



The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY-SEPT. 2014

President's Message

Claudia Heller

Armed with pen and paper, dozens of third and fourth graders from Royal Oaks School busily studied every corner of the museum in a May visit to answer written questions about Duarte history. They were to do such things as draw a picture of the branding iron and say what it was used for; and explain who Glenn Miller was.

This is when our Museum shines, when those eager students learn about local history. These are our future members and helpers. Thanks to our docents who took time out of their schedule to assist that day and help show the students, their chaperones and teachers around. This year we had four classes over two days.



(L-R) **Achilles Blomeher and Adam Benihya** study the stereopticon.



Daisy Lopez reads the Glenn Miller plaque to learn about the famed big band leader.

FISH CANYON EXHIBIT TO RUN THROUGH JULY



Karen Vance and Dilip Tiwari
peruse Fish Canyon Display

Many aspects of Fish Canyon's history are now on display at the Duarte Historical Museum, including mining, hiking, cabins, geology, and treasures washed down canyon during floods.

Fish Canyon is located in the foothills above Duarte and Monrovia, and is known for its lovely three tier waterfall. Its history is quite colorful and sometimes surprising. Did you know that hunters once captured grizzly bears in the area and trucked them off to Los Angeles for brutal bear fights?

The display will stay through July.





RARE BIRD ALERT SPURS SPRING WALK

Duarte is now on the birding map. The March 26 sighting by Michael (Mickey) Long of a Varied Bunting flitting along the south side of the west end of the Puente Largo bridge had the effect of yelling “I found gold” during the gold mining days. Birders from near and far waded through the brush and spent hours awaiting a sign of the bird which ornithologist Kimball Garrett has dubbed “The pride of Duarte.”

Fortunately on the April 13 birdwalk sponsored by the Duarte Historical Society and led by Garrett, the trophy bird made a brief appearance and graced the binoculars of the excited birders. On the Museum’s Spring walk more than 52 species were observed including the endangered Bell’s Vireo, a Belted Kingfisher, a Red-whiskered Bulbul and a Nutmeg Mannikin.

A complete list of species may be found on the Museum website: duartehistory.org.



Varied Bunting

*Photo by
Mickey Long*

A TASTE OF ITALY TOUR OF D’AQUINO



(L-R) Dilip Tiwari, Gaetano D’Aquino, and Mayor Liz Reilly

The Pope, Sofia Loren, Andre Bocelli, ET, and the D’Aquino family all share space on the walls at D’Aquino Italian Imports located in Duarte’s business center. The offices which seem to go on forever, the warehouse with pallets of wine, and meeting rooms are adorned with classic paintings, statues and memorabilia. It was here on a tour sponsored by the Duarte Historical Museum that we learned the story of owner Gaetano D’Aquino and his compelling journey from his days as a young man in Italy. (Continued on page 4)



Marc and Joan Trummel peruse the D’Aquino wines



Fabrizio Renna and Gaetano D’Aquino

DILIP TIWARI NAMED ASSISTANT CURATOR

Dilip Tiwari has recently joined the Duarte Historical Society Board of Directors as Assistant to the Curator, Irwin Margiloff. "The Duarte Historical Museum has archived a vast collection of artifacts, newspaper clippings and other items of historical and cultural significance to Duarte's history," says Dilip. "I look forward to getting the collection pieces organized so that they can be stored in the inventory data base for easy access by all visitors to the museum."



Dilip and his wife Rose have lived in Duarte for 35 years. They have three boys, Neil, Sean and Kevin. Dilip is a licensed architect and a member of the Duarte Community Service Council since 1990. For the past seven years, in addition to being an active member, he is an auditor of the Service Council.

"There is a huge amount of cataloging work to be done to bring the museum collections current. With the addition of Dilip on our Board we are confident we can bring the project up to date," says Claudia Heller.

In addition, Lino Paras has undertaken the project of cataloging hundreds of newspapers. Duarte's former librarian Peter Rosenwald is supervising the project.

If anyone is interested in serving as a museum docent or assisting, please call Sheri Uhlig at (626) 298-6784.

DOCENT JEAN HARRIS DIES AT 90

Martha Jean Harris, a dedicated Wednesday docent, passed away over Easter weekend. Born in 1922 in Alabama, Jean came to Duarte in 1998 and was a long-time member of several organizations including the Duarte Woman's Club. We will miss her quiet presence and optimistic attitude.



QUESTERS VISIT MUSEUM FOR TOUR

Members of a National Organization called "The Questers" toured the museum on April 23, followed by a walk on the Puente Largo Bridge. This club is dedicated to raising funds to preserve antiques and restore historical sites.

Lydia Jarboe, who has resided in Duarte for fifty years, arranged for the tour for the local Don Benito Chapter.



Don Benito Chapter of the Questers

**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**

D'Aquino Tour (from page 2)

His book entitled *To Reach the Impossible Dream* is available in the Museum Library.

Our tour, led by Fabrizio Renna (Gaetano's son-in-law) and Sonia Palacios, took us into the nooks and crannies of this beautiful building and explained the operation. D'Aquino supplies wine to many cruise ships, Costco and Trader Joes. Duarte is fortunate to have this excellent and neighbor-friendly enterprise in our business district.

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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.

Web page: www.duartehistory.org

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