

Orinda News

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume I

Orinda, Calif., October 1, 1937

Number 4

NEW BUS SERVICE

Local Residents Given Opportunity To Choose Proposed Routing

The Sacramento Northern Railway is at present in the process of making up a schedule for the bus line which will run from Orinda to San Francisco. This line is to start operation as soon as the Broadway Low Level Tunnel is open for service.

In order that the schedule may actually fit our needs and not be just a matter of guess work on the part of the officials of the company, we are enclosing with this issue of the ORINDA NEWS a post card for all our readers to fill out and return to us immediately. On this card you will find a questionnaire of six questions. The first concerns the proposed routes you would prefer having the busses follow, the routes being respectively as follows:

A—Proposal by City of Berkeley. From Orinda through new tunnel, then west on Tunnel Road to Claremont, then west on Ashby Ave. to Telegraph, then north on Telegraph to Durant, then west on Durant to Shattuck, then south on Shattuck to Telegraph and to Oakland. Time to San Francisco—1 hour 10 minutes.

B—Proposed by City of Oakland. From Orinda through tunnel directly south on Broadway to 14th Street, then west on 14th Street to Cypress and to Bridge. Time to San Francisco—1 hour.

C—Direct route to San Francisco would be thru tunnel via Broadway to 38th Street then west on 38th Street to San Francisco. Time to San Francisco—40 minutes.

The other five questions are self explanatory. Please fill out your answers to them all and help to get a quick estimate of what sort of bus service would do our community the most good.

Fire Insurance Rates

There is a promising outlook for a reduction in fire insurance rates in Orinda before long.

Mr. Robert V. Miller tells us that a committee from the California Association of Insurance Agents has been meeting with representatives of the Board of Fire Underwriters on the subject of applying lower rates on suburban property of the better class. It seems to be the intention to allow credits for certain conditions, such as have already been allowed in applying rates on the better class of farm dwellings throughout the state.

Oct. Meeting Notice

The next regular meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday, October 1st at 8:00 p. m. in the Auditorium of the Orinda School.

THEATRE PARTY

Orinda Night at the El Rey Theatre in Walnut Creek will be September 28th. Help our Improvement Association to share in the gate receipts and yourselves to a good time. The feature picture is "The Lost Horizon." Buy tickets now at Warren Harrold's office, 35 cents each. Let's see what Orinda can do. First show at 7 o'clock.

THE STROLLER

You know, folks, something happened Tuesday morning that kinda makes you think. That was the fire that destroyed our good neighbor Cleborne's garage. Happily it was not more serious than it was and for that we can thank our volunteer fire department and the fine cooperation of the folks that assisted in extinguishing the blaze. The fact of the matter is we are all possibly a bit careless about the stuff we allow to accumulate in our basements and garages and along comes some warm weather and first thing we know we have a fire, caused primarily by spontaneous combustion.

In my strolls I make it a habit to slip into my pocket the *Reader's Digest* before I start out and when I feel that I need a rest I hie me under an oak and do a little reading. In the September issue there is an article condensed from *McCall's Magazine* entitled "Fire Drill in Your Own Home." Really, truly, folks, there is not a home owner in our beautiful Orinda that should fail to read this article. I was sure surprised at the things that can happen when your home is afire. The things you should and should not do are pretty fully explained, and the author knows a lot about his subject as he got his facts from the N. Y. Fire Commissioner.

Getting back to the fire itself. It was really surprising how fast the Fire Dept. and the neighbors arrived on the scene. Perhaps it was just as well that the weather was warm or some of our ladies would have caught a bad cold. As for the men folks, they sure forgot their make-up before leaving the house. I thought Jap Symes would

(Continued in page 3, Col. 1)

New Water Storage Tanks For Growing Orinda

To meet the increasing demand for water in this locality the East Bay Municipal Utility District is installing two new 256,000 gallon storage tanks near the present smaller ones. Larger booster pumps are also replacing the present pumps which are no longer adequate. In addition to the above work the District is also installing about 8000 lineal feet of pipe throughout the Cotton Ranch tract, and another 20,000 gallon tank in the Breed property.

