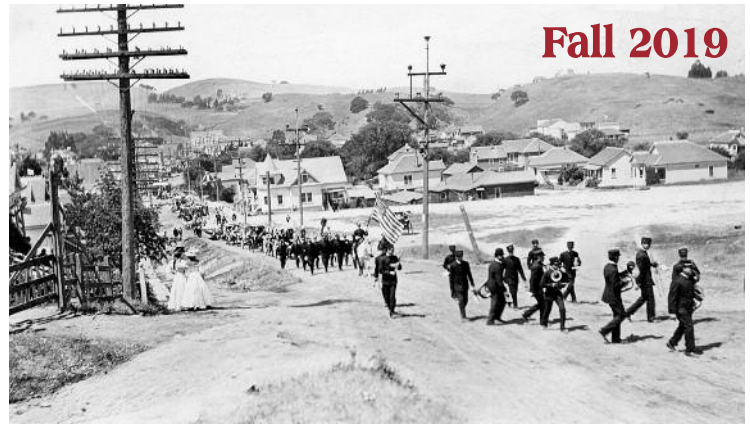


# Pinole Historical Society Newsbriefs



P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

[www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org)    [info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org)

## MUSEUM DINNER, VETERANS DAY MEMORIAL HIGHLIGHT NOVEMBER PINOLE HISTORY EVENTS

**T**he second annual Pinole History Museum fundraising dinner will be held Saturday, November 2, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the St. Joseph School auditorium, 1961 Plum Street, the site of last year's immensely successful dinner.

Along with a great dinner, there will be keyboard entertainment by Joe Lim, the Pinole Valley High School choral director, and fabulous raffle prizes. You don't want to miss this! **Dinner tickets are only \$35.**

Your support will help MAKE HISTORY HAPPEN in Pinole, as we begin the long road toward converting the nearly 140-year-old, Victorian-era Faria House into a world-class, small-city museum.

With your help, the Pinole History Museum will achieve its mission, which is to enhance

the preservation and collection of artifacts that represent Pinole history and culture, and educate and inspire Pinole residents' community affiliation and civic pride.

There's a dinner order form on page 8. Order your tickets today — we expect to sell all 200 seats, as we did last year.

### VETERANS DAY MEMORIAL

The Pinole Historical Society invites you to the 12th annual Veterans Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony on Monday, November 11, from 11 a.m. to noon in Fernandez Park.

We hope you can attend as the society and the City of Pinole honor the brave men and women who have served — and continue to serve — to protect the freedoms we treasure.

*The Pinole Historical Society  
and the  
City of Pinole*  
invite you to participate in the  
12th annual  
**VETERANS DAY MEMORIAL AND  
FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY**  
Monday, November 11, 2019  
11 a.m.-noon, Fernandez Park, Pinole

Please join us as we honor our veterans,  
past and present, living and deceased.

*To donate a flag for the retirement ceremony,  
please call (510) 724-9507  
or e-mail [info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org)*

For more information, contact the  
Pinole Historical Society  
[www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org)  
[info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org)

Pinole  
**Historical**  
Society

***The November 1 PHS program at Kaiser has been cancelled.  
We will reconvene in the new year on February 7, 2020.***

**Published quarterly by the Pinole Historical Society**

# WHERE TO FIND NEWSBRIEFS

Pick up **Newsbriefs** at these locations:

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**Newsbriefs** also posted on the PHS website (click on NEWSLETTER in the menu bar).

**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, contact Jeff Rubin at [info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org) or (510) 724-9507.**

# PHS CALENDAR

## ONGOING

**October 9, December 4: Monthly Board of Directors meetings.** 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.

**PHS booth at Pinole Farmers' Market.** Every other Saturday, April through December.

## Pinole Historical Society

**Board of Directors:** Jeff Rubin, President; Mary McMains, Treasurer; Jo Ann Gannotti, Secretary; Norma Martinez-Rubin, Carol White.

**Directors Emeritus:** Marcia Kalapus, Jack Meehan, George Vincent. **Newsletter Editor:** Jeff Rubin.

## 2020 PHS MEETING DATES

**February 7, May 1, September 11, November 6**

All meetings are held from 6:30-8 p.m. in conference rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road.

