

# Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society

Founded 1974



# Newsletter

Spring 2008

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

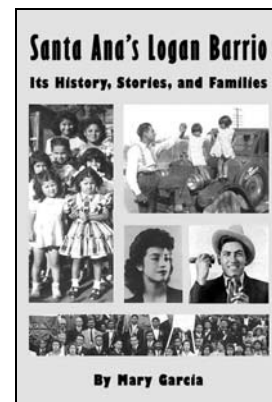
Also in  
this issue:



Renovation Success!



New SA Book  
Due in July



Logan Barrio History Documented



## Society Receives 2007 State Historic Preservation Governor's Award!

The Society won a 2007 Governor's Award from the California State Office of Historic Preservation for our historic cemetery tours. We're pretty humbled by the honor but we've always felt that the tour is an exciting program to celebrate local history. Late last year, on our tenth anniversary, the Society received this honor having been chosen from projects across the state. A huge thank you to all of actors and actresses (particularly those of the Orange County High School of the Arts) and to Fairhaven Memorial Park who continue to allow us to use their wonderful property as our stage. Kudos to all of the writers, guides, and hundreds of other volunteers who have worked so hard over the last ten years to make the event such a success.

And obviously we can't say enough to all of the event chair people over the years – most recently to Roberta Reed and Alison Young, who have been organizing the event over the last few years.

In the photo above, SAHPS board member Roberta Reed (3rd from left) receives the award from Wayne Donaldson, State Historic Preservation Officer (l), and Ruth Coleman, Director of the California State Parks (r). Also in photo, former-SAHPS president Nathan Reed attended the award reception helping to represent the Society.

This is the second time the Society has won this coveted award – the first time in 2005 for our Living History Coloring Book project.

Mark your calendars – **Sat. Oct. 18** will be the date of our 11<sup>th</sup> tour!

## From the President

One of the pleasures of being President of the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society is sharing good news with our members. And this month we have a new reason to celebrate!

Those of you who attended our 2007 Annual Dinner will recall the launching of our Legacy Preservation campaign to raise funds to stop and reverse exterior damage to the Dr. Howe-Waffle House. As all property owners know, maintenance is a continuing challenge, particularly on all-wood structures like the Howe-Waffle House, gazebo, and carriage barn.

With the announcement that the City will allocate additional Community Development Block Grant funds to complete much needed exterior repairs (see article), we are making substantial progress toward securing the preservation of the house for future generations.

While the phrase "community partnership" may be casually tossed about these days, what has been accomplished here is no hollow gesture. This partnership involves a diverse network of people and actions that will ultimately result in restoring the Dr. Howe-Waffle House to her former glory. The Society members who immediately responded to our campaign, the management at Behr Paint, and the City Council who approved our initial applications for CDBG funding, all played a part.

The Board was gearing up for a lengthy campaign to raise the rest of the funds needed to complete the project when the City informed us that they would assume a leading role in our efforts. I can't tell you how thrilled we are at this very real demonstration that the City recognizes the true value of the Howe-Waffle House as an icon of historic preservation.

Therefore, instead of an annual meeting, the Board has voted to hold a gala event at the House after all work is completed to celebrate the occasion and to properly thank the City of Santa Ana and all the other contributors to this partnership.

This is an exciting event in this history of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House, and we will announce plans for the celebration as work on the property nears completion. Please plan to join us to celebrate this momentous occasion!

*Alison Young*



*A Legacy of Preservation since 1974.  
The Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House,  
Medical Museum, and Carriage Barn.  
Built 1889. Saved from demolition 1974.*

### Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society 2008 Board of Directors

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

**Director**  
Ray Poppa

**Associate Board Members:**

Ed Coté	Historic Commission Liason
Nathan Reed	Salvage Operations
Lynn Yerby	Docent & Open House Coordinator

Temporary Newsletter Editor: Guy Ball.

