



A Message From Our President Wes Speake

Dear Members:

Our tragic, yet historic year continues, as we transition from toasty and lately humid months to our incredible cool fall temperatures (hopefully.) That longing for the past remembrances is nothing new. One thing that is true almost a 100 years later, when I tell someone about our city’s famous race history, there is a series of looks; the first look is wonder-that wow factor; the second look is quizzical... followed by, “We should have another race!”

The Grand Corona Road Race ran three times; Sept 9th, 1913, Nov 26th, 1914 and lastly on Apr 8th, 1916. It has been well documented that the 1913 and 1914 races were financial successes, but hard on Corona residents. There was a failed attempt at a 1915 race that was thwarted by competing race dates, lack of organizing experience, and road construction on all roads leading in and out of Corona at the end of 1915. Talk of races in 1915 came to a head in August 1915 when Mr. Ott, organizer of the 1913 and 1914 races, refused to be involved. He claimed that conditions had changed, the purse would have to be larger, and entry fees could not be charged to drivers as they had been in past years. "There was so much road racing in Southern California that it will be a hard matter to successfully promote a great race this year." Lastly, 1915 was a “year of expositions and if one has a dollar to spend, it's going in one direction or another.”

The 1916 Races were taken up by a new group, The Citrus Belt Racing Association, headed by W.L Peeler. The races were an unmitigated disaster financially, and investors lost over 75% of their investment. Shares of \$25 each returned \$4 after all expenses were paid, not to mention the numerous

OPPOSITION TO RACES ON BOULEVARD HEARD FROM

Agitation for a revival of the famous Corona road races is under way once more, and while the movement has its ardent supporters there are also a number who are strongly opposed to a return of racing on the Grand Boulevard.

Believing that both sides are entitled to a hearing The Independent sets forth some reasons why another race should not be held on the Corona Circle, as called to the attention of a reporter for this paper this morning, by a property owner on the Grand Boulevard.

One of the first arguments advanced is the fact that an automobile race is brutal, and that the last one resulted in several deaths, not only of those in the race, but spectators.

Another argument pointed out by the property owner is that the people of Corona suffered great inconvenience, and in some cases destruction of property by visitors at the races, who not only asked but in some instances demanded, the use of houses,

water, toilets and porches, when the great race crowds were in the city.

Another allegation is that following the Corona road races the city for days was left with the streets full of refuse from the race crowds and no one felt it was their business to do the cleaning necessary.

A number of other reasons were given why Corona should for all time forget the Grand Boulevard racing program.



Bob Burman in #7 Peugeot in 1916

lawsuits brought against the city and organizers that weren’t decided until 1918 (in the City’s and organizers’ favor.) the wheels of justice moved slowly then too! Add in the deaths of two racers and track guard, William Speer, and residents weren’t keen on repeating.

Yearly between 1918 and 1920, local newspapers, and sometimes not so local, usually around September or April, suggested another Corona Road Race. The first mention came from the brother of famous speedster Ralph DePalma saying, “The Co-

rona track is the best in the country.” In April 1919, there were suggestions of short races of 3- and 10-mile short bursts or a single 50-100 mile race in order to break speed records. In November 1919, the question was posed to readers, “Should Corona Have a Race?” As auto racing in Southern California reached a fever pitch, the *LA Times* published an article calling for races in Corona and sent a telegram to the city telling them a future race date was open and was available. But Coronans didn’t bite. That doesn’t mean racing of some sort wasn’t taking place in the years in between. During July 4th festivities obstacle races involving both cars and motorcycles took place. However these were far from the 300-mile races of the “teens” and in 1920 the distance was just a single city block between 7th and 8th Streets.

In 1921, discussion ceased altogether due to a statement made by a homeowner along Grand Blvd, “Not only is racing brutal on participants, the last race resulting in 3 deaths, but the trash, rude spectators demanding use of houses, toilets, water and taking over porches, is enough.”

So when is our next race?

