

# Pinole Historical Society Newsbriefs



P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

## PINOLE CITY COUNCIL APPROVES FARIA HOUSE RENOVATION

**O**n June 7, 2022, the council approved hazard remediation and renovations of the Faria House to create a lower-level office space and upper-level warm shell – a partial renovation.

The measure approved by the council states work is scheduled to be completed by June 2023.

The council has not decided for what purpose the Faria House will be used.

The Pinole History Museum (PHM) Board of Directors is continuing its efforts to have the city designate the Faria House as a site for a museum and to negotiate a lease with the PHM to use the Faria House – at least the first floor – as a museum.

to Agenda

**FACILITIES**

**FA2 - Faria House Renovations**

<b>Initial Project Start:</b>	July 1, 2022
<b>Initial Project Completion:</b>	June 30, 2023
<b>Revised Project Start:</b>	
<b>Revised Project Completion:</b>	
<b>Project Origin:</b>	Council Request
<b>Multi-year Project:</b>	No

**Description:** The building commonly referred to as the "Faria House" is a two-story residence constructed in about 1890 and originally located at what is now 1301 Pinole Valley Road. In 2005, the Faria House was relocated to 2100 San Pablo Avenue. On June 7, 2022, City Council directed staff pursue hazard remediation and renovations to create a lower-level office, and upper-level warm shell. The first step is the site remediation to removal all hazardous materials (i.e., asbestos and/or lead based paint) from the first and second floors. This will involve removal of all interior baseboard, door, window trim, lath and plaster (from the ceilings and walls). This will also include removal of all lighting and plumbing fixtures, kitchen "built-in-place" cabinets. Once the site remediation is complete, the lower level of the structure will be ready for tenant improvement for an office use. The upper level will be a warm shell, which means that the upper level will be fully insulated, with walls open and ceiling covered with wallboard, but no other improvements beyond the hazard mitigation work. The upper level would be separated from the lower level with secured "temporary" framing and wallboard partition wall built at the top of the stairs. The lower level will have rough electrical, plumbing, and mechanical installation for an office use. All lower-level rooms would have new wall and ceiling insulation installed and covered with new drywall. The kitchen would remain in the same location, the dining room, which would become the conference room/meeting room would include low-voltage, data, communications for teleconferencing, meetings, the existing bathroom would become a single All Gender restroom, renovated to meet ADA compliance, the existing rooms would become office suites with new electrical sub-panel, rough electrical, rough plumbing and rough mechanical installed. Lower-level rooms will have renewed (or new) flooring, baseboard, and doors etc.

**Supplemental Information:**

Budget:	Fund	Prior Funding	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27
<b>Construction</b>	106		\$ 420,000				
	<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 420,000</b>				
			<b>Total Cost Estimate: \$ 420,000</b>				

City of Pinole  
Capital Improvement Plan: FY 2022/23 through 2026/27
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**PHS MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS WILL RESUME SEPTEMBER 9  
AT THE PINOLE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB**

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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.

\*\*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.**

## Pinole**Historical**Society

**Board of Directors:** Jeff Rubin, President; Mary McMains, Treasurer; Jo Ann Gannotti, Secretary; Norma Martinez-Rubin, Peter Murray, Carol White.  
**Directors Emeritus:** Marcia Kalapus, Jack Meehan, George Vincent. **Newsletter Editor:** Jeff Rubin.

**THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS A REGISTERED 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT. TAX ID: 23-7441316**

## PHS at Pinole Farmers' Market

The Pinole Historical Society is back at the Pinole Farmers Market. We'll be there twice every month through December.

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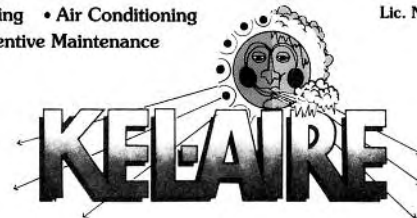
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# President's Message

Jeff Rubin, President, Pinole Historical Society and Pinole History Museum

## LARGE DONATION, SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS — AND 2022 IS ONLY HALF OVER

There is lots of good news to share, not the least of which is the Pinole City Council included funding for the partial renovation of the historic Faria House in the 2022-23 budget. The details are on the front page.

This is a good first step toward the goal of establishing a museum in the Faria House. The council has not decided on a use for the house, so it's important to let the council members know you want a museum there.

How can you do that? See page 4.

With so many historic buildings that dotted Old Town replaced by modern structures that altered the city's distinctive architectural character, I'm grateful this historic home will be saved and enjoyed by the community.

