

Pinole Historical Society Newsbriefs



P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

— MAY 3 PHS PROGRAM AT KAISER —

NEW PINOLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL TAKES CENTER STAGE

How many patrons will the theater hold? When will the new ball fields be con-

structed? What are the special features of the classrooms and labs? Bring your questions about the soon-to-be-

open Pinole Valley High School to the Pinole Historical Society's May 3 meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in conference

rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road.
Continued on page 2



Photographer Earl Combs took both of these photos of the construction of the original (left) and the new (below) Pinole Valley High School. Earl has created a special presentation for the May 3 historical society meeting.



Published quarterly by the Pinole Historical Society

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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 or (510) 724-9507.

PHS CALENDAR

ONGOING

May 3 program: *Everything You Want to Know About the New Pinole Valley High School*, presented by WLC Architects, Lathrop Construction, and Earl Combs. See the front page for details. The public is invited to this FREE event from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in conference rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road. Refreshments will be served.

May 8, June 12, July 10 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.

PinoleHistoricalSociety

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

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

2019 PHS MEETING DATES

September 6: *The History of 610 Quinan Street*, presented by Linda Lopes Rosedahl.

November 1: Program to be announced.

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, or visit our website at www.pinolehistoricalsociety.org.

NEW PINOLE VALLEY HS

Continued from front page

Representatives from WLC Architects and Lathrop Construction will answer all of your questions, and photographer Earl Combs is preparing a special video presentation just for this occasion.

The public is invited to this FREE event. As always, refreshments will be served.

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President's Message

Jeff Rubin, President, Pinole Historical Society

MUSEUM PROGRESS A WORK IN PROGRESS

Over the last several months we've made steady progress on the goal to establish the Pinole History Museum.

We've been working with the city staff and its architect to create the interior plans — including an elevator — for the renovation of the historic Faria House. Architectural plans are due in June.

It will take a concerted effort to raise the anticipated several hundred thousand dollars of construction funds to renovate and open the museum. We're seeking and applying for grants from corporate and private foundations, and from federal and state sources that may be available. We've hired grant-writing specialists to assist us. Individual donor appeals are ongoing.

Our board of directors shares the dedication of hundreds of supporters who are determined to bring the city's culture to life in a building so

Our Mission
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.

representative of our community's history. We have a robust array of innovative programs planned; for a sampling, please visit the museum's website at <https://www.pinolehistorymuseum.org/our-goals/planned-exhibits.html>

☆ ☆ ☆

The Pinole Historical Society and Pinole History Museum will share a booth at Pinole's Classic Car Show, Sunday, June 23, in Fernandez Park.

Organizer Bob Kopp and sponsor Sequoia Real Estate will put on a great show, just as they did last year. It's one of Pinole's signature events every year, and we're happy to be part of it.



Jeff Rubin

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PINOLE'S MUSEUM WEBSITE — SPREAD THE WORD!

The Pinole History Museum website is online at 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.



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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:

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*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.

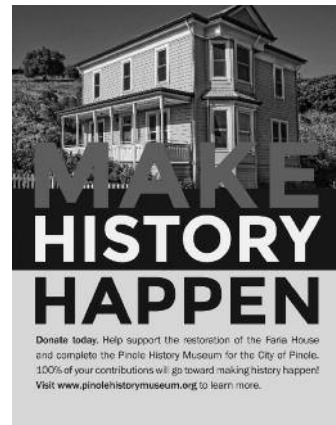
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Mail your donation to Pinole History Museum, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

The Pinole History Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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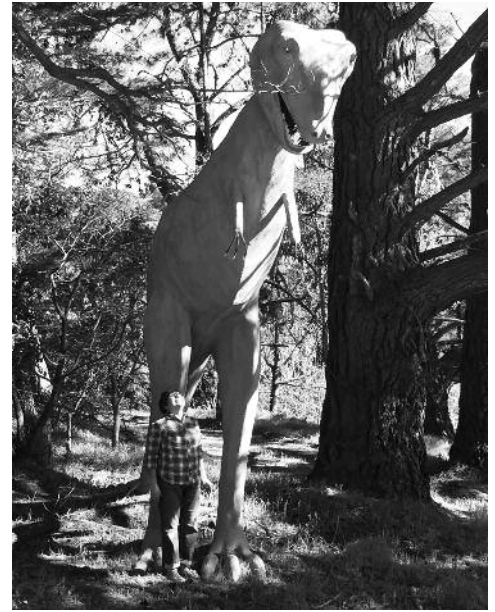
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Then and Now



The Pinole Midget Golf dinosaur makes its way down San Pablo Avenue on August 23, 1989. Today, it resides in El Sobrante.