**ANOTHER LAW
SUIT AGAINST
RACE MGRS.**

Headline from 1917

Be Well,

WES



The First Jury Trial of South Riverside by Eric Bergreen

Early Corona Days is a book of old photocopied newspaper articles written in the 1930's by a man named Watt Bonfoey. Bonfoey was one of the first settlers to the colony of South Riverside and the first to purchase land there. He was tasked by the Corona Daily Independent newspaper to write articles from rote and memory recalling those first couple decades of our city's foundation and rise to fruition. He chronicled some of the major events that took place before and during the turn of the century. One of these events was the first jury trial. It's relayed word for word from his article below:



The first jury trial took place in the spring of 1887. Two employees of the Water Company, a man by the name of Charles Adams also known by the name "Frenchy" and a man who called himself "Gillhooley" but known as "Whiskey Dick" got into an argument which terminated in a fight.

"Frenchy" was quite handy with his fists and liked to use them as occasion required. But "Gillhooley" more than evened things up with the aid of a piece of brick. He pounded "Frenchy's" face raw. Frenchy had him arrested for assault and battery. "Gillhooley" demanded a jury trial and Constable Tom Blade rustled around and secured men for the jury. The trial took place before Justice Le Fon and was held in the residence of James Wilson, the first colored man to locate in the town and where Le Fon roomed.

The house is at 102 Main Street and is still standing but at that time it was a large two-story unfinished house braced on the south side by long 6 x 6 timbers to keep the fierce Northers from blowing it down. The house has been remodeled into a one-story building.

"Gillhooley" conducted his case himself and did so skillfully that the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty. "Frenchy" was very much excited over the verdict, rushing up to one of the jurors, one Thomas, said, "look at my face all peeled up and you think he did not hit me with a brick."

Now it happened that Thomas was very wrought

up over being pulled away from his business to serve on the jury without monetary compensation, and he remarked to "Frenchy," "Yes he did a good job on you but it is too bad that he did not kill you."

The article does not give Gillhooley's first name but from another source, I've learned that it was Richard, and as his nickname was Whiskey Dick, it only makes sense. Further inquiries led me to find out that he also routinely spent nights in the colony's first jail cell as well.

Remember that these articles were written in the 1930s, and there is no longer a house standing at 102 Main St. This location would be somewhere in the middle of the road, to the north of Del Taco by the offramp from the 91 freeway east. To learn more about the history of Corona or to read *Early Corona Days* by Watt Bonfoey for yourself, you can visit the Corona Public Library.

Just In Case You Didn't Know*

Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of an American flag

"All persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute.

All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes."

* 4 U.S. Code § 9 as amended by Public Law 105-225, § 2(a), Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1498; Public Law 110181, div A, Title V, § 594, Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 138.

Save the Date: November 14, 2020

Antiques & Collectibles Faire:

Heritage Park, 510 East Foothill Parkway
November 14, 2020 8 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.



Be sure to visit our CHPS Lemonade Stand for
FREE LEMONADE!
It's icy cold and is always made from Corona lemons.

There will be tons of classy antiques and collectibles for you to enjoy and purchase.

NOTE:

This event may be subject to cancellation if COVID19 restrictions persist.

IT'S A TRADITION: At these events CHPS also hosts a booth with various items for sale, including Corona Citrus labels and books authored by Mary Bryner Winn

Corona City Council Candidates' Responses

Five questions selected by the CHPS Board of Directors pertaining to historic preservation issues were submitted to all four Corona City Council candidates on August 7th so that their responses could be incorporated into this issue of the *CHPS Newsletter*. They were respectfully requested to send their answers to *Newsletter* editor Mary Winn within two weeks' time so that the deadline for this issue would be met. We express our sincere appreciation to all four candidates who took time out of their very busy schedules to respond. This process is to help you, our members, in making your decision as to whom to cast your vote in the upcoming election on:

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Please keep the candidates' stated positions in mind and PLEASE BE SURE TO VOTE!

