

Pinole Historical Society Newsbriefs



P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

VETERANS HONORED AT FOURTH ANNUAL CEREMONY

Veterans past and present will be honored for their service at the Fourth Annual Veterans Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony Friday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. in Fernandez Park.

The Pinole Historical Society produces the event.

Boy Scout Troop 86, West Contra Costa Girl Scouts, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2798, St. Joseph School, the Pinole Valley High



Many area veterans attend the event every year.

School Marching Band, Pinole youth commissioners, and Mayor Roy Swearingen will participate.

If you would like to donate a worn flag for retirement by the Boy Scouts, bring your flag to the park on November 11. Or, mail your flag to the Pinole Historical Society, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564. There is no fee to retire a flag. Please include postage on all flags mailed. *More photos on page 5.*

VETERANS DAY TELECAST MADE POSSIBLE BY SPONSORS

Because of generous \$250 sponsorships from **Crocketts Premier Auto Body, Wilson & Kratzer Mortuaries, Rolling Hills Memorial Park, Pinole Rotary, Mechanics Bank, Tina's Place, Pinole Chamber of Commerce,** and **Neto's Pizza,** Pinole

Community TV will televise the November 11 Veterans Day Memorial and Flag Retirement Ceremony. PCTV needed \$2,000 in sponsorships to cover the cost of the broadcast.

The Pinole Historical Society is very grateful for these sponsors' support of this important event.

Published quarterly by the Pinole Historical Society

WHERE TO FIND NEWSBRIEFS

Pick up **Newsbriefs** at these locations:

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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@PinoleHistorical-Society.org or call him at (510) 724-9507.

PHS CALENDAR

MEETINGS

November 17: Quarterly membership meeting, Alex Clark Room, Pinole Public Safety Facility, 880 Tennent Avenue, 6:30 to 8 p.m. **Program:** We'll be showing the PBS movie "The American Flag: Two Centuries of Concord and Conflict."

February 16, 2012: Quarterly membership meeting: Program TBA.

ONGOING

Pinole Library history exhibits. Two 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. Every other Saturday through December, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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President's Message

Marcia Kalapus, President, Pinole Historical Society

COMMEMORATING THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

After the Civil War, there were many changes in the everyday lives of men and women, as well as family dynamics during Reconstruction (1865-1877).

One of the major changes was the desire of women to vote and make policy decisions on national, state, and local levels. Women in the Wyoming Territory in 1864 were already butting heads with their territorial government about voting rights.

In 1877, Senator Aaron Sargent of California strongly believed that women should have more power and supported their suffrage movement.

He befriended Susan B. Anthony and encouraged her to draft language for a constitutional amendment that would give all women in the United States the right to vote. Anthony joined with Elizabeth Cady Stanton to accomplish that goal.

Sen. Sargent tried many times over 41 years to get Congress to agree to ratify the amendment. In 1919, it passed. It was then submitted to each state for ratification.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson stated that World War I was a war of democracy, and the women jumped all over him because they felt it was not so, as they still didn't have voting rights. On August 18,



Marcia Kalapus

1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment, and women got the right to vote.

Even back then, California was a U.S. leader. In October 1911, California passed Proposition 4,

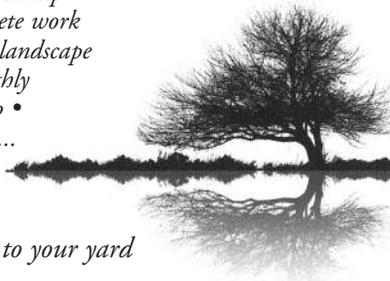
which gave women the right to vote in the state.

Women in those days were just beginning to emerge from a pioneer to a more urban lifestyle, as many were moving into cities or small towns from farms and ranches.

Modern women began to write books, magazines, and how-to books about current fashions, cleaning products, canning recipes, house-keeping, entertaining for social gatherings, teas, book clubs, poetry reading teas, protocols for eating and manners, guidelines for better shopping, newer patterns for sewing, hand crafts and quilting, etc.

Continued on page 7

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FARIA PLAQUE DEDICATED

Faria family members, City officials, and friends gathered on October 8 to dedicate a plaque commemorating the former site of the Faria house, one of the City's most historic homes.

The plaque is affixed to a large rock on the southeast corner of Pinole Valley Road and Henry Avenue. The home, and Faria ranch, was on this property from 1880 to 2005, when it was moved to its current location at 2100 San Pablo Avenue. The Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building is now located on the former Faria property.

