

Milpitas Muse

November 2015

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXVI, No. 9

November Meeting -- Please NOTE: a Different Day and a Different Place - Thursday, November 12, in the Community Room of the Milpitas Police Station

Due to the fact that our usual meeting day, the second Wednesday of the month, this year falls on Veteran's Day, and Milpitas's municipal buildings are closed to commemorate that holiday, we need to meet on a different day-- in this case, the next day.

And because of the extra space required by the Smithsonian Institution's wonderful exhibit, Exploring Human Origins, which will be on display at the Milpitas Library from November 25 to December 13, we were unable to book another time at the library. By the way, don't miss this fascinating exhibit about our earliest ancestors!

Therefore we are meeting this month on **Thursday, November 12** at 7 pm, our regular time, at the **Community Room of the Milpitas Police Station**, 1275 N. Milpitas Blvd in Milpitas.



Russ Robinson

This month's program will feature a video about the historic South Bay Yacht Club (SBYC) in Alviso, narrated by Senior Staff Commodore Russ Robinson. Our own local filmmaker Bob Burrill filmed this talk a couple of years ago when Mr. Robinson was addressing a civic organization's meeting at the Yacht Club.

Bob Burrill, author of the Images of America book about Milpitas, also co-authored the Images of America book about Alviso, and will give a give an introduction highlighting the relevant history of our next-door neighbor town of Alviso.

The South Bay Yacht Club was incorporated in 1896 with 35 members, and included quite a good a number of yachts and launches in its fleet; its members counted local landowners and celebrities among their ranks,.

The historic South Bay Yacht Club building, shown in the photo to the right, dates from 1903, and has suffered its own share of adventures.



1903 South Bay Yacht Club in Alviso

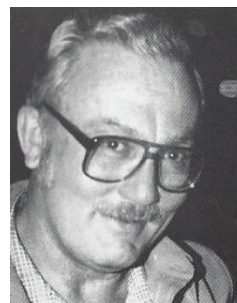
Come hear and see the story of this historic club, its history, and its headquarters, which you can still visit in neighboring Alviso.

Our meetings are free and all are welcome. Hope you can join us!

Two New Milpitas Parks to Be Named for People Important to Our City

The Milpitas Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Commission (PRCRC) recently voted to name our city's two newest parks, still in development, after two people who were important to our city's development in very different eras and ways.

The first park is to be named after **Bob McGuire**.



Bob McGuire

Mr. McGuire (1930-2012) was the first Director of Parks and Recreation for Milpitas (1964 - 1980), was active in the community, was voted Citizen of the Year in 1986, and was a longtime member of the PRCRC. He is the late husband of our current Events Director Harriett McGuire.

After he retired, he served on the Santa Clara County Grand Jury in 1992, and was elected Milpitas Director for the Open Space Authority for two terms. The amphitheater at the Community Center is also dedicated

to him. He was one of the founding members and a steadfast supporter of the Milpitas Historical Society, serving as President and Vice President of the Society.

The park named for him will be a three-acre area included with multi-unit housing developments that are being built north of developments going in north of South Milpitas Boulevard and Montague Expressway. It will feature tennis courts, a small community center building and an outdoor amphitheater.

The PRCRC also voted to name another, much smaller, new park in honor of **Capt. Calvin Valpey**.

Capt. Valpey was born in March, 1806, in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. From 1818 to 1832 he sailed the seas in various capacities, from cabin boy to sailor before the mast; then in 1833 he was made captain. When not sailing the seas he turned to farming. In 1847 he sailed from Eastport, Maine, to Liverpool, England, as captain. The same year he decided to quit the sea, but was persuaded to pilot a vessel called "The Eagle" from Yarmouth to San Francisco via the Straits of Magellan. On November 9, 1850, he left Yarmouth and after five months and nine days arrived in San Francisco. Once in California, he spent some time in piloting boats up the Sacramento River and around the San Francisco Bay. Then with a partner, Capt. James Sinclair, he operated a trading schooner that went from Union City to San Francisco with grain and returned with supplies for miners.

Later he purchased 400 acres of land at Warm Springs Landing at sixteen dollars per acre (right next to Dixon Landing) and built some warehouses at Dixon Landing. He lived there until his death in 1880. He was married to Elizabeth Gardner Valpey (1810 – 1901) and they had two daughters, Elizabeth Ann Valpey Shaw and Mary Alice Valpey Craycroft.

Although he is listed as among the plot owners at the Laguna Pioneer cemetery in Ed Levin Park, his obituary claimed that he is buried in Irvington Memorial Cemetery in Fremont.

Holiday Notice

There will be no Milpitas Historical Society meeting or newsletter in December, but look for your invitation soon for our annual Christmas party, to be held on Sunday, December 13. Save the date!

Slate of Officers and Directors for 2016

At the Milpitas Historical Society's November meeting, the Nominating Committee will announce the following slate of candidates for Officers and Directors for 2016:

Officers

President: Mark Tiernan

Vice President: Catherine Pelizzari

Secretary: Gloria Orange

Treasurer: Joe Ehardt

Directors

Archives: Kraig Bunnell

Historian: Mayvid Maclay

Hospitality: Marilyn Simpkins

Landmarks: Kraig Bunnell

Membership: Joe Ehardt

Newsletter: Catherine Pelizzari

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Commission

Liaison: Steve Munzel.

Public Relations: Wanda Olinger

Special Events: Harriett McGuire

The election will be held at the regular meeting of the Society on Wednesday, January 13, 2016.

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@milpitashistorysociety.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>

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

First Class