

### A Message From Our President Wes Speake

Dear Members:

Hopefully, I'll be one of the first to wish you and your family a very Happy Holiday as we transition from scary time (election season) and the other scary time, (Halloween), into Thanksgiving and Christmas. Such a special time for families and our beautiful city!

In December, for the first time in history we will have five council members elected by district. The voters of District's 2 (North/Northwest Corona) and 3 (the center of the City from Ontario Avenue to the 91) will decide who will represent them for the next four years. If Jason Scott is re-elected, he will join three other individuals as the second longest serving on the Corona City Council with 4 terms (Dick Deininger, Karen Spiegel and Eugene Montanez). For the record, the longest serving council member was Herbert Key, he served 23 years on the City Council starting in 1920. Speaking of terms!

Measure Y is on the ballot to limit the number of terms Council members can serve at three terms in a lifetime, starting in 2020. This will be the first time local term limits will be on the ballot. In Corona's 130+ year history only four Council members or trustees have served more than three terms. In fact, the average length of service since 1928 is 6.1 years and in the modern era post development of South Corona (1992) is 8.1 years.

Also, on this year's ballot, is Measure X, a 1% sales tax increase. Sales tax was first introduced in California in 1933. Corona became a hot bed of sales tax repeal efforts in 1936 and 1938. However, the ballot measure failed to be put on the ballot and sales tax has remained ever since. This was in addition to the setting of valuation taxes set each year by State, County and the City. Newspapers are filled with arguments and debates over the years about the setting of tax rates by the city. In 1927, an increase of \$.10 per \$100 to \$1.80 per \$100 was heralded as "Pure Greed" and Corona didn't need more storm drains! Things have not changed!

That is enough politics for this issue. I had the opportunity to dive into the city archives and some misc. boxes at the Heritage Room recently in search of City history and I found some amazing treasures! I

would like to thank our wonderful City Clerk, Sylvia Edwards, and her staff, and Jennifer Marlatt, Heritage Room librarian at the Corona Public Library, for allowing me to uncover these two gems. First, was letterhead from the elected City Clerk, Harry L. Lyman, from 1948-1949. There are three great things about the letterhead: 1) a beautiful and seldom seen copy of the city seal from prior to 1962's atomic City seal 2) the stationery lists not only the City Council but department heads including the Public Health Officer and City Nurse! 3) lastly, it lists Mary Alice Sutter as Police Judge. More on the amazing Mrs. Sutter will appear in the Jan-Feb 2021 *CHPS Newsletter*. The second treasure discovered was an unassuming 5" X 5" envelope postmarked March 27, 1905 7PM, New York, New York addressed to T.C. Jameson Esq. Library Board from Andrew Carnegie 2 East 91<sup>st</sup> Street, New York.

Dear Sir,

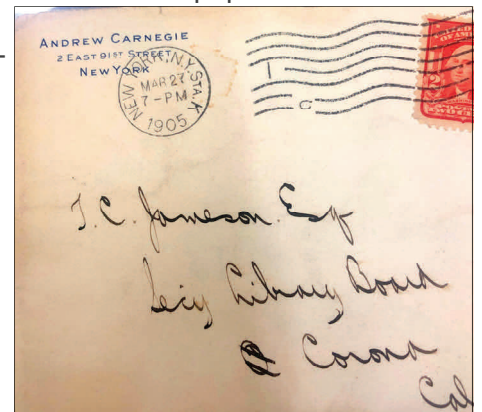
*Responding to your communications on behalf of Corona – If the City agree(s) by Resolution of Council to maintain a Free Public Library at a cost of not less than One Thousand Dollars a year, and provide a suitable site for the building, Mr. Carnegie will be pleased to furnish Ten Thousand Dollars to erect a Free Public Library Building for Corona.*

*Respectfully yours,*

*Jas. Bertram, P. Secretary*

Mr. Bertram served as Mr. Carnegie's personal secretary until Mr. Carnegie's death in 1919 and continued as a trustee until 1934. By 1908, he supervised Carnegie's library program completely. Bertram considered the power Carnegie entrusted to him as a kind of sacred trust demanding his protection. Later, he was the one who had decided that the population of the

community should determine the funding for the grants and set the figure at two dollars per person. Corona was lucky to get \$10,000 as Corona Population was between 1,434 in 1900 and 3,540 in 1910. [See next page](#)



