

# Orinda News

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME I

Orinda, California, April 1, 1938

Number 10

## April 2—Clean-Up Day

Saturday afternoon, April 2, is the time set by our Mr. John Zuur, chairman of the Cleanup committee, for our regular village Spring cleaning. This event will be an opportunity to give your community spirit a good workout and we all expect that our village "neck and ears" will reward us by a greatly improved appearance. So show up at about 12:30 with sleeves rolled up.

The junction of San Pablo Highway and El Toyonal will be the starting point, and the activities will extend west along the highway and up Miner Road. Mr. Zuur says he will be prepared to supply tools as well as moral and physical encouragement to all. He will be assisted by a detail of Boy Scouts and as many of our residents as are willing to contribute their help.

Someone offered the suggestion at the last Association Meeting that the Girl Scouts might cool the fevered brows with lemonade. It sounds possible and inviting.

Certainly our committee chairman "Johnny" is to be congratulated on the efficient way he has handled his job in the past, and for the loyal support he has shown at the Association meetings. Incidentally he stated at the last meeting that he had about 30 fine young flowering cherry trees which he would like to present to any of the members who would care to have them. Women and children came first in the stampede which followed and Johnny's grin of pleasure was worth the year's dues.

## Helpful Knowhow

Here's a tip from our resourceful Mr. Harry Mortimer for an inexpensive concrete retaining wall where beauty is of secondary importance. You can make it yourself, and it will certainly endure. No forms needed. Simply stir up a rich dry concrete mix and shovel it into sacks. Tie sacks closed and stack them in the shape desired. You can go a step further by skewering them together with bars of reinforcing steel, if you like, but in either case natural moisture or a light sprinkling will in a few days give a wall that stays put.

## Do You Need Help?

There are three or four very deserving people in this neighborhood who are greatly in need of work. If you have need of any casual labor, get in touch with the *Orinda News* and we will give you the information.

## April Meeting Notice

The next regular meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Fri., April 1st, at 8 p. m. in the Orinda School auditorium.

## Our County Officials

At our next Improvement Association meeting to be held Friday, April 1st, 1938, it will again be our privilege as has been our custom for several years, to welcome the officials who handle our County business.

Theirs is not an easy task, certainly not one of idleness, large salaries, easy money or co-operative assistance; but quite to the contrary. The demand upon their time by the thousands of our people who are constantly advising them how this and that should be done, precludes any chance of idleness. Large salaries are not theirs and if we stop to consider the expense of holding office which is really tremendous, their net return would be a small consideration. They have literally thousands of bosses, many with selfish desires, which makes co-operative assistance almost impossible.

We, as Contra Costans, have many things to be thankful for, due to the diligence of our County officials. They are not only honest and faithful in the performance of their duties, but they are also intelligent and responsive to the wishes and needs of our people.

The industrial and agricultural expansion in our County, our debt-free county buildings, our improved transportation facilities, the effective health and safety programs, our progressive educational opportunities, our low tax rate, the high reputation of our county services, the continuous sponsorship and careful planning for the conservation of our natural resources for both material use and beauty, the wise handling of our many difficulties through these troublesome years are some of the many achievements which attest the high calibre and integrity of our County Officials.

We are all proud of the many fine accomplishments of our County Officials, grateful for their devoted service and appreciative of the loyal cooperative efforts and assistance given our community. May their good work continue.

—WARREN HARROLD.

## Rural Delivery Extensions To Begin April 1st

On April 1, 1938 several extensions of the rural route will be made to give delivery service to the residences of a considerable number of patrons.

The extensions will be over the following streets:

1. Cañon Drive, one half mile west from El Toyonal to Twin Springs Trail.
2. La Noria Drive, from its eastern to its western junction with Camino Sobrante, thence northwest on Camino Sobrante to La Espiral.
3. La Campaña, two-tenths miles north to the junction of La Punta.
4. La Espiral, north and east from the junction with La Campaña to Las Vegas, making a complete loop on Las Vegas, thence westerly on lower La Espiral to Las Aromas. (Omitting present travel on La Vuelta.)
5. Las Aromas, easterly to Las Cascadas thence southwest on Las Cascadas to Camino Sobrante.
6. Acalanes Road, south from Tunnel Road a distance of seven-tenths miles.

