

Orinda News

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume II

Orinda, Calif., October 1, 1938

Number 4

Petition For New Road

Petition for roadway, 50' in width, 8th unit of Hacienda Homes, Inc., through the land of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, from a point in the 6th unit, Haciendas del Orinda, to subdivision owned by Mr. Vernon Hardy and known as Monte Vista, approximate distance 800 feet.

This petition is for a right of way 50 ft. in width and 800 ft. in length for road purposes, across the land owned by the E. B. M. U. D. to connect Las Vegas Road in Haciendas del Orinda to the paved road, Charles Hill Road, in the subdivision known as Monte Vista, situated on the Tunnel Road. The distance to the Tunnel Road at Charles Hill would be .6 of a mile, whereas, with the present conditions, it is necessary to traverse a distance of 3.9 miles.

Signatures are being received for this petition, and anyone owning property in the vicinity of upper La Espiral Road, La Campaña, El Gavilan, El Verano and Las Vegas Roads are requested to go to the office of Mitchell and Austin in Orinda and sign this petition, if they are interested in obtaining this new and shorter outlet to the tunnel road. The road work and expense will be borne by Hacienda Homes, Inc.

Better Transportation

Rumor has it that Orinda and outlying points are soon to have an enlarged bus schedule by the Sacramento Northern R. R. Co. Even now, though the additional schedule has not become effective, a bus, exclusively serving Orinda and Moraga Estates passengers, leaves Orinda at 7:45 in the morning and arrives here in the evening at 5:55.

Naturally the only and best way of showing our appreciation for this is to use the service to Oakland and San Francisco ourselves and "talk it up" among our friends.

Be glad you live in Orinda.

Be glad you have such good transportation and better—in the offing.

OWEN S. DIBBERN,
Chairman Transportation Committee.

Hear Ye!

Orinda is going to have a Christmas decoration competition. It's only three months until Christmas so start planning now.

Mrs. Harrison L. Ketcham has agreed to organize a committee of five who will act as judges of the most intriguing outdoor decoration.

The prizes and the names of those on the committee will be announced in the next issue of "Orinda News".

Flash...

An attempt is being made by new people to open the Willows as a Night Club with meals, dancing, and liquor privileges.

October Meeting Notice

The next regular meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday, Oct. 7th, at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of the Orinda School.

Topic: Information regarding the proposed high school district to include Orinda, Moraga, Redwood Canyon, Lafayette and Walnut Creek.

THE STROLLER

For the first time we go to press without the Stroller's article. This will be resumed after the vacation season.

Birds of Orinda

By E. I. DE LAVEAGA

The Bay Area in general, but particularly the Berkeley Hills, is the Mecca of bird life. The writer had the rare privilege of the acquaintance and friendship of John Rowley, at one time head of the American Museum of Natural History. In his company I helped collect specimens of birds, for the Oakland Museum, throughout California. His favorite place to collect was Orinda.

As a youngster, I am ashamed to admit, I did a little collecting of my own with a sling-shot, bow and arrow and air gun for the sheer joy of holding in my hands the beautiful little specimens. Incidentally, after killing them, rather than throwing them away, we ate them, so that I not only know how the birds look but also how they taste.

Birds can be divided into two classes: The "Natives" and the "Tourists." Right here it might be a very good place to bring out the rather unusual development in the life of the Robin and the Oregon Junco. They were formerly classified in the latter category and came to us only during the winter months. These birds nested in the Sierras prior to the development of golf courses. The perpetual green of these areas and the succulent food they produce seems now to hold at least some of these birds here for I have recently found the nest of the Robin as well as the Junco.

Among the other tourists is the mourning dove with his plaintive coo. The Grosbeak, that vulgarly vociferous, beautiful songster who wakes you up in the morning with his wonderful

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

LET'S SING

The Community Choral will meet at the Community Church on October 10 and October 24. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance. All interested in getting together to sing are welcome.

New High School for Orinda

Those Orindans who study their tax bill know that approximately 80c of our tax rate goes for cost of high school facilities. This amounts to a considerable sum. Such a rate should be sufficient to give Orinda much better and much more convenient facilities than are now enjoyed.