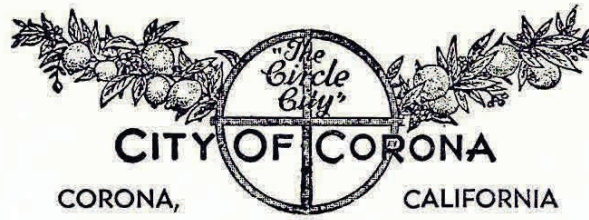
# President's Message Continued

## COUNCIL

C. R. MILLER, MAYOR  
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EDWARD PAUL  
LEONARD SCHMIDT  
R. J. STEINER

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CLAIRE M. BULLER  
CITY NURSE

ROSS CUNNINGHAM  
SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION

*Courtesy City of Corona*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW** - Our annual Holiday Party and Annual Meeting will be on Monday, December 7th, at 7PM, However it will be conducted via ZOOM conference, because our members' health is of great concern to us. We will have some surprises for everyone to enjoy. **The link will be emailed to you prior to the date of the Holiday Party.**

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

Be Well,

*WES*



## Corona Antiques & Collectibles Faire

**LOCATION - Heritage Park**  
**510 W. Foothill Parkway**

The Corona Historic Preservation Society has enthusiastically participated in this event since it was first held in 2001. In fact, it has become a favorite tradition of many of our members.

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, CHPS will not be serving luscious lemonade from Corona-grown and freshly squeezed lemons this year.

We are very much looking forward to providing a booth where we will be displaying historic Corona artifacts for one and all to see.

A partial list of items on display and/or for sale:

- A colorful collection of matchbooks from Corona businesses
- Examples of U.S. currency in denominations of \$5.00, \$10.00 and 20.00 issued by two local banks from 1905-1929
- High quality reproductions of a variety of Corona citrus labels may be seen as well as purchased
- Three books incorporating historical images with detailed captions from Corona's precious past - written by Mary Bryner Winn

NINETEENTH ANNUAL



MASKS • DISTANCE • ENJOY!

Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020 • 8am - 3pm  
Questions? Shellie at (951) 314-0441

# A Blast from the Past

By Eric Bergreen

One of the things Corona's past is best known for is its citrus industry. Another, as any true Coronan will know, is its world-famous road races held just after the turn of the century. Although there were only three, they all attracted tens of thousands of spectators from around the country. The first one took place in 1913, the second in 1914 and the last in 1916, all held on our most famous road; Grand Boulevard, also known as the circle. Speed records were set and broken many times during these races with some cars reaching speeds of up to 100+ MPH.

While researching our city's past I came across an interesting article from the last road race in '16 taken from the Los Angeles Herald dated April 1st of that year, about a week before the actual race.

## DRIVERS START PRACTICE FOR 300-MILE GRIND ON FAMOUS CORONA COURSE

*EVENING HERALD SPORTS* Written by NELSON LALLY  
Practice for the Corona grand prix race of 300 miles which is to be held one week from today opened yesterday and a few of the speed kings took advantage of the opportunity to try their cars over the fast circle.

That the race will be a dizzy whirl from start to finish was indicated today by the speed made in the first trials. Eddie Pullen's record of 87 miles per hour, made with his Mercer, No. 4, is sure to be shattered, and judging from what the drivers say, a record of close to 100 miles per hour should be hung up. There is one thing certain—Corona will have a record to boast of, no matter what time is made. The last race at Corona was a road race; the one next week is a boulevard race, and it is the first boulevard race of importance to be held in this country. With the roar of the motors of the racing cars and the odor of castor oil, enthusiasm ran riot in the citrus belt yesterday and many old citizens came out to welcome the kings of speed, business came to a halt and everything was forgotten but the racing cars. Next Saturday will be the greatest holiday the citrus belt has known for a number of years; shops will close, and a special train provided by the Santa Fe will carry the employees to and from the race at no expense to them. Drug stores, candy stores, department stores and practically every business in the citrus belt country will shut up business while the speed kings are engaged in the "Whirl of the World."

The race, which will start promptly at 1 o'clock, will be for 300 miles and should be finished by 4:30. Besides a

cash purse of \$12,000 there is the valuable Flagler trophy. One of the rare treats for the racing fans, particularly of Los Angeles, is the entry of Barney Oldfield's Delage car. All have heard a great deal about this speed wagon, but few have had the good fortune to have seen it in action. The devotees of automobile racing have waited patiently for some time to see a Delage car race in Southern California and we trust that nothing will prevent the appearance of this car of mystery at Corona. Omar the "story maker," who once said he would drive a Delage here, will have nothing to do with this car. There is no mystery connected with Barney's entry and the old master himself will be at the wheel of this real Delage. Tickets for the race were placed on sale in Los Angeles yesterday and can be secured at McKee's Cafe and the Alexandria Hotel. It is probable that several sporting goods houses will also have tickets. With the exception of about two miles, the roads to Corona are in good shape and there should be no dust to mar the pleasure of those who motor to the race.



