

Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

# Newsletter

May - June 2008

“Preserving the Best of Corona”

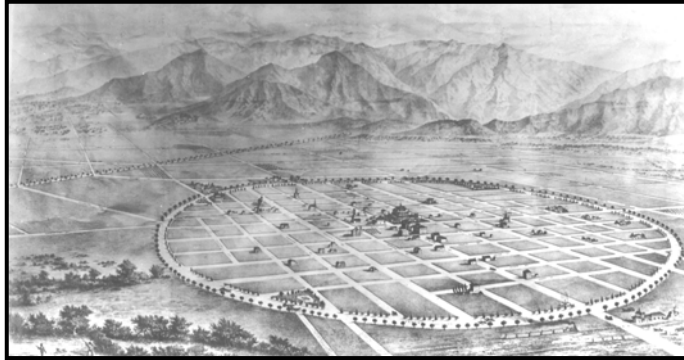
Editor: Mary Winn E-mail: Toothlady2@juno.com

## A Message From Our President Julie Stern

Dear Members:

This month I made an impromptu trip back east to the lovely village of Goffstown, New Hampshire. I was struck by the natural beauty of the New Hampshire Mountains and even more so by the town and its history. This is a town where the majority of the structures were built in the seventeen and eighteen hundreds. These buildings are in good condition and used everyday as businesses, schools and homes. The buildings are useful, economical and beautiful, they have withstood decades of harsh winters and reuse after reuse. As with many of these New England towns, its heart and soul is visible as you drive through town. Looking in your rear view mirror you can actually see the past. The town is the greenest town I have visited, in regards to the trend of going green, just for the fact that structures, are maintained, restored, utilized and reutilized. It was a reaffirmation of my belief that to preserve our historic structures is a worthy undertaking and a benefit to society as a whole.

Close to Goffstown is Manchester, situated on the banks of the Merrimac River. Manchester is the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. The majority of the massive brick factories still stand and have been renovated into beautiful offices, gyms, places to shop, and a University. I was fortunate to be able to visit the Mill Museum that documents the history of immigrants from all over the world that came to Manchester for a better life and future for their children. The faces in the old photos are not of the dark, hot, nightmarish factories where child labor was promoted, that I had always heard of. The faces in the photos were mostly happy, serious and full of hope. Old diary entries convey the dreams of these hard-working, industrious immigrants. These immigrants were grateful for the chance to earn a good wage, provide a safe home for their families and put food on the table. They came from countries where they were stripped of opportunity and dreams to re-emerge as new Americans with a second chance.



This brings me to the forefathers that built Corona and the citrus industry. They also came to the desert north of Temescal Valley with dreams similar to these eastern Americans. It was a fresh start and Corona was a city built by inspiration. The

original layout of the town, the Circle, *The Crown*, is a symbol of those ideals. Corona was to be the crown of the inland citrus culture.

The original city had a grand downtown, beautiful churches, and several buildings with significant architecture. Unfortunately, not much of that remains. So, CHPS continues to diligently watch over what little is left, advocate for stronger preservation efforts on the part of the city government and developers, and support preservation in anyway we can.

May of 2008 marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of CHPS. We hope to make 2008 a banner year and to accomplish certain goals. Here are some of our current projects and what is happening on the preservation forefront with CHPS:

☞ CHPS successfully lobbied for updating the listing of the city's historic resources. An appendix to the Downtown Specific Plan now lists additional structures at least 50 years old that will be subject to a demolition delay. It was adopted at the April 2, 2008 City Council meeting.

☞ Several Board CHPS board members attended a City Council Study Session when the conceptual design for revitalization of the Corona Mall was discussed.

☞ We are creating local history educational units to bolster the school district's third grade Social Studies curriculum.

☞ Our unique Grand Boulevard is in the process of being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Above image courtesy Corona Public Library



## President's Message *continued*

Our 2008 Vintage Home Tour is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd. We hope you and your friends will join us as this is our major fund raiser.

The Society is developing a Restoration Grant Program to offer incentives to historic home owners to restore their homes with attention to historic detail.

2008 Heritage Home Awards will be given out on Saturday, June 7th at the Antiques and Collectibles

Faire / Olde Tyme Picnic at Corona Heritage Park.

