



# The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

JAN-FEB-MARCH 2019

## WHEN WILL HISTORY GET SOME RESPECT?



To the horror of this tight-knit Duarte community, the Golden Family of five perished on September 26, 1955, when a drunk driver slammed into their car, in what was described at the time as the “worst traffic accident in the history of the Southern California Freeway system.”

The father, Joe Golden, was employed by Handy Dandy and one of the founders of Duarte Youth Acres. His wife, Minnie, played an active role in most of the civic activities in town and the Northview P.T.A. The children, Barry, 12; Robert, 7; and Linda, 4, attended Duarte schools.

The shocked community mourned this tragic loss and sponsored a drive to raise money. On January 20, 1957 dedication ceremonies were held in what is now Duarte Park on Bloomdale. A play area was set aside, a barbeque built and a memorial plaque installed which read:

**GOLDEN MEMORIAL  
CONSTRUCTED  
BY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS  
IN MEMORY OF THE  
JOSEPH GOLDEN FAMILY  
September 26, 1955**

See page 2



## ANDRES DUARTE WATCHES OVER THE CRAFT FAIR

Andres Duarte on his horse seemed to watch with pride as the Winter Solstice Craft Fair, sponsored by the Duarte Historical Society & Museum on December 8, unfolded with obvious community pride and success. Local handcrafters and vintage wares collectors sold their goods, choirs sang, and food booths served tacos and tamales at the statue plaza and adjacent Grace Fellowship Church, 1551 Huntington Drive.

Santa made an appearance, posing at Jim Constantian's Model A while Jim played Glenn Miller music on his vintage music machines. Guests and vendors alike enjoyed a sunny day. The choir from the Duarte Senior Center entertained, followed by Sounds of Harmony, a Sweet Adeline's Chorus. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a great success.



## GOLDEN FAMILY

Although it was the belief of the community at the time that this plaque was in perpetuity, it is today nowhere to be found. Not only can I not find the plaque or barbeque, no one seems to know where they went. Presumably when the park was reconfigured to make room for car dealerships, they were removed. Is this a betrayal to the Golden family and those who mourned the loss? Is this an affront to history? Now this tragic event has been erased from the city and presumably is remembered by a precious few.

Let us all remember that we are the stewards of history and to destroy such evidence is to erase our legacy. — *Claudia Heller*

## DHS&M BOARD CHANGES

The general membership voted on Board changes at the November 2 meeting. The current Board members are: Claudia Heller, President; Sharman Warner, Vice President and Docent Coordinator; Steve Baker, Treasurer, Historian; Dilip Tiwari, Assistant Curator and Scanning Coordinator; Catherine Long, Secretary; Liz Reilly, Board Member; and Judy Blake, Board Member.



Judy Blake

## OUR DOCENTS

Friends, neighbors and Woman's Club members volunteer as docents, allowing our museum to function on a regular basis. Its fun and educational. To find out more call Sharman Warner at (626) 531-5457.

## OUR SCANNERS

Thanks to our scanners. It's Monday morning and scanners are hard at work to insure that hundreds of vintage newspapers are properly scanned before being destroyed. It is tedious work. These volunteers work hard for history so that one day we can read these papers on a computer.



Janice Buck

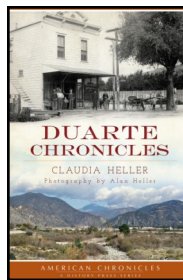
## VECTOR DISTRICT TOUR



Itching to learn more about the San Gabriel Valley Vector Control District a group of museum members toured the facility and learned much more than they bargained for. Did you know mosquitoes are the most dangerous animal in the world? More than 750,000 people die each year from diseases carried by these creatures. The District is responsible for a full vector surveillance program and control program to control vector-borne diseases including West Nile Virus, plague, hantavirus and Lyme disease. How can we help eradicate the health threat? See details on the [www.RanchoDeDuarte.org](http://www.RanchoDeDuarte.org) website.



