

Orinda News

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume I

Orinda, Calif., September 1, 1937

Number 3

National M. P. H. Head Speaks at Aug. Meeting

The Safety and Public Welfare Committee reported at the regular monthly meeting of the Improvement Association, August 6, on their activities in investigating mosquito abatement, fire prevention propaganda and sanitary inspection.

The committee believes that the biggest single problem facing our community this year is that of inadequate or improperly installed plumbing and sanitary systems. This was very clearly brought out by Mr. L. J. Kruse, National President of the Master Plumbers' Association, who spoke under the auspices of the committee at the meeting. Due to faulty installation or back siphonage a condition might very easily be created that would be a menace to the health of our community.

It was brought out in the committee report that an adequate sewage disposal plant and sewer mains would at this time cost more than the law allows us to bond ourselves for, based on the current assessed values. For the present the only alternative seems to be some form of compulsory inspection of all new construction.

We were advised that the County Supervisors are investigating a county-wide inspection ordinance which would provide for inspection of all plumbing and sewage disposal systems on new constructions. This seems to be our easiest solution if it can be put through without any loss of time.

The members present voted unanimously in favor of a resolution urging the Board of Supervisors at their meeting August 16 to adopt, without any unnecessary delay, a county-wide ordinance providing for the inspection of all plumbing and sanitary systems. Mr. J. Stanley Smith, a member of our committee, will attend the meeting of the Board and we sincerely hope to see some prompt action on the part of the Board of Supervisors.

R. R. DENNIS, *Chairman.*

School Reopening

More than 60 youngsters will bring their lunches to school on Monday, September 13, when the Orinda Union School reopens for the Fall term.

Miss Doris M. Park, formerly of the Brentwood School, will take over Mrs. Vance's duties as principal and teacher of the upper classes. Miss Marian Jost will continue to teach the lower grades.

Renovations have been made during the summer months.

Sept. Meeting Notice

The next regular meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held September 3rd at 8:00 p.m. in the Orinda School Auditorium.

Among the many important assets favoring the growth of our community is the new Regional Park and Tilden Golf Course which opens a beautiful playground to our residents. This park is of such importance and interest to our members that we have arranged to have Mr. Elbert Vail, District Manager of the Regional Park and William P. Bell, Architect for the Tilden Park Golf Course give an illustrated talk at this meeting to explain its benefits and attractions.

POSTCARD NOTICES — of the Improvement Association meetings have been discontinued. Watch this paper for the date of future meetings.

THE STROLLER

If you want to see the life and activity of Orinda you must stroll around the Country Club and among the beautiful oaks and homes nestled nearby. I started out on a pretty warm day and when I came to the Club pool it looked so inviting, cool and shady with lots of folks sitting on the lawn and heaps more swimming that I says to myself, Stroller, with your eyes open and your ear to the ground you should come away with a lot of news.

First I ran into Joe Varni. Now there's a lad who knows a lot of people and a lot of things. Sometimes I wonder how they ever got along without Joe so long — always a smile and a cheery word.

You know life would be a drab affair without the children and what a thrill I get seeing all those young Orindans sporting in the pool. Looks like we have some future Olympic stars in little Joyce Williams, Nancy Harrold, Walter and Carol Henderson, Barbara Warren and Carol Kales. You remember about Mary's little lamb? Well you know that was just a fable, but folks let me tell you that Malcolm Lamb's little lamb is no myth but just a beautiful bundle of joy. I sure know for there on the lawn was Mrs. Lamb with the baby and close by was Mrs. Frank Bryant with her two fine grand-

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Orinda's Mail Service

By LUTHER A. DUNLAP
Supt. of Mails, Berkeley Post Office

☆

The delivery of mail today is so wide spread that no matter in what location one may decide to build a home, he takes it almost as a matter of course that the Post Office Department will follow him and will practically place the mail on his doorstep. We have become so accustomed to this service that even those of us who are old enough to remember can hardly recall the conditions which existed even as late as the beginning of this century. If we go back that far we find that it was only in the congested areas of the larger cities, that any real attempt was being made at a mail delivery service. The residents of the smaller towns and the strictly rural residents, almost without exception had to call at the post office for mail.

Possibly this meant only a walk of a few blocks or it may have called for a journey by horse and buggy for many miles, a trip which could in some instances not be taken oftener than once a week.

Old Orinda Post Office

But even this inconvenience and hardship had its compensations. In a recent article, Miss Carmel Martinez* told of the location of Orinda Post Office, first in the blacksmith shop and later in the home of General Wagner and at John Hoyt's. What a gathering spot this post office must have been for the residents of the farming community, and what gossip must have gone the rounds while they waited for the arrival and distribution of the daily mail! Isn't it possible that some of the old timers look back on that day with a feeling of regret, as they now step out to the highway in front of their homes to take the daily newspaper and the occasional letter from the mail box?

