

# 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)

## — SEPTEMBER 6 PHS PROGRAM AT KAISER — THE HISTORY OF 610 QUINAN STREET

**T**he history of one of Pinole's oldest and most historic homes will be the subject of our September 6 program, brought to life by the granddaughter of the paterfamilia of the Lopes family.

Linda Lopes Rosedahl, granddaughter of Antone Lopes Sr., will present a colorful history not only of her grandfather's house, in which she lives, but of three generations of her family in Pinole, dating back to the turn of the 20th century.

The history of the home touches two of Pinole's founding families — the Fernandez and Downer families — as Antone Sr. had relationships with both.

All PHS members, their guests, and the public are invited to this FREE event from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in conference rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanently Medical Office

Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road.

"The house was built in 1890 by Bernardo Fernandez," Linda says. "I think he built it for his family to live in while the Fernandez Mansion at the end of

Tennent Avenue was being built."

How the property came into the Lopes's possession is a slice of Pinole history in itself, one that Linda will embellish with stories about the people who lived there before her grandfather bought it, and the lot next to it, in 1943.

Antone Sr. gave the empty lot to his son, Antone Jr. and his bride, Marian, as a wedding gift. Tony built a house on that lot at 612 Quinan Street. It's the house in which Linda and her sister, Patti Clark, grew up, and in which Patti now lives.



### PHS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

*Pinole Valley High School graduating senior Cecilia Chak was the winner of the first George R. Vincent Scholarship. PHS co-founder George Vincent presented Cecilia with a certificate and a \$250 check at the PVHS senior awards assembly in May. Cecilia will be a freshman at Yale University this fall.*

Published quarterly by the Pinole Historical Society

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

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

# PHS CALENDAR

## ONGOING

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

**August 14, September 11, October 9: 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; Norma Martinez-Rubin, 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](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

## PHS PRESENTS AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP

**W**e are very grateful to live in a community where people and organizations support each other. It's one of the most endearing characteristics of small towns and cities.

On July 2, longtime Pinole resident Earl Combs was honored by the City of Pinole and the Pinole Historical Society at the Pinole City Council meeting for making significant contributions to the history of the community.

Mayor Peter Murray presented Earl with a proclamation recognizing his more than 50 years of contributions to the city, including his work as a contractor on the construction of the original Pinole Valley High School and numerous single-family homes that helped populate Pinole Valley in the 1960s.

The Pinole Historical Society presented Earl with its "Friend of History" award in appreciation of his photographic con-



**PHS secretary Jo Ann Gannotti (left) and president Jeff Rubin (right) presented Earl Combs with the society's "Friend of History" award.**

tributions to the society's archives.

Earl's photos of historic buildings, important community events, and construction projects, many taken with his drone, document an important period in the city's history — the construction of the new Pinole Valley High School, the Bay Trail Extension over the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks, the Gateway East

and West centers, and the modernization of the Pinole-Hercules Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Earl's aerial photos of the Fernandez Mansion, Faria House (future home of the Pinole History Museum), Square Deal Garage, and other historic sites built in the early years of the city's history are a permanent record that will be viewed, studied, and enjoyed by future genera-



**Jeff Rubin**

tions of our residents.

Speaking of community support, the Pinole History Museum has received widespread support from donors, for which we are very grateful and encouraged.

I've listed all of the museum donors to date on page 4. I hope I've included everyone. Please let me know if I haven't.

We don't know yet how much the renovation of the Faria House will cost. The report from the city's architect is due in October.

Also, Saturday, October 19, is the date of the second Pinole History Museum fundraising dinner in the St. Joseph School auditorium, site of last year's event. More information to come soon.

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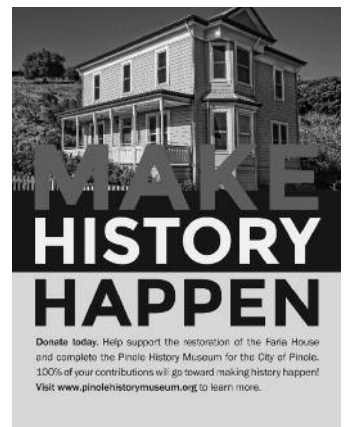
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**Mail your donation to Pinole History Museum, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564**

