

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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MILLBRAE COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTER

BY JOE TERESI



The Millbrae Scout House was built in 1954 by the **Millbrae Lions Club** on Millbrae School District property behind Taylor Middle School. The facility served for many years as a meeting place for local Cub Scout and Boy Scout troops, for Lions Club meetings and functions, and as a location for sign-ups and awards ceremonies for Millbrae youth sports programs.

The Scout House was closed up in 1999 due to security and access concerns and has stood vacant and neglected since that time. The status quo, however, is about to undergo a major change.

The historic Scout House is poised for a major renaissance thanks to a joint effort initiated by the **Millbrae Lions Club**, the **City of Millbrae**, and the **Millbrae School District**. Local volunteers have created the **Millbrae Community Youth Center Project** to raise funds to renovate the Scout House and convert it to a community center to meet the needs of Millbrae youth. The remodeled building will provide after-school programs, educational and recreational opportunities for

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT JOHN MUNIZ

How time flies - the holidays are just around the corner! That is exactly why we are here, because time flies. The dedicated members of the Millbrae Historical Society are charged with capturing and preserving a time that has long since passed. Our Millbrae Historical Museum and Railroad Museum are prime examples of how our membership preserves an era of historical significance.

This year is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the relocation of the Millbrae Historical Museum to our current location in Civic Center Plaza, across from the Millbrae Library. Prior to 1985, our Museum building was the former home (built in 1898) of one of the Spring Valley Water Company foremen, abandoned for many years on the corner of Broadway and Ludeman Lane. The Millbrae Historical Society, in collaboration with the



City of Millbrae, was able to save the house from the wrecking ball and move it to our current location. At the time in 1985, the Millbrae Historical Society was

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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already fifteen years old. Today, the City of Millbrae and its residents have a real jewel of museum, set in the heart of Millbrae, for everyone to enjoy for generations to come.

Our curator, **Alma Massolo**, and crew have put together a new ladies' garment exhibit from the late nineteenth century that is "out of this world". For those who are interested in history or need research information on Millbrae and the surrounding area, the Millbrae Historical Museum contains a wealth of information in the form of newspaper articles (from the *Millbrae Sun*) fully indexed, pictures, documents, and maps. For the railroad buff, our Millbrae Historical Society Southern Pacific Railroad Station Museum is another "must see" stop on your itinerary. I love the 1941 "City of San Francisco" Pullman rail car. See how the railroads built this country and how we traveled "in style" before Amtrak. Our Southern Pacific Railroad Museum curator **Vern Bruce** and his crew of docents have an incredible display of railroad memorabilia.

I hope that everyone has had the opportunity to view **Tom and Faye Dawdy's** presentation of "*Growing up in Millbrae*". What a wonderful historic multimedia presentation of Millbrae from long ago! Old-timers and newcomers alike will definitely enjoy the pictures and narration. Check it out on Millbrae Community TV (MCTV) Channel 27 for presentation times.

The Millbrae History Walk, the brainchild of **Joe Teresi**, is just another example of our dedication to the community while preserving our history. Have you tried taking the Millbrae History Walk? It is not difficult - the main loop is only 2.2 miles - and is definitely an enjoyable experience. Invite your family, friends, and out-of-town guests to join you and see the sights of Millbrae's past and present. You can pick up a map/brochure at the Millbrae Museum, City Hall, Recreation Center, or the Library.

At the October 2010 meeting of the Millbrae Historical Society Board of Trustees a new category of membership was approved. We now have a "Lifetime Business Membership" classification. For a one-time four hundred dollar donation to the Millbrae Historical Society, a business will become a Lifetime Member. Each Lifetime Business Member will be presented with a special membership certificate, which can be displayed at their place of business. The Lifetime Business Membership will also entitle the business owner to submit a business card size advertisement which will appear in our quarterly Millbrae Historical Society newsletter for a one-year period. Our members will know which businesses have become Lifetime Members of the Millbrae Historical Society and will be inspired to patronize these generous businesses. If you

know of a business owner who might be interested in becoming a Lifetime Member, please have them call me at (650)455-3472, and I will be happy to answer their questions. A Lifetime Business Membership flyer and application will be going out next month in the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce newsletter.

This past June, our Millbrae Historical Society Board of Trustees voted unanimously to donate five hundred dollars to the **Millbrae Lions Club** Mobile Kitchen Fund. The **Millbrae Lions Club** constructed a completely self-contained, thirty-foot-long enclosed trailer to be used for their fundraising activities and as an emergency response kitchen to be utilized during area disasters. The mobile kitchen proved to be a valuable asset following the San Bruno gas explosion tragedy. Lions Club members used the mobile trailer to feed over two thousand meals to victims, fire, police and aid workers over the course of four days.

