

**Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society**  
Founded 1974

# Newsletter

Summer 2001



## Cemetery Tour to Focus on World War II

War bonds, ration booklets, Gold Star mothers—do those words bring forth memories from more than a half century ago? Attend the Santa Ana Historical Society's fourth annual Cemetery Tour—to be held once again at Fairhaven Memorial Park and Santa Ana Cemetery—and such memories will return many times over. The family-style historical walking tour will feature costumed actors portraying colorful men and women on the Orange County home front during the Second World War. The tour will take place on Saturday, October 7, 2001, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The guided walking tour will lead you through fascinating stories of Santa Ana during the war years. You'll meet the people who supported the war effort, from servicemen and women, to immigrant farmers, to local "Rosie the Riveters." You'll hear letters to loved ones from homesick servicemen and a war-era sermon delivered at the Fairhaven Rose Window Chapel. USO entertainers will set your feet to tapping. Orange County's stories from World War II will encourage you to learn more about this absorbing period of our history.

Reservations may be made for tours departing every half-hour. Advance ticket prices (available until October 22, 2001) are \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors and SAHPS members, and \$8 for students age 10 and over; children under 9 are admitted free. Or purchase your ticket on the day of the event at Fairhaven Memorial Park; the cost will be \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and members, and \$10 for children. Advance tickets will be available by mail or by contacting SAHPS at (714) 547-9645.

This year's Cemetery Tour is especially exciting, since it will be the first that we produce in partnership with the Orange County High School of Arts. The event is sponsored by Fairhaven Memorial Park and Funeraria Latina Familiar. Proceeds will benefit SAHPS preservation activities, including maintaining the Dr. Howe-Waffle House property.—Jim Marquez

---

## Books, Books, More Books, and More

Shirlee Meles has donated funds for the purchase of two books for our Santa Ana/Orange County history library. Guy Ball, who directs the project, will choose them. The library now boasts about 50 books.

At last report, sales of Guy's "Santa Ana in Vintage Post Cards" book had topped 1100, out of a run of 1800. In addition to being available at the Howe-Waffle House gift shop, it is sold through Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Martinez Books, and Ace Hardware. And we have sold a large number to the City. Also, sales were brisk at our sales and membership table at the Floral Park Home Tour in April. We made more than \$500 selling several of the titles we carry and generated a lot of interest in SAHPS.

## President's Message

For the past few years Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society Board members have participated in an annual spring planning retreat, to help us get acquainted with new members, decide on our goals, and plan what we want to accomplish for the Society in the new year. Inevitably, with that focus and energy peculiar to spring, we compile a substantial list of tasks to be completed. And just as inevitably, by mid-year our Board members (most of whom have full-time "real" jobs) are feeling tired and overwhelmed at what remains to be accomplished.

Feeling a bit discouraged myself, I looked over notes on projects and events and was astonished to discover what a long list of accomplishments we have compiled only halfway through the year. We have held teas, salvage sales, book signings, and open houses. We have published two books, created a docent training film, and dedicated the garden of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House to Diann Marsh. Along with battling moths and leaky pipes at the Howe-Waffle House, we have beautified the property with new signs and new plantings. We have partnered with a talented photographer on a new Living History exhibit and we have forged a partnership with the Orange County High School of the Arts for actors and writers for our annual Cemetery Tour.

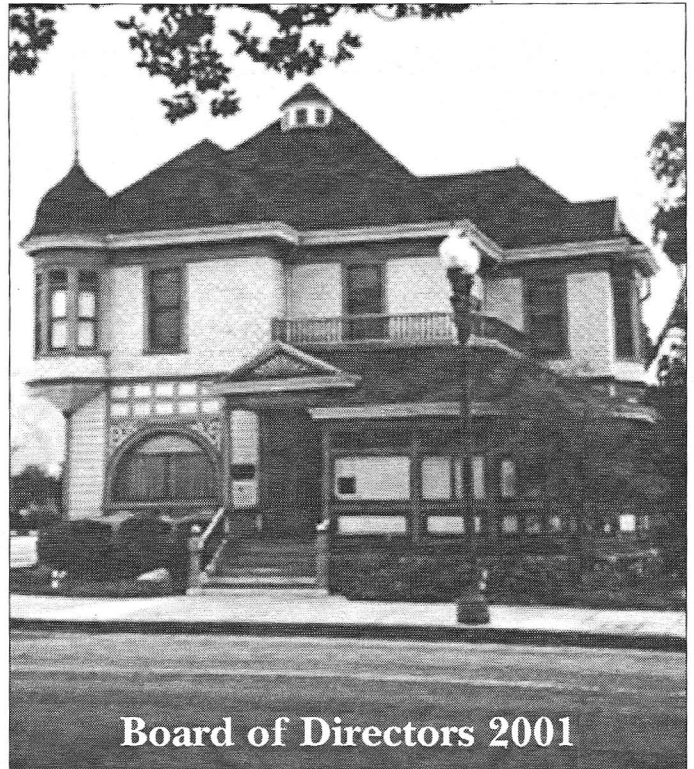
So, the Board has a lot to feel proud of these days. With the support of our members and volunteers, we can look forward to a second half of the year as successful as the first.