New Orinda Post Office

The present Orinda Postal Station, located in the General Store, has an unusual status as it is under the jurisdiction of the Bureau at Washington which supervises rural delivery service, rather than under the Department which controls post offices and stations in cities. Inquiries have often been made as to the possibility of the establishment of an independent Post Office, and what effect such a move might have on the delivery service. It is my opinion the delivery would have to be given up and the community would be back to the 1901 basis — having patrons call at the P.O. for their mail. Under the present arrangement practically the whole

(Continued on page 2, Col. 2)

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

Orinda's Growth

Fourteen years ago the assessed valuation of the Orinda school district was slightly in excess of \$22,000.00. Today our assessed valuation is \$1,632,800.00. This figure and the following table have just been released from the County Auditor's office.

Orinda's Assessed Valuation

1934-35	\$ 781,025.00
1935-36	1,206,780.00
1936-37	1,360,035.00
1937-38	1,632,800.00

Certainly we have a right to crow for in glancing over the growth in assessed valuation of other Contra Costa County communities, we find only our neighbor communities of Lafayette and Walnut Creek keeping in step with us.

With the prospect of assessed valuation reaching the two million mark within the next couple of years our Association must accept the challenge of visualizing, promoting and accomplishing such projects as are sure to arise and for this work we will require the assistance of our entire Association. Help your officers and Committeemen!

Orinda Welcomes Its New Residents, Owners, and Home Builders

WEST SIDE

- L. Baker Loma Vista
- Marie Nelson Loma Vista
- B. B. Scim El Toyonal
- O. B. Soderlund Vallecito Lane
- H. J. Lytle San Pablo Highway
- H. Stevenson Mariposa
- H. R. Hardwick Loma Vista
- Agnes Heuters Canyon Drive
- Lou Everding El Toyonal
- Dr. R. Dawson Ardilla Road
- John Murphy Ardilla Road
- Jane Nichols El Toyonal

EAST SIDE

- Fred Schworer El Caminito
- P. S. Clark La Espiral
- Ed Swartz Las Vegas
- Bert Swartz Las Vegas
- F. S. Ulrich La Espiral
- M. Sheparo La Vuelta
- Dr. E. C. Darnael La Questa
- W. A. Thompson El Patio
- G. W. Mayo Las Cascadas

MINERINDA

J. Brockhurst, Joe Varni, Joseph Barry.

? ? ? ? ?

Don't quiz the Publicity Committee about the STROLLER for we have all promised not to tell.

Orinda's Mail Service

(Continued from page 1)

postal service is at your door, since the rural carrier will sell stamps, register letters, mail your parcels or obtain your money orders.

Rural Service in Orinda

As pointed out by Miss Martinez, the Orinda Post Office was closed in 1901, giving way to the modern method. This was one of the early communities in which Rural Free Delivery Service was established. The first routes were limited to a length of twenty-four miles, as horse and buggy was the only feasible mode of transportation.

When I first entered the Postal Service, Mr. Stowell was the carrier on the Orinda route and I can recall many times that he returned to the office after dark and reported that he had left his buggy in the mud somewhere and completed the delivery on horseback. Later, Homer Read had the route under slightly improved conditions and he was succeeded by George Parker, who was the first to use an automobile. And then during the war days this was one of the few routes served by a woman carrier. Miss Eunice Ricketts, famed for her sweet smile and kindly service, was the carrier until her death in 1926. After several temporary appointments the present carrier, Mr. Stephen E. Babson was transferred from his former route at Sacramento, and I am sure all will agree that a more capable and congenial man could not have been found.

Extension of Service

When rural delivery service was first established, the provisions for its extension to new patrons were very liberal and that same liberality to a large degree, still exists. With the continuous building of new homes in the Orinda district, there is no doubt that numerous extensions will be called for, and naturally many of you will be interested in knowing the possibility of having mail delivery service brought to your door. A general policy has been that when four additional families could be served with one mile of additional travel by the carrier, an extension would be considered. All recommendations however must be governed by conditions of roads and the ability of the carrier to reach new homes without the necessity of retracing on his route. It is not within the authority of the carrier or of the local postmaster to grant any extensions of service, or to permit deviations from the established line of the route. These must all be approved by a bureau of the Post Office Department in Washington, and in most cases require an investigation by a Post Office Inspector after a petition has been filed by the patrons who desire the service.

Box Regulations

Persons living on or near a road on which service has been established may have mail delivery by erecting a standard type R. F. D. box at the right hand side of the road in the direction of travel of the carrier. The box shall be set back from the road and the approach to it shall be gravelled or improved so as to be easily passable in any weather. Bottom of box shall be four feet above the ground so the carrier can deliver the mail without leaving his vehicle. As soon as a box is erected

A Community Problem

By Mrs. H. J. Craviotto

In this community, there is a growing need for the care of stray animals which is necessary in the interests of health, order and kindness.

