

A Message From Your President Fred Parr

Dear Members,

As I was considering my first President’s message, three thoughts came to mind. First is the serious responsibility I have accepted. The origins of this group date back to the early 1970s after a period of urban renewal resulted in the loss of many historical and cherished landmarks in Corona. Since then, so many have helped to protect the history and resources of Corona and I want to begin with saying thank you to them all.

Second, it just occurred to me that this year marks my 30th anniversary of coming to Corona. I was honored to be hired as a Corona Firefighter in 1986 and shortly after my wife Vicki and I made Corona our home. Vicki has been an elementary school teacher for many years and we have raised our three boys as native citizens of this great city. Corona is our home and I just can’t imagine living anywhere else.

Third, the expansion of the 91 freeway has caused me to reflect on how the City has changed since I arrived. As I remember 1986, South Corona, Sierra Del Oro and Corona Ranch developments were being planned, but had not really started. Eagle Glen was likely someone’s vision and Dos



Fred is always delighted to offer free lemonade from the CHPS lemonade stand at the annual Antiques & Collectibles Faire at Heritage Park.

Lagos was just an old abandoned mine. Construction of the new State Route 91 interchange with Interstate 15 was just getting started. The Fire Department responded on 1981 Crown Fire Engines from three fire stations serving a population of about 48,000. Vicki and I went grocery shopping at the Alpha Beta on South Main Street and so looked forward to reading the *Corona Daily Independent* each weekday afternoon. I loved riding my bicycle through South Corona and clearly remember the sweet fragrance of thousands of blooming orange trees.

With the dramatic changes brought by the freeway expansion, new development in the city core, revitalization of Downtown and an expansion of our hospital, we are now in another period of urban renewal. I have faith that both our civic and community leaders will continue to work together toward the goal of making the Circle City the Crown of the Inland Empire and that today and in the future, we can be proud of this time in history.

Sincerely,
Fred Parr



CHPS Calendar Update

Saturday, April 9 - CHPS will sponsor a booth at the commemoration event of the final Corona Road Race held in 1916. See page 6 for details.

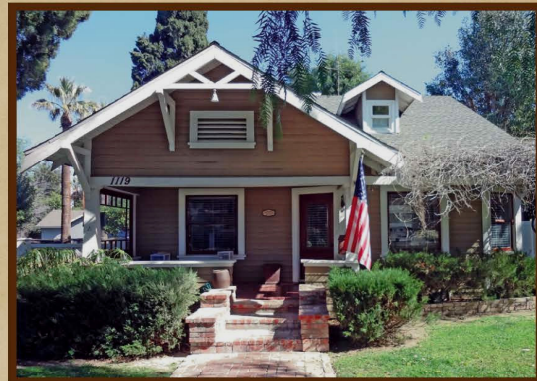
Saturday, April 30 - 2016 Vintage Home Tour to be presented. See flyer for more details.

Saturday, May 7 - Riverside County History Symposium will be held at Murrieta Hot Springs Resort. For more information and registration visit: <http://rivcohistorysymposium.weebly.com/>

Saturday, June 4 - Antiques & Collectibles Faire at Corona Heritage Park.



Corona Historic Preservation Society
Presents
Vintage Home Tour



Saturday, April 30, 2016
1:00-4:00 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program

Historic Properties on Tour pictured starting above: First Congregational Church, 809 Ramona; 1022 Ramona.; 1119 Palm; 915 Ramona.

Pre-sale tickets \$18, \$20 day of event available at 1031 East Grand Blvd.
For information call Paula at 951.256.7923 or email: Munoz7341@sbcglobal.net
Pre-Sale tickets available online • Will-call day of event at 1031 East Grand Blvd.
Pre-sale deadline 11pm April 29 • www.Corona-History.org

Pre-Sale tickets available after March 18th at:
Corona Heritage Park, 510 W. Foothill Parkway and Allegra, 127 Radio Road



City Proclamation for the Kroonen Family By Tom Richins

On January 20th 2016, Mayor Jason Scott and the Corona City Council presented the Kroonen family a proclamation honoring Corona's most prominent architect, Leo Kroonen, Sr. The unique thing about proclamations is that it is never really the proclamation that is significant in nature; rather it is the event or the person behind the proclamation. As far as the man behind this proclamation, it doesn't get any bigger for the City of Corona.



