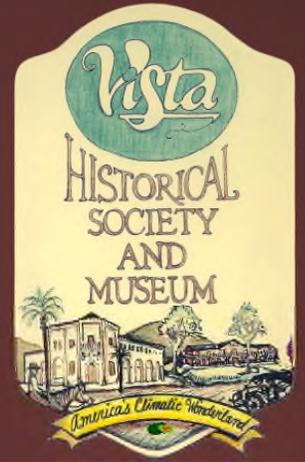


Vista Historical Society
MARCH-APRIL 2015
NEWSLETTER
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
AS A MUSEUM



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY

CAROLYN CHIRIBOGA

Well, Spring is on its way (did we really have a Winter?) and along with Spring comes many events and projects for the Vista Historical Society and Museum.

First, it was my great honor to represent the Vista Historical Society at the ground breaking ceremony for the Memorial Wall in Vista and presenting them with our check for \$2500.

One of the new projects just completed at the museum is the installation of security cameras thanks to a grant received from San Diego County. This leads me to, once again, remind you of the wonderful treasures that we harbor at our museum and to invite you to come and see the unusual and historic items we have on display. Think of the museum as an interesting destination for your out-of-town guests and family. Also, remember to add to your calendar a "save the date" for our "yummy" Ice Cream Social, July the 18th and our largest event and always fun BBQ, Aug. 22. More about both events will be coming in future newsletters and mailings.

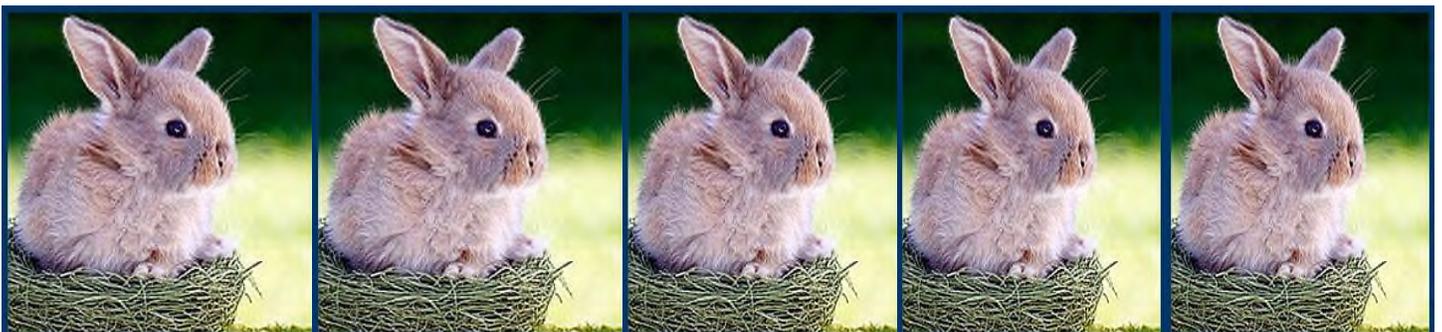
Please enjoy the rest of the newsletter and if you have any suggestions of things you would like to see in future newsletters or have any questions regarding the Vista Historical Society or museum, feel free to call Jack at the museum 760-630-0444 or myself at 760-727-3616.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AND FESTIVAL

By Jack Larimer

On Sunday, March 15, the Vista Historical Society will have a booth at the fourth annual St. Patrick's Day parade and festival. We have participated in all past St. Patrick's Day events. Both the parade and the festival take place in downtown Vista. This year the festival begins at 10 AM and lasts until 4 PM. The parade itself takes place at 11 AM. The festival will of course include vendors, entertainment, and children's crafts and activities.

As always, the historical society needs volunteers at its booth. If you wish to volunteer please contact Jack at the historical society office. In any case we hope to see you there.



MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS

As of February 20, 2015

MEMORIALS**IN HONOR OF PAUL AND DIANE ECKERT'S
60TH ANNIVERSARY**

Robert and Terrene Bedford

DONATIONSDale and Rita Geldert
Raymond Johnson**NEW MEMBERSHIP**These members have joined since our last newsletter
Tyler Pratt**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**Merit Arnold
Martha Faron
Joyce Halliburton
Felinda Mottino**ANNUAL MEETING**

By Jack Larimer

The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Vista Historical Society will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, at the Shadowridge Country Club, 1980 Gateway Drive.