The Millbrae Historical Society Board of Trustees also unanimously approved a request from **Millbrae Community TV (MCTV)** for funding to help sustain their operations. MCTV has been an important part of our community and a supporter of the Millbrae Historical Society for many years. Although the Millbrae Historical Society was not chartered as a benevolent organization, considering the state of our economy the MCTV and Millbrae Lions Club donations were well-deserved and warranted.

Want to enjoy an old-fashioned Holiday Party? This year our annual Millbrae Historical Society Holiday party is on **Wednesday, December 8th** at the Museum, commencing at 7:00 pm. Come on down and enjoy refreshments, food, caroling and the company of good friends.

As we bid a fond "farewell" to the old year and ring in a new year, we will again be confronted with many challenges and opportunities. As we move forward to confront our challenges and build on our opportunities, the Millbrae Historical Society will be on the cutting edge when it comes to preserving our great history. Thank you to all our members for being so dedicated to our beautiful museum. Thank you to our Board of Directors for serving faithfully and keeping the wheels of the museum turning.

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!

I've been having such a great time as your Millbrae Historical Society Vice-President. I really enjoy this organization and all the great work that the MHS does for the community. One of the items we've been talking about at our meetings is how to drum up membership. A while back I was appointed to create a flyer to attract various businesses to the MHS with a special business offer. This lifetime business membership will be beneficial to the business community by helping to promote their business to the MHS

members. The flyer will be distributed via the **Millbrae Chamber of Commerce** newsletter, and is included in this issue of the MHS Newsletter. **Tom Dawdy** helped me by putting together a condensed version of the MHS Brochure/History Walk Flyer, and that information is included on the back of the Business Membership Flyer. Tom had them printed for me, and I appreciate all his help. Please keep your fingers crossed and say a prayer that these flyers will attract a healthy business membership because membership is the life-blood of the MHS.



I hope your Thanksgiving will be wonderful, and included here are warm wishes for you and your loved ones to experience a spectacular holiday season!

Take care from **Paul Larson**,
Millbrae Historical Society

TRAIN MUSEUM NEWS

ELIZABETH FURBER, EDITOR
VERN BRUCE, REPORTER

Our project of sealing windows on the **Civic Center** rail car is well underway. As of this writing, three of the twenty-two windows are done. A lot of time has also already been spent on all of the remaining 19 windows. Each window requires multiple processes of cleaning, priming and painting special corrosion-resistant coatings in order to protect the surfaces. It is now estimated that each window takes a total of 10 to 12 hours of work, with many hours in-between to allow for proper curing of the coatings. Thanks to **Dave Hannigan, Jay King, William Bruce, and Vern Bruce** for contributing their time to this project.

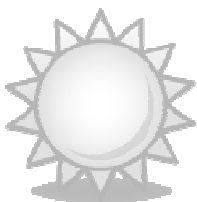
We thank **Don Massy** of Yuba City, California for his donation of many Pullman towels used on dining and sleeping cars. We also thank **Bob Swanson** of Hillsborough for his donation of a speedometer for our locomotive cab mock-up. He also spent a considerable amount of time installing it for us.

Again we have to thank our docents that allow us to keep our Train Museum open to the public. They are: **Liz Furber, Robert Gorran, Gino and Gerry Micheli, Richard Kennedy, and Vern, William and Theresa Bruce.**



We also thank **Ralph Bennett** and **Ralph Domenici** for completely cleaning and de-weeding our outside premises. Without their help our display would not look as sharp.

Our most active docent, **Liz Furber**, was seriously injured in a car accident recently. I am happy to report, however, that she is making a remarkable recovery. We hope to see her out and about in the near future!



SUNSHINE REPORT

MADELYN RICHARDSON

My duty as Sunshine Chairman is to bring cheer to those that are ill or saddened by the loss of a dear one. I think everyone appreciates a kind thought during their time of distress. Fortunately, I have not been called upon to send sympathy cards of late, but we did lose several members this year including **Dora Bruno, Jesse Fontana, and Theresa Rolandelli.**

Special Christmas Puzzle

Try to decipher this famous quote about the Christmas season



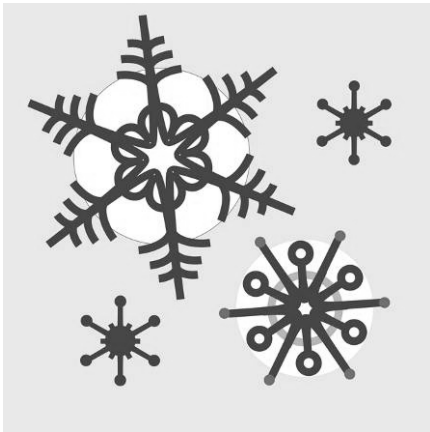


Instructions for solving the Special Christmas Puzzle

Match each icon with its corresponding letter using the legend at the bottom. Insert the correct letter above the corresponding blank (____) to spell out a famous quote about the Christmas season. Good luck and happy holidays!

