

# Milpitas Muse

September 2018

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXX, No 6

## Our Next Meeting, September 12, 2018: Two Battling Scientists

The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, September 12, in the Multi-Purpose Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main St. The topic of the meeting is a scientific battle between two scientists, the effect of which is still a major influence on our lives.

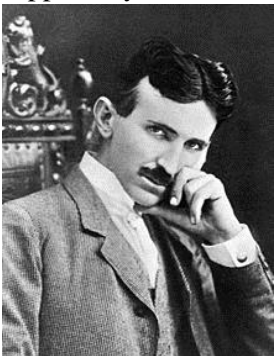


**Jim Wall**

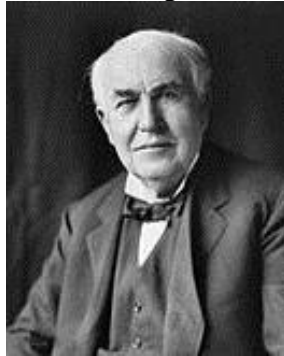
After several successful companies, he retired early and began working with the Museum of American Heritage on its collection of vintage technology artifacts.

This lecture is primarily on the life and inventions of Thomas Edison. It covers his extensive career, his successes and failures, as well as his impact on the world. It also looks at his contemporary rival, Nicola Tesla, and examines his impact and technological contributions to that period of history as well. Guests will be able to examine multiple Edison inventions supplied by the Museum of American Heritage.

Our speaker will be Jim Wall, the current President/Chair of the Board of Directors of the Museum of American Heritage (MOAH) in Palo Alto, where we took an interesting field trip last year. Jim was a computer designer specializing in startups in the late 1970s.



**Nicola Tesla**



**Thomas Edison**

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

## Mabel Mattos Elementary School Dedication

On Tuesday, August 7, the Milpitas Unified School District held the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Mabel Mattos Elementary School, the first new school since Milpitas High School was built 48 years ago.

Born in Madera, CA, Mabel Mattos grew up in a farming family in the hills east of Milpitas. She was one of the earliest members of the Milpitas Historical Society and one of the most valuable contributors to the knowledge we have today of the events and people of early Milpitas. She was also one of the founding members of the Green Thumb Garden Club and was active in many other groups in the Milpitas community.



**Mabel Mattos Elementary School**

Mabel's family attended the ceremony: (l-r) her son Jim, granddaughters Sarah and Emily, daughter-in-law Karen, and grandson Jim Jr, with new Mabel Mottos School Principal Jackie Vo-Felbinger second from right. Jim gave a moving talk about his mother Mabel, and the new principal spoke about the bright future for the K-2 students who will be the first classes at the new school.



## Our Society's Summer Picnic

Once again, members all had a good time at the Society's summer picnic on Sunday, August 12, at Kim Parker and Peter Herrera's Last Word Ranch. The Society was honored by a drop-in visit by Milpitas Mayor Rich Tran, (center, right photo) who was briefly home on a visit from his Army Reserves firefighting assignment in northern California and enjoyed a glass of fruit punch made by Lela Ehardt from Mabel Mattos' recipe.



## Historical Society at Hot August Bites

Below are Joe Ehardt, Dan Cosper and Kraig Bunnell at the Milpitas Hot August Bites Car Show and Celebration at City Hall Plaza on the afternoon of Saturday, August 25, selling some Society T-shirts and books and enlightening many attendees about Milpitas history and our good old 1960s Rolling Jail.



## Our Autumn Yard Sale Coming up Soon!

The Milpitas Historical Society is continuing our revived tradition of a yard sale in front of (once again) Kim Parker's Last Word Ranch on Evans Road. This one will be on Saturday, September 15, 8 am - 2 pm.

Please bring the items you have saved up to donate to the sale to Kim's house the morning of September 15 by 7:45 am with prices stuck on them. It would be very

good if you could bring the articles in boxes and leave the boxes there. If this is difficult for you, call Linda Arbaugh at 408-489-7657 and she will make arrangements for pick-up.

We also need volunteers to staff the sale. If you can do this just for 1-2 hours that day it would be really helpful—and it's always fun! Please call Linda Arbaugh at the number above if you can help. Your help is especially appreciated at clean-up time.

## Milpitas Monster Show Coming in October!

The Milpitas Monster, a 1976 cult classic "horror" movie made by local teacher and filmmaker Robert Burrell with the help of his Samuel Ayer High School students and lots of Milpitas city officials and employees, is as funny and yet relevant now as it was then.

Ticket sales for the Tuesday, October 30 showing of The Milpitas Monster at 7pm at the Great Mall's Cinemark Century Theaters will benefit the Milpitas Historical Society this year!

All tickets will be pre-sold at the Society website <http://milpitashistoricalsociety.org>; click on the image of the Milpitas Monster movie poster on the left side, and when the Monster page comes up, scroll down to the bottom for instructions on how to purchase your tickets online or by mail-in. It's easy!

Hope we'll see many of you there!

## Milpitas Historical Society Board Meetings

The Society's September Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 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](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:

<http://www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html>

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

**First Class**