

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society

Founded 1974



Newsletter

Spring 2004

www.SantaAnaHistory.com

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

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

In hindsight, some 30 years later, it seemed so simple. The Dr. Howe-Waffle house, both historically and architecturally significant, sat in the middle of the right of way for the widening of what would become Civic Center Drive. Of course, the house should be saved from demolition. So if it couldn't remain where it was, it should be moved. It was that simple. Or was it?

As far back as 1968, plans were in process for the creation of Civic Center Drive in the area of Seventh and Eighth Streets in Santa Ana. The Dr. Howe-Waffle House, sitting at Seventh and Bush Streets, was threatened by this project from the beginning. Apparently the planners of the street project were unaware of the significance of the house, and those that were aware of its significance were unaware of the proposed street project.

Late in 1973, Mrs. Adeline Cochems Walker, an active member of the group LISA (Let's Improve Santa Ana) learned of the proposed route and the implications to the Dr. Howe-Waffle House. By this time, the city had already purchased a significant portion of the right of way for this project, including the Dr. Howe-Waffle House, and had plans for its demolition. Mrs. Walker was quite surprised that city staff and officials were unaware of the significance of the house, particularly since a photo of it had hung in city hall for many years. It is also interesting to note that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project did not adequately review the Dr. Howe-Waffle House and had the house not been saved through other means, there likely would have been a legal challenge to the EIS to stop the demolition.

At a city council meeting on March 18, 1974, the fledgling group of preservationists, now known as the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society (Mrs. Walker noted at the time that while there were other historic organizations, this was the first **historic preservation** group in Orange County) asked the Council to hold off on demolition to allow for additional time to continue the efforts to save and preserve the house. At that meeting, Council voted to allow the historical society to do just that.



Forlorn & Overgrown -- October 1974 at 7th and Bush

Continued on page 6

President's Message

Our special 30th Anniversary year activities are well underway! In this month's newsletter, you can read about our successful Annual Member Dinner and get details on our upcoming Downtown Walking Tour and Historic Cemetery Tour. Events like these are our chance to showcase the treasure trove of history and architecture available in Santa Ana, and to meet other supporters of historic preservation.

The SAHPS Board is a firm believer of being involved in the community, and our participation in the myriad of local events is only limited by the busy schedules of our all-volunteer Board! You will find SAHPS participation in many places; from neighborhood home tours in Floral Park, Wilshire Square, French Park and Washington Square, to City events like Celebrate Santa Ana and ComLink. These unique events have an important thread in common—outreach and our connection to the community.

On behalf of the Board, I'd also like to offer a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who have been docenting at our open houses and special tours. Thanks to your help, the Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House is open again for informative and interesting tours. And thanks to Dr. Lynn Yerby for her successful efforts in organizing this ongoing task. For those who haven't been to the House in a while, we invite you to return and enjoy Lynn's new fun and educational tour.

Lastly, we'd like to highlight our being notified of receiving a 2004 Outstanding Historic Preservation Project Award from the City of Santa Ana for our beautiful Historic Downtown Walking Tour Guide. Project leaders Guy Ball and Tim Rush, along with writer Catherine Cate, will receive the award in a June presentation at City Council. Their efforts produced a wonderful reference to downtown that is proudly distributed by various City departments in addition to being available by the Society.

As we progress through our 30th anniversary year, it promises to be an exciting one for the Society with our events, awards, educational programs, and community involvement.

Your support helps all of this happen. And we thank you for being a part of it!

Alison Young



A Legacy of Preservation Since 1974

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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) 547-9645.

Newsletter Editor: Roberta Reed

House illustration by Ann Berkery

Special thanks to Guy Ball, Jo Ann Ramirez, 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.

Update on One Broadway Plaza

In February, Responses to Comments for the One Broadway Plaza EIR were completed. On February 23rd, the project for a 37-story building at Broadway and 10th Street was considered before the Planning Commission. After hearing many comments both in favor of and against the project, the Planning Commission voted 6-1 in favor of recommending the project for approval.

On March 8th, members of the Broadway Bulldogs met with Councilman Mike Garcia and city staff to discuss their concerns regarding One Broadway Plaza.

On March 15th, the City Council held a public hearing and was set to vote on approval of the EIR and the project. Most of a nearly five hour council meeting was devoted to this project. Included in the comments made that night was a Powerpoint presentation put together by the Broadway Bulldogs explaining the issues and concerns with the project, and some of the legal requirements related to approval. Mayor Miguel Pulido and Councilman Brett Franklin recused themselves due to potential conflicts of interest, so only five council members are now involved in the decision-making regarding this project.

