



Milpitas Muse

September 2011

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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MHS September 14 Meeting

The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society will be on **Wednesday, September 14**, at 7:00 pm in the Community Room at the Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main Street.

Our guest speaker will be society member Roger Skuse, AKA "Rattlesnake Roger." He will be discussing the use of weapons on the frontier with emphasis on war clubs, tomahawks, and bowie knives, using examples from his own collection. He will also include a presentation about trade blankets, hand-made Navajo chief's blankets and Plains Indian clothing.



Photo courtesy of Roger Skuse

New City Hall Display

Have you seen the Milpitas Historical Society displays in the glass cases in City Hall? We will be changing these displays in September, and are looking for fall-related items from Milpitas history to put in the cases, such as old school materials or Thanksgiving and Christmas items.

If you have any items you can lend or donate to us for the display, please contact Harriett McGuire at (408) 262-7979.

Another Field Trip Coming Up!

A field trip to the Dublin Heritage Park and Museums with a docent tour of the Murray School house, St. Raymond's Church, and the Kolb ranch buildings is being planned later in September.



Photo courtesy of Dublin Heritage Park

Historic Kolb Ranch House at Dublin Heritage Park

This trip will be discussed at the September meeting, and a date will be decided on at that time. The public is invited to attend; for further information, phone (408) 320-9587.

Shaughnessy-Murphy Milk Shed/ Ranch Office

by Steve Munzel

In the 1860s, Edward Shaughnessy arrived in Milpitas and settled just south of where Coyote Creek flows under Highway 237, on land owned by Martin Murphy's widow and Michael Bellew. In 1986, the city identified four buildings constructed there by Shaughnessy before he died in 1870. All but one of those buildings was demolished during realignment of the Coyote Creek levee in the early 1990s. The sole surviving building was a milk shed made of old-growth redwood, that had later served as a ranch office.

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At the recommendation of the now-defunct Cultural Resources Preservation Board, the city moved the Shaughnessy-Murphy milk shed to the sewage pump facility near Coyote Creek. It has been stored there awaiting rejuvenation for nearly 20 years now, exposed to the elements and left without any maintenance.

As the oldest wood frame building in the city, and Milpitas' last surviving relic from the American Period in California agricultural history, the Shaughnessy-Murphy milk shed deserves to be saved. It could be used in the new park as a museum office and as a small workshop.



Photo Courtesy of Steve Munzel

The Shaughnessy-Murphy Milk Shed

Milpitas Street Name Stories: Portuguese Pioneers

Settlers from the Azores, a group of islands west of Portugal, began coming to California in Gold Rush times, and later for the economic opportunities. As they encouraged families and friends to join them, they became an important element in California and in the Santa Clara Valley as hard-working farmers and land owners.

The US Census for 1870 shows the first Portuguese family to settle in Milpitas: Frank Joseph, his wife Maria and their children, Frank (Jr.) and Anne. A single Portuguese man, who was named Manuel Rosa, age 22, resided with them. This pioneer family was soon followed by many other Portuguese settlers, who became important community members and leaders.

Milpitas streets named after these early Azorean settlers include: Carlo, Coelho, Falcato, Ferriera, Madruga, Mattos, Pashote, Pedro, Pimentel (coming soon), Rodrigues, Rose, Santos, Silvera., Serpa, Simas, Torres, Valencia, and Vargas.

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