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VOLUME III

Orinda, California, May 1, 1940

Number 11

## Fiesta Plans Complete For Gay Celebration

Fiesta days are near, with plans made for three gala days of fun and fellowship under the direction of Mrs. Frank Bryant, chairman of the Fiesta of the Orinda Improvement Association. Friday, May 10 is the opening day of the week-end of celebration. To avoid being haled before the kangaroo court one must wear a Spanish costume.

Mrs. George Bennett, Orinda 5856, chairman of the children's committee, urges all children in Orinda to join in the children's parade at 2 p. m. on Saturday, May 11, starting at the school house and ending at the community church. There will be a prize awarded to each participant as well as four special prizes for the best costumes.

Pre-school and kindergarten children will be under the direction of Mrs. G. A. Woods. These children are urged to decorate their wagons and doll carriages. The Brownie group will participate under the direction of Mrs. C. B. Chantler and Mrs. Kenneth Gelwix. The Junior Fire Department, directed by Joe Varni, and the Girl Scouts under Mrs. L. L. Farrar, will parade in groups.

The Boy Scouts will help keep order and all traffic will be stopped during the parade. News photographers will be on hand to picture the parade.

At the country club on the evening of May 11 will be a dance and games in the locker rooms arranged by Kenneth Allen. All Orinda residents and guests are invited to join the party IN COSTUME, with awards given for the best and most original costumes. The dance will be presided over by the queen chosen from the high school girls in the community.

An outstanding feature of this year's Fiesta in Orinda will be the horse show to take place Sunday afternoon, May 12. The parade of those showing horses will start at 2 p. m. at the Santa Maria Church on Miner Road continuing to the Crossroads and back to the showing field opposite the Orinda School.

Over one hundred and thirty horses are now entered in this event which it is hoped will be one of the outstanding shows in Contra Costa County. Among those riding and showing will be Mr. Leonard Phillips, Mr. Smoot, Mr. J. F. Hoey and Arthur Beckley. Prizes will be awarded in the Women's and Children's Classes.

(Continued on page 3, col. 3)

## May Meeting Notice

The next Regular Meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday, May 3, at 8 p. m. in the Orinda School Auditorium.

## Juniors Fight Fire Hazards

Members of the Junior Fire Department are taking a keen and serious delight in their efforts, in co-operation with fire commissioners Harry R. Oakley (in charge) and Fire Chief Joe Varni, "to help prevent fires".

They are making a survey of their own property with the idea of removing all fire hazards such as oily rags, dried grass and brush, waste papers, inflammables and other accumulated waste from around and in their homes and they believe it is their duty at all times, whether in winter or summer to see that fire hazards on their premises do not exist.

And these boys know their reasons for doing this: *First*—they know that fires are dangerous and might cause a serious or perhaps fatal accident to someone in their family or a fireman. *Second*—they know that less fires mean less taxes, as the firemen only get paid when called. *Third*—they know that less fires means lower insurance rates.

It seems to me that this is a work that benefits us all and is a wonderful move on the part of the Junior firemen. Dads and mothers should support their efforts 100 per cent and they most likely do; but their efforts only reach so far. How about homes of other mothers and dads who do not have boys belonging to the Junior Fire Department and other grown-up's homes who do not have sons?

(Continued on page 3, col. 2)

## FIESTA IN BRIEF

May 10—9 a. m.—5 p. m.—Kangaroo Court; Warren Harrold, Judge.

May 11—2 p. m.—Children's Parade, starts at school.

8 p. m.—Dance at Club. Tickets 75c.

May 12—1:30 p. m.—Grand Parade led by Honorary Mayor, E. I. de Laveaga. Starts at Santa Maria Church.

2 p. m.—Horse Show, across from school.

3 p. m.—Barbecue, across from school.

3 p. m.—Barbecue, across from school; admission: children 35c, adults 65c.

## Make Plans For Better Roads At May Meeting

Aside from a discussion of the road situation which has become an increasingly important problem with the rapid growth of Orinda, the meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association on May 3 will be featured by the annual report of President Sisson who will shortly be closing his term of office. Sisson will also appoint a nominating committee to select a slate of officers for the coming year.

A complete report on the Fiesta will be given by Mrs. Frank Bryant.

