



The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APR-JUN 2023

Membership dues are a very important resource to the Duarte Historical Museum and supports our programs. If you haven't paid your dues already, **please do it today.**

The Duarte Historical Museum is typical of many small museums in small towns throughout California. Run by a small group of dedicated volunteers, they are supported by residents and friends who share their passion for preserving local history.

These museums share common goals and common problems. Most are small, underfunded, understaffed, and run by people with little formal training in preservation.

The Duarte Historical Museum is a repository of important documents, artifacts, and photographs. The museum preserves city of Duarte founding documents, artifacts from the family of Andres Duarte, a collection of Glenn Miller recordings, and an early Duarte citrus industry exhibit.



We maintain photos and records of local events (the flood of 1936), the founding families, community history, service organizations, the school district, and Rock Town.

We provide a bi-monthly rotating display for members of the community to display their collections. A Speaker Series provide interesting talks 4-5 times a year. Every Spring there is a bird walk.

As you can see, there is something for everyone at the Duarte Historical Museum. The Duarte Museum is open Wednesdays 1-3 and Saturdays 1-4. Come see what we have to offer!

Volunteer! Be a Docent!



Corner of redesigned Citrus Room showing orange picking apron and orange crates ready for shipping.

Duarte High Class Visits Museum

An important mission of the Duarte Historical Museum is to spread the joy of history to our youth. If children begin to appreciate history from an early age, they will become life-long learners and, we hope, learn from the past.

In January, Dennis Rocklein, and Liz Reilly welcomed Ms. Oliva's class from Duarte High School.

The students were fascinated with the different exhibits we have about the citrus industry, the early ranchers, Andres Duarte, and, of course, Glenn Miller. Many questions were asked and answered.

There is a trivia question I like to ask visitors. Where was the first traffic light in Duarte located? The Museum has an exhibit that tells you the answer. Come visit the museum to find out where it was installed.



Ms Oliva's Duarte High class visited the Duarte Museum in January.



President's Message

We had a wonderful Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory on Sunday, January 29. I was thrilled that 25 of our volunteers we present, along with 5 guests. It was a time to renew acquaintances and get to know others who are giving their time and talent to the Duarte Museum. Lots of comradery.

New name tags were presented to each volunteer. If you weren't there, you can find your new name tag on my desk, the next time you are a docent.

Slowly the color we use to brand the Museum is changing to purple. Notice that the new signs in the Citrus Room are purple, as is the outside banner, and now the name tags.

April 22 is Earth Day.

I remember the first Earth Day back in 1970.

I was a senior at the University of Oklahoma.

One of the trends that year was "to take a leaf for a walk". It was a great way to spend an afternoon.



Denim Day is April 24 - a day to wear denim in solidarity and support of survivors of sexual violence. The campaign began after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction because the justices blamed the victim for wearing tight jeans. The victim should never be blamed.



Denim Day is all about spreading awareness around sexual violence issues, supporting survivors, and educating ourselves and others.

Wearing denim is a symbol of protest and sends a message of solidarity to the survivors.

LOTS HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM



The Horseless Carriage Club had their annual Pancake Breakfast at the Duarte Historical Museum on January 28. The morning was chilly, but no one seemed to mind. The cars were polished to the 9s, glowing in the morning sun. The owner were eager to begin. Following breakfast, the Club had a rally into the Foothills.



The Monrovia-Duarte Black Alumni Association displayed a Black History exhibit at the Duarte Historical Museum in January and February.

Dr. Lanita Barnes presented a program on January 15 entitled "What is Your Life's Blueprint"?

On February 5, 2023, MDBAA present "Monrovia Changemakers". Former Duarte Mayor Lois Gaston shared her experiences as she was looking to buy a house in Monrovia and Duarte. The room was full of enthusiastic supporters who listened attentively.

Each of us can be a changemaker. When we see a wrong; we make it RIGHT. Don't look the other way. Don't be silent.

Dr Martin Luther King, Jr said, "The time is ALWAYS right to do what is right."

Rancho Azusa de Duarte

Andres Avelino Duarte (1805 - 1863) was born at the Mission San Juan Capistrano. At age 16, he followed his father's career and joined the Mexican army. He was assigned to Mission San Gabriel. He married Maria Gertrudes Florentina Valenzuela around 1827.

In 1841, on retirement from military service after 20 years, he petitioned Governor Juan Alvarado for a grant of vacant land, 6,596 acres, in the upper San Gabriel Valley. He was granted what he named Rancho Azusa de Duarte. Rancho Azusa de Duarte lay directly west across the San Gabriel River from the Rancho Azusa de Dalton (now Azusa). The original name for Rancho Azusa de Dalton was Rancho El Susa, and Rancho Azusa de Duarte was often called Susita.

As a condition of the land grant, Andres Duarte built an adobe for himself and his family and settled on the land. He and his wife, Gertrudes, and their son, Santiago, lived in a small adobe called "The Homestead" located on what is now Tocino Drive.



After the Mexican-American War and the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Andres Duarte filed a claim with the Public Land Commission for the lands granted to him in 1841. Duarte began incurring legal expenses and other debts, which he defrayed by selling portions of the Rancho.

His first sale was a 225-acre parcel at the southern end of the Rancho to Michael Whistle. Whistler, sometime later, sold his entire parcel to Dr. Nehemiah Beardslee, who started the first school in Duarte and laid out the first section of Duarte's water lines.

Andres Duarte divided much of the remaining Rancho into 40-acre lots and sold them individually.

A US patent for the Rancho was awarded to Andres Duarte in 1878. Duarte had finally won a favorable ruling from the Supreme Court for his land grant case, but by then he had sold off the entire Rancho.



Museum Speaker Series

The official origin of Route 66 was the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1921. Route 66 was established as a highway on November 26, 1926 and decertified on June 26, 1985.

The highway ran from Chicago, Illinois, through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona before terminating in Santa Monica, California. It is a total of 2,448 miles long.

Route 66 carried hundreds of thousands of Depression-era migrants from the Midwest who went to California hoping for jobs and a better life. It was coined the "Mother Road" by John Steinbeck in his novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*. The highway symbolized escape, loss, and the hope of a new beginning.

In Duarte, we are fortunate to have Claudia and Alan Heller as residents. They have traveled extensively along the "Main Street of America" and have written several books about it, including one about the "curiosities" you find along the route. Alan, a professional photographer, took all the photos, while Claudia did the writing.

The Duarte Historical Museum is proud to announce that on Sunday, May 7, at 3pm Alan Heller will reminisce about the adventures he and his wife, Claudia, have had during their many travels along Route 66.

Please join us for what is certain to be a very interesting and informative presentation.



**PLEASE SUPPORT THE MUSEUM BY
PAYING YOUR 2023 DUES.**

Individual: \$20 Family: \$30

Student/Senior/Docent \$15

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.

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

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Duarte Historical Society & Museum

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RanchoDeDuarte.org

