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ORINDA NEWS

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VOLUME III

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NUMBER 7

Acalanes Principal Elected By Trustees

Stanley Warburton, of Walnut Creek, was unanimously elected Principal of the new Acalanes High School by the board of trustees on Dec. 19. For the past two years Warburton has held the position of co-ordinator of secondary education in the county school system, previous to that he worked as supervisor of remedial instruction in the county.

For four years Warburton held positions as high school and junior college instructor at Citrus Union High School and Junior College at Azusa. He holds a general life diploma and secondary administrative credential from the state department of education which entitles him to superintend any high school or junior college.

Born in San Francisco, Warburton was graduated from Pomona College. From Claremont College he received his Master of Arts degree. At Yale University he instructed classes in High school English and educational measurement. At Harvard he studied statistics and guidance.

His contract is effective July 1, 1940, the start of the school year. Prior to that time he will devote his evenings to work and problems connected with the construction of the new school.

ORINDA STORE TO OPEN FEB. 1

The Orinda Store, which was destroyed by fire as the result of an electrical storm last September, is now being rebuilt, and will be open for business by Feb. 1. According to Jarvis Clark, owner of the store, the space occupied by the business will be larger and will include the soda fountain, postoffice, grocery department, and meat market.

Guthrie Clark, of Via Hermosa, son of Jarvis Clark, will be the new proprietor of the store. The staff will include several familiar faces, Hugh Hogan, C. P. McVickers of the meat dept., and Mrs. Laura Albert, who will be in charge of the soda fountain and lunch counter. Jarvis Clark will continue to run the postoffice.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild of the Orinda Community Church will hold its regular meeting Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 12:30 p. m. at the home of Mrs. Wm. D. Scott on Camino Sobrante.

January Meeting Notice

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

THE STROLLER

Since the night of the now famous electrical storm with its resulting fire and consequent destruction of the Orinda Store there has been in the center of the village only its charred remains as a reminder that we once had a thriving business there. It is good news the Stroller hears of the remodeling and reconstruction of the semi-destroyed store building. H. P. Atkinson, our resident builder, announces that the building will be ready for business by the first of February.

Several years in the retail grocery business, together with his past two years as manager of the Tunnel Grocery should enable young Clark to make the Orinda Store a proud feature of our village. Let us wish him success in his new enterprise and look forward to a visit over a cold drink at the soda fountain.

Would it be presumptuous for the Stroller, who on his ambles around the hills of Orinda has noticed the dire need for it, to suggest to Hacienda Homes, who levies and collects road taxes, that a little preparatory work be done in anticipation of the rains (if and when they come). To have the gutters cleaned so that they may accommodate the torrential floods anticipated this winter, instead of diverting them over the rocky skeletons of the present roads would not entail a great expense and would be one step toward placating the injured feelings of a great many residents who are still driving over roads that do one's disposition no good.

Not only does the Stroller stroll. On his walks he frequently meets an Orindan who
(Continued on page 2, col. 3)

SANTA MARIA CHURCH NEWS

At the December meeting of the the Santa Maria Church Association held at the Chas. Malone residence on Loma Vista Drive, the following new officers were elected for 1940: Dr. Harold Bausch, pres., Mrs. Geo. Pitt, sec. and treas.

Taxation To Be Theme For Improvement Meeting

Report of the committee on taxation and finance will be the principal order of business at the next regular meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association to be held at 8 p. m. on January 5 at the school house, and the committee promises that the facts and figures presented will shed a new light on past and future projects of the association and the methods of accomplishment.

Data from the tax files of Contra Costa County will be presented to the meeting in the form of a graph charting the Orinda rates with an explanation of the fluctuations over the period from 1921 to date.

With this as background the committee will explain the mechanics of county taxation and will demonstrate procedure for the computing increased tax rates to carry the new Acalanes High School District and other projects such as the prospective sanitary district.

Building restrictions and control of the roads of Orinda by residents have been problems studied from the standpoint of expense and the committee will present alternative methods of such control and the resultant taxes. The cost of the incorporation of Orinda will be another problem related to this study, and how incorporation could control such things as speeding on the roads in this district, prohibition of the use of the roads to heavy trucks, abatement of mosquito-breeding areas, proper restriction of the type of buildings erected in the community, and the establishment of building zones.

Edward H. Sibbett, chairman of the committee on taxation and finance will present the report which he has worked on for the past six months with Nelson Scotchler and U. B. Smith.

