

# 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

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## HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT: MILLBRAE HIGHLANDS— YOUR PLACE IN THE SUNSHINE BY TOM DAWDY



In 1947, one year before I was born, my parents moved to Millbrae and my Dad started his business on the corner of Millbrae Avenue and El Camino Real. Our first house was in **Bayside Manor**, a few blocks away. Mom and Dad bought their "dream house" for a tidy sum of \$4,000. By 1957, after the big earthquake that rocked Millbrae, our family had grown to four children, and the six of us were busting out at the seams in our small two-bedroom house. One of my Dad's close friends had just purchased a house in the **Millbrae Highlands** and decided to sell it. We scooped it up for a bargain price of \$16,000. All the neighborhoods in Millbrae are great places to live and raise your family, but I feel I was so lucky to grow up in the Millbrae Highlands. Living in the Highlands, it is only a short walk to downtown or to Friendship or Burlingame Plazas, and a lot of the houses have great bay views and a short walk to schools. The style of the houses in the Highlands are like no other in Millbrae. They are a mixture of Spanish and Mission-Style homes along with a few English cottages and Tudors. Most homes have two stories and great basements. The setting is traditional early 20th century suburb with

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT JOHN MUNIZ

Remember the 1941 hit movie **Casablanca**, starring Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart - the title song was *As Time Goes By*. Well, at the Millbrae Historical Museum and Train Museum we are dedicated to capturing time, where we can look back at the past and plan for the future.

Here's one example of the past: the **Oscar Meyer Wienermobile**.

"Wienermobile" is the name for a series of automobiles shaped like a hot dog on a bun which are used to promote and advertise Oscar Mayer products in the United States. The first version was created in 1936 by Oscar Mayer's nephew, **Carl G. Mayer**, and variants are still used by the Oscar Mayer Company today. Drivers of the Wienermobile are known as Hotdoggers and often hand out toy whistles shaped as



replicas of the Wienermobile, known as Wienerwhistles. Well, the Wienermobile is still around today. This picture of the Wienermobile was taken last October as it

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

was parked on the corner of Juanita and Santa Susana Avenues in Millbrae. I have no idea why, and I was not able to locate anyone to ask. Back in the 50's, the Wienermobile would stop at large shopping centers, and Little Oscar would jump out and hand out Wienerwhistles. How excited I was to meet Little Oscar and receive a free Wienerwhistle. Well, as luck would have it, I lost my Wienerwhistle a long time ago, but I still have my wiener. Moving right along .....

### Millbrae Historical Society Carriage House

It has been 30 years since the Spring Valley Water Company Foreman's house was moved from the corner of Broadway and Ludeman Lane to our current location to serve as the Millbrae Museum. For 30 years, the Millbrae Historical Society has dreamed of building a carriage house next to the museum building. Back in 1984, a carriage house stood adjacent to the foreman's house. When the foreman's house was moved to Poplar Avenue and became the Millbrae Museum, unfortunately the old carriage house was demolished.



I am currently working with the City of Millbrae to negotiate the procurement of the land on the south side of the Millbrae Museum for building a new carriage house. Nothing is for sure yet, but I will keep the membership posted on the progress (or lack of). Yes, 30 years!

### Annual MHS Rummage Sale

Save the date of **Saturday, August 8th** for the annual **MSH Rummage Sale**, or Gently-Used Merchandise Sale for a better term. Assistant Curator **Dorothy Semke** has a lot of interesting merchandise, so come on down and check it out. We are seeking donations of gently-used items; bring them to the museum on Saturdays 12 - 4.

### Fourth of July Picnic

It's time to celebrate our nation's birthday once again! Hope to see you all to share the good food and fun on **Saturday, July 4th** in the Chetcuti Room. This year we will be showing **The History of San Bruno**, produced by San Bruno Cable TV. Why the history of San Bruno and

not Millbrae? Because Millbrae does not yet have a documentary video, and the history of San Bruno in the 1800's is essentially the same history as Millbrae. Please see the 4th of July Picnic flyer in this newsletter and get your reservations in early.

### Angela Zink

Back in 2006, a shy young lady with a beautiful smile attending Taylor Middle School inquired about volunteering at the Millbrae Historical Museum. She became a Junior Docent and showed up whenever she could, which was often on the weekends. I know Angela is a true friend of the Museum because in 2015 she is still volunteering, now as a docent. No longer shy, and still with a beautiful smile. In June of this year, Angela graduated from San Francisco State University, majoring in history. Angela will continue her education for one more year to get her teaching credential. Angela has studied in Italy and speaks fluent Italian. In August of this year, Angela will start teaching history at Mills High School as a teacher's aide. We sure are proud of Angela and her accomplishments, and we are grateful for her continued dedication and service to the Millbrae Historical Society. "You Go Girl!"

