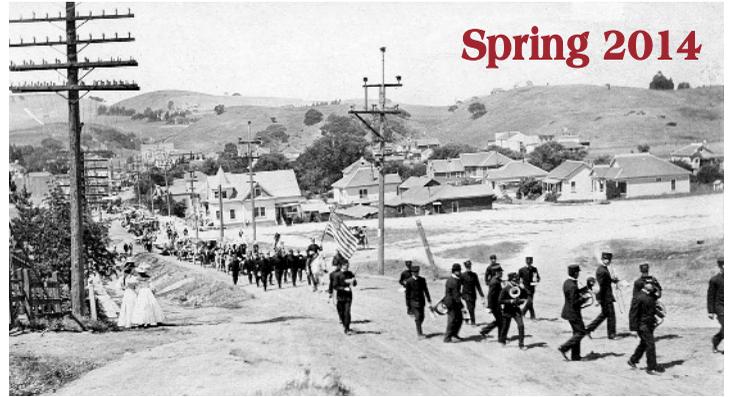


Pinole Historical Society Newsbriefs



P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564

www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org

President's Message

WHY WE CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day and was created to honor soldiers killed in battles between the North (Union) and the South (Confederate) during the Civil War.

The commemorations began one year after the war ended in 1866. The first Decoration Day was observed May 30, 1868.

Memorial Day became a federal holiday in 1971 and was moved from its traditional May 30 date to the fourth Monday in May, creating a three-day holiday weekend.

In the beginning, families visited local cemeteries, and some traveled great distances to visit family cemeteries on land their ancestors had owned. Then and now, small American flags were placed at each grave.

By the 20th century, the day was extended to honor all members of all the armed forces who served in the military. On most occasions, folks visited each other; many had family reunions. They ate dinner served on top of quilts on the ground, on which baskets of food were shared.

Large bouquets of flowers were brought; some were wild flowers that grew in an around the cemeteries. Some people planted rose bushes near the tombstones. Historians today visit old graveyards looking for those rose bushes, and many have survived more than a hundred years. Often there were religious services, and all who came sang "Amazing Grace."



Marcia Kalapus

Continued on page 3

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Published quarterly by the Pinole Historical Society

WHERE TO FIND NEWSBRIEFS

Pick up **Newsbriefs** at these locations:

AccuTech Auto Care, A.D. Dern Insurance, The Alley Cafe, Antlers Tavern, Bank of the West, Bay Park Retirement Residence, The Bear Claw, Big O Tires, Blue Sky Sports, Cafe Soleil, China House, Cindy's Shear Cuts, Coldwell Banker Bartels Realtors®, Coldwell Banker (Joni Vasquez and Dave Vida), Crocketts Premier Auto Body, George A. Egan, CFP, Feriel El Ghaoui, D.D.S., Embers, Farmers Insurance (Gary Lally), Farmers Insurance (Carol White), Garden of Gems, Douglas Gordon, D.D.S., Grocery Outlet, Happy Sashimi, Headquarters Salon, Hercules Fitness, Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, K & L Automotive (Rodeo), Kendall Financial Services, Ladies Workout Express, Mechanics Bank (Pinole Valley office) Old Time Realtors, Douglas Oliver, D.D.S., Oliver's Hardware, Park Pharmacy, Attorney Donald E. Patterson, Peggy's Perfections Bead and Boutique, Pinole Art Center, Pinole City Hall, Pinole Creek Cafe, Pinole Hearing Aid Center, Pinole Library, Pinole Paws, Pinole Police Department, Pinole Senior Center, Pinole Senior Village, Pinole Valley Community Church, Lawrence Radcliffe, D.D.S., Realty World (Viktor Manrique), Ricky's Corner, Ristorante Due Rose, Sam's Dog House (Pinole and El Sobrante), State Farm Insurance (Mark Bucklew and Rick Chalk), Sunshine Floor Covering, Taqueria Sanchez, Tenax Law Group, 10th Inning Baseball Cards, The New Deli, The Red Onion, The UPS Store, Tina's Place, Top Floor Salon, Albert M. Tsang, D.D.S., West Contra Costa Transit Authority, Windermere Rowland Realty, and Wilson & Kratzer Mortuaries.

It's also posted on the PHS website.

FOR ADVERTISERS: 2,500 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

May 14, June 11, July 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.

