

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society Newsletter

President: Scott Morgan .

Fall 1988

Editor: Diann Marsh

President's Message

All Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society members are most cordially invited to attend the momentous opening of the time capsule which has been sealed in the cornerstone of the Historic Orange County Courthouse since

(continued on next page)

Coming Attractions

NOVEMBER 10 9:30 a.m. Old Courthouse
Time Capsule Opening Ceremonies
DECEMBER 8 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. S. A. H.P.S.
Victorian Chistmas Party at the Historic
Dr. Howe-Waffle House
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Dr. Howe-Waffle House open for tours
TUESDAYS 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dr. Howe-Waffle
House Open for tours



FALL ARCHITECTURAL AWARD

The fine Craftsman
Bungalow in this picture
is located at 219 E. Washington. It has been restored
by Mr. and Mrs. Gary Sodikoff and is now in use as
his law office. Of special
note is the new paint scheme
of creamy yellow trimmed
in medium blue-green.
Congratulations to Mr. and
Mrs. Sodikoff for a job
well done.

(President's message continued)

the Historic Orange County Courthouse since 1900. The opening will take place on Thursday, November 10, 1988 at 10:00 a.m., with a brief reception at 9:30 a.m. After the time capsule has been opened by noted Orange County historian Jim Sleeper, the Orange County Centennial Corporate History Exhibit will be unveiled.

The event is an officially sanctioned Orange County Centennial event, and is being funded by Orange County Centennial Inc, and by our friends at the Orange County edition of the Los Angeles Times. With several hundred participants expected, it will be a good time to meet up with several old friends and neighbors at a great historic event. I hope that we will have a good showing of Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society members in attendance.

The new Interim Exhibit Gallery in the Historic Courthouse opened August 5 on the 99th anniversary of the first meeting of the Orange County Board of Supervisors. First District Supervisor Roger Stanton was the Master of Ceremonies, and the Old Courthouse Museum Society hosted a very special opening. The Courthouse and Exhibit Gallery are open to the public for docent-assisted self-guided tours every Tuesday. If there is enough support from our organization, the Howe-Waffle House will also be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays. Currently, our public tours are the third Saturday each month, with other public tours by appointment.

We are still on the lookout for a retired banker, CPA, or bookkeeper to help us out as Treasurer. The volunteer job pays nothing but the satisfaction of helping a good non-profit organization. It involves the timely payment of our bills, and keeping a general ledger so that our accountant can use the ledger to prepare our tax return papers at the end of the year. I estimate that 1-2 hours a week would be all that the job requires of a

capable volunteer. Please call Royal Spurrier or me at 547-9645 if you are interested in helping out with this important task.

Hope to see you at the opening of the Old County Courthouse cornerstone time capsule ceremony on the 10th.

Scott Morgan, President

NEW LANDSCAPE PLAN

S. A. H. P. S. will soon be unveiling a beautiful new landscape plan for the Dr. Howe-Waffle House. Prepared by P. O. D., one of Orange County's finest professional landscaping firms, the plan is designed to bring out the lovely Queen Anne Victorian architectural elements of the house. A special garden in the back is being planned for entertaining. Rob Rusby is responsible for contacting P.O.D. and he and Greg Lester are reviewing the plan for our organization. We are looking forward to showing the plans to all of you.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Homemade ice cream and a fine barbershop quartet were featured at the 2nd Annual Old-fashioned Ice Cream Social. We discovered that Scott Morgan had a hidden talent when we tasted his fresh strawberry ice cream. He has promised us more for next year. We were glad to see several new people at the well-attended event.

STATE OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION RECEPTION

Our organization was honored to host a reception for the members and Staff of the State Historic Resources Commission and the Orange County Historical Commission at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House on August 4th.

HOWE-WAFFLE HOUSE 100th BIRTHDAY

1989 is not only the 100th birthday of Orange County, but also the Centennial of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House. Watch for some exciting events commemorating this important date.

THE BISHOP HOUSE

Our organization would like to recognize the immaginative paint scheme on the Bishop House at 1108 N. French Street, Built in 1906, the Neo-classical house is rich in architectural detail, and an ideal candidate for a multicolored paint scheme. The white body has a tinge of pink and is accented with grey, turquoise, green, and dark red. Before painting the house the owners replaced all of the enclosed eaves and did other repair work. Take a drive in the French Park neighborhood and see this lovely home, the Sodikoff office on East Washington and the numerous other projects in progress.