If you would like further information on any of these events or activities or you are interested in becoming more active with CHPS, please contact us at the CHPS office message center, or email us.

Yours In Preservation,

*Julie Stern*



## 2008 Vintage Home Tour

**Saturday, May 3, 2008 1:00 - 4:30 pm**

### Questions?

Call Chris Gary at 951.734.0977  
or send e-mail to  
[VintageHomeTour@aol.com](mailto:VintageHomeTour@aol.com).



Be transported back in time for an afternoon.

Our tour helps CHPS earn funds for community projects.

Five lovingly restored homes will be showcased on our tour.

Pre-sale tickets will be available by April 1 at Corona Chamber of Commerce (904 E. 6th St.), Corona Heritage Park (510 W. Foothill Parkway) and Zap Printing & Graphics (127 Radio Road).

Tickets \$15 pre-sale, \$18 on day of event available at 1052 E. Grand Blvd.

Antique automobiles will be on display at 1052 E. Grand Blvd.



# Our Visit to Yorba & Slaughter Families Adobe



On a cloudy March 29th morning, 15 CHPS members and guests took a break from the regular hubbub of our busy lives to visit the ageless charm of a property that lies just northwest of our city. The sturdy adobe built by the Yorba and Slaughter families and its surrounding grounds are all that remain of a 6,000+ acre rancho. By the time we exited the adobe, the sun shone brightly as we explored the former winery and barn structure, and the General Store and Post Office.

We learned about the mottled beams in the main house, and how they got that way (cultivation of mushrooms once took place in the adobe). We discovered that the residents were not as tall as we typically are today (door heights were barely 6 feet high). Originally, the adobe had a full wrap-around porch some ten feet wide. This protected the sun-hardened mud-brick walls from the elements so they would not soften from the rains and wash away. The porch also shaded the walls from absorbing the full heat of the sun. Many of the furnishings were from when the Slaughter family occupied the home. The piano was shipped by sea around the tip of South America and had to be brought from the port of Los Angeles by wagon and team (a three or four day trek, one-way).

It was great fun to inspect the wares found in the combination General Store and Post Office. The building was relocated from the town of Prado prior to flooding of the Prado basin after the construction of the dam. The post boxes, where residents letters were placed, were hung on the wall. Display cases and countertops displayed supplies and items likely once available for purchase. An old horse tack, a well-used ox yoke and other items of the day, with explanatory placards, conveyed what the locals might have encountered. An abundance of antiques filled the small building. *Photos by Raymond Harris*



# A Family Reunion at Our January Meeting

Members of the Armand and Rita Bergeron family came together for our Quarterly Meeting on a Saturday morning in January. The presenter, historic preservationist Kevin Bash, focused on the fascinating history of the Norconian Club and efforts towards its rescue and restoration.

Armand and Rita's children are: Loris Ann Bovee, Gile Kirk (husband Kenny), Mary Cox, Liz Bergeron, Omer Bergeron (unable to attend), Gerard Bergeron and Muriel Higelin.

Members of the family have a long term connection with the Norconian. Loris Ann went to Kindergarten there in the late 1940s. The entire family swam at the pools in the 1950s and 1960s. Loris Ann, Gile, Omer & Mary took swimming lessons in the 1950s & 1960s. Mary and Liz attended several Girl Scout events in the 1960s and slept overnight on the lawn. Several family functions were held at the Pavilion, Armand Bergeron worked at the Naval Hospital for one year and worked at the Naval Weapons Center in



Pictured here (L-R) are Liz Bergeron, Gerard Bergeron, Doug Zeller (friend), Mary Cox, Kenny Kirk, Gile Kirk, Loris Ann Bovee and Muriel Higelin.

charge of the print shop, retiring in 1976. Mary, Liz and Gerard took college courses on the site in the 1970s. Armand, Mary and Omer used to go fishing in the lake. Armand's retirement party was held at the Pavilion. Liz, Muriel and Mary had their wedding receptions at the Pavilion. Omer's daughter's wedding was held there. The 50th wedding anniversary party for Armand and Rita Bergeron was also held at the Pavilion.

It was wonderful to meet and mingle with members of the Bergeron family. We are pleased that our activity provided them with an opportunity to learn together and to reminisce about their younger years.



