

Santa Ana  
Historical  
Preservation  
Society

Founded 1974

# Newsletter

Fall 1998

## The Stones Speak!

How do you plan to spend Halloween day?

Is this your usual daytime October 31 scenario: sitting around all dressed up in your best scary-gorilla costume and nowhere to go until after dark when the trick or treating and the parties begin?

This year, let SAHPS make the difference. We can get you thoroughly frightened while educating you about local history, all in one big, fun, family-minded event—Tales from the Tomb.

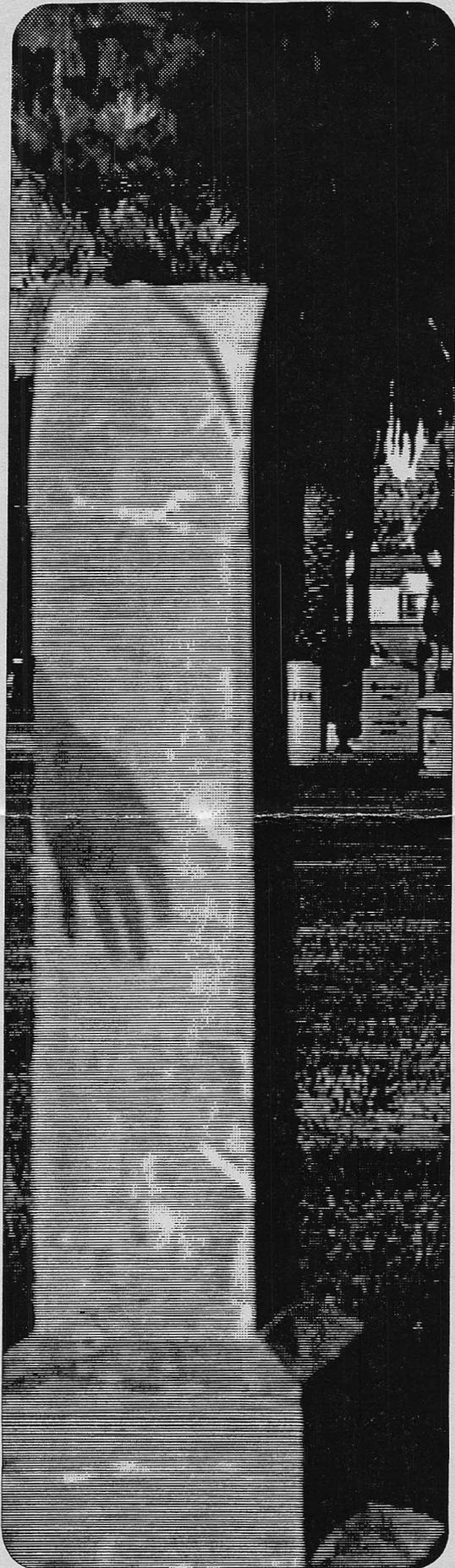
On Saturday, October 31, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. the chills begin at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House. Or is that a mysterious Victorian home festooned in full, eerie mourning at the corner of Civic Center Drive and Sycamore Street in Santa Ana? Mystics, seers, crystal ball gazers... the world of the occult will seem to have taken over our familiar historic headquarters. Naturally, there will be plenty of fun for the kids, and refreshments for all.

From there, you'll pay a visit to two adjoining local cemeteries—Fairhaven Memorial Park and Santa Ana Cemetery—where spirit guides, departing every half hour, will usher you along a journey beyond the veil, past "inhabited" gravesites and in the path of spectres seeking their last resting place. A New Orleans-style Dixieland band will provide suitable funeral music. Beware! You may meet the phantom *Lady in Green* or confront the murdered first Orange County Marshall, whose sad fate was an unmarked grave.

Along the route, celebrated phantoms from Orange County's past (or are they costumed actors?) will chill you with tombstone tales of early days in the Santa Ana Valley. You'll encounter local visionairies, immortalized in such Santa Ana street names as Irvine, Segerstrom, Ross, McFadden, and Edinger and meet some of our most everlasting residents, like members of the Spurgeon and Ross families, who in the late 1860s purchased land from Rancho Santiago heirs and settled down among the tall mustard weeds.