## DUARTE CHRONICLES TALK JANUARY 25, 6:30 P.M.



This contemporary history of Duarte will take us to lost local icons and some current colorful characters who still enhance our lives. We cry for the loss of The Trails but cheer for the Old Duarte Schoolhouse turned Spaghetti Factory. Learn the story

behind Cinco Robles Street in South Duarte, and find out why there is a bridge over the Royal Oaks bike trail at Oak Avenue. Our speaker, Claudia Heller, the book's author, will take us back to The Blvd. Café and the Big Sky Drive In and other favorite spots of the past. Refreshments after the program. Admission is free.



## MARIELLEN ARMAS STALLER



Mariellen Armas Staller  
2/26/36—12/4/18

We mourn the loss of our faithful supporter, docent, community activist and long-time friend Mariellen Armas Staller. With her children she established the Paul Armas Memorial Foundation awarding over \$100,000 in scholarships for college bound Duarte High seniors. She recently lost a furious battle with cancer. She leaves a void in the lives of her family and friends.

## HORSELESS CARRIAGE CLUB TO VISIT JANUARY 26, 7-10 A.M.



Come view these priceless carriages behind the museum from 7 to 10 a.m. The Club will hold a pancake breakfast and show off their carriages.

## BIRDWALK SPOTS 40 SPECIES



Say's Phoebe—photo  
by Ayla Qureshi

On a chilly December morning, a group of birdwatchers took off on the Bioswale Trail binoculars in hand. Led by Kimball Garrett of the L.A. County Museum of Natural History, they intently looked and listened and enjoyed a variety of birds including a brief glimpse of an elusive Virginia Rail, a flock of Western Bluebirds and Ruby-crowned kinglets.

**NOTE: This newsletter will no longer be mailed to nonmembers. However, it is available at [www.RanchoDeDuarte.org](http://www.RanchoDeDuarte.org)**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY SHERLOCK HOLMES



Alan Heller

Born January 6, 1854, Sherlock Holmes remains the world's favorite sleuth. Magazines, newsletter, books and movies abound. For 50 years Alan Heller has collected memorabilia about Holmes and will share these treasures with the Museum. The exhibit will remain through January.



## OUR THANKS..

To **Will Margiloff** and the **Margiloff family** for their generous donation to the Museum to help continue with the scanning project. Hundreds of vintage newspapers have been scanned by volunteers who spend many hours doing this tedious job.

Good job **Luz Porlier**—For replacing the tattered signs on the citrus fruit labels on the citrus room wall. And to **Yolanda Bowers** for creating name badges for our new docents.

Thanks to several prospective new docents. We look forward to working with you.

## ARE MY DUES DUE?

If you are not a life time member, the answer is **YES**. Dues are due annually in January. Our members are generous knowing that the dues are what sustain the Society, pay for this newsletter and allow us to stay afloat, buy equipment when needed, and keep our exhibits and library in good order. Our staff is all-volunteer. So, please mail your check to P.O. Box 263, 91009, or through PayPal on our Website [www.RanchoDeDuarte.org](http://www.RanchoDeDuarte.org).

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT**  
**[www.RanchoDeDuarte.org](http://www.RanchoDeDuarte.org)**

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**January 23, 4:00 p.m.: Board Meeting**

**January 25, 6:30 p.m.: Duarte Chronicles Talk**

**January 26: Horseless Carriage Club visit.**

Thanks to the two caterers who supported the Craft Fair with their culinary delights:

Tacos El Torito, Hector Jimenez (626) 363-3433  
 and The Tamale Café, [thetamalecafe @yahoo.com](mailto:thetamalecafe@yahoo.com).

**DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM**

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[www.RanchoDeDuarte.org](http://www.RanchoDeDuarte.org)

Twitter & Instagram@RanchoDeDuarte

Open: Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays: 1-3 p.m.

President: Claudia Heller

Vice President: Sharman Warner

Treasurer: Steve Baker

Secretary: Cathy Long

Asst. Curator: Dilip Tiwari

Board Member: Judy Blake

Board Member: Liz Reilly

Docent Coordinator: Sharman Warner

Exhibit coordinators: position open

Photographer: Alan Heller

Student Tour Coordinator: Zoe Osburn

Branding Iron: Claudia Heller, Jim Kirchner

Webmaster: Jim Kirchner

Newspaper scanning project:

Dilip Tiwari and Kayko Jorgenson

Duarte Historical Society & Museum

c/o Claudia N. Heller

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