

Let's Hear it for the Menfolk!

We hear a lot about Dr. Willella but very little about the gentlemen who played a big part in her life. So here is a little history of both Dr. A. J. Howe and Edson Waffle.



Dr. Alvin Howe, MD

Willella's first husband, Alvin J. Howe, came to California with his father, Dr. Philip Howe, and his brother, Frederick. They rode horseback all the way from Vermont to the San Francisco area. Philip practiced medicine, while Alvin attended Cooper Medical College and studied surgery at the nearby Marine Hospital. It was there Alvin met Willella Earhart and they married in San Francisco.

Dr. Philip, Alvin and Willella decided to move to Westminster after seeing a flyer advertising the new colony as a "dry" community (only table grapes could be grown). After a few years there, it became apparent that Westminster was not growing fast enough for their liking, so they all moved to Santa Ana. Philip must have been very proud of his son when he became the second mayor of Santa Ana, succeeding William Spurgeon. For many years after Philip's death, his wife, Mary Howe, ran a boarding house.

Edson Waffle and his first wife Clara, started out in Arizona, where he taught school. His brother-in-law, Eugene Garlock, enticed him to come out to California. For a while they partnered in the cattle business, and it was quite successful. Clara took sick and her physician, Willella Howe, made house calls and treated her until her passing.

After Clara's death, Edson started a livery business called Waffle & West Livery. It was located on Fourth Street. Where it stood is now a grassy lawn next to the Ronald Reagan Federal building. Edson's daughter, Genevieve, said about her father, "As a little girl, one of my happiest moments was riding in the Parade of Products in 1904. We had a wonderful surrey, wonderfully decorated, which won Papa first prize in the parade, with me sitting next to him."

Genevieve was very heartbroken when her mother, Clara, died. Edson later married Dr. Willella, who was wonderful with Genny and treated her like her own daughter. Genny married Mark Lacy (son of Dr. John Lacy) inside the Howe-Waffle House.

Genny and Mark became proud parents of a little boy. One day, when Genny was bathing him, he slipped from her arms. Even though two of the child's grandparents were doctors, neither could save him. "He slipped out of Genny's arms and into heaven." His gravestone identified him as "Sonny Boy."

Edson donated the first ambulance, which was horse drawn, to Santa Ana. Later, when automobiles began replacing horses, he started selling the Michigan car. Edson reflected, "I bought one for Willella for house calls, but she decided she didn't like it and went back to the horse and buggy, much to my dismay." Willella's car was placed in the window of the Waffle & West Livery with a "For Sale" sign on it. After spotting it there, Glenn Martin's father purchased it.



Edson Waffle

Tina Davidson



A legacy of preservation since 1974

Santa Ana
Historical Preservation Society
2022 Board of Directors

President	Tina Davidson
Vice President	Marilyn Mandell
Secretary	Louise Hoffman
Treasurer	Maxine Schmidl
Directors	
Lynn Warner	Pauline Halloran
Toni Kimball	Jessica Basciano
Maryann Ramirez	
Associate Directors	
Alison Young	Ernie Alonzo
April Bettendorf	Mark Kramer
Alan Lawson	Wayne Curl
Jan Smith	Kathy Sakoguchi
Jacquie Caro	Jean Poppa
Mackenzie Warner	Lou Fernandez
Advisory Associates	
Ed Rose	Tim Graber
Capt. Rob Richardson	Hally Soboleske

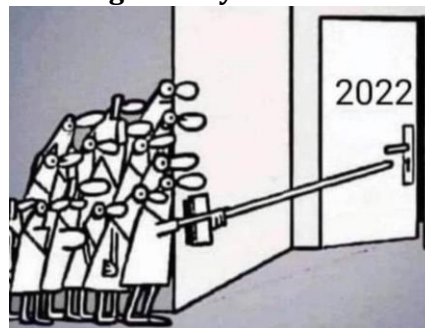
Newsletter Editor: Louise Hoffman

Special thanks to contributors Gigi Lenker, April Bettendorf, Guy Ball, Wayne Curl, Tina Davidson, Lynn Warner, Marilyn Mandell and Maryann Ramirez.

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

All material in this issue is copyrighted 2022 by the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, 120 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, California 92701-7505. Our house phone and message line is (714) 547-9645.

Message from your President



My dear members, friends and history buffs,

I think the above cartoon about says it all when it comes to, "What's happening next?" I think it's safe to say, we don't have a clue. Over here at the SAHPS, we're still hanging in there with our beautiful house intact.

