

# Orinda News

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume I

Orinda, California, August 1, 1937

Number 2

## Tunnel Opening

Plans for an appropriate celebration in conjunction with the opening of the Broadway Low Level Tunnel are progressing rapidly. At a meeting July 14 of the Committee to perfect plans for such celebration, ideas were tentatively outlined and two committees were appointed, one to arrange the necessary finances and the other to work out a suitable program for the occasion. Among those appointed to these committees were Supervisor H. L. Cummings, Contra Costa County; Harry Silver, Walnut Creek; Geo. Meredith, Lafayette Improvement Association, and Lowell Berry of our own Association.

A joint meeting of these two committees was held Wednesday, July 21st. At that time the Finance Committee completed tentative arrangements for a budget totalling \$4,000.00, which was estimated as sufficient to cover all needs of a worth while program and luncheon. These funds are to be raised by contributions from the Board of Supervisors of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and by further donations from the cities of Oakland and Berkeley.

Engineers in charge of work on the tunnel project estimate that the tunnel will be ready for opening early in October. With this information, it was decided that the opening ceremonies would be held on a Sunday, either October 3 or 10, subject to further information from the engineers as to when the tunnel will be completed.

The Program Committee has tentatively arranged for a luncheon to be held at the Hotel Claremont and for appropriate speeches, music and fireworks to be held at both the Oakland and Contra Costa entrances of the tunnel.

Further plans are to be perfected at a second meeting of the two committees to be held at the Lake Merritt Hotel, Wednesday, August 4th. —Lowell Berry.

## Community Progress

Communities grow. Some grow forward, improve and progress; others deteriorate.

What makes progressive, worth while growth? — Proper thought, with applied constructive, co-operative, determined effort.

Our thoughts are only toward betterment and progress, and certainly we of Orinda, are ambitious and are desirous of seeing our Community grow — steadily, peacefully, beautifully, and of seeing it continue to develop into a residential district with an environment that will be attractive to both old and young, making it a more ideal place in which to live.

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## August Meeting Notice

*The next regular meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be August 6, 1937, at 8:00 P. M. in the Orinda School Auditorium.*

*In line with one of our important problems, we are fortunate in having L. J. Kruse, President National Association of Master Plumbers, speak at this meeting on the question of proper sanitation for communities of this type.*

If you have not been mailed the *Orinda News*, or wish it sent to a friend, just write or phone Mr. R. M. Cross — Bonita Lane, R. F. D., Box 614; phone THorn. 5217.

## THE STROLLER

Being a person who likes to walk and get acquainted with folks and places, I thought it was about time I got to know more about Orinda. Perhaps you will say, "kind of a nosey chap," well perhaps? But you would be surprised if you could come on one of my hikes and meet the families that go to make up this community, just a fine friendly crowd that go a long way to make you feel one of them.

On a Friday afternoon I started out from our general store after having a milk shake and pleasant chat with Mr. Jones. On the sidewalk I ran into George Brockhurst; he doesn't move heaven but he does move earth, so he told me, and I guess I have to believe him! On I rambled and ran smack dab into those real estate people: you know them all, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Zamloch, Mrs. Harrold and Miss Donaldson. These ladies are the town's optimists and never get done telling you what a fine place Orinda is.

I turned around to find little Mary Memmesheimer tugging at my coat tails. She said "You know, Mr. Stroller, my daddy is getting homesick in Germany and will be back in September." Welcome back Art, some of the gardens need your attention.

Got to thinking about the fire house and the wonderful work the fire department of this community was doing. You know, folks, you should all go down and inspect the building and equipment; it sure will open your eyes for the fire district map is one of the most unique things I have seen in some time and just full of electric lights and pegs. Mr. Ritchie in charge tried to explain to me what it was all about, but I must admit I never was much on detail. However,

(Continued on page two, col. 2)

## Orinda Park

A general feeling of rejoicing is occasioned by the fact that after this season Orinda Park and Swimming Pool will become a community club enterprise and be maintained as a high class recreational and social center.

One rarely finds a community having so convenient and attractive a park, swimming pool and playground as the one offered us in the newly organized Orinda Park, Inc., a community club. This attractive spot, fenced and improved, provides our children a place in which to play in safety, while the older folks in family groups or neighborly gatherings may enjoy the social freedom of the great out-of-doors in comfort.