Three generations of Farias lived in this home, including sisters Margaret (Faria) Prather, Deanna (Faria) Brownlee, and Dolores (Faria) Lucas.

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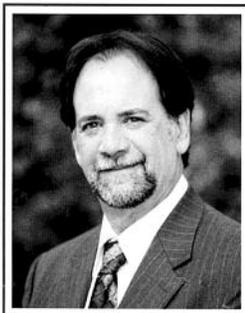
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They are the grandchildren of Joseph Dutra Faria and Maria Nunes Faria, and daughters of William (Bill) and Margaret Faria. Margaret, Deanna, and Dolores, along with many members of their family, attended the ceremony.



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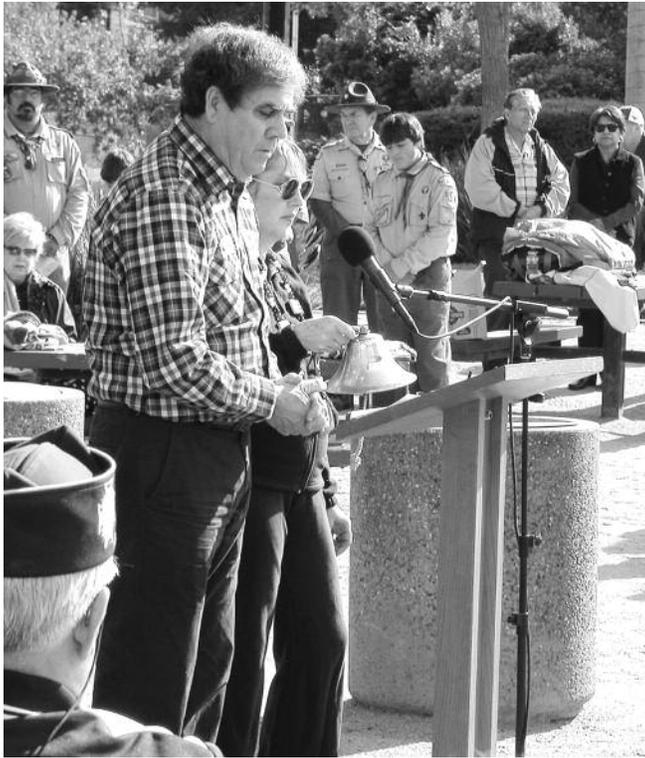
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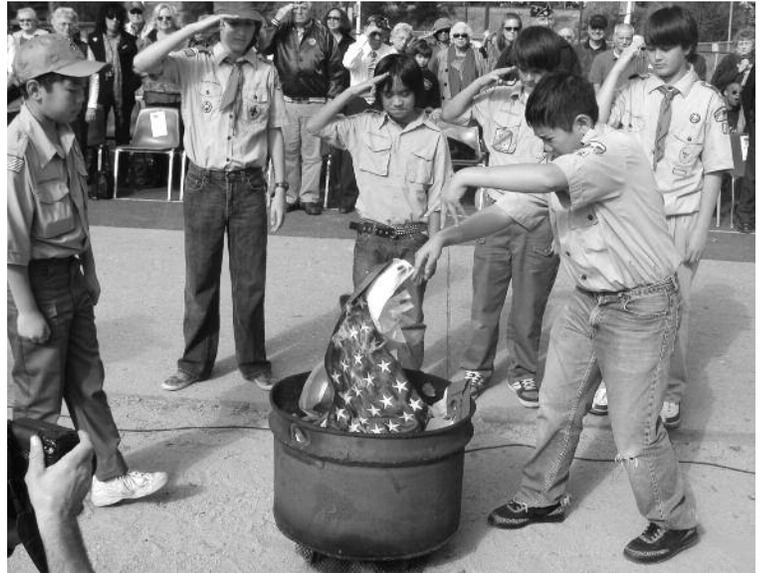
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VETERANS HONORED AT FOURTH ANNUAL CEREMONY

Continued from front page



George and Christie Vincent remembered Pinole veterans who lost their lives while serving.



Members of Pinole Boy Scout Troop 86 perform the solemn flag-retirement ceremony.

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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.

All of these items make thoughtful holiday gifts. For more information, contact the PHS at (510) 724-9507 or at info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org.



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PHS SEEKING FAMILY FILMS FOR HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

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?

