



HISTORY MATTERS

CHA UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Coffee & Conversations:
 Thursday, December 19
 4:00 p.m.
 FREE

Join us at CHA to reminisce about celebrities that have passed through Coronado over the years. Conversations will be led by Coronado High School Interns!

Night at the Museum is Back!

Friday, December 20
 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Member \$15 / Sibling \$5

Non-Member \$25 / Sibling \$10

Drop off the kids for crafts, games, and more, while you hit the town for this Wizard of Oz themed Night at the Museum! Grades K-5th welcome. Pre Registration Required. No Walk-Ups Accepted.

R.S.V.P. or Purchase Tickets at www.coronadohistory.org, (619) 435-7242, or by visiting the Museum Store at 1100 Orange Avenue.

Wine & Lecture Series:

No Forgotten Fronts

Friday, January 10

5:30 p.m. reception 6:00 p.m. program

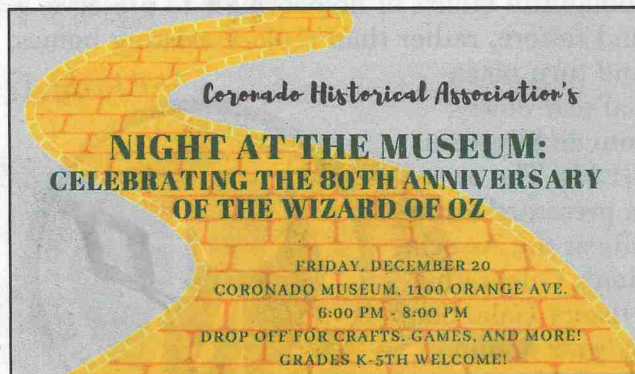
\$15 for CHA Members | \$18 for Non-Members

Join us for a night of wine, cheese, and history as CHA presents a lecture about the book *No Forgotten Fronts: From Classrooms to Combat*, that is based on thousands of original letters written by students from San Diego State who served in World War II. Presented by Lisa Shapiro.

CALLING ALL KIDS: JOIN CHA FOR A VERY SPECIAL WIZARD OF OZ NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM!

Most of us have heard that L. Frank Baum lived right here at Coronado, and many of us even know where the Wizard of Oz house is located on Star Park Circle. This month as we celebrate the 80th Anniversary of *The Wizard of Oz*, the 1939 film that brought technicolor to people around the United States, CHA is hosting a very special kids program where children will learn all about author L. Frank Baum and enjoy fun crafts and games.

Soon kids will be talking a lot about all they learned, so for us adults, here is a primer on the history of one of our island's favorite writers:

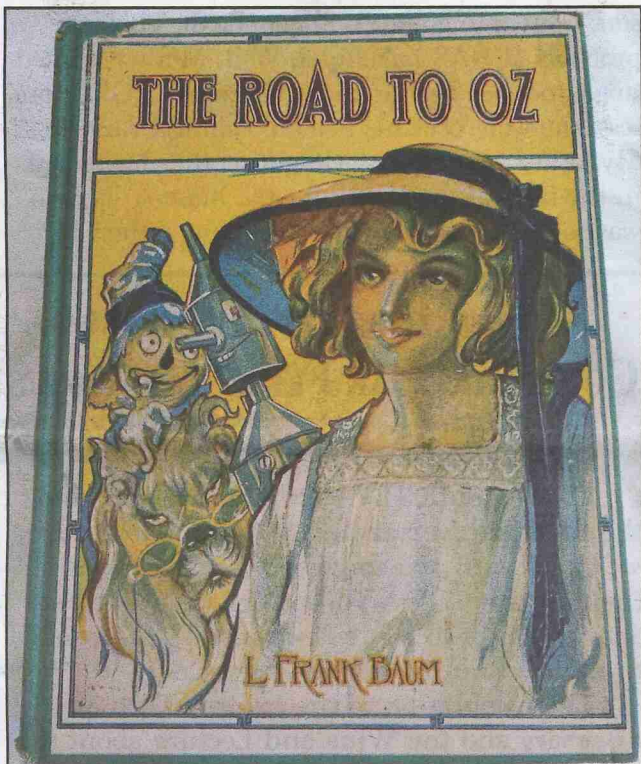


- L. Frank Baum's time in Coronado is well mapped out in both the *Coronado Eagle & Journal* (which commonly published all of Coronado's comings and goings) and in the *San Diego Union* and *Daily Bee*, whose reporters covered Baum because by the time he arrived in Coronado he was well-known.

