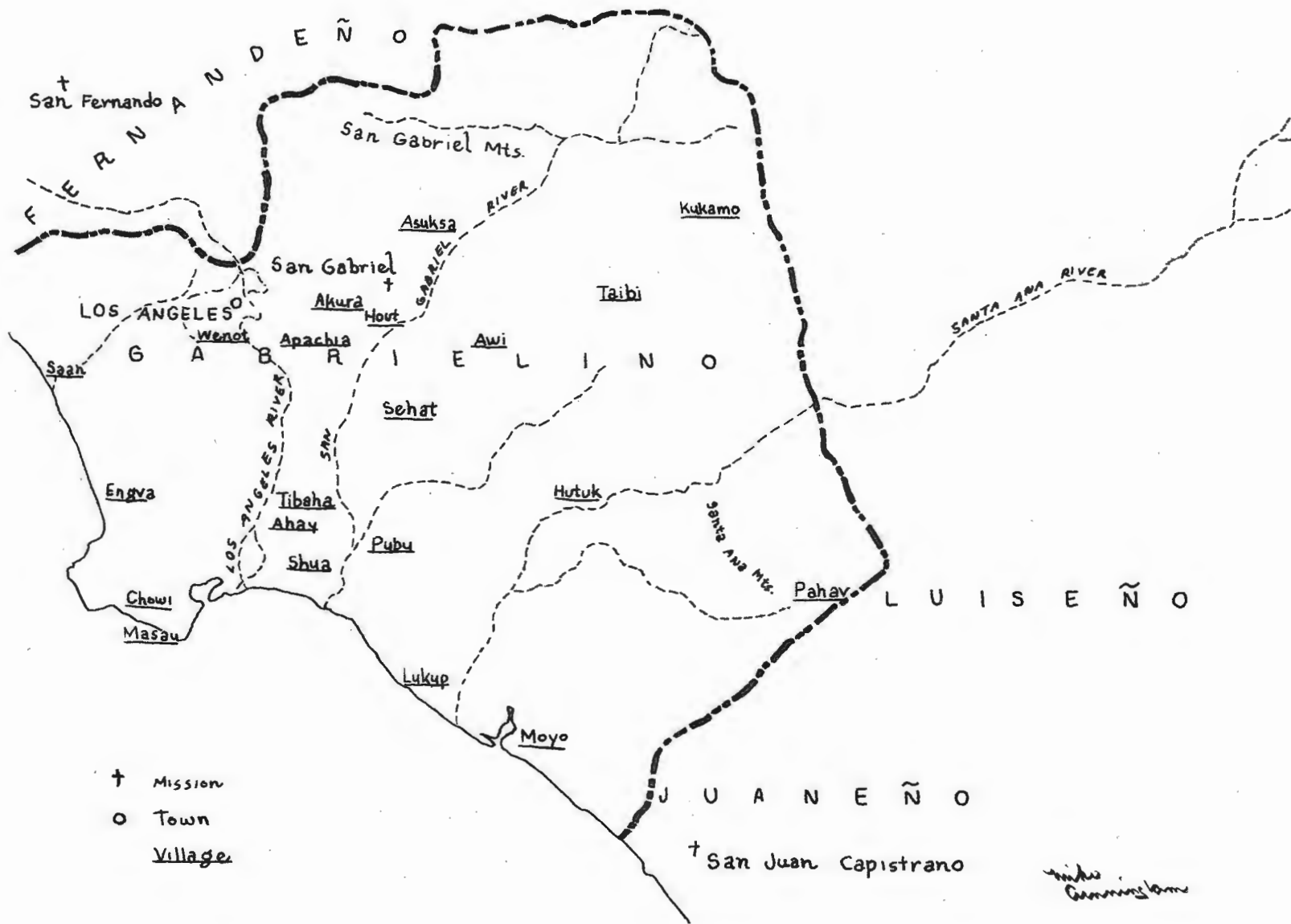




ON THE DUARTE

*Mike
Cunningham*

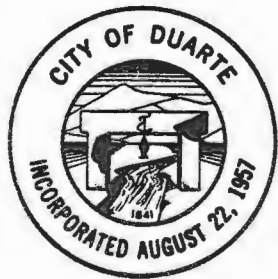


INDIAN OCCUPANCY MAP

Where the tribelets of the Shoshone, particularly the Asuksas, lived in the upper San Gabriel Valley.

ON THE DUARTE

R. ALOYSIA MOORE and BERNICE BOZEMAN WATSON



Illustrations: Michael Cunningham
Design Layout: Fred Edmunds



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Box 459

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DEDICATION

TO THE PEOPLE OF DUARTE

and

THE DUARTE CITY OFFICIALS

Who believe this book to be an important
Bicentennial Contribution

*Historians ought to be precise, faithful, and unprejudiced and neither
interest nor fear, hatred nor affection should make them swerve from
the way of truth.*

*Cervantes
Don Quixote*

Introduction

WHAT WAS IT LIKE

In this year of the Twentieth Century, as our Nation celebrates it's two-hundreth birthday, we marvel at the material accomplishments of man. Buildings that reach into the clouds, shade wide freeways crowded with millions of automobiles carrying multitudes to work or play. Airplanes fly high above the countryside, at speeds faster than sound, enabling us to keep our appointments. Factories in every corner of the land produce large quantities of goods supplying the markets of the world. Rockets propel vehicles to the moon or planets beyond enriching man's knowledge of the universe.

In spite of all this "hustle and bustle" and pride of achievement we, at times, pause and wonder "what was it like" in years past?

Two citizens of Duarte, R. Aloysia Moore and Bernice Bozeman Watson have "paused and wondered". The result, On the Duarte, is a beautiful, interesting, and comprehensive account of the lives and events that shaped the destiny of what was to become the City of Duarte.

Mayor Carlyle W. Falkenberg

P R E F A C E

To write a first book is both exciting and frustrating. It is exciting, because the search for material is like detective work. It is frustrating, because it is impossible to use all the material.

In our search for facts, we gathered copies of original documents, picture albums, photographs, articles from old newspapers, and facts out of books. We took oral histories from "old timers" or their descendents. In spite of all the information we have, we hardly have tapped the mountain available.

Because we could not use all the material we assembled, many well-known Duarteans either have had to be mentioned, just in passing, or left out. It was necessary to concentrate on those persons who have effected greatly the course of history in Duarte, either by their actions, or their contributions.

We have divided the book into two sections. Part I begins with the Indian occupation of Duarte, and ends with World War II. This section was written by R. Aloysia Moore.

Part II, which begins in 1945 and ends with the present, was written by Bernice Bozeman Watson.

We hope you will enjoy our book.

R. Aloysia Moore and Bernice Bozeman Watson
Duarte, California

May, 1976

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

We are indebted to many persons who helped us write this book. Here are a few of them.

Dr. Ida May Shrode and the late Charles F. Davis, whose excellent books on the history of Duarte were invaluable resource volumes. Margaret Scott Meier, without her tireless research and the loan of her family mementos, we would have been lost.

Lorraine Handyside Ayles, whose excellent memory helped make the English colony come alive.

Jack Maddock, the loan of his family memorabilia and documents was invaluable.

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Victoria Duarte Cordoba, who brought Andres Duarte, her great-great grandfather, to life.

William P. Banning, for the loan of out-of-print books.

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The City of Hope Medical Center, Santa Teresita Hospital and Westminster Gardens for the material on each one's institution.

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The City of Duarte for its help, advice and money to publish the book.

To the twenty-seven individuals who gave us oral interviews on which we based much of our book. They are Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Adams, Lorraine Handyside Ayles, Betsy Bacon, Mary Louise Bixby, James and Helen Blain, Myron Burr, Leslie Carman, Vickie Cordoba, Mildred English, Hazel Goodrum, Anne Fowler, Prentiss Ham, Arthur and Virginia Hildreth, Lucile and Walter Jordan, Merle and Edna May Little, Jack Maddock, Margaret Scott Meier, William Salmon, Herman Schick, Gladys Singer, Ida May Shrode, and Adrian Winkler.

To our talented illustrator, Mike Cunningham, who patiently unscrambled our directions concerning illustrations.

To Fred Edmunds, Morna Eller and Shannon Sesmas, editors and technicians, without them we would have been helpless.

To the many Duarteans who gave us information or direction, or who endured us during this trial by pen;
but most of all to:

our cooperative, loving, patient and enduring husbands:

Dick Moore and Don Watson

Our Heartfelt Thanks.

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PART ONE

1768-1945

R. ALOYSIA MOORE

In The Beginning

Centuries before the Spanish came to Alta California, tribelets of the Shoshone Nation drifted across the desert to settle in the fertile valleys and sun-filled coastal plains of Southern California. Wherever water was plentiful and nature provided an abundance of food, they built their villages. On the whole, they shunned the desert and the mountains because their's was a semi-nomadic primitive culture which had neither agriculture nor husbandry.

In the valleys, the Indians used the acorn as their staple diet. They placed their villages, called Rancherias by the Spanish, near where there were many oak trees and plenty of water. As they grew no crops, they lived on acorns, and what small animals they could snare. When they had a surplus of acorns, they bartered with Indians of the Coastal areas and Santa Catalina Island for things the latter made. They also traded for herbs, seeds, edible roots, grasshoppers, fish, rabbits and other game. They traded their beautiful and well made baskets of grass or reeds, for clamshells, the standard currency of those days. The clamshells they used to "buy" trinkets or implements from other tribes.

Their homes were made by tying a framework of poles together at the top, and spreading them out to form an inverted goblet. They then wove tulle grass or limber reeds in and out and bound them to the poles to hold them in place. Some times mud was plastered over the top part to help keep out the rain.



Every village had a Temescal, a hut, countersunk into the ground, and built around a fire hole. This hut was made as airtight as possible with boards over the top and mud plastered over them. A door was fitted tightly. These Temescals were used as sweat boxes, or sauna baths, not for religious rituals as many have believed. Rocks were heated and placed in the fire holes. Water was then sprinkled over the rocks to produce steam. This way the Indians sweated out bodily impurities. They finished the ritual, usually, by running outside and plunging into the icy waters of a mountain stream!

After the arrival of the white man, this habit of steaming plus a cold bath, proved to be fatal to the Indians who thought it would help cure the smallpox or measles.

When an Indian village became unsanitary, the villagers burned it and built another nearby. This is one reason why almost nothing of their lives has left an imprint on the land. Neither their abodes nor their artifacts were the types of things which lasted, or were easily identified. Today a few rock metates and pestles, in which they ground acorns, a few shell necklaces, and a very few baskets are all that remain of their culture. Most of the baskets which survived are of the late period after the Spanish arrived. They have been influenced by Spanish art. Even so, they are works of remarkable creativity. Many were shaped for the use they were made for, and were plastered on the inside with tar from the LaBrea Tar Pits and would hold water. Some were open ended and would attach to grinding stones to catch the acorn meal.

For thousands of years, the Indian lived in this manner. Protected by the mountains and the desert from invasion by either tribal warfare or different cultures. Protected, that is, until the arrival of the white man.

Spain Arrives

Like all conquerors of primitive cultures, the most important thing that the Spanish brought to California was change. They abruptly lifted the California Indian out of a primitive culture into the eighteenth century as interpreted by the Spaniard. This act did not necessarily improve the life of the Indian, but it did change it! Spain, when it began the colonization of Alta California in 1769, used its tried-and-true method of operation to settle new territories for the crown. First, they sent in the missionaries to proselytize for Christianity and to train the Indians. With them went a small contingent of the military to protect the missionaries, and to keep the Indians in line.

The implementation of this procedure brought the Franciscan Fathers, the missionaries given the job of converting the Indians in Alta California, into the San Gabriel Valley on September 8, 1771, to found a new mission. This day happened to be the "Feast Day" of the "Keeper of the Gates". So they named the mission, San Gabriel de Arcangel.

Because the Indian villages were widely scattered, the friars saw at once that it would be impractical to take the faith of the Indians; so they enticed the Indians to the site of the mission and baptised them. By this means, the missionaries quickly gained control of the valley.

One of the tribelets who succumbed to the Friars persuasion and became converts, was the Asuksas. They lived on the piedmont of the Azusa Mountains (San Gabriel) near the streams of the Fish and San Gabriel Canyons. Like their fellow tribesmen, the Kikamo, Akura, Awi, Sehat, Hutuk, and others, they vanished quickly into the maw of eighteenth century Spanish life.

The Franciscan Fathers were excellent missionaries. They were truly interested in the training of the Indians, as well as in their conversion to Christianity.

They believed that within a ten year period they could have the Indians self-supporting and able to attend to their own lives without much mission help.

This belief faded rapidly when the padres began to work with the tribelets, for within a few months of their arrival, the padres realized that they had a problem on their hands. They had a large group of workers who could learn the white man's way of life, but saw no reason to do so. The padres, unfortunately, interpreted this unwillingness to learn as laziness. They reacted harshly. They had no realization of the real reasons behind the Indian's actions. So they used fear of punishment or the withholding of food and other necessities as prods to make him work. The Indian couldn't understand any of this.

Because of the ideal weather conditions, the fruitful land, and centuries of life free from any real enemies, they lacked the attributes that Indians with less favorable climatic and living conditions had developed.

They were a gentle, easy-going, open-handed, generous and naive people. Nature had always provided for their wants and needs with very little effort on their part. So why learn new ways? What would they gain?

The Friars punishments incurred the Indians hatred. They became sullen, ran away, were quarrelsome, and generally uncooperative. Add to this the fact that the Indian was very susceptible to the white man's diseases particularly smallpox and measles, and you have a recipe for failure.

Another problem which the missionaries created because of their wrong-headed zeal was the fact that they destroyed the Indian's feeling of self-sufficiency, the very thing the padres had wanted to promote.

Until the arrival of the Spanish, the Indian may have been primitive and carefree in his mode of life, but he was totally responsible for it. When the padres completely changed his socio-economic habitat, it made him completely dependent upon the Spanish for his food, clothing and shelter.

Nevertheless, in time, they learned how to raise stock, do carpentry, farm, be a mason, a smithy, or an iron monger. The women learned how to card wool, to spin and weave it. They learned many household crafts so entirely different from their own. The first generation though never really accepted these changes.

The padres were a resilient and tough-minded group. Some of them quickly realized their mistakes. All of them realized that as a result of these self-created handicaps, they would have a long stewardship. They revised their plans accordingly.

Queen of the Missions

The original Mission San Gabriel was established on the west bank of the San Gabriel River at the Paso de Bartolo or Whittier Narrows. This was a fertile area, well watered and had a large rancharia near it. What the padres didn't know was that the river had a habit of flooding the area almost every year. By 1775, discouraged by the flooding, they moved to the present site in San Gabriel which was on higher ground and farther away from the river. Here they eventually put up permanent structures in the form of a quadrangle.

Arranged around the church were corrals, workshops, offices, sleeping quarters for the padres, and barracks, stables and offices for the Army garrison. The padres had to provide the latter as part of their contract with the government to furnish almost everything the soldiers needed to perform their duties, except their pay. Many times because the paymaster was a long way from Alta California, the missionaries also paid the soldiers.

Beyond the buildings, the padres had planted the gardens, orchards, vineyards and field crops necessary for the life of the mission. Farther out, began the pasture land.

The administrators of the San Gabriel Mission were either smarter or more fortunate than those of other missions, for their mission was located in a very favorable spot half-way between San Diego and Santa Barbara missions. It was the natural stopping place for travelers, and it had a sheltered valley in which to work. The land was more fertile, and the climate very nearly perfect.

San Gabriel became the wealthiest and most powerful mission. It earned the nickname "Queen of the Missions"; and was the envy of less fortunate locations.

Its lands multiplied by usage as far east as present day San Bernardino and as far westward as the Pueblo Nuestra Senora La Reina de Los Angeles. In some places it went as far south as the coast, and it climbed the foothills to the north.

Mission San Gabriel at the zenith of its occupancy carried on a lively trade in cattle, hides and tallow. There was little actual currency in Alta California, so hides and tallow acted as currency.

They also traded grain and fabricated goods for such luxuries as silk, liquers, laces and satin; European made furniture and fancy coaches.

A Yankee trader, named Harrison G. Rogers, who visited the Mission during the winter of 1826 recorded the following in his journal:

"November 29, 1826. The mission consists of four rows of houses forming a complete square, where there is all kinds of macanicks at work; the church faces the east, and the guard house the west; the N and S line comprises the work shops. They have large vineyards, apple and peach orchards, and some orange and fig trees. They manufacture blankets and sundry other articles; they distill whiskey and grind their own grain, having a water mill of tolerable quality; they have upwards of 1,000 persons employed, men, women and children..... The situation is very handsome, pretty streams of water running through from all quarters, some thousands of acres of rich and fertile land as level as a die in view, and a part under cultivation, surrounded on the north by a high and lofty mou. (mountain); handsomely timbered with pines and cedar, and on the S with low Mou. covered with grass. Cattle....this Mission has upwards of 30,000 head of cattle, and horses, sheep, hogs, etc., in proportion.....They slaughter at this place from 2 to 3,000 head of cattle at a time; the Mission lives on the profit.

December 1, 1826. This Mission ships to Europe annually from 20 to 25 thousand dollars worth of hides and tallow, and about 20,000 dollars worth of soap. Their vineyards are extensive; they make their own wine and brandy, they have oranges and limes growing here. The Inds. appear to be much altered from wild Indians in the mou. that

we have passed. They are kept in great fear; for the least offense they are corrected; they are complete slaves..... December 13, 1826. I walked through the workshops; I saw some Inds. blacksmithing, some carpentering, others making the wood work of ploughs, others employed in making spinning wheels for the squaws to spin on..... December 19, 1826. This Mission, if properly managed, would be equal to a mine of silver or gold; there farms is extensive; they raise from 3 to 4,000 bushels of wheat annually, and sell to shippers for \$3. per bushel. There annual income situated as it is and managed so badly by the Inds. is worth in hides, tallow, soap, wine, ogaden, (aguardiente), wheat and corn from 55 to 60,000 dollars."

Spanish Colonization

The second and third phases of Spanish colonization in a new territory were to send out as soon as possible after the Padres had arrived, colonists to build pueblos, and soldiers to establish forts, Presidios as the Spanish called them, to protect the navigable harbors.

Spain had no intension of allowing anyone but herself to profit from the products of her colonies. The Presidios were supposed to keep out foreigners. Of course they didn't. Desire for new and different products and greed always find a way to get around the law.

Every child who has studied California History knows the story of the hardships suffered by these hardy colonists. There is no need to recount them.

By the time Spain lost her hold on Alta California, she had succeeded in establishing four presidios, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Monterey and San Francisco; three pueblos, San Jose, Los Angeles and the short-lived Branciforte near Santa Cruz. A chain of 21 missions extending from San Diego to Sonoma, (the 21st mission was built in the Mexican period) had been built, and flourished.

Spain and her successor, Mexico, have had more influence on the southwest than any other nations, including the United States. California heritage is full of the ways and items contributed by these two countries. For instance:

During phases two and three, Spain established her legal code, The Law of the Indies, as the code of laws by which Alta California was to be governed. Mexico used the same code. Today, laws which were formulated for the regulation of Spanish provinces, still form part of the American Southwest's legal system.

Those laws pertaining to life on the land, ownership and use of the land, have given present day Californians a legal code which constitutes what seems like privileges compared to those of other states. The right of community property, complete participation in family, community and business life and many other legal benefits accruing to Californians, particularly California women, find their beginnings in early Spanish laws.

Spain also started the large cattle ranches which were to bring romance and legend into California history. The ranches start from 1784 when Spanish Governor Pedro Fages granted land to several Spanish Army veterans who were planning retirement. The governor acted under authority contained in the Law of the Indies.

The first grants went to Juan Jose Dominguez, Jose Maria Verdugo and Manuel Nietos, respectively. Thirty ranchos in all, did the Spanish grant during their regime. These ranchos covered large areas in Southern as well as Northern California further limiting colonial expansion to small areas around the pueblos. This added fire to the discontentment of the people of Mexico, already disillusioned by Spain's treatment of her largest and most powerful New World colony.

The Mexican Regime

Spain's colonization had been completed for about fifteen years before, in 1822, Mexico rebelled and separated from Spain.

Mexico's reign in Alta California was to last sixty-six years. The missions continued in power for ten of these. The large cattle ranches reached their zenith during this period. Gold was discovered in Sutter's mill race, and Mexico fought a war with the United States, as a result of which, Alta California was ceded to the latter country in 1848.

During these years, Mexico found out that a large province, mostly empty, was a large-size headache to administer. Governors in Alta California seemed to change with the weather. The missions wanted this, the pueblos wanted that, and the Presidios didn't like anything the way it was!

Their biggest problem was how to provide room for the people who wished to settle in this lush, fertile area. The Missions and the large Spanish Ranchos, particularly in Southern California, controlled most of the arable land between the mountains and the sea, except small areas around the pueblos.

Mexico was not happy with this situation. It couldn't do much about the ranchos, but it could liberate the Mission lands, therefore, in 1833, it passed the Secularization Law, which took away from the Missions all but a few acres around the mission proper. This reduced each mission to a parish church. Each remains a parish church today.

Technically, the Missions had held the land in Alta California for the Indians in their charge until the latter were felt to be ready to take over. The secularization, which went into effect in 1834, was supposed to expedite the division of the land amongst the Indians. Each Indian was supposed to get 100 acres, plus seed, livestock, and the tools with which to work the land. There was one catch in the law. The Indian wasn't supposed to sell or give away his property.



Mission San Gabriel de Archangel founded September 8, 1771 on the feast day of the "Keeper of the Gates". Its distinctive architecture has made it a much photographed and painted.

What happened was a fiasco! Many Indians tried to revert to their former ways, and found that they could not. Many tried to work their property and a few succeeded, but most of them couldn't work, except under direction. These lost their property to unscrupulous white men.

Mexican commissioners or mayordomos were put in charge of the mission effects. Most of them were honest men, but a few were not. This sometimes created a problem in lost tools, cattle, machinery and horses.

Mission gardens and vineyards died from neglect. Trees were chopped down for firewood. Roofs were torn off the mission buildings for private use. As a result, the buildings gradually eroded from the effects of the weather and lack of care.

Only one good thing came out of this. Mexico acquired lots of land to give to colonists and to ex-Mexican soldiers. The governors of Alta California did this with prodigious generosity!

One Man's Dream

A Personal History

Among those who profitted from the division of land was an ex-Mexican Army Corporal named Andres Avelino Duarte. Duarte has until now, been a vague historical figure surrounded by the mists of time. An interview with his great-great-grand daughter, Victoria Duarte Cordoba, has filled in the

thin outline of this man. Andres, according to the family tree, was the son of a Spanish "leather jacket" soldier from Sinaloa, Mexico. His father, Francisco Leondo Duarte, met his mother, Maria Briones, somewhere in Baja, California. They started life as husband and wife on their way to Francisco's new station at San Juan Capistrano Mission in Alta California. There on November 30, 1805, their only child, Andres Avelino, was born.

Little is known about Andres' childhood. It was probably spent at San Juan, although undoubtedly his father was shifted from one station to another. There were never enough "soldados" in Alta California to guard the mission stations. Most of the time, though, Andres learned all about outpost life at the Mission San Juan Capistrano.

When he was old enough, Andres joined the Mexican Army. He served at San Juan and at the Royal Presidio in San Diego. At the latter station, when he was 22 years old, he met an attractive vivacious young Spanish señorita named Maria Gertrudes Valenzuela. Captivated by her looks and personality, Andres immediately proceeded to court her. Now Andres was a handsome young man with thick black hair and a merry twinkle in his eye. He was tall for his time, and had a gay and generous nature. Besides that, he had a good profession. Evidently not only did Gertrudes approve of him, but so did her parents, Jose Miguel and Vesitacion Valenzuela.

Andres and Gertrudes were married at the Presidio and lived there for at least a year, for their only child, Felipe Santiago, was born there on May 1, 1828.

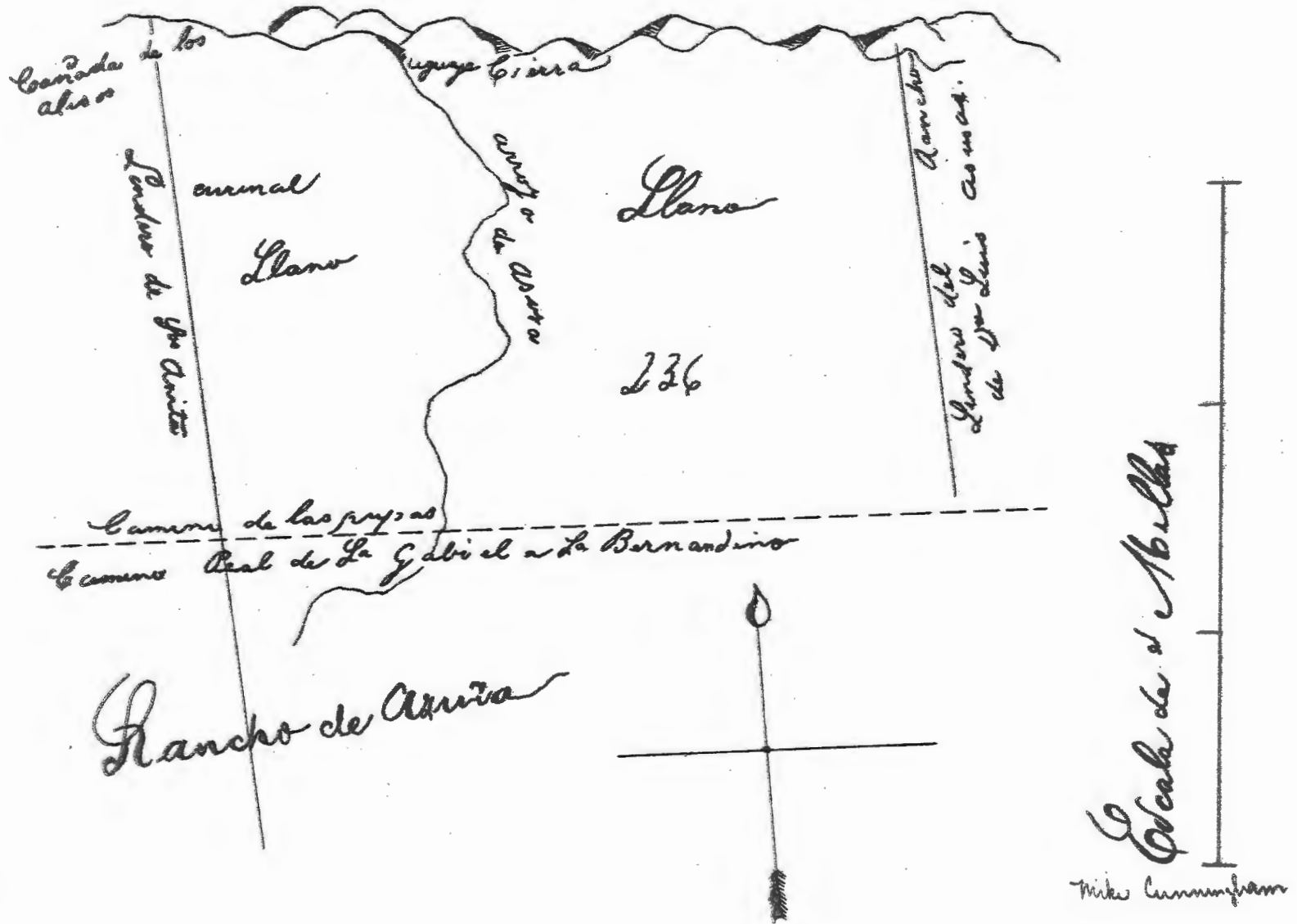
Sometime thereafter, Andres was transferred back to San Juan Capistrano where he rose to the rank of corporal. In his early thirties, Andres was transferred to the Mission San Gabriel garrison.

As one of the protectors of the Mission property, Andres had a regular route he had to cover. His beat started at the Mission San Gabriel and went as far eastward as the Indian village of San Bernardino. Here the Mission Indians and a few Mexican nationals took care of hundreds of head of cattle, horses and sheep.

On each trip he crossed the Rio Azusa, (San Gabriel), at a shallow ford about where Arrow Highway is today. Here, he stopped to water his horse and to rest. Each time he became more enamored of a stretch of land on the west bank of the river. He would stand and gaze out across its sloping fields covered with huge oak trees. His longing to own this land increased on every trip. The lush green grass and the brilliantly colored flowers in the spring proved to him that this was exceptionally fertile ground. He longed to have it for his horses and cattle. At present, he had to graze them on the public land near the pueblo of Los Angeles. He didn't need a large place, just good land, and this piece would fit the bill.

Time passed, and the Mission holdings began to shrink alarmingly. The Governor commissioned Mayordomo after Mayordomo to watch over the Mission's affairs. Andres decided to seek this position, and if he got it, to retire from the Army.

A drawing of the map (diseño) which Andres Duarte had drawn for him to give to Governor Juan B. Alvarado.



An opening came about 1840 and Andres got the commission. He and Gertrudes and Felipe moved into the Las Tunas Adobe where other mayordomos had lived.

The mission property was being claimed so rapidly by other ex-soldiers, that Andres realized that he had better ask for his plot of ground. So he called in his friend, Felipe Castillo, who could read and write, (Andres couldn't) and asked him to petition the Governor, Juan B. Alvarado, for the acres he wanted.

"How many acres do you need, Andres?" asked Felipe.

"Who knows?" Andres shrugged. "A few thousand perhaps."

"Well, where is this land which you paint in such glowing colors?" Felipe enquired. "I shall have to draw a 'deseño', (map) of it to go with the 'expediente' (petition)."

Andres described the property, probably in this manner, for the deseño, roughly drawn, shows these dimensions:

To the north were the Azusa Mountains, sketched in at the top of the parchment. To the east, the Rio Azusa, or San Gabriel as it was beginning to be called. The Rio separated him from the Rancho Azusa of Don Luis Areñas. On the west, a vertical line showed the proposed boundary between his rancho and that of Don Perfecto Hugo Reid's Santa Anita. The Rio Hondo's vague channel divided him from the Rancho San Francisco on the south.

Governor Alvarado couldn't see any reason to deny the petition. This man, Duarte, had the necessary herds and flocks. He had a good reputation, and he was a good Catholic. He promised to improve his land within one year of the date of his grant. Bueno!

The Governor signed the petition on May 10, 1841, granting the "modest petition" for services rendered.

Andres was delighted. Now he was a landowner with almost 7,000 acres of the finest land in the valley. God was good!

Andres had the Indians plant his orchards and kitchen gardens around which they placed a tuna cactus fence to keep out the animals. All this they did under his supervision, for he lived in an Indian jacal (hut) he had them build near the Indian Springs of the Asuksas in Fish Canyon.

After the crops were planted and growing well, and his out-buildings had been finished, he had the Indians build a small adobe casa near the springs for he and his family. He named his place, The Rancho Azusa de Duarte. With great joy, he and his family moved in.

Andres was content. Everything went very well for him for about ten years. His flocks and herds multiplied, and he became prosperous from the sale of tallow, hides and wool. His son, Felipe, matured and married. Andres had a larger adobe built farther out on the piedmont. He called it, "The Homestead".



Don Andres and Dona Gertrudis' second home,
"The Homestead". Whitaker and Bacons lived
in it afterwards.

Beginning of the End

After the war between the United States and Mexico, and by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848, Mexico ceded Alta California to the United States.

The treaty guaranteed residents of Alta California "protection and security in the enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion".

Unfortunately, the American Congress three years later in 1851 passed a bill which established a Board of Land Commissioners to investigate the validity of all Spanish and Mexican land grants in Alta California. The law put the burden of proof of ownership upon the rancheros.

Poor Andres! Naive about Anglo-American laws, and unable to understand the language or the greedy, grasping, hurrying ways of the newcomers, he didn't even file until 1852!

He was involved, as were all the rancheros, in a tedious and intricate court battle, which in his case, didn't come to an end until his claim was finally upheld by the United States Supreme Court in 1878.

A great victory for Andres, except for one thing. By the time he legally owned his land, he had had to sell all of it!

Andres sold his first piece of land in 1855 to three men, who between them, bought 225 acres in Lower Duarte. Michael Whistler, one of the three, bought out the other two and then sold the entire section to Dr. Nehemiah Beardslee of Texas. This 225 acres today is still referred to as the Beardslee Tract.

By 1862, Duarte had had to borrow so much money to meet his taxes, court costs and lawyer's fees, that he was completely broke and mortgaged to the hilt. He was so disillusioned and disheartened, he just gave up.

As a result, the Sheriff of Los Angeles County put the balance of the rancho on the block. It was sold at auction on July 29, 1862 for 4,000 dollars to the highest bidder.

It is said that the loss of his beloved rancho broke Andres' heart. He and his wife lived on, perhaps in their adobe, who knows? Really it doesn't matter, because for the man who had been a gay and generous, flamboyant and happy ranchero, life ended on the day the Sheriff pounded his gavel and said: "sold to William Wolfskill, the Rancho Azusa de Duarte".