The meeting will include a lunch provided by Shadowridge Country Club. The annual meeting includes election of new Vista Historical Society board of directors members, a report on the society's progress, and the formal induction of new Vista Hall of Fame members.

The lunch choices are:

1. Classic Cobb Salad

Chopped romaine lettuce tossed with tomatoes, apple smoked bacon, grilled chicken breast, crumbled bleu cheese, hard-boiled egg and avocado, with Italian and ranch dressings.

2. Artichoke Chicken

Pan-seared breast of chicken with artichoke hearts and button mushrooms topped with a champagne cream sauce.

3. Grilled Atlantic Salmon

Topped with mango-papaya relish.

The price is \$30.00 per person. For more information and to make reservations call 760-630-0444.

**GETTING TO KNOW THE MUSEUM
COFFEE**

By Jack Larimer

Everyone interested in getting to know the museum and the museum grounds is welcome to a get acquainted coffee on Tuesday, April 7 at 10 AM. We will have Danish and coffee, answer questions, and give tours of the museum and grounds. Learn everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask about the Vista Historical Society and the Vista Historical Museum.

In order to attend, please call the museum office at 760-630-0444 or email us at

vhm67@1882.sdcoxmail.com.

**VISTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2015 EVENTS**

By Jack Larimer

Each year we participate in events held by others as well as holding some ourselves. The following is a projected schedule of remaining events by date. Please consult future newsletters for updates.

March 6 and 7, 2015: Congress of History Conference.

March 15, 2015: St. Patrick's Day parade and festival. As in the past, the society will have a booth there.

April 7, 2015: Getting to know the museum coffee. Join us for a tour of the museum and grounds including refreshments.

May 16, 2015: The Historical Society will have its annual meeting and hall of fame induction this month. The event will be located at the Shadowridge Country Club.

May 24, 2015: The Strawberry Festival held in downtown Vista has become the biggest event in Vista each year. The society will have a booth.

June 20, 21, 27, 28, 2015: The Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum will hold two shows featuring tractors this year. The Historical Society will participate as we have the last few years.

July 18, 2015: The society will host its annual ice cream social at the museum site.

August 22, 2015: The Summer barbecue is also held on the museum grounds.

October 17, 18, 24, 25, 2015: The Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum will hold its fall event on these dates. The society will participate.

December 13, 2015: Our last event of the year will be our annual Christmas Tea held at the Gloria McClellan Senior Center.

We may add events throughout the year and the grounds are always available for private rental.

CARL'S TAVERN

By Raymond K. Johnson

On Sunday morning, July 17th, 2007 a small group of people gathered outside Carl's Tavern at 1565 West Vista Way. At 11:55 AM, Tom Morton, and Chip Dykes lowered the American, Marine Corps, and POW/MIA flags for the final time, ending a chapter in the history of the City of Vista, CA. Carl's Tavern, which was opened in the late 1930's, was officially closed. As the small crowd looked on, Morton and Dykes performed the traditional flag folding of the colors and presented them to Joann MacGillivray, the last owner of the tavern.

What follows is a history of Carl's Tavern and Carl Pohlmeier, the man who came to Vista in 1938 and opened a small gas station and bar at a site just a hundred yards or so from the corner of Grapevine and West Vista Way. It was called Carl's.

Karl Pohlmeier was born March 17, 1905 in Lemgo, Germany. At age 22, Karl booked passage on the SS Cleveland and immigrated to the United States, arriving in Boston on 17 July 1927. His occupation listed on the passenger manifest was "Farmer". In April 1930 Carl, he now spelled his first name with a "C", lived at 2111 S 49th Ct. in Cicero Illinois with his younger brother, Walter. Walter, 4 years younger than Carl, emigrated to Montreal, Canada and on November 6, 1928 entered the USA at Port Huron, Michigan. He and his brother found work in Cicero as telephone repairmen (according to the 1930 US Census). Sometime between 1930 and 1936 Carl and Walter moved to California and lived at 2028 South Orchard Street in Los Angeles. Walter worked for brother Carl who had opened two parking lots called Carl's Auto Park, one located at West 6th Street and another at South Flower in Los Angeles. At some point in the next two years Carl moved to San Diego and on December 23, 1938 received his oath of citizenship in the San Diego Superior Court. Shortly thereafter Carl opened a little place named Carl's in Vista. The wooden building housed a gas station with three pumps in the front and a small bar on the east side. He and his family lived a short distance away on Hill Drive according to the 1940 census.