Our Education Committee, headed by R. W. Breuner, Chairman, Mr. Symes, Mr. Jacobus, and Mrs. Mayo have been giving the matter of High School facilities for Orinda their very careful and thorough consideration. They have developed many interesting facts as to the cost of more adequate and more convenient facilities. Also they have assembled information relative to the possibility of incorporating a Union High School District. They have interviewed leaders in other communities involved and have assembled a substantial amount of information which is well worth the attention and interest of the parents and property owners of Orinda.

Mr. Breuner's committee is to present the information they have gathered at our meeting on October 7. We urge that everybody who is in any way interested in this matter to attend.

Yours very truly

Lowell W. Berry

Improvement Picnic Success

Much credit should be given to our Entertainment Committee, headed by Ralph Sisson, Chairman, for the hard work and effective effort which they put forth in organizing and putting over the annual Improvement Association picnic which was held at the Orinda Park on Sat. afternoon and evening, Sept. 17th. Approximately 200 attended and in addition to this, there were a number of tickets sold to others who could not attend. All details were well organized and through the cooperative help of all members of the committee and others appointed to assist in various details the program was made a delightful one and the whole affair a real success. A detailed report as to the profit derived for the benefit of the Association Treasury will be presented at our next meeting. In the meantime, our sincere thanks to Ralph Sisson, Chairman; to Joe Varni of the Orinda Country Club for the help in getting in tables and preparation of that part of the meal which was supplied by the Orinda Country Club; to Mrs. Taylor for the fine program which she arranged and presented; to George Pitt for his good management of the Wheel of Fortune which added greatly to the revenue and to the fun of the evening; to Mrs. Cleborne for the musical program and children's entertainment which she presented; Mrs. Mayo and Mrs. Oakley for supervising the dinner; and John Cleborne, Jim Hayward and Keith Mack for looking after the horseback riding.

Lowell W. Berry

ORINDA NEWS

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 box at the Orinda Store, or given to any of the above
 persons.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THE JOB

Residents in the Moraga Estates area of Orinda were pleased with the demonstration given by the Orinda fire department on Friday, September 16. Around noon a grass fire started just off the Moraga highway but was shortly controlled and extinguished by the fire department. Around ten o'clock that night another fire was discovered in the creek bed, which, fanned by the wind, was spreading rapidly. However, within five minutes of turning in the alarm, the Orinda fire department had arrived. It is satisfying to know we have such an efficient department.

ARE YOU PLANTING FRUIT TREES?

When fruit trees are planted in shallow soil they are apt to do poorly after the first two or three years, due to the roots reaching "hard pan" or any hard formation underlying the top soil. This condition can be coped with by blasting the ground before the nursery stock is planted, providing the "hard pan" is not actually rock.

Low percentage dynamite or "stumping powder" may be obtained by inquiring of any of the powder companies in the Bay District. It is very stable and practically as safe to handle as a can of gasoline. The caps, or detonators, should be handled with the precautions which the sellers enumerate in the pamphlets they supply for your guidance in blasting.

In the writer's case, the powder caps and fuse were purchased from a distributor in Walnut Creek. The powder costs roughly about ten cents a stick in small quantities. Four or five dollars should cover the cost of blasting for say a dozen trees. Shoot the ground when it is dry. Wet ground does not shatter well.

A two-inch soil auger or fish-tail auger may be used to drill the holes in the ground. It is a good plan to drill and shoot one hole first to judge the amount of powder necessary to use for the conditions encountered. If there is about two feet of top soil, try drilling down about five or six feet and load with three and one-half sticks of powder. When the shot goes off there should be little or no disturbance of the soil surface. A dull thud will be heard and the surface around the hole will be seen to shake somewhat. If the top soil is thrown into the air, then either use about half a stick less next time or drill another foot deeper for the charge.

After the shot has been made start digging with a shovel and about 18 inches below the surface you will break through into a small cavern in the ground. Top soil and compost may be shoveled into this hole until it is full, leaving a generous basin in which to place the young tree. It will be noted on close inspection that the "hard pan" forming the walls of the hole will be full of cracks and fissures, which provide the tree roots with space to expand and also permit rain and water to carry plant food to them.

