

# Milpitas Muse

## June 10 Meeting: Warm Springs

Our featured speaker will be Patricia Wipfli-Schaffarczyk, who will tell us about the history of the town of Warm Springs. Patricia Wipfli-Schaffarczyk is a historian at the Museum of Local History in Fremont and co-author of the Arcadia Press Images of America book about Warm Springs; she has many interesting tales to show and tell about the once-famous resort town of Warm Springs, one of the five communities that banded together in 1956 to form the city of Fremont.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Community Room (auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main Street.



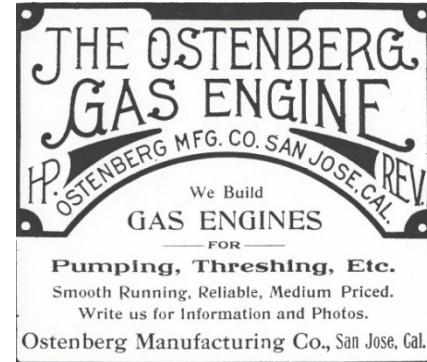
**Warm Springs Resort in 1860**

An added attraction at this meeting will be that our Society's Treasurer, Joe Ehardt, will give a short Show and Tell presentation about the Panama Pacific International Exhibition, which took place exactly 100 years ago, as a celebration of the opening of the Panama Canal as well as a shout-out to the world that San Francisco had arisen better than ever from the great earthquake and fire of 1906.



Admission is free and all are welcome. Please join us!

## Recognize This Name?



There is no Milpitas street, school, or park named after him, but Zeno Ostenberg was an early Milpitas businessman and city official who was also a nationally recognized chemical and medical researcher. He worked at the gas engine manufacturing company advertised in the sign above, along with his father, John, and his brothers until World War I.

Zeno Ostenberg was born in 1890 in Iowa and came to Santa Clara County by train from Vermont at the age of nine with his parents and his brothers Pontus and Nero and sisters Grace and Daisy. He graduated from San Jose High School in 1907 and earned a degree from Stanford University and a graduate degree from MIT. During World War I, as a lieutenant in the Naval Aviation Service, he taught aerial navigation to pilots in San Diego and in Pensacola, Florida.

After the war, he returned to Milpitas in the early 1920s. He opened a factory in Milpitas around 1922 that produced leatherette for the Star automobile, which was built in Oakland. He later gave up leatherette manufacturing and started a rendering plant here processing discarded meat and bones into tallow.



According to a later article in the Milpitas Post, he wrote about the virtues of Milpitas in the Oakland Tribune in February 1923. He served Milpitas in several capacities in the 1950s and helped organize the city's first sewer district, served on its board of directors, and

was a board member of the Water District that brought Hetch Hetchy water to our newly organized town. In 1954, he became the first Milpitas building inspector.

Zeno Ostenberg died at 81 in June of 1971 and was buried in San Jose's Oak Hill Cemetery, as are both of his brothers and his sister Daisy, none of whom ever married. His other sister Grace, who did marry, died in 1943 in the Napa mental hospital.

### **Milpitas Historical Tour**

The Milpitas Historical Society's annual historical tour will be held on Saturday, June 20.



**Jose Higuera Adobe**

The tour starts with docents recalling life on Main Street, Milpitas's historic downtown area, then jumps to visit the Silva Apricot Ranch on Piedmont Road where we learn how apricots at this last remaining apricot orchard in our city are processed (with an opportunity to buy fresh local apricots at their peak), and it finishes up with a tour of the Higuera Adobe and Park, where you can stay for your own picnic lunch if you like and chat with fellow Milpitas residents and visitors.

The itinerary of the tour's locations and meeting times for each place will be sent out in a bulletin to Society members in mid-June and will be available to everyone else through an announcement in the *Milpitas Post*. The tour is free and open to all.



**Historic Casino Building at Jose Higuera Adobe**

### **Historical Society's Summer Vacation**

The Milpitas Historical Society is taking its usual summer vacation, so there will be no Society meetings or newsletters in July or August.

Members are invited to our traditional summer picnic, which this year will be held again in August. A notice will be sent out to all members, giving date, time, and place, as soon as the exact date is settled.

And please don't forget to come back again for our first fall meeting on Wednesday, September 9, at which archeologist Mark Hylkma will tell us of new discoveries about California's First People that have been made in the Castroville area.

### **Milpitas Historical Society Contact Information**

You can contact the Milpitas Historical Society:

- by phone at (408) 320-9587
- by mail at 160 N. Main Street, Milpitas CA 95035
- by email at: [tmhs@milpitashistoricalsociety.org](mailto:tmhs@milpitashistoricalsociety.org).

Here's the new website for the Milpitas Historical Society: <http://milpitashistoricalsociety.org>, with information about the society and upcoming events.

The traditional Milpitas history web page is here: <http://www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html>

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**Milpitas Historical Society**  
**160 North Main St.**  
**Milpitas, CA 95035**

**First Class**