

A Message From Your President Tom Richins

Dear Members,

These letters usually start out in formality and then one way or another I find a way to make them personal. Pretty much all professionalism is thrown out the window. Normally, I give these messages to my wife for editing prior to printing, but she then removes all of my personal comments and reformats the message to professional again. That said and for this particular message, I think it is just best to skip that process and write like I like to write.

A few months back while reading a few books in the Heritage Room, I noticed that many of Corona's first buildings were designed by architect Leo Kroonen, Sr. The more I researched Mr. Kroonen, the more fascinated I became at his body of work. For example, Leo designed such treasured buildings as the First Corona High School, Municipal Plunge, Stoner Residence as it still stands on Main Street, both the N.C. Hudson and W.H. Jameson residences that still stand on East Grand Blvd, as well as the first three large packing houses built in Corona. Truth is, Leo designed well over a 100 structures that at one time stood within our city limits. Sadly many of them have been torn down, but surprisingly many of them still stand today.

With that background in mind, the question inside my head was, "Where are Leo Kroonen's blueprints?" The logical assumption would be somewhere in a relative's hands or they had long disappeared. Not knowing if there were any Kroonen relatives still in Corona, I turned to Barbara Becker for help. Of course she knew the answer and informed me that Leo Kroonen's great granddaughter Patty Knoeckel lives in Corona.

After reaching out to Patty, we agreed to meet. When I arrived at her house, there in her living room nicely rolled up in a box was the Leo Kroonen collection of blueprints. Almost all of them were 100 years or older and all of them told a story. Talking to Patty, I quickly learned that she loved her great grandfather. She told old stories of her great grandparents, and she still had many of Leo's personal items. She showed me his rock collection, the



This intricate hand drawing of Temescal Grammar School by Leo Kroonen Sr was commissioned in 1889. Although the school no longer stands, this drawing remains proudly displayed on the wall in Patty Knoeckel's home. Patty is Kroonen's great granddaughter.

book he learned English from, and many other items. She then took a leap of faith and agreed to allow the Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) to take the blueprints and digitize them.

A little known fact to the CHPS is that we generally have our printing done at Allegra. The reason being is that they give us great pricing and are always generous in donating to the Corona Historic Preservation Society cause. Mayor Montanez owns Allegra and, after reaching out to him via email, I asked, "Do you have scanners large enough to scan and digitize blueprints?" He responded that they did not. However, he pointed me towards MCO Document Imaging here in Corona that did. Upon arriving at MCO, I met with Mike McCluskey, President of MCO, and asked him how much he would charge to scan the drawings. I was surprised when his answer was, "I love Corona; I would never charge to scan these drawings." Therefore, I placed the drawings in his care and, a couple weeks later, I returned and they were done. John scanned all 186 pages personally.

When I returned to pick them up, I could see that he too got caught up in the majesty of Leo Kroonen's architecture. He remarked at how beautiful Kroonen's building were.

With the drawings now digitized and returned to Patty, they are now preserved and easily accessible. A copy of the drawings will go to the Heritage Room. A copy will remain with the Corona Historic Preservation Society, and a copy will go to Patty to share Leo Kroonen's drawings electronically with the rest of his posterity. As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, this is a personal experience. But it is an experience where I was able to witness first hand Corona's citizens giving freely to preserve our history. To those people who are mentioned in this article, on behalf of our Society's members and our Board of Directors, we say Thank You.....

Sincerely,
TOM RICHINS



Meet Lifelong Coronan Ed Dillon By Tom Richins

A couple of years back the Historic Preservation Society presented a panel discussion on remembering the 1940s. All of the panelists, though well into their old age, performed beautifully as they verbally painted a picture of what Corona was like in the 1940s. After the panelists finished, Mayor Spiegel was asked to say a few words. As usual, she spoke eloquently, but she made a point that is often forgotten. She mentioned that many times with history we tend to remember the great buildings and events, but we often times forget about the people. She then emphasized that the early citizens of Corona are our history. The mayor then extended the invitation that young people should interview the old people. She explained that it is all of our responsibility to document and preserve our history.



the American Legion Hall. He also noted that even though he was really young, he was one of the few that met Ronald Reagan.

As one would expect, Ed attended Corona High School which was then located on Sixth Street. When asked if he often went to the Hi-Spot, he smiled and said, "Of course." When graduation came around in 1955, Ed graduated on a Friday and knowing that he didn't want to go to college, he started at Pacific Bell the next Monday. For 34 years Ed worked for the phone company, mostly in Corona. In fact, he played an instrumental role in the Corona region, helping the company to switch from rotary technology to touch tone dialing.