Noted Orindan Passes Away

The many friends in Orinda of William Penn Stephenson, of La Noria, were saddened to hear of his death on Dec. 21, after an illness of seven months. He had been a resident of Orinda since 1932, was a member of the Orinda Country Club, and an active figure in community affairs. He leaves a widow, Helen Brown Stephenson, two brothers, James Stephenson, of Long Beach, and Henry Stephenson, of Berkeley, as well as his mother and a sister, Miss Ruth Stephenson, also of Berkeley. He was a resident architect and engineer for the University of California.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

ORINDA NEWS

Official Publication of the
ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Editor Mrs. Malcolm Lamb
Associate Editor Mrs. Harold Symes
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Publisher Jesse J. McMillan

EDITORIAL

According to the latest reputable medical theories, mosquitoes are suspected of being carriers of two deadly diseases: poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis), and encephalitis (sleeping sickness). They are known to be the carriers of two other diseases, yellow fever and malaria. In Orinda there are many mosquitoes. Also in Orinda, in the past two months there have been a case each of sleeping sickness, which was fatal, and of poliomyelitis, which was not. With such a price to pay for negligence in the past let this community not rest until mosquito breeding spots have been destroyed. These places are prevalent throughout the district, swimming pools where water is stagnant, watering tanks, fish ponds, low drainage spots. Since the medical authorities in this county pay little attention to such danger, would it be too much to ask that each individual be responsible to see that mosquitoes do not breed here? Drain the low spots, use mosquito fish in fish ponds, cover stagnant pools with a film of Deisel or coal oil. What Dr. Wm. Gorgas did in the Canal Zone we surely can do here where we have the great advantage of cold winters, dry summers and comparatively little rainfall.

Join The Improvement Association

Each resident of the Orinda District (which includes Orinda proper, Moraga, Oak Springs, Minerinda, Monte Vista and Orinda Villa Park) should be a member of our Association to help vote on and promote projects that will better our community. Each person 21 years or over is eligible to membership in the Association. The dues are \$1 a year. Our Association has grown from a very few members to our present membership of approximately 325. However, the latest check shows over 800 registered voters. We regret that it is difficult to contact each new resident in our community, but thru this news article we sincerely invite you to our Orinda Improvement Association meetings, held the first Friday of each month, 8 p. m. at the Orinda School. Your helpful suggestions to better the community are very welcome. —D. C. Jones, chairman membership committee.

CHORAL GROUP

The Choral group will meet the third Monday in January, the 22, at 8 o'clock in the auditorium of the school house. Mrs. Martyn Warner, chairman of this section of the Orinda Improvement Association cordially invites anyone living in Orinda to attend these meetings. Members please note change in date of meeting.

December Meeting Notes

An address by Joe De Costa, a representative of the East Bay Municipal Utility District on the water system from the water sheds to the actual consumer was the feature of the December meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association. This was followed by moving pictures depicting the various processes that water undergoes in order to purify it for home consumption.

Plans were outlined for the Christmas tree lighting contest by George Pitt, chairman of the committee. Chairman Pitt urged all home owners of Orinda and Moraga to compete in the contest. Four factors will be considered in the judging: novelty, originality, fitness and general design. The committee of judges will inspect lighting displays on the nights of Dec. 28 and 29 between 8 and 9. Assisting Mr. Pitt on the committee are Mrs. George Pitt, Mrs. Ernest Mathy, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Ketcham and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Sisson.

Mrs. Loughery gave a talk on the co-operative exchange of the state re-employment program.

It was announced by President Sisson that the board of directors had agreed to continue the present *Orinda News* as a monthly publication and not have it handled through some local paper as was suggested at the previous meeting of the Association.

Edward H. Sibbett, chairman of the finance committee explained a graph that he is making to show the increase and causes of increased taxes from 1920 to the present date.

Dr. Dawson, representing the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce talked on the advantages of the proposed Walnut Creek to Berkeley Bus System. Mr. Gallagher of the Lafayette Improvement Association spoke at length on the needs of this system. He urged all members to fill out the questionnaires that had been sent to them by mail.

P. T. A. TO MEET JAN. 9

The Mt. Diablo Council of the P. T. A. will be held at the school at 2 p. m. on Jan. 9. Mrs. E. E. Edwards will preside and Mrs. Wilhelmine Loughrey, as chairman of the program, announces the theme to be discussed: "Cooperative and Consumer Education."

The regular meeting of the P. T. A. will be held at 1:30 p. m. on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at the school. Mrs. C. B. Chantler, president, urges all Orinda residents to attend. According to her, Mrs. Melvin Jacobus, program chairman, has secured excellent speakers for these meetings, and it has been a privilege to attend them.

The P. T. A. wishes to express its appreciation of the response of the people of Orinda to its request for donations for Thanksgiving baskets.

