

Brief History of the Yo-Yo

Victorians played with them. So did kids in the United States in the the1920s and beyond. Chances are you had one. But they've been around a lot longer than that. In fact, except for dolls, yo-yos are the oldest toy to have survived through the centuries.

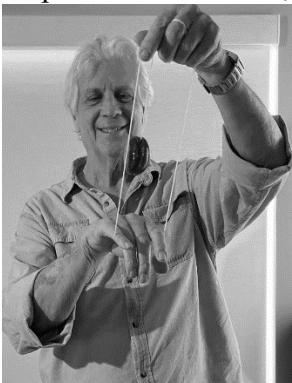
The dictionary defines the modern yo-yo as a toy consisting of an axle connected to two discs, with a string looped around the axle, similar to a spool. It is played by holding the free end of the string (handle) by inserting the middle or ring finger into a slip knot and allowing gravity to spin the yo-yo and unwind the string. The player then allows the yo-yo to wind itself back to his hand, exploiting its spin (and the associated rotational energy).

We know that yo-yos have been around at least 2500 years and perhaps even longer. Some historians believe they originated in China about 1000 BC, although there are no formal records to prove that. We do know that people playing with yo-yos were depicted on the sides of ancient Greek vases from about 500 BC. It is believed that some early yo-yos, which were made of wood, clay or metal, served as offerings to the gods to signify a child's coming of age, while others were strictly for kids' entertainment. Images depicting yo-yo-like objects have also been found in ancient Egypt, showing that this device managed to travel the world and captivate the minds of both children and adults.

As the yo-yo evolved in the Far East, it went from a children's toy to a weapon used for hunting and warfare. In the 16th century Filipino warriors would climb trees and wait for their prey (sometimes monkeys) with yo-yo type devices made of sharpened rock. The word "yo-yo" means "come-come" in ancient Tagalog, so the modern name is considered to be derived from the Filipino language.

The yo-yo emerged in India around 1765, then traveled back to Europe as an "exotic and mysterious plaything" of the Orient. Around the time of the French Revolution (1789), the aristocracy used the continuous repetitive action of "yo-yoing" as a stress reducer. At the same time in Britain the yo-yo, called a "bandalore," was being used primarily by royalty. It took about a century before the yo-yo reached the United States, when two men from Ohio offered their "improved bandalore" for sale in 1866.

In 1916 the *Scientific American Supplement* published an article called "Filipino Toys," which depicted the device in its current form and called it a "yo-yo." Several years later a Filipino émigré named Pedro Flores opened the first yo-yo manufacturing shop in California. His yo-yos were carved from a single piece of wood and were unique from previous designs, in that the string wasn't just tied to the axle. Rather, it was looped around the axle, enabling it to to spin or "sleep" at the end of the string.



In 1929 Donald F. Duncan bought Flores' factory, which was producing more than 300,000 units daily, and made some improvements, which enabled the yo-yo user to do tricks, such as "walking the dog." In the 1930s he began establishing contests and in the 1950s started making plastic yo-yos. By 1965, Duncan's company went into bankruptcy, after selling 45 million yo-yos to adults and kids around the world. However, today the toy, still popular, has achieved cult status. The World Yo-Yo Contest, held in various countries, continues to attract enthusiasts from Europe, Asia and the United States, who wish to show off their skills and compete against one another.

It is safe to say the yo-yo will continue to be with us for a long time to come.

Louise Hoffman





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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OLD PANS AND OLD FRIENDS

As I was pulling my cart around a vintage swap meet in search of something I didn't know I needed until I laid eyes on it, I thought about the stories these objects had to share. Being an avid baker, I'm always looking for vintage cookie cutters and pans. The styles from the 20s through the 50s are my favorites, and when I find one, you'd think I won the Lotto.

