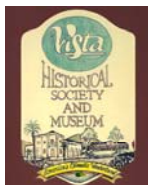


# Vista Historical Society

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, we presented a program on the history of the railroad here in North County. We had a good turnout.

Our two speakers were so knowledgeable, Dr. Herbert Gabriel on the history of the railroad and Tom Kelleher from North County Transit District with his slides of the Sprinter and other important transportation in our area.

We served cookies, coffee, and lemonade and had some great comments on the program. Thank you, board members Melinda Andersen, Rosemary Conway, Lois Cavalier, Marita Allen, and Richard Sepulveda, and Society member Ann Wanczuk, for your service and your support of our efforts to make our Society one of the best in San Diego County.

The two Rotary Clubs here in Vista will be working on their "Rotary at Work" project at Rancho Minerva on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They will be doing yard clean up and maintenance where needed. Please come by and see what is going on.

If anyone would like to help, please call Diane Eckert at 760-726-5465.

Thank You All,

Diane



This aerial view of downtown Vista was taken in 1928, shortly after dedication ceremonies for First National Bank. The bank building, at left center, still stands as the cornerstone downtown structure at Indiana Avenue and what is now Main Street. The circle at right became the home of the first Woman's Club of Vista clubhouse and Community Church.

**MEMORIALS**  
AS OF MARCH 26, 2008

**IN MEMORY OF ALICIA DURAN**  
Paul and Diane Eckert-Volunteer Fund

**IN MEMORY OF RICHARD DURAN**  
Paul and Diane Eckert-Volunteer Fund

**IN MEMORY OF EARL BRACKMAN**  
Jean Bice  
Rosemary Conway  
Paul and Diane Eckert-Volunteer Fund

**IN MEMORY OF THELMA BRACKMAN**  
Rosemary Conway  
Paul and Diane Eckert-Volunteer Fund

**IN MEMORY OF JOI HUTCHINS**  
Jean Bice

**IN MEMORY OF ESTHER HAWKINS**  
Paul and Diane Eckert-Volunteer Fund

**IN MEMORY OF ROBERT FELDT**  
Paul and Diane Eckert-Volunteer Fund

**IN MEMORY OF MURPHY THE DOG**  
Greg and Annemarie Cox

**IN MEMORY OF LUZ DURAN**  
Norma Aguilera  
Ruth Anderson  
Carol Asker  
Robert and Terrene Bedford  
Jean Bice  
Linden and Bette Burzell  
Paul L.V. Campo  
Leonard and Carol Castillo  
Daniel and Sue Carr  
City of Vista  
Sue Coffin

Don and Eve Cole  
Rosemary Conway  
Greg and Annemarie Cox  
Rosemary Duran and Ysabel , Juan, Max, and Catie  
Ray and Harriet Ebersold  
Paul and Diane Eckert-Volunteer Fund

Janeth Eickhoff  
Lorraine Gerz  
Mary Lou Hayward  
Henry and Nancy Hodgdon  
Frances Horak  
Ted and Irene Huntalas  
Stephanie Deck Jackel  
Janice Klafehn  
Bob and Dee La Bouve  
David and Barbara McCluskey  
Betty Minor  
K.C. and M.M. Owen  
B. Parkin  
Karl and Margaret Ramsing  
Julianne Ross  
Verlyn and Bette Soderstrom  
Sally Takata  
Harold Trudeau  
Anna Wanczuk  
Linda and Norman Watson

**DONATIONS-LIFE MEMBER**  
Donna and Hector Estevane

**NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL**

Our newsletter is available by e-mail as well as by regular mail. Sending the newsletter by e-mail does reduce our cost and it arrives sooner. If you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail and do not do so now, please e-mail us at [vhm67@1882.sdcoxmail.com](mailto:vhm67@1882.sdcoxmail.com).