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Back in the day

George R. Vincent

— TOASTING PINOLE VALLEY —

THE BEST GREEN DEAL IN THE CITY'S HISTORY

Are you new to Pinole, or have you been living here with no time to delve into its rich history?

History can easily become a casualty of our hurry-up society of texting mania and drive-through fast foods. When your kids ask for homework help with a Pinole history assignment, do you embarrassingly have to tell them to go ask mom or dad, or grandma or grandpa?

Well, help is on the way. This historical tour will give you a thumbnail introduction to one of our community's historical pillars. Perhaps it will even give you a more satisfactory mental high than your Starbucks Espresso Macchiato.

Pinole's roots extend

in many directions. However, to appreciate the town's beginnings and growth, we must look to the rural Pinole Valley hinterland.

An 1880s history book described Pinole as "*The little hamlet by the pebbly bay, located at the mouth of the beautiful valley by the same name.*" By the 1920s, a local contest officially nicknamed Pinole "*The Sunkissed Gem by the Bay.*"

The San Pablo Bay and Pinole Valley were to figure prominently in Pinole's population growth and attraction of residents.

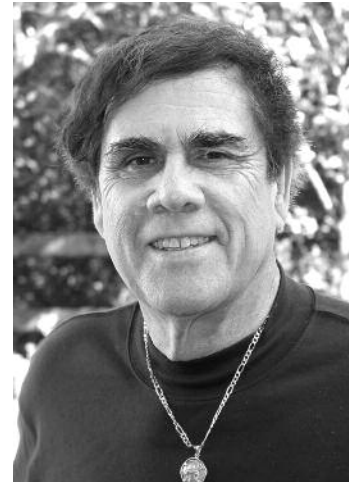
Pinole's yawn time as a sleepy village and the rural face of Pinole Valley both ended with the opening of the I-80 freeway in the late 1950s.

The freeway surgically cut Old Town Pinole from its supporting farms and ranches. The new roadway provided job links to nearby work locations, and almost overnight transformed Pinole into a suburban community with an explosive population increase.

Cattle-grazing lands and tomato fields were replaced by tract homes, as displaced ranchers sold to developers.

The Samuel Tennent family had laid out the town of Pinole in blocks and lots in 1887. However, large subdivisions were a phenomena in Pinole.

In 1954 and 1955, Normandie Acres was developed near the bay. Tara Hills began in 1951 and grew until the 1960s. By 1955, Pinole Valley's



George Vincent

turn came.

Building took off between Pinole Valley Road and Pinole Creek with the new Pinole Estates and long roads called Estates Avenue and Ramona Drive.

By 1967, an even larger development of swank homes called Silvercreek made the scene, having the unbelievable price tag in the mid \$30,000 range.

Frances Ellerhorst School was built in the valley in the early 1960s to accommodate the influx of new children. In 1967, the new Pinole Valley High School was built on the site of the

Continued on page 9

Adobe Ranch Road



TOASTING PINOLE VALLEY

Continued from page 8

old Rose Ranch.

The old downtown Pinole School on the Hill, built in 1906, served as the new junior high and was bursting at its green seams with students.

Pinole Valley's real claim to fame was its deserved recognition as the starting place of Pinole's history. The valley's first subdivision of sorts was actually a large rancho. Its name, *Rancho El Pinole*, baptized the 18,000 acres in 1823 with a lasting name.

The area then was described as a wild and dangerous place, with marauding Indians, deer, elk, and huge grizzly bears. Don Ygnacio Martinez was granted the land for his 41 years of service as a soldier on the California frontier.

The rancho was named

***I-80 collapse
in Pinole,
May 12,
1969.***



after friendly Indians fed Spanish soldiers in the region a mush-like mixture, a gruel made of grains and acorns the soldiers called *Penole*. The food stuck to their

insides and the name stuck to the site.

Don Ygnacio built an adobe home in the valley in 1836 and brought his wife, Maria, and his large family there from San

Jose. His family was to number 13 in all, with nine daughters and two sons. For protection, a brass cannon was mounted by the home.

