

The Branding Iron

Duarte Historical Society

July, August, September 2011

President's Message

Claudia Heller



The aim of this newsletter is to keep members and friends apprised of upcoming activities, report on past events, and feature items of historical interest.

Did you know that the Museum receives no funds from the City? That is why we are dependent on donations, endowments and annual membership dues. Friends who receive this newsletter and are not members, can help by paying annual dues.

We appreciate our friends and their support at museum events, such as the birding expeditions and star night. Hopefully we can continue to remain open on a regular basis and meet our financial responsibilities such as insurance, maintenance of the building, the exhibits and the alarm, utilities, and newsletter.

Though The Branding Iron is mailed to over 150 local households and businesses, we have less than 30 paid memberships for the year 2011. This is puzzling since our membership fees are modest: family \$25; single \$15; teachers, seniors and students: \$15.

GIRL SCOUTS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

An extensive display of girl scout memorabilia will be on exhibit at the Duarte Museum commencing August 1. It will feature such items as original uniforms, badges, pins and handbooks. The display is coordinated by Debbie Cook, of the Silver Trefoil, a group of adult Girl Scouts who have served 25 years or more.

CHAPEL INN PAINTING DONATED TO MUSEUM



A painting of the Chapel Inn is now on display at the Museum. The Chapel Inn was originally the All Saints Episcopal Church built in 1896. When the congregation dwindled to six families, the church was deconsecrated and the building acquired in 1926 by Clarence and Delia Gordon.

The Gordons transformed the church into a steakhouse, preserving its original décor and refusing to sell alcohol out of respect. In the 1960s they moved from the area, selling the building to the Duarte Post of the American Legion. In an attempt to raise funds to keep the building, a raffle was held and an unsigned painting by George Dickenson was won in that raffle by Isabel Zelasko. Alas, the Legion could not raise enough funds to keep the building. It was sold and destroyed.

Since that time, the painting has hung in the home of Zelasko until recently when she moved to Leven Oaks in Monrovia. Her friend, Odette Cuccaro, a Monrovia resident, has, on behalf of Zelasko, donated that painting to the Duarte Historical Museum.

The painting is now on display in the museum's living room.



KIWANIS CLUB VISITS

Members of the Duarte Kiwanis Club met at the Museum recently, hosted by Curator Irwin Margiloff. He talked about the origins of the Duarte Rancho in the mid-1800's to the current boundaries of the original property lines – in Arcadia on 10th Avenue. He also talked about Glenn Miller and his home on Bettyhill. Margiloff shared with the group various surveyor's maps. "It was a delightful, insightful and interesting adventure," says Tina Carey, Kiwanis President.

DUARTE MUSEUM & ASTRONOMERS HOST STAR NITE

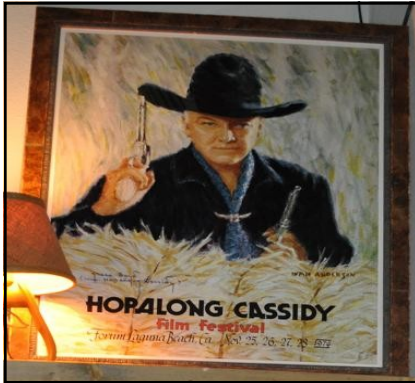


Visiting alien looks for his home planet in the telescope of Morris Jones



Eileen Harrington Robinson leads Copper into the Museum

DID HOP-A-LONG LIVE IN DUARTE?



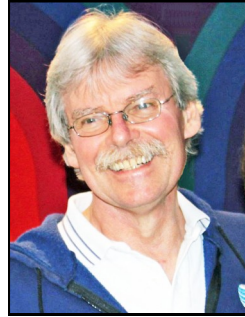
Duartean Everett Adams, 79, recalls that as a young boy growing up in Duarte, his parents would point to a house on Royal Oaks and exclaim: “Hop-a-long Cassidy lives here.”

Is Adams’ recollection a fact? Were his folks joking? Did he misunderstand or remember incorrectly? These are questions the Museum staff is researching. If indeed William Boyd, the actor who played the famed cowboy role, once lived in Duarte, an historical plaque would be appropriate. However, we must first authenticate the rumor. If you have any information on this puzzle, please call the museum.

Boyd moved with his family to Tulsa Oklahoma when he was 7. His parents died when he was in his early teens, forcing him to quit school and go to work. In 1919 he went to Hollywood and landed a job as an extra and eventually got the romantic lead role in Cecil B. DeMille’s “The Volga Boatman.” In 1935 he landed the lead role in the Hop-a-long Cassidy series and appeared in 54 “Hoppies.” When the series ended, he produced and starred in 12 more episodes on his own.

No docents were assigned to work on Memorial Weekend. However, Pauline and Mark Montgomery chose to open the museum that day. Over 15 people showed up to visit. Thanks Pauline and Mark!

ROBERT CUITE:



Museum supporter, Friends of the Duarte Library board member, commissioner, tireless volunteer, husband and father Robert Cuite passed away June 20, 2011. Our sympathies go out to his family and friends.

JASMINE GORDON:

Graduate of Monrovia High School, class of 2009, Jasmine is serving as an intern at the Museum this summer. She is taking general studies at the University of Texas-Pan American. Her internship is under the direction of Curator Margiloff.

DON WILLIAMSON:

A rancher from Contra Costa County, Williamson recently died. He bequeathed monies from his estate to dozens of historical societies. The Duarte Historical Museum through the efforts of Curator Margiloff is scheduled to receive a donation of \$2,000 from the estate.

JHON KUPPENS:

Jhon is the great, great, great grandson of Andres Duarte. Victoria Duarte Cordova was his aunt. He visited the museum recently, bringing his family to peruse the exhibits. His daughter, Kristyn, 16 years old, proudly signed the guest book: *great, great, great, great granddaughter of Andres Duarte.*

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

This organization is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. In addition to their work supporting the library, awarding scholarships and donating books and other items to the local Library, the FDL organizes and is responsible for the Annual Festival of Authors. This year the festival will be held on October 8, at Westminster Gardens. Admission is free.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE
MUSEUM BY PAYING YOUR
2011 DUES. THANK YOU.**

☺ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Sept. 24: Duarte's Salute to Route 66
Parade**
**Oct. 8:* Annual Festival of Authors
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
at Westminster Gardens**

***changed from October 1.**

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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