For more information, call (510) 724-9507, e-mail [info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org), or visit our website at [www.pinolehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.pinolehistoricalsociety.org).



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# President's Message

Jeff Rubin, President, Pinole Historical Society

## STELLA FARIA WAS A LINK TO HISTORIC PAST

Several years ago I was invited to Stella Faria's house to look at some photos she wanted to donate to the society.

While there, she mentioned she had written some short articles for a creative writing class at the Pinole Senior Center, and asked if I'd like to read them.

I was immediately taken by her free-flowing, storytelling style that made the characters on paper come to life. She was a brilliant writer. If you've read Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," you know what I mean.

Stella died September 6. She was 93.

Over the last five years Stella contributed multiple articles for the society's *Newsbriefs* newsletter. Several were reprinted in the *Marketplace Contra Costa* magazine. I would tease her that she was the most famous woman in Pinole.

Stella's stories of life in Pinole between 1930 and 1950 are about the few written records we



**Stella Faria**

have of our city's history during that time. She became, unintentionally, along with Jesse Howe Clark and George Vincent, among the major chroniclers of life in Pinole in the first 50 years of its history.

She wrote for an audience who shared her experiences growing up in Pinole, revered the small-town values that shaped their lives, and reveled in the joys and wonders of growing up in the formative years of the American Century.

She wrote of families she knew, friends she made, the people and events that shaped our city, and the proprietors of the stores at which she and her mother and her sisters shopped.

She wrote about the cobbler, the grocer, life before iPhones, and her early years growing up on Quinan Street, Old Town's most historic street. She wrote about the post office on Tenent Avenue, the many saloons along Highway 40, and her work at the Kaiser Shipyards during World War II.

She wrote about all the pleasures of small-town living; she wrote about Americana.

Our residents are very fortunate that she recorded her memories and provided us with a road map to what life was like here back in the day.

Stella Faria was a lovely woman. I was privileged to know her during the last five years of her life.

I'm saddened that I will read no more of her



**Jeff Rubin**

words, and grateful that the words I did read will be there for generations to come to enjoy.

### Growing Up Pinole

There's a wonderful video on the city's website called *Growing Up Pinole*, in which several of Pinole's old-timers recall their memories of the city in a simpler time.

It may be found at [https://www.ci.pinole.ca.us/city\\_government/pinole\\_tv/archived\\_meeting\\_events](https://www.ci.pinole.ca.us/city_government/pinole_tv/archived_meeting_events). Scroll to PINOLE MUSEUM SOCIETY-HISTORY.

Be sure to pick up a copy of the November *Marketplace Contra Costa* magazine, which will have articles highlighting Pinole, including the Pinole History Museum and its November 2 fundraising dinner at St. Joseph School.

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\*With a gift of \$1,000 or more your name will be placed on the museum's Wall of Honor.

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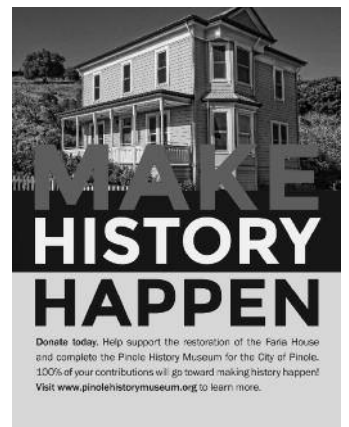
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# Pinole **Historical** Society

## 2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(PINOLE RESIDENCY NOT REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP)

**PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND SEND THIS FORM TO PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 285, PINOLE, CA 94564**

MEMBERSHIPS ARE FOR THE 2020 CALENDAR YEAR (EXCEPT LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS)

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# Back in the day

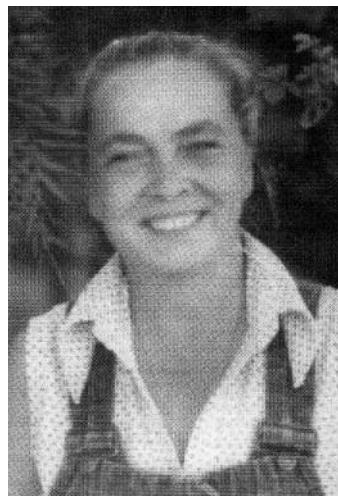
George R. Vincent

## REMEMBERING SARANELL MCLEOD AND THE LAST FARM IN HERCULES

The cities of Pinole and Hercules have always shared more than a common border. Their citizens' livelihoods were closely interrelated and inter-dependent. Children went to Pinole-Hercules School on the Hill, and their parents worked at the Hercules Powder Company.

