President’s Message

Claudia Heller

He was the man who made it all possible. Without Monty Montgomery, we would not have our lovely museum in Encanto Park. Indeed, there might not be a museum at all!

Which was bigger, his booming voice or his kind heart? When I first met former Mayor Monty Montgomery, it was in 1980, the year we moved to Duarte. He frightened me because he was such a bigger-than-life person. He served as Mayor during that decade and was deeply involved in the city in a multitude of aspects. It was through the Duarte Historical Society that we later became friends and my admiration for him grew.

Always with a hearty laugh, he was a joy to be around and his sense of humor was such that years later I planned a fundraising banquet for the museum where we roasted him relentlessly. He took it all in stride, even the part where former Mayor Ginny (Joyce) Belba, took the mic and revealed to the crowd that this strapping man’s real first name is actually “Joyce.”

He served as president of the Duarte Historical Society for seven years (1983-1990), and it was largely because of his contacts and expertise as a contractor that the Society was able to purchase the historic house in which the museum is presently located. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints sold the house to the Society for the total price of $1, rather than demolish it to clear the land for their Church. The deal was

IT’S A WHAT DAY CALLS FOR IMAGINATION!

. From pie perforators to a kazoo, museum visitors gawked at the table full of curious items, some of which were never identified. Loyd Gibbons of Loyds Bike Shop contributed a box camera, bike tank, antique kick stand, and a rubber-band powered zip gun. Pat De Rose modeled a Japanese hand massager, and Pauline Montgomery explained the workings of her clove-covered orange used to ward off moths.

The manual typewriter had suffered corroded ribbons, and was a reminder of how far we have come with the invention of electric typewriters and then word processing machines and now today’s laptops!

DOCENT TRAINING DAY

To our dedicated docents
Curator Irwin Margiloff will lead a Docent training session
At the Museum Saturday April 6, 11 a.m.
Museum tour, explanation of exhibits Questions and Answers Sharing of docent stories Followed by sandwiches

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CHRONICLES OF DUARTE

Soon a new book on Duarte will be released entitled *Chronicles of Duarte*. Published by History Press, the book is a compilation of a number of columns written by DHS President Claudia Heller since 1991, together with photos by Alan Heller. It features interviews with pioneer and contemporary residents, historical events, wildlife, organizations and schools.

Details regarding the launching of the book will soon be announced.

COMMUNITY NEWS

*Sadly*, our thoughts go to the family of our member Donald Wood, recently deceased.

*Sadly*, we honor the memory of Kathleen Mead, long time Duarte volunteer and resident of Bradbury (August 1, 1912-February 27, 2013)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Docent Training:** April 6, 11 a.m. at Museum
**Birdwalk:** April 21 Meet Kimball Garrett at the Museum at 7:30 a.m. Arrive early for donuts!
**Taste of Duarte:** May 8, 5-8 p.m. at Westminster Gardens
**Author’s Festival:** October 5 at Westminster Gardens

A FOND FAREWELL TO AN AMAZING MAN

It was with great sadness that the world learned of the passing of Huell Howser (1945-2013), a hero to many of us in California. He dug deeply into our “gold” and spread his nuggets of knowledge of many well known and little known landmarks in our state. Some grumbled that he had not visited their little historical spot, but he probably would have done so but for his untimely passing.

A few years ago I watched him as he interviewed historical persons at the grand opening of the Kelso Train Depot. It was truly a two man show: Huell and his cameraman. He had no “go-fers” running up interviewees. If they weren’t at the appointed spot at the scheduled time, he personally would take off running around looking for them. And when the interview began, he was as calm and prepared as one could be.

When his guests spoke, he became more and more engaged and excited, listening carefully to their

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The history of waste collecting sounds like an odd subject, but if you think about it, the methods of ridding cities of trash have changed dramatically over the years from dumping waste into neighborhood pits, to burning trash in incinerators, to the modern recycling and weekly curbside pick-up we enjoy today.

Burrtec Municipal Program Manager Olivia Sanchez is passionate about trash and has artistically created an exhibit covering the history of trash collecting which will remain on display at the through May. She has shared some interesting history.

The exhibit traces trash collecting from the days rubbish was buried or discarded into the nearest fields or waterways, to the years when horse drawn carts made pick-ups, and on to more modern advances.

"Over a hundred years ago, the business of solid waste collection was not as streamlined as it is today. It lacked the technology and mobility that the collection trucks currently have," according to Olivia. In the 1920s, the first open top vehicles specifically for trash collecting came on scene. In 1937 George Dempster invented the Dempster Dumpster, and compactor trucks came on scene in the 1960s and '70s.
PLEASE SUPPORT THE MUSEUM BY PAYING YOUR 2013 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

DOCENT TRAINING SESSION
Docents and prospective docents: Saturday, April 6, 11 a.m.
Curator Irwin Margiloff will lead a docent training session.
Bring your questions and curiosity
Sandwiches served

Duarte Historical Society & Museum
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(626) 357-9419
Open: Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.
1st & 3rd Wednesdays: 1-3 p.m.
Web page: www.duartehistory.org
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Vice President: Sheri Uhlig
Treasurer: Steve Baker
Secretary: Terri Hanks
Curator: Irwin Margiloff
Director: Boyd Leeson
Docent Coordinators: Betty Jacob, 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
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