

A Message From Our President Wes Speake

Dear Members,

2019 is off to a quick start! We are happy to report that over 110 people enjoyed our panel discussion on “History of The Corona Police” -- this was the 6th panel discussion CHPS has presented since 2014. A video of the discussion has been posted on the CHPS YouTube channel. The event was presented on February 9, 2019 by the Corona Historic Preservation Society in the Community Room at the Historic Civic Center. Corona Police Department (CPD) Historian Terry Madory shared extensive research he's done on the early history of the department, followed by the panel discussion in which retired CPD leaders served as panelists. Their names are included in the video. See the link in the accompanying story. This panel discussion was not only entertaining; the format also provided priceless oral history details articulated by those who were significant in creating the modern story of the Corona Police Department. Special Thank yous to our panelists, Sal and Jean Gonzalez, Terry Madory and Karen Alexander for helping put on this very successful event. Let me know if you have an idea for a panel discussion topic for next year.

Once again the CHPS will serve as a sponsor for the Riverside County History Symposium, this year hosted at the Lake Elsinore Cultural Arts Center in Lake Elsinore, on March 2nd. I will be attending and will provide a report in the next CHPS Newsletter.

As we prepared for the History of the Corona Police Department panel discussion, I was approached by Tom and Mary Ann Sherman and told a story of Tom's great-grandfather Henry Sherman. Officer Sherman had only been on the force for a short time in 1914 when he was involved in a harrowing shootout with a murderer and thief. On March 20, 1914, shots were heard by two night watchmen at the Sunset Packing House. They investigated and found the body of Santa Fe engine watchman, George LaPorte. A posse was formed and Officers Ewing and Sherman were dispatched west by automobile to Prado so they could search back along the railroad tracks toward the station located at Main Street. Marshal Ramsay and Officer Colton were dropped off two miles east and assigned to work westward, back to the station. Some 2½ miles west of town, Officers Ewing and Sherman

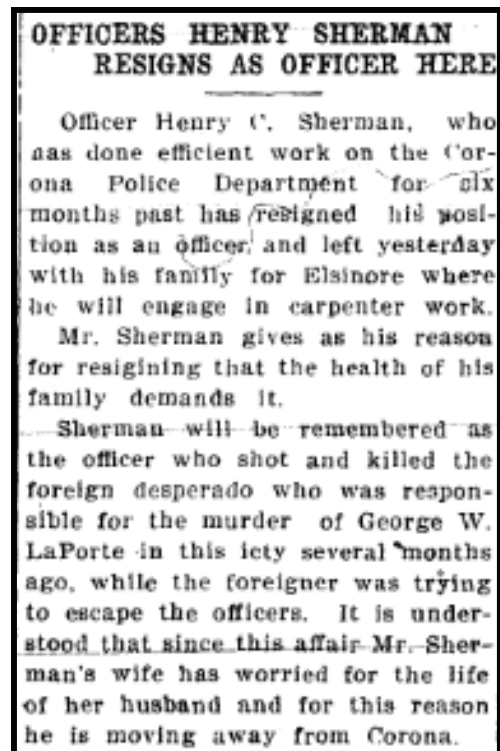
found a man walking. When they announced their presence, the suspect, Antonio Morrie, drew a weapon and opened fire, wounding Ewing in the ankle. He also shot a hole through Officer Sherman's coat and knocked several loops off his ammo belt. Out of 12 shots fired, 8 hit Morrie, fatally wounding him. Afterwards they searched him and found he was carrying 2 guns and 23 sticks of dynamite! It's truly amazing that of the 8 bullets striking him, none hit the dynamite.

Officer Ewing never fully recovered from his injury and was transferred a short time later to the Parks Department until his death in 1917 from pneumonia. Officer Sherman was pretty shaken by the gunfight. His wife insisted he leave the force so he resigned on June 19, 1914 and moved to Lake Elsinore. George LaPorte was laid to rest next to Marshal Grant C. Alexander at Sunnyslope Cemetery.

The Department's legacy of courage, selflessness and dedication have bridged the decades well and preserved peace and tranquility in the city of Corona.

