

Pinole Historical Society Newsbriefs



P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

WELLS FARGO BANK MURAL INSTALLED, OPEN TO PUBLIC

Wells Fargo Bank's mural devoted to Pinole's history was unveiled July 25 at a reception that featured descendants of prominent Pinole residents in the mural in a video, talking about their families and their contributions to the city's history.

Mike and Michele LeFebvre, son and daughter of Lawrence "Big Red" LeFebvre, manager of the Pinole Merchants baseball team, and Susan Fernandez, great-granddaughter of Bernardo Fernandez, one of the founders of Pinole, were featured in the video produced by the bank's communications department. All three attended the event.

Historic images of Pinole's rich history, beginning with a map of the El Rancho Pinole land grant of



Pinole Historical Society President Marcia Kalapus (far right) presented a plaque to Wells Fargo Bank Regional President Micky Randhawa and Communications Consultant Mariana Phipps at the dedication of the bank's Pinole-history mural.

1823, are featured in this dramatic mural installed on the back wall of the bank at 1374 Fitzgerald Drive.

The mural includes images of the Martinez Adobe, downtown Pinole in the 1930s, Lawrence "Big Red" LeFebvre, the Pinole-Hercules School (the Old School), the Pinole Fire Department in the early 1950s (featuring Fire Chief Wallace "Pepper" Martin), the 1904 class of the Plaza School (featuring teacher Frances Ellerhorst), the

original Santa Fe depot, Hercules Powder Works employees, Bernardo Fernandez, and the seal of the City of Pinole.

The Pinole mural is among nearly 2,000 in Wells Fargo Bank branches nationwide that were created by the bank's Community Mural Program.

Published quarterly by the Pinole Historical Society

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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

August 14, September 11, October 9: 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.

September 6 membership meeting: Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road, Conference Rooms 2A and 2B, 6:30 to 8 p.m. **Program:** Lucien Sonder, Outreach Specialist/VIP Manager for the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park, will talk about the October 12 Richmond Home Front Festival and fall programs at the national park.

November 15 membership meeting: Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road, Conference Rooms 2A and 2B, 6:30 to 8 p.m. **Program:** Veterans Day program featuring World War II veterans and a movie about the USS Gambier Bay, an escort carrier sunk by the Japanese during the Battle off Samar in the Philippines. Local resident Herman W. Privette, who served on the Gambier Bay and survived its sinking, will speak.

ONGOING

Pinole Library history exhibits. Three 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. We are at the farmers' market every other Saturday from April through December.

PinoleHistoricalSociety

Board of Directors: Marcia Kalapus, President; Jeff Rubin, Vice President; Mary Drazba, Treasurer; Jo Ann Gannotti, Secretary; Norma Martínez-Rubin, Mary McMains, George Vincent.

Directors Emeritus: Dr. Joe Mariotti, Jack Meehan
Newsletter Editor: Jeff Rubin

PHS interviews on city of Pinole website

Miss one of our interview 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!

President's Message

Marcia Kalapus, President, Pinole Historical Society

SPOTLIGHTING PROMINENT PINOLEANS

Over the past five years, we have brought to your attention in this newsletter many stories about the early founding fathers of Pinole. These include the Martinez, Tennent, Fernandez, Collins, and Faria families, and many others spanning 110 years from the El Rancho Pinole land grant up to World War II.

Growth in Pinole was relatively slow during that time period. Pinole was mainly a farming and ranch community with a small-town ambiance of old-fashioned homes and storefront business, including bars, general stores, barbershops, an opera house, livery

stable, and other small stores.

There were several primary schools, and most high-school students were bused to Richmond High School.

The main industry was the Hercules Powder Company, and farming.

Highway 40 (San Pablo Avenue today) kept Pinole in the transportation link from Richmond to Rodeo, Crockett, Port Chicago, and Martinez. The Santa Fe and Southern Pacific (now Union Pacific) railroads provided transportation to other cities, and the Point Richmond ferry provided service to San Francisco.

The great depression in the 1930s hit every-

one everywhere hard. Tough times, but Pinole survived.

The end of World War II was a turning point in the birth of a new Pinole that escalated into a huge growth spurt that spread into the '50s and '60s. New homes were built, and new families required more businesses and new schools.

Many of the heads of households were ex-GIs who had spent six years in hell in that war, and Pinole was a perfect peaceful setting to raise family and to live.

