

Milpitas Muse

October 2014

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXV No. 7

Milpitas Historical Society Meeting in October: Winchester Mystery House

The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will take place at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 8, in the Community Room (Auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street.

Our featured speaker will be Nathan Emmett, historian and one of the guides at the Winchester Mystery House.



The Winchester Mystery House was built by Sarah Winchester, a widow from Boston who moved west to California in 1884. Who was Sarah Winchester, and why did she start building a home in San Jose that she believed she must never stop building? Were ghosts involved? The resulting structure opened in 1886 and was under construction until her death in 1922, eventually covering 60 acres, including 160 rooms and many strange architectural features. Come and find out about Sarah Winchester and her story, and hear much more about the spooky secrets of this fantastic house.



You can sign up for one of the Winchester Mystery House special Halloween season tours at the meeting to experience the mysteries yourself. Our meetings are free and all are welcome. Please join us!

Milpitas in Photographic Art

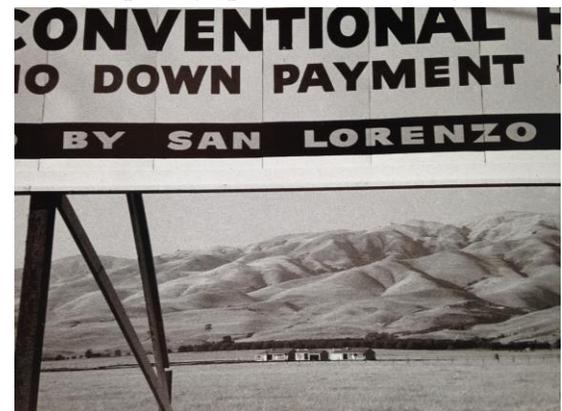
Photographer and Milpitas Historical Society member **Gabriel Ibarra** currently has a display of his works at the south end of the Milpitas Library, including the photo shown below, of the Rose Barn on Piedmont Road.



Courtesy of Gabriel Ibarra

These photographs of local architecture will be on display through October 31. Come take a look at them the next time you are at the Milpitas library, perhaps before the next Society meeting on Wednesday, October 8.

And, to move back many years in time, would anyone recognize this scene, taken in 1954 by renowned depression-era photographer Dorothea Lange?



Courtesy of the Oakland Museum of California

This photograph of the first three houses in the Sunnyhills neighborhood (on Arizona near Boulder) was found at the Oakland Museum of California and brought to our attention by our photographer member **Bob Burrill**.

Historical Society's End-of-Summer Picnic

Around 30 members and friends of the Milpitas Historical Society attended the Society's annual pot luck/picnic/barbecue on Sunday, September 28.



Shown above, Mayvid McClay, Joanne Souza, Barbara Bowman, Norma Bravo, Joe Ehardt, Diane Jones, Harriett McGuire and Irma Munzel enjoy the food and conversation at the picnic, graciously hosted by Peter Herrera and Kim Parker at their Last Word Ranch, as Bob Keely and his Bobcats (shown below) play great music to the enjoyment of all and Steve Munzel and Peter Herrera (at right of photo) work the barbecue.



We Offer Thanks and Request Your Help

The Society would like to offer our deepest gratitude to Kraig Bunnell, who acted as the Treasurer of the Milpitas Historical Society for the past four years and has chosen to step down due to family obligations.

Our Membership Chair, Joseph Ehardt, has volunteered to take on the Treasurer's responsibilities for the rest of this year, and will run for Treasurer for 2015.

We also offer great thanks to Steve Munzel, who has performed the duties of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Commission Liaison for several years, as well as being the Archives Chair and the Landmarks Chair. As he has more than enough to do, he would like to relinquish one or two of these last two positions to someone else—could this be you? And you?

The Archivist, as described in the by-laws of the Society, is responsible for collecting, keeping, maintaining, and preserving written records, sound recordings, videos, films, visual images, artifacts, vehicles, public displays, indices, catalogs, and other materials as directed by the President and making such items available to researchers, members, and others named by the President.

The Landmarks chairperson is responsible for keeping the Society informed of all matters relating to endangered buildings, sites, and trees of historical significance to the City of Milpitas and the Society.

We are currently looking for volunteers to be candidates for one or both of these positions, which are interesting and, especially the Landmarks one, don't require a lot of time. If you are interested in stepping up to help the society and joining us for our friendly Board meetings once every few months, please call our President, Roger Skuse, at 408-262-0354 for information or to volunteer.

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/historicalociety/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>

Milpitas Historical Society
160 North Main St.
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First Class