

Pinole Historical Society Newsbriefs



P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org



Pinole-Hercules Day at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, April 3, 1915.

November 6 program

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PPIE

Architectural historian Laura Ackley, author of *San Francisco's Jewel City: The Panama-Pacific International Exposition*, is on the last leg of a year-long nationwide tour speaking about the PPIE.

She will present "A Whirlwind Tour of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition" to our Pinole Historical Society audience at the last of our 2015 quarterly programs on Friday, November 6, in Conference Rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente

Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road.

This short lecture will take the audience on an amazing tour of the fair from its original concept in 1904 through its development and all the way to its gala opening in February 1915.

More than 19 million people passed through the gates of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition between February 20 and December 4, 1915.

2015 is the centennial year of the Panama-Pacific

Continued on page 2

Published quarterly by the Pinole Historical Society

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It's 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. **If you're interested in advertising, please contact Jeff Rubin at info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org or call him at (510) 724-9507.**

PPIE

Continued from front page

International Exposition, when host city San Francisco emerged from the ashes of earthquake and fire as a center of beauty and progress.

On the Presidio's waterfront and in what is now the Marina District, courtyards, formal gardens, and eleven Beaux-Arts palaces made up a miniature city resplendent in tones of golden-orange, copper green, cerulean, and "Pompeiiian red."

Each palace hosted a thrilling array of exhibits and events that showed off the young century's achievements and possibilities. Over it all, the forty-three-story Tower of Jewels cast the reflected light of one hundred thousand pieces of colored glass.

Laura's book, co-published by Heyday and the California Historical Society, will be available for purchase at the program.

PHS CALENDAR

MEETINGS

November 6: Program: "A Whirlwind Tour of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exhibition." (Story on front page). The public is invited to this FREE event in conference rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road. Refreshments will be served.

December 2, January 13, February 10: 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.

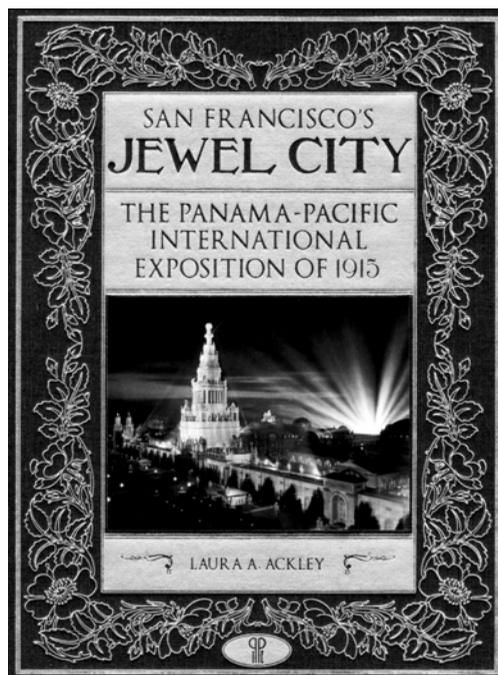
ONGOING

Pinole Library history exhibits. Two exhibits are 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: Jeff Rubin, President; George Vincent, Vice President; Mary Drazba, Treasurer; Jo Ann Gannotti, Secretary; Marcia Kalapus, Norma Martinez-Rubin; Mary McMains. **Director Emeritus:** Jack Meehan. **Newsletter Editor:** Jeff Rubin.



Guest columnist

Marcia Kalapus, Pinole Historical Society Board of Directors

FLAG HISTORY DATES TO 1777

Every year we see more American flags being displayed for community and special events.

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress passed the Flag Resolution which stated: "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Francis Hopkinson, of New Jersey, a naval flag designer and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, designed the 1777 flag.

The original flag has been modified 26 times and was unchanged with its 48 stars for 47 years, beginning with Arizona's and New Mexico's admittance to the Union on July 4, 1912. On July 4, 1959, when Alaska was admitted to the Union, the number of stars increased to 49. On July

4, 1960, when Hawaii was admitted to the Union, the flag showed 50 stars. The 50-star flag has been existence for 55 years.

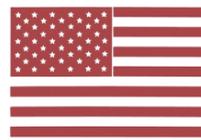
Annual calendars show many dates to display and proudly fly our flags.