Information about the following families comes from articles written for the *Pinole-Hercules*



Marcia Kalapus

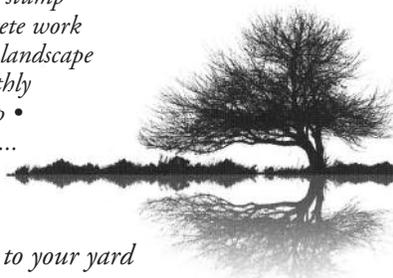
News by Judy Baker, a reporter who wrote from 1946 through the 1960s.



In 1943, the Hugh Young family moved to Pinole from Walnut Creek to a residence on Fernandez Avenue, and moved to their new home on 884 Pine Street with a yellow door in 1950. Mr. Young was a special reserve officer in Walnut Creek, and applied for a

Continued on page 4

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SPOTLIGHTING PROMINENT PINOLEANS

Continued from page 2

position of patrol officer and deputy constable in 1943.

Officer Young was made the new Chief of Police and Constable, replacing Chief Gene Shea, who retired in 1950. Chief Young and his patrolmen boast that there haven't been any fatalities in three years as they strive to slow the speeders as they go through downtown.

Mrs. Young is employed at the Berke-

ley Northrup King Seed Company. The four Young children are youngest Dale, who lives at home, a student at the Golden Gate Academy in Oakland, to study industrial arts and later a teacher in the same subject. Older ones are Bill Young and family of Vallejo; Betty Howell Young and family of Richmond; and Bob Young of Redwood City.

Chief Young appears always to be formidable and unapproachable in his patrol car, but he is

quite humorous, friendly, and intelligent. The Young family is a close-knit family sharing vacations and quality family time.



Mr. and Mrs. Wallace R. Martin and family have lived at their new home at 2324 Orleans Drive for three years.

Mr. Martin has had the nickname of "Pepper" since childhood, when he was the mascot for a local ball team. Pepper Martin is a native Pinolean, born and raised here.

He joined the Navy in 1943 and was discharged in 1945. Since discharge he has been an employee of Union Oil Company for 13 years. He has been the Pinole Fire Chief for 2 1/2 years and oversees a fire department of 30 voluntary firemen.

The department received a new fire truck, with modern equipment, which they hope will be able to help them to achieve a higher rating of efficiency for the city to be

Continued on page 5



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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.

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. These items make great holiday gifts. For more information, contact us at (510) 724-9507 or info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org.

**SPOTLIGHTING
PROMINENT PINOLEANS**

Continued from page 4

able to get a better class rating in order to help reduce the cost of insurance for homeowners.

Chief Martin oversees the volunteer firemen's training, which is done in their spare time six times a month outside their normal jobs. All firemen are required to take two courses every year at Contra Costa Junior College.

The fire department also has received a new piece of equipment, a rescue truck, and new rescue equipment available for trained men to use when needed.

The Martins enjoy fishing, camping, and Lake Tahoe vacations.



I am sure many of you remember these families. Life sixty years ago was much more simple than it is today. In those years, families in neighborhoods were more open, more trusting. There were garage parties, street parties where homes were part of a circle, more picnics, barbecues in the park, and more parents involved in school activities and sports.

Pinole was growing at a alarming speed, but it was still a great big family.

PinoleHistoricalSociety

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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?

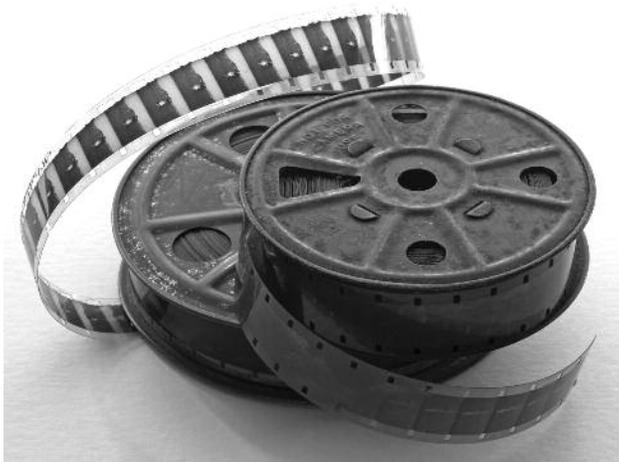
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Nearly everyone has taken home movies. That makes everyone who has taken film a historian.

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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).



