

Orinda News

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLIC CITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume I

Orinda, Calif., December 1, 1937

Number 6

Orinda to Have Improved Phone Service

M. A. Sullivan, vice president and general manager of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, announced that the establishment of a new telephone exchange to serve the rapidly growing suburban residential district of Orinda is proposed in an application filed with the Railroad Commission.

The proposed new Orinda exchange, Manager Sullivan said, is in recognition of the present and anticipated growth of the territory it will serve.

Telephones of the Orinda district at present are served through the Berkeley office. The new exchange will provide for local service one and two-party unlimited residential telephones, one and two-party unlimited business telephones and commercial private branch exchange service.

Boundaries Cited

The boundaries of the new exchange have been drawn to include a number of communities centering around the Orinda Country Club on both sides of San Pablo Creek, including Oak Springs Park and districts lying just south of the junction of Moraga and Tunnel Road. Within the exchange territory reside several hundred families.

Orinda telephone subscribers who avail themselves of the optional extended scope service will be able to call telephones in Moraga, Lafayette and that part of the East Bay Exchange served by the Berkeley, Ashberry, Thornwall, Highgate, Olympic, Piedmont, Templebar, Humboldt, Glencourt and Twinoaks central offices at the regular monthly rate for the new extended service.

At Last!

As the *Orinda News* goes to press we read in the daily newspapers that the tunnel will open December 5th. Plans for Orinda's part in the opening celebration will be discussed at the December meeting.

CHRISTMAS SEAL DRIVE

The Drive to raise funds for the prevention of tuberculosis starts on Thanksgiving day and will be conducted from Martinez this year. Please make an effort to buy and pay for the stamps in Contra Costa County for we are anxious that our quota be well maintained.

Contra Costa County may well be proud of her own efforts in the fight against tuberculosis, for there is a splendid Preventorium at the base of Mt. Diablo named Sunshine Camp not far from Clayton.

December Meeting Notice

The next regular meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday, Dec. 3rd, in the Orinda School Auditorium.

An Early Merry Christmas

This issue of the Orinda News concludes the first half year in the life of our local paper. Coming to you all on the eve of our greatest Holiday season we hope that it will serve as a modest reminder of the pleasures and happiness which we all expect to find during the coming year.

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" is a time-worn phrase, but what else better describes the attributes of Orinda's surroundings?

As the hills take on their Holiday colors, we of Orinda don our overcoats and sniff the spice of Christmas in the air and contemplate the many gifts which nature has placed at our doorstep along with the promise for the future. So when the Great Horned Owl "hoos" to you from among the oaks he is probably suggesting that you exchange a smile of understanding friendliness with your neighbor and make this the best Christmas Orinda has ever seen.—*Publicity Committee.*

THE STROLLER

Well, guess I have to give the fire lads another boost, the way they handled the grass fire near Cy Johnson's Thursday night was something to see. There sure is a great feeling of safety in having such a fine organization, and what a crowd turned out. You know, if just one-half of that crowd had turned out last Saturday at our town clean-up, it would have been spick and span from one end to the other. As it was and considering the fact only about five of the boys turned out, a pretty fine job was done from the school house to the bridge—all leaves raked up and brush and trees trimmed.

John Zuur, who was chairman and boss of the job, is entitled to a lot of credit, not only for the fine manner in which he directed operations, but for the paid assistance he furnished to assist in the work. I was sitting under a tree, giving the boys my moral support, and actually counted 8 truck loads of

(Continued on page 3 col. 2)

History of Orinda

THE CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA RAILROAD

"We have found that a railroad train is very convenient even if it is not always on time, and that a railroad even if not on time is better than no train at all." —HAYSEED SIFTINGS, Orinda Park, Cal., April, 1893.

The California and Nevada Railroad was organized in 1881, its aim being to "construct, conduct, maintain and own a narrow gauge (single track) railroad" from Emeryville, up San Pablo Creek, to Orinda Park, through Lafayette, Walnut Creek, Concord, Clayton, Brentwood and so on up the San Joaquin Valley to the Nevada state line, an estimated distance of 250 miles.

