



Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society Newsletter

SCOTT MORGAN, PRESIDENT

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3

DIANN MARSH, EDITOR

Ice Cream Social

There's no better way to spend a warm August afternoon than to come to our Ice Cream Social. Save Saturday afternoon, August 22, from 4 to 6 p.m. for this mouth-watering event. Please bring your friends and family. Tours of the Waffle House will be conducted and Jerry Reilly and his Trio will entertain you.

Please RSVP by Monday, August 17th. The cost is \$2.00 for members and \$3.00 for non-members. If you would like to join the society that day, membership information will be available.

President's Message

The long hot days of summer have arrived in full force. The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society is offering our members and friends an opportunity to cool down at an old fashioned ice cream social to be held at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House on Saturday afternoon August 22. More information on this tasty and refreshing event is included in the insert in this quarter's newsletter.

One of Orange County's most impressive landmarks may be reopening this fall. The Old Orange County Courthouse, after more than three years of restoration work, may

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Architectural Award Winner

ROSS-McNEAL HOUSE

1020 North Baker Street

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
McNEAL FAMILY FOR THE
EXCELLENT RESTORATION
OF THEIR 1879 FAMILY
HOME.



NEW RESTORATION PROJECT

Long known as the "twin houses", these two ca. 1870's houses are being revitalized as an office complex. They are located near the corner of Civic Center Drive and Spurgeon and are being restored by Gloria Glaser. We will show you the progress of the rehab in a future newsletter, or you can drive by and see for yourself.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Our organizations would like to congratulate Glory Allender on her election as President of the Historic French Park Assn. Steve Cate is Vice-President, Diann Marsh is Secretary, and Al Brambila is Treasurer. We Bob Lauson, Jim Allender, Dave Fraunfelder, Barbara Houghton, and Larry Moore are Board Members.

Royal Spurrier is putting out the call for help with getting some programs started. Some of the things you can do are:

ATTEND A BOARD MEETING We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 at the Howe-Waffle House. We would be happy to have you attend.

BECOME A DOCENT If enough people agree to help, we would like to open the house up on specific days for tours and information.

COME TO A WORK PARTY Although we have some hired help with house cleaning and yard work, we occasionally have a work party to take care of specific items.

PLEASE CALL ROYAL AT 547-9645 AND HE WILL RETURN YOUR CALL.

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

\$7.50 Family

\$10 Organization/Business

\$25 Supporting Member

\$100 Patron

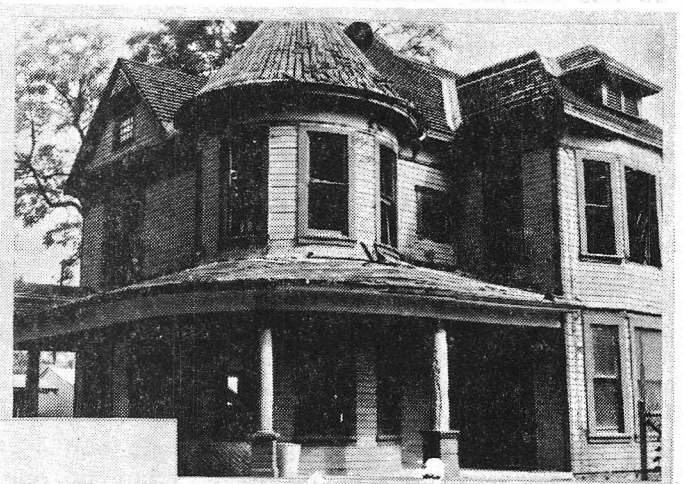
All membership donations are tax deductible

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



PROGRESS IS BEING MADE!

The Harmon-McNeill House, shown at left, has received a new lease on life. See story on Page 4.



MORE OUTSTANDING PROGRESS !

The Ball House, above and left, is making an astonishing comeback See story on Page 4



Ross-McNeal House Continued:

In the 1950's Fred McNeal's great-aunt Caroline, divided the house into rental units. The McNeal family decided they wanted to keep the house in the family and planned a complete renovation.

A new foundation was built, the house gutted, and new systems installed. Fred McNeal saved all reusable materials and had them reinstalled. The house has four new kitchens and baths. All are done in a period style black and white tile and linoleum. The fireplace, wainscoting, woodwork, staircase, and doors have been cleaned and reinstalled.

The house sits on a large lot. The original picket fence has been replicated and Fred has created a unique old-fashioned garden. Its worth the effort to drive by and see this restored 1879 house, in its picturesque setting. The address is 1020 North Baker.

