

Pinole Historical Society Newsbriefs



P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org



November 11 in Fernandez Park

7TH ANNUAL VETERANS DAY MEMORIAL AND FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

The Pinole Historical Society will conduct its seventh annual Veterans Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony on Tuesday, November 11, at 11 a.m. in Fernandez Park.

The event will feature Boy Scout Troop 86, West Contra Costa Girl Scouts, Veterans of Foreign Wars, St. Joseph School students and choir, the Pinole Valley High School Marching Band, Pinole Youth Commissioners, and elected officials.

Songs, speeches, remembrances, tributes, and the retirement of worn U.S. flags by the Boy Scouts will highlight the hour-long ceremony. Please bring your flags to the ceremony, where they will be retired with proper respect. There is no charge to retire a flag.

For more information, call (510) 724-9507.

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November-December 1964**

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Published quarterly by the Pinole Historical Society

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It's also posted on the PHS website.

FOR ADVERTISERS: 2,000 printed copies of *PHS Newsbriefs* are distributed every quarter, generating readership among thousands of Pinole and West County residents. Hundreds more receive the newsletter directly from the PHS via its database and website. **If you're interested in advertising, please contact Jeff Rubin at info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org or call him at (510) 724-9507.**

PHS CALENDAR

MEETINGS

November 12, December 10, January 14: Monthly Board of Directors meeting. The public is invited to attend and speak on any of the items discussed at these meetings. Pinole Senior Center, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

November 7: Program: "The Maritime History of Contra Costa County." The public is invited to this FREE event from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in conference rooms 1A and 1B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road. Refreshments will be served.

ONGOING

Pinole Library history exhibits. Two exhibits are at the library, 2935 Pinole Valley Road. Library hours are: Monday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.), Wednesday (2 to 8 p.m.), Friday and Saturday (12 to 5 p.m.).

PHS booth at Pinole Farmers' Market. We are at the farmers' market every other Saturday from April through December.

Pinole Historical Society

Board of Directors: Marcia Kalapus, President; Jeff Rubin, Vice President; Mary Drazba, Treasurer; Jo Ann Gannotti, Secretary; Norma Martínez-Rubin; Mary McMains; George Vincent. **Director Emeritus:** Jack Meehan. **Newsletter Editor:** Jeff Rubin

NEW ADVERTISERS

- The PHS welcomes these new advertisers:
- **Gail Price, licensed esthetician (page 13).**
 - **Ladies Workout Express (page 15).**

**Want to advertise with us?
Call (510)724-9507
for information and rates.**

PHS videos on city of Pinole website

Miss one of our history programs on Pinole Community TV?

Not a problem. The city's website now has a dedicated section devoted to PINOLE HISTORY on its "Videos Online" page.

You can view the numerous PHS programs right

on your computer. Go to www.ci.pinole.ca.us/about/videos.html and scroll down to PINOLE HISTORY. You'll find our interviews, Veterans Day programs, both of George Vincent's Walking Tours of Historic Downtown Pinole, and the very fine PCTV-produced, 12-part series based on the Historic Walking Tour brochure. It's great TV!

President's Message

Marcia Kalapus, President, Pinole Historical Society

'70s A SWINGING TIME IN PINOLE

They called themselves the Pinole Swingers. And boy, did they swing!

They were a band of 18 senior citizens ranging in age from 61 to 84. They got together for a little instrumental enjoyment at the Pinole Senior Citizens Center at 2220 Pear Street, and a musical legend was born.

They entertained people all over the Bay Area — playing standards such as “Peg O’ My Heart,” “Bye, Bye Blackbird,” and “Swanee” — at schools, city halls, shopping centers, Masonic lodges, senior centers, and restaurants, among other venues.

They played at Mi Place Pizza in Tara Hills on the last Tuesday of every month.

The Pinole Chamber of Commerce sponsored the group. The band-leader was Irene Minassian. It was started by piano-playing former

music teacher June Erfert.

The Pinole Swingers started out as a small group in November 1976 and soon bloomed into a 17-piece orchestra. It had one professional musician and lots of energy and a lot of talent.

They played an assort-

ment of instruments: washtubs, horns, kazoos, pianos, cellos, harmonicas, electric guitars, banjos, maracas, and fiddles, and had a drummer who doubled as a chorus girl.

