

Orinda News

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME II

Orinda, California, July 1, 1938

NUMBER 1

The Orinda, County Fire Protection District

Even before the creation of Orinda, Mr. E. I. de Laveaga maintained certain fire fighting equipment and was organized to protect from fire his lands and improvements. Fire consciousness started then and has continued ever since.

From this start, the Orinda Volunteer Fire Department developed, which for many years was operated by volunteer trustees and firemen, with revenue raised from donations, card parties, dances, etc. The land and the original fire house and equipment was purchased through this fund raising method.

As Orinda grew, more adequate fire protection was necessary, and as a few were paying for the protection of many "The Orinda County Fire Protection District" was created under Act No. 2583, in order that protection from fires could be paid for by all, through a tax levy. (Note: In the following paragraphs the reference to the Fire District means "The Orinda, County Fire Protection District.")

The Fire District was created February 6, 1933, and from this date we would like to give you a financial and operating picture of the Fire District. Up to a few years ago, we were able to give the property owners of the Fire District a periodical word-by-mouth report, but with the advent of so many new residents and property owners and with additional territory annexed to our District, this method of information has become an impossibility.

The *Orinda News* seemed to be the logical and certainly the most economical way to inform you of a few pertinent facts regarding the Fire District, and we are grateful to the *News* for this space.

(Continued on page 2, column 2)

The Goose Step

Have you seen the parade Goose-stepping across Camino Sobrante daily? You will be relieved to learn that it is believed to have no connection with the German Army, but it is a perfect exhibition so far as it goes. Those coming down Camino Sobrante about 8:00 o'clock in the morning, had best use the east road lest they be delayed by the passing of the parade,—of the geese from the lake to the kitchen door of the Country Club. The geese,—and the ducks,—stand on their rights and refuse to yield right of way to autos. It is suspected that Joe Varni is training these fowl to walk into the kitchen and right into the stew pot, but this is merely suspicion. Your reporter has been unable to confirm it.

July Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday, July 1st, All interested in the development of Orinda are invited to attend.

Subject: Report of Mr. Breuner's Education Committee on their plans for a Union High School.

THE STROLLER

I am going to start right off by saying that our Orinda Garage looks pretty swell with its bright coat of paint. We folks now have two fine corners in Orinda to be proud of and before long the flowers and shrubs will be growing in front of the new telephone building. Now if we could get a few street lights along our town site we would have something to crow about. And while compliments are being handed out I think it is time we all rose up and gave a big hand to the ladies of Orinda for the fine community spirit they are all showing. In particular the Parent-Teachers Association for their efforts in starting community dancing. I strolled into the schoolhouse Friday evening and had the surprise of my life. The hall was just crowded with the young folks and also some not so young, but everybody was having a dandy time. You know us oldsters owe it to our children to provide this type of fine, clean entertainment. It gives the lads and lassies a chance to become better acquainted. So, folks, the next time someone asks you to buy a ticket for the monthly dance be sure to do so, and also attend and you will be surprised at the amount of fun you will get out of it. Also have your eyes opened to the fact that you would have to go a long way to find a better looking crowd of boys and girls than we have right here in Orinda.

Now for a bit of scolding. The other day I was walking along a road where the dry grass was both high and thick and I saw one of our Orinda residents toss a lit cigarette out of his car. Well, I stepped on it and thereby removed the danger of fire. I know I feel like the rest of all good Orinda folks in that none of us want to see a bad fire in our hills, so if you would just be careful with your cigar and cigarette ends and smother them in the car before they are tossed on the roads you will thereby remove our greatest natural danger—Fire.

FLASH

We learn just as we go to press that the application for a liquor license at the Willows has been withdrawn.

Orinda Graduates

Graduation exercises were held at the Orinda Union School on Thursday evening, June 16. Eight boys and girls received their diplomas. They were: Jacklyn Mead, Vida Schrover, Diana Van Seekor, Stanley Dorrington, Francis Allen, Herbert Dockman, Kenneth Rosenthal and Tom Snook.

The graduates were entertained at several parties during the two weeks previous to the close of school. The school orchestra played at the graduation program and the girls chorus sang several selections.

New School Trustees

Trustees for the Orinda Union School District were elected on June 3rd, to replace Mrs. Zamloch and Mrs. Sullivan. The successful candidates are J. Stanley Smith and Reuben H. Chase.

New Townsite Owner

Mr. George H. Pitt has taken title to the block of business buildings in the center of Orinda's business district, including properties occupied by Mason McDuffie Co., Warren and Arline Harrold, the Christian Science Society and the Orinda Nursery. The property was sold to him by Arthur E. Corder and P. B. Lynch. Price was not announced. With the growth of Orinda these properties should be increasingly valuable.