May 2: Annual Meeting and program: "Digging Up History: Artifacts from the Outhouses of Pinole." Veteran artifact collector Sonny Jackson will show us an assortment of his local collectibles and postcards, providing insights on how and where to find these objects.

The public is invited to this FREE event from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in conference rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road. Refreshments will be served.

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

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Mary McMains
George Vincent

Director Emeritus: Jack Meehan

Newsletter Editor: Jeff Rubin

PHS videos on city of Pinole website

Miss one of our history 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

WHY WE CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY

*Continued
from front
page*

More than 600,000 men died in the Civil War.

During the war, at least 257 Union soldiers held prisoner at the Charleston Race Course in South Carolina died there and were buried in unmarked graves. Today the site is used as Hampton Park.

A New York Tribune article reported that many black residents, along with missionaries, teachers, school children, freedmen, and women, organized a May Day ceremony on May 1, 1865, and cleaned up and groomed the grounds, building an enclosure and an arch labeled "Martyrs of the Race Course."

Nearly ten thousand people, mostly freedmen, gathered to commemorate the war dead. Involved were about 3,000 school children newly enrolled in freedmen's schools, mutual aid societies, Union troops, black ministers, and white northern missionaries. In the North, the celebration would come to be called the "First Decoration Day."

Although there wasn't a designated day for the



fallen until after the Civil War, women visited the graves of the fallen from 1860 to 1865, laying flowers and grieving for their loved ones.

Memorial Day became a federal holiday in 1971. The American flag is lowered to half-staff until noon, and then returned to its original position.

The half-staff position remembers the more than one million men and women who gave their lives in service to their country. At noon, their memory is raised by the living, who resolve not to let their sacrifice be in vain, but to rise up in their stead and continue the fight for liberty and justice for all.

Today there are picnics, parades, and all kinds of celebrations. There are barbecues, trips to cemeteries, and family visits.

Most importantly, this day is the time to teach our children what Memorial Day stands for, and for everyone to remember why and what they are celebrating.

Geoff Torretta

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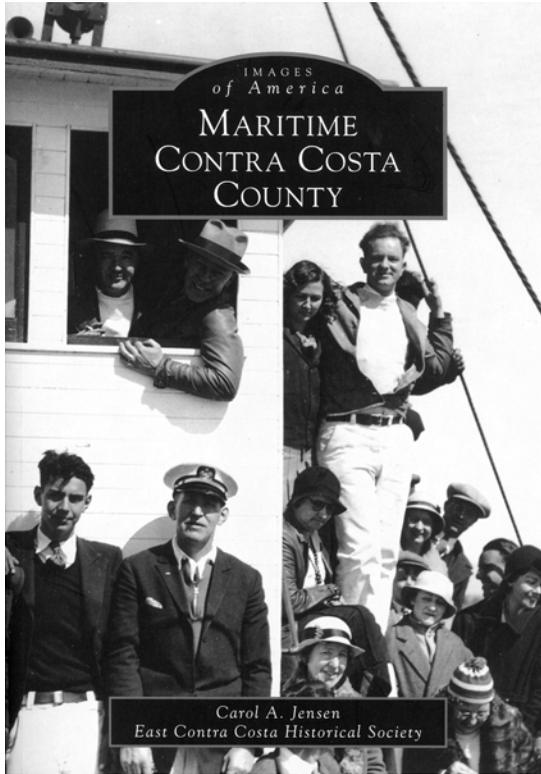
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Find out more about Pinole's history by using your smartphone to scan this QR code. It will take you to the Pinole Historical Society website:
www.PinoleHistoricalSociety.org



MARITIME CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOOK AVAILABLE FROM PHS

The PHS has the latest Arcadia "Images of America" title in this region, *Maritime Contra Costa County*, for sale at the Pinole Farmers' Market and via mail order.

Written by Contra Costa Historic Landmark Advisory Committee vice president Carol A. Jensen, the book presents the county's vibrant maritime history through images drawn from the Library of Congress, California State Library, San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection, Contra Costa County archives, and important local historical society collections.

From county piers were shipped wines to challenge French viticultural supremacy, grains destined to make Guinness beer great, and soldiers embarked for the World War II Pacific theater.

Maritime Contra Costa County provides a fresh perspective on the intertwined histories of San Francisco and its "other coast."