The kazoos looked like funnels, trumpets, and trombones.

Pete Singley played a



Marcia Kalapus

homemade bass viol made out of a washtub,

Continued on page 4



The Pinole Swingers performed at Disneyland in 1978. The senior band playing makeshift instruments was popular throughout the Bay Area.

Geoff Torretta

A Pinole Landmark

Antlers



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Find out more about Pinole's history by using your smartphone to scan this QR code. It will take you to the Pinole Historical Society website:
www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org



'70s A SWINGING TIME IN PINOLE

Continued from page 3

broom handle and a stout cord. Marie Dutra played washboard. Frank Dutra played sticks.

Paul Trudhung was a professional banjo player, and his wife, Lillian, played spoons. Eva Sanders was on kazoo. Marion Jackson, age 84, played a mean maracas.

Edwina Silva was great on a trombone kazoo.

Everett Lilly, 83, had been playing a harmonica since he was nine years old back in West Virginia. Rose Gilligan

was known as the "swingier" swinger; she played drums, but she closed out each song and was the band's premier dancer.

The rest of the band members were Richard Doyle, Sam Appleton, Pat Stewart, Estelle Costa, Lucy Busciano, Charlotte Dodd, Deana Warren, Lillian Carroll, Alice Irwin, George Ramsey, April Carmelich, and Pauline Faulkner.

UNIFORMS

The women wore bright red pantsuits and the men something

appropriate. All wore straw hats with a red band around the crowns.

TV AND DISNEYLAND

They made their first television appearance in early 1977 on AM San Francisco, where they were a big hit. They were invited to Disneyland on May 24, 1978, to play at the annual Pioneer Week for two shows in front of thousands of spectators.

After their performance there, they were invited by Marion Knotts to perform at Knotts Berry Farm.

They held many

fundraisers to help pay for their bus trip, meals, and lodging. The Pinole McDonald's franchise provided a "Big Mac" coach to transport them to Anaheim.

VERY POPULAR

They played for many years and entertained a lot of people.

This city had a wonderful, diverse, and talented group of citizens in the past, and continues to have people who make Pinole a vibrant small community.

Happy holidays to all. See you next year.



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How you can help us preserve the history of Pinole

Always seeking to improve and add to the society's collection, the PHS welcomes inquiries from individuals owning objects which are significant to the history of Pinole.

Though we do not have a museum, we have three exhibit spaces at the Pinole Library and conduct history programs for service organizations, retirement residences, and schools.

Artifacts are an important part of these programs.

Please contact us at info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org or call (510) 724-9507 if you have an object you'd like to donate.

Also, you can view the numerous PHS programs right on your computer. Go to the city's website www.ci.pinole.ca.us/about/videos.html and scroll down to PINOLE HISTORY. Several recent programs have been added.

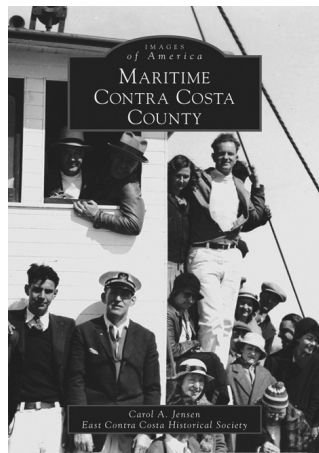
Friday, November 7 PHS meeting

CONTRA COSTA'S MARITIME HISTORY EXPLORED

Carol A. Jensen, author of *Maritime Contra Costa County*, will be the speaker at the Pinole Historical Society's November 7 meeting in conference rooms 1A and 1B of the the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road.

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Carol is the vice president of the Contra Costa Historic Landmark Advisory Committee, and a member of the California Historical Society, Contra Costa County Historical Society, East Contra Costa Historical Society, and John Marsh Historic Trust.



San Francisco's "opposite shore" played a significant maritime role in securing the city's financial preeminence. Contra Costa County provided deepwater ports for shipping agricultural, mineral, and manufactured goods around the world. Pacific commodity traders used these ports to ship products, ensuring California's unique global economic role.

Immense wealth was created from goods shipped from maritime Contra Costa County, securing a vibrant economy from the Gaslight Era to the days of Haight-Ashbury.

