



# Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society

A Legacy of Preservation Since 1974

## SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

[www.SantaAnaHistory.com](http://www.SantaAnaHistory.com)

### *President's Message*



Happy Summer, Dear History Lovers!

As we go to press with our summer newsletter, I can't think of a time that has been more trying than the last few months. The Coronavirus pandemic has challenged each one of us in different ways. Whether you're retired or still working, these past few months have hit everyone hard and tested our patience.

Although we've been through trials and inconveniences, I believe this has taught us something about ourselves. Everywhere I look, I've seen people pulling together, showing compassion to those in need and helping each other. Finally, after a while, we started to poke a little

fun at the situation with silly masks and jokes that seem to unite us in a shared situation. One of my favorite sayings is, "Let's see how long it takes for this to be funny." As the country starts to loosen restrictions and we can all come out again, I believe we will be stronger. Here at the society, all of our events, tours and open house dates came to an abrupt halt at the exact time the contractor started the house repairs. I can tell you I spent a few sleepless nights but it all turned out fine.

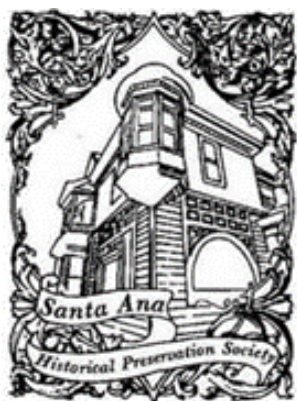
Let's take a look at the good things we have going on instead of the trying situations. First of all, have you had a chance to drive by see all the repairs? All I can say is WOW, we needed that. We just recently removed our miss-matched landscape and replaced it with white Iceberg roses bushes all the way around the house. They give the house a romantic, Victorian look. They're doing well and as long as I stay away from them, they'll survive. The clearing, digging and planting was all done by our incredible volunteers. We actually had fun doing it. Next, we will be planting a ground cover of Creeping Rosemary to fill in the bare ground.



Inside the house we are repainting several rooms, starting with the gift shop and followed by the kitchen.

Santa Ana saw its share of rallies and protest activity that, unfortunately, spilled over onto our dear house. The evening of the first rally, I had an uneasy feeling so I drove past the house. I found smashed windows, a broken parking arm and damaged monument sign. Quickly calling everyone I could think of, I rounded up enough people to set up chairs all around the house to form a human shield of volunteer "old people." We stayed until almost 11:00 that evening. Nan's husband boarded up the broken windows and got the parking arm power restored. I want to personally thank our members and community friends who have taken the time to send their good thoughts and donations to us. Your support has encouraged us as we deal with the repair costs facing us. The house and fire museum will resume events and open house dates as soon as we possibly can. I hope you will stop in for a visit.

Thank you all,  
**Tina Davidson**  
President



*A legacy of preservation since 1974*

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### **Newsletter Editor: Louise Hoffman**

*Special thanks to contributors April Bettendorf, Guy Ball, Tina Davidson, Lynn Warner, Marilyn Mandell, Alan Lawson, Louise Hoffman and Maryann Ramirez.*

To contact the newsletter editor directly, please call Louise Hoffman at (714) 547-9645 or email [editor@sahps.org](mailto:editor@sahps.org).

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## ***National Waffle Day***

National Waffle Day, August 24th, commemorates the anniversary of the first patent ever issued for a waffle iron. No, we won't be serving waffles at the Howe-Waffle House on that day, but there's no reason you can't whip up a few at home or enjoy them at your favorite restaurant.

On August 24, 1869 Cornelius Swartwout of Troy, New York received his patent for the waffle iron. While waffles had originated around the 14th century, this invention made them more easily available. General Electric started selling electric waffle irons in 1918 and Eggo introduced frozen waffles in 1953.

I'm wondering if Miss Julia, Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle's housekeeper, sometimes used her handy waffle iron in making the family's breakfast.

***April Bettendorf***

### ***From the Victorian Kitchen: Victorian Rosemary Shortbread Cookies***

1 cup butter, softened  
1/2 cup confectioner's sugar  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 tablespoons minced fresh rosemary  
1/2 teaspoon sea salt

- In a large bowl, cream butter and confectioner's sugar until light and fluffy. Combine the flour, rosemary and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well.
- Shape into two 8-1/4-in. rolls; wrap each in plastic. Refrigerate overnight. Cut into 1/4-in. slices. Place 2 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets.
- Bake at 350° for 11-13 minutes or until edges begin to brown. Cool for 1 minute before removing from pans to wire racks. Store in an airtight container.

## ***Get to Know Your Board***

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society is made up of all volunteers who, over the years, have also been involved in other organizations. Besides volunteering, these six ladies had or have very successful careers. With their varied experiences they bring a great amount of knowledge, professionalism and creativity to the Society.



