



ORINDA NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Election of High School Bonds To Be October 24

Voters of the new Acalanes Union High School District will be asked to approve a bond issue of \$330,000 for the purchase of a site and building construction on October 24th. Part of the money, if voted will be used to purchase the site selected for the new school in Reliez Valley, a short distance north of the Tunnel Road on the Martinez "cut-off". Most of the money will go to finance building construction, for furnishings, equipment and similar additional expenses.

School construction has changed considerably in the past several years and the trustees feel expert opinion will be needed.

The new school district includes the elementary districts of Walnut Creek, Lafayette, Moraga, Canyon and Orinda. It was created this spring because of expansion in these districts.



PLANS FOR OCTOBER MEETING

Owen S. Dibbern, chairman of the program committee of the Orinda Improvement Association, announces that the speaker for the next meeting, on Friday October 6, will be County Sheriff John A. Miller, who will present a picture which he has taken of the Indian country, entitled "The First American". Sheriff Miller claims that this picture is not only of interest to adults, but to children as well, for it has to do with Indian life and recent ceremonials at Gallup, New Mexico.

Part of the program will be devoted to an explanation by Sheriff Miller of our police department, which the program committee feels should be of interest to everyone. A report on the question of incorporating the Association will be presented by the executive committee.

According to Dibbern, unless good programs are furnished, the committee realizes that it is difficult to pull people away from their fire-sides. It is the wish of the program committee to supply that pulling power. Future programs will include George Meece speaking on "County Finances and their relationship to your Taxes". Also Supervisor Cummings will talk on "County Administration". Another meeting will be devoted to your water district, and still another will be devoted to problems of interior decoration.

October Meeting Notice

The next Regular Meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday, Oct. 6, at 8 p. m. in the Orinda School Building.

THE STROLLER

To the writer's mind, constructive criticism invariably produces progress, likewise a little praise is conducive to improvement. It is praiseworthy to note that Hacienda Homes is placing road name-plates on the east side of Orinda, for which people living there are very grateful. Why not do the same on the west side roads? After all, we are one community and the Stroller feels that both sides of the highway should be treated alike.

Everett Taylor and his neighbors are entitled to a lot of praise for the initiative they have had in conducting a drive to finance the repairing and resurfacing of Loma Vista road. As a sign of the progress made they have erected an indicator showing the amount of funds subscribed to that end. Here's hoping that they go over the top.

Possibly the date of September 18 does not mean anything out of the ordinary to most of us in Orinda, but the Stroller should like to call it particularly to your attention. That is the day when our little folks started back to school. Let us all resolve that we will make their way safe by driving carefully and sounding the horn around the curves. Let Orinda's motoring motto be, "We live and let live". (Continued on page 2, col. 3)



PAY ASSOCIATION DUES

The 1939 dues of the Improvement Association are past due. The officers of our Association are endeavoring in every way possible to solve the problems of our community and assist in its building and development. The treasurer is anxious to have all dues paid up to date. The dues are only one dollar per year and we ask your co-operation in sending them before the October monthly meeting to D. C. Jones, Route 1, Box 311, Berkeley, Cal.

Orinda Store Destroyed By Lightning-Set Fire

Lightning, thunder and destruction by fire visited Orinda the night of September 19. The Orinda Store building, owned by Jarvis Clark of Eucalyptus Road, Berkeley, was gutted by the flames which resulted from lightning that travelled along high tension power lines, witnessed by Mrs. Rasmussen, who lives near the store. The Orinda Beauty Salon, owned by Mrs. Marie Bennett, the soda fountain, and meat market all were destroyed by the flames.

The fire broke out at 1 a. m. immediately following a severe electrical storm. The Orinda Fire Department responded to the alarm, turned in by Theo. Castle, and assisted by the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the Lafayette fire departments, battled the flames for three hours before the conflagration was brought under control. It is to their credit that the blaze was confined to the one building.

The following men were treated by Dr. E. D. Greer for minor cuts and burns: Jarvis Clark and his son Guthrie Clark, Sheldon Kales, Hugh Hogan, Virgil Ramsay, Bill Everetts, Frank Bennett, of Orinda and Geo. Medau and G. A. Hinckley of Lafayette.

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Orinda Fire District wishes to express its thanks and sincere appreciation for the assistance given by volunteer residents of Orinda, the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the Lafayette fire departments.

The damage of the store and beauty salon was estimated at somewhere around \$25,000. For the time being the Orinda Store will carry on its business from the formerly vacant store in the Mitchell Building in Orinda and from the main store known as the Tunnel Grocery in Berkeley.

Mrs. Bennett states that shortly after the first of October she will open a new and larger beauty shop in the Vashell Building at the Cross Roads.



