

# 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)

## BLUE SKY SPORTS IS CLOSING, A VICTIM OF THE PANDEMIC

**T**he end of a business era is at hand for much-treasured Blue Sky Sports, a victim of the pandemic that hastened owner Gregg Fehr's decision to close.

After 40 years, starting in his garage and then to two retail locations before moving to his current building in 1989, Gregg will close by the end of October or early November.

Blue Sky Sports — and Gregg — have touched the lives of many individuals, schools, and groups.

From supplying school teams with uniforms and equipment, to making commemorative plaques, and screen-printing shirts and table covers for the Pinole Garden Club and the Pinole Historical Society, among others, to the famed batting cages, this business and this person have been an important fixture in our community.

Facebook has been full of appreciative comments from friends and customers since Gregg announced the store's closing in August.

Gregg, 66, had planned to sell the business in a couple of years and retire to his vacation home a few miles above Auburn. His brother Chuck's death in March and the pandemic changed his plans.

"I'm not angry; the



**Gregg on a tractor with his granddaughter.**

**Gregg with his parents, Fay and Charles, in front of Blue Sky T's in the Del Monte Shopping Center.**



pandemic and my brother's death allowed me to put my priorities in place," Gregg says.

"I needed to rethink my life a little bit. It's totally bittersweet.

"I was trying to sell the business and the building together. The pandemic just killed that. Nobody wanted the business and nobody wanted the building.

"I just want to spend time with my grandkids.

I just want to enjoy the time I have left. I'm gonna go up into the mountains, where there are tractors to mess around with. It will be a whole different life.

"Sometimes you feel you don't make a difference, but I'm awestruck about the amount of love I've received since I announced the store is closing. It makes me feel good that I've made a difference."

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Pick up **Newsbriefs** at these locations••:

AccuTech Auto Care, A.D. Dern Insurance, The Alley Cafe, Antlers Tavern, Bank of the West, The Bar Athletics, Bay Park Retirement Residence, The Bear Claw, Big O Tires, Cafe Soleil, China House, Cindy's Shear Cuts, Cornerstone Capital Systems (George A. Egan, CFP), Coldwell Banker Bartels Realtors, Crocketts Premier Auto Body, East Bay Coffee Company, The Embers, Farmers Insurance (David Hampton), Garden of Gems, Good Butter Bakery, Growler's Doghaus, Happy Sashimi, Headquarters Salon, Her 365 Fitness, Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, K & L Automotive, Letcher Bros. Auto Repair, Mechanics Bank, Menchie's Frozen Yogurt, Douglas Oliver, D.D.S., Oliver's Hardware, Attorney Donald E. Patterson, Pinole City Hall, Pinole Creek Cafe, Pinole Grove Apartments, Pinole Library, Pinole Packing & Postage, Pinole Paws, Pinole Police Department, Pinole Senior Center, Pinole Valley Community Church, Ristorante Due Rose, Joel Ross, M.D., Sam's Dog House, Sequoia Real Estate, Chiyo Shidara, D.D.S., State Farm Insurance (Lino Amaral), State Farm Insurance (Rick Chalk), St. Joseph School, Sugar City Building Materials, Sunshine Floor Covering, Tenax Law Group, 10th Inning Baseball Cards, The New Deli, The Red Onion, Tina's Place, Top Floor Salon, Albert M. Tsang, D.D.S., West Contra Costa Transit Authority, Westmont of Pinole, Windermere Rowland Realty, Wilson & Kratzer Mortuaries.

**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.

••Call to see if business is open.

**If you're interested in advertising, contact Jeff Rubin at [info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org) or (510) 724-9507.**

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

## PHS at Pinole Farmers' Market

The Pinole Historical Society has suspended its booth at the Pinole Farmers' Market until it is safe to be engaging with the public. We are hopeful this will be in the spring of 2021.

We miss our market friends; we love to chat, and love hearing stories of people's lives growing up in Pinole. Let us know how you're doing. Email us at [info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org).

