

Orinda News

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume I

Orinda, Calif., November 1, 1937

Number 5

NEW GAS MAINS

Division Manager Announces Route of Natural Gas Main Extensions in Orinda Territory

We have been requested by the Orinda Improvement Association to give you an outline of our present extension of gas service in the Orinda and neighboring territory.

The route of the extension out of Walnut Creek is as follows: from Walnut Creek along the highway to Lafayette with a distribution system around chief residential streets in Lafayette, thence up the lower Happy Valley Road to the junction of the upper Happy Valley Road back to the Tunnel Highway along the upper Happy Valley Road, then westerly again along the Tunnel Highway to a point near Charles Hill. From this point we follow a private right of way meeting the Orinda properties at the head of Las Aromas Street, we then proceed through Orinda along Las Cascades following the west side of Lake Cascade to Camino Sobrante thence along Camino Sobrante to the San Pablo Highway, thence southerly along

(Continued on page 2, col. 1)

Register Now!

It seems the usual thing for those who are entitled to vote to wait until the required time before an important election before registering.

It is important and helpful in a growing community such as ours that the Registrar of voters be up to date at all times. It is, first, a fairly accurate index of our population and secondly, it is a determining factor as to whether one voting precinct is sufficient or an additional one is necessary. An over-large precinct works a hardship on the voter, the County Clerk and your election board, so REGISTER NOW.

Registration Clerks in the Orinda District are: August Reuter, at the Cross Roads; Warren Harrold and Arline S. Harrold.

—WARREN HARROLD.

Organization Meeting For Community Church

A special meeting of all residents of Orinda interested in the formation of the Orinda Community Church has been called for Tuesday evening, November 2 at eight o'clock in the church's new quarters at Casa Verano (diagonally across from the Fire House). The matter of a permanent organization is to be discussed.

(Signed) THE CHURCH COMMITTEE

November Meeting Notice

The next regular meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday, November 5th in the Orinda School Auditorium.

In commemoration of Armistice Day, songs appropriate to the occasion will be offered by Mrs. Beatrice Cleborne and the Music Committee.

THE STROLLER

I sure thought I was back on the farm last Monday night when I passed the school and heard some folks singing, and the songs brought me back to yesterday. Just imagine hearing "Sweet Rosey O'Grady", "When you and I were young Maggie", "Salley in Our Alley" and many other beautiful old songs and I got a thinking what a wonderful thing this community singing is.

I took a peek in the door of the school and saw about a dozen people just having a grand time but I thought there should be more folks than there was, because if you only knew how easy it is to get acquainted at that sort of gathering, the hall would of been crowded. You know each Christmas morning the fire Dept. boys climb aboard the fire wagon and travel around Orinda, singing beautiful Christmas carols. To you new neighbors I want to say you have a great thrill coming when you hear these lads sing "Silent Night" under your window. I know if I could sing I would be down to the school house on Monday nights with the hope they would let me climb on the wagon Christmas and sing with the fire lads.

You folks will think I am a confirmed kicker but it would just be fine if we could get a few more street lights so we could recognize our neighbors when we pass them at night.

I see the County road crew was out and brushed and widened Miner Road and fixed some guard rails to make it safer for us all. Now let's get together and co-operate with them and drive on the right side and at a reasonable speed because no doubt you feel like I do, that is, that I hope to live in Orinda for a long time to come.

Jingle Bells! Just a little reminder only about two months till Christmas.

1 1 1

Post Office Plans House Numbering in Orinda

With the unusual activity in building, the post office is faced with the problem of proper numbering of the boxes now served by the rural carrier. Any changes in the route of the carrier to serve new patrons are likely to necessitate a number of changes in the box numbers of those who now have service.

With the realization that this is very unsatisfactory both to the post office and to the patrons, a plan is under consideration to furnish definite house numbers to all residents in the same manner as in the cities. This will make it possible for everyone to have a permanent post office address so that mail may be directed to their proper street and number. This will not only simplify the mail service but will make it much easier to locate addresses.

A committee from the Improvement Association is meeting with Mr. Dunlap of the Berkeley Post Office, in an effort to work out a satisfactory plan of numbering.

THEATRE PARTY

The El Rey Theatre in Walnut Creek announces definitely that *The Lost Horizon* will be shown on the night of October 26th. All tickets bought for last month will be honored and we are hoping that Orinda will be in good attendance as a large share of the gate receipts will go into the funds of our Improvement Association.