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Senior Trust Account Analyst for First American Title Co.  
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Director – Lynn Warner  
Owner and operator of housekeeping service

## ***Another Female Medical Pioneer: The Lady with the Lamp, Florence Nightingale***

We have all heard of Florence Nightingale. But who exactly was she and what made her famous? 200 years ago, Florence Nightingale, the younger of two girls, was born into a wealthy, socially-connected British family in Italy and named after the city of her birth. The next year the family moved back to England. Her father provided her and her sister with a classic education, something unusual for women in that day. Florence, reportedly socially awkward but strong-willed, was the more academic of the two. She excelled at mathematics and statistics (then a new field of study) and showed an ability in collecting and analyzing data, something that would benefit her later in life.

At 16, Florence had a “calling from God” to devote her life to the service of others. In those days, a woman of her status did not work outside the home and was expected to marry a man of means and become a mother. She did, in fact, have a long-term courtship with a suitable young man. However, she decided that marriage would interfere with her life goal and at age 24 announced her intention to go into nursing. At that time, nursing was viewed as a job for only ignorant, low-class uneducated people and her family was very much opposed to it. However, she persevered and began studying nursing in various places, including at a Lutheran community in Germany. Because her father had provided her with a lifetime annual income, she was able to live comfortably while pursuing her dreams.

Florence Nightingale is most famous for her work during the Crimean War, which took place in the area of the Black Sea. When reports came back to Britain in 1854 about the horrific conditions for the wounded (rodents and vermin running rampant, patients lying in their own filth, poor ventilation, etc.), Florence gathered a group of women volunteers, whom she trained as nurses, and some nuns and went to the main British camp in Crimea near modern-day Istanbul. (Because female nurses had such a poor reputation, none had previously been sent to the hospital.) Upon arrival, she found understaffing, inadequate medicine and supplies, poor hygiene, mass (often fatal) infections and no equipment to process food for the patients.



Florence realized that more soldiers were dying from illnesses, such as typhus, cholera and dysentery, than from battle wounds, and got the British government to send a pre-fabricated hospital to the area. She worked hard to improve sanitary conditions and the death rate of wounded soldiers dropped from 42% to 2%. She, herself, was a tireless nurse and at night wandered the darkened hospital rooms, checking on her patients by lamplight (actually, a Turkish lantern), earning her the nickname “Lady with the Lamp.” Others called her “the Angel of the Crimea.”

In addition to improving sanitary conditions, Florence started a number of patient services at the hospital. She created a kitchen where appealing food for patients with dietary restrictions could be cooked and a laundry so they could have clean linens. She also established a classroom and a library for the patients’ entertainment and intellectual stimulation.

When she returned to England after the war, Florence was given a hero’s welcome, an engraved brooch and a monetary award from the British government, presented by Queen Victoria. She continued to advocate for sanitary living conditions in military and other hospitals, as well as in working-class homes. Both during and after the Crimean War, Florence used her knowledge of statistics to produce her famous diagrams (including pie charts and statistical graphs) to show the effectiveness of different interventions on fatality rates. Her guiding principle, regarding a health problem, was that it could be tackled only after its dimensions had been reliably established. She was the first woman admitted to the London Statistical Society in 1858.

In 1857, about a year after she returned from the Crimean War, Florence suffered a severe collapse, which was probably due to a flu-like infection. For much of her subsequent life she was wracked with pain, often unable to walk and suffered from bouts of depression. However, she continued to work, often from home (a comfortable one with servants) and sometimes from bed.

In 1860 Florence set up the Nightingale Training School at St. Thomas Hospital in England. She wrote *Notes on Nursing*, which served as the cornerstone of her curriculum. However, it was really a public health

manual, advising ordinary people (especially women) on how to maintain healthy homes through good hygiene. Florence spent the rest of her life promoting and organizing the nursing profession.

Although she did not subscribe to the notion that infections were caused by germs until she was in her sixties, she was well-aware of the importance of frequent hand-washing. She stressed that sanitation at home could help prevent infections and prolong life. She was definitely the founder of modern nursing.

Florence's productivity during the latter part of her life was extraordinary. She wrote a 900-page report on failings during the Crimean War and a book on hospital design. She proposed the reform of workhouse infirmaries (where sick paupers were cared for by more able-bodied paupers), to make them high-quality taxpayer-funded hospitals with trained nurses, and worked on sanitary and social reforms for India. In 1883 she became the first recipient of the Royal Red Cross, followed by other awards. She was often consulted on how to best manage field hospitals during the American Civil War.