### MAJOR GIFT, MAJOR THANK YOU

One of the most humbling and rewarding experiences in the non-profit world is when an unexpected gift is received. Especially a large gift.

This happened to the Pinole History Museum on July 1 when the museum received a \$2,487.80 donation from former Pinole City Councilman and Mayor Tim Banuelos.

Tim is an architect and served on the council from 2009 to 2018. He serves now as a Planning Commissioner, just as he did before joining the council 13 years ago.

This money was the remainder of the funds in Tim's city council campaign account, which by law he had to close and distribute to a non-profit (or more than one). Tim and his wife, Kim, chose the PHM as the sole recipient.

"The history of Pinole is important to everyone, and sometimes people don't even know it," Tim says. "I've been here a long time, and there are a lot of things that have been lost, so it's really

important to preserve what we have now.

"We hope this (gift) pushes us a little closer to the opening of a museum in the near future," Tim added. "Kim and I wanted to make sure we could play a small part in making that happen."

Thank, you Tim and Kim.

### GREAT YEAR SO FAR

I'm a bit awed by what we've accomplished in a COVID world.

Last summer we inaugurated our *Diversifying Pinole History* program,  
**Continued on page 4**



Jeff Rubin



Tim Banuelos and PHM President Jeff Rubin.



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## LARGE DONATION, SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

Continued from page 3

and three energetic and interesting Pinole Valley High School students — Devin Dinh, Justin Trujillo, and Elizabeth Duarte chose minority-owned business in Pinole to research and produce stories about them (Page 10).

On the heels of that project came our **Oral History Project**, in which PVHS student Olivia Lubinger sought to learn a family member's experience growing up in Pinole (Page 10).

Seniors Justin and Olivia won \$500 college scholarships from the Pinole Historical Society and Pinole History Museum, respectively.

We held our annual **Pinole History Essay Contest** and this year's question was a stumper: "What do pizza, tomatoes, and Pinole have in common?"

The answer, of course, is Bill Faria, Pinole's

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**"We love Pinole and we hope the museum will be approved and will be able to move forward soon. I believe having the Pinole History Museum is very important for our children and future generations."**

Lyla Yu, co-owner,  
Happy Sashimi

---

"Tomato King," who sold tomatoes to the Heinz Co. in Berkeley. Everyone knows what Heinz makes with tomatoes.

Several enterprising elementary school students made these connections and won \$25 Target gift cards.

We resumed the **Veterans Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony** on November 11, 2021, and the entire St. Joseph's School student body turned out!

We are resuming our

**quarterly membership meeting and program** on Friday, September 9, at Pinole's Sportsmen's Club. Cal State East Bay professor John Robinson will present his fourth PHS program (Page 5).

The **Pinole History Museum Fundraising Dinner**, the first since

2019, will be held Saturday, September 24, at Valley Bible Church in Hercules (Page 11).

It will be wonderful to see so many friends in one place having a good time and celebrating this great city's history.

So much good news!

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## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP CREATE THE PINOLE HISTORY MUSEUM?

The Pinole City Council needs to hear from the community that a museum in the Faria House would be a welcome and worthwhile addition to the city.

You can help convince them by sending an email to all of the council members — or publicly state that you support the Pinole History Museum at a council meeting (1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month), Pinole City Hall, 2131 Pear Street. Meetings are hybrid, open to the public at City Hall and online via Zoom.

Mayor Vincent Salimi:

[vsalimi@ci.pinole.ca.us](mailto:vsalimi@ci.pinole.ca.us)

Mayor Pro Tem Devin Murphy:

[dmurphy@ci.pinole.ca.us](mailto:dmurphy@ci.pinole.ca.us)

Councilmember Norma Martínez-Rubin:

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# PINOLE HISTORY MUSEUM

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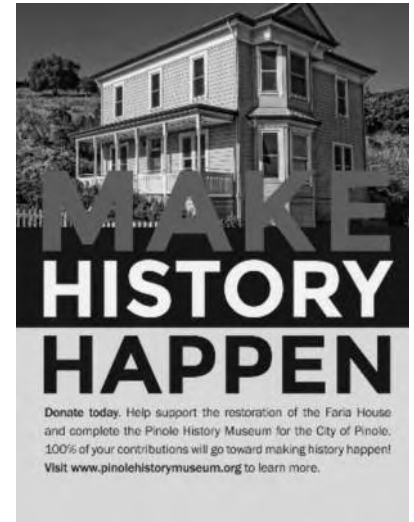
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**Mail your donation to Pinole History Museum, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564**

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



## PHS MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 9 AT SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

**A**fter an absence of more than two years because of COVID-19, the Pinole Historical Society will resume its popular quarterly membership meetings on Friday, September 9, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Pinole Sportsmen's Club, 201 Piñon Avenue.