Old pans may look scary but with a little elbow grease, they do just fine. I start thinking about the people who owned them and all the wonderful things they baked with them: bread for sandwiches tucked in a husband's lunch pail, muffins for breakfast, cookies for little ones, birthday cakes for someone very dear or treats given to a neighbor for any number of happy occasions. My point is, I think a certain loving energy that can teach us so much is somehow imbedded in these items. When I make cookies with an old cutter, I think about children learning from watching their mothers or mothers watching their grandmothers, all passing down patience and love, along with recipes and laughter.

When you spend time at our dear Dr. Howe-Waffle house, you can feel this type of energy in every room. Our house is furnished with donated items from a variety of families and places. There's a certain warm, inviting, comforting feeling everywhere in that house. If you sit quietly and listen, you'll hear it saying, "Thank you for saving me and collecting things that meant so much to the people who owned them and the loving homes they once graced." We don't have just a sterile cold museum in our care, we have a warm welcoming, nurturing home with a collection of cherished items, all coming together to honor an incredible lady doctor whose purpose was to heal, comfort, and bring life to the people she touched. It really doesn't get any better than that and I think that's a very good thing.

If you haven't been to the house for a while, come out and just sit and listen to its stories and feel the warmth from a home, full of memories, that is very much loved.

If you have a little time to spare, come out and be a part of us, I'll find something fun for you to do. I hope to see you soon,

Tina Davidson
President
(714) 401-6158



Can You Find Waffie?

Meet Waffie, our friendly waffle mascot created by SAHPS Vice President, Marilyn Mandell. He is hidden somewhere in this newsletter.

If you find Waffie, let us know where by emailing webmaster@sahps.org.

If you're correct, we'll post a special shout out online featuring you!

The White Wedding Dress

June is traditionally the wedding month; to commemorate this, the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society presented the History of the White Wedding Dress Open House event on June 2.

Displayed throughout the house were wedding dresses from several historic periods. Just two of the dresses on display were a beautiful 1930 gown, donated by the Spangler Family, with a picture of the bride and groom and an elegant 1895 Victorian gown with the original wedding invitation.

The guests were served tea, cake and wedding-inspired cookies in the dining room and ice water and popcorn in the garden.

Lynn Warner



Great Gatsby Garden Tea



Santa Ana Historical Society was pleased to host a garden tea party on May 21. Guests were served in the beautiful garden under warm, sunny California skies.

Associates and volunteers served a delightful menu of Earl Grey and fruit teas, English scones, tea sandwiches and delicious desserts. Tables were decorated with daisy bouquets and daisy party favors.

Visitors were entertained by the Master of Ceremonies, who recited stories and antics of Great Gatsby characters Daisy and Jay.

Unique gift baskets, handmade items, and Magic Castle Tickets were offered for raffle. All raffle baskets contained at least one item hand-crafted by a board member or associate.

The Gift Shop and Carriage Barn Boutique, where shoppers could purchase unique or one-of-a-kind merchandise, were open for business.

Check the website for pictures from this event and information on the upcoming Witch and Warlock Ball.

Lynda Warner



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A Pie Fit for a President?

For a fun summer treat, try a historic pie that is actually a cake. Washington pie is an easy dessert that can be made with simple ingredients ahead of time and provide a delicious treat for an afternoon tea, luncheon or any other occasion.

In the 19th century, special occasion desserts named after presidents were popular. Some examples include Jackson jumbles, Taylor cakes, Cleveland cakes and Washington pie. These desserts could be used to show patriotism or preference for a political party or candidate, especially by women, who could not participate in national politics. Independence Day, Election Day or any patriotic holiday would be the perfect time to bake a Washington pie, but if you are like my family, any occasion calls for this simple dessert.

Washington pie was traditionally baked in pie plates, which were available in the typical household. The earliest printed recipe dates to 1850 and is from a recipe book called *Mrs. Putnam's Receipt Book*. It was included in many recipe books until the pie fell out of favor around the 1940s. The basic version is a two-layer caked baked in pie pans and filled with a tart jelly, lemon curd or applesauce. Another version existed at the time and used any leftover cake, spices and dried fruit, baked into a double pie crust using a square tin. This version was also called Washington pie and was popular in Washington D.C. bakeries as a cheap, filling dessert but fell out of favor faster than the traditional version.