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# Back in the day

George R. Vincent

## REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND POETRY OF RAMONA MARTINEZ

*Author's Note: Most of this article came from my book, "Yesterday's Child."*

*Ramona and my mother, Emily Scanlan, shared their youth on nearby ranches in the Pinole Valley of the early 1900s. They were chums until Ramona's untimely death in 1918.*

*Her mother gave my mother Ramona's scrapbook and papers, which inspired me to write "Yesterday's Child," I'm hopeful Ramona's memories will find a resting place in our future Pinole History Museum, preserved for those who love history.*

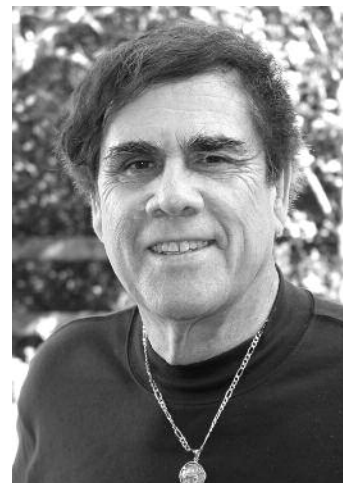
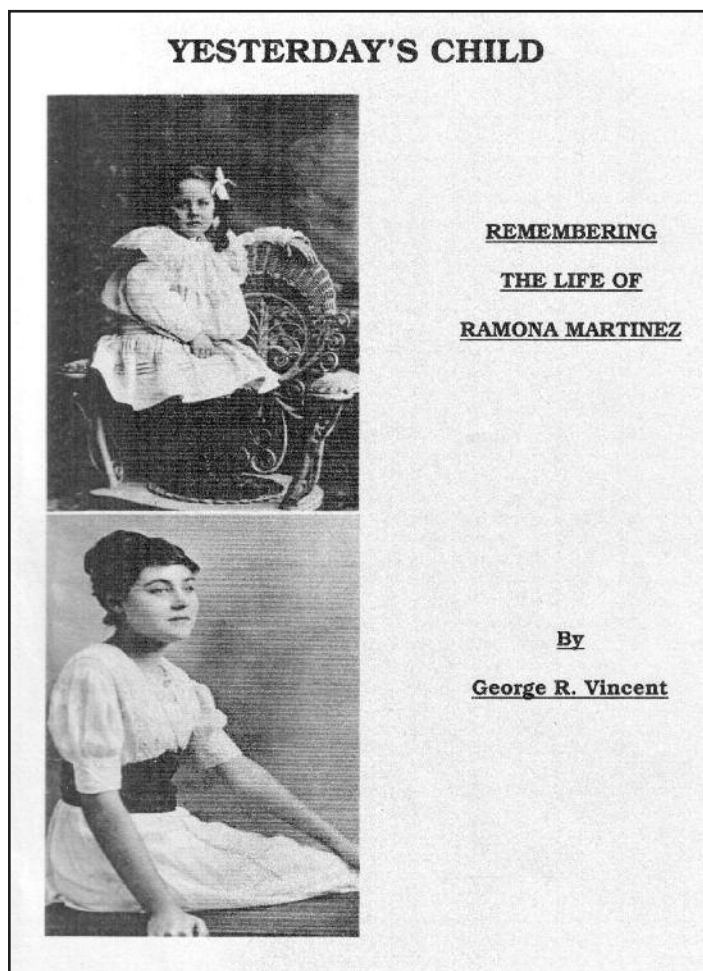
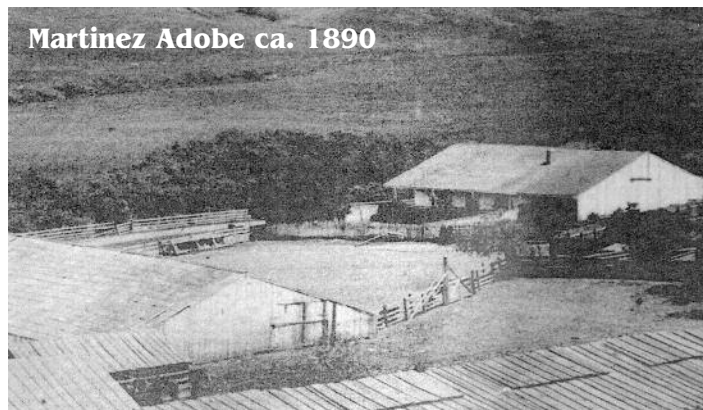
**W**hen Don Ygnacio Martinez, patriarch of El Rancho Pinole, died in 1848, he left behind 18,000 acres of choice Contra Costa land. When his namesake grandson, Ygnacio N. Martinez, died 80 years later, his legacy was only that of a few barbering tools.

