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Association To Have Talk On Water District

The December meeting of the Improvement Association will feature a representative of the East Bay Municipal Utility District who will lead a discussion of our water district. This will follow the plan set up by Owen Dibbern, chairman of the program committee, to present representatives of each of the public bodies serving Orinda at meetings of the Improvement Association.

An account of the history of bringing mountain water to the East Bay will be given; also facts about filtering stations distributing systems and other plants of the district. Members and guests are cordially invited to this meeting. Questions will be in order.

Improved Roads In Orinda

County roads in Orinda are being improved by county appropriation and W.P.A. funds. The turn on Camino Sobrante opposite the Rodwell residence has been widened to a 175-foot radius curve and is held by a 120-foot rubble rock retaining wall of an average six feet height. This curve replaces the old 65-foot radius curve, and also eliminates four curves on the old alignment. The fill for this work was made possible by 20,000 cubic yards of material excavated and hauled from the school ground.

The bridge on Miner Road above the Santa Maria chapel has been replaced by a 40-foot galvanized iron pipe leaving a roadway of 40 feet. It is planned to extend the 84-inch culvert which crosses the road opposite the 10 fairway. This is to be lengthened and portions of the creek filled in, thus straightening out a dangerous alignment.

Camino Sobrante on Cascade Lake one-fourth mile northeast of the clubhouse has a dangerous curve which is to be straightened out and the surface oiled.

Through the courtesy of the directors of the East Bay Municipal Utility District the county has acquired fifteen feet on either side of the old right of way on the San Pablo Dam Highway, giving the county an 80-foot right of way. Fence lines have been moved where possible and a 1000-foot radius curve will replace three reverse curves on the old road. Some 10,000 cubic yards of fill material have been hauled from the school grounds and placed in the fill.

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December Meeting Notice

The next Regular Meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday, Dec. 1, at 8 p. m. in the Orinda School Building.

THE STROLLER

Sharp, crisp mornings in Orinda invite hundreds of migratory birds who have left their summer quarters in the mountains and are headed for temperate climes for their winter resorts. Cottoneaster or pyracanthus berries or a feeding station in your garden will attract them by the dozens and afford an interesting study for even the novice. Robins are probably the most familiar, with their characteristic perkiness and song.

The dwarf hermit thrush, brown with its gray and white speckled breast, is a friendly little bird with a bold and inquiring manner. Another visitor is the black phoebe who is sooty black, about seven inches long, with a white belly cut by a black "V".

The Audubon warbler has blue-gray upper parts streaked with black, and a rump and throat of bright yellow. Of the goldfinches, two of the three varieties found in California are to be seen here in the winter. The green-black goldfinch has a black head, a

(Continued on page 2, col. 2)

Xmas Tree Competition

An outdoor Christmas tree competition will be held again in Orinda. Sponsored by the board of trustees of the Improvement Association, the idea was presented last year for the first time here by George Pitt, who will serve this year as chairman of the committee.

No formal entry is required. The committee will make two circuits of the community, but if you live off the beaten path, it would be well to phone George Pitt and tell him where to find your symbol of Christmas spirit. There will be prizes and the school will be asked to cooperate with appropriate posters to arouse interest. President Ralph Sisson urges all to participate in order to make this one of Orinda's most pleasing traditions.

Trustees Work on Plans To Build Acalanes High

Conferring with Dr. Chas. Bursch, Chief of the Division of School House Planning of the State Department of Education and the County Supt. of Schools, J. O. Wilson, the Board of Trustees of the Acalanes High School met Nov. 15 at the Lafayette school. Discussed were preliminary plans for the new building as presented by the architects, Ernest Kemp, Jr. and Keith Narbutt.

Serious consideration is being given to the plans for the use of the school to be adapted as a public social center with tennis courts, and auditorium and adequate athletic facilities.

At the next meeting the Board will further consider some 60 to 80 applications for the principalship. These are being very carefully studied so that the man best qualified may secure the position.

In making the surveys for the building construction it was found that the school site comprises some of the 22 flattest acres in this district, and as a result the grading costs will be considerably less than anticipated.

The Board is bending every effort to open school in the fall of 1940. This will be facilitated by constructing the building by units so that the most important ones may be finished first.

Due to the fact that the "Ham and Eggs" bill was defeated, the county supervisors expect to get a better price and lower interest rate on the bids for the high school bonds. The bids will be let December 4.

P. T. A. ANNOUNCES PROGRAM

Miss Leone Gurvey, of the children's department of the Berkeley Public Library will speak on "Children's Books in Relation to Christmas" at the meeting of the P. T. A. to be held at 1:30, Dec. 19 at the school. Orinda students will sing carols and the refreshment committee will serve tea.