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# President's Message

**Jeff Rubin, President, Pinole Historical Society**

## PANDEMIC HAS AFFECTED HISTORICAL SOCIETIES, TOO

**E**veryone has been affected in some way by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Local businesses have closed or been severely curtailed, people are hurting financially, and, tragically, some of our friends locally have lost people close to them to this virulent disease.

In a far less serious way the Pinole Historical Society has also been affected.

- Cancellation of quarterly programs.
- No Pinole History Museum fundraising dinner this fall.
- No Veterans Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony this year.
- No history programs presented to fourth-grade students, and no history programs for service organizations and senior groups.
- Suspension of the print edition of PHS *Newsbriefs*, our quarterly newsletter.

The pandemic has also provided us, and other historical societies and

museums, with unforeseen opportunities to better communicate with members, supporters, and community.

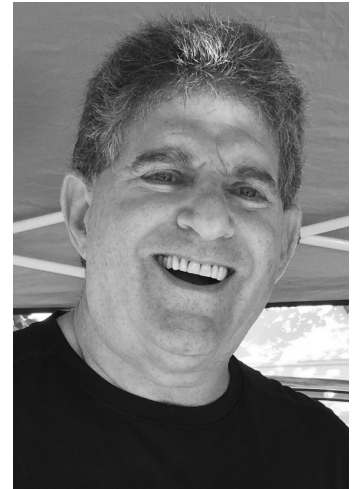
The Pinole Historical Society:

- Created the Pinole Historical Society YouTube Channel. Thank you to Pinole History Museum board member Alex Jason, who uploaded some 30 recorded history programs.
- Produced three well-received history programs via Zoom, and three online-only editions of *Newsbriefs*.
- Has been adding metadata to the entire 1,300+ collection of PHS photos that are stored on CatalogIt, a cloud-based Collections Management System. In 2021, our entire online photo archive will be available for viewing by the public.
- Explored virtual museum tour systems offered by several vendors.

With many of our newsletter distribution locations reopened for

business — including restaurants for takeout food — we will be resuming the print edition of *Newsbriefs*. Look for it in October.

*Continued on page 4*



**Jeff Rubin**

## Put My Experience and Knowledge to Work For You

*Having the right connections in the community makes all the difference. I grew up in the Pinole-Hercules area, where my ancestors settled more than 150 years ago, some farming the fertile soils from Pinole to Rodeo, while others helped build the communities we now call home. The benefits of my longstanding connection to and detailed knowledge of the community are the foundation for the outstanding service I deliver to my clients.*



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## Pinole History Museum mission statement

The Pinole History Museum will enhance the preservation and collection of artifacts that represent Pinole history and culture. Museum exhibits and research opportunities will educate and inspire Pinole residents' community affiliation and civic pride.

# PHS YouTube CHANNEL YOUR SOURCE FOR PINOLE HISTORY

**Pinole Historical Society**  
18 subscribers • 38 videos

**2011 Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Pinole**  
Pinole Historical Society • 6 views • 1 week ago  
Pinole Historical Society co-founder and historian George Vincent spins tales of old Pinole.

**The Pinole Mural**  
Pinole Historical Society • 5 views • 1 week ago  
Wells Fargo Bank produced this video about the history of Pinole. The mural hangs in the bank's Pinole office on Fitzgerald Drive.

**Pinole History**  
zyllofmitain  
Lift Bridges of the Bay Area • 37:50  
Santa Fe and SP trains pass at Pinole, CA. 7/29/1999 • 1:36  
VIEW FULL PLAYLIST

**View from Above: The Pinole History Museum**  
Pinole Historical Society • 42 views • 2 weeks ago  
Future home of the Pinole History Museum. Original music by Alex Jason.

**Faria Sisters Interview - Pinole Historical Society**  
Pinole Historical Society • 60 views • 3 years ago  
Long time residents talk about growing up in Pinole.

**Growing Up Pinole**  
Pinole Historical Society • No views • 1 week ago  
Longtime Pinole residents talk about their lives in Pinole from childhood to adulthood.

Looking for a good local history program to watch? Look no further than the Pinole Historical Society's YouTube channel, created by Pinole History Museum board member Alec Jason.

