



Milpitas Museo

June 2011

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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Our Next Meeting will be a Museum Tour!

The next meeting of the Milpitas Historical Society, on **Saturday, June 18**, will be a tour of the Museum of American Heritage in Palo Alto. This will be a regular meeting that will feature a field trip instead of a speaker presentation.

Members and friends interested in this tour will meet at 2:00 PM in the parking lot of the Big 5 Sporting Goods store parking lot at 757 E. Calaveras Blvd. After a short business meeting, we will carpool to the Museum of American Heritage in Palo Alto. We should arrive there around 2:30 pm and will get to see their new exhibit on American Invention, which opens on June 17. We will tour the museum for about an hour or so, and then ask questions to the staff about how they operate a volunteer-based museum. We should be back by 4:30 pm.



A unique museum of historic technologies, the Museum of American heritage is located in the historic Williams House and Gardens near downtown Palo Alto at 351 Homer Avenue.

At the museum's new exhibit, "Victorian America: Invention and Technology," we'll discover inventions that shaped America, displayed in a century-old home and garden. The Victorian Age (approximately 1837-1914) was one of the most prolific periods of invention and technological development. Photography, electricity, radio and mass production all came of age during the period, and the architecture of the age still reminds us, often with nostalgia, of Victorian elegance.

Travel back in time with us and revisit the times that laid the cornerstone for the modern world.

Our meeting and the museum tour are open to the public. For more information, call: 408-320-9587.

Milpitas Community Tour Set for Early July

The Milpitas Historical Society will be sponsoring a "Community Tour" on **Saturday, July 2nd** this year. The tour is open to the public as well as to members of the Historical Society. Those interested will meet at the historic Alviso Adobe on Piedmont Road at 9:30 am for an informational talk by Greg Armendariz, our City of Milpitas Public Works Director, about plans for the park to be developed around the Adobe. Built in the 1840's, with a second story added around 1856, the Alviso Adobe is the oldest structure in Milpitas.

At around 10:00 am, the tour will visit the Silva apricot ranch, 891 Piedmont Rd. to see the last working apricot farm in Milpitas. Member and owner Kelly Silva will show us how apricots are cut and processed.



MHS Members at Silva Apricot Ranch Last Year

Then around 10:30 am the tour will cross the road to the historic St. John the Baptist Cemetery, 651 Old Piedmont Road. Established in 1902, originally the parish cemetery for St. John the Baptist church in Milpitas, it is the resting place of many pioneer Milpitas families. Joanne Sousa, who has family resting there, will provide information and a walking tour around the cemetery.

For the last stop, at noon, the tour will go up Felter Road to the Big Dog Winery for a wine tasting. There are picnic tables available if you'd like to bring a lunch to enjoy with their award-winning wines and the spectacular view of our Santa Clara Valley.

The Historical Society will be making flyers and maps of the tour that we will need help giving out. For further information on the tour and how you might help, please call Harriett McGuire at 262-7979.



St. John the Baptist Cemetery

Information from the May Meeting

In case you missed our May meeting about the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society (SCCHGS), and how to find the information you need to document your family tree, you can find a wide variety of family records at the at the SCCHGS website: <http://www.scchgs.org>.

You can find lots of help at the Santa Clara City Library, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara, where representatives of the SCCHGS can help you. You can call the library at (408) 615-2900 or go their website at <http://library.santaclaraca.gov/index.aspx?page=1170>.

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>

Got Milpitas in your Attic?

As we announced at our last meeting, the Historical Society has been given the opportunity to display Milpitas history items in the glass cases in the lobby of our City Hall. We are hoping to find bits of Milpitas history that you can loan us (or donate if you prefer) that we can display there along with other historical items that the society already owns. We have loan or donation forms that you can fill out to make sure your items are returned to you or you get a tax credit for them.

Call Harriett McGuire for more information at 262-7979.

Join Us Again in September

There will be no Milpitas Historical Society meeting in July or in August and no newsletter for those months. We'll get together again in September for a fascinating presentation on our area's history by Rodger Skuse, on Wednesday, September 14. Complete details will be in the September newsletter.

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

First Class