### Millbrae Machines Car Show

Hey, check out the annual **Millbrae Lions Club Millbrae Machines Car Show** on **Saturday, August 15**, on Broadway in downtown Millbrae. Imagine an event that nice that you can bring the whole family to participate in — and it's "FREE". Come on down and see the cars and bikes you have always dreamed of. Live music, jump house for the kids, food, and fun!! Only in Millbrae, on Broadway, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

### MHS President

It's hard to believe that thirty years have gone by since the MHS Museum was moved to the Millbrae Civic Center on Poplar Avenue. Thirty years this museum has served the residents of Millbrae and their guests. We are unique because we are fortunate enough to have two museums. The Millbrae Museum built in 1898 and the Southern Pacific Depot Train Museum built in 1907. What history we hold in our hands, what memories we hold in our hearts!

I am proud of our accomplishments, and proud and honored to have served as MHS President for the past six years.

Best Wishes,  
**John Muniz**  
**Millbrae Historical Society President**  
**2009 - Present**

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE PAUL LARSON

Greetings MHS Trustees, members, family and friends.

Aloha! As of this writing I am just back from my trip to Maui...we had a great quick vacation.

It's almost time for the famous **Millbrae Historical Society 4th of July BBQ & Raffle**. Look in this newsletter for info about this delicious and entertaining event which will take place at the David Chetcuti Room near the Millbrae Library. Please RSVP ASAP. I hope you can be there to enjoy all the fun!

The following items are noteworthy historical happenings connected with the month of June:

**June 1st - Marilyn Monroe** (1926-1962) was born in Los Angeles (as Norma Jean Mortensen). Following an unstable childhood spent in foster homes and orphanages, she landed a job as a photographer's model which led to a movie career. She later married baseball legend **Joe DiMaggio**. She died in Los Angeles from an overdose of sleeping pills on August 5, 1962. Best known for *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*

(1953), *The Seven Year Itch* (1955), and *Some Like It Hot* (1959).

**June 3, 1937 - The Duke of Windsor** married **Wallis Warfield Simpson** in Monts, France. As King Edward VIII, he had abdicated the British throne in December of 1936 amid tremendous controversy to marry Simpson, an American who had been divorced. Following the wedding, the couple lived in France and had minimal contact with the British Royal family.

**June 5, 1968 - Robert F. Kennedy** was shot and mortally wounded while leaving the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles. The shooting occurred after a celebration of Kennedy's victory in the California presidential primary. He died at 1:44 a.m., June 6, at age 42, leaving behind his wife Ethel and eleven children, the last one born after his death. Allied with the plight of the poor and disadvantaged in America, he spoke out against racial discrimination, economic injustice and the Vietnam War.

**June 6, 1944 - D-Day**, the largest amphibious landing in history, began



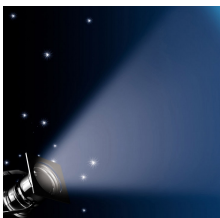
in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France. Operation Overlord took months of planning and involved 1,527,000 soldiers in 47 Allied divisions along with 4,400 ships and landing craft, and 11,000 aircraft. By the end of the day 150,000 Allied soldiers and their accompanying vehicles had landed with 15,000 killed and wounded.

**June 10th - Judy Garland** (1922-1969) was born in Grand Rapids, Minnesota (as Frances Gumm). She is best remembered for her portrayal of Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) and other films including *Meet Me in St. Louis* (1944) and *Easter Parade* (1948). She was found dead of an overdose of sleeping pills on June 22, 1969.

Here are wishes for health and happiness to you, your family, loved ones & friends!

**Paul Larson**  
**MHS Vice President.**

## MILLBRAE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES



**Title**  
*Samson and Delilah*  
*Unconquered*  
*The Ten Commandments*

**WHAT:** Come watch classic movies from legendary director Cecil B. DeMille!

**WHERE:** Millbrae Museum  
420 Poplar Avenue

Bring your own popcorn and a spouse or friend for a fun Friday night on the town!!

Year	Star	Date and Time
1949	Victor Mature	07/17/2015 6:30 PM
1947	Gary Cooper	08/21/2015 6:30 PM
1956	Charlton Heston	09/18/2015 6:30 PM

## HIGHLANDS — YOUR PLACE IN THE SUNSHINE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

beautiful tree-lined streets.

In 1927, **Neils Schultz**, owner and developer of the Millbrae Highlands Co., started the development of the Millbrae Highlands "Homes on Rolling Hills". Schultz and his family lived in the subdivision they were developing. The Highlands Real Estate office was located at 1 Hillcrest, and the family made their home on Hazel Avenue, where they lived until 1950. Unlike most developers, Schultz raised his family in Millbrae and was very active in community and civic affairs. Millbrae named a park after him (**Schultz Park**) close to Taylor School. When the Highlands development was finished, Schultz moved to Greenbrae in Marin County to start a new development. Neils created an advertisement slogan about Millbrae Highlands in 1927 —

**"Your Place in the Sunshine"**. Most agree that our official City slogan "Your Place in the Sun" was coined from this 1927 ad campaign.