- The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was published in 1900, and around 1903 Baum and his wife, Maud, arrived to spend winters in Coronado, first staying at the Hotel Del and then in what was referred to as "their Coronado winter home" in the newspapers in February 1909.

- He continued to write Oz-themed sequels and other fantastic tales for children during this time.

- Over the years there have been many local rumors and stories connecting Baum and his world of Oz to Coronado, and although intriguing, Baum's own family and historians have said that the inspiration for Oz was actually the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, not our Emerald City.



A copy of *The Road to Oz* from CHA's rare book collection.

Oz Night, Continued on Page 21.

'TIS THE SEASON - SPRECKELS SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY

CHA's members are true keepers of Coronado history. Their generosity and loyal support are a service to the community, enabling CHA to continue its mission of preserving that history. The Spreckels events are fun occasions for Society members to enjoy each other's company and a way to show the organization's gratitude.

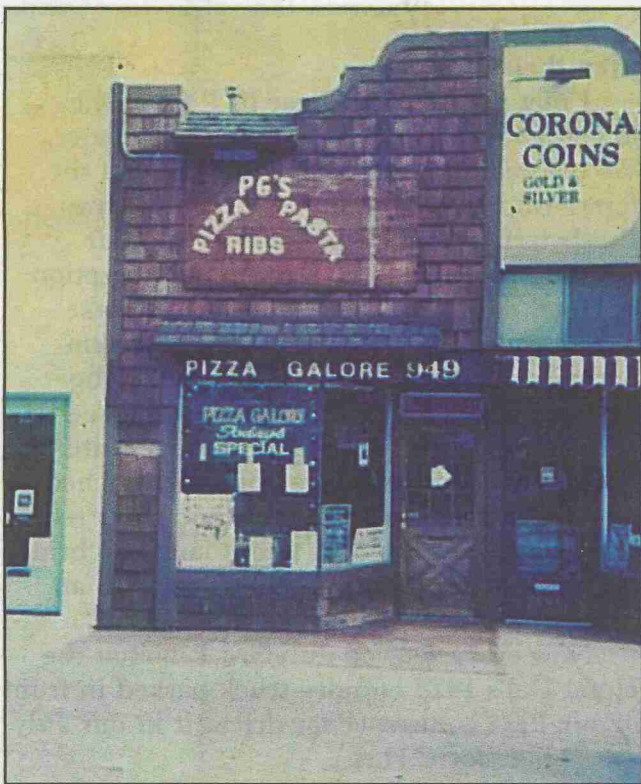
The evening kicked off with a very special behind-the-scenes tour of the Collections Vault by Curator of Collections, Vickie Stone. She highlighted CHA's preservation practices, including monitoring potential environmental hazards. The tour also included highlights of significant items in the collection that need archival boxes to provide protection from deterioration. The highlights included CHA's rare book collection, historic U.D.T./S.E.A.L. diving equipment, trophies dating back to the first annual Flower Shows in the 1920s, and new acquisitions. At CHA's Collection Luncheon in November, CHA was able to raise more than \$2,500 to purchase archival supplies to house these collections. CHA will be completing the housing projects in the coming year.

After the tour, Spreckels Society members enjoyed time to mingle before the parade in CHA's lecture hall. The lecture hall was beauti-

fully decorated in a golden Victorian holiday theme by volunteer Mary Ellen Cortellini in honor of CHA's Golden 50th Anniversary. Once Society members headed out for the parade, they got to see CHA's largest collection item drive by, a 1923 Ford Model T, which once served as the Laundry Truck for the Hotel Del. Overall the atmosphere was spirited as CHA celebrated Coronado History and it's top supporters.



It takes a team to prepare the Laundry Truck. Crew members pose in front of the truck after returning it to the museum after the holiday parade.



HISTORY MYSTERY

A monthly photo from CHA's Collection of Coronado's past for residents to guess.

What does this photo depict?
 See the Page 21 for the answer.

GEM AWARD NOMINATIONS

GEM award nominations are now open! We are looking for nominees for our 2020 Going the Extra Mile (GEM) Award. The Coronado Historical Association awards one local home or business owner the GEM award for their efforts in preserving a historic building or home in Coronado.

The award was created in 2013 to honor the thoughtful efforts of homeowners to preserve and restore, rather than replace existing homes, and turn potential tear-downs

into architectural GEMs. The award is presented annually at the Association's Celebrating History Gala. Send us your nominations! If you would like to nominate

a building for our GEM Selection and Award Committee please send your nominees to info@coronadohistory.org or call 619-435-7242.

