

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society

Founded 1974



Newsletter

Winter 2003-2004

www.SantaAnaHistory.com

The Saving of a Historic Home... The Beginning of a Historical Society

(First of a series of articles celebrating our 30th anniversary)

In October of 1973, the *Santa Ana Register* reported "Progress Threatens Historic OC Home." The article spoke of the City of Santa Ana's plans to widen what was then Seventh Street to make it part of Civic Center Dr., East. In order to do that, the plans included the demolishing of an aging, two-story Victorian-style manse built in the same year Orange County separated from Los Angeles County, 1889. The 12-room home was built for Drs. Alvin and Willella Howe and was situated in what as termed the "Nob Hill" section of town.

In that same *Register* article, a member of the city cultural heritage committee lamented that too few of these pre-1900 homes were still left. This committee member, Adeline Walker, noted that recently "another home in the area came down without a murmur from anyone."

Adeline would soon take this challenge to heart. She, her friend Betty Biner, and a few others formed the Friends of the Waffle House which later would become the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. For the next year, these ladies worked relentlessly to enlist volunteers and donors in their fight to save the house. They spoke to whoever might help – politicians, businessmen, architects, historians, everyday citizens.

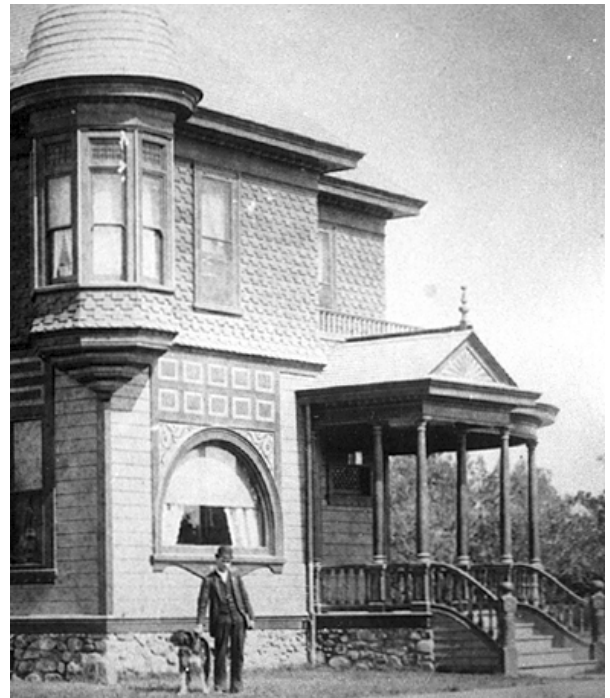


Adeline Cochems Walker

With a city government that was at times working with them but often working against them, they fought difficult odds to save the house from demolition and eventually convinced the city fathers to help them preserve this piece of Santa Ana

history. The City furnished the money to move the house to its current location at Sycamore and Civic Center Dr. West, on the condition that the Society pay for a foundation and to restore the house.

Adeline and friends raised the thousands of dollars and received thousands of hours of donated time and work from residents, businesses, and unions. The Society had succeeded in saving this beautiful old home for the benefit of those in the future who would enjoy looking back at a different time, at a different lifestyle.



President's Message

All of us on the Board of Directors are energized by the prospect of a new look and new activities for SAHPS to celebrate our 30th Anniversary Year! We are discussing a new logo and special events throughout the year to commemorate this milestone, so look for our new "image" and announcements of our schedule in the near future. Who imagined that the small group formed by Adeline Walker in the 1970s to save a Victorian house would still be going strong 30 years later?

The first of our exciting changes will be a new location for our Annual Member Dinner in March. I'm sure many of you will be pleased to have a chance to see inside the beautiful Masonic Temple on Sycamore, now reincarnated as the Santa Ana Performing Arts Center. This location offers the space to more easily accommodate our growing numbers, as well as historic ambiance and fine food, and promises to be a sold-out event. (*See the article in this newsletter for more details.*)

While some things change, others stay the same, including our mission to preserve and promote our rich local history. Emphasis on our Open Houses, Cemetery Tour, salvage work, political preservation activism, and publications is an important continuing part of this mission.