The annual Christmas party of the P. T. A. will be held Thursday evening, Dec. 21 at the school. There will be a program and Santa Claus will distribute presents to all the children.

If you receive the Orinda News addressed to you personally, not as "Box Holder", and wish to remain on the mailing list, notify Richard Cross, 10 Bonita Lane, Orinda, by January first.

ORINDA NEWS

Official Publication of the
ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL

Mrs. George Pitt has been rendering the valley a more than neighborly service as an unofficial employment agency. There was a time when we had an employment problem, and Mrs. Pitt as chairman of the Employment Committee undertook to find work for our local unemployed. She did such a splendid job that the problem soon came to be one of shortage of help in home and garden. Somehow the flood of new residents found their way to Mrs. Pitt and enlisted her aid in securing help from the outside. Now this has passed the range of the good neighbor and is a problem for a licensed employment agency. Wouldn't this prove to be a fine opportunity for the expansion of a local business?
—Ralph Sisson.

GIRL SCOUT PROGRAM

At a recent meeting of the Orinda Girl Scout troop, officers were elected: Patricia Lax, treasurer; Jean Norton, scribe; Joyce Herzog, to take care of the troop scrap book. The Lone Wolf patrol chose Betty Jean Farrar patrol leader, and Joan Norton, assistant patrol leader, while the Clover patrol elected Nancy Harrold patrol leader and Betty Lou Bennett assistant patrol leader.

The troop had charge of the flag ceremony at the dedication of the new Orinda grammar school. Betty May Pfeiffer acted as color bearer with Nancy Campbell and Patricia Lax as color guards.

Honoring National Girl Scout Sunday on October 29, the Brownie Girl Scout pack, with the Orinda Girl Scouts attended church services at the Orinda Community Church. Dr. Miles B. Fisher talked to the girls on the subject of "Life Is Becoming" and emphasized the value of the word "Promise."

As a troop project the girls are making puppets and hope to present two skits as a finale of this work for their sponsors, the Orinda P. T. A., after the first of the year.

As their part in making others happy at the Thanksgiving time, the Troop made home-made candy and attractive bags to be included in boxes the school gave to the needy.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild of the Orinda Community Church will hold its regular meeting Tuesday, December 5, at 12:30 at the home of Mrs. George F. Hickok, 88 El Toyonal. Mrs. Kirt Miles, dramatic reader and teacher, graduate of Mills College, will present a Christmas play entitled "Family Relations." A special invitation is issued to all members and friends to come and enjoy this delightful program.

THE STROLLER (Continued)

greenish back, under parts greenish yellow. Its wings are black with a white patch on each wing. The willow gold-finch is marked by a black forehead, wings of black with white bars, and the rest is bright yellow.

Red-breasted sap-suckers have crimson heads, necks and breasts, with backs and wings of black spotted with white, and the rump is whitish.

Oregon juncos are about five inches in length with the head, neck and breast of black; the back and wings are brown and the tail is black with the two outer feathers of white.

Cedar waxwings are tailored looking birds with silken plumage around seven inches long. The upper parts shade from rich cinnamon to ashy gray on the tail. The wing feathers are often red-tipped and the tail feathers frequently yellow-tipped.

Varied thrushes are called Oregon robins. Their distinctive feature is a black collar across an orange-brown breast. The upper parts are slate-gray, with a stripe of orange behind the eye. The outer tail feathers are tipped with white so that they are apparent only when the bird is in flight.

The nut hatch is black on the top of the head and neck. The back and middle tail feathers are blue-gray. It has a short tail. The sides of the head and under parts are white and its bill is long and slender.

Perhaps with these few identifying features of the more common of our winter visitors the average resident will be able to look for and identify a few of them and in so doing find a certain satisfaction in years to come in recognizing them as old friends.

Do you know anyone, perhaps yourself, who feels that if he were only given a chance he could out-Hamlet Barrymore or out-Romeo Gable or at least put more slap into Chaplin? If so, now is your golden opportunity, for Mrs. G. A. Woods of 44 La Vuelta has offered her services to the community as an organizer of a dramatic group open to all ages. The only requirement is that you must want to act, not that you can, so if you feel the histrionic urge phone Mrs. Woods at Orinda 5581. Mrs. Melvin Jacobus has offered her barn as a playhouse. Can't you see Orinda written up in "Life" in the future as the center of the rural Little Theater movement in California?

PLANS MADE FOR CHURCH NITE

The Orinda Community Church will hold an interesting "Church Nite" Wednesday evening, December 13, at 8 o'clock. Dr. Miles Fisher will deliver the third in his series of lectures on "The Bible as Literature," dealing with the poetry of the Bible. There will be community singing and light refreshments. All members and friends are urged to be present. This "Church Nite" is being planned in the interest of those who feel they cannot attend service on Sunday, but would like to participate in the church services.

