

A Message From Our President Tom Richins

Dear Members,

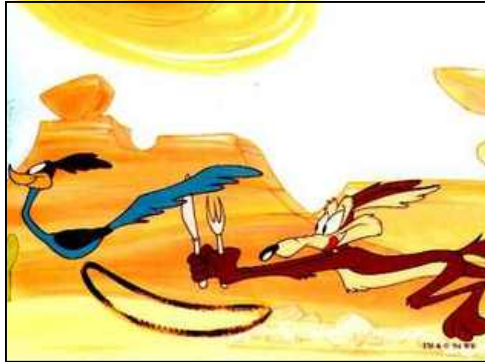
Every month in our board meeting, the board members are issued a report on new members and members that have renewed. To the new members, I say welcome and hope that our society is everything you hope for it to be. To the returning members, it is with true appreciation that I say Thank You for supporting the cause. Within the society itself, we are an entirely volunteer organization. Our board members work true and hard, but it wouldn't be possible without the backing of our lovely members.

As a father of a 5-year and 3-year-old, I find myself watching a lot of Roadrunner cartoons. Both of my boys just flat out love them, and we love to watch them together. It is funny how even as a kid the cartoons were funny, but as an adult they get even better. It is for this reason that I decided to search out what made them so great.

It turns out that it was the great American animator Chuck Jones who, at the request of Warner Brothers, designed the famed Roadrunner and Coyote. In Chuck's autobiography *Chuck Amuck*, he states that he turned to history when it came time to design the Coyote. He explains it was Mark Twain's book *Roughing It* that provided him the description for Wile E. Coyote. It was the exact words of Twain, "A long, slim, sick and sorry looking skeleton" that inspired the vision of the coyote. In addition he also borrowed from Mr. Twain, "He is always hungry" to give the coyote his motivation.

In his book, Chuck, recognizing the popularity of the desert duo, explains that there were nine rules (standards) that he insisted that all 48 episodes abide by. These rules, simple in nature, in his opinion were the backbone of the cartoon's success. The nine rules are:

Rule 1. The Road Runner cannot harm the coyote except by going "Beep-Beep."



Rule 2. No outside force can harm the coyote. Only his own ineptitude or the failure of ACME products.

Rule 3. The Coyote could stop anytime – if he were not a fanatic.

Rule 4. No dialogue ever, except "Beep-Beep"

Rule 5. The Road Runner must stay on the road – Otherwise, logically, he would not be called Road Runner.

Rule 6. All action must be confined to the natural environment of the two characters – the Southwest American Desert.

Rule 7. All materials, tools, weapons, or mechanical conveniences must be obtained from the ACME Corporation.

Rule 8. Whenever possible, gravity must be the Coyote's greatest enemy.

Rule 9. The Coyote is always more humiliated than harmed by his failures.

It wasn't until I read these rules, that I recognized the genius of Chuck Jones. After reading them and re-viewing a few episodes, I was able to see how his rules influenced the vision of the episode.

I am guessing that all of the readers of this article are fans of the Roadrunner and Coyote, but this isn't the purpose for writing this article. In the month of April 2015, Corona City Manager Brad Robbins retired. Likewise former Corona Councilman and former Mayor, Darrell Talbert took his place. I am hopeful for the Talbert administration. It is the request of CHPS that just like Chuck Jones, he too will put preservation rules in place. Knowing Mr. Talbert to be a Corona history buff, as well an owner of many rare vintage Corona postcards, that he too will turn to the past, in order to know how to go forward.

Sincerely,

TOM RICHINS



I Remember When... Barbara Becker

By Mary Winn

The Corona Historic Preservation Society is very fortunate to have longtime Corona resident Barbara Becker among our members.

Barbara Becker simply loves Corona, her hometown for 59 years. She was born in Munich, Germany while her father was serving with the U.S. Army in the Criminal Investigation Corps. She also once lived in Wisconsin, on a Michigan farm and in Japan. Before Japan, they lived in Home Gardens after arriving in an old prison bus with 10 dachshunds. After her father retired from the Army, she arrived in Corona for good in 1961 and began the 4th grade. After living elsewhere, she immediately "fell in love with the heat" and the fragrance of the citrus blossoms.

Visiting with Barbara is a simply delightful experience. She clearly has a keen memory and thoroughly enjoys recalling many details about her hometown. Here is a portion of the many memories she shared:

"I Remember When..."