A New Era for California

When the gold rush started in 1849, thousands of people stampeded to California from the eastern part of the United States, and from many parts of the Old World. Overnight, it seemed, these newcomers were squatting or attempting to squat on any land which showed "color". This didn't affect Southern California very much, but it did hit a few places. The Rancho Azusa de Duarte was one of them.

It all started with the finding of gold in the hills back of the rancho. One day in 1866, Felipe Duarte's wife took her five year old son, Jose, for a walk. They stopped at a small stream for a drink and a rest. While she sat on the bank watching her little boy play, she noticed some yellow pieces of rock in the water. Intrigued, she gathered enough of them to fill the child's stocking and took them back to the rancho to her father-in-law. He, fairly sure they were nuggets of gold, took them into Los Angeles to be examined.

Somehow, the word got out about the gold, for a week later several men on burros and with shovels came out to hunt for the yellow rock. Duarte had them chased away. Unfortunately, he didn't follow-up on the find himself. Had he, this area's history might have been a great deal different, for within a few years, two millions worth of gold was dug from the hills back of Duarte.

When the gold rush immigrants came to California, they brought the need for food with them. Big eaters of meat, these people changed the economy from hides and tallow to beef. Before their advent, two to four dollars was paid for a steer, actually for its hide and tallow. The goldseekers abruptly upset this market value.

All over the West, great cattle drives were organized to bring beef to California. Steers in California sold for as high as \$75.00 dollars each. This caused the jubilant rancheros to indulge in prodigal spending and over-extension of the growth of their herds of cattle and flocks of sheep.

In 1854, according to a message to the State Legislature by the then Governor Bigler, besides the cattle grown in California, 61,262 head were driven in from outside sources. As a result, this over supply caused the high market in cattle to slump abruptly.

When the market burst, cattle prices went down to 25 cents a head in 1855. Within two years it again climbed to a fair value, but in 1856 the weather began the finish of this type of life. A severe drought caused an estimated loss of almost one-third of the cattle in Los Angeles County. The rancheros had just begun to recover from this when in 1861-1862 one of the longest rains in the County's history fell for an entire month. Cattle and sheep died like flies.

Then nature seemed to relent. For the next 18 months or so, there was abundant pasturage, and the desperate rancheros overstocked again. Result? The market dropped. Then nature really took a thwack at the poor rancheros.

Starting in the winter of 1863-1864 clear through March 1865, there was no rain and so little grass that cattle were slaughtered just for their hides, horns and bones. To add to the catastrophe, an epidemic of smallpox during these dry years killed about two-thirds of the Indians.

The double tragedy of bad weather and bad markets, plus the lack of help finished the already prostrate cattle empire. By the end of 1865, the rancho was almost entirely out of the picture.

On The Duarte

Dr. Nehemiah Beardslee who had purchased his land in Lower Duarte in 1861, has the distinction of being the first permanent Anglo-American settler "on the Duarte". He and his family came from Texas in ox-drawn covered wagons. Besides his family, he brought his Indians, seeds for crops and young fruit trees.

He actually resided on the Duarte several months before he purchased his tract of land. After he bought it, he had his Indians build a one story adobe brick house consisting of three large rooms on what is today the southwest corner of Euclid and Mountain Avenues. Later in 1872, a second story of wood from Sawpit Canyon was added. The addition made his home an example of the so-called Monterey style of architecture.

Oddly enough, Beardslee's home has been the only adobe to be built on the Duarte after American occupation. Duarte's home, the only other adobe on the rancho, stood until 1913; when it was torn down to be replaced by another type of home, much to the regret of the California Historical Society.

While his house was being built, Beardslee had workman dig a ditch, allowed under the conveyed water rights, from where Duarte's original ditch left the San Gabriel River. It angled down across intervening property to his northeast property line. Later, when he subdivided his property, side ditches were dug to each lot.

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Dr. Beardslee never planned to keep all 225 acres of his tract for his own use. Initially he gave twenty-five acres to each of his three sons: William R., James, and Obadiah. He also gave a like number to his daughter, Jane and her husband James Rogers.

By 1875, he had completed the subdivision of the tract, keeping only 44 acres for himself. The following nine men bought the rest of the tract. They are: William R. Beardslee, J.R. Giddings, I.C. Ingraham, H.H. Lowny, J.O. Mathewson, a Mr. Millard, Rev. David Shaw Shrode, Charles Soward and Thomas Wardall.

William Wolfskill held his land on the Duarte from 1862 until 1868. His son and heir sold his entire holdings to an eastern financier named Alexander Weil. Weil, through his local agent, Eugene Meyer, had the Rancho broken up into 42 acre plots. By 1872, Meyer had sold 26 of these plots. These were mostly in what is known as Upper Duarte, or north of Huntington Drive. Those who purchased these plots to a total of 1092 acres, were John C. Ardis, F.A. Bliss, William Bliss, Rev. Joaquin Bot, Will Bowman, A.B. Bronson, J.Y. Brown, J.H. Bunyard, Mary E. Carter, Asa Ellis, H.D. Fowler, Samuel Franklin, J.H. Gray, S.C. Hammer, Richard Holland, A.H. Horn, D.H. McKellam, L. Metzger, James Roberts, James Rogers, R.R. Smith, J.E. Tipton, L.H. Titas, Jos. Wilson, R.H. Wilson and S.K. Woodard. These people are listed, because some of them became very important in the subsequent history of the Rancho.

Meyer either didn't try to sell the rest of the land or hard times prevented it. It wasn't until 1883 that the next signi-

ficant sales were made. Simultaneously, Meyer and Beardslee sold.

The first sale that Meyer made was to have far reaching effects on the future of the rancho. He sold property to an easterner from Bangor, Maine, named Lewis Leonard Bradbury.

An engineer, Bradbury came to California for his health. At first he settled in San Francisco. Then his doctor told him that he needed a dryer climate, so he came to Los Angeles.

During the time he resided in Los Angeles, he evidently learned of the chance to buy on the Duarte. In June, 1883 he purchased 2,750 acres, mostly the western third of the rancho, both Upper and Lower. The Upper portion of this land, together with some of the Weil property, was to become in 1956, the City of Bradbury.

Two hundred of his western most acres in Upper Duarte he sold to the City of Monrovia. His heirs sold part of the acres in Lower Duarte to the same city, thus starting the erosion of the old rancho long before cityhood was even a thought in anyone's mind.

Meyer's second sale was also in June, 1883. He sold 82 acres including the Duarte adobe, in Upper Duarte, to Earnest Whitaker and Mr. Morley. Whitaker evidently bought out his partner. Whitaker died in 1886. His heir, Agnes Mary Whitaker Maddock, in 1888, sold 42 acres including the adobe, to Williamson Ware Bacon Sr..

Captain Bacon, his wife, Elizabeth, their daughter, Elizabeth, (Lide); and two sons, W.W. Jr. and Robert, came to Duarte from Kentucky.



Beardslee-Maxwell Adobe. Built by Texas Indians in 1860 of clay and straw from Dr. Nehemiah's property on South Mountain Avenue across Euclid Avenue from Maxwell School today. Upper level added in 1872.

They were the epitome of the Southern upper class as portrayed in countless stories about that region.

The captain was a tall, slender, erect gentleman of great dignity wrapped around a whimsical sense of humor. Mrs. Bacon was also tall, willowy, ethereal and beautiful, according to descriptions given by her neighbors in Duarte. She also had a sense of humor, as the following story she is supposed to have told to her neighbor, Arthur Handyside, illustrates.

It seems that Mrs. Bacon was recounting to Mr. Handyside the story about the Bacons and how they got ready to leave Kentucky and also about their arrival in Southern California.

"I gave away all my lovely things. All my can goods, everything I had, cause I was coming out to the land of 'milk and honey.'

"And then," she continued, "when we got out to San Bernardino, we got out of the train to go into Johnson's Restaurant to eat. We sat down at a table, and in the middle was a wilted celery stalk and a carrot! I just looked at my husband, and I just sat there and I laughed and laughed and laughed!"

He said, "What's the matter with you?"

"And I said, and this is California, the Promised Land!"

Back On The Lower Duarte

Meanwhile, Dr. Beardslee found a buyer for his adobe and 44 acres of land. The buyer was Samuel Maxwell, a lawyer from the middlewest.

Samuel and Jennie Maxwell and their small son, Joseph, came to Duarte by train during the great train-fare war. This war,

fiercely fought by the Santa Fe and the Southern Pacific and intervening lines, caused transcontinental fares to go as low as \$1.50 per person one way from Kansas City, Missouri to Los Angeles, California

This sounds like a great bargain, and in many ways it was, especially timewise. But in the area of comfort and convenience, it was just about as tortuous as a trip west by covered wagon.

Passengers slept on the wooden coach seats--which didn't recline. They either provided their own food and drink, or went hungry and drank stale water. If they opened the windows to get a breath of fresh air, they ate dirt. If they kept them closed, they stifled. But they did get here in a short time.

The Maxwells settled in the old adobe and in time, Mrs. Maxwell bore three daughters, Rose, Marguerite and Marie. The Maxwell girls were to play a prominent part in the development of Duarte. Mrs. Maxwell was to leave her name on an elementary school.

Water and Education

Before Dr. Nehemiah Beardslee left Duarte, he made two important contributions to this community, his water ditch and the first school in Duarte.

His most important contribution was his water ditch. By the time he sold his property, the ditch with its many side canals formed a grid across the tract. To be sure that it would keep going, Beardslee in 1876 persuaded the other owners in the tract to go in with him and form a company.

They called it the Beardslee Water Ditch Company and issued one share of stock per owner. Its first Board of Directors were: President, Nehemiah Beardslee; Secretary, Charles Soward; members: I.C. Ingraham, A. J. Horn, W.H. Bowman, J.O. Mathewson, Parson Shrode, W.R. Beardslee and D.V. Hayward.

In 1884 the company was incorporated with D.S. Shrode as President; and A.T. Taylor as secretary.

Meanwhile, on the Upper Duarte, another water company was formed to take care of the rancher's needs. The second company was based on Andres Duarte's original ditch and the area it served. This was mostly along the foothills, and at first not below Huntington Drive. It was named The Duarte Mutual Irrigation and Canal Company and was organized in 1882 with E.M. Wardall, President; and a directorate composed of T.A. Caldwell, Leonidas Barnes, J.F. Banning and A. Boddy.

In 1883, the Duarte Mutual financed the building of a ditch on consideration of one-third of the water controlled by the Beardslee Company being ceded to it. Through this arrangement, the Mutual gained two-thirds of the water supply, and the dominance of the water business. Sometime later, the two companies went together; and thereafter, the Mutual handled the domestic usage, and the Beardslee handled the irrigation usage. In 1928 bonds were voted, the stock increased from 1,260 to 6,300 shares, and a domestic system of nearly ten miles of pipe was completed by 1929. Duarte by then was a rural community.

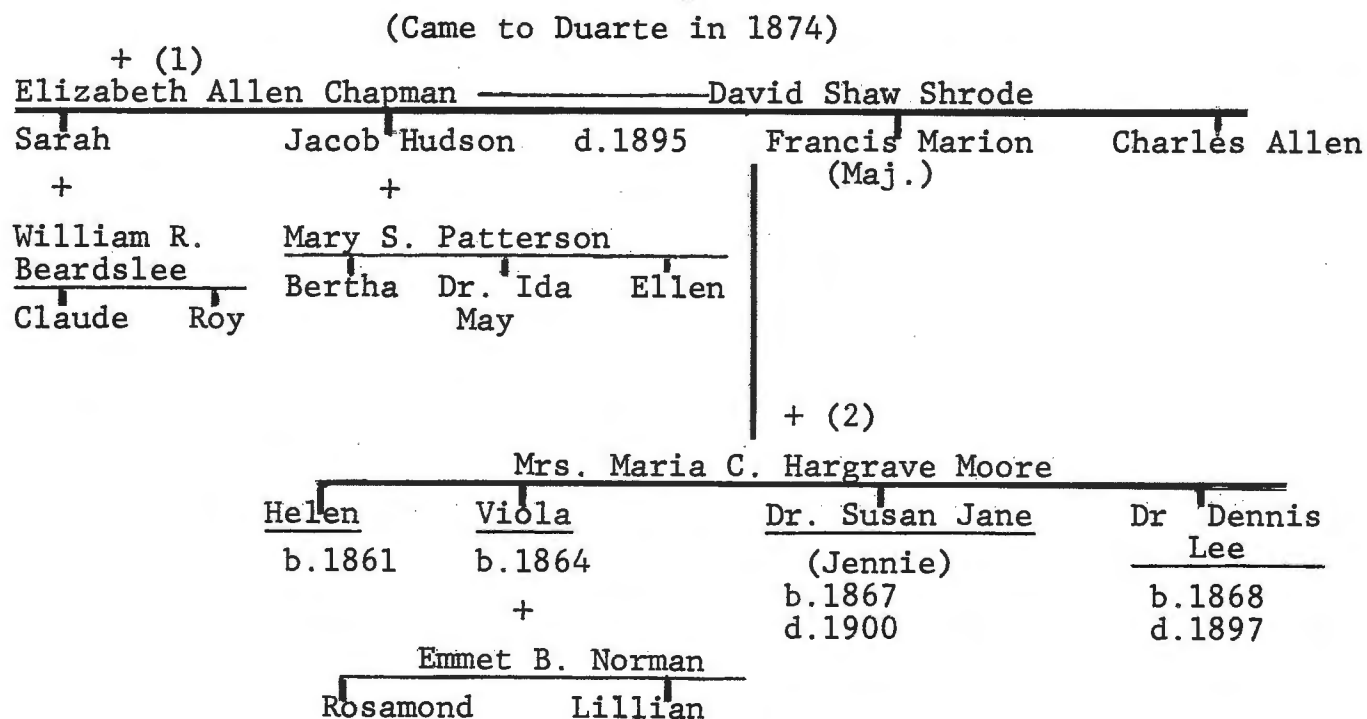
Besides the water agency, Beardslee helped to start the Duarte School system.

As a well educated man, he desired that his children and those of his neighbors' who were interested, have a school to attend. To this end, in 1873, he donated his milk house as an interim school. It hadn't any windows, one door, and was heated by a wood stove. Fortunately, there were only twelve pupils that first year, which was only three months long. The doctor housed and paid the teacher too.

The second year, school was again held in the milk house, a full year this time.

By the third year, because of his efforts, and those of the other eleven families to get the County School District to form a school district in Duarte, the County surveyed the proposed district. They made it smaller than the twelve families had wanted, but large enough for Duarte.

Shrode Family Genealogy



The twelve families had filed their petition for a school district the first year when Doctor Beardslee donated his milkhouse. By the third year, a one-room regular schoolhouse was built on land donated to the District by Alexander Weil in 1874. That first school house stood on the northwest corner of Central and Buena Vista, where today, the third school house built on that property in 1909, now serves as the School Administration Building.

The first regular school house not only served as a school, but on weekends became a Sunday school, and a church. Southern Methodist, Baptist and Christian circuit ministers took turns preaching in it.

In recognition of his part in the development of the school district, Dr. Beardslee has had an elementary school on south Buena Vista named after him.

The Shrode Family

The Reverend David Shaw Shrode was the head of the pioneer family which probably has done more for Duarte than any other one family group. David Shrode came to Duarte in 1874. He bought land from Dr. Beardslee. This land is the site of a sanitorium on South Mountain today. He sold this land in 1887 and moved to a new home opposite the T-intersection of Maynard and Buena Vista. Today, the Golden Key Apartments stand on this land.

Shrode was a blacksmith and a wagon maker. He made the wagons which brought his large family west. He was also a lay minister in the Southern Methodist Church. Until his death in 1895, he was superintendent of the Sunday school which first met in the Duarte Elementary School house, and then in the Southern Methodist church. It was located where the Duarte Public Library is today.

Shrode married twice. The first time in 1847 to Miss Elizabeth Allen Chapman, a native of South Carolina. Four of their children, Sarah, Jacob, Francis Marion (Maj.); and Charles, came to Duarte with their father. They played important roles in its history. Sarah married William R. Beardslee, Dr. Beardslee's eldest son. Their sons, Claude and Roy Beardslee were in Duarte affairs in the 1900's, and as very young men, cycling champions at the turn of the century when the sport was a major recreation.

Jacob Hudson Shrode, David's oldest boy, and Charles, his youngest, accompanied their father on the California journey as far as Arizona. They stopped there for some months to fatten the exhausted cattle, before continuing the journey. "Maj." came on west with his father, and later helped run the blacksmith and wagon-making shop.

When Jacob, or Jake as he was usually called, finally arrived in Duarte, he bought land on California Avenue just to the west of the Beardslee Tract. He married Miss Mary S. Patterson in 1884. She bore him three daughters, Bertha, Ida May and Ellen.

Jake, like his father, was deeply involved in community affairs. He was a charter member of the cooperative citrus marketing organization, the Duarte-Monrovia Fruit Exchange. For nearly forty years he was an officer and director of the Beardslee Water Ditch Company.

One of Jake's daughters, Dr. Ida May Shrode, for many years, an instructor at Pasadena City College, followed in her father's footsteps. She too was an officer and director of the Beardslee Water Ditch Company. Like him, she also served for many years on the Fruit Exchange Board. In addition, she was a board member of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce for at least twenty years. Ida May lived in the home in which she was born, on south California Avenue until 1949, when she sold the land, which was subsequently subdivided. She then moved to Pasadena. Her biggest contribution to Duarte was a book. It was her doctoral dissertation on the agricultural occupation of the Rancho Azusa de Duarte. It was submitted to the faculty of the Division of Physical Science, Department of Geography, University of Chicago. They published it in 1948. This book, entitled, "The Sequent Occupance of the Rancho Azusa de Duarte, A Segment of the Upper San Gabriel Valley of California", is the most authoritative, complete work ever written on the old Rancho from the standpoint of the people and their agricultural occupancy. Without it, this present book of general history could not have been written. Much of the research available in 1948, is no longer available today except in her book.

Charles Allen Shrode, David's youngest boy, was a pioneer orange grower in Duarte.

David Shrode didn't bring his first wife to California. She died in Texas long before his migration. He married a widow, Mrs. Marie C. Hargrave Moore in 1859 in Texas. She presented him with three daughters and one son. All were native Texans.

Their eldest child, Helen, was born in 1861. The second girl, Viola, was born in 1864. The third, Susan Jane (Jennie) was born in 1867; their only boy, Dennis Lee, arrived in 1868.

The year they came to Duarte, 1874, this second family were respectively, thirteen, ten, six, and five years old. They added considerably to the school population.

Viola, the second daughter, went to Duarte school and Monrovia High School. She then went on to Los Angeles State Normal, a teacher's college. After graduation in 1886, she came back to Duarte. She and Miss Mary Foy, a member of a pioneer Los Angeles family were the entire faculty of the Duarte School.

In 1887, she married Emmet B. Norman, a rancher. In their early years of marriage, the Normans lived on their ranch on South Mountain and raised citrus. They moved to Long Beach, but later moved back to Duarte and were here in 1941. In that year, they collaborated on a short history of Duarte. This history formed the basis for a pageant given for the 100th Anniversary of the Old Rancho. Beatrice Duarte Cuellar and her three daughters and son took parts in the pageant. Mrs. Cuellar, great-great-grand daughter of Andres and Gertrudis Duarte, had lived most of her life

on South Mountain across the street from the Maxwell School on what is known today as the Bengel property. This property belonged to her great-grand mother, Maria de Jesus Lopez Duarte Marron, who came to the 100th celebration in 1941. She was a few months older than the rancho.

The history that the Norman's wrote, today is a collector's item.

The two younger children, Jennie and Lee Shrode, went to Duarte School, and Monrovia High School, then went on to medical school at the University of Southern California. Both became doctors. Neither lived to be very old. Jennie was 33 when she passed away in 1900. She had to be one of the very early women doctors to matriculate in this State. Her brother, Lee, was twenty-nine when he died.

The Transition Years

Helen, the eldest Shrode girl, married Seth Daniels, second son of H.F. Daniels. The latter started the first general merchandise store in his front yard on the northeast corner of Royal Oaks and Highland, in 1881. The store had been in operation almost two years when Seth and Helen were married. Frank Daniels, Seth's older brother, ran the store. Seth worked with his father on their ranch and went to town for supplies for Frank.

During Frank's management, the first post office was established in Duarte in the Spring of 1882. Andrew B. Bronson, who had built a rival store across the street from Daniel's got the postmastership, and thereby put his name in history as the first postmaster. He didn't have it long, less than two years, for his store failed. Frank Daniels then became the second postmaster.

The Post Office was a small cage in the center of the store plus post office boxes for patrons. If you ran the store, you became the Postmaster. Frank held this job until August, 1884 when he leased the store to Leonidas Barnes. For some reason, D. Barnes, whoever that was, was Postmaster for twenty days, then Leonidas took over for two years. When his lease was up, he left the store and Seth Daniels took over the management, and became Duarte's fifth Postmaster.

Actually, most of the time, the post office was run by who ever was the clerk in the store. In 1884, the clerk was Robert Finley Young. Mr. Young, no relation to the Young's in Upper Duarte, had come to California late in 1883 to be with his brother and sister-in-law, Edward and Jane Young. Bob, a widower, was fifty-seven years old in 1884. He had migrated from the middlewest to help Jane take care of his brother. The latter was very ill with phlebitis and needed constant care. Bob had gone to work for the Daniels as a clerk and bookkeeper. On Christmas, 1883, someone gave him a daily diary. This delighted him, and he kept it up religiously for the entire year of 1884.

In it he gives a picture of the daily life "on the Duarte" that we wouldn't receive from anyone else. He tells us of the daily weather, temperature, his brother's condition, and what went on in Duarte. It so happens that the year 1884 was a very important one in Southern California history, particularly weatherwise. He tells us about that and also the inter-relationships among the Duarte residents, including his own family.

One of the reasons he got the clerk's job at the store was because his neice, Mary Jane and Edward's daughter, was married to Frank Daniels. The Edward Youngs had five grown children. Besides Mary, there was O.K. Young, who married Carrie Davisson, Benjamin Davisson's daughter. Davisson was Duarte's first industrialist. Unfortunately, Carrie died on their honeymoon. Then there was Sarah Jane, (Sally) Young, who married Dr. Lyman Allen of Pasadena. Dr. Allen not only treated Pasadenaans, but Duarteans too. In fact, he seemed to be the only regular doctor for the settlement. There was Margaret Catherine (Maggie); who married Lewis H. Bixby of Altadena. Lastly, there was William Sharp Young who married Georgia. These latter two people became first settlers of LaVerne and San Dimas.

Among other items, Bob gave an explicit picture of the weather for 1884, and its effects on Duarte life. As some of the worse floods in Southern California history happened in that year, he had quite a story to record. For instance, January, 1884, was a fairly nice month, weatherwise, until the last week. Bob recorded:

"Sunday 27th. 50 degrees. Rain. Duarte.

It rained some last night and today it rained all day and the San Gabriel River was roaring big when we went to bed. Edward is as well as usual. Sallie did not get to go home today (to Pasadena) on account of the best rain since I have been in California. It hasn't stopped raining all day.

Monday 28th. 50 degrees. Rain. Duarte.

This has been the biggest rain we have had since I came. It has rained about five inches of water. It has washed out some of the places considerable today. It looks like it might rain for a month. Sallie has not got to go home yet. There is a bad wash on the Baldwin road where the saw pit crosses so that wagons cannot pass without some work.

Tuesday 29th. 50 degrees. Duarte.

It has rained some today again making a fall of about five inches on an average. It has washed in some places considerable but not to do a great deal of damage. O.K. got about three loads of wood out of the Drift. There was a man rode across the San Gabriel River today but it was dangerous. Sallie went home today.

Wednesday 30th. 48 degrees. Clear. Duarte.

This has been a nice pleasant day after the rain. Mr. Wright went to Los Angeles today and was going to bring out a load of goods for Frank. He started very early but got stuck in the drift and had to come back and get help to get out.

Thursday, 31st. 56 degrees. Rain. Duarte.

This is mail day and the first we have had this week on account of high water. It has rained some today but not very much. Wright got back this evening but it rained so he couldn't bring many goods.

Friday. February 1st. 56 degrees. Rain. Duarte.

Well, it is still raining and has no appearance of quitting. It rained about 1/2 inch last night and has been raining some all day and about dark it commenced to rain hard.

Saturday 2nd. 56 degrees. Rain. Duarte.

Still raining this morning. It rained very hard all night. Rained about 3 1/2 inches and this morning the river is roaring big. Well, it has rained some all day and still looks rainy. We cannot get any goods hauled from the mission there is so much water on the ground. No mail today. Can't get across the river. It lightning and thundered as I went home tonight.

Sunday 3rd. 56 degrees. Rain. Duarte.

Well, it is rainy here and looks as if it might continue for some time yet. I hear the railroad bridge is broken across the San Gabriel River. Don't know how bad it is. Can see them from here with a glass. They are working to fix it up. No mail today. River too high to cross.

It continued to rain for three more days. Then it stopped for three. Then it rained again. It kept this up for most of the month of February, washing out homes along the Los Angeles River, and flooding out several homes in Duarte. Bob Young didn't know it, but he had lived through one of the worse rainy seasons California had had for some time. The rains were to continue, off and on until some time in July. There was snow on the mountains above Duarte in May, 1884. This was hard on fledgling citrus trees, but good for alfalfa.

I mentioned alfalfa, because even at this late date, there was still plenty of alfalfa, hay and grain grown in Duarte. Although most of the farmers had started to grow citrus fruit, grain and deciduous fruit were, in 1884, still a major part of their farming. Gradually these products would disappear as the economic possibilities of citrus spread.

During the eighties, deciduous fruits had their heyday. In 1888, there were 780 acres of deciduous fruits to 420 acres of citrus fruit out of 1600 cultivated acres in Duarte.

" Orchards of prunes, peaches and apricots were scattered from the foothill mesas to the southwest corner of Duarte. In the eighties, much fresh fruit was hauled to the growing Los Angeles market, but the wagon trip necessary before coming to the railroads was long and trying, and returns from the commission merchants were uncertain. With the coming of the railroad, local fruit drying developed. Dryers were established in or close

to large orchards, and boxes of fruit from nearby smaller orchards were hauled to the dryers. Men picked the fruit, and women and children dipped and spread on trays, or cut up and spread on trays to dry.... When sufficiently dry, the fruit was stored in sheds for further curing and then shoveled into sacks. The dried fruit was usually sold to buyers who came to the ranches, but the prices offered were sometimes very disappointing".

" In an attempt to promote more orderly selling and to obtain higher prices, the Duarte Deciduous Association was formed in 1897...The Association rented a drying ground southwest of Foothill Blvd., (Royal Oaks), and Buena Vista Street. There cutting tables were set up under giant oaks, and a drying area was cleared for drying trays. The growers from the northeast section of Duarte, who still had many acres in these fruits, hauled their produce to this drying area. The growers in the Lower Duarte area used the older drying area near the railroad. Both areas marketed their fruit through the association".

This method worked very well and allowed the growers to get the maximum return for their fruit. Unfortunately, deciduous fruits were dried and marketed only during the summer. This left the farmers without a good marketable crop the rest of the year, for by now, their acres of white and sweet potatoes and grain and hay, had been cut down to a minimum for home consumption only.

The citrus growers were beginning to have a decided advantage over those who only grew other produce. Citrus fruits grow all year round and have a market all year round. In Upper Duarte where the oldest citrus orchards flourished, growers who had a variety of orange and lemon trees were making the biggest money. Needless to say, the rest of Duarte followed Upper Duarte's methods as fast as they could!

The Golden Years

During the eighties, the farmers on the foothills, not only in Duarte, but from Pasadena to LaVerne; and from Pomona to Riverside, had early realized that their ranches were in a practically frost-free zone, perfectly suited to the growth of citrus fruits. In Duarte, this frost-free belt was the top third of the old Rancho. The soil composition was the best in this area for the growth of citrus fruit. This fortunate combination made the trees and fruit in Duarte much larger, more perfectly formed, juicier and sweeter than any place else in the State. An article in the Monrovia Messenger, March 20, 1890, points up this fact.

It starts with the heading: DUARTE ORANGES; and continues with these subheadings: Took First Prize at the State Citrus Fair. All Hail to the Queen Colony! She Exhibited the Finest Specimens of Washington Naval Oranges. And Has a Most Enviably Reputation. * These almost tell the entire story. The

article which follows, reads in part:

"Beyond question the oranges raised on the Duarte are the finest raised in the State. The judges at the citrus fair, held in Los Angeles last week, said so by their decision --- and one of said judges was a Riverside man, who would dearly have loved to see this coveted prize go to his own town.

Now came the tug of war. There were thirty-eight entries for "the best specimens of Washington Naval oranges, not Less Than a Box*(this category is considered the severest test of all, as to which locality has the best oranges)....After considerable sorting out and laying aside, the contest rested between three boxes, one from Riverside, one from Redlands, and one from the orchard of A.C. Thomson of Duarte. After the oranges had been cut, tried and tested in every way by the judges, they picked the box of Duarte oranges. When this announcement was made, how the smiles on the faces of the San Bernardino county exhibitors faded! This was the great prize they were contending for. One gentleman said he would rather lose \$1,000 than lose that premium."

Farther along in the same article, it tells of the rest of the premiums won by Duarte growers.

* Emphasis is the author's.

"Duarte's exhibit consisted of 114 boxes...One fine feature about it was several large branches from a tangerine tree, from Hall and Newhall ranch, which was estimated to have on it 30,000 tangerines. Hall and Newhall of Duarte, got first prize for budded fruit other than Washington Navals. They also took second on Mediterranean Sweets.

John Scott, Duarte; received a diploma for his excellent limes. Ernest Watson received third prize for seedlings and a diploma for polamos. W.H. Young received a diploma for his Washington Navals. George Merrill took first premium for the best exhibit of orange wine by maker. Altogether, Duarte walked away with nine premiums and diplomas, which we challenge any locality to beat.

Taking the report of the daily papers, one would imagine that Riverside carried off the best prizes, but we contend and we think justly, that Duarte carried off the palm. All hail to the Queen Colony".

This is only one of many articles along this same line. Duarte won many premium prizes, not only in this State, but at National Fairs. Duarte, as a community, was a closed corporation with no more land to sell as land was limited. Knowledgeable owners would not sell for peanuts, if they would sell at all. This didn't please the realtors, who would have liked to make a big profit off of such marvelous land. They couldn't get a toe-hold in Duarte. They took their revenge out in the large Dailies

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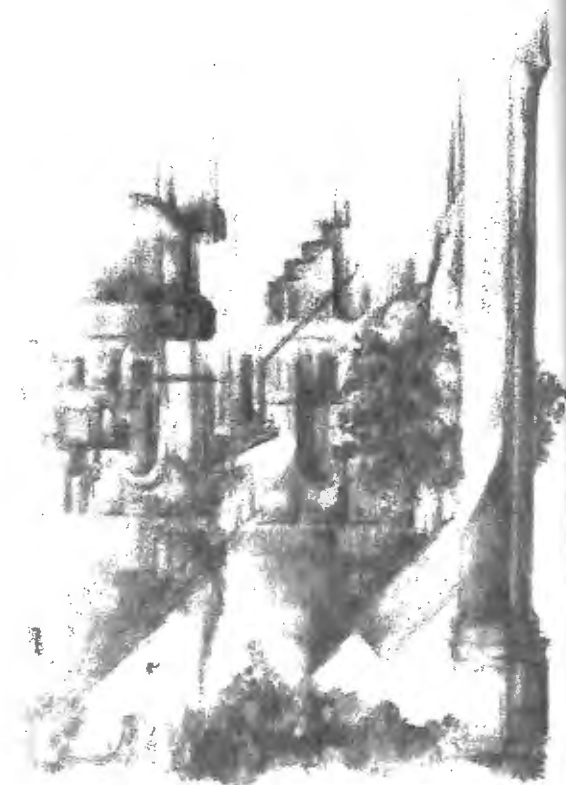
which they controlled through advertising. Duarte was given no free publicity unless their efforts couldn't be ignored. Fortunately, this happened quite often.

The Queen Colony

In the sub-head and the last line of the article quoted, Duarte was referred to as the "Queen Colony". This puzzled the authors. We finally figured that the name was attached to Duarte, because of the growers who lived along the foothills and who had the "premium" groves in Duarte.

This group was one of four sections of Duarte population. Oddly enough, these four sections were divided by: (1) where they came from, (2) when they came to Duarte, (3) the nationality or race and language of each family, (4) where in Duarte they settled, and (5) and to some extent by their religion.

The first people to settle on the Duarte besides the original owner, Andres Duarte and his family; were the Indians who came to work for him; and the few Mexican families who did likewise. Many of these stayed after he lost his land. They either bought small parcels, mostly in Lower Duarte, or squatted on the land. The first Anglo-Americans settled in Lower Duarte, either because it was closer to El Monte and transportation to and from Los Angeles; or after Dr. Beardslee settled; because there was plenty of water for both domestic and irrigation purposes on the



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lower part of the old Rancho. Remember, the doctor had his ditch dug about 1862 or 1863 to bring water to his tract.