Continued on page 10



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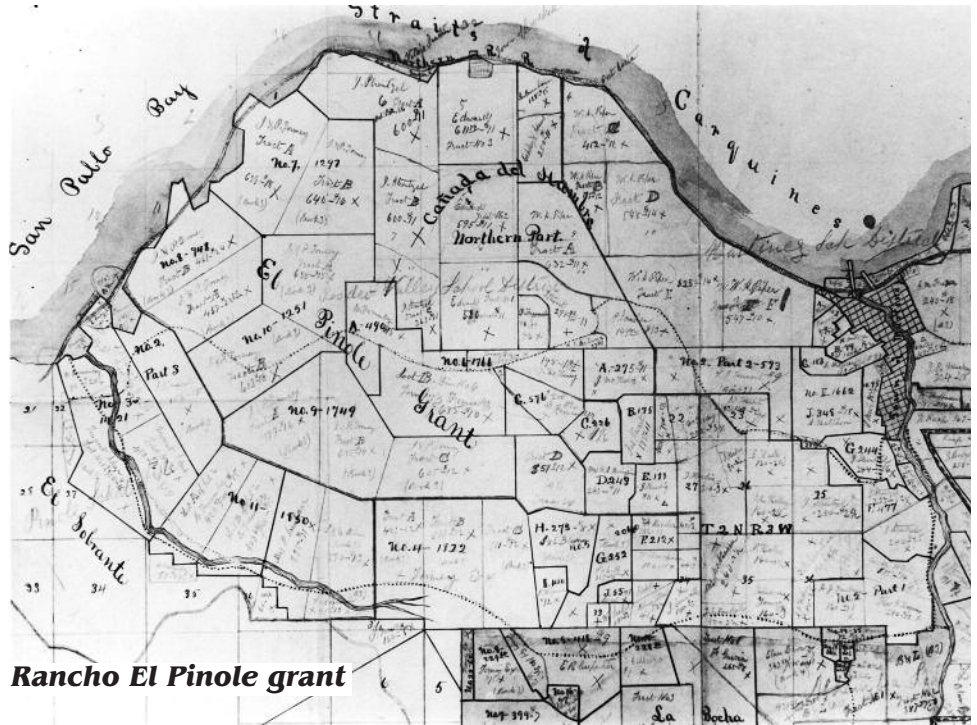
TOASTING PINOLE VALLEY

Continued from page 9

Eventually, two more smaller adobe homes were added when sons Vicente and Jose de Jesus were wed. Wedding fiestas and bullfights lasted for days.

The area now had a new name: *The Three Adobes of Pinole Viejo* (old Pinole).

Early Spanish-speaking Californians called Californios were devoted to their Catholic faith. Every home had an altar with a patron saint figure. Even though the Martinez daughters dutifully said their prayers each evening, legend has it that they were also expert horseback riders and roped grizzly bear for sport.



Rancho El Pinole grant

In 1849, the beautiful Rafaela Martinez married Englishman Samuel Tennent. After 10 children

and her passing in the 1860s, Dr. Tennent donated the downtown block in the center of

Pinole to Saint Joseph's Church in her honor. In 1881, Pinole's first

Continued on page 11



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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.



Allen Faria

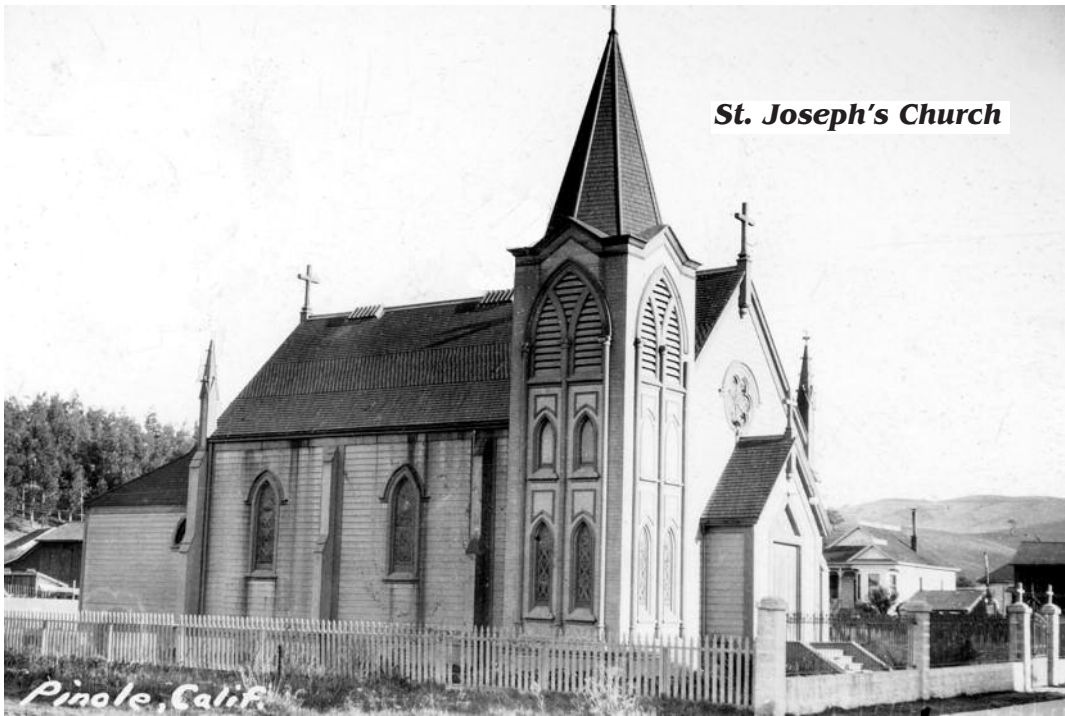
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The Pinole Historical Society promotes awareness and appreciation of history through preservation and education, and chronicles the city's heritage for current and future generations.