Orinda School District 1937-38 Tax Rate

From figures obtained from the County Auditor's Office the 1937-38 tax rate for the Orinda School District varies from \$2.282 to \$3.522 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation according to the location in the school district. However, in the improved or greater part of the District, the rate is \$3.522 per \$100.00, made up as follows:

General County	\$1.180
Elementary school (Orinda)	.225
East Bay Municipal Utility Dist.	.250
High School (Richmond)	.877
Orinda Water District	.800
Orinda Fire District	.190
	\$3.522

Last year's tax rate was \$3.435 and in comparison each of the above tax levying bodies have either lowered or remained the same with the exception of the High School, which is increased.

Warren Harrold.

ORINDA NEWS

Official Publication of the

ORINDA

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 Vice President _____ Lowell Berry
 Secretary _____ Donald Badgley
 Treasurer _____ C. E. Donaldson

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 South of Tunnel Road _____ Herbert Hauser
 East of San Pablo Highway, Orinda _____ G. B. Schuyler
 W. of San Pablo Highway, Orinda _____ A. W. Elkinton
 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 Mr. H. L. Ketcham, Phone Berkeley 9409-R-5

Bus Questionnaire Replies

	BERK.	OAK.	S.F.
Total Route preference	21	25	41
Regular Commuters	11	8	24

The number of trips per week taken by people who do not commute regularly, vary.

No. specifying	BERK.	OAK.	S.F.
certain route	16	14	34

No. round trips per week specified	BERK.	OAK.	S.F.
	69	61	154

315 cards were mailed, a large percentage of which went to non-resident property owners. We feel that a return of 87 cards was evidence of a hearty interest in the above questions.

The time of arrival at place of business ranged from 7 to 9:30 a.m. with a larger number showing preference from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m.

GAS MAINS

(Continued from page one)

San Pablo Highway to the southern boundary of Moraga Estates with a distribution system in the major streets of this latter subdivision. We also plan a main up Canyon Drive on the west side of San Pablo Highway in Orinda up as far as the Twin Springs Trail thence back down Ardilla Road to the San Pablo Highway.

From these mains in Orinda we will be able to reach adjacent homes and those on connecting roads which are within a reasonable distance of these mains. As building progresses in the future throughout this territory we will extend our mains accordingly. The gas served here will be the same as is served in the balance of Contra Costa County, that is, natural gas of 1150 B.T.U. content per cubic foot.

R. L. HAYDEN, Div. Mgr.

Epitaffy

'Twas early in the morn,
 And he thot the road was clear,
 So he didn't sound his horn;
 Oh dear! oh dear! oh dear!

Highlights of Last Meeting

The last meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association showed a growth of 188 members from that of 45 members three months ago.

Discussion of our local sanitation problems was conducted by Mr. R. R. Dennis. There was a general sentiment in favor of having a County Sanitary Inspector appointed by the Board of Supervisors for the purpose of preventing improper or insufficient plumbing facilities being installed by new home builders and also for advice in established problems. A bond issue sufficient for installation of sewage disposal for this district is not possible at present since we do not have a large enough assessed valuation. Anyone wishing to know more of the problem may obtain the State Bulletin on Septic Tanks by writing to Sacramento.

A letter was written by the Association to the Board of Supervisors requesting that the unfinished part of Wildcat Canyon Road (about 2 1/6 miles) be surfaced so that we might enjoy this new outlet through the regional park.

Mr. W. D. Scott reports that the Telephone Company is engaged in laying a new cable into Orinda from Berkeley. It represents quite an expensive piece of work but is a necessary improvement in order to provide better service and care for the increasing number of subscribers.

Mr. Warren Harrold brought to the attention of the Association the fact that some time in the future Orinda will reach the point where a need will arise for a larger school and possibly something in the nature of an auditorium or town-hall. He emphasized the fact that the school is already small and that in order to expand more grounds will be needed. The feeling is that now is the time to consider a site for these future needs. The most desirable location for the purpose would be the piece of ground which lies directly across the road from the school and is owned by the East Bay Utility District. Since there is no other suitable property available it is important that we do some "town planning." If this property could be secured from the Utility District under title or a long term lease, it would insure to us the advantages of having a community owned piece of property, for the lack of which many small districts like ourselves are definitely handicapped.

History of the Orinda P.-T.A.

The P.-T.A. of Orinda has had its thirteenth birthday! On Sept. 19, 1924, parents friends and teachers of the Orinda Union School met at the little red schoolhouse for the purpose of organizing a P.-T.A. Mrs. C. P. Woodbury was elected president. There were sixteen charter members: three of these were men, Mr. Brockhurst, Mr. E. W. Jensen, and Mr. T. C. Kendall. Mr. Brockhurst was elected treasurer.