Recently, I was dusting around Dr. Willella's waiting room desk when I came across a picture of Lulu Howe and her cousin Helen playing near a makeshift tent set up in the yard to house influenzas patients. Seeing that picture came just as I was thinking of a "President's Message" article. Suddenly, I thought about how much better prepared we are now to handle illness and epidemics than we were back in Willella's time. So many adults and little children were lost, even though they did the best they could with what they had. They learned from those times as we learn from these times. Incredible improvements have been developed because of those tragedies. Today we can visit a drive-through pop-up tent, get tested and vaccinated and drive away. This is why history can save us and we can live full happy lives until our 80s, 90s and beyond. One of my favorite old movies is "Marty" starring Ernest Borgnine. In it his mother says, "She's an old woman, 56 years old; what can she do?" Ha! Look at us now, line dancing and drinking champagne, volunteering at the Dr. Howe-Waffle house, laughing and enjoying potlucks with each other, while keeping our piece of history alive.

Take heart; we will recover. Keep your spirits high and don't forget to call someone if you feel discouraged. If you find yourself really lonely, call me. We are taking safety precautions at the house and I'll find things for you to do. Everyone is welcome, whatever your skill level or physical abilities. I mean that, by the way.

Remember: "Strangers are friends you haven't met yet".

Take care my dears,
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!

FROM THE VICTORIAN KITCHEN:

MERINGUE SURPRISE COOKIES

Recommended by Tina

3 large egg whites at room temp.

1 tsp. vanilla

1/8 tsp. cream of tartar

1/8 tsp. salt

3/4 C. sugar

1 C. miniature chocolate chips

1/4 C. chopped nuts

- Place egg whites in a large bowl; let stand for 30 minutes. Add the vanilla, cream of tartar and salt; beat on medium speed until soft peaks form. Gradually add sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, beating on high until stiff glossy peaks form and sugar is dissolved--about 6 minutes. Fold in chocolate chips and nuts.
- Drop by rounded teaspoonsful 2 in. apart onto parchment-lined baking sheets. Bake at 250° for 40-45 minutes or until firm to the touch. Turn oven off; leave meringues in oven for 1-1/2 hours. Remove to wire racks. Store in an airtight container.

The History of Aprons

I don't think most kids today know what an apron is. The principal use of Mom's or Grandma's apron was to protect her dress, because she had only a few. It was also easier to wash aprons than dresses.

The apron had many other uses. It served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears and cleaning dirty ears. The apron was used for carrying eggs or fussy chicks from the chicken coop and, sometimes, for carrying half-hatched eggs to the warming oven to finish hatching.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

When the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped her apron around her arms to stay warm. She used it to bring chips and kindling wood into the kitchen, and those aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, caused by bending over a hot wood stove. Grandma used her apron to carry all sorts of vegetables in from the garden. After the peas had been shelled, she used it to carry out the hulls. In the fall she used it to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture Grandma could dust in a matter of second with her apron. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch and waved her apron so the men-folk would know it was time to come in from the fields.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that "old-time apron" which served so many purposes.

Remember: moms and grandmas used to set hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Their daughters and granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw. While the current generation might go crazy trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron, I don't think anyone ever caught anything from an apron...but LOVE!

Ruth Ann Segerstrom Moriarty: A Quiet Philanthropist

By Betts Rivét

Ruth Ann was born in 1922 and, at the time of her death in 2022 at age 99, was the matriarch of the Segerstrom Family, a family that changed Orange County. Oh, but that is far from the beginning or end, because Ruth Ann preserved her family's history and kept the Segerstrom philanthropic spirit alive.

C.J. and Bertha, Ruth Ann's grandparents, tenant farmers in Sweden, married in 1878. Lacking significant opportunities for their three children, they decided to immigrate to America. C.J. Segerstrom had a brother and sister who had already immigrated and were living in Chicago. The family realized that their reunion was long overdue. C.J. worked in the Chicago Stockyards but yearned for the pine forests of Wisconsin and moved there briefly, but finally settled the family in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he became a janitor for the local railway. By that time the family had increased from three children to ten. Because of the harsh Minnesota winters, in 1900, C.J. relocated the family to 40 acres of farm land in Orange County, which he called "Willow Springs Farm." He bought 50 acres (Brooks Ranch) across the road and built a lovely 8-room home, which still stands today on Fairview Road as the Segerstrom homestead. It was at this time that the Segerstrom family name began to make headlines.

With many hands to help, the Segerstrom family began farming alfalfa but transitioned in 1916 to growing the now famous lima beans. By that time their prime 2,000 acres of farmland had become the largest producers of lima beans in the world. The Segerstrom family grew to 11 Children (6 boys and 5 girls). They all invested themselves in lima beans in one way or another. It was, indeed, a family endeavor.

Anton, the 8th child of C.J. and Bertha, and his bride, Nellie Ruth, became the parents of Ruth Ann and her brother, Henry, both born in Santa Ana. Little did they know as children the impact the Segerstrom family would have in Orange County!