Bill Kroonen speaking

Kroonen has long passed and is now resting in Sunnyslope Cemetery. But, the Kroonen family still remains in Corona. When Mayor Scott called the family in front of the city council for recognition, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandchild all stood in front of the council to help recognize their grandfather who was fundamental to the start of Corona. The Kroonens are proud of their heritage in Corona. They certainly all love and adore hearing all the stories that go back to Corona's beginning.

Leo Kroonen arrived in Corona in 1887 under the employment of Riverside based architect A.W. Boggs. The purpose for Kroonen coming to Corona was to take advantage of the boom years and more or less utilize his architectural skills to make a lot of money. However, money quickly took a back seat when he met Mary Walkinshaw, a native to Corona, before Corona was ever founded. The two of them fell in love and Corona became Leo's permanent home. He quickly finished his contract work for Mr. Boggs, and then he opened up his own architecture and general contracting business in Corona.

The Kroonens are also still a giving family. In the same council meeting great-granddaughter Patty Knoeckel donated Leo Kroonen's original architectural drawings to many of his most prominent projects to the city of Corona. In turn, the drawings will be preserved in the Corona Public Library's Heritage Room for future generations to use for reference. It was a proud night and reminded me that it is always special when government, historians, and families work together to cherish our past...

Here is where it gets interesting. It is not uncommon to hear an old time resident in Corona say, "I wish the old buildings were still here" or "It is a shame that our old buildings keep disappearing." Chances are if you are one of those who miss the old structures that once graced our city, then you are a fan of Leo Kroonen's work. For the duration of Leo Kroonen's time in Corona, he either designed and/or built the 1913 City Hall Building, original Washington Grammar School, original Lincoln Grammar School, Auburndale Hotel, N.C. Hudson House, Odd Fellows Hall, First Corona High School, Municipal Plunge, The first five packing houses, Temescal School House, Jameson residence, multiple houses on Grand Boulevard and many other structures that have been lost to Corona's history.

Editor's Note: Our CHPS past president Tom Richins worked with Patty Knoeckel, of the Kroonen family, to have Leo Kroonen's original blueprints professionally digitized. Thank you, Tom!

Fast forward 129 years from Mr. Kroonen's Corona arrival. Leo



On screen is Leo Kroonen, Sr

Relocated Homes are Being Restored for Reuse



Two homes on Sheridan Avenue that were displaced by the CRMC expansion project are beginning to take shape after being relocated and placed on foundations alongside the alley on East Grand Boulevard between Eighth and Ninth streets .



807 & 919 Sheridan in Dec. 2013

Once placed on foundations the roofs and overhang were repaired, the porches shored up, and the exterior walls prepped for finishing. The interiors should be repaired, repainted and refurbished within a few months. Porches, steps and landscaping will be sequenced at the same time.



On Grand Blvd. in Feb 2016

Corona Trivia Quiz By Tom Richins

This quiz was provided by Tom Richins at the December CHPS Holiday Party. Current CHPS President Fred Parr suggested it would be fun to share it with our members. *Answers are found on page 6.*

1. True or False: Hiram Clay Kellogg, the civil engineer that designed the streets of Corona, also designed the streets of Yorba Linda.
2. Prior to the founding of Corona, what animal(s) could be found grazing amongst the undeveloped plains? A) Dairy cows B) Wild turkeys C) Sheep D) Snypes
3. True or False: Johnny Cash once played a concert at Corona High School.
4. What is the only street in Corona that is a boulevard?
5. In what year did Corona NOT host a Triple "A" sanctioned world famous race?
A) 1913 B) 1914 C) 1915 D) 1916
6. What was the name of Corona prior to the 1896 name change and city incorporation?
7. How many of the five City Founders can you name?
8. True or False: The national headquarters for Del Taco was at one time in Corona.
9. True or False: When the Corona Theatre on East Sixth Street opened in 1929, early movie stars Laurel and Hardy attended as well as performed a short comedy sketch.



