



The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2021

LOCALS EXCEL AT TENNIS

DUARTE LOSES A LEGEND



Alice Scott (left) and May Dunn at the Scott tennis courts on Highland Avenue used by “the social elite.”



John Scott was said to be the most important man in Duarte. He and his wife Sarah came to town in 1883 from England. It is said he chose Duarte because he was a horticulturist and recognized good land when he saw it! He became a Horticultural Inspector for Los Angeles County.

And this brings us to the game of tennis, a sport that had always been a favorite past time for upper class Englishmen. Two of Scotts daughters were avid players and their father built them courts behind the Duarte Hotel on Highland. Mill and Doll played there while in elementary school, using homemade bats. By the time they were in high school he built better courts for them, and also constructed a small tennis club for their friends to use.

The sisters were encouraged by their good friend, May Sutton Bundy, (1887-1975) the first American to win the Wimbledon Singles finals in 1905. May was from Pasadena and may be better remembered for wearing a skirt that bared her ankles. She had one of the longest tennis careers of all times (more than 75 years). May regularly played at the Scott courts.

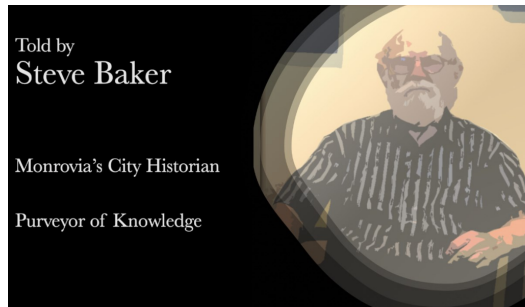
News of the recent passing of Loyd Gibbons reverberated through town quickly and his many friends and fans immediately posted loving comments on social media. He was a Duarte legend, and died at age 103. He worked at his bicycle shop until the end.

Loyd opened his first bike shop in Monrovia in 1959 where he sold his beloved Schwinns. In 1985 Monrovia Redevelopment booted him out and he purchased a parcel on Highland Ave. in Duarte just southeast of Royal Oaks Drive and there remained a staple until he died.

He was known as the bike man and his shop was a trove of bicycles, bike parts, American Indian artifacts, antiques, and tools. He could repair any bike, but his passion was original Schwinns. Many of today's adults remember taking their childhood bikes to be fixed, and were forgiven if they couldn't pay.

Loyd was adopted at the age of 3. His birth mother was of Native American Heritage. Besides bicycles, his passion was music and he played his sax with a jazz group around town, notably at The Trails. (Cont. page 2).

MONROVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY SERIES FEATURES STEVE BAKER



Announcing the release of a new project from the Monrovia Historical Society. called "Monrovia Stories,. This series of 85 videos on Monrovia history features the Monrovia Historical Society President and City Historian, Steve Baker. There are videos about the great bank robbery of 1908, a murder, an explosion, the fire that destroyed the grand old hotel, early architecture, churches, schools, movie theaters, film studios, and dozens more topics. You can see some of them at the Monrovia Stories page on the Monrovia Historical Society's website, <https://monroviahistoricalsociety.org/monrovia-stories>. The full set is on the Monrovia Historical Society's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/MonroviaHistoricalSociety/videos>.

DESERT X RETURNS

It is the desert art event of the year. Desert X will run March 12 – May 16 in the Coachella Valley and offers a free event of art and mystery. Log on to info@desertx.org and follow the maps to explore these artistic sites which are scattered throughout the desert for your enjoyment. It's free. It's fun.



Loyd (cont. from p. 1)

In his younger days, Loyd's passion was music. He led the Gordon Gibbons Trio all around the West Coast with vocals, sax and drums. H adopted the stage name "Mr. G." He loved bikes and music, but was also fond of traveling around the USA with his wife Trinidad. Loyd's younger days were complicated, and he struggles to explain. "My mother dumped me on these people, telling them she was working in LA and would return for me. She never returned." He believes she was from the Cherokee Nation.

A retired musician, Loyd entertained with Esther Williams at the old Trails Steakhouse in Duarte for several years. That Route 66 icon was demolished in 2001 after fifty years in business. Before that, he lived in the Bay area and did nightly gigs. "I did it all," he says - "jazz, country, rock, blues..."

