



The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUL-SEP 2024



President's Message

As I write this edition of the Branding Iron, we are busy finalizing the details of the Route 66 Room dedication to Claudia & Alan Heller that will be held on June 30, 2024 Sunday. This event is co-sponsored by the City of Duarte.

The Hellers have been involved with the Duarte Historical Museum since 1982, when Claudia dropped in at the old Duarte Museum office and asked if they wanted any help with writing the newsletter. Aloysia Moore, then president replied, "Thank you, Jesus." and so it began.

Theirs was a great collaboration. Claudia wrote the words and Alan took the photos. Claudia wrote the words - elegant, creative, and straightforward - that captured the moment. Alan took the photos that were worth a thousand words.

The Hellers traveled the highways and by-ways of the Mother Road from Los Angeles to Chicago and back again many times, stopping to visit all the unusual places along the way.

And who better to dedicate the new Route 66 Room to then Claudia & Alan Heller for their decades of service and commitment to the Duarte Historical Museum and to all things Route 66.

Independence Day—the 4th of July—is just a few days away. It marks the historic date in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was approved unanimously by the Second Continental Congress. The Declaration stated that the 13 American colonies were tired of being ruled by Great Britain. The tradition of setting off fireworks began in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777. Congress passed a law making Independence Day a federal holiday in 1870.

The Duarte Historical Museum will be closed July 3, 6 and August 31 (Labor Day Week-End).

POPS ROAD



The Herold family came to Duarte from New Jersey looking for a milder climate. Shortly after their arrival, they made their mark in the Pasadena, Monrovia, and Duarte area. The father, Ray C. Herold, became a successful business man who served on the Monrovia City Council and was a generous supporter of Immaculate Heart School.

It is said those were prime years for local real estate and he arguably opened the first real estate office in Duarte. He was responsible for construction of many of the buildings along Route 66, and Pops Road was named after him. His daughter, Mary Blowers, who was passionate about volunteer work and teaching, died in 2006 at age of 71.

DUARTE MUSEUM PHOTO

One of our docents, Dennis Rocklein, found an early photo of the Duarte Historical Museum building. When you study the man in the photo, his clothing appears to be from the early 1900s. The landscape surrounding the building appears to be newly planted, as you can see tire tracks.

Is this a photo of the Museum when it was built in the Linda Vista area of Pasadena? OR Is this a photo of the Museum after it was moved to Royal Oaks and Cotter in Duarte? What do you think?



NEW ROUTE 66 ROOM

The Route 66 Room is now a reality. The corner closet has been removed; at one time, this room was the main bedroom. The popcorn ceiling has been scraped off, the electrical added, and the new ceiling light fixtures installed.

The entire room has a new coat of paint. I hope you all will visit now that the work has been completed. It looks quite impressive.



↑ CLOSET
BEFORE



← DURING

AFTER ↓



Display cases had to be covered in plastic during popcorn ceiling removal. The popcorn ceiling was sprayed with water and then hand scraped with a spatula. The room was allowed to dry for several days before the ceiling could be painted.



From a storeroom full of unsorted, tucked away, mysterious items to a room full of Route 66 memorabilia and artifacts from the collections of Richard Amadori, Jim, Kirchner, and Alan Heller. And there's more to come!



In reality, the Route 66 Room will never be DONE. Memorabilia will continue to be donated by the public who is looking for a safe place to archive their keepsakes. A place where others can also view and enjoy their treasures.

LOTS HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM

On May 19, Nick Papagelis, a local artist, spoke about his love of acrylic painting. Nick prefers to do landscapes and he showed some of his colorful paintings. It was an interesting and fun afternoon. Following his talk attendees we treated to a display of Nick's painting which will be on display until July 10.



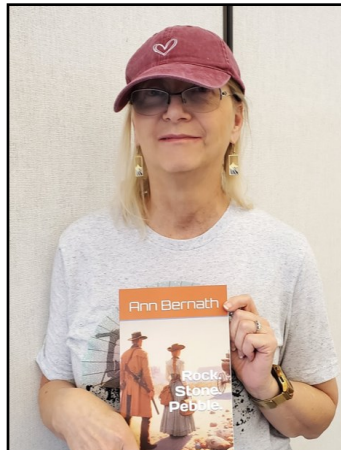
Attendees viewing Nick Papagelis' paintings on display.

Long-time Duarte resident Ann Bernath spoke about becoming a published author on June 9, 2024. Ann has wanted to become a writer since she was eight years old and was inspired by an episode of *The Patty Duke Show* in which Patty wanted to be a writer.

Ann shared her writing journey over the past half-century, and answered the questions she's most often asked: What do you mean by 'You're always plotting'? Ideas for her plots come from an opening scene, a title, conversation, a character.

Ann likes to write westerns, science fiction, and fantasy books. She said that a writer spends the most time on editing and revising, trying to get the words and the plot just right.

Learn more about Ann and her publications, projects, and events at readannbernath.com.



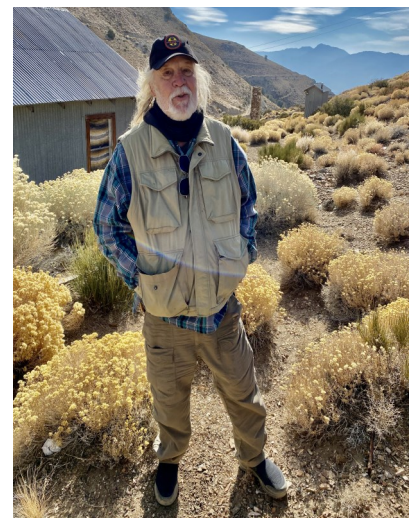
Liz Reilly, Nick Papagelis in front of his paintings

MUSEUM SPEAKER SERIES



Lynne Miller, member of the Harvey Girls Historical Society, will speak on July 21 at 3:00pm about these young women who served food at the railroad depots and civilized the West.

On August 18 at 3:00 pm, Alan Heller, author, traveler, photographer, will talk about the Cerro Gordo Ghost Town. Located in the Owens Valley, it was the silver thread partially responsible for the growth of Los Angeles.



Light refreshments will be served.

The Duarte Historical Museum is very proud to host these FREE Speaker Series programs.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE DUARTE MUSEUM

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN

BY PAYING YOUR DUES

Individual: \$20 Family: \$30

Business/Organization: \$100



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Duarte Historical Society & Museum

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Open: Wednesdays: 1-3 p.m.

Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

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Ellen Worley

Hospitality: Judy Ann Blake

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Docent Coordinator: Sharman Warner

Exhibit Coordinator: Mark Montgomery

At Large: Yusuf Mansuri

President Emeritus: Claudia Heller

Photographer: Alan Heller

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