

# Orinda News

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLIC CITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume II

Orinda, Calif., January 1, 1938

Number 7

## Highway Billboards

About two months ago the Lafayette Improvement Club at a regular meeting went on record as being definitely opposed to the placing of billboards along the Tunnel Road between Lafayette and the new Tunnel. A resolution was unanimously passed opposing signs and urging the boycott of advertisers who use them.

According to reports of the meeting in the Lafayette Sun of Oct. 14th last, the subject was brought to a head by the placing of the first full-sized billboard on the highway between Lafayette and the Tunnel. It is located on the north side of the road a little distance west of the Water Company station, and advertises an East Bay hotel.

Following the passage of the resolution Pres. George Meredith appointed a committee to confer with property owners along the highway and urge them not to lease their land for highway signs in the interests of good citizenship and to preserve the natural beauty of this unique stretch of highway. It was also urged that public sentiment be aroused immediately to protect the countryside from the inroads of signs now appearing imminent.

This is a subject which we of Orinda might do well to consider. By following the example of our Lafayette neighbors we could not only help their wise movement but extend it to include a large portion of the Moraga and San Pablo Dam highways.

## Many Attend Hearing

We certainly appreciate the consideration given us by the State Railroad Commission in presenting a hearing of proposed Telephone rates on the 14th of December last, at the Orinda Country Club.

### BUS SCHEDULE

GOIN' TO TOWN...	Arrive Daily		
	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Orinda (leave) .....	7:52	11:35	4:10
Orinda Junction .....	7:54	11:40	4:15
Oakland—Coll.—Bdwy .....	8:05	11:51	4:26
Oakland—40—Bdwy .....	8:08	11:55	4:30
Oakland—14—Bdwy .....	Moss	12:05	4:40
Oakland—14—Cypress .....	Moss	12:09	4:44
San Francisco .....	8:30	12:32	5:07
COMING HOME...	Leave Daily		
	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.
San Francisco .....	8:40	1:15	5:15
Oakland—14—Cypress .....	9:00	1:35	Moss
Oakland—14—Bdwy .....	9:04	1:39	Moss
Oakland—40—Bdwy .....	9:13	1:48	5:57
Oakland—Coll.—Bdwy .....	9:16	1:51	5:40
Orinda Junction .....	9:28	2:03	5:42
Orinda (Arrive) .....	9:30	2:05	5:55

## JANUARY MEETING NOTICE

The next regular meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday, Jan. 7th, at 8 p. m. in the Orinda School Auditorium. Start the New Year by attending!

## THE STROLLER

Just sitting by the fire thinking about the things that have passed in 1937 and those that are ahead of us in 1938.

We have all seen our village grow and population about double in that time; we have seen a real Improvement Club function and you know folks, a lot of the fine things that have happened are due to your co-operation, the efforts of our association and the fine spirit displayed by the folks in Orinda in general.

I dare say about 75 per cent of our population moved here from our surrounding cities, and perhaps when you first landed you felt a little strange; but how quickly you were welcomed into the Orinda family circle. Pretty soon your neighbors were calling you by your first name and it sure sounds good to hear the welcome call of "hello Jack"—or "Bill" as the case might be. It is one of the fine things that we are all proud of—that grand friendly spirit.

(Continued on page 3, col. 2)

## This Is Not News

The present school was built during the Summer of 1924. It has served the community well for the past thirteen years. But—Our community is growing, growing with leaps and bounds. Our School must keep step with this growth. Its average daily attendance has increased 40% since last term. The only answer is—more school.

## Our Advertisers

The Publicity Committee wishes to take this opportunity to thank our Advertisers for using the Orinda News, and thereby making it possible for us to continue.

## Santa Claus Visits Orinda Fire House

Thursday, December 23rd, at 4:00 p.m., Santa Claus made his yearly trip to the Orinda Fire House, bringing joy and happiness to one hundred and fifty children in the Orinda Fire District.

With sirens going loud and long, Santa (Joe Varni) came riding down the hill on the back of the Fire Engine, a large pack of toys on his back, with a present for each and every boy and girl of Grammar School age.

The Orinda Community Singers, under the able direction of Mrs. C. J. Cleborne, furnished the party with Christmas Carols.

After distributing presents to all of the kiddies, Santa climbed aboard the Fire Engine and rode away, not to return again until next year at Christmas time.

