

Milpitas Muse

October 2016

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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October Meeting

At our next meeting, on Wednesday, October 12, at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium (Multipurpose Room) of the Milpitas Library, 160 North Main Street, we will see an interesting time-tripping selection of films about our regional fruit-growing industry.



Jim Zetterquist

Local historian Jim Zetterquist and some fellow members of a group of local historians and film specialists, members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, known as the "Fruit Cocktail Gang," will show a

collection of clips from old films about the iconic fruit orchards and other aspects of agriculture in the Santa Clara Valley. The film will include some newly acquired footage of a hay-baler invented locally. This is a completely different film from "The Valley of Heart's Delight," which we saw in 2011.



Also there will be a short presentation by Eugene Suslowicz, Division Manager of the hauling operation for Republic Services, our current provider of garbage service, about the company and what they do.

Please join us for this meeting and presentation and stay for snacks and conversation afterwards. Meetings are free and all are welcome.



Photographs on Display

Local photographer and Milpitas Historical Society member Gabriel Ibarra's photos of historic local homes will be on display through the second week of October at the Santa Clara City Hall, 1500 Warburton Ave., in the Planners West Wing display cases. This display can be seen Monday-Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm.

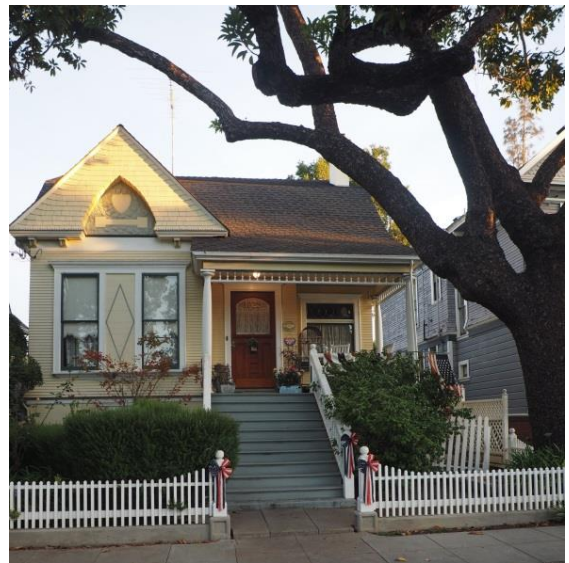


Photo Courtesy of Gabriel Ibarra

Historic home on Harrison Street in Santa Clara

After that display at City Hall is taken down, these photographs will be put up again as Ibarra's Fifth Annual Historic Homes Exhibit at the Santa Clara Senior Center at 1303 Fremont Avenue, at the corner of Monroe Avenue. The exhibit will be housed in the display case in the book reading area.

The hours for viewing the photos at the Senior Center are Monday-Thursday, 7 am-7 pm, Friday, 7 am-5 pm, and Saturday, 9 am-12 pm. The exhibit will be open from November 1st through December 30th.

This exhibit will have a twist! There will be feedback forms that you can fill out asking you: *Would you rather have this house or that one? And why?*

Our Cool Water

In 1966, exactly fifty years ago, a 6-foot diameter pipeline was snaking its way through Milpitas as part of a second line in the San Francisco water system that begins at Hetch Hetchy reservoir in Yosemite National Park. Today land in Milpitas covering the pipeline has been preserved as open space areas, and some as part of our municipal parks.

The Hetch Hetchy Water Project was originated partly in response to the tragic scarcity of water that made fighting the fires caused by the great 1906 earthquake so difficult. Work began in 1914 with the installation of a railroad line for transporting construction materials to that remote area. Construction of the O'Shaughnessy Dam began in 1919 and was finished in 1923. On October 28, 1934 – twenty years after the beginning of construction of the Hetch Hetchy Project – a crowd of 20,000 San Franciscans gathered to celebrate the arrival of the first Hetch Hetchy water in the city.

After passing through several powerhouses, Hetch Hetchy water flows in the 167-mile Hetch Hetchy Aqueduct that travels across the Central Valley. Upon reaching the Bay Area near Fremont, the aqueduct splits into four pipelines. All four pipelines cross the Hayward fault. Pipelines 1 and 2 cross San Francisco Bay south of Dumbarton Bridge, while pipelines 3 and 4 cross at the south end of the Bay. In the Bay Area, Hetch Hetchy water is stored in several local facilities, including Calaveras Reservoir, Crystal Springs Reservoir, and San Antonio Reservoir.

Today the Hetch Hetchy water system serves as the primary water source for the City and County of San Francisco as well as several surrounding municipalities in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. The dam and reservoir (combined with a series of aqueducts, tunnels, hydroelectric plants, as well as eight other storage dams) comprise the system known as the Hetch Hetchy Project, which provides 80% of the

water supply for 2.6 million people. The aqueduct delivers an average of 31,900,000 cubic feet per day to residents of San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Alameda Counties. It provides about 55% of the water that Milpitas uses under ordinary conditions, and more under drought conditions.



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir

Water from Hetch Hetchy is some of the cleanest municipal water in the United States.

National Parks System founder John Muir was heartbroken that the Tuolumne River in the beautiful Hetch Hetchy Valley was dammed up to make this reservoir, and over the years since his time, park and nature activists have repeatedly requested that the dam be removed, but fewer such requests have been heard due to the recent drought that has affected so many Californians.

Milpitas Historical Society Board Meetings

If you are interested, you are welcome to attend the Milpitas Historical Society Board meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday of the month (except July and August) at 1:30 pm in Group Study Room A in the Milpitas Library. The next meeting is Wednesday, October 5.

Milpitas Historical Society Contact Information

You can contact the Milpitas Historical Society:

- by mail at 160 N. Main Street, Milpitas CA 95035
- by email at tmhs@milpitashistoricalsociety.org

You can contact President Mark Tiernan at 1-408-582-3782.

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: www.milpitashistory.org/home/index.html

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160 North Main St.
Milpitas, CA 95035

First Class