



The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCT-DEC 2023



President's Message

Docents are the heart of the Duarte Historical Museum. Not only do they learn about Duarte history, but they then pass it on to our visitors. I am grateful for their service and their dedication. Thank you for the time you donate to the Duarte Museum.

Would you like to be a docent? Docents serve one day every two months. We are open on Wednesdays 1-3 or Saturdays 1-4. You will be placed with an experienced docent who will give you training and support.

Think about it! What better way to give back to your community and to learn about its past.

September 11, 2023 marked the 22nd Anniversary. What a sad remembrance. So many lost their lives. I watched a documentary about United Flight 93 that crashed near Shanksville, Pa, killing 40 passengers and crew trying to take back control after it was hijacked by four al-Qaeda terrorists. The stories told about those killed were heart-wrenching and poignant.

Imagine talking to your loved ones on your cell phone as they are about to crash into the ground, and they know its happening. What would you be talking about?

Halloween is almost here, which means that Thanksgiving and Christmas are not far behind. And then here comes the New Year.

WOW! Another year older and wiser.

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In our continuing efforts to upgrade the Duarte Museum, the air filters for the HVAC were changed. The installation of the flooring was a very dusty enterprise and the filters had gotten quite dirty during the process.

The front entrance of the Museum building has been pressure washed by the City to remove the dirt and give the Museum a new sparkling appearance.



New Route 66 Sign

Duarte has a new sign - a **Route 66** sign. It's big and it's blue, and it's located on the corner at CVS where Huntington Drive meets the 605 Freeway.

After many years of advocating for a Route 66 sign, Claudia and Alan Heller's desire has come true, just in time for the 100th Anniversary of Route 66 in 2026.

The Route 66 Room is Open!

Many thanks to Alan Heller, Jim Kirchner, and Richard Amadori for sharing their collections with the Duarte Museum. And there is more to come. Soon we will also have new lighting and fresh paint on the walls.

How many states does Route 66 go through? Find out during your next visit.



LOTS HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM

The Duarte Museum had a booth at the 66th City Picnic on September 23 held at Encanto Park for the first time. The Museum was also open and over 120 visitors enjoyed our many exhibits.



Alan Heller gave a most interesting talk on August 13 about Curiosities of the Desert. An engaging speaker, Alan, spoke about the history of the various small cities and their fascinating stories.

Alan's talk marked a milestone. For the first time, the Duarte Museum Speaker Series live streamed an event. Thank you to Holiday Heller for the idea and for manning the equipment to make it possible. This event is available for viewing on the Duarte Historical Museum website at ranchodeduarte.org. Please check it out. I'm sure you will enjoy it.



It has been a tremendous collective effort for the past year to coordinate and produce a tribute to Steve Baker, worthy of his contributions to Duarte and Monrovia. The effort came to fruition with the dedication of an iconic bear statue on the southeast corner of Myrtle Ave. and Foothill Blvd. in Monrovia.

Not just any bear, one complete with top hat and mustache, The bear was a beautiful and fitting way to honor Steve who had lived in Monrovia his entire life.

Speakers were Becky Shevlin, Mayor of Monrovia, and Susan Keller, Steve's sister, who gave a very moving and personal tribute to her brother..

Steve was the Treasurer of many community organizations, including the Duarte Historical Society from 1987 until his death in 2022. He was President 1984-1987.

Nobody knew more about Duarte history then Steve Baker. Nobody!



Attending the dedication ceremony (l-r) Liz Reilly, Jim Kirchner, Alan Heller, Kathy Kirchner, Judy Ann Blake

On September 29, a group of docents took a road trip to visit the Route 66 Museum in Barstow. After lunch at Peggy Sue's 50s Dinner, we traveled along the original Route 66 to Victorville to visit their Museum.

Along the way, we stopped at the Bottle Garden where everything was made out of discarded bottles.

A big thank you to Alan Heller for being the best tour guide **ever**.

Road Trip to Barstow & Victorville Museums



Entrance to Barstow Route 66 Museum (l-r) Alan Heller, Liz Reilly, Sarah Mckelvie, Sharman Warner, Dilip Tiwari



Sharman Warner reviews Harvey Girl exhibit at Victorville Route 66 Museum



Mural wall at Victorville Route 66 Museum



Original "BLVD CAFE" sign on loan from the Duarte Historical Museum to Victorville Museum



Cruising down The Mother Road in a Groovy, Far Out VW van



The Bottle Garden—one of the many curiosities along the old Route 66

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE MUSEUM BY
PAYING YOUR 2024 DUES.**

Individual: \$20 Family: \$30

Business/Organization: \$100

www.RanchoDeDuarte.org

Use Secure PayPal Payment Process

THANK YOU

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Open: Wednesdays: 1-3 p.m.

Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

President: Liz Reilly

Vice President: Sharman Warner

Treasurer: Evette Arcaro

Secretary: Connie Ream

Hospitality: Judy Ann Blake

Curator: Dilip Tiwari

Docent Coordinator: Sharman Warner

Exhibit Coordinator: Mark Montgomery

President Emeritus: Claudia Heller

Photographer: Alan Heller

Branding Iron: Liz Reilly

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