

### A Message From Your President Fred Parr

Dear Members,

For our 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting, members of the Society had a wonderful tour of Lemonia Grove on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you were unable to join us, I hope you will look to future tours not only as an opportunity to visit interesting historical places in our city, but as a way to transport yourself back in time. I found my mind wandering back 123 years and imagining what it was like on the original 26 acre estate located at the corner of Lemon and Lester Streets. In 1893, German businessman Oscar Thieme developed Lemonia Grove on land previously used as a sheep pasture. Designed by local architect Leo Kroonen, he built the beautiful redwood carriage house and planted groves of Lisbon Lemon trees. In his efforts to create a unique atmosphere for his home, he developed the ranch with an eye to the rich beauty of the countryside of his homeland in Germany. He planted costly and rare plant specimens from the places he visited all over the world and many still thrive today on the now 3½ area estate owned by Jim and Patti Anderson. The Andersons have done a wonderful job caring for their beautiful home and gardens and we truly appreciate their generosity and hospitality.



Carriage House at Lemonia Grove

I am happy to report that our Strategic Planning process is moving forward and on schedule. The plan will help the Board of Directors to focus and realize the mission of the CHPS and will be updated annually. Thus far, we have completed our Mission, Vision, and Goals and are currently drafting objectives to achieve the individual goals. If any of you have any suggestions or ideas of where you would like to see the Society focus our efforts, I invite you to contact me directly. The completed Strategic Plan will be completed and unveiled in the first newsletter of 2017, but I wanted to share

our new mission statement with you so here you are:

***The Corona Historic Preservation Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit 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.***

I am happy to announce that Eric Bergreen has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the CHPS Board of Directors. Eric was born and raised in Corona and has a passion for local history. He is also an author of three mystery novels that are based in Corona. The novels, *Frisbee*, *Hessians* and *Charter Grove* can be found online at digital booksellers.

Our annual Holiday Party will be on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the historic Woman’s Improvement Club. We have some great new plans for this year, and in what has become a wonderful tradition, we will enjoy a performance by the Corona High School Madrigals. Their performance is a joyful highlight that I look forward to each year. All the details are in the newsletter and I hope to see you there.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that there is a lot of great historical content on our Facebook group and pages. Please visit the “**Corona Historic Preservation Society**” group and page. Our own Tom Richins, who has a true passion for researching and sharing the rich history of Corona, hosts the “**History of Corona**” page, also found on Facebook.

Happy Holidays,

FRED PARR

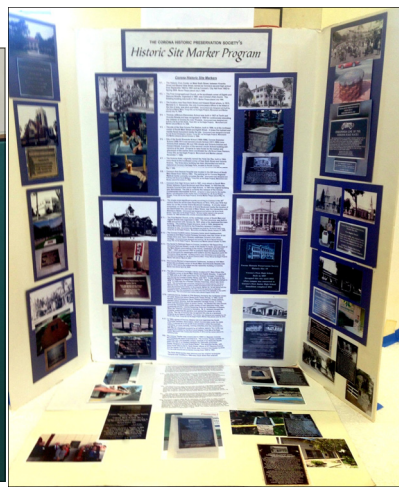


# Corona Family History Discovery Day By Mary Winn

Members of CHPS Board of Directors were invited to participate in this event that was free and open to all members of the community. It took place on Saturday, August 6, 2016 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) church on Lincoln Ave. starting at 8:30 AM and was sponsored by the Corona Family History Center (FHC). Eighty family history enthusiasts arose early to select from among twelve classes as well as view a variety of exhibits until 12:30 PM. The Society displayed a variety of posters, artifacts, memorabilia, a vintage Corona postcard collection and provided a slideshow featuring images from Corona's past. Those representing CHPS were Tom Richins and Mary and Richard Winn. The theme was "Closing the Circle with Family History."

In case you might be interested in doing research on your ancestors, the following information was provided by FHC volunteer Jim Miller: "The Corona Family History Center is located at 1123 Lincoln Avenue in Corona. The phone number is 951-737-2619. The hours are Sun - 6-8 pm, Tue - 9 am-noon and 7-9 pm, Wed, 9 am-3 pm and 7-9 pm, Thu, 10 am-1 pm and 7-9 pm. Other arrangements can also be made by appointment. Groups are welcome but should call ahead to schedule date and time. The Family History Center has six computers with free internet access to *FamilySearch*, *Ancestry.com*, *My Heritage*, *Findmypast* and other family history databases. There are also staff members to answer questions and microfilm machines to view films from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. A seminar is held each year in which expert speakers instruct about various research strategies, locations, record keeping, DNA, etc."