Cal State East Bay professor John Robinson, who has done three previous programs for the PHS, will be our presenter. We'll announce the program subject and title soon.

John's previous programs for the Pinole Historical Society include:

- The Bay Bridge Troll
- The Lost Cities of the

East Bay

- Lift Bridges of the Bay Area.

Pinole Historical Society programs are free to members and the public. Refreshments will be served.

Please join as we resume in-person meetings for the first time since February 2020.

For more information,

call (510) 724-9507 or e-mail [info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org)

☆☆☆

Some of John's PHS programs, and lots of others we've recorded over the last decade, are on the PHS YouTube channel:

<https://youtu.be/0mOUvgFlr4>.

## PETE MURRAY JOINS PHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**F**ormer Pinole City Councilman and Mayor Pete Murray has joined the Pinole Historical Society Board of Directors.

Pete served on the council from 1992-2020. His 28 years represents the second-longest term in the council's history, surpassed only by businessman Louis Ruff, who served 33 years, from 1922-1955.



Edward M. Downer, founder of the Bank of Pinole, also served 28 years, from 1910-1938.

Pete is a longtime advocate for a museum in the Faria House.

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# Guest columnist

Jane Kole

## AUTHOR RECALLS PONY CART & PUP

I had to face facts. I was unlikely to own a horse ranch any time soon.

There would be no new pony to pull our pony cart and no old barn to store it in. After 60 years, our family home on Savage Avenue in Pinole would be sold soon! Our 160-year-old pony cart hanging in the rafters of the garage needed a new home!

My sister, Karen, and I had loved the stories our dad, Puppy Kole, told us about his childhood in Sonora, in California's Gold Country. He had won a pony by selling newspaper subscriptions. Then he convinced a lovely old lady to sell him her treasured little black and yellow pony cart.

When we moved to Pinole in 1962, he quickly got us a pony. We trained Lucky to pull that same pony cart. We spent endless happy hours pulling neighborhood kids up and down our dead-end street.

We caught "parade

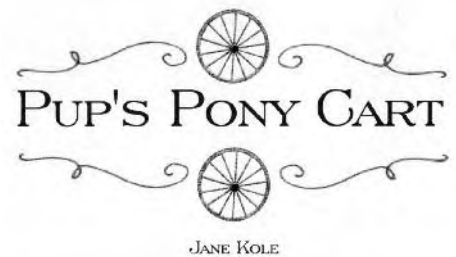
fever" with the Fiesta del Pinole. The kids on our street entered the parade dressed as Native Americans one year and the Pedro Fages Spanish exploration party the next. Lucky and Drodie, our dog, were incorporated in the entourage.

In a later parade, wearing pioneer dresses and sunbonnets made by our mom, Karen and I entered with Lucky and the cart.

Lucky and the pony cart made their last public appearance in 1970 on the first Earth Day. We arrived in style for Pinole Valley High School's Smog Free Locomotion Day. All the horse kids kept our horses tied up in a field where the library is now. We took turns cutting classes to watch over them.

I enjoyed telling stories about my dad's childhood, as well as our childhood in Pinole. After I retired from teaching, I no longer had a captive audience. Then I found Orinda Talespinners,

Cover of Jane Kole's book.



which is affiliated with the Storytelling Association of California, to regale with my tales. Spinning a good tale was just the skill I needed to rescue our pony cart.

We contacted the Tuolumne County Museum in Sonora to see if they'd be interested in our pony cart. At first, they were cautious and businesslike.

A museum has much to consider in taking on large items like antique pony carts. When they asked for specifics, I

knew that bare facts would not be the deciding factors.

I wrote stories about my dad, his pony, and the cart. I shared old family photos illustrating the stories. The stories caught their interest and helped them understand the place our cart held in Sonora's history.

They helped us research the identity of the old lady who sold the cart to our dad. They recognized the networks of relationships which

*Continued on page 9*



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# AUTHOR RECALLS PONY CART & PUP

**Continued from page 8**  
weave a community together.

I knew in my heart that our cart could be a museum focal point where story after story could be carried along on its old yellow wheels. I find the stories of yesterday naturally lead people to value their own stories today.

With the clock ticking on the sale of our family home, we finally heard that the museum accepted our pony cart! It is now on display, back in its original Sonora home!