Local residents are thus assured of an abundant future supply of our excellent Mokolumne water.

Few cities can boast of water as good as that which comes to us direct from the High Sierras and Lake Pardee thru the Mokolumne Aqueduct and Orinda Filter Plant.

Orinda School Improvement Trustees "On the Job"

The Board of School Trustees are to be highly complimented upon the improvements recently inaugurated in the school building and grounds. The floors have been refinished, new book shelves added, foundations braced, sanitary arrangements improved and a great hazard to the children eliminated by the construction of a stout wire fence around the playground.

The new Principal, Miss Doris Park, is efficiently organizing the school for an increase in attendance this year with continued attention for the individual child which has been an outstanding feature in the past.

Cordial invitation is extended to the community to visit the school and observe the many minor improvements which we have not space to mention.

Poison Warning

In the past month a number of valuable pets have been found dead from strychnine poisoning.

Whoever set out this poison for rodents or birds probably did so without being aware of the fact that any pet cat or dog which eats a poisoned animal will in turn be poisoned.

Orinda's Library

The County Library Branch at the Orinda Fire House is open from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., Mondays and Fridays. Mrs. E. A. Dawson, librarian.

ORINDA NEWS

Official Publication of the
ORINDA

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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. McMullan, Mrs. Geo. H. Pitt, Willis J. O'Brien.	
Advertising rates available upon application to Mr. H. L. Ketcham, Phone Berkeley 9409-R-5	

NEW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Elected Sept. 3, 1937

Stanley E. Shaw, Dr. Richard S. Dawson, Mrs. Richard S. Dawson, Lucille E. Taylor, Mr. E. R. Taylor, Mr. Marbyn F. Warner, Mrs. Marbyn F. Warner, Mrs. Elizabeth Armstrong, Mr. Dalton E. Hand, Rachael K. Miller, Dr. J. T. Morrison, Mrs. Caroline P. Harrison, Nina S. Johnson, Ralph Johnson, Harry Woodhead, W. R. Layne, Mrs. W. R. Layne, Mr. J. J. Schmelz.

ORINDA WELCOMES ITS NEW RESIDENTS,
OWNERS AND HOME BUILDERS

Haciendas del Orinda

J. W. Gilman	Los Altos
Isabelle Groogan	La Noria
Rosalie Ogden Cooley	Camino Don Miguel
Elmer J. Hannah	Camino Don Miguel
Dr. Elmer M. Layton	Camino Don Miguel
Bess. H. Hall	El Verano
Victor Swagler	El Verano
William Heider	El Verano
Lieut. Commander Miffit	La Espiral
Robert C. Rose	La Noria
Owen M. Gentry	Las Vegas
M. R. Armstrong	San Pablo Highway
Clarence Fratzke	Camino Lenada

Orinda Park Terrace

Elsie E. Long	El Toyonal
Ralph Cunningham	El Toyonal
Charles Robbins	El Toyonal
Bryant K. Sterling	La Encinal
Alfred I. Tombe	El Toyonal

Minerinda

Owen S. Dibbern

Moraga Estates

Dr. J. V. Holcombe	Oakwood Road
M. E. Gordon	Oakwood Road
Oscar Hubner	Orchard Road
Earl E. Livingston	Orchard Road
Leo A. Mattes	Orchard Road
R. E. Wadsworth	Brookside Road
Geo. Allen Young	Estates Drive
Geo. Ayrault	Orchard Road
Ida E. Bonestell	Moraga Highway
E. J. Bouchet	Orchard Road
Dr. N. Austin Cary	Orchard Road
C. B. Chantler	Davis Road
E. J. Crosby	Southwood Drive
H. T. Huston	Estates Drive

Epitaph

To the Hurry-up Motorist

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

HISTORY OF ORINDA

Social Life in Old Orinda

When Mrs. Rapp worriedly walks the floor at half past three in the morning waiting to tell straying Sylvia and Sydney "When I was a girl in old Orinda," in response all they have to do is to thumb back issues of the Contra Costa Gazette for a typical Orinda social notice: "December 5, 1885. A party was held at the newly rebuilt Orinda Park School house last Saturday. It rained, and the party lasted until 6 a.m. Sunday. Refreshments were served by Misses Rowland and Wagner, and Mrs. Minto."