Taking that challenge to heart, I am honored that I was able to sit down and interview Ed Dillon. Having met him at his house, we sat down in his living room and what started as a structured interview, soon turned into a great conversation. It turns out, Ed is as "Corona" as they come. His grandparents I. B. and Nellie Dillon, in 1919, were the first of the Dillons to arrive in Corona. Originally the Dillons hailed from Richland, Iowa, but after a short stay in Los Angeles (Watts), they decided to purchase two houses on Main Street.

Sometime during 1956 Ed was set up on a blind date with Joy Ziegler of Long Beach. Apparently the date went well because in 1957 she agreed to marry him. The newlyweds moved to 809 Eighth Street for the first few years. Ed maintained his job at the phone company while in the meantime Joy picked up a job at Security Bank here in Corona. Eventually the Dillons started a family, bought a house on Greengate and raised two boys and a girl, all here in Corona.

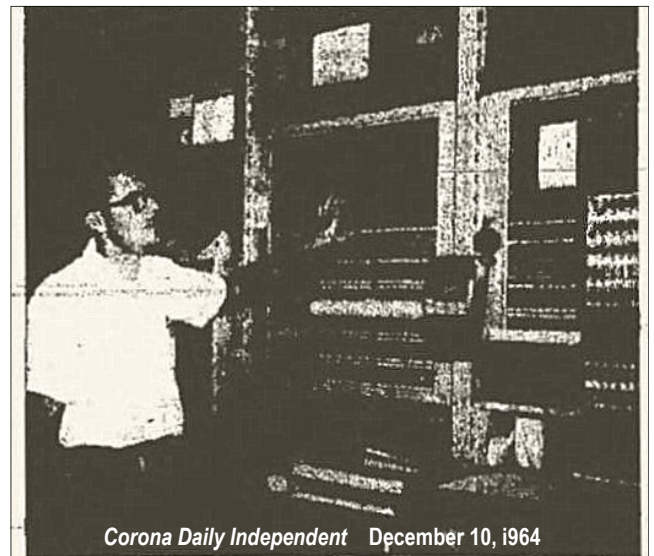
In summary, it was an honor to sit down with Ed and hear his story. Truth of the matter is that our history is precious. Mayor Spiegel was right, the older generation is our history. The responsibility is ours to go and preserve it. Thank you Mr. Ed Dillon for such a won-

Each house on Main Street came with over 10 acres of orange groves. I. B. and Nellie moved into the house at 1839 S. Main Street (still standing), and Ed's parents Ray and Helen Dillon moved into the house at 2004 S.



Main Street in 1921. Adding the two properties together, there were over 27 acres of orange groves that needed tending. Thus, the groves were how the Dillons made their living.

When 1937 rolled around, Ed was born. It is true that many Coronans are born on Main Street because Corona Regional hospital is located on Main Street. Ed, who was also born on Main Street, was born inside his parent's house. From talking to Ed, it was clear that he loved his early childhood days. Like so many others back in that time, he loved playing in the orange groves. He mentioned that during the World War II years he would go with his mother to the lookout tower on Upper Drive and sit and play while his mother worked as an observer for the Army Air Corps keeping an eye out for Japanese aircraft. Ed attended both Lincoln Elementary, on Ninth Street and then Corona Junior High School which stood on Main at Grand Boulevard. His family was Methodist by religion and he was a member of Troop 34, the Methodist Scout Troop in town. When filming of the movie *Storm Warning* came to town, Ed said that his mother helped feed the cast and crew inside



Corona Daily Independent December 10, 1964

Ed Dillon, Central Office equipment man, is shown setting up a test on telephone switching equipment in the Corona office. From this test position he can apply marginal tests to the equipment to determine a trouble condition before it will affect a regular call.

Ed was born and raised in Corona and is currently active in the Corona Junior Chamber of Commerce. He has held various positions in the Organization and at present is serving as Vice President.

His family is well known in Corona, having lived here since 1919

Next Quarterly Meeting: Visiting a Party Garage

WHEN: Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 10:00 - noon

WHERE: 1460 West Chase Drive, Corona

We have the unique privilege of being able to visit a one-of-a-kind “Party Garage” in South Corona. Property owners Don and Ann Long have been avid collectors for some time. They are allowing CHPS members to visit their widely varied collections of precious items from yesteryear. Check out the photos to see just a sample of what you can actually view there. **This is an experience you will never forget!**

Originally, an avocado orchard and horse corral were located on the southern portion of the property. This area now houses the over 12,000 square foot “Long’s Party Garage” that houses the couple’s vast array of vintage items for us to view, experience and appreciate. Some of the displays include:

- 30 vintage automobiles, beginning with a 1923 Model T
- Storefront shop displays, resembling Disneyland’s Main Street appearance
- Shops include a Barbie doll collection, an old-fashioned country store, a barber shop and a church full of clowns
- A Texaco Service Station
- 1930s garage complete with authentic tools
- A speed shop
- An authentic old barn

Driving Directions: Take Ontario Avenue and go south on Mangular, to the end, and turn left onto west Chase Drive. Look for the white wooden fence and turn right into the driveway. Follow the posted “PARTY” signs as they will direct you to the ample parking area behind the home. The Party Garage will be on your right. The entrance is on the north side of the building.