The story of its first and only 22 miles, spanning a period of thirteen years was one of much moaning and despair. The C. & N. began work in 1884, announcing its intention to reach Walnut Creek by the end of the year. Two years later the editor of the *Contra Costa Gazette* said: "It is impossible to tell what the California and Nevada people intend to do and it is extremely difficult to know what they are doing. So far they have managed to grade a few miles of road."

(Continued on page 2, Col. 2)

Highlights of the November Meeting

We enjoyed the Star Spangled Banner sung by Mrs. Cleborne and assisted by Mrs. Warner at the piano. This was in honor of Armistice Day and made a splendid start for our meeting.

Mr. L. R. McLaughlin, representing the Low Cost Bay Transportation Committee gave a stimulating talk on the ferry rate issue. He made a very good case for the side of the low rate ferries and urged that we as an organization send to the Railroad Commission an expression in favor of maintaining this present rate. However, the other side of the case had not been presented so the matter was voted to the Executive Committee to investigate more thoroughly and decide.

(Continued on page 2, col. 1)

C. E. SOCIETY ELECTS OFFICERS

Clifford Pierce heads the new executive officers installed at the November 21st meeting of the Christian Endeavor Society in Orinda. Other officers elected are: vice president, Mary M. Bennett; secretary, Velma Edson; treasurer, Harry Dorrington.

ORINDA NEWS

Official Publication of the
ORINDA

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

President Warren Harrold
 Vice President Lowell Berry
 Secretary Donald Badgley
 Treasurer C. E. Donaldson

Trustees

Frank D. Bryant, Geo. H. Pitt, W. D. Scott

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Program J. W. Dieterich
 Membership Geo. H. Pitt
 Publicity Harrison L. Ketcham
 Safety and Public Welfare R. R. Dennis
 Transportation, Roads and Highway R. V. Miller
 Entertainment Joe Varni
 Reception Harry R. Oakley
 Music Mrs. Beatrice Cleborne

SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Incorporation Ralph Sisson
 West of Orinda Sidney K. Rosenthal
 South of Tunnel Road Herbert Hauser
 East of San Pablo Highway, Orinda G. B. Schuyler
 W. of San Pablo Highway, Orinda A. W. Elkinton
 Communications and news items for this paper will be accepted by any of the following Publicity Committee members: Mr. H. L. Ketcham, Miss Maurine Donaldson, R. M. Cross, J. J. McMillan, Mrs. Geo. H. Pitt, Willis J. O'Brien.

Advertising rates available upon application to Mrs. Geo. H. Pitt, ASberry 10262.

(Continued from page one)

Mr. Ralph Sisson was appointed chairman of a committee to plan new road signs for strategic points in Orinda.

A report was made by Mr. Dennis that the County Health Board has agreed to send a sanitary inspector out on a mileage basis for all new construction in this district. Until we are able to have a permanent regulation put through by the County Mr. E. I. de Laveaga and the Hacienda Homes, Inc. have agreed to insert a clause in all new deeds which will make necessary this inspection. Existing conditions when unsatisfactory can only be met by reporting to Mr. Dennis or his committee for advice.

Mr. R. V. Miller was appointed new chairman for the committee of Roads and Transportation, taking the place of Dick de Laveaga.

Orinda Park Inc., reported that they now have in their hands a three-year lease for the West Side Swimming Pool. It is time to sign up for membership in this new Orinda Club now.

Mr. Cross gave us a very fine explanation of the new number system to be used by the Post Office out here, and Dr. Carey made an urgent appeal for our assistance with the Boy Scout Troop.

Just a Reminder

To the present members of the Orinda Improvement Association, that dues for the year 1938 are now payable.

Your kind cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

This is also a cordial invitation to all new residents and property owners to join our Association. Dues \$1.00 per year.