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ASSOCIATION HEARS MEESE

"The History of the Assessor's Office" was the subject of the address given by George A. Meese, county assessor of Contra Costa County, before the November meeting of the Improvement Association.

Meese told of his many interesting experiences during the years he has been county assessor since 1907 and even prior to that date when he was deputy in the Assessor's office.

The speaker also discussed the present methods of taxation and told of the effect of the growth and development of the community on the present tax rate. He pointed out that the increase in taxes is due to the demand of the citizens for increased government services which were unheard of a few years ago. Special taxes for various districts comprise the largest part of our taxes. He stated that nobody wants high taxes but everybody wants those things that bring about a higher tax rate.

A short business meeting preceded Meese's address conducted by President Ralph Sisson. Committee reports and announcements were made. It was announced that regular meetings of the Red Cross were being held every Wednesday at 10 a. m. at the Orinda School during which sewing was being done. An invitation was extended to all Orinda women to join.

CHURCH NOTICES

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. Reading room open every Wednesday from two to four o'clock. Everyone welcome.

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Services at Casa Verano, El Toyonal and Orinda Highway—Sunday School at 9:30 a. m., Church worship at 11:00 a. m. Dr. Miles B. Fisher, pastor. Christian Endeavor for 'teen age young people at 7 p. m. New residents and visitors in the community cordially welcome to all services.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday morning Masses the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at 10 o'clock and the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 8 o'clock.

Santa Maria Church Association Meetings held monthly. Next meeting December 5th at the home of Charles Malone on Loma Vista Dr., Orinda. For further information call Attendance Committee, Orinda 4351.

PERSONALS

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cross will be glad to hear that they are returning to their home at 10 Bonita Lane in Orinda on December 1. The Crosses have been residing in Berkeley for the past year.

Elizabeth Hazel Mayo has been the house guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Mayo of Los Cascadas for the past two weeks. Miss Mayo makes her home in Honolulu where she is employed by the Territorial Board of Health.

Orindans have been contributing to the support of the transport lines on this continent; among them are Clay Sorrick who recently returned from a hurried trip to Chicago, Harold Martin who flew to New York this past month, Miles York who left for New York Nov. 9 and will be there until just before Christmas, Owen Dibbern who returned from the east coast and points west a week ago, and Fred Elkinton who returned the 19th from Philadelphia. Swale Gordon also traveled to New York on business last month.

Patsy Zamloch who has been seriously ill with pneumonia, is much better and shows signs of improvement daily. Patsy has been at Alta Bates hospital for the past weeks. Her friends will welcome her return to her home and good health again.

James W. Snook of El Toyonal Road has been appointed sales manager of the weather-strip division for the Roll-Away Window Screen Company of Berkeley.

On October 21 a son was born to Major and Mrs. John Leslie Jones. The little baby weighed seven and one-half pounds and will be called John Haynes. His mother is the sister of Mrs. Stuart Campbell of Dias Doradas and will probably be a resident of Orinda for some time in the future. His father is stationed with the British Army at Delhi, India. Mrs. Jones will join her husband when war conditions permit.

Friends of Warren Harrold will be glad to hear that he is home and feeling much better after a month in the hospital. His doctor has ordered a nice long rest for this man who does so much for the betterment of our community.

The sad-faced yell leaders and bulldog mascot on the cover of the November 18 Satevepost was painted by none other than our local artist, Lonie Bee, of whom we are justly proud. Good work, Mr. Bee. We like the smoothness of your style as well as the humor of the idea.

Mrs. Ernest J. Hadden was one of the people who helped to close the Fair on Treasure Island and she did it in a unique way. Her aunt, Mrs. R. L. Craig, and her cousin, R. H. Craig, flew up from their home in Los Angeles and were met by Mrs. Hadden at Mills Field. The two women spent the day looking at the Fair in a wheel chair and saw everything they wanted in one day. Mr. V. H. Tuttle of Watsonville, an uncle of Mrs. Hadden, met the trio at the Yerba Buena Club for lunch and celebrated a family reunion as well as their visit to the Fair. The visitors all returned that night to their homes by plane.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Woolsey spent the week-end of November 3 in Los Angeles.

Harold Martin took a plane east and flying at night he did business during the day in Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburg and New York all in eleven days. Literally, a flying trip. Mrs. Martin met her husband on Saturday, November 11, at the Oakland airport from where they left to spend the week-end at Pebble Beach.

