

# 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

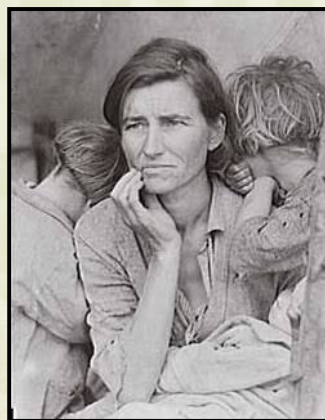
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>"Child of Giants"</i>	1
President's Report	1
Vice-President's Message	2
Curator's Report	3
Train Museum News	4
Newsletter Contest Winner	4
In Loving Memory	5
Calendar of Events	6

## MARCH 16 INSTALLATION TO FEATURE *CHILD OF GIANTS*

Following the installation of the 2008 Officers and Board of Trustees, the Millbrae Historical Society is pleased to host a very special one-hour slide presentation entitled "*Child of Giants*" on Sunday, March 16 at 1:30 pm in the David Chetcuti Community Room.

**Daniel Dixon**, and his wife **Dixie** will be guest speakers for this special program. Daniel will feature his father, world renowned painter **Maynard Dixon**, in a richly illustrated presentation entitled "*The Thunderbird Remembered*".



*Migrant Mother* (Dorothea Lange)

Dixie will join him in a companion piece on Daniel's mother, noted photographer **Dorothea Lange**, called "*The Universal Language*".

Daniel will also recount his early boyhood years and the effect his famous parents had on his view of world events, both through film and in art. The program will cover the artists' view of the turbulent times during the Great Depression, and the ensuing shift of population to the West.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet and hear about the thought-evoking life of a man and his mother and father, with a past worthy of remembrance.

**Mark your calendars today!**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARY VELLA TRESELER

"Me oh my", how time flies when you're having fun. Here we are already well into 2008 and preparing for our installation and program meeting on Sunday, March 16. We will be honored to have Millbrae Mayor **Gina Papan** with us to install MHS Officers and Board of Trustees at 1:30 p.m. in

the David Chetcuti Community Room. Officers for 2008-2009 are President **Mary Vella Treseler**; Vice-President **John Muniz**; Secretary **Lois Way** and Treasurer **Vern Bruce**. Reappointed Trustees include **Dora Bruno** and **Lois Way**. Newly appointed Trustees



include **Tom Dawdy**, **Robert Gorran**, **Dorothy Semke** and **Ollie Welch**, and **Vern Bruce** will be inducted as a new Lifetime Trustee.

(continued on Page 2)

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JACK GARDNER

I think you'll all agree that 2007 was a fun-filled year! We had our Installation, with **Fred La Cosse** presenting a wonderful program on democratic action and the importance of voting to keep America strong. We held our Annual Picnic in July, which went very well with the aid of the Millbrae Lions Club. We participated in the Millbrae Scramble, which helped folks learn where the Millbrae Museum and Millbrae Train Museum are located. In December, the Annual Holiday Party was held at

the Museum, with food supplied by Leonardo's Deli, along with champagne and punch. There was music and singing and a good time had by all!

We are starting 2008 with our Installation Program on Sunday, March 16 at the Chetcuti Community Room. There will be an interesting program entitled "Child of Giants" presented by **Daniel Dixon**, son of world-renowned painter **Maynard Dixon** and photographer **Dorothea Lange**, who



will share personal information about his famous parents.

Please plan to be there on Sunday, March 16 at the Chetcuti Community Room at 1:30 pm to see your new MHS Officers and Trustees installed and to see and hear this interesting presentation.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Refreshments will be served and admission is free.

My thanks to Nominating Committee chairman **Jack Gardner** and his fellow committee members **Ann Gardner** and **George Habeeb** for their hard work. Also many thanks to those Officers and Trustees who have agreed to retain their positions for another year of service.

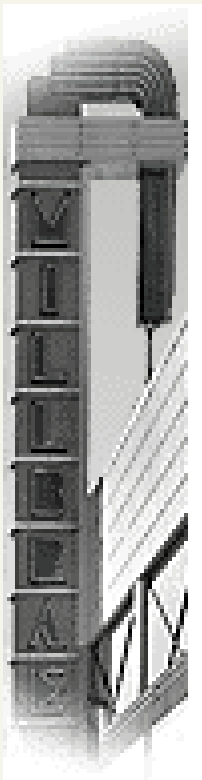
Once again, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your President.

