

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society News

PRESIDENT: GEORGE HEANEY

OCTOBER 1990

EDITOR: DIANN MARSH

YOU ARE INVITED TO A
CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS TOUR
OF HISTORIC HOMES

2ND ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER

DECEMBER 8TH

6:30 p.m.

PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE AND LOOK FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION IN THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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QUARTERLY PRESERVATION AWARD

MRS. HENRIETTA
CROWELL

804 N. Baker Street

Mrs. Crowell has lived in this house since 1901. She is receiving our award because the house is beautifully maintained in its original 1880's integrity. For further details, please see Page 2.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are in the midst of the fall season and the days have been hot. It was good to have had a diversion such as the ice cream social in September. The weather is still warm, but the end of summer has come and gone. It will give us a chance to savor the past and look forward to the new one.

What a better time than now to make a commitment to the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society? We're looking forward to our increased and like-minded organizations in our community. We've been awarded \$15,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds from the City of Santa Ana and are looking forward to having the Dr. Waffle House painted within the next 12 months.

The Dr. Waffle House is one of the finest landmarks in Santa Ana, and the S. A. H. P. S. is the vanguard of historic preservation in our city. If you wish to volunteer your time, because your time is just as important as money, call the Waffle House at 547-9645 or myself at 553-0505 (Extension 623), and I will tell you how you can help.

Thank you,

George Heaney, President

ARCHITECTURAL AWARD

If you drive west on Civic Center Drive you are bound to notice a very neat grey and white Victorian house on the north side of the street at Baker. This is the home of Mrs. Henrietta Crowell. She has lived there since 1901, when her family moved from San Juan Capistrano to Santa Ana. She was just two years old.

Mrs. Crowell has continued to keep the house in top condition through the years, while retaining almost all of its historic architectural character. Mrs. Crowell has a very sharp mind and remembers early Santa Ana well. Her parents, Baptiste and Marion Duhart, owned a walnut grove covering 16 city lots from Bristol to Baker. The lots were eventually divided among the 7 children in the family and developed. Henrietta's sister, Mrs. Muccillum, still lives around the corner on Louise Street, on part of the original ranch. Mrs. Crowell remembers when Civic Center Drive was called Hickey Street and, after 1923, Eighth Street. She and her family knew everyone who lived in Santa Ana! Mrs. Crowell, who likes to garden and work in her well-kept yard, drives herself to the store and leads an active and independent life.

Mrs. Crowell is a resident of the Washington Square neighborhood, and was recently honored in the W.S.N.A. newsletter. Todd Walsh provided the information for both that article and this one. Congratulations to Mrs. Crowell and our thanks to Todd.

TUSTIN AREA WOMEN'S CLUB SANTA ANA GARDEN CLUB

Our organization wishes to thank the Tustin Area Women's Club and the Santa Ana Garden Club for their generous donation to our landscaping fund. We will be purchasing an orange tree and three crepe myrtle trees with the money they have given over the last four years. Gretta Kent, who is a long-standing member of our society, also belongs to the Tustin Area Women's Club and the Santa Ana Garden Club. She has worked with our Board to help make this generous gift a reality.

OUR S. A. H. P. S. FAMILY

WEDDING BELLS

Scott Morgan and Nancy Martin will be married on December 8, 1990, in Florida. We wish this fine young couple many years of happiness. Scott was our president for several years and currently serves as the S. A. H. P. S. treasurer.

MOVING

Royal and Jeannine Spurrier have sold their Santa Ana home of many years and are moving to Irvine. We wish the Spurriers all the best in their new home. Santa Ana's loss is Irvine's gain.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Todd Walsh has joined the S. A. H. P. S. Board as the representative from Washington Square. Todd, who is an accountant, has an active interest in the history of his neighborhood and Santa Ana in general. We wish Todd a hearty welcome to our Board.

NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome to two new members:

Gwen Sevier of Irvine

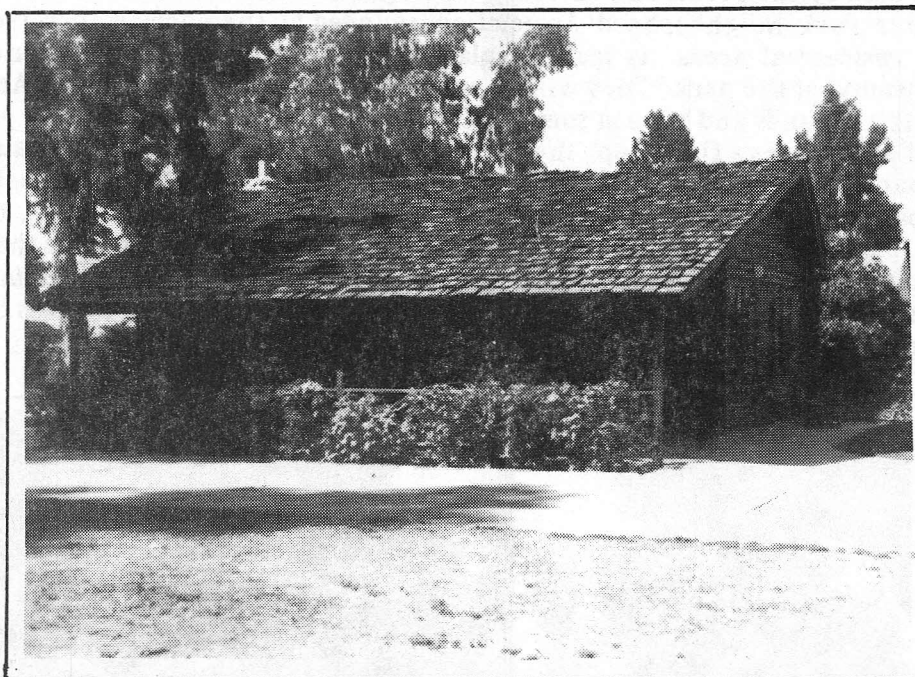
Margo Tate of Santa Ana

SECURITY SYSTEM

The S. A. H. P. S. is purchasing a new state-of-the-art security system to replace our old alarm. It no longer worked and parts were hard to get when replacement was needed. We also will be extending the wrought iron fence from the back of the property, along the south side of the house. If you would like to help us out monetarily with the new security measures, the entire organization would be most appreciative.

HISTORIC FRENCH PARK GARAGE SALE--NOV. 10

Our neighbors in French Park will hold an all-neighborhood garage sale in French Park (French at Vance) on November 10th, starting at 9:00 a.m. This event is too good to miss!



JACK FISHER PARK

Who was Jack Fisher? Those of you who have driven down Flower Street, between Santa Clara and Memory Lane, have seen the familiar sign that says Jack Fisher Park. Located on the north bank of Santiago Creek, the park contains many fine specimen trees and a picturesque log cabin. Dedicated in 1933, the park has changed little within the last 57 years.

Jack Fisher was a much-decorated World War I hero who was born and raised in Santa Ana. He began his overseas service in France, earning a Purple Heart and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm. As a result of his gallant actions at the battle of Belleau Wood, he won a second palm to his Croix de Guerre. He was hospitalized after being wounded in action and received a cluster to his Purple Heart and The Medaille Militaire. The latter was France's highest military decoration.

Jack returned to action and fought in the Battle of Verdun and the Battle of Argonne Forest. Seriously wounded, he was only one of three men to return to the American lines alive. He carried his lieutenant on his back. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and another Palm to his Croix de Guerre. After he recovered, he again returned to the front lines. He received honors for his heroic deeds from many nations. Italy, Belgium, Britain, and France presented him with metals for his courage. In Jack's last battle, he lay on the field for 48 hours, his leg shattered by shrapnel. His stomach and lungs were injured when he was accidentally given water contaminated with mustard gas. His chances for survival were slim.

