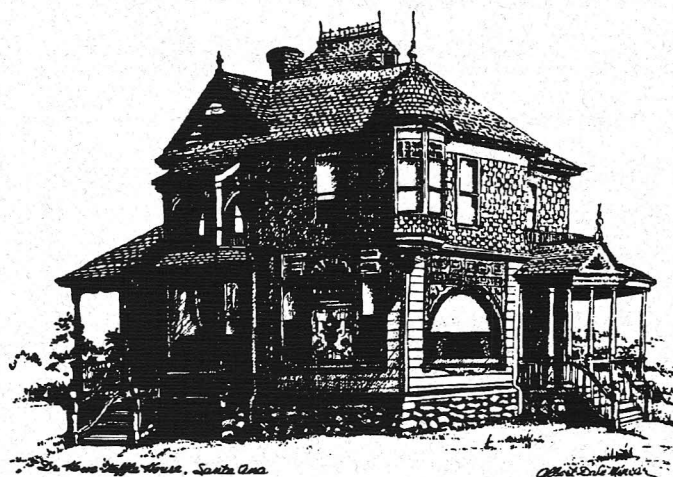


Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society NEWSLETTER



Founded 1974

Spring 1993

Editor: Guy Ball

Santa Ana
Historical
Preservation Society
1993-94

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SAHPS Inaugurates Santa Ana History Lecture Series

Thursday, May 20th at 7 pm

Albert Hill Jr., a member of a prominent Santa Ana pioneer family, will show photographic slides of early Santa Ana on Thursday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House, 120 Civic Center Drive and is open to the public free of charge.

Albert, who was born and raised in Santa Ana, specializes in the restoration of old prints and works as a free lance photographer. Albert's great-grandfather, Samuel Hill, came to Santa Ana in 1885 and opened one of the city's first hardware and plumbing shops. A year later Samuel's son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George Pliny Hill, came to visit Santa Ana on their honeymoon and decided to stay. Pliny went into business with his father, living here until 1920, when he moved to Hemet to become a rancher. At that time, Pliny's son, Albert Hill Sr., took over the family business.

Albert Jr. has many fond memories of his family home on North French Street. Albert spent most of his years working for the California Electric Company and Southern California Edison Company. Now retired, he lives in Sun City. He visits Santa Ana regularly and is an active member of the Orange County Historical Society.

His slides depict rare old photographs that will bring historical Santa Ana to life.

President's Message

More Inspired SAHPS Volunteerism

It's been a great Spring for the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, and our volunteers have made our organization's work a success.

On Saturday, March 27, the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society and the Tustin Area Historical Society held our first major joint venture -- a Spring Garden Tour. **Gregg Bunch** organized this most successful event, and everyone who worked on the event is most appreciative and grateful for Gregg's untiring leadership and impressive organizational skills. The Tour's wonderful food and beverages were beautifully presented at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House by **Ann Randall** and **Connie Becker**. **Guy Ball** did a bang-up job on the event publicity, and the top-notch crew of well-informed docents was led by **Becky Stone**.

In other matters, dedicated SAHPS Board Member **Max Becker** has repaired the heavily damaged gazebo at the Waffle House which he originally built nearly 20 years ago. Max also arranged for lighting repairs to be made in the parking lot and for installing our new "no-loitering" sign in the parking area. Helping Max with the painting of the new gazebo foundation and flooring was SAHPS volunteer **Royal Spurrier**.

At the April Board meeting, **Diann Marsh** reported on the survey she conducted at the SAHPS annual meeting in February, and is making plans for upcoming meetings on Santa Ana history. **Diann** and **Todd Walsh** are progressing well in their work on a coffee table-style book on Santa Ana history.

The Dr. Howe-Waffle House has a new river rock planter border along our parking area and enclosing the rose garden. Thanks to the City of Santa Ana, we were able to use the remaining Community Development Block Grant funds from our exterior painting project to repair the gazebo and to install these new planter borders. Thanks to our contractor, **John Acosta, Jr.**, for doing such a great job on this project. (By the way, John's father and former city councilman, **John Sr.**,

had originally put in the river rock-faced foundation for the Waffle House almost 20 years ago. John Jr. remembers cleaning stones for the project as volunteer for his father's company.)

SAHPS volunteer **Nancy Morgan** helped the Assistance League of Santa Ana in setting up and closing for a fund raising event held at the Waffle House in April. The League donated \$100 to the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society for the afternoon use of the facility.

Thanks to **Jim Marquez** and **Bryan Smith** for their good work in the SAHPS quarterly architectural awards program. Welcome to **Nathan** and **Roberta Reed** as newly elected Board Members at the SAHPS Annual Meeting in February. The Reeds jumped right in as volunteers helping Gregg with the March Garden Tour. Thanks also to Board Member **Robert Rusby** for putting his beautifully appointed home and garden on tour.

