

Newsletter

Summer 1998

Join Our Seventh Annual Spring Home & Garden Tour!

Hospitable Santa Ana invites you to come and have a look at some of our city's most beautiful homes, gardens, and architecturally important buildings, as the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society's annual Home and Garden tour gets under way during the last weekend in May.

The starting-off point for the tour, which takes place on May 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and May 31 from noon to 5 p.m., will be the 1889 Dr. Howe-Waffle House. Dr. Howe-Waffle's Medical Office, recently refurbished with artifacts and furnishings authentic to the period of her practice, is now on view, as are carriages and such in the adjacent Carriage Barn.

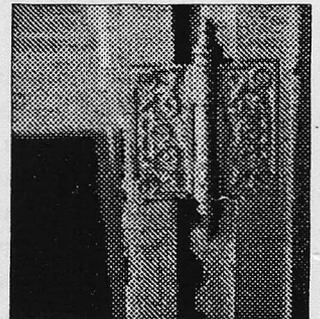
Special exhibits inside the manse will include, on the first floor, a not-to-be-missed collection of exquisitely hand-tinted photographs by Yolanda Alvarez, who captured on film details of sun-dappled rooms in Dr. Howe-Waffle's House during the days just prior to its renovation more than 20 years ago. Framed, tinted postcards of Yolanda's work will be on sale.

Upstairs, an array of Victorian-era clothing will be featured, as will a collection of babies' christening dresses.

Stops along the tour's way will include a Roaring Twenties-era Colonial Revival home, a Craftsman bungalow, a late-Forties charmer with Hollywood connections, two separate gardens, and the beautiful First Church of Christ Scientist, located on North Main Street at Tenth.

The Bowers Museum will be open for the tour, as will the Santora Building's unique group of art galleries and artists' studios. As usual, the event will be rounded out with refreshments.

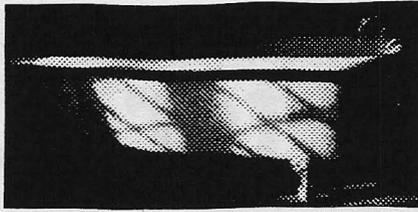
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Yolanda Alvarez's artistic photographs, taken at the pre-renovation Howe-Waffle House, include such details as this decorative hinge.

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a raffle, an antique show and sale, and such other exhibits as antique locks and keys, postcards, and railroad memorabilia. And rumor has it "Madame Modjeska" may even make an appearance!



Yolanda Alvarez

Tickets are \$8 per person in advance, or \$10 on the days of the tour. Call Carol Leshner at (714) 541-3927 to arrange for reservations.

The tour begins at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House, 120 Civic Center Drive West at Sycamore.

As usual, this springtime gala is planned as one of our big fundraisers for the year. Last year's tour attracted more than 600 tourgoers.

Hope to see you there!



Yolanda Alvarez

Feminine Finery and a Fedora

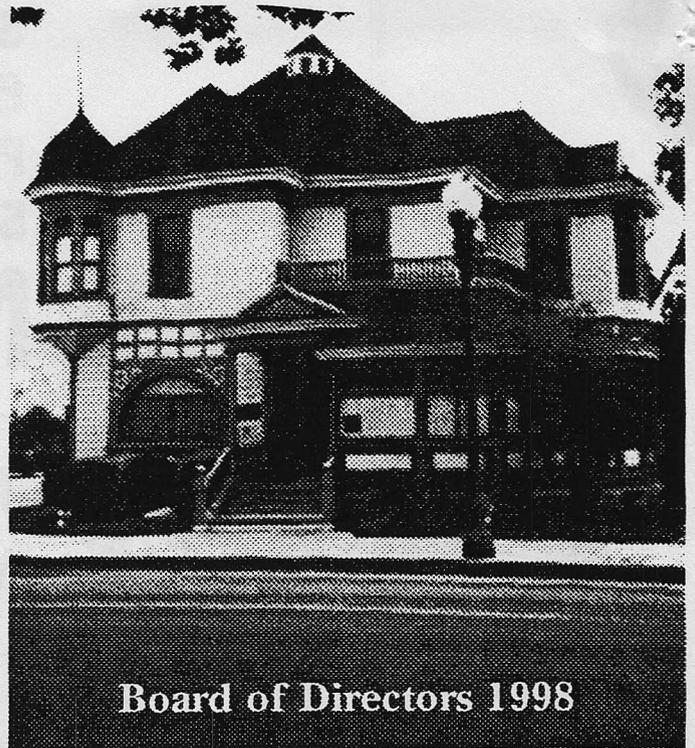
On an occasion reminiscent of Christmas morning, members of the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society discovered a trove of treasures among the articles of Victorian clothing donated to the SAHPS by the Orange County Historical Society.

