

Orinda News

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume II

Orinda, Calif., September 1, 1938

Number 3

Annual Outdoor Party

On the afternoon and evening of Saturday, Sept. 17, the members of the Orinda Improvement Association, their friends and families are to banish dull care at the delightful pool and grounds of Orinda Park Terrace.

Mrs. C. J. Cleborne is in charge of the afternoon program for the young people and that guarantees tops in fun and frolic every minute of the time. There will be swimming and games with prizes, and Joe Varni is fairly certain that he can have a pony cart and a donkey that the youngsters can ride for a nickel a trip. They simply can't miss having a gorgeous time.

At six-thirty there will be the gathering of the clans at the festive board. Bring a basket supper. Make up gay parties of four to twenty-four, and if you will let Mrs. G. Mayo, who is to act as hostess, know in advance, a special place will be reserved for you. A steaming beaker of a super blend of coffee, or a cold drink, and dessert will be served by Mrs. Mayo's jolly crew.

Then when we are all feeling expansive, if not mellow, Mrs. E. R. Taylor and her troupers will present a dramatic program for our delight. At intervals we will have opportunity to give vent to our enthusiastic appreciation and good feeling in gang song under the leadership of Mrs. Cleborne and Mrs. Warner.

Finally, while the older folks gather around the open fire that George Brockhurst and his lusty woodsmen are to provide to tell again some of the miracles of Orinda's climate and of other good times that got away, the younger and more sprightly will trip the light fantastic in the semi-moonlight with the encouragement of excellent music.

The cost? Oh, yes! For adults the charge is 50 cents with all the youngsters in free. The young people between six and eighteen will

(Continued on page 2, col. 2)

Fire Siren

THE FIRE SIREN sounds an alarm of fire. It also calls the firemen together.

It is only natural that many of our residents want to know the nature and location of the fire, and lately many have been phoning to find out as soon as the siren is blown.

The efficiency of the Department can be aided materially if our line, Orinda 3451 is clear during the time of a fire, as our department generally is in constant touch with the FIRE TOWER atop the Berkeley hills, or vice versa.

FIRE COMMISSIONERS.

Sheriff & Fire Chief

May we advise our readers that our Deputy Sheriff and Fire Chief is P. R. Donaldson, who can be reached by calling Orinda 3451 and Orinda 5711.

We are sorry to learn that Mr. C. E. Donaldson has been roused at night several times by calls intended for P. R. Donaldson.

September Meeting Notice

The next regular meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday, Sept. 2,

Mr. E. L. Mathy, a member of the School Board will discuss the school program for the coming year and the effect of the current building program.

Colored Motion Pictures

At our meeting Friday September 2nd we will have in addition to our regular program colored motion pictures of flowers growing from bud to full bloom in a twinkling of the eye. These pictures are of rare beauty and reveal many interesting phases of plant growth. This showing will be especially enjoyed by garden lovers. Come and bring your friends.

THE STROLLER

It's pretty hard to think about Christmas during this period of lovely weather but nevertheless the fact remains that it is just four months to that great event & with that thought in mind I recall that last year during one of the Fall meetings of the Improvement Association some member proposed that prizes be provided by the Association for the best illuminated & decorated Garden & Trees. Now it seems to my mind to have been an excellent suggestion & one that will stimulate interest in this beautiful custom. You all recall Piedmont's beautifully illuminated gardens during Yuletide. . . . Why not Orinda? A great work for our garden club to sponsor.

Our fine Country Club had its 13th birthday on the 20th of the month. The 13th may be considered unlucky to some but it surely does not apply in this case. Never did the club look finer & what a dinner! & I can vouch for the folks that attended as to the good time they enjoyed. HAPPY BIRTHDAY ORINDA COUNTRY CLUB! & with my hat off to the management.

A few public spirited ladies in our community have sponsored a social club for the purpose of furnishing entertainment & diversion for the younger folks of Orinda. Now this is something constructive & deserves your support, so when occasion arises get behind & shove.

Now all you kiddies remember to get your hair cut, boots polished, & scrub your hands because on September twelfth that Old School Bell is going to ring.

LOST AND FOUND

Found—one Cadillac bicycle; see Deputy Sheriff P. R. Donaldson—Orinda.