WILLIAM SPURGEON THE FOUNDER OF SANTA ANA

(This article was taken from a promotional booklet printed in 1913. It is in the History Room of the Santa Ana Public Library)

One fair day in October, 1869, a man on horseback broke his way through hundreds of acres of dense mustard higher than his head even as he sat in the saddle. Reaching a sycamore tree, he dismounted and climbed the tree. In every direction was an ocean of mustard stalks, browned by the summer and fall. Here and there above the surface of the mustard, giant sycamores raised

their twisted branches upward toward a sky as blue as only Southern California skies can be.

The man was William Henry Spurgeon, then just past his fortieth birthday.

Could he have imagined that he would live to see the day when the earth he looked out upon would be the site of a city of 12,000 people, the county seat of a county with a population of \$45,000?

Whatever the thoughts that went through his mind that day, Mr. Spurgeon has lived to see a most wonderful change. From a mustard patch the country has grown into the marketing of millions of dollars worth of produce. In that development the pioneer has had a

F88-3

most important part. The same faith and foresight that led him to lay out a townsite around that sycamore tree up which he climbed in October, 1869, led him to father enterprises that have had a material part in bringing this valley to its present high state of cultivation and productiveness.

Mr. Spurgeon, a native of Kentucky, raised in Indiana, made two trips to California before he finally settled here. The first was in 1862, after which he spent four years in the gold mines, and saw service in the Roque River Indian War. The second journey found him in Los Angeles in 1867, and his third trip brought him here. Santa Ana was then part of the Santiago de Santa Ana grant, divided up in 1867 in the Los Angeles Superior Court as a result of the suit of A Stearns vs. L. Cota. There was alloted to Zenobia Yorba de Rowland 7425 acres and this land was bought by Mr. Spurgeon on October 27, 1869, from Ana M. Chavez, widow of Vincente Martinez. According to the deed on record the consideration was \$594.

With George Wright of Los Angeles as surveyor, Mr. Spurgeon laid out a townsite. He called the place Santa Ana, selecting the name from that of the grant, Santiago de Santa Ana. In later years other pioneers wanted the founder to change the name to Spurgeon, but he declined to consent to a desertation of the euphonious Spanish appellation for Saint Ann.

The original townsite consisted of twenty-four blocks, bounded by First, Spurgeon, Seventh, and West (now Broadway) Streets. The founder built a store building where the Gilmacher block now stands, of redwood nailed straight up and down. A small stock of merchandise was put in. One of the first clerks was R. F. Chilton.

While the men were boring a well, that soon developed an artisian flow, Robert English moved his family from an old adobe ranch house near Olive to Santa Ana, putting up Santa Ana's first dwelling on Sycamore Street near Second,

where it still stands. One of Mr. English's daughters was Miss Jennie English, who on April 14, 1872, became Mr. Spurgeon's bride.

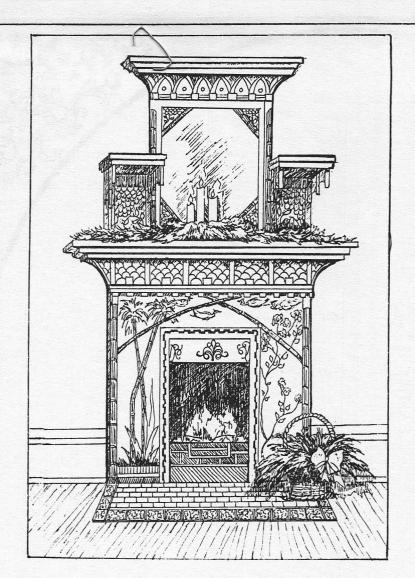
When Mr. Spurgeon established his store, the stage line between Los Angeles and San Diego was two or three miles to the east. The first bit of diplomacy that was needed to help out the new town came in getting the course of the stage changed. Mr. Spurgeon had a road cut through the mustard, and Santa Ana became a stopping place for the stage. Mr. Spurgeon was the postmaster and Wells-Fargo agent.

New settlers came. Mr. Spurgeon was a true father of the community. He encouraged building. For \$15 he sold Mr. Titchenal a lot at the corner of Fourth and Main streets, with the provision that a building be put up.

In a few years Mr. Spurgeon's store was moved to a new building, erected at the southwest corner of Sycamore and Fourth. The building was later moved and used as a fire hall. It now stands south of the post office. Mr. Spurgeon was a merchant here for eightteen years. He saw the town grow. He saw schools and churches established. In every enterprise he was a leader.