Back in the day, we had two great elementary schools in our neighborhood. One of these was **Chadbourne School**, which was made possible through a \$3000 bond issued in 1889 for the school on the corner of Poplar & Chadbourne Avenues. As the years went on, the new school needed more room, so in

also added. During my years at Chadbourne from 1954-1960, the cafeteria served up some of the best "Sloppy Joes" in town!

The second school in our neighborhood, **Highlands Elementary School**, was opened in 1952. In 1979, the School District's concerns about changing lifestyles and smaller families led them to close Chadbourne and Highlands and another school on the other side of town, **Glen Oaks Elementary**.

In 1938, *Life Magazine* took notice of the beautiful homes being built in the Millbrae Highlands. They chose a house on Hillcrest Blvd. near Corte Dorado to be their "Life Model Home".

Today we are very fortunate to still live in the Millbrae Highlands. We have raised our children in our safe Millbrae neighborhoods, and they have attended the great schools here.

**Tom Dawdy**  
MHS Historian

### *Your Place in the Sunshine*

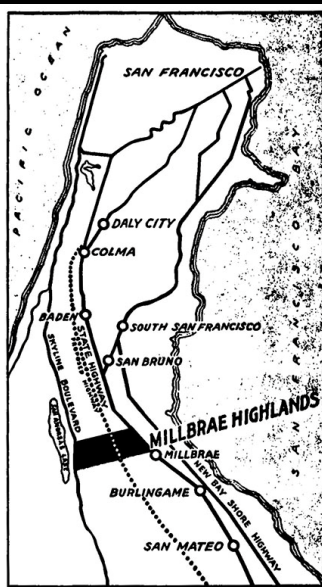
#### **MILLBRAE HIGHLANDS**

*Homes on Rolling Hills*

**LESS THAN 25 MINUTES  
takes you  
OUT OF THE FOG  
INTO THE  
ALL-YEAR SUNSHINE**

#### **MILLBRAE HIGHLANDS CO.**

Office on Main State Highway  
Millbrae, Calif. Millbrae 470  
**NIELS SCHULTZ, Owner & Developer**



1922 a new Chadbourne School was built on the corner of Magnolia and Chadbourne Avenues. In 1930, Chadbourne School added an auditorium and in 1936 a cafeteria was

## TRAIN MUSEUM NEWS

ELIZABETH FURBER, EDITOR  
VERN BRUCE, REPORTER

We are saddened to announce the recent passing of Life Member **Ronald Johnson** of Daly City. He had been a Life Member for ten years, and had generously donated many items to the Train Museum over those years. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

One of our newest members, **Don Grant**, has been quite busy inventorying and appraising recent donations of 'N'-scale model train equip-

ment. Most of these donations will be sold in our museum as a source of much-needed funds, while some will be used for displays.

Our Train Museum has seen a steady increase in visitors over the last several months. We are making ongoing efforts to keep the premises clean and "show-worthy." We thank **Ralph Domenici** in particular for his recent efforts in weeding and clean-up of old electrical wiring.



We thank our docents for their tireless efforts at showing our museum to our many visitors. **Gino & Gerry Micheli**; **Robert Gorran**; **Jason Brady**; **Joseph Bonavia**; **Jorge Quezada**; **Richard Kennedy** and **Vern Bruce** have been doing a great job of enhancing the visitor experience.



# The Millbrae Historical Society

Proudly Presents

## An Old Fashioned Independence Day BBQ



Featuring

- ▣ Appetizer
- ▣ BBQ Sirloin Hamburgers with all the trimmings
- ▣ Green Salad
- ▣ Chili Beans
- ▣ Ice Cream & Cookies
- ▣ Soda & Water
- In Addition
- ▣ Entertainment
- ▣ Raffle Prizes



### Where can I find this wonderful event?

On Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 simply go to the Dave Chetcuti Room at Civic Center Plaza: 450 Poplar Avenue between the Millbrae Library and the Millbrae Museum - 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. \$14.00 is



the cost & \$5.00 for kids under 12 years old. The Millbrae Lions Club will be serving an expertly prepared lunch at High Noon.



Please join us for this fine Independence Day tradition - Everyone is welcome

Please use this handy coupon to RSVP or call (650) 697-3319 (deadline for reservations is ~~Tuesday~~, June 30, 2015)

Number attending MHS BBQ \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ RSVP's Only. Sorry, No Walk-In's

Checks Payable to:  
Millbrae Historical Society  
P.O. Box 511  
Millbrae, CA 94030

# MHS YARD SALE

SPRING CLEANING ? ? ?