Sincerely,

WES



Recap: History of the Corona Police Department By Eric Bergreen

The first Quarterly Meeting of 2019 kicked off on a rainy Saturday, February 9 and was held in the Community Room at Corona's Historic Civic Center. The audience numbered well over 110 and many had to stand in order to experience the meeting. This meeting focused on the transitioning of small-town policing to the modern professional organization it is today. CHPS invited a panel of seven retired Corona police officers to discuss their past years of service on the force. Former Chiefs John Cleghorn, Richard Gonzales and Mike Abel and former Captains Sam Spiegel, Ray Cota, John Dalzell and Roy Vanderkallen were kind enough to offer their time for the Q & A.



treated to views of old school Corona Police memorabilia. There were cases full of patches from decades past and badges from the turn of the century to the more modern ones worn today. Pictures of former officers and tactical instruments like wooden batons, leather saps and whistles were on display. Another

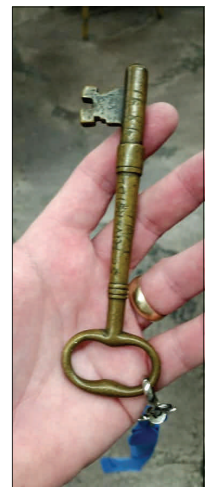
case held the key to the very first jail cell in South Riverside from 1891.

In all, another wonderful Quarterly Meeting was held to begin 2019. Special thanks to our panel and moderator and to our members who continue to make these meetings special. See you at the next one!

President Wes Speake started off by welcoming our members and guests, which numbered over one hundred for another great turnout. He then introduced our moderator, retired Corona Police Corporal and CPD historian Terry Madory who gave a comprehensive history about origins of South Riverside and Corona law enforcement personnel and activities. We learned that in 1887, early Constable Tom Blade had to traipse through downtown South Riverside businesses in order to seek out South Riverside's businessmen at work to convene a jury of 9 men for South Riverside's first jury trial. The trial took place in a resident's home; it was the only indoor space large enough. We also learned that Grant Alexander, our first Marshal, was killed in December 1913 while investigating a late night noise complaint coming from a shack behind his home. He was the only Corona peace officer killed in the line of duty.



Marshal G. C. Alexander



This key to Corona's first jail cell is from 1891

Terry then asked questions to the 7 panel members about how and why they joined the police force, how long they'd served, their experiences and memorable moments while on duty, and how their careers had impacted their day-to-day lives. Each man spoke fondly of his time being an officer while serving the city of Corona and talking of personal experiences and unforgettable events when responding to calls. It was apparent that none of these men would have traded his time on the force for anything else.

After the Q & A session our members and guests were



After all chairs were occupied, it was standing room only in the Community Room at the Historic Civic Center

2019 Vintage Home Tour & Kick-off Gala



1208 Palm Avenue



American Legion Memorial Hall
Post 216 - 1024 S. Main Street



1839 S. Main Street



818 Howard Street

**SATURDAY, MAY 11
from 1 - 4 P.M.**

Pre-Sale Tickets \$20

Tickets on day of event \$25



1215 East Grand Blvd.

- Pre-sale VHT tickets \$20, \$25 day of event available ONLY at 1052 East Grand Blvd. **Combined ticket pricing for Gala and Vintage Home Tour is \$45.00 per individual**
- For information call 951.371.5291 or email: VintageHomeTour@aol.com
- Pre-sale tickets are available online. Go to www.eventbrite.com and do a search for 'Corona Vintage Home Tour'
- Hard copies of tickets (with map) ordered online must be picked up at Will-Call at 1052 E. Grand Boulevard on day of the event after 12:30 P.M. and before beginning self-guided Tour

Pre-sale tickets for Tour & Gala are available after March 13th at:

- Corona Heritage Park, 510 W. Foothill Parkway
- Allegra, 127 Radio Road

Gala & Vintage Home Tour Kick-off

FRIDAY, MAY 10 at 7:00 P.M. Tickets \$30

Corona Heritage Park 510 W. Foothill Parkway

Join us Friday, the night before the Vintage Home Tour, under the lights of Corona's beautiful Heritage Park for an amazing evening of fabulous music by Dave Seltzer, wine tasting, appetizers, and desserts, as we kick off the 2019 Vintage Home Tour. Tickets are available at Heritage Park, Allegra (addresses are above) or online at www.eventbrite.com (see third bullet above). Email: chpsinfo@yahoo.com for Gala information.

