

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society

Founded 1974



Newsletter

Summer 2007

www.SantaAnaHistory.com

Redesigned Website Wins Preservation Award

The Society won a prestigious 2007 Santa Ana city Historic Preservation Award for our recently redesigned website **www.SantaAnaHistory.com**

Historic Resources Commission Chairman Phil Schaefer presented the award on behalf of the other members of the HRC. He noted, "the website contains articles relating Santa Ana's colorful history, vintage photos of Santa Ana of the past, as well as a children's section to help teach them about our fascinating city. The website both educates and entertains, and is truly an asset to this community."

Commissioner Schaefer gave credit to our volunteer webmaster, **Guy Ball**, noting that he "is responsible for not only the classic and interesting look of the site, but for its extensive content. The Historic Resources Commission also believes that webmaster Guy Ball is also a great asset to this community, and this award is a way we can show that."

The Historic Preservation Award was presented initially at the HRC meeting with a follow-on ceremony with the City Council.

Other 2007 award winners included **Joe Duffy, Truth and Advertising, Ron Nestor, Nestor & Gaffney Architecture, and Rosenow Spevacek** "for not only their part in the rehabilitation of the Phillips Block Building on the northwest corner of Broadway and Fourth Streets, but for their continued support of the historic downtown and of doing business in downtown," according to Commissioner Schaefer's comments.

"These businesses and people have shown other companies that Santa Ana is a vibrant, artistic, and exciting place to be. We value the work they have done, the work they continue to do, and for giving us back the only intact corner in Santa Ana's National Register District."



The third recipient was **Fermin Valencia** for Restoration of the Pepito and Joanne's Dance Studio. "Pepito and Joanne were long-time friends of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, and were in fact "co-conspirators" in getting the first episode of "I Love Lucy" on the air. Lucy and Desi were unable to pay their dear friend Pepito for his acting role in the pilot episode, and he was given the original film as payment. This "lost episode" was later found in this very house, and was made available for public view. After Pepito and Joanne died, the home passed to a non-profit university, who were unable to restore it or use it for their own purposes because of its condition. Fermin has fully restored the home, both inside and out, along with the structure's wonderfully intricate Queen Anne style details. It was a tremendous job, and he was up to it – all the while completing law school."

The Society wishes to express our appreciation the HRC and the City Council for recognizing our efforts and those of others who are working to preserve our wonderful city.

For the latest website additions, see page 6.

From the President

Modern times. After more than 30 years SAHPS continues to be relevant today through preservation activism, education, and community involvement. And love it or hate it, relevance today also includes technology.

The Internet has certainly been a boon to history researchers everywhere, making available articles, papers, books, and photos that might never before have been accessible to the general public. Our award-winning SantaAnaHistory.com website allows us to contribute additional local information to the public, and recent upgrades to the site make it even more "user friendly" to our audience.

E-mail is another electronic tool that is a vital part of the Information Age. As an active Board, we recognize the immense time saving benefits of its almost instantaneous communication. For the first time in SAHPS history we have an all e-mail enabled Board, and are using this tool to take care of more Society business between our monthly Board meetings.

Scanners allow us to create digital archives of photos, preserving the originals and making the images available on our website and beyond. Video and audio equipment record the faces, voices and stories of our community as oral histories. VHS and DVD recordings allow people anywhere in the world to share the personal experiences of the Tuskegee Airmen in WWII or watch our most recent Cemetery Tour, all from the comfort of their own homes.

As historians, we recognize the value of handwritten communications, books, original photos, and other artifacts, and are dedicated to their preservation. As 21st century historians, we recognize the wonderful new tools available to help us continue our legacy of preservation.

Alison Young

*For information on current books available through the Society, either visit **www.SantaAnaHistory.com** or call 714 547-9645 for an illustrated order form.*



*A Legacy of Preservation since 1974.
The Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House,
Medical Museum, and Carriage Barn.
Built 1889. Saved from demolition 1974.*

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society 2007 Board of Directors

President	Alison Young
Vice President	Tim Rush
Treasurer	Guy Ball
Secretary	Roberta Reed

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Wayne Curl	Benjamin Grabiell
Jim Marquez	Jared Solano

Associate Board Members:

Ed Coté	Historic Commission Liason
Nathan Reed	Salvage Operations
Lynn Yerby	Docent & Open House Coordinator

To contact the newsletter editor directly, please call
Roberta Reed at (714) 953-1876
or email robertareed@sahps.org.

