

# Orinda News

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME II

Orinda, Calif., January 1, 1939

NUMBER 7

## School Board Has Problems

*(Letter to the Editor)*

I am very glad to answer your inquiry in regard to your questions and pertaining to prevalent rumors, even though an in-completed study does not permit us to present to you the full details which we shall shortly furnish to all residents of the Orinda Union School District.

May I state, first, that your Trustees, even though they were aware of the basic facts regarding the condition of our school buildings, did not deem them to affect the question as to whether or not school transportation should be furnished to the children. Your Trustees desired to secure a true expression of the desires of all of our residents and this aim of ours suggested that we do not becloud that issue with extemporaneous matters having nothing to do with "transportation".

Our study of the extent of the damage to the old buildings, caused by termite invasion and dry rot, have not been completed and neither have the specific plans to remedy this serious condition.

It is safe to state that a bond election will be necessary since funds to rectify this damage are not available. While the sum required may be substantial I feel safe to predict, however, that, in spite of school transportation, it will not affect the tax rate by more than five cents per hundred dollars of assessed valuation.

The State Department of Architecture and other competent engineers are now conferring with us. Complete analysis presently indicates that it might be more economical, more permanent, and vastly safer, to completely rebuild the old structures, particularly since the State Department of Architecture is obliged to insist that these buildings comply with today's school building codes.

Several prominent residents whom we have consulted to date, have expressed themselves as in full accord with this analysis.

I trust that I have answered your questions and that you feel assured that your School Trustees are not merely glad, but definitely desirous, to keep all of our residents fully informed of all major facts affecting our school.

We invite our neighbors' interest as well as counsel.

Cordially yours, E. L. Mathy, *Board of School Trustees, Orinda, California.*

## January Meeting Notice

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, JAN. 6TH, AT 8 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM OF THE ORINDA SCHOOL.

## THE STROLLER

As beloved Will Rogers once said, "I only know what I read in the newspapers", and if only one-half is true of what we read in the newspapers about conditions in most of Europe, then we should make a firm resolution that for the next three hundred and sixty-five days we will thank our Creator and divine Providence for being privileged to live in a country where one can express himself without fear of being arrested and thrown into a concentration camp or worse; where your soul is your own, where your family and mine can go to the Church of our choice and worship without fear, where vested property rights are respected, and last but not least, where we have the right to say what form of government we will live under.

So, during the ensuing year, of the many resolutions you make at the start and possibly not keep, let this one remain uppermost in your mind: That, knowing I live in the greatest country on earth, that I will ever love and respect its flag and its principles of government, for in so doing I will assist in making this land of ours a still better place in which to live.

## Orinda Park, Inc. Annual Meeting

The regular meeting of Orinda Park, Inc. will be held on the 19th of January, 1939, at Casa Verano, Orinda Highway & El Toyonal. The purpose of the meeting is to elect directors and to transact other necessary business.

"Once an Orindan . . ."

Mrs. Leona Smith, a former Orindan, now residing in Los Angeles keeps up her membership in the Orinda Improvement Association in order to receive the "Orinda News". Her Christmas message to Mr. Harrold is as follows: "Dear Warren: I enclose \$1.00 for 'Orinda News' which I enjoy getting. Sorry I'm not there to help with the Fire Department Christmas presents. All good wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Leona Smith."

## Santa Claus Visits Orinda

Santa Claus visited the Orinda Children on scheduled time this year. With sirens going, and a motorcycle escort, the Orinda Fire Department engine came roaring down the hill toward the village, with Santa standing on the back of the engine waving to all of his little friends. As Santa drew up to the Fire House he was greeted with Christmas carols, sung by the Junior Members of the department.

The huge bag full of toys was opened, and in it was a present for each child in Orinda, up to the age of 14. The children were called up to Santa Claus one by one, enabling each and every child to have a personal word with him. Besides receiving a present they also received a box of candy.

Candy was distributed to the mothers and friends of the children. It is our guess that the grown-ups got just as much of a thrill out of Santa's visit as did the kiddies. Santa certainly looked very resplendent in his new red suit and long flowing silver whiskers.

After saying good-bye and promising to come again next year, Santa Claus wished all a Merry Christmas and waving, rode off on the fire truck to take presents to those unable to attend the Party.

## Highlights of Dec. Meeting

The Safety and Public Welfare Committee reported through Mr. Guerard that there was little chance of stopping the on-sale of liquor at the "Willows". Since the meeting date, the permit has been granted. However, plans were made for an application for a rehearing at Sacramento before the Board of Equalization.

