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# ORINDA NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME III

Orinda, Calif., July 1, 1939

NUMBER 1

## Long Tenure of Office To End For Brockhurst

The members of your Orinda Union Grammar School Board regret exceedingly that our associate, George Brockhurst, elected to retire from the school board after twenty-one years of fine and loyal public service. Mr. Brockhurst has always kept uppermost the interest of the community, the children and their parents, and we will miss, in our deliberations, his ever friendly and whole-hearted co-operation.

"The best of luck, George—do come and deliberate with us whenever you care to do so!"

We feel fortunate that Mr. Owen S. Dibbern permitted himself to be persuaded to join our Board.

It is with regret that we had to acquiesce to Mrs. Marian Jost's request for a year's leave of absence and we trust that, upon the expiration of this time, she may elect to return to us.

Mrs. Jost was a member of our teaching staff for nine years and her outstanding ability and splendid personality made her beloved by the children and highly esteemed by the parents and all of our citizens who knew her.

We were also obliged to accept the resignation of Miss Naomi Nygaard who, we understand, has now become Mrs. Earle Shanteau. We appreciate very much her splendid co-operation, particularly during the rather trying construction period, and wish her an abundance of happiness.

We feel that we have been quite fortunate in engaging three new teachers who have been exceptionally highly recommended. These are Mrs. Helen Laura Grimsley, Mrs. Gertrude L. Williams and Miss Mary Siefker. Miss Parks, who has done such a splendid job, will remain our principal.

ERNEST L. MATHY,  
Secretary School Board.

## LOST—A TURTLE!

Within the past two weeks a pet turtle has wandered away from the Dibbern Ranch in Minerinda. He is about forty years of age, one foot in diameter, and absolutely harmless. If he is found please return him to his domicile. Thank you! He answers to the name of "Bozo".

## July Meeting Notice

The next Regular Meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday, July 7, at 8 p. m. in the Orinda School Building.

## THE STROLLER

The Stroller decided to "See Orinda First," and the first thing he saw was a large real estate sign at the beginning of El Camino Sobrante. The Stroller wonders if this slightly dilapidated landmark is a credit either to Orinda or to the firm it advertises.

How about a big hand to Joe Varni for the really intelligent work he and his volunteer fire department are doing in making Orinda fire-conscious! At this season, that ounce of prevention will save you, yours and mine. Incidentally, we understand that the volunteer firemen donate their time and their own gasoline in making the inspections of the various homes in Orinda. This hardly seems right and I wonder if there isn't something we should do about it?

The Stroller wonders if that W. P. A. enterprise on El Camino Sobrante's worst corner will make it a safer street. Formula—good roads, equal speed. Don't you think we should all drive a little more carefully? At fifteen miles per hour it takes two minutes to go from the Club House to the San Pablo dam highway. Is the time of any of us so important that we need make it in one minute flat?

Flash! Reliable rumors have it that the Orinda Park Pool is purchasing a new phonograph record!

We presume to suggest a project for the  
(Continued on page 3, col. 3)

## P. G. & E. Rates

While the new rates have not as yet been announced, Orinda residents will look forward to the reductions in electricity bills which will become effective with the July meter readings. It is understood that the new schedule will more nearly approximate that currently in effect in incorporated areas. The per capita consumption of electricity in Orinda is high and the reduction will be of particular importance to the community.

## Association Acts to Block Crossroads Inn

Constructive, harmonious work in the Orinda Improvement Association is the hope of the new president, Ralph Sisson, expressed at the June meeting. Controversial matters and all plans for the Association are to be discussed at the executive board meetings, which will be held prior to the Association meetings.

Chairmen of all standing committees were appointed by President Sisson.

At the May meeting of the Association an amendment to the constitution was proposed to the effect that the three previous past presidents of the Association should serve as an advisory board to the president and the executive board. They were to be advisors only, with no power to vote at the executive board meetings. This amendment was defeated after past President Lowell Berry stated that he did not think that such a board would be necessary, that he had found the past presidents willing to cooperate and advise at any time, without the formality of a committee.

The Association voted to send a letter of appreciation to George Brockhurst who has just retired from the Orinda Union School Board after serving as a member for the past twenty-one years.

William Fleager, as chairman of the committee for Safety and Public Welfare, presented a petition protesting the granting of a liquor license by the State Board of Equalization to an establishment which is now under construction at the crossroads, and which will be known as "Carl's Place." Mr. Fleager stated that from past experience in dealing with the Board of Equalization the protest of the residents in a community seemed to have little effect on the granting of a liquor license; however, he felt that it would be wise to have all the ammunition possible in case he did appear before the Board to represent the community. Two letters, one to the Board of Equalization and one to Hughes and Hughes, applicants for the license, to the effect that the Association has gone on record against the granting of this license, are to be sent by the secretary as the will of the members present.