Aren't you just a bit curious about the relationship between

*Continued, page two*

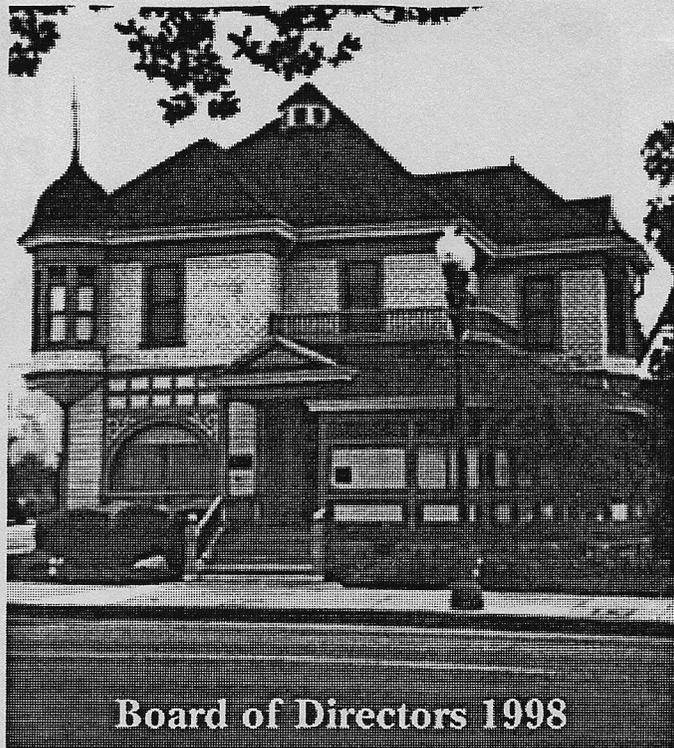


Halloween, from page one

Theo "Budge" Lacy, Jr., and the infamous movie vamp Bebe Daniels? Wouldn't you like to hear about the shenanigans of aviator Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan on his solo flight from New York to Long Beach by way of Ireland? And will you learn the identity of the heavily veiled women who crossed the country to attend President Warren Harding's funeral?

Join us on Halloween and find out answers to all these spooky questions—and more!

Tickets are \$8 a head until October 26, or \$10 on the day of the event at the Dr. Howe-Waffle House, 120 Civic Center Drive West in Santa Ana. Call 714/547-9645 for more information. Of course, proceeds will benefit the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society's efforts to purchase the Howe-Waffle House property.



### Board of Directors 1998

President	Alison Young
Vice-President	Tim Rush
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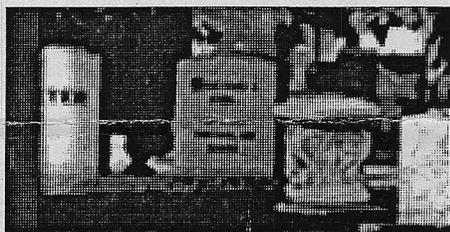
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The *Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society Newsletter* is produced by the Society for its members and other friends. A membership application and renewal form may be found on the back page. We invite you to join us in the appreciation and preservation of Santa Ana history.

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*Newsletter Editor:* Beverly Thompson  
*Contributor:* Alison Young.

*Our Website:* <http://www.geocities.com/heartland/6452>



### Restoration Update:

Tim Rush reports that the installation of air-conditioning upstairs in the Howe-Waffle House has begun and that it should be completed in time to accommodate participants in a planned mid-October wedding.

Out in the carriage barn, insulation installed by Nathan Reed is already making a difference in sound and temperature, adding greatly to the comfort of the barn's upstairs conference area.

#### —The Play's the Other Thing—

Here's a chance to see some of the actors participating in our Tombstone Tales Halloween event, but in quite another setting:

*Suicidis Interruptus*, a Kirk Huff comedy performed by STAGES, will star some actors who will later portray Santa Ana historic figures in our Halloween event.

