



The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

JULY, AUGUST, SEPT. 2021

CAMELS ONCE AGAIN TREK THE MOJAVE ROAD



Trudging along the Old Mojave Road, it was as though we were going back in time to the days camels occupied the California desert in an effort to replace the burro. This experiment in the late 1850s provided the military with camels on expeditions led by such explorers as Samuel Bishop and Edward Beale and proved to be a great success. Camels were superior to burros and even horses as they rarely stopped to eat, could carry a much heavier load and seldom needed to rest. They were sure footed and tireless beasts. The experiment originated in the late 1850s on the premise that these beasts of burden were already acclimated to the challenges of desert.



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CHAPEL INN



Once a house of worship and later a steak house, Duarte's Chapel Inn is a part of local history which lives on in the memories of long-time residents. It was located on what is now the west side of Highland Avenue, north of Huntington, just south of the current Fire Station.

A group of English ranchers deeded land to Junius Maddock for the building of a mission and in 1896 the cornerstone for the All Saints Episcopal Church was consecrated by the hierarchy of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. Following the dedication, the parishioners spent Sundays working for the church. After services they would drive their wagons to the river to collect rocks for the walls of the church, building the little Norman Chapel. Stained glass windows for the church were shipped from England, around the Horn, and arrived in Duarte "without a crack," according to the book: *On the Duarte*.

This story is now approaching its sad ending. Sold by the Post, the building was bought by another entity which

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BIRDERS FOLLOW KIMBALL TO EXPAND LIFE LISTS

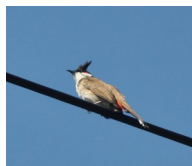


Encanto Park, Los Angeles, California, US
May 16, 2021 7:00 AM - 9:25 AM

Protocol: Traveling 0.6 mile(s)

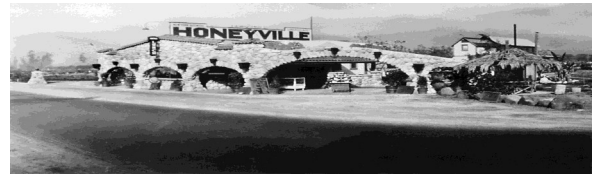
Checklist Comments: Time: 0700-0925. From 0740-0925 joined by group with Duarte Historical Museum for regular bird walk (canceled in spring and fall 2020 due to COVID). 100% cloudy with light sprinkles until about 0800 but dry after that. Calm, 55-58 deg F. Coverage of entire Encanto Park in a roughly counter-clockwise circuit starting at the museum, then a brief check of the San Gabriel River bottom from the Puente Largo bridge. River bed completely dry, with assorted homeless encampments. List compiled by Kimball Garrett. 30 species

View this checklist online at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S88387894> and it appears on the Museum website.



DUARTE MUSEUM SCANNING GOES ON AND ON AND ON

Museum volunteer Jan Buck works several hours every week scanning old Duarte Dispatch Newspapers. Her assistant, Penny Jung, helps. These ladies have spent many hours scanning the editions so that we can get rid of the hard copies. We thank them for their dedication to this important task.



HONEYVILLE

Duarte's history of honeybees is a romantic one of love and nurturing by locals who dedicated time and energy in the bee business. One is the story of Honeyville – the result of Arthur Mayer's love of bees.

Mayer's parents operated a store on what was Route 66 from 1920 to 1952, just west of the San Gabriel River. The store specialized in honey from the family's 500 hives, and customers also enjoyed the small dining room where chicken dinners and sandwiches were served. The store was also known for its graceful structure and light pillars. It was built of the local river rock which was painstakingly selected for size and color. The end of WWII in 1945, saw a sharp drop in demand for honey and beeswax. Honeyville closed and the unique building dismantled, returning the rocks to the river.

Chapel Inn continued

ran into trouble meeting tax obligations. In the end, and to the dismay of the community, the building was destroyed. History-minded residents swore to see that such a thing would never happen again to Duarte's historical buildings.

MUSEUM DUES DUE

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

Camels continued

Camels aided the military and were found to be far superior to mules. Fast forward to present day, overshadowed by Covid, the camel remains a force to contend with as private owners cling to camel history and strive to keep it alive. A re-enactment of a portion of past camel treks across the California desert took place recently as several camel owners transported their beasts in trailers to Goffs on Old Route 66. After a stay among the historic stamp mills, the camels and owners camped on the Old Mojave Road and trekked along a portion of that ancient path, reliving the days when camels were a common sight. Stopped at the famed “penny can,” the group rendezvoused while the camels socialized, some loudly complaining. “They are very vocal, and have lots to say,” says Nance Fite, organizer of the event. Nance is a retired deputy sheriff, best known for her one-time assistant deputy, Bert the camel. She is an expert on all things camel and has been invited to Saudi Arabia to discuss camels being imported to the U.S. once again. Nance is a familiar face at Goffs where she is one of the few people who know how to run the old stamp mills.



Above is Nance's current camel named Trouper and his handler Jason. Want to learn more about camels in the U.S.? Read *The Last Camel Charge* by Forrest Bryant Johnson.

CARBIDE LIGHTS AND PURPLE GLASS EXHIBIT



Alan Heller is happiest when wandering around the desert sorting through trash heaps. The result makes up a new exhibit at the Museum starting June 12. Heller will exhibit his collection of acetylene gas lamps, known as carbide lights, which spelunkers used to light their way when exploring caves and working in mines. He will also share his bottle collection.

Learn why some bottles turn purple after sitting in the sun. Discover how spelunkers find their way in pitch black caves and mines.



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.RanchoDeDuarte.org**

Phone: (626) 357-9419

Email: info@RanchoDeDuarte.org

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**COVID RESTRICTIONS ARE NOW LIFTED
AND THE MUSEUM WELCOMES VISITORS.**

**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE PAID
THEIR 2021 DUES:**

Jennie Avila, Kim Anderson, Steve Baker, BJ Casarez, Grace Clark, Jim Constantian, Candy Daugherty, Shirley Halburian, Harry and Connie Heflin, Alan & Claudia Heller, Connie Ream, Liz Reilly, Diane Sipiter, Marion Stone, Steve, Sharman Warner, Whelan/Soluri, Larry Walls. We also thank our lifetimers. .

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

P.O. Box 263, Duarte, CA 91009-0263

777 Encanto Parkway, Duarte

(626) 357-9419

www.RanchoDeDuarte.org

Twitter & Instagram@RanchoDeDuarte

Open: Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

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

Closed holidays

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Newspaper scanning project:

Dilip Tiwari, Kayko Jorgenson

Janice Buck, Penny Jung

Duarte Historical Society & Museum
c/o Claudia N. Heller
277 Opal Canyon Road
Duarte, CA 91010