Pinole's prosperity was aided by Hercules residents frequenting the stores and saloons of the town. The weekly newspaper, "The Pinole-Hercules News," covered events in both cities. The Hercules Clubhouse and Pinole Opera House provided social life, and both communities were avid baseball fans, with

players from the two townships. This partnership of community closeness recently mourned the loss of two great ladies who will be missed for their love of community



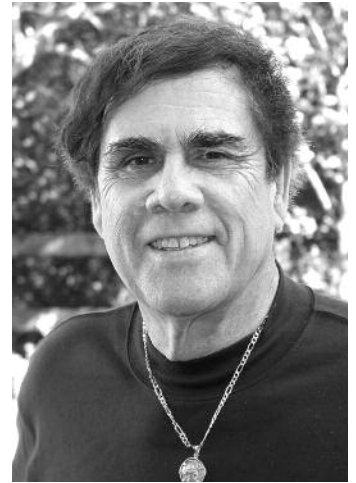
Saranell McLeod

as well as writers of local history.

Stella Faria of Pinole passed at age 93, and Saranell McLeod of Hercules at age 84.

Both women contributed and devoted so much of their lives to preserving the history of their townships. It was a privilege to have known both of these giving ladies and their families and to witness their tireless service to keeping history alive for others to enjoy.

Saranell McLeod (also called Sara) was the last occupant of Hercules' oldest remaining historical landmark — The Ellerhorst Ranch. Sara and her husband, John, purchased the seven-plus-



George Vincent

acre ranch in the 1970s after the passing of the last Ellerhorst daughter, Frances, at age 98. The property straddled the Pinole-Hercules border south of the Santa Fe Railroad Depot.

The property's history extends back to the 19th century. Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Ellerhorst bought the ranch in 1880 from Kate Tennent Cousins, oldest daughter of Dr. Samuel and Rafaela Tennent.

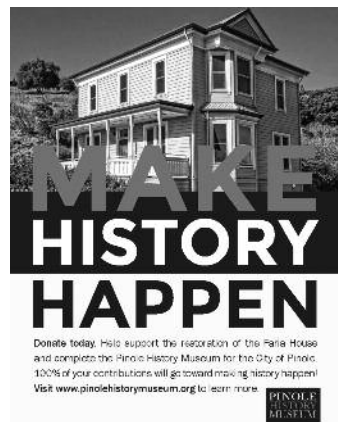
The Tennents were known for raising fine

Continued on page 9



### PINOLE HISTORY MUSEUM FUNDRAISER AND DINNER

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# REMEMBERING SARANELL MCLEOD

Continued from page 8

horses. They had a large race track near the ranch by the bay, and visitors came in their best dress and parasols to watch the Sunday horse races. Kate Tennent was the darling of riders in the family with her side-saddle riding habit hanging to the ground.

The Ellerhosts remodeled the home in Spanish style and raised their six children there. They must have felt the terrible shock of the first California Powder Works explo-

sion in 1882, which drove people into the streets as far away as Oakland.

The Ellerhorst children all lived out their lives on the ranch. The family ran a dairy, where each day nearby Pinoleans brought their milk cans for fresh milk. Alice Ellerhorst, a school teacher in Pinole, would bring her classes to the farm to see the animals and have home-made ice cream.

The oldest daughter, Frances, nicknamed "Pansy," was Pinole's most beloved teacher.



**Kate Tennent Cousins**

She was the last remaining child and lived in the home until passing in the

summer of 1973, shortly before her 99th birthday.

Each day she could be seen walking the beautifully flowered grounds with her little black and white dog "Buddy." Her sense of humor never left her, saying, "I'm as deaf as a post but still have all my teeth."