Attention Roads Committee

Why, since we seem unable to get a light at the intersection of the Tunnel Road with Orinda Highway, cannot we at least get a reflector button to mark the center of the crossing so as to indicate the center day or night and to reduce the cutting of corners.

Send in News & Personals

Through the courtesy of The Orinda Store the Publicity Committee have a message box in the store in which any communications for the *Orinda News* may be placed.

ORINDA NEWS

Official Publication of the
ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
Advertising Martyn F. Warner
Editorial Staff—Maurine Donaldson, Mildred Hickok,
Lucia deL. Ward, Bernice Warren
South of Tunnel Rd. Correspondent..Mrs. Harry Holt
Publishers.....R. M. Cross, J. J. McMillan
Communications for the News may be left in the
box at the Orinda Store, or given to any of the above
persons.

Improvement Association
Meeting

The regular meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association was held on June 3rd, 1938, President Lowell Berry officiating. Mr. Cruzan, State Editor of the *Oakland Tribune*, was the guest speaker of the evening. Mr. Cruzan, a newspaper man of 30 years' standing, gave an excellent talk of newspaper work in general and, in particular, the effort and service the *Tribune* is putting forth to give Orinda the latest wire news and stock reports daily.

There followed an excellent report by Mr. Harrison Ketcham with a financial statement of the *Orinda News* to date. The cash on hand of the latter, \$50.46, was voted to be redibursed at once to the new chairman, Mr. Martyn Warner. Mr. Warner gave a short talk and announced there would be a message box in the Orinda Store where all news or messages for the *Orinda News* may be placed by those desiring to reach the newspaper.

In the absence of Mr. Guerard, Chairman of Safety and Public Welfare Committee, Mr. Elkinton gave a report of the proceedings at Martinez on June 1st in the Hall of Records, where the application of Roxie Long for a liquor license to operate "Morinda" (the former Willows) was heard. On the following Tuesday the decision would be rendered with the right of either side to appeal. Mr. Ratcliff presented a letter from the firm of Clark, Nichols & Eltse to Mr. Stewart, member of the State Board of Equalization.

In the absence of Mr. Varni, Chairman of Tax and Finance Committee, Mr. Harrold gave a report on the proposed land to be bought from the East Bay Municipal Utility District. Mr. Berry handed the gavel to the Vice-President, Mr. Dennis, and gave an excellent report on the same subject. The substance matter of both talks are covered in the recent pamphlet sent out entitled "A Little School House in Orinda vs. A Big Public Utility."

Discussion followed as to the next course of action to be followed in trying to secure from the E. B. M. U. District a more equitable price on the land needed before work on enlarging the school can be commenced. The Association went on record to ask an opinion from the District Attorney and for him to get an opinion from the U. S. Attorney General Webb. The school work is also awaiting word from P. W. A. funds now being considered in Washington.

Under the heading of New Business it was voted to buy an addressograph for \$45.00 and an additional \$9.00 for stencils. The machine is to be the property of the Improvement Association, but will be assigned to the Publicity Committee.

ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT (Continued)

Since the creation of the Fire District and up to April 20, 1938, the taxpayers of the Fire District have paid in taxes \$7596.72, as follows:

YEAR	AMOUNT
1933-34	\$ 526.74
1934-35	1195.28
1935-36	1825.49
1936-37	1968.23
1937 up to April 20, 1938	2080.98
	\$7596.72

We have to show for the above amount, and allowing for depreciation, a conservative value of land, improvements and equipment amounting to \$9250.00 plus operating expenses for the above years, as follows: (not including our new Fire Hose Wagon.)

Land	\$ 750.00
Improvements (house)	5000.00
Fire fighting equipment	3050.00
House Equipment	450.00
	\$9250.00

Since the creation of the Fire District, the tax rate has been lowered from a high of \$.23 to \$.19 for the year 1937-38 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation, and during that time our home owners have enjoyed two insurance rate reductions, one of ten cents and another of five cents.

We do not feel that we could ask for the required space to give you an operating and expense report for all the years since the Fire District was created, but we are pleased to give you our expenses for the last complete year, July 1, 1936 to June 30, 1937, amounting to \$1933.40, as follows:

Purchase of equipment:	
Truck	\$ 857.40
Stove and water heater	131.80
Fixed charges:	
Insurance	219.24
Water and hydrants	207.33
Electricity	141.53
Heat	12.00
Improvements:	
Bldg., Grounds, Equipment	229.30
Operating:	
Equipment	44.25
Wages	90.55
	\$1933.40

Since the creation of the Fire District we have increased the number of Fire Hydrants in the District from five to ten, and your Board of Fire Commissioners have, for the time being at least, a very definite and, we believe, equitable policy and procedure for the installation of new fire hydrants. Fire hydrants will be installed in any location where the assessed valuation of the improvements within a radius of 500 feet brings in enough money through taxation to pay for the yearly cost of the hydrant, namely \$39.60. We have just completed surveys of several locations and at least five are eligible for fire hydrants, and those hydrants will be installed during the year beginning July 1st, 1938 and June 30th, 1939. The only exception and deviation to this policy is for fill up locations

ORINDA IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

President	Lowell Berry
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Treasurer	George H. Pitt
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Girl Scouts	Mrs. George Hickok
Reception	G. F. Hickok
Music	Mrs. C. J. Cleborne
Membership	Warren Harrold
Publicity	Martyn F. Warner

in remote parts of the Fire District.