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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-run 501c3 non-profit organization with no paid staff members. All donations and memberships go directly to our education and preservation projects. Your financial support is extremely important to help fund these projects. Please consider sending an extra donation to help keep us strong.

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## New Board of Directors Elected

After counting the ballots returned by December 31, 2007, we announce that SAHPS members have voted to accept the 2008 slate of candidates for Board Directors and Officers.

The newly elected Board includes:

- Alison Young, President
- Wayne Curl, Vice President
- Guy Ball, Treasurer
- Roberta Reed, Secretary
- Ray Poppa, Director

Society bylaws were amended in 2007 to establish a mail-in election, with the elected Board members taking office on January 1, 2008.

Congratulations to all our candidates, and many thanks to our members for their enthusiastic participation in the election.

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## Howe-Waffle House Off "Endangered Species List" Thanks to City Funding!

We have wonderful news to share with our members about the much-needed renovations to the Dr. Howe-Waffle House!

The City of Santa Ana is partnering with the Santa Ana Historic Preservation Society to make extensive exterior repairs and improvements to the Howe-Waffle House. City staff and Society volunteers performed a lengthy evaluation and review. They came up with needs to be addressed include re-roofing the House, carriage barn and gazebo; painting the exteriors of all three structures; and repairing some dry rot and termite damage. In addition, we decided to make repairs to the steps leading up to the front entrance, and to fumigate for termites.

A contractor has been selected and "The City requested additional CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding needed to complete the project as proposed," says George Garcia, who will manage this project for the City.

According to Garcia, "The total scope of the project is estimated to be approximately \$67,000,

which includes a contingency fund for unforeseen work items.

"We accepted a bid proposal from MVL Construction, a Santa Ana-based general contractor, and we expect work to start soon, probably in early April. The bid proposal states that the work will be completed in 90 days."

All paint is being generously donated by **Behr Paint**, which has manufactured premium paints on Alton Avenue in Santa Ana since 1957. Behr paints consistently perform the best in consumer magazine tests so we expect them to give us superior performance and durability.

Upon hearing the news, SAHPS President Alison Young commented, "We are thrilled about this partnership with the City of Santa Ana and Behr Paint. This restoration will help us to preserve our Victorian gem for the benefit of future generations. This is an example of historic preservation that our community can look to with pride. We look forward to celebrating the transformation at a gala event this spring."

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## Update on our Legacy Conservation Campaign

With the help through the City and the community block grants, the bulk of the renovations will be complete. However, the funds will probably just be enough to cover the re-roofing, painting, and termite repair work. There are a few other exterior projects including repair/replacement of some of the wrought iron fencing and landscape improvement, as well as some interior painting that need to be completed.

Once the main work is done, we'll use the donated funds to complete these additional tasks. We'll provide more information when available.

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## Renovation Celebration!

Instead of the annual dinner meeting this year, we will be hosting a very special annual meeting at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House to celebrate and show off all the renovation work performed.

The date is to be determined – once the work begins and we know when it will be complete. We'll send out special invitations to members.

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## Presenting Our Associate Board Members!

If you recall receiving our revised Bylaws earlier this year, you will have seen the description of a new role for the Society: Associate Board Member.

Associates include people who provide a consistent valuable service supporting the Board of Directors but are unable to completely fulfill the regular duties of a member of the Board. Once these volunteers are officially designated as Associates, they can conduct specific business on behalf of the Society with the permission of the Board of Directors or Officers. This gives them the freedom to work on their own as our representatives, reporting back to the Board in person, by phone or through e-mail--whatever is most convenient for them. Associate appointments are confirmed by the Board on an annual basis.

Associate Board Members might use their skills to assist the Society every month, or once a year. This flexible schedule allows us to access talented members who may not have the time or inclination to take on the responsibilities of a Board Director, but still want to make a contribution to the success of the Society.

