

# Milpitas Muse

October 2011

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

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## Milpitas Historical Society's October 12 Meeting Honors Women's Suffrage

California will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Suffrage on October 10, 2011. The campaign, both for and against women's suffrage, was waged on postcards during the postcard era of 1893-1920. Women, as well as men, fought against suffrage for a variety of reasons. How did California women finally get the vote? Through postcard images from her 50-year collection, historian Darlene Thorne will illustrate the obstacles, and finally the tactics used successfully in the 1911 election and the important roles that the Bay Area played in achieving this right for California women.



### 19<sup>th</sup> century Suffrage Campaign Postcards

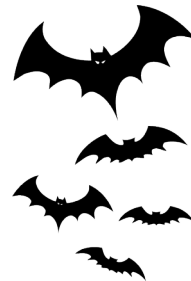
A former Milpitas Chamber of Commerce executive director who helped found the Milpitas Historical Society, Ms. Thorne is currently on the board of directors of the Cupertino Historical Society and served for a year on the Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury.

Darlene will be presenting her program at the Milpitas Historical Society meeting on **Wednesday, October 12 at 7 pm** in the Community Room at the Milpitas Library, 160 N. Main Street.

All are invited to attend, including students, both male and female and will be asked the question at the end of the hour: "Would you have been "in their League"?"

## Notes from Our Milpitas Past

by Steve Munzel



Among the many historical resources at our County Archives is the *History of Santa Clara County*, published in 1882. We in Milpitas are fortunate to live in one of the few counties in California with an official archives

In that book is a list of early homicides including the earliest murders I've found in Milpitas.

The first was the stabbing death of Francisco Hernandez in 1859 that took place on what was then called the Milpitas-Alviso Road (today Highway 237) near the Barber ranch, located just east of Coyote Creek. Today, Barber Lane is named for that ranch family.

The second was the killing of Bernada Zunaga in 1865 at Rathbone's Saloon. Augustus Rathbone had bought the saloon from Richard Greenham in 1856. It was located at the corner of Mission Road and Milpitas-Alviso Road. Today this intersection is Main Street and Serra Street and the early saloon (later Smith's Corner and then Campbell's Corner) was most recently the site of the Taste of India restaurant.

Unfortunately, both murderers escaped.

## Support Our Community Museum Fund (and have some fun, too)

On Thursday, October 27, 2011 at 6:00 pm, there will be a reception and fashion show celebrating Milpitas Women as Role Models at Dave and Buster's at the Great Mall. Tickets bought through the Milpitas Historical Society are \$20 and the entire amount goes to support the Milpitas Community Museum Fund. Enjoy an evening of music, food, fashion, prize drawings, discounts, and gifts. For tickets, contact the Historical Society at 408-320-9587; see the attached flier for more details.

### **Dublin Heritage Park Field Trip**

Eleven members of the Milpitas Historical Society and a guest went on the field trip to the Dublin Heritage Park and Museums on Thursday, September 22. The trip featured a docent tour of the Murray School house, St. Raymond's Church, and the historic Kolb house, included two informative videos, and also gave our visitors a chance to see the Kolb's first house on their property (a very small structure now housing the restrooms), the historic Kolb barn, which was later converted to a Presbyterian church, and the historic cemetery where early Dublin pioneers are buried. The site is beautifully restored, the docents very pleasant and knowledgeable, and the whole experience was one that the group recommends to everyone.



MHS members Jennie and Bill Hare, Harriett McGuire, and Catherine Pelizzari with original settler Carol Kolb Strom (second from left) by Kolb House at Dublin Heritage Park

### **Milpitas Street Name Stories: Portuguese Pioneers, Part II**

In our September Street Names Stories article, we gave the names of the Milpitas streets named for settlers from the Azores, a group of islands west of Portugal. What we didn't make clear is that some of those streets were named for descendants of those Portuguese pioneer families who were United States Armed Service veterans.

The streets that are named after veterans are: Falcato, Ferreria, Mattos, Pashote, Pimentel (coming soon), Rodrigues, Rose, and Torres. There will also soon be a Ferreira Court named after Gerald Ferreria. The other Ferreira Street is named after William Ferreria.

Our thanks go out to Lou Horyza for updating us on this street name information.

### **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](mailto: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  
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**First Class**