See page 6 for an article by Carol A. Jensen



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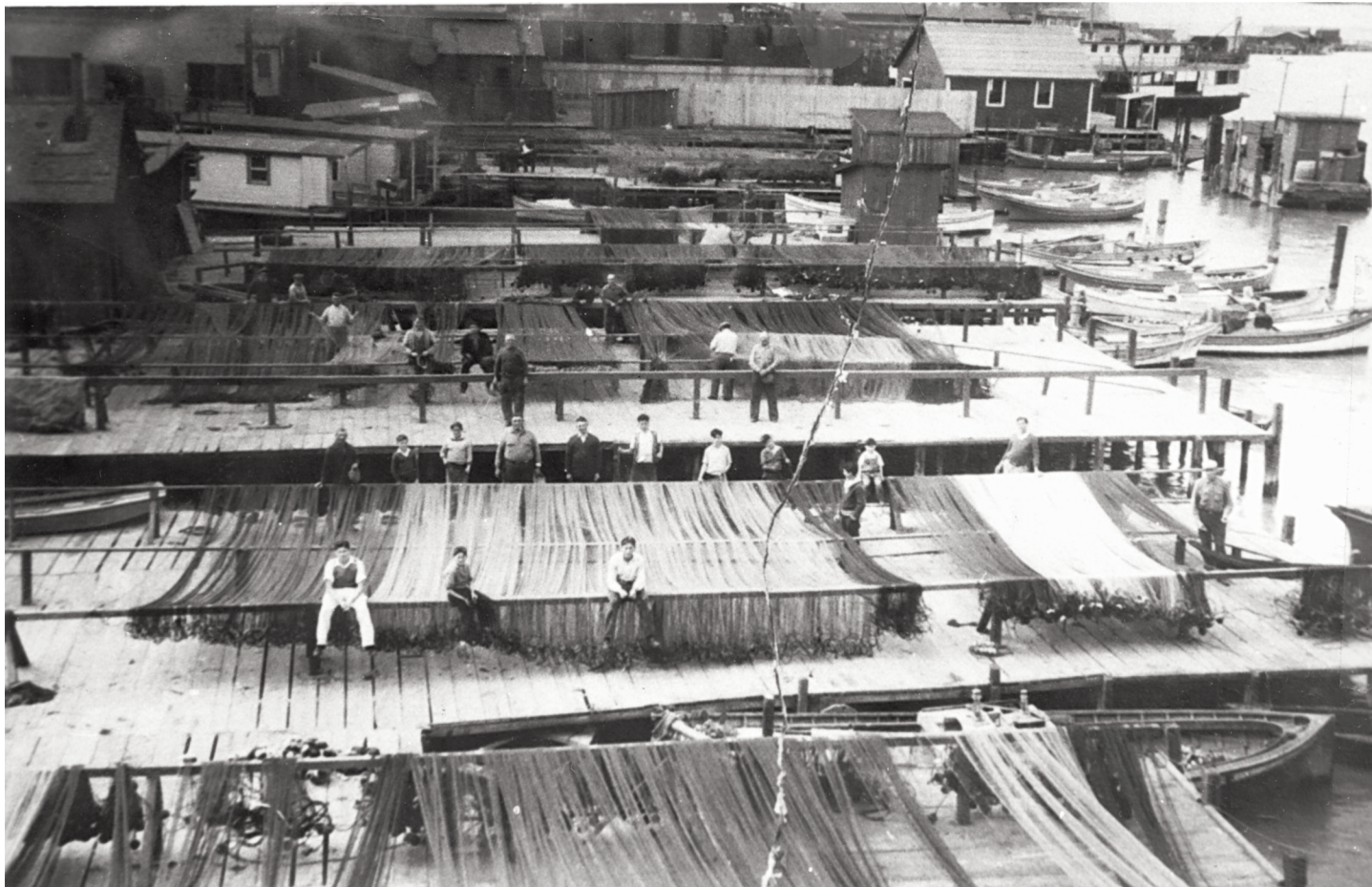
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Men making, drying, and repairing gill nets were a common sight along the marshes and piers lining the wharves from Martinez to Pittsburg from 1870 to 1930. The water was so clear you could see the

bottom. Old timers claimed fish populations during the fall king salmon run were so vast that one could walk from Antioch to Collinsville and never wet your feet. Photo: Pittsburg Historical Society

COUNTY'S MARITIME HISTORY LINKED TO SF

By Carol A. Jensen

Contra Costa County maritime history is synonymous with the economic history of the California Delta.