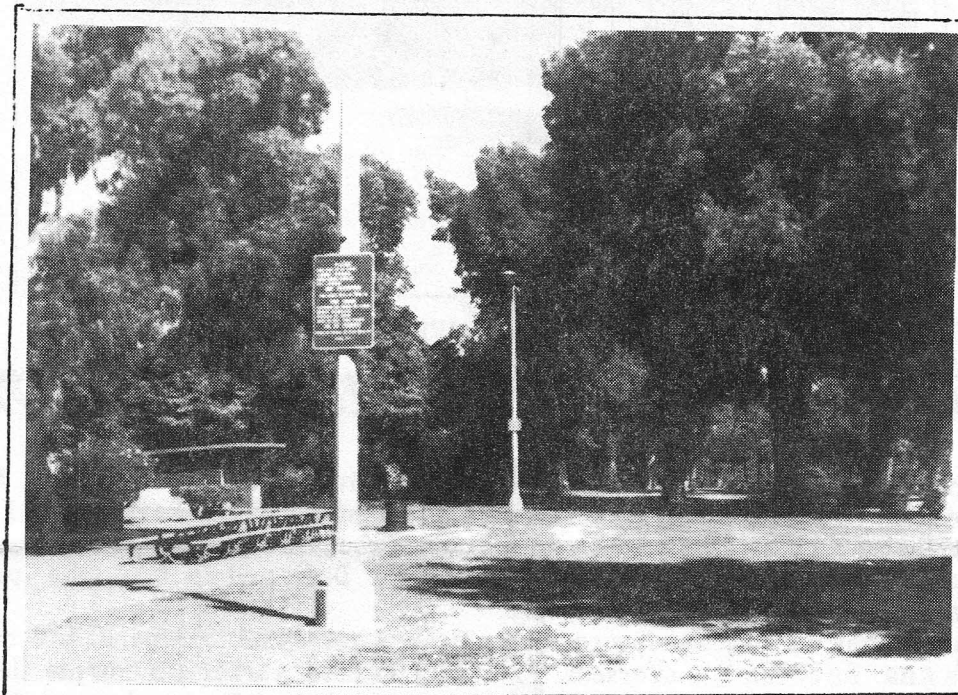
Miraculously, Jack did survive, and returned to the United States on crutches. He studied art and cartooning while in the military hospital in San Francisco and became an artist for the San Francisco Examiner. Returning to Santa Ana in 1927, he worked as a cartoonist and artist for the Santa Ana Register. He devoted many hours to organizing the Santa Ana Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans. After he died on March 1, 1929, the Chapter was renamed in his honor. Jack Fisher Park was dedicated on August 23, 1933, under the auspices of the Jack Fisher Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans.

In 1935 a tree planting program, under the direction of Park Superintendent Dale Griggs, was begun in Jack Fisher Park. Of the 24 varieties of eucalyptus trees planted in the park, 14 came directly from New Zealand. Many of these trees are still thriving in the park today. The log cabin, which is approximately thirty years old,

(Continued on the next page)

has been used by the Scouts and various civic organizations.

The Fisher Park Neighborhood Association, founded by the homeowners from the adjacent residential areas, is making plans that will improve and enhance the natural beauty of the park. They will be working with the City of Santa Ana to upgrade the grounds and hope at some time in the future they will be able to plant a botanical garden. As a first step, they are asking that the park be designated as a passive park. That system has been successful in French Park, which was declared a passive park several years ago. Increased park security, additional lighting, a solution to parking problems, and improved restrooms are some of the goals the Fisher Park Neighborhood Association is exploring. S. A. H. P. S. lends its support to these efforts and wishes the Fisher Park Neighborhood Association much success toward meeting their goals.



GRAND REOPENING OF THE SANTORA BUILDING

One of the most beautiful and historic commercial buildings in Orange County, the Santora Building, located on the corner of Broadway and Second Street in the Downtown Santa Ana Historic District, was recently reopened for business after undergoing an extensive restoration process.

