



Milpitas Muse

September 2016

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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September Meeting – How the Computer Was Born and Grew Up in Our Valley

Our next meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium (Multipurpose Room) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street, will be an informative presentation on the development of the computer industry here in our Valley.



Our speaker will be Chris Garcia, a curator since 1999 at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, who will give us an overview of the growth and development of computers and how and why this happened in our area.



Chris Garcia

After stints with the City of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department and La Strange and Associates, Chris joined the Computer Museum in Boston. After 6 months of giving tours and scheduling events, he came back home to California and joined the staff of the Computer History Museum.

As Curator, Chris provides information on artifacts, develops content for exhibits, assists in donation review, gives talks, tours and writes articles for CORE - the official publication of the Museum.

Chris grew up in the City of Santa Clara, and was a Curatorial Assistant at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art even before he went off to get his BFA in Creative Writing at Emerson College in 1997.

Please join us for this fascinating presentation about the industry that changed our valley and stay for snacks and conversation afterwards. Meetings are free and all are welcome.



Who Was Milpitas's First Physician?

By Steve Munzel

The first physician we know of to practice in Milpitas was Dr. William Lester Wilson. He was born in 1861 in Crawfordville, Indiana -- then and now the home of Wabash College. One of his neighbors was Gen. Lew Wallace, a Union officer who later wrote the famous novel, *Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ* in 1880.

Dr. Wilson married Sara Lucetta (maiden name unknown) and they had five children: Darby, Walter, George, Carl, and Maud. In the late 1880s, he packed up his young family and moved west. He lived and practiced at 10 Capitol Avenue in Milpitas Township until 1904 when he sold the practice to Dr. Rensaeler Smith, who moved to the "downtown" of the village and in 1915 built the wonderful home designed by Frank Delos Wolfe on Main St. (then called San Jose-Oakland Road).

One of Dr. Wilson's patients was A.P. Giannini, the founder of the Bank of America. Dr. Wilson was a believer in Chinese herbal medicine and periodically traveled to San Francisco with a supply of herbal teas for Giannini. One of Dr. Wilson's great granddaughters, Judith Hill, recalled that he made her and her siblings take a tea made from the herbs and that it tasted awful.

In 1934, Dr. Wilson delivered his own grandson at the old O'Connor Hospital, then located on San Carlos St. in San Jose.

Dr. Wilson moved from Milpitas to the Scotts Valley area and later lived in a large Victorian house across from the old tannery in Santa Cruz where he practiced until his death on October 14, 1943.

Many of Dr. Wilson's descendants live in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Alert: Change of Date for Picnic!

The Milpitas Historical Society's annual picnic was announced earlier as being held on September 18, but due to changes in plans, **the date has been moved to Sunday October 2.**

The time of day is still noon to 4 pm and the place is still Kim Parker's Last Word Ranch, 430 Evans Road, Milpitas.

We hope you will come join the fun and feasting, and enjoy Hawaiian music (sorry, no live band this time). Wear a Hawaiian shirt and celebrate!

Grilled hamburgers and fixings will be provided.

Please bring drinks (water will be available), an appetizer, salad, veggie, or dessert to share, and call:

- Marilyn Simpkins at 408-263-2975 or
- Harriett McGuire at 408-262-7979

to let us know what you will be contributing.

(Please also bring a few extra portable chairs, if possible, so you can be sure of a place to sit down)

We look forward to seeing you there!



Milpitas Historical Society Board Meetings

If you are interested, you are welcome to attend the Milpitas Historical Society Board meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday of the month (except July and August) at 1:30 pm in Group Study Room A in the Milpitas Library. The next meeting is Wednesday, September 7.

Phase 5: The Final Phase of the Restoration of the Alviso Adobe

On Thursday, August 25, the Alviso Adobe Building Construction Project Subcommittee of Milpitas's Parks Recreation, and Cultural Resources Commission (PRCRC) met to gather input on how the City should develop the interior of the Adobe. Several suggestions about what should be added, removed, changed, or left alone were noted, and these ideas will be presented in September to a consultant who can orchestrate what changes will be made and how.



If you are interested in how the restoration of the interior of the Adobe will be managed, you can email Renee Lorentzen at rlorentzen@ci.milpitas.ca.gov and she can let you know when and where the next meeting of this PRCRC subcommittee will take place so you can learn in what direction the process is moving.

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@milpitashistoricalsociety.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: www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html
You can contact President Mark Tiernan at 408-582-378.

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

First Class