

### A Message From Your President Fred Parr

Dear Members:

I know I sound like a broken record, but time does fly by. Although it is still spring, I sure feel summer knocking on the door.

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the final Grand Road Race was held April 9<sup>th</sup> on the south lawn of City Hall. The community came together for the celebration and it was an educational and enjoyable day. I caught myself trying to imagine over 100,000 people gathering in 1916 to cheer on auto racing pioneers as they raced around our Grand Boulevard. Wow!

By the time you read this, we will have just finished up the 2016 Vintage Home Tour and once again it was a wonderful event. Thank you to the many volunteers who put in so much effort into researching, planning and executing the tour and to the generous homeowners and members of the First Congressional Church who were so truly hospitable. The VHT is such an important annual event and the proceeds go back into the community to help preserve historic structures through our Home Preservation Grant Program.

Coming up on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> is the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Corona Antiques and Collectibles Faire held at the Corona Heritage Park and Museum. This is really a



Board of Directors at 1916 Race event, missing is Doris Osko.

great event which is becoming quite popular. If you enjoy antiques and old interesting items, there is a tremendous number on display and for sale. If you're not a serious picker, it is a great day to just stroll through the beautiful park or stop in and visit the ever changing Museum. As usual, CHPS will be out there selling a few wares and providing free lemonade made from homegrown lemons.



Our second Quarterly Meeting of 2016 in June will be a field trip to Claremont Village on June 18<sup>th</sup> so mark your calendars and keep an eye out for email and on social media for more details about this fun event. Details are also found on page 3 of this CHPS Newsletter.

As you know, we have an active CHPS website and marker program and are currently working with the City of Corona to design and install new Grand Blvd Historic District signage. Lastly, I invite you to “like” our Facebook CHPS page and group. We are very active there and post lots of interesting information relating to Corona history and CHPS events.

Best wishes,  
FRED PARR



### CHPS Calendar Update

**Saturday, June 4** - 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Antiques & Collectibles Faire at Corona Heritage Park. CHPS will provide the old-fashioned lemonade stand as well as a booth offering architectural salvage items and CHPS wares such as T-shirts, books, postcards, etc.

**Saturday, June 18** - For our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Meeting we will be hosting a walking tour of the historic Claremont Village and Claremont Packing House. See page 3 for more details.



# 1916 Corona Road Race Commemoration By Wes Speake

On Saturday April 9, 2016, braving the threat of rain that never showed up, the City of Corona and the Corona Historic Preservation Society celebrated the city's unique racing past. The Corona Historic Preservation Society hosted a vendor booth, that included a book signing by the authors of *Better than Fiction*, a fiction book that uses the 1916 Corona Race as its backdrop in a period love story. We are happy to report that authors Michelle Massaro and April Gardner were delighted with brisk sales of their novel and support by the community.



Image courtesy of Corona Public Library

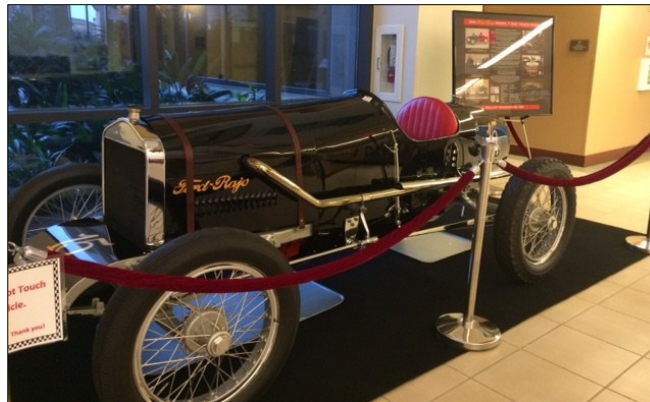


T-shirts in L and XL are still available for \$20 by calling Richard at 714.328.0010.

Our CHPS booth also had T-shirts for sale commemorating the final race with the 1916 winner Eddie O'Donnell on the back in his #12 Dusenberg, which had an average speed of over 100 miles per hour.

The commemoration was held on City Hall's south lawn and started with the Corona High School marching band welcoming everyone with the National Anthem, followed by a Jazz Ensemble. The event ended with the Empire Swing Orchestra. At least a dozen cars were on display including the Oscar Mayer "Weinermobile" and Concours d'Corona Best of Show winner was a 1920 Ford Rajo owned by Tom Malloy.

