

Milpitas Muse

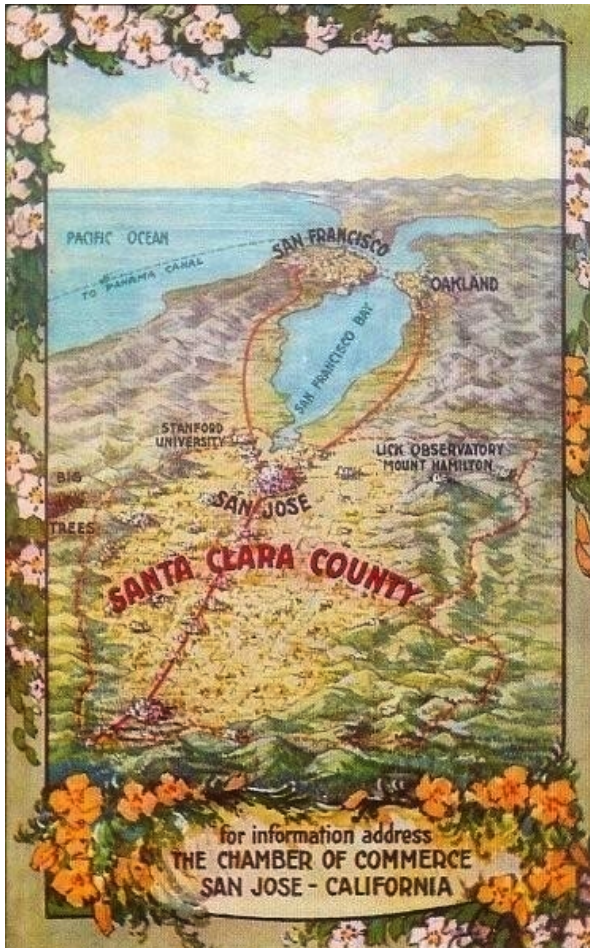
January 2012

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

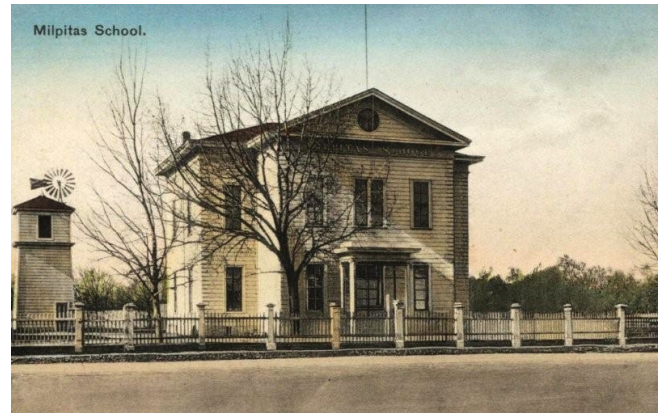
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Valley of Heart's Delight to Silicon Valley in Post Cards

At our next meeting, on Wednesday, January 11, at 7:00 pm, Historian Darlene Thorne takes the audience on a tour of "The Valley of Heart's Delight" over the last 100 years, using postcards from her extensive collection. Starting with two missions, the valley became one of the major agricultural centers in California. As one of the first capitals of California, the Valley has always been at the forefront of innovation. With the coming of railroads and the founding of a great university, the Valley fully blossomed into a high tech center.



Darlene has long-time ties to Milpitas. She managed the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce, helped found the Historical Society and was one of the first women to join Milpitas Rotary. She is currently on the board of directors of the Cupertino Historical Society and is part of the Historical and Library Collaborative in Cupertino. She was the presenter of our Society's October program about Women's Suffrage.



Old post card view of the first Milpitas school, which burned down. It was located where Milpitas Grammar school, now part of our Milpitas Library, is located.

An additional activity at the January meeting will be the presentation by Harriett McGuire, speaking for the Public Art Commission, of three sculptures, one of which will be chosen for display in front of City Hall. You will have the opportunity to vote for the one you like best!

Special Note: This month our meeting will **not** be held in the Community Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, but in the Library's cozy **Children's Activity Room** in the children's wing. We will set up signs to show you the way. Hope to see you there!

Happy New 2012 to All! And don't forget to renew your membership to the Milpitas Historical Society on the enclosed form!

Slate of Officers and Directors for 2012

At the November meeting, the Nominating Committee announced the following slate of candidates for Officers and Directors for 2012:

Officers

President: Rebecca Villalobos

Vice President: Bill Hare

Secretary: Catherine Pelizzari

Treasurer: Kraig Bunnell

Directors:

Archives and Landmarks: Steve Munzel

Historian: Mareile Ogle

Hospitality: Joanne Souza

Membership: Mabel Mattos

Publications: Catherine Pelizzari

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources

Commission Liaison: Rebecca Villalobos

Public Relations/Special Events: Harriett McGuire

The election of Officers and Directors will be held at our January meeting.

February Installation Dinner

Instead of a regular meeting in February, the Society will hold its Installation at Omega Restaurant on February 16. Mayor Jose Esteves will administer the oath of office and Water District Board President Richard Santos will be the keynote speaker.

Ford Galaxie Report

In November, Bob Keely, Danny Cosper, and our President Steve Munzel worked on the Ford Galaxie for two days to get it running. It had not been started in 11 months, a tire had gone flat, the battery was dead, and a part of the starter had to be replaced. While it was being driven to a new storage place, the electrical warning light came on indicating that the generator may not be charging the battery. The cost for fixing that is unknown at this time.

This car, purchased a few years ago, is not relic of

Milpitas's past. An emergency vehicle collector in San Jose painted the 1964 family sedan to resemble a police car and put a Milpitas Police decal on the side, but it was never a real police car in Milpitas or any other city. It was created as a hobby or show car for sale to collectors of emergency vehicles.

Since the Society turned over nearly two-thirds of our assets to the City, the expense of maintaining a show car that is not a direct Milpitas cultural resource may no longer make sense – especially now that the City Council has approved of putting our museum in the new Main Street Park.

There are no plans for the car and there doesn't seem an appropriate place to display it. The Society's bylaws do not stipulate that we preserve it since it is not an artifact from Milpitas's history.

Our Board of Directors voted to ask the membership for approval to sell the Ford Galaxie and put the money from the sale into the Community Museum Fund. We will discuss and vote on this at our next meeting.

Historical Resources Master Plan

After two years of review and revision, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Commission, at its December meeting, approved of the city's first ever Historical Resources Master Plan and recommended it to the city council. The plan lays out policies and procedures to be used for identifying and helping to preserve cultural resources in our city. The proposed plan now will go to our city council for final approval.

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.

Our new web page offers general information on the Historical Society and its accomplishments:

<http://www.milpitashistory.org/historicalsociety/society.html>

Milpitas Historical Society
160 North Main St.
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First Class