We have a Bing Crosby at Orinda. Chester Williams has been seen constantly at Bay Meadows and we wondered why until the mystery was finally solved when his ownership of a race horse was revealed. The rumor goes that Williams' horse is a better man than any of Bing's as he won a race recently.

Donald Ross of Honolulu, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. J. Stanley Smith of 17 Dias Doradas is now residing with his grandparents at Orinda while attending the University of California during his junior year. Ross formerly attended Dartmouth.

The Junior Assembly, which consists of high school residents of Orinda, had a progressive dinner Saturday, November 18.

Mrs. James H. Anderson of Via Hermosa left November 15 for the East to attend the wedding of her sister in New Jersey. On her way back, Mrs. Anderson will meet her husband at El Paso, who is motoring there with his mother, Mrs. J. H. Anderson Sr. From there they will drive to Mexico City, where they will spend about a month and will return to Orinda about the first of the year.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gibbons of Via Farallon with their two little girls, Katherine and Elizabeth, spent the Nov. 11th holiday with Mrs. Gibbons' parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Clark, at their home in Sutter Creek, Amador County.

GARDEN CLUB DISCUSSION

"Pottery and its Relation to the Garden" was the subject of a demonstration and discussion by Kay Kinney at the Nov. meeting of the Orinda Garden Club which was presided over by Mrs. C. E. Chapman, president. The history of the art of pottery making was outlined by Mrs. Kinney as well as the various methods of construction, firing, and glazing.

Examples of various types of pottery were shown, some her own work and some of her pupils'. Among the latter group was a figure for a garden shrine which was executed by Mrs. Miles F. York. It is the figure of a Chinese girl about 18" tall, with stylized flowers at her feet and in her hand. Mrs. Kinney, originally from Carmel, where she conducted a studio, now has classes in the Garrett Building in Lafayette.

IMPROVED ROADS (Continued)

The high point of the grade between the Cross Roads and the school house will be excavated in order to provide for ample vision. The new alignment here will have only one curve. It will be necessary to put in an extensive channel change in order to protect the the new embankment. Excavation for this is now completed and the walls are being ripped with rock from the state quarry on the Tunnel Road.

DECEMBER GARDEN NOTES

December is the month for starting cuttings of many kinds. All dormant roses, fuchsia, crepe myrtle, privet and mock orange may be started at this time. In making rose cuttings the cutting should be about the diameter of a pencil and well matured from last season's growth. Seeds to be sown in flats at this time include sand verbena, snapdragon, columbine, English daisy, wall flower, coreopsis, calliopsis, larkspur, sweet William, stock, penstemon and pansy. Seeds which may be sown in the open ground now are sweet alyssum, clarkia, California poppy, godetia, sweet peas, lupin, nemesia, nemophila (baby blue-eyes), mignonette. Bulbs and roots which may be planted in December include: Aconite, Peruvian lily, amaryllis belladonna, anemone, convallaria, cyclamen, dicentra, galanthus, ixia, peony, platycodon, ranunculus, gloxinia, tulips, watsonia and callas. Ageratum and begonia may be transplanted in December.

New School Board Member

The Board of Trustees regrets the resignation of Stanley Smith as a member of the Board. Frank Bryant has been appointed by County Superintendent of School, B. O. Wilson to fill this vacancy. For his unflinching efforts in the construction of our new school building the Board and the community is indebted to Stanley Smith.

NEWCOMERS ARE WELCOMED

Rentals

Mr. and Mrs. Haley, the Druhe house on Via Floreado.

W. J. Townsend and bride, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fee on Orinda Hiway.

Lots Purchased

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Knowlton on El Sueño.

Moved Into New Home

Mrs. Jeanne Sellers on El Toyonal.

Permits to Build

Lieutenant and Mrs. S. G. Chapman on Camino Sobrante.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Winger on Miner Road.

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Hunter, Jr., on Mira Flores.

Mr. and Mrs. I. I. Stewart on El Toyonal.

Mr. and Mrs. K. J. Henning on Loma Vista.

Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Perkins on Ardilla.

Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Irwin on La Noria.

Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Calahan on Las Vegas. W. H. Geraghty, La Espiral; H. T. Doten, via Hermosa; Talbot Evans, El Pulgar; Robert Rose, La Noria; H. Prather, Ardilla Road; L. R. Wright, Mira Monte; H. P. Atkinson, Orinda Highway.

GROUP TO HAVE BAZAAR

The Twelve-Fifteen Club of Orinda announces a bazaar to be held at the school on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 11 to 5 p. m. There will be pieces of hand work, candy, potted plants, a spider web grab bag, and a hand-made quilt which will be raffled off. Come and buy your Christmas gifts.

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