TOASTING PINOLE VALLEY



Continued from page 10
Catholic church, Saint Joseph's, was built.

Today, the Pinole Valley corridor on both sides of the freeway acts as the economic engine for Pinole's business development in much the same manner as when it was responsible for the city's boom in the 1950s and 1960s.

On the south side, the imposing new Pinole Valley High School nears completion. Nearby, the Pinole Valley Shopping Center anchored by Trader Joe's bustles with auxiliary shops.

North of the freeway, small businesses have sprung up around the big-named places of Kaiser, Sprouts, and Starbucks.

But Pinole Valley still holds a secret to remember. Under the dark adobe soil deep in the valley lies the limestone foundation of the home of the valley's first Hispanic residents. They, too, found it to be a desirable place to live.

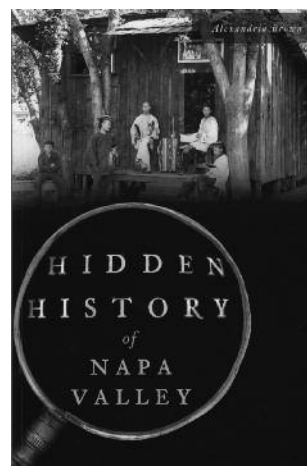
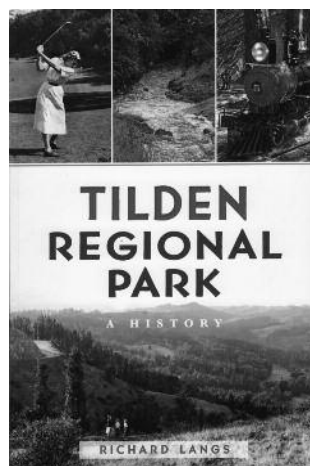
Long ago, they were the pioneers who set in motion the gold rush of development that turned Pinole's reputation from a largely ignored small cattle-and-saloon town into a prosperous modern city.

WE'RE BACK AT THE PINOLE FARMERS MARKET WITH TWO NEW BOOKS FOR SALE

We're back at the Pinole Farmers' Market.

We'll be selling books — including the new *Tilden Regional Park* and *Hidden History of Napa Valley* — note cards, postcards, magnets featuring historical Pinole sites, and American flags and flag poles — and sharing the history of Pinole with everyone who stops by — on alternate Saturdays from 9 AM to 1 PM, through December.

Thanks for your many years of support. We'll see you soon.



From our archives

from the
Oakland Tribune
September 18, 1966



Illuminating facts about the Pinole Valley.

- Pinole Valley has green valleys and green rolling hills. (So does Casa Cañada.)
- Pinole Valley has good schools, plenty of churches, beautiful shopping centers and great community spirit. (So does Casa Cañada.)
- Pinole Valley has the best weather in the Bay Area. (Fact: Casa Cañada is nestled in a quiet, sheltered canyon, it's fog-free and warmer than just about anywhere.)
- Pinole Valley has the best commute in the East Bay—the freeway isn't clogged with cars—because the countryside isn't clogged with people. (Casa Cañada is fifteen minutes to Oakland, and only thirty minutes to San Francisco.)
- Pinole Valley has strict building codes and picky inspectors. (So does Casa Cañada.)
- Pinole Valley has one of the best home values anywhere. (So does Casa Cañada—our homes are now worth 10% more than the original buyers paid for them less than a year ago. The investments: \$25,500 to \$29,950.)
- Pinole Valley has Silver Construction Corporation—who create homes with an honest regard for workmanship that puts a dollar's worth of value into every dollar asked for a house. (That's Casa Cañada.)



