

Milpitas Muse

November 2013

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXIV No.8

November Meeting: America's Film Pioneers

The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will be held on Wednesday, November 13, at 7:00 pm in the Community Room (auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main Street.



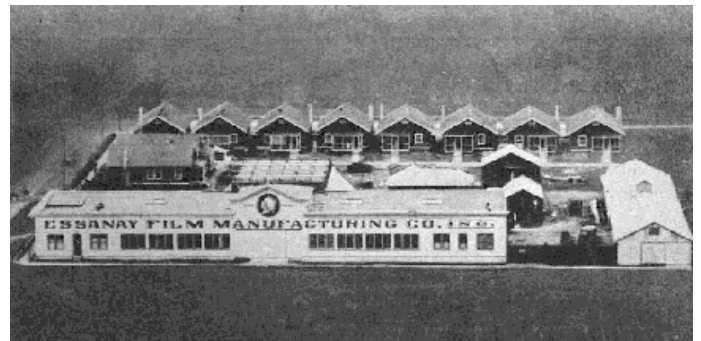
The Niles Essanay Film Museum

Our speaker will be David Keihn, the president of the Niles Film Museum in Niles (now part of Fremont), who will show slides and tell us about what happened when, on Monday, the first of April in the year 1912, the town of Niles, population 1400, was invaded by a small army. The fifty-two members of the Essanay Film Manufacturing Company had arrived by train from Chicago. By 1912, the moving picture profession was transforming the nation and the world with a universal language printed on film. The people of Niles were well aware of this new medium. Charles Ellestyn, manager of the local circuit for the Edison Moving Picture Company, showed silent movies every week in Conners Hall on Front Street (now Niles Boulevard).

David Keihn will tell us about what came next and how these film pioneers, with the help of the soon-to-be-famous Charlie Chaplin, changed a

town and the culture of a whole country with the development of moving pictures.

You can sign up after the meeting for a field trip to the Niles Essanay Film Museum, to be held Saturday, November 16, after the meeting.



The Essanay Company's Silent Film Factory in Niles, 1913

Milpitas Historical Society's meetings are free and open to all. Ask a friend or neighbor to join us!

A Mattos Family Legacy



The old plows shown above are historic pieces of farm equipment from the property of Mabel and Henry Mattos that are to be donated to the city and that we'd like to place in the old farm equipment area of the Alviso Adobe Park. The Milpitas Historical Society has so far raised \$685 to fund a handsome metal sign that we hope will dedicate the area to the memory of Mabel Mattos and her pioneer family and tell about Mabel's many contributions to the Historical Society and to our community. This suggestion will be decided at an upcoming City Council meeting.

We Could Use Your Help!

Would you like to join the Milpitas Historical Society's Board of Directors to help us run our community organization? We are looking for anyone who would like to be the Events Coordinator (setting up our parties, dinners, and picnics) or the Membership Director (keeping a list of the people who join or renew their memberships during the year). If you'd like to join our friendly Board, just give our President Roger Skuse a call at (408) 262-0354 or email at rogerskuse@me.com

Milpitas Street Name Stories:

TRAUGHBER

As part of our observance of Veterans' Day in November, we look toward our Milpitas Streets that are named for US Military Veterans.

Traughber Street, a residential street that crosses North Park Victoria Drive south of Jacklin Road, was named for Navy Veteran Raymond Leeland Traughber.



Ray Traughber was born April 3, 1919 in Chamberlain, South Dakota. Known as "Cotton" to his family and close friends, his nickname was said to have come from the snow white hair he had as a child.

While he was still quite young, his parents moved their eight children to Hillsboro, Oregon, where he grew up.

At 17, Ray joined the United States Navy.

The navy took him many places around the world and he visited nearly every continent. During World War II, his ships were in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. He was on two ships that were sunk in battle, and in one of those incidents he received a battlefield promotion to Warrant Officer. He also served in the Korean War.

In 1945, Ray married another Hillsboro, Oregon resident, Lorraine Shepherd. They were married in April, 1945, in San Francisco. They moved to many different locations during their marriage: California, New York, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Florida, and Hawaii. Their adopted daughter, Peggy, was born in 1942.

In 1959, after having served some 23 years, Ray retired from the navy, and the family moved to Milpitas, CA., where his wife Lorraine worked for many years at City Hall. Ray passed away in January, 1965, after a long illness.

There will be no December Milpitas Historical Society meeting or newsletter, but look for your invitation for our annual Christmas party in December!

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@milpitashistory.org.

There is 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/historicalsociety/society.html>

And there's a YouTube Channel with videos of tours and other historical information about Milpitas you can see here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/MilpitasHistory>

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

First Class