Our new book "*Images of America: Millbrae*" is now on sale. Cost is \$21, which includes sales tax. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please call our Museum at 692-5786 and leave a message or stop by any Saturday afternoon between 12 noon and 4:00 p.m.

On another note, you can see by our Vice-President's report that we had a very busy and productive year. In celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Millbrae Museum dedication and in recognition of the book "*Images of America: Millbrae*", the Millbrae Historical Society was honored and most appreciative to receive two Commendations from the Millbrae City Council at their meetings of April 10, 2007 and January 8, 2008, respectively.

Also, on January 16, Curator **Alma Massolo** and I were invited to the Magnolia of Millbrae to talk about the history of Millbrae and have been invited by Mills Estate Villa in Burlingame for a repeat performance on February 27.

I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday, March 16....



## CURATOR'S REPORT

### ALMA MASSOLO

Oh! If we only had more space for displays in the Millbrae Museum, we would be very happy!

I managed to squeeze a display of Millbrae artists into a corner of the Heritage Room. So far we have paintings from **David Harris**, **Alexander Nepote**, and **Frances Caine**. Some of Mrs. Caine's outstanding criminal composite drawings are also on display. She was called upon "whenever anything happened" to work up a drawing of a suspected rapist, murderer, or robber, based on descriptions provided by the victims. We offer thanks to retired **Sergeant Ron Caine** and his wife, **Alice**, for the contribution of his mother's artwork, which greatly enhances the Museum.

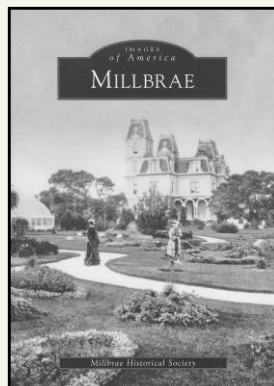


**Joe Hakl's** painting of the early days at the Millbrae Train Depot is hanging in the **Frances Baxter** Room, named after the Society's second Historian (1972–1991). Several works of **Albin Kern**, who was world famous for his landscapes, are hanging in the Museum kitchen.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting **Kathy Levine** and a friend, two lovely ladies from Cleveland, Ohio. Kathy came to search for a brother who lived in this area in the 1950's. She also wondered if we had any information on **Charles Howard**, owner of the famous racehorse **Seabiscuit**. I referred her to the Burlingame Historical Society for further information. They were very complimentary of our Museum.

MHS President **Mary Vella Treseler** and I presented a program at the Magnolia of Millbrae. We brought displays and some special historical pieces — in other words, we brought the Museum to them. We were very well received, and our talk was followed by a lively question and answer session. It was a very enjoyable afternoon for them and for us.

Our newly published history book, "*Images of America: Millbrae*" is selling very well. We have several repeat customers who are buying the book to be given as a gift.



On January 12th, we participated in Millbrae's 60th Anniversary Celebration by opening the Museum at 10 am and serving coffee and sweets. Many guests toured the Museum that day.

Two great members of the Millbrae Historical Society, **Bob Treseler** and **Bill Baxter**, passed on in December. The Society has received several generous monetary donations in their honor. We graciously thank those individuals who made the donations.



The family of **Bill Baxter** used the Museum for the reception following Bill's memorial service, which worked out very well for them. After all, Bill was a founder of the Museum, and it was his dedication that made the Museum what it is today. We honored him by allowing his family to hold the reception in the Museum. In appreciation, his family gave a very large monetary donation to the Museum. Our special thanks to **Paul Baxter** and family.

**TRAIN MUSEUM NEWS**  
 ELIZABETH FURBER, EDITOR  
 VERN BRUCE, REPORTER



In spite of our very wet weather, we have had a great turnout of visitors to our Train Museum. From nine weeks to 90 years old, and from Millbrae to Tokyo, we get people from all over. In addition, in January the City of Millbrae had an "Open House" of all its facilities in celebration of the City's 60th Anniversary. We were fortunate enough to be included in the festivities. As a result, we saw over 60 visitors in the short four hours of the event! Most of the people

that stopped by live right here in Millbrae and did not know that we have this wonderful museum.

Because of the increase in visitors over the past few months, our docents have been especially busy. Our Society wishes to acknowledge the efforts and enthusiasm of the following volunteers: **Elizabeth Furber; Robert Gorran; Richard Kennedy; Gino and Gerry Micheli; Vernon Bruce and William Bruce.**

Richard deserves particular notice; he is a high school student who comes regularly as part of his community service. He has become quite good acting as greeter and tour guide.