Use of the Family History Center is free and it is open to the community. The next FHC Discovery Day will be held in August 2017.



## A Note of Appreciation from the Heritage Room Librarian



We are so grateful that our member donations and fund-raising activities allow us to provide financial assistance to our Heritage Room. We recently received a thank you note from Corona Public Library, W. D. Addison Heritage Room Librarian. This is what Ms. Marlatt wrote:

*Dear CHPS,*

*Thank you for your generous donation. Your generous contribution will allow us to purchase preservation supplies for the Heritage Room Collection.*

*Thank you again for your support!*

*Jennifer Marlatt*



# A Wingding of a Holiday Party!



**Don't miss out on this fabulous party being planned!**

## Special activities include:

- A photobooth for all to capture the moment
- Vintage attire is encouraged but optional
- Prizes awarded for best costumes
- Fun Corona history game / activity
- Performance by Corona High Madrigals



**Location:** Corona Woman's Improvement Clubhouse 1101 S. Main Street  
**Date:** Monday, December 5th  
**Time:** 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

## POTLUCK DINNER ASSIGNMENTS:

Based upon first letter of your last name:

A-H Vegetables or salads I-Q: Desserts R-Z: Appetizers

*Please provide 6-8 servings*



Kindly Reply by Dec. 2 to Doris  
at 951.737.1766

## Annual Election of Board of Directors

The election will take place at our Annual Holiday party on Monday, December 5, 2016. As of the publication of this newsletter, the nominations Committee presents the following slate for your consideration.

### Directors

Paula Muñoz  
Tom Muñoz  
Mary Winn

### Advisors

Marla Benson  
Tom Richins  
Ted Taylor

Per CHPS Bylaws, Director term is for two years, Advisor term is for one year.

## Hotel Temescal: South Riverside's Answer to the Mission Inn: By Tom Richins

One of the most prominent buildings first built in Corona was the Hotel Temescal. Named in honor of nearby Temescal Valley, the hotel boasted three stories and 40 plushly furnished rooms. It was said that from the balconies, patrons could see Pomona, Ontario, Rincon and Auburndale.

Inside the hotel, there were multiple parlors for entertainment, billiard tables in the basement, and at one time in our history the hotel housed Corona's first telephone.

The doors of the hotel opened for business June 19, 1887, but sadly the hotel was destroyed by fire November 21, 1899. Today, Corona's current library stands where the Hotel Temescal once stood (north of Seventh Street and east of Washburn Avenue.)

For some reason, the proprietor, O.A. Smith, determined that the hotel was too far south on the property, so it was moved in early 1899 to a spot closer to Sixth Street. In the process, one of the chimneys developed a crack and when the fireplace was lit in November 1899, a spark passed through the crack



Photographs of the completed hotel are very rare and hard to come by. Almost everything you see about the Hotel Temescal is a drawing or a picture of the hotel under construction. This is an actual photograph that the Jameson family had and is now in the Heritage Room at the Corona Public Library. This image of the Hotel Temescal comes from a May 7, 1893 article in an old Chicago newspaper that was running a story on the rapid growth of South Riverside (Corona).

and ignited the wood-framed hotel. The fire department was unable to put out the fire because a hay wagon with steel rims passed along the street, rolled over the cloth hose (the only hose) and cut the cloth through and through making it incapable of carrying water to fight the blaze.



**Editor's Note:** The colorful souvenir to the left reflects the location of Hotel Temescal as it was originally constructed, closer to Seventh Street and Washburn Avenue and prior to its repositioning northward toward Sixth Street. The initial cost to build the fabulous wooden structure was \$38,000 on land donated by A.S. Garretson, one of the five founders of South Riverside.

