

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: MILLSDALE INDUSTRIAL PARK BY TOM DAWDY



On January 14, 1948, Millbrae officials traveled to Sacramento and obtained the Certificate from the Secretary of State to incorporate Millbrae as a new independent city. The next evening, the first Millbrae City Council was sworn into office. This was the end of several years of court battles with Burlingame, and the boundaries of the new City were set, but not quite all set. The arguments between the two cities continued for another seven years on how to divide up the Mills Estate and the commercial property planned for the **Millsdale Industrial Park** east of the railroad tracks. Both sides accused the other of building a "Great Wall of China" around the Mills Estate. Finally after a 4-1/2 hour meeting between the two city councils in 1955, both sides came to an agreement on the new municipal boundary line.

The Mills Estate was equally divided in the upper half of the property, while in the lower portion Millbrae was given jurisdiction extending to a line 750 feet south of Millbrae Avenue, just beyond the boundary of the future Mills High School site. That boundary line was extended straight down to the Bay. This division of land gave the City of Millbrae just a small portion of the new Millsdale Tract already under construction between the Southern Pacific railroad tracks and the Bayshore Highway.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT JOHN MUNIZ

Carriage House Project

I attended the **Millbrae Planning Commission** meeting on Monday June 6th for their "official" review of the proposed **MHS Carriage House Project**. The Planning Commission unanimously approved the Project. This clears the road for building our long-awaited Carriage House on the south side (in the rear) of the Museum.

Thank you to those who attended the Planning Commission meeting to support the Millbrae Historical Society Carriage House Project.

Fourth of July Picnic

Our annual MHS **Fourth of July Picnic** is just around the corner, so get your reservations in early. Check out the flyer in this issue of the newsletter. We will have a lot of raffle prizes, and MCTV will be pre-

sending a preview of their interviews of long-time Millbrae residents describing how Millbrae has evolved over the years.

World War II Veterans

At last year's Millbrae Historical Society's **Annual Holiday Party**, eight living members of the Millbrae Historical Society received our **World War II Service Recognition Award**. This commendation was approved by our Board to honor and recognize the military service of our living

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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members in World War II. The following members were recognized:

George Habeeb	United States Army
John Bowers	United States Marines
Jack Gardner	United States Navy
Gene Kirkbride	United States Navy
Lew Grasberger	United States Army
Henry Helmers	United States Army
Walter Ramseur	United States Army Air Force
Frank Catania	United States Navy



Below is the text which appeared on each recipient's service recognitions plaque:

"The Millbrae Historical Society Board of Directors is proud and honored to recognize our living members who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II. It is the sacrifices of the "Greatest Generation" who in the prime of their youth gave so much to keep our country and our allies free from tyranny and oppression. So our generation and generations to come will live and prosper in "Peace". Presented on this 16th Day of December 2015 by the Millbrae Historical Society, President John Muniz

Millbrae Historical Society Yard Sale

Saturday, August 13th is the big day for our annual **MHS Yard Sale**. We have gently-used and unusual items for all ages. This is the same day as the Friends of the Millbrae Library Book Sale; both events are held in Library Square.

Millbrae Historical Society Field Trip

We don't know where or when yet, but we will let you know; and of course it's always a lot of fun for the day.

Thank you and best wishes to all,

John Muniz

Millbrae Historical Society President

TRAIN MUSEUM NEWS

ELIZABETH FURBER, EDITOR
VERN BRUCE, REPORTER

As time progresses, we see a steady increase in the number of visitors to our museum. Both our adult and junior docents are kept busy showing people through the over-100-year-old station building, outside exhibits, and over-70-year-old **Pullman sleeping car**.

In addition to our regular projects of maintenance and restoration, local electrician **Bart Speccia** of 110/220V Electric Company, has installed new electrical service to the railroad car. We will soon be able to operate all the lights and electrical appliances within the car.

Please be watching for the to-be-announced date of our **Children's Christmas Party** that will be held



on the same day as the City of Millbrae's **Annual Tree Lighting** ceremony, early in December.



We thank our docents for their fine work in enabling our visitors to have a fun and educational experience.. Those volunteers are:

Joseph Bonavia
Jason Brady
Vern Bruce
Robert Gorran
Richard Kennedy
Gino & Gerry Micheli
Jorge Quezada

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PAUL LARSON

Greetings MHS Trustees, members, family and friends.

