

# Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society

Celebrating 35 Years of Preserving History!



## Newsletter

Summer 2009

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

### Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?

The economy and the weather may have been gloomy outside but that didn't dampen the historical revelry at the Howe Waffle House on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The Santa Ana Historical Society embraced the current depression with this year's annual membership meeting theme "Brother Can You Spare A Dime?"



Phil Brigandi presents his talk  
"Great Depression in the OC"

Members were invited to attend in their best 1930s hats to hear our guest speaker Phil Brigandi present "The Great Depression in the OC." Historian and author **Phil Brigandi** conjured up images of individuals determined to continue building up their communities and livelihoods with his discussion of the impact of the Great Depression on the area.

The **Evalene Pulati** Santa Ana Room was rededicated to Ms. Pulati for her continuing support of the society over the past 35 years. Our annual Santa Ana Historical Preservation Award was awarded to **Hally Soboleske** of the City's Planning Department in recognition of her diligent efforts to preserve and protect important historic and architecturally significant buildings in Santa Ana. Certificates and the society's heartfelt thanks were also presented to the police

officers that responded to the burglary of the Howe Waffle House and apprehended the perpetrator.

The Orange County Archives (**Jean Pasco, Susan Beruman, and Chris Jepsen**) were presented an award for their continued excellent work preserving and making available local history. Representatives of Supervisors Nguyen's office also presented certificates to the Society (for our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary), Hally, and the OC Archives. Two baskets of 1930s goodies such as Scotch Tape, Ritz crackers, and Necco Candy were awarded to **Ed Cote** for his wonderful costume accessorized by his classic convertible and **Lou Carlson** who won our random drawing. To help set the mood, photographs of popular stars during the era, on loan from Ms. Pulati for the occasion, were on display.

The Santa Ana Soup Kitchen, manned by the industrious **Gayle Rettberg** and our own **Roberta Reed** with the help of our student volunteers, served up Potato, Lima Bean, and Chicken Noodle soups based on the recipes of Mrs. Segerstrom (which can be purchased in our gift shop)! Of course, dessert would not have been complete without Mrs. Spurgeon's gingerbread and classic Tollhouse chocolate chip cookies. The Society would like to thank Mr. Brigandi for his entertaining and enlightening speech, **Eris Young** and the other wonderful student volunteers from Santa Ana and Segertrom High Schools, and all the members who could attend the "Brother Can You Spare A Dime" annual meeting a success!



Mrs. Spurgeon's Gingerbread

# From the President

In troubled economic times it's more important than ever to make the effort to support each other in the community. That idea of all pulling together prompted our Event Committee to look back to the Great Depression of the 1930s as a theme for our recent member event.

Many of you probably know that the Society had a particularly troubling event early in May when the Dr Howe-Waffle House was broken into and vandalized. Ray and Jean Poppa and I were the first to enter the House that night, once the police had finished collecting evidence, and the sight of broken glass, blood, and general chaos everywhere downstairs was depressing. I want to commend the responsiveness and professionalism of the Santa Ana Police Department who were able to arrest the perpetrator at the House, and prevent even more damage. The two officers who particularly helped us that night deserve special thanks: **Officer Cassandra Hawkins** and **Sgt Robert FASTER**.

We were disheartened, but from the moment the disaster occurred, we have had nothing but support from the community. Our Board members spent Mother's Day cleaning up glass, but the ordeal was made easier with help from friends **Tom Lutz** and **Tim Rush** who were here bright and early the next day. As days went by we received financial donations from supporters, coverage in the Register from reporter **Doug Irving**, a write-up on **Chris Jepsen's** history blog, quick responses from our insurance company, and information on the court case from the District Attorney's office.

The Society could not have come through this without the support of our community, friends, and members. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

*Alison Young, President*



*A Legacy of Preservation since 1974.*

## Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society 2009 Board of Directors

President	Alison Young
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### Directors

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### Newsletter Editor: Colleen Williams

*Cover House illustration by Ann Berkery  
Special thanks to contributors: Roberta Reed,  
Chris Jepsen, Guy Ball, and Alison Young.*

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

All material in this issue is copyrighted 2009 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.

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.

# Thank you!

After the recent break-in at the House, we were facing a variety of damage expenses that were not reimbursed by the insurance company. A number of friends of the Society came forth (including some new ones) and generously helped with donations – big and small. **Thank you so much!**

- Claudia Amezquita
- Gordon & Marilyn Bricken
- Lou & Karen Carlson
- Josephine Inslee
- Evalene Pulati
- Maria Solis-Martinez
- Santa Ana Police Officers Association
- Royal & Marilyn Spurrier
- Ken Stack
- Arthur & Dorothy Wahlstedt
- Diane Wollenberg

By the way, Kudos to our friends at Murray's Ace Hardware on Main Street for giving us a tremendous discount off their regular prices. Their service was super fast and super clean. We highly recommend them!