Under the Community Club management a high standard of maintenance and conduct will be the aim of the directors.

To those interested in joining, it is suggested that you communicate with any of the following Membership Committee: Mr. Earl Norton, Mrs. Bert Dawson, Mrs. Warren Harrold, Chairman, or Mrs. Geo. F. Hickok.

## Brief History of Orinda

The following article tells us the history of the naming of Orinda, the source and meaning of the name, and a bit of the romance surrounding the occasion.

Many of us find our previous information has been unfounded, and our surmises and conjectures faulty.

To give us this correct knowledge, Miss Carmel Martinez has made an exact and exhaustive research to discover all possible information on the subject, condensed in its present form to meet the limited space of our little paper, the ORINDA NEWS.

For the benefit of those who might like to read further on this interesting subject, the sources of Miss Martinez's study are given at the foot of the article.

And for the benefit of those who might like to read more of John Marsh, the tragic, untimely death of his adored little schoolteacher wife, Alice's mother, and of the exciting, early days of this county, we recommend the reading of the vivid story of "John Marsh, Pioneer" by Dr. George Lyman.

## ORIGIN OF THE NAME "ORINDA"

The name ORINDA literally came across the continent in the saddlebags of Dr. John Marsh.

One September night in 1856, Dr. Marsh moved into the room at the head of the stairs in his new home in Contra Costa County. He arranged his favorite books according to his liking: Paine's *Works*, Samuel Johnson's *LIVES OF THE ENGLISH POETS*, the *Odes of Anacreon*, and a French Bible. For thirty-two years he had carried them with his Harvard diploma, strapped in his saddle.

(Continued on page two, col. 3)



## ORINDA NEWS

Official Publication of the  
ORINDA  
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

## OFFICERS

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Vice President \_\_\_\_\_ Lowell Berry  
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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

## Community Progress

(Continued)

Our larger community developers W. J. Mortimer, E. I. de Laveaga, A. H. Breed, Fred T. Wood, Frank Kales, Gertrude A. Cotton, John Morton Allen, Coy Filmer have by restricting their respective subdivisions, given our community the proper start. Through their vision, efforts and patient work, much has already been accomplished such as educational facilities, the creation of Townsites, the building of a Country Club and Golf Course, the creation of a Fire District, the creation of a Water District and a beautifully landscaped Filtration Plant, the building of a new Low Level Tunnel, the building of new and better Roads, adequate telephone and lighting service, and soon inauguration of Bus transportation and installation of gas mains.

We, of the Orinda Improvement Association, can keep in step with our developers and help in the further advancement of our community. With this idea in mind, every member should pledge his or her efforts in this worth while work. Our problems and desires will come through the suggestions of our members and from our Program Committee, and will be turned over to competent and willing committees for their study and recommendations. Such problems and improvements as incorporation, better High School facilities, inspection and control of proper sanitation, the improving and beautification of our highway and roads, the installation and maintenance of town lighting, local playgrounds, the study of taxes, the building up of social activities, the publishing of our "Orinda News", and cooperation with like organizations in projects affecting our community, are only a part of our program for the next ten months.

Our program is ambitious, and with the cooperative efforts of all, it can be accomplished. And there is a reward, a great reward—"The satisfaction of having had a part in the advancement, progress and proper growth of This, our Community".

WARREN HARROLD, President.

## The Stroller

(Continued)

I do know a well-kept, orderly place when I see it and our fire house and public library is that sort of a place. A lot of credit is due Joe Varni, Don Donaldson, Capt. Oakley, Warren Harrold and the rest of the boys that manage our fire department. Some day when the historian gets around to it you should get a fine story about the growth of this service.

Well, I knew if I tarried too long at the fire house I'd miss a lot of things worth seeing, so on I went; but before I get any farther I am going to let you in on a secret, Kenneth Allen has not always sold real estate and I heard his wife call him "Prof". Which all leads me to believe that Kenneth has been a pretty fine piano player in his time.