- She went to Kimbell School, Corona Jr. High and Corona High School.
- Her family lived in Coronita on Via Del Rio.
- Coronita had lots of crickets and dark skies at night.
- She explored the gullies around their home and went to Thomas Ranch and the "tar pits" to play.
- In those days you walked - to the Plunge, Vasel's, Western Auto, J.C. Penney, Alpha-Beta, the stationery store, W.C. Harris & Son, and sometimes to the Corona Theater.
- Midnight sales were a community tradition where the kids went to the movies and the parents "hung out" on Sixth Street chatting with each other.
- She also recalls good meals at the Chuck Wagon, Lindy's, the Hickory and the Corona Bowl.
- Barbara has always had long hair and wore braids in her youth.
- It was not unusual for kids to pick fruit from trees that overhung the alleys and offered plums and apricots to passers-by.
- Walking to High School was nothing special as there were no houses between Coronita and the high school campus.
- She attended a Cotillion program at the Woman's Improvement Club.
- Who can forget Gillette's record store?



- City Park had wading pools, a merry-go-round and the Plunge.
- Popular styles when she was a teenager were aviator glasses, granny dresses, mini-dresses/skirts, hot pants, bell-bottomed pants, clogs and leather fringed jackets
- The holiday season was marked with the reflective and tinsel-like Christmas decorations strung across Sixth Street.
- She played or went to baseball games at the Civic Center ball fields and Butterfield Park.
- She attended Riverside City College actually in Riverside, long before the campus in Norco was established.
- She waitressed at La Fiesta, Miguel's original sit-down restaurant and Silver Dollar Pancake House.
- She babysat frequently while in high school and the going rate was 50¢ no matter how many children were tended.
- She really enjoyed shopping at the Sprouse-Reitz department store.

Barbara Becker is a gifted photographer and has enjoyed photography since she was a young girl. She recalls taking her very first photo with a Brownie box camera when she was on a ship returning home from Japan where her father had been stationed.

When asked why she takes pictures in and around Corona she responded: "I now photograph whatever I see that reminds me of the past, fascinates me, has atmosphere, character or just seems nice to observe at the time."

Barbara definitely has the innate ability to capture beautiful images of Corona and she often shares them through social media, namely Facebook and Instagram. She graciously allowed CHPS to share her photographs at our 2014 Holiday Party.

Barbara also consented to allowing me to create a video titled "Beautiful Corona: Through the Lens of Barbara Becker" which is posted on the CHPS YouTube Channel. The video may be accessed here: <https://www.youtube/watch?v=nImSHMgVHSc>

Barbara's video on youtube.com has 580 views as of the publishing of this newsletter. I invite you to take a look and enjoy.

Vintage Home Tour

Presented by



Saturday, May 2, 2015 • 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Proceeds benefit the CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program



First Baptist Church 722 Main



1036 E. Grand



1518 S. Main St.



1307 Main St.



122 E. Olive

Antique Automobiles on Display

Pre-sale tickets \$18, \$20 day of event available at 1052 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 1052 East Grand Blvd.

Pre-sale deadline 11pm May 1 • www.Corona-History.org

Pre-Sale Tickets
available after
March 27th at:

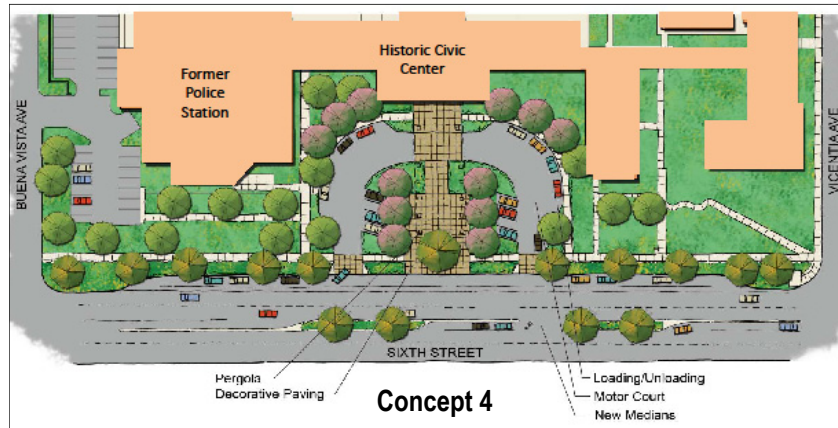
Corona Chamber of Commerce
904 E. 6th. St.

• Corona Heritage Park
510 W. Foothill Parkway

• Allegra
127 Radio Road

An Important Issue to Consider

In a City Council Study Session on March 25, 2015, the Department of Water & Power presented four concept proposals that would remove the water fountain and 92-year old lawn area in front of the Historic Civic Center and add a driveway to allow some short-term vehicle parking and improve safety when vehicles are dropping off or picking up Civic Center patrons.