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## Going E-Green

In the immortal words of Kermit the Frog, “*it’s not easy being green,*” but with your assistance, SAHPS is eager to head in that direction by reducing unnecessary mailing and printing costs, as well as helping the environment at the same time. We are working to increase our use of email for newsletters and other mailings.

Would you like to help us “go green?” By sending us your current email address, our newsletter and notices of special events can go directly to your email box. Future mailings will include a .pdf format attachment with the newsletter or flyer. (An extra bonus of email is that many photos and graphics will be in color!) It’s easy to sign-up, and SAHPS will not share your address with outside organizations.

Of course, if you prefer the paper version or do not have email, we are happy to continue mailing a printed copy of the newsletter to your home.

If you’re interested in switching, simply email us at [newsletter@sahps.org](mailto:newsletter@sahps.org) with your desire. And let the greening begin!

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## What’s In A Name? The Hidden History Behind Orange County Place Names

**Our 2009 Historical  
Cemetery Tour  
Saturday, October 17th**

*The cities, streets, and parks we see every day all have a story behind them, often hidden in the forgotten history of our county. What prompted the naming of a valley and city after Saint Ann? Columbus Tustin had his own town – so why is he not buried there? Who (or what) was Moulton? What event did the naming of Jamboree Road commemorate? Costumed actors reveal the hidden stories behind those Orange County names we take for granted.*

Come again for our 12<sup>th</sup> award winning Cemetery Tour presented on October 17, 2009 with tours from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the historic Fairhaven Memorial Park and Santa Ana Cemetery. The Orange County High School of the Arts will again don historical robes to bring the past alive.

Keep an eye out for our advanced sale flyers (mailed in late Sept or early Oct) and on the SAHPS website for information on when tickets will go on sale. Please purchase early as tour times often sell out quickly!

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## Santa Ana Writer Publishes Exciting New Novel

Chip Martin, a long time Historic French Park resident, has recently published *Chaka*, a novel under the pen name of Martin Kerkhof. The plot centers on the deadly consequences of an archaeologist’s investigation into the cosmology and history of the ancient and mysterious Maya, making the book an exciting mystery thriller.

On the eve of retirement, a professor of archaeology discovers a map hidden in the disturbing images of death in a faded photo of an ancient Maya wall painting. Following the clues to the 2000 year old Maya ruins of Guatemala’s

El Mirador, he unwittingly unleashes a horrifying scourge on our cities and streets.

Check it out, now available at Amazon.com and other local booksellers.



Photo Quiz: What is this a photo of? (See page 5)

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## Upcoming Books by SAHPS Members

Long-time member, historian, and all-around train fanatic **Rob Richardson** is working on a new book for Arcadia titled Orange County Railroads. He's been collecting images of early and semi-modern railroad/streetcar impacts on the OC from sources including private collectors, Bowers Museum, OC Archives, SA and Orange libraries and even the Irvine Park RR. Look for this book early next year.

Author and board member **Guy Ball** is working on a book on the history of Tustin, in conjunction with the Tustin Area Historical Society. Also published by Arcadia (as were his first two history books), this book will also follow the standard format with over 200 interesting images with interesting captions. He's still looking for images – particularly of retail stores and restaurants in Tustin during the 1960s to 1980s. You can contact him at [mrcalc@pacbell.net](mailto:mrcalc@pacbell.net). Publication is slated for sometime in the Spring of 2010.

Long-time SAHPS supporter **Gordon Bricken** is working on a follow-up to his *Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana* book. No details at this point, but Gordon is researching and collecting additional material and images to help us understand (and document) how important immigrants from the North and South after the Civil War changed and helped develop Orange County in its earliest days.

## Docenting at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House

Do you love spending time at the Howe-Waffle House? Do you enjoy talking with people about the house and SAHPS? Would you like to learn more about the history of the home and share it with visitors?

If you said yes to any of these questions then consider becoming a docent at the Howe-Waffle House! Docents are volunteers who make history come alive at our regular Open Houses by guiding groups of 2 to 10 through the house. Docents are a vital part of preserving the history of the house for the community.