As befell Spanish-speaking Californios in general, the fortunes of the Martinez family began to turn soon after American occupancy of California and the Gold Rush.

The family found itself in the ironic position of having a fast-growing

Yankee township named in its behalf in 1849 (now the city of Mar-

tinez), while the family's own land holdings and culture shrank.



**George Vincent**

It was in the town of Martinez that Ramona Martinez was born to parents Emma and Ygnacio N. Martinez on April 26, 1900.

This child of the fourth generation would grow up in a new century facing the hardships of life brought on by impoverished circumstances.

Ramona was characterized by a diverse cultural blending of the fairness of her English mother and her father's hispanic side. She had blue eyes, an olive complexion, and long, dark hair.

Ironically, she also would be the last of the Martinez clan to occupy the old Pinole adobe of her great-grandfather.

Sometime in 1907, her father left Martinez and moved the family into the Pinole Valley and the decaying adobe home of his birthplace.

The old building now belonged to wealthy Pinole landowner Bernardo Fernandez. The landmark home had been badly damaged by the 1906 earthquake.

Fernandez allowed the family to live there as caretakers.

*Continued on page 9*

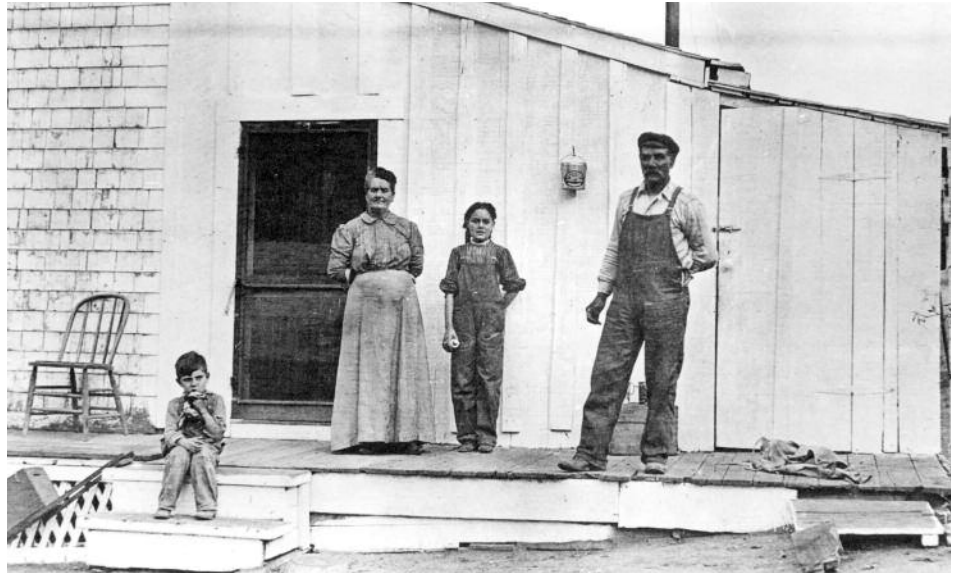


# RAMONA MARTINEZ

Continued from page 8

Ramona's family at the time was the poorest of the valley's residents. Ramona attended the new downtown Pinole-Hercules School, and her father barbered in town and sold beans and empanadas (meat pies) in the many town saloons.

Ramona's parents passed down to her the glory days of the old adobe and the folklore of better times of great wealth, solid silver table settings, and grand fiestas. But the reality was they were living in one room divided by blankets and surrounded by fallen timbers and adobe bricks.



**Ramona standing with her parents. The little boy was Ramona's friend.**

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.

# RAMONA MARTINEZ

Continued from page 9

In 1913, Ramona's parents separated, and for the first time teen-age Ramona and her mother were on their own.

In 1918, Emma took Ramona into the new city of Richmond, where Emma found work renting out rooms and boarding children.

Most of Ramona's poetry was written during her teen years. This was a troubled time for her because of her folks' marital upsets and the onset of Ramona's failing health, thought to be consumption (tuberculosis).

She projected her private emotions as well as her outlook on life into

*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.**

## RAMONA MARTINEZ



Continued from page 10

her poetry. Her strong mother-daughter bond is reflected in many of her verses.