Many reasons prompted the addition of a new hose wagon to our equipment costing \$2066.18. The principal reasons are:

1. To combat house fires it was necessary to have at least 1000 feet of large hose available at fires. Our pumper, which is overloaded now, carries only a few hundred feet. Efficiency and speed of both trucks is increased.

2. Recommended by the Board of Fire Underwriters of the Pacific. It is our intention to ask the Board of Fire Underwriters for a new department rating as soon as our new equipment is put into service, and it is hoped that another reduction in insurance rates might be obtained. The insured value of our District is estimated at \$5,000,000.00, so any small saving in insurance rates means many dollars saved for the insured, which saving is spread over the entire Fire District. We are following the recommendations of the Board of Fire Underwriters to the letter.

3. Present indications are that no increase in our fire tax rate is necessary for the purchase of our new hose wagon.

Fire consciousness prohibits us from giving out fire permits promiscuously. All large fires have been traced to carelessness in this matter.

Be fire conscious with us, and help prevent fires.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS:

Warren Harrold, Joe Varni, Bert Dawson, August Reuter, Harry R. Oakley.

Chief: P. R. Donaldson.

CHURCH NOTICES

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday masses at 9:00 a. m. All are welcome.

Santa Maria Church Association meetings held monthly. Next meeting July 5, 8 p. m. at the home of Lieut. Com. J. J. Miffitt, 255 La Espiral. All interested in the welfare of the Chapel are asked to come. Call attendance committee at Orinda 5746 for further information.

ORINDA COMMUNITY

Christian Endeavor for teen age young people meets every Sunday evening at 7:00 o'clock. The services are held in Casa Verano, San Pablo Rd. and El Toyonal. Visitors cordially welcome.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

The Christian Science Society of Orinda holds regular Sunday services at 11:00 a. m. and one evening meeting on the first Wednesday of the month 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.

PERSONALS

A lovely dinner was enjoyed by seven guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Allen on Friday, June 10th. The Allens were entertaining for Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Du Val of Los Angeles where Mr. Du Val is one of the Owl Drug Company officials.

Mrs. Herbert Hauser again welcomed Mrs. Du Val at a luncheon on Wednesday the 14th. Mrs. Hauser is right in the party spirit, having just entertained a few weeks ago 25 of her Moraga neighbors at a picnic and swimming party.

Those Busy George Pitts! With two recent baby showers in Mrs. Pitt's honor, one given by her daughter Mrs. Charles Erskine on June 18th at the Lake Merritt Hotel and the other by Mrs. Les Dana on May 31st at her home, practically all the dainty necessities are awaiting the stork's arrival. Then the week of the 20th Mr. and Mrs. Pitt are having as their house guests Mr. and Mrs. Victor Clinker and their daughter, Annie Laurie, which will mean more parties.

To be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth is said to be something, but to be born with a whole block of business buildings in one's mouth is indeed something "and we mean—really." This does not refer to any Joe E. Brown baby either, but to the anticipated offspring of the George H. Pitts, to welcome whom George has bought the Nursery property and the adjacent stores. Many babies would be satisfied with a nursery at home, but this is to be an exceptional baby.

Mrs. Wm. M. Fleager of Glorietta Blvd. entertained with a luncheon on June 15th. Among the guests were Mrs. Richard Stevenson, Mrs. Wm. Crim, Mrs. Richard Week and Miss Betty Divart.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Huebner of Orchard Road are "showing" this part of California to Mr. Huebner's mother, Mrs. Catherine Huebner and his sister, Mrs. Carl Torgler who are visiting here from Toledo, Ohio. On Sunday June 19th Mr. Huebner's daughter, Mrs. Russell K. Leslie, is honoring the visitors with a tea at their new home on Moraga Highway.

On June 14th Dr. and Mrs. N. Austin Cary of Orchard Road entertained a distinguished guest in the person of Dr. E. M. Van Buskirk, president of the Indiana State Medical Association, who was attending the A. M. A. convention in San Francisco.

Esperanza Chapter D. A. R. held a picnic and swim on Flag Day at the home of Mrs. H. S. Holt, Moraga Highway, at which they entertained ten girls from the Alexander Community House in Oakland.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Elkinton have recently returned from Whittier College where they attended the graduation of their son Fred. Congratulations, Fred.