By October, the treasury consisted of \$6.40, which sum had been increased to \$30.65 by December as the result of a benefit whist party at the home of Mrs. T. C. Kendall.

12 New Homes Started

Since the October issue of the Orinda News, the following property owners in the Orinda district have started construction of new homes:

Herbert J. Lueck	Minerinda
Owen S. Dibbern	Minerinda
Frank Bryant	Minerinda
Orton Lucas	Haciendas del Orinda
Lt. Com. J. J. Mifflit	Haciendas del Orinda
S. F. Duncan	Haciendas del Orinda
John Fitting (2 homes)	Orinda Park Terr.
T. R. Robbins	Orinda Park Terrace
L. G. Hulse	Orinda Park Terrace
M. R. Armstrong	San Pablo Highway
William Fleager	Moraga Highway

By June of the following year the treasury boasted \$102.81, eighty dollars having been raised by a dance at the school auditorium.

By November of that first year, 1924, new members were added which included Mr. E. I. deLaveaga, Mr. F. W. Enos, and Capt. H. Oakley. Then, having fathered their offspring and watched it past its first toddling steps, they left it to the care of the ladies, for no longer do the names of the men appear on the membership lists.

The first philanthropic work of the organization is tinged with a bit of humor. The sum of \$5.00 was to be donated for "Near East Relief." According to the minutes, "the president announced that the following Sunday was "Golden Rule Sunday" on which day each family should serve the exact meals which the children of the Near East must eat each day—and send the money thus saved for Near East relief. It takes \$5.00 to feed one child for one month. Instead of pledging to observe "Golden Rule Sunday" Mrs. Macey moved, and Mrs. Wheeler seconded, and the association voted to donate the \$5.00."

The first Father's night was celebrated on the evening of Founder's Day, February 1925. "A number of fun-provoking stunts were performed. The fathers trimmed their wife's Easter bonnets. A pillow-case race between the ladies and men followed—and the men won . . . Supper was served at long tables, and Mrs. Woodbury cut the birthday cake. Mrs. Rowland of Walnut Creek told fortunes . . . The total amount derived from these 'extortion' schemes was \$12.50.

But the early spontaneity of the thrill of a new venture began to pall as the years went on. Interest lagged and attendance dwindled.

Now, however, with our growing community we have a thriving P.-T.A. with renewed interest, especially on the part of some of our newer members. Mrs. Geo. A. Harrison has consented to be Vice-President and Mrs. F. Allen our new Secretary and publications chairman.

Our garden-party was a great success, sending us off to a good financial start, so with 36 paid up members and everyone's cooperation we look forward to a successful year in spite of the fact that no one remembered to say, "Happy Birthday!"

CHURCH NOTICES

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

The Christian Science Society of Orinda holds regular Sunday Services at 11 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.

ORINDA COMMUNITY

Sunday School for all at 9:30 a. m. every Sunday morning. Mr. A. W. Elkinton is the Superintendent.

Church services of Worship will be held the first Sunday of each month. On Nov. 7th at 10:45, Henry Adams of the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley will bring the message. Special music will be given.

1 1 1

WOMEN'S GUILD

The next regular meeting of the Women's Guild will be Tuesday, Nov. 2, at twelve noon. There will be a *tea cup shower* for the benefit of the Community Church. All ladies interested in interdenominational fellowship and in making this new venture of the renting of Casa Verano a success are urged to come out Nov. 2 to the Guild meeting.

All the above meetings will be held in the newly rented "Casa Verano" in the Mitchell and Austin Building on the San Pablo highway, at El Toyonal.

Orinda needs a Community center for Sunday School, Church, Christian Endeavor, and Guild meetings.

1 1 1

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

The Orinda Christian Endeavor Society holds regular meetings at Casa Verano every Sunday from 7 to 8 p. m.

Some of the young folks attended a C. E. convention recently held at Concord. They won a silver cup for the largest percentage of attendance at the convention.

All young people in their "teens" are cordially invited and urged to attend these meetings.

SANTA MARIA CHURCH

The regular monthly meeting of the Santa Maria Church Association was held Tuesday evening Oct. 12th at the home of Mrs. E. I. de Laveaga.

A committee report was given of the picnic held September 19 at the St. Mary's College grounds. Plans were discussed for the early spring social activities. The annual October rummage sale was postponed.