Be sure to join us for this year's

Millbrae Historical Society Annual Holiday Party



Wednesday, December 8
7:00 to 9:00 pm

Millbrae Historical Museum
420 Poplar Avenue

Join your fellow Historical Society members, families and friends for a fun evening full of great food, festive song, and joyous camaraderie!!

Be sure to watch MCTV Channel 27 for telecasts of two special MHS 2010 events:

- Tom Dawdy's multi-media presentation *Growing Up in Millbrae*
- Inaugural Millbrae History Walk

Check upcoming telecast schedule at www.mctv.tv

CURATOR'S REPORT

ALMA MASSOLO

Our latest addition to the Museum is a display of elegant silk dresses, blouses and much more worn by the elite in the 1800's. They are displayed in the HERITAGE ROOM and are certainly a great enhancement for our Museum. A MUST SEE!!! This extensive collection was worn by the Grandmother of **Alice Du Bain** and donated to the museum by Millbrae resident **Mary De Rose**. Thank you Mary for your kind donation.

We give our sincerest thank you and appreciation to **Mary Ellen Ariani** for the creation of the unique little pillows of lavender (relieve your stress with the fragrance of lavender) she created. We are selling them at the Museum for \$2.00 each. A great buy, as they are sold in boutiques for a much higher price. These make great little gifts or stocking stuffers.

New MHS member **Thomas Woolley**, an electronic engineer, has improved the lighting in the display cases and the Museum in gen-

eral. We greatly appreciate your enthusiasm and volunteerism. A profound thank you, Tom.

Other recent donations include a computer, printer and scanner from **Mary Vella Treseler** and two beautiful brocade foot stools, made in Italy, that have been placed in the display cases, donated by **Paul Larson**. Thank you to Mary and Paul!

Angela Zinc, volunteer Museum Junior Docent for the past seven years, will be leaving in January to study in Italy. She will be greatly missed. Thank you Angela for your expertise and great help. Best wishes to you for a very enjoyable education!

Several members have donated to the Millbrae Historical Society in honor of **Mary Vella Treseler's** 80th birthday:

- **John Muniz and Patti Sundberg**
- **Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ramseur**
- **Mr. and Mrs. Vern Bruce**
- **Ms. Marge Colapietro**



The following members have made donations in honor of the late **Dora Bruno**:

- **Alma Massolo**
- **John Muniz**

You can support the Millbrae Historical Society with a tax-deductible gift donation in honor of a birthday, Christmas or any happy occasion, or in memory of a lost friend or relative. Your donation will be greatly appreciated. For information, please call (650) 697-8377.

Warm wishes to everyone for a very Happy Thanksgiving and a very happy and enjoyable holiday season!

— Alma Massolo

MILLBRAE COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTER

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Millbrae youth, evening and summer community programs, and meeting space for classes, clubs, and special events.

In addition to filling a practical need in the community, this project would also promote the Millbrae Historical Society's primary goal of historic preservation. Although the Scout House is relatively new by historical standards, it was constructed shortly after the 1948 incorporation of the City of Millbrae, and it serves as an early symbol of civic pride and community values. This ambitious project will need the support and cooperation of all of Millbrae's clubs and

organizations, including the Millbrae Historical Society, in order to achieve its financial and strategic

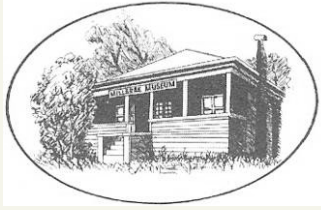


goals. There are two important ways that MHS members can support the Millbrae Community Youth Center (MCCYC) Project:

1. Sending a financial contribution to the Millbrae Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1612, Millbrae, CA 94030, specifically designated for the MCCYC Project.
2. Submitting any old photographs, documents (programs, flyers, etc.), or other memorabilia related to the Scout House to the Millbrae Historical Society by mailing it to P.O. Box 511, Millbrae, CA 94030 or dropping it by the Historical Museum during regular Saturday hours.

Please help preserve Millbrae history by supporting the MCCYC Project!

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

Saturday, December 4: City of Millbrae Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony
Starts at 5:00 pm at Millbrae City Hall. Hot chocolate, hot apple cider, cookies and candy canes will be served after the ceremony! Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the event for the Millbrae Fire Department's Holiday Toy Drive!

Wednesday, December 8: Millbrae Historical Society Annual Holiday Party, 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Millbrae Museum, 420 Poplar Avenue. All members are encouraged to attend!

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