Good Neighbor

Mrs. Clarence Fratzke of Camino Leñada offered the use of her rumpus room to Mrs. Marie Bennett as a temporary location for the Orinda Beauty Salon which was destroyed by the fire on September 19. Mrs. Bennett with her two operators are carrying on the business at the Fratzke residence.

ORINDA NEWS

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ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Editor Mrs. Malcolm Lamb
Associate Editor Mrs. Harold Symes
Staff—W. P. Stephenson, Mrs. George Hickok, Mrs.
Lonie Bee, H. Warren Harrold, Mrs. Miles F.
York, Mrs. Stuart Campbell, Mrs. Sheldon Dun-
can, Mrs. Carl Zamloch.
Advertising Manager Martyn F. Warner
Circulation Richard Cross
Publisher Jesse J. McMillan

EDITORIAL

The Boy Scout demonstration at the Country club swimming meet and also at the Improvement Club picnic gave many spectators a good picture of Scout activity. Aside from the pleasure of seeing the boys of the local troop in action, their demonstration of water safety and the various life-saving methods was instructive. We should bear in mind that the local Scout committee is made up entirely of Improvement Association members who are not only interested in their work with the boys but are at the same time conscious of their obligation to the Association in its sponsorship of the troop.

At a time when most of the world is involved in the destruction of youth, it is to the credit of America that we are placing so much of our emphasis on character-building activities for our young people. May we not hope that the training they receive will help to maintain in the future the civilization we have achieved?

The British Brevet Colonel, Robert Baden-Powell developed the Scouting idea after careful and thorough study. He realized that here was an opportunity to help boys of his country to grow into strong manhood. In 1908 he wrote his hand book of training, never dreaming that this book would set in motion a movement which was to affect the whole world.

Quoting from the Boy Scout Manual gives us Scouting in a nutshell: "A game for boys, under the leadership of boys, with the wise guidance and counsel of a grown-up who has still the enthusiasm of youth in him. A purposeful game, but a game just the same, a game that develops character by practise, that trains for citizenship through experience in the out-of-doors."

ORINDA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Members of the Orinda Garden Club met at the Country Club on Sept. 11 for luncheon and the first regular meeting of the fall. During the business meeting which was presided over by Mrs. Malcolm Lamb, the officers for the new year were elected. They are: pres., Mrs. Chas. Chapman; vice-pres., Mrs. Clay Sorricks, rec. sec'y, Mrs. Sheldon Duncan, corr. sec'y, Mrs. P. D. Richardson; treasurer, Mrs. Harold Martin, and historian, Mrs. Harry Sutherland.

Mrs. Stuart Campbell led the round-table discussion which followed the business meeting. Members discussed the following topics: soil, plants for sunny exposures, and plants for shady places.

Sept. Meeting Highlights

Plans for highway improvement was the topic brought before the September meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association.

A discussion pertaining to the proposed widening of the Tunnel Road to a four lane highway between Walnut Creek and the Cross Roads took place during which it was stated that week day traffic is now 100% greater than a year ago.

Now since the project to widen the San Pablo Dam Road between Orinda and the Tunnel Road is under way it has been suggested that underground conduits replace the overhead power lines now running parallel to the highway. This plan will be referred to the executive committee according to President Ralph Sisson.

A survey of the high tension wires crossing the Orinda Grammar School grounds is being made by the power company officials who have promised a report in the near future.

A plan proposed in Walnut Creek to establish an owner-operated hour and a half bus service between Walnut Creek and Berkeley was brought before the meeting. It was stated that if the community expected increased service by the Sacramento Northern Busses they must support the line by patronizing it.

Appreciation was expressed by President Sisson of the excellent representation which was rendered by Clarence Fleager at the recent hearing at Martinez in regard to the Cross Roads liquor license application.

Mrs. C. B. Chantler, President of the Parent Teachers Association of the Orinda Union School has announced Wed., Oct. 25, at 2:15 p. m. as the date of the first meeting. The meeting will be in the nature of a reception to the teaching staff and a welcome to the mothers of the new students.

ASSOCIATION HOLDS PICNIC

Orinda Park Pool was the setting for the Annual Improvement Association picnic on the evening of September 23. Approximately 250 people were entertained by the excellent exhibition of water safety given by the Boy Scouts and by the Hill-billy orchestra. Mrs. E. A. Taylor was chairman of the event and a financial report will be made by her at the October meeting of the Improvement Association.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild of the Orinda Community Church will hold its regular monthly meeting and luncheon at the home of Mrs. Walter Thomas, 314 La Espiral, Tuesday, October 3rd, at 12:30 o'clock. A splendid program is being arranged.

