

# Milpitas Muse

September 2017

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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## September 13 Meeting: City of Campbell and Its Forgotten Industrial History

At the next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society, at 6:30 pm (*our new start time*) on Wednesday, September 13, in the Multipurpose Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street, our topic will be the City of Campbell and the industries that allowed it to become the prosperous city that it is.



**Barney Terrell**

He will tell us more about the early settlers in Campbell (including the Ainsleys, who owned the beautiful house that is now Campbell's historical museum) who turned their small-town businesses into enterprises that benefitted the community that became the city of Campbell.



**Ainsley House and Campbell Historical Museum**

Mr. Terrell was originally scheduled to speak on this topic in March, but was unable to come at the appointed time, so we are now grateful to welcome him as a speaker

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

Our speaker will be Barney Terrell, an experienced teacher, published author, and enthusiastic researcher of local history who was our docent at the Society's last December field trip to the Ainsley House Historical Museum in Campbell.

## Milpitas Historical Society Annual Tour

The Milpitas Historical Society's annual Community Tour on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, designed to acquaint the community with historic sites in Milpitas, was filled to capacity, and the few sign-ups who did not show up or who cancelled were replaced right away by new riders.



**Participants in the 2017 Milpitas Historical Society Tour at the Alviso Adobe**

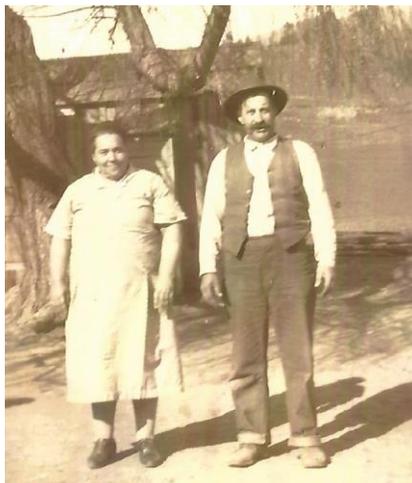
The tour began with a talk about the Society's exhibit of Milpitas historical items at the Great Mall, and proceeded with commentary along historic Main Street, on the way to the 1835 Jose Alviso Adobe on Piedmont Road, then went to the old St. John the Baptist Cemetery where many of our local pioneers are buried, and finally visited the Silva apricot ranch to learn how apricots are processed.

## Street Name Stories: Pimentel Circle

Pimentel Circle, one of Milpitas's newer streets, was named for the family of Manuel and Mary Pimentel, who came to the United States from San Miguel, the largest island in the Azores, in 1906 aboard the SS Cretic (pictured below).



They landed in Fall River, Massachusetts, took a train across the country to San Francisco, where they were met by relatives, Mary and Manuel Alameda, who brought them to Milpitas, and settled down share-cropping peas and potatoes on the Downing ranch.



**Mary and Manuel Pimentel at the Downing Ranch**

Later, in the 1930s, Manuel bought 12-1/2 acres of land on Calaveras Road, across from Air Point School. The family had 11 children: Mary, Angie, Minnie, Joseph, Jess, Rose, Isabel, Margaret, Irene (with Isabel, worked as “Rosie the Riveters” at Henny Iron Works during WWII), Manuel Jr. (WWII vet and first Milpitas



fireman) and Theresa. They lived there until Manuel died in 1947. All these family members grew up to be productive members of the Milpitas community. At left, Joanne Souza, daughter of Joseph Pimentel, points to the sign that honors her family.

## **Annual Society Summer Picnic on August 27**

The Milpitas Historical Society’s annual Summer Picnic at Kim Parker and Peter Herrera’s Last Word Ranch (The historic Belshaw house), on Sunday, August 27, was a very pleasant affair, attended by many welcome new members as well as a large group of members of many years standing.



Member Steve Munzel said that the Society has been having these joyful celebrations at the Belshaw house courtesy of Kim Parker and Peter Herrera since 1995.

## **Milpitas Historical Society Board Meetings**

If you are interested, you are welcome to attend Milpitas Historical Society Board meetings, which are usually held on the first Monday of the month (except July and August) at 2:00 pm in Group Study Room A in the Milpitas Library. However, because of the Labor Day holiday, the next meeting is Thursday, September 7.

## **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](mailto: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](http://www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html)

You can contact President Mark Tiernan at 408-582-3782.

**Milpitas Historical Society**  
**160 N. Main Street**  
**Milpitas, CA 95035**

**First Class**