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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-run 501c3 non-profit organization
with no paid staff members. All donations and
memberships go directly to our education and
preservation projects.

Your financial support is extremely important
to help fund these projects. Please consider sending
an extra donation to help keep us strong.

Presenting Our Associate Board Members!

If you recall receiving our revised Bylaws earlier this year, you will have seen the description of a new role for the Society: Associate Board Member.

Associates include people who provide a consistent valuable service supporting the Board of Directors but are unable to completely fulfill the duties of a member of the Board. Once these volunteers are officially designated as Associates, they can conduct specific business on behalf of the Society with the permission of the Board of Directors or Officers. This gives them the freedom to work on their own as our representatives, reporting back to the Board in person, by phone or through e-mail--whatever is most convenient for them. Associate appointments are confirmed by the Board on an annual basis.

Associate Board Members might use their skills to assist the Society every month, or once a year. This flexible schedule allows us to access talented members who may not have the time or inclination to take on the responsibilities of a Board Director, but still want to make a contribution to the success of the Society.

Allow us to introduce our first Associate Board Members. Ed Coté, a long-time Board Director who resigned this year, is also a member of the Orange County Historic Commission. He continues his support for SAHPS as our liaison with that organization. In addition, he will continue to play a role with any issues surrounding the Dr. Howe-Waffle House Carriage Barn structure, and the carriage and related contents that are part of his personal collection. We are pleased to have Ed, with his wealth of knowledge on historic subjects ranging from vintage firearms to horseshoes, continue his association with SAHPS.

Nathan Reed is well known to many of you as a Past President and tireless supporter of the Society. Since SAHPS entered into a salvage agreement with the City in 1999, he has acted as coordinator of our historic salvage efforts, which will be his primary role as an Associate Board Member. Nathan has also taken on major projects in the past (such as the remodel of the upstairs

Carriage Barn) and the Associate designation will give him formal status in representing SAHPS should he come up with other project ideas. Nathan, we are grateful for your continuing support.

Do you have a skill or talent that you can share to assist the Society? Please contact us--you may be our next Associate!

Correction

In the last issue, we didn't give retiring board member Ed Coté all the credit he deserves. Ed has actually been active as a board member and serving other important roles for over 25 years - having been recruited by Adeline Walker herself.

We sure appreciate the amazing amount of help Ed has given us since our earliest days and appreciate the fact that he is continuing to support as an associate board member.

Thanks Ed!

Thanks to Ginelle Hardy

Ginelle Hardy, a long-time board member is leaving the board for personal reasons. Ginelle has been an active member of the Heninger Park Neighborhood for many years and on the Society's board she worked actively on preservation and neighborhood issues. At times, she also lent her graphic arts skills as well as various assistance at our events.

Thank you Ginelle for your years of volunteering and helping the Society.

Patron Level Memberships & Renewals

Dr. Amy Stark
John & Lucy Bateson
Mary Muth
David & Paula Brown
Ronald Nestor
Molly Doughty
Donald Kennedy

Thank you for renewing at this support level!

SANTA ANA HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

"A Legacy of Preservation Since 1974"



IS THE DR. HOWE-WAFFLE HOUSE ON THE *ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST AGAIN?*

Major conservation is needed now:

◆ exterior painting

◆ new roof

◆ interior painting



Recent photos of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House. Help us to protect this Victorian gem!

JOIN OUR PRESERVATION TEAM WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION TODAY!

Become a member or renew your membership, and make an additional contribution to our Legacy Conservation Fund now.
Your donation is tax deductible. Make checks payable to SAHPS.

We've been at the forefront of local preservation for over 30 years – *win or lose.*

Dr. Howe-Waffle House
SAVED 1974 & 1994

Spurgeon Clock Tower
SAVED 1994

Seimsen Building
LOST 1998

Central Auto Body
LOST 2002

Yale Apartments
LOST 2006

Koenig House
SAVED 2006

Twist Basler Home
SAVED 2006

Update on our Legacy Conservation Fund Campaign

We're happy to say that we've received a few good-sized donors so far and we've been able to obtain several Community Development Block Grants to help pay for the work we need to do at the Howe-Waffle House.

