

Millbrae Life & Times

M I L L B R A E H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y N E W S L E T T E R

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Historical Spotlight	1
President's Report	1
Vice-President's Message	3
Board/Trustee Installation Event	3
Millbrae History Walk Announcement	3
Curator's Report	5
Train Museum News	5
Calendar of Events	6

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT:
PRESERVING MEMORIES
 BY TOM DAWDY



Last year a couple weeks before Christmas, we were hired by a local company that was going Christmas shopping for children in Santa Rosa that had lost their family houses in the North Bay fires. Our job was to document the shopping trip. The day started out listening to several parents and grandparents telling their stories about that horrible night they had to evacuate their homes with very little time to even escape. The one thing everyone had in common was talking about all their family photos that were either lost or rescued. As I listened, I could not help but think about my own memories that consist of so many photographs that document my family history.

In the Millbrae Museum, we have a lot of memories of the history of Millbrae. Much of these memories consist of great memorabilia from our city's past, but if you really want to explore the past the best road you can take is enjoying photographs from Millbrae's past. When was the last time you paid a visit to the Museum to read articles and look at historical photos? As Historian for the Museum, it has been my passion the last several years to research and restore photographs to preserve Millbrae history.

Do you have family photographs of your grandparents? Great grandparents? Are they labeled on the back with information such as names, relationship, and date of birth? Did you make copies for your children? If I could give advice to anyone about keeping their precious photographic memories safe, I would say it in three little phrases, "back

(continued on Page 4)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
JOHN MUNIZ

Hello, and Happy Belated New Year! 2017 was an exciting year for the Millbrae Historical Society. The **Carriage House**, located at the rear of the Millbrae Museum, was started in April and completed in October. Imagine... the idea of a Carriage House, originally including a Pavilion, originated in 1985, and now a scaled-down version is ready for occupancy, fully funded by the Millbrae Historical Society!

This year is shaping up to be an even more exciting year. We are looking forward to the Carriage House dedication and grand opening gala sometime this summer, so keep your eyes open for the date and details.

On December 6th, **Santa Claus** payed a visit at the ceremony for the re-assignment of the American **La France Fire Engine** (the second fire



apparatus in the Millbrae Fire Department's arsenal) to the Carriage House. A huge crowd of parents and children gathered in front of the Carriage House to await the arrival of the engine from Fire Station 38.

(continued on Page 2)

P R E S I D E N T ' S R E P O R T
(C O N T I N U E D F R O M P A G E 1)



A big “thank you” to Central County Fire **Battalion Chief Kevin Mernick** and **Fire Chief John Kammeyer** for their outstanding cooperation in reassigning the American La France to the Carriage House for permanent display. Thanks also to the City of Millbrae for allowing the Millbrae Historical Society to build the Carriage House. We are now in the process of stocking the Carriage House with never-seen Millbrae and San Francisco memorabilia.

Millbrae Historical Society Annual Installation

This year, our Annual Millbrae Historical Society Installation will be held on **Sunday, March 25th**, commencing at 1:30 pm at the Temporary Millbrae Community Center next to the Millbrae Library. Our guest speaker will be **Dee Eva**, from the **Redwood City 150th Anniversary Committee**. Dee will be presenting a video and a talk about the history of Redwood City. So, mark your calendars - we always have a lot of fun, and light refreshments will be served. Since parking in the lower lot by City Hall is limited, please park in the upper Library parking lot and walk down the stairs to the Temporary Community Center. And it goes without saying, I will be honored to continue leading this great organization, which has been an important part of the Millbrae community for close to 50 years.

Living History Award

At our **32nd Annual Christmas Party** in December, it was my honor as President to award longtime member and favorite Millbrae native son **Tom Dawdy** the prestigious “**Living History Award**” for his continued dedica-



tion and service to the Millbrae Historical Society and the people of Millbrae. In the 47 years since the Society was founded, only eleven members have received this great honor. It’s folks like Tom that make Millbrae a great place to live. Thank you, Tom and Faye, for your service to the Millbrae Historical Society!

Docent Lunch

This year our annual Docent Lunch will be held on **Sunday, April 15th** at high noon at the Terrace Cafe. Our annual Docent Lunch is hosted by the Millbrae Historical Society in appreciation of the service our docents provide at the Museum. That’s why it pays to be a docent! Please let **Dorothy Semke** know if you will be attending.

Annual Rummage Sale

Once again, it is time to clean out your closets & garages, because our Annual Rummage Sale is coming on **Saturday, August 11th**. This provides plenty of time to bring your gently-used items to the Millbrae Museum on Saturdays or just leave them on the Museum porch. Thanks!

Surrey at South San Francisco Wells Fargo Bank

Below is a picture of the Larkins Surrey currently on display at the South San Francisco branch of Wells Fargo Bank. We are in the process of arranging to bring the surrey back to Millbrae where it will be on display in the Carriage House.