You may also order it from the PHS using the form on page 14 of this newsletter.

The PHS now carries 10 local-history books published by Arcadia.



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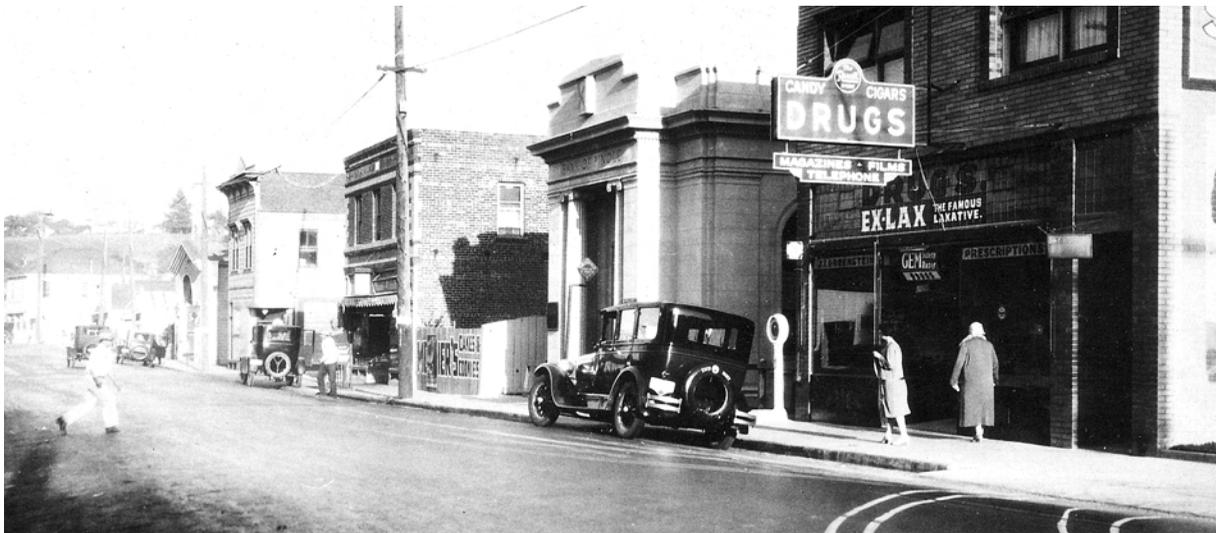


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SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PHS BY BECOMING A MEMBER IN 2014

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 today!

Pinole**Historical**Society

2014 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(PINOLE RESIDENCY NOT REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP)

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

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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.

Please contact us at info@PinoleHistoricalSociety.org or call (510) 724-9507.



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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.

In memoriam

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

• **Elizabeth C. Smith:** 1917-2014 (age: 97). Longtime Pinole resident and educator. Elizabeth's father, Tom Smith, and partner, Ted Hemleb, operated the Smith and Hemleb Meat Market in Old Town Pinole in the 1930s. Her mother was the kindly town librarian in the old Pinole Civic Center Library in the 1940s.

Elizabeth attended Pinole-Hercules School #1 and was hired by Pinole-Hercules School Superintendent Margaret Collins to be principal at the new El Sobrante School #1 in 1950. Miss Smith later also served as principal at Marie Murphy School in El Sobrante. Her kind and gentle manner made her loved by teachers and pupils alike.

After retirement, Miss Smith could be seen daily greeting those who passed by from the porch of her yellow Brandt Cottage home along Pinole Valley Road in Old Town Pinole. She had two sisters, Loretta and Catherine Silvas. She is survived by her youngest sister, Catherine.

• **Laverne Lewis Martens:** 1926-2014 (age: 88). Laverne passed away on January 29, 2014. She was born March 5, 1926, and baptized in the old St. Joseph's Church on Tennent Avenue.

In 1946, she was married in the same church to Ted Martens.

Laverne hailed from early Pinole roots. She was raised in Pinole on Prune Street and remained a lifetime active member of the Pinole community. Her parents, Helen Vincent Lewis and Anthony (Tony) Lewis, were descendants of early Pinole pioneers.

Laverne attended Pinole-Hercules School #1 and graduated from Richmond High School. She later worked many years for Blue Cross in San Francisco. She was an active member of the Opequon Council #45-Degree of Pocahontas and of the Young Ladies Institute (Y.L.I.) of St. Joseph's Church.