- 1.- The City's motto is "To Cherish Our Past, To Plan Our Future". From a historical perspective, what does the motto mean to you and if you are elected, what specific actions do you plan to take in the next four years to protect and preserve our remaining historical resources and heritage?
- 2.- Blighted conditions in Corona's central core continue. Please provide specific plans you envision to revive historic neighborhoods, homes and yards in order to protect historic resources for future generations.
- 3.- What is your opinion of the establishment of a Cultural Heritage Board (as in Riverside or Redlands), a Historic Preservation Commission (Pasadena), or Historical Commission (Norco,) to make recommendations to the City Council and oversee proposed changes to all properties currently considered as historic resources on the Historic Resources Inventory List or the City of Corona's Register of Historic Resources?
4. - Corona's Historic Core will be under tremendous pressure in the coming years as Corona's Downtown will undergo revitalization for the second time. How will you ensure commercial structures pay homage to our shared history? What are your feelings about making sure that such commercial projects are required to buffer commercial-residential impacts with transitional parking structures utilizing underground parking, ground level parking, landscaping or parking garages that are enclosed by the buildings?
- 5.- In Corona, many historically significant homes still stand in neighborhoods that need help to be safe and attractive. What ideas do you have for ensuring that new infill construction is sympathetic with the historic district in which it is located and complements existing historic resources?

Corona City Council Candidates' Responses CONT'D

Responses from Tony Daddario, Candidate for District 2

1. - I interpret our motto as understanding, appreciating and learning from our past to plan a better future. I grew up in Anaheim, CA and remember in the 80's the city tearing down a lot of "blighted" buildings that would have been considered Historic in less than 10 years. Fast forward the city and its residents had to deal with those losses and regret. I would like an active inventory of historical properties and properties that are close to being historical and work with those property owners to make sure they understand the significance.
2. - As a history buff I would love to have our historic homes restored and for there to be overwhelming pride of ownership, however I understand that in today's economic world historic home owners may not have the means to do so. I reality we may have owners who bought a house that was not historic at the time. I think with keeping an active inventory and doing what we can as a city to create historic neighborhoods and identify them as such will help people realize the benefit of their property.
3. - This is tricky, in theory I like the idea of some sort of association of historical significance. However, to have a citizen group that has influence over what private owners can and can't do with their property that doesn't have any oversight is not a great idea. My wife and I lived in the Old Town Orange Historical District that had a similar committee and I heard horror stories about their over reach. I want to preserve our historical structures but I also want to work with private owners.
4. - I think having a stated vision of who we want to be as a city is key, that way we can utilize that vision when developers come knocking. Like question #1 asks knowing who we are and where we come from helps drive these decisions. I feel it is important to work with developers to ensure that the development they want to build is successful and at the same time meets the needs of the city this is a collaborative process.
5. - In Fill projects check a lot of boxes as far as "good development". I think the type of builders that we want building in our cities are good neighbors first.

Responses from Meg E'amato, Candidate for District 3

1. - I think this motto means that we must cherish our past by protecting our historic buildings, our residents that have lived in our city for generations, our diverse history, and the trees that continue to add such beauty to our town. I believe in preserving our historic buildings, but I also think we need to establish regulations that make new buildings in our historic areas required to mimic the style of that time, like in Downtown Riverside. Where I live, we are not a historic district, but our homes are older and hold a certain charm. However, we have a lot of vacant lots and in the past few years, owners of these lots have built homes that do not in any way match the surrounding homes. I would also like to see policies put in place that prohibit the removal of any fully grown trees, unless the tree is dying or it is causing structural damage that cannot be remedied in any other way. Regarding preserving our heritage, I would like to see a museum created in District 3 to specifically honor the art and culture of the Hispanic Heritage of our city.
2. - Unfortunately, people use the term "blighted conditions" when what they are really talking about is poverty. Poverty can be helped by robust social services and by bringing in high paying jobs in our area along with the training facilities that are required to attain those jobs. Poverty can also be helped by the city working with educational establishments like the Corona-Norco Unified School District, Norco College and Apprentice programs to help our residents escape poverty. I also believe in the power of non-profits and community to assist our residents. I believe I am the candidate most capable of harnessing the power of our community to uplift our areas most heavily affected by poverty, which will most greatly decrease any area seen as blighted.
3. - I am 100% for more Commissions/Boards that engage participation from and are led by our residents. I would very much support a Cultural Heritage Board. I think this type of board could have more versatility than simply historical preservation and truly carry out our city's motto.
4. - Again, I will point to Downtown Riverside as what I would like to see in Corona. I would like to see any revitalization effort at the Corona Mall mimic structures that are adjacent to it like the buildings housing the theatre currently occupied by Covenant Life Church. I would also like all parking structures to be "hidden" behind businesses or greenery like the parking structure near the Fox Theatre in Riverside. I would also like to see all developments incorporate community workforce agreements, in this way creating jobs for our residents in the area. This will also help to improve our areas most vulnerable to poverty.
5. - As stated, I would like to work with the City Council to pass policy that requires that all infill construction plans mimic the areas in which they are being developed. A new project that I believe did a relatively good job at this type of development is the Carnegie Medical Plaza on Main and 8th Street. It is a new building, but the features of the arched windows and White columns mimic the Arched Doors of the First Congregational Church just behind it. This is what I would like to see more of.