Best wishes,

John Muniz
Millbrae Historical Society President
2009 – Present

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
PAUL LARSON

Greetings MHS Trustees, members and friends!

Who is **Marjory Stoneman Douglas**? Most of us heard this name for the first time following the recent school shooting in Parkland, FL on Valentine's Day. This horrific tragedy, where 17 souls lost their lives to a 19 year old gunman, took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. We pray for the victims and their families.

Not too long ago, the combination of weapons and mass shootings at school were unimaginable in the US. Now they are less of a shock and, I hate to say it, are the new normal. The places and names we hear about following these recurring situations seem to have become poignant learning experiences.

So, returning to the question: Who is Marjory Stoneman Douglas? The answer is uplifting and well-known in South Florida. According to Wikipedia, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was born on April 7, 1890. She was an

American journalist, author, women's suffrage advocate and conservationist known for her staunch defense of the Everglades against efforts to drain it and reclaim land for development. As a young woman, she moved to Miami and became a popular freelance writer producing hundreds of stories. Marjory was outspoken and politically conscious of women's suffrage and civil rights. She was 79 when called upon to protect the Everglades and was nicknamed "**Grand Dame of the Everglades**". She received numerous awards, including the **Presidential Medal of Freedom** and was inducted into several halls of fame. Marjory lived to the age of 108 and worked nearly to the end of her life for Everglades restoration.

So, we now know that Marjory Stoneman Douglas was a positive force and is someone to remember, admire, emulate and learn from. Her name will far outlive those of troubled individuals whose names will live only in infamy. In every tragedy there is always some



positive silver lining to learn from. The name of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, in addition to the heroes that materialized during and following the Valentine's Day shooting, are being celebrated for the contributions and help they gave to others, along with their voices calling out to make our world a better place to live.

All my best to you, your family and loved ones,

Paul Larson
1st Vice President
Millbrae Historical Society

MHS 2018-19 OFFICER / TRUSTEE INSTALLATION

Please join us at this year's MHS Officer/Trustee Installation on **Sunday, March 25 at 1:30 pm** in the **Temporary Millbrae Community Center** (next to the Library), featuring a presentation by **Dee Eva**, Co-Chair of the Redwood City 150 Committee, on the history of Redwood City and its 150th Anniversary. Ms. Eva will present a film and a talk on the topic, followed by questions and answers. Light refreshments will be served. Please invite your family and friends!

The MHS Nominating Committee has placed the following names into nomination to serve as MHS Officers and Trustees for the year 2018-19:

President: John Muniz
1st Vice-President: Paul Larson
2nd Vice-President: Joe Teresi
Secretary: Gaetane Andrews
Treasurer: Vern Bruce
Parliamentarian: Mary Vella Treseler

Trustees: Faye Dawdy, Alicia Espinoza, John Espinoza, and Raymond Gier

Thanks to **Bart Speccia** and **110/220 Electric** for performing electrical contracting services at the new Carriage House!!



Millbrae History Walk walking tour
Saturday, April 21, 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Meet at Millbrae Museum
Co-sponsored with the Millbrae Library

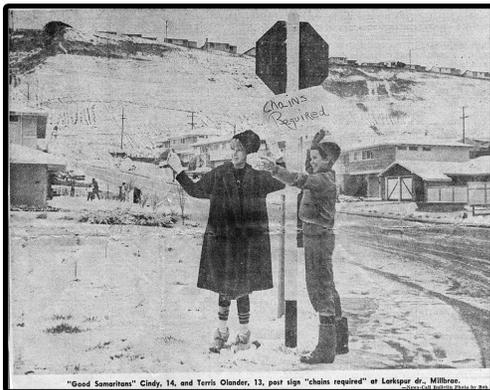
PRESERVING MEMORIES
 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

up, back up, and back up". In this digital age of photography, most images are now in digital file format – they might live on your smart phone, tablet or computer. They might be backed up on an external hard drive or maybe backed up in the cloud. It is also easy to back up your older film-based photographs. They can easily be scanned or copied, and then extra prints can be made

for family members, and the digital files can be backed up and stored in a safe place.

I took a little different direction in my history article this time, but I feel it is extremely important to preserve historical memories and keep them safe for future generations.

Memorable Millbrae photos



Snow in Millbrae 1962



El Camino Real 1940's



Broadway Market Grand Opening



Parade Downtown early 1960's



Founding Millbrae Historical Society members

In Memory of Sally Scholz, who passed away on February 3rd. Sally was the first secretary of the Millbrae Historical Society. Sally and her husband Jim were part of the founding members of the Millbrae Historical Society. Rest in peace, Sally.



CURATOR'S REPORT
DOROTHY SEMKE

We would like to thank all those who helped decorate and bring desserts to our **2017 MHS Christmas Party**. Once again it was a great success and all who came seemed to enjoy themselves. It's great to see everyone rekindle old friendships.

Our Museum has many new items thanks to the generosity of the public. Stop by any Saturday from 12 noon to 4 pm to see them.