Boxes may be moved after the mail delivery on March 31, and relocated on the right hand side of the road in the direction of travel of the carrier. They must be set so the base of the box is three feet, 10 inches above the ground level. The box should be set off the road but the approach to it must be kept gravelled so that it is accessible by auto at all times. Your name and house number should be painted on the box. This should be on the same side of the box as the Flag, so it may be seen as the carrier approaches.

## Orinda Park, Inc. News

The Orinda Recreation Center, so long a dream of our community, opens this month according to the announcement made by A. W. Elkinton, Chairman of the Pool Committee on the West side. Orinda Park, Incorporated is authorized to conduct a swimming pool and recreation center for the benefit of the people of Orinda. It is further authorized to sell memberships for the financing of the project. Memberships are now being sold and entitle the holder to free use of the park and pool. Membership privileges include the family, permanent household, and unmarried children of the membership holder. A fee of 25c is attached to each guest card, bearing the date, the name of the guest and the name of sponsor. These cards will be collected at the gate of the park and will be filed for future reference. Mr. Elkinton pointed out that memberships in the Park are limited and that they will be available

(Continued on page 3, col. 2)



# ORINDA NEWS

Official Publication of the  
ORINDA  
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

## OFFICERS

President \_\_\_\_\_ Warren Harrold  
Vice President \_\_\_\_\_ Lowell Berry  
Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Donald Badgley  
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Roads and Highway ..... R. V. Miller  
Transportation ..... Owen S. Dibbern  
Entertainment ..... Joe Varni  
Reception ..... Harry R. Oakley  
Music ..... Mrs. Beatrice Cleborne

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Uniform Road Signs ..... Ralph Sisson  
Tree Planting ..... Martyn F. Warner  
Clean Up ..... John Zuur  
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.

Advertising rates available upon application to Mrs. Geo. H. Pitt, Orinda 5746.

## President's Annual Report

Article VII, Section 5 (a) of the "By-Laws of our Orinda Improvement Association" reads: "The President shall make a written report at the Annual Meeting in March, filing a type-written copy with the Secretary."

In submitting this, my annual report, I cannot help but give the utmost praise to the officers, committee men and women and to the entire membership of our association. Our officers and committee men and women have cheerfully and willingly given their time without remuneration, to accomplish their assigned tasks and our members have always given us a good attendance at our meetings, during fair or rainy weather, and have always been willing to lend assistance, both voluntarily and when called upon.

It is with pride that I report that for nine consecutive meetings all officers have attended each meeting with only one exception, and in that case the officer's report was prepared and submitted, even though he was away on business at the time. This, in itself, is quite a record.

The progress of our Association has been told you at length each month through articles appearing in our paper the ORINDA NEWS, so I will only briefly review it.

Through the splendid efforts of our Membership committee, headed by George Pitt and consisting of Kenneth Allen, Les Dana, A. M. Sands and Harry R. Oakley, our membership up to February 4th, 1938, totaled 207 members, an increase of approximately 150 members. The greater and more unified our membership, the greater our accomplishments can be.

Our Reception committee has also played an important part in our welfare. Mr. Harry Oakley, assisted by Mrs. Anna Elkinton and Mrs. E. I. de Laveaga have always had the auditorium ready for our meetings, have welcomed and introduced new members and guests, instilling in our membership a warm and friendly attitude.

Many of you attended the enjoyable association parties given by Joe Varni, chairman of our Entertainment committee. His co-workers on this committee include David Jones, Marguerita Keesling, Reuben Chase, Mrs. Harry

Oakley, Sidney Rosenthal, Mrs. George Harrison and many others who have given cheerful assistance. The increase in the funds of our association from \$18.37 on hand June 1, 1937 to \$318.95 on hand February 4, 1938 is due to the fine cooperative work of this committee.

I know that the residents and property owners of this community have been given more information than ever before, through the publication of our ORINDA NEWS, and I believe, also, that publicity through other channels has given this community greater and more favorable recognition than it ever had before. Harrison Ketcham, chairman and his wife Gladys Ketcham, Maurine Donaldson, Dick Cross, J. J. McMillan and Mrs. George Pitt have certainly done a wonderful job. The publishing of our ORINDA NEWS has aided in our increased membership and larger treasury, created a friendlier feeling within our community and has helped all of our committees in their efforts.