Ruth Ann graduated from Santa Ana High School and attended Scripps College, Stanford University and USC, where she trained as a World War II cadet nurse, later receiving her registered nursing credentials. While attending USC she met her husband, Eugene H. Moriarty. However, before they could be married, he was called to active duty and served in the Pacific Theater in Okinawa. At last they were married in 1946 and were married over 60 years before his passing in 2011. They raised three children, 2 boys and a girl.

Following World War II, C.J. and Sons expanded into real estate, acquiring the Santa Ana Air Base warehouse, developing an industrial park and in 1960 sold land, which became the San Diego Freeway, to the State of California. That seed money financed the first fully enclosed shopping center in the region, known as South Coast Plaza, which was opened in 1967. Practical Ruth Ann confessed that she was worried no one would shop there.

Of course, there is the matter of the Segerstrom family giving 14 acres of land and millions of dollars for the Orange County Performing Arts Center, renamed in 2011 the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in honor of the family's legacy. The family also commissioned Isamu Noguchi's California Scenario Garden. The centerpiece of the garden is The Spirit of the Lima Bean sculpture created in recognition of the Segerstrom family's contribution to the agricultural history of Southern California.

Ruth Ann Moriarty, a quiet philanthropist who was never in the newspaper or made public, was an active champion of numerous charities. She was a founding member of the Women's Auxiliary of Orange County, a board member of the Visiting Nurses Association, a supporter of the Assistance League of Santa Ana and a lifetime member of the Salvation Army's Orange County Advisory Board. In 1999 she was honored at the nonprofit's Spirit of Giving Awards.

Ruth Ann's mother, Nellie Ruth Segerstrom, was President of The Ebell Society of the Santa Ana Valley from 1947 to 1949. As a teenager, Ruth Ann was a member of the Junior Ebell Society and remained an Ebell member for 61 years until, her passing. Her legacy of giving is celebrated on plaques recognizing her financial help for the courtyard and theater restoration projects in the historic 97-year old Ebell building.

The memory of Ruth Ann Segerstrom Moriarty lives on in Orange County in many ways. Her son Richard carries on the family's agricultural legacy with his company, Newport Beach Vineyards. Her son Donald has his father's love of cinema and is an avid film maker and her daughter, Jeanne, inherited Ruth Ann's sense of style and real estate acumen. We salute you, Ruth Ann. You have been and will always remain in our minds a significant example of giving of time, effort and finances to make this world a better place to live.

(Betts, a past president of the Ebell Society, graciously agreed to share this remembrance of Ruth Ann.)

Submitted by Max Schmidl



Bembridge House

On a cold and rainy day in December, Tina and I ventured out to visit the lovely Bembridge House in Long Beach. It's been a place I've always wanted to visit during the Christmas holidays, as they truly go all out to decorate it. Let me say, we were not disappointed! The entire home was decorated for Christmas in such grand splendor and, literally, each room had a tree—even the bathrooms!

The Bembridge House is a registered historic building in the Willmore neighborhood of Long Beach. The ornate Queen Anne Victorian house was built in 1906 by Stephen and Josephine Green. Mr. Green was one of the founders of City National bank. Upon his passing, the house was purchased by Thomas Rankin. It remained in the Rankin family for more than 80 years. It was inherited by Dorothy Rankin Bembridge and her brother, Neil Rankin. Dorothy was a musician and school teacher and she lived in the house from 1918 until her passing in 1999. The house was then acquired by the Long Beach Heritage Foundation in 2000.

The house has 18 rooms and has been preserved with its original high ceilings, woodwork, stained and leaded windows, tiled fireplaces and many of the original furnishings. One of the features I enjoyed seeing was an inset sink with mirror in the bedrooms. This allowed for someone to ready him/herself within his/her room before breakfast without occupying the entire bathroom.

Before the tour, Tina and I introduced ourselves to the volunteer staff at the Bembridge and were warmly greeted. They were interested in hearing about the Waffle House and we extended to them a personal tour of our house any time. They were delighted, and we hope to see them soon.

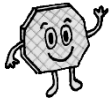
I hope that you consider a trip to the Bembridge House, for you will be in for a treat. This is one of the many historic home and location tours I hope to make with other members of the SAHPS. I truly believe that seeing and learning about other historic properties strengthens our bond with the past and with our preservation goals for the future.

Pauline Halloran



Open Doors

On Monday, January 10th the Howe-Waffle House opened its doors to a special society ladies' meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jennifer Kovak, who is the great-great-granddaughter of Dr. Willella. How wonderful to still have this current-day link to the Doctor. On hand to help welcome these ladies, assist with coffee setup and ensure the house was in order were President Tina Davidson and Board member Pauline Halloran.



