

# *Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society*

Celebrating 35 Years of Preserving History!



## *Newsletter*

*Spring 2009*

[www.SantaAnaHistory.com](http://www.SantaAnaHistory.com)

### *An Apple a Day Brings History Back*

It was a beautiful October day when students, volunteers, and society members stepped out into Fairhaven Memorial Cemetery to recreate history. For the society's 11<sup>th</sup> annual Cemetery Tour "An Apple A Day: Medical History in Orange County" approximately 350 guests came and viewed snippets of the lives of late medical luminaries from the area.

Guests toured 10 scenes reflecting those individuals involved in the practice and development of medicine in Orange County from the American Civil War to the early nineteen hundreds. These luminaries were brought back to life by students from the Orange County High School of the Arts (OCHSA) and Santa Ana High School, directed by OCHSA students Alison Aoun and Brandon Nease, as well as veteran cemetery tour actors Peggy Calvert and Stephan, Mark, and Patrick Bergland. Guests learned the trials of being a female doctor at the turn of the century from our own Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle and the dedication of nursing from local nurses. They witnessed how the civil war influenced three different men to pursue medicine.

The Ball women enlightened tourists of what it was like to

live in a family full of doctors. A delight for all involved was E.R. "Painless" Parker's entertainment driven dentistry routine. Before and after the tour one could delight in all sorts of goodies at our famous (at least in our minds!) Cemetery Tour Stores. We were again thankful to have assistance from our faithful video crew from Santa Ana Unified School District who again caught this entertaining and informational tour on tape to

add to our Cemetery Tour Video Collection. Stay tuned for its release and it to your collection!



**Painless Parker extracts a tooth from a "volunteer."**



**The Mrs. Dr. Balls discuss exchange experiences as doctors' wives in early Orange County.**

Don't fret if you missed last year's wonderful cemetery tour because we're already hard at work on this year's tour, which will be held on October 17. While we haven't yet decided on our official tour name, our theme is "the story behind the place names in Orange County" and we promise to bring you another entertaining and educational history tour! Just don't forget to get your tickets early! As previous guests will tell you, we sell out quick despite offering a number of tours. Continue the living history tradition or start it this year on October 17, 2009.

*Colleen Williams*

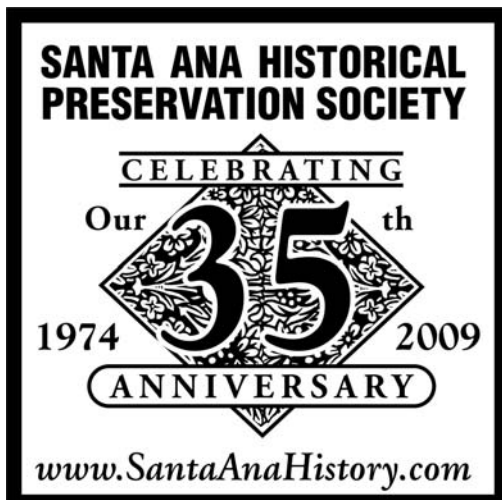
## From the President

A historical preservation society moving full speed ahead into the electronic age almost seems to be a contradiction, doesn't it? As one who personally lived through manual typewriters with carbon paper, mimeograph machines, and computers operated with key punch cards, I continue to be astounded by the progress made in electronic information and communication over the last decades.

But the use of tools like computers, the internet, email, and yes, even MySpace and YouTube, have actually acted to support our efforts. Never in the history of mankind has it been so simple to communicate with, and share knowledge with, so large an audience. SAHPS was one of the first local historical societies to build a comprehensive web site. The information and photos we post are immediately accessible to literally millions of people, from school children downloading our coloring book, to doctoral candidates doing research.

SAHPS has embraced the electronic wave to the benefit of our mission, our members, and the cause of historic preservation. We are digitizing photos and other records, creating inventories of our collections, and expanding the use of email for communication with our members (see article "Help SAHPS Go Green"). We hope you like what you see on our website and MySpace pages—and don't be surprised if some day soon you run into us on Facebook, Twitter and Flickr!