Orinda Building Restrictions

We are advised by Mr. De Laveaga that all property in Haciendas del Orinda, units 1 to 8; Orinda Park Terrace; Lake Orinda Highlands; Orinda Townsite and Garden of Eden are subject to restrictions, and as these restrictions were in the original deeds, they apply NO MATTER HOW OFTEN THE LOTS MAY HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO NEW OWNERS. Mr. Ketcham has made a survey of the deeds and reports the following restrictions generally applicable, although of course as to the townsite, some cannot apply:

- 1) Residence only.
- 2) No stores or businesses.
- 3) No Owners of African or Mongolian descent.
- 4) No cutting of trees (subject to qualifications.)
- 5) No unapproved septic tanks.
- 6) No cess-pools.
- 7) No construction WITHOUT APPROVAL OF PLANS.
- 8) No fires without permit; no stray cats or dogs; no shooting.

Violations of the above subject to abatement by court action, with penalty of reversion of property to original subdividers.

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Community Choral

Community songsters will again come together for a pleasant evening of vocal exercise on Monday, September 12, at 8 p.m. at Casa Verana. Regular meetings will be held thereafter on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

The choral group is also being asked by Lowell Berry, president of the Orinda Improvement Association, to meet at 7:30 p.m. on the nights of the Association's meetings and furnish music while the members are assembling.

Everyone interested in music and singing is invited to all the meetings. Plans are being made to make every evening one of enjoyment.

Annual Rummage Sale

The annual rummage sale of the Santa Maria Church Association will be held the last week in September, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at the home of Mrs. E. I. De Laveaga.

This year the proceeds will go to build a Wayfarer's Shrine in the big oak outside the church. It will be erected in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Miguel De Laveaga who originally built the little chapel.

Exposition House

Six Bay region architects are now at work on plans for the model Exposition Home which is to be erected in Moraga Woodlands on Valley Road. The architectural committee of the Exposition will judge the six plans and the winner will have his house built in connection with the Fair. Construction is scheduled to start on October 1.

ORINDA NEWS

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

**Big Dividends to Orinda
 Tax Payers**

The cooperative effort put forth by a number of our Orinda citizens has been most effective in the savings accomplished on the price finally paid the East Bay Municipal Utility District for the land needed for the new school play grounds. The final cost of the property required, approximately \$2800, is in marked contrast with the \$6250 originally demanded by the water district. The reduction of \$3450 is substantial. It would take a tax levy of about 20c per hundred on the entire school district to raise such a sum.

This saving did not come for the mere asking. It was obtained through the combined effort of several members of our Improvement Association, collaborating with the school board; and with the cooperation of several newspapers. Members who gave generously of their time and effort include Mr. R. W. Breuner, E. L. Mathy, Franklin Kales, Warren Harrold, Joe Varni, Reuben Chase, and Don Badgley, who carried on negotiations with the Utility District. Our Association committee consisting of Joe Varni, Warren Harrold and J. J. Schmelz were particularly active.

Lonie Bee, one of Orinda's newer members contributed two very effective cartoons, the product of his own pen. Our sincere thanks to him for so generous an effort.

After it seemed impossible to get a reasonable price by direct negotiation the executive committee of the Association, with the help of many members, directed a publicity campaign through the newspapers and by circular letter to acquaint the public with the facts involved. Splendid cooperation was had from the La Fayette Sun, The Walnut Creek Kernel and the Oakland Tribune. An excellent editorial in the Martinez Gazette came at an opportune time. The net result of this campaign by the Association together with the able negotiations which followed by Mr. Chase brought the final reduction amounting to nearly \$900.00

So long as it is possible for Orinda to get this kind of civic interest from our citizens we are sure to enjoy good and sound local government.

Again the thanks of the Orinda Improvement Association to all those who gave so generously of their time and effort on this problem.—Lowell Berry, President.

New Beauty Shop

Mrs. Marie Bennett is planning to open her beauty shop under the name of Orinda Beauty Salon in the Orinda Store building on September 1st or as soon thereafter as the room can be made ready. The room opening onto Camino Avenida is being remodeled and the equipment is ordered, and it will be set up as soon as the room is ready.

We are told that Mrs. Bennett has chosen the best equipment that can be obtained so as to assure high grade work.

For those who do not know, Camino Avenida is the plaza running from the highway to the creek between Orinda Store and Garage.

ANNUAL OUTDOOR PARTY

(Continued)

pay 25 cents. Tickets on sale at Orinda Store, Craviotto's, the Library and from members of the committee.

The committee: Joe Varni—"I'll take care of that"; Capt. and Mrs. Oakley—general advisors; Mrs. Cleborne—afternoon program and singing; Mrs. Mayo—hostess; Mrs. Taylor—evening program; Stanley Smith—Politician's parade; Geo. Brockhurst—Fire chief; Martyn Warner and Geoffrey Mayo—at the gate; Geo. Hickok and Warren Harrold—grounds; Mesdames E. A. Dawson, R. Cross, A. B. Hayward, J. J. Miffit, and Messrs P. Le Masney and R. R. Dennis—tickets; R. C. Sisson—gen'l office boy.