The house was filled with about 20 ladies, who all took delight in visiting it for the first time. They were so gracious and appreciative that we pulled out the finest silver trays and china cups and saucers for them to use. We greatly appreciate their donations to the house.

Pauline Halloran

PLEASE COME TO THE AID OF THE SOCIETY

Dearest members and friends,

Recently, our dear Dr. Howe-Waffle house has been under siege by vandals. Windows have been broken, sprinkler system ruined and our warm inviting front porch soiled and defaced to the point where we can no longer allow visitors to use this entrance since the same individual returns. Under current policy, the police cannot arrest and hold the person responsible even when they know who he is.

I have appealed to the city for protection, however to date I have had no response. Three scheduled meetings with the city have been postponed by them. I do not believe they fully understand the severity of this issue. I am asking the city to install a taller, sturdier fence for protection. The police advised a better fence is our only way to prevent access to the property.

I am imploring all of you to send an email or place a call to the mayor's office or to mayor pro tem Phil Bacerra, who is fully aware of our situation.

Councilman Bacerra can be reached at pbacerra@santa-ana.org, or send your email to mayor Sarmiento at vsarmiento@santa-ana.org.

Please take a moment today to remind our city's leaders that this house is a symbol of our brave beginning and worth protecting. Our voices together can be powerful.

The society is doing our part to keep the Dr. Howe-Waffle House beautiful and open for all. We need the city to step up and protect it.

Thank you,
Tina Davidson

Crossword Puzzle

CHEERFULPOSQNRKALVXPSNRDMOBCGW
AIWVXPEYTBRIGHTAGENNOOOJNIONKX
FEYHWFEEJPEASTERQRAFTUENHWYSHFG
QMHWFDCXZHXYWFD DVC RJOCMEGAXWIM
YOJGMLLAXFBCAHKBKGODKYREL TBCHF
LRYBTJAQCCLOATAFPRNUETCLCXLOMX
DVVIUTAEEZZCAZTCRVYOUKNLXGVOOIU
IPJRS DUDKQKIEOEHKIXQFFTXURSKKO
LHEDJZBZKWTVQZQRP SUNSHINEUSIIU
BNPSEESOXCCHZCRILPYXLFGFLHTOEII
WPYOJCYLUEXWMXJFDIMNCDYWWXMSDO
WFQLSPLVWQAGDGAMOWLUSVFVPTXYH
MCCGXOWQSLUPKIPDQLNLP PHCPZZYOP
MBDYTFKIIOCERUKQKBAIATLVSNBYJO
UBLTRFFBWJONTOKTARRXORJEQOGLTS
CLLTDVQCF LMWZYNZMEEP AEHFNPUGZR
LAQCB LXB JLYQEBHSREHNMMGGGDBXLE
REKR UOQXDVOGBQUMXZZTPOJFQTOVZS
CGYAGVBWCR IWYQETIEDJQCFCGOFROV
XQPZGLGIAQGCEDPHTVCYSSXHS SOCZI
VRWX YOP SXDYTTRTSQEY TICJB AHYHTD
YKMHMVQXDWHJ COSXNNROSDPJNBBQNF
LAISBETBJBUZIDRZCLMFBPANNLARTN
ONKPRLTUNULGQKMIDLEQLNMEGUQNPZ
GDAPXYTUESDSNYTNAEXYOIQSJFEJOM
HPTJR TAFUPIIJUNRSNAGEXECEACTK
DXEXZRTOABCGZPOBX SXKQFQSWXZPLQ
FLTEXRYSVXTEPZDQJRPJWXNH YQUGGY
IDIAGQSVDMLKITCHENWZQFUOREKFND
CIHFSUYVUELFMANFLOIENUCIIHV KXQ

butterflies

caterpillar

Victorian

splendor

cheerful

sunshine

cookies

bouquet

flowers

kitchen

blossom

breeze

bright

aprons

lovely

garden

Easter

birds

buggy

Help us continue our efforts to preserve, to educate, and to celebrate Santa Ana and early local History

Renew or join at the \$100 level (or above) and receive a complimentary book from our bookstore (valued \$25 or less) as a free gift as our thanks for your extra support.

Book Choice: _____

Membership Dues: *Student (High School and Under)-\$10; Individual- \$25; Family-\$35; Organization/Business-\$45; Patron-\$100; Benefactor-Over \$250*

Enclosed is a check for (or charge) _____ for a _____ membership.

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date: _____

Keep up the great work. I've enclosed a special donation of _____ to help your preservation work.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Send to: Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, 120 Civic Center Dr. W., Santa Ana, CA 92701-7505



**Santa Ana Historical
Preservation Society**

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society

120 Civic Center Drive West

Santa Ana, California 92701-7505

A Legacy of Preservation Since 1974