We're looking for any video or film you have—VHS,

Beta, camcorder, DV tape, 8mm, Super 8mm, 16mm, 35mm, motion picture.

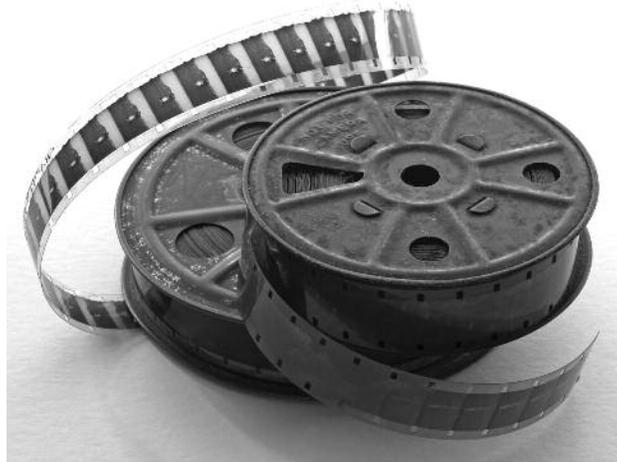
Nearly everyone has taken home movies. That makes everyone who has taken film a historian.

We want to collect, digitize, catalog, and preserve old movies on DVD (and whatever formats are to come) to exhibit, educate, and entertain.

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).

Film connects with the past in a unique way. It's immersive, educational, and entertaining for young people. It's a way to get young people interested in history.

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



GOT HISTORY?

The Pinole Historical Society is grateful for donations of artifacts, photos, newspapers, memorabilia—anything of historical significance.

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COMMEMORATING THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

Continued from page 3

With advent of the railroad and postal service, women were able to receive more mail-order catalogs, and merchandise than they ever had before. *Harpers* magazine became staple for the new housewife. The Sears and Roebuck catalog provided all the appliances and small items necessary to make cleaning easier. I learned how to sew on a Sears and Roebuck Singer treadle sewing machine in the 1940s and 1950s that belonged to my grandmother for about 50 years. Four generations learned how to sew with it.

One of the books that I treasure most is a book titled *Encyclopedia of Mother's Advice*, by a thousand American mothers. It was published in 1905 by Henry Neil Encyclopedia Co., of Chicago. This book tells a woman how to shop for all cuts of meat, fish, pork, poultry, eggs, and game and how to carve these items and prepare them for cooking; how to make soup stock; how to select, store, prepare and serve vegetables; how to make, bake, and serve

pastries; and explains how to can, preserve, and pickle foods of all kinds. I would have loved this book when I was first married.

One of the chapters is on "Cosmetics." This chapter gives women homemade recipes to make potions for cleansing their skin; solutions for clear, tanned skin; and how to make hair curling gel remove wrinkles, make pearl water for moisture, and shampoos, etc.

It covers soaps, stain removals, insect repellents, and cleaning solutions for jewelry, ink spots, silverware, and shiny glassware (ammonia solution)—and how to clean furniture and floors.

Many of the home-remedy recipes recommended in the book were made and used by my grandmother on my cousins and myself. I laugh when I read them, because some of them actually worked.

She dipped snuff (it was supposed to be a secret) but whenever bees, wasps or ants bit us, she would put a smear of her snuff on the stinging area, and in no time it would stop. It was the nicotine in the snuff that made the pain go away. I hated those brown spots!

Women were able to make potions, salves, lotions, syrups, liquids, and cures for toothaches, bad breath, and quinine cures for drunkenness.

The best of all instructions was how to be beautiful and attractive to your husband. Well, ladies, it definitely wasn't sunbathing. Alabaster pale skin was in. One was to wear gloves, a hat at all times, and take an umbrella when going out in the daytime.

I have freckles and my grandmother tried for many years to remove them by making me put potions on my face, arms, and hands at bedtime.

For those of you who are avid quilters, I encourage you to look for books written by the *Kansas City Star*; the newspaper published weekly articles from the 1890s to around the 1970s on how to make quilts. Many of those patterns are replicas of the original ones published in the early years. My grandmother used those patterns to make all of us some of the most beautiful hand-made pieces.

It saddens me that many of the old arts and crafts of handwork are not being taught anymore to our young women. Some can't even sew on a button or mend a seam.