Washington pie (layer-cake version)

For the layers:

4 eggs

1 1/3 cups white sugar

1 teaspoon baking powder

1 cup flour

Juice and zest from half a lemon

For the filling:

6 ounces of tart raspberry jam

For the topping:

Confectioner's sugar, for dusting

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Prepare two round, shallow 8-inch pans (you can use pie tins if your cake pans have high sides) by coating them with butter; then set aside.
2. Separate the eggs. In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together the yolks with sugar, lemon juice and lemon zest.
3. Sift together the flour and baking powder; then sift into the egg yolk mixture and beat until just combined.
4. In a separate bowl, whip the egg whites with a pinch of salt to soft peaks. Gently fold the egg whites into the rest of the ingredients.
5. Divide the mixture evenly into the prepared pans and bake for 20-25 minutes. The cakes will have risen slightly and will be lightly golden when finished.
6. Cool the layers completely, then spread the bottom layer with a thick, even layer of raspberry jam. Top with the second layer and dust with confectioner's sugar. This cake is best served after it has sat overnight and is excellent with whipped cream.

Recipe from atlasobscura.com

Jessica Basciano

Editor's note: Jessica baked a cake and brought it to the board meeting for us to sample. It was delicious!

Humor—Then and Now

Until about 100 years ago, humor in the U.S. had very little influence on our culture. Before that, laughing or even smiling too much was considered foolish and unintelligent. Then, in the 19th century, along came some pretty funny people. Some were writers like Mark Twain and Ambrose Bierce and some stage comedians, such as Fania Borach (aka Fanny Brice) and Marshall P. Wilder. Brice was once billed as the funniest woman in America, while Wilder was called the funniest man because of his mother-in-law jokes.

In an 1887 *New York Journal* article about Wilder and other comics, an aspiring comedian said, “It is one of the hardest things in the world to be funny because, while what you are saying may be awfully comical, the fact that a lot of critical girls and fellows are looking at you makes you look and feel frightened.” However, fright didn’t stop Americans from telling jokes, even though some were crude, cruel, racist or just plain humorless.

One popular book of the times, *Punania*, was filled with the most riotous puns you could ever hope to read. Most came in the form of jokes set up as riddles (like knock-knock jokes) and were very popular at 19th-century parties.

We recognize that a joke can be terrible. Some 19th-century jokes are lost on us because we don’t find them funny or have no idea what they were talking about. Slang terms of that era aren’t understood today, so the jokes seem vague to us. Additionally, oftentimes jokes were made at the expense of the most vulnerable members of society and took aim at the poor, mentally ill, infirmed, elderly and many more. While pockets of society still enjoy cruel jokes and pranks, most modern Americans find them to be in poor taste.

Though humor has changed over the decades, some of it is still comparable to back then. Both then and now humor and laughter have gotten people through difficult times. Here is one example:

Clara: I am going to give you back your engagement ring. I can never marry you. I love another!

Clarence: Give me his name and address.

Clara: Why? Do you want to kill him?

Clarence: No; I want to try to sell him the ring!

Hope this got a chuckle from you. Remember, laughter is the best medicine! So stay healthy and keep laughing!

Marilyn Mandell

Wind, Sun and Herbs



Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society is pleased to announce new attractions to the Victorian Home experience. On the south side of the house there is a Victorian clothesline. During events there will be Victorian clothes hanging from the line with vintage-style wooden clothespins. How interesting that the Victorians harnessed the power of wind and solar to dry laundry.

Under the clothesline is Willella’s Herb Garden. Doctors in the 19th century relied heavily on homeopathic remedies, which included herbs, other plants and bark. Many drugs derived from plants are still in use today.