CHA is proud to honor those homeowners such as 2018 GEM Award winners, Paul and Karen Laedlein, whose 944 I Avenue bungalow style home features a prime example of the low gable roof which is of particular architectural significance in this style. In the 1930s Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wicarius, who were well known in the society pages, lived in the home. By 1945, Lt. Comdr. MacGregor Kilpatrick wife lived in the home. He was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism in action with carrier forces of the Pacific fleet during WWII.

The 2019 GEM Award winner at 615 B Avenue is an excellent example of a restoration project of a single family dwelling, leaving no visible alterations or additions to the front elevation. The property is currently owned by Deborah Boney of Boney's Bayside Market. Boney embarked on a restoration project that included adding square footage in the back and restoring the facade. Boney explained that she didn't know much about the history of the home prior to the renovation, "I thought it was in a good location and I was drawn to the beautiful paneled windows and the porch in front". The first record of the charming craftsman bungalow is in 1916, when the home became the residence of Richard and Katherine Jessop. Richard was the son of famed San Diego jeweler, Joseph Jessop.

A later owner was Mrs. Esther Megear Tobelman lived in the home from the mid-1940s through the 1970s. Mrs. Tobelman moved to the property shortly after her husband, Navy Lieutenant Commander Paul H. Tobelman, was reported missing after a 1942 plane crash in Alaska. Mrs. Tobelman worked as an assistant librarian, raising her two daughters Ann and Nancy in the home. Nancy was a notable CHS photographer and Ann became a school teacher.

Current owner, Deborah Boney, said that renovations took over a year to complete from February 2017 to August 2018. When asked if it was difficult to remodel a historic home, Boney said it all boiled down to a good architect and a good contractor who were experienced in working on historic properties. In the end, she said the work paid off when she got praise for maintaining the historical charm, "a previous owner's daughter stopped by and was happy that we left it the way it was."



A WINE & LECTURE TO REMEMBER: US NAVY AIRSHIPS

On December 13, CHA hosted a memorable Wine & Lecture with guest speaker Karen Scanlon. Karen had previously written for CHA's History Matters about the airships:

"Rigid airships had a short and perilous career in the U.S. Navy. From 1921 to 1935 five lighter-than-air reconnaissance vessels sailed the skies then suffered catastrophic structural failure or were scrapped. Airships were a bad idea! Yet, in their heyday, these flying monsters excited people across the country, including two visits of USS *Shenandoah* (ZR-1) to North Island in 1924."

During her lecture she delved into the USS *Shenandoah*'s history further, covering the ship's tragic end and the waning use of these gigantic flying vessels. Last week's Wine & Lecture was particularly interesting because Karen brought a special guest. Coronado resident, Mary Ann Thomas of Olive Street shared some stories about the *Shenandoah*. She is the daughter of Captain Frank Robert McCrary, who was the first naval lighter-than-air (LTA) pilot, and *Shenandoah*'s first commanding officer. Mary Ann shared stories about her father's recollections of his time on the airship, including when her mother flew in the back:

"A good friend of my parents, Admiral Jackson, wanted to go up in *Shenandoah*. This was probably at NAS Lakehurst. Well, Mother wanted to go, too, but Father said a vehement NO! In protest, she went over his head to Admiral Jackson. My father was furious! He put mother by herself in the back of the airship by the motors. Jackson was seated up front. Unknown to my father, at



Captain Frank Robert McCrary (middle left) stands beside Admiral Moffatt (middle right) at the Christening of the *Shenandoah* in 1922.
Coronado Historical Association Collection

some point during the flight, Jackson moved to the back with my mother. The ship comes in and they have trouble getting the tail ropes down. Dad said, "We'll let her bounce around a little while to teach her a lesson." We can only imagine my father's face when out came Admiral Jackson with my mother at the stern of the ship. He loved the trip."

Mary Ann also helped identify her father in a historic photograph in CHA's collection. The photo depicts the commissioning ceremony of the *Shenandoah*, but previously did not identify the people in the photo. CHA staff were excited to update the catalog record when Mary Ann said her father was at the center of the photograph!

LOOKING BACK 50 YEARS AGO: CORONADO CAR FERRY MEMORIES

by Ginny Thorkelson,
CHA Volunteer

Closing out CHA's 50th Anniversary and the 50th Anniversary of the Coronado Bridge, we share with you some special reflections on the past from CHA Volunteer Ginny Thorkelson. If you have any reflections to share, send them in to info@coronadohistory.org.

The celebration of the bridge's 50th anniversary and the Wine and Lecture about the bridge by the Coronado Historical Association in August, brought back many fond memories.