We will be holding our **Installation**

of Officers on Sunday, March 25 at 1:30 pm, so do try to attend.

Once again, we will be having our **Annual Yard Sale on Saturday, August 11th**. Please start saving your gently-used items now. We are unable to accept clothes, large furniture or electrical items (such as computers or televisions). You can drop off your donations any Saturday from 12 noon to 4 pm at the Museum.



Welcome to Our Newest MHS Members!

- John and Marilyn Cooney
- Bill Curley
- Denis Fama
- Ferrario Properties
- Juan & Pat Gumas
- Jean Joh
- Kozo & Kathleen Kimura
- Anne Oliva
- Dana & Robert Payne
- Jim Shypertt

TRAIN MUSEUM NEWS
ELIZABETH FURBER, EDITOR
VERN BRUCE, REPORTER

We have been continuously working on all of the projects at the Train Museum. Since the last newsletter we have added netting to the bottom of the fence surrounding the Museum. This significantly reduces the quantity of leaves and debris that blow onto the grounds. We have also cleaned up piles of stored items that have accumulated over the years. The various outside display items, as well as the two vintage vehicles, have also been rearranged for better 'traffic flow' of our visitors. Lastly, we tied up our 'Train Museum' sign to the underside of the Pullman sleeping car, facing the railroad tracks, thereby enticing at

least one family to visit.

On the inside of the Museum, we have sorted all of the donated books and videos for both keeping and re-selling. Rearrangement of the display cases was also done for better visitor flow.

We are now nearing completion of a small, but heavy-duty, luggage cart that was originally used at the Millbrae Train Station. Restoration of the 1895 horse-drawn surrey wheels is now completed, and the frame is beginning to be reassembled. Completion is now expected prior to the end of this year.



Again we thank the following donors and helpers for taking their time to show our visitors through the Museum, as well as working on the above projects: **Joseph Bonavia; Jason Brady, Vern Bruce, Charley Hegarty, Richard Kennedy, Jay King, Gino & Gerry Micheli, Jorge Quezada, and Peter Sheerin.**

Please patronize our Millbrae Historical Society Lifetime Business Members:



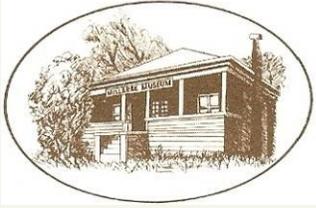
Corey, Luzaich, Pliska, de Ghetaldi & Nastari

BUSINESS - SALESMEN - HOME & CONDO OWNERS - APT. RENTERS
MATEO AVE. MINI-STORAGE
1162 SAN MATEO AVE., 50. SAN FRANCISCO 94080
Security - Fireproof Concrete Bldg.
Lockers 4x4 to 16x12 - Self Stor. - Own Lock
9:30 to 5:00 PM
Monday - Saturday
Closed Sundays
952-6464

Ferrario Properties

FULLY EQUIPPED, RADIO DISPATCHED MOBILE UNITS
COMPLETE LOCKSMITH SERVICES
FOREIGN CARS - SAFES
MILLBRAE LOCK
VERNON W. BRUCE, C.M.L.
CA. LIC. LCO 674
www.millbraelock.com
(650) 583-5698
FAX (650) 692-0162
311 EL CAMINO REAL
MILLBRAE, CA 94030-2609

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.MILLBRAEHS.ORG



**MILLBRAE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Post Office Box 511
Millbrae, CA 94030

Phone: 650-692-5786

MHS OFFICERS – 2018-19

John Muniz, President
Paul Larson, 1st Vice-President
Joe Teresi, 2nd Vice-President
Gaetane Andrews, Secretary
Vern Bruce, Treasurer
Mary Vella Treseler, Parliamentarian

Dorothy Semke, Curator
Tom Dawdy, Historian
Ray Gier, Museum Facilitator
Joe Teresi, Newsletter Editor

C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S

Sunday, March 12: Millbrae Historical Society Installation of 2018-19 Officers and Board of Trustees, 1:30 pm, Temporary Millbrae Community Center, 623 Magnolia Avenue (next to Library).

- featuring a film/talk on the history of Redwood City by **Dee Eva**, Co-Chair of Redwood City 150.
Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, April 21: *Millbrae History Walk* walking tour, 1:00 to 3:00 pm, Millbrae Museum.
Co-sponsored with the Millbrae Library. Call **Joe Teresi** at (650) 455-4887 for details.

Ongoing basis: Watch for an announcement regarding the dedication and grand opening gala for the new **Carriage House** coming soon!

Fourth Wednesdays of the Month: Millbrae Historical Society Board Meetings, 7:00 pm,
Millbrae Museum, 420 Poplar Avenue. MHS members and guests are welcome to attend!

Millbrae Historical Society Museum Operating Hours

Millbrae Museum: Saturdays, 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm

Millbrae Train Museum: Saturdays, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm