

# *Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society*

Celebrating 37 Years of Preserving History!



# *Newsletter*

*Fall 2011*

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

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## ***SAHPS 2011 Cemetery Tour Looks at Early Orange County Entertainment***

Our award-winning cemetery tour is back again for its 14th year! “Ain’t We Got Fun? Amusements in Early Orange County” will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fairhaven Memorial Park, 1702 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$16 for seniors and Members, and \$14 for students and children 10 and over. (Children 9 and under are free.)



Long before 3-D movies, Disneyland, or even television, Orange County already knew how to have a good time. Swimming parties, sports teams, silent movie palaces, and early amusement parks all figured in the busy social lives of early residents. Seal Beach emerges as the “Coney Island of the West”; Santa Ana’s Yost Theater becomes the vaudeville capital of Orange County; baseball greats Babe Ruth and Walter Johnson play in a now-legendary exhibition game; Buffalo Bill rides into town with his Wild

West Show. These are the stories of people who worked and played hard in early Orange County. The event is produced in partnership with local writers and actors from the Thespian Club at Orange County High School of the Arts, and is co-sponsored by Fairhaven Memorial Park. Reservations are recommended and discounted advance sale tickets are available. More information can be obtained on the Society’s website at [www.SantaAnaHistory.com](http://www.SantaAnaHistory.com) or by calling (714) 953-1876. You can also email to [tour@sahps.org](mailto:tour@sahps.org).

*Alison Young*



## From the President

Hidden talents? Our Board members, associates and volunteers continue to surprise us by displaying skills they did not even realize they had. Tapping into work experience, hobbies, and life skills to assist a non-profit can be a great way to expand your talents and have fun at the same time.

A great example: several of us, who were already skilled at writing memos and technical papers at work, unleashed the fun side of our writing talents by creating scripts for the Cemetery Tour. We love the writing, and seeing our work acted out by talented actors from OC High School of the Arts is a wonderful bonus.

Are you a parent, grandparent, or the oldest of a group of siblings? What better experience for working with and managing a large group of volunteers for a Society project?

Do you love sewing? Help us create and maintain our costume collection.

Are you a home decorating fan? Help us come up with creative ideas for props and “Set” decorations at our Cemetery Tour.

Are you a social person who loves to meet new friends and chat? Docent, or be a gift shop salesperson at our open houses or other events.

Is project management your forte at work? Coordinate a project for us—I guarantee our projects are much more fun than the ones you have at work!

So think about all the talent and experience you have, and please consider sharing your “hidden talents” with the Society.

*Alison Young, President*

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.



*A Legacy of Preservation since 1974.*

### Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society 2011 Board of Directors

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*Cover House illustration by Ann Berkery*  
*Special thanks to contributors Wayne Curl, Jeannie Gillett, Toni Kimball (staff photographer), Oscar Lopez, (assistant staff photographer), Lisa Pitsenbarger, Roberta Reed, and Alison Young.*  
To contact the newsletter editor directly, please email [editor@sahps.org](mailto:editor@sahps.org).

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*Extras in character preparing for their Ghost Girls debut.*

## **“Ghosts” at the Howe-Waffle House**

Recently, “things that go bump in the night” at the Howe-Waffle House have not been ghostly visitors, they’ve been from Hollywood! Thomas Bond, the director, gathered his cast and crew on August 30 at the Howe-Waffle House to film a television pilot called *Ghost Girls*. Lisa Pitsenbarger, Toni Kimball and Wayne Curl from SAHPS were on hand to make sure the House was safe during the filming.

It was a long night, with filming continuing well into the next morning. In the lulls between filming we talked to the actors and production staff. As you can imagine, they were a lively bunch and very entertaining. Scenes were filmed outside in the parking lot, front parlor, entry hall, the Doctor’s bedroom, and upstairs bathroom. A few lucky locals were recruited as extras: Lynn and Mackenzie Warner, Eris Young and Wayne Curl.

If the pilot is picked up there will be the potential for a lot more filming at the House. Who knows, maybe a star is born! We will keep you posted as to the air date...

*Wayne Curl*

## **Salvage Sale Success And Seeking New Donations**

The weekend of August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> saw a flurry of activity at our most recent salvage sale. Many unique items including vintage claw footed bathtubs and murphy beds rescued during our Historical Lacy Neighborhood Salvage Project found new homes.

Do you have anything antique that no longer fits into your decor? Do you have an antique that’s been collecting dust in your attic or shed and could use a better home? Perhaps you have some of grandma’s leftover china or a piece of art that no longer is your taste?

Or, are you looking for that perfect antique picture rack? Are you replacing the windows or tubs in your old home? Maybe you are just a curious local looking to fix up your home.

If so, you should call us! We are always looking for new antiques to sell to local customers in order to finance the upkeep of the house and events. We also have a large amount of salvage, thanks to the efforts of the Friends of Lacy that we’d love to put to good use in the community!