An unknown young man was Society Editor of Orinda's first newspaper, *Hayseed Siftings*. The first wedding reported appeared in its second issue, April, 1893:

"On the eighth of March last, our old friend, Mr. Edward Warnecke, was married to Miss Mamie Wilhelmsen, at the home of the bride's parents in San Francisco. The bride wore a cream-colored costume of some-kind-of-cloth-or-other trimmed with some kind of pearl trimming. Her ornaments were pearls and diamonds. The bridesmaid wore a dress that looked like the bride's, and she carried a bouquet of roses and maiden-hair fern. The bridal couple made their escape to the carriage in waiting, amid a shower of rice and good wishes from the assembled company, and drove down Market Street with an old shoe tied to the back axle."

The Orinda Park Social Club was formed in the days when every man of any ambition in life tried to get the school teacher to marry him. What eligible young man, known to present day Orinda, during his courting days, had to walk nine miles home, when the irate rancher with whom the school teacher boarded released his sleek white horse?

There were two distinct sets in Orinda, those who drank and told stories, known to the others as the "Periwinkles" because they were considered small unimportant people; and those who belonged to the Orinda Park Social Club, whose membership was strictly invitational, its smart white cards mandatory. Its first president was Rafael Martinez, Jr.

Once a month it gave a dance at the hotel located at the junction of the Berkeley, the San Pablo and the Bear Valley Roads. Its members danced to the Smith Brothers Orchestra, consisting of a violin and guitar, ate coffee cake, seldom cake, and drank coffee. A drink of beer was enough to ostracize anyone from the Orinda Social Club. The "Periwinkles" called them the "Bon Tons."

Every Sunday during the summer, Orinda went to the horse races. They took place on the long straight stretch between the Simons and the Gray ranches. Of course, the "Periwinkles" bet; but not the "Bon Tons"!

The Orinda Social Club was exclusively for young people. At the time, parents seldom "stepped out." The Club had its Ladies Auxilliary, a group of young women who met in the afternoon at different homes and drank tea, did a little sewing, and talked about any girl who went out with a "Periwinkle."

P.-T. A. Garden Party

On Wednesday, October 6th at 1:00 o'clock there will be a dessert garden party in the beautiful patio of the home of Mrs. Franklin Kales, to raise funds for the needs of the coming year.

For your convenience the following plans for the party are listed.

1. Dessert will be served at 1:00 o'clock.
2. The price of a table will be \$1.50; single places 40 cents.
3. There will be three door prizes—merchandise orders of \$2.00 each on Hink's Store in Berkeley, Capwell's in Oakland, and Mr. Jones's Store in Orinda.
4. There will be no table prizes provided by the organization. These are to be supplied by each hostess for her own table or tables, if desired.
5. Bring your own pencils, cards, score cards or any additional accessories you may wish for the pleasure of your guests.
6. Play whist, auction or contract bridge, as you wish.
7. Make your rules for your own table.
8. Play as long as you wish.
9. DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS WILL BE MONDAY, OCT. 4th.
10. Reservations may be made with Mrs. Kenneth Gelwix, Th. 0272, and Mrs. Geo. Pitt, Be. 9406-R3.

Boy Scout Progress

In the past year the selection of Merit Badge subjects by the Scouts of the Orinda Troop was limited to about eight or ten in number. Such subjects as cooking, swimming, personal health, first aid, pathfinding, life-saving, scholarship and athletics were handled by Dr. Cary, Mr. Jas. Snook, Mr. Geo. Shepherd, Mr. Sidney Rosenthal, Mr. Harold Martin, and Mr. Ralph Sisson, who acted as counsellors.

