

Pinole Historical Society Newsbriefs

Spring 2012



P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

PHS TO HONOR PINOLE LIBRARY AT MAY 17 ANNUAL MEETING

May is National Preservation Month, as designated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

At the May 17 Pinole Historical Society annual membership meeting, directors of the society will be elected and by-laws changes recommended by the PHS Board of Directors will be considered for ratification by the membership. Also, the PHS will present awards to Ian Richards and Tim Madigan of the Pinole Library for their extraordinary support of historic preservation activities in Pinole.

Please join us Thursday, May 17, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in conference rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road. Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

And please visit the PHS exhibits at the Pinole Library.

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It's also posted on the PHS website.

FOR ADVERTISERS: 3,000 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

May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12, 2012: 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.

May 17, 2012: Annual membership meeting: Following election of directors and ratification of proposed by-laws changes, the society will honor the Pinole Library and librarians Ian Richards and Tim Madigan in celebration of National Preservation Month. Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road, Conference Rooms 2A and 2B, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

ONGOING

Pinole Library history exhibits. Two exhibits 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. Every other Saturday through December 22.

Pinole **Historical** Society

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Marcia Kalapus, President; Jeff Rubin, Vice President; Sheila Grist, Treasurer; Jo Ann Gannotti, Secretary; Dr. Joe Mariotti; Shirley Ramos

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President's Message

Marcia Kalapus, President, Pinole Historical Society

PINOLE LIBRARY OUR CITY'S HIDDEN GEM

Every May the National Trust for Historic Preservation chooses a new theme that is used by everyone who studies, preserves, teaches, restores, writes about, collects, and does community projects that have related historical relevance to the history of the United States and all our territories.

This year the theme is "Discover American's Hidden Gems."

This is a very broad theme and can be overwhelming when choosing what projects or subjects one can do to observe this month. The National Historic Preservation Act was enacted by Congress

in 1966 and amended in 1992. I went on line and perused the wordage of the act and was surprised at how detailed it is.

There is no way that I can even begin to sum up the entire document. It covers everything from national parks, special historic districts, significant objects, architectural designs, archaeology, engineering, culture, arts, technology, and an infinite list of other items.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, states, and local communities implement and maintain this law. It's a profound task, to say the least.

Since teaching preservation of history is men-



Marcia Kalapus

tioned in the National Historic Preservation Act, what better way is there to do it than through a library program that touches not only adults, but also young children and teenagers?

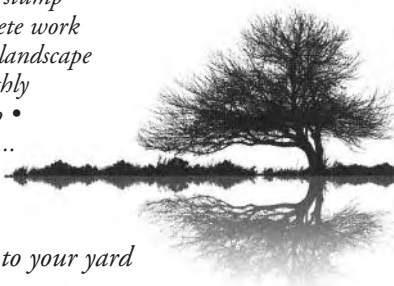
Libraries (school, public, and university) all maintain books, periodicals, documents, journals, literary artifacts, and much more that can stimulate readers to learn about history and write about it.

The city of Pinole has its own 'hidden gem'—the Pinole Library, and our librarians, Ian Richards and Tim Madigan.

The Pinole Historical Society is honored to present Ian and Tim—and the Pinole Library—with its 2012 Historic Preservation Award. It will be presented to them at the society's Annual

Continued on page 4

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PINOLE LIBRARY OUR CITY'S HIDDEN GEM

Continued from page 3

Membership Meeting Thursday, May 17, at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building.

The Pinole Library is not only an institution for books, but also for learning, reading, study, public classes, and research. It also serves as a showcase for our city's history.

The library has generously provided the Pinole Historical Society with two large display cases for public viewing of its artifacts. One is a permanent display celebrating our city's history. Every four months or so we choose a different theme to display in the other case. Many of these subjects involve recent and current Pinole history.

The library also displays more than 20 large photos from the society's archives, some dating back more than 100 years, on its walls so people walking around the building can learn what took place here years ago.

We hope to join the library staff in providing more opportunities to learn about Pinole's history.

Please join us in celebrating National Preservation Month in May by visiting the Pinole Library to see our displays and to meet Ian and Tim.

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MAY IS NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

The U.S. Congress has designated May as National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM).