The comedy runs through September 13 in Anaheim. \$10. For more info, call 714/630-3059.

### You are invited to Wilshire Square's *Secret Gardens Tea* *& Art Show*

Saturday October 10

❖Art Exhibition & Juried Show,  
11 a.m.—4 p.m., free

❖Tea Seating 1–3 p.m., \$15/person

❖For more information: 714/953-08551

## President's Message

We tried but we could not save it. An historic

Spanish Colonial Revival house that unfortunately is located on property slated as the site for the new St. Joseph Ballet headquarters will fall to the wrecker's ball in early October 1998. The Siemsen House is the top half of the Siemsen Building, located at 1812-18 North Main Street, in Santa



Ana's "museum" district. The Siemsens, a prominent Santa Ana family, built the single-family house on the second floor of the three-bay commercial building that they constructed in 1939. The family made their home in the three-bedroom house for several years.

The City of Santa Ana was ready to give the house to anyone who had the capability and desire to move it to a new site and restore it to its former beauty. But despite our mailing campaign and some good press coverage, no serious buyers came forward. Also, St. Joseph Ballet proved unwilling to incorporate the existing building into their plans or to discuss providing financial assistance to move it to a new site in Santa Ana.

Losing this building was a blow. The loss is a setback to our goal of preserving historic properties within the City and County. Still, it has led to some positive communication between the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society and the City of

Santa Ana. For instance, the City has proposed a project for us that would entail our salvaging architectural elements of buildings that are scheduled to be demolished by the City. The project would give Santa Ana Historical Preservation the salvage rights to those buildings prior to their demolition and would provide funding by Neighborhood Improvement to pay for storage of the rescued architectural items. In turn, we could sell the salvaged items to Santa Ana residents who are involved in restoring and remodeling existing vintage and historic homes.

As we attempt to save its beautiful arched windows, its fine hardwood doors and moldings, and its vintage decorative roof tile, the ill-fated Siemsen house will be our first rescue operation.

As always, a project like this takes manpower, and I invite those of you who are concerned about saving some pieces of Santa Ana's history to contact me at 569-9225 if you can help in any way—from removing doors and window cas-

ings, to hauling the salvaged treasures, to taking inventory, to finding an affordable storage space.

—Alison Young

### *Save This Date!*

Saturday, December 5 will be the date for our annual *Holiday Tour and Buffet*. Will we see you there?

**GREAT WESTERN RECLAMATION**  
A WASTE MANAGEMENT COMPANY

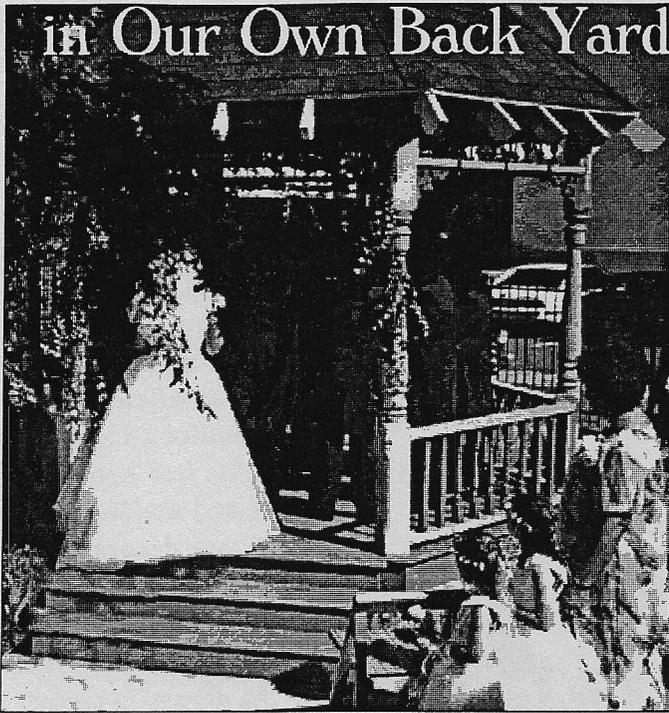


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# Wedding Bells Ring...