There are over one hundred subjects in all that Scouts may select, from agriculture, archery and aviation, to weather, wood-carving and zoology.

A number of the members of the Orinda Improvement Association have offered to become counsellors since the last issue of the ORINDA NEWS, and the Council is anxious to add a few more. In this way Scouts will be given the opportunity to study a greater variety of subjects. The advantage to the Scout is not merely the knowledge of the subject-matter itself, but the contact with the personality of the counsellors.

Prof. Hyde of the University of California, who is Chairman of Court of Honor Committee of the Berkeley-Contra Costa Area Council will be present at the Association meeting some time in the near future to further explain the scope of this work.

DO YOU SUPPOSE?

The absent-minded professor called his biology class to order shortly after the lunch hour. "Our special work this afternoon," he said, "will be cutting up and inspecting the inward workings of a frog. I have a frog in my pocket here to be used as a specimen."

He reached into his pocket and pulled out a paper sack, shook its contents on the table, and out rolled a nice looking sandwich. The professor looked perplexed, scratched his head and muttered: "That's funny, I distinctly remember eating my lunch."

CHURCH NOTICES

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday School at 9:30 a. m., and Church service at 10:45 a. m. will be held Sunday, Oct. 3. For information regarding place of meeting call the Superintendent, Mr. A. W. Elkinton, or Secretary, Mr. Ralph Sisson.

Christian Endeavor for all teen age young people will be held every Sunday night as usual in the home of the Society's Counselor, Mrs. A. W. Elkinton.

THE WOMEN'S GUILD

The next regular meeting of the Women's Guild will be Tuesday, Oct. 5, in the home of Mrs. R. V. Miller on Via Hermosa. Assistant hostesses, Mrs. R. E. Wilson and Mrs. Carl Smith.

All-Day Excursion

The Guild is sponsoring an all-day excursion and sight-seeing pleasure trip by bus on Oct. 21, leaving Orinda around 9 o'clock in the morning and visiting places of interest in and about San Francisco, returning to Orinda about 5 o'clock. Tickets are \$1.00.

SANTA MARIA CHURCH ASSOCIATION

On September 7th the Santa Maria Church association held its monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. E. I. deLaveaga.

All committees reported quite favorably for the past month, especially the attendance committee, reporting 100%.

The final arrangements were completed for the picnic held at Saint Mary's College Sunday Sept. 19th, honoring one year's re-opening of the little Chapel.

Dr. and Mrs. Bausch were accepted as new members to the association and answered roll call this evening.

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.

THE STROLLER

(Continued)

lose his pants every minute. Jap, that was quite a strain on the gallus that was over your left shoulder! Warren Harrold looked around at the crowd and I was expecting to hear him shout any minute, "The meeting will now come to order."

In my rambling the other day I ran into a chap who said to me that it would be a GRAND thing to have a CLEAN-UP DAY in Orinda, when all the men folks would get out with their old clothes and just go about cleaning up and kinda put our little town in order, and perhaps then Hacienda Homes would provide the folks that rent the apartments in Casa Verana with facilities for hanging their washing in the back of the house instead of the front. Maybe some member of the Improvement Club will make a clean-up suggestion at the next meeting. It sure would be a heap of fun for all hands.

Preserving Property Lines

Do you know where your lot corners and curve points are? If your property has been permanently surveyed, you probably want the survey stakes or "hubs" protected from loss or dislodgement. With the aid of a few pailfuls of concrete and a plumb bob, some string and four stakes any handy man can monument these points against possible damage, and do this job in a professional manner.

First locate the hub which in practically every case will be a redwood stake about 2 inches square and about 12 inches long with a copper tack driven into the top. Be very careful not to strike the hub with pick or shovel as the point marked by the tack has in all cases been located and set with extreme accuracy.

