

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

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT: MILLBRAE PANCAKE HOUSE

BY JOE TERESI

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One of the community's most beloved business establishments, the Millbrae Pancake House, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary of serving the Millbrae area. Just as back in 1959, the owners and staff of the Millbrae Pancake House continue to satisfy hungry customers with delicious food and personal service. It's a sure bet that you and your family have had the pleasure of a meal at the Millbrae Pancake House at some point over the last 50 years.

The Millbrae Pancake House was established in 1959 by the **Mulcrevy family** - **Marie, Frankie, and Anne**, along with Anne's husband **Jack**. Originally founded as one of the Uncle John's Pancake House franchises on the Peninsula, sisters Marie and



Jackie bought out their sister and brother-in-law after ten years, and re-named it Millbrae Pancake House. The familiar colonial-style building was the first to be constructed on the block, situated along busy El Camino Real, the (continued on Page 5)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JOHN MUNIZ

I want to start off by thanking all our members who were able to attend our annual installation of officers on March 15. We had forty-two attendees pack the Millbrae Library as **Mayor Robert Gottschalk** performed the swearing in of our new Board of Directors. Thank you **Jack and Ann Gardner** for arranging and setting up the refreshments. Thank you **Joe Teresi** for putting together

and conducting a Millbrae history trivia contest and our Vice-President **Paul Larson** who was our trivia contest master of ceremonies. Thank you to our former President **Mary Vella Treseler** for your service and guidance as President for a total of eight years. **Mitchell Postel**, President of the San Mateo County Historical Association, was our guest speaker who spoke on the first writ-



ten accounts of Millbrae and the Northern Peninsula. Congratulations to all our new and incumbent Board members.

Please, fellow members, mark your calendars for Saturday, July 4 (continued on Page 2)

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PAUL LARSON

Greetings, Millbrae Historical Society members!

It is my pleasure to serve the Millbrae Historical Society as your new Vice-President. I know it may be a mystery to some what the MHS VP does, but I've learned from my numerous Board Positions & current duties as President of the Millbrae Lions Club, 2nd VP of the Italian Catholic Federation at Saint Dunstan's and past Board Chairman of the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce that the purpose of a Vice-President is to fill in for the President when he or she is unavailable or incapacitated. I've also discovered several

additional MHS VP duties, which include organizing certain aspects of General Meetings and arranging for guest speakers. Having listened to many outstanding guest speakers at past Lions meetings, I hope to include these and others as guest speakers for the MHS in the future.

I am very proud of the Millbrae Historical Society and of the dedicated men and women who devote their time to preserving the history of Millbrae. Without these amazing volunteers, our heritage would be lost, and those who had come before us would be forgotten. Remember that every person's mind is a



historical treasure vault, and if we do our best to record as many personal experiences as possible, then we'll be able to give the gift of knowledge to future generations.

Thank you for supporting the MHS. Your membership is important and your memories are a gift.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

for our annual Millbrae Historical Society 4th of July picnic. Please see the flyer in this edition of the newsletter. Get your family and friends together for this great event which is held in the Chetcuti Room adjacent to the Museum. Our Millbrae Historical Society Picnic is one of the fun highlights of the year. The Millbrae Lions Club will be cooking and the Millbrae Lions Leo club (junior Lions) will be serving. We will have music, raffle prizes and a lot of fun. Get your groups together and make your reservations early.

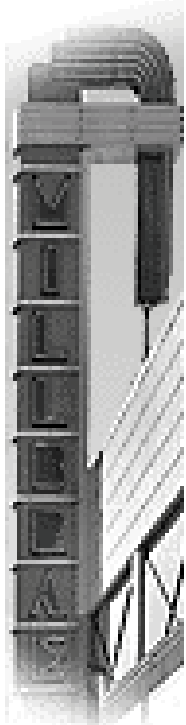
The Millbrae Historical Society announces a new scholarship program to benefit our Junior Docents. At our May 27th meeting, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved two annual \$500.00 scholarships; a one-time scholarship to be awarded to a junior docent from the Millbrae Museum and a one-time scholarship for a junior docent from the Millbrae Train Museum. The scholarships will be awarded to junior docents who have worked in one of the museums, are in high school or middle school, and have demonstrated dedication, interest, and courtesy in all aspects of their responsibilities. This year's awards will be presented at our annual Christmas party. I will be appointing a "blue ribbon" selection committee of Society members to determine this year's recipients.

Our Treasurer, **Vern Bruce**, has donated a cipher lock to replace the lock on the front door of the museum. The cipher lock is operated and opened via an electronic key which will enable us to track all who enter the building. Thank you Vern and Millbrae Lock for your donation and a more secure environment for our museum and artifacts.