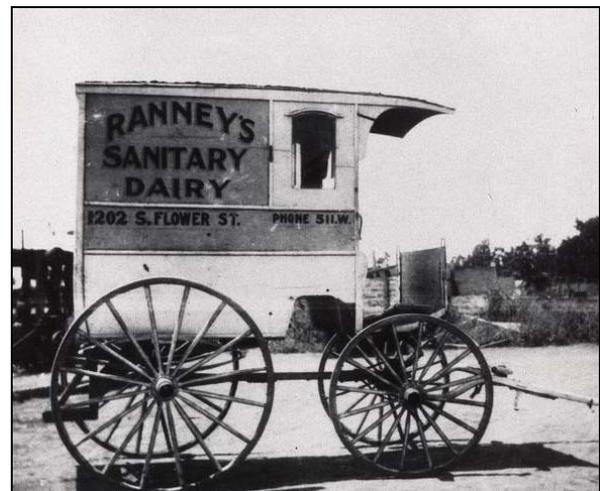
What about all the history a docent needs to know? SAHPS provides the information and training you'll need, so all skill and knowledge levels may volunteer! As tours are only offered on Saturday every other month for approx 4 hours, the time commitment is minimum.

If you are interested please email Colleen Williams at [uciwilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:uciwilliams@yahoo.com) for details. Thank you!

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## More Salvage - Help Needed

We have a few new houses to salvage old building materials before they're torn down. If you're interested in helping, please contact Nathan Reed at [salvage@sahps.org](mailto:salvage@sahps.org). We're also going to review and try to presell some items, so if you're looking for something specific, contact him as well with your interests.



Ranney's Sanitary Dairy Carriage

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## Calling All Waffle Babies!

*(Last Reminder Message)* We realize that we don't have a good list of what we like to call "Waffle Babies" – children birthed by Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle. We've created a new list so please – even if you think we know about you – call, write, or email us to let us know your name (maiden and current), when born, where born (if you know that), and current address information.

If you know of any Waffle Babies who have passed away, please let us know that too. We'd like to compile as complete a list as possible and use it for a future display. Call us at 714 547-9645 (leave message), write to SAHPS, 120 Civic Center Dr., SA 92701, or email [sahps@sahps.org](mailto:sahps@sahps.org).



**"New" Cooper Hotel. Santa Ana Postcard.**

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## Upcoming Events

**Open House:** The next Howe-Waffle House open house – **Saturday, August 1.**

**Downtown Tour:** Please note that the walking tour is suspended during the summer due to the heat. The next downtown architectural tour is on **Saturday, September 29.** Cost is \$8 per person.

**Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day:** Come visit the OC Historical Courthouse and the Howe-Waffle House on Museum Day. Visit the magazine's website and print out a coupon for free admission! **Saturday, September 29 from 11 am until 4 pm.**

**Annual Cemetery Tour:** Learn about the history behind well-known Santa Ana place names in the beautiful historic Fairhaven Cemetery: **Saturday, October 17th.** Advance discount ticket flyers will be mailed out to members in late September.

Information on all this is or will be posted on our website at [www.SantaAnaHistory.com](http://www.SantaAnaHistory.com)

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## Help Save the HRC - Their Future is Still Question

For those who live in Santa Ana, you can thank the Historic Resources Commission (HRC) that has been a first-line of involvement to preserve and protect our historic buildings and character. The HRC is made up of caring and interested local residents appointed by City Council people. They work with the Planning Department on a variety of historical issues and projects. The residents oversee and advise on many decisions that could impact the architectural character of much of what we hold dear.

In an attempt to cut costs, the SA City Council has decided to shut down most of the commissions – including the HRC.

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society and many of the local historical neighborhoods feel that that is very wrong and will lead to a disintegration of some the preservation activities and successes we've all worked so hard on over the years.

We urge you to write to the City Council at P.O. Box 1988, M31; Santa Ana, 92701 and let them know how you feel. We're concerned that other forces might continue to doom the HRC. Only through a large number of voices, can we have a chance of saving this great preservation resource.

## Stuff Needed

As the Society tightens its belt and tries to buy only essential or key items, we find a need for a few things that we're hoping someone has and is interested in donating – or would like to help by donating some extra funds towards. Call our message line at 714 547-9645 or email [sahps@sahps.org](mailto:sahps@sahps.org) if you do.

- Dressmaker head forms (for our costume displays)
- Acid-free storage boxes, hat boxes, and tissue paper (for storing some of our fabric items)
- Everyday silverware and serving utensils

**Photo Quiz:** The photo on page 4 is of a team of mules used to haul heavy loads between cities in the late 1800s. This 14-mule team stands in front of Banner Mills then located on French Street, between Third and Fourth Streets.

## Referrals

In case you're looking, we'd like to offer a couple referrals for two people who do a wonderful job of keeping the Dr. Howe-Waffle House and grounds always looking their best.

Diego Del Real (714 206-0153) has been handling our gardening and landscaping for several years now. He was recommended by a board member and he has never let us down. We've relied on him for various new sprinkler systems and landscaping projects and trust his judgment and quality. So much so that several other board members are now Diego's customers. If you need someone to help your home look its best, Diego's your man.

