The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OCT-DEC 2026

"Great minds discuss ideas;
Average minds discuss events;
Small minds discuss people."

Eleanor Roosevelt

One of my favorite people in history is Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, our 32nd President. She was a woman ahead of her time.

Mrs. Roosevelt advocated for expanding roles for women in the workplace, the civil rights of African Americans and Asian Americans, and the rights of World War II refugees. She served as the first chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights.

Her quote really got me thinking about how important it is for us to focus on ideas and not so much on people.

Ideas really do shape our world. We need to have more conversations centered around ideas.

We should not only validate an idea if it comes from someone we already support because the wonderful thing about human beings is our unique capacity to create and share meaningful thoughts with each other.

An old proverb says "Even a broken clock is right twice a day".

When we discuss an *idea;* we have to defend our own beliefs, values, and principals. This brings clarity to our position, our opinion. It also forces the other person to clarify their beliefs, values, and principals.

People often confuse fact with opinion. Just because someone thinks or feels something is true, does not make it a fact. For example, "ice cream is cold" is a fact; whereas "ice cream is delicious" is an opinion – an opinion shaped by your personal viewpoint. It is neither true nor false.

We need to be careful about confusing cause and effect, as well. Just because the rooster crows at dawn does not make the rooster responsible for the sunrise.

I would love to hear your thoughts on this as well!

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

One of the items in the Duarte Museum 250 Anniversary displays is a "Suffragette Sash" submitted by Rita Lossett.

The women's suffrage movement in the US was a decade long fight to grant women the right to vote.

The first women's rights convention was held in 1848 at Seneca Falls, NY. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott issued the Declaration of Sentiments.

In 1869, Stanton and Susan B. Anthony began focusing on a federal constitutional amendment because state by the state campaigns were not working.

From 1913 to 1917, the women endured hunger strikes, forced feedings, arrests, and imprisonments. Their nonviolent, silent protests were the first protests ever held in front of the White House. They were called "Silent Sentinels".

In 1919, the federal woman suffrage amendment, originally written by Susan B. Anthony in 1878, passed the House and the Senate, and was sent to the states to ratify.

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified by the Tennessee legislature, the 36th state to do so – **by one vote**. Harry T. Burn voted yes after being asked in a telegram by his mother.

Alison Turnbull Hopkins at her "Silent Sentinel" post outside the White House, January 30, 1917. From the Records of the National Woman's Party, Library of Congress.

THE SIGN READS:
MR. PRESIDENT, WOODROW WILSON AT THE TIME,
HOW LONG MUST WOMEN WAIT FOR LIBERTY

ROUTE 66 BEGINS IN CHICAGO

In Celebration of the Route 66 Centennial this year, one of our docents, Judy Ann Blake, travelled to Chicago - to where Historic Route 66 begins.

In Chicago, Route 66 begins at Michigan Ave. and Jackson Bl. It runs 2448 miles through eight states (Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California). Route 66 was commissioned on November 11, 1926 and removed from the US Highway System on June 26, 1986. It has had many names – the Mother Road, Main Street America, the Will Rogers Highway, the Road of Dreams, the Great Diagonal Way, and today, the Most Famous Highway in the World.

The plaque beneath the sign explains that this is the site of the original, historic 1926 terminus of Route 66, the Classic.

Later changes to traffic patterns caused the "Begin" sign to be moved west along Michigan Ave, one block, to Adams Street. Even today, this second site remains the traditional photo stop and driving reference used by Route 66 travelers.

On March 25, 2026, to celebrate the Centennial of Route 66, Chicago formally recognized Navy Pier as the new symbolic and ceremonial starting point of Route 66, not a realignment of Route 66, and erected a new sign in a pier-to-pier ceremony, connecting Navy Pier to Santa Monica Pier.

The Duarte Historical Museum will be closed:
November 11, 21-29, 2026
December 19 - January 4, 2027

Lots Happening at Duarte Museum

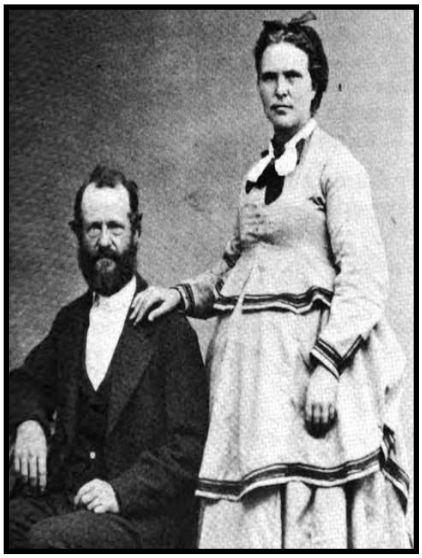
On September 12, Rita Lossett gave a most interesting presentation based on the book *Ho for California!* in which she explored the personal diaries of pioneer women as they journeyed westward. One of these women was Maria Shrode who settled in Duarte with her husband, David.