This year's party was made possible thru the liberal donations of members of the Community, and thru the combined efforts of the members of Board of Trustees of the Orinda Volunteer Fire Department. Those on the Board are: Warren Harrold, Joe Varni, Captain H. R. Oakley, Bert Dawson, and August Reuter. Others who helped with the party arrangements were as follows: Arline S. Harrold, Mrs. H. R. Oakley, Mrs. George H. Pitt, Maurine Donaldson, Mr. and Mrs. Al Ritchie, and Mrs. James E. Sullivan.

## History of Orinda

### NEW YEAR'S EVE IN ORINDA 1896

While Orinda celebrated Christmas publicly at the old hotel at the Crossroads with a school program and dance, it celebrated its New Year's Eve privately. Christmas songs by the little Mintos, Warnekes, and Sullivans, such as "I don't want to play in your Yard", "Owl and the Pussy Cat", and "The Turkey's Drumstick", were replaced New Year's Eve by charades and games, spin-the-platter, post office, drop the handkerchief, and scissors ("see-if-you-can-do-what-I-do or pass the scissors").

The smartest New Year's party of 1896 was given by William Attebury and his sisters, Ruth and Lydia. Even in Old Orinda the young men either wore black sack suits or tail coats to parties, always black patent leather dancing pumps. OLD DECEMBER, the Orinda correspondent, either was a wit or a sentimentalist. At Christmas he writes that "the violin played sweetly on until 12 o'clock." On New Year's, writing of the Attebury supper they served at 11:45, he says that "long before it was finished, the Happy

(Continued on page 2, col. 3)



## ORINDA NEWS

Official Publication of the  
ORINDA

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

## OFFICERS

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 Vice President ..... Lowell Berry  
 Secretary ..... Donald Badgley  
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Communications and news items for this paper will be accepted by any of the following Publicity Committee members: Mr. H. L. Ketcham, Miss Maurine Donaldson, R. M. Cross, J. J. McMillan, Mrs. Geo. H. Pitt, Willis J. O'Brien.

Advertising rates available upon application to Mrs. Geo. H. Pitt, ASherberry 10262.

Copies of Orinda News  
Sent to Historical Society

In response to the letter quoted herewith, fifty copies of the *Orinda News* were sent to Grahame Hardy, president of the California-Nevada Railroad Historical Society. We feel justly proud of the historical articles contributed by Miss Martinez from time to time.

Here's the letter:

"December 11, 1937

"...Dear Mr. Harrold,

"Our attention has been called to the Vol. 1 No. 6 issue of the *Orinda News* containing an article on the history of the *California and Nevada Railroad*. We would like to obtain about fifty copies of this issue for distribution among our members. As our Society is named for this historic railroad we are very much interested in obtaining these, as we do not have an accurate history for our files.

"We invite you to be present at our Pacific Railroad Show, to be held Jan. 30th and 31st and Feb. 1st and 2nd in the Hotel Oakland. Much old railroad lore will be on display that should prove interesting.

"Thanking you for your courtesy and consideration in this matter I remain,

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Grahame Hardy, President"

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## Helpful Knowhows

Have you a home workshop, a greenhouse, a stamp collection, a concrete mixer, a ship model, a power boat, a library, a bass horn, a leaky roof, a microscope, a telescope, an archery outfit, a dingbat or a whoosis?

If so, or anything better, lets get together. Your neighbor would probably like to know how to plant a strawberry patch, or how much oil your furnace uses, or where to find some clear hickory, or what chemicals should be kept from entering his septic tank, or how to make an electric fly and bug killer.

The Publicity Committee invites you to submit concisely any story you have on any interesting subject. Tell us what varieties of plants you found to be unsuited to this climate, and save some other reader the time and disappointment of planting them. Tell us how to file a notice of completion (the writer had a rather costly experience in connection with this technical nuisance). Perhaps you are an insurance man (or woman) and can list a few do's and don'ts. Or perhaps you know a good way to remove glass rings from furniture tops.

Bring out the pencil and paper and address your "knowhow" to the *Orinda News*, Orinda, Calif.

Orinda School Christmas  
Party

The Annual Christmas party given by the Orinda P. T. A. for the children of the school was held Friday evening, Dec. 18th at the school house. The children gave a Christmas play, "Magic Bells", directed by Miss Park, principal and teacher of the upper grades, and Mrs. Jost, teacher of the lower grades. Too much credit cannot be given the two teachers for the excellent performance. The school orchestra, directed by Mr. Allen, gave several selections, with violin solos by Kathleen Sullivan and Baylis Pressure.

After the entertainment Santa Claus gave out the gifts by a large beautifully decorated and lighted tree. Each child received a gift and a candy cane. There was a grand turnout — not even standing room.