It is hard to visualize just how primitive this part of California was between 1850 and 1870. Duarte offers a good example of how people lived. Wood was a scarce commodity. Even more scarce was wood that was good for lumber with which to build homes. Beardslee, who had lived in Texas for many years, used adobe, as did the Spanish. But most Americans, even the other Texans, didn't trust adobe. They insisted on making their homes out of wood. As a result their first homes were flimsy shacks of warped boards, which had cracks between them, covered over with muslin to keep out the wind. This was a favorite material in California. It was fairly inexpensive and adaptable. Houses made with it as inner walls, were called California houses.

Water was obtained by dipping it out of the ditches into barrels and pails or Ollas (Mexican word for a large red clay vessel with a spigot near the bottom). These were filled with water, then hung in a cool spot under a tree or on a veranda where the breeze kept the water cool. One tipped the Olla and filled a cup with water, then closed the spigot with a cork stopper. A little later on, when the materials were available, cisterns and storage tanks were built to hold water. As soon as pumps were available, many wells were dug, and water was brought into the homes through pipes and pumps were used in the kitchens.

Many of these "comforts" were not available though, until after the Southern Pacific railroad came down from San Francisco in 1876. Until then, any of the items enumerated, plus many common household items, if available at all, were too expensive to purchase. The railroads not only provided a way for such merchandise to get here, but brought down the price of each article to a point where the average man could purchase it.

Immediately, the farmers began to build better and bigger homes, plastered inside and out. These homes contained some of the comforts the farmers had had before they came to California. The women of California were very happy! The men were too, because now they could buy tools and machinery not available prior to the advent of the railroad.

Alexander Weil, whose agent, Eugene Meyer, lived on the Duarte, didn't realize the need for the expense of a water ditch on his portion of the old Rancho until his land sat there unoccupied for over ten years. At long last he had a water ditch dug along the foothills in Duarte, so that irrigation and at first, domestic water could be had on each parcel of land. When he did this, he started a small land boom in Upper Duarte. Upper Duarte contained the foothill property and the land in the middle of Duarte, between Duarte Road, today, and Huntington Drive. Some of the early settlers in the middle Duarte had been able to buy water from Beardslee, whose ditch crossed over or nearby their property. Those on the upper section either hand watered their crops, or grew only dry farming crops.

After the Upper Ditch, called the Duarte Mutual Irrigation and Canal Company ditch was built, Meyer began to sell the

the land along the foothills.

It is not absolutely a certainty why the settlers who came to Duarte and bought land on the foothills, did so. A few facts indicate why: (1) Weil was able to advertise the land widely, not only in the United States, but abroad. (2) He had large parcels to sell. (3) These immigrants had the money to buy, and (4) Nearly everyone of them had someone in the family who needed to live in a high, dry climate for their health. Most of the ranchers who settled along the foothills were either English or Canadian. A few fairly wealthy Americans from the east and south joined them. This was partly true of those in the middle section too.

These settlers came to Duarte after the advent of the railroad, so they didn't cut down the beautiful oak trees for firewood or building purposes. This is why in Upper Duarte we still have some of the beautiful Duarte Oaks which grow only in this area.

Nearly all of these settlers bought from twenty to 100 acres, many of which were already producing either deciduous or citrus fruit. This meant that they received a return on their investment within a year's time. They were already fairly well-to-do people accustomed to the niceties of life and the leisure of the upper class family. They built gracious and commodious homes, and surrounded them with lovely grounds. Practically none of them worked their lands. They had ranch hands and gardeners who did that. They saw that their property was carefully and

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intelligently worked and maintained. Many were younger sons from English landed gentry, who couldn't inherit at home, and for whom there was little chance to make a fortune at home. English gentlemen did not go into a "trade" and remain English gentlemen. Not in Great Britain proper. They could go abroad and make money without losing face. So they went abroad, to England's loss and America's gain.

They brought with them all their customs and mores, which were of the Victorian era. They held tightly to English traditions.

Being far from home, homesick, conservative and shy, they were at ease only with their own kind. As it happened, there were plenty of English people along the foothills in Southern California. Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, Pasadena, Ontario, Cucamonga, Etiwanda, Covina and Anaheim, all had large English Colonies. They associated with one another almost totally. Most of them attended the Episcopalian Church. They served tea in the afternoons after games of tennis. They rode horseback, hunted, fished, visited and on English holidays, went to balls in Los Angeles and South Pasadena. The ladies belonged to the Daughters of the British Empire. They celebrated the Queen's birthday. In fact, they did anything which made them still feel like they belonged to "Mother" England. They were, as a group, well-educated, well-traveled, sophisticated and poised people. Such a well-constituted clannish enclave provoked both awe and envy amongst the American settlers who did not have their advantages. This didn't make for togetherness.

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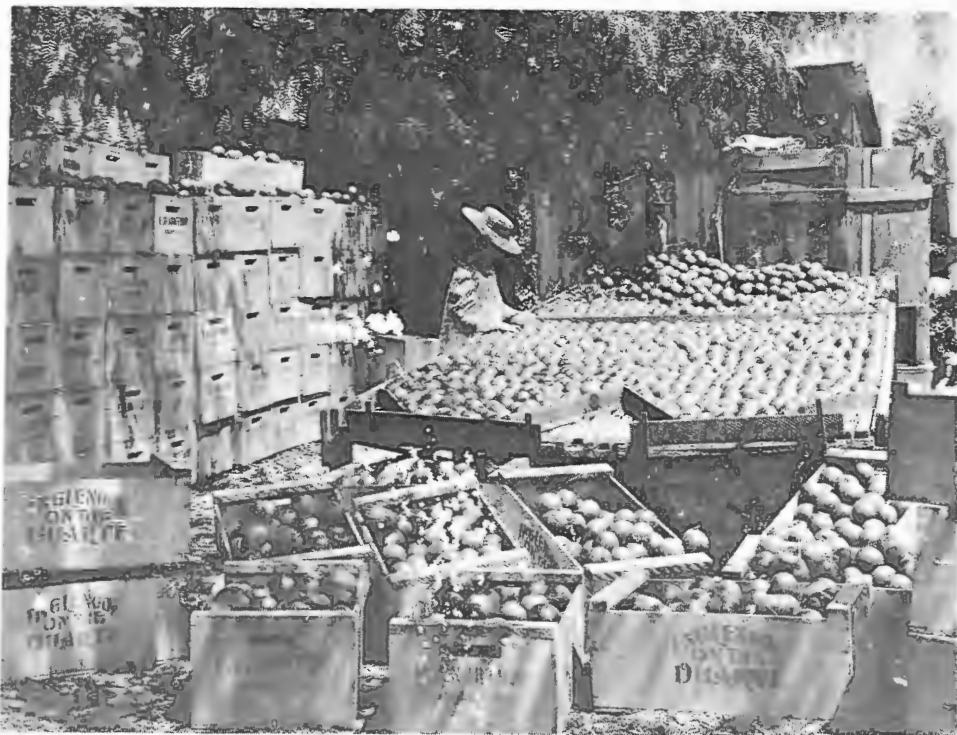
It was this group, nevertheless, who had the best citrus groves, won the most premiums and prizes, and put Duarte on the map. "Queen Colony" was an apt name for them.

The American Pioneers

The Americans in Duarte had neither the money nor the time for participation in leisure activities. They were sturdy people who were either God fearing Methodists, Presbyterians, or Baptists. They farmed their land by themselves. They were deeply involved in church and school work. They had large families to rear. They were generous, responsible people, who never let anyone go hungry, or lack for the essentials of life. They always helped one another in time of need. That was their heritage. They enjoyed the simple pleasures their forefathers had enjoyed, church socials, picnics, hay rides, school entertainments and family-oriented outings. Occasional trips to the mountains or beach were real treats to them.

Along with the Anglo-Saxons in the Lower section, lived most of the Mexican families, and quite a few black families. Most of the latter had been brought to Southern California by E.J. "Lucky" Baldwin from Mississippi. He paid their way here in return for their labor on his Rancho Santa Anita. These families, after Baldwin sold his rancho, moved either to Monrovia or Duarte. Those who lived in Monrovia had, for the most part, been given land by Baldwin for services rendered. Those in Duarte had not.





(At left) Young lady sorting oranges for size in the Northrup Packing Yard. Note the Northrup sign on boxes: Inglenook on the Duarte. Northrup lived just northwest of Monrovia-Duarte Fruit Exchange.



(At left) An 1890 picture of fruit pickers in the E. Northrup Grove, using the "new" orange picking boxes. Northrup's Inglenook brand is on the boxes. This is his small daughter in the picture. (Above) Duarte-Monrovia Packing House: Faced on Oak Street to the west of the Southern Pacific Depot. Today, the Water Company office is in the building on this corner of Oak and Third Streets. Photos courtesy Duarte Historical Society.





Southern Pacific Railroads Duarte Depot on North Highland Avenue at what is Third Street today. The Fire Department building is on this site at present.



West Duarte Packing House on the Santa Fe between Mountain and Buena Vista. Building not there today. Photos courtesy Duarte Historical Society.

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They either bought land, or squatted on land in the Davis Addition.

The Davis Addition was the first subdivision in Duarte. A man from Los Angeles, named Charles C. Davis, had purchased acreage in South Duarte. During the land boom in the middle eighties, he subdivided it. The following excerpt from the Monrovia Planet, January 8, 1887, Vol. 1. No.8., gives a brief description of the place:

"A townsite was laid out some time since by Charles C. Davis, of Los Angeles, who owned the land on which the depot is located, and other lands in the immediate vicinity are being cut up into lots. A small hotel has just been built and another is projected. A company has also organized to build an elegant hotel on the foothills at the edge of the settlement, the location being one which is peculiarly agreeable to invalids and has the most beneficial effects upon persons suffering from lung disease and asthma.

The settlement of Duarte is in every respect a model one without saloons or disreputable resorts of any kind, and any owner of any property in the village who shall attempt to start a saloon will forfeit his rights to the property.

It is a charming place for homes, and the rich and growing settlement will undoubtedly develop into a thrifty and prosperous village".

Then two things happened. The boom became a bust, because of the erratic actions of nature: heat, drought and floods. The latter phenomenon completely wiped out the pretty little village planned by Mr. Davis. The people who had built there, bought land farther up the piedmont, either in the middle section of Duarte, or in the second town site above Huntington Drive, between Highland Avenue on the east, Oak Avenue on the west, and Royal Oaks on the north. Most of them bought larger places and settled down to be farmers. This bursting of the bubble was what enabled the black families to move into the Davis Addition when their need for homes arose.

Many poor Mexican families joined the black families at this time. It became a common factor that although many of the Mexicans could not speak English, most of the black people learned to speak Spanish like natives.

Who Lived Here? 1870-1920

From 1870 to 1920 is quite a spread, but the families who were to reside on the Duarte for many years, came to the old Rancho during this time.

Besides those already mentioned, some of the early families listed here, were those who settled along the foothills and in the middle section of Duarte. A few of those listed lived on the lower section. Altogether the settlers were: John Scott,

A.C. Thomson, W.W. Bacon, A.T. Blain, H.D. Fowler, G.P. FitzGerald, W.H. Young, Eugene Meyer, the Bliss brothers, Will and F.A., Will Bowman, the Wilson brothers, Joseph and R.H. (nurserymen); A.B. Bronson, William Chippendale, William Chappelow, Allen Sandifur, Levi Harris, John Dunn, Walter S. Newhall, A.J. Maddock, Jesus Marron, Thomas Glenney, Samuel Leffler, Ernest Watson, Ed. Lancaster, Thomas Wardall, John Banning, A.S. Church, and the partners, Meredith and Gearhart.

John Scott

In his time John Scott was the most famous man to live on the Duarte. Most of the residents of today have never heard of him, although in some way, he has effected each of our lives.

John and Sarah Scott came to Duarte in 1883 from Canada. They had gone from England to Canada to visit his sister. John was looking for new worlds to conquer, as were many upper class Britains of his day. For some reason, he decided to look in California. The Scotts came down from Ontario, Canada, and looked around. Finally, they chose Duarte, probably because Mr. Scott was a horticulturist and recognized good land when he saw it.

Soon after he purchased his land in Duarte, he looked for a way to follow his career. He found it almost immediately in the Los Angeles County Agricultural Department, where he applied for and was given the position of Horticultural Inspector.

While he worked for the County, he developed the 96 acres he had purchased. These acres started at the foothills above Bradbourne Avenue, and ran down the piedmont to below Huntington Drive. The acreage was just west of the property which Eugene Meyer, Alexander Weil's land agent, had purchased for himself. As Scott's land had never been developed, he had to start from scratch. He laid out orchards of prunes, peaches, apricots and plums, as well as oranges and lemons. He put two acres of olives on the hillside above his sprawling ranch house. Today, this same acreage has on it the Light and Life Christian Grade and Junior High School of Duarte, two large mobile home estates, commercial units and many single family homes.

John Scott never personally worked his ranch. He had ranch hands who worked it under his supervision.

The Scotts had three children when they arrived; Elizabeth Mary (Mill), Margaret Crawford (Doll), and Archibald. The latter was only one year old. Three or four years later, Alice Marion Scott was born in Duarte.

Eight years after his arrival, John Scott became the second single Horticultural Commissioner of Los Angeles County - by one week! For some unknown reason, the first Commissioner William E. Ward, resigned at the end of his first week in office. Scott was the best possible choice the County Supervisors could have made. He was a trained and dedicated man. To him and the other twenty-seven counties which employed Horticultural Commissioners goes the credit for the high standards created for the

protection of all our agricultural products, then and now.

Their knowledge and dedication has made it possible for California to be comparatively free of many of the pests which attack and kill trees and plants in less alert states, particularly those east of the Rocky Mountains.

He was the only Horticultural Commissioner in Los Angeles County during his tenure in office. Only Butte and Santa Clara counties like Los Angeles County, had a single Horticultural Commissioner. The other twenty-five counties always had more than one simultaneously.

From the beginning, Los Angeles County was a leader in agriculture. John Scott helped build its reputation, because not only was he very knowledgeable in his field, but he was absolutely honest and fearless. He would not allow agriculturists, importers, nurserymen, or anyone else, to bring into California any bug-infested agricultural product. His inspectors met boats, trains, wagons, cars, you name it, at the County border or the boat dock, along with the State Inspectors. Everything was examined for pests of any kind. On his orders, backed by the County Supervisors, any pest infested agricultural product was immediately destroyed by burning.

Scott was fighting big money, much of the time. Newspapers, particularly trade journals, either praised him or condemned him for his actions. Many farmers or nurserymen, who didn't care about anything but money, hated him with a purple passion. At one time, he was black-listed by the State Horticultural Commission because he criticized an article published by the State

Commissioner, which said in brief: that farmers could quit fumigating and spraying their orchards, because the white cushiony scale could be controlled completely by the insects....mostly lady bugs....imported from Australia for this purpose. The scale not only killed the citrus fruit, but sucked the life out of the trees, which then had to be burned, destroying not only a money crop but at least seven years of hard work. Scott rebutted with an article which declared that although the lady bug was very good, there weren't enough of them in the United States yet to act alone, and that it was a bad idea, at any cost, to put all your eggs in one basket. Farmers should spray and fumigate. This meant the farmers had to spend a great deal more money per tree than the State Horticulturist contended they needed to do. What an uproar ensued! Scott undoubtedly walked in fear of his life for a time. Americans were as physical in their opposition to an idea or law then as they are today. Scott was right and he knew it and nothing would budge him. Gradually the irate farmers appreciated his stubborn defense of his position and they were grateful to him. Meantime though, he lived an uncomfortable life.

The Scotts, other than John, were to set a precedent in another field. This one in recreation. Tennis had always been a favorite passtime for upper class Englishmen. The ones who came here were no exception.

The first clay courts, very good ones, were built behind the Duarte Hotel on Highland Avenue. The Scott "girls" (Mill and Doll); remember playing there when they were in elementary school.

They used homemade wooden bats, because there were no regular tennis rackets available. By the time they were in High School, John Scott had built a very good set of courts on his property just about where the private Christian Day School is today. He even built a small tennis club for his children's friends to use. By the time the latter were in High School, they all had regular tennis rackets. They became very proficient at the game.

On the Scott's tennis courts, the tennis greats of Southern California were to play for many years. The most famous was a girl from an English family in Pasadena. Her name was May Sutton. Her father, a retired English sea captain, had brought his wife and five daughters to Pasadena to live. All but one of his daughters was athletic, something rare in those days. They all played tennis, and his youngest, May, was very good. She was so good, that at the age of fourteen, she became the first American woman to win the world's singles championship title at Wimbledon, England! She and her future husband, Tom Bundy, both were regular weekend players at the Scott's ranch, "Hillside" in Duarte.

John Scott played an important part in community activities too. In the book, "An Illustrated History of Los Angeles County", published in 1889, there is a short article on John Scott which gives a good picture of his contributions and the esteem in which he was held. On page 640 it says:

"He is a thorough horticulturist, combining sound business principles with his careful intelligent cultivation. He is progressive and public spirited, and a strong supporter of any enterprise that will develop the resources and build up the section in which he resides. He has been water commissioner in his district for the past five years, and at this writing, (1889), is the president of the Duarte Mutual Irrigation and Canal Company, an office he has held for the past three years. He is well known and respected in the community in which he resides."

For many years, John Scott was active in the California Fruit Growers Exchange in Los Angeles. He was a charter member, and helped to formulate many of the policies of that organization. Upon his death in 1915, the following resolution was sent to Mrs. Scott from the fruit exchange board:

"CALIFORNIA FRUIT EXCHANGE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 29, 1915

"WHEREAS, the members of this Board have learned with deepest regret of the death of our fellow member, Mr. John Scott, of Duarte, and
WHEREAS, Mr. Scott was one of the charter members of the California Fruit Growers Exchange, and one of its most staunch adherents and supporters, and we had so long had the benefit of his splendid judgements and experience,

NOW, THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, that we hereby express our sense of loss in his death and our sympathy with his widow and family in their great bereavment. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this board, and a copy forwarded to his family".

Capt. Gerald P. FitzGerald

On July 7, 1892, there appeared in Duarte, as a land owner, a man and his wife who were to afford the residents of Duarte, especially the English Colony, with enough gossip to last for quite some time. The gentleman was Capt. Gerald Purcell FitzGerald, late of her Majesty's Irish Guards. The lady was his wife, the late Lady Gatacre. Had the community known nothing about them, their advent would have created quite a tizzy of excitement, even among the Americans. Both were exceedingly good looking people. He was tall, well-built and handsome, with a devil-may-care "charisma" which would have set feminine hearts aflutter anywhere. From the one picture we have of her, she was a slim, delicate, young lady.

Unfortunately, newspaper accounts of their internationally prominent love story had preceded them. Lorraine Handyside Ayles, a small child in Duarte at the time, and Margaret Scott Meier, who heard all about it from her Aunts Mill and Doll Scott, tell what happened.





Woolwine home "Royal Oaks:
once known as "Oak Lawn".



Ralph Densmore home on
Buena Vista, south of Central.

Northrup home on Three Ranch
Road, west of Buena Vista.

Bonnie Highlands home and
hotel alternately for many
years, located on Highland
Avenue, south of Hansen's
Highland Nursery.



The news of the FitzGerald's scandalous affair had gone all over the English-speaking world. There was an uproar in English Army and London social circles when dashing and wealthy young captain FitzGerald, scion of Irish Nobility, ran off with the young wife of General Gatacre. The general, to save face, granted his wayward wife a divorce, but kept their two young children. The FitzGeralds were married. The Captain, of course, resigned his commission in the Irish Guards, and the couple left England, because they were persona non grata. Divorce, in Queen Victoria's time, and long thereafter, was not condoned. Social ostracism was the rigid rule. On top of that, to steal another man's wife, the worst of sins, was not done, at least not openly.

The FitzGeralds had money. Why they came to Duarte is a mystery. There is, though, an educated guess. Mrs. FitzGerald only lived five years after they settled in Duarte. Because so many settlers came here for their health, it would be safe to hazard a guess that Mrs. FitzGerald was ill with a terminal illness when they arrived. If she was, no one knew it, and this is why. Although transplanted from its native heath, the English Colony had, as we've seen, brought with it all the traditions and customs of its homeland. Because of this, the ladies of the colony were in a quandry as to how to deal with this romantic but socially awkward situation. Evidently, after much consultation with one another, the ladies decided to follow custom and not receive the FitzGeralds.

The Captain had little trouble with the men in Duarte, because men do not determine the social climate. FitzGerald was a pleasant individual who loved to play tennis, fish and hunt, and ride. He was a man's man. Therefore, men like him.

Mrs. FitzGerald, probably not very active anyway, had a hard time of it. The Scotts were friendly with her, and so were the Miss Wrights, whose brother was associated in business with FitzGerald. They developed friendships with Americans in Monrovia, but otherwise, she was left to her own company. This lonely life, was probably quite a traumatic experience for someone who had been used to the social whirl of London fashion; who was separated from her children, and ignored by her neighbors.

The FitzGeralds had purchased Eugene Meyers 100 acres, which paralleled the Scott ranch from the foothills to Huntington Drive and below. Both FitzGeralds spent most of their time improving the house and grounds surrounding it. FitzGerald had a castle in Ireland at Waterford, and he evidently tried to make the grounds around Mt. Olivet, as they named their home, as beautiful as were the ones around the castle. They spent \$200,000 dollars on improvements. The grounds at Mt. Olivet became famous for their beauty. Photographs of the property show a long sweeping driveway up to the house which was lined with pepper trees part way; and finished with terraces planted to palm and orange trees and flowers. The drive led to the house which was high on the piedmont and had a magnificent view out across the valley. The place had on it the oldest orange groves in Duarte. Huge old trees which made a marvelous frame for the FitzGerald's gardens.

They had an oriental tea garden complete with tea house, and pools. There was a 300 foot rose arbor covered with roses, the interior of which housed exotic semi-tropical plants; including rare palms, hanging ferns, camelias, begonias, and many others. Ajoining the long arbor was a circular arbor with a fountain filled with gold fish and framed by all kinds of ferns. There were lawns and terraces. Fifty acres of orange trees were in rows on terraces banked by rock and cement walls.

The house had twelve rooms and three baths. It was made of reinforced concrete. It boasted four chimneys. The house was one story high. Rare woods had been used as paneling. There was a large stained glass window in one wall, which colored anti-ques, expensive rugs and collector type bric-a-brac.

There were servants quarters, a gardener's cottage, and bungalows for other help. There was a summer house, concrete tennis courts which were surrounded on two sides by a fence covered with a passion vine. There were cement-lined storm ditches, and an irrigation system. There was a private generating plant used to make energy with which to run the household and the pumping station which provided the domestic water supply. There was a reservoir which could hold a million gallons of water, a swimming pool, and a private packing house. (Mt. Olivet's second owner was to stock the reservoir with black bass). There was an aviary, and all the sheds and outbuildings needed to keep a place that size in good shape.



Fitzgerald Logo



Fitzgerald Logo



Packing House Logo

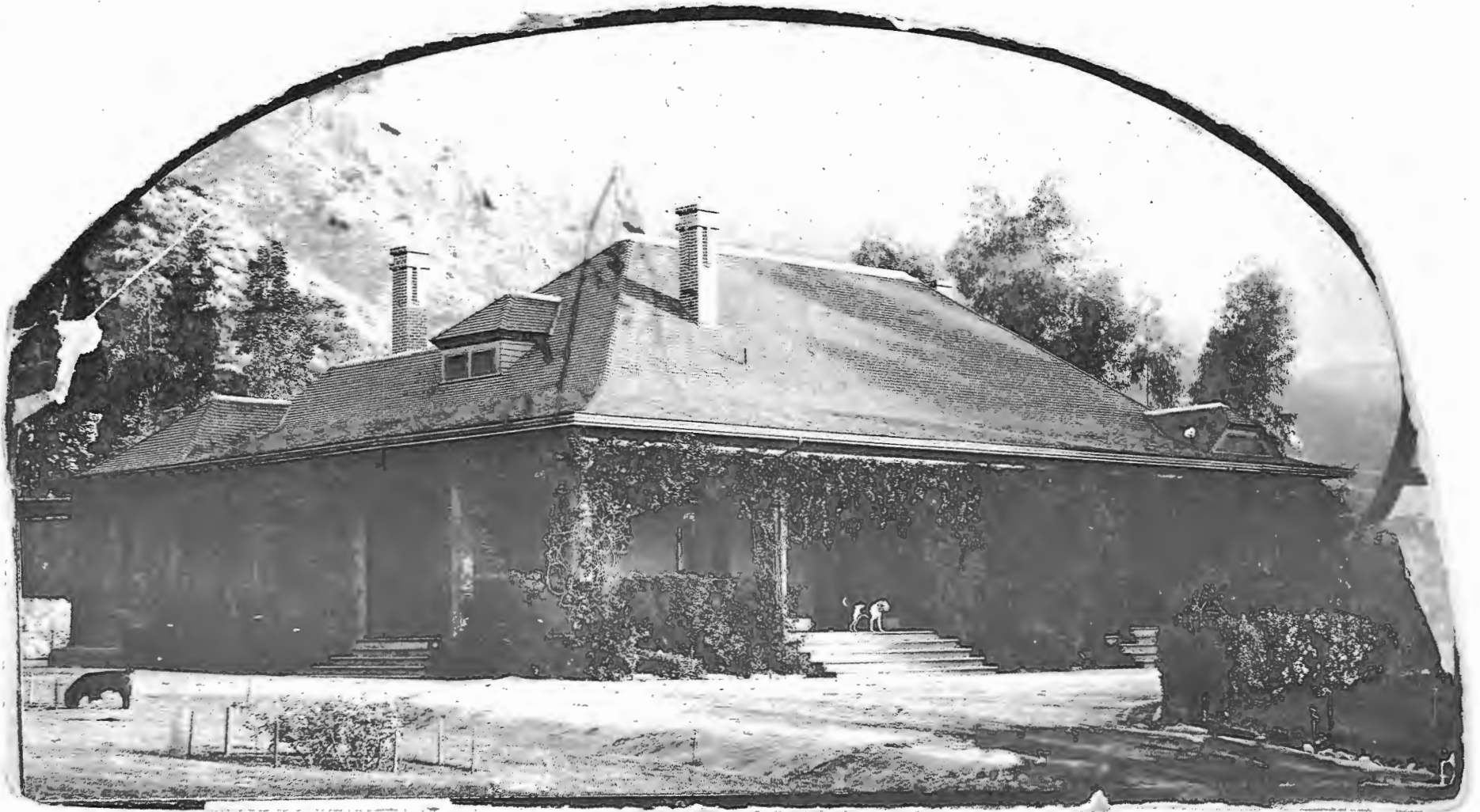
Fitzgerald Logo



There has always been a question as to why they named the place Mt. Olivet. Some said it was named for a place in the Bible. Local residents said it was named for the Olive grove above the house and a poem the FitzGeralds liked. Regardless of why it was named, Mt. Olivet was a wonderful place to see.

The FitzGeralds lived at Mt. Olivet for five years. Gerald became very involved with his citrus groves. He created names for the various grades of his oranges; and logos to go with the grades. These names became famous in the United States as symbols for the best oranges grown. The logos were "St. Patrick" for his extra fancy A.C. Thomson variety oranges. "Fern", was for the fancy grade, and "Smilax" for the choice grade. Besides his own packing house, he joined with other growers along the foothills to help establish a packing house on the J.A. Maddock property at the corner of Royal Oaks and Fish Canyon. The foundation of this packing house can be seen today just above the Pacific Electric right-of-way, and the present ceramic plant. The ceramic plant was the second and larger packing plant built when the first one burned years after the FitzGeralds were gone. This latter plant became the Sunkist Packing House and lasted as such until there was no more need for a packing house in Duarte.

Mrs. FitzGerald gradually sickened. Many people declared that she simply pined away for her children. Whatever the reason, she passed away in 1897. FitzGerald put Mt. Olivet in charge of his friend and associate, Mr. Wright. Then he took his wife's remains back to England to be buried.



Home of Gerald P. Fitzgerald built for his bride on their Ranch "Mt. Olivet", in Duarte, California. The house had 12 rooms, three baths and four fireplaces. Rare woods were used in the panelling in the main rooms. Back of the house were servants quarters and a gardener's cottage. Bungalows for farm help were scattered throughout the acres of citrus.

Photo courtesy Herbert Meier Collection



Mt. Olivet residence after William Baird added the second story and the porte cochere to the original Fitzgerald house. This home was reduced to the concrete walls and four chimneys in a fire in 1952.

Photo Courtesy Herbert Meier Collection

Wright and his two maiden sisters, Alice and Evie, lived in the FitzGerald place for twelve years. The sisters, according to Lorraine Handyside, were Dresden china figurine types, who loved to serve tea.

"Many an afternoon," said Lorraine, in an oral interview, "as little girls, my sister, Enid, Margery Maddock and I, got cleaned up and went to tea with the Miss Wrights. They served us in transparent china cups which had roses and violets painted on them. We had tea and cookies and felt very grown up".

FitzGerald came back just once to Duarte. Some six or eight months after he buried his first wife, he returned briefly to check on the ranch. His second wife, whom rumour had it, he met on the ship going to England, followed him to Duarte in two months time. They stayed for about three months, and then went east to her home in Pennsylvania. She was from a family with coke interests. Later, a letter from FitzGerald to the Scotts, showed on the letterhead that he had become President of the Coke Company. Eventually, FitzGerald went home to his castle in Waterford, Ireland.

William M. Baird

At the end of twelve years, Mr. Wright received notice to sell Mt. Olivet. He put the property on the market. At the time, William M. Baird, a cattle baron from Gillette, Wyoming,

was in Los Angeles for a Cattleman's Convention. After the convention ended, he came to Monrovia to visit an old friend. He probably expressed a desire to buy property in Southern California for a winter home and future retirement. His friend told him about Mt. Olivet. He contacted Mr. Wright's agent, who took him to see the ranch. Baird fell in love with it, and bid for the upper 65 acres which included all of the luxurious development. Wright accepted his bid of \$50,000. It is said that this price was only \$10,000 more than FitzGerald paid for the entire place in 1892. If this is true, Baird got quite a bargain.

The lower 35 acres of the ranch were sold about the same time to the brothers, Edward S. and Thomas K. Hulme. This part of the ranch had a good house and several barns on it. They too got a good deal for their \$20,000.

The Bairds had a second story of wood and plaster, added to the house, and a port cochere put over the driveway alongside the house. They employed three gardeners to keep the large grounds in immaculate condition, as well as ranch hands to take care of the groves. Baird continued to sell the oranges under the FitzGerald logos, which he had purchased along with the place.

When Mr. Baird's daughter, by his first marriage, finished college, she came to Mt. Olivet. There she was introduced to the members of the younger set of the Queen Colony. One of the young men fell deeply in love with her, and after a suitable courtship, asked for and got her hand in marriage.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Monrovia was the scene of the social event of the year, when Ethel Marjorie Baird was united in marriage with her neighbor's son, Archibald Scott.

The Bairds lived in Duarte for many years. Mr. Baird was very highly respected and deeply loved by his neighbors and associates. He bought other ranches in the valley, and also went into various businesses. He became a stockholder and director of the American National Bank of Monrovia, and was its president when it changed to the First National Bank. He was president of the American-Monrovia Investment Company, and also of the Curtis Ranch Company which owned the corner of sixth and Grand Avenues in downtown Los Angeles on which there was a thirteen story office building.

At the time of his death on September 29, 1924, he had served on the board of nearly every civic organization in Monrovia. He was a trustee of the Monrovia Elks Lodge and was actively engaged in raising money for the construction of the present lodge building. In his will he left the Elks \$25,000. This money enabled them to complete their building.

His civic help and monetary generosity was not the reason Mr. Baird was loved. It was because he had a warm generous nature, and a great understanding of human worth. This is shown by the private acts of help he gave many young men to enable them to become successful. None of this was known until after his death.

Mrs. Margaret Louise Baird lived at Mt. Olivet for twenty-six years after her husband's death. She continued to run the ranch with the help of her foreman, Milton Adams. She passed away at the ranch without the knowledge that Mr. Adams had died of a heart attack while driving his car along Royal Oaks. His car plunged down into the Pacific Electric right-of-way, and he was killed instantly. This had happened two days before she passed away.

Just two years after her death, Mt. Olivet, vacant, and minus all its fine furnishings and part of the paneling, was set afire by two boys playing with matches. It burned to the ground. Only its concrete first-floor walls and its four chimneys were mute witness to the beauty that was. Subsequently it was subdivided and fifty-two homes were built on Mt. Olivet, plus Royal Oaks Elementary School.