In 1886 Santa Ana became incorporated, a city of 2000 population. Mr. Spurgeon was one of the strongest supporters of the new movement, and he was elected a member and a president of the first Board of City Trustees. His breadth of mind and character led his fellow citizens to frequently seek him for his public service. He served a term in the California Legislature when this section was a part of Los Angeles County. He was an enthusiast in the campaign to establish Orange County, and to him and to other energetic experienced men is due the success of the project to organize the county. It was fitting indeed that he should be elected a member of the new first governing body, and by that body be made its chairman. In all the difficult work of getting the new county started upon its life, Mr. Spurgeon had an important part.

+88-4

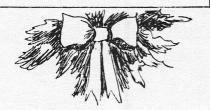




VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



THURSDAY, 8 DECEMBER 10TH 4:00 TO 7:00 p.m.



IF YOU LOVE THE OLD-FASHIONED CHARM OF A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS, PLEASE JOIN US AT AN OPEN HOUSE IN THE DR. HOWE-WAFFLE HOUSE ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER With FROM 4:00 TO 7:00. WE WILL BE CELEBRATING THIS IMPORTANT HOLIDAY WITH MUSIC, FOOD, AND DECORATIONS APPROPRIATE TO THE VICTORIAN ERA. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COME IN VICTORIAN CLOTHING. A DONATION OF \$3.00 IS REQUESTED.

<u> PARAMANAMANAMANAMANA</u>

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society would like to invite you to join us. We welcome anyone who has an interest in old houses and buildings, as well as local history, to join our organization. Our members are our most valuable asset.

NAME

TEL. NO.

ADDRESS

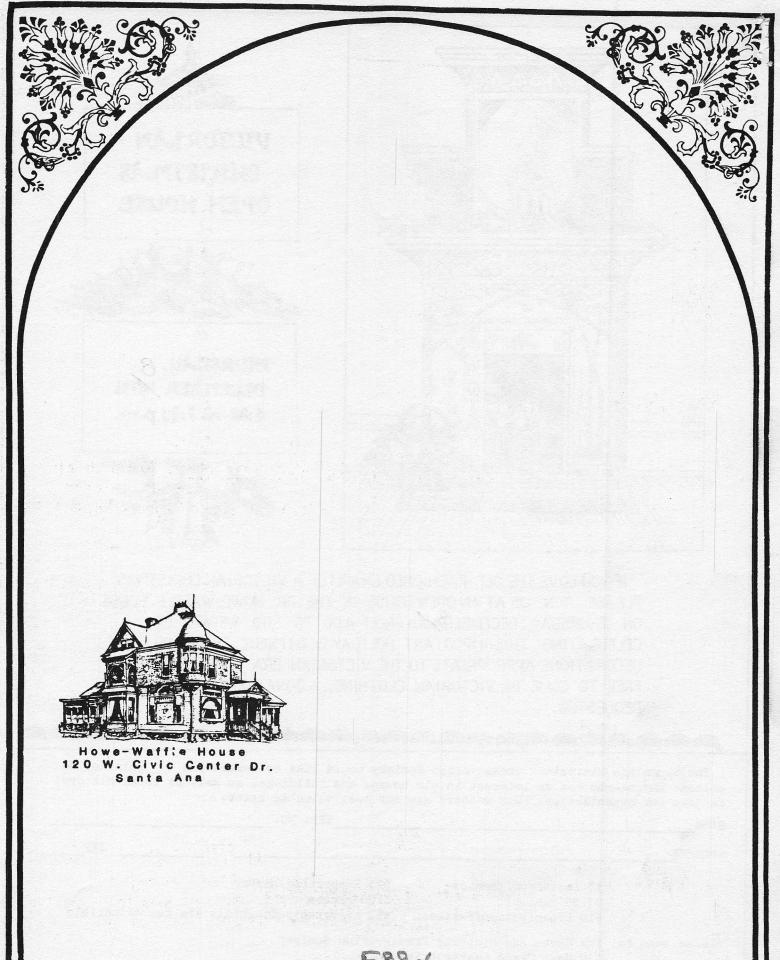
CITY ZIP

\$5 Individual Member \$25 Supporting Member \$7.50 Family \$100 Patron

\$10 Organization/Business All membership donations are tax deductible

Please send to: The Santa Ana Historic Preservation Society

120 West Civic Center Drive Santa Ana, California 92701



F88-6