As the saying goes "You've come a long way, baby!"—and wouldn't Mrs. Walker be proud.

Alison Young

2004 Dues are Due! Time to Renew

Please look at your mailing label! If it does not say "Member 2004" it is time for you to renew! Use the form at the back of this newsletter to renew your membership now!

Without your membership and generous gifts, the historic preservation activities of the Santa Ana Historical Society, including the preservation and maintenance of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House and Medical Museum, would not be possible.

We thank you for your continued generosity!



A Legacy of Preservation Since 1974

The Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House, Medical Museum, and Carriage Barn.
Built 1889. Saved from demolition 1975.

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society 2004 Board of Directors

President	Alison Young
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The *Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society Newsletter* is produced by the Society for its members and other friends. We invite you to join us in the appreciation and preservation of Santa Ana History. The Society is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff members.

All material in this issue is copyrighted 2004 by the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, 120 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, California 92701-7505. Our house phone and message line is (714) 541-9645.

Newsletter Editor: Roberta Reed
House illustration by Ann Berkery
Special thanks to Guy Ball, Lynn Yerby, and Alison Young.

Visit our website at
www.SantaAnaHistory.com

To contact the newsletter editor directly, please call Roberta Reed at (714) 953-1876 or e-mail at robertareed@sahps.org.

Our 6th Cemetery Tour Entertains with “That’s Entertainment: OC Style”

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society’s 6th Annual Cemetery Tour, “That’s Entertainment: OC Style” was held on Saturday, October 25, 2003, and was, well... a Hollywood, I mean Orange County, success story.

This year’s tour was produced in conjunction with STAGEStheatre’s WRITERSbloc, a local writer’s group, and Musical Youth Repertory Theatre (MYART) a community theater group primarily made up of local youth. These two



groups assisted us in planning the event, writing scripts, providing actors, and staging, and contributed countless hours to make this event happen. They did a fantastic job and we certainly owe a great deal of thanks to these two groups!

The tour’s theme emphasized the role that Orange County had in the entertainment industry, both in movies, TV, and in music. Tour-goers met many influential figures including Leo Fender of Fender Electric Guitar fame; Pamela Courson Morrison, mate of Jim Morrison of the Doors; Margaret Irving, who worked with the Marx

Brothers; cowboy legend Pierce Lyden; Clyde Bruckman, who worked with Buster Keaton and Laurel and Hardy in the early days of film; and even Charles Dickens’ bookbinder, who



humorously explained why Charles Dickens should rightfully have a place along side Hollywood entertainers. We learned that Glenn Martin was not only a pioneer in aviation, but also in silent films.

The rumor of a Charlie Chaplin wedding in Santa Ana was explored, and guests were treated to a vaudeville show courtesy of Madame Modjeska, C.E. French, and others at the Grand Opera House – more commonly known today as the Fairhaven Mausoleum.

2004 Tour – OC Aviation!

The next tour, planned for this October is already in the works. The theme for this year’s tour will be centered around Orange County’s significant influence in the aviation industry, in commemoration of the recent 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers historic flight. Stay tuned as more information about this event unfolds!

We hope you plan to visit us for next year’s tour! We can also always use volunteers to help



plan and aid us on the day of the event. If you are interested in helping, call or e-mail the Society. We would love to have you involved!

SAHPS Organizing New Salvage Efforts to Preserve Parts of Our Architectural History

As much as we would like to try, we are not always able to save all historic buildings. When you can't save the whole building, then the next best thing is to save parts of the building and let them live again elsewhere, like perhaps replacing artifacts that are missing in other historical buildings.

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society helps to make this happen through an agreement with the City of Santa Ana whereby the Society has been given the right to remove salvageable materials from city-owned buildings prior to demolition. The sale of this salvage material is then used as a fundraiser for the Society, but financial gain is not our only, or even our primary goal. The material is sold to Santa Ana residents at a discount to make it more affordable for them to appropriately restore their homes.