I think I feel some of that energy coming back!  
—Alison Young

## Living History Travels, Too

As part of our Living History program and in conjunction with SAHPS, photographer Yolanda Alvarez has created a traveling exhibit version of "Fire in the Morning," a pictorial exhibit of Mexican-Americans of Orange County, recently displayed at the Old Orange County Courthouse. The Living History version will travel to various local schools.

Yolanda previously worked with SAHPS to produce the book, "A Victorian Reclaimed," a collection of her black-and-white photographs of the Howe-Waffle house prior to its move.



## Board of Directors 2001

President Alison Young  
1st Vice-President Tim Rush  
2nd Vice-President Michael Macres  
Secretary Jo Ann Ramirez  
Treasurer Guy Ball

### Directors

Johnna Adams Lou Carlson  
Ed Cote Edward Grijalva  
Ginelle Hardy Nathan Hittle  
James Marquez  
Eris Smith Marilyn Zike

Nathan Reed Salvage Operations

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society Newsletter is produced by the Society for its members and other friends. A membership application and renewal form may be found on these pages. We invite you to join us in the appreciation and preservation of Santa Ana history.

All material in this issue is copyrighted 2001 by the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, 120 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, California 92701.

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Thompson  
Thanks for special help from Guy Ball, Jim Marquez, Roberta Reed, Derek Ross, & Alison Young!  
Visit our website: [www.SantaAnaHistory.com](http://www.SantaAnaHistory.com)

## *We wish... we wish...*

We wish we had, for the Dr. Howe-Waffle House, an energy-efficient, kitchen-size refrigerator and a copy machine.

# SAHPS Salvage Sale = Huge Success!

On Saturday, May 12 the SAHPS held a very successful architectural salvage sale in the parking lot of the Howe-Waffle House. We had a fine selection of relics from vintage Santa Ana residences, including early 20th-century crystal lighting fixtures, ceiling tiles, cabinets, medicine chests, pediments with trim, solid core doors of Douglas fir and gumwood, windows, roofing tiles, and more. This was a great opportunity for the historical homeowner. As the coordinator of this project I contacted various Santa Ana neighborhood groups and received a great deal of enthusiasm. One condition of the sale was that Santa Ana residents would have first pick of the goods, before the gates were opened to the public.

Nathan Reed, Ed Cote, and I moved a 23-ft. truck full of salvage to the parking lot, then brought more items from the Howe-Waffle attic and the carriage barn. It was a rainy morning as we got to work. We filled the lot with our treasures while Santa Ana residents formed a line down the block and around the corner. Volunteers came out of nowhere, and we were grateful for their assistance.

At 8 o'clock we dropped the barrier and customers streamed in. Two hours later, we had sold over 60% of our stock! The rainy morning did not slow down those bargain hunters. We were left with some siding and a few sinks and doors, but we raised more than \$4600, making this a definitely successful fund-raiser. Santa Ana residents were very happy to have access to these items.

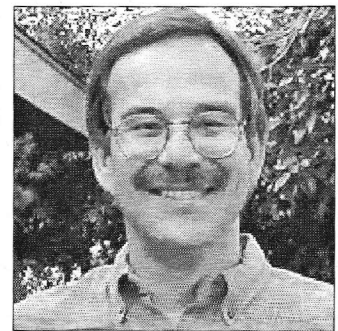
We could do this again! If you know of older Santa Ana homes that are scheduled for demolition, please leave a message for Nathan Reed or me at the Howe-Waffle House, (714) 547-9645.—Derek Ross

## That's Our Guy!

Guy Ball has been chosen Volunteer of the Month, for August 2001, by Unisys, the company for which he works as senior technical writer. Citing Guy's commitment to "celebrating the city of Santa Ana, California," Unisys honored Guy by donating \$500 to the non-profit organization of his choice. Guy has asked his company to present the donation to the SAHPS.

"For more than a decade, Guy... has volunteered his time and talents with the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society... preserving in bricks, mortar, and print historical reminders of its social and cultural heritage," the citation read. It also noted that Guy serves on the SAHPS executive board as treasurer, maintains our website, manages our book publication program, and helps out with maintenance of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House.