Members of the Association were invited to attend the meetings of the choral group which meets on alternate Mondays at the Community Church.

## ORINDA NEWS

Official Publication of the  
ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Editor ..... Mrs. Malcolm Lamb  
Associate Editor ..... Mrs. Harold Symes  
Staff—Mrs. George Hickok, Miss Margaret Fratzke,  
Mrs. Lonie Bee, Mrs. Miles F. York, Mrs. Stuart  
Campbell, Mrs. Sheldon Duncan, Mrs. Carl Zamloch  
Advertising Manager ..... Martyn F. Warner  
Circulation ..... Richard Cross  
Publisher ..... Jesse J. McMillan

## EDITORIAL

It is with anticipated pleasure that the new staff assumes its duties for the coming year. Yet it has its trepidations, too! Two short years ago the *Orinda News* was born, and since that time has continued to be self-supporting, although distributed without charge. It was a courageous job well done. We have the responsibility of carrying on. Building upon the work of our predecessors, we shall have failed if we do not continue the improvement which has been evident in each succeeding issue.

Orinda represents one of the distinctly higher levels of society. As a community it has more than its share of leaders in the professional and business worlds. How well aware we should be of our fortune in the natural beauty of our surroundings, which Lonie Bee has so effectively captured in the new masthead. It shall be our purpose to make the paper worthy of the community it serves.

The addressing of the *Orinda News* to "Boxholders" has made it necessary to change the make-up to allow for the required margin of 1½ in. at the top of page one. This shortens the space for editorial matter and consideration is being given to putting out a larger paper.

## Orindans Urged to Vote

We were reminded at our June meeting that it is necessary to keep our voting privilege alive by exercising it or by re-registration. This is very important, and of course, the better way is to vote at all elections.

A particularly significant aspect of our local situation is that all of our elected officials are required to serve without remuneration, giving a great deal of time, energy and even actual money in our service. This being the case, do we not at least owe them the courtesy and the dignity of a representative vote?

At the recent election of a school trustee there was a total of less than sixty votes cast. While it might be said that the small vote was evidence that there was not thought to be serious opposition to the declared candidate, it would be much better to give our candidates for office the positive backing and encouragement of two to three hundred votes. Let our officials have no doubts that they are our representatives.

We vote in goodly numbers at bond elections where our pocketbooks are directly affected. Good sportsmanship and good citizenship demand that we do as well by our candidates for office. —Ralph Sisson.

## July Garden Suggestions

Now is the time to plant stocks, calendulas, snapdragons, for fall blooming. Seeds of Canterbury bells, delphinium, gaillardias, pansies and Sweet Williams should be sown now to insure rapid germination.

Water chrysanthemums well and give them a regular feeding of commercial fertilizer until they start to bloom in the fall. They like an occasional thorough sprinkling of the foliage, too. It is not too late to plant tuberous begonias. They do well in Orinda if planted under an oak tree where they have plenty of shade and leaf mold. Water them frequently. Iris rhizomes should be planted this month. Allow enough room for them to spread, and remember they are not particular about the quality of the soil, but they do want sun.

July is essentially a month to water and clean up the garden. Thorough soaking and frequent cultivation will reduce one's water bills. A mulch of grass cuttings around chrysanthemums pleases them. One may cut off the tops of daffodil and narcissus bulbs now that they are dry. Also cut back columbine, fox gloves and delphinium. Water and fertilize them for a second blooming.

After the blooming period roses should be cut back, watered well and given a commercial fertilizer. They will repay you well with nice blooms this fall.

## Orinda School Graduation

Ten students were given their diplomas Friday evening, June 9th, at the Orinda Union School. The presentation of diplomas was made by Mrs. Cornelia Lincoln, the Rural Supervisor of Education, to Jack Hulse, Kenneth Gelwix, Barbara Rogers, Connie Pearson, Ted Edson, Phil Clarke, Carrol Kales, Lily Dorrington, Gordon Martin, and Cliff Metheer.

Entertainment for the evening was given by the Girls' Chorus, a piano solo played by Gordon Martin, and monologues by Connie Pearson. The speakers were Phil Clarke and Jack Hulse. The class gift was presented by Lily Dorrington.

## Master Program Planned

Mr. Owen S. Dibbern, Chairman of the Program and Planning Committee, has announced the plan for a "Master Program" for the year 1939-1940 in the Improvement Association. It will be necessary to secure the dates in advance for any meetings to be held for the Girl and Boy Scouts, church festivities, P. T. A. events or civic celebrations to insure no danger of conflicting dates. The program should be outlined in advance so residents and members will know the type of speaker or entertainment being planned for each meeting night of the Orinda Improvement Association throughout the coming year.

## CHURCH NEWS

The annual picnic for the Orinda Community Church and Sunday School was held at Tilden Park, June 17th. The Women's Guild served the dessert.