At this point an explanation is needed, explaining the sudden interest in a little known piece of Vista history. Starting sometime in the early 1970's until it closed in 2007, Carl's Tavern was owned by a succession of retired Marines. Albert Barkauskas, Harry Smith, Robert Bunce, Leo Grassilli, Donald (Mac) MacGillivray and his wife Joann MacGillivray made the little tavern a place for Marines to celebrate promotions, transfers, retirements, and, most of all, the Marine Corps Birthday, celebrated every year on November 10th. In 1987 Clint

Eastwood was at Camp Pendleton filming scenes for his movie, "Heartbreak Ridge". He was looking for someplace in town to shoot some 'bar scenes' and when he inquired about a place that would reflect the Marine Corps tradition he received a unanimous reply – "Carl's Tavern in Vista". The tavern became a local celebrity, and until it closed people would make it a point to stop and see "the place where Heartbreak Ridge was filmed". When the tavern finally closed the little group which attended the flag lowering wanted to continue their get-togethers and after a few years wound up at the American Legion Post 365 in Vista where they were welcomed and were allowed to utilize a part of the building to display memorabilia from Carl's Tavern. The north end of the clubroom became known as "Carl's Corner", and the "Refugees" as the Carl's old-timers were now calling themselves continued to gather there for conversation and cold beer. In November of 2014 Bob Lamb and I started up a Facebook page called *Carl's Tavern Vista*. A few days after we had posted our first messages and photos a young lady ran across the Facebook page and called her mother. She told her there was a website that was telling the history of her father's bar and the American Legion in Vista had some of the memorabilia. Gretchen Pohlmeier Stover, daughter of Carl, made a call to the American Legion and spoke with Tom Morton and Clark Graichen. A couple of days later she and her husband Chuck came to the Legion to see "Carl's Corner" and meet some of the people who were carrying on her father's legacy. I met Gretchen a few days after that and she was kind enough to give us several photos of Carl, their home on Grapevine, and most of all, several photos of the building that was Carl's Bar & Gas Station. It was the first time I had ever seen a picture of Carl. Her assistance in creating a timeline and filling in the gaps in the history of the tavern has been invaluable.

The photos helped in telling the story of the tavern, but, more importantly, gave me a look into how Carl made it all happen. Carl had opened up what was primarily a gas station on Vista way just a few years before the start of World War II. He probably had a good first couple of years, but when the war started – and gas rationing began – Carl was forced to look for other ways to keep the business running. The changes to the building in the accompanying photos help to explain what he did in order for the business to survive. I asked Gretchen about all the changes and she confirmed that, "Daddy was always doing something, always active." And it shows in the pictures. As mentioned earlier, Carl's occupation on the passenger manifest when he emigrated was "Farmer". In one of the photos there is a small vegetable stand next to the gas station. Gretchen

confirmed that her Dad had always raised all sorts of vegetables; had a small orchard of fruit and walnut trees. She remembered how she and her sister used to harvest walnuts before going to school and that Carl would sell them at the tavern. Carl also raised chickens and pheasants – and cross bred them. Chuck Stover, Gretchen’s husband, told me that one of the cross-bred birds was a monster, about two feet tall - and mean. In later years Carl had a boat, the “Lucky Lu”, named for his wife Lucille, docked at the Oceanside Boat Harbor. Carl would go fishing on most Monday’s and would smoke all the yellow fin tuna he caught and sell it in the tavern for a dollar, “a piece so large you almost couldn’t finish it”, recalled Chuck.

Another photo shows signage above the building advertising “Fried Ranch Eggs” and “Fried Chicken-45¢ – “We Raise Them”, “Beer”, and the sign on the west side of the building has the name “Carl’s Chicken Pen”. It would seem that Carl made it through the gas rationing without much trouble. Later photos of the building indicate that he added a small area for automotive repairing for cars and tractors, and farming machinery. This must have been a success for a later photo shows he improved the canvas structure with an enclosed building. The sign above the door read “The Best For Less” and that beer and snacks were available in the bar. Carl surely was an entrepreneur.