A lecture course on the Bible—as literature—will be sponsored by the Orinda Community Church and Women's Guild this fall and winter. Dr. Miles B. Fisher, pastor, will deliver the lectures, which will be held the second Friday evening of each month. The first lecture will be on Friday evening, Oct. 13, at the home of A. W. Elkinton, 39 Ardilla Road, at eight o'clock. All members and friends of the church are urged to attend.

ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

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Vice President Owen S. Dibbern
Secretary J. T. Morrison
Treasurer Harrison Ketcham

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Reception and Hospitality Mrs. Warren Harrold
Program and Planning Owen Dibbern
Entertainment Mrs. E. R. Taylor
Membership Mr. and Mrs. George Pitt
Publicity Mrs. Malcolm Lamb
Music Mrs. Martyn Warner
Taxes and Finances Edward H. Sibbett
Education Mrs. Geoffrey Mayo
Roads and Highways Kenneth Allen
Safety and Public Welfare William Fleager
Community Park and Planning Warren Harrold

THE STROLLER (Continued)

The Stroller had many a chuckle one hot sultry afternoon watching a spirited water fight at the club pool. Like Bellow's painting, "Forty-two Kids", the pool was a seething mass of arms and legs. Hal Perry, the normally dignified life-guard, joined in the battle, and soon the weapons included the hose over the bath-house, buckets and paper bags of water, as well as generous handfulls splashed in strategic directions. Certain generals rode around in a superior manner, in inflated tubes in the water, giving orders as necessary. The participants were chiefly ten and twelve-year-olds from the Orinda School. How thankful we all may be that our boys and young men are not yet doomed to go down the grim and ghastly road to war to achieve the ambitions of power-mad dictators, but that for them conflict is no more serious than a water-fight on a hot and sultry September day.

Our hat is off again to the Orinda Volunteer Fire Department. Did you see them the night of the fire at the store on the roof of the building, silhouetted against the flames, beating out the fire in the most courageous way imaginable? You have a grand gang there, Joe, and we salute you.

DEAD LINE

Due to the fire at the store, please send all notices for the *Orinda News* to Mrs. M. Lamb, 38 La Noria, on or before the 15th.

CHURCH NOTICES

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 October 3rd at the residence of Father Miller in Danville. For further information telephone the Attendance Committee, Orinda 4351.

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.

PERSONALS

Good news to all his friends and neighbors was the return home of George Elvidge from the hospital. We hope he will be hale and hearty soon.

We feel very proud of Virginia Hickok, who won the Myra Hershey scholarship at U. C. L. A. Virginia enrolled several weeks ago and plans to spend the next three years at the Southern University.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Morrish and their young sons have just moved into their new home in Moraga.

King Wilkin is a new aviation enthusiast. His recent business trip through Canada was made almost entirely by plane. From his glowing accounts there is no other way to travel. It's grand if you can take it.

Jean Guthrie frightened her family by an emergency appendectomy a few weeks ago. All ended well as she recovered so quickly that she was able to enroll the first day of school.

Everett Taylor has just returned from a three weeks' trip to New York. He reports that he ran into plenty of hot weather.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Harrold and daughter Nancy, has returned from a fishing trip to the Mattole River in Humboldt County.

Mrs. Baker, Marie Bennett's mother, is visiting her daughter Louise Baker in Santa Barbara. She plans on being away a month or two.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller of San Pablo Highway, entertained at an old-fashioned family picnic at their home on Sunday the 24th for the members and friends of the Santa Maria Church Association.

We are all happy to see Mrs. Guthrie Clark and her young son back at Orinda.

Mrs. G. B. Stirling is confined to her home with a trained nurse. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Therkildsen's new home on Mesas Path is progressing rapidly. The frame work is now completed.

James Brockhurst is now associated with Mason-McDuffie Co. He will handle both town and country properties for that office.

Many Orindans attended the Contra Costa County Day at Treasure Island Sunday Sept. 17th.

Keith Bennett, son of Mrs. Marie Bennett, broke his thumb playing football at the Orinda School, on Sept. 25th.

Bob Deiterich, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Deiterich of La Espiral, experienced his first aeroplane ride as his means of transportation to Claremont, Calif. where he enrolled as a freshman in Pomona Junior College on September 16.

As a model for the Pan-Hellenic Fashion Show held at the Fairmont Hotel on September 15, Mrs. Walter Eric Christie of El Verano road charmingly demonstrated new fall fashions in quite a professional manner.

Fred Troy, of the Associated service station at the Cross Roads, recently won an expense-paid trip to the New York World's Fair, sponsored by the Goodrich Company. Says he: "Orinda is okay by me for the 'World of Today'."

To Introduce To You Our New Teaching Staff

The trustees of the Orinda School Board had many applications and interviewed numerous applicants and we feel certain that parents and pupils will approve of our choice.

