



A Message From Our President Wes Speake

Dear Members,

Hopefully I'll be one of the first to wish you and your families a very Happy Holiday, as we transition from Summer to Fall (Halloween) and into the holiday season. This is such a special time for families and our beautiful city.

For our third Quarterly Meeting, over 200 folks, members of the Society and non-members, who paid a \$5 fee, had an opportunity to enjoy a screening of the 1953 iconic SciFi movie *The War of the Worlds* and hear from two brilliant film historians, Bill Rosar and Robert Skotak, before and after the film discussing movie details and its ties to Corona. This took place at the beautiful Dos Lagos Starlight Cinema Theater. We extend a special THANK YOU to Jim Ziegler of Dos Lagos Starlight Cinema for hosting us. If you missed this event you can view the discussion on the CHPS YouTube channel.

The Society's Board of Directors will be meeting soon to update our Strategic Plan for 2019 so we can continue to bring high quality programs and pursue our mission of PRESERVATION, PROTECTION and PERPETUATION of Corona's historic sites, buildings, neighborhoods and resources. 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.

On the second Saturday in February (February 8, 2020) we will once again host a panel discussion at the Community Room of the Historic Civic Center. This is the seventh event of this type we have hosted. This year's theme will be announced in January. Be sure to 'Save the Date' now and I hope to see you there!

Our annual Holiday Party will be on Monday, December 2nd at the historic Woman's Improvement Club Clubhouse. 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 found in this Newsletter. I would love to see you there!



CHPS members Rich Winn and Wes Speake staffing the CHPS booth at the second annual Lemon Festival, sponsored by the Corona Art Association, on the front lawn of the Historic Civic Center

On October 19th, CHPS board members Richard Winn, Amelia Nieves and I attended the 2nd annual Lemon Festival at the Historic Civic Center hosting a booth and speaking to dozens of attendees about Corona History. The booth featured a collection of books written by our very own Mary Winn, reproductions of Corona crate labels for sale, a collection of match books, issued by Corona businesses and donated by CHPS board member Eric Bergreen. A full collection of Corona's own federal currency issued between 1903 and

1929 was displayed in both large and small bills, in denominations of 20 dollars, 10 dollars and 5 dollars, by First National Bank of Corona.

Lastly, a little history... without water Corona would have remained the dusty alluvial plain that R.B. Taylor and his investors found in 1886. South Riverside Land and Water Company quickly acquired water rights in Hagador and Temescal Canyons, and later, Lake Elsinore; (water was too salty). In 1899, he and his investors founded the Temescal Water Company to find additional water for the growing colony, and in 1901 they found it in the Ethanac region (now called Romoland). The company spent \$500,000 to develop a series of redwood pipes in open ditches to carry the precious water 40 miles to Corona. Around 1920, water levels dropped; the water became salty and unusable. Plans were made to build a dam across the San Jacinto River for water storage. The company bought 1,150 acres of land and the dam project started in 1927 and was completed in 1929 creating the Railroad Canyon Lake. Fast forward to 1968, and a subsidiary of the original Temescal Water Company, the Corona Land Company started developing 5,000 lots around what would become Canyon Lake.

Again a very warm and wonderful Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Sincerely,

WES



Showing of *The War of the Worlds* By Chris McCoy

121 years after it was published by H.G Wells, and 81 years after Orson Welles' panic-inducing Halloween Night radio broadcast, the Corona Historic Preservation Society was proud to present the 1953 version of the movie *The War of the Worlds* at the Dos Lagos Starlight Cinema.

Visionary producer George Pal brought the classic H.G. Wells story of a Martian invasion to the big screen, and it instantly became a science fiction classic and winner of the 1953 Academy Award for Best Special Effects. It is a work of frightening imagination, with its manta-ray spaceships armed with cobra-like probes that shoot a white-hot disintegration ray.

As formations of alien ships continue to wreak destruction around the globe, the military is helpless to stop this enemy while scientists race to find an effective weapon. Gene Barry and Ann Robinson played the "hero" roles that were de rigeur for movies like this in the '50s, and their encounter with one of the Martians is as creepy today as it was in 1953.



Film historian experts (L-R) William Rosar and Robert Skotak are being welcomed here by CHPS President Wes Speake.

This movie was selected because many of the scenes were shot in or around Corona in 1952. We also provided an excellent panel of experts, William Rosar and Robert Skotak, who spoke before and after the showing, answering questions and providing movie and production stills to better illustrate locations and special effects used in the production. They also discussed the tie-in of Corona with the film.

