

Pinole Historical Society Newsbriefs

Fall 2008



P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

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PHS AND CITY OF PINOLE TO CO-SPONSOR VETERANS' DAY EVENT IN FERNANDEZ PARK

Does an American flag ever wear out?

Yes, in a respectful manner of speaking.

Weather — wind, rain, even sunshine — takes a toll on regularly flown flags. Maybe you have a flag that's a bit tattered, faded, or obsolete — with fewer than 50 stars.

How do you update? What do you do with your "old" Old Glory?

According to Title 36, Chapter 10, US Code, when the flag ". . . is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, (it) should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

Please join the Pinole Historical Society and the Community Services Commission of the City of Pinole at the first Veterans' Day Memorial



and Flag Retirement Ceremony on Tuesday, November 11, at 11 a.m. in Fernandez Park, in Old Town Pinole.

Numerous local groups will participate, including Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2798, which will conduct the veterans' memorial at the flagpole;

the Pinole Valley High School Marching Band; and Pinole Boy Scout Troop 86, which will conduct the flag retirement ceremony at the barbecue pits in the park.

Children in Pinole schools have been invited, as November 11 is a school holiday. Veterans

in the area, and the public, are encouraged to participate.

Citizens may bring flags to be retired for a tax-deductible \$25 donation to the Pinole Historical Society. Citizens retiring flags will receive a new, high-quality nylon, all-weather, embroidered 3 x 5-foot flag.

New flags will also be offered to the public for a tax-deductible \$25 donation to the Pinole Historical Society.

Please e-mail the PHS at info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org if you would like to have a flag retired. Please put FLAG RETIREMENT in the subject line. Or, you may call PHS board member Jeff Rubin at 724-9507.

For information on how to properly retire an American flag, visit <http://scoutingbear.com/USA/flagret.htm>.

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COLLINS HOME SHOULD BE PRESERVED

By **George R. Vincent**
PHS Vice President

In the early 1900s, Pinole boasted 16 saloons, all doing good business.

The Hercules Powder Co. employed large numbers of single men, many of whom boarded in Pinole and spent their money in the nearby saloons.

At that time, Tennent Avenue was lined with hotels and boarding houses, as well as saloons. The avenue's proximity to the Southern Pacific train depot, where people arrived and others departed by train, made Tennent Avenue an ideal location for the bar business.

Three of the main saloons were Swenson & Lewis (Antlers Tavern



today), The Klondike Saloon, run by John Collins, and the First and Last Chance Saloon, owned by John and Charles Vincent.

The large family of John Collins lived above the saloon. In 1909,

John Collins died when his daughter, Margaret, was in the third grade. She and her younger sister, Marie, would devote their lives to educating Pinole's children.

Their brother, Francis, would long serve as the

city attorney for Pinole. His brother, Martin, was the local postmaster for many years. Another brother, Gerald, was an aide for General Patton during World War II.

Today, the two-story Collins home is the sole remaining building on Tennent Avenue in its original condition. The dwelling is owned by the City of Pinole. It backs up to other historic homes on Quinan Street.

The Collins family was in the forefront of public service to the Pinole-Hercules community. They were a pioneer family deserving of the status as founders of Pinole's roots.

Their name is stamped on the town they loved and served. Their home is a landmark deserving of preservation.

PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President

Marcia Kalapus

Vice President

George Vincent

Treasurer

Linda Brooks

Secretary

JoAnn Gannotti

Board of Directors

Tom Brooks

Dr. Joe Mariotti

Jeff Rubin

Carol White

Richard White

DONATIONS TO PHS APPRECIATED

The PHS thanks City of Pinole Executive Assistant Wanda Olson for donating storage boxes to the society. We also thank Farmers Insurance Agent Madeline Crandall for donating a filing cabinet.

NEW BOARD ELECTED

At the October 16 Annual Meeting, Incumbent board members Tom Brooks and Linda Brooks, and member JoAnn Gannotti, were elected to three-year terms.

