

The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL-JUNE 2012

President's Message

Claudia Heller

With Spring upon us, the Duarte Historical Society is busy organizing a variety of activities inviting the public to learn more about local historical issues.

For two months many people visited the museum to view the King James Bible Exhibit presented by Susan and Neil Earle. It was followed by a display organized by the Save Our Mountain grass roots committee dedicated to blocking quarry operations on Duarte's northern border.

The one hundred year anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America is now featured in the Museum's revolving display case and will remain through July.

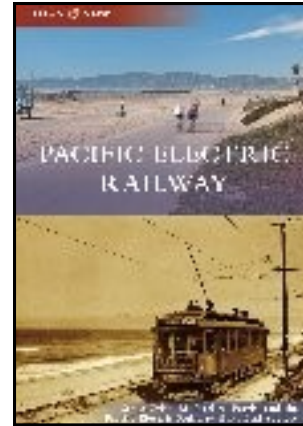
To celebrate Earth Day, Kimball Garrett will lead a birding expedition which will commence at the Museum at 8 a.m. on April 22. On May 14, we are inviting our members and friends to a special banquet featuring coauthors Michael Patris and Steve Crise who will cover an exciting segment of our history, the subject of their book: *The Pacific Electric: Then and Now*.

Details on upcoming displays and planned activities are contained in this newsletter. We hope that you will enjoy these activities and support the museum by paying the modest annual membership dues that we need to support our Museum, the Historical Society and this newsletter.

30TH ANNUAL HOME TOUR SCHEDULED BY MOHPG

The Monrovia Old Home Preservation Group is organizing this year's Mother's Day tour. Volunteer docents work half day and then tour all the homes free of charge. Contact Sylvia Dohnal for details at lovesdinos@yahoo.com.

THE PACIFIC ELECTRIC RAILWAY: THEN AND NOW BANQUET



ALL ABOARD ON MAY 14!! Join us for a night that will surely bring back memories as coauthors Michael Patris and Steve Crise present photos, some seldom seen before, depicting the railway as it appeared fifty years ago as compared to the same areas today.

Patris and Crise are on the Board of the Pacific Electric Railway Society. They have authored the newly released Arcadia book *The Pacific Electric (Then and Now)*. The book will be available for purchase and autograph at the banquet.

It has been more than fifty years since the Pacific Electric ceased operations, yet many remnants of that operation exist today. A good many of our members will remember riding the "red cars" which traveled through Duarte on what is now the Royal Oaks bike and pedestrian trail, and proceeded into Glendora over the Puente Largo bridge. The stubs of several of the wooden poles which carried the electric wires across the bridge can still be seen today. Photos and historical information about the railway in Bradbury through Duarte and across the Puente Largo Bridge will be highlighted in the talk.

(See page 3 for banquet details and ticket information.)



IN SEARCH OF A BELL'S VIREO SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 8 A.M.

Armed with binoculars and cocked ears, an expedition will once again set out in search of the endangered Bell's Vireo. The trek scheduled for April 22 will be led by Ornithologist Kimball Garrett and will cover Encanto Park and nearby trails along the San Gabriel River. Participants will leave the Duarte Historical Museum at 8 a.m., Early birds will get coffee and donuts starting at 7:30 a.m.

"The Bell's Vireo usually arrives by the first week or so of April," says Garrett. "We are also likely to spot Yellow-breasted Chats, and other nesting birds which should be in full song," he adds.

Garrett is Collections Manager at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. The walk is free to the public. It will take place rain or shine. For more information, call (626) 358-0329.

BLACK HISTORY EXHIBIT

The Museum is working with Eloise Hart of the Monrovia-Duarte Black Alumni Association to expand an exhibit to include current and past Duarte residents. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please call the Museum (357-9419) and leave word for Douglas Ross. The Black History exhibit will be completed and on display at the Duarte Museum starting in July.



THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA HAVE GROWN UP

Modern girl scouts may opt to earn badges in cooking and sewing, but they might also choose to pursue computer skills or forensic science. Over the years they have managed to rise above discriminatory practices and focus on training girls to learn that they can do anything.

