

Milpitas Muse

November 2014

The Milpitas Historic Society Newsletter

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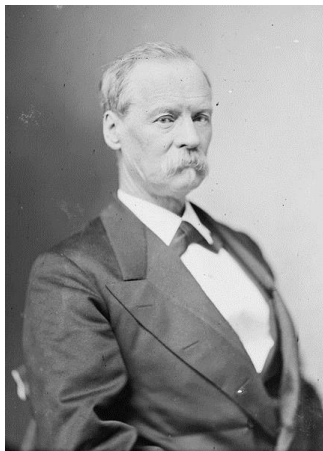
The Milpitas Historical Society's November Meeting

The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will take place at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 12, in the Community Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.



Our guest speaker this time will be Rick Helin. Rick is a fifth generation Californian whose first arriving ancestor, Patrick McLaughlin, landed in San Francisco from Ireland in 1852.

Although Rick currently enjoys the retired life, for thirty plus years he worked hard to earn his reputation for being the 'Dean of Mortgage Banking' in Santa Clara County. He joined the Board of Directors of The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County twelve years ago and presently holds the position of 'Historian' for that organization.



In 2001 Rick's research led to the creation of a feature-length screen play entitled "The Bare Republic." The story details the 1883 arrest of sixty-five-year-old silver baron, Nevada Senator William Sharon, who is charged with adultery after Morgan Hill's sister, Sarah Althea Hill, produces not a marriage license but a binding contract alleging that the two were legally married.

Senator William Sharon

Rick will share all the juicy details about ensuing sensational legal battles (and some illegal ones) claimed by many to be the first, front-page melodrama to capture the hearts and imaginations of newspaper readers worldwide... all as it was being played out in real time.

Our meetings are free and all are welcome. Please join us.

Milpitas Street Name Stories: Valencia Drive

Valencia Drive is a pleasant residential street a short way off Pacheco Drive, which comes off Hillview Drive a short distance north of Calaveras Boulevard.

Valencia Drive was named after Frank "Pop" Valencia, (1900-1962), who served Milpitas school children and teachers from 1927 to 1960 as a custodian, baseball coach, and general go-to person for anything that needed to be done, starting in the Milpitas Grammar School (now the Milpitas library building). Mr. Valencia also served on the Milpitas Water Board and played with the Milpitas Acorns baseball team in the early 1930s. (See page 120 in Bob Burrill's Images of America book on Milpitas.)



In the photo on the left, Frank Valencia is standing in front of the Milpitas Grammar school during his time of working there. In the photo on the right, his son, Dick Valencia, and daughter-in-law, Velma Valencia, stand in front of the street sign, which was installed in 1979.

Sad to say, Velma Valencia (1928-2014), who was a former member of the Milpitas Historical Society, passed away in September, joining Dick, her husband of 55 years. The Society offers our deepest sympathy to her all her family.

Another Member We Have Lost

The Milpitas Historical Society offers our deep sympathy to the family of Evelyn Rodericks Dean (1928-2014) who died on July 14. And especially to her sister, Geri vonWaaden, who is also one of our members. Evelyn Dean was a longtime member and supporter of the Milpitas Historical Society, as well as a generous volunteer for many other organizations.

Movie about Historic San Jose



History San Jose, and CresTV are working with Tricia Creason-Valencia and Norman Klein on a documentary film about San Jose called "Changing Boundaries: The History of San Jose." The film will show San Jose's shifting geographic boundaries and illustrate the stories of people who changed social, business and political boundaries in the city.

The movie will debut Thursday, January 22, 2015 at the California Theatre in downtown San Jose. You can follow its progress here:

<https://www.facebook.com/sanjosehistorydoc>



Holiday Notice!

There will be no December Milpitas Historical Society meeting or newsletter, but look for your invitation for our annual Christmas party (to be held on Sunday, December 14) at the beginning of December. Save the date!

Slate of Officers and Directors for 2015

At the Milpitas Historical Society's November meeting, the Nominating Committee announces the following slate of candidates for Officers and Directors for 2015:

Officers

President: Roger Skuse
Vice President: Catherine Pelizzari
Secretary: Lela Ehardt
Treasurer: Joe Ehardt

Directors:

Archives: Steve Munzel
Historian: Mayvid Maclay
Hospitality: Joanne Souza
Landmarks: Steve Munzel
Membership: Joe Ehardt
Newsletter: Catherine Pelizzari
Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Commission Liaison: Steve Munzel.
Special Events: Harriett McGuire

The election will be held at the regular meeting of the Society on Wednesday, January 14, 2015.

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: themilpitashistoricalsociety@gmail.com

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