



# The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL-JUNE, 2014

## President's Message

*Claudia Heller*

How important is it to chronicle our local history? I've often asked myself this question. Recently I discovered the answer in an article entitled "Local History: What's Wrong and What's Right" by Ronald Limbaugh, Ph.D., Emertus Professor of History at the University of the Pacific.

Validating the importance of local history, he says "In recent decades local history has gained new respect and recognition. Instead of exclusively looking at the world from the top down, more and more academics began to turn the telescope around, to view history from the bottom up."

Local history is important, he says, "because it brings us down to earth, away from the abstract, and reveals the lives of ordinary folk who were the real shapers of history in a democratic society." For every Duartean, there is a story, and our older residents hold the key to our history. That key opens the door to the building blocks of this community.

When I call someone for an interview, they often respond "I don't have anything interesting to say." I have yet to interview anyone where I found that to be true. The Duarte Museum harbors volumes of written and oral histories of our residents, past and present. According to Dr. Limbaugh "local history helps build community pride and respect....it gives us a common focus, a sense of direction to our lives and communities."

## MISS DUARTE REUNION LIGHTS UP MUSEUM



**Former pageant winners (L-R): Karen Butler Moore, Miriam de la Flor Fox, Paula Watson Gardner, Dori Valleroy Russell, Donna Perkins, Dorothy Siefert Walsh, Yolanda Haro, and Alexandria Zuniga**

What an exciting day it was! More than fifty guests attended the Miss Duarte Reunion, renewing friendships, sharing stories, and filming for DCTV. Now relegated to history, the pageant was a highlight in the lives of many young Duarte women and lasted from the 1960s to the mid 1990s.

Karen Butler Moore, the first Miss Duarte crowned in 1968, says the pageant gave her the confidence she needed in the midst of the unrest Duarte experienced during that decade. Miriam de la Flor Fox, Miss Duarte in 1974 still makes her home in Duarte and is today the Assistant Superintendent of Duarte Schools. *(Continued on P.4)*



## A FOND FAREWELL TO BILL NORGARD

A gentleman, a sage, a man of vision. Sadly, Duarte has lost a long-time resident and friend, William Dunlap Norgard. Always a museum supporter, Bill and his wife Nita are shown above on one of the museum-sponsored birdwalks, always a favorite event for Bill.

Bill and Nita were married in 1960 and have lived in the Duarte Mesa home Bill and his father built in 1974. As an optometrist, Bill was a Duarte businessman for many years, and still found time for volunteer work, travel, golf, and spending time with his many friends.

Bill died peacefully at home on February 1. He will certainly be missed.



**Hopefully soccer players and cyclists will heed the new signs recently installed by the City.**

## ANTIQUE FIREARM EXHIBIT NOW ON DISPLAY



**Duarte High Senior Mario Poma looks over the antique firearm exhibit**

A treasure trove of antique firearms is now exhibited at the Museum. Once on display at Western States Bank, located on Huntington Drive in Duarte in the 1980s, the collection has been in storage until recently. The current property owners have dusted off the collection and donated it to the Museum.

Many of these firearms are a throw back to the civil war era. Rendered inoperable for safety sake, many of the pieces are genuine, although a few are replicas. The pieces include a Phoenix Rifle with leather holster, a Remington handgun, a leather ammo case with thirteen bullets, a powder horn, sword and bayonet. Also on display are civil war photos and a circa 1980 rendering of the Western States Bank. The display will remain through May.



## JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF D'AQUINO IMPORTING CO.

**MAY 2, 3:30 P.M.**

**1850 Business Center Dr., Duarte**  
**Space limited – to reserve call**  
**Claudia at 626 358-0329**

Learn the poignant story of the Gaetano D'Aquino family and their fascinating journey from Italy to Duarte. See the showroom, distribution center, and imported food and wine products. Free. This special tour will reveal some of our local history that has been hidden.



**The D'Aquinos meet with Mr. & Mrs. Lee Iacocca in Duarte in 1988.**

## SPRING BIRD WALK SET FOR SUNDAY APRIL 13

The annual spring bird walk will leave the Duarte Museum in Encanto Park at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 13 and will proceed along the bioswale, across the Puente Largo Bridge and north to the first spillway. Ornithologist Kimball Garrett, collections manager at the LA County Museum of Natural History will lead the walk. Admission is free. Call (626) 358-0329 if you have questions. Donuts served at museum 7:00-7:30 a.m.

## JUSTICE BROTHERS TOUR LED BY ED JUSTICE, JR.



On a recent museum-sponsored tour of the Justice Brothers Racing Museum located right here in Duarte, the story of the Justice family as well as the history of the automobile, were presented by Ed Justice, Jr.

"The tour was a wonderful walk through auto racing history," says museum member Marc Trummel. "Ed Justice, Jr. was a fountain of historical knowledge about cars, drivers and tracks all based on a varied collection of race cars and road cars."

We are fortunate to have this treasure trove of auto history right here on Duarte's little stretch of Route 66. Located at 2734 Huntington Drive, the Museum is open to the public on an individual basis or tours. To make arrangements, call (626) 359-9174.



**PLEASE SUPPORT THE MUSEUM BY  
PAYING YOUR 2014 DUES. Student/teacher:  
\$10; Individual: \$15; Family: \$25; Business/  
Organization: \$100; Lifetime: \$500. Dues help  
pay for this newsletter and our monthly  
operating costs. THANK YOU**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

April 13: Bird walk leaves museum 7:30 a.m.  
May 2: Tour D'Aquino Importing Co., 3:30 p.m.  
May 21: Taste of Duarte, 5-8 p.m. - Westminster  
Gardens

*Miss Duarte (continued from Page 1)*

The reunion and corresponding exhibit brought to life a segment of Duarte's history that helped shape the future for many local ladies. Their memories have now been recorded on DCTV and the program is available on line. at DCTVDuarte.net and Duartehistory.org

**Duarte Historical Society & Museum**

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

777 Encanto Parkway, Duarte

(626) 357-9419

Open: Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

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

Web page: [www.duartehistory.org](http://www.duartehistory.org)

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