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Got film? Please contact us at info@pinolehistorical.com



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This 1975 aerial photograph of Pinole was a gift to the society from an anonymous donor. We are very appreciative.



Back in the day

By George R. Vincent

THE PEOPLE VS. JOSE MARIA, AN INDIAN

An 1856 Incident in Pinole

By the 1830s, the California Indians were on the offensive against the ranchos and pueblos (towns) established by the Spanish-speaking Californios.

Many of the once docile and friendly peoples had turned on their conquerors and were now a serious threat to the new order in California under Mexican rule. An atmosphere of fear existed in the coastal settlements and ranchos of Mexican California.

So serious was the danger of hostile Indian attacks that the rancho owners only ventured once a year to round up

and brand their cattle in the Contra Costa region from 1832-1836.

Fernando Pacheco, in an 1861 land deposition, recalled that the ranchers and their families lived elsewhere because the "Indians did a great deal of injury, stole horses, burnt homes and murdered families."

Ygnacio Martinez, of the 18,000-acre El Rancho Pinole, did not bring his family from the safety of San Jose to his Pinole Valley adobe home until 1837. By 1838, he had a brass cannon mounted outside his adobe casa because of Indian threats. By 1840, Martinez was cited

for leading soldiers to suppress an Indian uprising near Mt. Diablo.

Between 1834 and 1836, Indians raided the town of San Jose and killed ranchers near Monterey. Near San Diego there were kidnappings of members of ranch families.

Why did the Indians turn on the Californios but fail in driving them out?

The Spanish and Mexican Californios viewed the Indians in California as a resource to be exploited at their whim. Without the protection of the priests in the missions, the Indians were subjected to mistreat-

ment, and worse. It was common practice to raid Indian villages for work slaves and to commit degradations against women and children. Work gangs of Indians were moved from ranch to ranch to build adobe homes, fencing, and land clearing. As late as the 1850s, a work camp of Indians was at the Pinole Adobe Ranch.

The Indians had no protection except to run or fight back. The sudden influx of hordes of Americans and foreigners seeking gold in 1848 and 1849 overwhelmed and stopped the Indian rebellion and sealed their fate. Miners and Yankee Amer-

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icans had an even more hateful attitude toward Indians. They committed even more atrocities, killing them with impunity to exterminate them.

So it was that in 1850, a chapter of this sad drama was played out around Pinole, as recounted by *Contra Costa Times* correspondent Nilda Rego in our winter 2013 newsletter.

Ramon Berryessa kidnapped two adult and two young Indian boys from their village near Clear Lake. The Berryessas, of the Napa area, were known for abducting Indians for forced labor. This time, however, Berryessa had been careless, and was killed with his own sword by the older Indians. The Indians were tracked down and all brought to the new town of Martinez for trial.

Dr. Samuel Tennent, of Pinole, sympathized with the 11-year-old boys' plight and talked the



Rafaela Martinez Tennent

judge into taking the boys home to his new Pinole ranch and new wife, Rafaela Martinez Tennent. Rafaela already had two Indian servant girls, Luisa and Delphina. Rafaela had the boys baptized and given the Christian names of Diego



Samuel Johnson Tennent

and Jose Maria.

Jose Maria had been the son of a Clear Lake chief. The two boys did not wish to return home, and a judge gave the Tenents custody of the children. However, the Tenents' kindness was soon to be tested.

By 1856, Jose Maria, then 17, was charged with committing a crime against a white settler, Michael Scanlan. Jose Maria was charged with using force and arms and unlawfully making an assault with a "riata" (Mexican lariat) on



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THE PEOPLE VS. JOSE MARIA, AN INDIAN

Scanlan. He apparently roped Scanlan, "beat, bruised and ill-treated him with intent to kill," the charges claimed.

No reason was given for the attack, but evicting unwanted squatters from Tennent properties was a common occurrence in the 1850s. Tennent himself had to use firearms to protect his lands. Jose Maria was jailed and a trial held. The outcome was predictable, being an Anglo vs. an Indian. Jose Maria was found guilty, costing Tennent \$500 in gold coins.

Michael Scanlan would settle in Pinole Valley in 1870. He and his wife, Penelope, would purchase more than 300

acres for \$7,000 from Patrick and John Tormey. Here they would raise

their 10 children. One son, Michael Scanlan, would become Pinole's tough Irish constable from the 1890s to 1910.