Largely because of the issues and concerns expressed that night, Council voted to form an ad hoc committee consisting of Council Members Mike Garcia and Jose Solorio to review this project and the feasibility of putting together a development implementation agreement. Council will re-visit the issue at the May 17th meeting.

If you believe that this project is not good for our city and its future, please come to a council meeting and express what you feel about this project during public comments. For more information on this project, or to get information on other ways to contact Council Members to give them your opinion, see the Broadway Bulldogs website at www.broadwaybulldogs.com.

If One Broadway Plaza is approved, the next step is to start a petition for a referendum to put this project up to a vote of the residents of Santa Ana. If you are interested in helping us if it comes to this, or if you would like to become involved now, please contact the Historical Society at (714) 547-9645.

SAHPS Debuts New Downtown Walking Tour

National Historic Preservation Week is coming on May 3-9! As part of our National Historic Preservation Week celebration, and in honor of the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society's 30th anniversary, we are hosting our first-ever guided walking tour of historic downtown Santa Ana on Saturday, May 8th. Informative docents will lead small groups to view the exteriors of many of Santa Ana's most interesting old buildings, including the Old Orange County Courthouse, the former Masonic Temple Building, old City Hall, the Spurgeon Building, and the Santora Building.

Tours will start at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House at 12 noon, 1 pm, and 2:30 pm, and will be approximately 90 minutes in length. Groups will be limited to 20 people each. Reservations are highly recommended to ensure your spot! The cost will be \$8 per person and will include a beautifully detailed map of the historic downtown area. Call the Society at (714)547-9645 or e-mail us at tour@sahps.org to reserve your place. Be sure to give us your name, number in party, phone number, and preferred start time.

We will also hold a **free** Open House at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House on that day from 12 noon to 4 pm. Special displays and tours of the house will be available. The public is warmly invited to this event.

See our website at www.SantaAnaHistory.com for additional information.

Upcoming Open Houses

We want to remind you of our open house dates for the Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House. Our current schedule is that we are open for tours on the first Saturday of every other month, from 12 noon to 4 pm.

Upcoming dates: June 5, Aug 7, Oct 2, Dec. 4.

The admission charge is \$5 for adults and students, \$1 for young children from kindergarten to grade 8.

This does not include Saturday, May 8 which is our special 30th Anniversary Open House offering FREE admission to all!!!!

Special 30th Anniversary Open House - May 8th!

On Saturday, May 8th, from 12 noon until 4 pm, the Society will be holding a special open house at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House. One new display we will be debuting will be a collection of photographs from the mid 1970s showing the House before, during, and after the move; and featuring photos never before displayed of the volunteers and other workers restoring the house. We'll show off some of the original newspaper articles showing the battle to save the House as well.

Admission to the house is absolutely free for May 8th as our thank you for the community's support during the last 30 years!

National Preservation Week

The National Trust for Historic Preservation created Preservation Week in 1971 to spotlight grassroots preservation efforts around the country. Thirty-three years later, Preservation Week has grown into an annual celebration observed from small towns to big cities, with events ranging from tours, reenactments and rallies to black-tie balls and national competitions.

Preservation Week 2004 will be held May 3-9. This year's theme is "New Frontiers in Preservation."

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society is hosting a historic downtown walking tour to commemorate the event as well as offering an open house at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House. (See details for both events in this issue.)

We would like to encourage everyone to join us as we too embark on "new frontiers in preservation," as we begin our next 30 years. For more information on the National Trust for Historic Preservation, visit their website at www.nthp.org, and consider becoming a member. This group does wonderful work in the world of historic preservation, and their magazine, Historic Preservation is alone worth the price of membership!

Annual Dinner Meeting Held March 23rd

The Annual Membership Dinner and Meeting of the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society took place on Tuesday, March 23, 2004 at the Santa Ana Performing Arts and Events Center, formerly known as the Santa Ana Masonic Temple.

The meeting opened with the Presentation of Colors performed by the Santa Ana Police Color Guard. Guests were then treated to a short concert performed by the Santa Ana Winds, directed by Bob Ward.

A short presentation was given by Captain Tim Graber of the Santa Ana Fire Department, who announced that the first motorized fire engine in Santa Ana had been located in Oregon and is for sale. The firemen are working in conjunction with the historical society to raise funds to purchase the 1916 engine. \$1300 was raised simultaneously by generous donors at the dinner.