And thanks always to **Judy Moore**, our wonderful Secretary, who keeps our Board meetings filled with humor, and who reminds us each month of what we promised to do last month.

With these and our other great volunteers, I'm sure looking forward to a great SAHPS Summer of '93.

Scott Morgan
President

The *Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society Newsletter* is produced by the Society for its members and other friends. A membership application and renewal form is on the back cover.

All material in this issue is copyrighted 1993 by the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society.

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Special Graphic Assistance:

Tracey Wolfert, WolfTree Services.

Our mailing address is:
Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society
120 Civic Center Dr. West,
Santa Ana, CA 92701.

Bits & Pieces

Quarterly Architectural Award

The winner of the Spring Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society's Quarterly Architectural Award is the Crane House at 506 So. Birch in the Heninger Park Neighborhood. The new owners have done a wonderful job restoring this large Colonial Revival originally built by William and Inez Crane in 1912.

In 1987, the City of Santa Ana's Housing Department, who owned the property at the time, had held an open house for people interested in purchasing and restoring the home. The City also offered a low interest loan for rehabilitation work on the structure.

We hope to have additional information about the owner's efforts to preserve a part of Santa Ana history in the next issue of this newsletter but meanwhile, you can drive by and enjoy their handiwork.

Santa Ana Historical Displays

We are in the process of setting up two historical displays at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House.

SAHPS Vice President Max Becker has given us some very interesting old photographs and memorabilia from the Santa Ana Lions Club. We will be putting them on display in the Waffle House library.

Also, Mrs. Robert Steel has gifted us with a lovely 1894 wedding dress, a small traveling case, shoes, gloves, a black lace shawl, hand knit wedding stockings and other memorabilia from her family. Letters, photographs and the original wedding invitation were included. We are presently planning a display for these charming family treasures also. We would like to express our thanks to the Steel family and to Elynore Barton, who made the arrangements for us to receive the items.

If you have any items of historical interest, we have plenty of room in the library to display them. Please call Diann Marsh at 541-2441.

Waffle House Open House

If you'd like a change to view the beauty of one of the largest and most impressive Queen Anne houses in Orange County, mark your calendar for Sunday, July 11 for another of the Society's bi-monthly open houses of the beautifully restored, Dr. Howe-Waffle House

We're open from 11 am to 2 pm at 120 Civic Center Dr. (just west of Main, at the corner of Sycamore and Civic Center). Members are free and guests are welcome for just a \$2 donation.

Enjoy a leisurely tour back into the late 1800's in one of the few Victorian style house museums in the county. Other 1993 open house dates are September 12 and November 14.

Santa Ana Home Tours

We're happy to report that more people than ever before are enjoying the beauty and charm of the residential architecture in Santa Ana by attending our local home and garden tours. From looking at the sign-in sheets, over 50% of the visitors are residents of other cities who decided to come and enjoy the character of our historic nature and who will have left with a better impression of the city than when they came in.

Our SAHPS tour, jointly held with Tustin's historic society, hosted over 700 people -- our most successful event ever and a great attendance for any one day tour!

The Historic French Park Neighborhood once again held a very successful home tour (theirs is the grand daddy of home tours in Santa Ana) with over 900 "tour-ists." The young Floral Park Neighborhood organized their first tour and had about 1000 paid visitors. Both of these tours had a variety of Southern California residents wandering through (and appreciating the charm of) their entire neighborhoods. Both tours also featured a display of vintage cars and the Floral Park neighborhood even hosted an arts and craft sale.

Coming up on Sat. and Sun., June 5 and 6 is the 5th annual Wilshire Square Neighborhood Historic Home Tour featuring 8 homes,

10 gardens, a display of antique cars, and neighborhood storytellers with stories about early Wilshire Square and Santa Ana.

Gardens will play a slightly bigger part of the event this year and the Wilshire Square Garden Club is even hosting a garden gift and plant sale to benefit their activities. Tickets for the tour are \$9 (\$6.50 in advance). Call 474-4847 for additional tour information.

And returning in October, the Washington Square Neighborhood will put out the red carpet once again for their home tour. We'll keep you up to date on the details as they become available.

In addition to showing off the respective neighborhoods, the tours also provide funds for neighborhood preservation projects -- including clean-ups, newsletters, block parties, and neighbor-helping-neighbor improvements.

Check Your Mail Label

Members, do we have you correct in our files? The mailing label on this newsletter indicates your status in our files, in particular *member93* (dues paid for 93), *member92* (paid 92 - but not for 93). Let us know if we've made an error and we'll correct it promptly.

If you have just forgotten to send us your 1993 dues, there's still time. Just fill out the form on the back of the newsletter and send it in. We don't want you to miss any of the exciting things we're doing this year and we'd also hate to lose your support.