*Alison Young*



*A Legacy of Preservation since 1974.*

### **Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society 2009 Board of Directors**

President	Alison Young
Vice President	Wayne Curl
Treasurer	Guy Ball
Secretary	Roberta Reed

#### **Directors**

Carey Baughman	Ray Poppa
Anne Randall	Colleen Williams

#### **Associate Directors**

Nathan Reed	Ben Grabel
Tim Rush	Ed Cote
Will Morton	

#### **Newsletter Editor: Roberta Reed**

*Cover House illustration by Ann Berkery  
Special thanks to contributors Guy Ball, Carl  
Overmyer, Colleen Williams, and Alison Young.*

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or email [robertareed@sahps.org](mailto:robertareed@sahps.org).

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Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, 120 Civic  
Center Drive West, Santa Ana, California 92701-7505.  
Our house phone and message line is (714) 547-9645.

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society's  
newsletter is produced by the Society for its members  
and other friends. We are proud to say that the Society  
is an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization with  
no paid staff members. All donations and memberships  
go directly to our education and preservation projects.

# Help SAHPS "Go Green"

In the immortal words of Kermit the Frog, "it's not easy being green," but with your assistance, SAHPS is eager to head in that direction!

To reduce unnecessary mailing and printing costs, and help the environment at the same time, we are working to increase our use of email for standard newsletters and other mailings.

Would you like to help us "go green?" By sending us your current email address, our newsletter and notices of special events can go directly to your email box. Future mailings will include a .pdf format attachment with the newsletter or flyer. (An extra bonus of email is that many photos and graphics will be in color!) It's easy to sign-up, and SAHPS will not share your address with outside organizations.

Of course, if you prefer the paper version or do not have email, we are happy to continue mailing a "hard copy" of the newsletter to your home.

If you're interested in switching, simply email us at [newsletter@sahps.org](mailto:newsletter@sahps.org) with your desire. And let the greening begin!

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## Membership Drive In Progress - Please Renew or Join Today!

Like you, we are amazed how quickly time flies. And it has happened again. We each have a very important task with the new year....renewing our SAHPS membership!

Over the years, we have worked to keep our rates low to allow people of all incomes to stay as a member. Please look at your mailing label. If it does not say MEM09, then it is time to renew, or perhaps to join us for the first time!

Please use the form at the back of this newsletter and send in your membership dues today! We appreciate our members, and work hard to make your membership dollars count toward our preservation efforts.



**Yes, Virginia, it has snowed in Santa Ana! On January 12, 1949, residents got a surprise when they found their fair city blanketed with the frozen treat.**

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## Victorian Holiday Wows Crowds

One could cheerily hear the classic wassailing laughs drifting out the front door for the society's holiday open house on December 6, 2008. The Howe-Waffle House brought guests back to a time-gone-by with good food and good company on that beautiful Saturday; heartily decorated by local students with evergreens, pinecones, ornaments, and trees.

The society welcomed numerous SAHPS and community members to the house for tours, book signings, a holiday discount, and scrumptious appetizers with extended hours. For individuals new to the home, docents were on hand throughout the rooms to enlighten their afternoon. Admission was free and the gift shop offered a 10% discount. As a special treat, Roberta Reed, Phil Brigandi, and Guy Ball were on hand to sign copies of their books. Appetizers, desserts, and refreshing beverages kept the dining room buzzing with company.

We would like to thank all who came to decorate and participate in our holiday tradition. Our open houses on the first Saturday of even months always create memories for those who visit and we enjoyed making December's especially memorable. Remember, we'll take a cup o' kindness yet, for *auld lange syne* next year!

*Colleen Williams*

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## *Dr. Howe-Waffle House Honored as Newest County Historic Site*

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society is proud to announce that the Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House and Medical Museum is the recipient of the Orange County Historical Commission's Historic Plaque No. 51.