Linda will continue as treasurer, and JoAnn will serve as secretary,

UPCOMING PHS MEETINGS

November 20: Board and General Membership

December 18: Board of Directors

January 15: Board of Directors

February 19: Board and General Membership

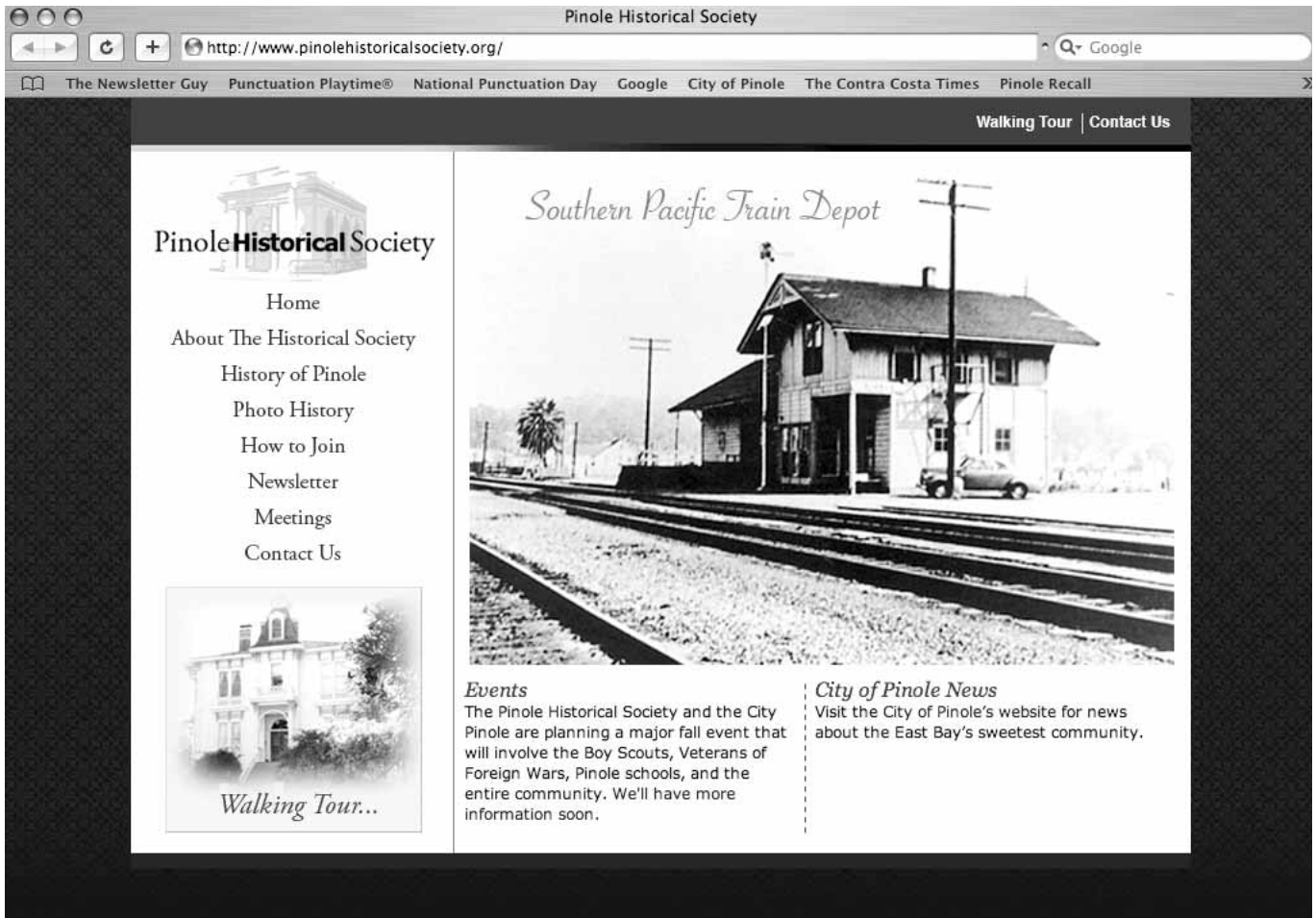
March 19: Board of Directors

April 16: Board of Directors

May 21: Annual General Membership (elections)

June 18: Board of Directors

All regularly scheduled meetings are open to members and prospective members. Meetings are held in the Alex Clark Room, Pinole Public Safety Building; doors open at 6 p.m., meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.



PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE COMPLETED

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

Web designer Debbie Weeks has completed our society's handsome new website (above). We will be updating

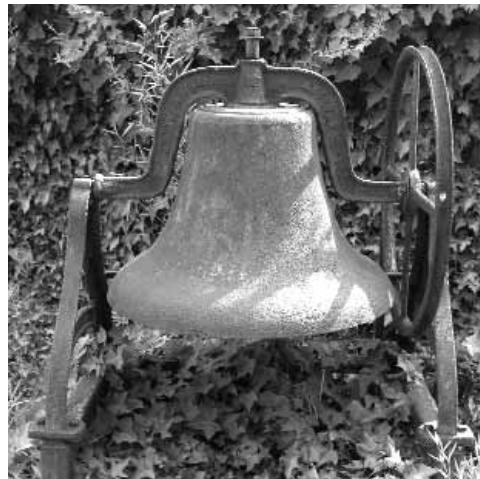
the site periodically, including adding more photos and information about PHS events. Please check out the site.

PINOLE-HERCULES SCHOOL BELL MOVED

The majestic iron bell that once welcomed students to Pinole-Hercules School #1 has been saved through the efforts of the Pinole Historical Society and Dr. Bruce Harter, Superintendent of the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

PHS board members met with Dr. Harter and several of his staff members this summer at Pinole Middle School, where the bell has resided outdoors for 40 years.

Dr. Harter agreed with the PHS that the bell should be preserved and moved from Pinole Middle School, which is being reconstructed.



The bell is now in a protected area at Margaret Collins School, where a formal outdoor space is being prepared for a permanent, visible display of the historic bell.

A company founded by Charles Singleton Bell in Hillsboro, Ohio, manufactured our bell.

Bell developed a unique iron alloy that produced an acceptable ring. One of his bells found its way to Pinole-Hercules School #1 — the school on the hill — in the early 1900s. The bell remained there until the school was torn down in

1968, at which time the bell was moved to Pinole Middle School.

JOIN THE PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Marcia Kalapus,
President and
Jack Meehan,
Interim Secretary
Emeritus

Our goal is to collect our history, organize it, study it, exhibit it.

That's the purpose of the PHS: to stimulate interest in our past, to satisfy curiosity, to learn the foundations of what we are today, where we've been, and where we're headed in the future.

The Pinole Historical Society is working diligently to preserve the city's history and involve the community in historical events. We are working with the city to find a site for a permanent museum, and we're sponsoring our first event, a Veterans' Day celebration and flag retirement ceremony in Fernandez Park on Tuesday, November 11 (see front page).

We have more activities planned for 2009, including docent-led Old Town Pinole tours and more lectures at our meetings.



Silvas Saloon and the Golden West Hotel, Tennent and San Pablo avenues.

For example, George Vincent's lecture and slide show on the Martinez Adobe excavation drew a record attendance to our August meeting.

Pinole Historical Society Individual annual dues in 2009 are just \$30. We also have Lifetime members (\$150), while Business members pay \$50 annually.

Then there are the donors, bless them. The late Tessie Baldwin willed the society \$10,000. There have been substantial gifts of \$100, \$500, and \$1,000,

plus generous "no-billings" for paper, postage, printing, professional services, etc. We are grateful for all of this generosity.

We're beginning our annual membership drive in November. Please join us by filling out the membership application below and help us hold on to our history. Even better, become involved with the society. We'd love to have your input.

Explore our past, become part of our future, and join the Pinole Historical Society.

Pinole Historical Society 2009 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, AND SEND CASH OR YOUR CHECK,
TO PINOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 285, PINOLE, CA 94564

MEMBERSHIPS ARE FOR THE 2009 CALENDAR YEAR (EXCEPT LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS)

NAME (each person): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

E-MAIL (please!): _____

CIRCLE ONE: Annual (\$30) Life (\$150) Business (\$50) Sustaining \$(500)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: [] Cash \$ _____ [] Check # _____ \$ _____

DATE PAID: _____