Have you seen the beautiful tri-fold brochure describing in pictures what the Millbrae Historical Society is all about? Please stop by the Millbrae Museum or Train Museum and pick one up – it is a work of art. Thank you **Tom Dawdy** of Dawdy Photography for taking the pictures and assembling a beautiful informative tool for our museums.

We are always seeking new members to join the Millbrae Historical Society. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining a fun group of citizens who are dedicated to preserving Millbrae's rich historic past, please have them come by the Museum and pick up an application. We can also mail an application to an interested party.

Thank you to all our Millbrae Historical Society members for your dedication to the Society and community. Please remember "The past is the key to our future".



CURATOR'S REPORT

ALMA MASSOLO



We have a new acquisition at the Museum that is of a little bit of comical quality and a little bit of history. It is a rectangular shaped, 2" x 3" container that holds a miniature measuring tape and level. It was an item used to advertise "My Brother's Place" and given to patrons of that bar that is now under new ownership and called "Finn McCool's". Printed on this item was the name of "My Brother's Place" and an inscription.....Give a woman an inch and she thinks she's a Ruler.....

On May 28, President **John Muniz** and Museum House Manager **Jack Gardner** were hosted for dinner at the Millbrae Library by the Pacific Skyline Council of the Boy Scouts of America. John and Jack later escorted the Scout

officials through the Museum to view the history of Millbrae.....

On June 24th at 11:00 am, **Rich Gaines**, program coordinator at the San Francisco Senior Center, will come along with 15 residents to visit our Museum.

Work on cataloguing the collection of many years of local



newspapers has started. Historical articles of happenings in Millbrae will be cut out and compiled into yearly albums. Anyone wishing to help, please call Alma at 697-8377. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

We are happy to report that five additional Arcadia HISTORY BOOKS OF MILLBRAE have been sold at this time. Sales have slowed



down, but there is still an interest, especially for giving the books as gifts. This venture has been very profitable. We are anticipating more book sales at the upcoming 2009 Millbrae Art & Wine Festival.

Last year's Yard Sale was very successful. The MHS Board of Trustees decided to have another sale this fall. We will need many items. Please clean out your attic, garage, and basement and call **Dorothy Semke**, Yard Sale Chairperson, at 697-7670 to donate any sellable items in good condition. Your help will be greatly appreciated. The Yard Sale will be held on October 10.



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

TRAIN MUSEUM NEWS
 ELIZABETH FURBER, EDITOR
 VERN BRUCE, REPORTER



This last month, the Train Museum bathroom was completely redone by Boy Scout Troop 355, led by scout **Evan Holober**, and adult consultant **Dennis Reeves**. Doing an excellent job, they re-tiled the floor, installed wainscoting and moulding, repaired the paper dispenser, and completely repainted the walls, door and trim. Tune in next quarter for a list of all the volunteers and donors who participated in this much-needed project.

We would like to thank the following docents that have volunteered in the last few months:

Mark Evans, Liz Furber, Robert Gorran, Richard Kennedy, Gino & Gerry Micheli, and Vernon & William Bruce. At 20 months old, we are currently in the process of training **Theresa Bruce** to become a professional docent, like her four-and-a-half year-old brother.

We also would like to thank the following individuals for various recent donations to the museum: **Ralph Bennett, Ralph Domenici, Michael Barrow, Robert Gorran, Dave Hockett, Ronald Johnson, Dennis Reeves, Bruce Shelton,**

Additionally, special recognition to **Bruce Shelton** of Caltrain. Bruce has been very supportive of our museum since we opened almost five years ago. He visits us once every few weeks in order to refill and update our various transportation-related brochures and train tables. He has also printed and distributed our flyers to many varied locations throughout the Peninsula.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Can you find all the words hidden in the puzzle (vertical, horizontal, diagonal, or backwards)?

L O Y O R B E L W U H P R A L A C R U Z A
 L M M E R S A F E W A Y A Q U I G G K Y U
 Y K C U L L B T R A B T L L F D S R Y E I
 E P C E N L S L A E R O N I M A C L E S A
 N E S N O I A O R E E B C A O R D E S I R
 S C K R R H Z V S G A A L R O I N O A Y O
 P F C U C N A E G E P C T L R U O N S M C
 E S U O H E L I M N E E T X I S M A N A M
 N B B B A E M L R N I G M L T M H R A B A
 I R R D R R K E T P N R O C U I C D R S N
 N O A A D G H R A A O E P T C L I O T E S
 S A T H S T A L A D A R L S T L R S M M H
 U D S C U L O M K P O R T E E S E Z A A S
 L W N O P C M B U R A W O A H R C E S S N
 A A S A P A P E M E A T G L C P C H G S E
 O Y R H L A I L A I S M I L Y P E C A O U
 R K S G Y H I P E D S U L M E A N N R L Y
 C S N E E R G L A W O I M L O N T A D O K
 W M A G N O L I A P H W C H A L E S N E O
 S T E E P P A H H L A R S O N H R K E O O
 R E A M I O S M C Y C N D P O P L A R A F