The plaque will be dedicated at a ceremony at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House on Saturday, March 28, beginning at 10 am. Not so coincidentally, this date was chosen for the ceremony because it is also the anniversary of the day the house was moved 34 years ago, and we felt that this would be an appropriate way to celebrate!

A special thank you to Tim Rush, who, when he realized that the Dr. Howe-Waffle House was not recognized as a County Historic Site, set the process in motion for this recognition. He worked with County Supervisor Moorlach to bring the issue up to the County's Historic Commission. The Commission overwhelmingly voted to honor us in this way and to fund the cost of the plaque.

Griselda Castillo, the County's Commission liaison and historical programs manager was the key behinds-the-scene coordinator to handle the plaque and wording, and reception organization.



**A sneak preview of the just-installed  
plaque and monument**

The Society worked with John Acosta (who has helped us for many years with our beautiful river-rock lined foundation) and Tom Lutz to find masons who could build us a suitable base.

Masons Jaime Garcia and Francisco "Pato" Garcia did a superb job creating a sturdy monument that will stand the test of time.

Special thanks to Wayne Curl who volunteered his time to interface with County staff and the workman to make this all happen on time and under-budget.

If you would like to join us at this dedication ceremony, we would love to have you. Please call (714)973-6655 to RSVP by Friday, March 20.

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## *Thanks to Our High School Volunteers*

Many of you who attended our December Holiday Open House commented on the beautiful decorations. But the credit is due to the energetic participation of local high school students, who helped decorate our Victorian gem! On the Saturday following Thanksgiving, SAHPS saw its largest-ever volunteer turn-out. Over 30 students from Santa Ana High School, Woodbridge High School and Orange County High School of the Arts formed a human chain to move boxes from the attic to the ground floor, and then decorated the Dr. Howe-Waffle House in record time. A separate group of extremely dedicated SAHS students worked for hours to clean-up and organize the attic, assisted by SAHS English teacher Rocio Rodriguez-Thomas. Our decorating event finished with pizza and snacks for all, and hearty thanks to all of our student volunteers.

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## **Calling All Waffle Babies!**

(2<sup>nd</sup> *Reminder Message*) We realize that we don't have a good list of what we like to call "Waffle Babies" – children birthed by Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle. We've created a new list so please – even if you think we know about you – call, write, or email us to let us know your name (maiden and current), when born, where born (if you know that), and current address information.

If you know of any Waffle Babies who have passed away, please let us know that too. We'd like to compile as complete a list as possible and use it for a future display. Call us at 714 547-9645 (leave message), write to SAHPS, 120 Civic Center Dr., SA 92701, or email [sahps@saphs.org](mailto:sahps@saphs.org).



**Atkins Service Station,  
located at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main, during the 1940s.**

## Upcoming Events

**Dr. Howe-Waffle House Historical Plaque Dedication:** Join us to dedicate the Dr. Howe-Waffle House as the county's newest historical site! **March 28, 10 am to noon.** See this newsletter for additional detail.

**Open House and Downtown Tour:** The next Howe-Waffle House open house and downtown architectural tour – **Saturday, April 4.**

**Home Tour:** Floral Park Home and Garden Tour – **April 25-26.** For more information call (714) 541-3425 or visit [www.floral-park.com](http://www.floral-park.com).

**Home Tour:** Old Town Tustin's 2009 Promenade Home and Garden Tour – **May 2.** For more information call (714) 731-5701 or visit [www.tustinhistory.com](http://www.tustinhistory.com)

**SAHPS Annual Membership Dinner:** TBD (probably late Spring or early Summer). Stay tuned for more details.

## Newsweek Magazine & Our Pics

For over 8 years, we've been posting vintage photos on our site that have been used as resources by researchers, organizations, companies, genealogists, and, our favorites, students and teachers in local schools. At no charge, we provide good quality, downloadable photos online in order to help celebrate and share our history.

