



# Milpitas Muse

September 2019

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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## September Meeting: Incident from the Bear Flag Rebellion!

The Milpitas Historical Society's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11, at 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.



Our featured speaker will be Paul Bernal, California Superior Court Judge, eighth generation Bay Area resident, and past President of the Santa Clara Chapter of the California Pioneers, who spoke about the Berryessa family and the Almaden Quicksilver mine at

our Installation Banquet in 2013 and about the opening of the Roberto Adobe and Sunol House Museum, in the development of which he was deeply involved, in November of 2016. He will have another fascinating story of California history to tell us this evening. Come and hear about the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846, which involved an unrecognized breakaway state that for 25 days militarily controlled an area north of San Francisco, in and around what is now Sonoma County in California and one shocking incident, involving two well-known historical figures and an outrageous act of violence that changed our local history. Please stay for treats and conversation afterward. Our meetings are free and all are welcome.

## Hot August Bites and Veterans Car Show

Milpitas Historical Society once again participated in the Veterans Car Show on Saturday, August 24, and was able to show off our Rolling Jail and new tent.



*Harriett McGuire,  
Bill Hare,  
Dan Cosper,  
Joe Ehardt  
staff our new  
Historical  
Society tent*

## Milpitas Historical Society's Surprise June Presentation: "54," a film about Milpitas's Sunnyhills Neighborhood

At the June meeting this year, we were supposed to hear a presentation about California's first governor, Peter Burnett, and his strange decisions and policies that caused him to be ousted before his first term was over. Unfortunately our presenter, Gregory Nokes, was unable to be with us that day, due to serious family illness.

However, by a stroke of wonderful luck, we were able to contact Donnie Eiland, the co-filmmaker and producer with David Mosqueda, of the new film "54", a documentary about the Milpitas Sunnyhills housing development, started in 1954, the first planned, successful integrated housing development in California, and possibly in this country.



**Donnie Eiland and David Mosqueta**

The film includes interviews with Ben Gross, Jr. the son of Milpitas Mayor Ben Gross, who was instrumental and many other people who grew up in the Sunnyhills neighborhood and who shared their memories and experiences in a moving tribute to the spirit of community and fairness that

made Sunnyhills a wonderful place for Ford Plant workers of all races and their families to thrive.

## Join us on another History Tour!

On Saturday, September 21, at 10 am our Society will take a tour of the newly opened Fire Museum at 201 N. Market Street, San Jose, next to San Jose Station 1. We can meet at 9:15am at the back of the Red Lobster parking lot to car pool if you want; please let Harriett McGuire know if you want to be included. Otherwise we can meet at the Fire Museum. This should be a most interesting excursion! Hope you can join us.

## Milpitas Historical Society's Annual Picnic

Our Milpitas Historical Society's annual picnic and barbecue was a bit early this year, on Saturday, August 3, but that didn't stop our members from showing up and having a good time.



*(Left –to-right) Allysson McDonald, Mike Pelizzari, Wanda Olinger, Brian Estes, Peggy Horyza, Marie Kaiser, and Arlene Kaiser enjoy the picnic*

An extra benefit was the presence of Donnie Eiland and David Mosqueda, the makers of the film “54” about Milpitas’s Sunnyhills housing development, shown at our June meeting.



*Bob Keely, David Mosqueda, Bob Burrill, and Donnie Eiland at the MHS Summer Picnic*

## June's Annual Historical Tour

The Historical Society's annual tour was once again a success, as more than enough people to fill the bus signed up for the tour, and all were happy with the tour.



*Participants in this year's tour, as they prepare to board the bus in front of the Milpitas Library*



*(L) President Bill Hare and Treasurer Joe Ehardt docenting at the Alviso Adobe as part of the Historic Tour (R) Catherine Pelizzari and Harriett McGuire selling books and T-shirts under our new Society tent*

## -Milpitas Historical Society Board Meeting

The Board will meet next on Tuesday, September 3, 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](mailto:tmhs@milpitashistoricalsociety.org)
- from our website: [www.milpitashistoricalsociety.org](http://www.milpitashistoricalsociety.org)

You can see the traditional Milpitas history website here: [www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html](http://www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html)

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

**First Class**