

Milpitas Muse

June 12 Meeting: California's First Governor

The Milpitas Historical Society's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 12, at 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.

This month our presenter will be Greg Nokes, a journalist who has traveled the world as a reporter for the Associated Press and a historian whose previous books include *Massacred for Gold: The Chinese in Hells Canyon* and *Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory*. He will speak about the subject of his new book, *The Troubled Life of Peter Burnett*.

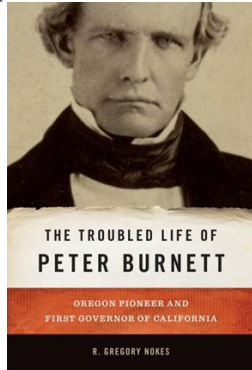
Peter Burnett helped to organize the first major wagon train to the Oregon Country, was Oregon's first elected governor and 5th Supreme Judge of Oregon. He opened a wagon road from Oregon to California, worked with the young John Sutter to develop the new city of Sacramento and became California's first Governor. However, he resigned from most of his elected positions and was widely considered a failure at most of them. What was his problem?



Gregory Nokes

You may have read about a middle school in San Jose that is named for Peter Burnett and is currently in turmoil about whether to change its name.

Come and hear about his ill-advised policies and decisions, and then stay for treats and conversation afterward. Our meetings are free and all are welcome.



Milpitas Historical Society's Annual History Tour Coming Soon!

This year the Milpitas Historical Society will hold its annual tour of historic sites in Milpitas on Saturday, June 29th. The tour is free and open to the public. Participants will be riding in an air-conditioned tour bus with reserved seating.

Check-in for the tour is 9 am in the Milpitas Public Library garage on 160 N. Main Street; the tour will end at 2 pm.



2016 tour group in front of the Milpitas Library

Because our assembling time will be before normal library hours, there will be very few cars parked on the lower levels of the garage. However, as a thoughtful courtesy to regular Library patrons, *please park your vehicle on the 3rd or 4th floor* and take the stairs or elevator to the ground floor to the tour's registration desk near the Society's Leapin' Lena fire engine.

The tour group will visit numerous historical sites in Milpitas with knowledgeable docents providing commentary both on and off the bus. Participants also will receive a multi-page color pamphlet documenting these sites as a take-home memento of the tour.

The tour has limited enrollment because of the bus seating. To reserve a seat for yourself and companions or family, or to obtain additional information about the tour, call 1-408-262-7979. In the previous three years the tour has been oversubscribed, so don't wait too long to reserve your place.

Good-bye to Board Member Moving Away

On May 3, the Historical Society's Board of Directors and friends of Kraig Bunnell, a valued board member and Educational Outreach Program docent, gathered at Omega Restaurant to say a fond farewell to Kraig, who is moving to Florida to be closer to his daughters. He was presented with a certificate of appreciation for the wonderful help and contributions he has brought to the Society over the long years of his membership. He will be greatly missed.



Remembering a Historical Society Member



Louis P. Horyza passed away at his Milpitas home on March 8, 2019, two weeks after celebrating his 89th birthday with his wife, Peggy, and family. He was a long-time and well-loved Milpitas resident.

As a member of the armed forces during the Korean War, Lou served as a tank commander and was awarded many important combat medals: the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star (!), National Defense, United Nations, and the Korean Service Medal with two campaign stars. He was always proud of his military service. Following discharge from the army he joined the National Guard, in which he served twenty-two years and ultimately retired with the rank of Captain.

In 1956 Lou began his career with the Great Northern Railroad in Spokane, Washington and

later transferred to Southern Pacific Railroad in Oregon. With a new promotion came a move to the Bay Area, where he met and married Peggy. In 1975 they moved to Milpitas to be near his work. He served as a Railroad Supervisor at various SP train yards—Oakland, Bayshore, Warm Springs, and San Jose.

The Horyzas were blessed with six children: Stanley, Tony, Tina, Andy, Kim (Dennis), and Chris (Penny), twelve grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

After retirement from SP, Lou and Peggy enjoyed twenty-seven years of the good life as senior citizens. This included special travel vacations and cruises, involvement in community affairs, and dedication to his church and veterans organizations.

Lou was involved in numerous patriotic activities: as president of the Santa Clara County chapter of Korean Veterans and as Department of Defense Ambassador for the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee. Veteran's Day and Fourth of July events regularly featured Lou in his prized Mustang convertible as part of the parade. He was named 2003 Milpitas Citizen of the Year.

Interment was held on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 with full military honors at the Sacramento Valley National Military Cemetery in Dixon, California.

Milpitas Historical Society Board Meeting

The Board will meet next on Wednesday, June 5, at 2:00 pm in the Milpitas Library Group Study Room A. Subsequent meetings will be announced in the newsletter for each month. 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 to tmhs@milpitashistoricalsociety.org
- from our website: www.milpitashistoricalsociety.org

You can see the traditional Milpitas history website here: www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html

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

First Class