Respectfully,

GEORGE H. PITT

Chairman Membership Committee
 14 Camino Don Miguel

HISTORY OF ORINDA

(Continued from page 1)

Captain John W. Smith who took up the contract to build and equip the road, was reported to have previously raised money in the East for railroads and public works. In 1885 there were rumors that the C. & N. was about to be absorbed by the Southern Pacific, but this was denied by both parties.

Under Captain Smith the railroad made remarkable progress, considering the past. By May 22, 1889 it reached Orinda (not to be confused with Orinda) consisting of a house and barn owned by a Barret family, and not far from Orinda. The Saturday of the week it reached Orinda, 70 passengers went out by train; and Sunday, more than 50.

In January 1890, the grading was completed to the Wagner ranch in Orinda Park and the train reached Orinda that year, to be discontinued soon after. Captain Smith disposed of his interests to the Grant Bros. who were large stockholders in the Atcheson, Topeka and Santa Fe, but who denied any official connection between the Santa Fe and the California and Nevada. Immediately they put to work a force of men to repair the lines and trains. Within a month a train was running each way daily between Oakland and the Orinda Park Station. Trains connected with the stage line between Orinda and Walnut Creek.

Three years later the line had reached the Moraga ranch. Some difficulty arose then, for we find the editor of Orinda's *Hayseed Siftings* reflecting the mood of Orinda, in April, 1893: "Our California and Nevada Railroad, in which we alone have faith, had almost forsaken us entirely. It would seem almost as if the old trusty engineer who has left it and gone into the butcher business had hoo-dooed it, or perhaps it is the new engineer who is the hoo-doo; at any rate, we find that we miss it when it does not run."

That same April the C. & N. passed into the hands of F. M. Smith, Oakland capitalist, who announced, like his predecessors, his plan of extending the C. & N. to Walnut Creek. The road as it was, he said, had been built in such an inferior manner that it was practically worthless. Tracks were to be re-laid, changed to double tracks. People waited expectantly—if somewhat cynically.

Almost immediately the railroad went into receivership. "Old December", Orinda's correspondent for the *Contra Costa Gazette*, commented that somebody "up the creek" wanted the railroad condemned and the franchise revoked. Trains ran to Orinda only when there was something to haul and that was about once a week. Meanwhile Captain C. K. King, receiver of the railroad, had to keep a few employees on the C. & N. and pay them. In the Spring of 1899 the Santa Fe bought the California and Nevada, announcing that trains would run daily and that \$100,000 would be spent for repairs and extension of the line.

Orinda and the rest waited some more. It is 1937 now and they are talking about running busses.

As the editor of Orinda's *Hayseed Siftings* commented: "We saved our money on railroad tickets."

Orinda Scouts Receive
Court of Honor Awards

At a Court of Honor held at the Orinda Union School Oct. 29th, eight scouts were awarded advancement in rank. Bob Hammond and Ben Warnick received their Second Class badges. Ralph Corder and Ezra Nelson First Class. Stanley Dorrington, Jim Fletcher, Kenneth Rosenthal, and Tom Snook received Star badges.

Fifteen Merit Badges were awarded as follows: Cooking—Ralph Corder, Ezra Nelson, Frank Bennett; First Aid—Ralph Corder, Tom Snook; Swimming—Ralph Corder, Kenneth Rosenthal, Jim Fletcher; Life Saving—Stanley Dorrington, Kenneth Rosenthal, Donald Trucker; Public Health—Kenneth Rosenthal; Personal Health—Stanley Dorrington and Tom Snook.

D. Vinson Brown, Cubmaster of Pack No. 2 of Orinda appeared before the Court and was awarded the rank of Life Scout. In recognition of his fine work in Cubbing, the Cub Committee presented him with a gold Life Badge. Cubmaster Brown also received Merit badges in Surveying and Zoology.

The next Court of Honor will be held January 7, 1938.