Business for the evening consisted of the election and installation of the 2004 Board of Directors.

The Society was also pleased to present two awards that evening. Judge Thomas Thrasher of the Orange County Superior Court was presented with the Community Preservation Award for his work in preserving the history of the courts in Orange County. Donald Kennedy, Chairman Emeritus of the First American Title Corporation, was presented with the Annual Preservation Award for the work that he and First American have done in preserving Orange County's past through its active program of document and photograph preservation.

The evening concluded with a featured presentation by SAHPS Treasurer, Guy Ball, who spoke on "From Inkwells to Inkjets: Using Technology to Document and Celebrate History." Guy showed us how technology is helping us to preserve history, and provided some resources that can be used. He also showed a photographic presentation including some photos from his upcoming book featuring Santa Ana history in photographs.

We would also like to give a very special thank you to Jason Kordas of the Santa Ana Performing Arts and Events Center for hosting us and helping to make the evening special for all.

Would Your Neighborhood Like To Learn More About SAHPS?

In March, the Society was pleased to be a guest at the Floral Park Neighborhood meeting where we were able to present a new PowerPoint presentation on the Society, its history, projects, and goals.

Thanks goes to new Board Member Bill Lundquist who was our featured speaker that evening.

The Society would be happy to come to your neighborhood or community meeting and give this presentation so your members can learn more about us.

If interested, please contact us at (714)547-9645 or e-mail us at sahps@sahps.org.

Upcoming Home and Garden Tour

Wilshire Square Home and Garden Tour:

The Wilshire Square Neighborhood Association is hosting The Art of Living Historic Home and Garden Tour on June 26th and 27th. This self-guided walking tour will feature eight vintage and historic homes from the '20s and '30s from the Craftsman, California Cottage, English, Spanish, and Renaissance Revival designs.

You will also be able to relax at a Tea Garden with tempting foods and beverages and browse a Street Faire featuring local artists, collectables, and home improvement and renovation displays.

Presale tickets are \$14 through June 21st, and \$17 during the event. Information is available at (714)502-2382 or www.WilshireSquare.com. Presale tickets may be ordered by sending a check made out to Wilshire Square Neighborhood Association (WSNA) and mailing it to Wilshire Square Home Tour, Post Office Box 2441, Santa Ana, CA 92707.

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!

Santa Ana Events of Long Ago

- February of 1890 – the Sunset Telephone Company begins installing telephone poles along Fourth Street.
- November 12, 1901 – the majestic Orange County Courthouse is dedicated. A special election was held to determine if a \$100,000 bond issue should be used to finance the venue. By a majority of five to one the voters agreed to the measure.
- April of 1903 – by nearly a two-thirds majority the voters of Santa Ana, by proposition, bring an end to saloons in the city effective June 30, 1903. Santa Ana becomes a dry city 17 years before national prohibition.
- December of 1906 – the Pacific Electric Railway, popularly known as the Red Car, completes its line from Los Angeles to Santa Ana.
- November 28, 1908 – The Bijou Theatre opens at 420 Sycamore Street and is billed as *A Refined Family Theatre*.



**What is this and where is it in the
Dr. Howe-Waffle House?**



SAHPS History

Continued from page 1

Working under the assumption that the first battle had been won, the Society worked hard to begin fundraising efforts to support the monumental project of moving and fully restoring the Dr. Howe-Waffle house. Politics seemingly interfered with these efforts when Historical Society President Betty Biner stopped by Council Chambers on the night of the April 1, 1974 meeting to pick up a copy of the minutes from the March 18th meeting and was stunned to hear Council vote to reconsider its plans to give the house to the Historical Society and instead consider an offer from Santa Ana Community Hospital to relocate and restore the house. It is



interesting to note that many of the “plans” the hospital had for the house, enthusiastically greeted by Council, actually largely mirrored those that the Society had previously discussed. Sadly, it appeared that someone in the city was not in favor of allowing the Society to restore the house, and had actually approached the hospital with the idea

of them restoring it. Mrs. Walker noted that while the hospital was financially in a far better position than the Historical Society, that it was not possible for them to love the house more than the Society did.

In the end, the hospital failed to follow through with any interest in the house beyond its initial letter. This act did, however, have the effect of preventing the Society from being able to complete much in the way of preservation or fundraising efforts for nearly six months while the city tried to make up its mind about what to do with the house.