I'm hopeful someday there will be renewed interest in making homemade items. I am glad I learned, and I plan to teach my granddaughter how to do many of those special projects required of all young ladies growing up.

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Back in the day

By George R. Vincent

PINOLE'S RURAL ROOTS: THE EARLIEST RANCHES AND FARMS

First of two parts

Pinole began as an agricultural community. The geography of rolling hills and fertile valley soil made an ideal combination for livestock and crop raising. Before there was a Pinole Township, and even after incorporation in 1903, Pinole's character and economy were largely shaped by the influences of surrounding ranches and farms.

The namesake founder of Pinole, Don Ygnacio Martinez, owned the earliest and largest ranch holding. Martinez settled here on his 18,000-acre El Rancho Pinole in the 1820s and 1830s.

Don Ygnacio and his wife, Dona Martina, raised their family of eleven children in an adobe home about three miles into Pinole Valley from the bay.

Here, he ran thousands of cattle and competed with grizzly bear coming down to feast on them during roundup time in the place later to be named Rodeo.

The hides and tallow (fat) were sold to Yankee trading ships at today's Point Pinole for needed supplies. The family later sold cattle in 1849 to hungry Gold Rush miners.

In the 1850s to 1880s, Don Ygnacio's English son-in-law, Doctor Samuel J. Tennent, operated a large cattle ranch, farm, and dairy just south of the old downtown where Collins School is today. His fruit orchards extended into what was to become the downtown,

giving Pinole the later street names of Prune, Peach, Plum, and Pear.

Tennent and his wife, Doña Rafaela Martinez Tennent, raised their ten children in Pinole's first wooden farmhouse. The ranch was famous for its



The Mohring Ranch as it looks today.

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PINOLE'S RURAL ROOTS: THE EARLIEST RANCHES AND FARMS

prized racing horses, and the Tennent girls, Kate and Anna, were exceptional riders.

Growing winter wheat, barley, and hay, as well as producing butter and cheese, supported the economy of the 2,500-acre ranch. For instance, in 1870 the ranch produced 150 tons of hay, 9,000 bushels of wheat, and 8,000 pounds of cheese. When Tennent's cowboys ran their herds north to the railroad depot to be shipped to market, they would often collapse the bridge over Pinole Creek by the ranch.

The last working ranch in Pinole Valley is 100 years old this year. In 1870, Irish immigrants Michael and Penelope Scanlan bought for \$7,000 more than 335 acres adjacent to Pinole Creek and El Sobrante from land baron John Tormey. Here, just outside the current city limits, they raised ten children.

Their son, Henry Scanlan, married local Emma Clancy and worked the ranch and raised six children. Their daughter, Emily, in 1909 at age eleven, would each day drive the family horse and wagon to the old school in downtown Pinole, five miles away. *(Editor's note: Emily Scanlan was the mother of the author of this article.)* In 1910, the ranch was lost to unpaid taxes.

In 1911, the ranch was sold to German immigrant William Mohring, who ran a dairy there. His son, Henry, and grandson, Leonard, worked the ranch until Leonard's passing in March 2010.

Henry Mohring recalled the heyday of ranching in Pinole. He remembered how the bars and barber-shops used to stay open on Wednesday and Saturday nights—sometimes until 2 a.m. to accommodate

the many ranch hands coming into town. In those days you got a haircut for thirty-five cents and a shave for fifteen cents and were considered a cheap-skate if you didn't get both. Henry's son, Leonard, as a young boy would ride his bicycle each day to and from the old school in Pinole, five miles each way.

Today, the old ranch still has much of its historic personality and is proudly maintained by Leonard and Vivian Mohring's five children—Mike, Jim, Danny, Janine, and Glenn. You can still see the cattle and horses and old barns and silo as you exit the city limits going toward where the "Y" branches off toward Martinez and El Sobrante.

The Mohrings have always been a family with ranching in their blood and a kindness for animals. Vivian had a tribe of homeless cats she fed and one would always find in the family's spacious kitchen sick and baby animals being cared for.

Another of the early ranches was the Kate Cousins ranch, east of old town Pinole. Kate Tennent Cousins was the oldest child of Rafaela and Samuel Tennent's ten children and a fine horseback rider. The nine-acre ranch by the bay and near the Santa Fe Railroad is today part of Hercules.

Part of the ranch included the Tennent racetrack by the bay. In the 1880s, she sold the property to Pinole newcomers Chris and Christina Ellerhorst. The farm was then run as a dairy, where nearby Pinoleans could fill their milk cans for fifteen or twenty-five cents.