Sidney K. Rosenthal, District Commissioner, opened the Court on behalf of the National Council. Mr. Ralph Sisson, chairman of the Court of Honor was assisted by Mr. Snook, Scout Councilor and Committeeman and by Dr. N. Austin Carey, Chairman of the Troop Committee.



CHURCH NOTICES

CATHOLIC CHURCH

On Tuesday evening, November 2nd, 1937, the Monthly meeting of the Santa Maria Church Association was held at the home of Mrs. E. I. de Laveaga on Miner Rd.

All committees reported quite favorably especially our Music Committee in charge of Mrs. Bausib. Organ to be put in condition, Organist secured and Hymn books on the way for our little congregation. Plans for further improvement for the interior of the little Chapel were also discussed.

Regular Sunday Masses at 9:00 o'clock.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

The Christian Science Society of Orinda holds regular Sunday Services at 11:00 a. m. and Wednesday evening meetings on the first and third Wednesdays at 8:00 p. m. Sunday School meets at 9:30 a. m. Pupils up to 20 years are admitted. The Society is located in the Corder Building, Orinda.

ORINDA COMMUNITY

Sunday School for all ages meets at 9:30 o'clock every Sunday morning. Church services of worship will be held Sunday, Dec. 5th, at 10:45 a. m.

Christian Endeavor for teen age young people meets every Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. The above services are held in Casa Verano on San Pablo Rd. and El Toyonal.

PERSONALS

Mrs. Kenneth Allen entertained at a delightful luncheon at the Orinda Country Club on Nov. 5th, the Honorable Mayor Rossi's wife of S. F., Mrs. C. V. Massey of Oakland and Mrs. Eleanor Leggat of Burlingame. Mrs. Rossi is a life long friend of Mrs. Allen's and quite interested in Orinda and its surroundings. The Mayor and his wife flew to N. Y. Nov. 11th to attend a convention.

Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Dana have just returned from a 10-day trip throughout Southern Calif. Their headquarters was the wonderful desert resort of Palm Springs. Mrs. Dana's sister, Mrs. R. J. Engelke, and son Phillip from Glendale, Calif. returned with them to be her house guests over the holidays.

On the evening of Nov. 2nd, Mrs. Harold Thomas entertained the "Couples Club" of the Berkeley Y at her home on Camino Sobrante. The evening was spent in games and cards and was enjoyed by all.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Seroy have returned from a two-weeks' business and pleasure trip in the South. Mr. Seroy, if you remember, was Ling the Chinaman with the Lake Merritt Ducks on the Tribune Radio Station several years ago. Howdy Ling.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller returned on Armistice Day from Hollywood from a one week's visit with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Elkinton, parents of Mr. A. W. Elkinton, have arrived from Honolulu to spend Thanksgiving with the family.

Congratulations to James Brockhurst — Wedding Bells, Reno, Saturday, November 13th, 1937.

Congratulations to Ned de Laveaga — Birthday, 16 years (?) Hallowe'en, October 30, 1937.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The next regular meeting of the Women's Guild will be held on Tuesday, December 7, at 12 noon in the home of Mrs. Ralph Sisson, with Mrs. Henry Adams as guest of honor. The event will be in the form of a Christmas party with a special program for the occasion. Mrs. George H. Pitt and Mrs. A. W. Elkinton are in charge of games; Mrs. Ralph Wilson the carols. Each member and visitor is asked to bring an interesting gift for a surprise Santa to give to another at the party.

Epitaffy

He drove a fast car built largely of tin,
Tho a comfortable car to ride within,
But late one nite he lulled to its roar
And awoke when St. Peter opened the door.

THE STROLLER (Continued)

litter that was disposed of. It's sure funny how this stuff will pile up and mess up the landscape.

While the Orchids are being passed out I must not forget to mention Warren Harrold, Cap't. Oakley, and the lad from Mason McDuffie's. They all got in and worked hard, and considering the small crew, did a real job. And last but not least, the County Road Department's loan of the truck and driver and the work of the Boy Scouts. And while I am mentioning the lads that are now being trained to become useful citizens under Scout leadership, I would like to drop a little word that in the near future we are all going to be called to assist in a small financial way, to help these boys on their way and I feel that their call will not be in vain.