## in Our Own Back Yard



On June 20, the gazebo in the back garden of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House proved a delightful setting for the pledging of marriage vows. The bride, Michele Shannahan is shown mounting the gazebo stairs (above), as flower girls and wedding guests look on.

The wedding of Janice Parris and Andrew Burchett will also take place at the Howe-Waffle House. Janice and Andrew will be wed on Saturday, October 17.



### WISH LIST

*We're looking for donations.*

The Dr. Howe-Waffle House would be an even better place for people to rent for weddings and other functions, if only we had...

- ⌘ dressmaker forms or mannequins (male or female)
- ⌘ a free-standing cheval mirror
- ⌘ a wicker settee
- ⌘ vintage display or china cabinets



## Please Accept Our Thanks

Patricia Michel has donated Mortgage for a Day toward payment of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House debt, as has Royal Spurrier, in memory of his wife, Jeannine. Both are annual donations.

A handsome, pristine World War I U.S. Army uniform has been donated to the SAHPS by Marion and Bill Barstow. The gift also includes dog tags, boots, discharge papers, photos, and the naturalization papers of Marion's uncle, Bob Milton.

Nineteenth-century kitchen items belonging to Magdalena (Mrs. Ludwig) Reuter have been given to the Dr. Howe-Waffle House by Josephine Reuter-Inslee. A bowl from the Ritchey Ranch was also part of the gift.

James Heim has contributed an Orange County Public Administrator's Report of a 1903-04 Probate document to the SAHPS archives.

An aptly named set of lovely Haviland-Limoge china—"Victoria"—was bestowed on the Dr. Howe-Waffle House by Anne Harder.

From Betty Tanner, the great-granddaughter of Dr. Willela Howe-Waffle, comes Victorian clothing and a candlestick that belonged to Dr. Howe-Waffle's daughter, as well as a copy of the memory book from her mother's wedding.

## First American Title Will Move



### First American Title Insurance Company

First American Financial Corporation, which for years has been a good friend to the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, will relocate its home office from downtown Santa Ana to the MacArthur Place complex at the intersection of Main and MacArthur Streets. Construction for the new office building, which will accommodate the company's entire workforce of more than 600 employees, will begin sometime next spring.

First American has been a presence in Santa Ana since 1889, and while the new facility will be some miles south of the present one, it will remain within the city limits. The company will retain ownership of the downtown building, with a view to leasing it to a non-profit organization.

Over the years First American contributed generously to SAHPS by providing free printing of mailers and brochures for many of our events.

# Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society Membership Application and Order Form

*We invite you to join or renew your membership with the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. We welcome everyone with an interest in history or in saving Santa Ana and Orange County heritage, regardless of where you live.*

*Dues (can vary depending on your generosity):*

- Individual (\$10-\$30)     Family (\$15-\$49)     Organization/Business (\$20-\$49)  
 Supporter (\$50-\$99)     Patron (\$100 or more)

*Make the Mortgage for a Day:*

*Yes! I would like to help the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society pay the mortgage on the Dr. Howe-Waffle House as follows:*

- Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_  Mortgage for a Day (\$30)  
 Mortgage for a Week (\$210)     Mortgage for a Month (\$900)  
 Check here if you wish your donation to be anonymous.  
 One-time donation     Annual Donation on This Date—Please send a reminder.

*Santa Ana: An Illustrated History*, by Diann Marsh—Covering Santa Ana history from the mid-1800s to modern times, this book includes many never-before-published photographs, some from private collections. \$35.50 (hard bound) or \$21.50 (soft bound), plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Prices include tax.

Quantity ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

*Santa Ana Historical Society Commemorative Afghan*—Features the Dr. Howe-Waffle House and other historic Santa Ana houses. Available in Williamsburg blue, navy, hunter green or cranberry, contrasted with natural. Prices including tax are \$43.00 (current members) or \$44.95 (non-members), plus \$5.00 for Priority mailing. Quantity ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Merchandise Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping and Handling Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Remember, membership and donations to the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society are tax deductible!)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form and your check to:  
SAHPS, 120 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701

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