



Milpitas Muse

April 2018

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXX, No 3

Our Next Meeting, on Wednesday, April 11: A History of Firefighting in San Jose

The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 11, in the Children's Activity Room of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.

Our speaker, John McMillan, the San Jose Fire Museum's president and a veteran of the fire department, will tell us about the soon-to-be opened San Jose Fire Museum at the site of former Fire Station No. 1, located at 201 N. Market Street, how the work has been supported, and how it is progressing.



The San Jose Fire Station 1 on Market Street in the 1920s



The supporters of the San Jose Fire Museum also provided strong support and actively participated in the 1984 reconstruction of the 1869 Second Street Empire Fire House at History San Jose in Kelly Park. This replica of an original San Jose fire house is presently utilized as a small fire museum and meeting hall.

The Fire Museum has restored numerous rare and antique fire apparatus dating from 1800 through the late 1950s.



A 1914 American LaFrance 85-foot Aerial Ladder Truck is one of the pieces of the 55 rolling stock collection of restored antique firefighting equipment memorabilia at the San Jose Fire Museum

We would like to plan a field trip to the San Jose Fire Museum in the near future; at the meeting we can give you the details.

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

Only Fifty Years Ago...

In 1968, Milpitas built this (at that time) modern-looking city hall, which housed all city employees and the council chambers, for \$1 million.



And how things change! In the year 2000, the city hall building shown above was demolished to make way for Milpitas's newest city hall, shown below, which opened in 2002 at the cost of \$39 million.



The Newest Feature at the Great Mall's Historical Society Exhibit

The Milpitas Historical Society's historical exhibits are always changing and expanding, and the latest addition is one of a four-part series of videos about the history of Milpitas. The videos are shown continually on the 46" Samsung flat screen TV set up by our inventive members Dan Cosper and Joe Ehardt that began showing historical shows last October. These new programs are expansions of the popular Milpitas history programs developed by Kraig Bunnell and presented this year to third-graders at the Milpitas elementary schools.



The first part starts as far back as pre-history (see the illustration above) and continues on to tell the stories of the native peoples who first lived here and then the first Spanish settlers in the area, the Missions that they started, and of their later Californio culture.

The second part continues from the discovery of gold in California and what it meant for the Santa Clara Valley in general and the Milpitas area in particular.

The third part covers the period roughly from 1900 to the 1950s, a time when agriculture was the main focus of people who lived in what was known then as "The Valley of Heart's Delight" for the beauty of the blooming fruit trees that covered the area in the springtime.

The fourth part shows the results of industrialization and the resulting suburbanization of the city after industry rather than agriculture became the main focus of the city of Milpitas.

Each of these four parts will be shown in order at the mall display, as they are developed; only the first one is being shown at present.



Milpitas Historical Society Board Meetings

The Society's April Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3, at 2:00 pm 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 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