Revisiting the 1960s Era Panel Discussion



Six lively panelists from several Corona High School classes in the 1960s (Ola Jones Talbert, '62, Alicia Ramos Black, '66, Jim Pixley, '66, JoAnn Harada Gunter, '66, Jim Steele, '67, and Mike Mejia, '68) shared remembrances, stories and little-known facts with those in attendance. The panel discussion "Growing Up in Corona - 1960s" was moderated by our new CHPS President Fred Parr.

Some of the comments posted on social media after the event describe attendees' feelings: "This was such fun to attend. Thank you ~ especially to the wonderful panel." "Great fun." "Thank you for including me in this program. It was enjoyable and rewarding. It was very well organized and enjoyed by all those who attended." "We really enjoyed this. Thanks to everyone who put it together." "I really enjoyed Saturday's presentation even though I was a little kid in the 60s."

For those who did not attend, a video of the event will be placed on YouTube as soon as it can be edited. The 1970s era will be the focus of a future CHPS Quarterly Meeting to be held in 2017. *See page 6 for more photos.*

1916 Road Race Provides Historical Setting for a Novel

Better Than Fiction, a Women's Fiction/Historical Romance in one, is written by inspirational authors Michelle Massaro, a Corona native, and April W Gardner.

April writes history with a Christian perspective and a little imagination and can be found at: www.AprilGardner.com

A short summary: While creating a fictional romance between her 1916 heroine and a reckless racecar driver, a novelist falls prey to an emotional affair with the man who inspires her handsome hero.

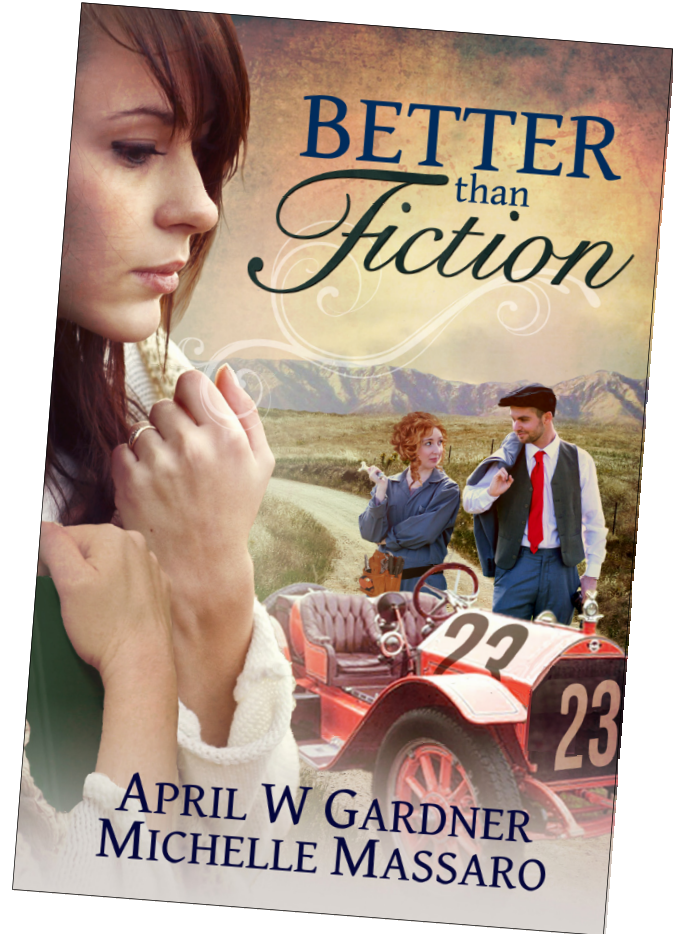
When they began the two-in-one project, Michelle knew just the right historical setting...her hometown, of course! And the thrilling races that once took place on Grand Blvd. April flew out from Georgia to tour our remarkable city and begin the extensive research needed.