The evening will be closed by a program in Fiesta mood by a number of ladies from the Orinda Choral group; their colorful songs will add a gay note to the occasion.

This will be a very important meeting. Existing streets and roads cannot much longer carry the traffic they are called upon to bear and a comprehensive program must, within a comparatively short time, be agreed upon. It is nevertheless important that the right solution be reached and the open discussion which the meeting affords presents the best opportunity to come to a common understanding.

Mrs. George Pitt, the ticket chairman, announces that the dance on May 11 at the Orinda Country Club, is limited to 350 persons. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets are 75 cents.

The following persons will sell tickets:  
Haciendas del Orinda.....Mrs. James Anderson  
Orinda Park Terrace.....Mrs. F. Blakney  
Fairway Acres and Cotton Ranch.....

Mrs. W. Wood

West of Orinda and Fleitz Tract.....

Mrs. M. Jacobus

Moraga Estates.....Mrs. S. Epstein

Oak Springs and Encinas de Moraga.....

Mrs. J. Ratcliff

Moraga Highway, Glorietta, and Moraga

Woodlands.....Mrs. H. Cox

Tickets may also be purchased at: The Orinda Country Club, Warren Harrold's Office, Mrs. A. Ritchie, Fire House, Orinda Store, August Reuter, Cross Roads, Orinda Beauty Salon.

Everyone is urged to purchase his tickets from the person in his district and come and enjoy Fiesta fun. Barbecue tickets are 65 cents for adults and 35 cents for children.

## ORINDA NEWS

Official Publication of the  
ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Editor ..... Mrs. Malcolm Lamb  
Associate Editor ..... Mrs. Harold Symes  
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## NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

The following residents in the Orinda district were voted to membership in the Orinda Improvement Association at the regular monthly meeting Friday evening April 5, 1940: Mr. and Mrs. Chas. E. Wehn, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Gibbons, Mr. Kenneth L. Courtright, Mr. Owen M. Gentry.

For those new residents in Orinda who are not familiar with our Orinda Improvement Association we offer the following information.

The meetings are held at 8 p. m. the first Friday evening of each month, at the Orinda School. Everyone is invited. Whether you are a member of the association or not you are cordially invited to attend our meetings.

D. C. JONES,

Chairman Membership Committee.

## REAL ESTATE NEWS

## Building Permits

N. F. Bailey, Canyon Drive; V. De Ago, Loma Vista; C. Nielson, Los Dedos; F. G. Stuyvelaar, Ardilla Road; F. E. Branson, Vallecito Lane; S. E. Briggs, La Espiral; R. C. Correia, Camino Leñada; E. J. Unruh, La Campaña; T. D. Courtright, El Toyonal.

## Lots Purchased

George H. Everest, in the Cotton Tract; Charles Camp, in Fairway Acres; Norman Coates on El Toyonal; W. M. Platt on El Toyonal; Reuben H. Chase in the Cotton Tract; Peter Isola on Loma Vista; John Lax in the Cotton Tract.

## Rentals

W. H. Wright, Acorn Cottage on Orinda Highway; John Lax, Professor Holmes' house on Cañon Drive; Scott Martin, Miss Minor's home on La Cuesta.

## Sales

R. L. White, the home of J. L. Blumb on La Cintilla; A. D. Meyer, the home of John Lax on Orinda Highway; Albert Loeffler, the home of Major Greene on La Espiral.

## ACALANES MOTHERS' CLUB

Acalanes High School Mothers' Club will meet May 20th at the home of Mrs. Leo S. Levy in Moraga. Mr. T. Stanley Warburton, principal of the new school will be the speaker.

## GUILD NOTICE

The Women's Guild of the Orinda Community Church will hold its regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Arthur Mock, 63 La Cuesta Rd. on Tues., May 7th. Mrs. John Hastings, the guest speaker of the day, will speak on "The American Indian Yesterday and Today." The co-hostesses of the afternoon will be Mrs. E. A. Dawson and Mrs. W. A. Patterson.