A. C. Thomson

One of the most advanced orange growers in Southern California in the 1890's was A.C. Thomason who lived on the foothills of Duarte. An American, he had purchased forty acres immediately to the east of the Bacon place. Evidently a very good amateur pomologist, Mr. Thomson worked for years to improve the navel orange. Through a series of interbudding, he finally succeeded in producing what was considered the finest orange grown in California. It was named the "Thompson Improved

Navel Orange". It was seedless, of medium size and a splendid shipper. There was a great demand for buds from this variety. At that time a large amount for a bud was 2 1/2 cents each. This is what Thomson's Improved Navel Orange brought. Today, Thomson's seedless orange is the standard navel bought in any store.

For a number of years Mr. Thomson took first premium on his oranges at the different State Citrus Fairs; also at the Mid-winter Fair. At the latter, he received two gold medals, seven silver medals and nine diplomas.

In the year 1888, Thomson's ranch had twenty-eight acres in oranges and lemons; twelve acres in his Improved variety, and fourteen acres of Washington Navels. The crop that year had over 3,000 boxes, most of which went to the New York market. He sold 30,000 buds from his Improved variety, and 1,000 dollars worth of young trees. These statistics give one some idea of the monetary worth of the citrus industry in Duarte.

T. S. McKee

T.S. McKee was the owner of a ranch called Oak Lawn. McKee came from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Duarte in 1889 and bought 35 acres of what had been the Louis Bradbury place. It was just west of Highland Avenue on Royal Oaks. It was known to most Duarteans for years as the Woolwine Estate, in honor of its third owner. Woolwine, a prominent business man, changed the name to "Royal Oaks", because of the magnificent oaks on the pro-

perty. At the time McKee owned it, it was already famous as the site of the largest oak tree in Southern California. The oaks on his property were the species called the "Duarte" oak. To quote an article in the Monrovia Messenger about the largest tree at Oak Lawn:

" It is situated sixty-five feet southwest of the house. It does not keep out the life-giving sunshine, but tempers the breeze as it passes through its dense shade and it enters the house to fan those within, and having a salutary effect upon the cook, you can rest assured your victuals will always be right. It is an ideal spot on a hot summer day. No necessity to go to the beach while you have a cooler spot near at hand. The dimensions of the tree are: Circumference of trunk, 23 feet 6 inches. The height, 55 feet; spread of branches, 96 feet. Age approximately 200 years.

F. M. Shrode J. Fowler B. R. Davisson

The following short paragraphs on various people are in the same issue of the Monrovia Messenger, issued in 1896. They paint a short but interesting picture of a few other Duarteans who helped shape their town.

"F.M. Shrode: Among the early settlers in Duarte were the Shrodes. Francis M. Shrode, whose blacksmith and carriage shop is located on Buena Vista Street just

north of the Duarte Elementary School, has been in business there for the past eleven years, succeeding his father, David S. Shrode, who conducted a similar business for twelve years previous. He is doing a large business and enjoys the confidence and esteem of the whole community.

North of his shop is the home of his mother, Mrs. D.S. Shrode, (where the Golden Key Apartments are today). North of her is the home of Thomas Wardall, another of Duarte's sterling citizens. (His place is the home of the Duarte Library today).

Joseph Fowler: Conducts the only mercantile business in Duarte. He has been here since early childhood, and although yet a young man, has been very successful. He carries a general line of merchandise, including groceries, dry goods, clothing, and hardware. He is also Postmaster, and has the public telephone office in his place. (This is the same little store, enlarged, which Daniels, Barnes, and several others ran before Mr. Fowler had it).

Benjamin R. Davisson: Has been a resident of Duarte for the past fifteen years, and eight years ago embarked in the business of manufacturing cement pipe, ditches, reservoirs, sidewalks, etc. He also does tunnel and

other rock work. During the time he has been in business here, he has successfully completed the major portion of the cement work performed in the valley... Mr. Davisson is also deputy sheriff and constable".

The Maddock Family

This last section is on the Maddock family. Three generations of Maddocks lived in Duarte and put their imprint on its history.

Head of the family was Junious Arthur Maddock, always known as Arthur. Mr. Maddock was born in 1848 in England, the second son of a chaplain in the Queen's Indian Army, Rev. Edward Knight Maddock and Lucinda Smith.

As a teenager, he attended Blackheath Preparatory School from 1864 to 1868. Later on, as a young man, he went to South America to Argentina on some venture. Meantime his brother, Henry, had become a minister and teacher. In 1875, Rev. Maddock came to Toronto, Canada with his family. There he taught classes in Toronto University for four years. Arthur joined his brother and family in 1875, and began the study of surveying. While there, his brother introduced him to Provost Whitaker's daughters. One of these daughters was named Agnes Mary. Arthur fell in love with her, and married her in 1882.

In 1886, Arthur and Agnes Mary Maddock arrived in Duarte. With them came their two small daughters, Genefer and Evelyn. The family came to care for Agnes Mary's uncle, Earnest Whitaker, who was very ill. From Alexander Weil, in 1883, Earnest and his partner, a Mr. Morley, had purchased 82 acres along the foothills in Duarte. He had worked the ranch for three years until he became too ill. What became of his partner is not known. He did not live long after the Maddocks arrived; dying that same year. When the Maddocks came to Duarte, Agnes Mary was pregnant with their third child. In the Duarte adobe in which uncle Earnest had lived, in October, 1886, Helen Maddock was born.

Helen was the first of the second generation to be born in Duarte, and the only one to come into this world in the historic old adobe.

The Maddocks decided to stay in Duarte when Agnes Mary inherited the property. They lived in the adobe while they built a wooden house for themselves on the property just west of it. In June, 1888, Maddock sold the adobe and forty-two acres around it to Captain Williamson Ware Bacon Sr., and his wife, Elizabeth Logan Bacon. They and their three children, Elizabeth (Lide), W.W. "Bill" Jr., and Robert. The Maddocks kept the property on which they had built their house. It occupied the east side of Vineyard Avenue from the mountains almost down to Huntington Drive.

In the new house in 1888, their fourth daughter, Lillian, was born. She lived seven years. Their son, Gordon, arrived in

1890; and Margery, their fifth daughter, arrived in 1892. She completed their family.

In October, 1899, a fire started in a small annex to the house, and burned the entire complex. It left the Maddocks intact, but minus almost everything they owned. Fortunately, their big barn wasn't touched. They moved into it, buying the barest necessities to tide them over until a new house could be built.

In October, 1900, the new house was finished. It was Victorian in style and much larger. For three years their life was uneventful.

In the summer of 1903, they had visitors from India. Their cousin, Captain Edward Cecil Maddock, a doctor in the Queen's Indian Army, and a fellow doctor, Captain Whitehead, came via China, Japan, Hawaii and San Francisco to visit the Maddocks.

The doctors had been in Duarte just a few days, when the Maddocks picked up their guests and took them to Santa Catalina Island for vacation. This was a regular Maddock summer retreat. They camped at the Isthmus and had a great time. This summer was no different, except the fun was heightened by the presence of the two young doctors; and the joy Arthur Maddock had visiting with his young cousin.

The summer ended. The Maddocks came home. The doctors made their farewells and left for India about the middle of September.

Scarcely two weeks after they left, Arthur Maddock on October 1, 1903, went up to his well near the top of Las Lomas Ranch, to oil the belt on the pump in the well. He leaned over the rim and stuck out his arm to reach the belt. The belt caught his arm and pulled him into the well head first. He was killed instantly.

Arthur Handyside

Mrs. Maddock was left a widow with four children, a forty acre ranch, and several dependent ranch workers. She took over the management of Las Lomas, and sent for her old friend, Arthur Handyside and his family. Handyside, an expert orchardist, consented to manage the ranch for Mrs. Maddock.

Mrs. Maddock built the Handysides a home on her ranch just below Royal Oaks Drive, but above the Pacific Electric tracks. There, the Handyside's lived for six years, as Lorraine Handyside, (Mrs Lewis B. Ayles) of Cucamonga says, "Out in the dusty flats my sisters, Enid and Alice and I, played in the brush. My brother, Robert, had just been born when we came to Duarte. Between his needs, and the dirt we brought in, my mother had her hands full".

The Handysides would have lived there longer, but Fate in the form of a ruptured appendix, attacked their father. "The doctor", Lorraine said, "came from Monrovia to the house and after

examining father, said, 'your father's appendix is ruptured and he will have to have an operation'. "This meant," she continued, "he had to go to Los Angeles. In order to get him there, they took a low wagon, put boxes on it, and put a cot with my father on it, in the wagon. They drove four miles to the railroad in Monrovia, and transferred him, cot and all, to a boxcar. The train took him to Los Angeles. An ambulance met the train and took him to Good Samaritan Hospital. It was all for nothing," she sighed, "he died from peritonitis."

Up until the time Arthur Handyside took charge of the Maddock ranch, the growers in Upper Duarte had not packed their own fruit, but hauled it to Lower Duarte to the packing house and had it packed. This was neither good for the fruit nor economical. Mr. Handyside decided that they should pack their own fruit. Mrs. Maddock agreed with him. They set up a temporary packing plant in the big barn. There the Maddock and Handyside children, old enough to help; the ranch hands, and anyone else who cared to help, washed, dried, sorted and packed the golden fruit. Then they took the boxes down to the Santa Fe Railroad to be sent to market. It wasn't long before every grower along the foothills followed suit. Ultimately, this economical move, led to the more economical consolidation into one packing house, built on the Maddock property, as mentioned in the section on the FitzGerald.

The Maddocks didn't have a name or logos for their fruit. Some one sent the Handyside children a copy of Alice in Wonderland

complete with Tennial drawings. Mr. Handyside liked the picture of the rabbit running away, saying: "My gloves! My gloves! Where are my gloves?" He had it copied and incorporated in a logo. He named the Maddock house brand, "The Jackrabbit". For many years they marketed their fruit under this name.

Gordon Maddock was old enough to manage the property when Mr. Handyside died. It was under his management that the Maddock Packing house was built. The growers, after the merger into one packing house, decided to adopt uniform brand names. To this end, they got permission from Gerald FitzGerald to use his "Fern" brand for fancy oranges; his "Smilax" brand for choice oranges; and packaged FitzGerald's Thomson Improved under his "St. Patrick" logo. These brands became household names to thousands of Americans.

In 1911, Gordon Maddock, now twenty-one, married Miss Kathryn Jackson. Their wedding in All Saints Episcopal Church in Duarte, was the highlight of the social year.

During the next few years, Las Lomas Ranch was the scene of many festivities, and probably war work. The United States entered World War I, in April, 1917. Gordon Maddock volunteered immediately. He went to boot camp, and as soon as he finished basic training, was commissioned a Lieutenant.

On February 27, 1919, John Arthur Maddock, (Jack), first born of the Gordon Maddock's; and the first of the third generation, arrived on this earth.

Grandmother, Agnes Mary, a wise woman, undoubtedly felt that this was the time to leave Las Lomas. She and Gordon bought the land above Las Lomas in the west canyon. They named the new place, "Hillcrest". Mrs. Maddock and Genefer, her oldest daughter, moved into the house on Hillcrest. It was a beautiful place, set in a small valley on top of a knoll. It was a low-slung, sprawling house which slid down the knoll on the east side in a story and a half method. The entire complex and the out-buildings were hidden from Las Lomas by a spur of the hill to their west. It still is.

Margery Maddock, the youngest daughter of Arthur Maddock, married twice. The first marriage produced Gordon M. (Buster). Her second marriage to Edmond Becsey, brought Doris to join the family.

Gordon and Kathy Maddock had two more children, Mary, born in 1922, and Mae Ellen, (Mazie), born in 1925. Today, fourth and fifth generations of the Maddock family live in Southern California, but not in Duarte.

Both Hillcrest and Las Lomas ranches were sold years ago. Oddly enough, not much of Las Lomas has been subdivided, and none of Hillcrest...Las Lomas residence stands in a flat field, sometimes sub-let to truck farmers. The house is shorn of most of its lovely surroundings, and stands forlornly looking down an oiled driveway to a truncated Las Lomas Avenue.

The other homes of the English Colony have disappeared. Mt. Olivet was burned in 1952. John Scott's house on Hillside Ranch, came down some time in the sixties. Archibald Scott had a modern home built for his maiden sisters, Doll and Mill Scott. The rest of the Baird and Scott property has been subdivided. Each has a school on his property; Royal Oaks on Baird's; and Light and Life Day School on Scott's.

Bacon's old adobe was torn down in 1913. Bill Bacon Jr., had it replaced by a two-story California house. Part of the adobe still stands. Walls are incorporated within the large walk-in pantry in the kitchen. Their property was subdivided in the middle sixties. Only their name survived. Tocino Drive in Spanish means Bacon.

HILLCREST: Home purchased by Gordon Maddock for his mother after WWI. Home at top of Vineyard Avenue around behind small hill. Private driveway still leads to it.

Photo courtesy Herbert Meier



Between Two Wars

After World War I, which made few ripples in the tranquility of the residents on the Duarte, a gradual "new look" began to change the community. Returning "Dough Boys" were not the naive young farmers or farm hands who had gone away to fight in the "War to End Wars". Some of the owner's sons, because they loved farming, went back to the farm. Others looked for new fields of endeavor. These young men had met other young men from every part of the United States and Europe in the struggle against the German-Austrian enclave. Their narrow, provincial outlook had been abruptly, sometimes traumatically altered. Some embraced heretical thought processes. Some never adjusted to any type of life. Most of them came home, respectful to the leaders of their community, but no longer submissive to their leadership. The young men insisted on applying their changed outlook on life to everyday living.

The automobile came into its own after World War I, thanks to men like Henry Ford. Nearly everyone could afford a car. This meant better road construction and more roads. Huntington Drive was cut through Duarte in 1925, changing the center of town from North Highland Avenue to the "Drive".

New business, started mostly to catch the tourist trade, sprang up along Huntington Drive. The Tower Basket shop caught the eye of those who approached Duarte from the east. The large

rock building farther west held Honeyville, which was filled with amber jars of the delicious honey produced on the Duarte from thousands of orange and lemon trees; and acres of sagebrush.

Bender's Fudge Shop was a green and white candy box full of superior candy. Run by two sisters, it was still soothing the sweet tooth in the fifties.

Juice stands, sometimes in the shape of an orange, vied with stands which sold the whole fruit from artistic displays. Others featured the fine avocados, delicious olives, and fragrant deciduous fruit grown on the Duarte. Huge English walnuts, grown by farmers in South Duarte, were sold alongside dried fruits.

The Japanese truck gardeners became a large colony in South Duarte. Begun back in the late 1890's, when both Chinese and Japanese came to Duarte to work in the citrus groves as pickers, the colony had leased land, by law they couldn't buy it, in Lower Duarte where no one else wanted to farm. They made the land bloom with vegetables and berries.

By the 1900's they were the vegetable venders in Duarte and Monrovia. The citrus growers quit growing vegetables and berries, which took up too much room; and depended completely on the Japanese to provide them with these products.

After World War I, the Japanese built stands on the Drive and sold vegetables and strawberries.

The Japanese were to remain a substantial and respected part of the Duarte Community until the start of World War II.

Then the older Japanese, not citizens, had to go into the Concentration Camps built for them.

Many of the first generation born in the United States went into the Armed Services and lived and died alongside their white compatriots. A very few came back to Duarte after the close of the war. The land their parents had leased was long gone. There was no place in Duarte left for them to farm.

Duarte had always been noted for its excellent restaurants, its nice hotels and good recreation facilities. The advent of the car and more and better roads enabled the public to travel farther, and more often, to places like Duarte.

Several very good restaurants were built along Huntington Drive. One of them, The Sportsman's Tavern, was built originally to cater to sportsmen who liked to have their 'kill' prepared for them by chefs who knew how to cook wild game. The chef at The Sportsman was excellent. Their patrons, mostly wealthy hunters, came to Duarte and brought their friends. Gradually the place added more mundane but excellently prepared cuisine to its menu. Today it still serves the public.

Yves Poupon's French Restaurant had a big reputation for good french cooking, especially lobster thermador. The place was located on the southeast corner of Highland and Huntington Drive until the middle fifties.

The Pepper Tree Inn, sometimes more infamous than famous was located on the southwest corner of Mt. Olivet, (Mt. Olive today), and Huntington Drive until the late fifties. In the dilapidated old building many a Duartean enjoyed one of its fish fries.

The Zanzibar, now the Homestead, was originally built to resemble a south seas eatery. It was a very "jazzy" place to go and eat and dance. The Marigold Gardens, located next door to where El Nachos Mexican Restaurant is today, was Duarte's "Roadhouse", complete with occasional raids. El Nachos was the Bender's Fudge Shop.

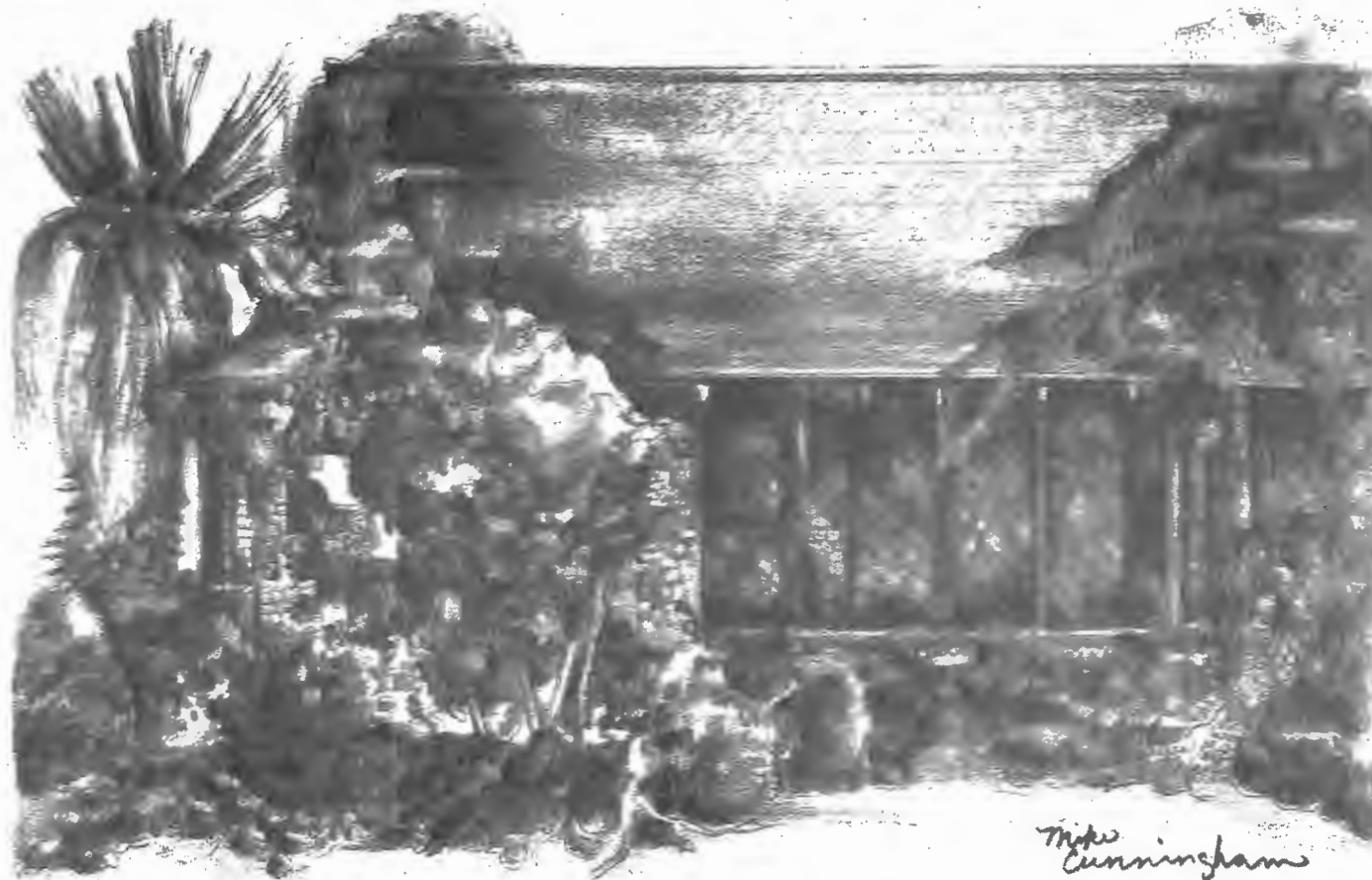
Topping all the well-known eateries, was the prestigious Chapel Inn, once a church. Back in 1896, the cornerstone for All Saints Episcopal Church was consecrated by the hierarchy of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. During the year which followed the dedication, all the parishioners, according to Mill and Doll Scott, spent their Sundays working for the church. In the morning, they went to services held in the second story hall above Joseph Fowler's General Store. After services, they all climbed into their wagons and went to the river to pick up rocks of the correct size and shape to make the walls of their church. The collected rocks were hauled to the church site, today the vacant lot immediately south of the Duarte Fire Station on Highland. When enough rocks had been gathered, the men of the parish built the little Norman Chapel.

They had sent to England for stained glass windows for the sanctuary. These were brought around the Horn, and arrived in Duarte without a single crack! After many months of hard work, the church was ready. For years, its records show, Duarte Episcopalians were baptized, confirmed, married in and buried from the little Chapel. It served the English Colony until the larger St. Lukes Episcopal was built in Monrovia. Then most of the congregation transferred to the bigger church. Finally convinced that it would never be used again, the Diocesan leaders decided to have it deconsecrated and offered for sale.

The building stood empty until 1926 when Clarence and Delia Gordon bought it for a restaurant. They were to run the restaurant for sixteen years.

Gordon didn't change the decor very much, because he wanted to preserve the church atmosphere. He would not allow any intoxicating drinks in the inn, because of its background.

Before the opening, Gordon made the furniture, circa 17th century. He loved to work with wood, and was very good at it. He made long trestle tables, and chairs which he never painted or stained, according to Walter Jordan, his "man Friday". "I used to help him sand and wax them and rub them down so the grain stood out". Gordon used the old pews as settles for special tables in the choir loft, on the dais, and where the pulpit had stood. As the place was small, not too many customers could eat at one sitting. Patrons had to make reservations sometimes as much as three months in advance, to be sure to get a table.



CHAPEL INN

Nee All Saints Episcopal Church of Duarte. Built in 1896. It was a Mission of the first Episcopal Church in Southern California. Deconsecrated, it was empty for many years until Clarence Gordon bought it in 1926 and started the famous Chapel Inn. Chapel Inn was demolished during Thanksgiving weekend, 1964.

Photo courtesy Duarte Historical Society

When Gordon had the place fixed to his liking, he opened the doors of Chapel Inn on November, 1927. It was an immediate success.

From the oral histories of Walter and Lucile Jordan employees of Gordon's for many years, we get a bird's eye view of the Inn. Walter Jordan took care of the grounds, parked the cars, chauffeured Mrs. Gordon who was a concert pianist, to all parts of Southern California; did general chores, and even sometimes dressed chickens.

Lucile Jordan was a cook. So was Walter's mother. Mr. Gordon's mother was the baker. "All the diners ate by candlelight," said Lucile, "Mr. Gordon charged them \$1.75 for luncheon, and \$2.50 for dinner. Those prices were high in those days. Nevertheless, the place was packed", she declared.

"Hollywood stars were the people who made Chapel Inn famous", continued Lucile. "Many's the time I've seen Clark Gable, John Gilbert, Claudette Colbert, Jean Harlow, Mary Pickford, Bette Davis and Pola Negri squeezed in around a long table. Mr. Gordon used to set them eight and ten to a table, when the place was full. He gave them such good food, they came back for more".

According to Lucile Jordan, the regular menu at the Chapel Inn was:

Chicken.....steamed, then battered and deep fried.
 Mashed potatoes and gravy.....a vegetable
 Salad....either bean, jello or cottage cheese and
 pineapple

Hot biscuits.....homemade pies.....assorted drinks.

Clarence Gordon decided, in 1937, that he wanted to go to Oregon. He sold the Inn to Annie Parsons from Pasadena. She ran the Inn in the same manner with the same cuisine until 1944. The strain of trying to cope with the World War II shortages and restraints, and the fact that her brother was killed crossing Huntington Drive in 1944, was too much. She closed the Inn's doors.

The building stayed empty again until about 1946, when the Duarte Post of the American Legion bought it for a meeting place. They used it; the Duarte Service Council met there, and various clubs rented it for affairs and meetings until about 1963. Unable to meet the increasing land taxes, the Post decided to sell. A Monrovia concern bought it, early in 1964. They in turn tried to resell it with no success. Finally, evidently to rid the land of a historical building which they felt kept the place from selling, they had the lovely little rock Chapel torn down during the Thanksgiving recess. To say that the residents of Duarte were up in arms, is to put it mildly! Everyone castigated the owners. Duarteans were determined that this wouldn't happen again to a historical monument. Led by School Superintendent, Dr. Palmer Campen and Mrs. Ted Hansen, a Duarte Historical Society was formed, not only to gather artifacts and historical material, but to protect the Beardslee-Maxwell Adobe, the only other structure in Duarte of State historical stature.

Entertaining visitors was no problem to Duarteans. Visitors who came for a rest could sit in the orange-perfumed sunshine and soak up the sunlight while they drank freshly squeezed orange juice or lemonade. They ate homecooked meals, or patronized the restaurants on the Drive. If they wished to be more active, there were always horses to ride, trails to tramp, fishing in Fish Canyon, swimming in the river, hunting in the hills. On weekends and all summer, the outdoor dance pavilion at the entrance to Fish Canyon was patronized by both locals and visitors. The sandwich stand in Fish Canyon did a roaring business during the spring and summer months packing picnic boxes for people who hiked up to the Fish Canyon Falls. The hotels also provided picnic baskets for the more energetic of their patrons. One could always get up a tennis game at the Duarte Hotel, or ride a bicycle down Foothill Boulevard under the old oak trees. If nothing else, one could go for a walk.

All these tourist attractions brought many more people to Duarte after World War I. The first so-called motor hotels in Southern California, sprang up on the Drive to handle the increasing vacation trade, as well as overnight tourists. By this time, the motor hotels were needed, for the Oaks had burned to the ground several years before World War I, and Duarte Hotel had become a private residence. Speaking of hotels, to our knowledge, Duarte had only two regular hotels during its history to date. Both were located a few doors apart on North Highland, on

the east side of the street. The Oaks, 27 rooms, three floors, built in the Victorian style and decor, was used for the early transient trade in the days of the stage coach. It is said that L.L. Bradbury had it built. This has not been verified. The Oaks, so named for the huge oaks on the grounds, had a swimming pool. It's tenure as a hostelry, was and wasn't, depending on the vacation trade. For years it was a private residence, sometimes housing two families at a time. After World War I, it was a hotel again for sometime, and then a boarding home for persons who were ill. Lucile Jordan remembers that while she worked for Chapel Inn, she took trays of food over to The Oaks to feed to the sick old men who lived there.

The Duarte Hotel, a large colonial structure, catered strictly to the vacation trade. It had the first clay tennis courts in Duarte. It had the same up and down history as the Oaks. Both hotels burned. The Oaks prior to World War II. The Duarte Hotel, called Bonnie Highlands, in later days, lasted until the 1960's, when young people at a party in the then empty house, accidently set it on fire. Made entirely of wood, it burned like a bonfire! Hansen's Highland Nursery stands today where the Oaks stood. A large apartment complex is on the grounds of Bonnie Highlands.

During the late 1930's and early 1940's, Duarte's expansion was nearly the same as it had been when the depression hit California about 1934. Duarteans were far more concerned about keeping what they had intact, than in any expansion.

Florida citrus trees began to produce in the middle thirties. As Florida was much closer to the eastern market, the citrus industry in the west fell off. It was a gradual decline, but exceptionally hard on communities in which ninety percent of the people depended on citrus for their livelihood. Duarte was no exception. Duarte growers looked around for other ways to make their land pay for itself. They managed to sell part of their crops locally, enough to keep the wolf away from the door, and that was about all. Some became very discouraged and sold to land speculators. The rest clung hopefully to their acres.

Just as many were about to give up, World War II began. For a while both Florida and California citrus growers made a profit, because the Armed Services bought a great deal of citrus products.

While all this was going on, Duarte had another worry. Cities on either side were biting off pieces of the old rancho for their own purposes, some of them exceedingly obnoxious to Duarte residents.

The quarry interests coveted the lower part of the rancho which was perfect for the sand and gravel industry. Duarteans objected. They didn't want their community dug full of holes, and they didn't want the industries' noise, fumes and dust. The Duarte Chamber of Commerce's arguments before the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors kept the sand and gravel industry at bay for a long time.

Both Monrovia and Azusa desired Duarte land for expansion purposes. The Chamber led the fight against this too.

World War II brought everything to a standstill and gave Duarte a breathing space. Duarte was going to need it. The secession of hostilities was to reactivate these old problems and to produce more.

Post war need of housing for returning G.I.'s was to cause such rapid changes in Duarte, heads would spin.

Life on the Duarte, as it had been known for a little over one hundred years, was to disappear completely. The beauty that was Duarte's chief claim to fame, would be bull-dozed away. It would have to be built anew in a different manner. The slow, sleepy, rural atmosphere would be gone. In its place, would be a noisy, fast-paced, tension-filled, smog-choked, but interesting and challenging life style blasted into existence by the Atom bomb.

Duarteans, old and new, would face the many challenges of this new age, with one constant factor in their favor. The feeling of being one big family, in spite of many differences, had never quite left the community. Duarte had always been insulated from outside influences by the resident's independence and the fact that Duarteans were loyal to one another. They might disagree amongst themselves, but they closed ranks when attacked by outside forces. Like a large family, they didn't allow their own to suffer from want. They still don't. They challenged any intrusion within the borders of Duarte, scorned outside criticism, and always were proud to live on the Duarte. They still are.

Duarte Vignettes

Many institutions and organizations have helped Duarte grow and develop into a suburban city. Many have found a home in Duarte, and have helped to make it famous all over again. Following, are just a few of those which fit into these two categories.



The City of Hope

Although a great many people came to Duarte for recreation, many more came for their health. So many came for their health that soon several sanitoriums were built in the community to take advantage of the ideal weather conditions and high, dry location. Most of the sanitoriums were for sufferers of asthma or tuberculosis.

Two institutions, both hospitals now, have brought Duarte increasing fame in the health area. They are the City of Hope and Santa Teresita Hospital.

City of Hope's Fountain of Youth
Fred Edmunds Photo

At right: Start of the internationally famous City of Hope Medical Center were these two tents erected in January, 1913.

Below: The New Horizons Program complex at the City of Hope.



The oldest and most famous is located at 1500 East Duarte Road. In January, 1913, a small group of Jewish people from Los Angeles started it as a free non-sectarian sanitorium for the victims of the dread "White Plague". They were particularly anxious to help those who worked in the garment industry. The unhealthy conditions in the factories had caused many of their friends and relatives to become victims of this contagious disease. These people were poor, lived in crowded tenements, and because of their economic situation, couldn't get help.

After witnessing several deaths, this group of friends decided to do something about it.

The Jewish people have always been taught self-reliance, and that man's primary duty is to help those in greater need. This philosophy they believe in wholeheartedly. At the same time, from experience, they have learned that charity can be very demoralizing, because it causes the recipient to become completely depended upon whomever helps him. They didn't want this to happen to those whom they intended to help. No one, if they could help it, would ever be hounded by the word "charity" and all it's connotations nor robbed of his self-reliance. They would not save a man's body, and in the process, destroy his soul! This belief became the moving spirit behind the "total" care" given the patients of the City of Hope.

The small group of friends, 35 men and women all told, met on a warm September evening in downtown Los Angeles to discuss the idea of the formation of an association to build a sanitorium

for the victims of Tuberculosis. They came up with a name for their association: The National Jewish Consumptive Relief Association, and a President, Bernard Cohn. A nine-member committee was appointed to draft a blueprint for the first permanent structure of what was destined to become the City of Hope. The committee's mission was to design a building on land they didn't own, financed by a treasury that was empty, and manned by a medical staff which was non-existent. The only visible assets they had were the all too prevalent patients.

They held their first general meeting in October and raised \$136.05. Now that they had a treasury, they needed a constitution and by-laws. Three young lawyers, Chaim Shapiro, Elias Rosekranz and J. Allen Frankel, volunteered to draft the document. These men's names were to appear over and over in the annals of the City of Hope.

Next the group had a theater party at the Philharmonic which netted \$2,400.

While the scramble for funds was progressing, a land committee had been looking for a site for the proposed sanatorium. One of the places they investigated was Duarte. They had been shown some land in the lower part of Duarte, land so poor, no one would attempt to farm it. It was flat, easily reached, and was cheap to buy. For \$5,000, they could buy ten acres. So when the theater party returns were counted, the Association promptly came to Duarte and put the \$2,400 down on the land.

January 11, 1913 was a joyous day for the committee. They came to Duarte and crunched through the sand carrying boxes and bags of materials and supplies. After they had cleared a space, they set up two tents, and furnished them. They held a brief dedication ceremony and left; leaving behind a nurse and two patients.

