

# Scenes of peril



**SHARON HENRY**  
Register  
columnist

**F**or nine years the **Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society** has brought history to life by going to a cemetery. This year's tour of Fairhaven Memorial Park, titled **Calamities that Shook Orange County**, featured actors from the **Orange County High School of the Arts** (some who overcame minor opening day calamities of their own.)

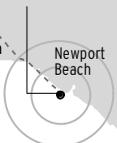
They portrayed the life and hard times of former local citizens. The production offered nine scenes, written by members of the society. Each explored a local disaster: The tales are sad and poignant, society president Alison Young said. But the stories are also intended to reflect a strength of will to pull together, rethink and rebuild.

## Big quake and little breeze

In 1933, a few days after the **Long Beach earthquake** hit Southern California, **Allen Goddard**, a 25-year-old Garden Grove teacher, wrote to his sweetheart **Francelia Chittenden** in Boston. News of the 6.3 quake that had killed 120 had reached her, and greater than his fear of aftershocks, Allen worried that the disaster might cause Francelia to reconsider his marriage proposal. He wrote of the devastation and chaos that followed the quake, but also of his faith that the state would recover and his desire to have her by his side. Then he waited to hear if Francelia would join him in Orange County and the two would begin their life together.

**March 10, 1933**  
**Epicenter** on  
Inglewood fault

**Long Beach**  
Newport  
Beach



## Happy ending

The quake was not enough to keep the couple apart. Francelia moved to Orange County and married Allen. He taught high school in Garden Grove, and she became a librarian at the Santa Ana Public Library. Allen died in 1989. Francelia lives in Santa Ana, but has planned to one day again be by her sweetheart's side.



**Krisman Neville, 14**, played Allen Goddard. Krisman's first stage performance was as a 5-year-old, he said. We did *The Night Before Christmas*. It was a rap version.

His first experience with a **fountain pen**. The ballpoint pen wasn't invented until 1938.

Trickiest part of this acting role was to keep the **letters** from blowing away. Some of his lines are written on them.

In 1933, a **first-class stamp** cost **3 cents**.

## Health scare

The **flu epidemic of 1918** killed about 675,000 Americans. Symptoms came on quickly a bluish tint in the face and within hours a person would be coughing blood. Uncontrolled bleeding filled the lungs, and the victim suffocated. Influenza is typically most dangerous to the very young and elderly. The 1918 strain was deadliest to people age 15 to 34. That year Santa Ana residents **Maude Staples**, her husband, Oswald, and two young children, Bud and Mildred, caught the flu. After months of recuperation Oswald and the children survived. Maude did not. She was 28 when she died.



The 1918 flu is estimated to have killed 25 million worldwide in its first 25 weeks. Deaths from AIDS reached 25 million in 25 years.

## Midair drama

It was the **July 4, 1900**, and the area was experiencing the best of times. The cornerstone for the new courthouse was to be set. After making a bundle in Alaska gold mining, **Dan Baker** had started a newspaper in Santa Ana. He and 8,000 others had come to Fourth Street to celebrate the holiday. Daredevil **Emil Markeberg** was hired to bring his popular aerial act to the festivities hanging from a hot-air balloon by his teeth. As the balloon reached 500 feet Emil lost his grip, or a strap broke, nobody is sure. What is known is he plunged to his death as the crowd watched.



**Derrek Coleman, 15**, played Santa Ana Bulletin publisher Dan Baker, who had witnessed the balloon accident.

Augh. A bee.

Arrived after the show, but didn't sting anybody.

In the United States, about 50 people die each year from **bee stings**. The National Transportation Safety Board reported seven **hot-air balloon** fatalities from 1993 to 1997.

**Tina Metalis, 17**, played Maude Staples daughter, **Mildred**, as a teenager. Between performances Tina came down with the hiccups.

Period wardrobe came from the society's costume collection.

People think I look like a nurse, hic-cup, or a sailor.

She couldn't be cured. I even drank upside down. (When I left Tina was still hiccuping.)

We tried to scare her.



Santa Ana's first female physician, **Dr. Willetta Howe-Waffle**, was played by **Kaitlyn Smith, 16**.

Physicians could do little in 1918 to fight influenza. **Dr. Howe-Waffle** saw patients at her home, a 12-room Victorian that now sits at 120 Civic Center Drive in Santa Ana. The doctor's mansion continues to play a part in history, but as the site of happier times. It's often rented for weddings.

More information about the city's history and the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society:  
[www.santaanahistory.com](http://www.santaanahistory.com)