Our military has played a major role in the development of our

NMAM includes Loyalty Day (May 1), VE Day (8), Military Spouse Appreciation Day (11), Armed Forces Day (19), and Memorial Day (30th). NMAM honors, remembers, recognizes and appreciates all military personnel—men and women who have served throughout our history and all who serve now.

It recognizes those on active duty in all branches of the services, the National Guard and Reserves, plus retirees, veterans, and all of their families—more than 90 million Americans and more than 230 years of our nation's history.

NMAM was legislated twice to achieve greater national attention and recognition.

The first legislation was in the U.S. Senate in 1999, via a bill sponsored by Sen. John McCain, (R-AZ) and Rep. Duncan Hunter, (R-San Diego), and supported by more than 50 veterans' service organizations. In April 2004, more comprehensive legislation was passed by unanimous consent of both houses of Congress.

country. Unfortunately, schools no longer teach those military events that turned the course of history. We are slowly losing our connection to our own American history. Names like Pearl Harbor, San Juan Hill, Civil War, Belleau Wood, Continental Army, 38th Parallel, Berlin Airlift, Tet Offensive, and Normandy are rapidly losing their significance to the general American population, particularly our youth.

Because most holidays commemorating historical military events have become little more than three-day weekends lacking focus on their original purpose, National Military Appreciation Month is intended to remind us of the sacrifices made by military personnel and the history of our country.

For a list of ways schools, religious institutions, libraries, museums, civic and service organizations, businesses, and veterans and military organizations can promote and celebrate National Military Appreciation Month, visit www.nmam.org/index.htm.

PHS PRODUCTS FOR SALE

We have postcards, greeting cards, and refrigerator magnets—featuring photos from our book, *Images of America: Pinole*. You can order them at www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org.


To order on-line, print the order form and mail it with your check to the Pinole Historical Society, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564.

All of the photos in our book—and others in our collection—are available for purchase in any size you want.

All of these items make great holiday gifts. For more information, contact the PHS at (510) 724-9507 or at info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org.

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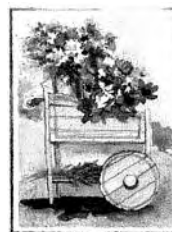
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PHS SEEKING FAMILY FILMS FOR HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

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



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GOT HISTORY?

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

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PHS interviews on city of Pinole website

Miss one of our 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!

PHS THANKS THESE DONORS:

CLYDE MASKAL, a Tara Hills resident, donated a photo of downtown Pinole, taken in the 1980s, showing the Bank of Pinole and the Downer Building. The Downer Building, damaged in the 1989 Loma Preita earthquake, was demolished.

KIMBRA ST. MARTIN donated several 1950s photos of her family's property in the Point Wilson area.

collection. Included are copies of Growing Up Pinole, a Betty Boyle interview with prominent Pinole families; the 2005 Bay Park Retirement Residence Pearl Harbor Day remembrance; and the Pinole Senior Center groundbreaking and grand-opening ceremonies.

JIM PAYNE became the first contributor to our video archives by giving us four reels of film from the Fiesta del Pinole parades from the 1960s. We will digitize these reels (and return them to Jim) and establish an archive not only on DVD, but on a YouTube channel dedicated to Pinole videos.

SUSIE FERNANDEZ, great-granddaughter of Bernardo Fernandez and granddaughter of Dr. Manuel Fernandez, donated several family photos, including some of her late father, Carroll. The society did not have any photos of him. Also in this collection are several photos of Bernardo Fernandez III, Susie's uncle, who was killed during World War II in a military training accident, and a wonderful photo of Bernardo III, Manuel, and Carroll, taken in 1938.

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COMMANDER MATT MESSIER, of the Pinole Police Department, donated a color postcard of the Pinole-Hercules School #1.

SHEILA GRIST, PHS treasurer, donated several VHS tapes and DVDs from her late mother's (Suzette Shaw)

Pinole Police Commander Matt Messier requests photos of the city's constables from the late 1800s and early 1900s. Please contact him at 724-8946 if you can help.



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Back in the day

By George R. Vincent

REMEMBERING THE YOUNG RAMONA MARTINEZ



Ramona Martinez,
age 3 1/2.

*(With excerpts from
"Yesterday's Child,"
her biography.)*

April 20 marked the anniversary of the birth of Ramona Martinez. Hers is a story of a lost heritage, poverty, parental strife, terminal illness, and the loving bond between a mother and daughter that made up for all of the negatives life brought her.