Well, as the hour was getting late, that I'd better get up to the school house and see what was going on at the Improvement Club meeting. My, what a crowd! what singing with the 'Prof.' at the piano, what a meeting! That lad Warren Harrold knows how to preside, — just had things moving like clock work; and do you know, Warren, that was quite a stunt declaring a recess for the purpose of receiving applications for membership and how they did come in! When the meeting got around to the head of New Business I said, now Stroller, here's where you hear something, and I was not disappointed. Les Dana made some fine suggestions about telephone rates and a drinking fountain on our new highway. You know, Les is a pretty smart fellow and I hope the Association follows through on his suggestions. Mr. Gilkey gave a fine lucid explanation of the conditions under which the Orinda Park is to be taken over by the residents of the community. This is one venture that should not fail. After the close of the meeting ice cream and cookies were served by the ladies of the Association. Nothing like a little nourishment to finish the day, and it has been a full day but there will come another day and another stroll to report on.

## The Courteous Neighbor . . .

Is the one who is careful not to jam on brakes or churn his car wheels on your graveled driveway.

Is the one who realizes that this winter will show what havoc high speed hill climbing in the summer is working with our newly graveled roads.

Is the one who leaves his dog where he won't howl all day or night while alone.

Is the one who takes pleasure in planting that extra tree on the adjacent bare spot.

Is the one who cuts his yarn short when someone else is anxious to use the line.

And best of all is the rare soul who is open to suggestion.

## Epitaph

TO THE NEW CAR OWNER

He liked to show what 85 fresh, young HP could do. His last and only interested admirer was the undertaker.

## Brief History of Orinda

(Continued)

bags, across a wild continent. They were his oldest and only friends, according to his biographer. A few nights later he was found brutally murdered and robbed, a mile and a half from Martinez.

His four year old daughter, Alice, grew up in unsympathetic surroundings, protected by watchful courts against scoundrels who were after her estate which had trebled in value.

Sometime in the succeeding years she found in Volume I of her father's LIVES OF THE ENGLISH POETS, a brief life of a lesser poet of the 17th century, Katherine Philips who wrote under the pseudonym of THE MATCHLESS ORINDA.

When her husband, Wm. W. Cameron, bought 3000 acres from the Castros, Alice called the land ORINDA. The conclusion is obvious. Incidentally, William Cameron was the son of the Rev. John Cameron whom Dr. Marsh had known years ago in New Salem. John was a first cousin of Ann Rutledge. At the time of the Cameron-Marsh friendship in the East, Abraham Lincoln was boarding with the Camerons while he worked in the village store.

Katherine Philips' biography under the title THE MATCHLESS ORINDA was published in 1931 by the Harvard University Press, as a continuation of the series of Harvard Studies in English.

Orinda, whose name was Fowler before her marriage to James Philips, was born in London in 1631. In her poems, she persistently talked of friendship. Orinda's friendship, according to her biographer, had a peculiar meaning. He calls it "the Platonic mingling of souls." She believed that two friends were designed for each other. Friendship like love, can only be at home in the "gentle heart;" so fine is friendship that ordinary people cannot perceive it:

"A wonder so sublime, it will admit

No rude Spectator to contemplate it."

Nowhere in the 313 page biography, or in briefer accounts of her life, is explained the origin of her pseudonym. However, it is known that she gave her friends semi-classical names such as Palaemon, Valeria, Ardelia, Lucasia, Rosania, and herself, Orinda. Orinda, it is known now, is not of Spanish origin, but of Latin, according to Harper's Latin Dictionary—Orinda, *æ, fem. gender*, borrowed from the Greek *opivons* meaning Ethiopian bread.

Strange as it may seem, the word Orinda originally came out of a cook book written in the third century. In Volume 2 of his ten volumes on cookery, Apicius Caelues wrote in old Latin and translated into the following modern Latin by Father Owen, of the College of St. Albert, the first reference in print to the name Orinda. Previously it was known under its Greek name *Opivons*.

ORIDIAM—*legendum, Orindam. Quod panis genus est ex quo conficitur, semen, Aethiopiae peculiare sesamo persimile, quod conquentes ususfaciunt vel ususfaciantur.*

Translated to mean:

ORIDIAM—which ought to read Orinda, which is a seed, like the sesame seed, employed by cooks, from which is made a bread peculiar to Ethiopia.



## 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.

### SANTA MARIA CHURCH

The Santa Maria Church Association held its regular monthly meeting July 7, 1937, at the home of Mrs. E. I. de Laveaga on Miner Road, Orinda.