Corona City Council Candidates' Responses CONT'D

Responses from Tom Richins, Candidate for District 3

1. - I have always thought this was the perfect motto for Corona. To cherish our past is to preserve our past. This is done through research, publication, and community involvement. In 2014, I started the "History of Corona" Facebook page and have grown its "followers" to 5,000 strong. Through social media, not only is the history of our city shared broadly, but it is able to be more easily found on search engines like Google. Additionally, the posted history can be expanded upon in the comments by the citizens who lived it.

The Heritage Room at the library houses most of Corona's history. Jennifer Marlatt is the city employee who oversees this room. She is smart, educated with a Master's Degree and she truly cares about Corona's history. That said, located in the back of the Heritage Room are countless pictures, post cards, documents, coins, and other artifacts that are not easily accessible to the public. It is true that they are being well preserved, but they need to be digitally shared. A pathway going forward needs to be put in place where our citizens see all of our history that is being stored in the back of the Heritage Room.

2. - It takes love and vision by the citizens to preserve a historic neighborhood. The homeowners buying the houses also need the resources and the historical building standards set in place for the old neighborhoods. We need our city to establish strong historic guidelines and help with registering homes on the Mills Act. Thankfully, the year after year of giving of grants from CHPS has helped immensely.

In addition to historic homes, we have a Grand Boulevard that is loved by all. Our city should take advantage of the Boulevard and plan events annually. For example, car clubs, parades, 5K's and 10K's are all popular events that would promote not only the Boulevard, but the historic neighborhoods in and adjacent to the circle.

Also, the city currently owns the old railroad depot. We as citizens can't allow this treasure to disappear. Every effort needs to be done to preserve and save the depot.

3. - We needed a Historical Commission 75 years ago, we need it today, and I will make it a priority to get us there. Pasadena has an incredible historical commission. If we model their efforts, we can then function on a historic level such as other cities like Orange, Redlands and Claremont. First, there needs to be City Guidelines for our historic areas and the planning department needs to make sure these guidelines are followed. A Historic Commission along with the Planning Commission and City Council then serve as a checks and balances to make sure we stay the course. As a city council member I'd like to revisit our historic guidelines and make sure all parties above are on board to enforce the guidelines for the future of our City. Our City's history is every bit as important as Pasadena, Orange, Redlands, or Claremont and we need to start treating it as such.

4. - The downtown is tricky because our city has already entered into development agreements with Lab Holdings on the re-development. I have spoken often from the podium at Council meeting asking to be involved, but those requests have fallen on deaf ears.

From what I am seeing so far in the renderings that have been released, historical elements have been ignored. Our current leaders have taken the posture of, "let the Lab do what the Lab wants to do and go from there". It is sad really. Should I be elected, I hope to bring change to the design process.

Should I be involved, the first step would be to make an all-out effort to save the clock that has hung for 115 years at 6th and Main Street. Although the clock appears worn down now, with a little TLC, it can be brought back to life.

I would like to say this. The potential for a historic downtown is still achievable. If our Community Development Director and City Council choose to push the developer to maintain and improve upon the historic standards that are in place, we can revitalize Corona's historic core and set a standard going forth.

5. - In 2011, my wife and I purchased a 1913 Craftsman home on the corner of E. Grand and Garretson. What we learned during the remodel is that all of the same construction materials that existed 100 years ago exist today. There is no reason why houses can't be built to look historical and still comply with current building codes. City guidelines and handouts should set the standards for construction. The Community Development Director, Planning Commission, Historical Commission and City Council need to be the stewards to ensure that infill projects then comply with historic standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to answer these questions. Corona's history is near and dear to my heart. I will make every effort to preserve its history. I enjoyed my time serving on the board and, for a time, as President of CHPS. CHPS is a valuable resource for Corona's history and I look forward to working with CHPS and the citizens of Corona "To Cherish Our Past, To Plan Our Future".