Our Annual Holiday Party



Save the Date: Thursday, December 10th at 6:30 P.M.



Please set the date aside now so you will be able to join us for our seasonal festivities.

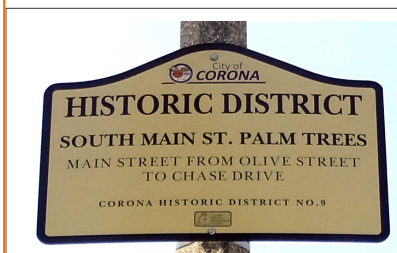
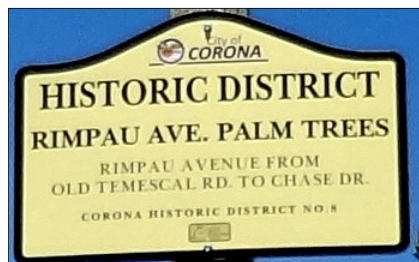


More details to come in our November-December issue



Corona's Ten Historic Districts

Nine areas in Corona were identified as Historic Districts in 2001 when the Corona Register of Historic Resources was created. The tenth district was added by CHPS application just recently. CHPS designed and funded the signs that have been posted. We have been working on this project for some time and are pleased it has come to fruition. **Note:** Historic District #6 (Grand Boulevard Streetscape) has been marked for 20 years with small signs (below); we anticipate an additional style of sign to be placed in the future.



City of Corona Registered Historic Districts

1. Heritage Park
2. Lemonia Grove
3. Kammeyer Ranch
4. Sunnyslope Cemetery
5. City Park

Registered Historic Districts (Landscape)

6. Grand Boulevard Streetscape
7. Chase Drive Palm Trees
8. Rimpau Avenue Palm Trees
9. South Main Palm Trees
10. State Highway 18 U.S. 91 on Palisades Drive

We're Going Green!!!

The digital color version of this *CHPS Newsletter* has been sent via email for some time to a portion of our members who voluntarily agreed to this method. We are now catching up with technology and want to become more environmentally friendly. Therefore, we will soon begin sending the digital all-color version to **all members with email addresses.**

This action is not meant to discourage members but we want to be more efficient, cost-effective and, most importantly, become more environmentally friendly.

For those who have email addresses on file, the digital Nov-Dec 2015 issue will be sent to you, but by the end of the year we would like to email the digital version to **all members with email addresses.**

Please verify your email address by sending your name and email address to Mary Winn at <toothladytwo@aol.com> to confirm that we have your correct address on file.

If you have special needs, or wish to comment on these measures, please drop a line to CHPS, attn: Mary Winn, P.O. Box 2904, Corona, CA 92878 or leave a message at 951.371.5291.

We will continue to remind you that your membership is due by sending a printed copy with a reminder notice and Self Addressed Envelope through the U. S. Postal Service.

Hard copies will still be available for the general public at the Corona Public Library and at Heritage Park Museum.

The Circle City loses a VIP to the Music City By Fred Parr

We recently met for our monthly board meeting. We went through the agenda and took care of business while having a few laughs along the way as we usually do, but something was missing. Actually, it was somebody was missing and that somebody was VIP Christine Gary. After nearly ten years in the Circle City, Glenn and Chris Gary have moved to the Music City, Nashville, Tennessee. If you know Chris you will realize the great loss we are experiencing. She is a wonderful person and has such a passion for historic preservation and education.



Beyond her service to the Society, she and Glenn have been deeply involved in vintage home restoration and antique collecting. As a board member of the CHPS, Chris has been dedicated and instrumental in all of our programs including the Vintage Home Tours, Antiques and Collectibles Faires, the education of children within our schools, the Historic Marker Program, Quarterly Meetings and tours, and too many public education activities to list. She served as our president for four years and, under her leadership, we received the Corona Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Non-Profit Award in 2009, implemented the Home Preservation Grant Program, and updated the City's Downtown Revitalization Specific Plan to include commercial properties in the Historic District.



