

# Milpitas Muse

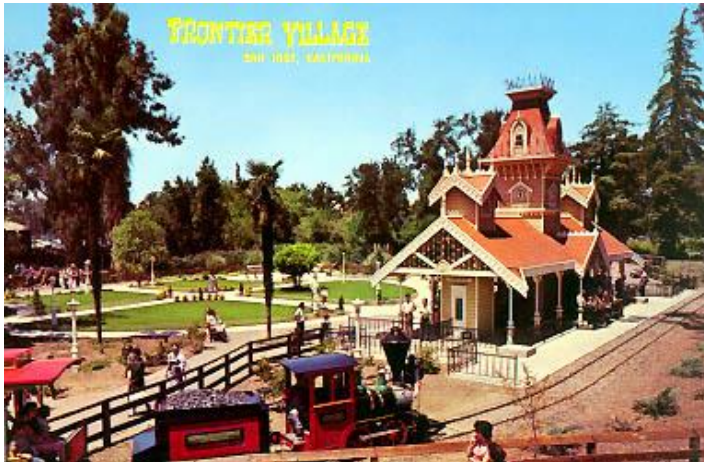
January 2014

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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## January 8 Meeting: Frontier Village

At our first 2014 meeting, at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium (Community Room) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street, park historian Bob Johnson will show a film and give a talk about San Jose's lost amusement park, Frontier Village.



From 1961 to 1980, Frontier Village was a favorite destination for kids all over the San Jose area, offering canoe trips, train, antique auto, and other amusement park rides, as well as a vintage Wild West Main Street, a General Store, trout fishing, archery, woody paths, a petting zoo, and much more.

Please join us to reminisce or find out more about this lost treasure of years ago and why it disappeared. Meetings are free and all are welcome.

## Milpitas's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year!

2014 is the year that marks Milpitas's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday! A year of events and special programs for the community are planned beginning with the Milpitas 60th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Barbara Lee Senior Center followed by the unveiling of a 16-foot bronze statue of the "Minute Man" on the front lawn of Milpitas City Hall. The idea for the statue was taken from the city's official seal; the "Minute Man" was chosen to be on the city's seal after a small group of Milpitas citizens calling themselves "The Minute Men" fought off annexation attempts from San Jose in the early 1960s.

The following day, Sunday, January 26, a Family Day will be held from 1 to 4 pm at the Civic Center. City commissions and various city departments and organizations, including the Milpitas Historical Society, will be sponsoring booths and local entertainment to contribute to this family-fun event. One of the features to be provided will be the historic jailhouse or "hoosegow" that used to be in the Frontier Days parades that Milpitas had in the 60's and 70's. People will be able to have their pictures taken with the jail, and perhaps make contributions to the Society.

However, **the Society needs your help:** Somebody needs to tow the jailhouse down from the hillside area where it is currently stored (near the old Laguna Schoolhouse) to the Civic Center for the celebration and then back again when it is over. If you can help with this, please call our President, Roger Skuse at 408-262-0354 to volunteer.

## Milpitas Veterans Honored

On Monday, November 11, at the annual Veteran's Day celebration at Veteran's Plaza behind the City Hall, the Milpitas Veterans commission awarded the honor of Veteran of the Year to longtime resident, Milpitas Historical Society member, and Korean War veteran Lou Horyza.

The City also unveiled a plaque and bench dedicated to the memory of Henry Mattos (October 18, 1922-February 12, 2013). Henry was a participant in the Normandy Landings during World War II, was a recipient of a Purple Heart, and was among the original members of the Milpitas Historical Society.



## Milpitas Historical Society Christmas Party

The Society's annual Christmas party was held on Sunday, December 8 at the home of Kim Parker and Peter Herrera, often referred to as the Belshaw House. As in past years, Bob Keely and his Bobcats provided happy holiday music that was appreciated by all.



### Mabel Mattos and Bob Burrill cutting apricots for pie

Bob Burrill showed a video that he had taken in 2007 of our late and very much missed founding member Mabel Mattos, who was showing Bob how to prepare the tasty Blenheim apricots, for which Milpitas and other local areas were famous, to make her wonderful apricot jam and pies. In case you missed seeing this video at the party, you can see it on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iveu9qyCwRE>



## Happy RENEW Year!

It's a new year and the Milpitas Historical Society wishes all of our members and friends a wonderful 2014. We also need to remind you that this is the time to renew your Society membership. Just print out the attached or enclosed membership form and send it with your \$20 membership fee to: 160 N. Main Street, Milpitas CA, 95035. We hope to see you back!

## Slate of Officers and Directors for 2014

At the Milpitas Historical Society's November meeting, the Nominating Committee announced the following slate of candidates for Officers and Directors for 2014:

### Officers

*President:* Roger Skuse

*Vice President:* Catherine Pelizzari

*Secretary:* Lela Ehardt

*Treasurer:* Kraig Bunnell

### Directors:

*Archives and Landmarks:* Steve Munzel

*Historian:* Harriett McGuire

*Hospitality:* Joanne Souza

*Membership:* Joe Ehardt

*Special Events:* Mayvid Maclay

*Newsletter:* Catherine Pelizzari

*Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Commission*

*Liaison:* Steve Munzel.

The election will be held at the regular meeting of the Society on Wednesday, January 8.

## February Installation Dinner

Instead of a regular meeting in February, the Society will hold its Installation Dinner at Summit Pointe Golf Course Restaurant on Thursday, February 20. Former Milpitas Mayor and honored war veteran Denny Weisgerber will be the keynote speaker, and Milpitas Mayor Jose Esteves will administer the oath of office. You will be receiving your official invitation to this event at the beginning of next month.

## 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](mailto:tmhs@milpitashistory.org).

The traditional Milpitas history web page is here:

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

Here's the new website for the Milpitas Historical Society:

<http://milpitashistoricalsociety.org>, with information about the society and upcoming events.

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

**First Class**