The committee in charge of the party included Mrs. Norton, chairman, with Mrs. Snook, Mrs. Cathcart, Mrs. Farrar, and Mrs. La Velle assisting.

## January P.-T. A. Meeting

The January meeting of the Orinda P.-T. A. will be held Tuesday, January 18th at 1:15. There will be dessert after which those wishing to play cards may. If you so desire, bring your knitting and enjoy a social time. Each member is asked to bring a "white elephant" gift, unwrapped. These gifts will be auctioned off at the close of the meeting. Card fee 25c. The program committee will be in charge, assisted by Mrs. George Pitt.

## HISTORY OF ORINDA

(Continued from page 1)

New Year shout, the firing of guns and the ringing of bells was o'er. The folks took to dancing after supper, and the sweet mournful tones of the organ, even while sounding the lively waltz seemed to have a lingering regret for the old year. The ladies took advantage of the leap year and chose their partners. After several songs, and about three o'clock the merry-makers began to think of home, and bidding adieu to our genial host and hostesses we took our departure."

—Carmel Martinez.

## CHURCH NOTICES

## ORINDA COMMUNITY

Sunday School for all ages meets at 9:30 o'clock every Sunday morning. Church Service of worship will be held January 2nd at 10:45 a.m. Henry Adams will preach.

Christian Endeavor for teen age young people meets every Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. The services are held in Casa Verano, San Pablo Rd. and El Toyonal. Visitors cordially welcome.

## WOMEN'S GUILD

The next regular meeting of the Women's Guild will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 4, at 12 noon in the home of Mrs. George Pitt on Don Miguel and Santa Lucia. Fine fellowship and a missionary speaker, Mr. George Adams of Korea, will be enjoyed by all who attend.

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

On Tuesday, Dec. 7th the Santa Maria Association held its monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. E. I. de Laveaga on Miner Rd.

The annual election of officers took place and resulted as follows: President, Mrs. C. Seifert, Moraga; Vice President, Mrs. Geo. H. Pitt; Secretary, Miss Bernice Warren; and Treasurer, Mrs. C. Malone.

It was decided that after the first of the year the monthly meetings should be held at the homes of each of the members of the Association.

The Treasurer reported our finances for the closing year 100%.

Sunday Masses at 9 o'clock, and wish to extend a hearty welcome to all.

## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

The Christian Science Society of Orinda holds regular Sunday Services at 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday evening meetings on the first and third Wednesdays 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.

## Epitaph

To the Hurry-up Motorist

He had nothing to do when he got home,  
so he hurried.



## PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Taylor of Loma Vista Dr. motored to Hollywood over the Thanksgiving holiday and reported having had a wonderful time.

Commander and Mrs. J. J. Mifflit from Mare Island spent the Christmas holiday with Capt. and Mrs. Cleborne at their new home on La Espiral.

Walter and Carol Henderson pulled a big surprise on Santa Claus this year.... Guess what: Tickets to the California Rose Bowl game at Pasadena on New Year's Day. Both Daddy and Mother journeyed south with them.

Commander and Mrs. Alex B. Hayward attended a dinner party and bridge on Fri., Dec. 17th at Mare Island at the home of Capt. and Mrs. Geo. W. Sheppard.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Warner entertained their son and daughter and their families for Christmas — Mr. and Mrs. John H. Warner from Los Angeles and Mr. and Mrs. Thos. S. Elston Jr., from Pasadena.

On Sunday, Dec. 12th, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Dennis entertained at dinner a party of ten. All reported an enjoyable evening.

We are happy to state at this time that Mrs. R. Engelke, sister of Mrs. L. Dana, is recovering nicely from a serious operation at the Merritt Hospital on Dec. 9th.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Miller on Loma Vista entertained over Christmas Mr. Miller's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Miller from Lorain, Ohio, Mrs. F. Daniels from Arcadia and Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Kastruk from Sacramento.

Warren Harrold and family motored to Pasadena for a 2-weeks' vacation and to attend the California-Alabama game. Will return in time to preside over the year's first meeting.

Mr. Ritchie Smith and wife returned on Dec. 23rd from a 2½ months' trip at Honolulu.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Elkinton were happy to have Fred Jr. and Bob home from college over the Christmas holidays.

We would like to congratulate Mrs. A. Pasteris upon her good fortune in winning a Norge washing machine at Hink's Christmas Gift Nite held at a Berkeley theatre, December 22nd.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Darnall, 1 Los Aramos, upon the loss of their little son.

