

The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY-SEPT. 2012

President's Message

Claudia Heller

This poignant accounting of day-to-day local life in Duarte would be lost for all time but for the few who had the foresight to record it. The following slice of Duarte life came to me by chance, and I have published it so it will be preserved in writing for the future.

Rosemary Moreno Yull, presently a resident of Napa, has shared the story of her mother's life in Duarte. Her mom, Kitty Kelly Moreno, arrived in Duarte in December of 1944 when her husband, a chef, landed a job at Elliotts Rest Home, a tuberculosis facility on Duarte Road. While he started work in Duarte, she took care of the arrangements at their home in Bridgeport Connecticut and although she had never driven a car, she loaded seven-month old Rosemary and her four siblings into the family's 1937 Packard and headed west on I40, then Route 66, a ten-day trip.

Upon arrival, she immediately fell in love with Duarte and its fragrant scent of citrus. Kitty purchased eight acres of land in the shadow of the City of Hope. Soon the value of the property increased and this was the beginning of her real estate career.

Being post war, supplies and money were in short supply so she purchased a 20x20 Naval hospital tent in which the family lived for two years while she slowly built a homestead next to 'her oaks.'

(Continued on Page 3)

RED CAR TALK JARS MEMORIES

Authors Michael Patris and Steve Crise spent months re-creating old photos of the sorely missed "red cars." With photo in hand of a car snapped back in time, the duo returned to the exact spot and clicked their camera on the scene as it appears today. The result is highly entertaining and educational.

The above-method was repeated time and again resulting not only in an exciting photo presentation, but it is also the fabric of their newly released Arcadia Publishing book: *The Pacific Electric Railway: Then and Now*.

Over sixty people attended the museum-sponsored banquet held at the historic Old Spaghetti Factory.

Reverend Neil Earle and Emmett Rushing, comprising The Sunshine Band, opened the evening with guitar and song featuring popular train tunes.

AS A MATTER OF FACT:

- The original Mission San Gabriel was established on the west bank of the San Gabriel River at the Paso de Bartolo or Whittier Narrows.
- Joseph Fowler arrived in Duarte as a young boy. Later he owned the only mercantile in town which became known as The Duarte Market, located at the corner of Royal Oaks and Highland.
- Gold was discovered in the hills above Duarte in 1866.

SPRING BIRD WALK LANDS BELL'S VIREO AND FRIENDS

Over 54 species of birds were seen or heard on a museum-sponsored Spring bird walk led by Ornithologist Kimball Garrett of the L.A. County Museum of Natural History. About two birders strolled through Encanto Park along the bioswale and then hiked along the adjacent river bed which was rather dry, but alive with blooming cacti and wildflowers.



Thrilled to spot the endangered Bell's Vireo, the group also focused on an osprey, a red-crowned parrot, several species of hummingbirds, Cedar Waxwings and a Yellow-breasted Chat.

The group hiked to the weir north of the Puente Largo Bridge. Other notable birds discovered include a Black-headed grosbeak and a Blue grosbeak as well as a striking yellow-headed blackbird which posed for a time on a utility wire.



RAY BRADBURY LEAVES A LEGACY IN DUARTE

A man of deep conviction, integrity and generosity, author Ray Bradbury was a good friend to our town. Thus, October 5, 2002 was proclaimed "Ray Bradbury Day." His first local appearance was in 2002 before a record crowd at the Duarte PAC Center. All funds collected supported the Library. He had just turned 80 years of age, and "his energy was amazing."

The beloved writer returned in 2005 as the Duarte One-Town, One-Book project featured his works "The Martian Chronicles." To include the younger crowd, the project also featured Bradbury's *Switch on the Night*.

Bradbury again returned to Duarte in 2007, 2008 and 2009 as a speaker at the Annual Festival of Authors.

He was a lover of libraries and credits his success and education to the availability of books through libraries.

Bradbury's recent passing has left us missing him and his generous and loving spirit.

REPORT

BLUE BANDED PELICANS

Blue leg bands on pelicans indicate that they were rehabilitated at one of International Bird Rescue's wildlife centers in California. The IRB is following their survival after they have been released back in the wild.

IF YOU SEE A BLUE-BANDED PELICAN, please report it to 707.207.0380 x 7, or log on to www.Bird-Rescue.org and indicate the band number, location and condition of the bird.

KITTY KELLY MORENO

(Cont. from P.1)

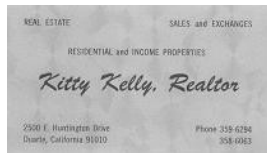


The oaks that she so loved are deeply rooted in Duarte's history. She officially named the street Cinco Robles after the five oaks "History says that a song writer named Larry Sullivan passed by the sign which inspired him to write the song 'Cinco Robles' which was recorded by Les Paul and Mary Ford."

The song was performed on the Ed Sullivan, Tennessee Ernie Ford, and Dinah Shore shows

In 1961 Kitty sold the homestead to a philanthropist who donated it to the City of Hope. Outpatient facilities are now on the property and the beautiful oaks are gone. Rosemary and her siblings, Joseph, Richard, Thomas, and Dolores (now deceased) will always remember that home, the stately oaks, and their mother who was "a happy, self-educated woman with strong beliefs, incredible common sense, a clear vision of her family's future and the tenacity to pursue her dreams."

Kitty died in 1991 at age 85 in Wrightwood. Rosemary was a member of the first graduating class at Duarte High School in 1961. Her brothers graduated from MAD.



MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Girl Scout 100 year anniversary

This historical exhibit has graced the museum for several months, commemorating 100 years of scouting for young girls. It will be removed at the end of July

Black History

The Monrovia-Duarte Black Alumni Association's Black History Exhibit will be on display at the Duarte Museum through August and September. Through the efforts of Eloise Hart and our Museum staff, the exhibit has been expanded to include such local personalities as the Milton Adams family, Hardiman Cureton, Ron Husband, Don and Bernice Watson, Dr. Sylvia Whitlock, Lela Wallace, Douglas Ross, Lois Gaston and Ken Bell. Additional personalities will be featured as they are nominated by the community.

Andres Duarte Statue Timeline

For years the Duarte Museum championed a statue of our town's namesake. After months of raising funds and educating the public about the project, the 14 foot high statue was finally installed and graces our town at a plaza on Route 66 (Huntington Drive) across the street from City Hall. Photographs and memorabilia are now on display in the Citrus Room.

Household citrus utensils

From the collection of Mark and Pauline Montgomery this charming exhibit features common utensils used during the 1930s and 40s.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE
MUSEUM BY PAYING YOUR
2012 DUES. THANK YOU.**

→**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

9/22: Annual Route 66 Parade commences at 10 a.m. and travels from Cotter to Mt. Olive. The City Picnic following the parade will take place at Royal Oaks Park.

10/4 Authors Alan and Claudia Heller will present a program on Route 66 and sell their recently released book *Life on Route 66* at the Monrovia Library, 7 p.m., sponsored by MOHPG.

10/06: 10th Annual Duarte Festival of Authors from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Westminster Gardens. Entry is free. Authors wishing to participate should contact Pat DeRose at 626.359.6413.

Duarte Historical Society & Museum

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Open: Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

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

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