In 1908, at age 88, Florence was given the Merit of Honor by King Edward and two years later received a congratulatory message from King George. In August of 1910 she fell ill but seemed to recover quickly and regain her spirits. However, on August 12 she once again became ill and died at home the next day. Respecting her wishes, her family rejected a national funeral and, instead, held a modest affair. She was laid to rest in a family plot at Westminster Abbey.

The Florence Nightingale Museum sits on the site of the original Nightingale Training School for Nurses. It houses over 2,000 artifacts commemorating Florence Nightingale's life and career.

*Louise Hoffman*

### ***Women's Fashion Trends of the 1920s***

In the 1920s women were becoming more emancipated and independent. As a way to "rebel" against the old norms and standards, they started "bobbing" their hair and wearing shorter skirts than they had previously. Dresses were low-waisted and sometimes revealing. A causal, haphazard mixture of brightly colored clothes, scarves and stockings with bold, striking Art Deco geometric designs were popular. Women in the 1920s changed outfits frequently throughout the day, from house dresses to day dresses to evening gowns and cocktail dresses. The idea of wearing one outfit from morning to evening didn't exist in the "roaring '20s."

Maybe we should learn a lesson from those ladies of a century ago. We all have clothes in our closets we would love to wear more often, so seize the opportunity! Running errands and then meeting friends for coffee? Going to an event after work? Plan a separate outfit. Enjoy what you have.

*Lynn Warner*



## ***Who Was Queen Victoria and What are Victorian Homes?***

Queen (Alexandria) Victoria, who ruled for over 53 years, was once the longest-reigning monarch of the United Kingdom. Her coronation was held on July 28, 1828 and she governed until her death on January 22, 1901. Houses built during her time on the throne were generally and popularly known as Victorian houses and could be found not only in England but also in other parts of the world, such as North America, Australia and New Zealand.

The Howe-Waffle House, built in 1889 by Dr. Willella and her first husband, Dr. Alvin Howe, is a Victorian home. Many homes of that time had two rooms upstairs, two downstairs and, if lucky, would be equipped with tin baths. There was usually no running water or indoor bathrooms with toilets. The houses were usually 2-3 stories and had wood or stone exteriors, complicated asymmetrical shapes, decorative trim, textured wall surfaces, steep multifaceted or Mansford roofs, and one-story porch towers.

Many of these features can be found in the Howe-Waffle House, an upper middle-class home exceeding the usual format and costing \$3000 to build. It had multiple rooms, both upstairs and down, including a room for the maid. It also had a large dining room, which could accommodate numerous guests for meals.

The Howe-Waffle House was built with two parlors, separated by pocket doors, which could slide into the wall, downstairs. The first one, in the front of the house, was

more formal (used to visit with the church minister, for example), while the second one was more of a family room. Dr. Willella also had her office and practiced medicine at her home. Divorced from her first husband and, apparently separated from her second, she continued to reside in the house until her death in 1924 at the age of 70.

*Marilyn Mandell*

## ***Spitball Banned During Epidemic***

At the end of WWI, the deadliest influenza pandemic in human history spread around the world. As you'd expect, there was an impact on all parts of society, including sports. Major League Baseball was the largest American pro sport at the time. Its regular season ended shortly before the worst of the Spanish Flu pandemic hit.

In the year 1918 the World Series was played during the month of September, instead of the customary October. This was done to finish up the post season before the illness struck too many players, as it had Babe Ruth and others. It was during this series, between the Chicago Cubs and the Boston Red Sox, that MBL banned the "spitball" from being thrown, as part of a safety precaution.

A spitball is a pitch from a ball that has been altered by the application of a foreign substance, such as saliva or petroleum jelly.

The spitball was subsequently reinstated. However, between the years 1919 and 1920, it was again banned, this time in two stages. Finally, by 1934, it was made completely illegal.

*April Bettendorf*



## ***History of the Ice Cream Sundae***

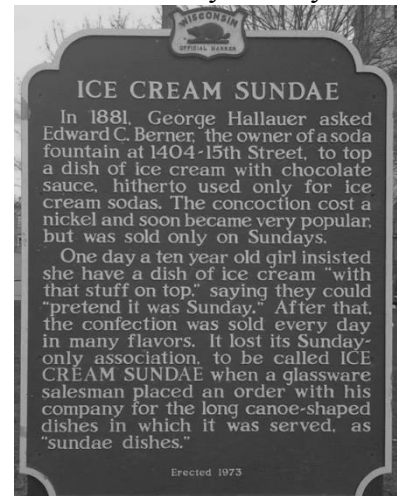
It's a hot July day and you're probably feeling a little lazy. A nice cold ice cream sundae sounds really good right now, doesn't it? You know what I'm talking about...that really creamy dish of ice cream topped with chocolate syrup, whipped cream and a cherry adorning all that deliciousness.

