

ORINDA NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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NUMBER 6

ORINDA THEATRE PLANS GALA OPENING

The formal opening of the beautiful Orinda Theatre will be held on the evening of December 27. Reservations for the opening are now available at the theatre, Orinda 2233. Reserved tickets are 55c including tax, and unreserved 40c. Arrangements for a particularly fine program are now being made by Mr. Ben Randall, manager.

Orinda residents have long awaited this opening which has been delayed several times due to labor shortage. However, the affair comes at a splendid time, right after Christmas and during the vacation holidays.

Mr. Randall is very proud of the new building, as it combines every modern improvement in construction with an exceptional style of architecture and decoration. Most of its features are far superior to any theatre in the East Bay.

The decorations are an innovation in this area and were planned and supervised by Tony Heinsbergen of Los Angeles. Mr. Heinsbergen is nationally famous for his decoration of several of the newer Federal buildings in Washington, and is known locally for his work on the Persian room of the Sir Francis Drake Hotel.

The outstanding decorative motif is the use of full wall murals. They will be lighted by "black light", science's latest contribution to the art of theater lighting. This fluorescence provides for a basic illumination of the auditorium at all times without interfering with the display of pictures.

The foyer will be both comfortable and inviting. The lovely furnishings for this entrance have been made and upholstered by Gump's. As an added attraction, a phonograph will be installed in the lobby which will continually play soft music.

The seating arrangement for the show is based on a new theory too. It is a stadium type of seating, with the main auditorium slightly below the level of the entrance, and the rest of the seats arranged in tier fashion similar to the California stadium. Vision is excellent from every seat. The theatre will seat 828 patrons and each seat is a loge. The seats have been well spaced to provide convenience for patrons entering or leaving during a performance.

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DECEMBER MEETING NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday, December 5, at 8:15, at the Orinda Grammar School.

At the December meeting the newly appointed board of directors of Hacienda Homes will present a plan to the people of Orinda whereby our roads will receive immediate attention.

This matter is of vital importance to all property owners. The meeting will be open for questions and discussion on the new plan. This should be a most interesting meeting.

FINAL SOLUTION OF ORINDA ROADS PROBLEM

The Roads and Restrictions Committee announce that the proposal made by the Orinda Improvement Association to the American Trust Co. has been accepted by the bank. This proposal was a request to assume the incorporate powers of Hacienda Homes.

The bank's acceptance of this proposal empowers the Orinda Improvement Association to appoint a board of directors for Hacienda Homes. This new board possesses the legal rights to assess property owners for the maintenance of roads, trails, rights of way, as well as to make restrictions on buildings. It further gives these directors the power to collect all delinquent assessments and assessments on all unsold property.

Inasmuch as the first assessment is not due until January 1, 1942, the new board of directors will endeavor to collect all delinquent assessments in order to begin work on the roads immediately.

The directors assure the people of Orinda that they will exercise their administrative duties to the mutual benefit of the entire community and ask your wholehearted support in this undertaking.

ASSOCIATION SPONSORS GARDEN TREE CONTEST

Lighted Christmas trees in Orinda gardens will compete for prizes during the week between Christmas and New Year, according to plans made by the board of trustees of the Orinda Improvement Association. Dr. John Morrison, president, has asked the Orinda Garden Club to handle arrangements for this fourth out-door Christmas tree contest to be sponsored by the Improvement Association. Mrs. Malcolm Lamb, chairman, with Mrs. Leon Woolsey and Mrs. Stuart Campbell, comprise the committee for arrangements.

Mrs. Sheldon Duncan has been appointed chairman of the judges. With her will work Mr. and Mrs. Everett Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bennett, Mr. Sheldon Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Jacobus, and Mr. and Mrs. Philip LeMasney.

Trees will be judged on the basis of the following points:

1. Originality
2. Design
3. Color
4. Appropriateness

A committee from each section in Orinda will select the best trees in that area and Mrs. Duncan and her judges will make the final decision. Prizes are being donated by the Improvement Association.

The Charles Hill section will be included in the contest, but because it has its own contest, Moraga will not.

During the week between Christmas and New Year the judges will make two tours of Orinda. If you live off the beaten path be sure to phone Mrs. Sheldon Duncan, Orinda 5646, so that your decoration will not be overlooked. Otherwise no formal entry will be required. Any resident of Orinda may enter the contest.

The first out-door Christmas tree contest was held in 1938, sponsored by the Improvement Association. The idea was originated by George Pitt, and it has carried through to this year.

MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 1941

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 8:15 p. m. by President Morrison, with the singing of "America" and the salute to the Flag. Following this, the minutes of the October meeting were read and approved, the Treasurer rendered his report showing a balance on hand of \$521.38, and the Membership Committee reported five applications received, all of which were voted to membership.

Harrison Ketcham, for the Post Office Committee, discussed briefly questions that had been raised in connection with the new post office proposed to be established at the Crossroads. Delivery service, he said, would be unchanged, and we would enjoy the usual advantages to be gained incidental to an independent post office. The only disadvantage, it seemed, would be the 3-cent rate to outside points.

Regarding the newly established Recreation Center, Ralph Wilson reported various groups had already met there; but that so far no W. P. A. employee had been obtained as director, and that plans for the Center, after December first, were uncertain. He called for a member of the Dad's Club to be in attendance the following Saturday afternoon and Arthur Creek volunteered to come down and take over. Mr. Wilson also reported that the town ash can, sponsored by the Association, was now full of ashes and apts. Following some discussion, a motion of Ralph Sisson's was carried to award the refuse contract to Joe Navone.

President Morrison brought up the matter of sponsorship of the Orinda Scout Troop, and Steve Perkins moved that the President be authorized to sign sponsorship papers for the current Scout year. Carried.

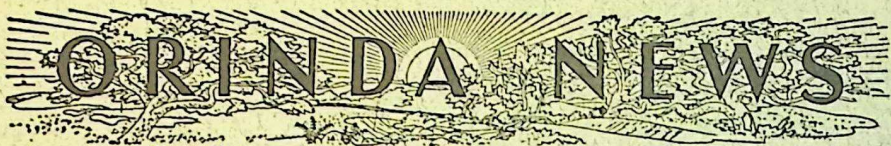
Arthur Creek spoke of the formation and activities of the newly formed Dad's Club. Some discussion followed regarding financial assistance to enable them to carry out their several projects. On motion of Ed Sibbett it was voted to refer the matter to the Executive Board.

President Morrison announced there would again be an outdoor Christmas tree decoration contest. Mrs. Ketcham, from the Orinda Garden Club, reported plans were in the making. In this connection, President Morrison cautioned that Fiesta plans and others involving community participation entail a great deal of hard work, and should be started well in advance.

Ed Sibbett, for the Roads Committee, reported that the agreement to transfer powers had not yet been signed by Mr. deLaveaga or Hacienda Homes. Mr. Mayo warned that if ditches were not cleared now and kept clear, roads would deteriorate more rapidly than otherwise.

Supervisor Jack Cummings was then introduced and stated his desire to be of any possible assistance in solving our roads

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Official Publication of The
ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Merry Christmas

With the Thanksgiving dinner but an enjoyable memory, we are quite conscious of the jingle of sleigh bells and the stir of exciting anticipation just ahead. The Christmas season is once more with us, a time of the year that is undoubtedly most dearly loved by young and old. Fall is definitely over and the Christmas holidays and ensuing festivities welcome the wintertime. In communities like Orinda, where almost all the homes are owned and a great many of them housing one or more children, Christmas is indeed a great occasion. Although people all over the world celebrate this day, it is essentially a family affair. For the next three weeks it will be a busy time for the whole family. Mother will find the days all too short for the many demands upon her time.

Brother and sister will be bursting with breathless anticipation. Father will be busy, too, with tree-trimming and outside decorating. And all of this pleasure and excitement will be shared by neighbors and friends in the community. For the pride of ownership, either of house or garden, is a bond to draw people together, and this feeling of goodwill is evident in Orinda, not only at the Christmas season but all through the year. We are lucky to live in such a pleasant place, and our enthusiasm for this coming holiday should spring from our good fortune. We shall not forget the sad Christmas that faces so many peoples but hope that "Peace on Earth" will be an accomplished fact before another Christmastime. We wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Orinda neighbors.



It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

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ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

More than 1000 people attended the first "Fiesta de Acalanes" put on by the students at the School Tuesday evening, November 18. Approximately \$400 was taken in. This money will be divided among the various class organizations.

During the evening, a condensed version of "Carmen" was presented by the music, dramatic, and dancing groups. The dancing group also performed many Spanish dances under the direction of Miss Hamberger. Carnival concessions consisting of "fishing ponds" and "ringing the duck's neck" were well patronized throughout the evening.

The Acalanes football team was entertained by the Orinda Lions Club at a dinner held at the Orinda Country Club, Wednesday, November 12. The Acalanes team has had a very good season, winning five out of eight games. Acalanes was the only team able to beat victorious Antioch. Other schools defeated by Acalanes during the season were: Brentwood, Livermore, Mt. Diablo, and John Swett at Crockett. Acalanes lost their first game with Brentwood, and also lost games with Martinez and Hayward.