Never plant fruit trees close to a septic tank discharge trench, or where the roots will be constantly wet. Sour sap and dead trees will surely be the result if you do. The cracks formed by blasting are also an aid to this important matter of drainage. —H. L. KETCHAM.

BIRDS OF ORINDA (Continued)

song. Then there is the Golden Oriole, whose song is very much like the Grosbeak's but not quite as vociferous.

One of the first birds that makes his appearance is the Wren. This cheeky little customer will build his nest in fishing baskets, knot holes in the wall or any place that looks good to him. When the young ones hatch in the walls and cry lustily for their food, possibly one doesn't feel as kindly toward them as one should. I've never been sure whether the Humming Bird is a tourist or a native. He is very much in evidence in spring and likes to build his nest around the house and rose bushes. This bird builds a very compact little nest and lays two eggs therein. These two latter birds are my pets, possibly because they are so trusting and apparently like the protection that the proximity to the human affords.

Among the natives, my best friend is the Quail, both "au nature" and on toast. He also likes the human feature as a protection against hawks, snakes and varmint, but little does he realize that the house cat is his most deadly enemy. Too bad we can't serve this latter on toast also. We had a Quail's nest in a flower basket on our porch; when the gardener watered the Quail carefully spread its wings over the nest so that the eggs would not get wet. By the way, do you know that the male Quail sits on the eggs as well as the female? The latter lays eighteen eggs.

Among the birds that I hate the most is the Bluejay and you would too if you saw him despoil the nests. Some day if you listen to a commotion, twittering and fluttering of small birds, look carefully and you will see a Bluejay with his bill all yellow with his meal on some poor little bird's prospective progeny in the yolk form. Then the small birds gang up and make life miserable for him.

The western Towhee is a bird that likes to hang around the house and garden. He is a very fat little fellow with a long tail, excellent eating, by the way, but don't tell that to anyone, because he is such a clumsy, lovable little cuss. His half-brother, the Oregon Towhee, is a very gaudy fellow, but smaller. He likes to scratch in the dead leaves, and many is the time the deer hunter expects to see a deer, only to find it is this fellow making the noise.

Oh yes! I forgot, among the tourists are the Bluebirds and the Warblers, the Flycatcher and the Chickadee and the Brush-tit. This latter fellow is also a favorite. His tail is half again as big as he is and he looks like a ball with a feather sticking out of it. He flies in flocks and my boys used to call him the "Up-side-down Bird" as he stands most of the time in this position.

I could write on for days about the birds, but space and maybe your patience does not permit, so I will close this with mere mention of some of the other birds. There are five or six varieties of Woodpeckers and Sapsuckers. The Thrasher, who looks like a brown Bluejay with a hook nose and who imitates all other birds, is worthy of special mention.

Another bird that I hate is the Shrike or Butcherbird. A terrible killer that will come in and wring your canary's neck through the bars of his cage.

Like Capistrano, we have the Swallow, but I can't swallow that story of them appearing every year at the same time. What do they do when Leap Year comes around? We also have the Swift, but he is very hard to distinguish from the Swallow; four or five different kinds of Larks, and I came pretty near forgetting the Sparrow. I don't mean these little gutter snipes

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that we see on the street, but the stylish specimen with the yellow head and his little brother the Song Sparrow. This is the little fellow that sings in the middle of the night and Easterners mistake him for the Nightingale, although his song is in no wise similar. He is the sweetest singer of all our birds.

There are also the night birds, such as Owls and the Poorwill, apparently a poor relation of the Eastern Whippoorwill. There are also the Hawks, but no one ever speaks of them except to curse them for their depredations.

Among the semi-aquatic birds we have the Kildee Plover, Herons and the Cranes. We have two kinds of Thrush, Varied Thrush and the Hermit Thrush—the latter looks as though somebody had squirted a fountain pen full of ink on his little white breast. I can call to mind, at the present moment, at least four different kinds of Finches; the California Linnet, whose voracious appetite for fruit makes him hated by the orchardist. The Vireo, also, should not be forgotten, for he has a lovely song. My favorite of all the birds is the Lazule Bunting. He is not only stylish and beautifully colored with his white breast splashed with blood, his blue wings and his perfectly marked little head, but his song is very sweet and appealing. His mate, however, as in the case of so many females, is dun colored and hardly distinguishable from the other little birds that flitter through the brush.