All other activities were eclipsed in the interest aroused in the problem of furnishing transportation for school children. This appears not to be a matter of cost primarily, but one of safety for the children. There was lively discussion about whether transportation of any sort is desirable and if so whether two small busses would be safer than one large bus. Since this discussion, the advisory votes of the district have been strongly in favor of the two smaller busses. It was pointed out that supervision of small busses, while not legally under the Highway Division, could be brought under their inspection service so that safety would be at the highest attainable point.

It was reported that added traffic officers were to be on duty on the Tunnel Road on Saturdays and Sundays from now on.

## ORINDA NEWS

Official Publication of the  
ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Advertising ..... Martyn F. Warner  
Editorial Staff—Maurine Donaldson, Mildred Hickok,  
Bernice Warren, Mrs. Marie Bennett, Mrs. R. M. Cross  
South of Tunnel Rd. Correspondent—Mrs. Harry Holt  
Publishers.....R. M. Cross, J. J. McMillan  
Communications for the News may be left in the  
box at the Orinda Store, or given to any of the above  
mentioned persons.

### Editor Speaks . . .

Here we are, friends and neighbors, in the hustle and hurly-burly of another Christmas season, with entertainment galore and joy and happiness and good will stressed everywhere.

We cannot print all the news of the various social activities because all Orinda is active in that regard.

However, the Publicity Committee sends you their greetings and their appreciation for your acceptance of its work. Like the musician of story, we are doing the best we can and it is a pleasure to have a hand in the development of our community.

In all this round of pleasure we feel that the deeper meaning of Christmas should be stressed. It celebrates the birth of one who to some is the appearance of God on earth, to others, merely the advent of a great historical character who has had a profound effect upon the history of the world. How profound is indicated by the phrase 'Christian virtues' which has become the standard of a good life.

There is some unrest in the community and some criticism. Let us practice the Christian virtue of tolerance, remembering that everyone does the best he knows how. Those of us, who with the best of intentions, make mistakes should have sympathy and such help as can properly be given us.

Our New Year's wish is that the whole community may be bound together with a bond of sympathetic tolerance in the assurance that we are all doing as well as we know how. Let us make the best of each other and all pull together to make 1939 a really prosperous year.

### S. S. Christmas Party

A capacity audience attended the annual Christmas party given at Casa Verano by the Women's Guild and Sunday School on Dec. 19th. The program of songs by the beginners and young people was in charge of Miss Evelyn Tyson, educational director of the Sunday School. Santa Claus alias Fred Elkinton presented each child a small gift and a candy cane. Balloons were furnished the youngsters through the courtesy of Emil Wickman. Ice cream for everyone present ended the festive occasion. Mrs. W. A. Patterson headed the committee in charge of arrangements, assisted by Mrs. W. P. Mott, Mrs. G. A. Woods and Mrs. Kenneth Sawyer.

### High Mass at Santa Maria

On Christmas Day a High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Miller at the Santa Maria Church. The Mass and the Christmas hymns were beautifully sung by the choir composed of Dr. Howitt of Berkeley, Mr. Nate Sullivan, Miss Frances Campbell, and Miss Antoinette Botelho.

### Orinda Welcomes its New Property Owners, Home Builders and Residents

W. G. Courtright ..... 157 El Toyonal  
E. Buckingham ..... 8 Camino Sobrante  
A. K. Pettengill ..... 235 La Espiral  
Robert Moorhead ..... 130 Camino Don Miguel  
Joe Conley ..... 130 Las Vegas  
William Dreyer ..... 228 Camino Sobrante  
C. C. Fratzke ..... 8 La Plaza  
W. E. Eller ..... 160 Orinda Highway  
Mrs. E. J. Mullin ..... 167 Las Vegas  
Mrs. Y. Williams ..... 106 Camino Don Miguel  
J. S. Hockaday ..... 105 El Toyonal  
E. D. Rogers ..... 15 Las Vegas  
H. E. Freuller ..... 8 El Pulgar  
Mrs. Zoe Woolsey ..... 24 Via Floreado  
A. A. MacMinn ..... 120 Las Vegas  
E. A. Patterson ..... 124 Las Vegas  
Thos. Silva ..... Las Palmas  
Charles Ward ..... 4 Los Dedos  
A. C. Young ..... Los Dedos  
Ed Miller ..... 102 Las Vegas  
Dr. R. I. Woolsey ..... 20 Via Floreado  
B. A. Wright ..... 432 Miner Road

#### MINERINDA

R. S. Hodgkin, H. J. Craviotto, Walter Wood

#### MORAGA ESTATES

Mr. Stanley A. Allen has moved into his beautiful new home on Lot 148. Mrs. Evalynne D. Paddon is occupying her new home recently completed on a portion of Lot 153; also Mr. Geo. Young on Lot 113.

