

# The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY-MARCH 2013

## President's Message

*Claudia Heller*

After 1946 at the end of World War II, the complexion of Duarte began to change with the influx of new homes constructed for young returning G.I.s and their families. In 1951, Lucille Morrison and Ida Mae Shrode, members of the pioneer families, felt that the wonderful history of Duarte was becoming overwhelmed by newcomers, and decided it should be preserved. As an offshoot of the Duarte Community Service Council, they formed the first Duarte Historical Society. Through their efforts, books, records, photographs, newspapers, pamphlets and letters were preserved by the University of California at Westwood. However, this group existed for only a short while.

In February of 1965, a newly formed Historical Society was organized by a group of interested citizens and sponsored by the Duarte Beautiful Committee to preserve historical landmarks and promote the historical background of Duarte. Dr. Palmer Campen was elected as the first president and served from 1965-1966, followed by Joseph Molyneaux (1967-70), Aloysia Moore (1970-1973), Louis Martinez (1974-1978), Wilbur Pearce (1979-1982), Monty Montgomery (1983-1990), Steve Baker (1991-1994), and currently, myself (1995-?).

We are fortunate that Dorothy Montgomery, as a past curator, documented many facts about Duarte history, including the language above. Unfortunately, for the past decade, the museum has lacked the personnel and equipment to properly document acquisitions and the many historical artifacts that have been donated. While Irwin Margiloff, our current curator, has spent countless hours research and document such important artifacts as city boundary maps, the original land grant and the

(Continued on page 2)



## MUSEUM HOLDS CRAFT FAIR PLUS

Over a dozen crafters and vendors participated in the Museum Craft Fair Plus on a sun-filled Saturday morning behind the Museum building. The Friends of the Duarte Library held a book sale while the Lemonade Brigade, the brainchild of students from Mt. Olive High School, squeezed their lemons.

Qdoba Mexican Restaurant, located in the Staples Plaza, donated chips and dip served by Maria and Martha. The Key Club, high school students sponsored by the Duarte Kiwanis, offered a helping hand.

Meanwhile, in the museum, Jim Constantian demonstrated his antique phonograph machines, playing a variety of music for the visitors. Loyd Gibbons of Loyds Bike Shop, 816 Highland Ave., displayed an antique Schwinn bicycle near the Christmas tree in the living room adding an historical touch to the holiday scene set up by Pauline and Mark Montgomery.

Were we seeing things? Two llamas visited the craft booths and then strolled through the museum, following their llama sitter Eileen Harington Robinson.

Thanks to Jackie Hasty for volunteering to organize this Museum fundraiser.



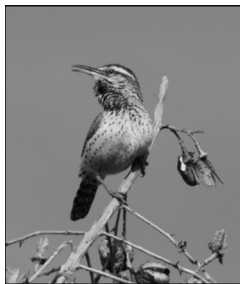


## FALL BIRD WALK LANDS THIRTY THREE SPECIES

It was a sunny fall morning when more than 30 birdwatchers gathered at the Museum in Encanto Park for a birding expedition. Led by Ornithologist Kimball Garrett, the group spotted many bird species as they walked along the Bioswale area, including two pair of Red-whiskered Bulbuls, a bird native to Asia, Pakistan and Southern China. "These escapees have established themselves in California and always seem to steal the show," says Garrett, who is the Collections Manager at the L.A. County Museum of Natural History.

Although an abundance of water tumbled over the spillways, the river had been dry for many months and as of late the wading birds had not yet returned, although coots, killdeer and several mallards were spotted.

Kimball lectured on the fate of the Cactus wrens which have all but vanished due to the encroachment on their habitat and the loss of the generous cactus gardens that once thrived on our hillsides. Once Cactus wrens ranged almost continuously from Ventura County to San Diego, inhabiting cactus patches. There are now few to be found and their numbers continue to decline.



## President's Message (From Page 1)

original register of the Duarte brand, plus answering the many questions from the public including descendants of Andres Duarte, he has neither the time or the means to document acquisitions. We are in need of volunteers to spend the time to do the documentation, plus we need a good computer

## THE CITY OF HOPE STARTED OUT WITH TWO TENTS



There are many books on local history in the library at the Duarte Museum as well as DVDs featuring interviews with Duarte pioneers. Few Duarteans know much about those who settled on this Rancho and put in motion projects that we enjoy today.