## 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. Warren Harrold  
Program and Planning ..... Owen Dibbern  
Entertainment ..... Mrs. E. R. Taylor  
Membership ..... Mr. and Mrs. George Pitt  
Publicity ..... Mrs. Malcolm Lamb  
Music ..... Mrs. Martyn Warner  
Taxes and Finances ..... Edward H. Sibbott  
Education ..... Mrs. Geoffrey Mayo  
Roads and Highways ..... Kenneth Allen  
Safety and Public Welfare ..... William Fleager  
Community Park and Planning ..... Warren Harrold

## Report of Roads Committee

Kenneth Allen, chairman of the roads committee for the Improvement Association, reports the following improvements in Orinda:

Camino Sobrante, a county road, is being widened and straightened on the first bad turn above the village. The Country Club deeded a strip to the county to make this work possible. Miner Road is also being improved by the county. The bridge at the junction of Camino Leñada and Miner Road, is being replaced by a culvert.

Hacienda Homes is taking figures on improving La Espiral and Las Vegas. When estimates are available, a meeting of the property owners will be called to present them with the estimated cost of widening and improving these roads, so that they may be presented to the County Board of Supervisors in the hope that the county will take them over.

## ORINDA WOMEN'S GUILD

The annual money-raising event of the Women's Guild of the Orinda Community Church was held on June 6th in the gardens of Mrs. Melvin Jacobus, "Sol Brae." The benefit luncheon, swimming party and bridge affair was attended by one hundred and seventy-five guests. Mrs. Geoffrey Mayo was general chairman of the day.

The first meeting of the Women's Guild, after the summer vacation, will be held on September 5th in the Temple of Religion on Treasure Island.

## CHURCH NOTICES

## ORINDA COMMUNITY

Sunday Services for July—Sunday School at 9:00 a. m., Church worship at 9:50. Dr. Miles Fisher, pastor. Christian Endeavor for teen age young people at 7 p. m. New residents of the community are cordially 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. Reading room open every Wednesday from two to four o'clock. Everyone welcome.

## 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.

Santa Maria Church Association Meetings held monthly. Next meeting July 11th at the home of Lt.-Com. & Mrs. Miffitt on La Espiral, Orinda. For further information call Attendance Committee, Orinda 4351.

## PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Richard de Laveaga and baby son are spending the summer in Orinda with Mr. de Laveaga's mother. June 11 was a festive day, as Master Richard Andrew de Laveaga, aged two months, was escorted to the lovely little Santa Maria Chapel and there, surrounded by proud and loving relatives, went through his Christening ceremonies. An old friend of the family, Father Gleason, of San Francisco, officiated.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Jacobus have rented their home, "Sol Brae", for the summer to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Pyzel of Piedmont.

Mrs. Ritchie Smith is still confined to her bed, but we hope it will not be long now before we see her dashing around again.

Charles W. Robbins of El Toyonal Road was married to Miss Thelma Groat on June 25th at Hanford, Calif. They are planning to make their home in Berkeley.

Robert J. Pedder has started a new home on property adjoining the residence of his father, Stanley Pedder, on the Tunnel Road.

The Orinda Oaks Subdivision, owned by Mrs. J. D. Murphy of Berkeley, is now being redeveloped. New roads are being built according to county specifications and all public utilities are being installed.

James Brockhurst has sold his grading business and equipment to A. J. McCosker and Verne De Ago. The new owners are planning to buy additional equipment. Mr. and Mrs. Brockhurst are anticipating a month's tour of the United States.

Miss Doris Park, principal of our school, is leaving for a five weeks' stay in the Hawaiian Islands.

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Hanna, who have been living in the Les Dana home, have moved to the J. B. Schuyler home on Dias Dorados. The Danas are planning on moving back to Orinda on June 15th.

Miss Mary Memmesheimer entertained several of her friends at a birthday party celebrating her eleventh natal day.

That Monte Vista is garden minded is evidenced by the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Bailey's flowers are the envy of the community although their home is not yet completed.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Manor won several prizes for their roses at the Spring Garden Show.

Fall on your knees, movie fans, Fran Keagle's new horse, Tommy, was ridden by Robert Taylor in the recent movie, "Stand Up and Fight."

There will be no busier lady in all Orinda this summer than Mrs. G. A. Woods. She is keeping her kindergarden open during the vacation months, which will please parents and children alike. In her spare moments she supervises the new home which she and Mr. Woods are building on La Vuelta.

Mrs. Frank Soule and her one-year-old son are spending the summer with relatives in Philadelphia.

George Gibson of the Orinda store has temporarily been transferred to the Tunnel Grocery.