Since 1985 he has manned his shop at Royal Oaks and Highland, greeted customers and all the while he repaired bikes by feel since he lost his eyesight after cataract surgery a few years ago.. Customers enjoyed his jokes and stories about the plight of the Native Americans and his youthful travels.

Services were held March 23 at Live Oak Cemetery. As family and friends gathered at the gravesite, Tokuo Nakamoto led a round of Puff the Magic Dragon. Condolences go to Loyd's daughter Bonnie and to all family members and friends. We will all think of Loyd when we pass the bicycle shop.

THE BRANDING IRON GOES SOFT

Due to printing costs, the Branding Iron will cease to be mailed, but fear not! All issues will be available to everyone on the Museum website: www.RandchoDeDuarte.org. It is a quarterly publication, and your stories, input and articles may be submitted to Claudia at famheller@msn.com.

MUSEUM DUES DUE

Please support the Museum by submitting your 2021 dues now. The details may be found on our website.

GOOD READING AT THE MUSEUM LIBRARY

Renaissance Years: A History of Modern Monrovia By Richard Singer

The Monrovia of the 1960s and '70s, was a failing city, a town economically, socially and morally out of touch with a changing America. Three decades later, this small California municipality was being honored as an All America City, a model community whose successes were being studied and emulated by towns throughout the State.

Who came to the area to settle? What attracted them and what did they do when they arrived? This book explains it all in sensitive detail, and gives us a glimpse into the personal lives and aims at those who built the foundation of Monrovia.

My Ninety Years of Memory, Thirty Years on the West Coast. An Autobiography of Lovell Fulbright (1907-2003).

He began a printing career as a typesetter for the Tulsa World News which led to a 72 year career in the newspaper publishing business. During the war he worked in the Duarte Orange Packing House in Fish Canyon and then when the war was over he became editor, printer and publisher of the Duarte Dispatch.

In his book he describes Duarte's growth, school building, city incorporation, and community events.

Railroads of Change, The San Gabriel Valley Journey By Kathleen Thorne-Thomsen

The San Gabriel Valley Journey tells the story of development and growth of the San Gabriel Valley from the Mission San Gabriel to Alta California first controlled by Spain, then by Mexico, then by the United States. The Valley's growth parallels the arrival of two major long-distance railroads which steamed into California in 1876-7.

Rail has proven to be a strong catalyst for growth in the San Gabriel Valley and beyond.

MUSEUM WILL REOPEN APRIL 10, 1-4 P.M.

We have missed you and look forward to reopening on April 10. Please wear a mask for a while longer. If you need a mask, we will provide one. If you would like to volunteer as a docent, call Sharman at (626) 358-2002 for details. If you have an exhibit you would like to share call Claudia at (626) 358-0329. Our reopening exhibit will be on Depression glass, brought to us by Karleen Daugherty.

DEPRESSION GLASS



When Karleen Daugherty got to know her mother-in-law 25 years ago, they found a hobby and passion in common. The two of them developed a love for Depression glass, a clear or colored translucent glassware that was distributed free, or at low cost, in the United States and Canada around the time of the Great Depression. The Quaker Oats Company, and other food manufacturers and distributors, put a piece of glassware in boxes of food, as an incentive to purchase. Movie theaters and businesses would hand out a piece simply for coming in the door.

"I find my pieces at yard sales and thrift stores. Antique shops are too expensive. My friends and I pick things up for each other when we see them. Some of my pieces may be reproductions. It is extremely hard to tell," says Karleen..

She uses the pink pieces on her dresser top to hold jewelry, watches, soaps, flowers, and candles.

Even though we are in a depression at present, Depression glass is no longer cheap or free. It is widely coveted by collectors and has monetary and emotional value. Although of marginal quality, it has been highly collectible since the 1960s. Due to its popularity as a collectible, Depression glass is becoming scarcer on the open market. Rare pieces may sell for several hundred dollars.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.RanchoDeDuarte.org

Phone: (626) 357-9419

Email: info@RanchoDeDuarte.org

Instagram: @RanchoDeDuarte

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If you would like to volunteer to serve as a docent once every few months, please call Sharman Warner at (626) 358-2001. We hope to restore regular hours soon.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE
PAID THEIR 2021 DUES. WE APPRE-
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DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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Open: Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays: 1-3 p.m.

Closed holidays

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