



Milpitas Muse

November 2018

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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Wednesday, November 14: Our Next Meeting's Program on an Undiscovered Treasure of Local History

The upcoming meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society, on Wednesday, November 14, will take place at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main St.

The "treasure of local history" we will be exploring is San Jose's Ashworth-Remillard house, built by James Ashworth, a gold rush pioneer who acquired 250 acres of farm land in 1854 on the east side of Coyote Creek, and built the house in 1860 for his family. Later, the house was sold by Ashworth to Peter Remillard, an immigrant from Canada, who had also participated in the California Gold Rush and had founded a Bay Area brickyard in 1861. After he purchased Ashworth's house in 1891, Remillard established another brick-manufacturing business on the grounds of the house. After his death, his daughter, Countess Lillian Remillard Dandini, inherited the house but did not live there, and she eventually transferred it in 1968 to a longtime friend and neighbor, who, in his old age, in the 1990's, was unable to keep it up. Until it was discovered by our speaker, **Sue Cucuzza**, its fate seemed dim. It is the story of all these interesting people, as well as that of the changing fortune of the house itself, that make this story so remarkable.



Ashworth Remillard House then and now

We hope you can join us for this surprising and inspiring story. Our meetings are free and all are welcome. Hope you can join us then.

We can also arrange a field trip to tour this house in the spring of 2019.

Field trip to Rengstorff House

The Milpitas Historical Society's next field trip will be a tour of Mountain View's beautiful Rengstorff House. This historic structure, designed in the Italianate Victorian style, was one of the first houses to be built in Mountain View. It was built around 1867 by Henry Rengstorff, a prominent local businessman who operated a ferry between San Francisco and Mountain View.



The Rengstorff House

The Milpitas Historical Society's tour of the Rengstorff House will be held on Tuesday, December 11 at 11:45. It will take about 45 minutes. The house will be decorated for the holidays. The tour is free; donations are welcome.

Members who wish to go on this tour can meet in the parking lot behind Red Lobster (503 E Calaveras Blvd.) at 11 am to carpool to the Rengstorff House, or can go directly there (3070 N Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View, CA). There is a nearby restaurant where tour members can have lunch if they choose.

If you would like to go on this tour, please RSVP to Linda Arbaugh at learbaugh@aol.com by December 4, so that the Rengstorff House docents will know how many people to expect.

Remembering Marilyn Hooper Simpkins

September 21, 1930 - October 16, 2018



Marilyn Simpkins

Marilyn Hooper Simpkins, daughter of Thomas Preston Hooper and Margaret Grace Hooper, was born on September 21, 1930 in Oakland CA, where she was raised and attended St. Elizabeth high school, from where she graduated in 1949.

Throughout the late 40s and 50s, Marilyn was very active with the Oakland chapter of the USO, where she met and married her first husband, Vernley Hester. They had 4 children together. They divorced after 13 years of marriage. Marilyn remarried in 1977 to David Simpkins of San Jose.

Marilyn began her working career at age 16 with JC Penny in Oakland, and later went on to work for Liberty Mutual Insurance and Jefferson Standard. In 1972 Marilyn found her professional calling with Hope Rehabilitation Services, where she remained for 35 years, retiring in 2007. Never one to sit idle, Marilyn went back to work after retirement taking a part time position with De Anza College.

Always one to put community first, Marilyn served as a United Way Coordinator in 1994-95. She was also very active in other community organizations such as: St. Elizabeth church Ladies Guild, the Committee to save Hayes Mansion, Milpitas Historical Society, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Campbell chapter, and the Milpitas Senior Center. She enjoyed discovering new places with longtime companion Richard Tait, with whom she traveled to all 50 states, as well as Canada, Mexico, and Europe.

Marilyn is survived by 4 children, Jerilyn Hester Aldrich of Grass Valley, Kelli Hester Woodruff of Manteca, Kevin Hester of Grass Valley, and Scott Hester of Alameda, 14 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren and longtime companion Richard Tait of San Jose.

The Milpitas Monster Movie Celebration

The night-before-Halloween showing of the classic Milpitas Monster film, with a dinner before the showing, was a great success. The sold-out performance, raised over \$1,000 for our Historical Society, thanks to the hard work and generosity of our member and Monster filmmaker, Bob Burrill. Here is Bob, (left) with Krazy George leading the cheering crowd into the theater after the cozy dinner at Outback (right), where he is showing original photos of the film to diners.



Milpitas Historical Society's Annual Holiday Party

The Milpitas Historical Society's annual pot-luck Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 1, from 1-4 pm, at the home of our longtime gracious hosts Kim Parker and Peter Herrera at 430 Evans Road. Watch for your special invitations, which will be mailed out in a few weeks. Hope to see you there!

Milpitas Historical Society Board Meeting

The Society's November Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 5, 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