



Milpitas Muse

November 2021

The Milpitas Historical Society Newsletter

Volume XXXXIII, No. 9

November Zoom Meeting: Those Mysterious Rock Walls in the Hills Above us

Our November meeting will take place at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 10. Our speaker this month will be Milpitas long-time resident and Historical Society member, Anne Zeise.



Ann Zeise



MHS President Bill Hare visits the rock walls in the hills east of Milpitas

One of our most interesting local mysteries, one that has been the subject of numerous articles in newspapers such as the *San Jose Mercury News*, is about the rock walls in the East Bay hills, including those in the remote eastern section of Milpitas. Are these walls natural formations or are they man-made? And what group of people created them? Our speaker, Ann Zeise, will present what she thinks about their creation, after a visit to these walls, off Weller Road, a few months ago with a few friends, including a USGS geologist, Steve Ludington, a retired rocket scientist, "Dox" Doxiadis, and our MHS President, Bill Hare. Please join us for this interesting topic.

To join this meeting, from your Mac, PC, tablet, or smartphone, click on this link below and you will be connected!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8538460380?pwd=WXJMdGFKTWFlMkE5eU5JL3FOFVxUT09>

OR use your browser to go to milpitashistoricalsociety.org, and on the home page there will be a link to click that will automatically take you to the meeting.

We will have a social time afterwards (as we usually do after the meetings), so you can catch up with friends and find out what's going on.

The Stories of Milpitas Parks: Cardoza Park

By Joseph Ehardt



Of Portuguese lineage, *Thomas Edward Cardoza* (1910-1972), for whom this park is named, was born in Fremont Township (today's Mountain View, California). My research reveals that he was the seventh of nine children, amidst an older brother and seven sisters. His parents, Mary and Joseph V. Cardoza (1870-1931), were born in the Azores Islands; both were 21 years old when they married, and had two daughters before migrating to the United States in the 1890s.

In April 1934 Thomas married Elsie Marie Silva of Centerville (which was part of today's City of Fremont in Alameda County). Earlier in 1933, Tom was working in Joseph and Anna Alves' grocery store on Milpitas' Main Street. By the mid-to-late 1940s I think this same store became Tom Cardoza's Red and White Market located across the street from St. John the Baptist Church.

In 1954 (the new Ford Motor Assembly Plant was under construction at that time) Tom was elected to the originating City Council a few months after voters approved incorporation of Milpitas Township into a city to avoid consolidation into San Jose. In 1956 he was re-elected to the City Council and chosen by the other councilmembers as its second Mayor. Subsequently he was elected by the voters for additional 2-year terms in 1960 and 1964.

Tom Cardoza was actively involved for more than a decade in the rapid transition of Milpitas from a ranching, dairy, and agricultural community of about 800 people into a considerably larger industrial and service economy-based town of about 20,000 people. In 2020-2021 the population of Milpitas numbers about 85,000.

The Thomas Cardoza Park, commemorating his participation in Milpitas' transformation, is located on Kennedy Drive east of Park Victoria Blvd.

It is a spacious green space of ten acres with many mature trees, nineteen tables for eating and social gathering (some of which are covered and all of which are scattered in clusters around the park), eight barbecue units for cooking food, children's play equipment, bathrooms, one baseball field lighted for night-time games, a group of four smaller baseball fields, an outdoor amphitheater, and two areas for parking 133 vehicles.

On a current note, at the recent Pumpkins in the Park annual event sponsored by the Milpitas Recreation Department that was held in Cardoza Park on October 23, the Milpitas Historical Society participated by bringing its festively decorated Frontier Days Hoosgow as a setting for family photos.



With Dan Cospers to the left, Milpitas city staff members Tegan McLane and Renee Lorentzen stand with Joe Ehardt in front of the historic Milpitas Rolling Jail.



The Society also provided a team at its crafts table where children could enjoy making their own Halloween objects, such as lollipop "ghosts."



What about a Christmas Party This Year?

Our Board of Directors is thinking about having our traditional Christmas potluck again this year but aren't sure that people are feeling comfortable enough to gather indoors at Kim Parker's Last Word Ranch to eat and mingle.

To let us know whether to proceed with these plans, **please call Harriett McGuire at 408-515-5337 before November 20** with a preliminary RSVP for the Christmas potluck, to be held on **Sunday, December 5**. You can always cancel if you need or want to, but we really need to get information as to whether or not this would be popular with our members.

Remember, PLEASE let us know by **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20**. Thanks, and Happy Thanksgiving!
Our Society's 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
- at our website: <http://milpitashistoricalsociety.org>

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

First Class