Several liberties were taken with the adaptation of the story for film in the 1950's. For example, the film does not feature the satire that Wells utilized in the novel. The book's main character, an unnamed narrator was split between main protagonist, Dr. Clayton Forrester, and a voice-over narrator who provides only an occasional commentary. The Martians were depicted as small, brown, hulkish bipeds.

The film has a rather long history since Paramount secured the rights in the 1920s. Five unproduced scripts were written. Cecil B. DeMille was the first choice to direct. Sometime in the 1930s legendary filmmaker Alfred Hitchcock was approached to direct, as was Sergei Eisenstein. Even Ray Harryhausen had considered making an adaptation, set in the book's original period, even going as far as making sketches and test reel. However, the project did not get off the ground until DeMille handed the project off to George Pal.

Although some of the movie and dialog were clearly written in a different time, the themes and effects hold up incredibly well, and the print sent to the theater on behalf of CHPS was amazingly clean and bright. The crowd swelled to well over 210 as the lights dimmed and a wonderful experience was had by all.

We look forward to more movie showings in the future, and we hope you will be able to attend.

The presentations by the experts may be viewed on the CHPS YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrJO-OUWI-Q&list=UUCwmlr2zWcFViDoVk1YXnoQ&index=2&t=1039s>



This custom thumbnail was created to identify the video (filmed by Sal Gonzales) now available for viewing on the CHPS YouTube Channel at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrJO-OUWI-Q&list=UUCwmlr2zWcFViDoVk1YXnoQ&index=2&t=1039s>

CORONA HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY
INVITES YOU TO ITS

Annual Holiday Party



MONDAY, DECEMBER 2ND
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
WOMAN'S IMPROVEMENT
CLUBHOUSE
1101 S MAIN STREET

Potluck Dinner Assignments

Based upon the first letter of your last name:

A-H: Vegetables or Salads **I-S:** Appetizers

T-Z: Desserts

Please RSVP by November 29th to
Doris Osko at 951.737.1766

The annual election of the CHPS Board of Directors will take place at our Annual Holiday Party. As of the publication of this *Newsletter*, the Nominations Committee presents the following slate of nominees for your consideration:

Directors: Trisha Henson-Cabrera, Amelia Nieves, Wes Speake and Richard Winn.

Advisors: Marla Benson and Ted Taylor

As set forth in the CHPS Bylaws, a Director term is for two years, an Advisor term is for one year.

The Story Behind the Call Ranch House By Nita Grantham

"Times change, but man never does" is someone's quote I uncovered years ago, but do not remember who said it. I would tell this to my history students regularly as we would delve into the history textbooks. None, other than me, really cared much about doing that. So, I would weave the stories from history for them through the lives of the people who seemed so far removed from their lives. As I researched this history of the Call Ranch House which is now located at the Corona Heritage Park in our Lemon Grove, I found an article in the *Corona Messenger* newspaper printed Thursday afternoon, November 26, 1908. The headline read, "A.F. Call Makes Strong Plea: Appears before Tariff committee—Gives reasons why Tariff on Citrus Fruits Should Be Increased." Seems to me Tariffs are a big topic today and mentioned on the news daily. Opinions vary now as they did then. These opinions are divided by personal interest of those advocating and those opposing—then as now.

Asa Frank Call (1856-1913) was born in Algona, Iowa, a small town in the northwestern part of the state. At the age of 20, he received an appointment to West Point Military Academy. After only a year, he returned home and pursued a career in law. He maintained a thriving law practice in Algona 1878-1881. He moved to other towns in Iowa and other law firms. In 1899, he moved to Sioux City, Iowa, where he became a member of the law firm of Joy, Hudson, Call and Joy. Then later joined the firm of Wright, Hall, and Hubbard, a firm which handled legal matters of the Great Northern Railroad, the Burlington and Great Northern Railroads. From his obituary in the *Corona Independent*, April 10, 1913, we can find much about his early life that led to the impact he had with Corona Citrus. It is through this where he "gained insight into the methods of transportation of the several railroads, which greatly enabled him to win large cases he has won for the citrus fruit growers of Southern California."

What were his arguments for a tariff on fruit from foreign countries? From his speech before the Congressional Committee he said, "The freight rate on foreign fruit is 24 cents and that is by boat from Italy and Sicily to the seaboard points of the United States. They have an advantage over us of 60 cents on transportation. That does not include the cost of refrigeration. We have to pay about 20 cents a box for refrigeration on about one-half of the product, making an average of 10 cents for refrigeration on top of the freight rate which I have given you. They do not have any deserts to cross. It is cool and they do not need refrigeration on shipboard...they can produce lemons for about half what we can produce...."

I have to admit; I don't know how the tariff rate turned out.