It was reported that in one month the bus travel from Orinda to San Francisco on busses operated by the Sacramento Northern Railway, increased 100%. This was due entirely to the determined efforts of our Transportation committee, consisting of Mr. Owen S. Dibbern, chairman, Reuben Chase, A. L. Scott, Jr., C. B. Chantler and H. S. Holt. Letters sent to our membership relative to the transportation question and bus schedules, distributed throughout Orinda, without cost to our association, speak for the efforts of this committee.

The sanitary problems of our community have been ably handled by Ray Dennis, chairman of our Health and Public Welfare committee. Those serving with him on this committee are: Virginia Scott, Stanley Smith, Mrs. R. M. Cross, August Manasse, H. P. Atkinson. This committee has reported to our association, after exhaustive study, that a sewer system in our community is out of the question for some time to come, but that a temporary State inspection system is now in effect, and that the question of a county wide building and inspection ordinance which this committee and at the suggestion of this committee, our entire association has endorsed, is being followed up diligently. Through cooperation with the Health department of Contra Costa county, this committee abated or removed several unhealthy conditions in our community.

Camino Sobrante from San Pablo Highway to the junction of Miner Road is now a part of the County road system. Our Road committee composed of Robert V. Miller, chairman, Dick de Laveaga, W. P. Stephenson and Jim Brockhurst, aided in this accomplishment. This committee has worked for the completion of the Wildcat Creek road, from San Pablo Highway to Tilden Park Golf Course, has studied the question of Road Districts for our community, has had "School Go Slow" signs painted on our highway in front of the school, and is now working on the maintenance of Orinda Highway lights and Cross Road lighting.

I am sure the entire membership appreciates and enjoys the songs that our Music committee, headed by Mrs. Beatrice Cleborne, has rendered for us on many occasions both at our meetings and at entertainments.

When the owners of the Park and Pool on Orinda west side made it possible for the community to do away with a public pool and park, the committee of which A. W. Elkinton is chairman, with Joe Varni, Mrs. Bert Dawson, Earl Norton, Mrs. George Hickok, Mrs. H. W. Harrold, H. L. Gilkey, Dr. Jack Cathcart, Mrs. Wilhelmine Loughrey and A. S. Guerard lost no time in organizing a community recreation center for our own people. Orinda Park, Inc. is incorporated under the laws of the State of California, and by April 1st, of this year, will be operating for our benefit. We all know what an asset that will be.

The addition of the property known as Moraga Estates to the Orinda Fire District was ably handled by Herbert Hauser, chairman of the committee, South of the Tunnel Road, of which Dr. Cary and F. T. Wood are members. This move enabled those building in Moraga Estates to obtain a lower insurance rate and

gave the entire fire district greater assessed valuation.

Mr. John Zuur, chairman of our Clean-Up committee, did a good job in cleaning up our townsites. The County supplied a truck and driver without charge and some of the Boy Scouts and a few citizens helped Mr. Zuur. It is hoped that this work can be extended to cover more territory in the future, and that more scouts and citizens will offer to help.

One hundred and fifty shade trees have been planted along San Pablo Highway, thanks to the efforts of Martyn F. Warner, chairman of this committee assisted by Mrs. E. L. Mathy and Mr. Alex B. Hayward and, of course, all those who generously donated trees for this project.

Mr. Ralph Sisson took care of his "Incorporation of our association assignment" to the entire satisfaction of our members.

Our two other sectional committees, the East Side of Orinda, consisting of G. B. Schuyler, chairman, H. B. Symes, Chester N. Williams, R. L. Palmer, Frank Kales, Ross Mack, Helen P. Stephenson, Mrs. E. L. Mathy, H. A. Haworth; and the North West of Orinda committee, comprising Sydney K. Rosenthal, chairman, H. L. Mortimer, Mrs. J. J. Smeltz, and F. J. Allen have been given no assignments, so there is nothing to report. Other community benefits accomplished through co-operating with other organizations are, a resident deputy sheriff, better and more public utilities, better fire protection, improved elementary school facilities and aid to boy scout troop.

For the members of the association, and personally, I desire to thank most gratefully the officers, committees and members of this association for their splendid work during the past nine months. Their efforts have greatly benefited us all.

Before closing my report, I would like to make the following recommendations for your consideration and endorsement:

1. **The appointment of a Tax committee**, to study all tax levying bodies before budgets are prepared each year, in order that our members and residents can see our complete yearly tax picture in advance.