HOME DEPT. MEETS JAN. 8

"A Comfortable Living Room" will be the subject of the demonstration to be given by Miss Helen Burling, home demonstrator for the U. C. Extension Dept. for the County Farm Bureau, to be held Monday, Jan. 8, at 1 o'clock at the school house.

ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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

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Program and Planning Owen Dibbern
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Membership David Jones
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 Fleeger
Community Park and Planning Warren Harrold

THE STROLLER (Continued)

still likes to feel that he lives in a community sufficiently rural to satisfy that universal desire for the peace and quiet of "the Great Outdoors." Walking is a delightful pastime and a great healer of the sort of mental troubles that beset all who are forced to spend the majority of their waking hours in the confusion and noise of a busy city. With the steady growth of our community there is to be found less and less of the peaceful walking places. For the future of Orinda let us urge that the pedestrian paths which have been set aside be constructed now in order to give the leg-stretchers and nerve-resters at least as much recognition as the sitter-downers and dash-oners.

Does winter do things to you? The smell of oak fires burning, bare branches silhouetted against a pink and gold sky, the golf course lush green, damp leaves with their pungent fragrance, tender new grass along the roads' edges, presaging spring, the richness of the color of fallen buckeye leaves, the braveness of the golden willow leaves, the sudden knowledge that the curve of a hillside has rare aesthetic satisfaction, the sweetness of a frog's croak,—they cannot help but stir your soul and give you that rarest of all things, a moment of happiness. May the traditional happy New Year bring you the ability to sense these rare moments.

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.

The next meeting of the Santa Maria Church Association will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Miller on San Pablo Highway on Tuesday, January 9.

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

Miss Mary Fleager, of Highland Park, Ill., has been the house-guest of her uncle, Clarence E. Fleager of Via Floreado, over the Christmas and New Year holidays. Miss Fleager is a freshman at Mills College.

Mr. and Mrs. Martyn Warner have just returned from a ten-days' visit to Pasadena where they enjoyed the Yuletide celebration with their son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. John N. Warner, and their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Elston.

Also south for the New Year's week-end and game were the Kenneth Allens of Vallecito Lane.

Patsy Zamlock returned to her home after a two months' stay in the hospital in plenty of time for Christmas. It is with the very best wishes for the New Year that Patsy is welcomed home again.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald A. Woods entertained relatives from London, England, over the holidays. Mrs. T. Breveton and Mrs. S. Frank, aunts of Mrs. Woods, have been visiting Mrs. Woods' mother in Santa Monica. Over the Christmas week they, along with other relatives from Beverly Hills, drove up to Orinda for a family gathering in the new home at 44 La Vuelta.

Stephen Ballinger has just returned with a new Mercury car which he drove home from Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Smith, of Dias Doradas, with their grandson, Donald Ross, of Honolulu, spent ten days enjoying winter sports in Sun Valley over the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Kendrick Morrish of Irvine Drive had as their houseguests during December Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gerhart and two children from Los Angeles. Mrs. Gerhart was the former Elizabeth Thomas, sister of Mrs. Morrish. Mrs. W. Scott Thomas visited her daughter, Mrs. Morrish, during the Christmas holidays.

Dr. and Mrs. N. Austin Cary of 37 Orchard Road attended the Tournament of Roses in Pasadena and the Rose Bowl game on New Year's day during a post-Christmas visit to Los Angeles.

To welcome the New Year in a festive mood, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Ballachey of Camino Don Miguel spent that week-end at Del Monte.

To spend six months with her daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Brill arrived from her home in Philadelphia in time for Christmas with the Frank Soulés of Charles Hill Road.

The Misses Lora and Janice Lamborn visited their aunt, Mrs. C. H. Sorrick of Camino Sobrante from their home in Los Angeles during the Christmas holidays. Mrs. Sorrick drove to Los Angeles in order to bring the two girls to Orinda.

Mrs. Alma E. Scoones of Los Angeles is the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Edward H. Sibbett.

Miss Eleanor Donaldson was married to William George Kirby of Orinda. Mrs. Kirby formerly managed the Orinda Riding Academy. The just-weds have now returned from their honeymoon and are making their home in Orinda.

The George Gibsons spent Christmas in Los Angeles with his parents.

Orinda Children Feted By Volunteer Firemen

Down from the top of the hills came Santa Claus on Dec. 22, a bit premature, but nonetheless eagerly awaited by some 235 big-eyed youngsters, who watched the red-clad figure wend his way down the narrow path to be met by the truck of the Orinda Fire Dept. Around the 17 fairways they came, sped onto the course where gifts were distributed to all the children.