**MAIL, PHONE AND E-MAIL**

Please address any mail for the Vista Historical Society to our post office box:

**VISTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**P.O. BOX 1032**  
**VISTA, CA 92085-1032**

We will not receive mail addressed to our new location. We cannot guarantee that we will get any mail not addressed to our post office box. Our phone and fax number remains

**(760) 630-0444.**

Our new e-mail is [vhm67@1882.sdcoxmail.com](mailto:vhm67@1882.sdcoxmail.com).

**WHERE IS THIS?**

Look closely at the picture below. If you have lived in Vista for any time, you have driven down this street or passed by it. Still doesn't it look familiar? Hmm...well, let me tell you a little history about this road and the family that owned the farm and for whom the street was ultimately named.

The person who owned this farm was born in Pennington County, South Dakota, on July 6, 1891, to Rowena Jane Robinson and Richard Elwood. In December 1922 he married Amye Anderson. They resided in Los Angeles.

Over the years he had read numerous stories about Vista, so he and his wife came to Vista between 1928 and 1929 and bought the property shown in the photo and planted lemon and avocado trees. Although he and his wife never had children, numerous nieces and nephews surrounded them.

Okay, I have given you the run-around long enough, so I will finish by telling you that the person who owned this property, which we all know and have seen, was Royal Elwood Bobier, who died here on August 21, 1956. Based on the last sentence, I hope you all know that you are looking down on Santa Fe Avenue from the left side of Bobier Drive.

So now you have a bit more information on Vista and its residents who were instrumental in the development and naming of part of Vista. By the way, if you have similar stories and photos on how streets or farms, etc., were started and named and wish to share them with the Museum and its members, please contact Jack Larimer at 760-630-0444 or [vhm67@1882.sdcoxmail.com](mailto:vhm67@1882.sdcoxmail.com)



Royal Elwood Bobier



Royal and his father Richard about 1935



Royal and his dog on the farm



Helping on the farm about 1931.



Have you ever been here?

## LUZ DURAN

When Luz Duran passed away on February 1, 2008, at age 92, he left a legacy of community service, love for family and enduring friendships.

Luz and his wife, Margarita, who survives him, were married for 71 years and had three children. They honored their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in January 1987 by renewing their vows before several hundred guests at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Vista. At the celebration that followed at the Camp Pendleton Officers Club, they were presented with a proclamation from Mayor Gloria McClellan declaring "Luz and Margarita Duran Day" in the City of Vista.

In 1990, Luz Duran was elected to the Vista Hall of Fame. He also was selected as 1986 Man of the Year by the Oceanside Blade-Tribune, now the North County Times. He was active in numerous civic and service organizations over the years and was a longtime member of the board of directors of the Vista Historical Society. His efforts were a major factor in the remodeling of the Society's former museum in the Wildwood Community Center complex.

Many of the homes and buildings in Vista were built over five decades by Duran and Duran, the company owned by Luz and his brother Antonio, known as Tony. The Duran brothers were instrumental in the construction of such buildings as the first Recreation Center in Vista, the Vista Elks Lodge on East Vista Way, the Avo Theatre and the Vista Optimist Club building. They also laid the foundation for the Vista Boys' Club facility.

A celebration of Luz Duran's life was held on February 13 at St. Francis Catholic Church.



## NEW HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting this year will include appointment of new members to the Vista Hall of Fame.

The Vista Historical Society is the keeper of the Hall of Fame. New members are elected annually by the Society board of directors as recommended by a committee appointed for that purpose. Among committee members are existing Hall of Fame members.

New members of the Hall of Fame must have made significant contributions to the betterment of the community and should have lived in Vista for at least 20 years

The Hall of Fame has a 19-year history. Created in 1989, it honors significant people and their achievements that have enriched Vista's vibrant history. It was created as part of Heritage Week, and inductions were made in each of the next three years. The program ceased in 1992 and resumed in 1995.

In early 1994, upon completion of the Vista Historical Museum, the Vista Historical Society began to display photographic portraits of Hall of Fame members inside the museum.