## Notes On April Meeting

The upkeep and repair of streets and roads, a perennial problem at Orinda, was the subject of a report by Kenneth Allen, chairman of roads committee of Orinda Improvement Association at the last meeting. He stated that while he and E. I. de Laveaga had hoped to make a complete statement at the meeting, unfortunately plans had not sufficiently crystallized to permit of this. He agreed, however, to have a full report for submission at the next meeting, and he indicated that the solution of the problem probably lay in the formation of an assessment district.

President Sisson suggested that it might be helpful if a committee were appointed to work with de Laveaga and Allen in reviewing the entire situation, and to this Allen was entirely agreeable. As a result the following were named: Ed. H. Sibbett, Geoffrey Mayo, Ambrose MacDonald, Walter Christie, Jr., Edwin Miller, Everett Taylor, George Pitt, Grover Lavelle, Clarence Fleager, J. Stanley Smith.

This committee under the chairmanship of Allen held a meeting on April 19th and consideration was given exclusively to streets and roads in Haciendas del Orinda and the Orinda Park Terrace districts. The committee has the co-operation of E. I. de Laveaga who has agreed to attend the May meeting of the Association; he has indicated he is in sympathy with the program and that he will lend his active assistance.

A first aid course for ten weeks, free of charge will be given under Dr. C. L. Feiler, William Fleager announced. Those interested are invited to sign up.

Motion pictures of the last year's Christmas party at the fire house were presented by H. W. Gentry. Following this, three reels of pictures of California bird life were shown by Dr. and Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds.

## MAY GARDEN SUGGESTIONS

Spring bulbs that have done their blooming and are giving the garden an untended appearance, may be hidden by a generous planting of seeds that develop quickly; Swan River daisy, Virginia stock or scarlet flax.

May is the month to plant rooted chrysanthemums, dahlias and tuberous begonias. Cuttings that are planted early in the month will do well in fertilized, well irrigated soil. When the bloom has fallen from shrubs and flowering trees, it is advisable to do light pruning. Such flowers that leave seed pods should have all the dead stalks removed.

Aphis must be battled this month with a spray and roses, snapdragons and other flower leaves infested with rust will profit by spray that is applied every two weeks. Many insects are at work and are more easily removed now than later.

May seeding is important and includes zinnia, sweet peas, morning glory, dahlia, sweet William, anemone, godetia, fox-glove, petunia, viola, marigold, aster and many others.

Bulbs and roots include: canna, begonia, iris, peony and such transplanting as: stock, calendula, verbena, cosmos and coreopsis.

## ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

## OFFICERS

President ..... Ralph Sisson  
Vice President ..... Owen S. Dibbern  
Secretary ..... J. T. Morrison  
Treasurer ..... Harrison Ketcham

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Reception and Hospitality ..... Mrs. James Anderson  
Program and Planning ..... Owen Dibbern  
Entertainment ..... Mrs. E. R. Taylor  
Membership ..... David Jones  
Publicity ..... Mrs. Malcolm Lamb  
Music ..... Mrs. Martyn Warner  
Taxes and Finances ..... Edward H. Sibbett  
Education ..... Mrs. Geoffrey Mayo  
Roads and Highways ..... Kenneth Allen  
Safety and Public Welfare ..... William Fleager  
Community Park and Planning ..... Warren Harrold

## P.T.A. Announces Health Program

The summer round-up of children is a health activity sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers for the purpose of arousing the interest of parents in improving the health of children entering school for the first time, and to bring about continuous medical and dental supervision of children of all ages. The summer round-up program includes a spring canvass of the local community to locate the children who will be entering school in the fall; and a personal visit to the parents to inform them of the value of the health examination. Good health of growing children depends upon:

1. Development of healthy habits such as adequate sleep, rest, exercise, a well-balanced diet, personal cleanliness, and healthy mental attitudes.
2. Removal of existing physical defects such as bad teeth, infected tonsils, adenoids, poor vision, etc.
3. Early recognition through periodic health examinations of beginning defects and disease.

The pre-school age is the age during which care should be taken to prevent the development of defects, or to correct such defects if they do develop.

One factor in healthy growth and development of children is freedom from communicable diseases. Every child should be given the preventive treatments which are available. No child should enter school without having been successfully vaccinated against small-pox and immunized against diphtheria.