To date we've raised about \$62,000 toward the now-estimated \$75,000 we'll need. Due to the government grants we received and the additional tasks and wage costs they incur, we expect the painting and roofing bids to be higher than we originally projected. Also, we would like to repair or replace some damaged wood and trim on the House before we start painting. If we have enough funds, we will also perform some major work on the front stairs which have served us well for almost 30 years!

Please consider making a contribution to our Dr. Howe-Waffle House Legacy Campaign contribution fund. (Make checks out to SAHPS.)

We think you agree that some things are worth saving. We've saved the Dr. Howe-Waffle House twice from forces that wanted to tear it down.

Now we need your help to keep it standing proud and protected from the elements.

Please write "Legacy Fund" on the memo line of your check. Donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for caring!

Major Donors So Far:

Gordon & Maureen Bricken

Evalene Pulati Ann Andres

Royal and Madelene Spurrier

Francelia Goddard Josephine Inslee

Connie Becker

We still need your help! Please. Any donation is appreciated and will put to good use!

Contacts Needed

We would like to approach Santa Ana-based Behr Paint and/or another major paint maker for the donation of the paint and primer for the House (about 50 gallons by our early estimates). If you know of anyone of authority in these companies that we could approach directly, please contact us with their names. Call Guy Ball at 714 730-5817.

Happy 100th Birthday Francelia!



At her recent birthday party, SAHPS President Alison Young and Secretary Roberta Reed presented long-time member and historian Francelia Goddard with a special award in honor of her 100th birthday. Alison is shown with Francelia above.

Francelia moved to Orange County in 1933 when she was 26. In a **Register** story celebrating her birthday she was asked what kept her going for 100 years. She noted, "God only knows. I was a delicate child. I used to have shots of iron shot in my behind to get energy. I mean, I lived through the World War I flu, but I had no idea I was going to make it this far. But I've had a good life, a really good life with a wonderful husband, wonderful family and wonderful friends."

She and her husband Allen helped to document the growth of Santa Ana and early Orange County. In 1969, they wrote "Santa Ana's 100 Years: Prelude to Progress, 1869 to 1969" (which is now posted on our website for all to read).

In last year's SAHPS cemetery tour, we featured Allen writing to her immediately after the 1933 earthquake when he was trying to woo her and bring her to Southern California. A few weeks before the party, she was able to meet the family of the young actor who portrayed her husband.

Happy Birthday Francelia! And thanks for all your help to document and celebrate Santa Ana and local Orange County history!

What's New on the Web

Check out www.SantaAnaHistory.com for the following new postings:

- Santa Ana Historic Register with many of the original building reports
- Grave site locations of early Orange County Civil War vets.
- Current Twist-Basler House photos (in pieces)
- Orange Coast Magazine Alvin & Willella Waffle Valentine's Day article.

A Cautionary Tale on Estate Planning

For those who are thinking about estate planning, a recent situation with a local resident sends a message that your best laid plans may not go as expected.

In her final years, a woman with fascinating ties to vaudeville and the early years of television spoke with SAHPS and a number of other groups about her dreams of donating her Santa Ana house and contents. She wanted the recipients of her bequest to continue operating the studio to which she had devoted long years. She also wished her wonderful collection of memorabilia to remain as a museum, or to be donated to specific friends and entertainment-related museums.

While we would have appreciated the donation, we didn't have the resources to continue her work, and our friend continued looking for an organization that was the right "fit" for her legacy. After years of delaying making any formal plans, near the end she settled on a local university. Once she passed, we were sad to hear that her home was sold and the historic memorabilia auctioned to the public by the school for cash. While her monetary bequest contributed to the good cause of furthering local education, her dream did not end as she had intended and her historic legacy was scattered.

For those of you who have collections or structures of historic note that you have thought about leaving to SAHPS, or any other organization, please remember that early estate planning with a qualified professional is the best way to ensure your legacy continues.

Dinner Meeting Survey

Our thanks to the many members who returned our recent survey, giving us an impressive response rate of 25%! We appreciate you taking the time to give us feedback on our event, and will use your comments to be sure that our annual meetings meet the needs of our members.