Maria Lopez (714 539-1524) is another person who was originally recommended to us and we have been fortunate to have her clean and maintain the interior of the house. She's efficient, extremely trustworthy, and has been a gem for the last several years. She makes it a personal mission to have the House ready for our Open House weekends and special events. She's another person we are proud to recommend.

## Get Well Soon!

Our good friend Betsy Vigus is recovering from some knee surgery. Besides being a member of the Society, she's been one of our main liasons with the Orange County Historical Society for as long as this writer can remember and continues to play pivotal research and organizational roles in the OCHS. We wish her the best and a speedy recovery!

## Civil War Updates

The impact of the men and women who left the Mid-West, South, and East Coast after the US Civil War to come to Orange County to make a better life for themselves and families are not forgotten thanks to work by Charles Beal, and his compatriots Glen Roosevelt, Gordon Bricken, Paul Gillette and the Civil War Roundtable of Orange County. Many of our early OC founders and business people left the damage, depressed economies and hardships resulting from the war.

We've just updated [www.SantaAnaHistory.com](http://www.SantaAnaHistory.com) with their latest research. To read the material, click on **Articles** and **Civil War Veteran Grave Sites in Orange County**.

## Black Orange County, 1930-1980

While you're checking out the **Articles** page of our website, you can read the introduction to an important new book, *A Different Shade of Orange*, by SAHPS member Robert Johnson & Charlene Riggins. The book celebrates the history of African-American families in Orange County – something that sorely needed documenting. The Society has copies and sells it though our store.



Here's a great photo of Society founder Adeline Walker (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) helping to kick off the landscaping of the Southern Pacific train station in the 1950s. For many years, Adeline was involved in city beautification (Let's Improve Santa Ana – LISA) and gardening. Her efforts to preserve historic buildings in Santa Ana galvanized later with her work on saving and restoration the Old Orange County Courthouse and the Dr. Howe-Waffle House. Photo courtesy Rob Richardson

# Book/DVD Order Form

# Great Local History!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Qty	Title (all prices include sales tax)	Price
	Santa Ana: 1940-2007 by Roberta Reed \$21.75	
	Early Santa Ana by Guy Ball, Marge Bitetti \$21.75	
	Santa Ana in Vintage Postcards by Guy Ball \$21.75	
	Orange (the City) by Phil Brigandi \$21.75	
	Vanishing Orange County by Chris Epting (New) \$21.75	
	Orange (County) by the Orange County Historical Society \$21.75	
	Santa Ana's Logan Barrio by Mary Garcia \$14 (Revised, 4 <sup>th</sup> printing)	
	A Different Shade of Orange, Robert Johnson & Charlene Riggins (New) \$22	
	Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana by Gordon Bricken \$14	
	Orange Crate Labels of Orange County by Alison Young \$14 (Previously out of print but we just had a new short run printed.)	
	Orange County Almanac of Historical Oddities by Jim Sleeper \$13 (Out-of-print but we have limited quantities of mint books available.)	
	History of Santa Ana City & Valley (1887 Reprint) \$12	
	Great Movies Shot in Orange County by Jim Sleeper (Hardcover) \$28 (Out of print but we have limited quantities of mint books available.)	
	Orange County, the Golden Promise by Pamela Hallan-Gibson (Hardcover) \$23	
	Orange Blossoms: 50 Years of Growth by John Sorenson (Hardcover) \$18 (Out of print but we have limited quantities of new books avail. \$49.95 retail price.)	
	Frederick Ely, Orange County's Pioneer Architect by Rob Richardson \$6	
	2008 Cemetery Tour DVD OC Medical History \$10	
	2007 Cemetery Tour DVD OC Agricultural History \$10	
	2006 Cemetery Tour DVD OC Calamities & Disasters \$10	
	2005 Cemetery Tour DVD OC Law & Order \$10	
	Set of any 3 DVDs - \$25. Buy all 4 DVDs - \$30	
<b>Add First Class/Priority Shipping</b> – \$5 – for up to 2 books/DVDs, \$10 – for more than 2.		
<b>Total</b>		

If paying by credit card, please circle: Visa, Master Card, or American Express.

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ enews

Send to: **Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society**, 120 Civic Center Dr. W. Santa Ana, CA 92701-7505  
All sales benefit the Society and our programs.

# 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  
Santa Ana: 1940-2007, Early Santa Ana, Santa Ana in Vintage Postcards,  
Orange County Place Names, Orange County Almanac  
Logan Barrio, or Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana  
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.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by credit card, please circle: Visa, Master Card, or American Express.

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ enews

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



## **Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society**

120 Civic Center Drive West

Santa Ana, California 92701-7505

*A Legacy of Preservation Since 1974*