Word soon spread through Duarte of the establishment of this down at the heels sanatorium. The residents were very unhappy. Not only did it look terrible, but they were afraid that because the treatment was free, every consumptive in the Valley would beat a path to Duarte, and some of their families might be contaminated with the disease. Excitement ran high for a short time, then cooler heads prevailed, and the sanatorium was allowed to remain.

No sooner had this trial ended, than Nature hit them a low blow in the form of a flash flood, common in the desert. It destroyed everything but the humans who lived in the tents.

Undaunted the leaders of the JCRA brought out some more tents and supplies, and started all over again. This time fortune favored them and little by little, progress was made. By 1914, the sanatorium, now the owners of several small cottages, had passed its first landmark. The Board of Directors appointed Dr. Clara Stone as its first resident physician. The initial phase had begun.

So far, there have been four distinct periods of development of the City of Hope. The first dates from 1913 to 1946 when it was strictly a tuberculosis sanatorium. In 1946 it began

the transformation from a TB Sanitorium to a national medical center for the treatment of catastrophic diseases other than tuberculosis. It's third phase from 1956 to 1966, was when it established its worldwide reputation as a pilot medical center, deeply engaged not only in free patient care, but in scientific research for the advancement of medicine everywhere. In 1966, it began a fourth chapter which is still in progress. It has been launched on what its members and staff call the "New Horizons Program" aimed at transcending the exploration and treatment of individual diseases. Now the object is to probe the basic life processes that disease mysteriously disrupts. The great achievement that is the City of Hope can be understood only in the light of this half-century evolution."

Today, in its fourth phase, the City of Hope covers something like 46 acres of land, and has many buildings which house hospital laboratories, research centers, clinics, and all the departments needed to run such an institution. It employs over 500 persons, while many more professional people live on the grounds. It has a village for the relatives of patients, whose homes are at a great distance. It has a chapel, auditorium, and two libraries and a wonderful children's playground. It has a crafts section for ambulatory patients, a cafeteria open to the public, meeting rooms which both the hospital and local organizations use, and through its community involvement program, has become an integral part of the Duarte family.

Mother Margarita Maria O.C.D. of the third order of the Carmelite Sisters. Founder and Administrator of Santa Teresita Hospital.



The first Santa Teresita Hospital was built in 1930 with these two bungalows and this "hen house".

Photos courtesy Santa Teresita Hospital



Santa Teresita Hospital

In June, 1927, Mother Margarita Maria, another Sister and Mother Maria Luisa Josefa, the Foundress of the Carmelite Sisters of the Sacred Heart, fled religious persecution in Mexico, and came to California. At the invitation of Monsignor Francis C. Ott, the Sisters did religious and social work among the Mexican immigrants in Long Beach for two years. In 1928 they established a boarding home for girls ages six to fourteen. The Sisters were "mothers" to the little girls who were temporarily in need of a home.

In 1930, before she returned to Mexico, their Foundress gave permission for the remaining Sisters to start a tuberculosis sanitarium. They had noted how many children suffered from tuberculosis, prevalent among the poorer Spanish speaking people. Father Leroy S. Callahan had asked if their community could undertake the care of young girls ill with this disease in a suitable place away from the children's homes. He had found such a place in nearby Duarte.

Mother Margarita Maria and two Sisters went to Duarte to see the property. If they were discouraged at what they saw, no one knew it. Undaunted by inadequate quarters and the lack of funds to provide the facilities to lighten their task, they dedicated their project to Santa Teresita, one of their own Carmelites who was a victim of tuberculosis. Nine of them set about to receive their first patients, five young girls from Olive View Sanitarium.

By the time their patients arrived, they had managed to clean and

paint a small out-building, which because of its shape and size, was nicknamed the "chicken coop" or "hen house". Here the girls slept. Their recreation room was an old garage, with seats taken from a bus. Their entertainment was provided by an old Victrola. The Sisters occupied the farmhouse on the property. As the patients had a communicable disease, it was necessary for the Sisters to sterilize their dishes, and everything else they used, by boiling in pots on wood stoves out-of-doors. Dishwashers, and other sterilizing equipment weren't yet available to them. The dead wood from the numerous orange trees on the property came in very handy for this chore. The Sisters did everything themselves from nursing to janitorial work. They had one employee who was maintenance man, chauffeur, and errand boy. On the three acres they had purchases, besides the orange grove, were neglected buildings once a part of a mental institution. They paid \$17,000 for the property and immediately added a \$5,000 mortgage, in order to remodel the place. This gave them an initial debt of \$22,500. With this money they added a dining room for the patients, and Teresita Cottage, a twelve-bed ward. They had to do this, because within four months after their occupancy, their charges had increased to sixteen!

Growth was painfully slow, but doggedly sure. Expansion came, "a door, a wall, a room at a time", recalls Mother Margarita Maria.

The Sister's marathon building program began in earnest in 1931, and has never ceased. Each year saw additional new cottages and facilities. Santa Teresita School was established and produced scores of grammar and

high school graduates.

In 1934, the Sisters were able to start construction on a chapel. Until it was finished, the Sisters walked to Monrovia every morning for 6:30 Mass, come rain or come shine. A benefactor gave the Sisters a 1917 Ford. This car, balky as the proverbial mule, was a familiar sight to early morning motorists. Usually, several Sisters would be pushing the old jalopy while Mother Margarita Maria, the chauffeur, pushed levers and jiggled the throttle until the old car coughed, sputtered and finally started. "You did not dare stop once the motor started", Mother Margarita Maria explained, "so the Sisters would dash to jump on the running boards!"

Due to the demand for the devoted care given by the Carmelite Sisters, expansion of Santa Teresita rolled into full swing in 1936. By 1948, a second ward had been added to the sanitarium, and the other buildings enclosed and heated. The Sisters bought x-ray equipment, a fluoroscope, and more land. Now they had eleven acres!

In 1953, with the help of many donors, a convent, two more buildings to house patients, a library, doctor's office and medical suite, a new kitchen and dining rooms were added.

By 1955, it seemed the tough-sledding was over, but it was not. Hardly had they become a satisfactory tuberculosis sanitarium, when the need for long-term care facilities was eliminated by medical advances. Fortunately Mother Margarita Maria and the Carmelite Sisters were versatile. They realized that with the completion of the medical wing, they had the makings of a general hospital.

In twenty-five years, the sanitarium had grown from five to 131 beds. It was now large enough for a hospital. Allen E. Bostwick, M.D., suggested to Mother Margarita Maria, that, since there was a serious need for additional hospital services in the San Gabriel Valley, the Sisters convert the new wing, Villa Cantwell, into a general hospital. They did. The Villa became a 24-bed general hospital with two surgical suites and a staff of 85 physicians. Gradually, the cottages, which had been so lovingly built for the girls, were rebuilt to house elderly ladies. The Sister's long experience in nursing convalescing patients was especially useful in the care of geriatric patients. This transformation from a sanitarium to a hospital was highly recommended by His Eminence, James Frances Cardinal McIntyre, the Archbishop of Los Angeles.

Full accreditation was granted the new Hospital in 1956, one short year after its conversion.

In 1958, another building program was begun. It has been continuing every since. There have been many changes in the complex, but never a change in the dedicated, expert, loving care given the patients.

Nothing has ever been easy for the Sisters. Mother Margarita Maria's intense faith has been a tower of strength to everyone connected with the institution. She has, of course, a very firm belief in the power of prayer. When major items have been pending, or important decisions had to be made, her diminutive figure would be seen bustling toward the "Manor", the geriatric unit, to see her "girls", and ask them for "some first class prayers".

Today, Santa Teresita is an accredited hospital with 282 beds, including the Manor, a 133-bed skilled nursing facility for elderly ladies; 102 medical-surgical beds, 12 maternity beds, 20 bassinets, 20 pediatric beds, 14 critical care beds, and a fully equipped diagnostic x-ray and nuclear medicine department affording 24-hour service to both inpatients and outpatients. It has a modern laboratory, its own blood bank, physical therapy and respiratory therapy departments. It has three surgical suites, and recovery room equipped and staffed to handle surgery 24 hours a day.

From its humble beginnings in a "hen house" to its present day recognition as a major hospital, one person has been the guiding light of the institution. To her goes the major credit for this excellent hospital. Still young in spirit, heart and energetic drive, Mother Margarita Maria works her usual ten to twelve hours a day, seven days a week. She is still able to persuade the business tycoon or blue-shirted workman to see her way, and help with the growth of Santa Teresita. There is a little story which illustrates her sales ability.

Cardinal McIntyre was a frequent visitor to Santa Teresita. It is a well-known fact that the Cardinal was an excellent businessman and a super salesman. Nevertheless, before he made a visit to Duarte, it is said that he used to take a moment to practice moving his head slowly from side to side. But despite these gymnastics, it has been noted that when Mother Margarita Maria eloquently pled for something, she always left with the blessing of His Eminence, whose head would be slowly moving up and down!

Duarte Water Companies

By James A. Blain

When in the year of 1841, Andres Duarte received his grant to some 6500 acres of land in Duarte, he also received the rights to one-half the water in the San Gabriel River as it passed by his rancho. It is doubtful that Duarte himself ever made much use of the river water as he had an abundance of water for his home place from a spring at the mouth of a canyon near his homestead.

When Duarte had to sell his land for unpaid taxes, he had to sell in the package, the water rights to the land sold, and the right to convey the water over the Duarte Rancho undisturbed forever. Thus was established the principle that the water was free, but you had to go and get it.

Dr. Nehemiah Beardslee when he bought the 225 acres in South Duarte availed himself of this right and had his men plow and dig a ditch from the mouth of the San Gabriel Canyon to his property. Water was conveyed in this ditch to his land. When other portions of the Rancho Azusa de Duarte were sold, the same procedure was followed.

After Duarte had lost his rancho, and Alexander Weil had acquired it, and Lewis L. Bradbury had bought the rest of what Wolfskill owned, ditches were dug to the portions of their land in use, and they enjoyed the same conveyance rights and water rights.

My father, Arthur T. Blain, in 1884 purchased some 18 acres on the southwest corner of Huntington Drive and Buena Vista Street. His drinking water was dipped from a ditch running south on Buena Vista.

In the latter 1860's, both Beardslee and Weil began selling off portions of their land and with each sale they gave a fraction of their water rights and access to their ditches. In a few years this began to be a most unsatisfactory means of handling the water problem. After many meetings with the water users, the idea of a water company developed. The landowners south of the Santa Fe railroad organized a company. It was called the Beardslee Water Ditch Company. This company was incorporated in 1881.

The northern group formed their company, called the Duarte Mutual Water Company, in 1884. In the formation of both companies, the water rights of the landowners were traded to the water companies for shares in the new companies, one share per acre. This allowed the directors of the water companies to levy assessments on the stock of the company and to make loans to secure the necessary finances to lay pipe lines, build reservoirs and furnish water at a time and place acceptable to the water users.

For the next thirty years the water companies functioned very well with the exception that in several years of low rainfall, the flow of water from the river was insufficient to care for the needs of the community. The Upper Company was the first to seek water underground. One well, was dug on Royal Oaks Drive east of Vineyard Avenue, and one in the mouth of Fish Canyon.

The lower company dug their first well in 1918 on South Mountain Avenue. This provided the necessary water for irrigation purposes and was probably a blessing in disguise, as the demands for domestic water under pressure were being heard more and more, especially from the women of the settlement.

As the wells were being dug, considerable steel pipe lines had to be laid to convey water pumped to the reservoirs. The landowners along the pressure lines asked for and were given permission to tap the lines and run water into their homes. Those families who were so fortunately situated, were so pleased that they spread the word far and wide. Numerous groups were formed seeking to run their own sub-companies to get pressured water. This soon developed into an impossible situation. It entailed proper engineering studies and the ability to secure long time financing. In exploring these possibilities, we were repeatedly asked by the engineers and financial organizations, "why two companies? The lower company has the necessary water, and the upper company has the necessary elevation."

The directors of both companies, after exploring all the angles, were of the opinion that the companies should be joined and become one company. Both companies took the word back to the landowners and the merger was made. Thus was the Duarte Mutual Water Company formed. We were not too soon, as the growing of oranges was becoming a thing of the past.

Right: Buena Vista Street, Duarte, at the height of its beauty. The Washington Palms which lined both sides of the street just above Duarte Road, were there until the middle 1950s when the trees on the east side came down at the request of a subdivider. Those on the west side lasted until the mid 1960s when the street was widened.

Photo courtesy Herbert Meier Collection

Below: Looking north from the same place, Duarte Road and Buena Vista Street in the early deciduous period about 1885.

Photo courtesy Duarte Historical Society



With the end of World War II, the influx of veterans desiring homes and the orange growers seeking a way out of their difficulties, paved the way for the subdivider.

The water company was beset with demands for water service which we were hard pressed to provide. Financing agents were loath to loan money to mutual water companies. Financing under our status became an impossibility. We were unable to protect our service boundaries from other water companies who were organized under the Public Utilities Commission. Also, so many of our stockholders were selling their properties and wished to realize something from their water stock. They were demanding that something be done to protect our values. The Board of Directors voted to have the Public Utilities Commission make a study of our situation. This study we took back to our stockholders. They gave us the nod for the formation of a company under the auspices of the Public Utilities Commission. This was about 1950.

Almost overnight, it seemed, we had changed from a rural community to a residential city. From a little mutual water company serving the orange growers we had progressed to a Public Utilities Commission water company serving domestic water to city residents.

I have never seen such a population explosion in ten years! From irrigation water demand to domestic water demand. The irrigation usage had dropped to a very low point, the main demand for it was in the City of Bradbury. New reservoirs had

to be constructed and miles of new pipe laid.

About 1960, few of us remained who had started the water companies, or worked with them over the years. They had been started to supply water for the growers who needed them for irrigation. Now we thought that our services were no longer needed. It had become a job for professionals.

The Duarte City Council members had several meetings with the idea that the city might take over the water service. Unfortunately the City did not have the bonding capacity to acquire the company.* Also, too many of the stockholders were adverse to giving away any of the value that they had put so much effort and money into.

In 1963, we had several offers to purchase the company and the offer from the California Water and Telephone Company was too good to pass over lightly. The stockholders voted to accept the offer and the water company passed into new hands.

Within the following year, the California Water and Telephone Company merged with the General Telephone Company. Thus the Duarte Water Company became the property of the California-American Water Company. They own and operate it at the present time.

It has been more than a hundred years since Dr. Beardslee first brought water from the San Gabriel River to his ranch. His water was free, but it took a lot of hard work to get it where he could use it. It took a great deal more work for all the men who were interested in water rights and water usage, to leave Duarte and Bradbury with such a bountiful supply of water.

And I might add.....good water. We owe them a great debt.

* (Author's Note)

The city did have the bonding capacity, however, legal complications prevented the city from completing the purchase.

Mr. James Blain was secretary of the Duarte Water Company for many years. His father was the president of the Duarte Mutual Water and Canal Company for several years. He and Dr. Beardslee for each company, led the fight with Azusa and Covina which led to the formation of the Nine Companies Directorate which manages the San Gabriel River Water Dispersement today, under a Adjudication Agreement.

Chamber of Commerce

By Donna Brigger

During this Bicentennial Year, we want to take you back to the beginning of your Chamber of Commerce and highlight a few of its achievements for Duarte. We hope our findings will interest you and draw to your attention the fine work these dedicated people have done for our Community.

The Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1921 and was incorporated December 14, 1955. Long before its incorporation, however, the Chamber was a vital civic organization representing our Community with its many diversified problems. Now, of course, our City Council handles these matters. Unfortunately, we have very little knowledge of the activities of this organization in the twenties and thirties. We do know that in 1927 a banquet was given, by the Chamber, to honor Maria de Jesus Lopez Duarte Marron and Jackson Smith, who were celebrating their centennial birthdays, and Captain H.D. Fowler who was celebrating his 95th birthday. Twenty-five percent of the population attended this gala affair. Three great birthday cakes with 295 twinkling candles must have been a fantastic sight to see. The President of the Chamber of Commerce at that time, was Mr. Perry Byerly.

ATOMIC BOOM AND POPULATION BOOM

During World War II, Civil Defense was an important part of the Chamber's activities. Volunteers manned the tire ration stations, casualty stations, etc. Chamber members were eager to help during this crisis.

After the war, the chamber immediately went to work to procure a Post Office for Duarte which had its own rural route. In 1946 this was accomplished.

Because of the availability of abandoned rock crusher pits, Duarte was about to become the dumping grounds for the County. The Chamber led the protest to the County Board of Supervisors, and for the first time, considered the possibilities of incorporation for Duarte to protect the community from land grabbers.

With the post-war boom, came rezoning headaches for Duarte. Rezoning was necessary because more business came into Duarte. With it came the enforcement of building codes. The Chamber helped to buy an abandoned stove works at auction. Then it helped to pay for the remodeling of it into a Civic Center Building. This gave Duarte a civic focal point and made it seem more cohesive as a community. The County used one room as a temporary office for a building inspector, in order that Duarte would have immediate access to his help.

During the early forties, Duarte was the rope in a tug-o-war to put hog ranches and all kinds of noisome businesses which no other town would have. Back and forth went the rope. The residents pulled away from this type of business, and the prospective business tugged on the other end. In the middle sat the Duarte Chamber of Commerce and the County Board of Supervisors. The Chamber wanted new business, but not that type. The businesses wanted to locate somewhere and kept pushing the Supervisors. Fortunately for Duarte, the Chamber worked very hard, rented busses and hauled residents to Los Angeles to protest. When Duarte became a City, the City officials joined the Chamber in the fight.

The Chamber was lucky to have Supervisor Smith of the First District work with them on many projects. He was especially helpful when the community was confronted with the need for a new sewage system and a park.

During the forties, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Parkway Engineering Committee called for the use of the right of way of Duarte Road, as a portion of the San Bernardino Freeway. The Chamber realized that it would mean that both Duarte Road and Huntington Drive, our only east-west arteries, would be part of a freeway, and that no provisions were being made for local streets to take their place as cross-town main arteries. The Chamber immediately went to work to dissuade the county from this plan which could have destroyed Duarte.

To celebrate the 108th year of the Rancho Azusa de Duarte,

out of which emerged the community of Duarte, the Chamber in 1949, initiated the first La Fiesta de Duarte. It was held in June, 1949 at Swiss Park. All the organizations in town joined the Chamber in the celebration. Over five thousand people attended, many in costume.

Persons active in the Chamber at this time were, D.Jay Smith, Jeanne Abouchar, Ida May Shrode, Charles Townsend, the Blain brothers, Charles Over and Dr. Wayland Morrison and Mrs. Morrison. Earlier, others who helped a great deal were Louis Deigaard, Harry Pritchard and Martin Grossman.

THE FRANTIC FIFTIES

The people who ran the Chamber of Commerce in the fifties, had problems unsolved by the previous regimes plus many new ones. David Hermanson, President of the Chamber at this time, was instrumental in having the Bank of America locate a branch in Duarte. Since that time, the manager of the bank has sat on the Chamber Board.

The Duarte Postmaster, Thomas Holmes, who was to hold that position for a little over 41 years, and the Chamber had been working together to get Duarte a first class Post Office. This was achieved about 1956.

Through the combined efforts of the Chamber and Mrs. Lucile Morrison, the first complete Public Library, run by the County, was established in Duarte.

A milestone in Chamber history was reached with its incorporation on December 14, 1955. About the same time the Duarte Elementary School Board, and the Duarte members of the Monrovia-Duarte High School Board, started the ball rolling towards the unification of the Duarte Schools kindergarden through twelfth grade. The Chamber backed this philosophy and worked towards its accomplishment.

The land grabbing game was on again. Azusa on the east, wanted Duarte land for a cut and cover dump. Monrovia on the west was trying to annex the Peck Road area. Bradbury and Irwindale incorporated their land so they would be excluded from Duarte, in 1956 and 1957 respectively. The Chamber, who had for years wanted to incorporate Duarte, started to agitate towards this end. This time the people were with them. After a vigorous campaign, Duarte was incorporated and declared a City on August 22, 1957. Many people worked hard for incorporation. Members of the Chamber who deserve honorable mention were: Dwight Wilson, Merle Little, John Strunz, Dr. Schmutz, Anna Blum, Seymour Blain, and D.Jay Smith. D.Jay Smith suggested that the new city house its offices in the Civic Center Building at a rental of \$1.00 per year.

The Duarte Chamber backed the joining of the Upper San Gabriel Valley Water District, as a joint means of protecting the local water rights from being adjudicated away.

Late in the fifties, a contest was held by the Chamber to get a City slogan. The one chosen was "Great Today, Greater Tomorrow." During this time, Councilman William H. Lancaster, served as a member of the Board of the Chamber, as liason between it and the City Council. He has gone on to become the Assemblyman for the 62nd Assembly District to the east of Duarte. At that time, Dr. Allan Bostwick, David Maison, (Manager of the Bank of America), Jim Appleyard, Curt Kaufman, Don Messner and Dewey Wilkinson (our Duarte Hostess) also served on the Board.

The new president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1961 was Wade Boggs, owner of the Handy Dandy Department Store. Soon after he took office, the City approached the Chamber with the suggestion that it find a qualified fulltime manager for the Chamber, on a paying basis. Such a man was found, but he resigned in a short time. Wade Boggs took over the management of the Chamber.

About this time, a group of outsiders, and one Duartean, began to try to sell Duarte on the idea of putting poker parlors in the city to make money for the city. Both the Chamber and the city were very much against the introduction of any such type of business in Duarte. The Chamber helped raise contributions to fight this idea at the polls. The proposition was defeated eleven to one. One of our members, D. Jay Smith, was struggling to get raised median strips on Huntington Drive for the beautification of Duarte. Unfortunately, most of the City Council didn't agree then.

The Chamber helped Postmaster Holmes to get a new Post Office, the present one located on South Highland Avenue.

Although a terrific amount of time and energy for years was expended on the idea of having the Santa Fe Dam area designated as a recreation facility, the Chamber was not successful. The same tenacity did get the rock quarry designated as a recreational area.

The manager of the Chamber of Commerce resigned in 1963. Activities were curtailed about the same time, due a slash in the budget, an austerity move by the City of Duarte, necessitated by the raise in the cost of government which hit all cities at this time.

In 1965, the Chamber was invited to the ground breaking for the new Foothill Freeway. About the same time, it joined other organizations in the laying of the cornerstone of the new Los Angeles County Library, located on South Buena Vista, a project the Chamber had pushed for many years.

Because of the lack of funds, experienced by many chambers in Los Angeles County in the late sixties, the Chamber was very inactive until 1969, when Frank Corser became President. In April of that year, the Duarte Chamber of Commerce was presented the "Award of Merit for Distinguished Community Service" by Los Angeles County. Active members during the 1960's were: Jack Norgard, James Maison, Frances Dunnavant and Hanna Hennig.



Duarte's first Rose Parade Float, January, 1973.
It won first place in its division.

Photo courtesy Duarte Chamber of Commerce

For many years, the Chamber had tried to gain entry for the City of Duarte in the Tournament of Roses Parade. Under the leadership of Ken Kreutzer, in 1973, we were successful. Our float received a first place award in its class. In 1974 we again entered and again won first place. In 1975, the float, designed by Herron-Preston again won first prize. The Chamber feels that the float in the Rose Parade promotes Duarte more successfully than any other way we have tried.

This last year, the Chamber published a fact book to acquaint Duarteans with the businesses, civic organizations, city government, schools and churches in this community. It has proven to be a very successful public relations effort.

From the beginning in 1921, the Duarte Chamber of Commerce has had problems. It has always worked to promote Duarte, to make it a cohesive, attractive and excellent place to live and do business. Our outgoing president, Art Brigger, and our incoming president, Roger LePoidevan have been members of the Chamber for many years; so has member, Bette Ann Gormley. New Board members are Josephine Bernal, Manager of the Bank of America; Mildred Dunken, Public Relations Officer of Santa Teresita Hospital; Eli King, Assistant Administrator of the City of Hope; Jean Maquin, Administrator of Royal Oaks Mannor; Chuck Carr, California-American Water Company; and Dr. Saif Ullah, Director of Mid-Valley Community Health Service.

Our slogan for the 1970's is"City of Health"....



The Pacific Electric "Big Red Car" stopped at Lemon and Myrtle to pick up passengers bound for the big city, about 1904.

Bridge at north end of Oak Street is still used to cross abandoned Pacific Electric right-of-way. It was originally built to allow L. L. Bradbury's wagons and carriages to cross over the tracks. Stairs gave foot passengers access to track level.

Fred Edmunds Photo



Transportation

Transportation on the Duarte didn't improve much until after the railroads reached Southern California. It wasn't that Duarte was completely cut off from the rest of civilization; there were stage coach lines and wagons after 1870, and always carretas and horses. The best passenger transportation was by horse back, because the roads were few and far between. The horse sufficed, because most of the time Duarteans didn't go much further than Los Angeles and Pasadena.

The Southern Pacific Railroad opened up Southern California to a flood of immigrants. It also enabled the local people to receive and to send merchandise for a reasonable rate for the first time in its history.

The Southern Pacific came to Los Angeles in 1876 from San Francisco. In 1877, they laid an alternate route that was established through Yuma, Arizona.

At the same time, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe was pushing westward. It consolidated with the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad in 1883, which brought them to Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Santa Fe then built a line to Needles, California. There the Southern Pacific stopped it from building any further for ten years.

At the end of the ten years, the Santa Fe had bought up or leased lines as far as the east bank of the San Gabriel River.



Here, they connected with a local railroad line, the San Gabriel Valley, which had built eastward from Los Angeles through Duarte to the river. Upon completion of the line across the river, to the Santa Fe Line, the later company had their access to Los Angeles.

As a result of the completion of these two major lines, Duarteans had a way to any part of the United States.

In 1887, the San Gabriel Valley Rapid Transit Line was started in Monrovia by a group of business men, to convey people to Los Angeles every day. It procured rights of way as far as the Los Angeles City limits. There it was held up, because the City would not grant it lines inside the city and a terminal. The Southern Pacific purchased the line in 1896 and extended the Rapid Transit to the San Gabriel River through Upper Duarte. They built a regulation station in Duarte on the site of the present Los Angeles County Fire Department's Engine Company 44 fire house on Highland Avenue. The Southern Pacific ran two round trips daily on this line. Duarte was on the map!

The Big Red Cars

By Edward Suydam

When the Pacific Electric Railway built through the area to Azusa and Glendora, the Southern Pacific line was tied into the Pacific Electric line east of Fish Canyon Road where for awhile both railroads shared trackage into Azusa.

As a result of the completion of these two major lines, Duarteans had a way to any part of the United States.

I can find no date when the Southern Pacific abandoned service and trackage, but eventually the Southern Pacific line was torn up from East Duarte west to Mountain Avenue in Monrovia. The line from Monrovia to Arcadia was retained by the Pacific Electric. A new track from just east of Mountain Avenue at Royal Oaks was laid to carry freight. This line was never electrified, but used steam or diesel engines.

The Pacific Electric....the big red cars....was started from Los Angeles in 1902, and reached Monrovia in 1903. It was a double track standard gauge electric railway.

Construction eastward from Monrovia was delayed by the necessity of bridging the San Gabriel River which in that day was uncontrolled and subject to flooding during heavy rains.

Between 1906 and 1907, this bridge was built. It turned out to be one of the engineering marvels of the day. The bridge was a reinforced concrete structure 1019 feet long and consisting of eighteen arch spans rising fifty feet clear of the riverbed, and supported on piers sunk fifteen feet in the riverbed. Eight thousand cubic yards of concrete and 250 tons of steel were used in this structure. The line reached Azusa in 1907 and Glendora shortly after that.

Originally the line was served by wood interurban cars which were replaced about 1924 with 57 foot steel interurban cars capable of seating 60 passengers. Patronage and service varied over the years as did the economic scene ranging from 1,078,000

passengers in 1913 to a low of 561,000 in 1933 and a high of 2,730,000 in 1945. Statistics of operation are given for 1948 when the Pacific Electric operated 40 trains daily to Monrovia, of which 24 continued on to Glendora. These trains were daily except weekends. This furnished Monrovia with a thirty minute service and Glendora with a 60 minute service during the off hours.

During the morning rush hour, Monrovia was scheduled for 15 minute service and Glendora for 30 minute service. The peak evening rush hour saw Monrovia getting 10 to 20 minute service and Glendora 30 minute service. Running time varied from 48 to 57 minutes from Los Angeles to Monrovia with an added 20 minutes to Glendora. Rush hour service saw trains of two or three cars and off-hour service used one car.

Originally the line was double tracked through to Azusa, but in 1938 a great flood toppled five or six arches of the bridge across the San Gabriel River. That portion of the bridge was rebuilt with steel girder construction only for the outbound track. The inbound track was removed from the remainder of the bridge, and a single track operation instituted from east Duarte to Vernon Avenue in Azusa.

The original line ran on private right-of-way from Shamrock in Monrovia through Duarte just north of Royal Oaks Drive. There were several stops, but the main one was at Oak Avenue under the bridge which was built to allow L.L. Bradbury's carriages and cars to go from the townsite of Duarte to his house on the north side of the Pacific Electric track. The track was

below level of the streets, at that point. Passengers who disembarked at Oak, had to climb stairs at either end of the bridge. Many left their carriages and later their cars at the Southern Pacific Station at Oak and Third Street. They walked to this point from the Pacific Electric tracks. The fare to Monrovia from Duarte was 25 cents. As worldly as many of the owners of property along the right of way were, none of them thought to insist, when they allowed the Pacific Electric the right of way, that the fare to Monrovia be only ten cents. This would have been a big help to many Duarteans.

The Pacific Electric tracks at El Molino doubled and became four tracks wide. The local lines which ran from El Molino to Glendora had two lines, one of which was a limited car service. When it got to El Molino, the car was switched to the limited track and sped into Los Angeles. This gave faster service on one line from Glendora to Los Angeles.

Final operation on the Monrovia-Glendora line coincided with final operation of the entire system in the northern district of the Pacific Electric Railway. Red car service was ended on September 30, 1951 and motor coach service was substituted.

The Duarte Post Office

The Duarte Post Office until the middle 1950's was a rural Post Office. It started in the store operated for about two years by Andrew B. Bronson back in 1881. Bronson's store must have been located on the southwest corner of Highland and Royal Oaks.

On April 7, 1881, Mr. Bronson was sworn in as Duarte's first Postmaster. This meant he had charge of a Post Office cage in his store. He was empowered to collect and dispatch any outgoing mail. He could issue money orders or cash them. He could send Special Delivery, registered or insured mail, and do all the rest of the office procedure. The Post Office had individual boxes for incoming mail for those patrons who wished to rent them. Most Duarteans got their mail through General Delivery. The Duarte Post Office operated for many years in this manner.

Bronson's store only lasted for about two years, then folded. The postmastership was then transferred to Frank Daniels who had the oldest general merchandise store across the street on the north east corner of Royal Oaks and Highland Avenue. Daniels was the postmaster until August, 1884.

Sometime early in the 1900's when the receipts warranted it, the Post Office moved to its first full quarters. This was in the rear part of the General Store on the southwest corner, where Bronson had been. Daniels store had burned, and he had moved to this building during his tenure in office. The back

room of the store, plus the delivery dock, was made into a large room for the Post Office. Today, Patrick's Art Shop is located in this building.

In 1939, the Post Office moved up to second class status, because its receipts again warranted it. Again, a larger building was needed. The store next door east of Yves Poupon's French Restaurant on the south side of Huntington Drive just east of Highland Avenue, was leased.

The fifth move, in 1956, was to a building especially built for the Post Office. It was on the north side of Huntington Drive immediately south of the City Hall. The Duarte Lions Club occupies it today. It stayed in this location long after it had become a First Class office. When it became so crowded with personnel and furnishings, it was difficult for the employees to work in it, a new building was built just south of Huntington Drive on the east side of Highland Avenue. The Post Office still occupies this building.

It was from this building late in the 1960's that our Postmaster of thirty-three years retired.

Duarte has had twelve Postmasters. They were:

Andrew B. Bronson	April 7, 1882
Frank H. Daniels	April 30, 1884
D. Barnes	August 8, 1884
Leonidas Barnes	August 28, 1884
Seth F. Daniels	July 26, 1886
Albert J. Beatty	December 7, 1888

A. Walter Holdykom	March 7, 1892
Joseph Fowler	March 20, 1894
Albert S. Wilson	October 21, 1924
Thomas S. Makin	January 28, 1927
Thomas V. Holmes	March 17, 1934
Harmon Hawblitzel	December, 1966

After Mr. Makin died, Thomas V. Holmes, who had taken the examination, became the first Postmaster who did not run the store too. At the time of his retirement, he had been serving for thirty-three years, and was the senior Postmaster, in terms of service, in the western region of the United States Post Office Department.