The Scanlan Ranch would be sold in 1911 to William Mohring. It would

become Pinole's oldest working ranch, and is still run by Mohring descendants.

What became of Jose Maria is lost in Tennent family history.



Henry Mohring silo on Pinole Valley Road.

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How 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.

Richmond Home Front Festival will feature kids' activities

The 7th Annual Home Front Festival on Saturday, October 12, will feature interactive activities for family members of all ages.

Piggy-backing on Rosie the Riveters' motto, "We Can Do It," the festival will present "Kids Can Do It," and focus on engaging youth in their Richmond history.

The event will be held



from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Craneway Pavilion, located in the historic Ford Point Building.

The event will again

sponsor the Historic Duck, an amphibious vehicle from the WWII era, to take families on water tours, with an oral

history of the nearby shipyards of Richmond, other historic landmarks. Historic WWII buses will shuttle festival-goers from the main festival site to the SS Red Oak Victory Ship.

The festival includes the YMCA's Rosie the Riveter Family Run/Walk.

For more information, go to <http://rcoc.com/current-events/home-front-festival-2013/>.



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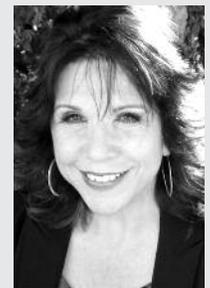
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PINOLE AND HERCULES WORKERS WENT ON STRIKE IN 1907

In 1907, the California Powder Works factory was owned by corporate giant DuPont, which opposed union demands for an eight-hour workday.

Hercules was a small company town then, and much of the 1,000-member workforce lived in Pinole. In this chapter of the struggle between labor unions and corporations, the company conceded to union demands.

A work disruption at the plant had been reported a day earlier.

This one-paragraph article is from the May 11, 1907, edition of the *San Francisco Call* newspaper.

VALLEJO, May 10 – The boiler makers of the Dupont powder company at Pinole, who struck a week ago for an eight hour day and \$4 wage,



Powder works employees in the early 20th century.

have finally been granted the concession and have gone back to work.

President White of the Contra Costa labor council believes that the Dupont people will grant an eight-hour day in all departments.

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>. The collection has digitized more than 400,000 images from newspapers in the 19th and 20th centuries.

These articles about Pinole were featured on *Pinole Patch*. We thank former *Pinole Patch* Editor Rob Shea for preserving and promoting the history of Pinole.

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PHS CONTINUES FOURTH-GRADE HISTORY PROGRAMS

The Pinole Historical Society continued its delivery of fourth-grade Pinole-history programs this year in the city's elementary schools. In this photo, PHS co-founder, board member, and historian George Vincent conducts a program for students at St. Joseph School.



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In memoriam

The Pinole Historical Society honors the memories, families, and contributions of long-time Pinole residents who have passed away this year:

- **Clara Amelia Gozanno:** Nov. 5, 1917 – May 19, 2013 (age 95). Born in Juneau, Alaska, of Italian immigrants. Widow of Louis Gozanno. Mother of Jim and Tom Gozanno. Long-time resident of Old Town Pinole and member of St. Joseph's Church.

- **Harold Silvas:** 1922 – 2013 (age 90). World War II Army veteran and talented accordion musician. Survived by wife of 69 years, Celeste Silvas, and three children.

- **Orland Catrino:** 1924–2013 (age 89). World War II Army veteran and member of the Pinole Marching Band.

- **Eugene (Gene) Faria:** August 13, 1933 – May 16, 2013 (age 79). Veteran of U.S. Army and youngest of seven Faria children. Survived by wife of 55 years. Ruthell.

- **Steven Lawrence Fernandez:** Nov. 14, 1948– March 31, 2013 (age 64). Oldest son of nine children of Carroll and Annie Fernandez. Grandson of beloved Pinole physician Dr. Manuel Fernandez, and great-grandson of Pinole pioneer Bernardo Fernandez. Pastor and founder of Community Bible Church of Vallejo. Survived by his wife, Karen Fernandez, and three children.

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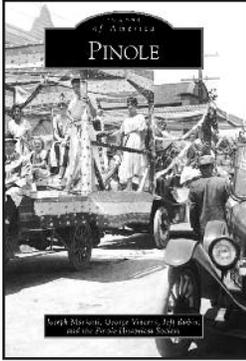
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LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM PHS

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.

