



# Milpitas Muse

November 2017

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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## November 8 Meeting: Film History of San Jose (This time for sure!)

The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will be at 6:30 pm (*our new start time*) on Wednesday, November 8, in the Multipurpose Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street. We will show the film "Changing Boundaries: a History of San Jose," which we tried to show at the June meeting but were prevented from doing so by equipment failures.



This film, made in 2015-16, tells the story of the working people, political leaders, and dreamers who built the City of San Jose. Produced by Norman Kline and CreaTV San Jose, and directed by Tricia Creason-Valencia, the film's production includes a key collaboration with History San Jose, which provided archival photography and documents. Narrated by San Jose native and actor Daniel P. Wilson, and featuring an original musical score by Grammy nominee Robert Berry, this first-of-its-kind feature-length documentary showcases interviews with key historical figures, from farmers to civic leaders, including Tom McEnery, Blanca Alvarado and Norman Mineta, and notable local historians Terry Christensen, Nannette Regua and Steven Millner.

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

## Milpitas History Comes Alive at Sinnott School

*By Joseph Ehardt,*

This year the Milpitas Historical Society started an educational outreach project whose first phase focuses on helping third graders in Milpitas' elementary schools appreciate their local history. Our timing was fortunate because recently the Society received a request from Mrs. Jeannie Lam, third grade teacher at Sinnott Elementary School, asking for any support that the Society might provide about that subject.

What resulted through her coordination was a visit by the Society on September 21 to Sinnott in which a presentation was made to each of four classes -- in all, over 100 students attended. Presentations to other schools are now being scheduled, including to Curtner School on November 30.

Designed by Kraig Bunnell, the Society's Director of Archives and Landmarks, the presentation entitled "Milpitas History" is truly multimedia, built around a PowerPoint slide show containing 87 slides running 35-40 minutes in length. It spans Milpitas history from prehistoric times to as recently as the first Tour de California cycling race in 2008.



What really catches the attention of third graders are the many historical artifacts that Kraig has paired with the slides. The kids get to look at and touch physical objects such as replicas of prehistoric animals that swam in our

waters and roamed our landscape, a real Indian stone spear point, an obsidian arrowhead, a stone gill hook for fishing, and the tools with which Muwekma Ohlone Indians created cooking and ceremonial fires. There were examples of what life was like at Rancho Milpitas during the Spanish and then Mexican eras of the 1700-1800s, samples of real gold (that generated some student wows) to connect them with the 1850 California Gold Rush period, and even collections of coins showing the changes in appearance of U.S. currency over time (including an early Spanish “Dolar” coin that circulated as legal U.S. currency until the 1850s), and on a separate display table, objects reflecting daily household life up to the early 1900s.

The PowerPoint show and the circulating artifacts are all tied together with Kraig’s colorful narration, and he attentively listens to and responds to questions raised by the students. Afterward, if any of the students missed seeing an object, they could pick up and look at the objects.

### 🌿🌿 **Holiday Notice** 🌿🌿

There will be no Milpitas Historical Society meeting or newsletter in December, but look for your invitation soon for our annual Christmas party, to be held on an as-yet-unconfirmed Sunday in December. Stay tuned!

### 🌿🌿 **More Holiday Fun Events** 🌿🌿

#### ***Happy Birthday San Jose***

Celebrate the 238th Birthday of San Jose at the Peralta Adobe-Fallon House Historic Site, 175 West St. John Street, at San Pedro Square Market on Saturday, November 21, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Features include cake, tours of the historic Fallon House, and a variety of history-inspired hands-on activities for kids of all ages.

#### ***Historic House Photos***

Our Society member, photographer Gabriel Ibarra, will be showing his 6th Annual Historic Homes Photographic Exhibition from November 1, 2017 to January 10, 2018 at the Santa Clara Senior Center, 1303 Fremont Ave, Santa Clara; open Mon-Thurs 7-7pm, Fri 7-5pm, Sat 9-12 pm.

### **Milpitas Historical Society’s Yard Sale**

The Milpitas Historical Society’s yard sale at Kim Parker’s Last Word Ranch on October 7 was a great success, and earned the Society over \$600. Enormous thanks is due to all the Society volunteers who donated items, set them up at the sale, staffed the tables, and helped with the cleanup afterwards, especially to Joe Ehardt, who donated the use of his truck and took the time to help a couple who bought a fancy TV screen to set it up and attach to their home system. He also took this photo of the sale, which appeared last week in the Milpitas Post, showing volunteers Joanne Souza, Barbara Bowman, Kraig Bunnell, Harriett McGuire, and Catherine Pelizzari.



### **Milpitas Historical Society Board Meetings**

If you are interested, you are welcome to attend Milpitas Historical Society Board meetings, which are usually held on the first Monday of the month (except July and August) at 2:00 pm in Group Study Room A in the Milpitas Library. The October meeting was held on Monday, October 2; the November Board meeting will be held for (scheduling reasons) on Monday, October 30.

### **Milpitas Historical Society 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)
  - at our website: [www.milpitashistoricalsociety.org](http://www.milpitashistoricalsociety.org)
  - long-standing: [www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html](http://www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html)
- You can contact President Mark Tiernan at 408-582-3782.

**Milpitas Historical Society**  
**160 N. Main Street**  
**Milpitas, CA 95035**

**First Class**