Next issue: Part Two: Ranches and farms of the late 19th and 20th centuries.



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OLD PINOLE BASEBALL PHOTOS ON BAY AREA WEBSITE

Amateur and semi-pro Northern California baseball teams from the 20th century—are paid tribute on a new website, “Good Old Sandlot Days” (www.goodoldsandlotdays.com).

There are more than 1,500 photos from teams throughout the Bay Area, including 10 from Pinole, nine of which were contributed by the Pinole Historical Society.

They date as far back as a Pinole team from 1890, to the Pinole Merchants that played at Fernandez Park in the 1940s and 1950s. They include the 1940 Three Brothers team,



1945 Pinole Merchants

the 1911 Ruff’s Federals, and the 1913 Shenandoah team.

The center of baseball activity in Northern California before and after World War II was in San Francisco—at one time there were more than 200 teams playing in San Francisco alone!—and surrounding Bay Area cities.

The website features photos from 1850 through 2009, including semi-pro and American Legion amateur teams. Visitors may search by

team name, county name, and year, and includes a section for team photos.

Merchants Association

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PHS interviews on city of Pinole website

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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, George Vincent's Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Pinole, and the very fine PCTV-produced, 12-part series based on the Historic Walking Tour brochure. It's great TV!

100 years ago — 1911

One hundred years ago, Ronald Reagan was born in Tampico, Illinois. Other prominent Americans born in 1911 include Lucille Ball, Hank Greenberg, Spike Jones, and Tennessee Williams.

• **Crisco is introduced:** William Procter, a candle maker, and James Gamble, a soap maker, became partners after they married sisters in 1837. By the late 19th century their product line grew to include Family Lard and an inexpensive floating soap named Ivory. In 1911, as an affordable alternative to animal fats and butter, Procter & Gamble launched Crisco, the

first solidified shortening product made from vegetable oil. IT was named by shortening the words "crystallized cottonseed oil." Crisco was created through hydrogenation—a new process that kept shortening in solid form no matter how hot the day.

• **The first movie studio opened in Hollywood:** Brothers David and William Horsley founded the Nestor Motion Picture Company, first in Bayonne, New Jersey and soon after in Hollywood. By 1911 they were producing three short movies a week— a comedy (Mutt and Jeff), a drama, and a western.



Check the Pinole Historical Society website for information on PHS activities and events – and, of course, the history of the sweetest city in the East Bay.
www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

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1906 marriage rushed amid potentially fatal attraction

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>.

These articles are featured weekly on Pinole Patch (pinole.patch.com). We thank Pinole Patch Editor Rob Shea for preserving and promoting the history of Pinole.

George F. Wilson, an ex-employee of the California Powder Works, and Miss Marguerite Smith of Pinole were wedded at midnight of December 4, that they might evade a persistent suitor, of the young woman who had threatened to take his life if the girl married other than him.

Having fled to Oakland to escape relatives who would have endeavored to induce his intended bride to wed a former suitor, George F. Wilson, formerly employed by the California Powder Works, and Miss Marguerite Smith, whose home is in Pinole, were married by the Rev. Edgar F. Gee, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church of Oakland.

The midnight marriage marked the close of a romance. After the ceremony, Mrs. Wilson declared that if a bad beginning makes a good ending they might certainly expect to spend their lives in happiness, the path of true love to the altar having run anything but smooth.

The engagement of the couple was announced in Pinole several months ago and their wedding day was fixed for October 3, but on the day before the ceremony was to have been performed a former suitor of the bride to-be made the startling declaration, according to Mrs. Wilson, that he did not care to live if she became the wife of another.

Relatives of the young woman then endeavored to persuade her to break her engagement to Wilson, and at last she consented to a postponement of the wedding.

Becoming weary of the postponement, however, Wilson and Miss Smith yesterday, determined to wait no longer, and

hastily packing her belongings, the latter slipping from the home of her mother and joining her fiance at the depot, the couple came to this city and immediately sought a marriage license. After a long

search they found a deputy county clerk and secured the coveted document, and seeking the chapel of St. John's Church, were married.

Miss Smith was formerly engaged to James Silva of Pinole.