## CHURCH NOTICES

## ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Services at Casa Verano, El Toyonal and Orinda Highway—Sunday School at 9:30 a. m., Church worship at 11:00 a. m. Dr. Miles B. Fisher, pastor. Christian Endeavor for 'teen age young people at 7 p. m. New residents and visitors in the community cordially welcome to all services.

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday morning Masses the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at 10 o'clock and the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 8 o'clock.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Hanna, Dias Dorados Rd.

## 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. Reading room open every Wednesday from two to four o'clock. Everyone welcome.

**PERSONALS**

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Martin spent a week at Palm Springs during the month of April.

A trip to Placerville where they were the guests of Lloyd Raffetto at the Raffles Hotel was enjoyed by Mr. and Mrs. Lonie Bee. Mrs. Bee was most enthusiastic about the lovely wild flowers in the Sierras during their trip in April.

Dr. and Mrs. Harold M. Bausch of La Espiral have sold their home and are living temporarily in Oakland until they are ready to leave for Greenville where they expect to make a permanent home.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Field and their two children, Janet Lou and Bobby, are now occupying their new home in Monte Vista, having moved here from Piedmont.

We wish to extend our sympathy to little Ann Fleager, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fleager, who has been suffering with arthritis.

At the last Junior League fashion show of the East Bay, Orinda was represented by Mrs. Frank Dunn and her two children, Judy and Roger Dunn. The little trio walking down the fashion ramp created quite a stir of admiration.

Mr. Frank Dunn participated in the golf tournament at Del Monte the 20th of April. Mrs. Dunn and the two children visited that weekend at Rio Del Mar.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kiesel entertained as their houseguests over the weekend of April 27th Mr. and Mrs. Leland Adams of Menlo Park.

Henry Hodap, who has operated a barber shop at St. Mary's College for several years, has moved to Orinda and on Friday, April 12th opened a barber shop in the Orinda Store, in the room formerly occupied by Marie Bennett's Beauty Parlor. Mr. Hodap lives in Lafayette but may move to Orinda later.

Mrs. Kenneth Allen recently attended a tea, given by Mrs. Angelo Rossi of San Francisco.

May 6th will be a guest day of the Orinda Garden Club which will hold its regular luncheon and meeting at the Orinda Country Club. Guest speaker of the program will be Mrs. Elwood Starbuck who will present flower arrangements.

Mrs. A. W. Elkinton left on April 18th by motor for Pennsylvania and eastern points.

Mr. and Mrs. U. B. Smith left for Canada for a visit to her parents.

Planning a trip to Arizona to visit relatives is Mrs. Guthrie Clark and her baby.

Mrs. J. J. McMillan has been suffering from a bone injury to her left hand.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Davie have leased the Miffitt home on La Espiral where they will reside with their children. Mrs. Davie is a sister of Harold Martin.

Our sympathy to Mrs. Walter Christie whose father passed away in Oakland very suddenly of a heart attack.

On Friday, April 19, death came to Mrs. Isabelle Groogan, 85 years old, of 45 La Noria. Surviving her are two sons, Dominic, of 45 La Noria, Lloyd of Oakland and two daughters, Mrs. Mae Beeten of Carlisle, Pa. and Mrs. Gertrude Smith of Minneapolis.

**Fire Dept. Inspects Homes**

During the month of May, members of the Orinda Volunteer Fire Department will make systematic inspections of homes and gardens to see that no fire hazards exist. Joe Varni, Fire Chief, announces that dry grass must be removed 30 feet from houses, and that if the dry grass is beyond your property line you have a right to go over it to clear the grass away.

As deputy of the State Forestry Division, Varni has the right to issue warrants for the arrest of those who refuse to co-operate with the Fire Department in this respect. The Fire Department will also look for such fire hazards as rubbish in basements and trash in gardens. For the safety of the whole community, Varni requests that all residents give their support to this project.

Permits to burn are to be required again this year. If you wish to burn rubbish be sure you have a permit to do so, otherwise you may be arrested and fined. Look-outs of the fire district are confused if smoke is observed after ten in the morning, so for that reason as well as for safety features, permits allow you to burn only before ten a. m.

