



# The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUL-SEP 2025



## President's Message



## Route 66

Next year, U.S. Route 66 will be 100 years old.

It was established on November 11, 1926, when Congress enacted a comprehensive national highway construction plan. From the beginning, the public road planners wanted Route 66 to connect the main streets of rural and urban communities, as a way to link the country together.

Before the nationwide network of numbered highways was adopted, "auto trails" were marked by private companies. The route that became Route 66 combined four different highways - the Lone Star Route from Chicago to St. Louis; the Ozark Trails from St. Louis to Oklahoma City; the Postal Highway from OKC to Amarillo; and the National Old Trails Highway through New Mexico into Los Angeles.

That's correct - Los Angeles. The first terminus of Route 66 was downtown LA at Broadway and 7th St.

In 1936 the end was officially moved to Lincoln Bl. and Olympic Bl. at US 101 Alt..



An exuberant crowd, filled to capacity, greeted our Speaker, Lynne Miller, on June 1, as she spoke about the history of Route 66. and where it traversed in California - beginning in Needles and ending in Los Angeles. It is a 315 mile long museum with plenty to see along the way.

Lynne's talk was most interesting and entertaining as she spoke about her favorite places.

Lynne is a board member of the California Route 66 Assoc, which began in 1990 to foster, expand, promote, and perpetuate public awareness of the significance of Route 66 in California.



The final stretch of Route 66 was decommissioned north of Williams, Arizona in 1984.



Did you know that Historic Route 66 never did end at the Santa Monica Pier? This famous plaque is a movie prop located at Ocean Bl. and Santa Monica Bl.

## RED CAR RAIL FINDS NEW HOME

The Duarte Historical Museum now has a 5 foot piece of rail from the Red Car that ran through Duarte, connecting Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley to Glendora. The Pacific Electric Railway was created in 1901 by Henry E. Huntington, although the line from Monrovia to Glendora was not completed until 1907.

The longest serving electric rail line, Los Angeles to Long Beach, was shut down on April 9, 1961.

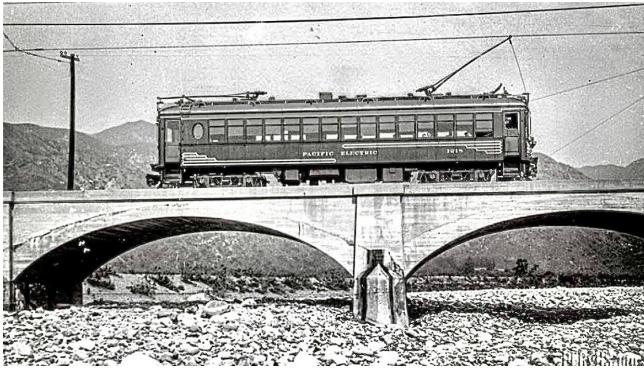


PHOTO OF "RED CAR" TRAVELING OVER THE  
PUENTE LARGO BRIDGE SOUTHEAST OF THE DUARTE MUSEUM

Recently, a 5 foot rail from the Red Car tracks that originally ran beside Royal Drive was donated to the Duarte Museum by Nancy Knight. The photo to the below shows the rail leaning against the wall behind our "Red Car" exhibit. This exhibit also contains an original spike, a map of the entire Red Car, a ticket, a model of the Red Car, and several photos.

Thank you to Nancy Knight for helping to complete out collection.



## MUSEUM SPEAKER SERIES



### Women in the History of Math & Science - Tim Thompson Sunday, July 13, 2025, 3:00 pm

Tim Thompson, Trustee & Science Director at the Mt. Wilson Institute & Observatory, will present Part 2 of his talk about the women in history that laid the ground work for some of the most significant current discoveries in Math & Science.