The materials are salvaged through volunteer efforts. As a thank you for helping with this effort, volunteers may choose an item from salvage as their "parting gift." (Potentially subject to lottery in the case of more than one interested party, and certain larger items may be exempted as a matter of fairness.)

Are you interested in helping with this effort? You have an opportunity just around the corner. The Society will be coordinating a "salvage party" in the near future. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Nathan Reed, Salvage Operations Coordinator, at (714) 953-1876.

Neat New Book & Video

We apologize, but we ran out of space in this issue to give a review of two excellent publications – *Living Family History: Creating a Multimedia Biography*, a new book by David A. Beardsley, and *This was Pacific Electric: A Complete History*, a wonderfully produced 90-minute documentary on DVD.

Both are highly recommended. We will include reviews in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, if you want more info, go to www.SantaAnaHistory.com/articles.html

Winter 2003-2004

New Mini-Book – We Need Your Help!

This year as we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we are working on a variety of new projects to celebrate Santa Ana and early Orange County history. One important project is a booklet about Adeline Cochems Walker and the saving of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House. For those who may have experienced either having Dr. Willella as your doctor or having been involved in the restoration of the Waffle House, we invite you to contact us.

Please call or email Roberta Reed at (714) 953-1876, robertareed@sahps.org

SAHPS Turns 30 This Year!

2004 is a very special year for the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society – this year, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Society.

Yes, it was in 1974 that Adeline Walker, determined to save the Dr. Howe-Waffle House from demolition due to the widening of Civic Center Drive, founded the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society for the express purpose of saving the house and the doctor's memory.

Even though Mrs. Walker was already of retirement age, this very determined lady took on City Hall – and County Hall for that matter – and won. Her legacy is not only the wonderfully preserved Dr. Howe-Waffle House and Medical Museum which was saved largely due to her personal efforts, but also 30 years of historic preservation in our city. Mrs. Walker was truly an activist for historic preservation, and one of the missions of the Society is to continue that legacy today.

Stay tuned as we plan events to celebrate this milestone anniversary! And if you were involved in the founding of the Santa Ana Historical Society or the ten years of house restoration that followed, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Roberta Reed, our newsletter editor, at (714) 953-1876 or robertareed@sahps.org. We would love to hear from you!

We Hope You Didn't Miss Dr. Howe-Waffle's Christmas Party!

If you did, you missed a really good gathering! On Tuesday, December 16 the Dr. Howe-Waffle House, decked in all its Victorian Christmas finery, was opened for our friends and neighbors to celebrate the season with us.

The house had been beautifully decorated with the help of several enthusiastic and creative Girl Scouts. Appetizers and desserts, the creations of some of our culinary board members, were enjoyed by all, as well as the spirits at the bar. The voice of the Christmas carolers and the music played on our old piano helped put everyone into the Christmas Spirit.

We would like to especially thank our generous benefactors, including

Evalene Pulati

Caribou Industries

Donald Krotee, AIA

Jon Gothold, DGWB

Santa Ana Police Officers Association

Gil Morrero, Voit Commercial Brokerage

Tim Rush

for helping to make this event possible.

If you were not able to make it, you missed a great event with food, music, fun, and good company. We hope to see you next year!

2004 Outstanding Historic Preservation Project Awards

The City of Santa Ana Historic Resources Commission is accepting nominations for the 2004 Outstanding Historic Preservation Project Awards. This program is designed to reward and commend those who take on projects that further the goals of historic preservation in Santa Ana.

Details regarding eligibility for this award and the nomination form can be obtained at www.santa-ana.org/departments/pba/Planning/Historic_award.htm or by calling (714) 647-5842.