But there was one thing Carl could not stop, and that was progress. In the 1950’s the state began its expansion of Highway 78 from 2 to 4 lanes. It reached into Vista around 1954-55 (there is a culvert on the property just west of the tavern that has the year “1954” stamped in it). Carl’s Tavern and the gas station were basically, “caught in the fast lane”. As the work continued on Highway 78, Carl made the move that would result in the Carl’s Tavern that now is located at 1565 West Vista Way. A small café on the south side of Vista Way somewhere in the vicinity of Emerald Drive was in the path of the new freeway. Carl purchased the building, had it moved from that location to where it now sits, and named it Carl’s Café. He had a house built just north of the Grapevine-West Vista Way intersection. The original gas station-bar was gone, forever.

The bar would eventually become known as Carl’s Tavern and was a popular spot when Carl installed a TV in the bar so customers could watch boxing on Friday nights. His daughter, Gretchen, said it might have been the first Sports Bar in North County. She recalls going to the tavern one night a week to watch the Lawrence Welk Show. Carl sold the tavern sometime between 1969 -1971 and eventually he and wife Lucille moved to a small home on Thunder Drive in Oceanside.

Carl passed away in 1986. Earlier in this story I mentioned that subsequent owners “made the little tavern a place for Marines to celebrate promotions...” Long before the 70’s, Carl’s was a favorite gathering spot for a lot of the local military community. Carl’s daughter, Gretchen, told me when she was in high school she used to baby-sit some of the kids in the area so their parents, many of whom were in the military, could go to the tavern for a night out.

Looking back at all the history of the tavern and of all the things Carl Pohlmeier did during his life I’d like to think that I might have spent an afternoon at Carl’s Tavern and had a few drinks with him. Hell, maybe I did but just can’t remember. Beer can do that.