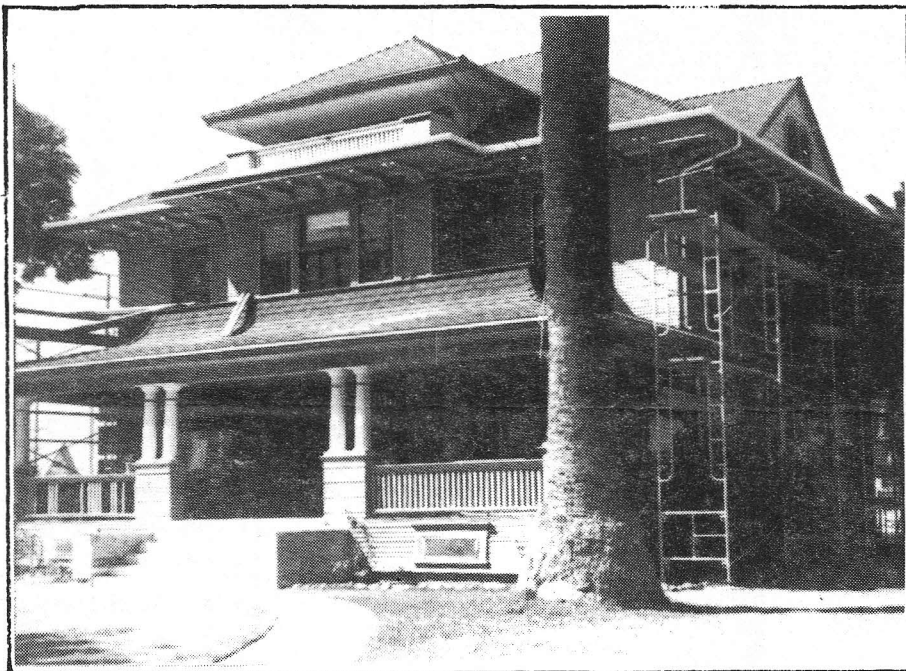
The Orange County Historical Society, City of Santa Ana, and Santora Partners were hosts for the grand reopening party on September 6th. Using the theme of Daniger's Tea Room, the decorations featured fresh flowers and lace tablecloths. Mrs. Daniger's Tea Room was one of the most popular restaurants in Southern California from 1934 until 1944. It was located upstairs on the west side of the Santora Building. Daniger's Tea Room was famous for its home cooked meals and pleasant atmosphere. It was mentioned in the June 1938 issue of Westways magazine in a feature article titled "Fine Food in California". The reopening was honored by the presence of Mrs. Daniger, who arrived in a wheelchair, looking lovely in a green print dress.

Hollywood stars frequently came to Santa Ana to visit the restaurant. Barbara Stanwyk, Andy Devine, Jack Benny, Milton Berle, Billie Burke, Charles Ruggles, Connie Haines, Lucille Ball, Gracie Allen, George Burns, Joan Davis, Rosiland Russell, Robert Young, William Holden and Alan Ladd were among those who autographed the guest book.

Rob Richardson, Executive Aide to Supervisor Stanton, presented a congratulatory resolution to the Santora Partners and the the Orange County Historical Society. Councilman Ron May, representing the City of Santa Ana, presented a resolution from the City.

PAINTED LADIES OF SANTA ANA

The Dr. Waffle House had some famous visitors last month. The authors of three nationally-known books about historic houses stopped by to take both exterior and interior photographs, with the possibility that they might use one or two in a future book. Elizabeth Pomada and Michael Larsen of San Francisco have written Painted Ladies, Daughters of Painted Ladies, and Painted Ladies Revisited. All three of the attractive books contain beautiful colored photographs of Victorian houses in San Francisco and other historic cities. Their new book will feature restored Victorian houses from throughout the United States. E. P. Dutton Publishing Company of New York are the publishers. The Painted Ladies Calendar 1991 will soon be available at stationery stores. It features large full-color photographs of elaborate Victorian mansions.



Santa Ana has some of its own "painted ladies", and many more in progress. The house pictured to the left is the Keech-Klatt House, located at the corner of Washington and Bush Streets in the French Park Historic District. The new owners, Ron and Debbie McQuen, have completely stripped all of the old paint off of the house and will soon begin to paint it in fresh new colors. One of the finest historic homes in Santa Ana, the Keech-Klatt House is a superior example of Colonial/Classical Revival architecture. It was built in 1899 by the prominent Santa Ana lawyer, E. E. Keech. Mr. Keech was a friend of Earl Stanley Gardner, the famous mystery writer.

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society would like to invite you to join us. We welcome anyone who has an interest in Santa Ana or Orange County history. Our members are our most valuable asset.