Miss Doris Park, all of you know her well, remains our principal. We on the School Board are very appreciative of her splendid cooperation during the school construction period. Miss Park will now teach the third and fourth grades as well as all physical training classes.

The first and second grades will be taught by Mrs. Gertrude L. Williams. Mrs. Williams has had a great deal of teaching experience. She began her teaching career at Roseville, California and later on taught at the Lazear and Crocker Highlands schools in Oakland. Having specialized in speech correction, Mrs. Williams will take over this important task. Mrs. Williams' wide experience includes travel through Japan, China and the Dutch East Indies.

The fifth and sixth grades will be taught by Miss Mary Siefker, an Orinda resident. Miss Siefker was a student teacher at the Piedmont Avenue school and is a graduate of the College of the Holy Names. Her recommendations are as splendid as her personality is charming. Miss Siefker will also undertake the curricular teaching of music.

The seventh and eighth grades will be taught by Mrs. Laura Grimsley. Mrs. Grimsley is a graduate of the University of California and taught at Long Beach, at Woodlake, Hayward and Buena Vista. Her splendid recommendations emphasize her ability to teach art which she will undertake for our school. It might be mentioned, without giving away any state secrets, that her recommendations were marked "outstanding" in every single respect. Mrs. Grimsley is recognized as an outstandingly fine teacher of unusual ability and splendid personality.

In the last analysis, our teaching staff will have to be appraised by the parents and by the progress made by the children, and it is hardly felt necessary to invite you to give them your sympathetic and whole-hearted support.

Respectfully, E. L. MATHY, *President
Board of Trustees, Orinda Union
Grammar School District.*

A telegram from Miss May Ellen Fisher, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Miles Fisher, relieved the anxiety of her many friends who feared she would be caught in the homeward rush from Europe. Miss Fisher and her traveling companion, Miss Portia Wagonet, arrived safely in New York on the S. S. Isle de France and plan to remain in the East for a few weeks, returning home by automobile. Both are graduates of the University of California and are physical education teachers at University High School.

Ralph Hill and his mother were in an auto accident. We are glad to say that Mrs. Hill who was hurt is able to get out again, and her son escaped with minor injuries.

October Garden Notes

October is the last month in which one may safely plant new lawns, without danger of their being washed out by heavy rains. Chrysanthemums are subject to attacks of mildew, aphid and rust. At the first indication of these blights they should be sprayed this month with Garden Volk. Disbudding of mums is not necessary on the smaller varieties, but is desirable on the larger types. Camellias sometimes drop their buds at this time, due largely to early cessation of watering.

October is essentially a bulb planting time. Here are some of the bulbs that may be planted: Agapanthus, amaryllis belladonna, anemone, Mariposa lily, crocus cyclamen, freesia, snowdrop, early gladiolus, hyacinth, all species of iris, most species of lily, narcissus, daffodils and jonquil, ranunculus, tulip and watsonias.

Plants that may be set out in the garden are: snapdragon, columbine, calendula, pink, lobelia, stock, petunia, primula, cineraria, verbena, viola and pansy.

This is the time to clean up the garden. Start your compost pit, cut back plants that have finished blooming, (but remember to burn all diseased foliage) spread and spade fertilizer into the ground. Try a light layer of gypsum for the heavy adobe. After the winter rains you will be amazed at how much lighter your soil is.

CHORAL MEETINGS CHANGED

Mrs. Martyn Warner, chairman of the music committee of the Improvement Association, announces a change in the time of the meetings of the choral group. From now on the meetings will be held the first and third Monday evenings at 8 o'clock at the school house. Residents interested in this sort of activity are again invited to attend these gatherings.

HOME DEPT. PROGRAM

The Orinda Home Department, under the auspices of the Farm Bureau of the University Extension Division will hold its meetings the fourth Monday of each month at the Orinda School at 1:00 P. M. The meetings will be in charge of Mrs. Ellen Robbins, chairman. Members are urged to come and bring their friends.

This season's program of work is well planned and will be of interest to everyone.

The outline of the programs is as follows:

1. Floor Finishes
2. Healthful Sweets
3. Ways of Cooking and Serving Chicken
4. Gifts for the House and Christmas Party
5. A Comfortable Living Room
6. Kitchen Storage and Planning Center—Gardening
7. Line and Design of Dress for the Individual—Spring Materials—Slip Covers
8. The Extra Touch in Home Made Garments—Tour of Clothing Stores
9. Barbecue Meals—Play Day
10. Meals That Can Wait—Outdoor Living Rooms

There will be demonstrations on all of these subjects and members are urged to participate. There will be provisions for care of children.

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