The San Joaquin River, Suisun Bay, Carquinez Strait, and San Pablo Bay historically provided the liquid highway linking the county's agricultural, industrial, and commercial endeavors to the world.

Out the Golden Gate

From the 18th century to the Vietnam War, minerals, munitions, and

melons all rolled down from the sides of Mount Diablo and the Sierra Nevada to the Contra Costa shoreline for transshipment out the Golden Gate.

In 1848, Sam Brannan proclaimed on San Francisco's muddy streets, "Gold! Gold found on the American River." Brannan didn't leave for the Mother Lode himself; instead he raced to Contra Costa to secure his real-estate holdings and future mercantile riches.

Following Brannan were entrepreneurs requiring large tracts of land for raising cattle,

fishing, power-sourcing (oil and coal), and manufacturing dangerous materials (munitions).

Many bushels

By the 1870s, commodity agriculture production joined these lucrative business ventures. More bushels of wheat were produced in the upper San Joaquin Valley during the 1870s and '80s than anywhere else in the United States. Grain fed California's growing population, and barley was used in malt.

Delta manufacturers and military industries thrived through the Span-

ish-American War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean Conflict, only to shut down in the 1970s due to environmental depletions.

In the post-Vietnam War years, Contra Costa's role as an industrial county changed then decreased. Shipyards and railroad Pullman car shops were converted to American Standard ceramic plants and Ford Motors assembly plants.

Outsourced jobs

In the 1990s, these industrial employment jobs moved primarily

Continued on page 7

Pinole **Historical** Society

2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(PINOLE RESIDENCY NOT REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP)

**PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, AND SEND CASH OR YOUR CHECK,
TO PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 285, PINOLE, CA 94564**

MEMBERSHIPS ARE FOR THE 2015 CALENDAR YEAR (EXCEPT LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS)

NAME (each member): _____

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CIRCLE ONE: Annual-new (\$30) Annual-renewal (\$30) Business (\$50) Life (\$150)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: [] Cash \$ _____ [] Check # _____ \$ _____

DATE PAID: _____

COUNTY'S MARITIME HISTORY LINKED TO SF

Continued from page 6

overseas. Only the Martinez and Richmond shoreline oil refineries now use ocean tanker transport.

Agriculture moved to the San Joaquin Valley. The heyday of Contra Costa's role in the maritime trade passed. The shoreline today is primar-

ily valued for its environmental, ecological, recreational, or residential real estate merits.

Private citizens, non-profit organizations, and government agencies work to ensure the estuary retains its beauty and ecological status, while seeking to boost the local economy.

To learn more, read

Maritime Contra Costa County and *The California Delta*, both published by Arcadia Publishing (www.arcadiapublishing.com).

Maritime Contra Costa County, along with

nine other area history books, is available from the Pinole Historical Society.

To order a book, please see the order form on page 14 of this newsletter.

— Reprinted from *Conservancy Currents*, published by the The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. Carol can be reached at Historian@ByronHotSprings.com.



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Back in the day

CLIPPINGS AND SNIPPETS OF PINOLE'S HISTORY

By George R. Vincent

Much of the history of any community can be found in the pages of its newspapers. But this is only if the town was big enough to support having a newspaper. In Pinole's case, the year 1894 marked the debut of *The Pinole Weekly Times*.

Before this date, some of the town's happenings were picked up and printed by the *Contra Costa Gazette* in Martinez. The popular horse races at Samuel Tennent's bayfront racetrack in Pinole were newsworthy events of the 1880s because of the large crowds at the track.

The Pinole Weekly Times was the brainchild of two local individuals who realized the growing hamlet of Pinole needed its own newspaper to chronicle local events in the Pinole and Hercules communities.

In 1894, young Edward M. Downer, a new Southern Pacific Railroad depot agent, and his friend, young medical student Manuel Fernandez, began the first printing. It was done in a small building near the bay and railroad tracks.

In the early 1900s, Ed Ebsen became the long-time editor of the paper, until his passing in 1940.