From left, Carl, Carol Jeanne, Gretchen & Walter Pohlmeier

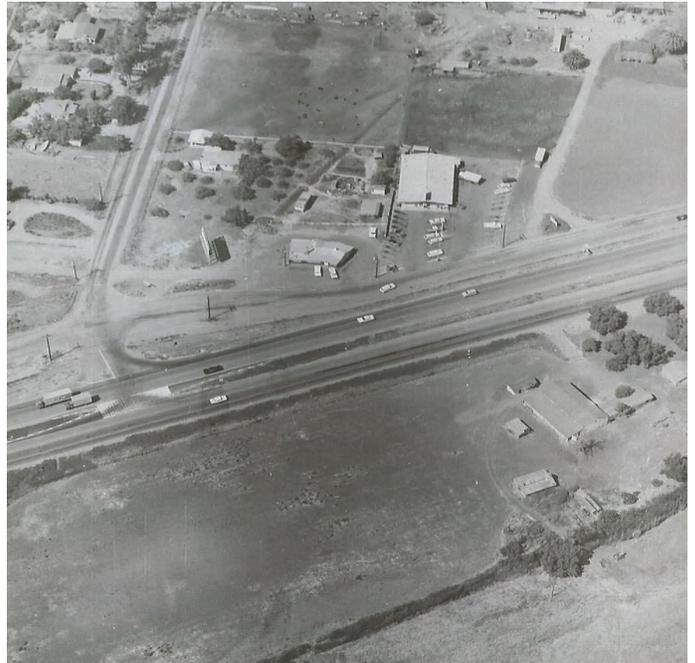


Original Carl’s Bar/Gas Station approx. 1936/1938

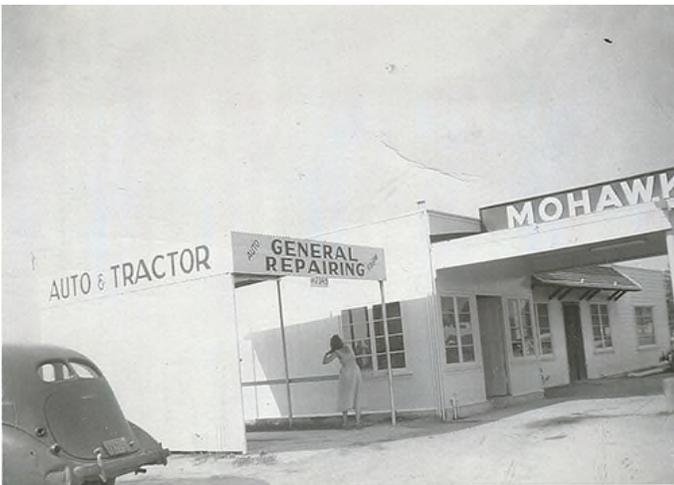
Carl's Tavern



Carl's and chicken pen. 1941



Carl's Tavern - aerial view after Hwy 78 just came through from 2 to 4 lanes



Carl's Tavern gas station and Auto repair mid 1940's



The tavern in use



Carl's Tavern & Snacks



Carl's July 2007

NEW MEMORIAL WALL

By Jack Larimer

A new wall honoring Vista's veterans was dedicated on Tuesday, February 3. The wall was conceived and sponsored by the Vista High Noon Rotary. Now under construction, the wall will be located on Rotary Lane. It will honor all military services. Rotary Lane is located along Vista Village Drive along the frontage of the Magnet Middle School between Citrus Avenue and the school parking lot. Rotary Lane was created in 1966.

Among those participating in the ceremony, were Rotary member and Vista Historical Society Second Vice President Chuck Rabel and society President Carolyn Chiriboga. Chuck Rabel was one of the three committee members behind the effort. Other committee members are Stephanie Jackal, also a society member, and Rotary Vice President Daryl McFarland. Our President, representing the society, presented a check for \$2500 to help in the effort. The wall should be completed by Memorial Day.



Proposed wall



Chuck Rabel and Carolyn Chiriboga



Groundbreaking



Mayor Judy Ritter



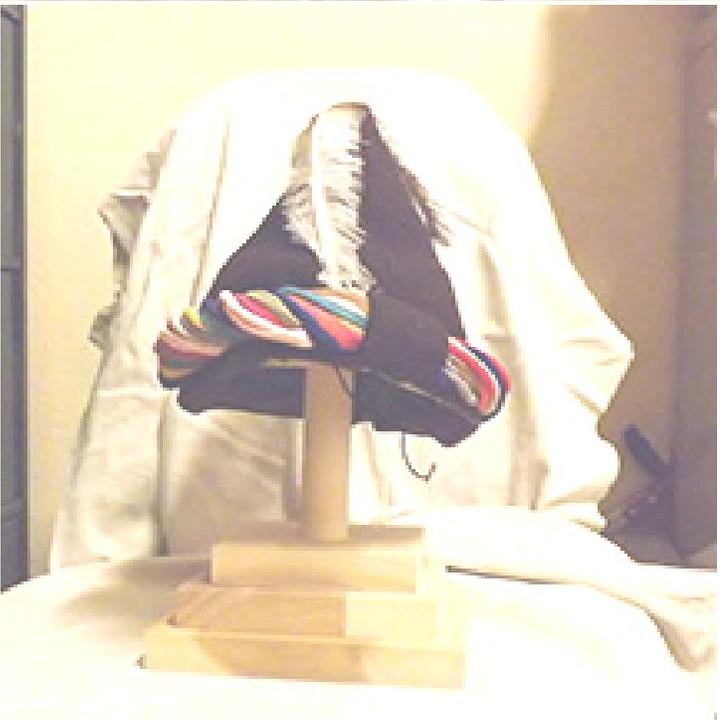
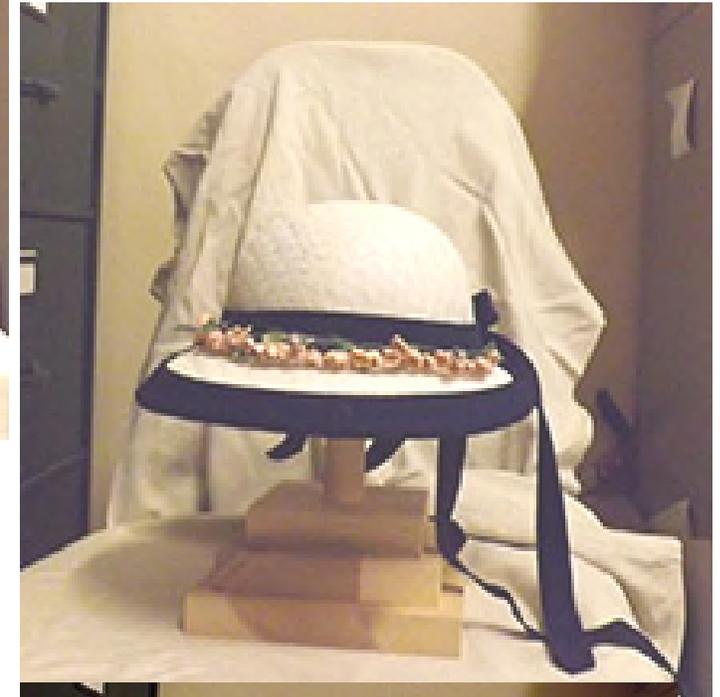
Rotary Lane

