

## INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

### ENTRANCE:

#### #1 Docent Tours 1 and 3 and 5

Welcome to the Sunnyslope Cemetery Stroll.

I am Mrs. Flora B. Mueller, the Red Cross Chairman in 1918 and this is my husband, City Trustee Fred J. Mueller. He was also the manager of the Corona Citrus Association packing house.

My husband and I worked to cease the influenza epidemic by setting up the emergency flu hospital, asking for donations of sheets and towels, as well as having soup delivered to the sick. The hospital closed four weeks later when the head nurse and I came down with the flu.

### OR

#### #1 Docent Tours 2 and 4

Welcome to the Sunnyslope Cemetery Stroll. I am Mrs. Flora B. Mueller, the Red Cross Chairman in 1918 and this is Head Nurse Mrs. Lida P. Fisher. Together we set up and worked in the emergency flu hospital. We pleaded for donations of sheets and towels and had broth delivered to the afflicted at home and in hospital. The hospital closed four weeks later when we both came down with the flu.

### BOTH #1 Docents

In early October of 1918, Spanish Influenza visited Corona and the surrounding communities.

The first recorded influenza **victim** in Corona and the first **buried** in Sunnyslope was twenty-nine year old Carlos R. Lopez. He died on October 9, 1918. Carlos, who lived on Merrill Street; registered for the draft in 1917 and was a laborer for the Pacific Sewer Pipe Company in San Dimas.

The second **flu burial** was David Henry Parker, a married 24-year old male who lived in Arlington and died on October 17th.

Point to the purple signs on graves: SECTION F and SECTION D

On November 29, 1918 Cemetery Trustee William Corkhill reported that close to 30 flu-related burial permits had been issued since the onset of the disease here. By spring of the following year, close to fifty flu-related burials had taken place.

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Trustee Corkhill's daughter, Ada Corkhill was stationed in France during Corona's epidemic. She was one of three Corona nurses to serve in the Medical Reserve during the Great War.

There she nursed the wounded **and** tended to those suffering from influenza.  
Let's meet her.

Walk to Stop #1

#2 Docent

### AFTER ADA CORKHILL #1

This pandemic may have started in Haskell County, Kansas. In March of 1918, at Fort Riley Kansas: 107 soldiers were reported sick with a severe flu. As men were sent to different bases in the States and shipped overseas, the flu spread and mutated.

**John A. Provensal (Amie) and Archie F. Lehnberg** both died while serving their country. Both were stationed at Camp Meade, Maryland.

Point to purple signs on their graves: SECTION E and SECTION B

John's family owned a French laundry and restaurant in town.

Archie's father was a stone contractor. Archie is buried next to his mother who died in 1906. (Notice her ornate stone when at Hamner's)

Walk to STOP #2

### BEFORE JANE HALSTEAD #2

#1 Docent

This section (E on map) of the cemetery could be referred to as Epidemic Alley. Simply because the lots in this section were first available for purchase at this time.

Corona's oldest flu victim and one of the last in this city to pass away was Jane Mulkins Dye Halstead. **Gesture to actor- she will be walking from her grave carrying her "headstone"**.

### AFTER JANE HALSTEAD #2

#2 Docent

POINT TO THE TWO YOUNG WOMEN'S GRAVES NEARBY (In section E to the north and by the road you are on) Marked with purple flags

You may have noticed that many of the deceased were healthy young people.

The flu pandemic killed approximately 50 million people worldwide from January 1918 - December 1920. This strain affected healthy young adults just as much as the usual at-risk groups: young children and the elderly.

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Please follow me:

Go to north side of Soldier's Monument- STOP #3

#1 Docent

### At Soldiers' Monument #3

During the worst weeks of the epidemic in November and December: Schools were closed and children were told to stay in their yards. Going to pool halls, theaters and gathering in the street was banned.

Corona's pastors held Churchless Sundays: When the church bells rang; residents were requested to gather in their homes and study the word of God. Most funerals were solitary affairs but not all.

The Health Board discouraged hand-shaking and the homes of those afflicted were put in quarantine.

Gauze masks made by the local Red Cross were required when going out in public and they were to be worn for five days after recovering. (sold for 5 cents each)

Of course, some people took *advantage* of..

Look over and see salesman coming down road

#1 Docent

Oh good gracious, he's returned. (shake head-mildly upset)

Don't listen to his bunkum. I heard he's from **Riverside**. (say Riverside as if it were a sinful place) then stand next to salesman.

**SALESMAN:** Well, Hello There! (waving)

(When you reach group) Folks, If I could just have a moment of your time.

I have here the proper medicine for Spanish Influenza:

Dr. Ray Vaughn Pierce's world-renowned *Pleasant Pellets* and its companion *the Golden Medical Discovery*. Available in tablet or liquid form.

One bottle of each and you and your family are no longer in danger of falling victim to Spanish Flu.

You seem skeptical sir.. (point to someone in audience) I can assure you that this miracle cure is guaranteed by Dr. Pierce himself, the purveyor of all cures for habitual constipation, obstinate coughs and.. female troubles.

(say female troubles in a loud stage whisper with hand on side of mouth)

Mr. Mueller or Shill:

(Stand by salesman and #1 docent) Look at docent/wife and raise your hand after Salesman says female trouble) I'll take two bottles!

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**Salesman:** Sir, you will not regret your investment of only 25 cents.

**#1 Docent:** I'm sure he will. (You can swat your Mr. Merrill or Mr. S. Hill or look exasperated or both!) Let's move along.

**Salesman:** (as the group leaves) Only five bottles left!

### Before John T. Hamner #4

**#1 Docent**

May I introduce Supervisor John Thomas Hamner of District 1

### After John T. Hamner #4

**#2 Docent**

Samuel B. Hampton, owner of the Corona Foothill Lemon Company caught the flu and passed away while on a trip to New York on October 11, 1918.

The day after S. B. Hampton passed, another prominent Corona resident and a relative of the Jameson family also died while away on a trip to visit family. Let's pay a call on Mrs. Jameson.

**#1 Docent**

### After Gladys Blickhahn Jameson #5

Next we'll visit with Mrs. Teresa Danieri. Her husband worked in the Jameson packing house as did quite a few of the Italian immigrants. They learned the art of lemon packing while in their mother country and their skills contributed to the success of the local citrus industry.

Follow me, please.

**#2 Docent**

### After Teresa DeGiorgio Danieri #6

Thank you for joining us on our stroll through history. Enjoy the peaceful grounds, have a snack and listen to songs about influenza and the hymns of the times.

And please, get your flu shot.

Take group to

Refreshments Last Stop #7

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