Laverne is survived by her sister, Nadine Tary; daughters Diana Strickland, Carol Thiesing, and Melinda Cooke; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.



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Back in the day

BARBER POLES OF EARLY PINOLE

By George R. Vincent

The red and white barber poles advertising “blood and bandages” hail back to a time when the local barber served as the town surgeon and dentist.

Pinole’s early barbershops, however, dispensed shaves, haircuts, and cologne, along with providing a refuge for male gossip and pin-up girl magazines.

The local barbers were small business owners who operated their shops in the downtown area and usually near saloons, whose patrons also frequented



Manuel “Span” Vincent in his Antlers barbershop.

the barber shops. Old-timers remember barbershops in Pinole staying open as late as 2 a.m. on Saturday nights to accommodate Pinole Valley ranch hands and saloon folk. Shaves were 15 cents and haircuts were 25 cents. You were considered a cheapskate if you didn’t get both. In the fancier “tonsorial parlors” of

Martinez, you could get a hot bath for 50 cents.

One of Pinole’s earliest barbers was Ignacio Martinez, grandson of Ygnacio Martinez, who founded Rancho El Pinole. He learned the tonsorial trade

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BARBER POLES OF EARLY PINOLE

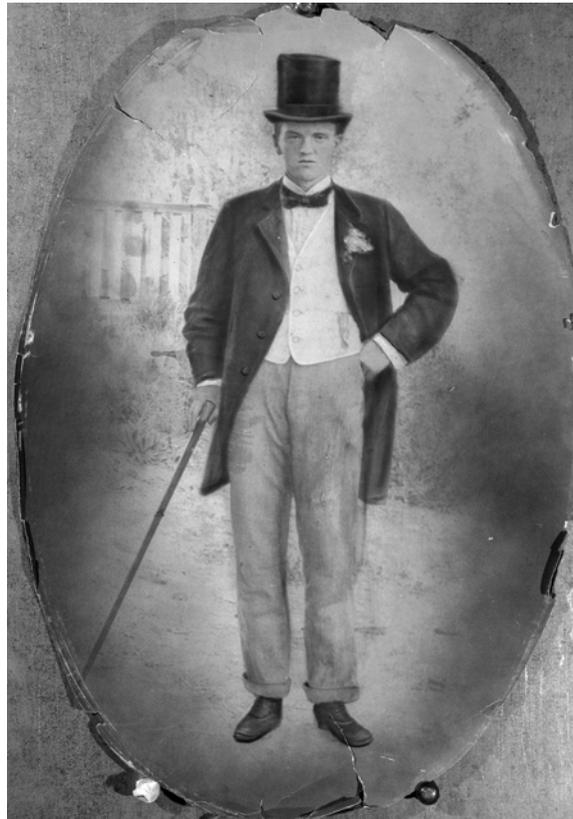
in San Francisco in 1876. In 1907, he was barbering in Pinole as a "Bunda Barber" (bounce barber). He would pack up his barbering tools and set up a chair along a street or go into a home — wherever he could find a customer.

Pinole always had competing barbershops. Manuel "Span" Vincent had a shop on San Pablo Avenue near today's Parkview Plaza. In the 1950s, he moved across the street into the old Silvas shoe-maker Shop. There, ladies were also welcome, and you were always entertained with colorful town characters like Emmett "Pully Pants" Walton, who came just to spin tales about old Pinole and harass Span and his customers.

One of the most popular and oldest shops was on the Tennent Avenue side and was part of the Antlers Tavern.

Originally a general merchandise store in 1900, the business converted to a saloon in the early 1900s.

Jack "Squeaker" Silva was an early owner who displayed his hunting trophy heads with Antlers galore.



Emmett "Pully Pants" Walton.

He probably also added the barbershop as an extension of his saloon business. The barbershop was also adorned with moose and deer heads.

There were three barber chairs and a back door leading to the saloon and bathroom. A new owner after the 1960s removed the wall of the shop, extended the bar area, and eliminated the old barbershop.

Elmer Neylan, age 92, and a former Pinole resident, recalls his grandfather was a barber in the old Antlers shop. His father married the daughter of Ben Christian, who barbered there in later years. In the 1930s, Frank August and Ben Christian cut hair for locals in the shop. In later decades, "Joe the Barber" and "Al the Barber" cut men's hair there.