**Admission is FREE.**  
**Light refreshments will be served.**

Nancy tells the story behind her donation:

"We moved to Duarte from Azusa in 1968. Our house was on a corner off of Royal Oaks Drive with a view of the path of the old Pacific Electric Railway. We knew the history of the "Red Cars," which stopped operating around 1961. My brother-in-law rode them when growing up in Monrovia in the 1940s and 1950s. In the late 1970s, work began on clearing the path for the future Duarte Bike Trail. The railway ties and rails were being removed, so we carried a 5 foot rail into our backyard for a memento of the "Red Cars". After almost 50 years, in 2025, I decided to donate it to the Duarte Historical Museum when I moved to Fallbrook, CA. May it be a fond reminder of a time long past."

Nancy Knight



## ANDRES DUARTE'S FAMILY VISITS

One of the pleasures of being a docent is meeting the diverse visitors that come to the Duarte Historical Museum.

Sometimes they grew up in Duarte and then moved away; sometimes they are looking for a specific reference; sometimes they just want to learn more about the town they live in.

Recent visitors were members of the Andres Duarte family. They were very surprised at how much information and family artifacts we have about their ancestor. After all, this town was named after Andres Duarte, we should have a lot.

They especially loved looking at the many photos we have, pointing at the faces, and naming who it was and their relationship to them.

I learn so much history from our visitors.



## SHERRI UHLIG'S TREE RISES

The pine tree behind the Duarte Historical Museum that was dedicated to Sherri Uhlig was a victim of the January 6-8, 2025 severe wind storms that created havoc in our area by knocking down power lines, falling trees, and blowing shingles off roofs.

Many thanks to Steve Warner for his ombudsman ship in talking to Gerard at the City of Duarte and getting Sherri's tree replaced.

Steve credits Sherri with being instrumental in his late wife, Sharman, becoming a docent at the

Duarte Historical Museum. Steve asked for a tree that would add a pop of color to the area behind the Museum. Sherri Uhlig was the Museum's docent coordinator and Vice President for many years.



## GLENN MILLER DISPLAY MOVED



The Glenn Miller exhibit has been moved from the Citrus Room into the Main Room. With the move, I was able to unpack all the Miller memorabilia and boxes of records that were in storage. Everything we have about Glenn Miller is now displayed in one area.

Special thanks go to Alice Garcia, Ellen Worley, Liz Reilly, and Pat Holley for their help with the cleaning and the arrangement.

The display is more noticeable to visitors and looks so professional. Stop by and see it soon.

In fact, we have already had some wonderful comments about the exhibit. A recent visitor, Addison, told our docent, Richard Amadori, that his father, Jerry Coniglio, was born at the Miller House. We had a interesting conversation and I look forward to more information from him.



In 2025, the Duarte Historical Museum  
will be closed April 19; May 24;  
June 14 - July 12; August 30;  
November 22-29; & December 20-31.

## JOIN DUARTE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Individual: \$20      Family: \$30

Lifetime Membership: \$500

Business/Organization: \$100

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

[www.RanchoDeDuarte.org](http://www.RanchoDeDuarte.org)

### OR MAIL A CHECK TO

Duarte Historical Society  
P.O. Box 263, Duarte, CA 91009-0263



Duarte Historical Society & Museum  
c/o Liz Reilly  
3204 Conata Street  
Duarte, CA 91010  
[RanchoDeDuarte.org](http://RanchoDeDuarte.org)



**Duarte Historical Society & Museum**  
**777 Encanto Parkway, Duarte, CA, 91010**

**Open: Wednesdays: 1-3 p.m.**

**Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.**

President: Liz Reilly

Vice President: Judy Ann Blake

Treasurer: Evette Arcaro

Secretary: Connie Ream

Director: Ellen Worley

Curator: Dilip Tiwari

Docent Coordinator: Judy Ann Blake

Exhibit Coordinator: Mark Montgomery

President Emeritus: Claudia Heller

Photographer: Alan Heller

Branding Iron: Liz Reilly

Webmaster: Jim Kirchner