Allow us to introduce our first Associate Board Members. Ed Coté, a long-time Board Director who resigned recently, is also a member of the Orange County Historic Commission. He continues his support for SAHPS as our liaison with that organization. In addition, he will continue to play a role with any issues surrounding the Dr. Howe-Waffle House Carriage Barn structure, and the carriage and related contents that are part of his personal collection. We are pleased to have Ed, with his wealth of knowledge on historic subjects ranging from vintage firearms to horseshoes, continue his association with SAHPS.

Nathan Reed is well known to many of you as a Past President and tireless supporter of the Society. Since SAHPS entered into a salvage agreement with the City in 1999, he has acted as coordinator of our historic salvage efforts, which will be his primary role as an Associate Board Member. Nathan has also taken on major projects in the past (such as the remodel of the upstairs

Carriage Barn) and the Associate designation will give him formal status in representing SAHPS should he come up with other project ideas. Nathan, we are grateful for your continuing support.

Do you have a skill or talent that you can share to assist the Society? Please contact us--you may be our next Associate!

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## Donations

**Evalene Pulati** - doors from the French mansion

**Richard Gregg**, copies of all 3 volumes of the *History of Orange County* by Pleasants and *History of Orange County with Biographical Sketches* by Samuel Armor.

**Paul Giles** – a wooden souvenir bowl from the Elks Convention held here in 1895

**Bill Twist** - three 1930s yearbooks from Santa Ana College and various books on Santa Ana and Orange County history, including the history of Towner Manufacturing and the Twist family oral history

**Paula Faccou** - a 1920s yearbook and a 1930s yearbook from Santa Ana High

**Robert Christopher Thomas** – a copy of the Oct 1933 OC Masonic Bulletin noting the grand opening of the SA Masonic Temple.

**Nancy Chapman** - a bunch of Santa Ana and Orange County memorabilia.

**Brett Franklin** – racket and SAHS sports sweater.

**Dorrie Johnson** – old wooden clothes hanger from W. A. Huff, clothier, Santa Ana.

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## Thanks to Our Retiring Board Members

Our board of directors is made up of volunteers who dedicate their time to help further the goals of the Society with our mission of historic preservation, community education, and the care of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House.

We want to thank several board members who ended their terms last year.

Tim Rush has been a dedicated preservationist and community activist, leading boards of Comm-

Link, the Centennial Heritage Museum, Washington Square, and Wilshire Square. As a long-time board member and vice president of the Society, he helped us with community relations, House maintenance and restoration issues, and a host of other support efforts too numerous to start listing. He also launched the effort to restore the Spurgeon Clock Tower, which gave this historic structure a second chance at life when so many others had given up on it.

Ben Grabiell has also been a long-time preservationist and active in the community. Ben was a leader in the effort to fight the One Broadway Plaza project and to help save some of the buildings on Broadway that were endangered because of it.

Jim Marquez has been a long-time supporter of the society and had been a board member at several times in our history. We were fortunate in his returning to offer us his experience and assistance for our events and projects.

Jared Solano was our newest and youngest board member. He offered a fresh perspective to our relatively older board and even launched us onto YouTube featuring our historic cemetery videos.

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## Website Wins Award

You probably remember that our website, [www.SantaAnaHistory.com](http://www.SantaAnaHistory.com), won a 2007 City preservation award for the articles, photos, and news we provide on local history. But we also recently received a **Gold Web Award** from the American Association of Webmasters for the site.

We'd like to offer our **kudos** to webmaster Guy Ball for his continued effort to provide a dynamic and comprehensive historical reference of Santa Ana and early Orange County history.

If you haven't visited the site, lately, take a look at the Articles and Vintage Photos sections to see the latest additions.

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## Santa Ana Room

The Society has created the beginning of a "Santa Ana Room" where we will display items and memorabilia from Santa Ana's past. We have a variety of cabinets and now we're looking to fill them with anything from our past - particularly if

it has the Santa Ana name/address on it (such as advertising items, old photos, products made in SA (with the city name on it), etc. If you would like to donate any items that we could use, please contact Guy Ball at [sahps@sahps.org](mailto:sahps@sahps.org) or leave a message at 714 547-9645.