After each week end, one or more stray dogs appear, dropped on the highway. No provision has been made for those unfortunate animals—the unwanted dogs and cats which for one reason or another are abandoned to the charity of whoever will feed and care for them. Some sort of organized provision must be made for them. Temporarily the only proposal I have to offer is that any person seeing a stray will please detain it until I can be contacted. The phone number is THornwall 3767 and I can best be reached in the evenings there or at the Club. Animals thus turned over will be taken immediately to the Shelter in Berkeley where every effort will be made to place them in good homes. A little sacrifice of time and effort on your part may save some pup a great deal of suffering. I earnestly ask your cooperation, if not for the dog, for the sake of order.

For some time past, the Orinda Country Club has been bothered by stray and half wild cats which, incidentally, destroy the quail as well as Mr. Varni's peace of mind. Miss Eastabrook, State Humane Officer, has consented to aid me in trapping them humanely.

The immediate and more painful conditions of dog shooting and poisoning are deplorable. The solution is obvious and individual. It is up to the owner to provide a fenced-in yard or running-line which will give the animal sufficient space in which to exercise and yet will keep him at home. The idea of ignoring your dog's activities until he is shot or poisoned is not considerate of his welfare or of other peoples' property.

The untold suffering caused by poison and shooting is obvious. Shooting is sometimes justifiable when owners do nothing to control their dogs, and moreover, is legalized when found loose on cattle land. A dog cannot control the instinct to chase and explore. We possess reasoning power and knowledge of social amenities, not our dogs. So we must think for him and act to protect him.

There is much work to be done by people interested in animals. If you are one of these get in touch with me by phone.

(Signed) HELEN CRAVIOTTO.

the carrier will call and advise the number which has been assigned. This number, preceded by R. F. D., should be used as a proper address for all mail. The official post office is Berkeley, but there is no objection to the use of Orinda if desired.

The mail box must be one of the two types that have been approved for the rural delivery service, and are obtainable at the Orinda store or at most any hardware store. The most satisfactory is the large box, 26 inches long by 11 inches wide and 13 inches high. The smaller box is 18 inches long, 6 inches wide, 7½ inches high. It is not permissible to have a privately constructed box, as only the official type may be used.

***Brief History of Orinda**, Orinda News, July, '37.

CHURCH NOTICES

SANTA MARIA CHURCH ASSOCIATION

The regular monthly meeting of the Santa Maria Church Association was held August 2 at the home of Mrs. E. I. deLaveaga.

A growing attendance at the Chapel's 9 o'clock Mass was reported and the treasurer's very favorable report indicates that the group which is about to celebrate its first birthday is an active and flourishing organization.

The next meeting will be held at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 7, at the deLaveaga home on Miner Road. Anyone interested in joining is urged to attend.

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday School and Church will begin the second Sunday, September 12 at 9:30 and 10:45 respectively. Until further notice all meetings will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Elkinton.

The Women's Guild will hold its first session the first Tuesday, September 7 at 12:00 noon with Mrs. A. W. Elkinton. All women in the community are urgently invited.

The Christian Endeavor has continued to meet every Sunday evening at seven o'clock during the summer. Those attending the C.E. "School Daze" social at Mack's, Aug. 18, are alleged to have received a "liberal education." The next social will be September 18. All teen age young people welcome.

Scout Advancement

Boy Scout work in the Orinda District is about ready to start on another trek. This year finds Orinda Scouts increasing, not only in numbers, but also in the number of scouts who are First Class, Star, and Life Scouts. The Orinda District is now recognized by the Area Council to be able to furnish Merit Badge Counselors from local residents. Our Scouts then will be able to attain the coveted Eagle Award, the very highest goal in Scouting, without traveling to Berkeley or Martinez for Counselor aid.

Merit Badge Counselors are duly appointed by reason of their experience and interest in the subjects they represent, and because of their high personal character and active interest in Scouting.

Any reader of the Orinda News who is interested in being or has been a Merit Badge Counselor should contact Mr. Ralph Sisson, Chairman of the Court of Honor Committee.

Lafayette Horse Show

Amateurs will participate in the third annual horse show sponsored by the Lafayette Horse Show Association on Saturday and Sunday, August 28 and 29. The horse show will take place in the Lafayette Show Arena on St. Mary's Road, a half a mile south of Lafayette.

Several hundred horses from Contra Costa and Alameda counties will be exhibited and put through their paces by proud owners. There will be 21 classes of these exhibits which will be held in strictly Western style.

Admission for adults is forty cents and twenty-five cents will be charged for children.