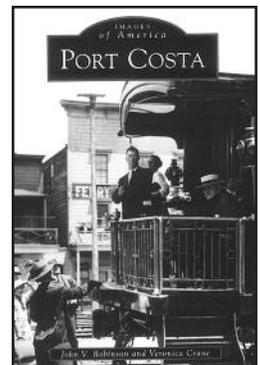
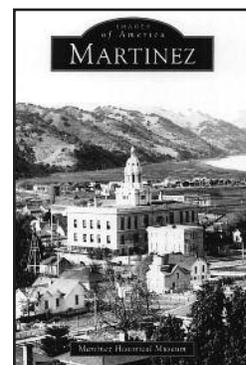
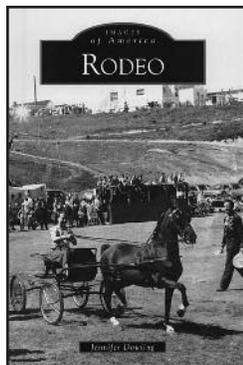
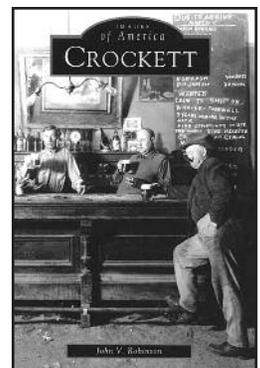
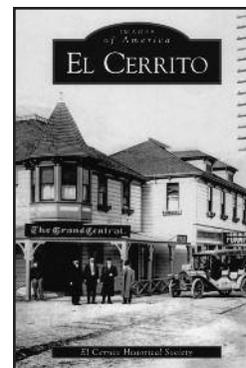
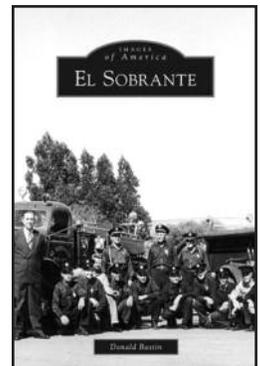
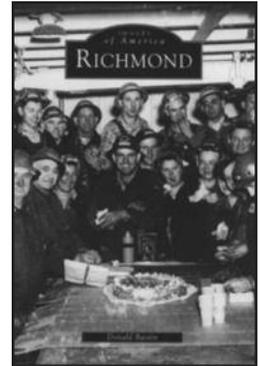
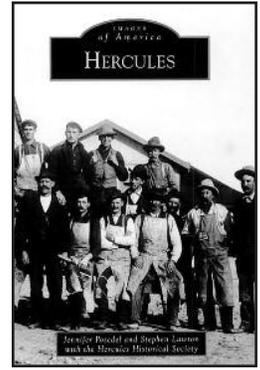
You may purchase one or more of these books from us at the Pinole Farmers' Market—we're there every other Saturday from April through December.

Pinole, Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, and El Cerrito books are **\$24**, including 8.75% sales tax.

Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, and Port Costa books are **\$22**, including 8.75% sales tax.

You may order one or more by mail and we'll ship them to you. Send your order to **Pinole Historical Society, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564.**

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



50 years ago — 1963

August 5: The United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union sign a nuclear test ban treaty.

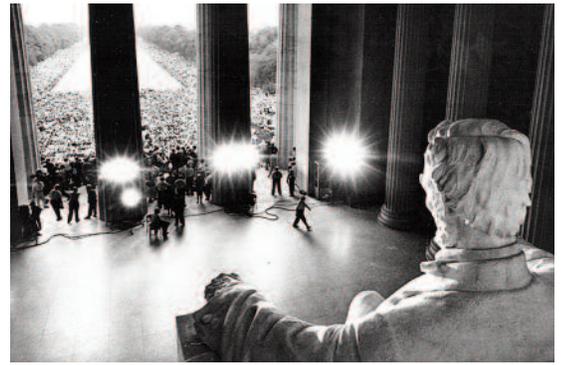
August 18: James Meredith becomes the first black person to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

August 28: Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of at least 250,000 during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

September 15: The 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, in Birmingham, Alabama, kills 4 and injures 22.

October 19: Beatles record "I Want to Hold Your Hand."

October 20: South Africa begins trial of Nelson Mandela and eight others on conspiracy charges.



The statue of Abraham Lincoln is illuminated during the August 28, 1963, civil-rights rally in Washington, D.C.

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