The year was 1967 and my roommate and I lived on Mission Beach. Thank you Maynards in Pacific Beach for 19 cent Tuesday Night Spaghetti Dinners. (Pourtroum - La Jolla 29th Wednesday.) We often drove my 1960 Corvette convertible to Coronado via the ferry. We came to visit friends, for parties, and Sunday afternoons at the Downwinds on North Island. This was always followed by dinner at MexPac (Mexican Village restaurant) before we cued up to return home on the ferry.

I loved riding the ferry to work in the summer of 1967. I taught swimming for Coronado High School at the old Strand pool. (The ferry ride afforded me an excellent opportunity to do my hair and make-up on the ride over). Once at the pool I watched early morning U.D.T.'s (precursor to Navy SEALs) jog across the sandy Strand highway carrying their rafts aloft for morning ocean drills.

In 1968 summer swimming lessons were discontinued and I taught physical fitness for CHS at the high school track. My summer work wardrobe consisted of four tennis dresses. These were purchased at the sports outlet south of Broadway in San Diego. They were 5.00 each plus 5% sales tax. I still enjoyed my ferry rides to work that were happily delayed when a Navy aircraft carrier returned home



The Coronado car ferry in 1965.
Coronado Historical Association Collection

from their long cruise.

I met my husband Bear in 1968 at the M.C.R.D. Officers Club Friday night dance. We enjoyed visiting Coronado by way of the ferry. We married on June 21, 1969 at the Presbyterian Church in La Jolla and our wedding party came by ferry to our reception at Hotel del Coronado. We decided to take advantage of the Del's \$25.00 Honeymoon Special and stay our first night there. The Del was not as busy in 1969 and surprised us with an up-grade to the Presidential Suite. From that special vantage point we watched our guests depart for the ferry and their return trip home. Less than six weeks later the bridge opened and car ferry operations came to an end.

Now every year on July 3rd I look at the Hotel Del's 1923 laundry truck parked in front of our 1924 cottage. (Bear drives it in our July 4th parade for C.H.A.)

I wonder two things:

1. Was it there in 1924 to pick up our cottage's laundry?
2. Did it arrive in 1923, via the car ferry, to be "pressed" into service for the Del's laundry business with the Village of Coronado?

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS ABROAD SIXTY-THREE YEARS AGO

by Zoriada Payne,
CHA Volunteer

Many Coronado Navy families throughout time have had to celebrate Christmas abroad. I would like to share the story of Captain Pat Carpenter and Mrs. Ann Carpenter's Christmas experience in Taipei in 1956. Earlier that same year, they got married on April 1st, and right away they were on a long voyage to Taipei. At the time that they were leaving Coronado, the city had around 12,700 residents, Councilman Coleman Gray became its mayor, the ferry was 70 years old, and the Flower Show turned out fine after a storm threat, as it was reported in the Coronado Eagle and Journal.

When the newlyweds arrived in Taipei, there were a lot of Americans, nearly 10,000 on the Island, assisting the Chinese nationals and Chiang Kai-Shek, as its head of the country. They settled in a little house in a compound of ten, each one separated by a wall and a little bamboo fence on top for privacy; since the roads were high, if they didn't have the hedge, the curious passing Chinese or Taiwanese cyclists could have looked into their windows, explained Mrs. Carpenter.

As part of their experience abroad, it was expected that they entertained Americans and allied service members in their home. So, they were fortunate to have a highly creative and accomplished chef, Li; he didn't only prepare delicious dishes, he also knew how to tame the unpredictable flame shooting out from the kerosene stove, up to 3 feet tall. His wife, Huang, helped in the house, and their daughter-in-law, Miou, became the Carpenter baby's "amah", when the family was blessed with Karen, their first baby girl.



Captain Carpenter, wife, and daughter in Taipei.
Photo courtesy of the Carpenter Family

When December arrived, although they didn't see outdoor lit Christmas trees, like the one that started the tradition on the front lawn of the Hotel Del Coronado —the world's first outdoor electrically lit Christmas tree- they were able to have an indoor Christmas tree. Interestingly, as Mrs. Carpenter said, "[our] sort-of-ever-green-tree was created by nailing real branches together to make it look like a real tree; and the ornaments, I couldn't find any ornaments out there; so, I made them out of tin cans."

Extolling the spirit of the season, they gathered with close Navy friends at their home, and Li cooked an exquisite turkey for the Christmas meal. They also attended a party at the British counsel's residence; "we all danced, it was a wonderful group of interesting people, the first time that I met people from all over the world, the French delegation, Philippines, Korean, Thai, and Japanese," shared Mrs. Carpenter. The first year, Captain Carpenter's mother and his brother, who was teaching in Japan, joined them for Christmas, and the second year, Mrs. Carpenter's parents.