Other flag holidays include Inauguration Day (every four years), Elec-



Marcia Kalapus

Flag holidays



- New Year's Day (Jan. 1)
- Inauguration Day (Jan. 20)
- Martin Luther King's birthday (Third Monday in January)
- Lincoln's Birthday (Feb. 12)
- Presidents Day (Third Monday in February)
- Washington's Birthday (February 22)
- Easter Sunday
- Army Day (April 6)
- National Day of Prayer (First Thursday in May)
- V-E Day (May 8)
- Mother's Day (Second Sunday in May)
- Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15; half-staff all day)
- Armed Forces Day (Third Saturday in May)
- Memorial Day (Last Monday in May; half-staff 'til noon)
- D-Day (June 6)
- Flag Day (June 14)
- Father's Day (Third Sunday in June)
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Korean War Veterans Day (July 27)
- V-J Day (September 2)
- Labor Day (First Monday in September)
- Patriot Day (September 11; half staff all day)
- Constitution Day (September 17)
- Gold Star Mothers Day (September 27)
- Columbus Day (Oct. 12)
- Navy Day (October 27)
- Election Day (First Tuesday in November)
- Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
- Thanksgiving Day (Fourth Thursday in November)
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7; half staff all day)
- Christmas Day (Dec. 25)

tion Days, state and local holidays, Admission Day, and others proclaimed by the president.

The PHS conducts its Veterans Day Memorial and Flag retirement Ceremony on November 11, at 11 a.m., in Fernandez Park.

We have a flag-retirement ceremony conducted by the Boy Scouts. You are invited to bring your worn flags for a proper disposal.

New flags are available for purchase by the PHS at the event, as well as at our booth at the Pinole Farmers' Market. Flags are \$25 (\$20 for PHS members), and \$5 for a flagpole. The flags are American made.

Please come and join us. It's a wonderful tribute to all of our veterans.

Geoff Torretta

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www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org



In memoriam



JOHN "JOHNNY" CATRINO

November 29, 1924 – August 15, 2015.

Born in Pinole, John attended Pinole-Hercules School #1 and graduated from Richmond High School. He was 90.

In 1932, John and his twin brother, Orland, were in Mrs. Beavers' second grade class, along with two other sets of male twins. One boy in each group was named John.

John met his wife, Elaine, at a Holy Ghost celebration in Pinole when he was a band member. They married in 1948. His favorite pastimes were playing the clarinet in the Pinole Band, dancing, traveling, and following the San Francisco 49ers.

John is survived by his wife, Elaine; daughter, Kathy; and four loving grandchildren, as well as brother-in-law, Ray Moitoza, and numerous nieces and nephews. John was predeceased by his brother, Orland.

– George Vincent

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Guest columnist

Stella Faria

MORE THAN JUST A FAMILY DOCTOR

I was brought into this world on August 3, 1926, with the help of Dr. Manuel L. Fernandez. He was more than just Pinole's family

physician. He delivered most of the babies born in Pinole in the 1920s and early 1930s, among them my youngest sister, Beatrice, who was born

in 1928.

My mother-in-law, who was the mother of seven, had many stories to tell about her experiences with Dr. Fernandez. She said he even helped decide on names for the birth certificate if one had not already been chosen.

He was the eldest son of the prominent pioneer Fernandez family. His father, Bernardo, came to America from Portugal as a very young man, and later married Carlotta Cuadro, who was a native of Chile. In 1854, Bernardo started a shipping business with two

Dr. Manuel Fernandez and his wife, Bernice.



Stella Faria

wharves and some warehouses at the foot of present-day Tennent Avenue. He shipped grain, produce, and animals for local farmers to San Francisco. By 1880, he became the wealthiest land owner/merchant in Contra Costa County.

Young Manuel graduated from U.C. Medical School in 1900, and did further studies in Austria and Germany. It was very impressive to know that our doctor had studied in

Continued on page 6



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MORE THAN JUST A FAMILY DOCTOR

Continued from page 5
Vienna. He set up his first practice in San Francisco in 1904, but he returned to his hometown after the devastating 1906 earthquake. He became the company physician for California Powder Works, later known as Hercules Powder Company. He held that position for over 40 years.

In 1917 he married the local pharmacist's daughter, Bernice, and they moved into their newly built home the following year. They had three children, Bernardo, Carroll, and Charlotte. Bernardo met a tragic death as a glider pilot in World War II. They had a longtime housekeeper/maid named Lilly Finnegan, who was more like a member of the family, and stayed on with Mrs. Fernandez until her death.



Dr. Manuel Fernandez

The doctor's office was located upstairs in the building above the local drug store, next to the Bank of Pinole. I dreaded having to walk up that long flight of stairs for medical attention, and remember the pungent smell of disinfectants as soon as the waiting room door was opened. Dr. Fernandez's nurse, Josephine Claeys, was from Rodeo and seemed to work very irregular hours. Also located on that top

floor was a dentist named Dr. Yater, about whom I have very unpleasant memories regarding a pulled tooth. (That's another story.)

