



Milpitas Muse

October 2013

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXIV No.7

Society's October Meeting: Old San Jose

The upcoming meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will be held on Wednesday, October 9, at 7:00 pm in the Community Room (auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main Street.

The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County will be presenting a movie, "Changing San Jose," highlighting clips from their Pioneers Film Archive. The Archive was founded in 2009, and has since grown into the single largest repository of the Santa Clara Valley's motion picture history. The program will feature film clips from 1896 to the modern day, focusing on home movies, newsreels, promotional films, and documentaries showing the changing and growing community, from its days as the "Valley of Heart's Delight" to the rise of "Silicon Valley." Film Archive Director Bill Foley calls it "the next best thing to a time machine." Jim Zetterquist, Rick Helin, and other Pioneers will be on hand to talk about the Pioneers Film Archive's free program to digitize home movies in the community and archive them for posterity.



Time Tripping: San Jose's First City Hall, built in 1887

Milpitas Historical Society's Sunnyvale Museum Tour

The Society's tour of the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum on Sunday, September 15, turned out to be most interesting; and included exhibits about Lockheed's history, early Sunnyvale personalities, for whom many of its streets were named, even more information about the Murphy family, and so much more. If you haven't visited it recently, it is very much worth the time to do so.



Left to right, Lynne Durante, Jan Hamberger, Roger Skuse, Shirley Skuse, Marilyn Simkins, Mayvid McClay outside the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum

Show and Tell!

Do you or a friend or family member have any interesting family treasures or historic objects you could tell us about? We'd love to have one or two members or friends do a "show and tell" for about 5 minutes at each of our upcoming meetings. If you have any family, community, or historical treasures you could tell us about, please call President Roger Skuse at 408/262-0354 to sign up for a meeting.

Milpitas History Museum Plans

The Milpitas Community Museum (MCM) Group has just now finally received its non-profit status from the government. They are currently looking for an appropriate home for all the Milpitas History artifacts that are now stored in various places courtesy of members.

The Frontier Jail is Back!



The little rolling jail that was once the humorous hit of Milpitas's old-timey Frontier Days parade and celebrations (1962-1978 and then renamed) has now been acquired by the Historical Society. After it has undergone a bit of restoration, it will again be able to be used for Milpitas celebrations.

Milpitas Street Name Stories:

Serpa Drive

Serpa Drive, a small residential **street** a bit west of Evans Road, was named for the family of Frank Serpa, a pioneer Milpitas rancher, was born in the US in January 1909, to Francisco Antonio Serpa and Maria Jesus Ferreira; he was the seventh of eight children. Constantine Serpa was one of his brothers.

He came to Milpitas with his family in 1928, but later lived in Fallon, Nevada and elsewhere in Santa Clara County before returning the next year. Then he went back to the Azores in 1929 to work

and there he met and married his wife Emilia in April 1929. They returned to the US in 1931, and lived in San Jose for four years. They bought a dairy in 1935 on Jacklin Road and sold it on November 1948. The dairy had 300 cows and employed six milkers, who worked first by hand and then with milking machines. Eventually they employed up to 11 workers. The dairy had two cabins for the working men. Most of the workers came from the Azores. Their son Frank Jr. was born in 1937. He went to Milpitas school until 5th grade. Then the family moved to Warm Springs, right on the border of Alameda County in 1947 and Frank Jr. went to school in Warm Springs. They moved to a house closer to downtown Milpitas in 1968.

Save Your Family's Old Home Movies

Do you have old home movies on film or tape that you'd like to be able to see again? The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County wants to preserve your home movies and provide you DVD copies. For information, contact them at (408)317-8249 or

Films@CaliforniaPioneers.com.

Milpitas Historical Society Contact Information

You can contact the Milpitas Historical Society:

- by phone at (408) 320-9587
- by mail at 160 N. Main Street, Milpitas CA 95035
- by email at: tmhs@milpitashistory.org.

There is 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/historicalsociety/society.html>

And there's a YouTube Channel with videos of tours and other historical information about Milpitas you can see here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/MilpitasHistory>

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First Class