The Christmas party arranged by the Orinda Volunteer Fire Dept. is a tradition in Orinda. Special stunts were provided this year by the Junior Volunteer Fire Dept., which, coached by Capt. Harry Oakley, extinguished the flames roaring from the miniature house erected on the fairway. The pumps were so well manned that the pressure was sufficient to flip the nozzle indiscriminately into the crowd, which made the day a bit more exciting than the spectators anticipated.

Warren Harrold personally escorted Santa to the homes of all Orinda children who were unable to attend because of illness, and gave them their toys. For this bit of color and fun the community extends its gratitude to Joe Varni and Warren Harrold who so beautifully arranged the details of this traditional event. Pictures of the party are on display in Warren Harrold's office.

HOLIDAY SADDENED BY DEATH

One week before the eve of the birth date of the Christ Child, Kay Lynn Anderson, the little two-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Anderson of Southwood Drive, passed away. For this saddest of all Christmases the people of Orinda express their deep sympathy to the bereaved parents of this little girl.

BOY SCOUT NEWS

The Orinda Boy Scouts will resume their activities the first Saurday in January. John Gardner who has recently moved to Orinda is to be Scout Master and has plans for an interesting spring program—among them he hopes to include a snow trip. Gardner is an Eagle Scout and has been in scouting for seventeen years. For the past four years he has been scoutmaster of a Berkeley Troop. All boys, twelve years or over are urged to be at the School Saturday, Jan. 6 at 9:00 a. m.

PERSONALS (Continued)

Ritchie L. Smith returned from Honolulu on the Lurline in time to spend the holidays with Mrs. Smith who is now up and about after a long illness.

For snow sports Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Gentry and family of La Campaña traveled to Yosemite for New Year's.

En route from their home in New Haven, Conn., Dr. and Mrs. Robert G. Johnston spent the holidays with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Galen Fisher of El Sueño.

The C. W. Merrills will leave on January 18 for an extended visit to those very popular Hawaiian Islands.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin M. Orr of Moraga Highway entertained Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wilson of Los Angeles during the Christmas festivities. Another recent houseguest of the Orrs has been Mrs. Robert Edgren of the Monterey peninsula.

Garden Suggestions

January is an excellent time to plant deciduous trees and shrubs, evergreens, fruit trees and berries. These plants are now in a dormant condition and transplant readily. It is also the best time to set out new rose bushes. There are a number of varieties of seeds which may be planted in flats this month, among them are: snapdragon, English daisy, calendula, cockscomb, wallflower, lupin, pentstemon and flowering sage. Seeds that may be sown out of doors include, sand verbena, clarkia, California poppy, godetia, baby blue-eyes and mignonette. Among the bulbs and roots which may still be planted are Peruvian lily, amaryllis, canna, freesia, peony, tulip and calla. Colombine, snapdragon, canterbury bells, Shasta daisy, pinks, stock and primrose plants may be transplanted now.

"BARNSTORMERS" ORGANIZED

Drama has come to Orinda! It came on wings, borne with eager gusto by the Orinda Barnstormers. It was deposited gently and given birth on the night of December 6th, at the home of Mrs. G. A. Woods of 44 La Vuelta. Perhaps twenty strolling players were there to greet drama in its unfolding, all anxious to assist in its growth at Orinda. Their vivid enthusiasm is certain to produce followers for their fresh ideas on the development of an active dramatic organization.

The Barnstormers are seeking dreamers with imagination; practical fellows with a flare for shifting scenery or a desire to enjoy an artistic urge in off hours; in fact, anyone who likes keen fun. If you're interested will you call Mrs. Woods at Orinda 5581 or Marshall A. Shapiro at Orinda 5481? The next meeting of the Orinda Barnstormers will be at 8 p. m. January 10 at 44 La Vuelta.

Professor Chapman Honored

The government of Chile recently awarded the Don Diego Portales medal to Dr. Chas. E. Chapman, of 12 Via Farralon, and professor of Hispanic American History at the University of California. This medal was issued in commemoration of the first century of the death of Portales, known as the Alexander Hamilton of Chile, for his work in developing the financial resources of that country. Dr. Chapman is one of a group of distinguished writers who have received the medal in recognition of the historic works they have published concerning the part played by Portales in Chilean history.

Twelve-Fifteen Club News

The annual Christmas party of the 12-15 Club was held on December 12 at the home of Mrs. Claude E. Donaldson on La Espiral. Election of officers was the main feature of the business meeting, resulting in the following officers being elected: Mrs. Beatrice Cleborne, Chairman; Mrs. George H. Pitt, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Walter B. Thomas, Secretary-Treasurer.

The club wishes to thank those members of the community who so generously supported the recent bazaar held at the school. The proceeds will be used for worthy causes during the coming year.

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