If you have some Santa Ana item that could use a new home, please consider donating it. We'll add a note saying who donated it.

We'll let you know how the room looks as time goes on. In the meanwhile, we want to offer a big thank you to Ed Coté for his original donation of the cabinets and Nathan Reed for his painting and refurbishing work to get them ready for display.

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## Update on the Historic Twist-Basler House



According to an email from a city staff member in March, the status of the Twist-Basler House move is "they (the contractor) have backfilled and are currently installing the concrete foundation. They are still looking to move the house within the next few weeks."

According to comments in the *Register*, Mr. Harrah (the contractor) promises to repair the house for normal use. One of the Society's most recent concerns was the poor tarp coverage of the four cut-up house segments and probable damage due to rain and wind. The Society was very concerned that taxpayer dollars would be used to repair any water damage, mold, vandalism, and rodent damage due to the house being exposed to the elements for over a year.

Until the Twist-Basler House is successfully moved and renovated, we will continue to be alert to additional setbacks in what should have been a "simple" process. We appreciate all of those who mailed letters and emailed the City from our previous appeals for help!

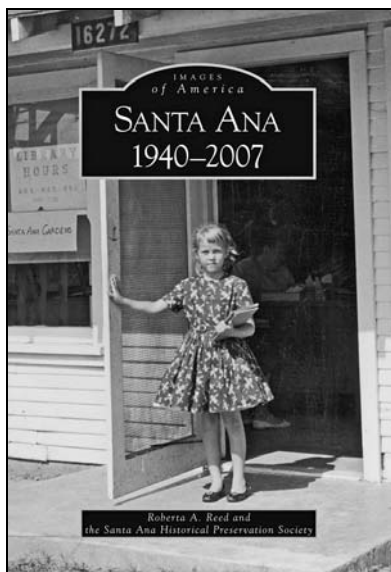
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## New SA Book Due in July

With the first two Santa Ana history books such a success for Arcadia Publishing, they asked us to create another. Long-time native Roberta Reed volunteered to create a new volume of vintage photos from the 1940s to present day.

For the last 8 or so months, she has culled through hundreds of photos – scanning, processing, and writing about 200+ images. She accessed private family collections, photos from the County Archives and the Society’s own digital collection. She was helped in her efforts by her husband Nathan, and local historians Rob Richardson, Phil Brigandi, and Chris Jepsen.

The 120+ page book is now at the printers and will be released in late July or early August. We’ll provide advance information for members as soon as we have the final details.



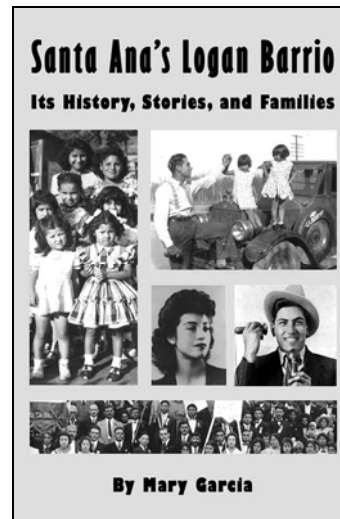
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## Logan Barrio History Documented

SAHPS member Mary Garcia completed her book on the history and families of Santa Ana’s Logan Barrio and the Society published the book late last year – in time for the annual Logan Reunion. The book has been very well received and Mary has been invited to a variety of events to speak as author of the book.

The book includes over 80 vintage family and neighborhood photos as well as stories and

remembrances of many of the early families of the neighborhood.



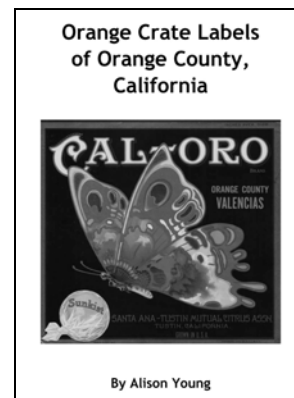
The book’s publication is very timely as it reminded us of the historical importance of the Logan Barrio particularly when the City of Santa Ana was working on a “Renaissance Plan” to improve the area.

