

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society

Celebrating 38 Years of Preserving History!



Newsletter

Fall 2012

www.SantaAnaHistory.com

Extra! Extra!

2012 Cemetery Tour Is On Its Way!

Read All About It! Our 15th annual Cemetery Tour “Ripped From the Headlines! Historic News in Early Orange County” comes to Fairhaven Memorial Park on Saturday, October 20, 2012. This is a must-see event for our members and friends, and is the Society’s major annual fundraiser.



If you have never attended, you may be wondering: What in the world is a cemetery tour? This event is an exciting and fun glimpse into the past! Tour guides lead guests to the final resting places of local historic figures, set in the beautiful greenery of Fairhaven Memorial Park and Santa Ana Cemetery. There, costumed actors (many from the award-winning Thespian Club of Orange County High School of the Arts) play out scenes from personal stories and interesting moments of Orange County history. Small groups, a lovely outdoor setting, and close access to the actors make the tour an entertaining outing for the whole family. History and community

displays, and sales of related books and other goods, complete the tour.



This year join our costumed actors as they share stories that made the news in Orange County, and sometimes the world. Listen in on shady political dealings and heated accusations that divide Southland communities—no, not the 2012 Presidential race, but the 1889 formation of Orange County! Hear testimony of gruesome murders that shock the quiet community of Tustin in 1898. Witness the devastation when hordes of grasshoppers darken the skies of Santa Ana in 1871, devouring every farmer’s crop in their path. Experience the 1933 Long Beach Quake, as newsmen brave aftershocks to publish Extra editions of the Register.

Remember that SAHPS members receive a special discounted price for this award-winning event! Watch your mailbox for your invitation in September, and visit www.SantaAnaHistory.com for updates and information. We hope to see you at the tour!

From the President

Following in the footsteps of our founder, Adeline Walker—the lady who deliberately put the word “preservation” in our name—the Society again finds itself actively involved in local preservation issues. Here is a recap of the 3 most recent issues:

The preservation battle continues to prevent the destruction of the last significant orange grove in Santa Ana; the 1914 Sexlinger House and 5 acre orchard. The Old Orchard Conservancy, a local grassroots organization, is spearheading those efforts. I’m happy to report that the Society was able to assist The Old Orchard Conservancy in getting them a \$10,000 grant from Metabolic Studio through our non-profit sponsorship.

I’m sure that many of you were saddened to hear of the end of the Santa Ana Fire Department with its 128-year history. But not all that history has been lost. Over past months the Society has been in negotiations with Orange County Fire Authority to merge the Fire Museum and 2 vintage fire trucks with the Society. If successful, the museum would continue to be operated in its current location through the efforts of SAHPS and volunteers from the fire department. We’ll keep you updated on developments.

Our most recent preservation challenge involves an iconic structure that many of us have seen, but probably know little about. Driving south on Fairview just past 17th, the roadway crosses the Santa Ana River. In the distance on the right is a double span bridge. Did you know that is one of the few remaining Pacific Electric bridges in the County? This one was built in 1905 and is a rare Pegram-Truss style bridge, but it is in danger of being demolished for the light-rail project and replaced by “something that looks similar.” The Society is in discussion with the City of Santa Ana on this project, and has expressed our opposition to demolition.

Interested in getting involved with any of these preservation efforts? Please contact the Society and let us know.

Alison Young, President



A Legacy of Preservation since 1974.

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To contact the newsletter editor directly,
please call Max Schmidl at (714) 550-9369
or email editor@sahps.org.



FREE ADMISSION
AT PARTICIPATING VENUES WITH TICKET
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2012

Howe-Waffle House Again Open for Smithsonian Museum Day 2012!

Once again, the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society welcomes you join us at the Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day on Saturday, September 29th from 10 am until 4 pm.

The Smithsonian Museum Day is a free day for everyone: all you need is a ticket. To receive your free ticket, visit their website at: www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/ or go to our website at SantaAnaHistory.com for more information and a direct link to their site.

As a special event, we're going to be hosting a book signing with local historical author Chris Epting signing his new and unique **Baseball in Orange County** book. Starting around 1 pm, Chris will be screening some very rare Babe Ruth in Orange County movie footage.

We will also be presenting an architectural walking tour of Downtown Santa Ana. Reservations are required, and there is a nominal cost of \$8.00 per person. Please call 714-547-9645 to reserve a space for this wonderful, educational, and very entertaining look at Santa Ana.

We're also partnering with the Old Orange County Courthouse across the street which will also be open for tours on that day. (For that, you do not need a ticket.)

Volunteers Opportunities Available

If you'd like to help, we have a large variety of volunteer roles we'd love to have you try out for. Here's just a few of the areas we could use extra people for:

Open House: docents, walking tour guides, display coordination, tea service, special events assistance or coordinator.

Public Relations: general flyer distribution donation solicitation, newsletter editor, article writer, grant writing,

Cemetery Tour: transportation, vendor coordinator, set/prop coordinator, script writer, general volunteer.