Alex reformatted a decade's worth of PHS programs and uploaded them to our YouTube channel. Among the 30-plus videos include:

- **George Vincent's** two walking tours of historic downtown Pinole.
- **The Pinole Mural:** Wells Fargo Bank produced this video about the history of Pinole. The mural hangs in the bank's Pinole office on Fitzgerald Drive.
- **1963, 1963, and 1964 Fiesta del Pinole parades,** courtesy of PHS member Jim Payne.
- **An Interview With Two Mayors:** Former mayors Jack Meehan and Tom Cutino spin political tales and how they saved Fitzgerald Drive — and the sales-tax dollars its shopping centers produce — for Pinole.
- **What's in a Name?:** How Pinole streets got their names, and the characters behind those names.

Just go to YouTube and enter **PNOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** in the search bar.

We'd be grateful if you gave our videos a THUMBS UP! Thank you.

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# Back in the day

## MANUEL MARCOS HOME COMMEMORATES CENTENNIAL YEAR

**A**mong the grandest and most-historic homes in Pinole is this beautiful Craftsman at 999 Tennent Avenue, on the northeast corner of Tennent and Prune Street.

It's owned by Mike and Brenda Gooding, who bought it from a woman named Myrtle Smith in 1998. But, its history dates back 100 years, when it was built in 1920 by Manuel Marcos, one of the most prominent businessmen in old Pinole.

Prior to the 1930s, the site of Fernandez Park was occupied by the two-story Commercial Hotel, owned and operated by Manuel Marcos, who also ran the saloon where The Bear Claw is today.

*The Manuel Marcos home at 999 Tennent Avenue.*



The Commercial Hotel catered to boarders and served meals at all hours and competed with the other hotels in the area, such as The Pinole Hotel, which burned down in 1914.

The Commercial Hotel was one of the oldest in Pinole going back to the

turn of the century with different owners. In 1914, it had 40 boarders who paid \$20 a month. The hotel stood close to where home plate is today.

Manuel Marcos was the grandfather of Jackie Marcos Pericoli, of El Sobrante. Manuel and

Virginia Marcos had 10 children, nine who lived. Jackie's father, Albino (Beno), was the third child born.

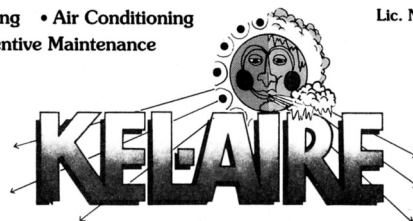
She fondly remembers 999 Tennent Avenue, particularly Sunday family dinners.

"999 Tennent was part  
*Continued on page 9*

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**Virginia and Manual Marcos, 999 Tennent Ave., 1942. (Photo donated by Sheri Bowlus.)**



**Brenda and Mike Gooding, 999 Tennent Ave., 2020. (Photo by Jeff Rubin.)**

# MANUEL MARCOS HOME COMMEMORATES CENTENNIAL YEAR

*Continued from page 8*

of my growing up," says Jackie. "We'd be there every Sunday. It was almost mandatory. All of the families went to grandma's for dinner. All of the women dressed up with hats and gloves; it was de rigueur in those days.

"The men were so interesting. They would go in the kitchen, which was a very little square room with a wooden stove that my grandmother cooked on. At the other was a pantry. In between there was a long table, where there was room for 10 people.

"The men divided, the more liberal on one side and the (conservative) bankers on the other (Manuel Jr.). My dad was a liberal, a union man.

"The men would have lively conversations; there would be some good arguments. My grandmother would sit in her rocker (in the dining room) and say, 'Boys!' Boys!' I wanted to be near the men.

"I loved that house. It meant my family."

999 Tennent also means family to the Goodings, who reared four children there.

**Manuel Marcos in his Main Street bar, now occupied by The Bear Claw. (Photo donated by Jackie Marcos Pericoli.)**



Mike was chief engineer for the Claremont Resort in Berkeley for 25 years. Brenda was an environmental planner for Caltrans for 31 years.

"My childhood home in Albany in the '50s and '60s reminds me of this home," Mike says. "I like the craftsman style, the larger rooms. I love being downtown. Old Town is an area that time forgot."