ACALANES PLANS INFORMAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

An informal Christmas party, where all the communities of the Acalanes district are invited to come and sing and make merry, is the plan of the Acalanes High School this year. Besides the community singing there will be square dances, tableaux, and carols by the music, dramatics and dancing groups at the school. The party will be held at the school on Thursday evening, December 18. There will be no admission charge.

CLASS OFFICERS AT ACALANES

Putting into practice what they learn in history and civic classes, Acalanes Union High School students recently elected class officers to conduct their activities this year. The student leaders are as follows:

Seniors — Lyle Palmer, president; Daphne Coleman, vice-president; Charlotte Hafer, secretary-treasurer.

Juniors — Don Doten, president; Florence Erdahl, vice-president; Thelma Osborn, secretary; Laurajean Phillips, secretary-of-entertainment.

Sophomores — Bob Flanders, president; Bob Hammond, vice-president; Helen Heinrich, secretary; Monte Dibbern, treasurer; Jewell Beck, Chairman-of-entertainment.

Freshmen — Fred Brecht, president; Barbara Powell, vice-president; Pat Manners, secretary; Beverlee Swearingen, treasurer; Richard Stanley, social chairman; Lois Hazen and Ronald O'Dell, cheer leaders.

It is interesting to note that these student officers are widely distributed among the communities of the district.

SENIORS WIN PARENT'S CLUB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The membership drive which the Acalanes Parent's Club put on, with the assistance of the high school students, came to a close Monday evening, November 17. The Senior class received the prize for having obtained the greatest number of new members. Although this particular drive has terminated, Mrs. A. R. Reinke, president of the club, wants to remind all parents that membership is always available.

The next meeting of the organization will be held on its regular date, Monday night, December 15. A program of interest is being planned for that time.

MOTHERS' CLUB

Orinda High School Mothers' Club held its regular monthly meeting on December 1, at the home of Mrs. G. M. Hawkins, on El Camino. Mrs. A. K. Pettengill was co-hostess. Dessert was served, followed by a business meeting.

Mr. Richard L. Davis, principal of the Orinda School, spoke about his experiences in recreation work, and plans for future recreation in Orinda.

DORCAS NEWS

The regular monthly meeting of the Dorcas Society of the Women's Guild will be held on December 11th, at the home of Lance Barden on Orinda Highway. Charles Ward will be co-hostess.

Church Notices

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.

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 2:00 to 4:00 o'clock. Everyone welcome.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday Morning Masses the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at 10 o'clock, and the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 8:30 o'clock.

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FARM BUREAU STUDIES NUTRITION CHARTS

The meeting of the Farm Bureau, held on November 6th, covered "Cooking of Foods with Vitamins." Miss Burling, county demonstrator, made bread and various other things, into which were added various concentrated flours and foods so as to enrich the vitamin content. This meeting was extremely interesting and was attended by twenty-three women among whom were Mrs. J. A. Mote, Mrs. Emily Randall, and Mrs. Clinton Nielson, guests.

The Home Department will hold its annual Christmas party on December 5th, at Knightson, California. This party commences with luncheon and lasts the afternoon. Women from all counties around the East Bay attend this party and each year everyone who has attended has had an enjoyable time. Plans are being made for transportation and members will be notified in further detail concerning this party.

The next meeting will be held on December 4th at Mrs. E. A. Norton's home on Miner Road. The subject will be "Christmas and Nutrition Charts." This is an all-day meeting. Miss Burling will give interesting suggestions in the morning about Christmas, and in the afternoon a repeat demonstration by request of various members, will be given on the Nutrition Charts which show you how to compute your daily need of all vitamins. The Home Department will have someone at Mrs. Norton's to take care of children. All members are urged to be present, as this will be a meeting full of ideas which no one should miss. Coffee will be served to accompany the sandwiches each person should bring for her luncheon.

GUILD TO HOLD NIGHT OF FUN

"A Night of Fun" will be sponsored on December 12th in the Orinda Grammar School auditorium by the Women's Guild of the Orinda Community Church, at 8 p. m. The now famous "Floradora Sextet" of Orinda will again be heard following a play given by the Lafayette Players. Following the program, cards may be enjoyed by those caring to remain and play. Tickets are 35c for adults and 20c for children. There will be several booths where cakes, Christmas gifts, white elephants, candy, etc., may be purchased.



