

The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCT.-DEC. 2013

President's Message

Claudia Heller

It was my lucky day! Edgar Perez offered to donate to the museum an antique desk that had been handed down through the Duarte family for years. The stipulation was that someone needed to pick it up in San Gabriel and deliver it to the museum. Thankfully Karen Herrera, assistant city manager, offered to have city employees volunteer for the job.

So, here it was on a day the museum is not ordinarily open and I was there to receive the desk. After thanking the "volunteer" delivery men (Jeff Risley, facility maintenance supervisor and his assistant Bill Keener), I had barely seen them off when two gentlemen wandered in.

Who were they? None other than Pete Steiner and his friend Patrick Moore. Pete was an owner of the museum house. He purchased it back in 1975 when it was located on the corner of Cotter and Royal Oaks. He rented it out for several years and then lived in it until he sold the property (about 3/4 acre) to the Mormon Church, which in turn, sold it to the Duarte Historical Society for \$1. It was moved to Encanto Park.

See page 2 for more information on the recently donated historical desk.

President's Message continued on page 3



Pete Steiner

AVILA HAS ROUTE 66 COVERED!



Jennie Avila has Route 66 covered in more ways than one! As a founding member and past president of the California Route 66 Association and present curator of the Azusa Historical Society, she has promoted the Mother Road for many years. During September, Avila displayed her collection of Route 66 blankets at the Museum.

FALL BIRD WALK SCHEDULED

Local birders were delighted recently to spot dozens of blue footed boobies at local beaches and inland lakes and ponds. What will we see on our upcoming bird walk? Join Kimball Garrett, Collections Manager of the L.A. County Museum of Natural History on November 17. Donuts will be served at the museum about 7:30 a.m. and the walk will take us around Encanto Park and adjacent river trails. Bring your binoculars! Admission is free. Trip goes rain or shine.





DUARTE FAMILY DESK DONATED TO MUSEUM

The desk shown above is made from quarter-sawn wood and for generations has been handed down through the ancestors of Andres Avelino Duarte. It was recently donated to the museum by Edgar Perez who resides in San Gabriel. The desk was given to Perez around 1970 by his aunt Susana Elvira Sepulveda, mother of Manny Duarte, great great grandson of Andres Duarte and first cousin of Victoria Duarte Cordova.

Quarter-sawn wood is sawed in a way that produces an intricate pattern. It is known for its great stability and resistance to shrinkage and warping. The desk is displayed in the Duarte Museum Library and is in lovely shape.

Thanks go to Duarte City employees (L-R) Bill Keener, and Jeff Risley for picking up the desk and delivering it to the Museum.



KEEPER OF OUR HERITAGE WHERE ARE YOU?

Protecting and preserving Duarte's unique history is a job of great importance and takes diligence and dedication. The Duarte Historical Museum is in need of a curator, a post universally described as "the keeper of cultural heritage."

Our curator, Irwin Margiloff, is stepping down due to health issues, and we are in dire need of a volunteer to assist him and eventually take over the post.

Although curators have historically been responsible for the acquisition and care of material objects, such as our Glenn Miller collection, in more modern times the job has partially emerged into a "keeper of digital items."

The curator position is probably the most important and prestigious of the museum work, at the heart of the protection of our historical artifacts. We need a curator to document donated items so they may be preserved and properly stored."

Other Board positions available are membership chairman, event coordinator, social chairperson, Library Director, and an assistance to our treasurer, Steve Baker.

Call Claudia at (626) 358-0329 for more information.



Historical Duarte postcards

DUARTE'S ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY PICNIC



DHS Vice President Sheri Uhlig sells books at the Museum Booth

The Duarte Historical Society along with dozens of other local community organizations participated in the Annual City Anniversary Picnic which followed the 18th Annual Route 66 Parade. The Museum sold *Images of America: Duarte*, *Life on Route 66*, and *Duarte Chronicles*. The books are also on sale at the Museum.

MISS DUARTE EXHIBIT

A "Miss Duarte Exhibit" will be featured at the Museum in January-February 2014 highlighted by a reunion for the past contestants. We are attempting to contact those involved. If you can help, call Claudia at (626) 358-0329. The City has turned over such pageant materials as programs, the official capes, sashes and tiaras. We also have portraits of the winners.

President's Message Continued...

I thought how fortunate we are to receive the donation of that historical desk and how lucky I was to be at the museum when Patrick and Pete dropped in. I typed up my notes from our conversation to keep in the museum files. This is exactly the kind of worthwhile encounter our docents can experience when they are volunteering at the museum. It is our job to keep our history alive!

DUARTE'S ANNUAL PARADE TO ROUTE 66 PARADE



Alan and Claudia Heller with granddaughter Hailey McVey, Community Grand Marshals

With spectators gathered under shade trees along Duarte's little stretch of Route 66 from Cotter to Mt. Olive, the 18th Annual Salute to Route 66 Parade rolled along sporting new and retro cars, several marching bands, celebrities and "regular town folk," and school entries from pre-school to college. This year's theme "Gateway to Hope" honored the 100th year anniversary of the City of Hope and featured as the Grand Marshal Dr. Rahul Jandial, M.D., Ph.D, a neurosurgeon and scientist who is also KTLA's Morning News health expert. Sandy Mejia, Rancho Mexican Restaurant, hosted the VIP breakfast before the parade.



Mayor Margaret Finlay and grandchildren

**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**

**ANNUAL FESTIVAL
OF AUTHORS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
9 A.M.—5 P.M.
AT
WESTMINSTER GARDENS
(Admission free)**

**ANNUAL BIRD WALK
LED BY KIMBALL GARRETT
NOVEMBER 17, 8 A.M.
MEET AT THE MUSEUM
DONUTS SERVED AT 7:30**

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.

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

Web page: www.duartehistory.org

President: Claudia Heller

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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