So many talk about historic preservation, but the Garys are folks who truly practice what they preach. They have beautifully restored their home on East Grand Boulevard which is known as the "Hudson-

Todd House" at 1052 East Grand Boulevard. The home is a monument to early pioneers of Corona and was designed and built in 1888 by noted Corona architect Leo Kroonen, Sr. The two-story 3,500 square foot vernacular wood-framed house with Victorian features was built for Nathaniel C. Hudson and his family and it served as the location of many early formal and informal functions. Hudson, an associate of the city's founders, was an attorney and secretary of the South Riverside Land and Water Company.

Hudson was also one of the founders of the First Baptist Church, which was actually organized at the home on April 13, 1891. By 1900, the home was occupied by Dr. Robert Todd, a dentist with an office on Main Street, and his family. Todd family members or descendents occupied this home until 1970. In addition to preserving this extremely important piece of Corona's history, in 2008, Chris and

Glenn saved the "Brumbaugh House" which was built around 1900 at 322 West Seventh Street and was doomed to be torn down to make room for the Corona Regional Medical Center expansion. Joe Brumbaugh purchased the lot on Seventh Street for \$25 in 1894 and built the small modest home with details of a Victorian Folk house. The 1913 tax assessment records show improvements to the property listed at \$350. Joseph Brumbaugh was a painter and typical working man who built his house in the new growing town of Corona. He painted the Carnegie Library when it was first built and was one of the first men to sign up for the Corona Volunteer Fire Department in 1898. The Garys moved the house to their large back yard and have beautifully restored it to its original glory.



To give you a small glimpse of the passion that Chris has for historic homes such as these, here is a quote from her President's Message for the *CHPS (Nov-Dec 2010) Newsletter*:

"Lately I have been pondering why I love old homes so much. They are like old friends with fond memories. To me they are warm, inviting and have unique personalities enhanced by the people who have lived there before. I can imagine all the long hours of careful design and experienced craftsmanship using high quality materials, many of which are not available anymore. I only wish the walls could talk and tell me what they have seen over the decades."

We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Chris and Glenn for their tremendous effort, enthusiasm and friendship and wish them all the health and happiness as they are fixin' to start the next chapter of their lives in Tennessee.

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.

CHPS Has a YouTube Channel

If you would like to see videos created by CHPS, please visit our YouTube Channel:

Link: www.youtube.com/channel/UCCwmlr2zWcFViDoVk1YXnoQ

Or once you're at www.youtube.com, search for "Corona Historic Preservation Society"

There are currently four videos to view: (and more videos are planned for the future)

- Growing Up in Corona in the 1940s
- Growing Up in Corona in the 1950s
- Beautiful Corona: Through the lens of Barbara Becker (Video 1)
- Beautiful Corona: Through the lens of Barbara Becker (Video 2)

Watch us on



Ongoing CHPS Activities

Monthly Board Meetings

Bimonthly Newsletters

Quarterly Meetings for members

Home Preservation Grant Program

Historic Site Marker Program

Design & Funding of all Historic District Signs in Corona

Vintage Home Tour Program

Annual Heritage Home Awards

Nominations to National Register of Historic Places

Oral History Program

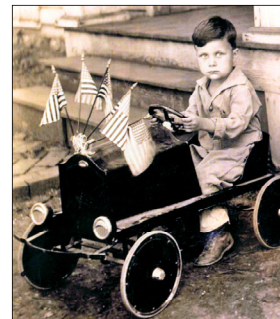
Annual Holiday Party

Educational Seminars and Field Trips

Community Preservation Projects

Vintage Home Relocation Assistance

Consulting with Corona's Community Development Department,
Planning & Housing Commission and City Council



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

Benny & Marla Benson
Jim & Marie Cambruzzi
Ed Dillon
Doris Haddy
Ada Jean Hand
Richard & Angela Harris
Don Kindred
Hazel & Barbara Lohman
Don & Ann Long

Stephen & Erma Paloma
Randy Rawson
Wes Speake
Ola Talbert (Patron)
Clyde R. Tracy
G. Carlton & Patricia Wallace
Peter & Connie Weber
John R. Wiles

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

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:

Thursday, Sept 17, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office

Thursday, Oct 15, 6:30 P.M. at CHPS office

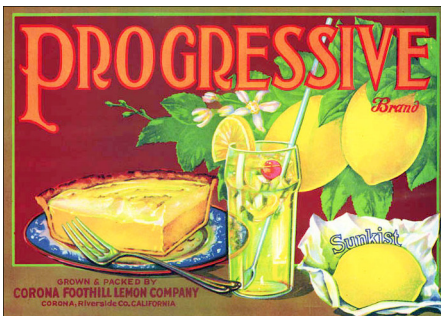


Visit us at: www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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



**Join us Sept 19 to see 30 classic cars and a
myriad of other antiques & collections See page 3**