The financial report for the year ending September 1937 was a pleasant surprise to the members.

Regular Sunday Masses held at 9 a. m.

An excerpt: Do not feel offended toward the man who "pushes you" to collect what you owe him. He may be trying to raise money to pay the man who owes you!

ADVANCE NOTICE

Our next issue will carry a most welcome article by Miss Carmel Martinez on the history of the old railroad through Orinda.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Do You Realize . . . ?

—That 96 per cent of the fires are preventable and are caused by carelessness on someone's part.

—That it costs you a great deal of inconvenience and expense due to the wanton waste brought about by unnecessary fires.

—That carelessly discarded cigarettes, cigar stubs and matches cause a great many fires.

—That the careless use of Electrical devices, such as pressing irons, toasters, curling irons, and improper installation of electrical wires, and the overloading of your circuits cause fires.

—That oily and greasy rags are subject to spontaneous ignition and should not be allowed to accumulate about the premises.

—That Cedar Oil Mops should be kept in their proper containers or placed so that a circulation of air can pass through them at all times.

—That inflammable material should not be allowed to accumulate in furnace rooms or near heaters of any kind.

—That through the thoughtless, careless practice of using inflammable volatile cleaning fluids in the home for cleaning purposes, many a bad fire is started.

—That we appreciate your renewed cooperation in helping to preserve property in Orinda from fire hazard.

—P. D. Donaldson, Chief,
Orinda Volunteer Fire Dept.

BOY SCOUT NEWS ORINDA CUB PACK

Evening Meeting of September 30

The meeting opened with the New Cub Ceremony, in which Cubmaster D. V. Brown received two new members into the Pack. The new boys were Patrick Elvidge and Herman Gericke, whom all the Pack were very glad to see join, as they have proved already to be regular fellows, full of the spirit of cooperation and friendliness so necessary for the successful running of any boy organization.

The Advancement Ceremony saw two boys receive honors, Gordon Nash getting the Wolf Cub Pin, having completed his first rank in Cubbing, and Bob Dana his gold arrow for work done beyond that required. Bob wasn't sure whether he wanted to go on and get his silver arrow too, the highest honor, but admitted under questioning that he'd like to, only saying: "But all the tests get harder now!"

The evening was topped off by two skits done by the boys, one a unique hill billy band, with jugs for instruments, and by a

PERSONALS

August Reuter from the Crossroads and J. Miller of Martinez went to New York last week to attend the World Series.

Happy to hear Miss Maurine Donaldson is at home again and improving rapidly from an appendix operation at Merritt Hospital.

Mrs. Marie Bennett, representative for Fred T. Woods at Moraga, returned last week from a ten day vacation in the South.

Captain Cleybourne expects to return to his new home in Orinda shortly. We will be happy to see him back from the Mare Island Hospital where he has been for the past few weeks, and hope that he will soon be out amongst us again.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Kales have just returned from a delightful trip to Honolulu.

The Ritchie Smiths are Hawaii bound. Expect to be gone for three months and will return the day before Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Mathy of Don Miguel Road entertained at four p. m., October 10, at a very delightful cocktail party. The invited guests were: Mr. and Mrs. G. Ballachey, Mr. and Mrs. George Pitt, Mr. and Mrs. L. Berry, Mr. and Mrs. R. Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. R. Preshure, Mr. and Mrs. L. Dunham, Mr. and Mrs. G. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. E. Lane, Miss Scott, and Miss Wastell.

The Improvement Association at this time wishes to express the deepest sympathy to the family of C. Roy Warren in their loss of a devoted wife and mother. Mrs. Warren passed away on October 7, 1937.

Also to Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Ketcham in the recent loss of Mrs. Ketcham's mother, Dr. Anna M. Small.

Joshes

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.

1 1 1

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?"

series of joy-filled games, directed by Assistant Cubmaster Frank Horn. Mr. H. R. Martin, not being able to be present at the meeting in his office of committeeman, sent the boys all some chocolate ice cream sandwiches, much to the whoops and joy of the recipients.

The members of the Orinda Cub Pack at present are as follows:

Den Chief of Den 2, Kenneth Rosenthal; Denner of Den 2, Gordon Martin; Cubs, Jim Shepherd, Bob Dana, John Ward, Dudley Edson and Patrick Elvidge. Denner of Den 1, Harold Schmelz; Cubs, Jack Cathcart, Gordon Nash, Keith Bennett, and Herman Gericke.

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
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