



The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCT-DEC 2025



President's Message



Route 66

I have been gone from Duarte since June 20. My friend, Frankie, is moving to North Carolina and I was helping her move. We have been friends for more than 50 years, ever since we met as roommates at the University of Oklahoma. She has lived in Southern California for 34 years, so moving lock, stock, and barrel is no easy task.

We took a "road trip" and followed Route 66 from Duarte, through Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. In Oklahoma City, Route 66 turned north to Tulsa, while we continued east on Interstate 40 into Arkansas, and then Tennessee, before entering North Carolina.

In 2026, we will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of U.S. Route 66. "The Mother Road" was established on November 11, 1926, by Congress. The final stretch of Route 66 was decommissioned north of Williams, Arizona in 1984.

Williams takes this title very seriously, as seen in the photo below. Notice anything else in this photo? The price of gasoline is only \$2.95.



For the first time in several years, Duarte had a Route 66 Parade before its City Picnic.



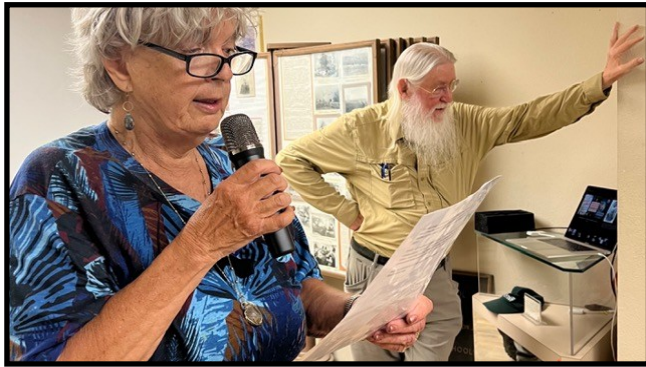
For years this parade took place early on the morning of the City Picnic. Participants started at Cotter, walked east on Huntington Drive, turned north on Mt. Olive, and ended up at Royal Oaks Park for a day of fun. My daughters and I always enjoyed watching the Route 66 Parade go by.

And, I must admit that riding in one of the vintage cars down the parade route when I was Mayor, waving at the crowd along the way, made me feel very special.



Lots Happening at Duarte Museum

On July 13, Tim Thompson, Trustee & Science Director at the Mt. Wilson Institute & Observatory, presented 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.



DUARTE MUSEUM VICE-PRESIDENT JUDY ANN BLAKE
INTRODUCING TIM THOMPSON

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Duarte Historical Museum was well represented at the National Night Out in August at Beardslee Park. This was a good opportunity to let people know that Duarte has its own historical museum, where they can learn about the city's name sake, Andres Duarte, as well as about the rich local history of the east San Gabriel Valley.

The Duarte Historical Museum is located at
777 Encanto Parkway, Duarte.

The hours of operation are
Wednesdays 1-3 pm and Saturdays 1-4 pm.



Docents Ellen Worley & Connie Ream at
Duarte's National Night Out at Beardslee

The Duarte Museum was open during the City Picnic on September 27. More than a hundred visitors roamed through the Museum, visiting

our many exhibits, which include displays about the early ranchers, the area's citrus industry, and a room dedicated to all things Route 66. Museum Docents were available to answer questions.

I want to thank Dilip Tiwari, Connie Ream, Ellen Worley, Mark Montgomery, Judy Ann Blake, Pat Holley, Steve Hernandez, and Alan Heller for doing such a great job.

Are you interested in becoming a DOCENT?



Connie Ream, Pat Holley, and Ellen Worley
staffing our table at the City Picnic.

FREE MUSEUM SPEAKER SERIES



Sunday, November 9, 2025, 3:00 PM

Is This the End of the Road in Los Angeles County?

Scott Piotrowski President, California Historic Route 66 Association, will present an in-depth look at Route 66's western most end. Highlights will detail unknown facts, hidden gems, and a fun and unique perspective on what makes Route 66 the legendary highway that it has become.

Admission is FREE.
Light refreshments will be served.

BATHROOM REMODEL

The Duarte Historical Museum was closed to remodeling the bathroom to the Americans with Disability Code (ADA). During the project, the sink and toilet were moved beneath the windows to allow ample space for wheelchairs to maneuver. The pony wall, as you walk into the bathroom, was removed. The walls and ceiling were painted. New ceiling lighting was installed, and sconces were added next to the mirror. Still to come are the lace curtains.

BEFORE



New Rotating Exhibit



Are you a fan of Sherlock Holmes? Docent Alan Heller is and he is sharing his vast collection of memorabilia with the Duarte Historical Museum in a temporary exhibit that will be on display through December, 2025

Do you have a collection that you would like to display at the Duarte Historical Museum? Please contact Liz Reilly at 626.253.6600 or 4lizreilly@gmail.com



DURING

AFTER

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

The Duarte Historical
Museum will be closed
November 22-29
December 20-31.



Duarte Historical Society & Museum
c/o Liz Reilly
3204 Conata Street
Duarte, CA 91010
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