

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

MILLBRAE HISTORY WALK BY JOE TERESI

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Millbrae History Walk	1
President's Report	1
Vice-President's Message	3
Curator's Report	3
Growing up in Millbrae	4
Train Museum News	5
Calendar of Events	6



The Millbrae Historical Society has recently designated six new historic sites throughout the City and has placed bronze plaques to commemorate them. The six new historic sites include:

- Massolo Building (El Camino at La Cruz)
- Taylor Middle School
- Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church (El Camino at Hermosa)
- Old Millbrae Firehouse (255 Broadway)

- Dunphy Mansion site (at current Millbrae Serra Hospital - 150 Serra Ave)
- Alfred Green House (1 Lewis Avenue)

These new sites complement the four original designated historical sites: Sixteen Mile House, Mills Mansion, Southern Pacific Depot, and the Millbrae Historical Museum.

(continued on page 5)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JOHN MUNIZ

Well, here we are at the beginning of a new year and things are jumping at the Millbrae Historical Society. It's not your old Millbrae Historical Society anymore - we are moving forward into our 40th year of preserving and enhancing the history of our community and its historical past with a vengeance.

Our Historical Plaque Committee Chairperson **Joe Teresi** and his

committee (**Tom & Faye Dawdy, Vern Bruce, and Alma Massolo**) have placed six permanent bronze plaques at historically significant sites throughout Millbrae. Each plaque has a brief narration of the historical significance of the building or site. The Committee is also planning a **Millbrae History Walk** event on **Sunday, April 11**. Please read the lead story in this Newsletter for further information.



I also want to extend an invitation to our **Growing up in Millbrae** presentation on **Friday, April 2** at 7:00 pm. This is a not-to-be missed audio-visual presentation produced by **Tom Dawdy** for the enjoyment of those who grew up in

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Millbrae and those who arrived later in life. Tom has spent countless hours on the research and development of this project. *Growing up in Millbrae* presents a wonderful insight to life as it was when Millbrae still had that small town feeling. Bring your children and grandchildren, friends and neighbors and enjoy an evening of how it was in the "olden days of Millbrae". Thank you **Tom & Faye Dawdy** for your time and hard work in developing and producing *Growing up in Millbrae*!

As the old saying goes, time flies when you're having fun. It is again time for the installation of our new Millbrae Historical Society Officers and Board of Trustees. This year the event will be held at the Millbrae Library, on **Sunday, March 21**, starting at 1:00 pm. We will have a guest speaker, refreshments and lots of fun, so please come on down and join us. Congratulations to our new officers and trustees! I want to extend a personal thank you to **Lois Way**, who has served the Millbrae Historical Society as Secretary for the past twelve years. Lois will use her valuable years of experience in other areas of our Museum.

Last year, the Millbrae Historical Society took a field trip to the Sharpsteen Historical Museum in Calistoga. We had so much fun that we have decided to plan an annual Millbrae Historical Society field trip. This year we plan on taking the Capitol Corridor train from Emeryville to Sacramento to pay a visit to Old Town Sacramento and the California State Railroad Museum. More information about the trip will follow later this spring.

How long has it been since you visited the Millbrae Train Museum? Our curator **Vern Bruce** and his crew have spruced it up quite a bit. It now has an ADA-compliant bathroom and a new exterior paint job. Our *Civic Center* Pullman car is the centerpiece of our railroad museum, so check it out. We hope to add more exhibits to the Millbrae Train Museum in the coming months.

In 2010, the Boy Scouts of America are celebrating their centennial; one hundred years of scouting. The Millbrae Historical Society is honored to have been chosen to host a display of vintage Boy Scout memorabilia from March through June of this year. As each Scout visits the museum, their centennial record book will be stamped by our docents, which will indicate that the Scout has visited and viewed the scouting display. The Hiller Aviation Museum and San Mateo County Historical Museum are other venues which are hosting Boy Scout memorabilia. Congratulations to the Boy Scouts of America for one hundred years of service to our county!

The **Alma Massolo Room** has been completed! In the

basement of our Millbrae Museum, we have built a secure room to house and store our historical documents, maps and ledgers. The ribbon-cutting was held at our January 27 Board meeting, with our beloved curator and historian **Alma Massolo** cutting the ribbon. Thank you **Jack Gardner**, our architect and project foreman; **Hank Helmers**, our design engineer and man about town; and yes, yours truly **John Muniz**, who doesn't know which end of a hammer to use.