Ladies' clothing—from capes to pantaloons, from black taffeta evening wear to an eyelet-trimmed white lawn outfit suitable for a summer's afternoon of croquet—made up the bulk of the generous donation. But gentlemen have not been ignored: A three-piece wedding suit, circa 1880, makes a handsome partner to a two-piece wedding dress of the same era.

Topping it all, so to speak, is a man's hat said to have belonged to President Grover Cleveland; more on this intriguing article of headgear to be revealed at the SAHPS's annual Spring Home and Garden Tour, when the clothing will be on display at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House.

On loan from the OCHS and exhibited in the glass-front cabinet of the Howe-Waffle House dining room is a collection of artifacts from the Excelsior Creamery, which for many years delivered fresh dairy products to Santa Ana homes.

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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 the back page. We invite you to join us in the appreciation and preservation of Santa Ana history.

All material in this issue is copyrighted 1998 by the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, 120 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, California 92701.

Newsletter Editor: Beverly Thompson

Our Website: <http://www.geocities.com/heartland/6452>

Don't Be a Mug!

You say you're still drinking your morning cup of java out of that same old coffee mug? Then maybe it's time to purchase one of the brand-new mugs that SAHPS has for sale. Featuring a picture of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House done in cranberry-colored ink on a white background, the new mugs cost \$5.

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President's Message

What a busy first quarter we have had at the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society! Our membership drive is in full swing; funding has been approved for additional improvements to the Howe-Waffle House; modifications to the upper floor of the Carriage Barn are underway; and the 1998 Home and Garden Tour will soon be here.

With all of our Board members out there working to make a living, in addition to their work at SAHPS, how do we get it all done? The "Friends of Mrs. Walker" volunteers have come to the rescue. This great group of supporters is really making a difference in keeping the Society active in the community. Here are a few of the many tasks that they have been helping us with so far this year:

- design of our new membership flyer,
- a marathon envelope-stuffing party for the membership drive,
- setting up our new display of Victorian clothing (courtesy of Orange County Historical Society),
- participation in our Home Tour planning sub-committee,
- tour flyer distribution.

We couldn't have done it without you, and as a bonus, we have had a great time together. Mrs. Walker would be proud of this grassroots support of the organization that echoes her efforts in saving the Howe-Waffle House, moving it, and restoring this fine historic structure.

Interested in joining the "Friends of Mrs. Walker"? Give me a call at (714) 569-9225 and I will add you to our "Friends" resource list. When we have a committee or task coming up, we will contact you to see if you can help. More projects are on the horizon, so don't miss the fun!

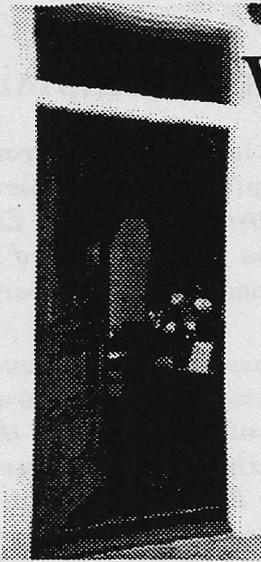
—Alison Young

\$\$—Good Financial News—\$\$

Welcome news has arrived in the form of a \$10,000 Community Development Block Grant from the city of Santa Ana. The amount is somewhat less than we requested, but it will contribute toward the funds needed for installing air conditioning upstairs in the Howe-Waffle House.

In addition, funding has been granted for Diann Marsh to revise the Santa Ana walking tour guidebook, which has not been updated since its 1984 publication.

Welcome New Members!



As a result of our April major membership drive, featuring a lovely new brochure designed by Catherine Cate, many new names have been added to the list of members of the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. As with many of our renewal memberships, the accompanying donation frequently exceeded the amount that we suggest as membership dues, helping to fill SAHPS coffers and making us even more appreciative.

Much appreciation is also due First American Title for donating the printing of both the new brochure and the flyer.

Tour Garden Grove Gardens & Take Tea

Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. will mark the city of Garden Grove's 25th annual Pride Day, to be celebrated with a Garden Tour and Tea. The price of admission for touring the gardens only is \$8. If you'd like to take the tour and also take time for tea, the price is \$12. Tea will be served at the Village Green Courtyard Center at 12732 Main Street. Call (714) 741-5187 to make reservations.



Many Thanks for Your...

Annual Mortgage-for-a-Day Contribution:
Patricia Michel

Special \$1800 Contribution:
Elizabeth Jane Harris

And You've Been Complaining About *El Niño*?