At that time, the newspaper also ended with his death, and the print-



Pinole Weekly Times editor Ed Ebsen (right) with Jacob Greenstein in Greenstein's Pharmacy on Main Street (San Pablo Avenue).

ing office was torn down. Only through the efforts

of staff writer Jessie Clark and the Villigren

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CLIPPINGS AND SNIPPETS OF PINOLE'S HISTORY

brothers, who were press boys, were any of the early papers salvaged.

Much of the early history of Pinole blew away that day. The following are a few of the surviving items of interest from early Pinole:

January 1890

- Mr. Dominic Scanlan of Oakland, formerly of Pinole, and brother of our Constable, Michael Scanlan, has been confined to bed for five weeks with inflammatory rheumatism. His left leg is the size of a man's body.

- Grayson Harold's 700 head of cattle are tramping up the 1,000 acres rented from John Tormey

in Pinole Valley.

- One of Mr. Bernardo Fernandez's men working in the bay warehouse had a large bale of hay fall from the top of the loft on him, causing three one-inch gashes in the scalp. Mr. J. Garrity, our postmaster and telegraph operator, dressed the wounds.

- A new literary and musical club is gotten up here called the "Hap Hazard." Its object is mental and moral advancement, with 18 charter members. New members must be voted in. Meetings Thursday evenings at the Pinole School House.

February-April 1897

- Joseph Lewis ran

across a large herd of wild hogs while hunting in the Tormey Ranch tract in Pinole Valley. He killed one weighing 150 pounds. He also killed a large wild cat on Sunday.

- We believe that not many small towns of Pinole's size can boast of such an amount of shipping as comes from our two wharves. A few Sundays ago we noted four vessels lying here at once. Last Monday, the steamer Salinas discharged lumber and bricks for the California Powder Works.

- T.W. Maloney purchased the entire interest in the Pinole Meat Market from E.M. Downer and will employ Charles Brudee to drive the

delivery wagon.

- Born: At Pinole, March 29, 1897, to Mr. and Mrs. Antone Rose Silvera, a son.

- Born: At Pinole, April 2, 1897, to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dutra Faria, a son (William).

March 1899

- March 4: Sheldon School has opened and is still under the management of Miss Ellerhorst of Pinole.

- A store building of Mrs. Mary Alvarez is fast nearing completion and will greatly add to the appearance of Tennent Avenue. A bakery business is to be conducted in one of the apartments.

Continued on page 10

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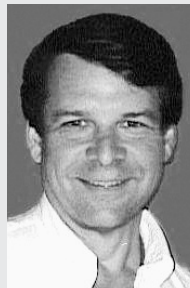
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CLIPPINGS AND SNIPPETS OF PINOLE'S HISTORY

Continued from page 9

March 1900

- Pinole Livery Stable: Bradhoff Bros. Proprietors. Tennent Avenue. Grand Horses and Stylish Riggs (sic).

- Pinole Hotel: Only First-Class Hotel in Town. Board by Week or Month.

- The Klondike Saloon: John Collins Proprietor. Near Foresters' Hall, Tennent Avenue.

December 1901

- Marriage License Issue: Dec. 20. Jose S. Vargas (20) and Annie Vincent (15) with parents' consent.

- To Let: House of 6 Rooms. Apply at Stats Saloon Main Street.

October 1905

- Bank of Pinole opened Oct. 28, with paid-up capital of \$12,500.

February 1909

- February 6: Pinole Opera House on Tennent Ave., built to replace Foresters' Hall, destroyed by fire.

March-October 1910

- Pinole clam diggers are shipping to S.F. 20-30 boxes of bivalves every day at \$3 a box.

- Miss Elizabeth Stewart, teacher of 3rd and 4th grades at P-H School, has been suffering a severe attack of grippe.

- E.H. Silvas, poundmaster, gives notice that he will impound all stock found running at large in the corporate limits of Pinole. All dogs found on the street not

tagged with license will be impounded.

- Wanted: 40 Boarders at the Commercial Hotel, Tennent Avenue, board and Room \$20 a month.

- Pinole Hotel and adjoining buildings burn to ground. Fire started at 2 A.M. in the two-story hotel. Only the coolness of head of the fire dept. prevented the fire from spreading to the central portion of town.