The Antlers shop was especially busy on Saturdays and closed on Mondays. It was a time when one could get a

shave, haircut, and drink in the bar in one stop — or in reverse order, as well.

Quite a different menu than going to Supercuts today.



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CULTURAL HERITAGE FOUND IN UNUSUAL PLACES

By George R. Vincent

Pinole's history has been discovered both above and below ground.

Last year, a long-lost court case testimony from 1900 revealed the location of Pinole's first wooden jail to be at the east end of Pear Street.

In 1976, there was an archaeological excavation of the Rancho El Pinole Martinez Adobe site in Pinole Valley. This yielded artifacts and information about the occupancy and construction of the 1830s adobe home of the family of Don Ygnacio Martinez.

Along these same lines, my daughters Colleen and Anne-Marie were involved in an amateur family-history digging project in 1998.

My youngest, Anne-Marie, was a sophomore at Pinole Valley High School. She used the project as her theme for her entry in the teen writing contest for the school literary magazine, "Between the Lines."

Here is the story as it appeared in the magazine written by 15-year old Anne-Marie Vincent.



Anne-Marie Vincent

HOW I FOUND MY CULTURAL HERITAGE IN A HAT BOX

One day I accidentally stumbled upon my cultural heritage. I guess the awareness of one's cultural identity is like an alarm clock waiting to go off at some time in your life. My wake-up call occurred one Saturday while I was helping to

clean out an old closet for a family garage sale.

My grandfather had passed away and his house had to be cleaned out of about 100 years of junk. It wasn't the way I wanted to spend my Saturday. I had to get up real early. But I was promised some of the money if I helped with

the sale, so there I was in that musty closet.

And then I found it — tucked away in a dark corner on the closet shelf. It was a very old-looking and very dusty round box with a rotting leather strap on top.

I got excited because I thought I had found someone's hidden bank, and my imagination went wild with anticipation of what was inside! I felt like Pandora must have when her curiosity made her open the forbidden box.

No such luck! Just two things inside that smelled and looked of age. One was a dark blue hat with the letters "P.M.B." on it. The other was a yellow photo of the inside of a saloon with a large man with a big mustache behind a bar.

My dad got really excited when I showed him my discovery. He likes my discovery. He likes old things. And right then and there in the middle of that mess, we sat down together and I found out about my Portuguese cultural heritage.

The hat was my grandfather Vincent's when he was a trombone player in the Pinole Marching Band



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CULTURAL HERITAGE FOUND IN UNUSUAL PLACES

in the 1920s. He was Portuguese and he marched in the Pinole Holy Ghost Parade, a Portuguese religious celebration. Right next door to us had been the Pinole Holy Ghost Hall. After the parade, everyone went there and was served Portuguese "sopas" (bread and meat in a tomato sauce) as well as Portuguese sweet bread. They even danced a Portuguese circle dance called the "shamarita."

Dad said the picture was probably the house we were in when it was once a saloon called the First and Last Chance Saloon. This was around the turn of the 20th century, before it was remodeled in the 1920s. This was the only family picture of the place.

I learned the Vincente brothers had come from the Portuguese Azores islands and settled here as saloonkeepers in Pinole. They even had a boarding house next door where they rented rooms and cooked and served meals.

The man in the picture was probably my great-grandfather, Charles Vincent, because he looked like my grandfather and dad. They dropped the "e" from Vincente to be more American sounding. At least that's what I was told was family tradition.

Then my dad took me on an outside tour of the house and showed me the old fig trees planted by the Vincente brothers. He explained how figs

and favas (Portuguese horse beans) were always planted in a Portuguese garden. I remembered my grandfather eating those long, ugly green beans from his garden.

The old garage by the house was leaning, so it had been condemned by the city of Pinole and was waiting to be torn down. Dad explained that according to family lore, the old boarding house and saloon outhouses were once where the garage now shakily stood. He said that there were probably gold coins, watches, and other valuables buried there that people had lost. Now I was hooked on my cultural roots!

My sister and I became amateur archaeologists.

We dug for days but only found old bottles that had been dumped long ago. But it was fun to imagine my great-grandmother Vincent writing from the black ink bottle, or my great-grandfather Charles Vincent pouring a drink for a customer from the square green whiskey bottle. These things were also part of my cultural heritage, and we had saved them.