Spring has sprung... and it is still springing.

I like to think that this time of year brings out the best in people, glowing with anticipation for new and lively events along with expectations of bright prospects arriving just around the corner. Even though in the recent past we've lost some of our very dear members, who are each loved and missed, it is important to continue on a path of positivity and encouragement. The Millbrae Historical Society leads the way in positive encouragement and is a bright and shining example of the best people in our community and the great works they are all capable of.

Both of our Millbrae Historical Society locations, the **Millbrae Museum** (near the Library & the David Chetcuti Room) along with the

Millbrae Train Museum (on California Drive at Murchison Drive), are unique destinations for spring and summer fun. Come explore in detail the contents of these architectural gems overflowing with hidden treasures from bygone eras. At the Millbrae Museum, wander the manicured garden and dream of romance in another time. Meander room to room as they each come to life with images and artifacts from the Millbrae of yesteryear. At the Train Museum have your picture taken in front of the expertly restored antique automotive equipment (and ask for a ride if time allows), imagine yourself traveling to far off exotic locations in the rare Pullman Railroad Car, or just relax and watch the trains pass by filled with passengers destined for various cities along the Peninsula. So much to discover, one visit is never enough.

With upcoming events such as our **4th of July BBQ** at the David Chet-



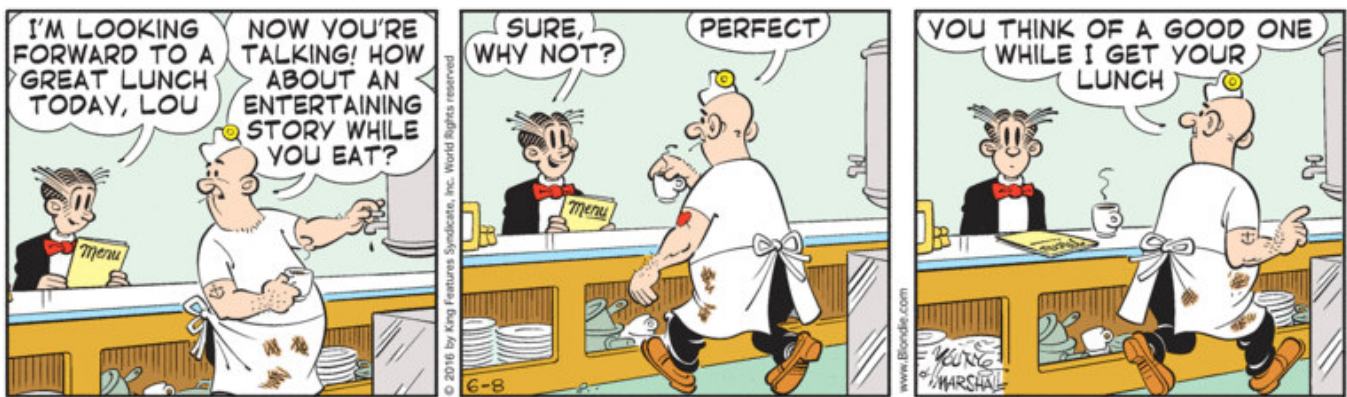
cuti Room (you are welcome to attend with as many guests as you want...but please RSVP) and our famous **MHS Yard Sale** featuring tempting curiosities and bargains to be had, this time of year is a carousel of color and a thrill for the senses.

I hope you patronize the museums regularly and attend these wonderful annual events. I like to see as many friendly faces as possible. I will be in Maui though on the 4th of July, so I'll have to say Aloha to you that day.

Either way, have a spectacular spring, a joyous summer, a happy 4th and a cheerful season!

