



Milpitas Muse

October 2015

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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October 14 Meeting: 100th Anniversary of the Panama Pacific International Exposition

At our next meeting, our Society's Treasurer, Joe Ehardt, will speak to us about the most exciting thing that was happening in the Bay Area 100 years ago: the Panama Pacific International Exposition (PPIE).



Joe Ehardt

This Exposition was a world's fair that was built on 630 acres of landfill (tidal marshland that became today's Marina District) and was open from February 20 to December 4, 1915. Intended as a celebration of the opening of the long-awaited Panama Canal, which linked the Atlantic and the

Pacific Oceans for the first time, the Exposition drew attention to the spectacular recovery of San Francisco from the devastating earthquake and fire of 1906.



Countries from all over the world built exhibits to show off the best of their products and culture, and a great many impressive structures, mostly meant to be temporary, were erected on the site to make a thrilling experience for the many thousands of attendees. New technologies of all kinds were displayed, sometimes for the first time.

Joe Ehardt's presentation will contain over 100 images of vintage posters, postcards, and photographs to recreate the extraordinary event that tourists from the entire nation attended. About 250,000 people came on opening day of the Exposition and over 400,000 people attended its closing day.

The only one of the buildings from the Exposition still remaining at the site is San Francisco's iconic Palace of Fine Arts (shown below).



You won't want to miss this meeting on Wednesday, October 14 at 7 pm, in the Community Room (auditorium) of the Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main Street. Admission is free and all are welcome. Please join us.

The Milpitas Monster Returns



A special director's cut of *The Milpitas Monster*, a cult horror film made in 1972-76 in Milpitas by our own Bob Burrill, and starring local high school students, public officials, and public safety officers, will be shown at the Century Theaters in the Great Mall on Friday, October 30. at 7 pm.

Pre-sale tickets are \$10 and can be bought at Huntford Printing (408-957-5000 / www.huntford.com) or through the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce, 828 N. Hillview Dr. / 408-262-2613. Proceeds will benefit Milpitas High School. Get your tickets while they last!

Milpitas Veterans Classic Car Show

On Saturday, October 17, from 10 am to 4 pm, the Milpitas Veteran's Commission will be holding a classic car show (antique, muscle, hot rod, vintage, and more) at the



Milpitas Civic Center Plaza. This celebration will feature raffles, food and drinks, awards, and music. This is always a fun event worth a visit. Come on by!

Photos of Our Agricultural Heritage: "The Valley of Heart's Delight"

Beautiful photos of the farming areas, past and present, of the Milpitas area by photographer and MHS member Gabriel Ibarra are currently on display in the Auditorium of the Milpitas Library until November 14. Be sure to take a look when you come to our meeting or any other time you are in the library. And don't miss Gabriel's heartfelt poem about our changing valley.

Beyond Bollywood: An Exhibition About Indian Americans

From the builders of some of America's earliest railroads and farms to Civil Rights pioneers and digital technology entrepreneurs, Indian Americans have long been an inextricable part of American life. Through a vibrant collection of photographs, artifacts, art and interactive learning stations, visitors will experience the Indian American story and explore the many dynamic roles Indian Americans have played in shaping America.

Created by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, "Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation" details the history of Indian Americans and their contributions to the United States from the 1700s to the present. The West Coast premiere exhibition from the Smithsonian will be on view at Olive Hyde Art Gallery, 123 Washington Blvd., Fremont, from August 1 through October 10.

Movie Honors Filipino-American Heritage

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the grape strike led by farm labor organizer Larry Itliong, the forgotten hero of the United Farm Workers Movement, the "Delano Manongs" documentary will be shown at the Milpitas Community Center, 457 E Calaveras Blvd., on Saturday, October 10, 2-5 pm, followed by music, dances, songs and more from 6 to 8 pm. This film tells the story of farm labor organizer Larry Itliong and a group of Filipino farm workers who instigated one of the American farm labor movement's finest hours – The Delano Grape Strike of 1965 that brought about the creation of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW). While the movement is known for Cesar Chavez's leadership and considered a Chicano movement, Filipinos played a pivotal role. Filipino labor organizer Larry Itliong organized a group of 1500 Filipinos to strike against the grape growers of Delano, California, beginning a long collaboration between Filipinos, Chicanos and other ethnic workers.

A Pioneer Passed



Ernie Wool, a member of the pioneer Wool family, one of the last real ranchers in the Milpitas hills, and the son of Sandy Wool, for whom the lake in Ed Levin Park is named, died at 91 in September. The Society extends their condolences to his family.

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@milpitashistorysociety.org.

Here's the 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/home/index.html>

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First Class