Before you start in with another round of muttering about the weather, you might first want to read this excerpt from an interview with Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle that appeared in the *Santa Ana Daily Register* on Monday Evening, August 13, 1923 and has been reprinted in Diann Marsh's book, *Santa Ana ... An Illustrated History*. The doctor had been reminded by her interviewer, Tom Lewis, that travel conditions in the Santa Ana area must have improved considerably over the many years of her practice:

Those of you who have gleaming limousines, telephones, and radio, and all the modern paraphernalia of this lattr-day civilization, have it mighty easy compared to some of the hardships the pioneers underwent in the oold days. Those were primitive days. I can recall the day when a doctor, in order to drive to Los Angeles from Westminster had to break his own road through the cactus, the willows, and the mustard. There were no roads.

And the winter rains brought floods that were too awful to recall. Many is the day I have driven my horses ["Nick" and "Ned," perhaps, or "Topsy"] through mud and water up to thir waists, with the flood creeping in at the bottom of the buggy. Once, during a bad epidemic of the la grippe, I drove 1,000 miles, in all, visiting my scores of patients.

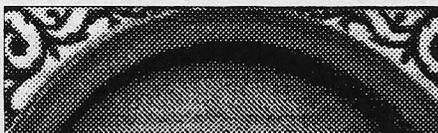


A Bouquet of Thank-Yous...

...to some of the people who have made possible the beautiful landscaping at the rear of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House.

Flowerdale Nursery has generously donated plants and other landscaping materiels, including a collection of named tea roses that have responded beautifully to their new setting.

Members of the Santa Ana Firemen's Association, always good friends to the SAHPS, were largely responsible for making the back garden happen: They donated materials for the entire sprinkler system, then generously provided the manpower to install it! Their plan is to continue the landscaping and a sprinkler system to keep it looking good, into the front and sided gardens of the house. The new fountain that now graces the north border of the back garden, and that is featured on the front page of this newsletter, was donated by SAHPS Vice President Tim Rush, in memory of his parents, Harold and Ruth Rush.



The Dr. Howe-Waffle House boasts a fully operational kitchen, with a fine gas stove, a refrigerator, even a kitchen sink, but we have very few kitchen utensils! Is there an extra potato parer rattling around in your kitchen drawer? Too many pots to fit in the cupboard? Why not donate your extra kitchen items by dropping them off the next time you visit the House?

Our "Partner" West Coast Theatre Project Moves Forward

With the publication of a newsletter defining its purpose and calling for support, the fledgling West Coast Theatre Restoration Project is moving along. The project's goal is to restore and reopen the West Coast Theatre, located at 308 North Main Street and known as "the grandest of the two remaining vaudeville/movie houses still standing" in downtown Santa Ana.

Soon to come, according to the newsletter, are t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats promoting the effort and intended as money-raisers.

Should you be interested in becoming a charter member of the project's volunteer force, call (714) 957-1425, ext. 337. Donations (tax-deductable!) are also welcome.

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society Membership Application and Order Form

We invite you to join or renew your membership with the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. We welcome everyone with an interest in history or in saving Santa Ana and Orange County heritage, regardless of where you live.

Dues (can vary depending on your generosity):

- Individual (\$10-\$30) Family (\$15-\$49) Organization/Business (\$20-\$49)
 Supporter (\$50-\$99) Patron (\$100 or more)

Make the Mortgage for a Day:

Yes! I would like to help the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society pay the mortgage on the Dr. Howe-Waffle House as follows:

- Date(s): _____ Mortgage for a Day (\$30)
 Mortgage for a Week (\$210) Mortgage for a Month (\$900)
 Check here if you wish your donation to be anonymous.
 One-time donation Annual Donation on This Date—Please send a reminder.

Santa Ana: An Illustrated History, by Diann Marsh—Covering Santa Ana history from the mid-1800s to modern times, this book includes many never-before-published photographs, some from private collections. \$35.50 (hard bound) or \$21.50 (soft bound), plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Prices include tax.

Quantity ordered: _____

Santa Ana Historical Society Commemorative Afghan—Features the Dr. Howe-Waffle House and other historic Santa Ana houses. Available in Williamsburg blue, navy, hunter green or cranberry, contrasted with natural. Prices including tax are \$43.00 (current members) or \$44.95 (non-members), plus \$5.00 for Priority mailing. Quantity ordered: _____

Merchandise Total: _____

Shipping and Handling Total: _____

Membership Dues: _____

Donation: _____

Grand Total: _____

(Remember, membership and donations to the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society are tax deductible!)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

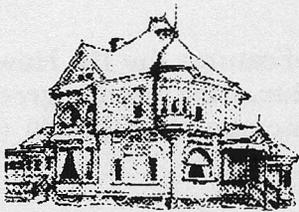
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Send this form and your check to:

SAHPS, 120 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701

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