Ramona was born during the last year of the 19th century, April 20, 1900. She was the great-granddaughter of Pinole's first settler, Don Ygnacio Martinez. Don Ygnacio and his wife, Doña Maria Martina, raised most of their eleven children in the family adobe home built in the 1820s deep in Pinole Valley. Ramona would be the last Martinez family member to live in the decaying structure in 1911.

When old Don Ygnacio died in 1848, his legacy to his heirs was the

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REMEMBERING THE YOUNG RAMONA MARTINEZ

large 18,000-acre El Rancho Pinole with all its trappings, cattle, and horses. When Ramona's father died in 1928, his legacy was simply a few barbering tools sold by her mother to defray bills.

Ramona's father, Ygnacio N. Martinez, was born in Pinole in 1849 and named after his deceased grandfather. Young Ygnacio left the Pinole adobe at age 17 and became a stage-coach driver and barber. While working in San Francisco, he met and later married Emma Shepherd, an English immigrant.

Ramona inherited the Anglo-Hispanic features of both parents, having an olive complexion, long brown hair, and blue eyes. While her ancestors of the first Rancho generation were affluent, this child of the fourth gener-

ation would grow up in impoverished circumstances facing many hardships.

Ramona's parents owned very little and could only pass down to her the storied Martinez name and the folklore of better times. The reality

of life was that in 1907, even the old family adobe and ranch were no longer in Martinez hands.

In 1907, Ygnacio moved his little family and their few belongings by horse and wagon from Martinez back to his birthplace, the Adobe

Ranch in Pinole Valley, called "Pinole Viejo," or "Old Pinole." The 1906 earthquake had badly damaged the old building, and the new owner, Bernardo Fernandez, allowed the family to live there as caretakers. Their neighbors remembered



Ramona Martinez (standing) with parents Emma and Ygnacio.

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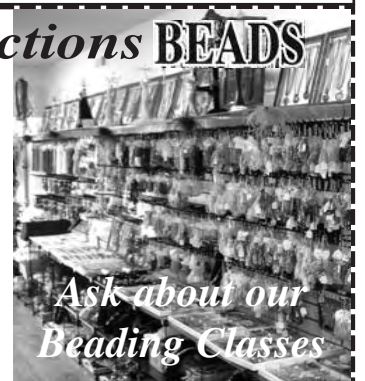
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REMEMBERING THE YOUNG RAMONA MARTINEZ

them as being the poorest of the valley residents.

Much of Ramona's childhood and early teen years were spent in Pinole. The family lived in the one large room of the adobe with ropes strung from beams and blankets over the ropes dividing into make-shift rooms. Her father made "empanadas" (stuffed meat-pie turnover) and sold them in the saloons of Pinole and barbered in town on weekends.

Mrs. Martinez was a fine seamstress and dressed Ramona nicely from donated clothing. Ramona attended the new Pinole-Hercules School on the hill five miles away in downtown Pinole. She made the honor roll and loved to write poetry.

It was in 1913, and soon after Ramona's graduation into the seventh grade, when her parents separated. For

Ramona Martinez in front of the decaying Martinez Adobe.



the first time, Ramona and her mother were on their own and dependent upon their own resources. They stayed and worked at a relative's boarding house in town until moving to Richmond, where Ramona's mother ran a boarding house, renting out rooms for \$6 and also boarding children for money. By 1914, her parents had

reunited briefly, only to soon split up again. Mrs. Martinez took Ramona back to the boarding house, and by 1916 moved to Martinez, where they again rented out two rooms and stayed in another smaller one.

Ramona's health began to fail with what was thought to be consumption. By 1918, she

was bedridden, and Ramona's girlfriends held a theatre benefit, raising \$205 for her surgery. It was found she had incurable intestinal cancer. She passed away on December 1, 1918, at the age of 18, in her mother's arms with her little dog, Fatima, by her bedside. Mrs. Martinez called Ramona, "My little girl."

One of Ramona's poems written during her illness sums up her feelings about her life in early Pinole and her enduring love for her mother:

*For all the world and its gold –
A single glance at the spot where
My childhood passed;
The hills I strolled –
The streams that I crossed –
The very spot where my young hands played –
And Mother's face the in the shade –
To soothe my mind so long depressed.*

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CULTIVATING YOUR FAMILY TREE

By Stanley J. Grogan

If your summer plans include a family reunion, or even a quiet dinner with your parents, the opportunity to record history, learn more about your system of government, and to gain practice in written communication, is in your hands.