The job of cleaning out the old house now took on a new meaning. Yes, that day inside an old hat box I also found pride in my cultural background. I discovered my cultural identity that day when my grandfather's house had to be cleaned out of 100 years of not junk, but family history.



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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.

The Pinole Mural

A Community Legacy

Wells Fargo Bank's Pinole Mural, unveiled in July 2013 on the back wall of the bank's Pinole office at 1374 Fitzgerald Drive, will be featured in the June issue of Marketplace Contra Costa.



Watch The Pinole Mural video at this link:

<http://www.pinolehistoricalsociety.org/PinoleMural.mov>

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2014 quarterly meetings at Kaiser continue on Friday evenings

The 2014 quarterly membership meetings of the Pinole Historical Society will be held Friday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in conference rooms

2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road.

As always, we will have an interesting program for you at each meeting.

The remaining 2014 meeting schedule is: May 2 • September 5 • November 7

May 2 program at Kaiser

DIGGING UP HISTORY: ARTIFACTS FROM THE OUTHOUSES OF PINOLE

Veteran artifact collector Sonny Jackson will show us an assortment of his local collectibles and postcards, providing insights on how and where to find these objects.

The public is invited to this FREE event from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in conference rooms 2A and 2B of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Office Building, 1301 Pinole Valley Road. Refreshments will be served.

Sonny's exploits have yielded many interesting items, some of which will be on display at the meeting. He's been a generous supporter of the society, sharing with us his voluminous postcard collection, one of which, a scene of the Four Corners taken around 1900, is displayed here.



This will also be our annual meeting, at which PHS members vote for members of the board of directors.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE ON THE PHS BOARD?

There will be three seats open on the Pinole Historical Society Board of Directors at our May 2 annual meeting, at which we will elect board members.

Would you be interested in serving a two-year term?

Please let us know by sending us an e-mail to info@pinolehistoricalsociety.org so we can discuss with you the responsibilities of board membership.

We're also always appreciative of volunteers for our various events and activities. Please let us know if you'd be interested in this.

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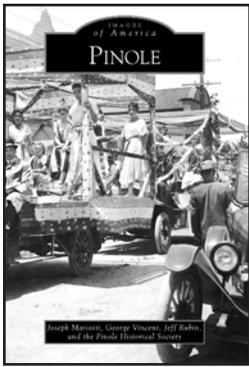
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LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM PHS

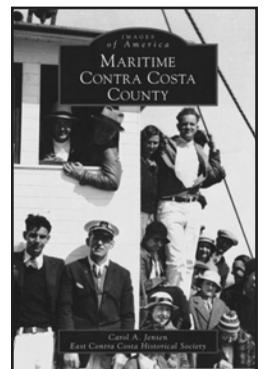
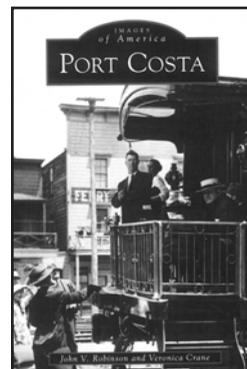
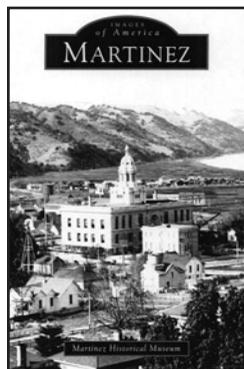
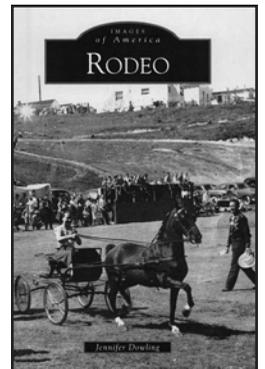
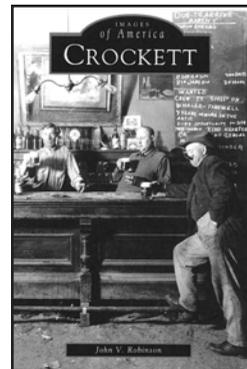
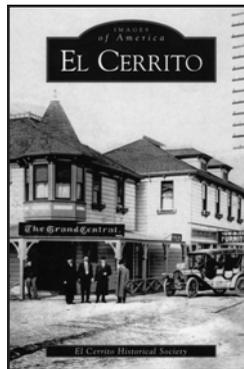
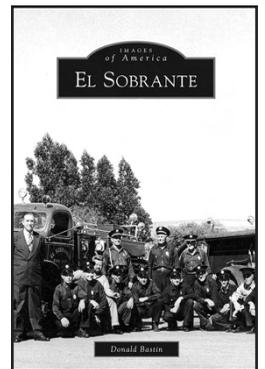
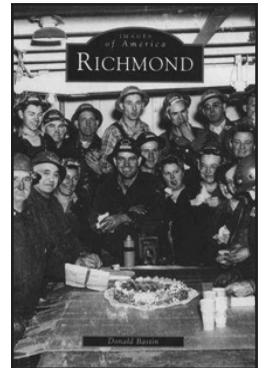
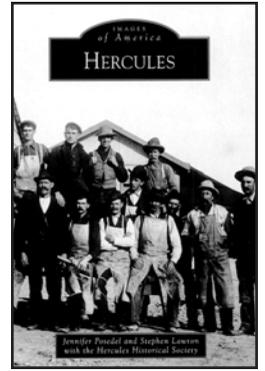
The Pinole Historical Society stocks Arcadia Publishing books about Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, Port Costa, and Maritime Contra Costa County. And, of course, we have plenty of Pinole books.