There were many similarities between Frances Ellerhorst and Saranell McLeod. Both loved the farm and its history. Sara passed away in the old home doing what she loved best — listening to

*Continued on page 10*

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## 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](mailto:info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org)  
or call (510) 724-9507.

# REMEMBERING SARANELL MCLEOD

Continued from page 9 the chickens, horses, and early morning crowing of roosters.

Like Frances, Sara was a farm girl through and through. She rose at dawn to feed the horses, gardened, raised chickens, rabbits, boarded horses, split wood, and moved hay while driving a tractor. She found time to make quilts and work as a teacher's aide for disabled students.

Sara and John reared three children — Roberta, Heather, and John. Sara's husband, a retired sea captain, passed away in 1982.

Sara continued to live on the farm with a vitality of hard work and love of her surroundings. Like Frances, Sara always wel-



**The Ellerhorst Ranch.**

comed visitors with a happy smile, and enjoyed showing off her grounds and home.

Sara was the tour guide of the farm's histo-

ry. She was very active in the early days of the Pinole Historical Society. On one special occasion she opened up her home and grounds to the

public when the society sponsored a tour of the Fernandez Mansion, Downer Home, and Ellerhorst Ranch.

*Continued on page 11*

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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.***



**Frances Ellerhorst (left) and sister, Emma, and "Buddy" in 1970.**

## **SARANELL MCLEOD**

*Continued from page 10*

There was Sara, greeting visitors in period costume.

Sara was a genuinely warm and happy person. You could not be in her presence and not be touched by her pleasing infectious spirit. Her personality was as bright as her always-welcoming smile.

I had the honor of teaching Sara's children at Ellerhorst School in Pinole. They inherited their mom's love of hard work and the outdoors, as well as her cheerful personality and love of life. Sara left behind not only the last working farm in Hercules, but also a legacy of lasting memories of the life of a family who inherited a unique piece of history. They continued to keep its rural past alive in the midst of a changing Hercules focused on suburban growth.

Today, the loneliness of the farm without Sara is apparent. The grounds are silent except for the crowing of a lone rooster. The white barns, corrals, and home sit vacant.

If one could peek into the old home's window and look past the curtain of life, you may imagine this scene taking place. Miss Frances Ellerhorst, with faithful Buddy in her lap, and Saranell McLeod are enjoying each other's company while sharing stories of their happy days in the sun at the Ellerhorst-McLeod Ranch.

Sara will be missed by all those who knew and loved her, but her youthful spirit will always reside at her cherished homestead as its eternal caretaker.

*A tribute to Stella Faria appears in the president's message on page 3.*



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# PINOLE'S MUSEUM WEBSITE — SPREAD THE WORD!

The Pinole History Museum website is online at [www.pinolehistorymuseum.org](http://www.pinolehistorymuseum.org).

There are sections on the Pinole Garden Club, historic preservation, the Pinole Historical Society's annual school essay contest, the Faria House, the Fernandez Mansion, and some of our planned museum exhibits.

And, of course, you may donate to the museum via the website.

Let us know what you think of the website. E-mail comments and suggestions to [info@pinolehistorymuseum.org](mailto:info@pinolehistorymuseum.org).



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## You can help us preserve the history of Pinole

**A**lways 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](mailto: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](http://www.ci.pinole.ca.us/about/videos.html) and scroll down to PINOLE HISTORY. Several recent programs have been added.

## PHS VIDEOS ON CITY OF PINOLE WEBSITE

**M**iss one of our history programs on Pinole Community TV? Don't despair.

The city's website has a section devoted to Pinole history videos.

You can view the numerous PHS programs right on your computer. Go to this URL and you'll see all of our history videos: [https://www.ci.pinole.ca.us/city\\_government/pinole\\_tv/archived\\_meeting\\_events](https://www.ci.pinole.ca.us/city_government/pinole_tv/archived_meeting_events).

Scroll down to PINOLE MUSEUM SOCIETY-HISTORY. You'll find our interviews, Veterans Day programs, George Vincent's two 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!

The historical society has recorded interviews with several prominent Pinole citizens.