The field of family history is an offspring of the marriage between social history, which reconstructs life experiences of ordinary people, and the "new genealogy," which reconstructs ancestry, rather than searches for some eminent ancestor.

It explores a level of experience that can't be approached through most historical sources. Sources become one's parents, grandparents, families, even remote ancestors.

The findings can be endless: What patterns of family life evolved? How were children reared? What effects did external events have upon individuals? What were attitudes about the "old country"?

For the more ambitious family historian delving into historical records, artifacts, journals, and photograph albums, as well as the more orthodox collections of genealogical materials available through government and church records, are valuable.

While oral history provides a more-personal insight into family history, there are some pitfalls.

Pitfalls

The writer should have a general plan for an interview, but should also remain flexible. He or she should not interject his or her own prejudices or

preconceptions, but should use methods best suited for the interviewee to achieve complete, accurate, and candid information. Oral history represents the family member's perception of reality. The only effective way to control for distortion and mistakes is to use several sources of information.

Purpose

What can one do with a family history? Family biographies, a mini-archive of the family history, a manuscript for present and future family members, and a sharing of information with local historical societies, are among some outcomes. If we had such information about family life in the 16th century, think of the value that would be to historians today.

The main value of family history is a personal one. The reconstruction of your own family history can be a uniquely moving experience. It brings the individual in touch with parents, grandparents, and other family members; establishes meaningful contact across generations; and builds respect and tolerance.

Everything discovered, good and bad, is part of the family historian's heritage. The process of discovery will help the historian understand his or her own identity, and perhaps even fundamentally change it.

— Stanley J. Grogan, a Life Member of the Pinole Historical Society, has lived in Pinole 50 years. He was an Assistant Professor of Air Science at UC-Berkeley, and worked as a school

Continued on page 13



Check the Pinole Historical Society website for information on PHS activities and events – and, of course, the history of the sweetest city in the East Bay.
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THE QUINAN DIVORCE: Defendant not allowed to take maiden name

Editor's note: This article is from the California Digital Newspaper Collection, Center for Bibliographic Studies and Research, University of California, Riverside <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cdnc>.

These articles about Pinole are featured weekly on Pinole Patch (pinole.patch.com). We thank Pinole Patch Editor Rob Shea for preserving and promoting the history of Pinole.

Imagine this scenario taking place today. A woman asks in divorce court that she be allowed to use her birth name. Her husband, who is suing for divorce, doesn't mind.

The judge says, "Uh-

uh." She not only has children with her husband, but she's too old and she is solely responsible for the divorce, he rules. It just wouldn't be right.

What might be hard for us to grasp today was possibly not as shocking almost 116 years ago. That's when W.R. Quinan, assistant superintendent of the powder works plant outside Pinole, filed for divorce from his wife, Caroline.

A street with the family name resides in today's Old Town Pinole. This new peek into the past might affect a lasting change on the experience of driving by or walking on Quinan Street.

OAKLAND, CAL., Nov. 9 — W. R. Quinan was granted a divorce today from Caroline B. Quinan on the ground of willful desertion.

The plaintiff is the assistant superintendent of the powder works at Pinole and the family reside at Twelfth and Filbert streets. This is the second time the case has been tried. Mrs. Quinan's attorney asked permission for his client to resume her maiden name.

Although no objection was made by Mr. Quinan, Judge Ellsworth refused to grant the request. He said the defendant was the mother of children who bore the name of

her husband, and she was well advanced in years. It was proper, the judge held, that she should continue to bear her name in marriage.

Besides, it was the fault of the woman alone that the divorce has been occasioned, because she deliberately left her home, and although she returned to it later she refused to act as a wife or to take charge of the home.

The Quinans are quite prominent in social circles and the divorce occasioned some surprise.

* * *

— From the Nov. 10, 1896 edition of the San Francisco Call.