Congratulations to the McNeals for a job well done! They will receive their award at our January dinner.

THE BALL HOUSE

Old house lover's conversation:

"They've taken the stucco off the Ball House"

"Which house is that?"

"The one on Bush Street with the mustard-colored stucco and the horrible red trim."

"Oh, that one!"

The Ball House was famous for its odd color combination and state of disrepair. It sat empty and boarded up for three years. All of us who are knowledgeable about old houses recognized its potential, but no one felt that they wanted to tackle such a big project. After years of overcrowded tenancy, the house was a total wreck.

Along came Leon Roach and Gary Hadsdell. They gutted the house, took off the roof and the stucco and proceeded to work what some of us consider a miracle.

A new coat of light blue-grey and white paint now covers the exterior. Inside a sparkling grey-and-white paint scheme and dark grey-blue carpeting has been installed. The building will be an office complex when it is finished later this month. We will be looking forward to seeing the finished product, new landscaping and all, in the near future.

THE HARMON-McNEAL HOUSE

As can be seen from the pictures on the preceding page, the Harmon-McNeal House has received a rather astonishing restoration. Credit for saving this rare and beautiful Victorian goes to Pat Whitaker, Housing Services Manager for the City of Santa Ana, and her department. Once sitting on Chestnut Street, the house now has a new home on North Lacy, just north of Civic Center Drive.

After cutting the house in half, moving it to its new location, putting on a new roof, building a foundation, setting the house down, and painting it, the City held an open house at this house and another city-owned house on South Birch. Almost 400 people came to see the two houses. Five proposals were received for the Harmon-McNeill House. These proposals have been screened by several committees and the new owner will be announced shortly. The paint colors, cream and white, with rust-colored accents and a putty-colored foundation cover, was chosen by the Historic French Park Association at their December meeting.

We will look forward to the Harmon-McNeill House having occupants and becoming an important part of our community.



The house pictured above is on the corner of Bishop and Orange and has been restored. Several months ago it was a wreck, having been trashed on the inside. The outside was in much need of repair and the porch railings were falling off. We don't know who the owner or restorer of this house is, but they deserve a big pat on the back!



The Ross-McNeal House, as it appeared several months ago, while in the process of restoration.

ROSS-McNEAL HOUSE

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society has chosen as its summer quarter architectural award winner the Ross-McNeal House located at 1020 N. Baker Street. One of the oldest residences in the City of Santa Ana, it has been restored by the descendants of Jacob Ross and his wife, Elizabeth. The Rosses were the first white family to locate in Santa Ana area. They arrived in 1868 with the idea of establishing a farm here. They purchased 501 acres, at a price of \$8.00 an acre, from the owners of the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana. In 1869 Ross sold William Spurgeon 75 acres on which to found the city of Santa Ana. The Rosses retained a large tract of land to the north and west of the new townsite and continued to farm. Jacob Ross became the owner of 2400 acres of land, which he divided among his children. Jacob Ross Jr., and Samuel Ross became prominent citizens of Santa Ana. The house shown above was built by Jacob Ross Senior's widow, Elizabeth, in 1879. A New York architect, C. R. Marks, assisted Mrs. Ross with the design. He was a recent arrival from the East, and settled in Santa Ana in the late 1870's.

Samuel T. McNeal arrived in Santa Ana in 1870. He purchased land on Washington Ave. and put in 20 acres of walnuts and apricots. He sold his property in 1886, in the middle of the Boom of the Eighties, and invested his money in business property on Fourth Street. In 1882 he married Christie A. Ross, Jacob's daughter, and they raised a family in this house.

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President's Message continued:

be ready for the gala grand reopening as soon as November 12. In addition, the Old Courthouse Museum Society and the County of Orange are working diligently towards establishment of an Old Courthouse Museum. The new museum may be unveiled sometime after the Courthouse is reopened. Check the fall newsletter for more information on the Old County Courthouse restoration and and the progress on the new museum.