We are requesting antique or vintage items: from jewelry to knick-knacks to furniture. We have a number of home repair items like those listed above to sell on a first come, first served basis. Call Lisa Pitsenbarger at (714)788-9148 to arrange for your donation or salvage purchase. Donations are tax-deductible and we provide receipts for all contribution and sales.

Rest assured all donations will go directly to SAHPS to benefit the Howe-Waffle house. Of course, this means you’ll want to stop by our gift shop during events to see what fascinating new antiques we have to sell as well!

### **Next Salvage Sale**

If you missed our last sale event, we have great news for you! Many one-of-a-kind architectural elements will be offered at our upcoming sale. Make sure you’re on our email list (email to [enews@sahps.org](mailto:enews@sahps.org)) or keep an eye on our website for details as they become available.



Stunning vintage staircase rescued during the Lacy Salvage Project



One of the fascinating creatures Colleen Williams encountered in the Everglades National Park



### ***Where is She Now?***

As we reported in the spring newsletter, our Board of Directors Secretary and Newsletter Editor, Colleen Williams, was preparing to depart Southern California to take a new position as an intern with the Southern Florida Collection Management Center in Everglades National Park, Florida. While we were thrilled for her opportunity to use her years of training in this new role, we all miss her very much (especially the new Newsletter Editor)! But where is she now? And did she survive the GIANT BUGS and even BIGGER ALLIGATORS???

Not only did Colleen survive the wilds of the Everglades, but she thrived, and learned skills in her brief internship that will benefit her throughout her career. Although she misses her friends in Florida and the beautiful natural environment, it was time to move on to her next internship at the lovely Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. Colleen is excited to live and work in such a beautiful and historic place.

At last report, Colleen had just been awarded her Masters of Library and Information Science! We all send her our congratulations and wish her all the best in her new adventure.

*Max Schmidl*

### **WANTED:**

Our lovely Dr. Howe Waffle House is in need of an area rug for the Pulati Room, our exhibit of Santa Ana memorabilia in a room dedicated to the memory of long-time resident & SAHPS friend Evalene Pulati.

The ideal size for the rug would be 8x10 or 10x12. It's fine if it is a bit worn, and of course a bit of age would fit in well with the rest of the house.

If you have something suitable that you would like to donate, please contact us at (714)547-9645. Thank you!

# ***Carousel of Cupcakes***

## ***The 2011 Annual Membership & Awards Meeting***

Our July 2011 Annual Membership and Awards Meeting was a fun filled event in keeping with our upcoming Cemetery Tour theme, “Ain’t We Got Fun? Amusements in Early Orange County.” The gazebo was transformed into a Victorian carousel complete with calliope music. Dr. Howe-Waffle took a break from her medicinal duties to decorate the rooms for a summer carnival, creating a joyous atmosphere for all her visitors!

Members were greeted in the dining room by a charming vintage carousel animal loaned by Ed and Patty Cote. In addition, Debbie McEwen graciously loaned us items from her vast collection of carousel memorabilia. We served lovely decorated cupcakes and cotton candy and everyone had a chance to win a delicious cake in the rubber ducky pond drawing. .

The Boukai Family, our 2011 Preservation Award Winner, was presented with a beautiful plaque honoring the crucial part they have played in our mission of historic preservation. Our special guest speakers, Jeff Dickman and Phil Chinn, inspired members with an exciting presentation: “Clash of the Titans: Historic Preservation vs. Urban Renewal,” recalling the long road to a beneficial settlement between the Friends of the Historical Lacy Neighborhood and the City of Santa Ana.



*Carousel of delicious cupcakes*



*Ann Moerer with member Rob Rusby and special guest speaker Jeff Dickman*



*Maya Boukai accepts the SAHPS Preservation Award from Board Treasurer Roberta Reed honoring her family’s contribution to our mission of historic preservation.*



*Retiring Board members Wayne Curl and Ray Poppa were honored at the Annual Membership & Awards Meeting for their many years of service to SAHPS*



*Rubber ducky pond ready for cake drawing*

## **Upcoming Events**

**Annual Cemetery Tour:** Learn about early Orange County amusements in the beautiful historic Fairhaven Cemetery: Saturday, October 22 with tours starting between 10:00 – 3:00 pm.

**Downtown Walking Tour:** Saturday, December 3rd, beginning at 2:00 pm.

**Holiday Open House:** Saturday, December 3rd from 12:00-4:00 pm.

## ***SAHPS Special Guest Speaker at Morrison Park***

On August 25, 2011, SAHPS had the privilege to be invited as a guest speaker at the Morrison Park Neighborhood meeting. Roberta Reed presented the topic “We’re Not Your Grandmother’s Historical Society,” and educated the neighborhood on how and why the historical society was founded, shared many of our accomplishments, invited residents to be a part of the Society in a variety of ways, and, of course, put in a plug for the Cemetery Tour! It was a very nice evening of meeting new friends and even getting re-acquainted with some old friends!