I feel very sure, after reading this over, that I have forgotten some feathered friend of mine, and if so, I apologize to him. The birds, the rabbits and the flowers were my childhood companions and I would hate to hurt anyone's feelings by forgetting to mention him herein.

CHURCH NOTICES

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Santa Maria Church Association meetings held monthly. Next meeting Oct. 4th, 8 p. m., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Martinez, Redw. Canyon. All interested in the welfare of the Chapel are asked to come. Call attendance committee at Orinda 5746 for further information.

ORINDA COMMUNITY

SUNDAY SERVICES—Sunday School at 9:30 a. m. Church Services at 11 a. m. Dr. Miles Fisher, pastor. Christian Endeavor for 'teen age young people at 7:00 p. m. Welcome!

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.

PERSONALS

The Community welcomes the arrival of its newest member George H. Pitt, Junior, born September 22, 1938. Congratulations to the parents.

Among the newcomers to Moraga Estates are Mr. and Mrs. Emile J. Bouchet and their two and one-half year old son, John. They have moved into their beautiful new Colonial type home on Orchard Drive.

Congratulations to Reuben Chase on his new appointment as vice-president and general manager of the Plant Rubber & Asbestos Works.

Mr. A. W. Elkinton will return on October 5 from a three weeks trip to New York and Philadelphia.

On September 20, Captain and Mrs. C. J. Cleborne entertained a few friends at the Berkeley Women's City Club as a farewell party for Admiral and Mrs. Williams, who have been guests of Commander and Mrs. J. J. Miffitt and who left September 21 for a long trip. They will not return to Orinda until Spring. Admiral and Mrs. Williams have bought a plot of ground on Camino Don Miguel and expect to build there soon. The occasion was notable in that it was the first social engagement which Captain Cleborne has been able to attend. We are glad that he has recovered his health to that extent.

Mrs. J. V. Holcombe of Oakwood Road spent several weeks in Los Angeles. She was called south by the illness and death of her brother-in-law, Mr. William H. Ford.

Mrs. N. Austin Carey, accompanied by her nephew, Gary Means, has been visiting relatives at Crawfordsville, Indiana, during the month of September.

Fred Broderick is spending his vacation from the crossroads Standard Oil station, fishing on the Mettoli River in Humboldt County. He was accompanied by Mrs. Broderick and their daughter, Daryl.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hauser entertained on Saturday, September 17, with a swim and buffet supper for a group of sixteen friends.

The Publicity Committee is very proud of its editor, Miss Maurine Donaldson, who has time between gathering news for this sheet to go out and win a lot of golf prizes. At the Del Monte women's championship tournament she won her flight and then came home to win the Orinda Country Club team play best ball tournament with her partner Mrs. R. H. Chase.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Allen have been entertaining Mr. Allen's brother and family from San Francisco as house guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie Smith sailed on the Lurline for the Hawaiian Islands on Sept. 30th. They are expected to return before Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. William Stephenson have just returned from a trip to Los Angeles, where they were guests of Dr. and Mrs. George Brown, Mrs. Stephenson's brother and sister-in-law.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Keesling have just leased an Oceanside winter home. Now they won't have to go camping in the rain.

Joe Varni is now the proud owner of a pure-bred McDonald filly. If Joe seems to be hard to locate, just go down the highway a mile or so, and you will find him leaning over the door of a box stall, with a handful of barley, talking to his "Gypsy".

We were sorry to hear of the automobile accident in which Peggy Donaldson and George Kirby were injured. It is understood that they are both able to be up and around.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Donaldson entertained a large group of friends at a barbecue dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Donaldson.

P.-T. A. News

The Parent-Teachers Association met September 20 at the school. Dr. Gerow of Walnut Creek was the speaker. He talked about immunizing children against juvenile ills. Mrs. E. A. Dawson presided, and the program was in charge of Mrs. C. J. Cleborne. The next meeting will be held October 18.

School Days

Summer vacation ended officially on the 12th of Sept. when the children once more got out pencils, books and lunch boxes, & marched to school. Registration on the first day was 76.

