

Milpitas Muse

May 2017

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

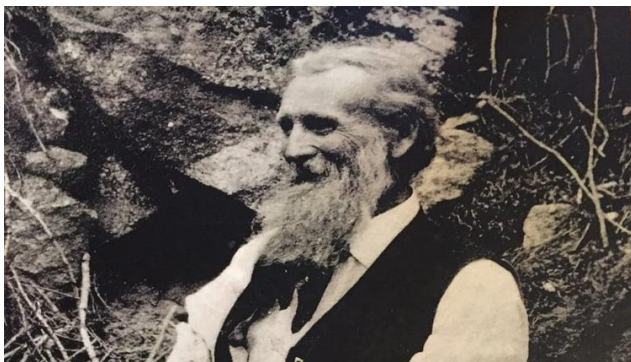
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Large History in a Small Park

The John Muir National Historic Site, in Martinez, is one of the smallest national parks in the country, yet it contains the life story of one of the most important figures in the history of our national parks.



At the Milpitas Historical Society's next meeting, on Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 pm in the Children's Activity Room of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street, one of the docents at this beautiful park will tell us about the life and accomplishments of John Muir, as well as the story of his home (right) and farm.



John Muir

John Muir, in response to America's rapid progress in the early 1900s that was threatening to destroy wilderness places like Yosemite, demanded a system to protect our natural treasures. His tireless writing and campaigning created five national parks and an agency to care for them. Thanks to Muir, the "father of the National Park Service" and the founder of the Sierra

Club, we can all enjoy our country's scenic and historic wonders to this day.



The John Muir House in Martinez

This presentation also includes information about the Martinez Adobe (located on the western edge of John Muir's historic orchard), which features exhibits about the 1775 Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

The building (below) was built of adobe bricks around 1849 by Don Vincente Martinez, son of the commandante of the Presidio of San Francisco and a descendent of the De Anza party. John Muir used it for storage and sometimes for his ranch foreman to live in.



The Martinez Adobe

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

An Overhead Event from Long Ago

The Navy dirigible USS Macon passed over Milpitas on a training cruise in late 1934, because the Milpitas Post Office stamped or at least made available these “cover” commemorative envelopes with the image of the dirigible.



The nearly 800-foot dirigible USS Macon was stationed at Moffett Field in Mountain View from the time it arrived there in 1933, newly constructed, until it crashed in 1935 off the Pacific Coast near Big Sur, with most of its crew surviving. Note that in 1934, it cost only three cents to send this by First Class mail!

History San Jose: Painting the Town

For the next few months, History San Jose highlights acclaimed local sign painter Rey Giese, shown below.



Born in San Jose, Giese created his own sign painting business from the ground up starting in 1935.

Over the course of his career he hand-painted more than 20,000 signs in the Bay Area. Among his early jobs was painting this sign in Milpitas!

His clients were local businesses, public organizations and political campaigns. His career spanned more than 75 years and this large collection of his work represents some of this area’s long-forgotten businesses and activities.

The exhibit is open Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm (1661 Senter Road, San Jose), and is free to the public except during paid events. We hope you can spare an hour or so to revisit the past through the work of this previously unsung artist of communications!

Milpitas International Festival and BBQ

The Milpitas International Barbecue and Car Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21, 2017, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, in a brand new location on Alder Drive (between McCarthy Blvd. and Tasman Dr.).

The Milpitas Historical Society will be participating with our traditional Rolling Jail, now newly refurbished, thanks to donations from members and the Milpitas Home Depot store. We will also have a booth staffed to tell people about our history and sell Milpitas Historical Society merchandise. Come check us out!

Milpitas Historical Society Board Meetings

The next meeting, on Monday, May 1, at 2:00 pm, will be in Group Study Room A at the Milpitas Library. Members are always welcome.

Our Society’s 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: <http://www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html>

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

First Class