Ramona died in her mother's arms December 1, 1918. Ramona's girlfriends had raised money for her surgery, which revealed an incurable cancer.

She died in the Martinez of her birth. Here are excerpts of three of her poems:

### **The Old Adobe Ranch**

*Lonely are those old Adobes,  
Gone to ruin are their walls,  
Yes, I miss those old Adobes  
Dear to me were all their halls.  
Though far away from me  
Its ruined, shattered walls,  
Their very image I can see  
And good old times recall.*

*For there's just one place I Love,  
And that place is ever true.  
As the stars are right above,  
"Dear Adobes," and that is You.*

### **Scales**

*My heart is weary with sorrow,  
My mind is worn with care.  
All because the scale's won't balance  
the world isn't fair!*

### **Only One**

*Hundreds of flowers that bloom  
In the spring.  
Thousands of birds that  
In chorus sing.*

*Millions of stars in the  
Heavens of blue.  
But just one Mother  
This wide world through.*



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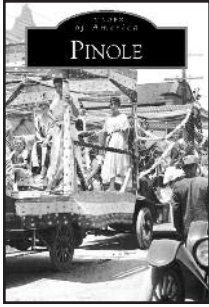
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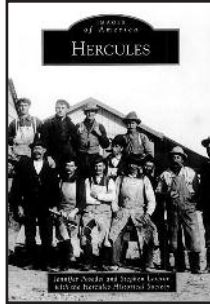
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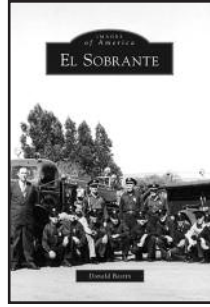
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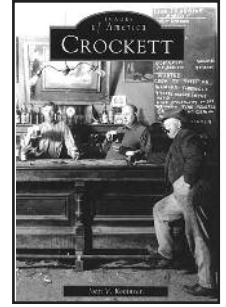
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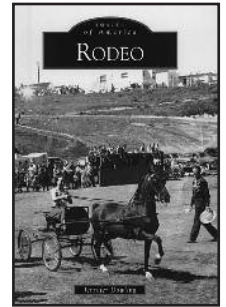
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The Pinole Historical Society sells these Arcadia books at the Pinole Farmers' Market every other Saturday through December.

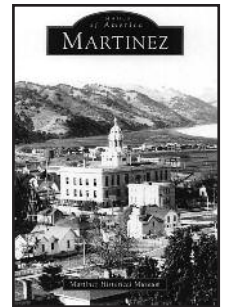
The Pinole, Pinole Through Time, Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Maritime Contra Costa County, East Bay Hills, Tilden

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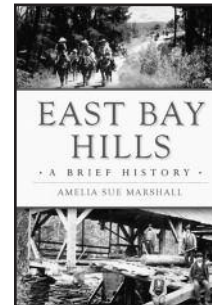
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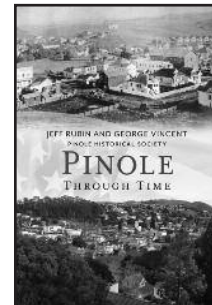
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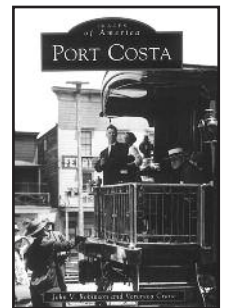
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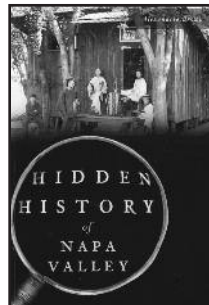
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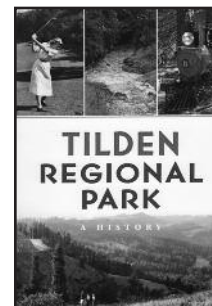
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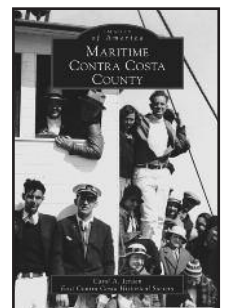
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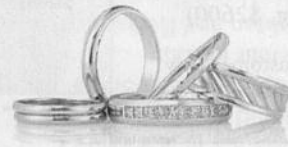
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