Upcoming Tours Around the City and Nearby

Floral Park Home Tour – 4/24-4/25

www.floral-park.com

Tustin Historical Society Tour – 5/1

www.tustinhistory.com

SAHPS would like to thank the following for their generosity

- Dennis Mitosinka for his donation towards the restoration of the Seagrave Fire Engine.
- Fairhaven Memorial Park for their donation towards our *That's Entertainment: OC Style* historic tour.
- C.J. Segerstrom & Sons for their donation towards our *That's Entertainment: OC Style* historic tour.
- Hacienda Restaurant & Polly's Pies (Santa Ana) and Papa John Pizza (Orange) for donating food towards our *That's Entertainment: OC Style* historic tour.
- Greg Anderson for his donation towards our *That's Entertainment: OC Style* historic tour.
- Robert Spurrier for his donation of vintage photos.
- Bernedette Medrano for her donation of silver serveware and assorted accessories.
- Sandra Heaton for her donation towards artwork featuring local historic structures.
- Bob Stewart, Stewart Sound Factory, for the use of his offices for a recent SAHPS retreat.
- Lynn Yerby for her donation of a refrigerator for the Waffle House.
- Mike Brajdic for his stripping and refinishing of our Civic Center St. door.
- Mason Byers for his repair of our house lights.
- Dick Pierce for the repair of our Victrola
- Friendly Clock Shop, Main St., Santa Ana, for the repair and cleaning of our Ansonia Mantle Clock.

And the following for their Patron level memberships and renewals:

- Judy & Don Moore
- Mary & Mark Guzman
- Judith Wilson, A.P.C.
- Andrew Alison & vintagehomes.net
- Mike & Marlene Brajdic

"Updating the Inkwell"
SAHPS
Annual Dinner
March 23rd
Save that Date!

The Santa Ana Historical Society's Annual Dinner and Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 23rd from 6:30 to 9:30 pm** at the historic Santa Ana Performing Arts & Event Center located in the beautifully restored former Masonic Temple at 505 N. Sycamore St, Santa Ana. An informal tour of the facilities is planned prior to dinner, so plan on being there early.

The featured speaker is Guy Ball on "Updating the Inkwell: Using Technology to Document and Celebrate History." Guy is a long-time SAHPS board member and the author of *Santa Ana in Vintage Postcards* (among other books). Besides his volunteer work for the Society, Guy is a senior technical writer for Unisys involved with new technologies including digital video, e-books, and web-based seminars. He will give an interesting and informative multimedia presentation on using modern techniques to preserve, document, and share history with others. He will also show a variety of images of old Santa Ana.

In addition to the speaker, the Society will also award our highest honor, the Annual Preservation Award.

The Santa Ana Masonic Temple is one of the finest Zigzag Moderne buildings in Orange County. It was constructed in 1930 at a cost of \$300,000 and dedicated in 1931. It was the 5th building for Santa Ana Lodge No. 241, and over the years also housed other Masonic groups including Eastern Star, Job's Daughters, and DeMolay. The building included a fine lodge hall, auditoriums, a dining hall, men's and ladies lounges, and a tower penthouse, where the caretaker lived. The first floor also contained retail shops. Closed in 1984 due to seismic concerns and vacant for several years, it has been recently restored as a performing arts and event center which includes a ballroom, restaurant and lounge, and a variety of private banquet rooms.

Cost for the evening will be \$25 per person, and will include the cost of parking in the parking

structure. Invitations for the annual dinner will be mailed to members shortly. (Though you need not be a member to attend.)

A **Big Thanks** is due to Jason Kordas with the SAPAEC who gave us an amazing price on the dinner so we could do something very special for our 30th anniversary!

For more information contact the Society at (714) 547-9645 or e-mail us at sahps@sahps.org.

Menu (tentative)

Hors D'Oeuvres

Salad – Caesar Salad

Entrée – Roasted Chicken or Short Ribs, with Basmati Rice Pilaf and Baby string beans

Dessert – Layered Tuxedo Cake (white cake layered with custard, topped with chocolate)



Former Masonic Temple – 1940s?

Our Wish List...