Well, I can't leave clean-up day yet, without thinking what a fine idea it was, and that when the Spring Clean-up is announced that we all get out and help and get the ladies to hunt a nice picnic spot and barbecue wienies and serve hot beans and coffee and make a real Orinda celebration out of the event. I'll bet ten dollars Joe Varni would supply a shaded place for the jamboree if we asked him!

To the kind folks of Orinda I close with the wish that 1938 brings to you all health and happiness. —*The Stroller*.

"OUR SCHOOL"

Everyone in the District likes to feel that we have as good, if not just a little better place to send our children than that provided by other districts. Yet, how many of us know anything about our school, its progress, source of income, enrollment, etc.?

Believing that each one of you is interested, the following data is being presented by the Trustees for your study.

The governing body of the District consists of five Trustees, elected by the voters of the District, to serve for a term of three years, without remuneration. The Board of Trustees is governed strictly by the "School Code" of the State of California and supervised by the County Board of Education.

The Orinda Union District was formed by combining Orinda School Dist. No. 1 and No. 2. Roughly it extends to the lower end of the San Pablo Reservoir on the North, to Charles Hill on the East, to Moraga and Canyon Districts on the South, and to the East Portal of the Tunnel on the West.

There are two Class Rooms in the School, each housing four grades. Teaching Staff: one teacher for the first four grades with 43 pupils enrolled, and one teacher for the next four grades with 32 pupils enrolled. To

A goodly number of Orindans were present at the general meeting held on the evening of November 2nd to consider the problems involved in a permanent organization of the Orinda Community Church.

Mr. A. W. Elkinton was appointed a committee of one to select a board of trustees to serve for a period of six months. Mr. Elkinton will call another general meeting when the board has been selected and has formulated a plan of actions.

NEW HOMES

Elizabeth Patterson
23A Orinda Park Terrace
Bradshaw Harrison
518 Haciendas del Orinda.

assist these teachers two student teachers have been secured, without cost, from the Univ. of Calif.

Outstanding Bond Issue: Date of issue, May 1, 1924. Amt. of issue \$22,000.00. Rate of Int. 5%. Retirement, May 1, 1946. Bal. outstanding on June 30, 1937, \$9,000.00.

Note: The Orinda Union School District Tax is one of the lowest Elementary School Tax Rates in the County. Compare this Elementary Tax with our present High School District Tax of \$.877. See Statistical Table at the end of this article.

All school expenditures are budgeted on July first of each year for the following 12-month period. There are two sources of School Income, one the State School Fund derived from State Sales Taxes and the other from the Orinda Union School Tax. The State Allotment is based on the average daily attendance of pupils at the school for the previous year. (Please note — Every day a pupil is absent from school our State Allotment is reduced proportionately.) The State Apportionment for the year July 1, 1937 - 38 has been set at \$4,704.23.

The Orinda School District holds title to the School Building and the School Property, consisting of 3.78 acres.

A school is a business and what business is more important than that of properly housing, educating and training our youngsters? The operation of this "business" takes more thought and time on the many details than most of us realize.

Let us not take the School for granted; give it a little thought and lend your full and whole-hearted co-operation so that we can all point with pride and say, "THAT'S OUR SCHOOL."

Board of School Trustees,
Orinda Union School District.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICAL REPORT OF ORINDA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Year	Assessed Valuation	Elementary School Tax			Average Daily School Attendance
		Oper. & Main.	Bldg. Bonds	Total	
1933	\$ 778,830	.08	.22	.30	26 pupils
1934	781,025	.077	.14	.217	41 pupils
1935	1,206,780	.20	.11	.30	49 pupils
1936	1,360,035	.11	.105	.215	50 pupils
1937	1,632,830	.14	.085	.225	70 pupils

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