When he became the Postmaster, Duarte Post Office had two employees. Mail was delivered to the Office by messenger from the Santa Fe Railroad, or picked up from the Pacific Electric stop at Oak Street. The mail from the Santa Fe came up in a model "T" Ford twice daily. In the office there was a small lock-box section and General Delivery, to serve Duarte's 200-300 residents.

Today, the office serves not hundreds but nearly 18,000 residents of Duarte, Bradbury and County territory. It has six trucks on mounted routes, and four foot carriers. Personnel needed to operate the Post Office has grown from two in 1934 to 28 clerks and carriers in 1973, plus a Superintendent of Mails and an Assistant Postmaster. Post Office Department curtailment of services today has cut down to some extent on personnel. Our present Postmaster is Harmon Hawblitzel, a long-time resident of Duarte.



The Duarte Reading Circle

Residents on the Duarte have always liked to read. They enjoyed literary clubs. Back in 1884, there was a Literary Society. Later, during the last of the 1890's on until 1909, there were two clubs; a Literary Society, and a Whist Club. Although the latter wasn't a literary society, it was a type of cultural pastime which Duarteans enjoyed.

On April 6, 1909 a new society was started. The 17 ladies who were charter members had belonged to either one or both of the former societies. These ladies came together at Mrs. W.H. Hoagland's home at her invitation, and organized the Duarte Reading Circle. Membership was limited to thirty, because most homes wouldn't hold anymore people. Dues were \$.05 per member per month. Fines for late books, were a penny a day.

In 1919, the Reading Circle raised the dues to \$.10 per month!

The objective of the club was to buy and read books to the membership, and to lend books to the members. At that time there wasn't a library in Duarte. There was no way for anyone to get books to read without buying them. These ladies saw no reason for each person to duplicate reading material, hence, the club.

The first book they read was, "Aunt Jane from Kentucky".

The Reading Circle has maintained its original objective to read to one another, rather than read an entire book as they did at first on every other Tuesday. They decided about 1919 to have instead, one-half hour of current events and one-half hour of selected material from magazines or short stories. This has been the modus operandi ever since.

Over the years, the Reading Circle has had its problems and triumphs. On July 11, 1914, Mrs. Graves' dog devoured the current book. In 1918, they started their philanthropic and charitable work. They adopted a French orphan, Yvonne Merrivale, through the "Fatherless Children of France" organization. They sent her money and gifts for about three years.

In 1919, the Circle worked with the Red Cross; probably the Chapter in Monrovia. Half of the money they collected stayed with the Circle for welfare, and half went to the Chapter.

For many years, as the occasion demanded, they held bake sales, rummage sales, and gave voluntary contributions.

In 1921, the Circle helped organize the Duarte Chamber of Commerce. They gave dinners for the Chamber for some time.

They formed and worked hard on committees to help beautify the State Highways, clean dumping grounds, and help with delinquent children, poor children, and children of unwed mothers.

They contributed to "Save the Redwoods League", to a total of \$98.00 over the years. They signed petitions against hog ranches in Duarte. They fought putting "dumps" in Duarte, and serving intoxicating drinks at City Hall during fund-raising

events. They helped in the fight against legalized poker in Duarte.

In 1941 on the eve of World War II, they helped with the Duarte Centennial celebration. During the War, they manned the war casualty stations. For the first time in years, in August, 1945, they missed a Reading Circle meeting. It was V-J Day and the members were glued to their radios listening to the news.

May 5, 1959, was the Reading Circle's fiftieth anniversary. The meeting was held at Mrs. Clem White's. Thirty members, including Rose Maxwell, a charter member attended. Today in 1976, the Reading Circle still meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays. The membership is still between 25 and 35 members who attend the meetings faithfully, unless they are ill or out of town. Very few clubs can boast such a record.

One of the oldest social clubs in the San Gabriel Valley, it's register has held nearly 200 members in 67 years.



Rancho Azusa de Duarte Branding Iron

PART TWO

1945 - 1976

Bernice Bozeman Watson

*To be ignorant of what happened before you
were born is to be ever a child. For what
is man's lifetime unless the memory of past
events is woven with those of earlier times?*

Cicero

Part II of "On the Duarte" deals with events which played an important part in what we now know as Duarte. I have taken a Historian's prerogative and included only those events that impressed this writer as having the most influence on shaping Duarte's history.

This came about after months of digging through old newspapers, interviews with pioneer residents and reading through other written material. This is not to say that events and people not included did not play a major role in shaping Duarte's history. It simply means that neither time nor space permitted the inclusion of all that went on between 1945 to the present. The reader is reminded that this Bicentennial copy of the history of Duarte is simply a small portion of what we hope will eventually be a major historical piece on Duarte's past history.

This section includes major events between 1945-1976. It also includes people and places and a separate section on Did You Know...a capsule version of Duarte from 1841 to 1976.

It is hoped that the text of these last pages will not only entertain the reader, but more importantly, enlighten readers about the true picture of Duarte.

Bernice Bozeman Watson

Post War

This would be the end of an era. Florida had all but taken over the citrus industry and the famous Duarte citrus ranches, which stood for such excellence in the past, were rapidly giving in to the subdivider's axe.

Some thought this to be an unfortunate but inevitable happening. It was unfortunate in that Duarteans had chosen not to incorporate as a City years earlier, for Duarte was one of the older Ranchos in the San Gabriel Valley. This lack of incorporation would be costly, for it gave Duarte citizens less control over what happened within its boundaries, as they would soon find out. The primary control over Duarte, and all other unincorporated areas rested in the hands of the County Board of Supervisors.

Duarte to Los Angeles was a long way in the mid 1940's and early 1950's. With no freeway close by, travel into Los Angeles was inconvenient and not always swift. And yet, Los Angeles was where Duarteans had to go for urgent business such as zone changes and school plan approval.

The need for housing after the war was quite apparent, and Duarte, already known for its beauty and near perfect climate, was chosen as a favorite spot by developers. Duarte was a realtor's dream come true, with acre upon acre of beautifully undeveloped land.

What happened to Duarte during the few short years between 1947 and 1951 was no less than traumatic. The community went from a quiet little citrus growing town of approximately 3,500 people in 1947, to 10,500 people in 1951.

The new residents were almost all returning GI's with young families who needed moderately priced housing units for their growing families. These new settlers were eager and optimistic and anxious to become a part of the new Duarte. But their new life in Duarte would not be without some problems. Duarte was having a hard time adjusting to the new demands that so many new residents were placing on the community. Demands for new streets, new stores, new telephone lines, new water mains and most expensively, new schools.

Prior to 1940, Duarte had a total of 451 homes. Between 1940 and 1959, Duarte would see more than 3,062 new homes built. Several housing developments went up in the south part of Duarte. Approximately 200 homes went up on California Avenue near Shamrock. Another section, built by the Turner Brothers, went up near Camino Real. There was also a tract of houses built near Wesley Grove.

One by one ranchers sold to developers, and one by one developers continued to build houses that undoubtedly met the standards set by developers, but which most Duarteans felt did not meet the standards set by Duarteans. Duarte would try hard to maintain the rural atmosphere of one and two acre lot sites, but they would lose battle after battle to developers who secured

the necessary zone changes to build smaller houses on smaller lots.

Those early battles with developers were led by D.Jay Smith, who had served as President of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce, and also as President of the Huntington Drive Improvement Association.

Most of the houses built during these Post War years were adequate for new families. They were, for the most part, two bedroom homes, with one bath and a single car garage, situated on lots which would be considered adequate by today's standards. Small down payments and low monthly payments lured thousands of new residents to Duarte during the years after the war.

One of the biggest problems facing these new residents were shortages. Manufactured goods were hard to come by. So were telephones. The few residents who owned telephones before World War II, found it necessary to share their phones with newcomers. There was little chance of new residents getting their own telephones in those days, because the Telephone Company was having its own problems getting the needed material to install phone lines. Only residents who lived near existing lines and who could prove that they needed a phone had any chance of getting one installed.

There were other shortages. Manufactured goods and items that we take for granted today, were in short supply. Toasters, irons, and most other appliances were next to impossible to find. It was a time of hardship, but also a time of unity. These

newcomers to Duarte, many of them meeting other parents with common interest at the local schools, started forming some of the most active organizations in the community.

Within a few short years, Duarte would see the formation of the Duarte Womans Club; the Lions Club; the Community Service Council; The Davis Addition Citizens League; the Rotary Club; the Kiwanis Club; the Duarte Coordinating Council, and many more. Duarte would need the unity of these organizations plus those already formed to ward off encroachment by rock and sand companies, hog ranches, fertilizer plants and even annexation by surrounding communities.

This was a time of friendship, hard work and most of all, a time of change for Duarte and those living "On the Duarte."

Incorporation

Duarteans had been complacent about incorporation until something happened in June, 1956 to make them outraged at the prospects of what they thought would be the beginning of their extinction.

The City of Azusa on a 4 to 1 vote, decided to annex some 1,335 acres of land west of the San Gabriel River and located inside Duarte. The river had always been considered a dividing line between the two communities. Part of the property included an abandoned rock quarry owned by Fred Hayden. It also included other property owned by Hayden, located along Fish Canyon Road and Van Tassel Canyon. Azusa reportedly planned to use the site for a dump.

Duarteans were outraged at the idea of having a dump site so close to their homes. They packed the Azusa City Council chambers trying to persuade Azusa from annexing the property, but to no avail. Several Azusa residents along with Martha M. Johnson, the lone dissenting vote on the Azusa City Council, joined with Duarteans in their fight against the annexation.

Having no success with Azusa City Officials, Duarteans began to form citizens groups and talk of incorporation began with various community groups, all opposed to the Azusa annexation move.

Charges and counter-charges were abundant on both sides, with Azusa City Officials reportedly holding an early morning

meeting at 7:30 A.M. in July, 1956, for the purpose of correcting the defects in the Resolution on the annexation of the Duarte property. This early morning meeting was an apparent attempt by Azusa officials to halt Duarte's move to file incorporation papers, which were rumored to be filed the day of the Azusa meeting.

Because of this and another move by Azusa to annex still more of Duarte's property, a suit would be filed against Azusa and the whole issue of annexation would be settled in court.

In the meantime, Duarteans were holding meeting after meeting in both public places and private homes on the issue of incorporation. City Officials from neighboring communities recently incorporated, came to Duarte to speak on the issue.

Azusa officials, who had voted for the annexation of Duarte land were making it quite clear that they knew of no such agreement of the San Gabriel River being the boundary line between the two communities. It was at that time that Martha M. Johnson, Azusa Councilwoman, cited an apparent agreement made by the Azusa City Council on June 21, 1954, which read in part "That it is not the intention of the Azusa City Council to cross the San Gabriel River to annex property in Duarte." According to Councilwoman Johnson, that motion was later amended by the City Attorney to read "That it is not the present intention..." etc. The reason for the amended motion was that the City Attorney advised Council members that they could not bind a future Council by such a motion, which is correct. She said that the same

councilmen who voted 4 to 1 on the annexation, also had voted for the motion not to cross the River into Duarte.

Duarteans would embark on a massive voter registration drive in August, 1956, where they registered 458 people.

With wide support, a group called the Citizens Association, headed by Russ Moore, Lovell Fulbright, and Lucile Higgle, filed for incorporation with the County of Los Angeles. Many civic organizations were sponsoring the incorporation move, but since the Citizens Association had already gone on record with the Board of Supervisors as being opposed to the Azusa annexations, their name was used solely on incorporation papers.

The group used the tentative boundaries of all the unincorporated area bounded by Azusa and Covina on the east and southwest, by West Covina and Baldwin Park on the south, by Monrovia on the west, and by the Angeles National Forest on the north.

There was a great deal of legal maneuvering during those early days of the annexation fight, including a reported private deal by the City of Azusa for a 99 year lease on the Duarte Van Tassel Dump site. Duarteans requested a Grand Jury investigation of Azusa City Officials' activities in the annexation move. They would be joined by Azusa Councilwoman, Martha Johnson, who also requested an investigation.

In the middle of the annexation fight with Azusa, Duarte received its second blow on August 15, 1956. They learned that

some residents of Bradbury had filed a notice with the County Board of Supervisors to incorporate as a separate city. Bradbury, which was part of the original Duarte Rancho, had been included in Duarte's boundaries for the new city. Bradbury's notice read:

"A notice of intention to circulate petitions for the incorporation of a city to be known as "Bradbury" was filed with the clerk of the County Board of Supervisors on August 15. Concurrently, a notice of intention together with a map and description of the boundaries was filed with the Boundary Commission. The proposed new incorporation lies in the foothills in the northern portion of the Duarte district between Monrovia and Azusa. More specifically, the area lies between the easterly limits of Monrovia on the west and Vineyard Avenue on the east, and between the Pacific Electric right of way on the south and the mountains on the north. The purpose of this move is to protect and preserve this foothill area as an exclusively residential community. It includes the Bradbury Estates, Bradbury Hills, and the newly developed area immediately east of Bradbury Hills. In view of pressures developing on all sides for annexation or incorporation into a larger community, the sponsors feel that this area which forms a natural geographic community should be incorporated if it is to maintain its present character

as one of the most desirable remaining areas for country homes in the San Gabriel Valley. Signed: Francis P. Cross; Rollins Eckis; Edmund Jussen; Jack M. Roth; Verdon C. Smith; Walter D. Smyth; Arthur Beaucaire, Sponsors."

Bradbury's move would be one in a series of moves that would thwart Duarte's incorporation dream of having a large geographic, and economic area within the city limits of Duarte.

Duarteans, apparently used to setbacks, rapidly proceeded with setting up a new headquarters building for the purpose of incorporation. The building was located on the corner of Huntington Drive and Pops Road.

In the meantime, Bradbury residents favorable to incorporation of a separate city from Duarte, were trying to decide which area to include within its boundaries, since they needed only 500 residents to qualify for incorporation as a separate city. Residents of the Mt. Olive and Vineyard area were apparently taking a wait and see attitude about being included in Bradbury's boundaries.

On September 6, 1956, the first public meeting on the proposed city of Bradbury was held at Royal Oaks School auditorium, with homeowners from the proposed Bradbury boundary invited to attend the meeting. At that meeting, it was decided that a poll should be taken of those residents included in the incorporation plans.

In another surprise move, Irwindale, which originally had been included in the Duarte incorporation boundaries, as was Bradbury, also filed to become a separate incorporated city.

The County counsel had rendered an opinion over an apparent technicality. Errors had been made in the legal description of the boundaries filed by the Duarte Incorporation Committee. Actually, errors had been made on both Duarte and Irwindale's papers, but Irwindale was able to get their errors corrected and refiled before Duarte. This legal dilemma started earlier when the two groups filed simultaneous intentions to incorporate overlapping territories, and the City of Monrovia filed a resolution of intention to annex the old airport property, which also overlapped the Duarte boundaries. Residents of Mayflower Village were also petitioning Monrovia and Arcadia to be included into their cities. Mayflower Village, part of the old Duarte Rancho grant to Andres Duarte, had long been considered by Duarteans to be a part of Duarte.

In the meantime, Azusa, in another 4 to 1 vote, voted a Resolution to annex still more property inside Duarte. This time, it would include some 200 acres of partially subdivided land still in the northeast section of Duarte, and owned by Arthur Wright.

That new annexation move, would put the property on Tocino (which included the old Duarte home site of Andres Duarte) Greenbank, Bettyhill and the Clark Ranch in Azusa hands. Duarteans were again outraged at this intent.

It would take Duarteans two full weeks of filing and counter filing of boundary lines before the boundaries were tentatively approved by the County Board of Supervisors.

Duarte's petition for incorporation read:

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The undersigned, being owners of land in fee, or a purchaser of land under a written agreement to buy, which land is within the boundaries of the General Law City, herein proposed to be incorporated as the City of Duarte, which boundaries have heretofore been approved as to definiteness and certainty by the County Boundary Commission of Los Angeles County, do hereby petition and pray:

That all the territory or portion of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, lying within and enclosed by the boundaries hereinafter set forth, which is wholly unincorporated, be organized and incorporated as a General Law City under the provisions of Section 34300 and following the Government Code of the State of California; that there are within said territory proposed to be incorporated more than 500 inhabitants which said inhabitants number approximately 22,000 and an area approximately 9 1/2 square miles, according to the best knowledge, information and belief of your petitioners; that all elective city officers of the proposed City, except City Councilmen, shall be appointed

by the City Council under the provisions of the laws of the State of California. There are to be five (5) Councilmanic districts, the boundaries of which are described as follows:

COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT NO. ONE: All that territory lying northerly of the center line of the Pacific Electric Railway, within the proposed boundaries of the City of Duarte.

COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT NO. TWO: All that territory lying southerly of the center line of the Pacific Electric Railway, northerly of the center line of the Santa Fe Railway and easterly of the center line of Highland Avenue within the proposed boundaries of the City of Duarte.

COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT NO. THREE: All that territory lying northerly of the center line of the Santa Fe Railway and westerly of the center line of Highland Avenue, within the proposed boundaries of the City of Duarte.

COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT NO. FOUR: All that territory lying southerly of the center line of the Santa Fe Railway, and easterly of the center line of Mountain Avenue, within the proposed boundaries of the City of Duarte.

COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT NO. FIVE: All that territory lying southerly of the center line of the Santa Fe Railway, and westerly of the center line of Mountain Avenue, within the proposed boundaries of the City of Duarte.

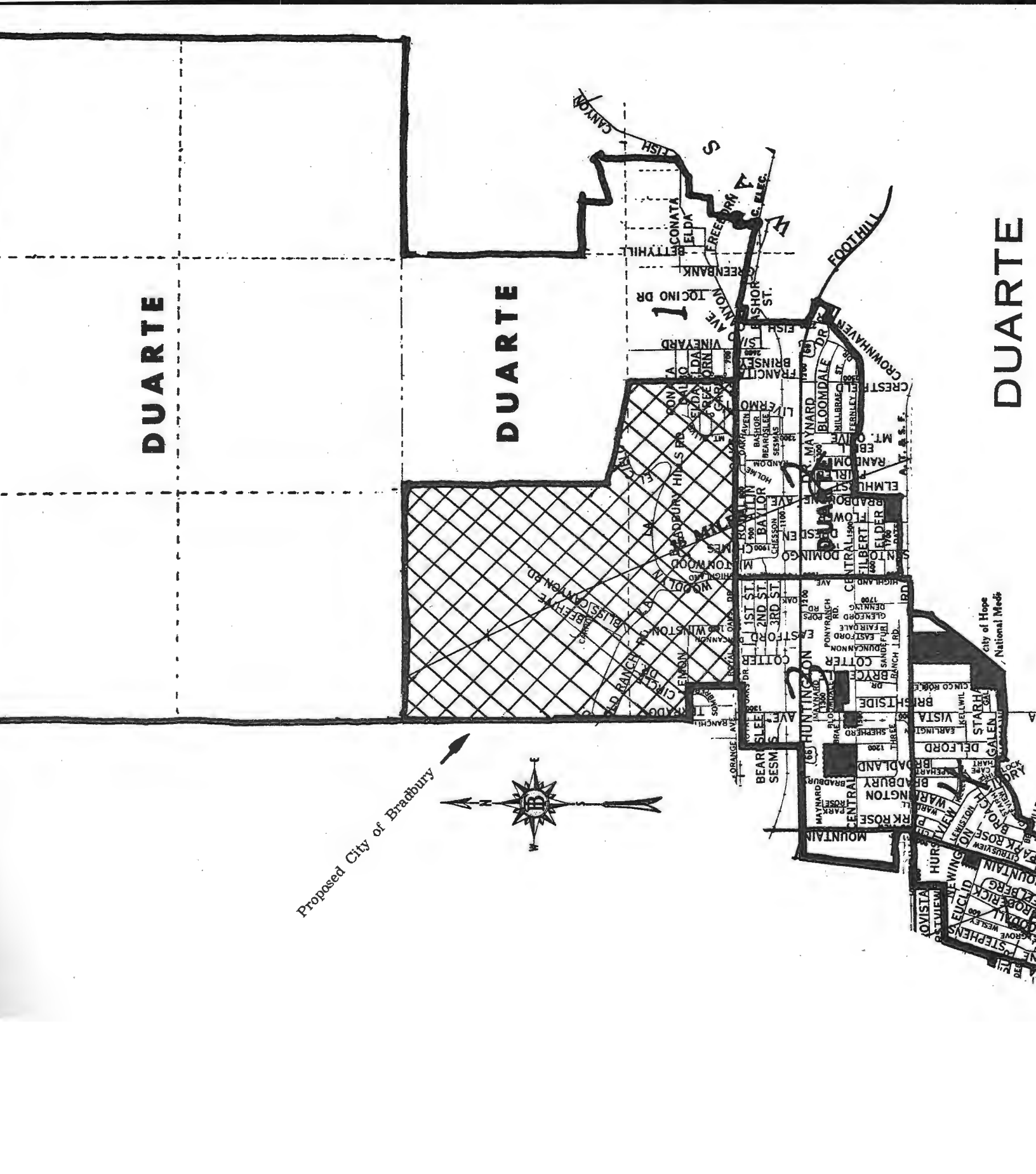
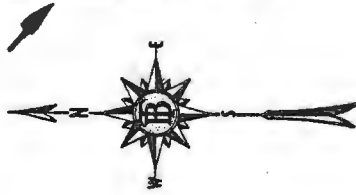
That the notice of election shall require those voting to cast ballots including the words "for incorporation" and "against incorporation".

DUARTE

DUARTE

DUARTE

Proposed City of Bradbury



The petition went on to state the boundary lines already approved by the Boundary Commission. It ended with this paragraph:

Wherefore, your petitioners pray further that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, receive and hear this petition and all persons interested therein, define and establish boundaries of the proposed City of Duarte, and call, give notice of and hold an election in the proposed City of Duarte for the purpose of determining whether or not the proposed City of Duarte shall be incorporated; that all elective city officers except City Councilmen, be appointed by the City Council; and that you take and perform all other necessary acts and proceedings authorized by and as provided and required by the aforementioned Government Code and all other applicable statutes and laws of the State of California.

OWNERS IN FEE, OR PURCHASERS UNDER A WRITTEN AGREEMENT TO BUY, OF LAND SITUATED WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE PROPOSED CITY OF DUARTE.

The Supervisor's decision was finally given. The proposed City of Duarte would include most of the original boundaries with the exception of the Bradbury property and the proposed new City of Irwindale. Duarte would have 50 days to gather the necessary 25 per cent of the property owners signatures before final plans would be approved.

Duarteans were busy circulating all 108 petitions of incorporation. Nearly 50 per cent of the property owners signed the petitions.

In a separate action, residents of the area southwest of Duarte, between Mountain Avenue and California, held a meeting in Maxwell's kindergarten room to discuss incorporation. In attendance at the meeting were more than 50 residents and representatives from the incorporation committee. At that meeting, it was reported that Dorothy Broderick, a long time Duarte resident had been circulating petitions to be excluded from the Duarte incorporation boundaries.

Monrovia, in the meantime, was apparently making plans to incorporate areas in the Mayflower Village and it was reportedly interested in the area southwest of Duarte, where Dorothy Broderick was circulating petitions.

In January, 1957, Duarteans were notified that their petitions were sufficient for incorporation. Boundary hearings were set for February 28, 1957. Bradbury's was set for March 14 and Irwindale's for March 28. Following the boundary hearings, Duarteans would then be allowed to vote on the incorporation issue.

In the meantime, Gordon Maddock, a large property owner in Duarte filed suit against Azusa on the proposed annexation of the Wright property; so did the Duarte Water Company. Judge Bayard Rhone issued a temporary restraining order calling for a halt against Azusa's annexation. The State Attorney General's office also filed suit against Azusa on the Wright property

annexation issue.

According to newspapers articles in the Duarte Dispatch, dated February 28, 1957, residents in the southwest section of Duarte were reportedly moving toward asking to be excluded from the boundaries of Duarte, and were apparently quite sympathetic to Dorothy Broderick's petition circulating efforts. This would be the third such move of property owners who wanted to be excluded from Duarte's boundaries. This time, residents had not planned to form a separate city as did Bradbury and Irwindale, but instead planned a move to be annexed into Monrovia. Residents of the area proceeded to file for an exclusion petition with the County Board of Supervisors, with the results hinging on a decision by the County Board of Supervisors.

Proponents of Duarte's incorporation drive accused Monrovia of actively engaging in getting the "Exclusion Petition" filed and also accused Monrovia of having filed a request that if the property is not included in with Duarte, it would be annexed into Monrovia. The petition, addressed to the Board of Supervisors stated in part:

"We, the undersigned, are residents of the County of Los Angeles, residing in a portion of the area proposed to be included in the proposed City of Duarte, and we sign this petition to the Honorable Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, to express our protest against being included in the said proposed new city."

The petition went on to state the reasons

against being included into Duarte's boundaries.

"Proposed boundaries do not follow any logical or natural dividing lines, but comprise a wild and aimless inclusion of everything that is not included in some other city."

The petition was signed by 150 residents, representing 112 property owners living between Mountain and California Avenues.

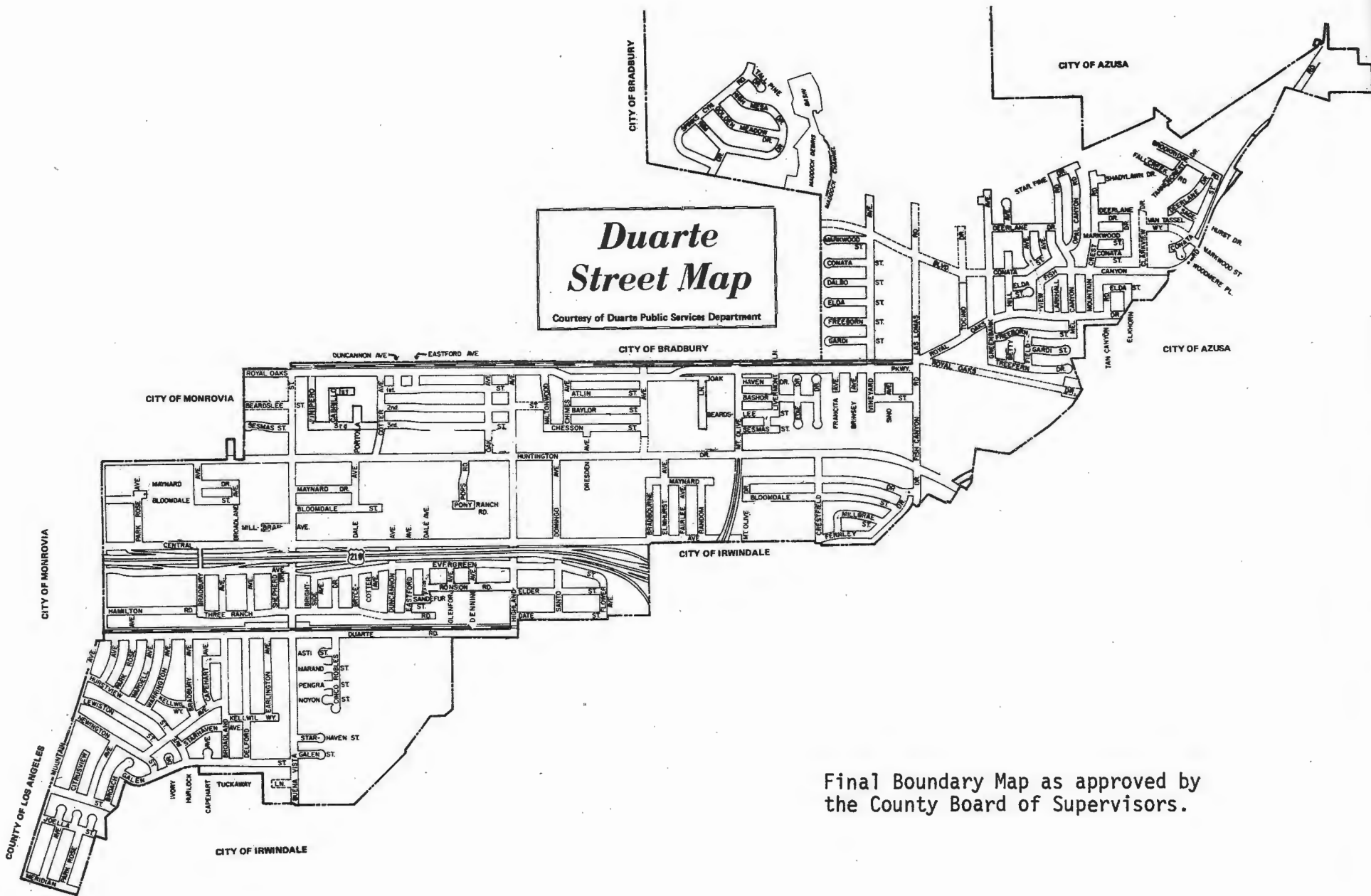
The article went on to say that Duarteans favoring incorporation of that area went through the signatures and found several discrepancies in the petitions, but the final judgement would have to come from the County Board of Supervisors.

On February 28, 1957, the Board of Supervisors continued the hearing on Duarte's boundaries until March 14. The meeting was again continued after questioning by one Supervisor about the Azusa dispute. In the meantime, Bradbury had received an okay for its cityhood, after no one filed to be excluded from its proposed city boundaries of two square miles. Election day for Bradbury was set for May 28.

On Tuesday, March 26, 1957, Duarte was given the go ahead on incorporation. However, the Board of Supervisors excluded the area southwest of Duarte, but left in the Wright property. June 18, 1957, was set as the date of Duarte's incorporation election. Filing for the first Duarte City Council opened April 4, 1957, and closed April 25, 1957.

Duarte Street Map

Courtesy of Duarte Public Services Department



Final Boundary Map as approved by the County Board of Supervisors.



Duarte's first City Council, sworn in in on August 22, 1957, by Judge John Sturgeon of Santa Anita Municipal Court. From left: Jeanne Abouchar, Vera Hacker, Walter C. Hendrix, John E.K. Lindfors, and Robert K. Swain.

According to the original papers filed by Duarte, it was proposed that election be held by districts, but when the Board of Supervisors excluded the area southwest of Duarte, it eliminated one district, thus making all future elections of Duarte City Councilmembers at-large, and not by districts. Bradbury was granted the right to elect Councilmembers by districts, because none of its property was excluded from the original petition.

Nineteen people filed for the first Duarte City Council race, including two women.

On June 18, 1957, Duarteans voted to become a city. The total vote was 1,402 for incorporation, and 914 against. Winners of the City Council seats included Jeanne Abouchar, Robert K. Swain, John Lindfors, Vera Hacker and Walter Hendrix. Out of nineteen candidates, Duarteans had elected two women.

Even though Duarte's election was held in June, 1957, Duarte City Council members would have to wait to be sworn in pending the suit against Azusa.

On August 20, 1957, the County Board of Supervisors officially declared Duarte to be the 57th City in the County. On August 22, 1957, City Councilmembers were sworn in by Judge John Sturgeon at Andres Duarte Elementary School. Bradbury had already been declared a city on July 26, 1957.

Duarte would lose its battle with Azusa on the annexation of the Van Tassel Dump site. By court order, Azusa was allowed to annex the site, much to the dismay of Duarteans.

Recall of Vera Hacker

The first major issue to hit Duarte City Council members personally was the recall of Vera Hacker on January 12, 1960.

On September 29, 1959, a notice of intention to Circulate Petition Relating to Recall of Vera Hacker was filed, it read as follows:

The undersigned proponents of a petition relating to the Recall of Vera M. Hacker, Councilwoman, City of Duarte, County of Los Angeles, do hereby give notice of intention to circulate said petition in the City of Duarte.

The undersigned do hereby set forth the following as grounds for Recall of Vera M. Hacker, Councilwoman, City of Duarte, County of Los Angeles, State of California.

On September 17, 1959, in the El Monte Municipal Court, County of Los Angeles, State of California, Mrs. Vera M. Hacker was declared guilty on a charge of Petty Theft by a duly selected jury.

The undersigned proponents of said Petition deem the above fact sufficient justification for the recall of Vera M. Hacker, Councilwoman, City of Duarte, County of Los Angeles, State of California. Signed:

Joseph T. Nixon
Lovell C. Fulbright
Billy F. Morgan
Jean Bain
Dorothy Nelson
Alta F. Stefan
Florence R. Henderson
Otis Gordon

On October 2, 1959, Vera Hacker wrote a letter responding to the recall and restating her dedication to the City of Duarte.

Election date was set for January 12, 1960. Six candidates filed for the Council seat of Hacker, including Loren E. Allen, Jack Fifer, Gordon J. Mayer, R. Aloysia Moore, Billy F. Morgan and Robert F. Robbins.

After much publicity during the ensuing weeks, the election was finally held. The result was that Vera Hacker was recalled by a wide margin of Duarte voters. The final vote count went 1431 for recall and 210 against recall.

Jack Fifer won and replaced Hacker by defeating R. Aloysia Moore by a 471 to 468 margin.