Dr. Fernandez held a special place in my mother's heart, since he literally saved her life. She became critically ill not long after my father was killed in the February 1929 nitroglycerine explosion at the Hercules Powder Company. She was now widowed with four little girls, ages one to six.

Dr. Fernandez arranged for her to see a thoracic surgeon in Oakland, who operated on her for what turned out to be a lung tumor. She was hospitalized for two months at Providence Hospital in Oakland, which at that time was operated by the Sisters of Providence. My mother told us, when we were old enough to really appreciate this man, that she had never received any medical or hospital bills. She was forever

grateful to him, and I wish I could have told him so.

When we were growing up on Quinan Street in Pinole, we had the usual childhood diseases, so he made house calls whenever needed. He would pull up abruptly across the street from our house in his 1930s Packard and rush up our front stairs carrying his familiar brown leather satchel. Before checking on which of us at the time had measles, chicken pox or mumps, he would walk through the kitchen and lift the lid off one of the pots on the stove to see what was cooking. He would always remark to my mother, "You are such a good cook, Anna," which she really was. She got a big kick out of his doing that.

If we had a problem when we were a bit older, our mother just sent us over to see the doctor — no health insurance plan, no co-pays, and no

Continued on page 7

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MORE THAN JUST A FAMILY DOCTOR

Continued from page 6
parent needed. I remember going to him when I was about thirteen with a fiery-red ingrown toenail. He took one look at it and said, "Novocain won't work on this damn thing, so let's just take care of it."

He got out some surgical scissors and without further ado, sliced a thin strip of toenail and yanked it out. It happened so fast that I did not have time to experience the excruciating pain. His nurse was not on duty, so he cleaned up, medicated and banded it, and I went limping my way home four blocks away.

When I was sixteen, I had an accident playing basketball in a student/faculty game at Richmond High. I was bumped into the gymnasium wall and fell to the floor very hard. I had a

broken coccyx bone that developed an abscess. Dr. Fernandez took care of it in his usual no-frills, down-to-business way. Sulfa drugs seemed to be the cure-all of the day, since antibiotics were not yet available. I had to sit on a cushion for a while, but we never questioned what the doctor ordered for us.

He did have the reputation of being rough and ready, but he was always there when you needed him. We were amongst the first to know about the July 1944 explosion at the Port Chicago Naval Ammunition Depot, where two ammunition ships blew up, killing 322 servicemen. It was the middle of World War II, so everyone thought we had been attacked. The doctor's daughter, Charlotte, was a good friend of my older sister, Arlette, and called to let



Bernardo III, Dr. Manuel, and Carroll Fernandez, 1938.

her know that her father had been called to help in Port Chicago, as had most of the doctors in the area.

I wonder how many other needy families were blessed by his generosity when it came to forgiving bills for his services. He was a small man in stature, but had a huge heart. He donated the

land for a park to the City of Pinole in 1930. Fernandez Park is a lasting tribute to his family.

Numerous doctors have treated me since 1926, but none has left a more lasting and colorful impression on me than Dr. Manuel L. Fernandez. He was truly more than just a devoted family doctor.

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Back in the day

ONCE UPON A TIME PINOLE HAD A BAND

By **George R. Vincent**

John "Johnny" Catrino passed away on August 15, 2015. He was 90 (see page 4 in this newsletter). John was the last known surviving member of the old "Pinole Municipal Band."

John and his twin brother, Orland, were both long-time band members. John played the clarinet and Orland played the saxophone.

The "Pinole Band" was the pride of the city, leading town parades for the Fourth of July, the Portuguese Holy Ghost celebrations as well as many other social events.

The origin of the Pinole Band goes back to

the early 1900s.

Young eighth-grader Willie "Bill" Lewis, of Portuguese descent, was a notable figure in early Pinole because he had founded the "Pinole Boys' Original Brass Band."

In 1909, the town newspaper reported Willie Lewis had "bought a new horn and was blowing it down town."

Lewis had been an honor student of the old Plaza School in downtown Pinole, where the post office is today. In 1906, his band held its practices at the one-room Plaza School.

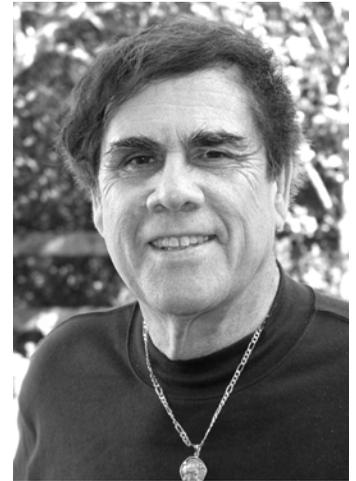
By 1914, the band was playing at the local Rink's movie theatre as well as at Sunday baseball

games. Pinole was an avid baseball town. Lewis, on trombone, was the talented bandleader and teacher of brass instruments to other band members.