Corona City Council Candidates' Responses CONT'D

Responses from Jason Scott, Candidate for District 3

1. - Serving as a current City Council Member has allowed me to ensure our Historic Civic Center is here for the benefit of the community and non-profits serving our City. This former Corona High School and City Hall site is a reminder of our past, which I cherish. Additionally, serving on the City Council and before that on the Planning Commission, I proudly voted many homes onto our list of Historic Landmarks.

We move forward with our Downtown District, having been altered significantly in the '60s and '70s. Renovation and revitalization of the area must take advantage of opportunities to highlight elements of our City's history in different ways while enhancing the area for people to visit and enjoy, thus providing them the chance to see and read of our history.

2. - Revitalizing the downtown requires people going downtown for services, entertainment, socialization, and employment. The new larger hospital, two modern medical facilities, the CNUSD Parent Center head us in this direction. The work LAB Holdings plans for enlivening the Corona Mall will benefit this and increase interest in other properties along Main and Sixth streets. As activity, employment, and pride increase in the commercial areas, the surrounding historic homeowners will also see the changes taking place, and this could change yards, homes, and neighborhoods.

3. - Corona currently has two active groups – Corona Historic Preservation Society and Corona History Association – which have done and continue to do excellent work. I know I am interested in the information shared by both groups and supported placement of markers and signs in the past allowing us “to cherish our past”. I also appreciate the items brought forth regarding our history or historical elements as we move forward, providing what our citizens desire.

Your question asks whether a city commission could be created to become the guiding group in this area and to possibly:

- Identify and promote preservation structures, objects, and areas of importance
- Stimulate and encourage financial and partnership support for projects
- Coordinate regional programs and act as a liaison among local organizations
- Advise and aid the public and private sectors in meeting museum needs
- Promote research, writing, and publication of Corona history

Representative positions on such a commission could consist of:

- An architectural historian
- An architect
- A historian
- A representative of a local history group with rotating membership
- A community development corporation person or real estate developer
- Two representatives living within the historic district with preference given to one currently living in a registered historic home

4. - Residents want a high-quality experience in downtown that is a pedestrian-oriented urban village bringing people together, is a place to go, a place to meet each other, to receive services, and a place to work. All of these are necessary for the revitalization of this area. Our community has sought this for years.

Individuals, businesses, and corporations have come and gone due to the constraints of the area. The lots are small. There are many individual owners to work with or buy out. The cost just to process is tremendously high. And so, it sits with some businesses and a stagnating environment.

Facilitating the expansion of a medical community in this area is beneficial to all in Corona. Residents living in neighboring homes benefit from retail and medical services available within steps from their homes. Land is limited. Opportunities to buffer commercial-residential impacts are a consideration when new projects are proposed for development. The use of underground, ground level, and enclosed parking garages can be considered as a buffer. I support the consideration of mitigation techniques to help buffer residential streets.

5. - Construction of new residential units within historic districts should apply a design that is sensitive and compatible with the surrounding neighborhood homes. It reinforces the historic character and patterns of the historic area and creates a visually seamless and cohesive streetscape.

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 | \$60.00 | <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"/> |
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| 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
Jennie Adamo
David & Sylvia Barnett
Bennie & Marla Benson
Jacque Casillas
Janice Ann Coleman
Michael & Shaylene Cortez

David & Connie Duffy
George Geary
Katherine Hyett
Tommy & Michele Jackson
Robert & Ruth Kremer
Will & Lety Martinez
John & Barbara McCawley

Chris & Shannon Paul
Mary Paulson
Dave & Laura Seltzer
Sara Seltzer
Steve & Karen Shultz
Clyde R. Tracy
Harold & Beryl Williams

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/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

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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, Sept 17, 6:30 at CHPS office

Thursday, Oct 15, 6:30 at CHPS office



www.Corona-History.org



Corona
Historic
Preservation
Society

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



Be well, stay well!

Don't forget to vote on November 3!