

# Milpitas Muse

March 2019

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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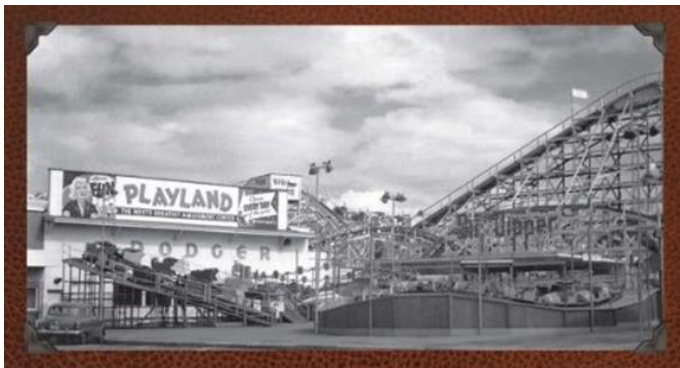
## March 13 Meeting: Do You Remember Playland at the Beach?

The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society, at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 13 will be held in the Multipurpose Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.

The topic will be one of America's landmark amusement parks, Playland at the Beach, a glamorous park that is still revered by San Franciscans more than 40 years after it closed in 1970. Playland opened in 1920 and its pioneering attractions inspired the designers of the many amusement parks that followed.



Playland under construction in 1919



Playland in its heyday



James R. Smith

Our speaker will be James R. Smith, historian and author of two books about Playland as well as books about San Francisco's lost landmarks and "The California Snatch Racket: Kidnappings During the Prohibition and Depression Eras" about a booming criminal enterprise in the 1920s and 1930s that included the Hart kidnapping in San Jose that led to the notorious

lynching in St. James Park.

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



## Milpitas Historical Society Board Meetings

The Board will meet next on Monday, March 4th at 2:00 pm in 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 at [mhs@milpitashistoricalsociety.org](mailto:mhs@milpitashistoricalsociety.org)  
Here's the new website for the Milpitas Historical Society: <http://milpitashistoricalsociety.org>, with information about the society, Milpitas's treasured history, past programs, and upcoming events.  
The traditional Milpitas history web page is here: <http://www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html>

## Milpitas Historical Society's 2019 Board and Officers Installation Banquet

The Milpitas Historical Society held its annual celebration of the installation of its new officers and board of directors once again this year at the Summitpointe Golf Club Restaurant on Thursday, February 21. After Board President Bill Hare welcomed all the guests, Milpitas Mayor Rich Tran performed the installation ceremony, after which the photo shown below was taken.



Mayor Richard Tran, far right, after administering the oath of office to the new officers and board of directors of the Society. The 2019 board includes (left to right) Historian Joanne Souza, Treasurer and Membership Director Joseph Ehardt, Archives and Head of Educational Outreach Programs Kraig Bunnell, Vice President and Newsletter Editor Catherine Pelizzari, President Bill Hare, Landmarks Chair Director Munzel, Secretary Irma Munzel, Public Relations and Special Events Director Harriett McGuire, and Hospitality Director Mary Ann Udoutch

After the ceremony and after the attendees had helped themselves to the delicious buffet-style dinner, our featured speaker, Mark Hylkema, anthropologist, archeologist, and author, gave a fascinating talk about the Native American groups who lived in this area before the settlers came and disrupted their centuries old cultures, their healthy food, their effective land management strategies, and many other things we could learn from them, including that they are still here.



In the photo to the left, President Bill Hare presents an award to Dan Cosper for the wonderful extra work he has done for the Society.

In the photo to the right, speaker Mark Hylkema (center) chats with interested attendees after the presentation.



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

**First Class**