Corona Hits the Bricks

By Chris McCoy & Dan Mosier

One of the forgotten facts about Corona is its history in the clay pipe and brick industry in the early days of Southern California. Known for our citrus groves, specifically lemons, Corona also had a thriving brick business that supported 5 different clay foundries over the years.

Why so many? Location was one reason. Corona was equidistant from different clay deposits in the Santa Ana Mountains south of Corona, which supplied: blue clay, which burned to a buff color for making pressed brick, white clay for making pressed brick and pottery ware, and red clay for making red pressed brick. The material was transported by rail to the plants. Here is a brief history of the three major manufacturers that called Corona home.

Corona Pressed Brick & Terra Cotta

The Corona Pressed Brick and Terra Cotta Company was incorporated on July 1, 1902, with a capital stock of \$25,000, at Corona, Riverside County, California. The directors were C. E. Kennedy and A. A. Caldwell of Riverside, and M. W. Findley, E. A. McGillivray, and A. F. Legay of Corona. Findley was president and plant superintendent. The works stood on the property of 10 acres, west of the Corona Gas and Electric Company plant on Railroad Street and west of the depot, about where US Tile stands today.

Work began on the brick plant on the south side of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad in 1903.

Robert Baldwin of Corona furnished 120,000 bricks for the kilns and stacks. By November, the kilns were built and the machinery was installed, which included a dry-

press brick machine made by the American Clay Manufacturing Company. In January 1904, a large reservoir for holding crude oil was built. The initial grinders and mixers were made by the Riverside Foundry and Machine Works. The new machinery at that time was powered by electric motors aggregating a capacity of 80 horsepower. Steam was also used to power the plant.

In August 1906, the company announced a two-year plan to double the plant capacity and run a day and night shift. By February 1909, they added a sewer-pipe press, two dry pans, and three wet pans, all manufactured by Taplin-Rice-Clerkin Company. Products made at this plant included sewer pipe, terra cotta pipe, terra cotta fireproofing, firebrick, and pressed brick in various shades of color. By 1909, brick production appeared to have been almost completely replaced by sewer pipe as the main product. All production ended in June 1910.



View of the marked face of the Corona wire-cut firebrick.
Contributed Jack Bower.

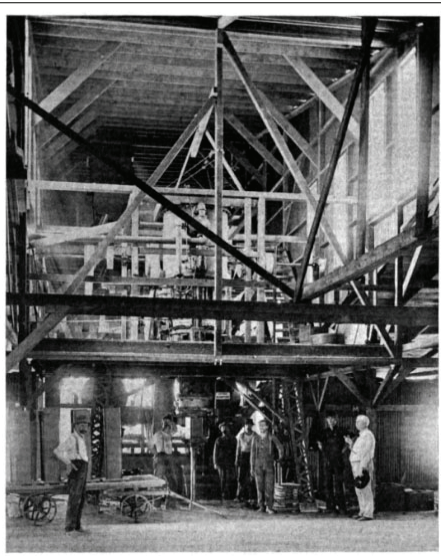
In June 1910, the company merged with the California Fireproof Construction Company at Terra Cotta, Pacific Clay Manufacturing Company at Corona, California Clay Manufacturing Company at Vernon, and the Douglass Clay Product Company at Los Angeles. These companies were consolidated under a new company called the Pacific Sewer Pipe Company. This marked the end of the Corona Pressed Brick and Terra Cotta plant as it was closed and eventually dismantled by the Pacific Sewer Pipe Company.

Liston Brick

The Liston Brick Company was established by Lionel Paul Liston in 1948. Liston was born in Hammond, Oklahoma in 1912, and died in Corona, California in 1988. He married Evelyn Bernhard in 1936, and they had three children. They made their residence in Corona.