Orinda's New Kindergarten

Mrs. Gerald A. Woods has arranged to open a private kindergarten and nursery school for children of from 2½ to 6 years of age in the Community Church room in Casa Verano. Opening date is given as Monday, Sept. 12th.

ORINDA BUILDING RESTRICTIONS

(Continued)

Original subdividers agree to maintain roads already laid out and improved subject to prorata contribution on the part of property owners.

As to approval of plans, we are told that Hacienda Homes, Inc. usually consults with the prospective builder and comes to a harmonious agreement. After approval of plans, they watch construction. If any neighbor feels himself injured, he can discuss the matter with Hacienda Homes, Inc., who claim they have power to enforce compliance with plans although they have never had occasion to do more than to have a friendly talk with the builder. This applies also to additions to existing houses.

When the building is completed, any deficiencies in sewage disposal can be brought under County control. This was one of the features of the work of the 1937 Committee under chairmanship of Mr. R. R. Dennis. Any injured party may file a complaint to accomplish this.

When the tracts were first opened, there was a cost yardstick as the basis of the restrictions, but approval of plans works out to better advantage and has been adopted, but the old restrictions apply to the properties sold under them.

As to other tracts in our District, A. H. Breed & Sons, Inc. inform us that all the property now being developed by them and by Fred T. Wood Inc. is subject to recorded restrictions. This includes Moraga Oaks, Moraga Estates, Moraga Woodlands and the new tract which is just coming onto the market under the name of Glorietta Moraga. These restrictions call for a monetary limit of cost of structure, from \$4500. up, and also for an approval of plans. It is brought out that wherever FHA loans are used the FHA is stringent that all restrictions be lived up to.

Question has been raised as to how well these restrictions are enforced. Mr. De Laveaga advises us that restrictions are being tightened rather than weakened. At one time there was a committee of the Orinda Improvement Association to consult with Hacienda Homes Inc. about plans, but shortly after the appointment of that committee the managing agent of the property was changed and this disrupted the committee.

Why not have a new committee to work with Hacienda Homes Inc. to maintain our high standards?

ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

President Lowell Berry
 Vice President R. R. Dennis
 Secretary Mrs. E. I. deLaveaga
 Treasurer George H. Pitt

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 Tax and Finance J. Varni
 Roads and Highways W. P. Stephenson
 Transportation Owen S. Dibbern
 Safety and Public Welfare A. S. Guerard
 Education Richard Breuner
 Entertainment Ralph Sisson
 Boy Scouts F. A. Kales
 Girl Scouts Mrs. George Hickok
 Reception G. F. Hickok
 Music Mrs. C. J. Cleborne
 Membership Warren Harrold
 Publicity Martyn F. Warner

JUNIOR ASSEMBLY ORGANIZED

About 20 of the young people of Orinda met on Aug. 18th at the home of Mr. Geoffrey Mayo on Las Cascadas Road to form a club for the purpose of furthering social activities and promoting leadership for the benefit of the younger element of the Community.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Mathy and Mr. Stanley Smith met with the group and Mr. Mathy presided at the meeting.

Officers elected were: President, Eugenia Mayo; Vice-president, James Hayward; Secretary-treasurer, Mabel Dorrington; Auditing treasurer, Don Trucker; Social Secretary, Keith Mack; Sergeant-at-arms, Tom Drew. The following committee chairmen were appointed: Floor, James Hayward; Decorating, Geraldine Hart; Membership, Mary Bennett; Ticket, Fred Allen; Property custodian, Frank Bennett; By-Laws, James Hayward.

After the business of the meeting was completed refreshments were served.

Girl Scout News

Orinda Girl Scouts will meet for the first time this fall in the second week in September. Mrs. Maxine Thompson will take over her duties as head scout mistress at this time. All girls over ten are eligible to become Scouts and are invited to join the local troop.

Plans are progressing to form a group of older Scouts so that those who have graduated from grammar school may continue their scouting activities.

COUNTY LIBRARY

Located in Fire Department building.
 Open from 2 to 5 p.m. Mondays and Fridays.—Mrs. E. A. Dawson—Librarian.

CHURCH NOTICES

ORINDA COMMUNITY

Vacation during the summer. Christian Endeavor will start August 28th and Sunday School will begin September 11th.