NEW EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM

By Jack Larimer

Now on display in the bride's room at the museum is a collection of women's hats recently donated by Felinda Mottino. These 38 hats were owned by three generations of her family and stretch over much of the 20th century. The display includes hats of many styles and types. Be sure to see this display the next time you are at the museum.

Hats that are on display



VISTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By Jack Larimer

The Vista Historical Society is a nonprofit organization run by a board of directors.

Board members are elected at the Society's Annual Meeting for three-year terms. Officers are elected by the board for a one-year term each September.

Last September, the board elected its officers for this year. The officers and the remaining board members are listed below.

Carolyn Chiriboga President
 Alan "Spike" Harvey 1ST Vice President
 Chuck Rabel 2ND Vice President
 Michele Moxley Treasurer
 Sharon Larimer Recording Secretary
 Sandi Graham Corresponding Secretary
 Diane Eckert Board Member
 Janice Klafehn Board Member
 Frank Lopez Board Member
 Paula Nix Board Member

DOCENTS NEEDED

By Jack Larimer

A successful small museum depends on its volunteers for its success.

The Vista Historical Museum has always had great energetic volunteers. Our volunteers are responsible for our museum as it is today, but nothing remains static. As time passes new volunteers are always needed for the many tasks of running a museum.

Tasks that are available to volunteers here include giving museum tours, designing and building new displays, updating our records on our computer network, authoring newsletter articles and other articles for other publications, staffing our events and our booths at others' events, original research, watering the plants around the museum, and much more.

If you want to volunteer your time for a good cause at a great organization, you should give us a try. For more information call the office at 760-630-0444. An application to volunteer is on page 10 of this newsletter.

CONGRESS OF HISTORY CONFERENCE

By Jack Larimer

The Congress of History is an umbrella organization of historical societies and individuals in San Diego and Imperial counties. Each year they hold a two-day conference on the first full weekend in March. This year it will take place in the Recital Hall in Balboa Park as part of the celebration of the 1915 Exposition Centennial on Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7 beginning at 9 o'clock each day. The conference consists of several speakers each day. Included after the conference is a tour of the Botanical Library sculpture collection with pieces from the 1915 Expo and for an additional \$5 fee, a tour of the San Diego History Center. Cost of the conference is \$35, \$25 for seniors, and \$15 for students. For more information check their website at CongressOfHistory.org or call 619-469-7283



HAT NOW ON DISPLAY

FREE TUESDAY AT THE SAN DIEGO HISTORY CENTER

By Jack Larimer

There are 17 museums in Balboa Park. For some time now, once a month on a Tuesday, certain museums are free to San Diego County residents, may have reduced prices for outside tourists, or for other internal events within the museum. Generally, museums are free on the same Tuesday each month.

In order to celebrate their free Tuesday on the second Tuesday of the month, the San Diego History Center invites other San Diego County museums to have a display in their entrance area in order to talk to people about their museum. The Vista Historical Society was honored to take part on February 10 this year. Sharon and Jack Larimer posted a table containing literature and handouts from our museum. We were able to talk to around 100 people that were visiting the History Center. We also took advantage of the displays at the center including a new display honoring Dr. Seuss. Also in the museum were displays about the 1915 Exposition and the military.