The Liston brickyard was located at 3710 Temescal Canyon Road. The yard, which is now razed, was on the south side of Cajalco Road at its intersection with Temescal Canyon Road. The plant manufactured common brick in standard and commercial sizes. They also made rug-textured brick.

Clay material was purchased from local suppliers in the Corona area. These included the Miocene diatomaceous shale of the Chocolate Drop deposit in the



Machine Room at the Corona Pressed Brick and Terra Cotta Company plant, Corona.
From Brick, 1909

Corona Hits the Bricks Continued

Topanga formation, sandy clay strip waste from the pit of the Owens-Illinois Glass Company, and local soils. Field kilns using natural gas were used to fire the brick. This operation had as many as five field kilns in various stages of development.

In 1960, the company employed about twenty workers,



View of the Liston plant on the left, offices and shop on the right, and finished brick storage.
From Gray, 1961

including the sales personnel. The plant closed in the mid-1960s.

On May 10, 1974, the Liston Brick Company of Corona filed an articles of incorporation, indicating the reopening of the brickyard. Craig Hall was the registered agent, and Walter Jack Hall was president. They employed fifty-two workers. This operation was not for brick making, but for smelting aluminum. In 2007 the company was fined for pollution, which resulted in its closing. Although the company is currently listed in business directories, the plant structures on the property have been razed.

A person can still see the foundations for Liston if he or she drive to the Temescal Canyon exit at the 15, head East and then look South.

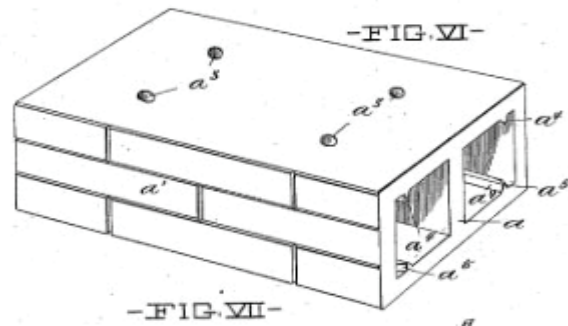
Pacific Clay Manufacturing Company

This history begins with the Los Angeles Water and Sewer Pipe Company, which was incorporated on May 17, 1887 in Los Angeles. The intent of the company was to perform any work in which cement, lime, clay, stone, and other materials of similar character were used. This company located property for a large manufacturing plant in South Riverside (now called Corona) in Riverside County, California. The property was located on the north side of Railroad Avenue about one-mile west of town. They were planning to utilize the newly discovered deposits of clay and lime in Temescal

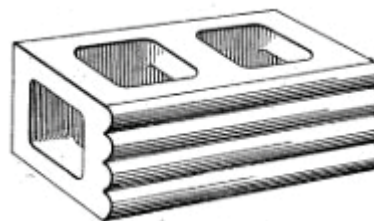
Canyon near Corona and a gravel deposit on the Arroyo Seco south of Los Angeles.

Edward G. Durant was the driving force behind this company. He was born in Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts in 1833. He married Carolin H. Darling in 1863 at Burlington, Wisconsin, and they raised three children. He went to Los Angeles about 1887 and was elected president of the Pacific Clay Manufacturing Company in 1889. Among his many inventions were issued patents in 1895 for tile casings for windows and doors, in 1897 for hollow block and hollow block machine, and in 1903 for a flask for molding building blocks. He died on September 24, 1914 in Pasadena at the age of 81 years.

In June 1888 machinery for the new terra cotta plant at Corona was purchased and plant construction began in July. C.B. Hewitt was the general manager. Manager Hewitt wrote that the company was planning to manufacture hollow firing proofing partition walls for fire-proof buildings, firebrick, terra cotta goods of all kinds, and terra cotta lumber, which can be used for ceilings and inside lining of brick walls and was porous enough for nails to hold woodwork.



Hollow block was invented by Edward G. Durant. Durant, 1897.