From the 1960s through the 1970s, Pinole historian Jessie Clark and her assistant, Mrs. Florence Bifford, painstakingly assembled into scrapbooks the surviving fragments of Pinole's early newspapers.

Mrs. Clark first came to Pinole

as a child in 1913 from Colorado and became a journalist, writing in all of Pinole's newspapers as their names changed with new owners.

Today, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Bifford's newspaper labor of love can be seen on microfilm at the Pinole Library.

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WHAT'S IN THE NAME?

Ramosmania rodriguezii (café marrón) is native to the island of Rodrigues in the Indian Ocean.

Thought extinct until a single surviving tree was spotted in 1980 by a schoolboy, who was shown a drawing of the plant by his teacher.

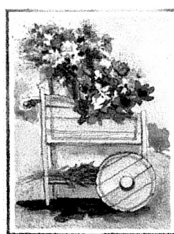
Although the plant regularly flowers, it never produced seed until horticulturalists discovered how to pollinate the flowers. In 2003, the café marrón bore its first fruit with viable seeds. Slow-but-steady efforts have been made to grow more café marrón trees and speed up the pollination process.

Ramosmania rodriguezii is a critically endangered plant species.

Café Marrón in Venezuela

Like the Italians, Venezuelans also have a wide array of ways to drink their coffee.

A marrón, or Marroncito is a term used by Venezuelans to ask for a single shot of espresso-like coffee to which milk is added, giving it a marrón color.



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PHS SEEKING FAMILY FILMS FOR HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

Got film?
 The Pinole Historical Society is embarking on a major project to archive the city's history — family by family and event by event. Our objective is to establish a permanent, digitized collection of Pinole's history.

Do you have film of past Holy Ghost parades, Pinole Valley High School Homecoming parades, Memorial Day or July 4 parades?

How about important athletic events, such as a high-school football, basketball, baseball, softball, or volleyball game?

Perhaps you have film of an important event that took place in Fernandez Park, or a ribbon cutting or an event that has a place in Pinole's history—such as the 1958 flood?

We're looking for any video or film you have—VHS,

Beta, camcorder, DV tape, 8mm, Super 8mm, 16mm, 35mm, motion picture.

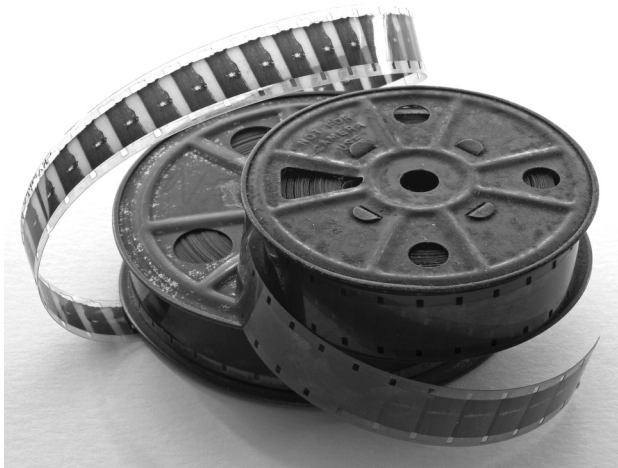
Nearly everyone has taken home movies. That makes everyone who has taken film a historian.

We want to collect, digitize, catalog, and preserve old movies on DVD (and whatever formats are to come) to exhibit, educate, and entertain.

The PHS will share these videos on a film archive that we will establish, similar to the The Pioneers Film Archive on YouTube created by the California Pioneers of Santa Clara (www.youtube.com/sccpioneers).

Film connects with the past in a unique way. It's immersive, educational, and entertaining for young people. It's a way to get young people interested in history.

Got film? Please contact us at info@pinolehistorical.com



GOT HISTORY?

The Pinole Historical Society is grateful for donations of artifacts, photos, newspapers, memorabilia—anything of historical significance.

Please contact us at info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org or call (510) 724-9507.



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The Pinole Historical Society promotes awareness and appreciation of history through preservation and education, and chronicles the city's heritage for current and future generations.