The historical side is set during the final, fateful race in 1916 when a racer's Stutz Bearcat is vandalized by the competition days before the race. The novel even features a cameo by famed racer Earl Cooper for added historical flair. We are excited to see this spotlight on our city's place in history and hope it stirs the imagination of those unfamiliar with our prestigious past.

Better than Fiction will be available on Amazon in April. Visit the book's Facebook page for more information, including the back cover copy:

www.facebook.com/BetterThanFiction2016

Michelle writes contemporary fiction, soaked in grace and can be found at: www.facebook.com/MichelleMassaroBooks



Jefferson Elementary School NRHP Nomination Update

We are expecting our research consultant to complete her research documentation, photography and a completed draft of our planned nomination of Thomas Jefferson Elementary School to the **National Register of Historic Places** within the next couple of months.

This aesthetically pleasing structure has graced the corner of Vicentia Avenue and Tenth Street for almost ninety years while providing quality education to untold thousands of pupils over this time period.

Several renovations have taken place over the years to enlarge the campus and increase capacity but the original "classic"



class room and administration building and library wing have been preserved and well used for many decades.

The library wing was designed by noted Riverside architect G. Stanley Wilson who also designed Corona's second high school located at 815 West Sixth Street and portions of the Mission Inn in Riverside.

Its Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style of architecture has been appreciated by former students and continues to be appreciated. Current pupils, parents, visitors and community members take great pride in the beauty of this iconic school structure.

Corona History Scavenger Hunt

By Wes Speake & Tom Richins

Welcome to the first installment of the Corona Historic Preservation Society's Corona History Scavenger Hunt. This month we will focus on 5 of the 22 Historic Markers that the CHPS has placed in our amazing City. There will be 5 scavenger hunt targets this month each with 3 questions: The first question is a basic question that can be answered by going on the CHPS Marker Tab on the CHPS website. Here is the link to the map of the CHPS markers: <http://www.corona-history.org/assets/historic-marker-map-1-22.pdf>



The 2nd question will require you to visit the marker. The 3rd is the expert level question that was devised/fact checked by our former President, Tom Richins. You can fill out the answers below or post your answers and any photos taken on our CHPS Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/207314265980718/> A prize will be awarded to the first response with all correct answers. Posts will be made public on the CHPS Facebook Group before the next *CHPS Newsletter* is published.

Question #1. Marker #13 - The Corona Depot

- a) What was the year the current depot started operation and when did it cease operation as a train depot?
- b) What fruit painted on the windows and front door of the depot was never shipped out of Corona?
- c) Who paid for the first train station to be built?

Question #2. Marker #16 - Lemonia Grove

- a) What was the name of the lemons that helped give this marker its name?

- b) This marker had many sponsors on the post holding the marker including the Knights of Columbus from what church?
- c) The original ornate entrance to Lemonia Grove was on Chase Drive and the current entrance is on Rimpau Avenue. What was the original name of this street, now known as Chase Drive?

Question #3 Marker #12 - Corona Foothill Lemon Ranch

- a) What year was the Foothill Company established?
- b) The Heritage Park Museum has a display commenting on the Corona Road Races. What kind of ticket is displayed for the 1916 Race and what is the ticket #?
- c) What historic structure is preserved and stored on the museum grounds for reassembly?

Question #4. Marker #18 - The Corona Theater

- a) Who was the designer of the Corona Theatre?
- b. What color is the checkerboard pattern at top of the theatre at the corner of Ramona and 6th street?
- c) The Corona theatre has a sister theatre that was designed by the same architect and was also owned by Corona Theatre's Glen Harper. In what city is this theatre still standing and located?

Question #5. Marker #7 - The Hotel Del Rey

- a) What was the last name of the Hotel Del Rey?
- b) Looking east, from in front of U-haul, what is the name of the soldier on the banner?
- c) U-haul, now located at the southwest corner of Victoria and 6th Street, was originally what business?