Mayor Jason Scott brought us the beautifully framed Resolution from the California State Assembly acknowledging Corona's racing past and asked that it be displayed at our CHPS booth. We were delighted to accommodate him. Many attendees paused to view and appreciate the State Resolution. All in all, a great time was had by everyone!



"Best in Show" 1920 Ford Rajo on display at City Hall



Photo courtesy of City of Corona



Mary Winn, Mayor Scott & Paula Muñoz



## Next Quarterly Meeting: A Walking Tour of Claremont

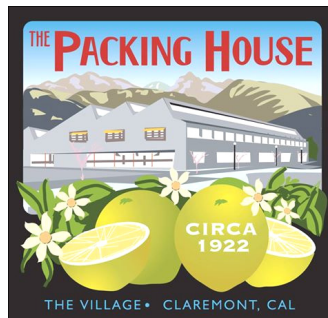
We will be touring the Claremont Village area and the restored College Heights Lemon Packing House\*\* led by a docent from the Claremont Historical Society.

**When: Saturday, June 18 from 9:30 to approximately 11:30**

**Please contact Tom Muñoz if you plan to attend.  
He will also provide additional details: 714.267.2743**

\*\*The original packing house, built in 1922, closed its doors in 1972. Since 2007, the building has undergone an award-winning preservation and adaptive reuse process and is now home to a variety of lofts, offices, galleries, eateries and boutiques.

There are plenty of restaurants in the area where you may eat lunch.



## Watch 1960s Videos Now on Our CHPS YouTube Channel

Our Panelists



We thank CHPS Advisor Ted Taylor for videotaping the event and CHPS member Sal Gonzalez of Corona Videos for editing and production of the videos.

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 memories, stories and little-known facts with those in attendance.

**Visit the CHPS YouTube Channel link to see Parts 1 and 2 of the panel discussion:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCwmlr2zWcFViDoVk1YXnoQ>

# Airplane at the 1916 Corona Auto Races By Tom Richins

Sometimes we don't realize just how great history is until we put it into perspective. This article will prove that point. In an effort to publicize the 1916 Corona Road Race, the organizers decided to hire Tex Lagrone, a stunt pilot from Venice Beach, to fly over Corona for an entire week as the racers dialed in their cars and performed time trials. In addition, Tex was scheduled to perform an airplane fireworks show (see picture) as well as perform an acrobatic show for two hours on race day prior to the start of the race.



was heavily damaged.

Unfortunately, Corona never did get its illuminated night time aircraft fireworks show nor the race day acrobatics show. But for a short time in the early years of aviation history, Corona played a small role...

An airplane flying over Corona doesn't seem to be that big of a deal in today's times, but to put things in perspective, having an airplane in Corona for an entire week in 1916 was a major news breaking event. Following the history of aviation, it was just 13 years earlier, in 1903, when the Wright Brothers performed their "First in Flight" voyage launching the birth of aviation. Just 13 years later as 1916 rolled around, there was only one official airport on the entire West Coast, and that was Ince Field, Venice Beach. Stationed at Ince Field was a handful of stunt pilots that would perform air shows over Venice Beach Pier entertaining spectators by the thousands. When the pilots weren't entertaining on the beach front, they would then provide their services to the movie studios filming aerial footage as well as perform air acrobatics for the movies themselves. Tex Lagrone was one of those pilots.

As agreed, Tex Lagrone arrived in Corona during race week and began to fly his plane around Grand Boulevard and around the City of Corona itself. In addition, Tex was dispatched to fly over Colton, Riverside, and San Bernardino to drop flyers soliciting the people in those cities to come to the auto races the following Saturday.

Unfortunately, tragedy did interfere with the aerial festivities. On Thursday April 6th, as Tex was flying back to Corona from San Bernardino in a 35mph head wind, he felt that his plane with a small engine wouldn't have enough fuel to finish the flight. Therefore, he decided to land at Riverside Fair Grounds and refuel. As he approached the fairgrounds, Tex became temporarily blinded by the sun and crashed his plane into a telephone pole. Tex was discharged from the plane, fell 15 feet to the ground where the plane then landed on top of him. Miraculously Tex walked away, but the plane

## Corona Aeroplane Proves Great Advertising for Race

Tex LaGrone, an aviator of considerable fame, made his first flight yesterday afternoon, except for a tryout about six o'clock Wednesday evening. The flight was witnessed by thousands. Following the practice hour he made a flight to Riverside, Colton, San Bernardino and Redlands on Thursday afternoon and took with him two thousand circulars which were rolled up in packages

of about ten each and tied with a string. These were dropped from an altitude of about 6,000 feet; the circulars invited the citizens of other towns and cities to come to Corona and spend Saturday with us and enjoy the greatest exhibition of speed yet seen; he returned later in the afternoon and landed safely at the aviation field which is just west of the base ball park.