Celebrating the one hundred year anniversary of scouting, the organization is featuring exhibits throughout the nation in libraries and museums. From April 1 through July, the Duarte Museum will feature two exhibit cases of Girl Scout memorabilia including photos, antique scout uniforms, medals and badges.

Scouting history is multi-faceted and shows the progression of the organization over the years from those innocent days when the girls baked their own cookies to sell to modern day issues.

"Girl Scouts helps produce strong women and assists girls in preparing for their future," says Kathy Delker who has served the scouts in many capacities for more than thirty years.

The exhibit includes such historical items as the one shown above that was used from 1921-1976. (Continued on Page 3)

RAE GORDON

Long time member of the Duarte Historical Society as well as several other Duarte community service organizations, Rae Gordon died on January 18 at the age of 98. Rae and her husband, Otis, (deceased in 1997) were dedicated supporters of the Museum. Rae came to Duarte in 1950 where she lived until 2005 when she moved to San Clemente to be near her daughter, Gerri. She also leaves a son, Jim.



(L-R) Rae Gordon, Helen Vaughan
(Photo by Mary Somerlott)

HELEN VAUGHAN

A dedicated lover of classical music, Helen loved the arts. She served as Secretary on the Duarte Historical Society Board for years, worked as the Librarian in Charge of the Duarte Library until 1988, and was a member of the Duarte Reading Circle for 24 years, and also the Duarte Garden Club. Helen was born in New Jersey on November 26, 1919 and passed away on February 26.

GIRL SCOUTS (cont. from page 2)

Other items on display include a purse (1964-1968), coin holder (1965-1969) cooking utensils and brown leather pouch (1940-1957), a photo of the Temple City-Monrovia scouts taken in 1960, adult uniform beret (1953-1967), Handbook Braille edition (circa 1963) and Senior Girl Scout badges from 1960-1972).

**ALL ABOARD!!
THE PACIFIC ELECTRIC:
THEN & NOW**

Monday, May 14, 2012

Social: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Program: 7 p.m.

Old Spaghetti Factory

1431 Buena Vista Street

RESERVATIONS A MUST

\$22 per person/Lasagna Dinner

Send checks payable to

Duarte Historical Society

c/o Claudia Heller

277 Opal Canyon Road

Duarte, CA 91010

More info: 626 358-3029

**FAMED DUARTE ROTARY
SUPREME COURT DECISION**

Women who today enjoy membership in the Rotary Club and other community service clubs can thank the Rotary Club of Duarte which has been dubbed *The Mouse that Roared*.

In 2007 the Rotary Club and the City of Duarte celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that forced the end of gender discrimination in Rotary and ultimately all service clubs. At that time key figures in the nine year battle reunited during a forum held at the Duarte Community Center,

More than twenty-five years ago the Duarte Rotary Club was stripped of its charter by Rotary International for admitting three women to active membership in 1977. While court proceedings were pending, the local Club became the Ex Rotary until the lawsuit was won.

There is a permanent display in the Duarte Museum Library representing this pivotal time in the history of Duarte, and, indeed, in the history of the Nation.

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

FUTURE EVENTS

- 4/14 Smart Gardening Workshop, 9a.m-12p.m., 340 N. Orange Place, Azusa by LA County Dept. of Public Works.
- 4/22 8 a.m. Spring Birding Expedition led by Kimball Garrett. Meet at Museum.
- 4/22 Clean up event—West Fork San Gabriel River, 8:30 a.m. 12:30. p.m. Meet at SG Canyon Gateway Center, 1960 No. San Gabriel Canyon Rd.. Azusa
- 5/14 5:30 p.m. Banquet featuring Michael Patris and Steve Crise, co-authors of the recently released *Pacific Electric Railway (Then and Now)*: Old Spaghetti Factory
- 5/16 5-8 p.m. Taste of Duarte at Westminster Gardens, call (626) 357-3333 for tickets or www.TasteofDuarte.com.
- 10/6 Duarte Festival of Authors, 10 a.m to 4 p.m. at Westminster Gardens. Admission free.

Duarte Historical Society & Museum

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

777 Encanto Parkway, Duarte

(626) 357-9419

Open: Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays: 1-3 p.m.

Web page: www.duartehistory.org

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Director: Boyd Leeson

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Ruby Shiroma, Sheri Uhlig

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