Next secure four pointed wooden stakes about 2 ft. long and drive one securely in the ground about 2 ft. from the hub, leaving about 10 in. sticking out. Call this stake No. 1. Then hold your plumb bob by its cord so that the point is just above the copper tack and by sighting from the center of stake No. 1 through the bob cord locate a point about 2 ft. beyond the hub for stake No. 2. Lightly drive a small brad or shingle nail into the top of stake No. 1 and tie a piece of strong fine twine or fish-line to it. Stretch the twine tightly across to the top of stake No. 2, holding it with one hand while you again suspend the plumb bob over the copper tack with the other hand. When the plumb bob point comes to rest just above and *exactly over the tack*, move the end of the twine at stake No. 2 so that it just makes contact with the plumb bob cord. Now drive a brad into the top of stake No. 2 exactly where the twine rests. You now have a stake with a brad in it on each side of your hub in such a fashion that the twine if stretched from brad to brad will pass exactly above the copper tack in the hub.

Now repeat the foregoing operation with two more stakes but in a line at right angles to Nos. 1 and 2. You then have two cords, one of which crosses the other at a point in the air exactly over the copper tack. You are now ready to make the monument.

Carefully unfasten the two fish lines from your four stakes so as to make room to work. Pull out the original hub and salvage the copper tack from it, unless you happen to have a short piece of brass or copper rod about 3/16" in diameter or a slim brass round head screw. Starting where the hub came out, dig a hole from 6 in. to a foot in diameter and from 2 to 3 feet deep depending on the soil. A six inch post hole auger is ideal for this purpose, but a small shovel will do. Now fill the hole you have dug with a fairly rich wet concrete mixture, taking care all the while to avoid jarring or moving any one of your four stakes for on them depends the relocation of the tack. When the hole is filled to the surface of the ground trowel the top off smooth and dust a little dry cement over it to take up excess water.

Now restrung the two fish lines over the 4 brads in the stakes exactly as they were when you took them off. Stretch the lines

PERSONALS

PERSONAL ITEMS

A record held by Miss Frances Glover of 79 on the Orinda Golf Greens was beaten by Miss Marion Leachman of the Berkeley Country Club recently. Her score was 78 and done very nicely.

Mrs. Wm. Pitt, who has made her home here in Orinda for the past year with Mr. and Mrs. George H. Pitt is returning on October 1st to Southern California.

Mrs. E. I. De Leavaga is vacationing in Southern California and expects to be gone for three weeks or more.

We are happy to see Donald Donaldson back on his feet again. An old football injury put Don back in the hospital and on crutches but he is now much improved.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Scott report an enjoyable vacation spent in Vancouver, Victoria and Northern parts. They left San Francisco on the Johnson Line, taking their car along and drove home making convenient stops here and there.

Mrs. K. Gelwix has had for the past two weeks Mrs. Paul F. Byrnes from Newark, N. J., for a house guest. She entertained at a luncheon at her home in Mrs. Byrnes honor just before she returned East.

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Tryon with their daughter Nancy have just returned from a week at Lake Tahoe.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Harrold, neice, and daughter Nancy spent the week-end of Sept. 11th at the State Fair in Sacramento.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hunter, former Orindians are house guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Scott for a short period.

— DEADLINE —

All announcements and contributions for the *Orinda News* should be handed in to H. L. Ketcham, R. F. D. 848, on or before the 15th of each month.

— Patronize Our Advertisers —

as snugly as possible without moving any of the stakes. Next suspend the plumb bob over the wet cement so that the cord just makes contact with both fish lines at once. When the bob point has been brought to a steady position allow the point to make a small spot on the cement. Insert the copper tack or brass rod into the soft cement at this point. If rod is used or a brass screw, leave the top of it about 1/4" above the surface of the trowled cement. Check the location again with the bob to make sure it is exactly under the intersecting point of the two fish lines. Allow the cement to set for about two hours and then lightly cover it with soft earth to prevent its drying out and cracking until thoroughly hard. You can save cement by tamping into the mix as you pour it, some clean washed stones or coarse gravel.

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