## Community Sunday School Christmas Party

A capacity audience attended the Christmas party held at Casa Verano, Monday evening, Dec. 20th. The Christmas message was presented by children and adults in song and scripture reading. After the program and singing of carols by the audience, Santa appeared on the scene and distributed presents to the members of the S. S.

## THE STROLLER (Continued)

And as the new year approaches let us all together make a few resolutions with the firm resolve that we will keep them.

*First*—That we will all strive to retain for our beloved Orinda that fine neighborly and helpful attitude that has been displayed in the past.

*Second*—That we will make an earnest effort to attend the meetings of our Improvement Association.

*Third*—That if we are called upon to serve on a committee that we will do so willingly, as we know it is for the general good.

*Fourth*—That we will keep our dumb animals properly enclosed for their own protection.

*Fifth*—That we will not put rubbish or garbage on the other fellow's property and try to keep our roads in good shape.

*And Last but not least*—That we will be considerate in our driving, and give the other fellow his share of the road and thereby save accidents and grief to our loved ones.

Nature has been kind to us folks of Orinda and it is up to us to make 1938 a year of happiness, kindness and joy to us all.

—The Stroller.

## 10 Years Ago in Orinda

The following excerpt was printed in Vol. 1, No. 1 of *The Orindan* dated July 1927. *The Orindan*, published by Warren Harrold, was our first local paper. It is interesting to note that the original purposes as set forth by the Improvement Association at that time have endured and flourished for the general good of our community.

### ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Orinda Improvement Association is the main governing body in Orinda.

Its officers are E. I. de Laveaga, president; A. W. Elkinton, vice-president; W. R. Prichard, secretary; and Florence Horton, treasurer. It meets the first Monday in every month, at 8:00 p.m. at the school house.

This Association should have the support of every property owner at Orinda. It handles the question of Roads, the Telephone situation, the Fire Department, Postal Service, indorses and works for legislative measures that will aid Orinda's growth, provides police protection, and other measures for the safety of residents of Orinda. It also debates problems that arise for the betterment of living conditions here.

## Follow the Lights

Regardless of the condition of the other fellow's headlights, research has shown that the man who knows how to use the modern lighting system on his own car can drive with safety and without glare annoyance.

All that is necessary is to drop the lights to the passing beam and follow the light pattern which intensifies along the edge of the highway. It really is safer than keeping your own lights high as a retaliation which many a driver has an impulse to do.

## When Choosing Your Dog . .



A well informed police official once said that a watch dog most respected by prowlers is of the small, active breed which barks at strange sounds or persons and can quickly dodge a blow or hurled missile. If you are choosing a watch dog this is a good point to consider.

Some of us have dogs for protection, some for companionship, others for both; but in any case there are several points in favor of the smaller breeds for this locality. In the first place we are almost entirely surrounded by adjacent grazing land, and there is a county law which gives cattle owners the right to shoot any dog found on pasture land, whether the dog is bothering the cattle thereon or not.

In the second place, most of the deeds to property in this community contain the clause "... nor shall any dog or cat be permitted to stray from the lot herein described and conveyed..." It is of course natural for almost any pet to wander afield, but this is particularly true of the larger breeds. They may be quite friendly and docile but nevertheless a large dog on the loose can cause its owner no little embarrassment by harm to another person's pets or property. One of our residents carries scars on his face to testify to an unexplainable reverse in the nature of a neighbor's large dog. Others have had small pets killed by large roaming dogs.

Some like to keep a cat for rodent control, but the cat has little chance for existence when caught on unfenced open ground by its long legged age-old enemy.

Incidentally, any worthwhile pet is deserving of the proper kind of food and this in itself is quite an item with the larger animals.

So... when a well meaning friend offers you one of Rover's puppies bear in mind that most puppies do grow up.

## JOSHES

BUT HE DIDN'T. . .

Pickpocket (visiting pal in jail)—I hired a lawyer for you this morning, Slim, but I had to leave my watch with him as part payment.

Pal—And did he keep it?

Pickpocket—He thinks he did.

—Providence Journal.

Hostess: It looks like a storm, you had better stay for dinner.

Guest: Oh, thanks, but I don't think it's bad enough for that.

The astronomy professor had shown his fair young visitor all through the observatory and explained the work in minute detail.

"I can understand how a new star might be discovered," she remarked sweetly, "but how do you clever people ever find out its name?"

Bachelor Uncle: "Baby six weeks old, you say. Talk vet?"

Proud Father: "Oh no, not yet."

Bachelor Uncle: "Boy eh?"



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