

# The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY- MARCH 2012

## President's Message

*Claudia Heller*



There are historical gems in Duarte that have gone unnoticed even by long-time residents. Here are a few:

**The Hanging Tree:** There are tales of swift justice carried out within our borders in the late 1800s. It is said that the oak tree located in the front courtyard just east

of the Seven Eleven at 1836-1806 Huntington Drive was employed for this purpose.

**An historical plaque:** The Earl of Snowdon visited Duarte on November 9, 1965, accompanied his wife at the time, England's Princess Margaret. He was the special guest at groundbreaking ceremonies for a building that housed two British motorcycle import firms. Today the building is occupied by WePackItAll. Located on the north side of Huntington Drive just west of Encanto Parkway, the plaque on the outer wall remains as a reminder of the visit by royalty.

**Gaslights on the Mesa:** Duarte is home to more than 2,000 street lights. Many are the city-owned mission bell lights, others are called "cobra headlights" and are owned by Edison. However, as part of our community's heritage, there are still today a handful of old gas lamps which illuminate the Duarte Mesa. These lights burn constantly, eliminating the need for a lamp-lighter to physically turn off the gas at dawn and light the flame each evening. Years ago the Duarte Mesa Homeowners Association opted to pay for the gas rather than allow these historic and romantic lights to be replaced.



## CEMETERY UNEARTHSH DUARTE'S HISTORY

Recently a few dozen locals followed Historian Steve Baker through some of the oldest gravesites at Live Oak Cemetery on a walk that made for an exciting history lesson: a chilly dark winter's night, a silver sliver of a moon, and hulking headstones marking those who have passed on.

Prior to the establishment of Live Oak Cemetery, Protestant burials took place at the 1850 Savannah Cemetery in Rosemead and the Fairmount Cemetery in Azusa (1876) among others. With the establishment of Live Oak, there were families who had deceased members re-interred at Live Oak, such as "little Homer Hull" who was first buried on the grounds of "The Oaks" in Monrovia in 1886.

Steve brought alive many stories. The group stood in silent sadness at the graves of Vincent Applegate and Chester Odneal who died in 1887. With a sense of adventure the two youths climbed Monrovia Peak, only to be caught in a sudden storm. The boys froze to death and are buried side by side.

It was a quiet and still night as those on the walk left the cemetery for home. Only an hour later the area they just covered was hit by the giant wind storm, uprooting five oaks in the very area where the walk took place..



## FALL BIRDING EXPEDITION SPOTS AN OSPREY, MERLIN

*Area covered: Encanto Park and the adjacent San Gabriel River bottom from the Puente Largo bridge upstream to the first weir. 39 species:*

Just as the walk began, a Merlin was spotted in plain view, a life bird for many of the participants. Walking along the bioswale, a surprising number of hummingbirds were seen, mostly Anna's and Allen's. They were busy pollinating.

Crossing Encanto, at the beginning of the Puente Largo Bridge, the group was excited to have a long, perfect view of an osprey, perched in a dead tree. Its silhouette against the grey sky was unmistakable. In the river were such finds as mallards, a pied billed grebe, an egret and even a Sora Rail. A Double-crested Cormorant flew over. Other sightings were: California Quail, Red-shouldered Hawk, Say's Phoebe and lots of Black Phoebes. Many were thrilled to see their first Nutmeg Mannikan, and Common Yellowthroat.

Garrett has promised to return in the Spring to lead another expedition, a time of year when our river is adorned with colorful wildflowers and an abundance of bird life.



## EARLES DISPLAY KING JAMES VERSION BIBLE

Celebrating the 400 year anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible 1611, Duarteans Neil and Susan Earle have created an exhibit now on display at the Duarte Museum depicting the history of what has been termed as "the greatest book ever printed."

Neil, senior pastor at the New Covenant Fellowship in Glendora and teacher of church history on line is best known to locals as co-author of the Arcadia Press Images of Duarte book which was published in 2009 and he also hosts Duarte's Public Access Channel (DCTV) "A Second Look" show. Susan is Registrar for Grace Communion Seminary, an online school based in Glendora. The Earles have lived in Duarte since 1999.

Anchoring the display is an 1898 King James Bible which is impressive in its size and the intricacy of its cover. It is on loan for the exhibit by Duarte residents Russell Duke, President, Grace Communion Seminary and Associate Dean of Theology, Azusa Pacific University, and his wife, Phyllis.

This bible was easier to read and less scholarly sounding than most of the previous translations. King James especially wanted a bible 'that would read well in church,' and that is part of its appeal," says Neil.

Also on display is the German Bible, printed in 1770, donated by Susie Albrecht from Glendora which was given to her Swiss father. It is based on Luther's original 1622-34 translation. [See Page 3]

## (KJV Continued)



"The Latin version between two covers came along about 400 AD but there were English handwritten copies circulating as early as the 800s," he adds.

Although there were earlier translations of the bible, their doctrinal slants were many. Problems in translating the written word are inherent and invite interpretation, error and often even political debate. King James employed no fewer than 50 translators to review previous versions with a principal aim of making his version a product of "the whole Church, more than any one group."

The display serves to encourage those interested in the subject to read further about the fascinating history of this version of the bible. Also on display is a copy of "God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible" by Adam Nicolson, which explores the history of the people, events and society surrounding the time of the creation of the subject bible.

The display will remain at the Museum at least through February. The Earles have donated two DVDs to the Museum Library, on the KJV, one of which is geared to youth.. They have also prepared hand-outs on the subject for visitors. Neil will be on hand at 2 p.m. on some Saturdays to answer questions.

## DOCENT NEWS

After years of dedicated service, Dr. and Mrs. John Guyer have retired from docent duty. We have appreciated their loyalty over the years. Welcome to our newest docent Gini Bickner.

## DOCENT HINTS

The 2012 Docent Schedule has been circulated. Please mark your assigned days on your personal calendar for the year. If you are unable to serve on your appointed day, feel free to trade with another docent. Always greet guests and show them the sign in book. Before they leave, you should give them a form to join the Society. Be sure to turn off heat and A/C before you leave so that our energy costs don't skyrocket.

## ANDRES DUARTE 1855 DEED TO BE SHARED AT EVENT

The Pasadena Museum of History will host the California Historical Societies on February 23-26. Curator Irwin Margiloff will attend *Collection Treasurers* luncheon on February 25 to share the Duarte Museum's oldest artifact, the 1855 Deed by which Andres Duarte sold one hundred acres of land. Anyone interested in attending the luncheon should call Margiloff at 303-1266 to make arrangements and help with the presentation.

## MUSEUM WIND DAMAGE

Although dozens of trees in Encanto Park were destroyed or damaged during the recent windstorms, the Museum fared well. Some roof shingles were blown to the ground and were replaced by our daring Museum Director Boyd Leeson. Later simple additional repairs were made by City staff.

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**HELP! THE SOCIETY IS IN DIRE NEED OF A MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR. PLEASE CALL IF YOU ARE INTERESTED: 626 358-0329.**



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

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

**Spring will bring a flurry of activities to the Museum. Watch for the next Branding Iron which will give details for the following:**

**\* Spring Birding Expedition led by Kimball Garrett.**

**\* Authors' sale and signing of Arcadia Press *Image of America* books featuring San Gabriel Valley cities.**

**\* Banquet featuring Michael Patris, co-author of the recently released *Pacific Electric Railway (Then and Now)*: MAY 14, 5:30 p.m. Old Spaghetti Factory**

### **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.

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