In the latter part of the nineties Mr. Call came to Corona. According to the *Daily Independent*, Thursday, April 10, 1913, "At that time much difficulty was being experienced in getting water for the young groves which had been set out here. Call overcame all of these difficulties which no one else had been able to do, and in the summer of 1901, he personally sold the bonds here which resulted in the hurrying of Corona's present water system."

A.F. Call had purchased 240 acres of land known as Orange Heights Trust before he left his successful law practice in Sioux City, Iowa (the same town where one of Corona's founders, A.S. Garretson, called home) to come west and become a citrus farmer. The Call Ranch properties extended between Lester and Compton Streets below and above Ontario Street. According to Stan Reynolds and Fred Eldridge's *Corona Commentaries*, early ranches had their own support systems. The stables and blacksmith shops for the Call Ranch were located where the old Corona Theater, now the Covenant Church, is located on 6th Street.

Called a "Magnificent Property" in *Corona The Queen Colony*, 1902, the writer had the following to say: "The largest orchards in Corona, and among the largest in the state owned by an individual, are the properties of A. F. Call. They comprise 240 acres of oranges and lemons, all in heavy bearing and finest condition. With a view of preserving the uniform grade of his fruit, Mr. Call erected a large and thoroughly modern packing house with lemon curing rooms, orange and lemon packing room, box factory and all up-to-date conveniences, from which he packs only his fruit, under his own brands, thus insuring to the buyer a reliable standard." The Call Fruit Company Packing House was located in the same area where we now have the Metro Station. All our wonderful Packing Houses have disappeared. What a shame we did not preserve any of them! They were what made Corona "The Lemon Capital of the World," our claim to fame as they say.



Noted crate labels used for Call Ranch citrus products

Call Ranch House Continued

A successful lawyer, citrus grower, and well-respected citizen of Corona, died on April 1, 1913. From the Corona Independent, "A.F. Call, millionaire fruit grower of Corona, and well known all over the state as the attorney for the Citrus Protective League was instantly killed here Tuesday morning within a few feet of his packing house when Santa Fe passenger train Number Seven westbound crushed into the auto Mr. Call was driving, instantly killing the occupant and demolishing the machine." He was leaving his packing house to go see how the new separators were working at the Corona Lemon Company Packing House. The train engineer had failed to blow the whistle as was required when coming through a crossing.



Courtesy of Corona Public Library

Another article from the Corona Independent dated April 10, 1913, entitled "250 Fruit Men Pay Respect to A. F. Call Monday" tells the story of respect so many had for him. They gathered at his home at then 177, now 1122, Grand Boulevard where he had lived with his widowed daughter-in-law (his son Merrill Asa Call died in 1904) and his granddaughter Mary to pay tribute to a man they deeply respected. G. Harold Powell, general manager of the California Fruit Growers Exchange, offered the following: "Greatly loved, strong personality, loved to walk through his lemon and orange groves which were the finest to be found in California, prepared the brief on this tariff question presented to the Ways and Means Committee of Congress, acted as attorney for both Citrus Protective League and the California Fruit Growers Exchange, greatest work was his connections with the cooperative movement in the citrus business."

Another speaker, C.C. Teague of Santa Paula, Manager of Limoniera Fruit Company mentioned that he was "simply honest, had many friends, and left a document of orchard management which will be of immense value to the citrus industry." Ethan Allen Chase, President of National Orange Company of Riverside said of Mr. Call, "He had been the chief guide and advisor of the largest industries of the country." The memorial ended with the song "Abide With Me" sung by Frank Collier.

On the day of the accident, Mr. Call drove to the Call Packing House. His foreman, Allen Davis accompanied him, but had stepped out of the car shortly before the oncoming train hit the car Mr. Call was driving. This leads to the story of the Call Ranch House. For many years, it served as the home for the foreman of the A. F. Call Groves. The land was slowly sold and in more recent times became part of the Foothill Properties. Its new home at the Corona Heritage Park is quite fitting.

The Call Ranch House was built in 1904 and as previously mentioned, was the home of the foreman of the Call Estate. Therefore quite a few families have lived there, each having different and yet the same stories to tell about the Ranch House. Through the years many young people have grown up playing and working in the groves around the house. Their stories also bring meaning to the legacy of the citrus industry to the growth and spirit of Corona.



Robert Gaddie grew up in the Call Ranch House. In 1947 his father took the job as foreman for the Call Ranch and worked there until 1966. In the 19 years his family lived there, it was remodeled four times. On the ground floor only the dining room was untouched. With the exception of the sleeping porch the second floor was unchanged. He commented in his letter that Foothill was not known for paying high salaries, but they did provide excellent housing for their employees.