Gambling

In May, 1961, a group known as Duarte Improvement Incorporated petitioned the City of Duarte for the option of placing poker parlors in the City. At that time, California law did not outlaw draw poker as it did most other type of gambling. City Council members voted unanimously to deny the request and said that it would fight to keep out such parlors if necessary.

Proponents managed to get sufficient signatures on their petitions to call for an election on the issue. According to reports of August 29, 1961, there were 935 signatures on the petitions, but City Manager, Robert L. Wilson, reported that only 610 of those signatures were valid.

City Council set election day for October 31, 1961. Each side had two months to convince voters on the pros and cons of having poker parlors within the City limits of Duarte. Various civic organizations, churches and individuals took part in sponsoring coffee hours to inform voters on the issue. Duarte received broad support from top County and State officials in its fight against organized gambling in the City.

Election night finally came, with a large group of citizens gathering at Duarte City Hall to watch the vote tally. Absentee ballots were counted first. Normally, there are only about 20 absentee votes in Duarte elections. This time, there

were 74. The tally of absentee ballots were posted. Out of 74 votes, three were cancelled, leaving 71. Of the 71 total, only one voted for having poker parlors in Duarte. Absentee ballots had set the trend of voting 70 to one against poker in Duarte.

The remaining ballots were then counted. Out of 3864 total votes cast, only 315 people voted for poker. It was overwhelming: 3549 people voted against the poker parlors.

This was a stunning defeat for proponents of the parlor issue, who had apparently felt that because Duarte was a new City with young residents, they would be persuaded to vote for gambling in order to avoid a city tax, but the opposite was true. Duarte to this day does not have a direct city tax.

Community Center

In 1949, the people of Duarte raised several thousand dollars to purchase a one time stove factory at a bankruptcy sale. The purchase included a strip of land on Third Street, 650 feet long and 80 feet wide. The building had once been a rabbit packing plant, and it took a great deal of remodeling before it could be used as a Community Center which Duarte badly needed.

Money for purchasing and remodeling came from numerous fund raising events. In 1952, Tommy Rockwell, President of General Artists Corporation, one of the largest artist management firms in the country, arranged for Frankie Lane and the Mills Brothers to do a benefit show at the Community Center in Duarte. Admission was kept at \$1.00 per person for both performances and even at those low prices the benefit shows raised several thousand dollars for the Center.

Rockwell, a Duarte resident, was named Life Director of the Duarte Community Center. The center operated as a non-profit organization and was used by many civic organizations for dances, parties, and other activities needing a large building to house individuals. Residents used the Community Center to celebrate Duarte's 111th Birthday in 1952.

When Duarte became a city, the Community Center was turned into the new Duarte City Hall, and it still remains in that capacity today.

Annexation of County Area

In the early part of 1969, a group of residents living in the unincorporated area southwest of Duarte, requested to become a part of the city. The area being considered for annexation was located south of Duarte Road to Van Meter Street, and from Mountain to California Avenues. It covered 214.9 acres and a third of a square mile. Total population of the county area included 3,440 persons, with 911 registered voters. The area included 903 homes with an assessed valuation in 1969 of \$3,300,780, with the average level of taxes being \$11,000.

In February, 1969, the Duarte City Council approved plans for a complete study of the feasibility of the whole annexation issue. Later that year, hearings were held in Los Angeles at the Hall of Administration with the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission making the decision of whether Duarte could in fact proceed with annexation plans. On August 13, 1969, LAFCO approved Duarte's plans for annexation.

It would be a long hot summer for those favoring and those opposed to the annexation of the county territory. Finally, after all had been said, the City proceeded to mail ballots to residents living within the city limits of Duarte, and those living in the unincorporated area.

The results of the poll was overwhelming. Within the City of Duarte, the vote was 2,236 against annexation and 332 favoring annexation of the area.

The most surprising count came from the unincorporated area itself. The final vote was 340 against annexation into the City of Duarte, and just 130 favoring annexation.

The combined vote count from the city and county area was 2,576 against annexation and 462 for annexation. After such a heavy "no" vote, the issue was not pursued for lack of support.

Campus Unrest

During the 1960's, schools, colleges and institutions all over the country were experiencing what can best be termed as "social problems." Duarte was no exception. Between 1965 and 1970 Duarte High School would go through a series of race related problems. It was a time of difficulty for school and city officials as well as for the entire community.

In 1966, Duarte's school population was 77 per cent Anglo, 15 per cent black and 8 per cent Mexican. During those turbulent years, Duarte Unified School District received a \$50,000 grant from the federal government to help alleviate some of its problems. The grant was renewed for an additional year following an evaluation of Duarte's efforts.

The School District, under the direction of Dr. Keith Holly, organized several programs which are still being implemented today. Some of those included a School Parent Advisory Group, made up of interested citizens from the community; Cinco de Mayo Celebrations; Telephone Hot Lines, used to combat rumors in the community; and a one time African Festival, which attracted hundreds of people from all over Southern California.

Students also started organizing groups to deal with their problems. One such group, known as Chaos, was one of the most active and effective groups during those early days. Students also organized Brotherhood Day at Duarte High School and this once

a year event is still being implemented.

Today, over 10 years later, Duarte has one of the most effective student communication programs in the state. The group is called the Communicators. Their primary function is to squelch rumors before they become problems. Duarte's communicators have been selected by the California State Department of Education as one of three exemplary programs in the state. Duarte students and administrators travel all over California explaining this program to other schools who are now just beginning to experience racial problems. The Communicators were recently honored by the Greater Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce for their efforts in maintaining an effective communication system at Duarte High School.

Ten years ago when Duarte High School was first experiencing problems, there was little or no help available in terms of expertise. Today, Duarte is providing that expertise to schools all over the state.

School Recall Election

Just barely into the 1970's, Duarte would see its first major issue since the poker election. All five School Board Members would face recall, spearheaded by an organization known as the Associated Community Taxpayers. This group felt that the reorganization of Duarte Schools into four elementary (kindergarten through 4), two Middle Schools and one High School would be detrimental to the educational system of Duarte. Previous to the reorganization plan, Duarte had five elementary schools, accommodating students in grades kindergarten through 6; one junior high school for students in grades 7 and 8; and one high school. It also had one continuation high school.

The move to retain the Board of Education and to implement the new middle school plan was headed by a group known as CARE (Committee Against Recall Election).

This issue would divide the community like no other issue before it. Always in the past, Duarte had united against outside interests, now they would have to take sides against friends and neighbors; some for and some against the recall. The price of this election would be high, and it would take a long time for the community to reunite.

Election day was set for September 29, 1970. The five Board Members up for Recall included Burton S. Burgess; Carlyle W. Falkenborg; Beth Harrell; William A. Markey; and J.A. Montgomery.

They were being challenged by Ronald P. Bain; Clyde Green; LeRoy F. Gabriel; Richard Headrick; John Erhardt; and R. Aloysia Moore.

When it was all over, the vote was close but final. Duarteans voted against recalling all five board members.

The voting went this way:

Burgess	Yes 1456
	No 1602
Falkenberg	Yes 1434
	No 1614
Harrell	Yes 1407
	No 1646
Markey	Yes 1444
	No 1611
Montgomery	Yes 1419
	No 1628

A Yes vote meant the support of Recall. A No vote meant the support of Board Members.

Voting for challengers went like this:

Bain	697
Green	773
Erhardt	1443
Headrick	1415
Gabriel	1435
Moore	1423

Air Disaster

On a quiet Sunday afternoon on June 6, 1971, Duarteans were riding bicycles, taking a quiet picnic in nearby parks, while others were playing tennis on local courts. Few had any idea that what would soon occur would change the face of Duarte for some weeks to come.

It was a beautifully clear day, and most Duarteans were simply enjoying the magnificence of a lovely Sunday afternoon. Most eyewitnesses to the disaster reported first hearing what sounded like a sonic boom. They also reported seeing smoke almost immediately after impact. Few realized that a crash had occurred until they saw the planes falling to the ground.

It was not long before radio broadcasts were reporting that a Hughes Air West jetliner with 49 persons aboard and a Marine F-4 Phantom Jet had collided and crashed in flames in the rugged Van Tassel Canyon just above Duarte.

According to reports made by the Federal Aviation Authority, the collision occurred at 6:08 P.M. The Hughes plane was identified as flight 706, which left Los Angeles International Airport at 5:50 P.M. The crash killed 50 people, including all 49 aboard the Hughes Air West plane and one crew member aboard the Marine plane. Only one person survived the crash, Marine 1st Lt. Christopher Schiess, who parachuted to safety.

Within minutes after the crash, more than 100 firefighters and U.S. Forest Service Firefighters were in the area trying to control fires set by the flaming wreckage.

Almost as quickly as the plane crash had occurred,

sightseers started coming into the Fish Canyon area of Duarte, clogging roads and hampering rescue efforts. A temporary headquarters and morgue was set up at Royal Oaks Park which was used by the Fire Department, Sheriff Office, Highway Patrol, National Transportation Board, Los Angeles County Coroner and media personnel. Traffic into Fish Canyon had to be restricted to residents and others on legitimate business.

It would take nearly a week to remove the bodies and wreckage out of the canyon. Rescue efforts were hampered by fog and wind.

Months later, after much testimony in Los Angeles and Washington D.C., Federal Aviation Authorities would take a hard look at air control all over the country and would work on ways of preventing similar accidents like the one over Duarte from happening again.



Rescue workers removing
one of 50 victims of
Air Disaster.
Photo courtesy Milton K. Bell

National Award

In January, 1968, Duarte Parks and Recreation Department received the grand prize in a nationwide Gold Medal Awards Program.

The program, sponsored by the National Sports Foundation, Incorporated, recognizes and honors excellence in the field of recreation and park management.

According to Bryce Bailey, who was then the Superintendent of Duarte's Park and Recreation Program, Duarte received the award because of community efforts and large participation in recreation; the foresight of the City Administration to reserve funds for major development programs; the planning of the Parks and Recreation Commission and Department; the acceptance by the City Council for park and recreational needs in the community; and the cooperation between the City, School district, service clubs, Duarte Youth Acres and other organizations for a total community recreational plan.

Other winners included Seattle, Washington; Witchita, Kansas and Arvada, Colorado.

The Sports foundation is a non-profit organization founded to encourage participation in sports and all types of

sports activities.

Duarte received congratulatory letters and placques from all over California, including one from State Assemblyman Harvey Johnson and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

A delegation of city officials went to Chicago on February 6, 1968 to accept the \$1000 first prize check.



National recognition received by Duarte's Parks and Recreation given by the Sports Foundation Inc.

Fred Edmunds Photo

Glenn Miller

In the late 1930's Glenn Miller, the famous band leader, drove up to the Duarte home of Raymond S. Clark, a well-known singer, and told Clark that he wanted to buy some Duarte property. Miller then pointed out a section of land he was most interested in, and left Clark in charge of securing the property for him.

Clark purchased a site near what is now Valley View School for the Band Leader. It was later expanded to include more than 50 acres, according to some reports. Clark was also in charge of building a house for Glenn Miller. The house was named "Tuxedo Junction" after a piece written by Miller, who said that song had sold enough copies to pay for the Duarte property.

The house was originally built with enough garage space to accommodate cars owned by band members who apparently used the Duarte house for band practice. It also contained a band room which has since been converted into two bedrooms.

After the untimely death of Glenn Miller in the early part of the 1940's, his in-laws continued to live in the house for several years before it was finally sold.

The Glenn Miller home still stands in Duarte, on the north west end of Valley View School's playground.



The Glenn Miller house
as it looks today.

Fred Edmunds Photo

Davis Addition

Davis Addition, commonly called "Rock Town", has been inhabited by residents since the late 1800's. Located just south of the 210 freeway, the area contains some 34 acres of land. Davis Addition is much smaller now than it was in those early years, when it extended several blocks south of the Santa Fe Railroad tracks. Most of the property south of the railroad tracks was bought by the United States Government in the 1930's and was later converted into the Santa Fe Dam site.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's, Davis Addition had few residents, and few businesses. According to one Duartean, who was born in Davis Addition, there were blacks, Mexicans and a sprinkling of Anglo-Saxons living in Davis Addition during that time. Thomas Reed Adams, who was born in Davis Addition in 1897, remembers as a small boy going to "Griffith's Doughnut Shop" on the corner of Date Street and Highland Avenue, owned and operated by Pearl Griffith. He also remembers two churches in Davis Addition, one A.M.E. Church, and one Holiness Church. In those days, according to Adams, residents of "Rock Town" built their own homes.

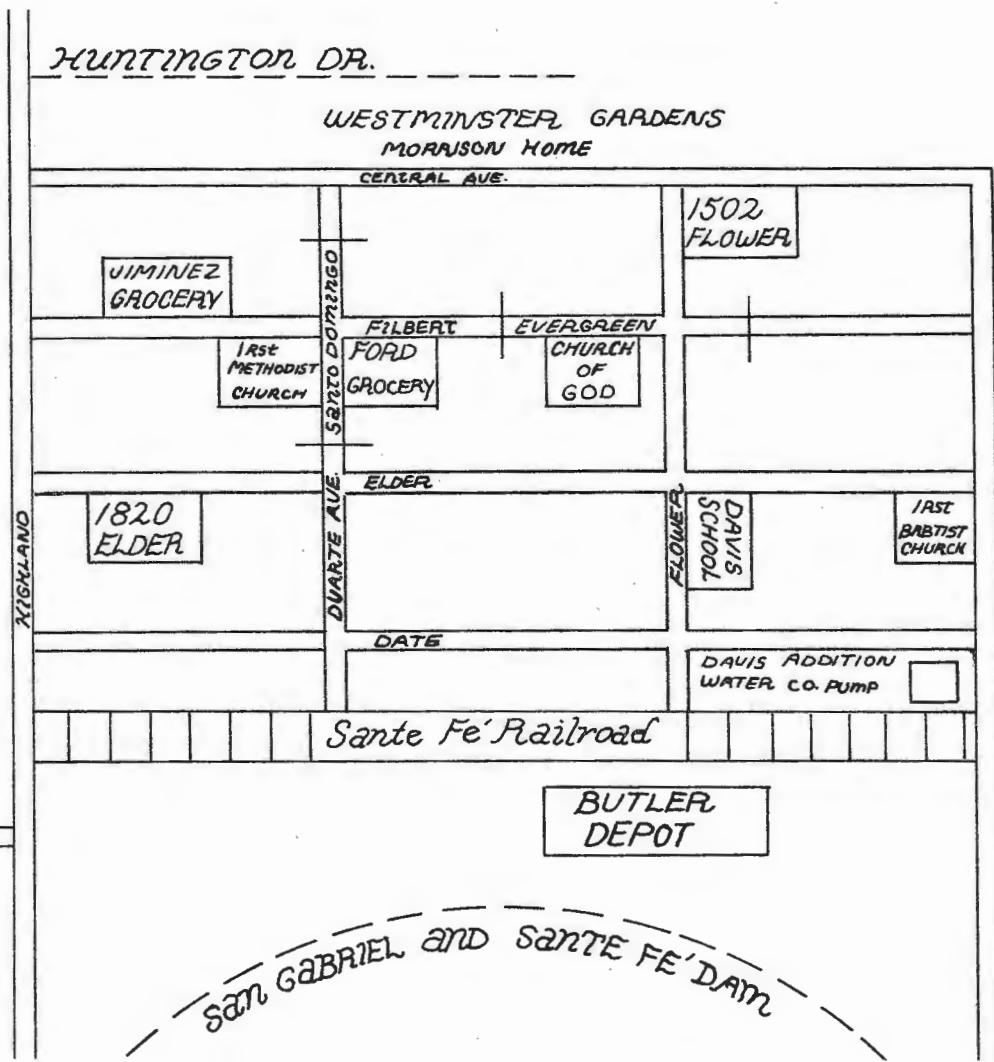
Most of the residents worked on local ranches, including those in neighboring communities. Some worked on the Arcadia ranch of Lucky Baldwin, according to Adams. It was Baldwin, in fact, who first brought black residents to this area. As the story goes, told by Adams. Lucky Baldwin had a grape vineyard in

the 1800's, and needed workers for his vineyard. Baldwin sent one of his top men to North Carolina to recruit several black families who wanted to come to California and work on his ranch in lieu of train fare. Several families left North Carolina, including the grandmother of Adams, and headed for California by train. When they got to Memphis, Tennessee, officials would not allow the train to continue, for this was not long after the Emancipation Proclamation. Lucky Baldwin heard about the problem and went to Memphis and had the train released, with the workers making the trip to California.

Some settled on Baldwin's Ranch in Arcadia, while others came to Duarte and settled in Davis Addition. Some Davis Addition residents owned their own ranches, including chicken and hog ranches. Residents also worked in a local packing house by the name of "Butler." There was also a Santa Fe Railroad station by the same name in Davis Addition. The Butler sign still stands today.

Davis Addition turned out several prominent citizens, including Hardiman Cureton, who was named to Look Magazine's "All American Football Team" in 1955.

Over the years, Davis Addition would develop into quite an important place between Los Angeles and San Bernardino, according to many residents. It was a community within a community, with two Rest Homes; the Stovall Sanitorium, and the Outdoor Life and Health Sanitorium. It also contained stores, cafes, and a dance hall.



*Davis Addition
"Rocktown"*

BUTLER'S
SLAUGHTER
HOUSE

Nike Cunningham

Reproduction of original map drawn by Gladys Singer, Davis Addition resident.

DUARTE RD.

CITY
of
HOPE

Another Davis Addition resident, Gladys Singer, who lived there from 1939 to 1961, has written her own version of life in this community. Here is her story:

DAVIS ADDITION

By

Gladys Singer 1939-1961

Moving to Duarte from Monrovia was an ordeal for me and my three children, plus a husband, an invalid with Multiple Sclerosis. Poor housing and the country atmosphere and leaving church and school friends was a terrible wrench. Nevertheless, lower rents and consideration of economic factors was a necessity.

The enclosed illustration, depicts the nine square blocks occupied by small homeowners and renters, with the population equally divided between Mexicans and blacks. The surrounding countryside was acre after acre, row after row of oranges and lemon groves, interrupted by isolated ranch homes. To the east was a vast area of wash composed of rocks, brush and cacti. The nearest transportation was the big red cars, fully two miles north on Royal Oaks Drive. (Past Huntington Drive and on the old Foothill Boulevard then down a few steps to a car running parallel to the road). Telephones were few and far between because the telephone company had not provided cable necessary for the Davis area. The Post Office was in a small building on the corner of Highland and Foothill. Utilities, with the exception of water were paid in Monrovia offices. The Mexican proprietor of the store on

Filbert and the black on Duarte Avenue (now Santa Domingo) carried only staples and meat at high prices.

A few families lived on unnamed streets south of the Santa Fe Railroad but when the dam was built, they were moved out, relocating as best they could since land values were so low. There was no government subsidies in those days.

Some years before I moved to Duarte, the City of Hope was located south of the railroad at the foot of Flower Street. The property to the west had been purchased for its present location.

In 1940, I was fortunate in securing employment in Mrs. Lucille P. Morrison's home and am still in her employ in Arcadia. I was able to walk the few blocks to my work from 1820 Elder St. where we lived. This eliminated the long walk to the big red cars. My son, the oldest child had finished school in Monrovia and was working to add to family finances. There was no kindergarten at Davis School so Sylvia, my daughter, had to wait until she was old enough to enter first grade. They both finished eighth grade there. High School meant catching the school bus on Highland Avenue in order to attend Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte High School. There were only two schools in Duarte. The caucasians were attending Duarte School located at its present site and currently used for administration purposes, and Davis School with Mexican and black students.

Mrs. Laura Jones was Superintendent of Schools;
Mrs. Wynona Hertenstein, the Principal at Davis School. The staff of teachers were all caucasians.

On the playground, the only attraction in Davis Addition for children or adults, if not church attenders, was Mrs. Hazel Goodrum, black Playground Director, employed by Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation. She presented a continuous round of sports events, crafts, contests, parties and programs. To a working mother, this playground was a God-send, providing a safe play area for after-school hours and vacation time, summer and winter. Mrs. Goodrum was friend and protector of all children and their parents. Mrs. Hertenstein promoted a Girls Club for the upper grades, where conduct, courtesy and appearance were emphasized. By the time Sylvia had reached eighth grade, this group became the nucleus for the first Girl Scout troop in Davis Addition, sponsored by Dorothy Bramble who was a leader of another troop. Miraculously supplied were uniforms, pins, equipment, financed mostly, I am sure, by Mrs. Hertenstein and Mrs. Goodrum. These children were for the most part from low income families.

There was no P.T.A.; however, after much persuasion, I was asked to serve as president of the Mother's Club, assisting with parties, plays and holiday activities for all the children and helping to cook government surplus food, served as lunches free of charge. In other words, Davis School was a focal point for all community events outside the churches.

The Davis Addition Water Company is a story within itself. Operated by Davis citizens and governed by a Board of Directors composed of blacks and Mexicans, it served all the citizens

of the Addition with the exception of Davis School. The pump was located as shown in the illustration. Finally, dissension erupted, with one or the other faction striving to gain control. As an outsider and a renter, I never quite understood their differences. Home owners were required to buy water shares. The results of the feud brought tragic events to the community, as each faction tried to control and receive the \$2.00 per month everyone paid. First one side would cut off the water at the pump, then the other, leaving the whole community without water. If bills mailed by one faction were collected, the other faction would cut off individual water use. One never knew when there was no water to prepare an evening meal or to whom to pay their bills. One night, with the entire system shut off, a row of houses, just east of the First A.M.E. church burned to the ground, the Fire Department stood by with no water. Finally, when one citizen attempted as an official to cut off a citizen's water, he was shot dead on the spot. This, of course, was resolved in the courts but resulted in the disposal of the Davis Addition Water Company. Water was provided by the Upper Duarte Water Company, much to everyone's relief. Mrs. Goodrum's home was among those burned, and she and her family moved to Monrovia, where she still resides. Many times with water suddenly cut off, children and adults were permitted to haul water from the outside faucets at Davis School.

In 1946, Mrs. Jones resigned as Superintendent of Schools and Miss Hazel Nelson was appointed. After many meetings with county school officials, local school board members, teachers,

Parents (I attended as President of the Mother's Club) Mrs. Nelson's dream of integrating the schools came to pass.

It was accomplished by busing all 1st through 6th grade students to Davis School and all 7th and 8th graders to Duarte School. This resulted in the entire population of Duarte focusing attention on the school system and resulted in the threat of redevelopment for Davis Addition.

The aroused citizens of Davis Addition became officers and members of the Davis Addition Citizen's League with Rev. John Davis as President. I served as Secretary. After many stormy meetings at Davis School, attended by many county officials, redevelopment was defeated with the promise to the county to renovate, improve and enhance existing properties. This also resulted in the formation of the Duarte Community Service Council, whose first President was Mrs. Lucile Morrison. Their activities were widespread as they sought to coordinate, improve and add to the social and human values of the community as a whole. I served as Recording Secretary to this group, resigning because of ill health in 1950.

In 1943, after the death of my husband, through the benevolent efforts of Mrs. Morrison, I was able to move into a new home on Flower Avenue. I joined the First African Methodist Episcopal Church, serving as church clerk, Sunday school teacher and choir member.

By 1955, many improvements had been made in Davis Addition, the Davis School had been condemned for earthquake requirements and Andres Duarte School built. About that time, County Road officials began informing Davis Addition citizens that freeway construction was scheduled to cut through the community. The exodus began with neighbors and friends scattered to other housing areas to the east, south, west and into Monrovia and Pasadena. All owners were paid well for their properties, this enabled them to finance better housing in all instances. The First Baptist Church relocated on Huntington Drive and is still there.

The Church of God moved its building to Euclid Avenue in South Duarte (unincorporated area), and the First A.M.E. merged with Bethel A.M.E. Church in Monrovia.

In 1961, I moved to Monrovia.

The two small grocery stores has long since gone out of business as the citizens began to move.

Davis Addition today is reduced to roughly six blocks, whose homeowners are waiting on redevelopment of the area. Old friends, some now deceased, some living, could recall the Davis Addition, where for many years, everyone knew everyone else.

Westminister Gardens

It would take twenty five years, but Frank Shu, a graduate of Yih Wen Commercial School in Cherfoo, China, would finally see his dream come true. His dream was to find some way to adequately express his gratitude to the Mission School and teachers who had helped him as a young boy. In 1946, Shu came to the United States and sought out his former teacher William Booth. He presented Booth with a check for one million dollars drawn in favor of the Presbyterian Missionary Board. The money was to be used to build a group of residences in Southern California for retired Presbyterian Missionaries.

After careful search, the Morrison Ranch in Duarte was selected as the site. Dr. Wayland Morrison and his wife Lucile, a prominent writer, had owned the ranch which had been in their family since 1888 when Dr. Morrison's father bought the 27 acre site.

On December 10, 1950, Westminister Gardens became a reality. Later, Lucile Morrison deeded additional property along Huntington Drive to the Gardens, allowing for more expansion needs. Westminister Gardens can presently accommodate more than 170 residents.

Residents of Westminister Gardens include retired missionaries, ministers, fraternal workers and commissioned church workers of the United Presbyterian Church of the United States.



Part of Westminister Gardens today,
a heritage of Duarte's early day
gracious lifestyle as lived by
the Morrison family.

Westminister Gardens Photo

English Manor

Dr. Mildred Louise English moved to Duarte in 1960, with her husband Philip and three children. They purchased a site on south Flagstone Avenue, in the unincorporated area just southwest of Duarte. This large house would soon become "English Manor", a home for the mentally ill and retarded.

The site had originally be owned by Loreta Turnbull, Duarte's internationally famous speedboat champion.

Dr. English, who had extensive experience in the field of Public Health, both in California and other parts of the world, decided at first to open English Manor as a home for the aged. Later on, sensing the need for a place to house mentally ill and retarded patients, she expanded her facility to include these patients also.

Her strong spiritual and moral leadership in the community and elsewhere, earned her the respect of colleagues all over the state and in 1970, she was named Goodwill Ambassador to the United Nations, visiting health care facilities in Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana and Liberia.

Today, English Manor has been renamed "the Center for Creative Living, Inc., English Manor", and has 60 patients of all races and backgrounds and many of them are self-sufficient, in terms of taking responsibilities in making English Manor more like a home rather than an institution.

Duarte Schools

The following letter is the beginning of the first official school in Duarte. Previous to 1873, it is believed that some Duarte students rode their horses to the County School in El Monte, while others went to school in the home of Dr. Nemiah Beardslee.

June 2, 1873

To the Honorable Superintendent of Public Schools of Los Angeles County:

The undersigned, residents, property owners and heads of families in Azusa Township which lies west of San Gabriel River and that we are so remote from any school that we are utterly deprived of school facilities. Therefore, your petitioners would pray for the formation of a new school district, to be called the Duarte District, described as follows: Beginning at the George H. Peck southwest corner, which is the southwest corner of Azusa Township, thence northwesterly to Santa Anita Canyon, thence north to the north line of Los Angeles County, thence easterly along said line to San Gabriel River, thence southerly along said river to the southern boundary to Azusa Township, the above being intended to include all of Azusa Township



west of San Gabriel River and the mouth of Santa Anita Canyon, so as to include the settlers at the foot of the mountains. Signed:

N. Beardslee	J.O. Nesico
J.E. Tipton	J.T. Brown
George H. Peck	Casuse Oheo
J.B. Beardslee	Antonio Oheo
L. LeBrun	James Rogers
F. Trohea	Francisco Carmona

Since Los Angeles County extended over thirty miles north of the mountains, which would have made the district forty miles long, their request was rejected. The supervisors did, however, grant permission for a smaller district, excluding the Mojave Desert.

Thus, in the fall of 1873, Duarte School officially opened. Classes were held in a little adobe house on the Beardslee Ranch, with twelve students in attendance. Effie Rogers was hired as teacher.

On January 31, 1874, Alexander Weil deeded to the Duarte School District two acres of land for school purposes only. Following is a part of the deed executed by Alexander Weil, on January 31, 1874:

"This indenture, made the thirty first day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy four, between Alexander Weil of the City and County of San Francisco, State

of California, party of the first part, and the Trustees of the Duarte School District, of the County of Los Angeles, the parties of the second part, WITNESSETH, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar in Gold Coin of the United States of America, to him in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, had granted, bargained, sold, remised, conveyed and quitclaimed, and by these presents doth grant, bargain, sell, remise, convey and quitclaim unto the said parties of the second part, and to their successors in office forever, all the right, title and interest of the said party of the first part, in that certain lot piece or parcel of land, situated, lying and being in the Duarte Ranch, County of Los Angeles, State of California, and bounded and particularly described as follows, to wit:

Commencing on the southeast corner of Lot Number sixteen (16) in Section Twenty-Five (25) thence running westerly along the south line of said Lot Number 16, two hundred and seventy-five feet to a point, thence at right angles northerly two hundred and seventy-five feet to a point, thence at right angles easterly two hundred and seventy-five feet to a point on east line of said Lot 16 of Section 25, to the point of beginning.

And it is distinctly understood and agreed between the parties herein that the above described land shall be used for school purposes only, and should the grantees or their successors at any time hereafter, abandon or convert said land to any other purposes, then and in that case the same is to revert back and become the property of the Grantor herein Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging and the rents, issues and profits thereof.

To Have and to Hold, all the singular the above described premises, together with the appurtenances, unto the said parties of the second part, their successors in office forever.

In Witness Whereof, the said party of the first part has hereunto set his hand and seal this day and year first above written.

Signed, (Sealed and Delivered)	Alexander Weil
In Presence of	Eugene Meyer,
	his attorney in fact
State of California, County of Los Angeles."	

The above rather lengthy legal description is what is now known as the Duarte School Administration Building site, located on Buena Vista Avenue, at Central. After Weil deeded the property to Duarte School District, a one room unplastered frame building was built by Henry Graves. The school Trustees were: N. Beardslee, J.E. Tipton and D.S. Shrode.

By the second year, the school had all of eighteen pupils. Water for school purposes was dipped from the Beardslee ditch in front of the grounds. Within a few years, the school would have its own water supply, by way of a cistern and pump. With more and more settlers arriving, student numbers grew. It became necessary to build an ante-room for wraps and lunch baskets.

This first house with the little ante-room was moved to Monrovia in the eighties, and to this day still stands on Olive Street.

By this time, Duarte Schools would have two teachers, Miss Effie Rogers and Mrs. Helen Shrode Daniels. By 1886, Duarte had its first good substantial school building. A two story place, with four large rooms and a large hall. Miss Rogers would be replaced by Miss Mary Foy, the famed Los Angeles educator.

Late one night, in 1908, this schoolhouse with all its contents burned to the ground. For several weeks, classes were held in the two lunch rooms until temporary facilities could be built.



At left: Duarte's first school, built in 1874 by Henry Graves. This building is now a residence in Monrovia.

Duarte's second school. This structure burned in 1908. Both buildings were located at Buena Vista and Central where the present school administration building is today.



The present site, used as the School Administration Building, was completed in 1909, just in time for graduation exercises.

From 1909 to 1910, school enrollment jumped to 102 students. It dropped temporarily to 88 pupils between 1919 and 1920.

In July, 1920, Duarte became a part of the Monrovia High School District, with Arcadia joining the two districts in November of 1920. In 1927, the three districts were officially called the Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte (MAD) High School. This union would last almost thirty years. Arcadia left in 1954, with Duarte leaving in 1957.

From 1873 to 1925, Duarte had only one school located at the corner of Buena Vista and Central. It was totally integrated, with Mexican, black, anglo, oriental and Indian children all attending the same school. All ethnic groups, even though small in numbers, had settled "On the Duarte".

In 1925, the Davis School was built to accommodate students living in the Davis Addition, commonly called "Rock Town".

Davis Addition residents, in those days, and even today, were primarily Mexican and black, with a sprinkling of Anglos. When this school was built, it ended 52 years of integration in Duarte. Black and Mexican students went to the Davis School, while Anglos and Orientals went to the Duarte School.



1905 graduating class of Duarte Elementary School

This arrangement would remain until the late 1940's when Hazel Nelson took over as Superintendent of Schools.

Hazel Nelson came to Duarte in 1946, with an impressive list of credentials. She replaced Laura Jones, who had served as Duarte's first Superintendent from 1924 to 1946. Previous to 1924, Duarte had just the one school, therefore, a superintendent was not needed, only a principal.

Under Nelson's term of office, she re-integrated Duarte Schools by having part of the student body attending Duarte School and part attending Davis School. Finally in 1952, the Davis School was abandoned as a school site. It still stands today, and until recently was the Angeles Sanitorium, housing senior citizens.

A New Look

Between 1940 and 1950, Duarte would see seven new schools built. Northview Elementary School was the first school to be built since 1925. The first portion of it was completed in 1949; however, it was not until May, 1952, that enough rooms were added to house the students in attendance at the Duarte School which had been recommended closed by the State Department of Public Works, Division of Architecture. This recommendation came because the Duarte School had been built before the Field Act (1933) and was not earthquake proof.