Well, one or two of our photos might be picked up in a soon-to-be published issue of Newsweek for an article they're doing of post WWII modern conservatism. Author and board member Roberta Reed is working with them to

identify a suitable photo and insure they have the right permissions to use it.

This is just another reason why we are always looking for old photographs from early Santa Ana. If you have any to donate – or just to let us scan and return, please contact us.

(By the way, we're currently looking for good, sharp, and well-exposed photos of the SA Water tower for the last 50 years – particularly showing off the various slogans.)

## Save the HRC

For those who live in Santa Ana, you can thank the Historic Resources Commission (HRC) that has been a first-line of involvement to preserve and protect our historic buildings and character. The HRC is made up of caring and interested local residents appointed by City Council people. They work with the Planning Department on a variety of historical issues and projects. The residents oversee and advise on many decisions that could impact the architectural character of much of what we hold dear.

In an attempt to cut costs, the SA City Council has decided to shut down most of the commissions – including the HRC.

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society and many of the local historical neighborhoods feel that that is very wrong and will lead to a disintegration of some the preservation activities and successes we've all worked so hard on over the years.

We urge you to write to the City Council at P.O. Box 1988, M31; Santa Ana, 92701 and let them know how you feel. At their last meeting, they pushed the final decision to a small ad-hoc committee who will study the issue for the next few weeks. We're concerned that other forces might continue to doom the HRC. Only through a large number of voices, can we have a chance of saving this great preservation resource.

## New Floral Park "Art" Book

If you've attended any of the Floral Park Neighborhood's home tours over the last few years, you will have enjoyed the artwork of Ann Berkery, one of our favorite local artists. (She drew the Dr. Howe-Waffle House image on our masthead as well as a great line drawing of the

Spurgeon Clock Tower.) With the exception of last year, she's done virtually all of the other home tour program house drawings.

She and the Floral Park Neighborhood have graciously allowed us to collect many of the original images and publish a book showcasing the architecture of the homes in their neighborhood. Publications Leader Guy Ball is working on assembling, scanning, and editing the minibook and we expect to have it complete in time for their annual home tour at the end of April. We'll offer up some more details as we progress.

## Our New 2009 Board Members

We'd like to welcome and introduce our three new Society board members elected for 2009. All three have been helping out the last year or so and volunteered to take leadership roles on the board.

**Colleen Williams** is an administrative analyst at UC Irvine with a love of history who is pursuing her Masters in Library Science so that she might one day be an archivist.

**Carey Baughman** is the Education and Event Coordinator at the Old Courthouse Museum. She is also a graduate student at UC Riverside, working on a PhD in History.

**Ann Randall** is a Broker/Owner of a real estate office in Orange County, having served the needs of those buying and selling unique homes for the past 21 years. She has a deep interest in the history and preservation of homes in the area. She's a returning board member from a few years ago.

They join Alison Young, president; Wayne Curl, vice president; Roberta Reed, secretary, Guy Ball, treasurer; and Ray Poppa who have all graciously agreed to return to serve on the board.



## Celebrating 35 Years!

2009 marks the Society's 35<sup>th</sup> year of preserving and celebrating Santa Ana and local history. Our humble start began in 1974 when

founders Adeline Walker and Betty Biner decided to stand up to the madness of urban destruction and stop the planned demolition of the Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House – a beautiful example of Santa Ana's Queen-Anne Victorian architecture of the late 1800s.

As you well know, we won that battle. The House was moved and some great volunteers and businesses worked hard to restore the home of Santa Ana's first female physician.

The Society still stands strong with our work to preserve, celebrate, and promote our local history.

We will be celebrating our anniversary and will let you know of the events and projects as we get closer. Our first such event is the unveiling of the new plaque from Orange County's Historical Commission celebrating the House and its history. We will also be holding our annual membership dinner this year. (We're working on the time and location and will share that when it's confirmed.)

Meanwhile, please remember that without your continued help and support, we might not be around to celebrate this year. You are a big part of why we're so successful.