The nomination of Corona High School #2 (the current Historic Civic Center) to the National Register of Historic Places stated, "Corona High School #2 is located within the Corona Historic District, at 815 West Sixth Street, and fronts south onto Corona's major east-west arterial roadway in an essentially commercial area. Small businesses and store fronts surround the site. The main building is set behind a beautifully landscaped lawn with a central fountain and mature evergreen trees to shade the site." and "The landscaped lawn area in front of the building serves as the heart of the community, even today. Holiday lighting of the trees, celebrations of the community's citrus industry heritage, antiques and collectibles fairs, graduation ceremonies and other functions that bring the people of the community together have occurred and continue to occur on the site." The people of Corona think this is a pretty special place. It continues to be the most photographed place in Corona for wedding, graduation and quinceañera photos and photos of all kinds. For many years, Corona leaders have been trying to rejuvenate and improve West Sixth Street and we believe that this building and its oasis-like grounds is a beautiful and important anchor in the area, revered by many

The building was constructed to serve as Corona Senior High in 1923 and a driveway with a less than 12,000 sq. ft. footprint was constructed in the mid-1920s. After the high school moved to its current location on Tenth Street, the building was converted into Corona's City Hall in 1962. The City removed the driveway and added the fountain and landscaping in 1969. The nearly 50-year old fountain was dedicated to Corona's pioneer families and a commemorative plaque is mounted to the left of the arcade entry doors. The Department of Water and Power invited representatives of the CHPS Board of Directors to discuss a driveway restoration proposal similar to the original driveway configuration some months ago. While the "Pioneer Fountain" does not share the same historical significance as the historic resources named in the National Register nomination, there is considerable disenchantment at the prospect of losing the iconic fountain.

At the study session on March 25, 2015, landscape renderings were presented for four proposals. Staff recommended and the Council seemed to favor Concept 4 which is shown above. This concept was identified as "The Plaza Motorcourt with Diagonal parking" and utilized a 33,500+ sq. ft. footprint of a broad "U" shaped, bus drop-off sized driveway in front of the Historic Civic Center main building. Funding of these changes was stated as coming from the Turf Replacement Program and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We understood from the study session that this proposal would remove all existing grass areas and all of the mature trees and shrubs treasured by everyone in the community. NOTE: Most of the green areas on the rendering above do not represent grass or lawn, only drought tolerant planting areas. Essentially, all existing landscape would be replaced with drought tolerant plantings similar to what is currently seen around City Hall north of the Civic Center.

We hope that the City Council will move slowly and judiciously in making such an important and long-lasting decision for such a historic treasure. We also believe that seeking community input would be very wise. There are many other ideas and options beyond the four presented that should be explored. The true need for such changes needs to be discussed and other alternatives such as creating a drop off/pick up area along the back (the north side) of the building or potential uses of the secure parking area need to be considered.

We implore you, our members, to monitor the situation and express your feelings to your City Council members. There does not appear to be any immediate, compelling need or legitimate public purpose to remove the only historic water feature in the downtown or for some of the most valuable land in the city to be converted into a driveway and to create unneeded parking. The issue has been requested for an additional City Council Study Session in the future.

A Visit to the American Legion Hall Post 216



Our Next Quarterly Meeting

Date: Saturday, June 20, 2015

Time: 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.

Location: 1024 S. Main Street



Have you ever wondered what is behind these doors? Well, we have, and we're pleased to announce that arrangements have been made for a fascinating tour of the American Legion Memorial Hall for our members.

World War I and World War II memorabilia will be on view for our members and we will learn more about the history of this structure. Construction began in 1927, and it was dedicated in 1929.

A Request for Lemons



For many years now, CHPS has provided lemonade using homegrown Corona lemons at a variety of community events. **Fresh lemons are needed now** for use in our lemonade booth at the Antiques & Collectibles Faire on June 6th at Corona Heritage Park.

Yes, we juice 'em, freeze the juice, and use the juice in the lemonade we stir up right there at the booth.

if you have lemons to donate, please give Richard a call at 714.328.0010 and he will be happy to come by and pick them up.



The Antiques & Collectibles Faire hours at Corona Heritage Park are from 8 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Please stop by and purchase some ice cold lemonade from our friendly CHPS volunteers.



Architectural Salvage Available



CHPS has limited amounts of architectural salvage items or materials available to those of you who may be restoring your vintage homes. Included in the inventory are vintage windows, shutters, doors, cabinets, molding and hardware. If you need such items, call CHPS at 951.898.2044, leave a brief message (< 1 minute) and be sure to leave your name and telephone number.