As some may know, this last race ended in tragedy when racer "Wild" Bob Burman, his mechanic and a security guard all lost their lives when Burman lost control of his car on the 97th lap of the race right around 5th street near where the city park is today. The tragedy of Burman's death affected everyone deeply. Residents along the boulevard were also fed up with the noise, smell and litter left behind by the spectators and Corona's road races came to a final end.

The Flagler trophy, won at the end of this race, was taken home by winner Eddie O'Donnell. Since then it has resided with the O'Donnell family and has been passed down within the family. This treasured trophy, considered to be Corona's "holy grail", wasn't seen again by anyone from Corona until CHPS President Wes Speak located it in Indiana in late 2017. Wes traveled to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, Indiana where the precious prize is on loan for display. Wes can be seen proudly holding the shiny silver Flagler Trophy in this photo. Corona's racing prize had not been touched by any Coronan since the 1916 Corona Road Race.

Wes Speak located it in Indiana in late 2017. Wes traveled to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, Indiana where the precious prize is on loan for display. Wes can be seen proudly holding the shiny silver Flagler Trophy in this photo. Corona's racing prize had not been touched by any Coronan since the 1916 Corona Road Race.



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As you already likely know, Robert Taylor persuaded his partners, Adolph Rimpau, George L. Joy, A. S. Garretson, and Samuel Merrill to form the South Riverside Land and Water Company in 1886. This was the beginning of our fair city of Corona. With \$110,000 they combined to purchase 12,000 acres of agricultural land. Taylor realized the importance of water for the soon to be developed community, and additional funds were used to ensure that sufficient water rights were obtained.



**Abandoned Serrano homestead in central Temescal Valley**  
Source: *The Press-Enterprise*

Water rights and depletion have dictated the ebb and flow of our city since its earliest days.

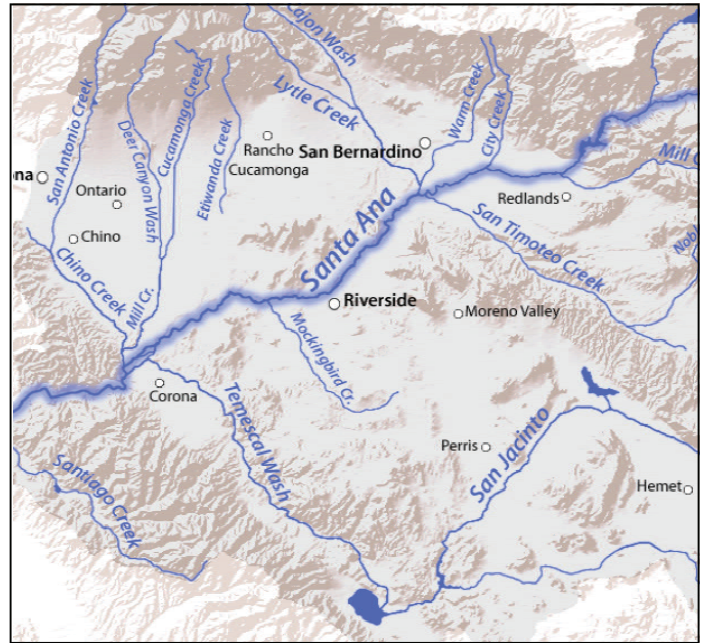
As a citrus growers' organization, the company purchased the lands of Rancho La Sierra from Bernardo Yorba, and the Rancho Te-

mescal grant to complete the formation of South Riverside Colony. They also secured the water rights to Temescal Creek, its tributaries and Lee Lake. Dams and pipelines were built to carry the water to the colony. In 1889 the Temescal Water Company (TWC) was incorporated, to supply water for the new colony. This company purchased all the water-bearing lands in the Temescal Valley and began drilling artesian wells.

The resources were depleted very quickly. Wells originally dug to 300 feet saw the water table drop precipitously. Soon pumps were required, and the wells had to be made deeper or abandoned dry.

Most of the water was obviously used to fuel the citrus boom. As the "Lemon Capital of the World" water was the blood that kept the country supplied with citrus. Cienagas and springs were quickly drained. Temescal and Coldwater Creeks were turned into pipelines. This led to the Southern portion of the colony to be abandoned slowly as it went dry, from the late 1890's to 1917. Buildings and farms were left vacant. People migrated North into Corona or went east to Riverside. Central Temescal Valley was completely dry by 1918.