BIG GAME CELEBRATED AT COUNTRY CLUB

Members and their guests celebrated the Big Game at a dinner dance at the Orinda Country Club, Saturday, November 29th. The evening was, as usual, a great success after the excitement and fun of our most important game of the season.



WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

The Women's Guild of the Orinda Community Church held its annual Christmas meeting at the home of Mrs. A. W. Elkinton on Ardilla Road, on December 2nd. Co-hostesses were Mrs. Lance Barden and Mrs. Lily Dorrington. Dr. Miles B. Fisher, pastor of the church, told a delightful Christmas story.

Mr. Kay Beach of Berkeley, baritone soloist, sang a group of songs, accompanied by Mrs. John Morrison of Orinda. Mrs. Morrison also rendered a group of piano numbers. The meeting closed with group singing of Christmas carols.

12-15 CLUB PLANS PARTY

During the past month the 12-15 Club, a philanthropic organization in Orinda, held their semi-monthly meetings at the home of Mrs. A. W. Elkinton on November 12th, and at the new home of Mrs. George Pitt on Reliez Valley Road on November 25th.

Plans for the annual Christmas party, according to Mrs. James Sullivan, president, have been completed. It will be held at the home of Mrs. Beatrice Cleborne on La Espiral, on December 9th, and is to be a costume party of the gay nineties. Serving on the refreshment committee with Mrs. Cleborne is Mrs. Chas. Bennett and Mrs. Chas. Malone. Mrs. Leo Alexander is the welfare chairman and will have charge of purchasing articles for a needy family for Christmas, and also preparing the Christmas basket. An election of officers will be held and all members are urged to be present.

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THEATRE OPENING

(Continued from Page 1)

This theatre also has one of the finest air-conditioning systems available. It provides for air-cooling in the summer and adequate heat in the winter, and will quickly absorb all smoke. The construction is all concrete, fireproof, and earthquake-proof.

The Orinda Theatre is an independent theatre and its policy will be established by Mr. Randall in the interests of his patrons. Whenever possible, first class pictures will be billed singly, which will meet with approval of the advocates of the single billing. Mr. Randall expressed the wish that the theatre building be at the disposal of the community during the day for benefits or school programs where a large seating capacity is desired.

The children of the community will have due consideration for their entertainment needs and desires. A special matinee will be planned for their amusement every Saturday afternoon. Also, the policy established so successfully in town of an intermediate admission price for 12 to 16 year-olds will be carried out here.

For the convenience of those patrons who may be slightly hard of hearing, many seats will be provided with ear-phones, which will amplify the sound for those using the instruments without disturbing those seated alongside.

A free parking area providing space for two-hundred and fifty cars will be available adjacent to the theatre. An attendant will be on duty in this area.

The theatre building will also house two new shops, the Orinda Sweet Shop, and the Orinda Gift Shop. Mrs. Myra Manasse is moving her shop from Orinda proper to the new location. She will have as her partner in the enterprise, Mrs. Betty Gordon.



MEETING NOTES

(Continued from Page 2)

problem. Clarence Fleager spoke of the growth of the district and of the urgent need of immediate repair to the roads. Mr. Cummings suggested that he and County Surveyor Barkley meet with the Roads Committee and go over the roads to see what was possible to be done. He also offered to make an appointment with Mr. Jordan of the Water District and discuss possibilities to acquire a connecting link between Las Vegas Road and the road through Monte Vista.

Mr. Barkley was introduced and discussed the technical aspect of roads, leaving with us copies of specifications for County roads.

Following an announcement that the P. T. A. would hold a Turkey Whist at the school house at 8 p. m., November 14, the meeting was adjourned to refreshments.

RECREATION CENTER NOW OPENS

The Recreation Center has been open to the High School group and the children of the Seventh and Eighth Grades of the Grammar School for the month of November.

Each afternoon a Mother has taken charge of the Center and the boys and girls have had the opportunity of coming in and reading magazines, playing games or using the ping-pong table or pool table.

It was hoped that tournament play might be organized and that hobby classes might be started.

A dancing class sponsored by the High School Mothers' Club, taught by Mrs. Parks of Piedmont, is holding classes twice a month for the High School group at the Center.

One Saturday morning the Senior Girl Scouts had a very successful cake and cookie sale and two luncheons have been served there. The Farm Bureau meets at the center when their program permits.

It is hoped that the Center will be able to continue, but there is the necessity of raising money for the rental. It takes time for a project of this kind to get started, but there is a necessity here in Orinda for group recreational facilities. With work and Community cooperation, Orinda might have a Center everyone would be proud of.

ORINDA THEATRE

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