Research: historic researcher, oral/video history organizer, videographer.

Board of Directors: board member, associate.

For more information, call us at 714 547-9645 and leave a message for our volunteer coordinator, April Bettendorf.

Ad/Congrats Space in Cemetery Tour Program

Yes, there is still space for advertisements or kudos in this year's cemetery program. Toni Kimball is our ad coordinator and she noted that the deadline is October 1st. Ads for a 1/3 page (large business card) are just \$50. Half page is \$70 and full page is \$125. If you're interested, give her a call at 714 542-5393 or email sahps@sahps.org

Circa 1877 Weber Piano Returns to Santa Ana

Like swallows returning to Capistrano, on Thursday, May 3rd a very special gift arrived at the door of the Howe-Waffle House, one planned for and anticipated for weeks in advance. On that day the family of J. Wylie Carlyle donated a beautiful French-leg mahogany Weber upright piano to the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society.

As Mr. Carlyle's son Tim explained, the piano was originally owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Augustus Riggs who resided at 901 Spurgeon Street in Santa Ana. Mr. Riggs spent his boyhood in New York City and attended military school with a young Theodore Roosevelt, then moved west to Santa Ana where he gained prominence in the field of banking. He served as secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Orange County Historical Society.



Rendering of a similar Weber piano from a vintage brochure.

Like Dr. Willella, Mr. Riggs faithfully attended services at the Church of the Messiah. It's easy to imagine them crossing paths there often.

Mr. Riggs passed away in 1925 and upon his wife's passing the piano was bequeathed to J. Wylie Carlyle, a cherished family friend and also a

member of the Church of the Messiah. Born in 1911, Mr. Carlyle was a native Santa Ana. He lived here until his death in 1980. Having served as the Orange County Recorder for many years, a tree is planted in his memory in front of the Orange County Recorder's Office at Broadway and Civic Center Drive.

The piano had been at home in Santa Ana since the 1880s, with a brief detour to Topanga Canyon. The Carlyles note that the family has treasured the piece for over 60 years, and they wanted to return it to Santa Ana to be located near its original home.

Looking perfectly at home now in the formal parlor of the Howe-Waffle House in front of Dr. Willella's special piano wall, the lovely piano bears a plaque simply stating: "Gift from the Family of J. Wylie Carlyle." I'm sure that both the Doctor and Mr. Carlyle would be pleased.

Max Schmidl



Pauline, Tina, and Alan sharing history at the recent Floral Park Home Tour.

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society's newsletter is produced by the Society for its members and other friends. We are proud to say that the Society is an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization with no paid staff members. All donations and memberships go directly to our education and preservation projects.

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The 1920s Roar through Santa Ana

Flappers, gangsters, and Federal agents swarmed the Velvet Lounge in downtown Santa Ana on Saturday, July 28th as the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society hosted its 2012 Annual Member Meeting. A speakeasy theme was carried through with décor, costumes, and even a secret password to enter.

Once inside, '20s and '30s tunes filled the air as members were treated to a wine tasting and food pairing experience. Sirens and whistles announced the arrival of "Federal Agents" who staged a raid to single out the recipients of the 2011 Historic Preservation Award.

Nick Spain and Jeannie Gillett were escorted on stage to accept the award given to the Save Our Orchard Coalition, now known as The Old Orchard Conservancy. In addition, a certificate of appreciation was presented to Mary Carlyle Porter, representing the family of J. Wylie Carlyle, for their recent donation of the elegant antique piano which now graces the formal parlor of the Howe-Waffle House.



Awardees Nick Spain and Jeannie Gillett

Following the awards, an interesting and informative presentation was given by Chris Jepsen regarding the ill-fated Pacific Beach Club, a private resort for the African American community planned to be located at Huntington Beach in 1925. The Pacific Beach Club was destroyed before completion by a fire of

mysterious origin and its story is all but forgotten today.

April Bettendorf



DJ Josh McIntosh and featured speaker, Chris Jepsen



G-men Mike Ash and John Hendrickson



G-man and moll (aka Mike and Linda Ash)

More Memorable Moments from the 2012 Annual Member Meeting



April and Christie Bettendorf celebrate



Ed Power (or Mr. Spurgeon?)



April greets Mary Carlyle Porter



Linda and Dave Chapel (incognito)



Even Babe Ruth made a rare appearance

The Dr. Howe-Waffle House *Mini-Me*

What could possibly be lovelier than the beautiful Queen Anne Victorian house that once was home to Doctor Willella Howe-Waffle, her family, and her medical practice? The answer is easy, a miniature of the Howe-Waffle House and Medical Museum.

Sharon Baker Katsis recently revealed to SAHPS the existence of the miniature house, which was built by her father, Robert Baker, a former Orange County resident. Sharon's parents, Robert and Phyllis, helped Adeline Walker in the restoration of the Howe-Waffle House. One of their accomplishments was cleaning and framing the doctor's medical instruments which hang in the medical office today.