His brother, Frank Lewis, played solo cornet. Other early members were Victor Pedro and Elmer Christian. George Vincent, my father, was on baritone and Manuel Santos played snare drums.

By 1938, the band had grown to 20 pieces. It was still led by bandmaster Willie Lewis, who was now a local grocery store merchant on San Pablo Avenue and Pinole Valley Road.

In 1937, the band held its practices in the quiet



George Vincent

Pinole Valley at the Adobe Ranch, where there was a wooden dance floor. In 1938, the band held a community picnic there with Harold Silvas playing accordion and "providing excellent dance music," according to the newspaper.

The Pinole Boys' Band entertained Pinoleans in town social affairs as well.

In 1914, there was a "Candidates' Ball," a big dance given by the Boys' *Continued on page 9*

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ONCE UPON A TIME PINOLE HAD A BAND

Continued from page 8
Band in the Pinole Opera House on Tennent Avenue. Willie Lewis was the bandleader. In 1917, Willie was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War I.

In May 1925, Willie and his brother, Joseph Lewis, and their band played for a social night of dancing for the "Imperial order of Red Men, Shenandoah Tribe #121," and its Pocahontas ladies' auxiliary.

By the 1920s and 1930s, the band was leading the annual summer Holy Ghost parade and celebration. All the communities in the Bay Area and Central Valley with large Portuguese populations held this Pentecost Sunday festival.

The 20-member Pinole Band had become popular and became mobile, attending parades in



PINOLE MUNICIPAL BAND 1926: Willie Lewis, far right, holding trombone; George Vincent, fourth from right, holding trombone; Manuel Santos, kneeling, far left, holding snare drum; Johnny Catrino, second from left, holding clarinet; Orland Catrino, seventh from left, holding saxophone.

surrounding towns and in Central Valley towns such as Newman.

The bands' first uniforms were dark blue. But by the 1930s, they had changed to cooler, white cotton outfits with snappy black booties. At that time, the band identified with the city of its

origin, calling itself the "Pinole Municipal Band."

The band was largely made up of local talent. Many of the members were Pinole men from

the Oleum Oil Refinery in Rodeo. They played all over, even going to Yountville to entertain the vets.

Continued on page 10

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ONCE UPON A TIME PINOLE HAD A BAND

Continued from page 9

The members were Frank Lewis, Joe Villa, Harold Foster, John Catrino, Orland Catrino, George Vincent, Beno Marcos, and Bob Beach.

At one time, the Pinole Band played an active part in the social life of the town and was respected by and popular with townfolk and adoring young ladies. Some band wives complained about their husbands being away so much playing in out-of-town celebrations. But the band had a well-deserved and far-flung reputation for good music and marching.

The Pinole Band gave the city of Pinole recogni-



Imperial Order of Red Men, Shenandoah Tribe Lodge #121 and ladies auxillary at Alhambra Springs recreational resort in the Alhambra Valley, approximately 1906. Ignacio Martinez was the club's cook,

tion and status before disbanding and slipping sadly into the town's history. In 1959, the last Holy Ghost "Festa" was held in Pinole. Diane DeSilva reigned as the last queen. It was about

this time that the band marched down Tennent Avenue for the last time.

Today, John Catrino's well-worn clarinet, Frank Lewis' tarnished coronet, and George Vincent's blue band cap are vin-

tage artifacts reminding us of Pinole's musical past, as well as the current need for a local museum to house these treasures.

Pinole **Historical** Society 2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(PINOLE RESIDENCY NOT REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP)

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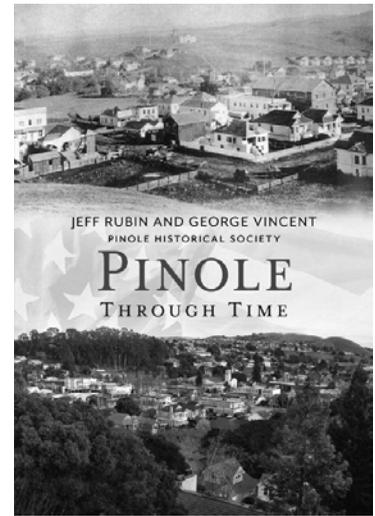
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SECOND BOOK SIGNING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 7



Pinole Through Time authors George Vincent and Jeff Rubin will sign copies of their new book at the Pinole Library on Saturday, November 7, from noon to 3 p.m

Pinole Through Time contains 192 old and new comparative photographs showing how Pinole changed through the 19th and 20th centuries and into the 21st century.