Late registrations are expected to boost the total well over 80, which will be somewhat greater than last year's daily average attendance of 73.

Due to the construction on the building, temporary classrooms for the senior grades have been set up in the auditorium. This arrangement in no way affects the regular meetings held in this room.

Now that our youngsters are once more trudging to and fro along the highway, it might be well if we watched our driving with extra care. Better caution than casualty.

Mexican Motif for October Guild Meeting

The next meeting of the Women's Guild of the Community Church, October 25, will be held at the home of Mrs. Arthur Mock. The subject is "An Afternoon in Mexico." Mrs. William Davis is general chairman, Mrs. Walter Thomas is providing the talent, Mrs. Ralph Wilson is in charge of the music and Mrs. Kenneth Gelwix of refreshments.

Benefit Tea

At 2:00 P. M. on October 13, Mrs. E. I. de Laveaga is to give a tea at her home, the proceeds of which will go entirely to the Orinda Union P.-T. A. budget. Admission is 50c. Cards for those who care to play.

Found—On the road, some time ago, a blue sweater. Inquire of Mrs. J. J. Miffitt, 255 La Espiral.

Junior Assembly News

The first function of the newly organized young people's group was a dance held Saturday, September 24, at the school auditorium. The affair was semi-formal. Music was provided by Charles Warren's orchestra, and coffee, doughnuts and "cokes" were served. Over 125 persons were present and everyone enjoyed himself immensely.

Tentative plans for a Hallowe'en dance have been made by the club.

World's Record

A trade magazine gives the following information:- The world's tallest chimney is in Contra Costa County, California, at the plant of American Smelting & Refining Co., in Selby. This recently completed chimney has taken first honors away from—where would you think?—Tokyo, Japan.

It is 605 feet high, 44 feet diameter at base and 14 feet at top. It contains more than 3000 tons of material.

Boy Scout Mystery Hike

We learn from Sidney K. Rosenthal, chairman of advancement of the Eastern Division of the Berkeley-Contra Costa Area Council that on September 10 and 11 a group of Life Scouts from the eastern division of the Berkeley-Contra Costa Council area under the leadership of Harry Majors Jr., of Concord, and Charles K. Rosenthal of Orinda held a mystery hike to the beautiful estate of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin S. Jacobus in Orinda.

The afternoon was spent in track and swimming stunts followed by an outdoor dinner and camp fire.

The guests were thrilled when a mysterious ball of fire descended to light the camp fire.

Mr. O. S. Dibbern quoted an inspiring poem of Robert Service, and Mr. Ocumpaugh of Danville amused the gathering with a clever pantomime.

The high spot in the program was an inspirational talk by Mr. Thomas Grey of Richmond, chairman of Advancement of the Western Division. Mr. Grey spent his early boyhood days in Orinda and was full of reminiscences. His sister was one of the first teachers in the school here.

A nature hike, a breakfast at the Orinda Country Club, and church services at the Santa Maria Chapel concluded the program.

Community Church News

The Community Church will resume services on October 2 at Casa Verano when Dr. Miles Fisher will take over his duties as minister. Dr. Fisher is the brother of Mr. Galen Fisher, who recently completed a new home in Orinda.

Sunday school was begun last month under the able direction of Miss Evelyn Tyson of Berkeley. On Sunday evening, September 16, an impressive candlelight service was held by the Christian Endeavor group.

PARDON US

The Rummage Sale given at Mrs. Edward I. de Laveaga's home on September 30th and October 1 was given for the purpose of raising funds for the erection of a wayfarer's shrine under the beautiful oak at the little church.

We take this occasion to apologize for our error in stating (as we did in our last issue) that the sale was given by the Santa Maria Church Association. The shrine is being planned by a few people who hope it will be a pleasure and inspiration to all who care to come and sit there.

THE KICKER

I hate to be a kicker, I always long for peace,
But the wheel that does the squeaking is the one that gets the grease.

It's nice to be a peaceful soul, and not too hard to please,

But the dog that's always scratching is the one that has the fleas.

The art of soft soap spreading is a thing that palls and stales,

But the guy who wields the hammer is the guy who drives the nails.

Let us not put any notions that are harmful in your head,

But the baby that keeps yelling is the baby that gets fed. —Exchange.

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