Vintage postcard of the Pavilion, circa 1929

## Things Old-Timers Remember About Corona ...

The Chime Clock on the Corona National Bank on the southwest corner of Sixth and Main Street.

For many years everyone in downtown Corona set their watches and clocks to agree with the Chime Clock on the Corona National Bank. The clerk hurrying to lunch checked it going and coming. Travelers catching the train checked it. Boys and girls on their way to school knew when they were on time ... and when they weren't. Merchants checked it when opening and closing their businesses. Everybody grew to trust this timepiece.



Photo is from a 1915 *Corona Independent* publication

# I Remember When ... Larry Key

Octogenarian Larry Key was raised in Corona and has many fond recollections of his growing up years. He attended Lincoln School where the Principal, Mrs Foster, used to thump students on the head if they weren't in a straight line when walking into class. He attended Corona Junior High School on South Main Street, started playing tennis, and recalls that to get "dibs" on a tennis court to play during lunch, students threw their rackets onto the court surface from the sec-



**Larry and Jackie Key at their beautiful San Clemente condominium**

ond story windows of the main building. He either walked or rode a bicycle to high school on West Sixth Street where only one student had a car. He was quite a tennis player and played at Corona High, Chaffey College, the University of Oregon, and still plays regularly.

Mr. Key's other recollections:

- In grammar school or junior high, if one played on a school team, when games were played no one wore uniforms, and parents didn't come to watch.
- He went to Corona City Council meetings for fun and remembers being the youngest regular attendee of city council meetings. His father Herbert was on the Council from the early 20's to 1945 and was Mayor twice (1922-1924 and 1926-32).
- Mr. Key remembers his father getting a telephone call from someone in the fire department very late at night asking whether the department could respond to go to an industrial fire in El Cerrito. His father said yes and he and his father got up and went to watch.
- He remembers the tradition of "calling cards". Mrs. Ganahl, Mrs Gleason, Mrs Gully, Mrs. Clark and others would come to his mother's house for tea and leave their cards with their names imprinted on them.
- Some events created more memories than others: attending the opening of Skyline Drive at age 4 or 5 when nearly the whole town went and had a barbeque; at the opening of the Lake Norconian Hotel and Resort he saw Esther Williams; when an Army plane crashed in the Cleveland National Forest he and his friends went there, looked at the wreck, and returned with souvenirs; Corona's most infamous bootlegger died in a car crash near the curve on Chase Drive, east of Main Street.
- Every other summer his mother would travel by train to visit her family in Galveston, Texas. He often went

with her and remembers riding the Southern Pacific, opening the curtains and looking out at nighttime desert landscapes, sterling silver service in the dining car, and eating apple pie. When returning from St. Louis, after WWII, with his wife Jackie, they traveled by train and took some leisurely side trips to the Grand Canyon and other spots.

- During evening hours, his family spent many hours listening to the radio.

- Sixth Street was the main route

between Orange County and Riverside. On Sunday evenings, he and his friends would park on Sixth Street to watch the cars go by, or would go the train depot to watch the trains pass through.

- At Christmas time, he traveled by train to Los Angeles with his mother to do Christmas shopping. While they were there they would see vaudeville shows and eat at Clifton's Cafeteria where a biblical saying or verse would be found on each table.
- A special recollection is of the old Spanish families (Yorbos or Serranos) coming to town dressed very formally in their horse-drawn coaches.
- It was such a slow paced life in Corona that his dog could lie in the middle of the street (Ramona Avenue) and would only get up when someone slammed a door or talked loudly.
- Milk shakes were absolutely delicious and cost 10¢ at Mava Ice Cream.Parlor.
- Whether families had money or not, children used a smashed tin can for a hockey puck or wrapped tape into the shape of a ball which was then used to play baseball. They made their own kites, used flour and water paste to glue things together, and did other self directed activities. He concluded that "creating our own entertainment made for better entertainment."
- He doesn't remember family member birthdays being occasions for special celebrations but Corona had 4th of July Parades every year. Someone's brother always led the parade (unofficially) with his wagon and dog in tow. Sitting in the second floor offices in the two and three story buildings around the intersection of Sixth and Main Street provided a very special vantage point to view the patriotic parade.
- His father appointed Eli Garner, who had a nice home on West Sixth Street, as the city's first Police Chief.