Surveys indicated that attendance at the event was primarily to support the Society and because the speaker's topic was of interest. Local Santa Ana history, architecture, and Santa Ana family histories were the most frequent suggestions for future speakers. Many members indicated that a "save the date" postcard or e-mail reminder would be helpful when sending invitations. We were particularly happy that the majority of people responded "yes" when asked if they came away with a good feeling about the Society and the work we do.

Many suggestions and comments were offered, along with this one that was my favorite: "Happy that people like Guy Ball do so much and there is a SAHPS". I can only say that I agree completely with that member, and hope that Guy, and the Society, are around for many years to come!

Announcing a New Book on the Logan Barrio

SAHPS member Mary Garcia is writing a book on the history and families of Santa Ana's Logan Barrio and the Society will be publishing it in late September – in time for the next Logan Reunion. The book will include many vintage family photos as well as stories and remembrances of many of the early families of the neighborhood.

Mary grew up in Logan and for the last few years has created a reunion memory book for the benefit of residents and those who grew up there. We're honored to publish the newest version as one of our local book series.

We will announce when copies are available and how you can obtain one for yourself.

Last Call for Post-'40 Photos

SAHPS board members Roberta and Nathan Reed are working with Arcadia Publishing on a

third Santa Ana photo book covering from the 1940s to present day.

If you have Santa Ana photos dating from about the 1940s to the 1980s, or photos of any date with the Santa Ana Fire Department as the subject, and would be willing to let us borrow them and scan them for possible publication in one of these books, please contact Roberta at (714)953-1876 or nkandra_reed@earthlink.net.

We'll let you know of the book status as we get closer to publication date.

Seeking Salvage Sale Volunteers

We were hoping to have a salvage sale this summer, but it looks more like September now. Part of the issue was our need for volunteers to help at the sale. We definitely need people at the beginning and end of the shifts to help move materials, and we need people during the day to help people looking for items. If you're only available on a Friday evening, we could use your help loading up the truck from our storage location.

As always, salvage workers get to choose an item to take free as a thank you for their help! And please be aware, we really do appreciate everyone who helps us in this endeavor!

If you are interested in helping with the sale, please contact Nathan Reed at 714 953-1876 or nkandra_reed@earthlink.net.

If you are interested in any of the current stock of salvage items like doors, windows, sinks, trim, window weights, or other odd stuff and might want to purchase something in advance of the sale, please contact Nathan.

Save the Date!

*Our 10th Historic
Cemetery Tour
Saturday, October 20, 2007
More details in the next issue!*

Newsletter Editor Wanted

Have you ever wanted to be a big league newspaper editor? Did Mark Twain start out this way? Well, while we might not be able to help you make that dream come true exactly, we can still talk!

Your newsletter editors (both the one whose name appears and the “phantom” editor that helps tremendously) are finding that they are unable to devote the time to the newsletter that it deserves while fulfilling our other SAHPS duties.

So...we are in the hope that someone may be interested in volunteering to take over the newsletter, or at least help with the endeavor. Any and all serious inquiries will be entertained!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Roberta Reed at (714) 953-1876 or RobertaReed@sahps.com.

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Help us continue our efforts to preserve, to educate, to celebrate Santa Ana and Orange County History

Membership Dues: *Individual/Family - \$15-49; Business - \$20-100; Supporter - \$50-99;
Patron - \$100-249; Benefactor - \$250-1,000; Golden Honoree -- \$2,000 and above*

(Renew or join at the \$100 level (or above) and receive a copy of Early Santa Ana, Santa Ana in Vintage Postcards, Orange County Almanac, or Orange County Blossoms as a gift as our thanks for your extra support.)

Send your check or complete the information below for a charge:

(If \$100 or over, please circle the book above that you would like us to send you.)

Please charge: _____ for a _____ membership.

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Owner's name on card _____

Name (if different) _____ Phone _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Note: if you would like to contribute to our Legacy Conservation Fund, please indicate the extra amount you would like to donate. Remember, all contributions are deductible to the limits of the law. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization.

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



Then and Now.....
Top photo shows the original Hwy 101 Santa Ana sign from the 1930s. At bottom is a new sign on South Main which will be dedicated in August.



Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society
 120 Civic Center Drive West
 Santa Ana, California 92701-7505
A Legacy of Preservation Since 1974