"This house has lots of character," says Brenda, who grew up in San Pablo. "This house says 'home' to me."



**Brenda and Mike Gooding, with Riley, in their remodeled kitchen. (Photo by Jeff Rubin.)**

# PINOLE HISTORY MUSEUM WEBSITE

The Pinole History Museum website is online at [www.pinole-historymuseum.org](http://www.pinole-historymuseum.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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Each office is independently owned and operated.

## 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 archived on the city's website:

[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) and click PINOLE MUSEUM SOCIETY-HISTORY.

## Why I Give

***"The Pinole History Museum will be dedicated to the education and pleasure of the public. Behind it will be an endless sea of faces – yours, mine, ours – that will give it life and distinction. We are a composite as varied and enduring as those who contribute artifacts, materials, and efforts.***

***"The aggregate of social and cultural exhibits and programs will reflect the unique community of Pinole and its environs. As a destination, those who visit will come away enriched with a better understanding of its rich history. Visitors, especially school children, will serve as ambassadors to broadcast the existence of this gem."***

ROBERTA TIM QUAN

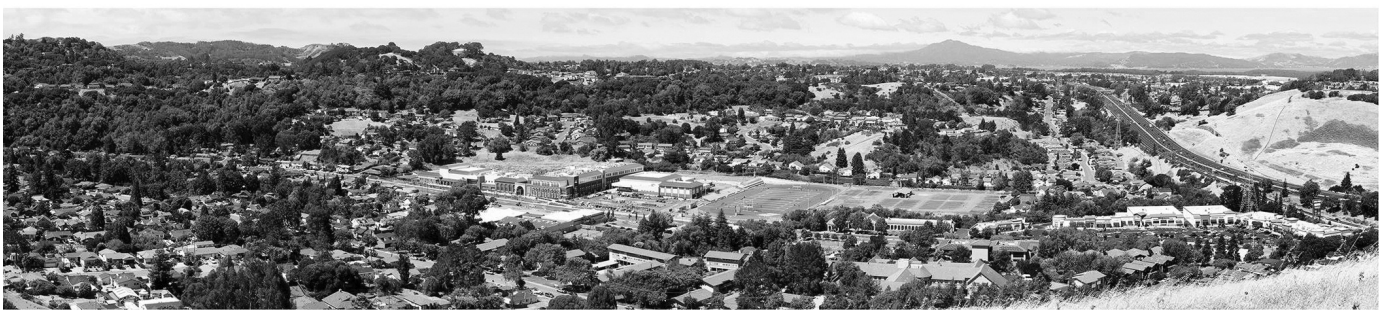
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## THEN AND NOW

### ENTRANCE TO PINOLE VALLEY FROM FARIA HILL



*Pinole Valley - June 1968*



*Pinole Valley - June 2020*

*Earl Combs*

***Earl Combs's son-in-law, Bill Purcell, a photo re-toucher, stitched together several of Earl's 1968 and 2020 photos to create composites of each.***



**YES,** I want to **MAKE HISTORY HAPPEN** by donating to the establishment of the **Pinole History Museum.**

My donation will help the museum enhance the preservation and collection of artifacts that represent Pinole's history and culture.

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000\* or other \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please make checks payable to **PINOLE HISTORY MUSEUM** or provide credit card information below. To donate online, please visit [www.PinoleHistoryMuseum.org](http://www.PinoleHistoryMuseum.org).

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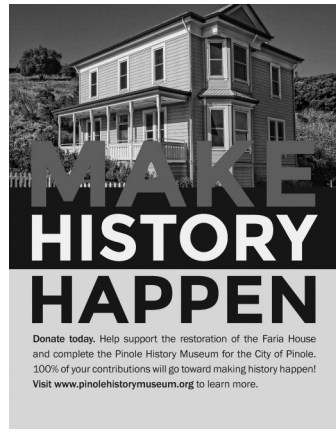
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Amount of Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  I've included the museum in my will or estate plan

**Mail your donation to Pinole History Museum, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564**

The Pinole History Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (82-1454949).

Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



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Call (510) 724-9507 or e-mail [info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org) for information and rates.