Joining our museum with displays and literature were the North Park Historical Society and the Congress of History.

Overall, the day was a great success.



Model of electric cart used in Balboa park in 1915



Part of Dr. Seuss display



Sharon Larimer



Picture from 1915 expo

Vista Historical Museum Presents Rancho Minerva



Built in 1934, this beautiful location has become home to the Vista Historical Society. This landmark offers a quaint setting with over 10,000 sf suitable for hosting your wedding reception/ceremony, class reunion, anniversary party, and more!

We are able to provide:

- 400 sf patio equipped with outlets perfect for use as a dance floor or stage for band or DJ
 - Handicap accessible restrooms
 - Ample parking
- Easy access for vendors and caterers to prep & serve meals
- Tables, and chairs, pop-ups, & umbrellas available in a variety of sizes for your on or off site events for a small fee.



Contact us now to make an appointment to start planning your event!

Paula Nix, Event Coordinator at (760)500-0013,

Carolyn Chiriboga Vista Historical Society President (760)727-3616, or the museum office
(760)630-0444 or email ranchominervaevents@gmail.com

Vista Historical Museum at Rancho Minerva

2370 Old Foothill Dr.

Vista, CA 92084

MEMBERSHIP

The Vista Historical Society depends on its membership for income and support. The benefits of membership include the bi-monthly newsletter, social and educational events each year, and access to historic museum data.

Membership supports our efforts to discover and preserve local history. Please consider joining by filling out the form below and sending it with your dues to:

Vista Historical Society
P. O. Box 1032
Vista, CA 92085-1032

Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms.

Mr. and Mrs. _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

MEMBERSHIP-ANNUAL DUES

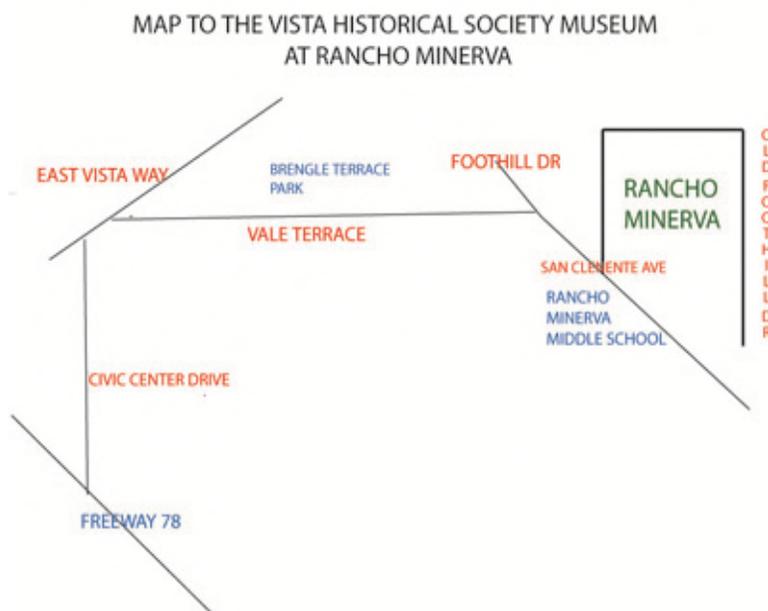
___\$5 Student ___\$25 Individual

___\$45 Family ___\$100 Business, Firm or Organization

FINDING US

DIRECTIONS TO RANCHO MINERVA

Start at the intersection of East Vista Way and Vale Terrace. Turn onto Vale Terrace to Foothill Drive. Go right on Foothill Drive to the traffic signal at San Clemente Ave. across from Rancho Minerva Middle School. Turn left on San Clemente Ave. Rancho Minerva is on the right. Follow the road around the building to the entrance and parking lot.



Vista Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1032
Vista, CA 92085-1032

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VISTA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

2317 Old Foothill Drive

Vista, California

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1032

Vista, Ca 92085

Phone: 760-630-0444

Fax: 760-295-9993

E-mail: vistahistorical@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.vistahistoricalsociety.com>

MUSEUM HOURS

The hours of the Vista Historical Museum are:
Museum hours: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and first and second Saturday of the month.

Office hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Tours of the museum can be scheduled for times outside the open hours. Please call the office at 760-630-0444 for more information.