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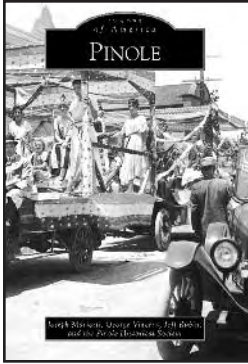
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FAMILY TREE

Continued from page 11

administrator, counselor, and instructor in the Oakland and Hayward school districts and in the South County Junior College District for more than 20 years. He is a veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, earning four battle stars as an aviator.

In researching his family's history, he learned one of his ancestors was in the party that discovered Portland, Oregon. Another was with Teddy Roosevelt in his cavalry charge at San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War. Other ancestors were teachers.



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LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM PHS

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

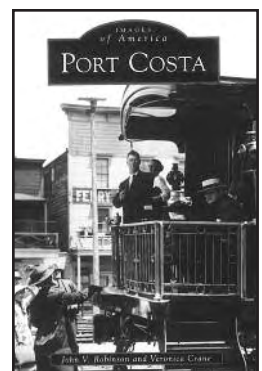
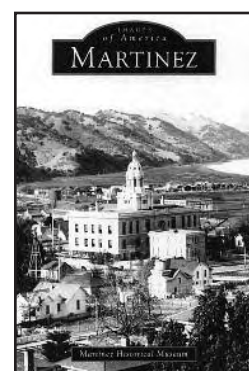
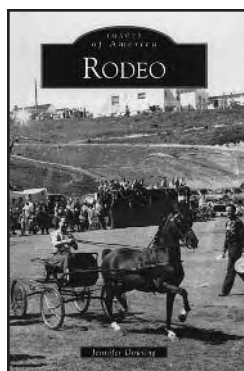
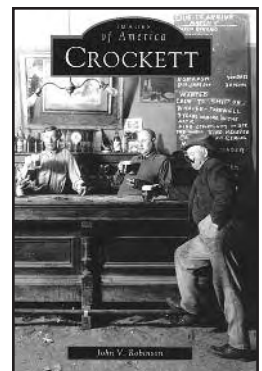
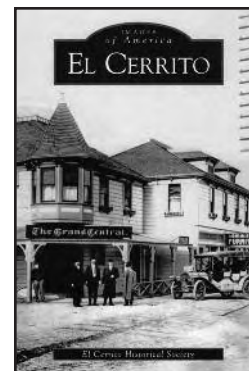
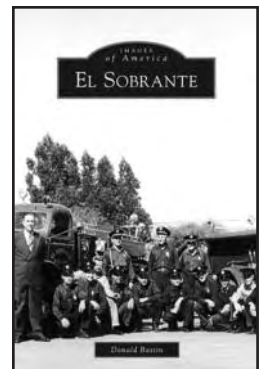
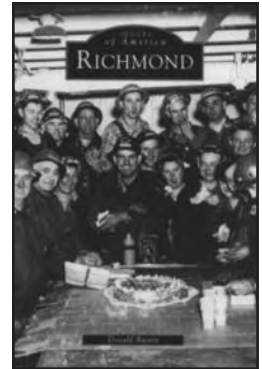
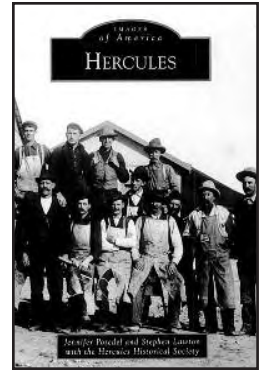
You may purchase one or more of these books from us at the Pinole Farmers' Market—we're there every other Saturday through the end of December.

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Mail prices, including sales tax and postage are: Pinole, Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, and El Cerrito: **\$27**; Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, and Port Costa: **\$25**



100 years ago — 1912

May 1: Beverly Hills Hotel opens.

May 5: 5th Olympic games open at Stockholm, Sweden. Jim Thorpe wins pentathlon and decathlon gold medals.

May 13: The U.S. House of Representatives voted 237-39 to send the proposed Seventeenth Amendment to the United States Constitution to the 48 states for ratification. The amendment, which provided for U.S. Senators to be elected directly by popular vote, rather than by the state legislatures, followed 86 years worth of rejections. In 1894, 1898, 1900, and 1902, the House had approved an amendment and the Senate had rejected it.

June 7: U.S. Army tests first machine gun mounted on a plane.

July 19: A meteorite with an estimated mass of 190 kg explodes over the town of Holbrook in Navajo County, Arizona, causing approximately 16,000 pieces of debris to rain down on the town.

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