He mentions that it was the gardens around the house that made the place exceptional. Previous residents had brought in a number of unusual trees and shrubs. His mother, being an avid gardener, developed flowerbeds under the trees and shrubs. The gardens were the site of many church socials, barbeques, and even a wedding reception was on the grounds when he lived there.

Mr. Gaddie said growing up in the house was best described as a Tom Sawyer experience. "The house was surrounded by citrus groves. The barns north of the house provided unlimited opportunities for fun.

The immense eucalyptus trees surrounding the property were the sites of a number of tree houses. We would spend days in the summer wandering the hills east of the house."

The Call Ranch Barn

This is a story waiting to be told. There were many families through the years that have lived in the Ranch House and many people have played in the groves.

Call Ranch House Continued

Some may have photos or memories shared with them from their parents, grandparents. The Corona Heritage Park would like to be a collector of those stories if you would want to share. We have heard about the apple tree that bore so many apples that in season it was always overloaded. Mrs. Gaddie believed it was a Gravenstein tree and had been planted long before they moved in in the 1940s. Mr. Gaddie mentioned the tree produced much more fruit than they could use. It was available to anyone who lived on the ranch. There also was a plum, a fig and two persimmon trees.

Debbie Pitts Pederson, wrote that they moved into the Call Ranch House in 1966/67. Her dad Johnnie Pitts, was the night foremen until he retired in 1993 or 94. She remembers the grounds had to be well taken care of. "There were seven different lawns and lots of garden and many fruit trees. The bamboo section was amazing. The house was beautiful and my mom took great pride in it. We did a lot of polishing. There were three of us girls, so we were always cleaning something or working in the yards. "

The Ranch House is not completely renovated now, but is on a firm foundation thanks to a gift to the Heritage Park arranged by former City Councilman Steve Nolan. The house has been painted and made ready for next steps to keep it as a holder of history and memories from the times when Corona and Citrus were the same. Renovation and Preservation take time and stories.



Call Ranch House has been prepped here in this photo for its move to a site at Heritage Park.



The Call Ranch House as it sits on its foundation at the Park.

A special thanks to the W.D. Addison Heritage Room at the Corona Public Library and to Jennifer Marlatt, Librarian.

Other Call Ranch labels:

- Caluma
- Laurel
- Maverick
- Pennant
- Red Mountain



The Call Ranch Barn

Heritage Room Donation



Jennifer Marlatt, Heritage Room Librarian, is delighted to receive an annual library donation from CHPS Director Mary Winn.

Jennifer wrote in a thank you note: "The funds help support our mission to collect, preserve and share the history of our community."

CHPS is proud of the relationship we share with the Heritage Room.

CHPS Receives Rotary Club Allocation



CHPS applied for a charitable allocation from the proceeds of the Corona Rotary Club's Lobsterfest fund raiser. The funds CHPS sought were to assist in the restoration and preservation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at Butterfield Park. CHPS Treasurer Richard Winn was pleased to be able to attend the Rotary Club luncheon on September 20, 2019 and receive a check from Rotary Club President Jerry Wilson.

Membership Information

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

Individual Member	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to volunteer:
Family	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitality refreshments <input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter writing articles <input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vintage Home Tour
Patron	\$125.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	docent / volunteer <input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$600.00	<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 and mail to:

CHPS
P.O. Box 2904
Corona, CA 92878



We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

JaNell Acosta
Bennie & Marla Benson
Hugh & Alicia Black
Wendy Bohulano
Richard & MaryJo Boller
Jim & Marie Cambuzzi
Marta Alicia Cortez
Becky Floyd
Marty & Merrilee Howard

Katherine Hyett
Rita Johnson
Thomas J. Manion
James Marshall
Robert & Angela Montanez
Sean & Jennifer Moore
Dian Mrosco
Shawnee Querner &
Michele Jackson

Gary & Doris Osko
Fred & Vicki Parr
George & Carrie Pope
Randy & Susie Rawson
Dennis & Carol Salgado
Michael & Tami Segert
Mike & Maria Ugalde
Terry & Nancy Wilkeson

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 Coordinator Rich Winn at rwinn141@gmail.com or call 714.328.0010. 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 - Wes Speake
Vice President - Eric Bergreen
Secretary - Vacant
Treasurer - Richard Winn

Directors

Trisha Henson-Cabrera
Chris McCoy
Paula Muñoz
Amelia Nieves
Mary Winn

Advisors

Marla Benson
Ted Taylor



To contact us call
951.898.2044

Please leave a message



Our Mission Statement

The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is an active nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)3 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 17, 6:30 at CHPS office

Monday, December 2, 6:30 at WIC Clubhouse



www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
& Society

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



**Join us at the CHPS Holiday Party
Monday, December 2, 2019**