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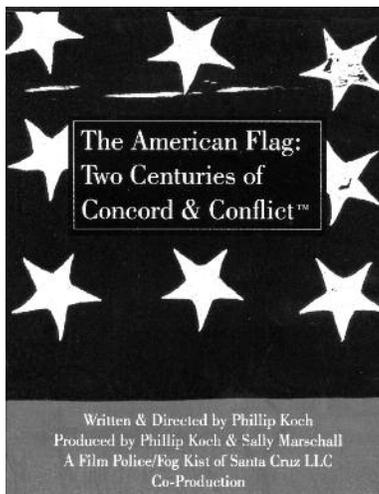
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The Pinole Historical Society promotes awareness and appreciation of history through preservation and education, and chronicles the city's heritage for current and future generations.

PHS NOVEMBER 17 MEETING TO FEATURE MOVIE ON THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

It will be "movie night" at our next Pinole Historical Society quarterly meeting, as we will be showing the PBS documentary "The American Flag: Two Centuries of Concord and Conflict."



With rare archival footage, beautiful images of the historic flags, and stirring music composed for the film, this extraordinary program combines all these elements with reenactments, and interviews with eminent historians and flag experts about the history of the American experience and the flag. This special program is the definitive televi-

sion documentary about the untold history of the American flag.

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Please join us on November 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Alex Clark Room of the Pinole Public Safety Facility, 880 Tennent Avenue.

Come on down—we'll be serving popcorn!



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Upcoming Events

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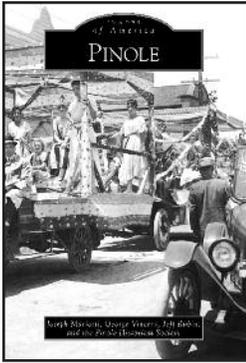
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The Pinole Historical Society has a limited number of Arcadia Publishing books about our surrounding communities of Hercules, Richmond, Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, and Port Costa.

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

The Hercules and Richmond books retail for \$21.99, plus tax. The other books are \$19.99, plus tax.

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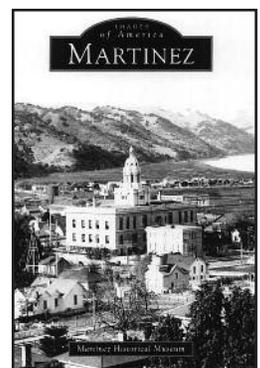
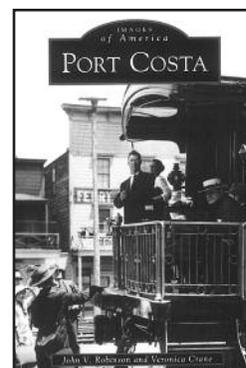
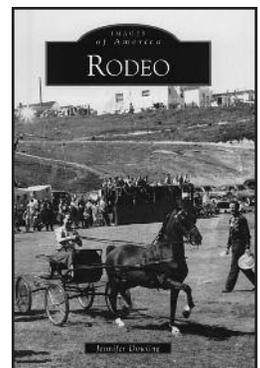
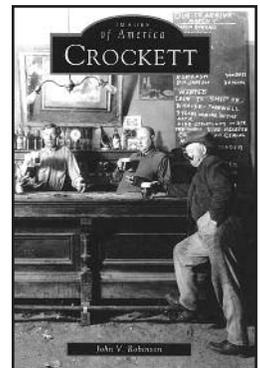
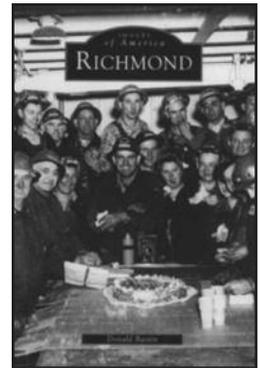
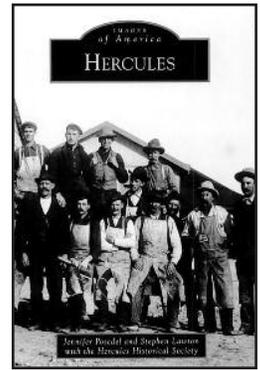
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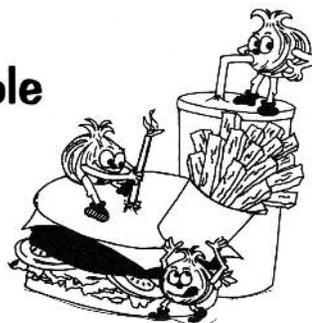
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