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

Paul Larson
MHS 1st Vice President



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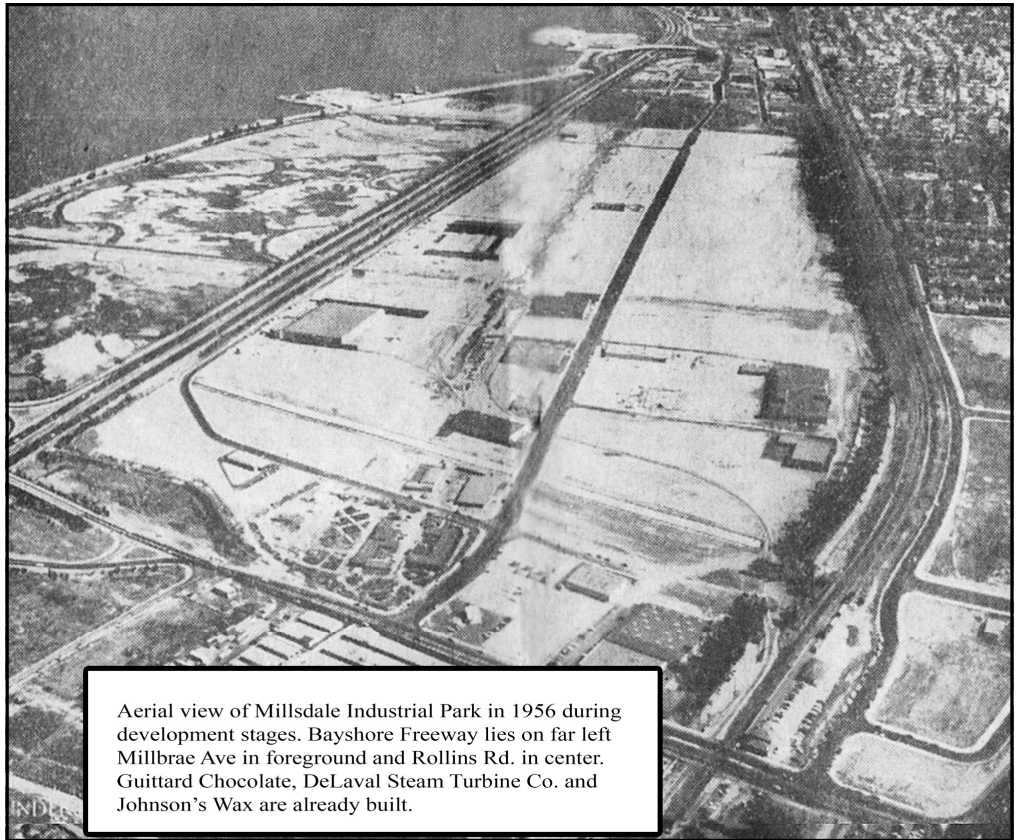
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MILLSDALE INDUSTRIAL PARK (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Millsdale Industrial Park was developed by hauling 2 million cubic yards of soil from the higher ground west of El Camino Real that was designated for residential development. The cow fields and baylands east of the railroad tracks were filled in to a level of up to 6 feet. The newly zoned commercial land was valued at \$5,000 per acre before development. Private developers invested approximately \$15,000 per acre into new industrial buildings and infrastructure. By the time the first facilities were being built in 1956, the land in Millsdale was appraised at \$35,000 per acre. Some of the first firms to move into Millsdale were **Guittard Chocolate, Johnson's Wax, and DeLaval Steam Turbine Co.**



Aerial view of Millsdale Industrial Park in 1956 during development stages. Bayshore Freeway lies on far left Millbrae Ave in foreground and Rollins Rd. in center. Guittard Chocolate, DeLaval Steam Turbine Co. and Johnson's Wax are already built.



Millsdale was developed in the "new way" of developing industrial parks. The old practice was to zone the land and leave the development style up to the discretion of the individual tenants. Millsdale development featured strict architectural controls, 70% land coverage limits, minimum setbacks, off-street parking requirements, and mandatory off-street loading facilities. Millsdale was restricted to light industrial usage. Smoke, noise and odors were out, (except for the sweet smell of chocolate)!