The Bakers moved to Sedona, Arizona, and in 1985 Baker began constructing the mini replica. He obtained the original plans for the house and used pictures from books to guide him. The house measures 3.5 by 3.5 feet and took six years to

complete. "Dad was not an architect, but he was a perfectionist who always enjoyed building dollhouses and rocking horses for the children in the family," Sharon recalled. The Bakers' son Rob was a roofer, and knowing how much time and love his father had put in the house, he insisted on installing the roof himself so that it would be perfect. There are over 6,000 miniature shingles on the roof.

In June, Sharon and friends toured the "real" Howe-Waffle House and she became emotional when she saw how much detail her dad had included in his house, right down to the Neptune bas relief on the outside wall of the formal parlor and the antique wheelchair in the doctor's office. Sharon feels that the house is something that Santa Ana should know about, and so do we!



Mini Howe-Waffle House



Interior of Mini Howe-Waffle House

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After her parents passed away, Sharon brought the miniature house to her home in Yorba Linda and understandably wants to enjoy it for years to come. However, it is her hope that one day the house will be on display at the Howe-Waffle House for all to see and appreciate.

April Bettendorf

Wedding Bells at the Howe-Waffle House

June is long past but the memory of the scent of begonias and rose petals lingers on. At our Open House on Saturday, June 2nd, the Howe-Waffle House showcased a re-enactment of the 1908 wedding of Genevieve Waffle and Mark Lacy. Miss Waffle was the youngest child and only daughter of Edson Waffle, a pioneer of Santa Ana, and Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle's second husband. Mark Lacy was the only son of Dr. J.M Lacy, also one of the oldest residents of Santa Ana.

As Mendelssohn's Wedding March played, guests were charmed by the sight of the beautiful Genevieve (played by Daphne Detrano) descending the staircase to stand beside Mark, her nervous groom (Frankie Christianson). The ceremony took place in front of the window in the second parlor.

All in attendance were treated to a tour of the house decorated in a re-imagined version of how the Doctor herself had planned that original festive evening. According to contemporary accounts, "Dr. Willella Waffle planned and superintended all the artistic details. The lovely home was just as it always is, with its beautiful potted plants and bouquets of roses here and there throughout the rooms." There were over seventy visitors to the Howe-Waffle House for this special event, just about the same number that witnessed the actual Waffle-Lacy nuptials in 1908.

You're invited to join the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society on the first Saturday of every even-numbered month for a tour and uniquely themed experience. As always, tea will be served! Is a wedding or other small but special gathering in your future? You may want to consider the

Howe-Waffle House as the location for your next special event.

April Bettendorf



Wedding guests await the lovely bride



Daphne Detrano as bride Genevieve

Membership Renewal Season is Almost Here!

Sign up four new members and win two free passes to our award-winning Cemetery Tour!

Yes, it's almost that time of year again! Time to renew our Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society memberships!

Did you know that new members joining us in the fourth quarter of the year are considered members for the entire following year? That's like getting three months membership free! Of course, SAHPS membership is tax deductible. So please consider using the form below to join like-minded preservationists and become a member. Invite your friends to join too, and be sure to include your name at the top of the form.

If you sign up four new members, you will win two free passes to our award-winning Cemetery Tour, see your name in our next newsletter, and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you contributed to the cause of historic preservation in Santa Ana.

Add your name to the form below to let us know who "made the offer."

_____ made me an offer I can't refuse!

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 copy of,
Baseball in Orange County, Vanishing Orange County, Tustin
Logan Barrio, Santa Ana: 1940-2007, or Santa Ana in Vintage Postcards,
as a free gift as our thanks for your extra support.*

Membership Dues:*Individual/Family - \$15-49; Business - \$20-100; Supporter - \$50-99;
Patron - \$100-249; Benefactor - \$250-1,000;*

Enclosed is a check for (or charge) _____ for a _____ membership.
(If \$100 or over, please circle the book above that you would like us to send you.)

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

(Note that this form is also good if you would like to renew your own membership!)

Book Order Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City and Zip _____

Qty	Title (all prices include sales tax)	Price
	Baseball in Orange County by Chris Epting (New) \$24	
	Images of America: Tustin by Guy Ball \$24.00	
	Santa Ana: 1940-2007 by Roberta Reed \$21.50	
	Early Santa Ana by Guy Ball, Marge Bitetti \$21.50	
	Vanishing Orange County by Chris Epting \$24	
	Orange (the City) by Phil Brigandi \$21.50	
	Orange Crate Labels of Orange County by Alison Young \$14	
	Orange County Almanac of Historical Oddities by Jim Sleeper \$13.00	
	Shipping – \$5 for first two books and \$2 each for each additional	
	If paying by credit card, please complete section below:	Total

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

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



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120 Civic Center Drive West

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A Legacy of Preservation Since 1974