I believe, through such a committee, that our tax rate stands a better chance of being stabilized. For instance, if this committee knows that our County or High School taxes are going to be increased in any one year, it might be that some of our other tax levying bodies, such as the fire district, the school districts or the water district could decrease for the same year. If all our tax levying bodies became over-ambitious in the same year, our taxes could increase materially.

2. **A card index of our membership**, showing name, address, occupation, telephone number, hobbies, preference in sports and other data that would be beneficial in the appointment of committees.

3. **The adoption of a yearly clean-up week.**

4. **The adoption of a fiesta week**, such as California Poppy Week at Orinda.

5. **The creation of a special committee** to raise funds for our pro-rata of our Boy Scout Troop.

6. **And last but not least, a continuance** of the splendid work toward solving the many important problems and making the needed improvements in our community, namely: better school facilities, both high and elementary; proper Cross-Road lighting; better and wider roads; sanitation; beautification; community playgrounds; our own Town Hall, suitable for a meeting place for our association, for dances, theatrical programs, and the like, together with better fire protection; lower insurance rates; added transportation and continued publicity.

Respectfully submitted,  
WARREN HARROLD, President,  
Orinda Improvement Association.

**REMINDER...** The Tree Committee has done a good job. They would like to close their books, so if you have forgotten your subscription, please hurry!



## PERSONALS

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Sibbett of 84 La Espiral Rd., on the arrival of a daughter at their home on March 3, 1938. Our best wishes to "Your Little Bundle of Joy."

Mr. and Mrs. L. Schaeffer of S. F. were house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Gilman of 6 Los Altos Road over the weekend of Feb. 27th.

Mrs. H. McCarthy of S. F., sister of Mrs. L. Berry has been her house guest for several days. Mrs. McCarthy was a guest at the Santa Maria Church Association Meeting held at the home of Mrs. Geo. H. Pitt on Tuesday, March 8th.

Mrs. S. V. Campbell recently left for New York, accompanying her sister Mrs. Jane Jones and her two children. They are sailing for India via England for several weeks' stay.

Donald R. Moore, nephew of Mrs. C. E. Donaldson is visiting here from West Mideaux, Penn.

Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Bryant have given up their quarters at the Orinda Country Club recently. They have moved into their three acre homesite in the Cotton Ranch Area. "Happy Landing, F. D."

Mrs. Stuart Moser was elected Captain of the Orinda Women Golfers. Her appointments were as follows: Mrs. W. A. Chick, treasurer; Mrs. Preston Higgins, secretary; Miss Maurine Donaldson, handicapper and Mrs. Margaret Hotchkiss, alternate. We are very proud of our Orinda Women Golfers. See the "Orindian" for some perfect scores.

Mr. Herman Reisman is recovering nicely from injuries he sustained when his truck was run into recently.

Mr. Leo. Levy of the *Oakland Tribune* has purchased one and one-fourth acres from Mr. Sanborne in the Moraga Highlands and will start to build in the near future.

Congratulations to Mr. Sidney K. Rosenthal upon his advancement to Chairman of the Court of Honor Committee of the Boy Scouts for the Eastern Division of Contra Costa County.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Hubbard entertained two hundred at tea Sunday the 6th, honoring Admiral Edward Hale Campbell and wife who have recently returned from the Orient. Their son, Mr. E. Campbell and wife arrived from Seattle in time to share honors with their parents.

## WHIST BENEFIT

**Announcement**—Whist Party given for the benefit of the Orinda Girl Scout Camp Fund, Saturday evening, April 9th at the Orinda School at 8 p.m. Tickets now on sale. The members of their Finance Committee consist of Mrs. W. Harrold, Mrs. J. Schwoer and Mrs. L. Farrar.

## BENEFIT CARD PARTY

**Announcement**—Card Party given at St. Mary's College by the Santa Maria Association of Orinda for the benefit of the Little Chapel. The date is Saturday, April 30th. The Committee in charge of arrangements are Mrs. Harrell Ward, Mrs. J. Miller and Mr. Geo. H. Pitt. Tickets can be secured after April 18th.