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.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Santa Maria Church Association meetings held monthly. Next meeting Sept. 6th, 8 p. m., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Malone, 22 Loma Vista. All interested in the welfare of the Chapel are asked to come. Call attendance committee at Orinda 5746 for further information.

PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Le Masney had as their guest for a week in August Mrs. Le Masney's sister, Mrs. Orin Jacobson of Tacoma, Wash.

Our friend, Miss Ila Mae Clough of the Orinda Store, recently announced her engagement to George Rasmussen of Orinda. The wedding date has been set for September 4. Congratulations and best wishes!

Mr. and Mrs. Galen M. Fisher with their son Ralph went East last month to attend the wedding of their daughter, Eleanor, to Dr. Robert Gordan Johnston in New Haven, Conn. Miss Fisher was in Orinda in the spring visiting her parents in their new home. It was at this time that she announced her engagement.

Visiting the Stanley Smiths this past month were their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Peters of Manila, P. I. and their two children, Peggy and Dode. The Peters stopped in Orinda while on their way home from a trip to England. A farewell party was given them by the Smiths at the Orinda Country Club on Saturday, August 20.

Mrs. Marie Bennett recently sold her house to Mrs. Brady and her daughter, Mrs. Weeden, of San Francisco. The Bennetts are now living on the Orinda Highway.

Catalina sunshine was enjoyed by Miss Julia De Laveaga who recently returned from a three weeks vacation there.

We hear that Phillip LeMasney is quite a deer hunter. Anyhow he bagged a nice buck on the opening day of the season. Deer! Deer! How exciting!

Orinda conquers again! Mrs. Ritchie Smith's father, Mr. J. L. Callahan, who has been visiting the Smiths recently purchased property near his daughter's home on Camino Don Miguel. Mr. Callahan is from New Jersey and has been recuperating from an illness here in the Land of the Sun.

An interesting exchange of houses took place last month in Orinda and Berkeley. Major Everts of Berkeley purchased the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Allen in Orinda. The Allens moved into the home of Dr. Jack Cathcart and the Cathcarts have taken the Everts's home in Berkeley! We hope they keep it all straight.

Mrs. Kenneth Gelwix and young Kenneth, Junior, recently returned from a two months' vacation in Iowa where they visited Mrs. Gelwix' parents.

Fishing at Mt. Lassen a few weeks ago were four of Orinda's bachelors who reported a grand vacation on their return. The fishermen four were Otto Nelson, Harry and Bert Mortimer, and Frank Lewis.

Stockings and handkerchiefs were showered upon Miss Marie Hund of San Rafael several Sundays ago when a Shower was given in her honor by Miss Bernice Warren. Twenty-five sorority sisters of the girls were present to hear the announcement that September 10 is the date set for Miss Hund's wedding to Mr. Douglas Teskey. Miss Warren will be her maid-of-honor.

Misses Mildred and Virginia Hickock had several house guests during the first week of school. Miss Jean Chambers of Glendale, Miss Ona Hardy of Oakland, Miss Barbara Anderson of Aubury. All three girls are just entering the University of California.

The Reverend Father Remy Zuur, missionary priest of Saint Marys, Idaho, brother of John T. Zuur, was a recent visitor at the Zuur home.

Mr. A. W. Elkinton reports that the salmon up in British Columbia weren't biting so well; only caught three.

Grandparents now — the Martyn Warners, visiting their latest in Pasadena at present.

Building Activities

NEW RESIDENTS

Moraga Estates

Miss Jean Barth, Mr. and Mrs. H. Allen Young, Mr. J. Roy.

Orinda

William Farquar El Toyonal
 W. R. Snow Orinda Highway
 J. F. Lax Orinda Highway
 U. B. Smith Via Hermosa
 James Anderson Via Hermosa
 Lloyd Rees La Espiral
 Charles Merrill Camino Sobrante
 J. M. Rodwell Camino Sobrante
 Capt. R. J. Nixon Mariposa Lane
 Guthrie Clark Via Hermosa
 Major J. S. Green 1 Las Aromas
 R. T. Hoyer 3 Madrone Place
 Major Wm. S. Everts La Plaza
 D. J. Groogan La Noria
 R. F. Nickison El Verano

NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Moraga Oaks

R. M. Muse, R. S. Pflug, Lewis Bosa.

Moraga Estates

A. G. Sherman, Leon Paul, Homer Smith, E. Bouchet, Mrs. Padden, Cal Orr, J. Shepard.

Monte Vista

Robert Keissel.