On September 17, 1974, the Orange County Board of Supervisors approved the idea of a Heritage Square concept and agreed to provide land across the street from the Old Orange County Courthouse for the relocation of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House. This apparently helped to convince the city to save the house, although additional work was necessary to convince them that the Carriage Barn also belonging to the doctor was also worthy of saving.

In spite of a year long battle filled with discouragement, Adeline Walker and her group of preservationists refused to give up (and no doubt sometimes they wanted to). Finally, the first stage of their hard work and efforts was realized when during the night of March 27-28, 1975, the Dr. Howe-Waffle House was moved to its new home at the corner of Sycamore and what would become Civic Center Drive. The Carriage Barn followed it on Saturday, March 29. Perhaps somewhat prophetically, the next day, Sunday, March 30, was Easter.



Photos at left are dated 1975. Above photo of Max Becker working to build front entrance stairway – April 1976.

SAHPS would like to thank the following for their generosity

- First American Corporation, C. J. Segerstrom & Sons, Caribou Industries, Sandy De Angelis (Seven Gables), World Travel, David DiRienzo (Urban+West+Strategies), Teresa's Jewelers, SA Chamber of Commerce, Lou Carlson (Fairhaven Memorial Park), Floral Park Neighborhood, Heninger Park Neighborhood, and Crevier BMW for their generous donations toward the offsetting the costs of our Annual Membership Dinner.
- Mr. & Mrs. David Eaton for their donation of 1925, 1926, and 1927 editions of the Santa Ana Polytechnic High School yearbook, the *Ariel*.
- Abra Negrete and Susan Stewart for their donations toward the additional printing of SA History Coloring Books.
- Lauren and Sean Fraser for their donation of a vintage dressmaker form to display some of our Victorian dresses and satin-covered hangers for clothing displays.

And the following for their donation towards the purchase a 1916 vintage Santa Ana fire engine

- Alison & Martin Young
- Sandy De Angelis
- Paul Giles
- Arturo Lomeli
- Teresa's Jewelers
- Tom & Nancy Lutz
- Bob & Dee Runnells
- Ruth & David Seigle

And the following for their Patron level memberships and renewals:

- Evalene Pulati
- Chester & Pat Horton
- Bev & Erwin Schauwecker
- Angel Barnes
- Don Krotee
- Andree Weger
- Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence Serber
- Leia Giovanna Smith
- Rob & Viv Richardson

Celebrate Santa Ana History & Support SAHPS

by buying a book on local history through the Society

Rediscovering Historic Downtown Santa Ana – 17x22" fold out map that includes a walking tour and historic and architectural information about some of our downtown treasures. \$2.00 (\$1 shipping).

Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana/Orange County – the Video This 25-minute video documentary of the 2002 Santa Ana Historical Society Civil War Historical Cemetery Tour features the performances of the fine OCHSA actors who portrayed civil war veterans and their families sharing their experiences of the late 1800s in their new lives in the Santa Ana Valley. \$14.95 (\$4 shipping).

The Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana: by Gordon Bricken. Explore the impact of the War Between the States on the creation and development of Santa Ana. Fascinating insights into the impact of the Civil War veterans on the birth of Santa Ana and Orange County. \$12.75 (\$2 shipping).

Santa Ana in Vintage Postcards by Guy Ball. Contains more than 200 black and white images of early Santa Ana from 1902 to 1950 – all with descriptive captions and interesting notes. Softbound. Autographed by the author at no additional cost (please let us know names to include in autograph). \$20.50 (\$2 shipping).

Santa Ana...A Illustrated History: by Diann Marsh. This book covering Santa Ana history from the mid-1800s to modern times is the most comprehensive history of Santa Ana to date from one of its most beloved historians. The book includes many never before published photographs, some from private collections. Softbound, 240 pages. This book is out of print and available only through SAHPS. \$21.50 (\$4.50 shipping).

Frederick Eley, Orange County's Pioneer Architect by Rob Richardson. Frederick Eley was the designer of architectural gems such as Santa Ana's Ebell Clubhouse, First Baptist Church, YMCA Building, and numerous other schools, churches, and public buildings. \$7.00 (\$2 shipping).

Pleas use the order form on the back page.

Book Order and Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City and Zip _____

Qty	Title	Price
<i>Note: Sales tax is included in prices.</i>		Shipping
		Total

Membership Dues: *Individual/Family - \$15-49; Business - \$20-99; Supporter - \$50-99;
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