To find Casa Cañada—The new community in a quiet canyon, go north on US 40 Freeway to Pinole-Hercules Turn-off, turn right at bottom of ramp on Pinole Valley Road, travel two miles to Wright Avenue to immediate entrance.

Pinole Historical Society

2019 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 2019 CALENDAR YEAR (EXCEPT LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS)

NAME: (each member): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE: () _____

E-MAIL (please!): _____

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

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

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ CVV _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

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.

PHS VIDEOS ON CITY OF PINOLE WEBSITE

Miss one of our history programs on Pinole Community TV? Don't despair. The city's website 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 the city's website www.ci.pinole.ca.us/about/videos.html and scroll down to PINOLE 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 2019

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)
AND HELP PROMOTE AND PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF OUR CITY.**

Please mail the membership application in this newsletter today!

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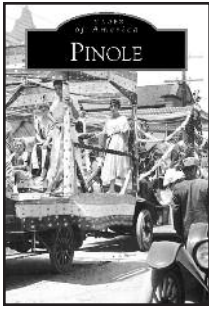
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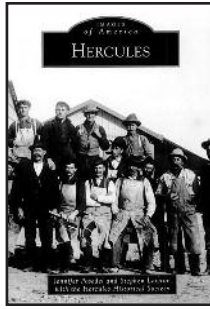


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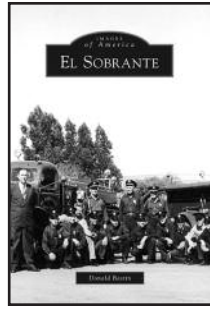
Pinole



Hercules



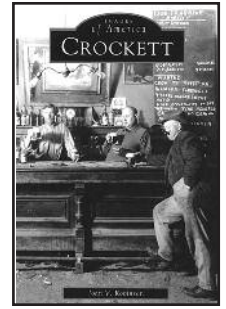
Richmond



El Sobrante



El Cerrito



Crockett

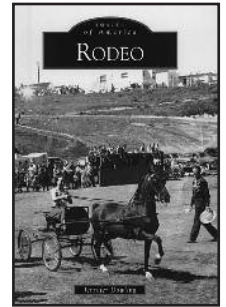
LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Pinole Historical Society sells these Arcadia books at the Pinole Farmers' Market every other Saturday through December.

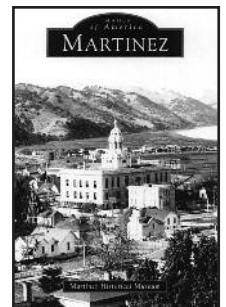
The Pinole, Pinole Through Time, Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Maritime Contra Costa County, East Bay Hills, Tilden

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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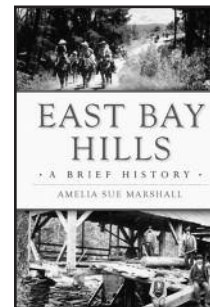
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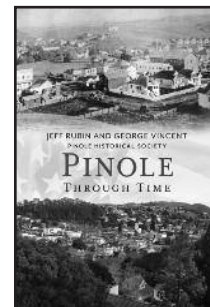
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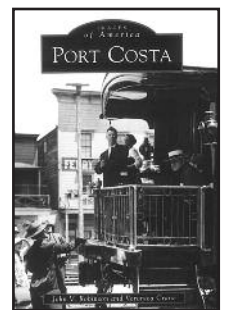
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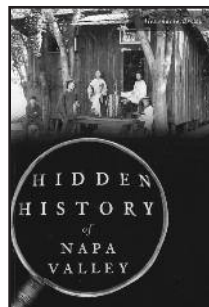
East Bay Hills



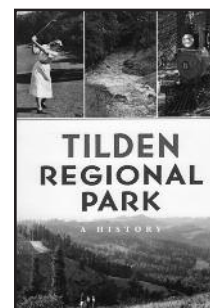
Pinole Through Time



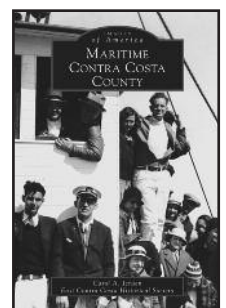
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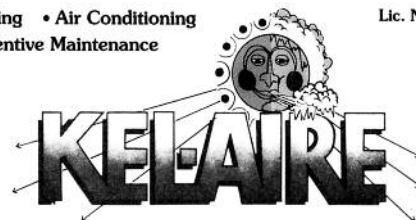


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