City adds history videos

Five PHS programs have been added to the city's website. They include:

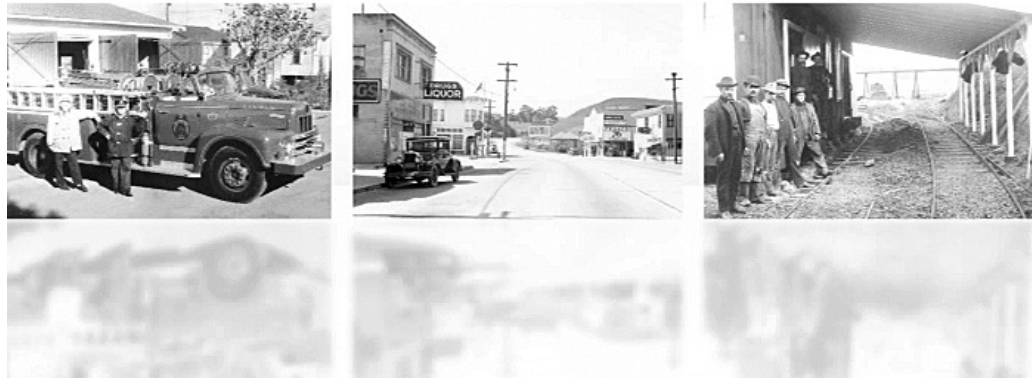
- 2012 Veterans Day
- 2013 Veterans Day
- Japanese American Internment (9/6/12)
- School bell dedication
- Bars, Barbers and Characters of Early Pinole (2/7/14).

We thank Bob Kopp for shooting the video for all of these events.

To view these, and others, go to the city's website www.ci.pinole.ca.us/about/videos.html and scroll down to PINOLE HISTORY.

The Pinole Mural

A Community Legacy



Watch The Pinole Mural video at this link:
<http://www.pinolehistoricalsociety.org/PinoleMural.mov>

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The James Silvas Building housed the Silvas Saloon and the Golden West Hotel.



Later, it housed the Town Tavern and the Joe Lunghi Trovatore Cafe, a fine Italian restaurant. (photo, left).

Today, the Pump House, a gas station/convenience store, occupies the corner (photo, right).



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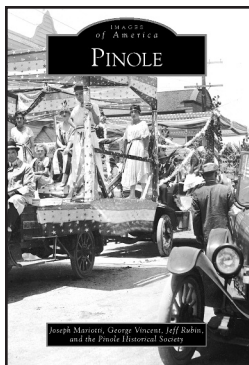
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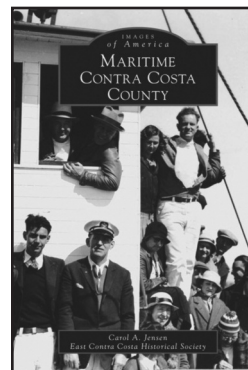
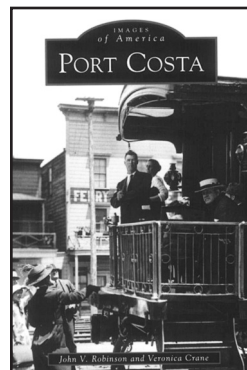
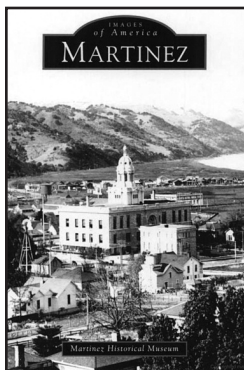
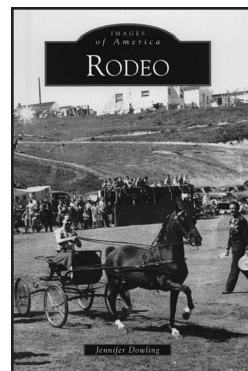
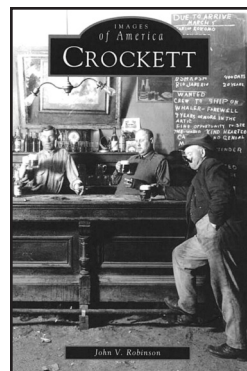
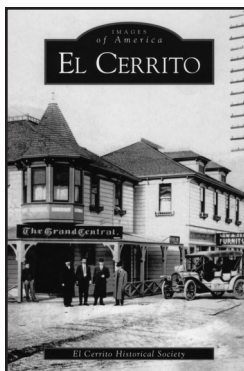
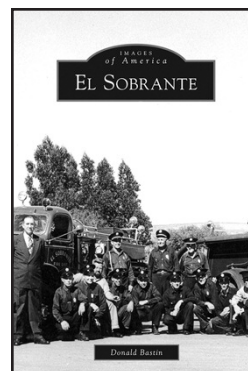
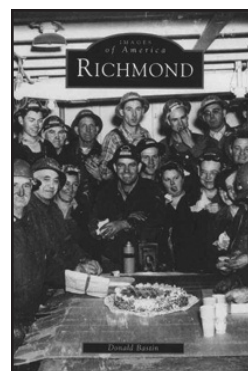
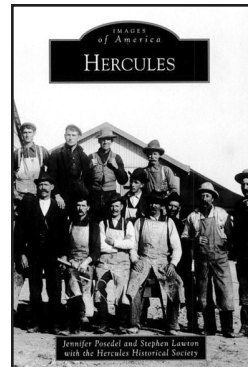
The Pinole Historical Society stocks Arcadia Publishing books about Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, Port Costa, and Maritime Contra Costa County. And, of course, we have plenty of Pinole books.

