



Milpitas Muse

October 2012

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXII No. 7

Next Milpitas Historical Society Meeting: Wednesday, October 10

The Milpitas Historical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 10 at 7 pm at the Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main Street. This month our meeting will be held in the Milpitas Library's Activity Room, not in the auditorium. Signs inside the door will show the way

Roger Skuse, long time Historical Society member, will share his experiences on his recent travels across the western states. He and his wife Shirley did their own antique road show tour and will be bringing in some of their recent finds to share.



Roger Skuse

Roger will also share some of their travel experiences, such as meeting Alan Hirschfield, (former CEO and savior of Columbia, 20th Century Fox and Warner Brothers Studios) at an upscale antique store in Wyoming, meeting the nephew of outlaw Butch Cassidy, and speaking with the last living carver of the Mt. Rushmore monument.

The public is invited to come hear about their interesting experiences on the road free of charge. For further information on the Historical Society, call 320-9587.

Interested in Post Cards?

The Santa Cruz Post Card Show is being held on Sunday, October 7th from 10 am to 5 pm. Directions: Mt. Herman exit off Highway 17, located opposite the off ramp at the Hilton, 6001 La Madrona Drive,

Scotts Valley. Admission is \$4. This is a great place to get antique post cards for \$2 and up; they are displayed by categories.

Milpitas Street Name Stories: Carlo Street

You might remember where Carlo Street is, a tiny one-block street that connects Main and Abel Streets, very near the Milpitas Library. And if you come into the Milpitas Library from the parking garage, you might have noticed large copies of the photographs reprinted below on the wall leading to the library entrance.

These photographs show the original general store, first opened in the 1890's by John R. Carlo. The store was located two doors north of the first St. John the Baptist Catholic Church building on South Main Street.



Courtesy of "Images of America: Milpitas" by Robert Burrell

John R. Carlo Store (John R. Carlo on the left)

John R. Carlo was born in 1871 in the town of Horta on the island of Fayal, in the Azores. One of a large farming family, he came to the United States at the age of 15, stopping for a short while in Boston before coming west to California in 1886. He settled in the Warm Springs area, in Alameda County, and attended school again there for a while, before getting a job on a nearby farm, where he worked for seven years.

He then moved south and farmed a part of the old Weller Curtner ranch, on Downing Road, for eight years, after which he moved into town and opened a grocery and general store with Joseph Pashote. Then in 1908, he sold his interest in that store and opened his own store in Milpitas.



Courtesy of "Images of America: Milpitas" by Robert Burrell

Interior of John R. Carlo Store

In 1904, John Carlo married Miss Lena Pashote, the daughter of Joseph Pashote, and the couple had four children: Mary, John, Alfred, and Joseph.

John Carlo's son Alfred (Al) grew up to become one of the members of Milpitas's first City Council, formed when Milpitas incorporated as a city in 1954. He served as a council member until 1962. He and his wife, Josephine Simas Carlo, were married in 1936. In 1940 they bought Central Market on Main Street from Al's uncle Jack Pashote and turned it into a home-style restaurant called the Kozy Kitchen. Al did the cooking and Josie waited on customers. They served motorists traveling from San Jose to Oakland along Main Street (then called the Oakland-San Jose Road). This was the main route between those two cities before what we now know as Highway 880 was built in the 1950s.

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

The Kozy Kitchen Restaurant was a familiar meeting place and social center for Milpitas for many years.



Courtesy of "Images of America: Milpitas" by Robert Burrell

The Kozy Kitchen Restaurant

In 1999, the historic restaurant was closed and sold by Jim Carlo, son of Al and Josie. The new owners demolished it in 2000 to make room for new development (still unaccomplished). However, the vintage neon sign that hung over the entrance for half a century (shown in the photo above) now belongs to the Milpitas Historical Society. Carlo Street may be rather short but it commemorates a family that contributed quite a lot to Milpitas.

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

Our new web page offers general information on the Historical Society and its accomplishments:
<http://www.milpitashistory.org/historicalsociety/society.html>

The web page has been recently updated with new Milpitas information; go check it out!

First Class