Building block invented by Edward G. Durant. Durant, 1903.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Corona Hits the Bricks Continued

The sewer pipe plant at Corona was completed and fired its first kiln of vitrified salt-glazed pipe during the last week of April 1889. By August, according to an advertisement, the terra cotta plant was producing chimney pipe and tops, firebrick, pressed brick, building blocks, drain tile, Durants Pat, ollas (oyers), fire clay, and crushed rock. A new type of building block adapted for Southern California homes was introduced in September 1889. These wares were displayed at the Los Angeles County Fair that year. In 1890, at the Sixth District Agricultural Association Fair, this company was awarded for the best water pipe, best display of pottery, and best display of pressed brick. These pressed bricks were adopted across the state, one may be familiar with these types of bricks being used in Frank Lloyd Wright homes. The products were shipped out on the Pomona-Elsinore Railroad, which ran a line to the plant. The terra cotta plant employed 35 workers in 1890 and this was increased to 75 to 100 by 1891. The plant superintendent from 1902 to 1905 was M.W. Findley.

The Pacific Clay Manufacturing Company became a

major clay mining and clay products manufacturing firm. A major competitor was the Pacific Sewer Pipe Company, which was mainly a sewer pipe manufacturer based in Los Angeles. In early 1910, the Pacific Sewer Pipe Company acquired the properties of the Pacific Clay Manufacturing Company and closed all of the plants. The Corona plant, which became Plant No. 2 of the Pacific Sewer Pipe Company, was later re-opened to manufacture the same products that were made before.

Although the plants have all closed today, remnants of them can be found all over Corona. Stamped and clacker bricks remain in pillars and walkways throughout the city, along with many of the clay pipes still being used beneath our feet. Keep an eye out next time you are walking through town.

Many thanks to Dan Mosier and his amazing resources on the California brick industry at:

<http://www.calbricks.netfirms.com>.

Please go visit and learn more.

(danmosier@earthlink.net)

Heritage Home Awards for 2018



502 West Eleventh Street

The Corona Historic Preservation Society periodically identifies and honors homes more than 75 years old, or more than 50 years old and of a unique architectural style, whose owners have been excellent stewards over their historic resource and who have made outstanding efforts in restoration or preservation of their homes.



224 South Belle Avenue



1122 Garretson Avenue

Any CHPS member in good standing may nominate a home for the Corona Heritage Home Award. Homes of serving CHPS directors are not eligible. Homes that are for sale are not eligible for consideration.

The Board of Directors votes for nominees at regularly scheduled Board meetings.



1215 East Grand Boulevard

Membership Information

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

Individual Member	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer:
Family	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitality refreshments <input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter writing articles <input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vintage Home Tour <input type="checkbox"/>
Patron	\$125.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	docent / volunteer <input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$600.00	<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 and mail to:
CHPS
P.O. Box 2904
Corona, CA 92878**



We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Mike Abel
George & Ruth Beloz
Gary, Juanita & Susan Bergreen
Barbara Bucher
John & Cathy Cleghorn
Sally Ann Carlson
Raymond Cota
John Dalzell
Tammi Schilling-Garland

Bob German
Richard Gonzales
Nita Grantham - Patron Member
Lee Hansen
James & Amanda Kalkanis
Don Kindred
Kent Lillibridge
Terry Madory
Amelia Nieves

Karen Parker
Jim Pauly
Tom & Sunny Richins
Darlene (Brooks) Schelke
Sam Spiegel
Jim Steiner
Roy Vanderkallen

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 Coordinator Rich Winn at rwinn141@gmail.com or call 714.328.0010. 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 - Wes Speake
Vice President - Eric Bergreen
Secretary - Amanda Kalkanis
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors

Trisha Henson-Cabrera
Chris McCoy
Paula Muñoz
Doris Osko
Mary Winn

Advisors

Marla Benson
Tom Richins
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, March 21, 6:30 at CHPS office

Thursday, April 18, 6:30 at CHPS office



www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
& Society

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



A vintage sign

Join us at the Vintage Home Tour & Kick-off Gala in May
(see page 3 for details)