If the mailing label says anything else (like *friends*), you're not in our rolls as a member but we'd love to have you to sign up and join -- just use the form on the back of the newsletter. Dues are as low as \$10 a year for individuals.

Illustrated History of Santa Ana

Excitement is mounting as we continue to work on this important coffee table book about Santa Ana's unique history. The book is being produced by a San Diego firm in conjunction with the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. SAHPS Board Member Diann Marsh is writing most of the text with

Todd Walsh working on the photographic illustrations.

As part of the book, we will be asking families to participate (for a subsidy fee) in the section called Partners in Progress. You will be receiving a personal letter explaining this to you but essentially, this section in the publication will be similar to what historians call Mug Books.

Have you ever seen a Mug Book? This isn't a new idea. It was done by early publishers like Guinn in 1902, Armor in 1911 and 1921, and the Pleasants in 1931. These books are invaluable for historians and those interested in early Orange County pioneers.

Presently, they are also collector's items, some worth over \$300 each and hard to find. The biographical sketches paint a portrait of each person as they wanted to be remembered. Each person wrote their own story and paid a fee to have it included. Below are excerpts from the biography of James Louis Garnsey from *An Illustrated History of Orange County, California, with Biographical Sketches*, by Samuel Armor (1911).

"Mr. Garnsey was born in St. Louis County, Mo., July 30, 1831, making that locality his home and receiving his education in the early schools of that day. From boyhood he had worked with his father and others at brick making. Having heard considerable of the western coast country, it was but natural that young Garnsey should have a desire to visit it; the opportunity came when he was twenty....

"Mr. Garnsey moved to Santa Clara, where he bought out a brick yard and began the manufacture of brick on his own count. ... Some friends who had located in what is now Orange County induced him to come and investigate conditions for himself, and being satisfied that he had at last found a location where he could "grow up with the country," as it were, he sold out in Santa Clara [in 1876] and with his family moved to Santa Ana, which then was a very small village. Purchasing four and one-half acres of land at \$100 an acre, he put up kilns, installed machinery and engaged in the manufacture of brick,

this being the first brick yard in what is now Orange County.

"In all probability Mr. Garnsey had as much to do with the permanent location of Santa Ana as any other man, for at that time Tustin had started and he was offered five acres of ground by Mr. Tustin if he would locate in that place. ... Had he done so, it is very evident that with this industry, then the first of any kind in this location [Santa Ana], Tustin would have been the larger town, but having located in Santa Ana, Mr. Garnsey did everything in his power to assist in building up the town."

If you'd like additional information about the history book or about being a part of the Partners in Progress section, contact Diann Marsh at 541-2441.

Yost Theatre Returns

A new director is bringing excitement to a grand old Santa Ana theater. Florinda Mintz has taken over as general director for the Yost and held a grand reopening in April with two plays by the celebrated El Teatro Campesino stage troupe and performances by two music and dance companies.

The Yost was built in 1913 and restored in the 1980s. It's presently in perfect operating condition with over 700 seats. It's part of the Fiesta Marketplace complex and is located on Spurgeon St. between 3rd and 4th Streets.

The theater will focus on live performances to serve the Hispanic and general community of Santa Ana and Orange County.

Call Florinda at 558-6869 for more details about their plans or future shows.

HISTORICAL MEETING SURVEY:

The Santa Ana Historical Society would like to get your opinions to plan for future historical-themed lectures and meetings. Please take a few minutes and fill out this form. Then, just return it to Diann Marsh, c/o SAHPS, 120 Civic Center Dr., W., Santa Ana, 92701.

Thank you for your time!

- If the Society were to have three to four historical meetings a year, would you want to attend? _____
- Would you prefer to have the meetings always at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House or at varied locations? _____
- What evenings would you prefer for the meetings?
Tuesday ____ Wednesday ____ Thursday ____ or Sunday afternoon ____
- What subjects would you like to learn more about?

Pioneer family stories _____	Santa Ana architecture _____
Neighborhood histories _____	Specialties such as the Red Cars, etc. _____
Schools and churches _____	Early Santa Ana history _____
Farming and ranching _____	Historical Santa Ana figures _____
Other _____	
- Would you be interested in sharing your personal stories about growing up in Santa Ana?

- Would you be interested in helping with or presenting a program?
_____ (If so, please call Diann Marsh at 541-2441.)

Membership Application

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society

We invite you to join (or renew your membership to) the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. We welcome everyone with an interest in history or saving Orange County heritage regardless of where you live. Our members are our most important asset.

New Member []

Renewal []

Individual [] \$10

Organization/Business [] \$20

Patron [] \$100

Family [] \$15

Supporting Member [] \$50

Name _____ Telephone # _____

Organization/Company Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send this form and your check to:

SAHPS, 120 Civic Center Dr. West, Santa Ana, CA 92701.

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

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