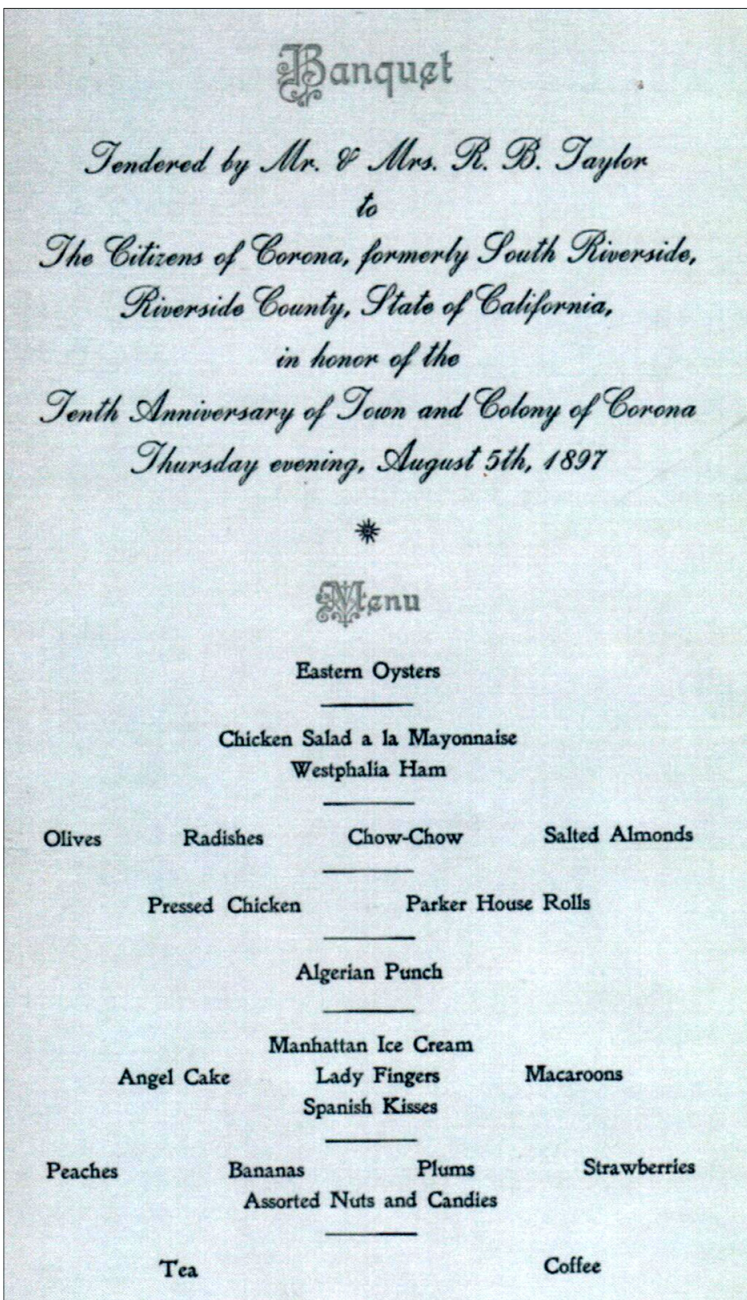
In this image, Sixth Street is in the foreground; Main Street is seen on the left and Washburn Avenue is found on the right.

Hotel Temescal provided lodging for many of Corona's pioneers and their families, dignitaries and the like. Early Coronans took great pride in having such a regal edifice in their fledgling community. Many elaborate city functions also were held here and you will have the opportunity to see a menu from one such event, held in 1897, on the next page.