We continue to update the museum with additional information and have been invited to events. They published our stories in their quarterly journal, *Chispa*.

Friends and family have visited the museum. More plan to travel there to visit the cart. We plan to hold a reunion at the museum to celebrate and let more stories roll. It has been fun and deeply rewarding to work with the museum staff.

All the storytelling, writing, and photo collecting led our friend, Myra Silverman, to decide the story of my pony cart would make a great little book.

Karen, Myra, and I took delight collaborating on "Pup's Pony Cart."

The interest and support from friends and family was gratifying. But the responses from the Tuolumne County and Oakland museums, the Oakland Library, the Oakland Library, the Tuolumne County Archives, and community groups like the Orinda Talespinners and the Pinole Historical Society, really made the book a success!



**Jane (driving) and sister, Karen, take Lucky for a spin on Old Adobe Road, near the site of the Martinez Adobe (next to the eucalyptus tree in background).**



**Jane dusting a wheel.**



**Jane with the pony cart in the Tuolumne County Museum in Sonora.**

## Help us preserve Pinole's history

**T**he PHS welcomes donations of objects and memorabilia significant to the history of Pinole.

Though we do not have a museum, we have two exhibit spaces at the Pinole Library, and our volunteers 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 artifact you'd like to donate.

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# PHS AND PHM COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**P**inole Valley High School students Justin Trujillo and Olivia Lubinger received \$500 college scholarships from the Pinole Historical Society (PHS) and Pinole History Museum (PHM) at the school's June 2 senior awards assembly.

Justin Trujillo, who will study music education at Sacramento State University, received the PHS's George R. Vincent Scholarship.

The scholarship is named after longtime Pinole teacher George R. Vincent, a co-founder of the Pinole Historical Society and author of several books about the history of Pinole and its people.

Justin participated in the historical society's "Diversifying Pinole History" project in summer 2021, in which three high-school students with a shared curiosity for history, storytelling, civic engagement, journalism, social impact, and diversity interviewed minority business owners in Pinole to chronicle their stories in print, in photos, and in videos.

Justin's video about Sue Bermejo, who opened Sue's Place, a Filipino-American breakfast and lunch restaurant in the space formerly occupied by The Alley Cafe, is archived on the PHS YouTube channel. This outstanding work captures the essence of small-business life in Pinole.

Olivia Lubinger, headed to UC-San Diego to study human biology,



**(L-R): PVHS Assistant Principal Ryan Kolb, PVHS Principal Kibby Kleiman, Pinole Historical Society President Jeff Rubin, Pinole Historical Society Secretary Jo Ann Gannotti, and Justin Trujillo.**



**(L-R): PVHS Assistant Principal Ryan Kolb; Pinole History Museum President Jeff Rubin; Olivia Lubinger; Cari Jo (Mariotti) Galloway, Dr. Joe's daughter; PVHS Principal Kibby Kleiman, and Pinole Historical Society Secretary Jo Ann Gannotti.**

was the first recipient of the PHM's Dr. Joseph R. Mariotti Scholarship.

The scholarship is named after the late Dr. Mariotti, who co-founded the Pinole Historical Society and long worked for a museum for Pinole's history.

Dr. Joe was an orthopedic surgeon and the team doctor for the PVHS football team.

Dr. Joe and late wife, Gretchen, made the Fernandez Mansion their home. Their family still lives there.

Olivia was the first participant in the museum's "Oral History Project," designed to give students an opportunity to learn more about their family history and contribute to the museum's archives.

Olivia interviewed her mother, who grew up in Pinole in the 1970s and 1980s. The video is archived on the PHS YouTube channel.



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# PINOLE HISTORY MUSEUM FUNDRAISING DINNER SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

After an absence of three years, the Pinole History Museum invites you to join us for our third fundraising dinner and gala on Saturday, September 24, 2022, in the Family Life Center of Valley Bible Church in Hercules.

The event will feature a great sit-down catered dinner, entertainment, a fabulous raffle and silent

auction, several multi-media presentations, and the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award to a person who has contributed much to community's history.

**YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!**

More information will be coming soon as plans are finalized. Tickets will be on sale soon.