- Small and working laser printer for our recently donated office computer. (\$200)
- A 11x17 scanner (to allow for scanning of our old newspaper clippings) (\$200)
- Custom-made vinyl signs or banners for display – with our name and other information. (\$70 each)
- Gift cards to Staples/Office Depot to help pay for office and mailing supplies. (\$25-50)
- New window shades that block light to help protect our light-sensitive artifacts.

If you can help us by donating the item or money towards our purchase, please contact Guy Ball at (949) 380-5748 or at sahps@sahps.org. Thanks!

Come to Our Next Open House!



New illustration by Sandra Heaton

The Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House is open for tours from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the first Saturday of every other month. SAHPS board member, Lynn E. Yerby, Professor of History at Cypress College, has been recruiting and training new docents to facilitate our house tours.

We want to offer a big thanks to all of our docents who work so hard to greet and show our visitors around – Linda Sue Ash, Karen Carlson, Mary Guzman, Roberta Harvey, Marsha Howe, Sherle Mellas, and Dick Pierce.

The house tour includes: a room-by-room tour of the house, grounds, and carriage barn; stories about Dr. Willella and her family; presentations of the architectural eccentricities of the Queen Anne Victorian style; information of 19th century medical practices of obstetrics, homeopathy, general medicine, and surgery; and stories of what life was like in Santa Ana during the time of Dr. Willella's life. The tour concludes with a tea-and-cookies chat in the dining room.

The cost of the Saturday tour is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children. School aged children are

encouraged to visit. For an extra dollar, children can purchase the Santa Ana Historical Buildings Coloring Book available at the gift shop. Gift items and S.A.H.P.S. historical publications are also available for purchase at the gift shop.

If you're interested in helping out and becoming a docent, leave a message for Lynn on the SAHPS message line at (714) 541-9645.

Upcoming tours will be held on Saturdays April 1, June 5, August 7, October 4, and December 4. Daily tours for Santa Ana school children may be arranged as volunteers are available by calling Lynn at the number above, well in advance of your requested date.

Santa Ana History Room Photos Online & Searchable!

The Santa Ana Public Library has posted a very large group of their vintage photo collection online. To access these photos, do the following:

- Go to <http://www.ci.santa-ana.ca.us/library/> (this link is also on our SAHPS website).
- Select "Search Our Catalog."
- Select "Historical Photos."
- Complete the search form. (Don't change the location from "All Branches." Then, query on title, author, subject, and notes.)

The search engine is based on what the photo was titled and described. As with all search engines, it may take a couple tries before you get the hang of it. Be patient and experiment with the search. You will be rewarded with some fun old images.

Many thanks to the History Room staff & the Library management for creating this online resource with their limited staff time & funds!

Celebrate Santa Ana History & Support SAHPS

by buying a book on local history through the Society

Rediscovering Historic Downtown Santa Ana –Price: \$2.00 plus \$1.00 for shipping.

Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana/Orange County – the Video Price: \$14.95 plus \$4.00 for shipping.

The Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana Price: \$12.75 plus \$2.00 shipping.

Santa Ana in Vintage Postcards Price: \$20.50 plus \$2.00 for shipping.

Santa Ana...A Illustrated History Price: \$21.50 plus \$4.50 for shipping.

The History of Santa Ana City and Valley. Price: \$14.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping.

Frederick Eley, Orange County's Pioneer Architect Price: \$7.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping.

Orange Blossoms: 50 years of Growth in Orange Price: \$40.00 plus \$5.60 for shipping.

Order form on back page.

Book Order and Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City and Zip _____

Qty	Title	Price
Subtotal		
Shipping		
Total		

Note: Sales tax is included in prices.

Membership Dues: *Individual/Family - \$15-49; Business - \$20-99; Supporter - \$50-99;
Patron - \$100-249; Benefactor - \$250-1,000; Golden Honoree -- \$2,000 and above*

If paying by credit card, please specify: Visa, Master Card, American Express.

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Signature: _____

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A Legacy of Preservation Since 1974

Annual Dinner
Save that Date!
Tuesday, March 23rd
(see inside for more details)