Among the videos on the city's website are interviews with Ed LeFebvre, Charlotte (Fernandez) Shea, former fire chief Alex Clark, and former mayors Jack Meehan and Tom Cutino.

PHS program videos include:

- School Bell dedication.
- Japanese-American internment.
- Bars, Barbers, and Characters.
- A Flood of Memories.
- School Bells and Ink Wells.

We thank Bob Kopp, who recorded most of these events for the society.

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## SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PHS BY BECOMING A MEMBER IN 2020

For only \$30, you can help the PHS accomplish its mission of bringing the history of Pinole to our residents through exhibits at the Pinole Library, Pinole history programs in schools, Pinole Community TV programs, walking tours of downtown Pinole, the Veterans Day event in Fernandez Park — and you'll have the satisfaction of helping promote and preserve Pinole's history for future generations.

**JOIN THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP)  
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**Please mail the membership application in this newsletter today!**

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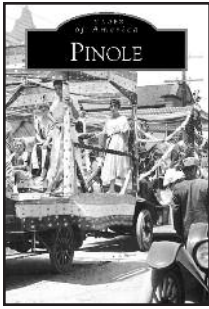
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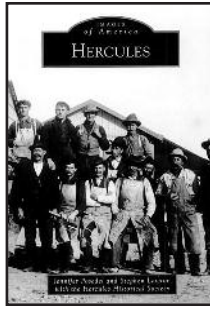


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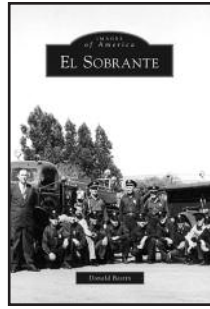
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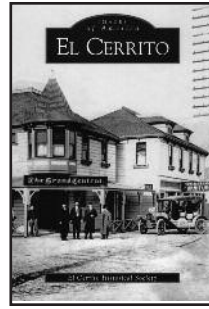
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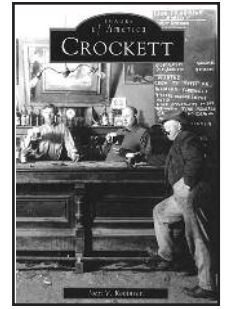
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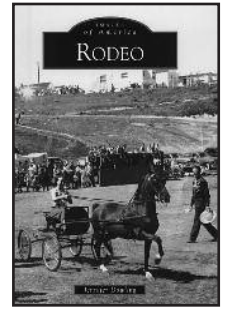
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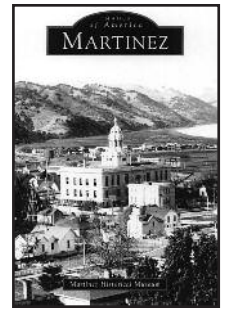
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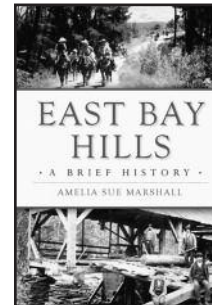
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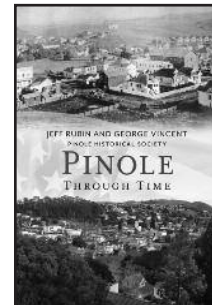
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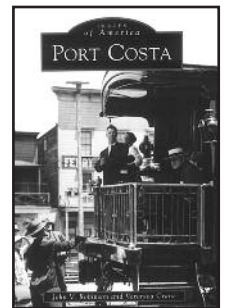
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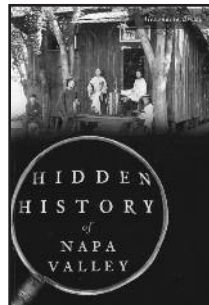
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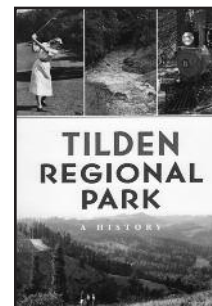
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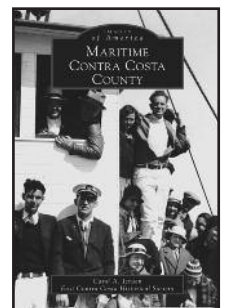
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