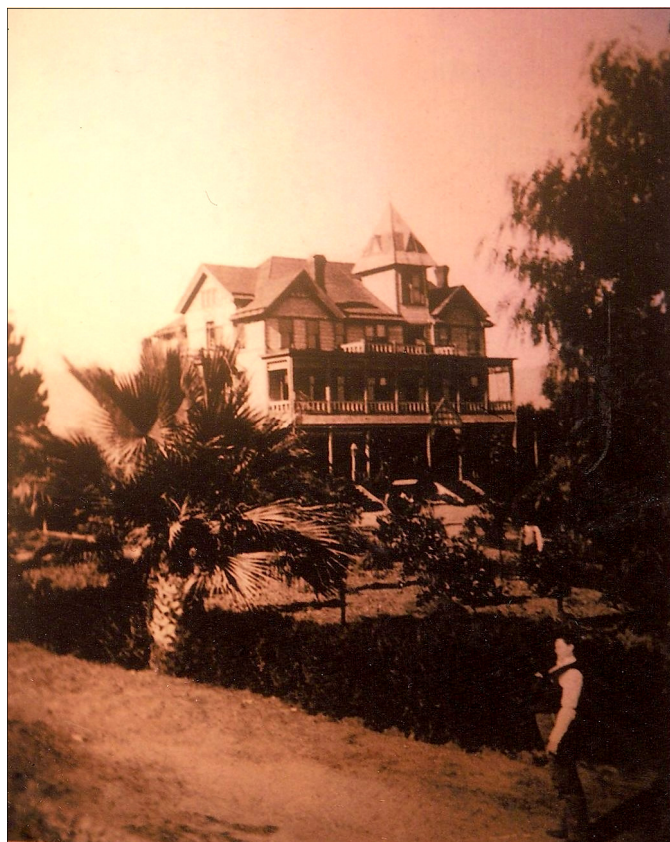
# More on Hotel Temescal By Mary Winn



Both images on the left are courtesy of Corona Public Library

This menu is from an elaborate banquet held on August 5, 1897 hosted by Robert B. Taylor and his wife Emma. Held at the Hotel Temescal, it celebrated the Tenth Anniversary of the colony's founding and was attended by over 100 Corona pioneers. Besides a sumptuous meal, activities included speeches, toasts, and reminiscences including Corona's success as a "progressive and triumphant historical march from a bare uninhabited sheep pasture ten years ago to a flowering, orange and lemon bearing colony of some 1,500 wide-awake progressive people."

The proprietor of the Hotel Temescal was Orlando A. Smith who was the son-in-law of George L. Joy, another founder of the city.



The above photo, showing a man in the foreground, is from Barbara Becker's Collection.

Robert B. Taylor, a city founder, is seen standing on the far left in the photo taken while Hotel Temescal was under construction.





# Our Visit to Corona's Oasis at Lemonia Grove By Eric Bergreen

The Corona Historic Preservation Society had the honor of hosting a tour on the property of one of Corona's oldest and more pristine historical sites on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The fourth and current owners, longtime CHPS members Jim and Patti Anderson, who purchased the remaining land in 1995, led the tour throughout the grounds, into the main house and on into the 123 year old Victorian style carriage house.



The Anderson's main house



Lemonia Grove sits just south of Citrus Park on Rimpau Avenue. Originally a sheep pasture, twenty-seven acres of land were acquired by German businessman Oscar Thieme in 1893 while Corona was still known as South Riverside. He planted a different variety of lemon tree on his property, the Lisbon, from his homeland, and his grove thrived. He also planted a row of orange trees around his grove and a variety of different bushes, vines and shrubs. Some of the trees he brought in are still growing today having reached well past the one hundred foot mark in height.

Patti Anderson first led us through the garden, along a winding path, marked out by bricks and stepping stones dating back to the beginning of the property itself and pointed out some of the oldest trees planted by Thieme. We then went through the vine covered foliage and into the main house where relics of Corona's past, from citrus to road races, decorated every room. Though the house was built in the late 1800s room additions were added in the late 1900s letting that generation, so long ago, reach over into ours.



The carriage house, constructed by Corona architect Leo Kroonen, was our last stop on the tour where we got to see other antique memorabilia such as a tricycle, a spinning loom and an original frost warning bell from South Riverside's original citrus groves. In all, the tour was a success with a wonderful turnout. Thanks to the Andersons for sharing their home with members of CHPS and thank you to all those who came out and helped. We look forward to doing it again.





# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

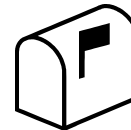


Membership Status: Renewal  New

**Please complete form and mail to:**

**CHPS**

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



## We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Roger L. Atkinson  
Eric Bergreen  
John & Carolyn Coutts  
Mike & Julie Downs  
John & Jane Farr  
Michael Holman  
Steve & Tracy Lech  
Linda Linville

Mitch & Karen Lloyd  
F. Dian Mrosco  
Gary & Doris Osko  
Gerry & Camille Page  
Karen Parker  
George & Carrie Pope  
Randy & Suzanne Rawson  
Tom & Sunny Richins

Marjorie Smerber  
Dean Stamp  
Fran Tassin  
Mike & Maria Ugalde  
Michelle Watts  
Michele Wentworth  
Chad & Amber Willardson

## 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

Corona Historic Preservation Society



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

Eric Bergreen  
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 501(c)3 non-profit 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, November 15, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office**

**Monday, Dec. 5, 6:30 P.M. at WIC Clubhouse**



**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



**Don't miss out on our wingding of a Holiday Party!**