NAME _____ TEL. NO. _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

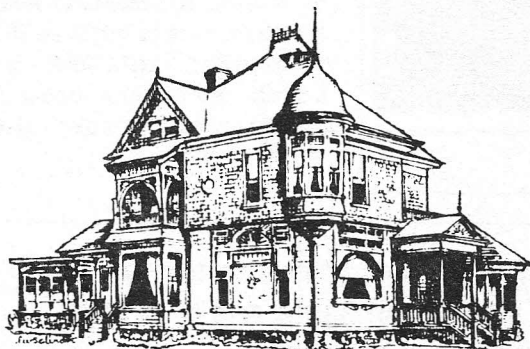
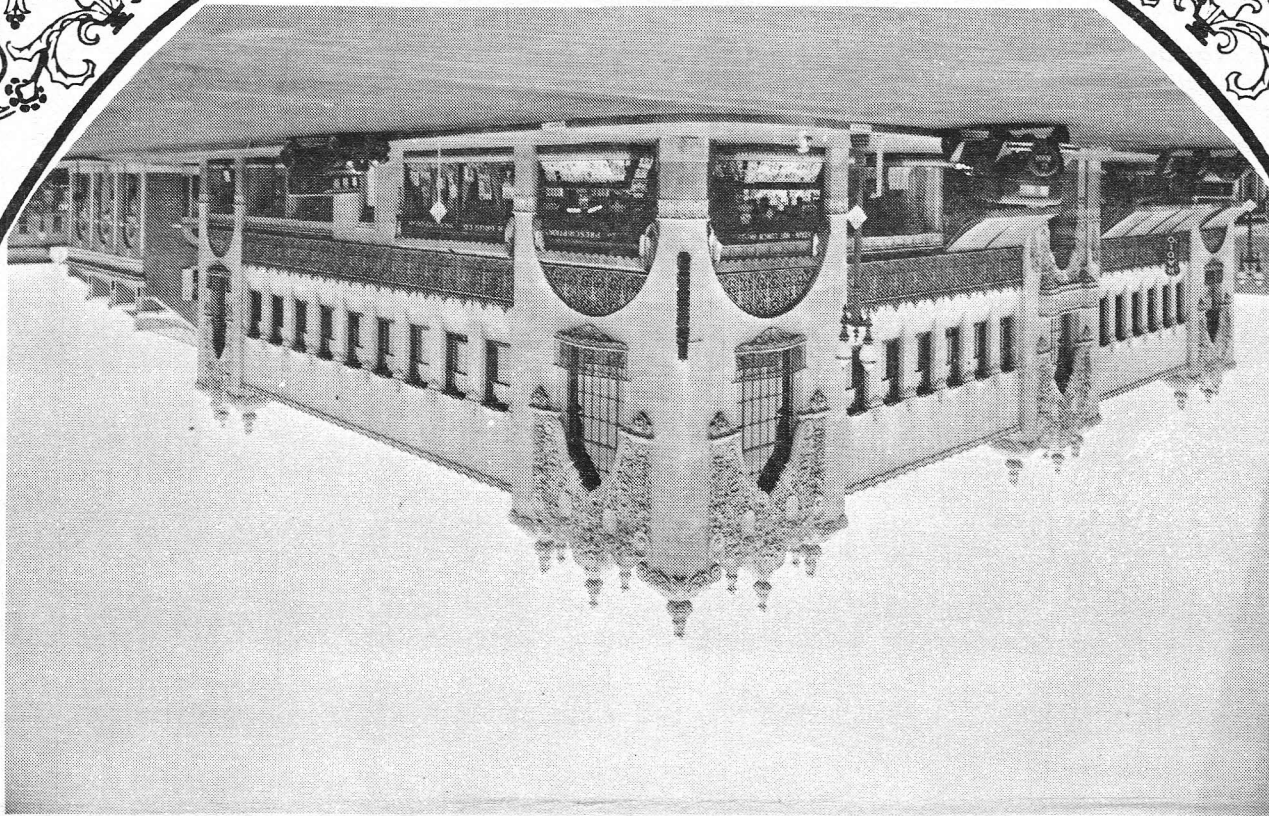
Individual: 10.00
Organization: 20.00

Family: 15.00
Supporting: 50.00

Please send to : The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society
120 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

090-5

THE GRAND REOPENING OF THE HISTORIC
SANTORA BUILDING: SEPTEMBER 6, 1990
FURTHER DETAILS INSIDE



120 WEST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Santa Ana, CA
Permit No.
1615

~~Mr. and Mrs. [illegible]~~
~~1200 [illegible]~~
~~Santa Ana, CA 92701~~

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