Although the museum is now in transition, new members will continue to be elected to the Hall of Fame.

## CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP

Meggin Sullivan (Oriental Medical Arts) has upgraded her membership to a Business Membership.

**CORRECTION:** In our March newsletter, the name of new member Steve Bernath was incorrectly spelled. We welcome our new members and treat them *very well*, and we apologize to Mr. Bernath for the error.

## MONTHLY VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

The volunteers of the Vista Historical Society meet for luncheon at varying local restaurants on the first Wednesday of each month.

The next luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 2, at Coco's Restaurant in Vista. Those interested in meeting the volunteers and learning more about the Historical Society are invited. Please make reservations by calling Mary Lou Hayward at (760) 724-4586. Information is also available by calling the Society office at (760) 630-0444.

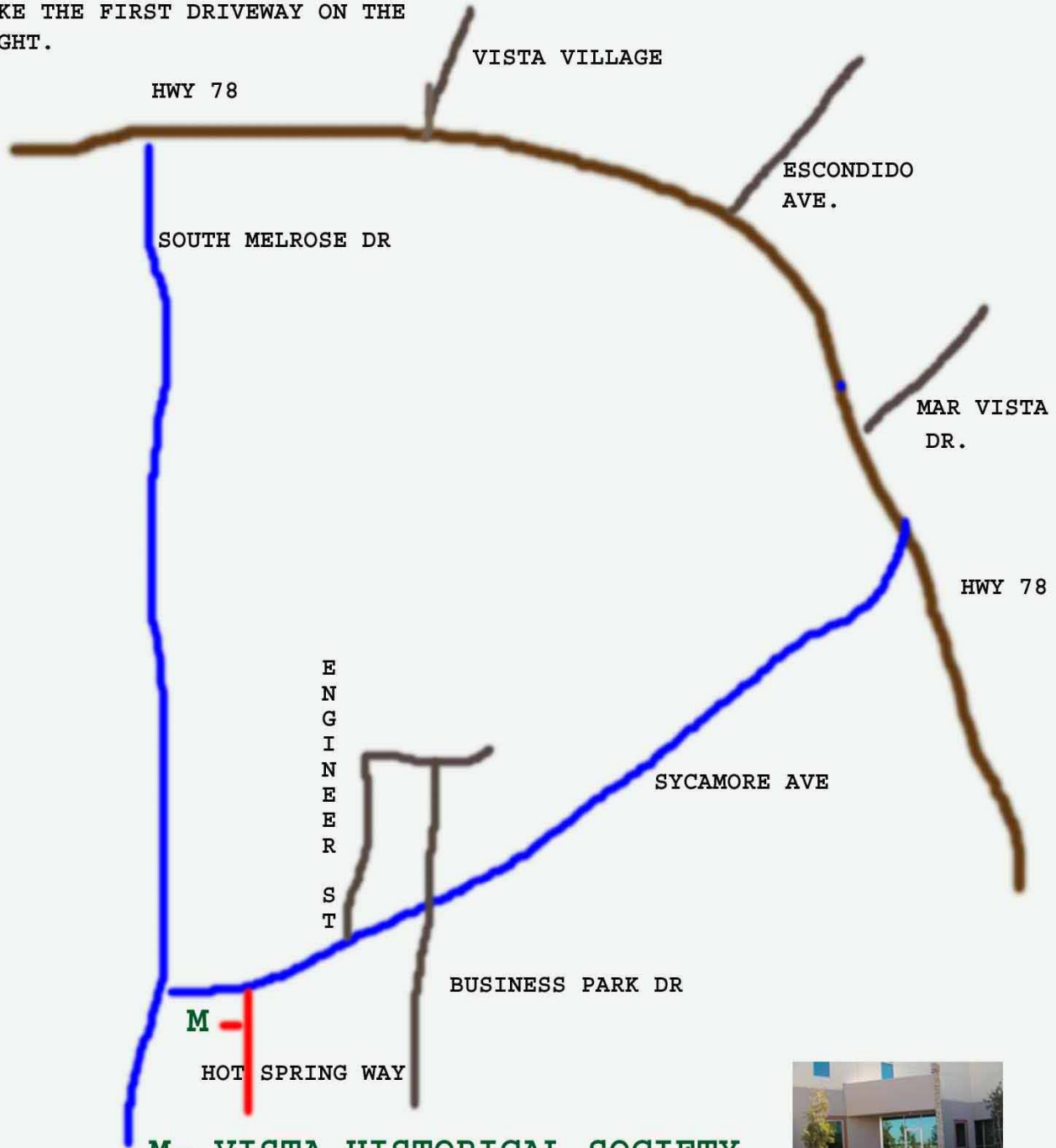
The most recent gathering was held on Wednesday, March 5, at Hennesseys Restaurant on Main Street. The food was good and the camaraderie was great. Attending were Mary Lou Hayward, Jean Bice Rose Mary Conway, Don and Eve Cole, Carolyn Chiriboga, Diane Eckert, Alvora Beck, Melinda Andersen, Marita Allen, Tom Maggard, Janice Klafehn, Lois Cavalier, Pat Richardson, Mary Dolink, Edith Johnson, and Jack Larimer.

