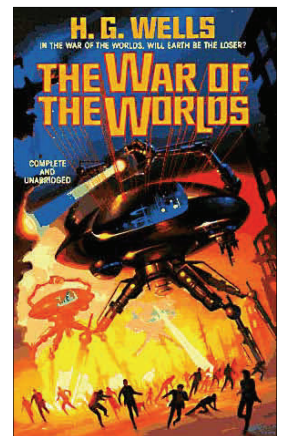


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Enjoy a Safe & Happy Independence Day!