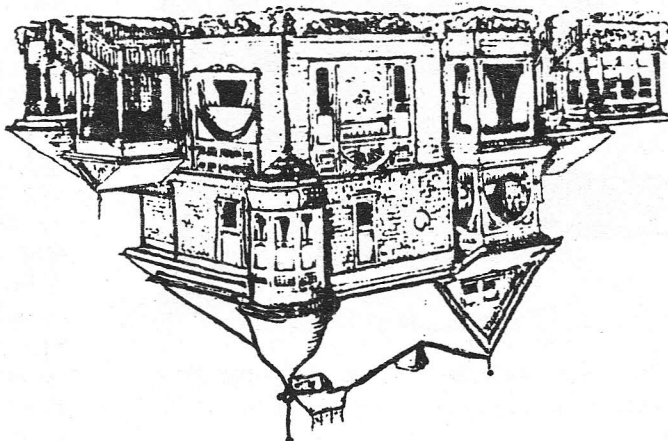
While Santa Ana had its incorporation centennial last year, Orange County's Centennial is coming up in 1989. Santa Ana was founded and later incorporated in Los Angeles County. The city then had the honor of being selected as the new county seat. when the southern portion of Los Angeles County was split off to form Orange County in 1889. Planning for the Orange County Centennial is well underway, and a sister non-profit organization, Orange County Centennial Inc., has established its administrative offices in the Howe-Waffle House. The Howe-Waffle House will also be 100 years old in 1989.

New members are always welcome to join the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. Our yearly membership dues have not changed since we incorporated more than 10 years ago. We are still the best bargain in town, with memberships priced at just \$5.00 per year for individuals and \$7.50 a year for families. Sustaining and supporting members contribute \$25.00 and \$100.00 per year, which we deeply appreciate. If you know of someone who would like to join our organization, encourage them to do so. Memberships make nice birthday gifts. Our quarterly newsletter alone makes membership in the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society worthwhile. Members also have the satisfaction of knowing they are helping us to preserve Santa Ana's rich heritage, and ice cream socials and Victorian Christmas parties can be a lot of fun, too.

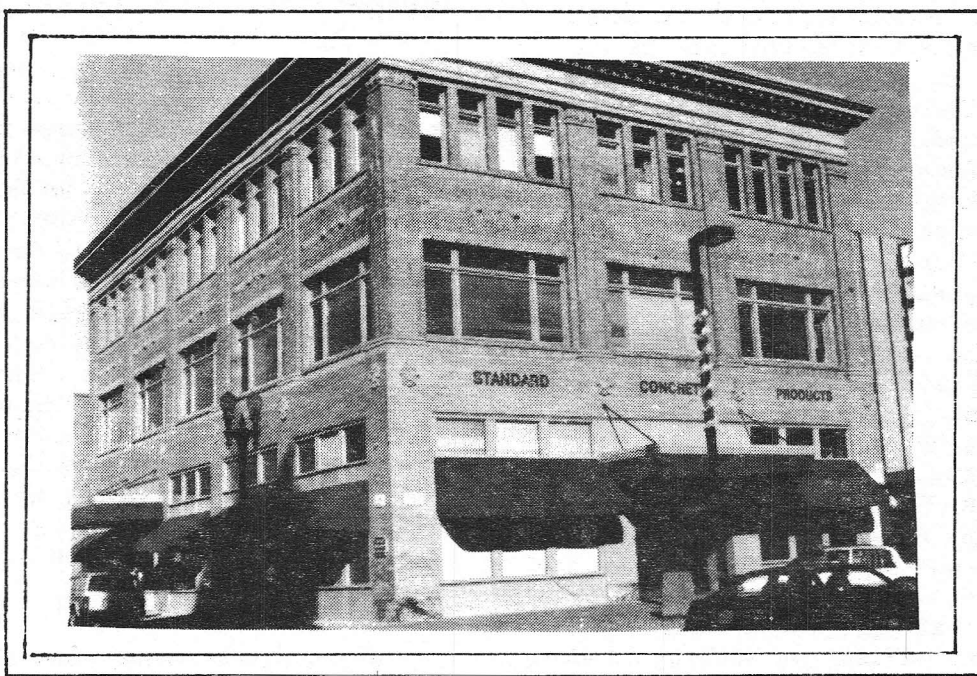
Scott Morgan, President

CORRECTION

Our newsletter neglected to thank Michelle Smith, of the Housing Services Department of Santa Ana, for her substantial help in obtaining the portrait of Winston Churchill which now hangs in the office. After discovering that the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Verda, wished to donate the painting to a worthwhile organization, Michelle was kind enough to think of the S. A. H. P. S.



Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society
120 West Civic Center Drive
Santa Ana, CA 92701



MYSTERY PHOTO

Does anybody know anything about
this stately restored building?
If you know its original owner,
please call 541-2441 and win a
prize.