The committee in charge of the Rummage Sale of June fourth reported a very successful Sale which was well patronized by our local residents. A purse which was raffled at this time was won by Mrs. Chas. Malone.

The reports of the various committees showed the Association to be in thriving condition.

The Association extends at this time an invitation to all interested to come and visit our little Chapel at Sunday Masses.

### Local Girls at Yosemite

Mabel Dorrington, Hazel Dawson, Mary Bennett, and Velma Edson, Christian Endeavor girls of the Orinda Community Church, attended the American Sunday School Union Teacher's Conference at Yosemite, July 19 to 25. Their trip was sponsored jointly by the Women's Guild and the Christian Endeavor Society of the Orinda Community Church.

The C. E. Society meets every Sunday night, at 7:00 p.m., at the home of Mrs. A. W. Elkinton, their Superintendent. All young people of teen age are invited.

### 12-15 Club Activities

The 12-15 Club has been cooperating with Miss Luez, County Social Service field worker, in aiding an indigent family. The president, Mrs. A. W. Elkinton, announces that the Club has purchased some new dresses for a little girl member of the family.

One can only guess where Katherine Philips found her pseudonym. Possibly while poking her head into books on Latin in her search for names for her friends, she found it. However, this discovery must have been made before she started writing poetry. From the beginning, in her poetry, she refers to herself as ORINDA.

At the age of twenty she wrote the poem, "To My Dearest Lucasia," in which she names herself:

But as there are Degrees of Bliss  
So there's no Friendship meant by this,  
But such as will transmit to Fame  
Lucasia's and Orinda's Name.

—Carmel Martinez.

SOURCES: "Lives of the English Poets", Vol. I, by S. Johnson; "The Matchless Orinda", by P. W. Souers; "Selected Poems", collected by J. R. Turin; "John Marsh, Pioneer", by G. D. Lyman; "Harper's Latin Dictionary"; "Liddell's Greek Dictionary"; The Cook Book of Apicius Calves, Vol. 2.

### Next Month

In the September issue, Mr. Dunlap, Supt. of Mails of the Berkeley Post Office will contribute a very interesting article on the development of Orinda's mail service.

### Orinda Welcomes Its New Residents, Owners, and Home Builders

#### EAST SIDE

Dr. H. M. Bausch (Dentist).....	La Espiral Road
Lonnie Bee .....	La Senada
Eugene L. Brock .....	Camino Don Miguel
Captain Cleborne .....	La Espiral Road
George Crary .....	Dias Doradas
S. V. Campbell .....	Dias Doradas
R. R. Dennis .....	Camino Don Miguel
S. F. Duncan .....	La Cuesta
Lee Dunham .....	Camino Don Miguel
H. A. Haworth .....	Camino Sobrante
Dr. A. B. Hayward .....	La Espiral Road
L. C. Jensen .....	Las Aromas
Cyrus B. Johnson .....	Las Aromas
H. E. Keifer .....	Camino Lenada
J. J. Mifflitt .....	La Espiral Road
Robert Manning .....	El Patio
Dr. Morrison .....	Minor Road
Manuel Olvera .....	Via Hermosa
George H. Pitt .....	Camino Don Miguel
B. F. Rose .....	Via Farallon
Sidney K. Rosenthal .....	Camino Don Miguel
Ritchie Smith .....	Camino Don Miguel
Mrs. Ida G. Scott .....	Camino Don Miguel
George Shepherd .....	Camino Don Miguel
Edward H. Sibbett .....	La Espiral Road
H. J. Sutherland .....	La Cuesta
W. E. Warrenskjold .....	Mira Loma
Leon Woolsey .....	La Cuesta

#### WEST SIDE

E. M. Armstrong, Sr. ....	Loma Vista
E. M. Armstrong, Jr. ....	Vallecito Lane
James F. Bailey .....	Canyon Drive
Norman F. Bailey .....	Rio Vista
J. T. Cotton .....	Ardilla Road
W. R. Curtis .....	Los Conejos
J. V. Gooch .....	San Pablo Highway
M. M. Grimes .....	Mariposa
Leonard Harris .....	Canyon Drive
George Harrison .....	El Toyonal
W. A. Littlejohn .....	El Toyonal
William P. Mott, Jr. ....	Ardilla Road
Charles Marshall .....	Canyon Drive
E. W. Miller .....	La Bolsita
Paul H. Singrey .....	Canyon Drive
G. B. Sterling .....	Canyon Drive
George Vurek .....	Vallecito Lane
Ralph Wise .....	The Sorenson Property on Highway