## THE STROLLER

You know, folks, it looks like our little village is really waking up. Do you realize that we now have a real sidewalk in front of the old Jones' store and that soon we will have a beauty parlor for the ladies of the fair town under the management of that amiable lady, Mrs. Marie Bennett. From April 1 on I expect in strolling around to see some pretty fine curls and finger waves. And if you haven't heard, it won't be long before we have a new telephone building and real secret I saw the plans, and it sure is a real addition to Orinda. Just think, more sidewalks and someone who knows said that perhaps the sidewalk would be extended to the Nursery, so folks you see we are up and coming.

It is not long before the Improvement Association will hold an election for the fiscal year beginning June 1, and you folks are going to be asked to act as officers and members of committees to carry on the work for the following year and as true Orindans I know you will offer to serve cheerfully and you know that you will get full cooperation from the rest of us folks, the same as has been given to the present officers who have done a fine job and deserve to be able to sit aside and advise the new officers in their future duties and plans for the betterment of our fair town.

Perhaps Reuben Chase will tell us what he was burying the other night at 10 p.m. as I strolled by his garden.

## ORINDA PARK NEWS (Continued)

first to Orinda residents West side, East side, Moraga Estates and Encinas to Moraga, Oak Springs. After all residents and property owners in the districts mentioned have been accommodated, memberships in such nearby localities as Lafayette will be considered, provided there is still space on the list. Memberships are being restricted for the purpose of reserving the private character of the pool and playground, and to make it distinctly an Orinda feature.

Around the 15th of May a get-together and open house for the Club members and their families is being planned. Mrs. Cleborn has agreed to act as chairman of the Entertainment Committee and promises a most enjoyable program. Those desiring to make application for membership should get in touch with Mrs. Warren Harrold at once. (Phone Orinda 3131.)

## ALL SET

Mistress: "If the master brings some more of his friends to dinner tonight, Mary, are you sure you're ready?"

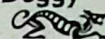
Cook: "Quite sure, ma'am. My trunk's packed.—*London Herald*."

"Well, dad," said Jimmy, the Boy Scout, at the breakfast table, "I've done my good turn for the day."

"What!" exclaimed his father. "You've done it pretty early. What did you do?"

"It was easy," explained the boy. "I saw old Mr. Brown going for the 7:20 train so I turned our dog loose and Mr. Brown got to the station in time."

## Orinda Adds Blue Ribbon Winner To Its "Doggy" Residents



Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Pearson's Chow-Chow, Glo's Donna of Brazelton, made her debut at the Thirty-first Annual Oakland Kennel Club Show at Oakland Auditorium held March 6 and 7. She was accompanied by her parents, Champion Chancellor of Brazelton and Champion Gloriana of Brazelton. In keeping with her family traditions Donna started her collection of trophies at her first Show. She won the Blue Ribbon and Silver cup in the Puppy Bitches class, along with the Green Special ribbon. In the Pacific Coast Bred Dogs and Bitches Class she was awarded second prize and a silver plate. Donna comes from Brazelton Kennels and a long line of Champions. Her friends are looking forward to the event next month when she will present them with a new generation of potential blue ribbon winners.

## P.-T. A. BOX SUPPER

P.-T. A. are planning a Box Supper and Card Party for Thursday evening on April 21st at the School House.

## Boy Scout News

At the invitation of Mrs. Loughrey's father, Dr. R. G. Aitken, Director Emeritus of Lick Observatory, the Orinda Boy Scouts with the Scout Master, Jack McNeil, and some of the parents, attended a lecture on "Sun Spots" given by Dr. Aitken at Chabot Observatory Saturday evening, March 5. Lantern slides showing the formation of sun spots were shown and Mr. Aitken explained that although the sun spots themselves cannot affect conditions here on earth the same cosmic forces that bring about these great whirling masses of gas on the sun's surface also affect magnetic and atmospheric conditions on the earth and on the other planets which go around the sun as well.

## CHURCH NOTICES

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

Masses every Sunday and Holy Days. Sunday masses at 9:00 a. m. All are welcome.

Santa Maria Church Association meetings held monthly. Next meeting to be held April 4th, at the home of Mrs. Harold M. Bausch, Orinda. All interested in the welfare of the Little Chapel are asked to come. Call attendance committee at Orinda 5746 for further information.

### 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.

### ORINDA COMMUNITY

Sunday School for all ages meets at 9:30 o'clock every Sunday morning. A. W. Elkinton, Superintendent.

Church Services of worship are conducted by Henry Adams at 10:45 a. m. the first Sunday of each month.

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.



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