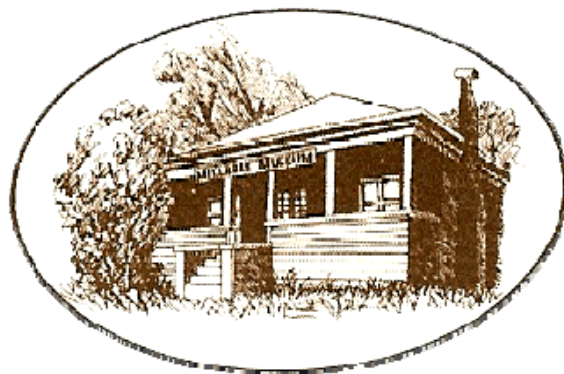
On your next visit to Millsdale treat yourself to a cheeseburger & fries at Millbrae's busiest restaurant, at the **In-and-Out Burger!**

Pictured: Walter M. Martin, Shell Oil Company; Everett E. Bey and Arthur V. Scott, Chamber of Commerce; Samuel P. Felix, DeLaval Turbine; Fimmo Peters and Jim Wilson, Peters & Wilson Nursery; Lee E. Ham and Earl P. Wilsey, Wilsey & Ham

The Millbrae Historical Society

Proudly Presents

An Old Fashioned Independence Day BBQ



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 Monday, July 4th, 2016 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 Monday, June 27, 2016)

Number attending MHS BBQ _____ Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ RSVP's Only. Sorry, No Walk-Ins

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 13
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

We are very saddened by the sudden loss of MHS Trustee/Docent **Clay Priola**. Moving to Millbrae in 1942, he was a great asset to the Museum and will be extremely missed.

We would like to thank **Cathy and Dan Quigg** for the original 1920s era "Bakers" Table belonging to Cathy's aunt that they recently donated. A write-up on its history will be posted soon, and you can view it off the kitchen in the Museum. Also the Quigg family donated 2 lovely replica Tiffany lamps that you can see in the Heritage Room.

We really want to thank **Alan & Trish Kirth** for the beautiful 1939 standing RCA Victor radio. We have placed it in the Fran Baxter Room. As you all know Millbrae Stamps were very popular for many years, and we thank the **Bogomolni** family for their recent donation.

MHS President John Muniz has donated a 1912 Kodak vest pocket camera. This may be seen along with other vintage cameras in the Dining Room. Thank you John for all you do. We were given recently a matchbook cover from the old **Smith's Drive-In** located at Hillcrest and El Camino Real from **Tom Dawdy**, which we have placed in the showcase in the Dining Room. Also a thank you goes out to **Ray Gier** for repairing all the dining room and kitchen chairs. He is doing a good job filling the shoes of former Museum Facilitator **Jack Gardner**.

Welcome to new members **Caroline McIlhenny**, who has donated many beautiful old dolls located in the Heritage Room, and **Glennnda Erickson**, sister of Historian/Trustee Tom Dawdy and Docent **Jim Dawdy**.

Happily we have gained new Docents **Val Dambrosio, Glennnda**



Erickson, and Judy Cullina rejoining us from a leave of absence.

We recently had a visitor, **Peter Cleveland**, from the **Peninsula Museum of Art** in Burlingame. He told us that they will be putting on a show called "Sunday Special" on Sunday, June 6 from 2 to 3 pm, featuring the Mills Mansion. The address is 1777 California Drive, Burlingame.

Be sure and remember to come to our annual **Yard Sale** on Saturday, August 13 in connection with the Friends of the Library Book Sale. Also please make your reservations for our **4th of July Barbecue**. Hope see all of you there!!

Alma Massolo, Curator
Dorothy Semke, Assistant Curator

MILLBRAE NOW AND THEN

A PHOTOGRAPHIC RETROSPECTIVE

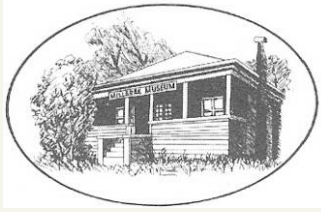


El Camino Real looking North at the Mills Estate Gate, circa 1920's. Mills Estate Gate is on the left, which is now Murchison Drive. Check out how beautiful El Camino was. Some of these trees are still visible near Murchison Drive.



El Camino Real looking North at Murchison Drive. Murchison Drive is located at the former entrance to the Mills Estate (Mills Estate Gate would be on the left were the traffic signals are now).

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



**MILLBRAE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Post Office Box 511
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Phone: 650-692-5786

MHS OFFICERS – 2016-17

John Muniz, President
Paul Larson, 1st Vice-President
Joe Teresi, 2nd 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

Monday, 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 13: Annual Millbrae Historical Society Yard Sale, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm,
Millbrae Museum, 420 Poplar Avenue

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