The Millbrae Historical Society welcomes any  
gently-used items you may want to get rid of  
*(no clothes please)*

for our yearly YARD SALE to be held  
in conjunction with the  
Friends of the Millbrae Library Book Sale

**Saturday, August 8**  
**10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

in front of the Millbrae Museum  
420 Poplar Avenue

Yard Sale proceeds benefit the  
Museum's building fund.

Contact Dorothy at (650) 697-7670  
or bring items to the Museum  
on any Saturday from 12 noon to 4 pm

THANK YOU

## CURATOR'S REPORT

ALMA MASSOLO  
DOROTHY SEMKE

On May 8th, we were delighted to open the Museum up for a private tour for a group of ladies and one gentlemen from the AAUW (American Association of University Women). This tour was hosted by AAUW member and MHS member and docent **Joanne Kallevig**. It was wonderful meeting these highly- educated and interesting members. Thanks to docent **Ray Gier** for all his help that day.

Welcome to new members **Kelly Yeh, Eric Chen, and Mr. & Mrs. Jim Dawdy**, brother and sister-in-law of Historian/Trustee **Tom Dawdy** and his wife Trustee **Faye**. Jim and Jan Dawdy and Joanne Kallevig are our newest docents. So glad to have you on board!!

On May 18th longtime resident **Carol (Camicia) Fields** donated an old bowling pin and a catcher's mitt from the 1930's. **Don and Val**

**Dambrosio** recently donated 1920's era post cards from Brazil. You can see these in our Antique Card Album in the Dining Room. Also, a gravy boat and sugar and creamer set from the 1930's - 1940's era are on display in the Kitchen. Thank you so much for your many donations!!

On March 24th, we received a letter and an old deck of cards from **Kert (Bey) Taborski** of Quincy, CA. The cards belonged to his father, who was co-owner and publisher of the **Millbrae Sun** from 1953 to 1968. After leaving Millbrae he went on to purchase the newspaper in Plumas County. It is so nice to hear from former residents.

Please mark **Saturday, August 8th** on your calendar for our annual **Yard Sale**. You can bring donations to the Museum on Saturdays from 12 - 4, or call Dorothy at (650) 697-7670. No clothes please.



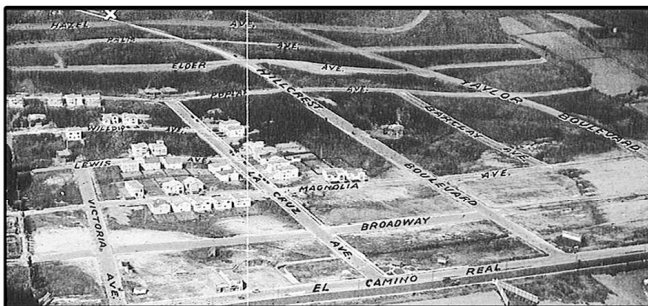
At our last Board Meeting we were given two items - Historian **Tom Dawdy** bought a book about the Key System and Treasurer **Vern Bruce** brought in a photo album given to him by **Cherylin Pearson**, whose husband was a former Train Museum docent. It is beautifully done showing the reconstruction of the San Francisco Airport from 1997 - 2000 and the Millbrae BART construction from 2000 - 2003. Thank you so much!!

We are pleased to display a Millbrae Police uniform on the mannequin in the Community Rm. Thank you City of Millbrae for sharing this with us!!

**Alma Massolo**, Curator  
**Dorothy Semke**, Assistant Curator

## MILLBRAE NOW AND THEN

A PHOTOGRAPHIC RETROSPECTIVE

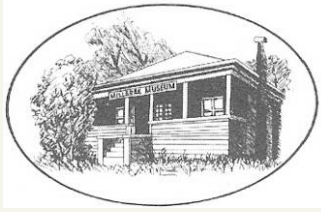


1929, work underway in "The Highlands" subdivision, streets were outlined, some were paved, and no trees were planted yet.



1946, "The Highlands" almost complete

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—2015-16**

**John Muniz, President**  
**Paul Larson, Vice-President**  
**Gaetane Andrews, Secretary**  
**Vern Bruce, Treasurer**  
**Mary Vella Treseler, Parliamentarian**

**Alma Massolo, Curator**  
**Dorothy Semke, Assistant Curator**  
**Tom Dawdy, Historian**  
**Joe Teresi, Newsletter Editor**

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

**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, August 8:** Annual Millbrae Historical Society Yard Sale, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm,  
Millbrae Museum, 420 Poplar Avenue

**Third Fridays of the Month:** *MHS Friday Night at the Movies*, 6:30 pm,  
Millbrae Museum, 420 Poplar Avenue. See schedule on Page 3.

- Bring your own popcorn and a spouse or friend for a fun Friday night on the town!!

**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