## Aviator in Sky Wreck Falls Near Riverside

CORONA, Cal., April 8.--Word was received here that Tex LaGrone, aviator, flying from Riverside to the races here, fell a short distance from Riverside today. He was blinded by the sunlight. LaGrone's machine crashed into a telephone pole and was completely wrecked.

LaGrone suffered only minor injuries. He had planned to circle over the course before the start of the race.

VIA AEROGRAM  
6000 Feet Altitude  
**CORONA**  
Invites you to witness the fastest  
**Auto Race**  
IN HISTORY  
Saturday at 1 o'clock  
200 MINUTES OF THRILLS AMERICA'S FOREMOST DRIVERS  
Illuminated Fireworks from Aeroplane Thursday Night  
Secure your tickets at:--  
Nebbett's Drug Store, Riverside  
National Orange Store, Silverwood's, Central Drug Store and A. S. & A. No. 3, San Bernardino; A. & C. Drug Co., Redlands; Riley's, Colton.  
GREETING FROM  
**TEX LA GRONNE**  
Venice's Greatest Aviator



To the left is an original purple promotional flyer dropped throughout Colton, Riverside and San Bernardino in 1916.

# Answers to Corona History Scavenger Hunt

By Wes Speake & Tom Richins

These questions about five of the 22 Historic Markers placed by Corona Historic Preservation Society were posed in the March-April *CHPS Newsletter*. The answers to each question are included below in **bold font and SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS**.



## Question #1. Marker #13 - The Corona Depot

- a) In what year did the current depot start operation **[1937]** and when did it cease operation as a train depot? **[PASSENGER SERVICE STOPPED IN 1968 AND CARGO SERVICE CEASED IN 1984]**
- b) What fruit painted on the windows and front door of the depot was never shipped out of the Corona Depot? **[GRAPES]**
- c) Who paid for the first train station to be built? **[SOUTH RIVERSIDE LAND & WATER COMPANY UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CITY'S FOUNDERS]**

## Question #2. Marker #16 - Lemonia Grove

- a) What was the name of the lemons that helped give this marker its name? **[LISBON LEMONS]**
- b) This marker had many sponsors on the post holding the marker including the Knights of Columbus from what church? **[ST. MEL'S CHURCH IN NORCO]**
- 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? **[CHASE DRIVE WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AS LEMON STREET. BEFORE SOUTH CORONA WAS "REPLANNED", THE SOUTHERLY END OF RIMPAU AVENUE TERMINATED AT ONTARIO AVENUE. THE CURRENT ENTRY TO LEMONIA GROVE WAS LOCATED ON LESTER AVENUE UNTIL RIMPAU AVENUE WAS EXTENDED SOUTH OF ONTARIO AVENUE AND CURVED TO CONNECT WITH "OLD" LESTER AVENUE.]**

## Question #3. Marker #12 - Corona Foothill Lemon Ranch

- a) What year was the Foothill Company established? **[1911]**
- b) 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 #? **[IT IS A PARKING TICKET, # 8139]**

- c) What historic structure is preserved and stored on the museum grounds for reassembly? **[HOTEL DEL REY]**

## Question #4. Marker #18 - The Corona Theater (Landmark Building now serving as Covenant Life Ministries)

- a) Who was the designer of the Corona Theatre? **[CARL AND ROBERT BOLLER]**
- b. What color is the checkerboard pattern at top of the theatre at the corner of Ramona and 6th street? **[RED AND YELLOW]**
- c) The Corona theatre has a sister theatre that was designed by the same architect and was also owned by Corona Theater's Glenn Harper. In what city is this theatre still standing and located? **[FONTANA]**

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

- a) What was the final name of the Hotel Del Rey? **[THE VICTORIA HOTEL]**
- b) Looking east, from in front of U-haul, what is the name of the soldier on the banner? **[DAVID MILLIGAN, US ARMY]**
- c) U-haul, now located at the southwest corner of Victoria and 6th Street, was originally what business? **[SAFEWAY]**



**OLD RIVERSIDE FOUNDATION'S 25th Annual Vintage Home Tour**  
Restoration Faire & Mercantile is on Saturday, May 14, 2016

To learn more visit [www.olderiverside.org](http://www.olderiverside.org)  
or visit Facebook @ Old Riverside Foundation

## Getting to Know Dr. George Beloz



One of the most respected leaders in our community and a CHPS member, Dr. George Beloz, is neither a native Coronan nor Californian by birth, but he got here just as soon as he could.