If you missed our December 9th Millbrae Historical Society annual Christmas Party, you missed a hum dinger. The museum looked like a winter wonderland, decorated to the hilt with holiday lights and Christmas décor. The place was packed with members and guests. Thank you to all our members who made the Christmas party a great success.

Another first for the Millbrae Historical Society is our Junior Docent Scholarship Awards, which were presented at our Christmas Party. This is the first year of the program, which will encourage our youth to take an interest in the history of Millbrae. Junior Docent Scholarships are awarded to junior docents who have demonstrated dedication and loyalty over a period of time by donating their time at the Millbrae Historical Museum or Millbrae Train Museum. Our 2009-2010 Junior Docent Scholarship winners were **Angela Zink**, a long-time junior docent at the Millbrae Historical Museum, and **Richard Kennedy**, a junior docent at the Millbrae Train Museum. Congratulations to our winners, who each received a \$500 scholarship to apply towards their educational pursuits.

Our community is blessed with two outstanding, unique historical venues that present the opportunity for our members, neighbors and friends to relive our colorful past and gain a wealth of information that is unique to our community - the Millbrae Historical Museum and the Millbrae Train Museum. Please take the opportunity to visit our two museums and continue to support the Millbrae Historical Society in preserving our past.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all our members who support this great organization. Thank you especially to our members who have stepped forward with projects that will bring recognition and rekindle public interest in the Millbrae Historical Society. This is our community, and we all must do what we can to continue to preserve and develop the cultural richness our community has to offer.

Best wishes from your Millbrae Historical Society President, **John Muniz**

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PAUL LARSON

Greetings Officers and Members of the Millbrae Historical Society!

SPRING IS IN THE AIR! Well, maybe not quite yet. As of this writing the sun is out in a cloudless sky, but rain has been falling with surprising regularity in the past weeks. I like the rain as long as I don't need to venture too far outside in it. I hope you are all enjoying your day today, whatever the weather.

Recently I have received several calls at the Chapel of the Highlands by those doing genealogical research. I have been able to find the needed historical information in our

records which they were unable to find elsewhere. These genealogical inquiries have become more frequent in recent years. Family members have come to rely on the information we keep as a permanent record at the Chapel about their relatives who have passed away. We have files on every family we have served since we first opened in 1952, and in many cases we are the only resource a family has to turn to when looking up vital dates, parents names, birthplaces, etc. It makes me feel good to know that we have the ability to help people follow through with finding the missing puzzle pieces in their lives.



I hope this Newsletter finds each of you with vigorous health, a rosy outlook and lots of pluck. Please remember to join us for the MHS Installation on **Sunday, March 21**. Have a spectacular spring, summer, fall and winter!

-- Paul Larson

CURATOR'S REPORT

ALMA MASSOLO



After many months of hard labor, the new room in the basement of the Museum, built by **Jack Gardner, John Muniz, and Hank Helmers**, is finished. We now have a secure area for protecting and storing historical artifacts and our archive files. On January 27, the room was officially opened and dedicated in my honor as the **Alma Massolo Room**. I am deeply honored, and I extend my profound thanks to all the members of the Executive Board of the Millbrae Historical Society for this honor. The three men responsible for the construction of this room did

a very professional job. Many details were employed such as crown moldings, floor baseboards, and a fine paint job. The extra wall space will come in very handy for hanging large maps and exhibits that won't fit into the main Museum.

President **John Muniz's** column includes a comprehensive report on the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. Please visit the special Boy Scout history exhibit that has been installed in the Heritage Room of the Museum. 25 Boy Scouts and parents viewed and enjoyed the exhibit when it opened on February 6th. The display is scheduled to be removed on June 30th.

Another addition to the Museum is a collage of images from the **George Priola** home at 267 Hillcrest Blvd. The house was built by developer **Niels Schultz** in the Millbrae Highlands during the late 1920's. It was



used as a model home, with a formal garden on an adjoining lot. The Priola family purchased the home in December 1942 and sold it in August 1956. The new exhibit is hanging on the wall to the left of the Ohlone Indian display in the Museum.

A big thank you to Vice-President **Paul Larson** for the very old and unique books he recently donated. They will be placed in the display case in the kitchen area.

-- Alma Massolo

Millbrae Historical Society Presents.....



An Audio-Visual Presentation by Tom Dawdy

"Growing up in Millbrae"



Friday April 2, 2010 7-9 pm David Chetcuti Room
RSVP (650) 588-5400 or email tom@dawdyphoto.com
Limited Seating

Admission \$5.00 Historical Society Members free
Become a MHS Member and admission is free!