The H. L. Martins were the hosts of a music recital held at their home, Tuesday evening, June 14. It was the semi-annual performance of the pupils of Miss Jessie Moore of Berkeley. Among those who played were Mable Dorrington, Carol Kales, Jerry Harts, Sylvia and Gordon Martin.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. George Hickok who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Saturday, June 18. Their daughters, Mildred and Virginia, gave a tea in their honor on the following Sunday which many friends from Orinda and the East Bay attended.

Mrs. Lowell Berry entertained recently at a bridge luncheon in her lovely patio.

Summertime has scattered the J. W. Dieterichs far and wide. Bob has gone to spend the summer at Lokoya Boys' Camp near Napa while Jim went East with the California crew as coxwain of the varsity shell. Mr. and Mrs. Dieterich left recently for a tour of Europe. They plan to be gone until August when their friends will be eager to welcome them home.

The 20-30 club of the Oakland Women's City Club were entertained at the Orinda Park early in June. Over thirty ladies enjoyed a day of swimming, picnicing and bridge.

Over a hundred friends were the guests of Mrs. George Ballachey at a large tea held on Tuesday afternoon, June 14, in her lovely home on Camino Don Miguel.

Clifford Pierce and Hazel Dawson are recent graduates of Richmond High while Virginia Hickok received her diploma from Mt. Diablo High School.

With much regret we hear of the exit from Orinda, on the 14th, of the Les Danas. They are moving permanently to Sacramento where Mr. Dana will be in business. They will spend the summer in Carmel before making their new home. Goodbye and Good Luck, Mr. and Mrs. Dana!

Mrs. A. S. Guerard entertained at a small impromptu luncheon at her home on the 8th and ended up the same week with a weekend visit with Mr. Guerard to Yosemite.

Mrs. Francis Shook gave a lovely buffet luncheon at the Claremont Country Club on June 7th, in honor of Mrs. Lewis, wife of General Lewis.

A jolly evening of bridge was enjoyed by eight of their friends in the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. Le Masney on Saturday the 18th. The Owen Gentry's have moved into their new home on La Campaña.

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Sand of Moraga Road are expecting house guests: Mrs. Sand's mother, Mrs. John McCarthy, her son, Thomas and daughter Helen from Dorchester, Mass., also her daughter Mrs. Evelyn Har-meth and daughter Louise from New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley M. Allen of Orchard Road are spending a week's vacation visiting Mr. Allen's parents in Portland, Oregon.

We are very glad to hear that the Breuners are well again after their unfortunate siege of illness.

Mixing pleasure with business is Mildred Hickok who left last week for New York where she will be a counselor in the Girl Scout camp in the Adirondacks. Mildred is a recent graduate of the University of California where she was Women's Representa-

Roll of Honor

The Publicity Committee wishes to thank our advertisers for the support they have given us during this past first year of the Orinda News.

Three of our advertisers have placed copy in every one of the twelve issues of Volume I, they are:

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We urge all of our readers to think "Orinda News" when planning a shopping list, or looking for service.

Scout News

Both the Girl and Boy Scout troops ended their spring seasons with Courts of Honor held at the school. The girls who received honors were Vida Schrover, Connie Pierson, Kathleen Sullivan, Lillie Dorrington, Diana Van Seekor, Jacklyn Mead, Barbara Powell and Nancy Soule.

Merit badges were awarded to the following Boy Scouts: Kenneth Holcomb, Pat Rosenthal, Tom Snook.

The Cub group finished their activities with a day at Lake Merritt on a sail boat party.

Warning

We have it on the authority of one of our good Orinda ladies that when one borrows an automobile it is desirable to memorize the license plate number. It saves a lot of worry and time after the car has been parked with a lot of others on a busy city street.

BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Construction Started

Lee Paul Moraga Highway
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Building Permits

J. C. Colombel Lot 607 El Verano
G. M. Heinrich Lot 465 Los Dedos

New Sales

William H. Geraghty.....Lot 495, La Espiral
J. R. Marden Lot 636, Camino Don Miguel
Earl De Soto Lot 162, La Cuesta
Ruth Mufin Via Floreada
M. J. Connelly El Verano
Allen Walthey Los Dedos
Eugene Schlatterbeck Oak Springs

tive of the student body. We know she'll have a grand time.

Jack Fatooh Jr. left June 15th for a visit with his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Samuel E. Boys in Plymouth, Indiana. He expected to stop, enroute, in Salt Lake City and Chicago for sightseeing. He plans to drive west in August with his grandparents by way of Yellowstone National Park. Mr. and Mrs. Boys will spend the month of September with the Fatoohs in Orinda.

We are sorry to report that Mrs. Elizabeth H. Chantler, mother of Clarence B. Chantler of Moraga Estate passed away recently. The funeral was held June 20th.

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