If your neighborhood is looking for a guest speaker and is interested in Santa Ana and/or Orange County History, SAHPS would love to visit your neighborhood meeting! We can speak on the history and present work of SAHPS, like we did at Morrison Park, but we can also speak on a variety of local history topics, if that is of interest. To schedule a presentation, please call us at (714)547-9645, and leave a message, and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

## ***Smithsonian Magazine’s Museum Day***

The Smithsonian Magazine’s Museum Day Open House on September 24<sup>th</sup> (in place of the usual October Open House) was a huge success! Over a hundred people, many who had never visited before, toured the Howe-Waffle House. Our docents were kept busy with a constant stream of eager, interested families and individuals. All left with a little more knowledge and a big smile, and many with something special from our gift shop.

This is the fourth year the Howe-Waffle House has participated in the Smithsonian sponsored “Museum Day.” The Old Orange County Courthouse also participated with free tours of the facility and a movie screening. With groups bouncing back and forth it was a busy day of history for all!

## ***e-News Opportunity***

As you probably know, it costs us 44 cents to mail out every newsletter. That doesn’t seem like much, but when you take into account several newsletters per year times the number of people on our mailing list, it adds up to a lot of postage, to the tune of nearly \$600 per year.

We understand that some people do not have computer access and need their newsletter mailed. Still others just really like the feel of holding it in their hands when they read it. But for the rest of you, would you consider allowing us to deliver your newsletter electronically? The advantages to you are that you receive it more quickly, since we don’t have to prep the mailing, and you receive a full color version, instead of the black and white version we mail. The advantages to us are that we save the cost of postage and printing, as well as time spent in mailing preparation.

If you would be willing to “cancel” your mailed version of the newsletter and convert to electronic delivery, please email us at [enews@sahps.org](mailto:enews@sahps.org) and let us know. And for those of you who have already converted, we thank you for going green with us!

## Membership Renewal Season is Almost Here

It's that time of year already! 2012 is only three short months away, which means that we are three short months away from needing to renew our SAHPS memberships!

We will be conducting our annual membership drive in early 2012, but we would be happy to renew your membership now, if you like. Keep in mind that SAHPS membership is tax deductible, so if you need an extra tax deduction this year, here is your opportunity! Alternatively, if you prefer to postpone that tax deduction until next year, that's okay too, but please don't forget to renew!

For those who are not already members, we ask that you would consider joining us. According to our by-laws, new members joining in the fourth quarter of the year are considered members for the entire following year. That's like getting 3 months membership free! So please consider using the form below to join like-minded preservationists and become a member!

And the gift of membership in SAHPS is a wonderful way to remember your history loving friends during the holidays!

## SAHPS Partnering in New Preservation Battle

The Sexlinger house and orange orchard at 1584 E. Santa Clara Ave. is in danger of being destroyed and replaced with 24 two-story houses, proposed by the TAVA Development Company. The property is the last intact orange orchard in Santa Ana, and includes a 1914 Craftsman bungalow house built by George and Sophia Sexlinger, which was occupied by the Sexlinger family for all of its existence, until daughter Martha died in 2006. The project will likely go for approval from the City Planning Commission and City Council in the next few months.

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society has partnered with the Save Our Orchard Coalition (SOOC), in support of preservation of the site as a center for urban agriculture.

We encourage you to become involved in this cause by: sending a letter to the City Council expressing your opposition to the project; asking your neighborhood to support these efforts; signing our online petition; volunteering to help; and donating to the cause – checks may be made payable to SAHPS. More information is available at [www.saveourorchard.org](http://www.saveourorchard.org) or email [defendourorchard@gmail.com](mailto:defendourorchard@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support and the support of the SAHPS !!!

*Jeannie Gillett, SOOC*

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### 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, Logan Barrio, Civil War Legacy in SA, or Orange County Blossoms 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Book Order Form

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

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

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

Qty	Title (all prices include sales tax)	Price
	Images of America: Tustin by Guy Ball (NEW) \$24.00	
	Santa Ana: 1940-2007 by Roberta Reed \$21.75	
	Early Santa Ana by Guy Ball and Marge Bitetti \$21.75	
	Orange (the City) by Phil Brigandi (NEW) \$21.75	
	Vanishing OrangeCounty by Chris Epting (NEW) \$21.75	
	Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana by Gordon Bricken \$14.00	
	Orange Crate Labels of Orange County by Alison Young \$12.00	
	Orange County Almanac of Historical Oddities by Jim Sleeper \$13.00	
<b>Shipping</b> – \$5 for one item, add \$3 for each additional item.		
<b>Total</b>		

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

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

Santa Ana, California 92701-7505

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