Orinda is proud of Jim Dieterich, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Dieterich of La Espiral Rd., coxswain of the victorious California crew that set a new record on June 17 in the annual Poughkeepsie regatta. After taking the traditional ducking in the Hudson, Jim left for New London where he saw the Yale-Harvard regatta. He expects to be home about the middle of July.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Hall will occupy their new home within two weeks on Davis Road in "Moraga Estates."

The Petersens of Vallejo are building a new home in Moraga Estates on Northwood Drive.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert W. Stainback will occupy their new home within two weeks on Northwood Drive.

Mrs. A. D. Johnson is building one of the largest homes in the district on Northwood Drive.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. DeMaria will be in their home within the next thirty days on Southwood Drive.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Fitch will start their new home on Southwood Drive within the next two weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wood, superintendent of Prudential Insurance Company, are building their new home in Moraga Estates on Orchard Road.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hansen will occupy their new home on Brookside Road within the month.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Graef will occupy their new home on Brookside Road within a couple of weeks.

Ralph H. Fisher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Galen Fisher, 11 El Sueño, Orinda, was graduated from Swarthmore College June 5 with honors in economics. Fisher was director of the Halcyon, college year book, in his junior year and is a member of Book and Key, senior honorary society.

Leon Woolsey has rented his home on Dias Dorados to H. T. Birr, Jr., of San Jose.

Earldine Torbett is home again after a week in the hospital.

Orinda's mariner, Harold Martin, takes to the seas again when he sails aboard Cyril Tobin's schooner "Seaweed" on July 4th in the transpacific race to Honolulu. Expect him back in about three weeks.

On Friday evening, June 16, Alyce Hayek Morrison presented a group of her pupils in a piano recital. Among those participating were: Marilyn Alders, Betty Lou Bennett, Charlene Bennett, Clare Breuner, Nancy Campbell, Monte Dibbern, Patrick Elvidge, Tom Gentry, Margaret Gleason, Brad Gleason, Bob Gordon, Lois Ann Haworth, Joan Jacobus, Patricia Lax, Maile York, Joan Norton, Jean Norton, Bill Patterson, Dick Symes, David Woods, and Joan Woolsey.

Sympathy is extended to William Stephenson, who has been ill in the hospital. Before his illness, Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson drove south to Scripps Institute of Oceanography to do some work for the University of California.

In recognition of the vacation season, the Orinda Community Church is holding services earlier on Sunday mornings. See notice.

## Orinda Park Pool

Ninety-nine noses were counted around two big picnic tables at the Sunday supper given by the Orinda Park members on June 11th, according to President Fred Elkinton, who did the counting. Mrs. Frances Allen, chairman of the house committee, announces that the next supper will be at 4:30 on the afternoon of July 2nd. Mrs. Fred Schwoer and Mrs. Garland Heinrici will be hostesses.

The next meeting of the board will be held on July 10th. At that time the possibility of having the pool and park open on Monday as well as the rest of the week will be considered, providing there is sufficient member demand for the additional privilege. One solemn warning was issued by the board: parking privileges will be denied any who violate common courtesy by undue honking of horns or other disturbances in the parking area.

## Girl Scouts

The Orinda Girl Scouts held their last meeting of the semester in the beautiful gardens of the A. W. Elkinton home on Ardilla Road on June 8th.

The program given at a recent Court of Awards was presented, honoring Mrs. Carrie Hoyt, Patriotic Instructor and Mrs. A. D. Kennedy, Treasurer of Lookout Mountain Corps No. 35, Woman's Relief Corps Auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic. After the program Mrs. Hoyt presented the troop with an American Flag and gave an inspiring talk to the girls on their place as future leaders in America. She also discussed good citizenship and loyalty to the flag. Betty Lou Bennett received the flag for the troop and thanked Mrs. Hoyt on behalf of the Orinda Girl Scouts.

After taps, refreshments were served by the girls. Other guests present were Mrs. George Robbins, Mrs. Charles Bennett, Mrs. Warren Harrold, Mrs. Lloyd Farrar, Mrs. Kenneth Thompson, Mrs. A. W. Elkinton and Mrs. G. F. Hickok.

## THE STROLLER (Continued)

P. T. A. Say what you will, potential tragedy flows with the current through the high power lines which cross the grounds of the Orinda School. Many efforts have been made to have the line re-run but the argument has always been that nothing has ever happened—yet. But we say it only needs to happen once. A carelessly flown kite, a bolt of lightning, an earthquake and— We do not criticize the power company, because admittedly the line antedates the school. The situation is, however, there to be faced and it seems to us that a well directed campaign might well win the cooperation of the company in correcting a needless hazard.

Do you like the new dress of the ORINDA NEWS? Give full credit to staff member Dorothy Bee; it was she who sold her husband, Lonie, on drawing it for us. If you look closely you should be able to find your favorite spot in Orinda. Incidentally, did you see Lonie's cover on the SATEVEPOST last fall?

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