- Airport
- BART
- Broadway
- Bruce
- Central Park
- Chadbourne
- Chetcuti Room
- Colapietro
- Darius Mills
- El Camino Real
- Fook Yuen
- Gardner
- Gottschalk
- Green Hills
- Hallmark
- Helen
- Highlands
- Hillcrest
- La Cruz
- Lai Lai
- Larson
- Leonardos
- Lomita Park
- Lucky
- Magnolia
- Massolo
- Meadow Glen
- Meadows
- Millbrae
- Muniz
- Museum
- Orchard Supply
- Palm
- Papan
- Pape Meat
- Peets
- Peninsula
- Poplar
- Quigg
- Rec Center
- Richmond
- Safeway
- Samtrans
- Sanchez
- Seto
- Shaws
- Sixteen Mile House
- Southern Pacific
- Spring Valley
- Starbucks
- Taylor
- Treseler
- Walgreens
- Way

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: MILLBRAE PANCAKE HOUSE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

main highway up and down the Peninsula. Encouraged by their mother, San Francisco residents **Marie and Jackie Mulcrevy** blazed a new trail as women business owners in the male-dominated business world of the 1960s. Without much business or restaurant expertise – Marie told me “I can’t cook!” – the two sisters ran the restaurant based on a strong sense of family and



loyalty. They featured basic, hearty food like pancakes for 50 cents and 10-cent coffee, and have never served alcohol in order to maintain a family-friendly atmosphere. Marie ran the day-



tomor **Diane Bagatelos** has visited the restaurant every day for over 40 years.

Through the years, many members of the Mulcrevy clan have played a part in carrying on the tradition of a family-run business. Today, the restaurant is managed by the next generation of Mulcrevy women – sisters **Jane, Erin, Laura, and Maureen**. Marie, now 86 years old, still visits the restaurant on a regular basis to keep an eye on things. The Millbrae Pancake House continues to exude the past with its original 1960s décor, featuring wood paneling, country-style wall-

story condominium building, and the number of restaurants in Millbrae has greatly increased since 1959, the Millbrae Pancake House continues to attract plenty of business. Sunday mornings are still the busiest time of the week, with the line of customers sometimes extending outside the front door. The Mulcrevy sisters know that their Aunt Marie developed a well-tested recipe for success and don't plan



many changes, although they hinted that they might create a web site to publicize their restaurant. They are truly grateful to the Millbrae community for all their loyal support over the years. There's something about the smell of bacon and freshly-brewed coffee along with the Millbrae Pancake House's friendly staff and old-fashioned atmosphere that provides a strong dose of nostalgia and satisfaction. I have a feeling that there will be many more anniversaries to celebrate at the Millbrae Pancake House in the years to come.

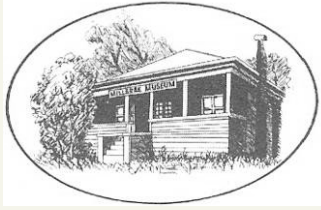


to-day operation, scheduling the staff and serving as hostess, while sister Frankie kept the books and paid the bills. The Millbrae Pancake House has many long-time employees, including **Anna Medina** who has worked as a waitress for 25 years. The same sense of camaraderie that has kept the staff working happily together has also produced a number of fiercely loyal customers. Cus-

paper, and a gift shop well-stocked with stuffed animals and toy cars. Although El Camino Real is no longer the main highway, the bowling alley next door has been replaced with a multi-

*Here's to your good health,
and your family's good health,
and may you all live long & prosper.*

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—2009

John Muniz, President
Paul Larson, Vice-President
Lois Way, Secretary
Vern Bruce, Treasurer
Alma Massolo, Curator & Historian

Joe Teresi, Newsletter Editor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, July 4: Annual Fourth of July Barbeque 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

Saturday - Sunday, September 5 - 6: Millbrae Art & Wine Festival, Broadway Avenue,
Downtown Millbrae. Support the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce and enjoy a weekend of
food, music, and the arts. Please visit the Millbrae Historical Society's booth on Saturday!

Saturday, October 10: Millbrae Historical Society Yard Sale at Millbrae Museum.

Your donations are welcome!

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