**Pinole Historical Society**  
**2021 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 2021 CALENDAR YEAR (EXCEPT LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS)

NAME: (each member): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**METHOD OF PAYMENT:**     Check (Payable to Pinole Historical Society)

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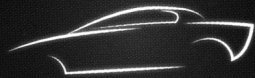
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For only \$30, you can help the PHS accomplish its mission of bringing the history of Pinole to our residents through exhibits at the Pinole Library, Pinole history programs in schools, Pinole Community TV programs, walking tours of downtown Pinole, 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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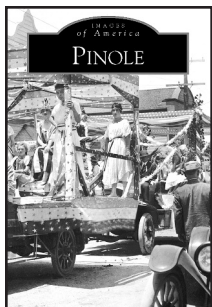


### Gary Lalley

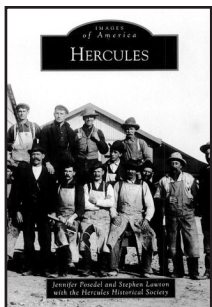
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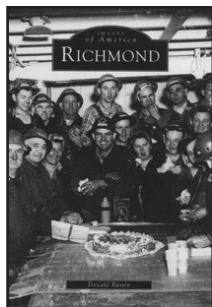
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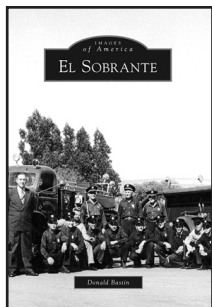
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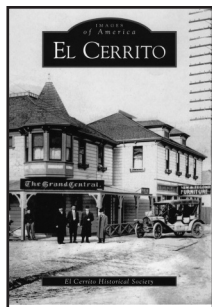
Hercules



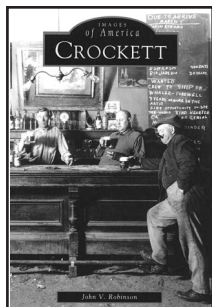
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El Cerrito



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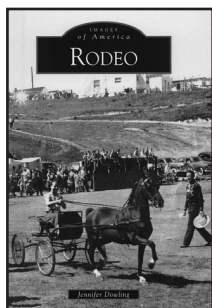
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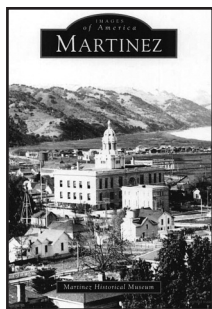
The Pinole, Pinole Through Time, Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Maritime Contra Costa County, East Bay Hills, Tilden

Park, and Napa Valley books are **\$25**, including sales tax. The Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, and Port Costa books are **\$23**, including sales tax.

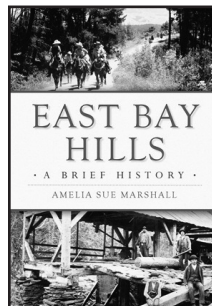
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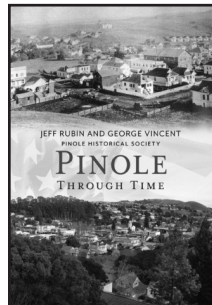
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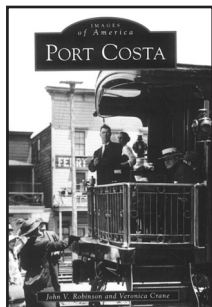
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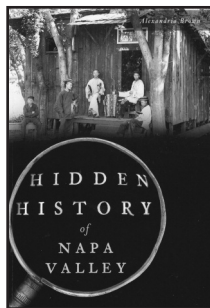
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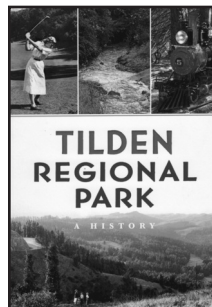
Pinole Through Time



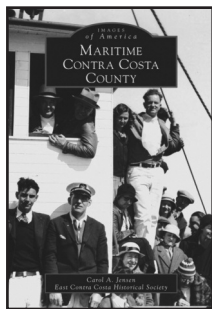
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