David Shrode, an ordained Methodist minister, Maria, his wife, and most of their eight surviving kids wagoned out to California from east Texas in 1879, first stopping in San Diego, then heading north. After initially settling in El Monte, the family came to Duarte in 1887. Shrode Avenue was named after them in 1889.

At the end of her talk, Rita presented the Duarte Historical Museum with a copy of the book, *Ho for California!* which contains the diary that Maria Shrode wrote as she crossed the plains to reach California.

It was very fortuitous to have a descendant of David & Maria Shrode in our audience, Steven Shrode, who had traveled from the San Diego area to hear the presentation about his ancestors.

The Shrodes were a pioneer Duarte family. Patriarch David Shaw Shrode (1825-1895), a blacksmith and wainwright from Indiana, moved to east Texas in 1851 with his first wife Elizabeth. In 1859, less than a year after Elizabeth's untimely death, Shrode married Maria Christina Moore (née Hargrave, 1826-1900), a widow with a teenage daughter. Along with the five children from Shrode's first marriage, the couple had five more together.



Pictured: David and Maria Shrode in 1871; the 45-year-old Maria is pregnant in the photo.

Duarte in Bronze

On Saturday, March 31, 2007, the City of Duarte dedicated the bronze statue to Andres Avelino Duarte in Plaza Duarte, across from City Hall. The vision had been to create a custom statue, unique to our city, which would serve as a tribute to local history.

Richard Myer, sculptor/Artist, who had recently completed the Glenn Miller plaque in Glenn Miller Park, was selected to create the project.

Should Duarte be honored as a soldier in the Mexican army or as a rancher? Duarte's great-great granddaughter, the late Victoria Duarte Cordova, made the final decision —

RANCHER!

Now the work began. Donations had to be gathered; the public had to be educated; a foundry had to selected to build the statue. US foundries proved too expensive. Councilman Phil Reyes secured a bid from a foundry in Dalian, China which was reasonable. He and Richard Myer had to travel to China twice to oversee the foundry work.

According to what Claudis Heller wrote in the Andres Duarte Statue Dedication Program, "Poor Duarte suffered much disrespect during his journey. He crossed the ocean from China in a cargo container with his upper torso protruding from the top. When he was finally released from Los Angeles Port, he was transported to his rancho, only to be stored in a crane yard."

At the Route 66 Parade in September of 2006, the statue was strapped on the back of a flatbed truck and driven down the parade route for all to see.

The final location of the statue at the corner of Huntington Drive and Mt. Olive was reevaluated. That corner was busy and noisy with lots of traffic coming off the 210 freeway and the sidewalk was very narrow.

A decision was made to place Duarte's statue in the small plaza across from City Hall. Here visitors could enjoy the artwork from all sides, walk around the statue leisurely, and not worry about the traffic or the noise.

How appropriate that the Andres Avelino Duarte statue was dedicated in 2007, the 50th anniversary of the founding of Duarte, the city named after him.

And there he sits, across from City Hall, on Huntington Drive, for all to see.

This past August, the Duarte Historical Museum was fortunate to receive a call from Richard Myer's daughter, Laurie Astle. She was cleaning out her father's home and wondered if the Duarte Museum would like her to donate the 30" scale model of the Duarte in Bronze, Andres Duarte statue that her father had used. I jumped at the chance, and now the model sits in the Citrus Room.

Sculptor, Richard Myer's daughter, Laurie Astle (r.) presenting bronze model of Andres Duarte Statue to Liz Reilly

DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Duarte was founded on August 22, 1957.

The San Gabriel River was at one time known locally as the Azusa River.

Andres Avellino Duarte was a corporal in the Mexican Army.

In 1841, Andres Duarte received his 6,595 acres of land from Governor Juan Alvarado.

Duarte named his rancho "Rancho Azusa de Duarte".

JOIN DUARTE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Individual: $20 Family: $30
Lifetime Membership: $500
Business/Organization: $100

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.RanchoDeDuarte.org

OR MAIL A CHECK TO
Duarte Historical Society
P.O. Box 263, Duarte, CA 91009-0263

In 2026. The Duarte Historical Museum will be closed: 1/1-6, 4/4, 5/23, 7/1-7, 9/5, 11/11, 11/21-29, 12/19-31

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
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