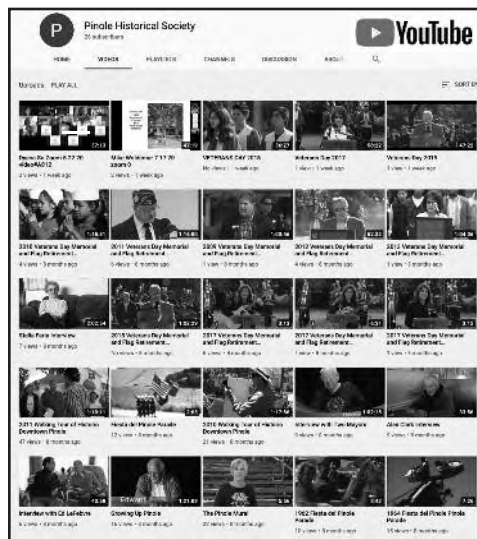
## MORE VIDEOS UPLOADED TO PHS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

**M**ore videos have been uploaded to the Pinole Historical Society's YouTube channel, including Mike Woldemar's terrific July 2020 presentation on the many Pinole buildings he designed during his long career as an architect.

All of the programs we've recorded since 2008 are on our YouTube channel for your enjoyment. Our thanks to Pinole History Museum board member Alec Jason, who reformatted more than a decade's worth of PHS programs and uploaded them to YouTube.

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.
- **An Interview With Two Mayors:** Former mayors Jack Meehan and Tom Cutino tell 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.
- **1962, 1963, 1964 and 1965 Fiesta del Pinole parades,** courtesy of PHS member Jim Payne.

**PHS YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/0mOUvgFlrp4>.

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

**Please mail the membership application in this newsletter today!**

# Pinole **Historical** Society

## 2022 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 2022 CALENDAR YEAR (EXCEPT LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS)

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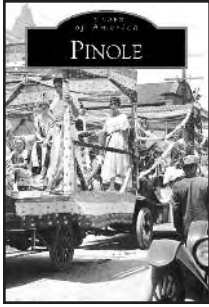


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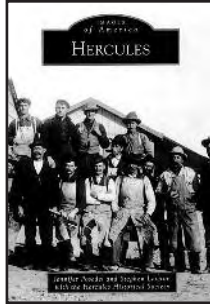
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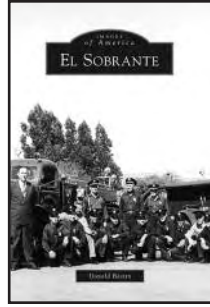
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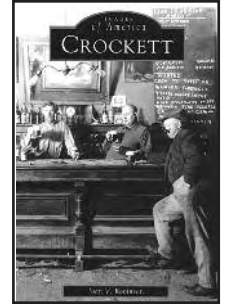
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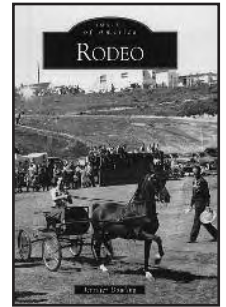
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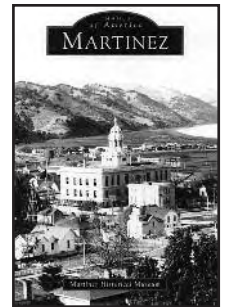
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Park, and Napa Valley books are \$25, including sales tax. The Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, and Port Costa books are \$23, including sales tax.

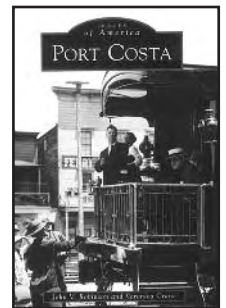
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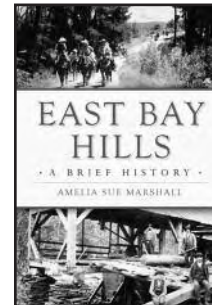
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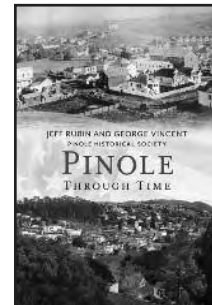
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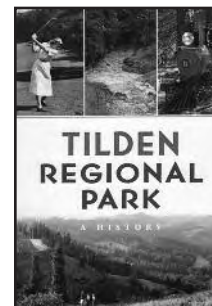
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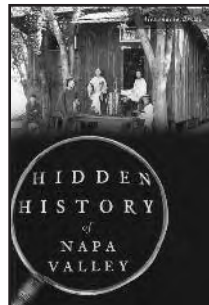
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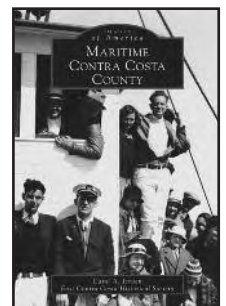
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