Being chosen as a Volunteer of the Month puts Guy in the running for Unisys's Volunteer of the Year award, a \$1000 grant in the winner's name to a nonprofit organization.



## Monumental Preservation

In an illustrated article on May 28, 2001, the Los Angeles Times featured the efforts of Gene-o Platt to restore tombstones of Civil War veterans at Santa Ana Cemetery. Using his own tools, materials,

and time, Platt has labored for three years, having first noticed the deterioration on the stones when he visited the grave of his wife, Jean. "It's a crime to see our history go," he told the Times.

## When it comes to membership, our Board is a driving force.

We had a very successful membership drive, adding 51 members for 2001, and, due to the inclusion of a flyer, sold 59 books.

As usual, the drive took the form of a letter inviting Santa Anans to join in the preservation efforts in our city. The letter pointed out the many benefits of membership, including this newsletter, advance notice of special events and tours, and special member-only discounts.

The large mailing was accomplished through team effort, with SAHPS board members folding flyers, licking envelopes, and sticking stamps.





## Docent Training Goes Video

Board member Marilyn Zike and husband Larry have been recruiting new docents for our house openings, the first weekend of the month, 12-4 p.m. And, in a video produced and edited by Guy (Spielberg) Ball, past SAHPS president Nathan Reed was filmed conducting a tour of the house while dispensing insider information on it and the Doctor.

Marilyn and Larry will use the video, along with written materials they've developed, to train volunteers and to help current Board members brush up on their history. Guy has even created a CD of the film.

We now have numerous docents, all volunteers, and all much-appreciated, but, of course, we are always looking for mores. Interested? Leave a message for Marilyn on the Howe-Waffle House answering machine, (714) 547-9645.

### Thank You,

*Diane Enders and Margaret Morton of Costa Mesa for donating a 1950 O'Keefe and Merritt single-oven stove with griddle, clock, and salt & pepper shakers to the Dr. Howe-Waffle House!*

*SAHPS member  
Martin Young issues  
this invitation to  
join him in his  
favorite activity:*

### Feeling Thinky?

Try my *Cafe for Socrates*, a free philosophical discussion group in the relaxed atmosphere of Natale Coffee, 1702 N. Main St., Santa Ana at 7 pm on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday each month.

And I will be interviewed on KUCI 88.9 FM (or [www.kuci.org](http://www.kuci.org)) on Mon Aug 27, 4:30 - 5 p.m.

Martin Young [madwizard@juno.com](mailto:madwizard@juno.com)  
714 569 9225 [www.madwizard.com/socrates.html](http://www.madwizard.com/socrates.html)

## How Goes the Howe-Waffle House?

The garden of The Dr. Howe-Waffle House has been dedicated to Diann Marsh, past president and longtime supporter of SAHPS. Diann moved to Indiana a few years ago, but her legacy remains in many ways. The handsome dedicatory plaque installed in the garden was donated by Fairhaven Memorial Park.

Two wisteria vines will climb the east fence of our garden, thanks to Nathan and Roberta Reed. This was a favorite plant of Dr. Willella, who grew the beautiful purple blooms at her home's former location.

Our new gardener, Pedro Melendez, will find his job a little easier, due to the efforts of Guy and Linda Ball. Ivy will be replaced in flower beds along Civic Center Drive and sprinklers will be repaired.

And have you noticed the new signage?

## Downtown Santa Ana Gets Two New Theaters

Santa Ana's efforts to establish a downtown arts and entertainment district moved forward two steps this spring, with the addition of two new stage venues. The New Voices Playwrights Workshop now shares the 78-seat DePietro Performance Center's Don Cribb Theater on Main Street with the Orange County Crazies, and the Santa Ana Performing Arts and Event Center, the 70-year-old Masonic Temple at 5th and Sycamore streets, is being restored by Michael F. Harrah to include a dinner theater.

### Join the "Friends of Mrs. Walker"

and get more involved with the SAHPS. If you have a special skill, an area of expertise, or the time and desire to help with projects throughout the year, then "Friends" is the group for you! We especially need docents for the first weekend of the month, when the Howe-Waffle House is open for touring.

We ask no minimum commitment—if you can't help out on one project, we'll simply call again. Once a year or every month, your participation is valuable and appreciated. We look forward to getting to know you better!

Yes! I'd like to support the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society as a "Friend of Mrs. Walker":

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in helping with \_\_\_\_\_

I can offer expertise in \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, Friends of Mrs. Walker,  
120 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701 or call Alison Young at 714/569-9225.