



# Milpitas Muse

September 2014

The Milpitas Historic Society Newsletter

Volume XXXV No. 7

## September Milpitas Historical Society Meeting

The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will take place at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, September 10, in the Community Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.

Our featured guest will be docent Christie Dentry, who will tell us about the historic Patterson House in Fremont, a part of the Ardenwood Farm, a Regional Historic Landmark. The first part of Patterson House was built around 1857 by George Patterson, who after working on other farms, was able to purchase his own land and build a basic farm house on it. Then in 1889 George and Clara Patterson, after 12 years of marriage, added the grand Queen Anne addition, changing the direction of the front entrance and making it the beautiful classic structure that it is today. Ms. Dentry will give us the whole story of the family and how this beautiful transformation took place.



You can sign up for one of the wonderful Patterson House Christmas tours at the meeting. Our meetings are free and all are welcome. Hope to see you there!

## Milpitas Revives Street Festival

On Saturday and Sunday, May 31 and June 1, 2014, Milpitas brought back the tradition of a summer street festival and music and art venue, this time as an International Barbecue. The Milpitas Historical Society's old Rolling Jail was present at the event, as it had been at our street festivals in the past, starting with the Frontier Days parades of the 1960's and 70's .



Attendees enjoyed having their pictures taken with the old jail and were fascinated by the display of antique spurs, tools, and weapons (all dug up in this general area) from the personal collection of our President, Roger Skuse, shown above with his wife Shirley Skuse and Historical Society member Dan Cosper. People also enjoyed looking at photos of Milpitas as it was in the past and learning about our Society.



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## Members We Have Lost

The Milpitas Historical Society offers our deep sympathy to the families of these members of whose passing we have learned since the last newsletter.

Dorothy (“Dottie”) Cestaric (January 16, 1926 - May 28, 2014) lived in Milpitas since 1962, was a longtime and highly valued County Social Services worker.

Peter Rondero (January 18, 1926 – July 27, 2014) was a veteran of WWII and the Korean War, and last lived in Fresno.

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## Milpitas Community Tour

The Milpitas Historical Society’s Community Tour on Saturday, June 28, attracted a good crowd, including some descendants of original Milpitas settlers.



The tour started off at the beautifully renovated Alviso Adobe Park, where docent (and our MHS treasurer) Kraig Bunnell (see photo above) entertained

visitors with stories of the Alviso family, who built the original one-story structure in the 1840’s and added the second story around 1853, and about the Uridias and Sepulvida families, who later inherited the property, and then about the Cuciz family, who bought the property in the 1920’s and grew apricots there until the 1980’s.

The tour then moved on to visit the Silva Apricot Ranch on Piedmont Road, where the owners gave a tour and talked about the process of growing, harvesting, and drying apricots.

The next stop was the old St. John’s Cemetery across the street from the Silva Apricot ranch, where docents Kraig Bunnell and Joanne Souza told tour members about the 110-year history of the cemetery, and the many Milpitas pioneer families whose forebears are buried on this site.

The last stop was the Laguna Schoolhouse, up on Calaveras Road, which was the second school to be built in Milpitas. Participants got a tour of the old building, used from 1865 to 1943, which has many of the original school features, despite being used as a barn from 1949 to 2000.

## 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](mailto: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>.

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

**First Class**