Lynn Warner

Fun Facts on a Few Summer Treats

Frederick William Rueckheim had been selling popcorn on the streets of Chicago for years when, in 1893, he came up with a new popcorn creation for the Chicago World's Fair. When his brother Louis arrived from Germany, together they established the F.W. Rueckheim & Bro. Company to sell their popcorn. In 1896 they officially registered their creation under the name "Cracker Jack," and the familiarly sticky and sweet candy we know today was born. (Before then, the snack had just been called candied popcorn and peanuts.)

Back in the day, the term "cracker jack" could refer to anything of high quality, so it's no wonder the name stuck! The coining of the name, however, was just the first of many big steps for this candy favorite. In 1908, Jack Norworth penned the infamous lines of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," and that shot Cracker Jacks into the limelight. 🧒

The first electrical cotton candy machine was invented in 1897 by William Morrison and John C. Wharton, candy makers from Nashville, who presented cotton candy, with great success, to a wide audience at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair as Fairy Floss. They sold 68,655 boxes at the then-high price of 25 cents each, which was half of the cost of admission to the fair. A year later they obtained a patent to protect this machine.

Meanwhile, **bubble gum** was invented in 1906 (although it wasn't actually sold until 1928) and the first **lollipops** were sold about 1908. **Toffee** was invented in the early 19th century and **fudge** was invented in the USA in the 1880s. **Peanut brittle** and **jelly beans** were also invented in the 19th century. The first **wine gums** (fruit-flavored chewy candy, similar to gum drops, which originally contained wine but no longer do) were sold in 1893.

Chocolate manufacturers of the time tried to create milk chocolate by adding pure milk to a mass of chocolate. And while this sounded like a great idea in principle, it didn't work. It wasn't until 1875, when a very clever chocolatier thought about swapping the liquid milk for dried powdered milk and hey, presto – the milk chocolate bar was born!

Who knew so many sweets were around back in the time when Dr. Willella lived in her house in Santa Ana?

Tina Davidson

Remembering Ed Power

Former Board Member and history buff Ed Power unexpectedly passed away recently at his home in the Floral Park neighborhood of Santa Ana. Like many Southern Californians, Ed was from somewhere else. He was born in Chicago in 1952 and moved with his family to Santa Ana as a child.

Ed became a resident of Floral Park in 1996, when he acquired the McFadden House on Greenleaf Street. He retired from a career with the Internal Revenue Service and soon became a familiar sight on his daily strolls through the neighborhood, stopping to regale anyone he met with a seemingly endless supply of stories and little-known facts about Santa Ana history.

With his flowing white beard, Ed bore an uncanny resemblance to the founder of Santa Ana, William H. Spurgeon. But he will be most fondly remembered at the Howe-Waffle House for his portrayal of Father Christmas at our annual Holiday Open House, distributing candy canes and holiday cheer to one and all.

Ed loved his neighborhood, local history, and collecting. He will be missed.

Max Schmidl



UPCOMING EVENTS 2022**

Open House	"Hattitude"	August 6
Open House	Smithsonian Day	Sept. 24
Open House	Dangers of the Victorian Home	Nov.5
	Back by popular demand	
Christmas Party	Open to everyone	Dec.3

**subject to change

Check our website for dates and times of other events



WITCH AND WARLOCK BALL

OCTOBER 22, 2022

6pm – 10pm

TICKET PRICE \$42.00

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Purchase Raffle Tickets at the door for unique and fun items.

Ticket price includes buffet style dinner, games, fortune teller, and much more.

A costume contest will be held.

Carriage Barn Boutique and Gift Shop will be open.

Summer Puzzle

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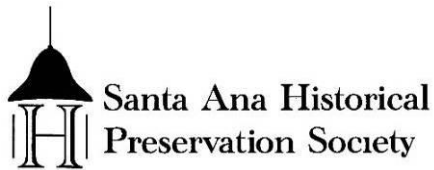
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