Above: Duarte Elementary School built in 1909. This is presently being used as the administration building for Duarte Unified School District.



Davis School, built in 1925. This building was sold in 1952, and until recently was used as a home for the aged.

By 1951, school enrollment had jumped to 1,240 students. Hazel Nelson, superintendent, stated in an article that Duarte's average daily attendance in 1949 was 628 students, in 1950, 927, and she stated that the 1951 figure of 1,240 students showed an increase of almost 100 percent in just three years.

After the completion of Northview, the next building would be placed on the south end of the Rancho, on a 12 acre site. The school would be named after Jennie Maxwell, a long-time Duarte resident. Maxwell became ready for occupancy in February, 1952.

This was still not enough to keep pace with such rapid growth, and the district found it necessary to build still another elementary school.

Andres Duarte, named after the original owner of the Duarte Rancho, was completed in 1953.

Up until 1954, there was no school north of Huntington Drive, primarily because of the population trend. The orange groves near the foothills were gradually being sold to developers. This required additional space for students living in that section of town. Thus, 13 acres of land were acquired, but it would take a lengthy court battle to acquire some of the property which was part of the famous Baird Ranch, formerly known as Mt. Olivet. The school district finally won the condemnation suit and Royal Oaks School became a reality in October, 1954.

Beardslee School was next to be constructed. Located on the southeast end of town, the school sits on 10 acres and was completed in August, 1955, just in time for the opening of school.

The last elementary school to be built in Duarte, was Valley View. Located at the edge of the foothills in the Fish Canyon area of Duarte, it was completed in October, 1960.

By this time, the community was ripe for unification. After a positive vote on unification and a successful bond issue, the first units of Duarte High School were completed in time for the fall term in 1957. Only ninth graders went that first year, then tenth graders were added the following year. The next year eleventh graders were added, until Duarte finally became a Unified School District in 1961, educating students in grades kindergarten through 12.

Duarte School structure has changed somewhat since 1952. It has gone from all elementary schools to the present structure of four elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, one continuation high school and one fundamental school.

The District enrollment is approximately 4,200 students. The School District includes more than just the city of Duarte. Statistics for the city are quite different from school statistics. While the city's population is covered in more detail in the section on "Duarte Today", for the sake of clarity, a brief summary follows:

The City of Duarte has a population of approximately 15,000 people. Of that total, six (6) per cent are black, seventeen (17) per cent have Spanish surnames. The school district's ethnic population is twenty-seven (27) per cent black, and twenty-one (21) per cent Spanish surnamed.

The reason for this difference is that the City of Duarte's boundaries are different from the school district boundaries, which were set long before Duarte became an official city. School enrollees come from the City of Duarte, the City of Bradbury, and the unincorporated area southwest of Duarte.

There are two schools which are not within the city limits of Duarte, Royal Oaks, located in Bradbury, and Maxwell, located in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County.

Duarte School District has had only six school superintendents: Laura Jones; Hazel Nelson; Maylon Drake; Dr. Palmer Campen; Dr. Clarence Bloom; and the present Superintendent, Dr. Richard Key.

The School Board

Five members make up the governing body of the Duarte Board of Education. They are elected at-large from areas within Duarte Unified School District. Board Members are elected to serve four year terms. They set policies affecting the schools, and hire all key personnel, including the superintendent. Board members receive no salary, but receive a stipend per meeting.

Duarte has had a number of people serving on the Board of Education since 1873. However, school records were destroyed in the fire of 1908. It is therefore, impossible to complete the list of all those who have served Duarte. During the early years, Duarte had only three Board Members. It was not until 1954-55 that it was expanded to the present five members.

Three blacks have served on the Duarte Board of Education including Charles Sanders, the first to be elected, followed by Frederick Hubbard and Thomas Jones. Two Spanish surnamed individuals have served on Duarte's Board of Education, they include Donald Garcia and Michael Villela.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

1907-08

R.O. Blain, Clerk
 C.A. Brown, Trustee
 Stephen Wicks, Trustee

1908-09

S.H. Ayers, Clerk
 C.A. Brown, Trustee
 Stephen Wicks, Trustee

1909-10

E.D. Northrup, Clerk
 C.A. Brown, Trustee
 A.L. Church, Trustee

1910-11

E.D. Northrup, Clerk
 C.A. Brown, Trustee
 A.L. Church, Trustee

1911-14

E.D. Northrup, Clerk
 Charles Anderson, Trustee
 A.L. Church, Trustee

1914-15

B.W. Gerhart, Clerk
 A.L. Church, Trustee
 E.D. Northrup, Trustee

1915-16

A.L. Church, Clerk
 Mary C. Hoagland, Trustee
 W.B. Langsdorf, Trustee

1916-17

Earl G. Richardson, Clerk
 Carroll Fowler, Trustee
 Mary C. Hoagland, Trustee

1917-30

Earl G. Richardson, Clerk
 J.M. Bashor, Trustee
 Carroll Fowler, Trustee

1930-31

Carroll Fowler, President
 J.M. Bashor, Clerk
 Leslie Carman, Trustee

1931-34

E.L. Leppert, President
 Leslie Carman, Clerk
 E.W. Bushnell, Trustee

1934-35

E. W. Bushnell, President
 Leslie Carman, Clerk
 R.R. Smith, Trustee

1935-36

R.R. Smith, President
 Leslie Carman, Clerk
 John A. Adams, Trustee

1936-37

John A. Adams, President
 R.R. Smith, Clerk
 Clem White, Trustee

1937-38

John A. Adams, President
 R.R. Smith, Clerk
 Clem White, Trustee

1938-39

Clem White, President
 R.R. Smith, Clerk
 Donald Garcia, Trustee

1939-42

Clem White, President
 Charles S. Nickels, Clerk
 Donald Garcia, Trustee

1942-43

Donald Garcia, President
 Louis Diegaard, Clerk
 Charles C. Nickels, Trustee

1943-44

Donald Garcia, President
 Louis Diegaard, Clerk
 Harold Blain, Trustee

1944-45

Harold Blain, President
 Louis Diegaard, Clerk
 R.R. Smith, Trustee

1945-46

Harold Blain, President
 Louis Diegaard, Clerk
 Arthur Hildreth, Trustee

1946-47

Arthur Hildreth, President
 Jack Norgard, Clerk
 Louis Diegaard, Trustee

1947-48

Arthur Hildreth, President
 Jack Norgard, Clerk
 Louis Deigaard, Trustee

1948-49

Arthur Hildreth, President
 Arthur Kimball, Clerk
 Albert D. Welton, Trustee

1949-53

Arthur Hildreth, President
 Albert D. Welton, Clerk
 Arthur Kimball, Trustee

1953-54

Albert D. Welton, President
 Arthur Hildreth, Clerk
 William Salmon, Trustee

1954-55

Arthur D. Welton, President
 Arthur Hildreth, Clerk
 Jack Jimmink, Member
 Jack Mishler, Member
 Betty Noland, Member

1955-56

Arthur Hildreth, President
 Jack Jimmink, Clerk
 Jack Mishler, Member
 Betty Noland, Member
 William Truesdell, Member

1956-57

Arthur Hildreth, President
 William Truesdell, Clerk
 Betty Noland, Member
 Hans Sulzer, Member
 Arnie Willett, Member

1957-59

Arthur Hildreth, President
 William Truesdell, Clerk
 Betty Noland, Member
 Hans Sulzer, Member
 Arnie Willett, Member

1959-60

William Truesdell, President
 Hans Sulzer, Clerk
 Bettie Brooks, Member
 Alfred Speyer, Member
 Arnie Willett, Member

1960-61

William Truesdell, President
 Alfred Speyer, Clerk
 Bettie Brooks, Member
 Hans Sulzer, Member
 Arnie Willett, Member

1960-61

William Truesdell, President
 Hans Sulzer, Vice-President
 Bettie Brooks, Member
 Milton Schmutz, Member
 Alfred Speyer, Member

1961-62

William Truesdell, President
 Hans Sulzer, Vice-President
 Bettie Brooks, Member
 Alfred Speyer, Member
 Arthur Hildreth, Member

1962-63

William Truesdell, President
 Hans Sulzer, Vice-President
 Bettie Brooks, Member
 Arthur Hildreth, Member
 Milton Schmutz, Member

1963-64

William Truesdell, President
 Hans Sulzer, Vice-President
 Bettie Brooks, Member
 Arthur Hildreth, Member
 Anthony Mangan, Member

1964-65

Hans Sulzer, President
 Bettie Brooks, Vice-President
 Arthur Hildreth, Member
 William Truesdell, Member
 Harvey Williams, Member

1965-66

Arthur Hildreth, President
 Bettie Brooks, Vice-President
 Beth Harrell, Member
 Hans Sulzer, Member
 William Truesdell, Member
 Harvey Williams, Vice-President

1966-67

William Truesdell, President
 Beth Harrell, Vice-President
 Burton S. Burgess, Member
 Arthur Hildreth, Member
 Hans Sulzer, Member
 Harvey Williams, Vice-President

1967-68

Beth Harrell, President
 Burton S. Burgess, Vice-President
 Carlyle W. Falkenborg, Member
 William A. Markey, Member
 J.A. Montgomery, Member
 William Truesdell, Member

1968-69

Burton S. Burgess, President
 Carlyle Falkenborg, Vice-President
 Beth Harrell, Member
 William A. Markey, Member
 J.A. Montgomery, Member

1969-70

Carlyle Falkenborg, President
 William A. Markey, Vice-President
 Burton S. Burgess, Member
 Beth Harrell, Member
 J.A. Montgomery, Member

1970-71

William A. Markey, President
 J.A. Montgomery, Vice-President
 Burton S. Burgess, Member
 Carlyle Falkenborg, Member
 Beth Harrell, Member

1971-72

William A. Markey, President
 Frederick D. Hubbard, Vice-President
 Beth Harrell, Member
 Joan King, Member
 Charles Sanders, Member
 John E. Volz, Member
 Jack G. Webb, Member

1972-73

Frederick D. Hubbard, President
Jack G. Webb, Vice-President
Beth Harrell, Member
Joan King, Member
John E. Volz, Member

1973-74

Frederick D. Hubbard, President
John E. Volz, Vice-President
Mary Sue Klumb, Member
Lawrence J. Moore, Member
Michael Villela, Jr., Member
Jack G. Webb, Jr., Member

1974-75

John E. Volz, President
Lawrence J. Moore, Vice-President
Mary Sue Klumb, Member
Frederick D. Hubbard, Member
Michael Villela, Jr., Member

1975-76

Mary Sue Klumb, President
Michael Villela, Jr., Vice-President
Thomas Jones, Member
Arthur Logsdon, Member
Marc Trummel, Member-Vice-President

Duarte City Council

The Duarte City Council is made up of five members who are elected at-large by voters living within the city limits of Duarte. All Councilmembers are elected to serve four year terms. Every two years in March, voters elect either two or three councilmembers. All five seats are never up for re-election at the same time.

The mayor is elected by fellow councilmembers. In Duarte, the term is for one year. However, mayors can and do serve consecutive terms. The mayor is not paid a salary. He does receive his regular stipend as a city councilmember, which in most cases does not cover the cost of being mayor.

Mayor Pro Tempore is also elected by fellow councilmembers. The function of this office, in addition to serving on the City Council, is to assist the mayor as needed.

The City Council is the governing body of the city. It passes ordinances affecting the city, appoints commissioners, hires all key personnel, including that of city manager, and is generally responsible for the operation of the city. Part of their duties includes attending various meetings throughout the State of California.

Since 1957, when Duarte incorporated as a city, there have been 22 city councilmembers and 10 mayors. Duarte has had four city managers. They include Robert L. Wilson, the first City Manager, followed by Robert L. Poff; Robert R. Mitchell and the present City Manager, J. Kenneth Caresio.

Council Members

WALTER C. HENDRIX

Elected to Council August 22, 1957
Resigned June, 1960.

JEANNE ABOUCHAR

Elected to Council August 22, 1957.
Resigned June, 1958.

VERA M. HACKER

Elected to Council August 22, 1957.
Recalled at Special Election January 12, 1960.

JOHN E.K. LINDFORS

Elected to Council August 22, 1957.
Resigned in 1958.

ROBERT SWAIN

Elected to Council August 22, 1957.
Resigned the same night because of a job change.

DONALD H. KEHLER

Appointed to Council August 22, 1957. Kehler had received the next highest number of votes during the June 18 election. He replaced Robert Swain and served until 1968 when he lost his bid for re-election. He has served the longest of any Duarte City Councilmember to date.

HOMER SELF

Elected to Council at Special Election on October 7, 1958.
Lost bid for re-election on April 14, 1960.

WILLIAM H. LANCASTER

Elected to Council at Special Election on October 7, 1958.
Re-elected on April 10, 1962. Resigned from Council
in April, 1965. Presently serving as a State Assemblyman
for the 62nd District.

JACK FIFER

Elected to Council at Special Recall Election on January 12,
1960, replaced Vera Hacker. Lost bid for re-election on
April 10, 1962. Elected to Council again in April, 1964,
but lost bid for re-election in April, 1968.

OTIS GORDON

Elected to Council April 10, 1960. Lost bid for re-election
in 1964.

R. ALOYSIA MOORE

Appointed to Council June 20, 1960. Replaced Walter Hendrix
who resigned. Re-elected April 10, 1962. Lost bid for
re-election in April, 1966.

PRENTISS HAM

Appointed to Council in May, 1965. Replaced William
Lancaster. Re-elected in April, 1966.

NELSON M. MEYER

Elected to Council on April 10, 1962 Only served until October 8, 1962. Moved to Victorville.

NELSON TAYLOR

Appointed to Council November 5, 1962. Replaced Nelson M. Meyer. Lost bid for re-election on April 12, 1966.

PAUL ANGLETON

Elected to Council April 12, 1966. Did not seek re-election in 1970. Moved to Indiana.

KURT HAHN

Elected to Council April 12, 1966. Re-elected in April, 1970 and March 5, 1974. Resigned August 13, 1974 because of a job change.

JAMES J. COUGHLIN

Elected to Council on April 9, 1968. Re-elected in April, 1972 and March 2, 1976.

DONALD R. WATSON

Elected to Council on April 9, 1968. Re-elected in April 1972 and March 2, 1976.

ELWOOD "ANDY" ANDERSON

Elected to Council on April 14, 1970. Re-elected on March 5, 1974.

ROBERT C. HARBICHT

Elected to Council on April 14, 1970. Re-elected on March 5, 1974. Resigned from Council on July 31, 1974.

CARLYLE FALKENBORG

Appointed to Council August 13, 1974. Replaced Robert Harbicht.

J.A. "MONTY" MONTGOMERY

Appointed to Council on September 10, 1974. Replaced Kurt Hahn.

Only three councilmembers have been re-elected three consecutive times since Duarte became a city in 1957: Coughlin, Hahn and Watson. Don Kehler has served the longest of any councilmember; however, he was first appointed to the Council.

Duarte Mayors

Walter C. Hendrix had the distinction of being Duarte's first Mayor. He was sworn in on August 22, 1957. Hendrix served as Mayor in 1958, 1959, and ended his three year consecutive term on April 19, 1960.



Donald H. Kehler served four terms as Mayor of Duarte. Elected Mayor on April 19, 1960, April 24, 1961, May 10, 1965 and December 14, 1964.



William H. Lancaster was appointed Mayor on April 17, 1962, April 23, 1963 and April 24, 1964. He served until December, 1964.





Prentiss Ham was elected Mayor on April 19, 1966, April 24, 1967 and again on April 16, 1968.



Paul Angleton served as Mayor from April 9, 1969 to April, 1970.

Donald R. Watson was elected Mayor on April 27, 1971, becoming the first black Mayor in the San Gabriel Valley. He was again elected Mayor on March 12, 1974 and served until March, 1975.

James J. Coughlin was elected Mayor on April 21, 1970 and on March 11, 1975.





Robert E. Harbicht served as Mayor from April of 1972 to April of 1973. Harbicht, at age 31, was the youngest Mayor of Duarte.



Elwood "Andy" Anderson served as Mayor from April, 1973 to April, 1974.



Carlyle Falkenberg was elected Mayor on March 9, 1976.

Duarte Today

Duarte today is considerably smaller than the more than 6,000 acres owned by Andres Duarte in 1841. It covers over six square miles and stretches from the San Gabriel mountains on the north to the San Gabriel River on the east; Mountain Avenue and the county territory on the west; and the City of Irwindale on the south.

Duarte's beautiful location, nestled against the San Gabriel mountains, makes it an attractive place to live. Duarte is one of the more ideal locations in the San Gabriel Valley, with the 605 and 210 Freeways providing easy access to the greater Los Angeles area and elsewhere in Southern California.

Who are the people who make up the City of Duarte and how do they compare with Los Angeles County as a whole? The best answer to these questions is provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census.

Some of the data has undoubtedly changed since 1970, particularly the information relating to housing values. The trend in housing has steadily been increasing during the last few years. This is true in Duarte as well as the rest of Southern California. In this chapter, Duarte will be discussed in terms of income, education and its people. All data used is taken from the 1970 Census Report.

Duarte today is a middle income community with little undeveloped land left for expansion and community development. Its borders stretches far into the San Gabriel mountains including

the section known as the "Duarte Mesa", located high above Bradbury and overlooking part of Southern California.

Duarteans are relatively young in age, as will be discussed later in this chapter. Duarteans, however, earn more money than some of their neighbors, but slightly less than the county average.

Most of Duarte has single family housing. A few apartments and senior citizens complexes make up the rest of the community.

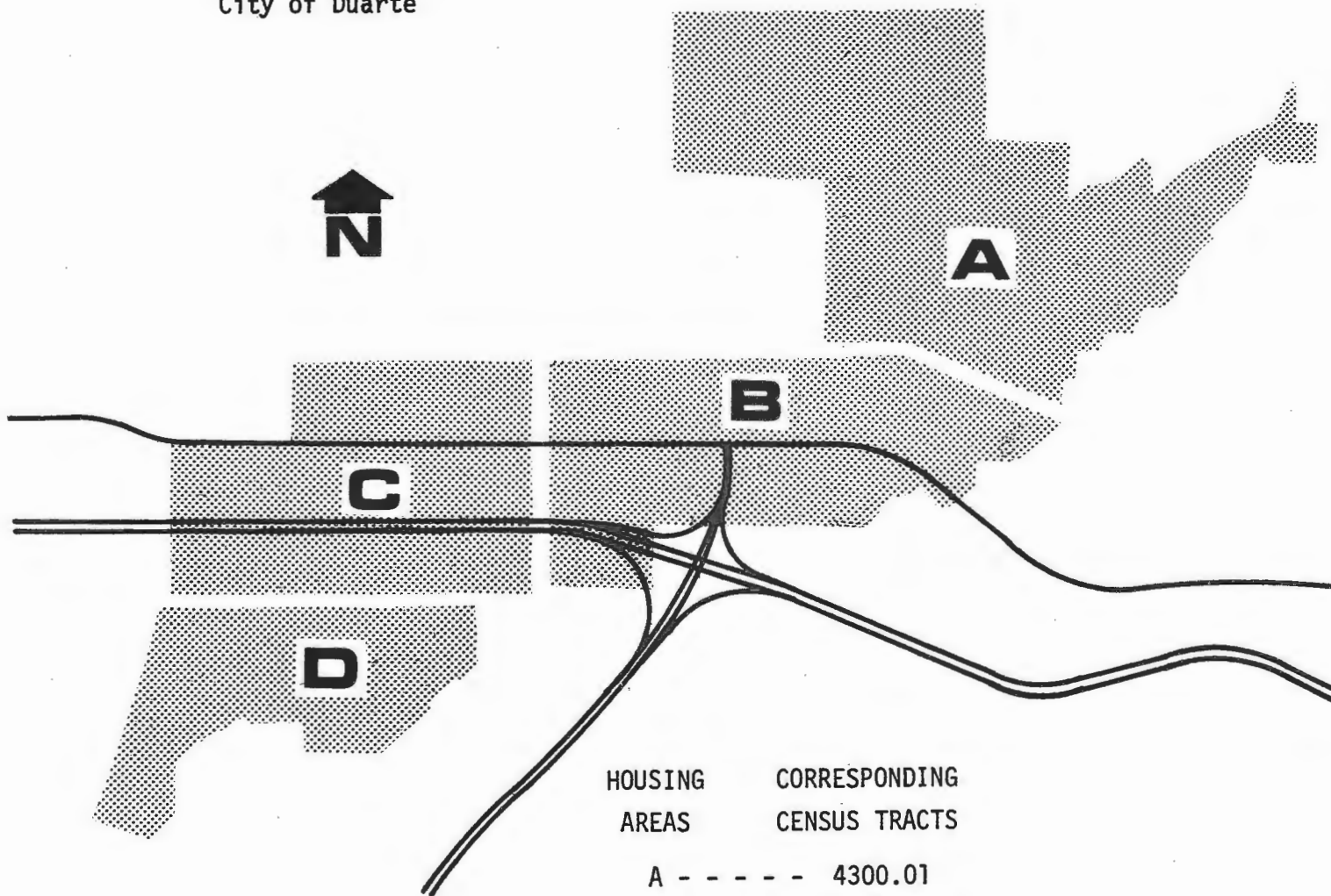
In 1960, Duarte had a 91 per cent white population. This figure changed very little in the 1970 census. During the same year, 1960, it had a black population of four (4) per cent. That figure changed somewhat and today includes slightly over six (6.7) per cent black population. The greatest increase in population has been in Spanish surnamed individuals. In 1960, the total was five (5) per cent. In 1970, Duarte showed a seventeen (17) per cent Spanish surnamed population. It must be noted that the U.S. Census does not differentiate between Mexican or Lation, it simply records all Spanish surnamed individuals.

Duarte will be discussed in terms of census areas and the city as a whole. All statistical information used in this section covers only Duarte, and does not include any surrounding areas.

Duarte is divided into four census areas. See illustration on following page.

HOUSING AREA LOCATION MAP

City of Duarte



HOUSING AREAS	CORRESPONDING CENSUS TRACTS
A - - - - -	4300.01
B - - - - -	4300.02
C - - - - -	4301.01
D - - - - -	4301.02

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

AREA	POPULATION	% OF CITY	SPANISH	%	BLACK	%
4300.01						
A	3,424	22.9	344		34	
4300.02						
B	4,750	31.7	1176		670	
4301.01						
C	3,373	22.5	447		12	
4301.02						
D	3,434	22.9	590		286	
TOTAL	14,981	100.0%	2257	17%	1002	6.7%

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL NUMBER
75+	170	498	668
65-74	251	338	589
55-64	517	569	1086
45-54	883	839	1722
35-44	879	916	1795
25-34	1013	1073	2086
15-24	1087	1119	2206
5 to 14	1726	1550	3276
Under 5	819	734	1553

TOTAL POPULATION	14,981
Female	7,636
Male	7,345

MEDIAN AGE	27.2
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COMPARING DUARTE WITH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

	Population % White	Black	Housing % Owner--Renter		Median Age	Household Size
DUARTE	91 %	6.7	72.7	27.3	27.2	3.37
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	85.4	10.8	50.7	49.3	29.6	2.83
	Median Income	Median Home Value	Median Education	Median Rent		
DUARTE	\$10,298	\$17,260	12.0	\$105		
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	\$10,972	\$24,300	12.4	\$110		

Did You Know . . .

Events and people included in this section, were, in most cases, not covered in the first section of this book. They are brought to your attention because of their importance in Duarte's history.

- Gold was discovered in the hills above Duarte in 1866. Over the years, approximately two million dollars in gold was taken out of the hills.

- The Chappelow Avocado tree was the first recorded avocado tree grown in California. It is located on south Mountain Avenue, just above Maxwell School. William Chappelow, Sr., received his tree from the United States Department of Agriculture, Division of Pomology, in July, 1893. The seeds had originally come from Monterrey, Mexico. Chappelow sold fruit from his tree in 1928 for 35 cents each.

- A.C. Thompson came to Duarte in 1875. He was noted for his development of the "Thompson Improved Naval Orange", which became world famous.

- Simone Schaller placed third in the 80 meter hurdles in the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, in August, 1932. In 1933, she won the United States National Championship. In June, 1936, she won the Pacific Coast Championship and placed fourth in the Olympic Games, in Berlin, Germany, in August, 1936.

- Loretta Turnbull, International Speedboat Champion, won the American Woman's Championship; the College Humor's Intercollegiate Gold Cup; Championship on River Po; International Championship at Lake Garda; Mussolini's Cup; Gabrielle D'Annuzio's Cup, and over 300 other awards. She not only raced boats, but was a master mechanic.

- William Bacon won the Pacific Coast Tennis Championship, the International Tennis Championship in Mexico City and numerous amateur golf tournaments, receiving silver cups and trophies.

- William D. Woolwine was a noted banker, having served as President of the Merchants National Bank of Los Angeles, Vice-President of the California Savings Bank, and Vice-President of the National Bank of California. Woolwine also served as a director of the Security Trust and Savings Bank.

- John Savage, inventor and owner of the Savage Arms Company, lived in Duarte. Savage manufactured automatic weapons and other firearms. His house still stands on Royal Oaks Drive.

- Duarte has some of the more famous oak trees in the area. One good example of such a tree is located on Huntington Drive, just east of Highland Avenue on the south side of the street. One street in Duarte, Royal Oaks, was named after the beautiful oaks located on the Woolwine property.

- Duarte's freeway art, painted by Duarte High School students, were the first murals permitted on freeway retaining walls. The murals won third prize in a nationwide highway beautification contest.

- John P. Dunn was State Controller from 1881 to 1889. In 1894, he was appointed Register of Lands.

- Mid Valley Drug Abuse Council is considered a statewide leader in its field. First started in 1969, by Doris Fifer, an officer of the Duarte Womans Club, Mid Valley has six cities cooperating in its present program. It is under the direction of Dr. Saif Ullah.

- The Duarte 4-H Club is the oldest in Southern California. First organized in 1929, by Leslie and Doris Carman, the club was sponsored by the University of California Extension Department of Agriculture.

- DR. Mildred Louise English, owner of English Manor, is a noted Humanitarian. She served as United Nations Goodwill Ambassador to Africa in 1970.

- The song "CINCO ROBLES" popular in the fifties was written by Larry Sullivan after a street in Duarte by that same name. Sullivan got the idea for the song while driving through Duarte. Duarteans living on the street which is located west of the City of Hope, got the City to give Sullivan the original street sign, as a souvenir. The City replaced the sign with one which had a musical note on it. The song was performed on the Ed Sullivan Show, Tennessee Ernie Ford's Show and Dinah Shore's Show.

- Duarte received some of the most prestigious awards for citrus in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

- Lucile Gertrude Phillips Morrison, Philanthropist and Writer, she wrote the "Lost Queen of Egypt" which became a bestseller.

- Lewis Leonard Bradbury, Engineer, rancher and financier has a building in Los Angeles named after him, as was the City of Bradbury.

- Judge Rupert B. Turnbull served as Referee of the Bankruptcy Court.

- The Meyer orange and lemon variety was developed on the Duarte Ranch of Eugene Meyer.

- W.A. Spinks, Western Regional Billiard Champion, invented the spinks chalk and cue tip still in use today. Spinks was also known for his avocados of the same name.

- Hardiman Cureton was named to Look Magazine and Collier's "All American Football Team", in 1955. Cureton was star player for the UCLA Bruins during the 1950's.

- Buron Fitts, Served as Lieutenant Governor of California. In 1928, Fitts was elected District Attorney of Los Angeles County.

- Esa Ellis, was State Legislator in 1867. He also served as County Supervisor and Tax Collector.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

R. ALOYSIA MOORE

A native Californian and a resident of Duarte since 1946, Aloysia Moore has always wanted to write the history of her adopted city and the rancho from which it was carved. She has always felt that people should know the history of the place where they put down their roots and rear their families.

A graduate of Fresno State College, Mrs. Moore has had poetry for children published in college anthologies and read over the radio. She has been a freelance journalist and designer of children's toys.

A former Councilwoman of the City of Duarte, and founder of several of its organizations, she has an intimate knowledge of what makes Duarte tick.

She is listed in WHO'S WHO of AMERICAN WOMEN, and the DICTIONARY OF INTERNATIONAL BIOGRAPHY.

BERNICE BOZEMAN WATSON

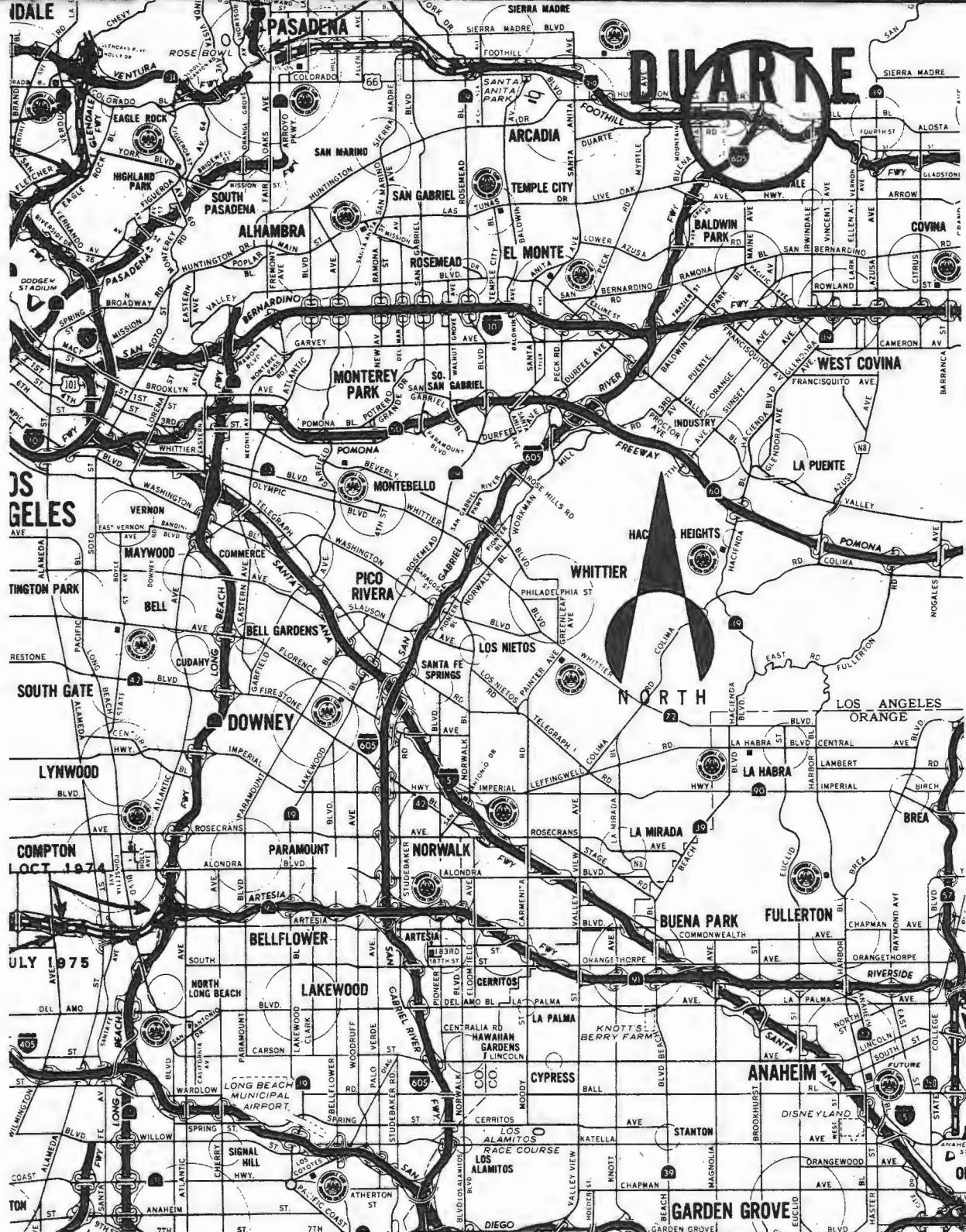
Bernice Bozeman Watson is a native of Jackson, Mississippi. She and her husband, Donald, who has served two terms as Mayor of Duarte, have three children, Mark, Paula and Susan.

She is an award winning writer and artist. She has worked as a newspaper columnist, freelance writer and Public Information Officer.

During her professional career, it was constantly brought to her attention that few people were aware of Duarte's rich history. She felt that it needed to be recorded, not only for Duartean, but for others interested in local history.

She is listed in Community Leaders of American, and has been nominated to the International Who's Who of Women and Marquis Who's Who.

The Watsons have lived in Duarte since 1960.



During the days when the Rancho Azusa de Duarte and the Rancho Azusa de Dalton were in existence, the similarity of the names was confusing. Local residents solved the problem of identity by saying "On the Duarte" when they meant Don Andres Duarte's rancho, and "On the Azusa" when they meant Don Enrique Dalton's rancho. This designation of "On the Duarte" was still used in 1950 by old-timers. We used it for the same reason they did.

R.A.M. and B.B.W.