Editor's Note: Please Consider This



For you who receive this publication as a hard copy, please consider making a change and instead receive it in digital format via email. The emailed digital version of the *CHPS Newsletter* is in full color so photographs are more visually interesting to see and you can enlarge the size to view all contents more clearly. In addition, it saves money as well as paper resources. If you'd like to receive via email, please contact me at toothladytwo@aol.com or 951.371.5291 to let me know.

We send our appreciation to all who have decided to switch to the more colorful digital version. Mary Winn, Editor

Riverside County History Symposium

On Saturday April 8th, CHPS Board members, Paula and Tom Muñoz, Doris Osko and Mary and Richard Winn, along with CHPS member Lee Hansen enjoyed an informative and interesting look into regional history at the Riverside County History Symposium held at Highland Springs Resort in Beaumont.

There were 4 presentations at this year's symposium: **Session 1** titled "Riverside County Through the Lens of Burton Frasher" was conducted by CHPS member and Mission Inn Docent, Steve Lech. He presented a comprehensive cornucopia of postcards and photographs taken by Mr. Frasher, who operated a photo shop in Pomona for many years. His collection included the passes and deserts of eastern Riverside County as well as cityscapes roads, resorts and on the humorous side, outhouses.

Session 2, titled "Women Built this Town 1884-1914", about early Palm Springs, was conducted by Renee Brown and included snapshots of the lives of Emily McCallum, Nellie Coffman, Elizabeth Erskin Murray and many others.



Session 3 was titled, "Garnet Holme and the Birth of the Ramona Pageant" and was conducted by Phil Brigandi. This presentation provided many details of the good works of this noted playwright, director and actor and his status as the "King" of outdoor theater.

Session 4 provided details of "The Famous Fliers Wall of the Mission Inn" and was conducted by Walter Parks. This presentation provided the historical background, with numerous anecdotes, for the placing of various kinds of pilots wings on the wall recognizing these aviation pioneers and their milestones as pilots.

The Symposium provided knowledgeable speakers, PowerPoint presentations offering numerous images to help the talks "come alive" and all in an historic venue. Following the presentations, walking tours were conducted of the Highland Springs Resort facilities which hold the honor as Riverside County's First Historic Landmark.

We encourage all to attend this event in the future.

Membership Information

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

Individual Member	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer!	
Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitality refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter writing articles	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vintage Home Tour	
Patron	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	docent / volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Gift from _____

Membership Status: Renewal New

Please complete form and mail to:

CHPS

P.O. Box 2904
Corona, CA 92878



We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Richard & Carol Appel
Rich & Tacy Bensiek
Roger & Noella Benvenuti
Mary Booher
Kevin & Beth Button
Jonathan & Kelly Clubb
Michael & Shaylene Cortez
Bob Garland

Peter & Nancy Grigas
Eric Johnson
Stephen & Sandy Klein
David Macias
Paula Meservy
Mary Paulson
Charles & Meggie Righton
Ray Russell

Mitch & Carol Salgado
Jason & Dee Scott
Robert & June Shelly
Brandon & Rachel Van Tassel
Terry & Nancy Wilkeson
Nancy Wyatt

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



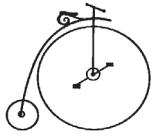
own or a neighbor's, please feel free to contact CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program Chairman Tom Richins at trichins@dbacinc.com or 949.795.2288.

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 - Tom Richins
Vice-President - Tom Muñoz
Secretary - Doris Osko
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors

Christine Gary
Trisha Henson
Paula Muñoz
Fred Parr
Mary Winn

Advisors

Marla Benson
Janette Neumann
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.

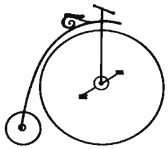
The next meetings will be:

Wednesday, May 13, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office

Thursday, June 18, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office



Visit us at: www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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

Vintage Home Tour Presented by Corona Historic Preservation Society

Saturday, May 2, 2015 • 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Proceeds benefit the CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program

1518 S. Main St.	1036 E. Grand
1307 Main St.	122 E. Olive

Antique Automobiles on Display

Pre-sale tickets \$18, \$20 day of event available at 1032 East Grand Blvd.
For information call Paula at 951.258.7923 or email: muoz2741@bigtelnet.net
Pre-Sale tickets available online - Web-call day of event at 1032 East Grand Blvd.
Pre-Sale deadline 11pm May 1 • www.Corona-History.org

Pre-Sale tickets available after March 27th at:
Corona Chamber of Commerce • Corona Heritage Park • Allgrove
904 E. 6th St. • 210 W. Foothill Parkway • 127 Radio Road



Tour of American Legion Hall on June 20

Vintage Home Tour on May 2 See p.3 for details