TEAR OUT AND SAVE THIS MAP

VISTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1315 HOT SPRING WAY  
SUITE 110

FROM THE WEST: TAKE HWY 78 TO THE MELROSE DR. OFF RAMP. GO SOUTH ON MELROSE TO SCYAMORE AVE. TURN LEFT ON SYCAMORE. GO TO HOT SPRING WAY (THE FIRST SIGNAL) TURN RIGHT ON HOT SPRING WAY. TAKE THE FIRST DRIVEWAY ON THE RIGHT.

FROM THE EAST: TAKE HWY 78 TO THE SYCAMORE AVE OFF RAMP. GO WEST ON SYCAMORE TO HOT SPRING WAY (THE LAST SIGNAL BEFORE MELROSE). TURN LEFT ON HOT SPRING WAY. TAKE THE FIRST DRIVEWAY ON THE RIGHT.



M= VISTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



### MARCH GENERAL MEETING

The March general meeting of the Vista Historical Society was held on Saturday, March 22, 2008, in the Park Terrace Café at the Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace.

Our featured speaker was Dr. Herbert Gabriel, who talked about the history of trains. His father, Oscar Gabriel, worked as a road master for the Santa Fe Railway. Gabriel discussed the history of the railroad in Southern California, including the train line between Oceanside and Escondido now used by the Sprinter.

Also speaking was Tom Kelleher of the North County Transit District, who gave a history of the Sprinter and its expectations for the future. He also gave each member of the audience a free day pass to the Sprinter.

In addition to the program, Vice President Paul Eckert gave an update on the status of our proposed move to Rancho Minerva, stating that he hopes that the historic home will be available later in the year after agreements are made with the city and handicapped access is built.

As always, there were superb refreshments.



**DR. HERBERT GABRIEL**



**TOM KELLEHER OF THE NORTH COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT**



**SPRINTER MODEL WITH CANDY**



**ABOVE AND FAR LEFT, PRESENTATIONS AT THE MEETING**



**NEAR LEFT, RUTH HOLTE**

**PICTURES OF MARCH GENERAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON**



**ABOVE, OUR GENERAL MEETING  
BELOW, VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON AT HENNESSEYS**



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### **PROGRAMS AVAILABLE**

Programs are available for presentation on request for schools, clubs and other organizations. In addition, other presentations can be customized to fit your needs. For more information, call 760-630-0444.

*The next newsletter will be published in May 2008. Please submit articles by April 15th.*

**A small, 3-by-3 foot, two-shelf display cabinet is available to display private collections at our office for the enjoyment of our membership. Please call 760-630-0444 if you are interested in displaying your collection.**