You can buy a copy of the book for \$14 (tax included) and \$3 for mailing.

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## New Orange Crate Label Book

In researching material for last’s tour about OC agricultural history, SAHPS president Alison Young saw a need for a book about the unique and colorful fruit crate labels from Orange County. She created a 42-page, full-color book in our *Local History* series. The book includes over 50 label illustrations and history on the Orange County citrus industry and the crate label art that helped to sell it. Copies are available from the Society for \$12 plus \$3 for shipping. Tax is included. Order online at our website or by mail.



# Time to Renew!

Help us continue our efforts to preserve, to educate,  
to celebrate Santa Ana and Orange County History

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

*(Renew or join at the \$100 level (or above) and receive a copy of*

*Early Santa Ana, Santa Ana in Vintage Postcards, Orange County Almanac,  
Orange County Blossoms, Logan Barrio, or Orange Crate Labels  
as a gift as our thanks for your extra support.*

*Or, if you're willing to wait until August,  
we'll send you a copy of the new Santa Ana 1940-2007 by Roberta Reed.*

Send your check or complete the information below for a charge:

(If \$100 or over, please circle the book above that you would like us to send you. Let us know if  
you would like any of the three Santa Ana books autographed and to whom.)

Please charge: \_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_ membership.

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's name on card \_\_\_\_\_

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

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

The Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible as permitted by law.

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

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## Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Santa Ana Coin Club

The Santa Ana Coin Club has been around for 50 years – being started by Joe Steele in 1958. In recent years, the club has been meeting at the Howe-Waffle House.

Current club president Evalene Pulati would like to invite you to an open meeting/celebration of the club on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 pm at the Howe-Waffle House. All are cordially invited. Our free parking lot will be open from 6:50 pm.

The Club will also have a special coin display at the Old County Courthouse (3<sup>rd</sup> floor) during the month of April and also a second display in the children's section of the Main Public Library during the last two weeks of April.

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## Other Upcoming Events

**Thursday, April 10** – Authors Night meeting of the Orange County Historical Society at 7:30 pm at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 2400 N. Canal St., Orange. Local Orange County authors will talk about their latest books. Public invited. Call Richard at 714 838-5149 for more information.

**Sat/Sun, April 26-27** – Floral Park Home and Garden Tour from 10 am to 4 pm in the Floral Park neighborhood of Santa Ana. Call 714 953-5659 or visit [www.floral-park.com](http://www.floral-park.com) for ticket info.

**Saturday, May 17** – Tustin Old Town Promenade Home and Garden Tour from 9 am to 4 pm. Call 714 731-5701 or visit [www.TustinHistory.com](http://www.TustinHistory.com) for event and ticket info.

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## Holiday Decorations

If you happened to visit the Dr. Howe-Waffle House in December, you will have seen the beautiful Christmas decorations throughout the building. Thanks to a wonderful Girl Scout troop from Huntington Beach, some enthusiastic high school students from Irvine, and a few dedicated Board members, decorations went up in record time with lovely results.

Our volunteer decorating day on the weekend following Thanksgiving has become a Society tradition over the years, complete with holiday music, home-made cookies, and a pizza party.

Many thanks to our volunteers for their creative efforts!



### **Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society**

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

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## Santa Ana Naval Air Station

Many of you know it as “the blimp hangers” in Tustin. Well, our friends at the Tustin Historical Society have posted a variety of vintage and new photos of the base on their website. For those interested in seeing what the base looked like in the past – and what it looks like close-up now, visit <http://www.TustinHistory.com/>

### *Save the Date!*

*Our 11<sup>th</sup> Award-Winning  
Historic Cemetery Tour  
Saturday, October 18, 2008*

*This years theme - the  
Medical Profession in OC  
More details in the next issue!*