Our members and friends are critical to our work today and our work in the future.

*Thank you!*

# HISTORIC HOUSE COLORS

Sandy Welch  
Color Consultant  
714 . 667 . 7829

*See the historic Howe-Waffle house  
for my most recent work.*

## Stuff Needed

As the Society tightens its belt and tries to buy only essential or key items, we find a need for a few things that we're hoping someone has and is interested in donating. Call our message line at 714 547-9645 or email [sahps@sahps.org](mailto:sahps@sahps.org) if you do.

- Dressmaker dummies and head forms (for our costume displays)
- Acid-free storage boxes, hat boxes, and tissue paper (for storing some of our fabric items)
- Digital camera: 4 to 6+ Megapixel
- Antique-looking glass display cabinet for displaying small items.

## Final Bits & Pieces

If you'd like to know a bit more about the history of Santa Ana's Ebell Society, visit their website at [www.ebellsociety.com](http://www.ebellsociety.com). SAHPS webguy, Guy Ball, volunteered to help update and maintain their website after Ebell member Edie Lyon passed away last year. He noted that the history section on the website has a lot of good info on the group and all its good deeds over the years. Hmm, could there be another SAHPS mini-book in the wings???????

Speaking of websites, we're still big fans of Chris Jepsen's OC History "blog" site at <http://ochistorical.blogspot.com/>. Chris works at the OC Archives, is a board member with the OC Historical Society, and has been doing a wonderful job documenting and sharing local history and historical happenings on his blog site for over a year. If you haven't checked it out, you should. Lots of great local history and photos!

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## Thank You!

*(From our treasurer, Guy Ball)*

We're all watching our budgets carefully these days and trying to make better choices on how we spend money and who we support. Quite honestly, I was very worried about this year's membership renewals and the donations that you give us. Your funds help support the House and so many of our programs.

While we still have a few who haven't renewed, I'm gratified that so many have renewed and have tried to send as much as they could – including some at our patron-levels.

If you haven't renewed, please do. If things are very tight, please at least renew at the lower levels. For 10+ years, we have offered a sliding range just for this very purpose. We didn't want anyone to feel "priced out" of membership.

We so appreciate your membership. It's proof that you support all the good things we're doing. As you know, the Society doesn't have a paid staff or admin. We'll all volunteers – many with families and full-time jobs and all the other responsibilities of modern life. Your membership reminds us that we're doing good things and that others care about the same things we do – the preservation and the celebration of local history.

Thank you for your support!

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## Help us continue our efforts to preserve, to educate, and to celebrate Santa Ana and early local History

*Renew or join at the \$100 level (or above) and receive a copy of Santa Ana: 1940-2007, Early Santa Ana, Santa Ana in Vintage Postcards, Logan Barrio, Civil War Legacy in SA, or Orange County Blossoms as a free gift as our thanks for your extra support.*

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

Enclosed is a check for (or charge) \_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_ membership.  
(If \$100 or over, please circle the book above that you would like us to send you.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to: Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, 120 Civic Center Dr. W., Santa Ana, CA 92701-7505**

# Book Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Qty	Title (all prices include sales tax)	Price
	Santa Ana: 1940-2007 by Roberta Reed (NEW) \$21.50	
	Early Santa Ana by Guy Ball, Marge Bitetti \$21.50	
	Orange (the City) by Phil Brigandi (NEW) \$21.50	
	Vanishing Orange County by Chris Epting (NEW) \$21.50	
	Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana by Gordon Bricken \$14	
	Orange Crate Labels of Orange County by Alison Young \$14	
	Orange County Almanac of Historical Oddities by Jim Sleeper \$13.00	
<b>Shipping</b> – \$5 – flat rate, Priority mail shipping for entire order.		
<b>Total</b>		

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

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, 120 Civic Center Dr. W. Santa Ana, CA 92701-7505



**Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society**  
 120 Civic Center Drive West  
 Santa Ana, California 92701-7505  
*A Legacy of Preservation Since 1974*