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, El Cerrito, and Maritime Contra Costa County 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 (prices at left include postage) and we'll ship them to you. Send your order to **Pinole Historical Society, P.O. Box 285, Pinole, CA 94564**.



50 years ago — 1964

May 2: Some 400–1,000 students march through Times Square, New York, and another 700 in San Francisco, in the first major student demonstration against the Vietnam War. Smaller marches also occur in Boston, Seattle, and Madison, Wisconsin.

May 25: The Supreme Court rules closing schools to avoid desegregation is unconstitutional.

May 30/31: The San Francisco Giants sweep the New York Mets 5-3 and 8-6 in 23 innings, in the longest doubleheader in Major League history. Records include elapsed time of 9:50, 47 combined strikeouts, 7:22 for second game, and Mets's 22 strikeouts in the second game.

June 11: Queen Elizabeth orders The Beatles to her birthday party. They attend.

June 12: Nelson Mandela and seven others are sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa and sent to the Robben Island prison.

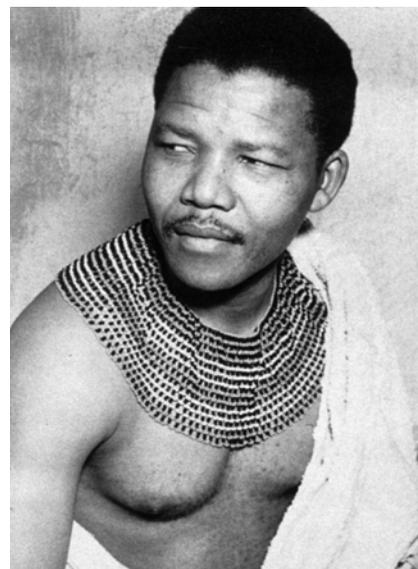
June 21: Three civil rights workers— Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney — disappeared after their release from a Mississippi jail. Their bodies were discovered in an earthen dam in Philadelphia, MS, dam on August 4. They were murdered by local Klansmen and a deputy sheriff.

June 21: Jim Bunning, of the Philadelphia Phillies, pitches a perfect game against the New York Mets on Father's Day in New York. Bunning later

served as a Republican U.S. senator from Kentucky.

July 2: President Lyndon Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act into law, abolishing racial segregation in the United States.

July 16: Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona is selected as the Republican Party candidate for president at the party's San Francisco convention.



Nelson Mandela

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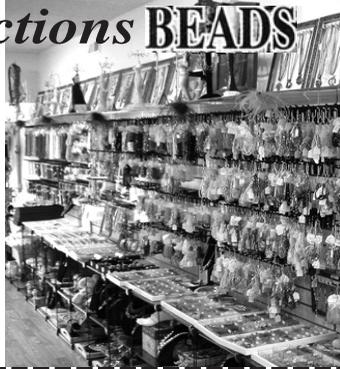
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