Take the City of Hope! According to *On the Duarte*, many people came to Duarte for recreation such as horseback riding, hiking the trails in our foothills, fishing and swimming in the river, and even hunting.

But many more people made Duarte their home because of its ideal weather conditions which promoted good health. Those suffering from asthma or tuberculosis found Duarte an agreeable place to live, and many sanitoriums were built.

When people think of Duarte, they usually focus on the City of Hope. At one time Santa Teresita was also a well-respected hospital.

In 1913 two tents housed the City of Hope. Because of its proximity to the San Gabriel River, when the waters overflowed their banks, the tents would get washed out. When the City of Hope was first founded, those who lived in the area were opposed to it, some thinking that they could become "infected with tuberculosis" because of all the patients who came to the newly established hospital.

Today, of course, the City of Hope is a world-class biomedical research, treatment and education institution which will celebrate its 100 year existence this year.

and printer in which to store the information. This could go to an unpaid intern or volunteer with the time to give and the desire to document our history for future generations.



**BERNICE WATSON**  
**April 27, 1936-October 15, 2012**

The Duarte Historical Society sends sincere condolences to the family and friends of Bernice Watson who passed away recently. The citizens of Duarte, particularly those interested in our local history, will remember Bernice as co-author of the definitive work entitled *On the Duarte*.

While serving as the Public Information Officer for Duarte Unified School District, on request Bernice created an informational pamphlet about the city which proved to be a document widely used by city leaders and officials in addition to teachers as an instructional aid.

With all that research under her belt, in 1976, Bernice, together with Duarte pioneer Aloysia Moore, co-authored a book entitled *On the Duarte* which, at the time, was the only comprehensive book of Duarte's early history. The book was published in 1976 by the City of Duarte for the Duarte Bicentennial Celebration.

In addition to writing *In Focus*, a column in the Duartean, she was also a talented speaker and artist. Bernice was married to Donald Watson who served as Duarte's Mayor (1971), the first African-American Mayor in the San Gabriel Valley. The couple raised three children.

## DOCENT NEWS

We are thankful for Sheri Uhlig's speedy recovery. She will compile and mail the 2013 docent schedule in early February. In the meantime, thanks to the docents who volunteered to cover January. Visitors arrive at our Museum from all over the nation. Most are, of course, from local areas but we often receive visitors from other states. Thankfully our docents are reliable so that visitors don't arrive to a locked door during scheduled "open" hours. We always need more docents, so if you are interested, please call Sheri at (626) 298-6784.

## MUSEUM EXHIBITS COVER VARIETY OF SUBJECTS

### RAY BRADBURY

If ever there were an Honorary Duartean, it would be the famed author Ray Bradbury. Not only did he make several visits to our town to give talks and sell his books, he donated all proceeds to our Library. His recent death has been lamented by us all. In January and February, a Ray Bradbury exhibit will be featured at the Museum, organized by Jack Collins.

### TRASH

The history of trash collecting? Sounds weird, but you may be surprised. In March and April, Burrtec will present an exhibit on this subject which promises to be unique, educational and fun.

### WALMART

Thanks to Pauline and Mark Montgomery for their Walmart holiday display during November and December commemorating the super store's fifty year anniversary with a lovely scene of Walmart's Bentonville Arkansas village.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE  
MUSEUM BY PAYING YOUR  
2013 DUES. THANK YOU.**

## **GLENN MILLER MANIA!**

**The Duarte Historical Museum is gaining a reputation as the place to go if you love Glenn Miller. We are pleased to accept an extensive donation of the famed bandleader's records and memorabilia donated by Thomas Moreno.**

**Also, Jim Constantian of Monrovia recently donated part of his collection. We expect to hold a Glenn Miller party this year.**

### **Duarte Historical Society & Museum**

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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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Vice President: Sheri Uhlig

Treasurer: Steve Baker

Secretary: Terri Hanks

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Director: Boyd Leeson

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Ruby Shiroma, Sheri Uhlig

Video Library: Mary Somerlott, Buck Gwynn

Photographer: Alan Heller

Exhibit Coordinators: Pauline Montgomery,

Mark Montgomery

Branding Iron: Claudia Heller, Jim Kirchner

Webpage Master: Irwin Margiloff

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