#### FAIRWAY ACRES

Frederick Benner .....	Haciendas Road
Frank Edoff .....	Los Altos
Dr. F. M. Shook .....	Haciendas Road
Thomas Telfer .....	Oak Arbor Road

#### SLEEPY HOLLOW AND MINERINDA

Richard W. Breuner, Frank D. Bryant, Russell Palmer, Richard S. Rheem, G. B. Schuyler, Richard Steiner, Douglas Atkinson, Wm. Hamilton, Herbert Lueck, Herbert Jacobs.
--

### New Association Members

K. R. Allen, Mrs. K. R. Allen, Catherine F. Atkinson, D. A. Breed, Mrs. C. E. Chapman, C. J. Cleborne, Mrs. R. M. Cross, E. I. de Laveaga, Ned de Laveaga, Richard H. de Laveaga, C. P. Hubbard, L. C. Jensen, Mrs. L. C. Jensen, Mrs. Louise Malone, Walter F. Melvin, Mrs. J. J. McMillan, Mr. Arthur Mock, Mrs. Arthur Mock, Wm. P. Mott Jr., Myrtle L. Rosenthal, George D. Shepherd, Florence A. Sullivan, James E. Sullivan, H. B. Symes, Owen Tousley, Leon H. Woolsey, Ralph W. York.

## PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bryant have just returned from a lengthy business and pleasure trip throughout Eastern United States.

Mr. Vernon Jones returned this week from a two weeks visit with his friends in Oregon.

Mr. L. V. Dana and family spent ten days at Silver Lake during June.

Mrs. C. Roy Warren is spending a few days in Modesto, visiting relatives.

Mr. Art Memmesheimer left Orinda on June 15th to visit his parents in Germany. He hopes to return in early September.

### SCOUTS RETURN FROM JAMBOREE

Local Scouts Donald Trucker and Sheldon Kales have recently returned from the Boy Scout Jamboree held in Washington, D. C. While there they were the personal guests of Congressman Tolan who took them to the Senate meeting where they heard Senator Robinson in his last debate. They were also the guests of Mrs. Tolan at a luncheon.

Twenty-six thousand boys attended the Jamboree, coming from the U. S. and many foreign countries. The boys certainly had the time of their lives, and felt that such meetings are a big step toward world peace.

### Orinda's Oaks

Written in 1927 for "The Orindan" by the late Oliver A. Shaw, father of Mrs. Warren Harrold.

Majestic sentinels from out dim ages of the past,  
Victorious warriors after many a ruthless wintry blast,  
Like royal guardians o'er the realm of modern Fairy Land,

The giant oaks upon the hills of fair Orinda stand,  
Outstretching stalwart oaken arms, inviting, bid thee come

And 'mid these sylvan dales and dells find rest, contentment, home.

Beneath these hoary arms that once the stealthy cougar prest

The nursing infant safe abides as on its mother's breast.

Disporting lambkins gambol o'er these undulating leas  
Or crop the golden buttercups beneath Orinda's trees.  
The warbled notes of meadow lark, of thrush and linnnet gay

Are wafted on each balmy breeze in runic roundelay.

The lordly crested quail pipes forth soft love notes to his spouse

Or warns the fledgling brood from out these sturdy, moss-grown boughs.

Relentless Time's all-mastering hand in centuries unseen  
May lay in dust each giant trunk upon Orinda's green,  
But Brother, Sister, great and small, when we from hence have gone

To that mysterious beyond, the unknowable unknown,  
Orinda's oaks their vigils still in silent watch shall keep  
O'er dale and dell, o'er hill and fell and our eternal sleep.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

in the

### ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

I, \_\_\_\_\_ being a resident or property owner in the Orinda School District, make application herewith for membership in the Orinda Improvement Association and enclose 50c to cover membership fee for balance of year 1937.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

R. F. D. Box No. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(Tear off and mail to Geo. H. Pitt, R. F. D., Orinda)



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