Please Support Our Sister Organizations



SEVENTH ANNUAL  
**CORONA  
ANTIQUES  
&  
COLLECTIBLES  
FAIRE**  
CORONA HERITAGE PARK  
510 W. FOOTHILL PKWY.

SATURDAY  
**June  
7<sup>th</sup>**  
8 A.M. - 3 P.M.

**FREE ADMISSION & PARKING**

**Q-U-A-L-I-T-Y  
ANTIQUES ONLY**  
No Garage Sale  
Rubbish

Now featuring the  
City of Corona's  
**Olde Tyme Picnic**  
with the Cornbread  
Washtub Band and  
Free Children's  
Amusements

Garden Club  
Plant Sale

Hot Dogs, Kettle Corn,  
Cookies and Lemonade

Fine Art Show

**CORONA HERITAGE  
PARK & MUSEUM**  
510 W. Foothill  
Corona, Calif.

Info: Shellie Norland  
(951) 302-0080  
[www.coronaheritage.org](http://www.coronaheritage.org)

# SAVE THE DATE!

The Old Riverside Foundation for  
Historic Preservation presents the 17th Annual  
**Vintage Home Tour**  
**Saturday, May 17, 2008**

An architectural tour for LOVERS OF OLD HOUSES features  
various style homes from the 1890s to the 1930s. Includes  
self-guided home tour and Restoration Faire & Vintage  
Mercantile featuring raffle prizes, antiques & collectibles,  
suppliers, artists and craftspeople.

For more info call (951) 683-2725  
or the ORF website: [www.olderiverside.org](http://www.olderiverside.org) or email  
Nancy Parrish: [factsgirl@aol.com](mailto:factsgirl@aol.com) or [ORFMail@aol.com](mailto:ORFMail@aol.com)



# Membership Information

When joining or renewing your membership, please make out your tax deductible check to CHPS.

Individual Member	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>I'd like to volunteer for:</b>	
Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Relations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patron	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	

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

**Tony & Carol Ackerman**

**Sally Ann Carlson**

**Gary & Trisha Henson**

**Hazel & Barbara Lohman**

**Georgia Lambert Randall**

**Dottie Reichard**

**Scott & Nancy Richardson**

**Kathy Sinkovich & Dana Sutton**

**Stan & Michell Skipworth**

**Bill & Karen Stein**

**Ola Talbert**

**Clyde R. Tracy**

**Bill & Vicki White**

**Harold & Beryl Williams**

**Akio & Helen Yoshikawa**

## Celebrating Our Founding

On May 14, 1983, an organizational meeting of 35 persons was held to discuss preserving Corona's historic structures, means of educating residents and others of the city's unique heritage, and other preservation opportunities.

Twenty-five years ago, June 8, 1983, the Corona Historic Preservation Group was organized.

On April 21, 1984, a meeting was held be-



tween remaining members of the inactive Historical Society of Corona and members of the Corona Historic Preservation Group. The groups merged resources so that there would be "one voice" advocating preservation of Corona's heritage and a new name was adopted.

What emerged was the current Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS).



## Board of Directors

President - Julie Stern  
Vice President - Christine Gary  
Secretary - Doris Osko  
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors  
Jackie Bland  
Jim Bryant  
Aaron Hake  
John Kane  
Mary Winn

Directors Emeritus  
Maria Benson  
Janette Neumann  
Ted Taylor



To contact us call  
**951.898.2044**  
*Please leave a 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, 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 15, 6:30 at CHPS office**

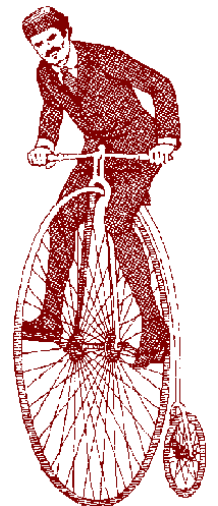
**Thursday, June 20, 6:30 at CHPS office**



**Visit us: [www.CoronaHistory.org](http://www.CoronaHistory.org)**



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



**Corona Historic Preservation Society  
Celebrates 25 Years**