Have you ever wondered about the origin of this flavorful concoction? Actually, there are several stories of how the sundae came about, but this one is my favorite.

Some historians claim that ice cream sodas, made of ice cream, milk, club soda and chocolate syrup, could not be sold on Sundays because some righteous clergymen thought them to be too "frilly" and "frivolous" to be eaten on a Sunday, a holy day.

One Sunday in 1881 George Hallaver sat down at Ed Berner's soda fountain in Two Rivers, Wisconsin and ordered a bowl of ice cream. He noticed the chocolate syrup used in sodas sitting on the counter and asked to have some poured on top of his ice cream. George said he liked it so Berner, the owner, took a taste and enjoyed its flavor. He began selling the treat for a nickel, but only on Sundays, since he couldn't sell ice cream sodas on that day.

There is a historical marker claiming this origin in the Two Rivers Central Memorial Park in Wisconsin. But, like I said, others have also taken credit for this delightful creation, so you'll just have to do a little research and decide which one you believe. In the meantime, go relax and enjoy a sundae.



***April Bettendorf***

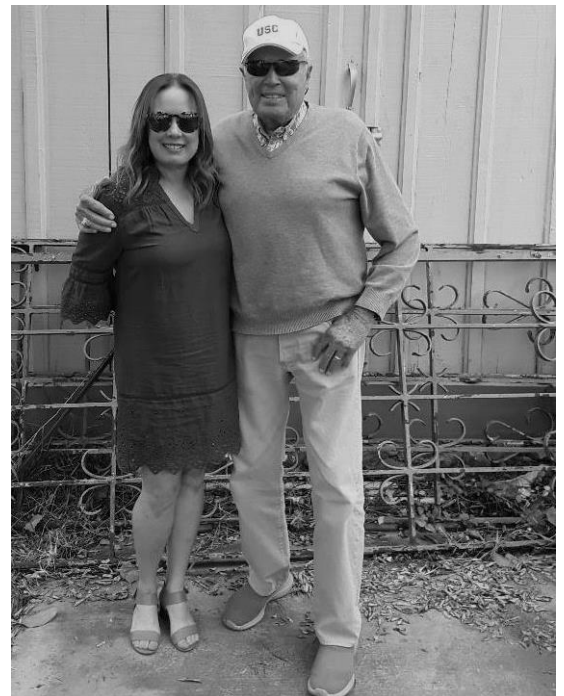
## ***Historic Gates Have Found a Home***

Recently the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society placed an ad on our Facebook page and website seeking a good home for the historic Saddleback Inn gates. The stately, intricately-designed gates stood in the lobby of the once popular hotel, which was a Santa Ana landmark.

What a wonderful surprise when Lisa Gelker, wife of Bruce, the builder and original owner of the Saddleback, responded to our ad. Shortly after contacting us they came to pick up the gates. It was a pleasure to meet them both and share their enthusiasm in seeing the gates again after so many years.

We happily watched as the gates were driven off to their new home, The Gelkers' very generous donation, which was used to purchase roses for our new garden surrounding the Howe-Waffle House, is very much appreciated.

***April Bettendorf***



## *Pictures from Rose Planting Day*





## ***Santa Ana Fire Museum Update***

You may have been wondering about the status of our “other museum,” the Santa Ana Fire Museum, during the coronavirus pandemic. The Fire Museum has been temporarily closed, and the March and May tours were cancelled because of the Governor’s stay at home order.

Since then, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued protocol guidelines for museums and other institutions, effective June 12. The CDPH Guidelines cover museums of all sizes and with varying numbers of employees. Because the Fire Museum operation is rather small, the requirements would be very difficult to meet.

The Santa Ana Fire Museum is unique because it is located in a working fire station. The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) operates Station 75 where the museum is housed. Of course, OCFA has its own Covid-19 requirements for the firefighters, paramedics and personnel working in the building. This presents the Fire Museum with even more of a challenge.

It would be impossible for our volunteers to socially distance from OCFA personnel in the close quarters of Station 75 while conducting tours. The firefighters and paramedics routinely cross paths with our volunteers and visitors during open house tour days. We can’t risk exposing the first responders working at Station 75 to Covid-19.

Based on the unique need to protect the first responders at Station 75 and the many requirements itemized in the CDPH Guidelines, SAHPS must continue to suspend Fire Museum tours. We all look forward to resuming the Fire Museum open house tours when it is safe to do so!

While we are taking a timeout, please check the Fire Museum page on the SAHPS website ([www.santaanahistory.com](http://www.santaanahistory.com)) for future updates and news about the Fire Museum.

***Alan Lawson***

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