Sponsors: Millbrae Historical Society, Millbrae Chamber of
Commerce, South San Francisco Scavenger Co. &
Dawdy Photography

Information (650) 588-5400

Attention! The Millbrae Historical Society is looking for people who have photographs, videos, or memories of the Scout House behind Taylor Middle School. We would like to collect these materials from folks in order to assist with an upcoming fundraising campaign to restore the Scout House. If you have any Scout House-related photos or videos or if you would like to submit a short story documenting your special memories or be interviewed on tape, please contact Joe Teresi of the Millbrae Historical Society at 583-5476. Thank you.

TRAIN MUSEUM NEWS
 ELIZABETH FURBER, EDITOR
 VERN BRUCE, REPORTER

The last several months have been quite eventful for the Millbrae Train Museum. In September, we saw a significant repair of our roof. Then, in November, Caltrain completely repainted the outside of the building. We now have a fully-restored exterior of our museum. In addition, **Dave Hannigan** and **Jay King** have repainted the freight scale and the locomotive mock-up that are located outside the rear of the museum.

Junior docent **Richard Kennedy** has cleaned up and reorganized the items-for-sale and our Museum's HO scale display. We also congratulate Richard on receiving the Junior Docent Scholarship Award at our annual Christmas Party. He achieved this award/scholarship in recognition of over three years of volunteer work at the train museum.

We thank **Liz Furber, Bob Gorran, Richard Kennedy, Gino and Gerry**



Micheli, and the **Bruce family** for their time spent as long-time train museum docents. We also thank **Pat Altieri** of San Bruno for the recent donation of railroad hand-towels that were used on various railroad cars.

MILLBRAE HISTORY WALK
 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Each of the historic landmarks is designated with a permanent bronze plaque that identifies the site and provides a brief description of the site's history and significance.

In celebration of these historic sites, the Historical Society has created the *Millbrae History Walk*. The *Millbrae History Walk* is a self-guided walking path connecting the ten designated historical sites and other points of interest throughout Millbrae, consisting of a three-mile main loop trail and two alternate loop trails. The *Millbrae History Walk* brochure, which will be available soon at the Millbrae Historical Museum, Millbrae Train Museum, Millbrae Library, Millbrae Recreation Center, and other key locations, includes a map of the route, photos, and narrative descriptions of the historical sites. The route will be identified with stainless steel markers embedded in the sidewalk to guide walkers along the way.

Help kickoff the *Millbrae History Walk* by joining your fellow Historical Society members, neighbors, and Millbrae dignitaries at the Inaugural Millbrae History Walk on **Sunday, April 11**, starting at 1:00 pm. The walk will begin at the Millbrae Historical Museum, located at 420 Poplar Avenue. The group will walk the three-mile main loop, stopping at each of the six new historic sites to unveil the newly-installed bronze plaques. Shuttle transportation will be available

for those who would like to participate but are unable to walk the distance. Also tune in to MCTV (cable channel 27) over the next few weeks for *Millbrae History Minutes*, short vignettes describing Millbrae's historic sites.

Please help publicize Millbrae's history and the Historic Society by participating in the Inaugural Millbrae History Walk and inviting your friends and neighbors to join you on this fun and healthy community activity.

**INAUGURAL
 MILLBRAE HISTORY WALK**

Sunday, April 11 at 1:00 pm

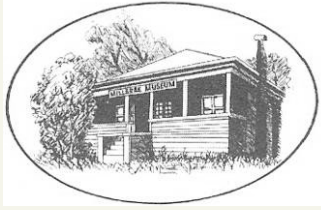
Millbrae Museum, 420 Poplar Avenue

Join your neighbors for a 3-mile guided walk to dedicate Millbrae's six new historical landmarks.

Shuttle available for those unable to walk.

Call (650) 583-5476 for further information.

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—2010

John Muniz, President
Paul Larson, Vice-President
Alicia Espinoza, 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 21: Millbrae Historical Society Installation of 2010 Officers and Board of Trustees, 1:00 pm, Millbrae Library Community Room, 1 Library Avenue.

- Featuring a guest speaker, light refreshments, and good company

Friday, April 2: *Growing Up in Millbrae* multi-media presentation, 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the David Chetcuti Community Room, 450 Poplar Avenue.

- Free to Millbrae Historical Society members
- RSVP to (650) 588-5400 or tom@dawdyphoto.com Limited Seating Available

Sunday, April 11: Inaugural Millbrae History Walk, 1:00 pm starting at the Millbrae Historical Museum, 420 Poplar Avenue. Please join us for this 3-mile walk to Millbrae's historic sites.

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