At the time, Coronado residents were buying perfumes like My Sin, Arpege, Scandal and Pretext, by Lanvin at Certified Drugs on 1122 Orange Avenue or a waltz-whirl gown by Blue Swan at Kippys on 1154 Orange Avenue, as Christmas gifts. On the other side of the world, Captain Carpenter during his working trips, was buying materials such as batiks, sari, and Thai-silk, as precious Christmas presents for Mrs. Carpenter.

Back in Coronado, after celebrating Christmas, if its residents were planning a nice outing on New Year's Day, one option could have been going to the Village theater to "watch the spine-tingling suspense drama Julie" which starred Doris Day and Louis Jourdan; or they could have taken "the one they loved to see Friendly Persuasion" with Gary Cooper and Dorothy McGuire, both of which were showing at the Village Theater. The Carpenters had to wait to see the films.

Then and now, as demonstrated by the Carpenters' Christmas experience, the essence of the season is being with dear ones while building memories together —crafting and preserving memories epitomizes the real spirit of the season. So, as a community that preserves its past, I invite you to ask any of your friends or family members who has or is serving far away, how did they celebrate abroad? And why not record —digitally or written— their memories for enriching stories for your family, community, and beyond.

NEWS FROM THE PAST



Al & Peggy Laing as Santa and Mrs. Claus and "friend" at the Rotary Club of Coronado's Christmas celebrations, 1977.
Coronado Historical Association Collection

Rotary Club Celebrates Christmas With Gift Exchanges

Coronado Citizen, December 23, 1937

Rotarians proved to scores of Coronado's tiny tots that even a California rain doesn't keep Santa Claus from making his scheduled visits at Christmas time, when Old Kris, himself, rolled up Orange Avenue aboard the city fire truck to keep a date at the Rotary Christmas Tree at Orange and Isabella Avenue.

And, although the program was somewhat curtailed because of the rainy weather, every youngster had full opportunity to see Santa and to receive a bag of candy before he departed. While Santa Claus was unable to reach Coronado in time for the Christmas program at the Rotary luncheon Friday noon last week, the members did very well in the way of gift exchanges amongst themselves and enjoyed their annual pre-Christmas fun session in which some surprising presents were unwrapped.

A special musical program was presented during the meeting in which Bertrand Chombeau and Al Laing, Jr., provided a delightful series of Christmas selections. The luncheon meeting scheduled for tomorrow is to have the Rev. Harry O. Nash of Christ Episcopal church as the guest speaker. Herman Hughes will be chairman of the day.

HISTORY MYSTERY

The history mystery this month features two Coronado businesses: Pizza Galore and Coronado Coins that were located at 949 Orange Avenue. The picture is from 1987.

The history mystery from last month has been solved! Last month we asked you to help us identify what is going on in this photo.



Luckily, CHA's High School Intern of the Year Josh Dana solved the mystery. Josh recognized that this was a special award ceremony for CHS student David Ferguson who was being honored for safe driving. The award was given in 1949 by Chief of Police June Jordan and Texaco station owner, Roy Freeman. Jordan explained to the Coronado Compass at the time that the primary purpose of the award was to demonstrate to youthful drivers that police officers are interested in helping them. "We're not only citing those who violate, but also those who observe traffic regulations," the chief remarked.

Oz Night, Continued from Page 20.

• However, L. Frank Baum had a true love for Coronado, which he espoused in his poem, "CORONADO: The Queen of Fairyland" as "Empress of the Sea", writing, "And mortals whisper, wondering: 'Indeed, 'tis Fairyland! For where is joy without alloy Enchantment strange and grand.'"

In honor of the 80th Anniversary of the original Wizard of Oz film and the fanciful books' many connections to our town's history, CHA is hosting a very special Night at the Museum on Friday, December 20 to kick off Winter Break. Night at the Museum is perfect for K-5 grade ages (and, for parents who want to enjoy a night out). Kids will be treated to a fun-filled museum night, that will include Wizard of Oz crafts,

games, and a museum scavenger hunt. Kids will learn all about some of Oz's fantastical characters and our town, Baum's Fairyland.

The evening will end with time to settle in and enjoy a Wizard of Oz short film before pick-up time. CHA will be serving pizza, you just need to bring a pillow or sleeping bag to get comfy. Cost for CHA Members is \$15 / Siblings \$5; CHA Non-Members \$25 / Siblings \$10. The event takes place at 1100 Orange Avenue, and quickly sells out. Pre registration is required and walk-ups cannot be accommodated the night of.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit coronadohistory.org, call 435-7242, or stop by the Museum Store.