CITY OF CORONA

FREE ADMISSION

SATURDAY APRIL 9, 2016 9AM - 1PM



CITY HALL, SOUTH LAWN
400 S. VICENTIA AVE.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

- MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT
- CAR SHOW PRESENTED BY CARS & COFFEE CORONA
- PINEWOOD DERBY • FOOD & MORE

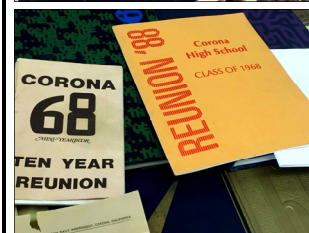
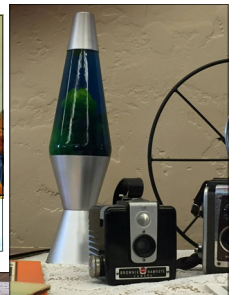
This community event commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the final Corona Grand Road Race held on April 8, 1916.



For more information, please contact the Library & Recreation Services Department at 951.736.2241.

To register for the car show, visit GrandRace.EventBrite.com
Questions? email CoronaRaceCarShow@DiscoverCorona.com

Photos from 1960s Discussion



Corona Trivia Quiz Answers

1. True
2. True
3. True, the concert took place in 1986
4. Grand Boulevard
5. 1915
6. South Riverside
7. R. B. Taylor, A.S. Garretson, Adolph Rimpau, Samuel Merrill and George L. Joy
8. True
9. True

2016 Riverside County History Symposium



A few of our guests, Murrietta Hot Springs, Murrieta, Cal.

Join us at Murrietta Hot Springs Resort on Saturday, May 7 for this wonderful educational opportunity to learn more from other historians in Riverside County. A delicious lunch and tours of the resort will also be offered.

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Visit this website to learn more about the event:  
<http://rivcohistorysymposium.weebly.com/>



# Membership Information

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

|                   |          |                          |                               |                          |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Individual Member | \$20.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>I'd like to volunteer!</b> |                          |
| 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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tom & Cathy Alton<br>Alicia Black<br>Richard & Mary Jo Boller<br>Barbara Bucher<br>Thomas & Mary Conklin<br>John & Catherine Downs<br>Mike & Julie Downs<br>Nancy Fay<br>Bob Garland<br>Nita Grantham | Judy Guignard<br>JoAnn Gunter<br>Lee Hansen<br>Trisha Henson-Cabrera<br>Charles Jameson<br>Bret & Lennie Keesler<br>Stephen & Sandy Klein<br>Kent & Ginnette Lillibridge<br>Michelle Massaro<br>J. D. & Debbie Mc Briety | Mike Mejia<br>Ken Park<br>Linda A. Pearson (Patron Member)<br>Jim Pixley<br>Esther Prichard<br>Nathan & Roberta Reed<br>Jim Steele<br>George & Joan Thacker<br>John R. Wiles<br>Fraser & Judy Wright |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## 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 [tom@alignarc.com](mailto:tom@alignarc.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>](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

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 organization dedicated to preservation and revitalization of Corona's historic buildings, neighborhoods and sites.

Through education, persuasion, legislation and organization, CHPS acts as an advocate for the preservation of Corona's historic resources.

## 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, Mar. 17, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office**

**Thursday, Apr. 21, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office**



Visit our Website at [www.Corona-History.org](http://www.Corona-History.org)



Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

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



Corona Historic Preservation Society  
Presents

## Vintage Home Tour



Saturday, April 30, 2016  
1:00-4:00 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the CHPS Home Description Grant Program.  
Historic Properties on tour pictured starting above: First Congregational Church, 809 Ramona; 1022 Ramona; 1119 Palm; 915 Ramona.

Pre-sale tickets \$18. \$30 day of event available at 1031 East Grand Blvd.  
For information call Paula at 951-256-7923 or email: Munoz7341@bcbglobal.net  
Pre-sale tickets available online • Will call day of event at 1031 East Grand Blvd.  
Pre-sale deadline: 11pm April 29 • [www.Corona-History.org](http://www.Corona-History.org)

**Pre-Sale tickets available after March 18th at:**  
Corona Heritage Park, 510 W. Foothill Parkway and Allegra, 127 Radio Road



**Vintage Home Tour will be held April 30th**