You may purchase one or more of these books from us at the Pinole Farmers' Market—we're there every other Saturday from April through December.

Pinole, Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, and Maritime Contra Costa County books are **\$24**, including 8.75% sales tax.

Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, and Port Costa books are **\$22**, including 8.75% sales tax.

You may order one or more by mail (prices at left include postage) and we'll ship them to you. Send your order to **Pinole Historical Society, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564**.



50 years ago — 1964

November 3: President Lyndon B. Johnson defeats Republican candidate Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-AZ) with more than 60% of the popular vote in the presidential election after a very aggressive television campaign. President Johnson came into the election with all the advantages of the incumbency together with latent sympathy from the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Senator Goldwater's extreme position on Vietnam, advocating the use of tactical nuclear weapons, and his opposition to Civil Rights legislation sealed his defeat.

November 28: NASA launches the Mariner 4 space probe from Cape Kennedy toward Mars to take television pictures of that planet in July 1965.

December 3: Police arrest 814 students at the University of California, Berkeley, following the takeover of and massive sit-in at the Sproul Hall administration building. The sit-in most directly protested the U.C. Regents' decision to punish student activists for what many thought had been justified civil disobedience earlier in the conflict.

December 4: The U.S. Justice Department charges 21 Mississippi men with conspiring to deprive Freedom Summer workers James Earl Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew

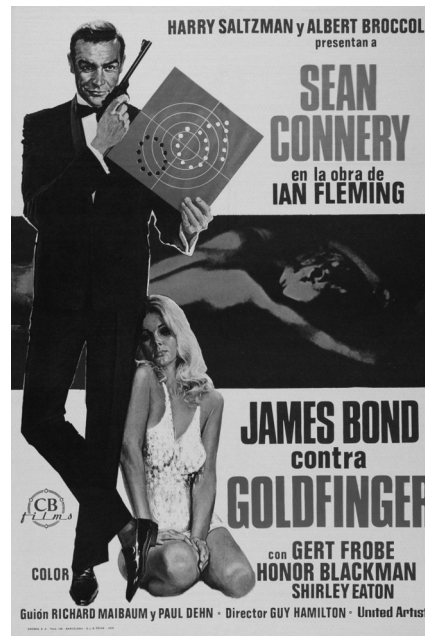
Goodman of their civil rights, since murder is not a federal crime. In December 1967, seven of the conspirators are found guilty, though none of them will serve more than six years in jail.

December 10: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. accepts the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway.

December 14: The U.S. Supreme Court, in *Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States* (379 US 241 1964), rules that, in accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, establishments providing public accommodations must refrain from racial discrimination.

December 21: *Goldfinger* was released in the United States.

December 27: The Cleveland Browns defeat the Baltimore Colts, 27-0, in the National Football League Championship Game.



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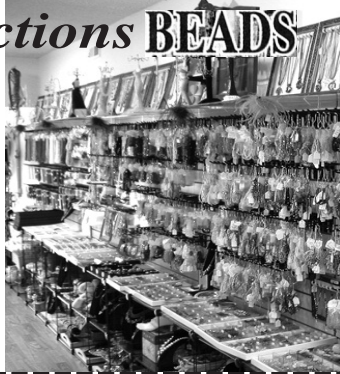


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