Orinda

F. H. Blakney Loma Vista
 Richard Dobbins El Verano
 Walter Christie El Verano
 Charles Bennett El Verano
 J. C. Colombel El Verano
 J. A. Stamelon Las Vegas
 M. L. Snow La Plaza
 C. H. Wehn La Punta
 T. R. Gibbons
 L. Barden Orinda Highway
 Russel Peterson Camino Sobrante
 J. M. Heinrici
 P. S. Clarke La Espiral

The Robert Millers have leased their home on Camino Sobrante to George Gibson and have moved to Alameda. We are glad to report that Mr. Miller is making progress after his recent operation but it has seemed necessary for him to move nearer to his business activities.

Mr. W. D. Scott, who sold his house in 'Scottsville' some months ago is to be with us again. He has bought the property at the head of Lake Cascade on Camino Sobrante between Las Cascadas and Las Aromas. We shall welcome Mr. and Mrs. Scott back to active participation in Orinda affairs.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Badgley of Moraga Oaks, with their children, Ann and Donald, enjoyed a trip to Donner Lake and Lake Tahoe.

Mrs. C. B. Chantler of Davis Road, with her daughters Janice and Nancy, spent a week of August in Yosemite Valley. They were accompanied by Mrs. Chantler's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hyde of Alameda.

Mr. and Mrs. John P. Ratcliff of Camino Encinas made a trip to the Mendocino County ranch owned by Mr. Ratcliff's parents. Paul Reinhardt, son of Dr. Aurelia Reinhardt, made the trip with them.

Mrs. Theron E. Griffin of Northwood Road is making an extended visit with her family in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Young of Estates Road, accompanied by Mrs. Young's sister from Honolulu, who has been spending the summer with them, have been touring in Canada and the northern part of the United States. They also spent the week of Aug. 15 at Lake Tahoe.

Electric Rates in Orinda

One of the few disadvantages of living in Orinda at present is the relatively high cost of electricity. Most homes use considerably more than 200 kilowatt hours of electricity per month. The cost of 200 kwh in Orinda is \$7.50 per month. The same service in Walnut Creek is \$6.10. In other words you are paying \$1.40 per month—\$16.80 per year—more than the resident of Walnut Creek for the same amount of electricity. To the 300 and more home owners in Orinda this extra cost amounts to over \$5,000 per year. Five thousand dollars per year is a tidy sum even in this day and age. Such an amount properly expended, and with federal funds which could be had would give Orinda a good deal in the way of improved roads and other usable improvements.

Investigation indicates that there is no chance of effecting a reduction in electricity rates except through incorporation. We have, therefore, asked our committee on Safety and Public Welfare to give the subject further study and investigation. This committee headed by Mr. A. S. Guerard made a preliminary report at our last meeting. Both Mr. Guerard and our assistant district attorney, Mr. Jacoby, discussed points of interest. Their discussion and that which followed by members present brought many interesting things to light. One of the more important was that through incorporation Orinda could adopt an adequate ordinance regulating sewerage disposal. It was pointed out that necessity for such regulation is of vital importance in that it would be the means of checking increased pollution of the streams flowing into San Pablo Dam and if this is not controlled the day will too soon arrive when Orinda will be forced to very heavy expense in the matter of sewerage disposal.

It was also pointed out that PWA and WPA funds would be available for improvement of roads, construction of a municipally owned auditorium or public meeting place, etc.

Mr. Jacoby pointed out that municipal running expenses need not be above a bare minimum, though he did not have definite figures. It is known, of course, that with incorporation there are many additional expenses likely to be incurred for services which the community wants and regards as worth while. Such expenses would no doubt soon amount to more than the savings that could be realized to residents in utility rate reductions.

The question then arises,—Are the benefits to be derived thru incorporation sufficient to justify these additional expenses? With an available saving of \$5,000 per year to start with the whole problem seems to merit the further thought of Orindans. Additional information will be presented at an early meeting. In the meantime anyone who can be of assistance with facts pertinent to the discussion is cordially invited to present the same to our officers or at our future meetings. No doubt Orinda will some day incorporate. Whether such a move at the present time would be wise is questionable. The discussion we have had and which will develop in the future should bring a sound and practicable answer.

Lowell W. Berry, President.

HONOR ROLL

Their advertisement in the August issue completed twelve consecutive monthly advertisements by Hirt and Lloyd.

Our apology to Service Heat and Power Co., D. C. Jones, local representative, whose July Advertisement completed twelve consecutive months of space taken, but who were inadvertently omitted from the July Honor Roll.

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