His parents emigrated from Mexico to Chicago in 1926. His father was a steel worker, his mother a home-maker. Of his grandparents, he only knew his maternal grandmother. He was born in Chicago and grew up in

an ethnically diverse neighborhood kind of like a small town inside this large metropolitan city. When growing up he was interested in fine arts and fishing was a hobby. Interestingly, his favorite teacher was a science teacher. As a youth he sold daily newspapers on South Lakeshore Drive in Chicago, worked for Fannie Mae as a teenager and played the piano at church.

After a couple of years in college, George was drafted into the Army and was assigned to Heidelberg, Germany where his wife joined him and they lived off-post and traveled throughout Europe while stationed there. After his military service he returned to college and completed Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees, the latter two with the assistance of the GI Bill. He received his PhD from Southern Illinois University at the Carbondale campus in Educational Administration with a specialization in Bilingual Vocational Technical Education.

George was recruited into the Foreign Service and worked for the U.S. Department of State for seven years learning the ropes in the Asian, the Middle Eastern and Latin American regional areas. He accepted assignments to evaluate the funding processes for PVOs (Private Volunteer Organizations funded or partially funded by taxpayer dollars) to be challenging and exciting. He had several memorable assignments in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. However, all this travel was not conducive to having a regular family life.

Dr. Beloz left the Foreign Service and held several administrative and educational assignments in the Orange County College District at both Cypress College and Fullerton College from which system he retired.

He and his wife Ruth, moved to Corona in 1983. They have three grown daughters. Since moving to Corona, he was a candidate for School Board in 1989 and served on the Board of Trustees for the Corona Public Library from 1993-1997.

Dr. Beloz was appointed to the Citizens Oversight Committee for Measure C, the \$169 million dollar bond issue affecting Riverside City College, San Jacinto and Norco campuses.

For the last ten years he has headed up the Greater Corona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GCHCOC) by planning very interesting evening meetings at Miguel's restaurant with a wide variety of speakers on topics of community interest that have contributed to increasing GCHCOC membership. The GCHCOC has actively supported Corona's annual Cinco de Mayo celebrations.

# CORONA

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL



# Antiques & Collectibles

# FAIRE

CORONA HERITAGE PARK & MUSEUM

**Hours: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

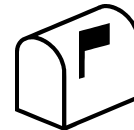


Membership Status: Renewal  New

**Please complete form and mail to:**

**CHPS**

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



## We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Nancy A. Adrian (LIFE MEMBER)  
Jim & Patti Anderson  
Richard & Carol Appel  
David & Sylvia Barnett  
George & Ruth Beloz  
Alicia Black  
Thurston & Jackie Bland  
Shaylene Cortez  
Ed & Linda Faxon

Sal & Jean Gonzalez  
JoAnn Gunter  
Sharon Hall  
Bret & Lennie Keesler  
Michelle Massaro  
Mike Mejia  
Tom & Paula Muñoz  
Mary Paulson  
Jim Pauly

Jim Pixley  
Mitch & Carol Salgado  
Michael & Tami Segert  
Jim Steele  
Patricia Tomer-Hicks  
Clyde R. Tracy  
Terry & Nancy Wilkeson  
Harold & Beryl Williams  
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, May 19, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office**

**Thursday, June 16, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office**



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

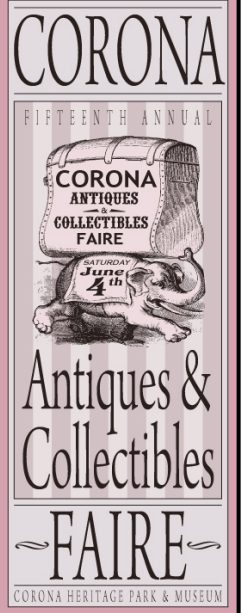


Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

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



Corona Foothill Lemon Company label



**Tour of Claremont Village - June 18<sup>th</sup> See page 3**