Stay tuned for more news in the next newsletter.

**NEWSLETTER  
 CONTEST WINNER**

Congratulations to **Paul Larson** for submitting the winning entry in the "Name the Newsletter" contest. The Millbrae Historical Society Board of Trustees voted to approve Paul's suggested newsletter name from a number of submittals. Starting with this issue, the Society's newsletter will be called "*Millbrae Life and Times*". Thanks also to Society members **Ronald Johnson** and **Ollie Trost Welch** for submitting ideas for consideration.

**WELCOME TO OUR  
 NEW MEMBERS**

- Carmen Morello
- Ralph Bennett
- Ron & Alice Caine
- Marge Colapietro

Upgraded to Life Membership

Theresa Rolandelli



"It's about three gallons thataway."

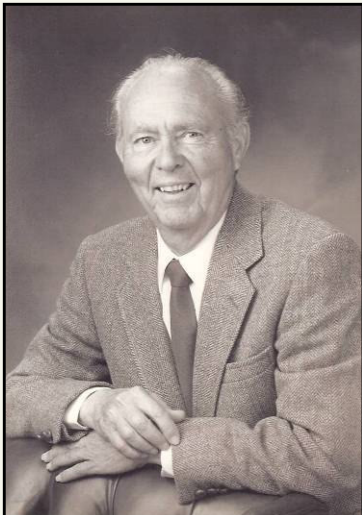


"LEROY DOESN'T BELIEVE IN LIFE AFTER DINNER."

## IN LOVING MEMORY

### In remembrance of Bill Baxter .....

Bill Baxter was born September 4, 1922 and died December 23, 2007 at the age of 85. Bill was a founding member of the Millbrae Historical Society, served as its President for several terms, and devoted countless hours to the creation of the Millbrae Museum. Bill was named the Millbrae Man of the Year for 1992 for his work as a great community volunteer. During World War II, he served in the United States Air Force and retired in 1982 with the rank of Major. Bill served California's educators as Statewide Director of Communications for the California Teachers Association. In 1984, Bill received the Congressional Public Service Award. His wife Frances was the Millbrae Historical Society Historian from 1972 to 1991. Bill will be terribly missed by the community and especially his fellow members of the Historical Society.



### In remembrance of Robert Treseler .....

We were saddened to hear of the death of Millbrae Historical Society Lifetime Member Robert Treseler on December 25, 2007.

Robert was a former Millbrae mayor, City Council member and City Treasurer. He also served on the City of Millbrae Planning Commission and Personnel Board. He served as a former Vice-President and Treasurer of the Millbrae Historical Society. He was always involved with the community.

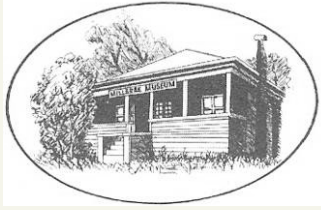
Robert leaves behind his wife of 17 years, current City Treasurer Mary Vella Treseler, five children and five grandchildren.

He will be missed. May he rest in peace..



To receive e-mail reminders of Millbrae Historical Society meetings and events, please send your e-mail address to Joe Teresi at [jtnia@comcast.net](mailto:jtnia@comcast.net)

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—2008**

**Mary Vella Treseler, President**  
**John Muniz, Vice-President**  
**Lois Way, Secretary**  
**Vern Bruce, Treasurer**  
**Alma Massolo, Curator & Historian**

**Joe Teresi, Newsletter Editor**

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

**Sunday, March 16:** Millbrae Historical Society Installation of 2008 Officers and Board of Trustees, 1:30 pm, David Chetcuti Community Room, 450 Poplar Avenue.

- Featuring “*Child of Giants*” slide presentation by Daniel and Dixie Dixon
- Refreshments provided

**Thursday, April 10:** Millbrae Seniors Spring/Summer Fashion Show, Millbrae Recreation Center, 477 Lincoln Circle; call Charlene O’Connell (259-2370) for time and further details.

**Friday, July 4:** Annual Fourth of July Barbecue and Family Picnic, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, David Chetcuti Community Room, 450 Poplar Avenue.

- Co-sponsored by the Millbrae Historical Society and the Millbrae Lions Club

**Fourth Wednesdays of the Month:** Millbrae Historical Society Board Meetings, 7:00 pm, Millbrae Museum, 420 Poplar Avenue. MHS members 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