As the demand for water grew, the TWC started purchasing Lake Elsinore water. Outlet channels were deepened to allow the lake to freely flow down Temescal Canyon to Corona. Within a few years the water level sank below the natural elevation of even the deepened outlet. At great expense, a pumping plant



**Source: The California Water Resource Board**

was installed, even as the lake's level continued to recede. Pumping was continued a few more seasons, but salt began to concentrate in the lake due to the lack of rain. It became unsuitable for citrus irrigation. The project was abandoned by the company after less than a decade of operation.

The Elsinore operation also affected the hot springs in Elsinore's upper creek and Temescal's Warm Springs Valley. In order to rejuvenate the springs, deep wells had to be dug and water pumped back into them.

For the next 20 years, Temescal Water spent more and more money on continually diminishing returns. Irrigation canals were built to transfer water from Riverside. Costs for growers continued to rise. The water shortage was only relieved once the Lake Matthews reservoir was completed in Cajalco Canyon around 1939. The reservoir now empties into upper Temescal Wash and provides most of our water, but it also means we are dependent on the Colorado River for about 70% of our water.

Today Temescal Creek begins as the Elsinore Spillway Channel. It then passes northwestward into the Warm Springs Valley, past its confluence with Wasson Canyon Wash where it is permitted to spread out into a natural creek, and flow through Stovepipe Canyon. It then passes through Walker Canyon, Gavilan Wash, Alberhill Canyon Creek and Walker Canyon. Shortly afterward it crosses underneath the (I-15) Freeway and is joined by Horsethief Canyon Creek on its left and flows into Lee Lake.



## Water and Corona Continued

From Lee Lake it enters Temescal Valley. The creek levels out after leaving the Estelle Mountain canyon, passing through a natural riverbed, to Bedford Canyon Wash and Joseph Wash. It finally flows through Corona proper to Prado Flood Control Basin finally joining the Santa Ana River.

There are new efforts to find new sources for local water, and proposals to use reclaimed water for more home irrigation. Our current DWP goes to great lengths to ensure the safety and high quality of our water. All these efforts require a great deal of planning and cost, but they may allow Corona to once again control and conserve more of our own water in the future.



Lake Elsinore Shoreline - Circa 1920  
Source: *The Press-Enterprise*

## From the Nominations Committee

The annual election of the CHPS Board of Directors will take place during our Annual Meeting via ZOOM conference on Monday, December 7 starting at 7:00 PM. The link will be emailed to you.

As of the publication of this *Newsletter*, the Nominations Committee submits the following slate of nominations for your consideration:

**Directors:** Eric Bergreen, Shaylene Cortez, Chris McCoy, Paula Muñoz and Mary Winn

**Advisors:** Marla Benson and Ted Taylor

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

## Update from the Board of Directors

### A NOTE FROM PRESIDENT WES SPEAKE:

I want to take a moment to reassure our members that since the beginning of the pandemic, the Board of Directors of CHPS has not stopped focusing on our core mission of PRESERVATION, PROTECTION and PERPETUATION of Corona's historic sites, buildings, neighborhoods and resources. The board has met "virtually" every month during the pandemic with hopeful planning for 2021. We have been researching interesting topics to be included in our amazing bimonthly *Newsletter* and postings on the CHPS Facebook Group and Page. We are compiling a list of impressive homes to be considered for our annual Heritage Home Awards and we're striving to raise funds for our various preservation projects and our Historic Marker Program. We really hope to be able to resume some type of normal activities and operations after the beginning of the new year.

# An Elegant and Glorious Past By Doris Osko

As I walked along Palm Avenue in Corona, next to the lengthy wrought iron fence, I had no idea of what grandeur awaited me at this 1205 address. Inside the fence a gigantic pine tree swept its branches downward and almost obscured the two-story vintage home behind it. I knew the house was built in 1928, and was particularly interested in it for the period of time it was occupied by owners George and Helen Stanley, active and involved Corona civic leaders. As a member both of Corona Historic Preservation Society and also Woman's Improvement Club of Corona, I was greatly interested in Helen Engle Stanley, President of WICC from 1938-39 and also her home which often played an important part in community events. The Stanleys moved into the house in 1944. Helen died on September 18, 1995 at the age of 92.

Through more intricately designed wrought iron gates, I entered the home which was the first ever built on Palm Avenue, and is situated on the corner of an alley way. Greeting me was new owner Beata Bizal who was to be a tour guide for me and fellow WICC and CHPS member, JaNell Acosta. Beata ushered us through the wide front door with an oval etched glass window which she said was a "casket door," wide enough so a coffin could be carried through it if need be. The living room was our first stop with a high vaulted ceiling, French doors encasing a huge front window, and a wall which contained a fireplace and book shelves.

A unique feature was the "Juliet Balcony" jutting out into the room. Helen Stanley used this to good advantage when she put on skits, musical performances, and other community activities. Participants would use an upstairs room designed as a place to change into costume, and then would step out on to the balcony to sing or act. Period furniture, a custom-made rug, a dark-wood bar and gold sconces on the wall provide a picture of warmth and beauty. (Beata confessed that

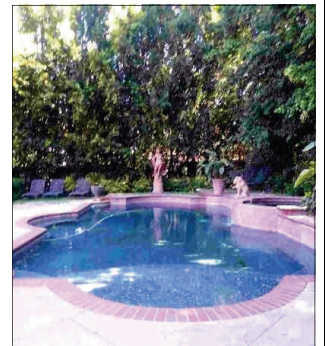


JaNell Acosta, Doris Osko & Beata Bizal

the sconces stay lit day and night because she has not figured out how to turn them off.)

The tour continued through the dining room, sitting room, 3 bedrooms, kitchen, 2 ½ baths, and garden area. It would take pages to describe the numerous exquisite features - beautifully carved furniture pieces such as dressers, or tables

and chairs; a beaux art design copper and golden glass lantern, circa 1915; a chandelier with cherubs resting on it in places, a jade vase, countless glass door knobs, strips of wood carved with various lovely designs that might extend on an entire wall. Diamond-shaped wooden strips appeared throughout on windows.



Our final place of our tour was sitting on a bench in a large area reminiscent of a European garden. It was comprised of a bricked area with brick fireplace and chairs and tables. Adjacent to this was the swimming



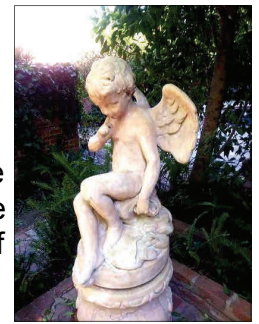
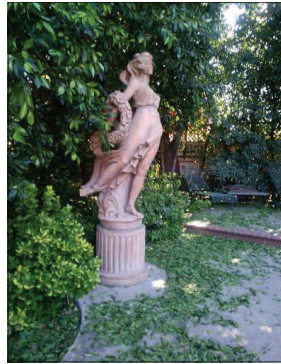
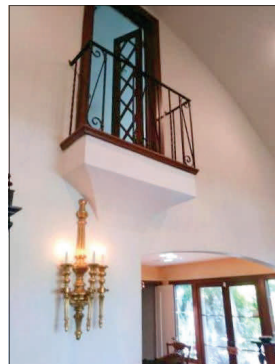
pool surrounded by trees and shrubbery. Throughout the entire garden area were graceful and charming neo-classical statues.

Beata Bizal can also be described as graceful and charming. Her love for her home and her desire to preserve it for posterity are apparent. (Beata has retained the yellowed 1950's newspapers with which

Helen Stanley lined drawers and continues to line drawers.)

Former owners of this home, Helen and George Stanley, could easily be the

subject of a future article on Corona's prominent citizens. This Palm Avenue vintage home is truly one of Corona's treasures.



# Membership Information

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

Individual Member \$30.00  
 Family \$40.00  
 Student \$15.00  
 Business \$60.00  
 Patron \$125.00  
 Life \$600.00

**I'd like to volunteer!**

Hospitality refreshments   
 Newsletter writing articles   
 Vintage Home Tour  
     docent / volunteer   
 Board of Directors

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

Eric & Christa Bergreen

Wendy & Del Bohulano

Jim & Marie Cambuzzi

Meg & Stephanie E'amato

Marty & Merrilee Howard - PATRON MEMBERSHIP

Derek Humphrey - BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

Charles Jameson

Patricia Johnson Knoeckel

Thomas J. Manion

Jason Scott

John & Jannlee Watson

## 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](mailto:rwinn141@gmail.com)/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>](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 - Shaylene Cortez  
Treasurer - Richard Winn

### Directors

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. [\*During the COVID-19 Pandemic while Stay-At-Home orders are in effect, meetings may be held via electronic means.

Contact CHPS President Wes Speake if you wish to be included in an electronic meeting.]

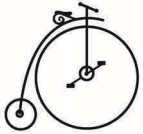
**All members are invited to attend.**

The next meetings are scheduled for:

**Thursday, Nov. 19, at 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office**  
**Monday, Dec. 7, 7:00 virtual meeting via ZOOM**



[www.Corona-History.org](http://www.Corona-History.org)



Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

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



**Be sure to vote on November 3!**