**BOY SCOUTS HOLD FIELD DAY**

The Orinda Boy Scouts will hold a Field Day April 28th at 1:30 p. m. at Camp Laurel in the Regional Park. The Field Day will consist of a contest with Troop 13 of Berkeley in many phases of scout activity. Parents and all interested in scouting are cordially invited to attend.

**GIRL SCOUT LEADER ANNOUNCED**

Mrs. John Ratcliff has taken over the leadership of the Orinda Girl Scouts with Mrs. W. R. Whitener as lieutenant. The scouts presented a program at the April P. T. A. meeting and Miss Glidden from the Berkeley Council talked on the Scout camp at Far Away Mine at Alta. The scouts held a Bean Feed at the school on April 25th to which the troop committee was invited.

**RAINFALL DATA FOR THE SEASON**

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Last Year | 14.92 inches |
| This Year | 39.5 inches  |

**JUNIOR FIREMEN (Continued)**

Fire prevention in their homes and on their property is just as important—maybe some of us under the above category could employ some Junior firemen occasionally to clear our places of fire hazards, and in this way the Juniors would be able to set up a fund for their organization.

Remember please, as they do, that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". Let's all help the Junior firemen make Orinda a safer place in which to live.

Regular junior firemen are: Fred Bennett, Teddy Birr, Dick Chapman, Philip Chapman, David Dibbern, Monte Dibbern, Philip Dawson, Neal East, Tom Gentry, Verne Harrington, Jimmy Jacobus, Frank Morrill, Fred Morrill, Bill Patterson, Bruce Summers, Bobby Symes, Dick Symes, Billy Warner, Boyd Wickman, Robert Wickman, Peter K. Wilkin, Stephen Wood, Steve York.

—Warren Harrold, *Chairman*  
*Board of Fire Commissioners.*

**FIESTA PLANS (Continued)**

Arrangements are rapidly being completed for the Spanish Barbecue to be held Sunday, May 12, as a climax to the Orinda Fiesta. The barbecue is to be served across the road from the Orinda School. The parade, which is to precede the barbecue, is to end near the school and the barbecue will be served immediately following the parade, about 3:00 p. m.

Plans now completed call for the construction of a large barbecue pit sufficient in size to care for an estimated crowd of five hundred. The committee in charge advises that the barbecue is to be one of the finest ever staged in Contra Costa County.

Arrangements include servings for children under twelve at 35c, for adults 65c. Tickets for the barbecue are now on sale.

The barbecuing of the meat and preparation of the food is being handled by Goodman and Browne, expert caterers, who are thoroughly experienced in putting on large barbecues and banquets.

**P. T. A. TO INSTALL OFFICERS**

The P. T. A. of the Orinda School will hold its next meeting Tuesday, May 21 at 1:30 p. m. The officers for the coming year will be installed. They are: pres., Mrs. C. B. Chantler; vice pres., Mrs. Melvin Jacobus; rec. sec'y, Mrs. J. A. Herzog; cor. sec'y, Mrs. Charles Bennett; treas., Mrs. Kenneth L. Courtright.

Mrs. Bartlett B. Heard of Berkeley will be the guest speaker of the day. This will be the last meeting of the year and everyone is urged to attend.

**PARK POOL ANNOUNCES OPENING**

Orinda Park Pool will have its official opening Saturday, May 4th. On the following night, May 5th, the annual opening picnic supper will be held. Mrs. J. A. Herzog will be in charge of the party.

James Snook is the new vice president of the Orinda Park Pool Inc., replacing H. L. Gilkey who resigned from the office but will continue to hold his position on the board.

Mrs. Garland Heinrici was elected to the board to fill the vacancy left by Mrs. H. W. Gentry.

**COUNTRY CLUB POOL TO OPEN**

On Sunday, April 28, the Orinda Country Club recognized the beginning of the 1940 summer season by the opening of the swimming pool. Joe Varni, manager of the club, announces that mothers (and fathers, too) of small children may relax in peace this year, for there are to be three licensed life-guardians as attendants at the pool. They are Hal Perry, Velma Maddux, and Jane Tennyson, all of whom will be remembered from last year.

A new rule to be applied this summer is that no swimming lessons are to be given after twelve noon, says Varni. Also, a serious attempt will be made by the club management to keep the water clear, so that the bottom of the pool may be visible at all times, as an added measure of safety.

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