There are detailed and extensive captions packed with historical information accompanying each photograph.

***Pinole Through Time* authors George Vincent and Jeff Rubin (sitting) at the October 2 book signing in the Bank of Pinole.**

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PASTOR JOHN WRIGHT

WANTED

by the Pinole **Historical** Society

- **Photos** (family, events, buildings, particularly those no longer standing)
- **Movies:** VHS, Beta, camcorder, DV tape, 8mm, Super 8mm, 16mm, 35mm film of parades and events, floods, fires, etc. — anything that might be significant in Pinole's history. All photos and movies will be returned.

We are collecting, digitizing, cataloging, and preserving old photos and movies to exhibit, educate, and entertain.

Contact the Pinole Historical Society at (510) 724-9507
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GOT HISTORY?

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is grateful for donations
of artifacts, photos,
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THEN AND NOW



PINOLE'S FOUR CORNERS

TENNENT AVENUE LOOKING NORTH

Early in the twentieth century, downtown Pinole had fourteen saloons; the Swenson and Lewis Saloon (left corner) and the Stats Hotel and Saloon (right corner) were two of them. This area, known as the Four Corners, was the hub of Pinole's business and social life.

Mary Nunes bought the wooden building that housed the Stats Hotel in the 1920s; because of constant fire danger, she replaced it with the brick building there today. Pontes and Barroca's Central Grocery

operated there for many years. Tina's Place, a destination eatery known for great food, comfortable chairs, great jazz music, and long lines for breakfast and lunch, occupies the Stats site today.

Antlers Tavern, owned for many years by the Torretta family, now occupies the Swenson & Lewis site.

The entire west side of Tennent Avenue, including Forester's Hall – the large white building – was destroyed in a massive blaze in 1908.

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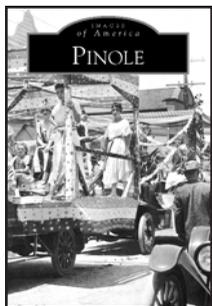
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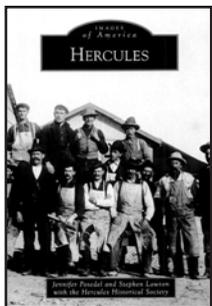
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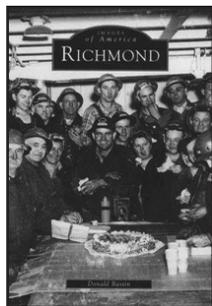




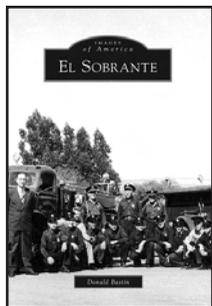
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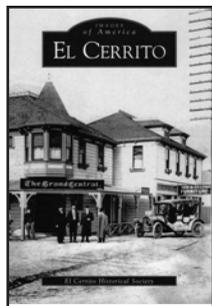
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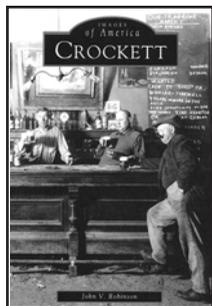
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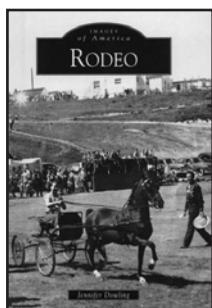
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The Pinole Historical Society sells Arcadia books about Pinole, Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, Port Costa, and Maritime Contra Costa County at the Pinole Farmers' Market every other Saturday through December.

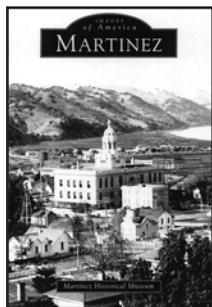
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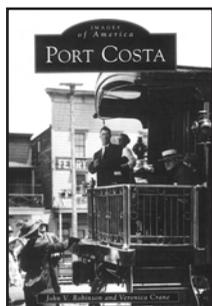
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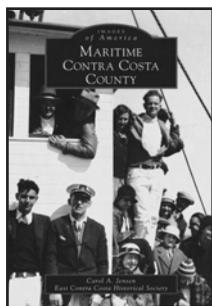
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Hours

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