The Stroller

(Continued from page 1)

children. Just was a-thinking perhaps Mr. and Mrs. Frank will give the Stroller an invitation in the near future to their Cotton ranch home.

You know I almost forgot to mention this and perhaps I should not, but pretty soon you are going to see a big improvement inside the Club; now you guess where! You know, it makes you feel pretty proud to be an Orindan. I stood on the side lines and watched a few of our top flight players perform. How those boys can play golf! Telfer, Henderson, the deLaveaga boys, Chase and W. D. Scott sure showed me a lot of fine golf in the short time I was on the course.

I had to keep moving so I got around to Cy Johnson's home. Must be some Indian in him the way he handles a bow and arrow. And talking about being handy with things, I saw a chap cutting brush and making things neat and trim and I says to myself that looks like Maurine Donaldson's dad and sure enough it was. And what a job he was doing! You know it would not be a bad idea if we all get out and did a little brushing around the turns in the road. Surely would improve the view for you motorists.

As for myself I came to the conclusion that the farther back I walked the steeper the roads got and perhaps next time I would charter one of Miss Graham's hay burning donkeys and that way cover more territory.

New Association Members

Elected 8-6-37

Fred Broderick, W. J. Martinez, B. A. Breedon, Harvey Lyons, R. Steiner, S. C. Hardin, Fred T. Wood, Robert D. Harrison, Mrs. J. L. Rogers, Wm. Pearson, Joseph N. Blumb, Mrs. E. N. Blumb, Arthur Foster, Dr. E. C. Darnael, Mrs. E. C. Darnael, John Zuur, Dr. H. A. Brown, Mrs. H. A. Brown, M. Rose, A. O. Sorensen, T. J. Finerty, Mrs. Ralph Sisson, C. R. Warren, Bernice Warren, D. R. Blade.

P.-T.A. Calendar

Tuesday, September 21. First regular meeting at two o'clock. Refreshments will be served.

Wednesday, October 6. Garden Bridge Party at the home of Mrs. Franklin A. Kales.

Tuesday, October 19. Regular meeting at the school.

Friday and Saturday, October 22 and 23. Rummage Sale for the benefit of school playground equipment. (Save your rummage)

Tuesday, November 16. Regular meeting at the school.

December meeting day to be announced later, as third Tuesday comes so near Christmas. However there will be our annual grown-up party with each member bringing a ten cent gift.

Save these dates. Mrs. Kenneth Gelwix, our vice-president and program chairman is planning some interesting programs for our regular meetings.

Our school needs the cooperation of the parents. Come to our meetings and get better acquainted. Bring your friends to our parties, and we can assure you of a good time.

12-15 Club

The 12-15 Club, according to an announcement of its president, Mrs. A. W. Elkinton, has the satisfaction of sponsoring another war veteran hospitalized at the Livermore sanatorium.

Mrs. Cleborne Heads New O. I. A. Committee

A Music Committee created at our last regular association meeting is in the hands of a very capable organizer, Mrs. Beatrice Cleborne who will be assisted in her efforts by "Prof." Kenneth Allen.

Plans are now under way for us to enjoy the efforts of this committee at several of our future programs.

Already this new unit has had two meetings at the school and from all reports each was a howling success!

Don't miss the next if you want some real fun. Phone Mrs. Cleborne, BE 9427-J1, for information.

PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ward are vacationing in Southern California for two weeks. They will be the house guests of Mrs. John Treanor in Los Angeles.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Williams are spending a lengthy vacation at Carmel.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fee have returned from an enjoyable fishing trip in the mountains for several days.

The Orinda Club celebrated its 12th Birthday on August 21.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Dietrich and son Robert have recently returned from a month's trip in the East.

We are very happy to learn that Mrs. William Pearson is well on the way to recovery from her recent illness which has kept her confined to her bed for weeks.

We are indeed sorry to hear that Mrs. Vance, the principal of our Grammar School, has resigned to accept a position in a larger school. Mrs. Vance, in leaving our community we all wish to extend to you the best wishes of this Association for your future success.

Mrs. Carl Zamlock just returned from a trip to Lake Tahoe.

Miss Mildred Hickok spent the summer counseling at the Western District Girl Scout Camp in Idaho. She is now taking up her duties as Women's Representative on the California Campus.

Mr. Fred Elkinton left by plane August 17 for Philadelphia on a business trip.

Barbecue - Swim - Aug. 27

Have you got your tickets for the big event this Friday evening at the Country Club? Joe Varni, head of the Entertainment Committee, has planned a Barbecue Dinner and Swim for the benefit of the Boy Scouts. There are going to be several surprises in the form of entertainment. Bring your family and get acquainted, 5:30 to 7:30. Tickets 75c.

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to just another motorist

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