Mr. Ellis of Crown-Zellerbach Corp. of San Francisco will erect a \$15,000 residence on Lot 111.

The construction of a \$12,500 residence has been started on Lot 118 by Mr. Lloyd H. Oliver. Mr. Herbert R. Wood will erect a lovely \$15,000 home on Lot 124.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred T. Anderson have constructed a \$12,000 residence on Lot 50, to be occupied immediately. Mr. Bernard Ginsburg is completing a 5-room home on Lot 18, which he will occupy on or about February 1st.

The new six-room home which is being completed on portion of Lot 37, will be occupied by March 1st by Mr. Ernest Smith.

Mr. G. A. Sherman and family have recently moved into their new home just completed on Lot 45. Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Lindquist will occupy their new home erected on Lot 43, on or about March 1st. Mr. Arthur A. Ricker is erecting a new \$10,000 residence on Lot 145, which will be occupied on or about April 1st.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon J. Paul have moved to their new home on Lot 149. Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Roy have also built a very attractive home on Lot 17, and are now occupying same.

#### MORAGA WOODLANDS

Mr. Calvin M. Orr will complete his beautiful \$12,500 home on Lot 2 within the next sixty days. Mr. Mack Sheppard of San Francisco has practically completed his new home on Lot 34.

The new Golden Gate Exposition Model Home will be started immediately on Lot 3, and according to all indications will be one of the finest on the tour of 31 homes. This home will be constructed of white brick with a blue slate tile roof, and is expected to be completed for exhibit on May 1st, 1939.

Mr. John Gardner will start construction of his home on Lot 118, right after the first of the year.

Mr. and Mrs. Breunig are now occupying their new home recently completed on Lot 122.

### Christmas Vespers

Members of the Orinda C. E. Society entertained their parents Sunday evening Dec. 18th at Casa Verano. Chorus singing, a vocal and an instrumental duet, a reading, in addition to a brief interesting message by the pastor Dr. Fisher, completed the Vesper service.

### ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

#### OFFICERS

President ..... Lowell Berry  
Vice President ..... R. R. Dennis  
Secretary ..... Mrs. E. I. deLaveaga  
Treasurer ..... George H. Pitt

#### CHAIRMAN OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Program and Planning ..... R. R. Dennis  
Tax and Finance ..... J. Varni  
Roads and Highways ..... W. P. Stephenson  
Transportation ..... Owen S. Dibbern  
Safety and Public Welfare ..... A. S. Guerdar  
Education ..... Richard Breuner  
Entertainment ..... Ralph Sisson  
Boy Scouts ..... F. A. Kales  
Girl Scouts ..... Mrs. George Hickok  
Reception ..... G. F. Hickok  
Music ..... Mrs. C. J. Cleborne  
Membership ..... Warren Harrold  
Publicity ..... Martyn F. Warner

### PRUNING SUGGESTIONS

By A. J. MEMMESHEIMER  
(Continued)

#### ROSES

Let us look at the roses now. I cannot emphasize enough that roses pruned properly will show the greatest results, especially here in our district where we have ideal soil conditions for roses. Drastic pruning is of the greatest importance to obtain a strong and healthy plant. I have advocated this style of pruning for a good many years and those who have followed that advice have never had to be sorry for doing so. We cut our roses down to about 6 to 8 inches, removing weak branches and leave 4 to 5 strong branches well distributed around the bush. The reason for this heavy pruning is to encourage longer stems and larger roses during the coming season. Try as much as possible to cut the branches right above the outside bud, to insure a well-balanced bush. Watch always that all growth below the ground is cut. It is the sucker growth that weakens your rose bush. Standard or tree roses are treated like bush roses. Climbing roses should be trained against your trellis or wall, leaving 3 to 4 leaders and cut back about 1/2 the first two years to build up a strong foundation. After that period remove some of the weaker branches and cut other side branches back severely.

### CHURCH NOTICES

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Santa Maria Church Association meetings held monthly. Next meeting Tuesday evening January 10th at the home of Mr. Philip LeMasney on Camino Don Miguel, Orinda. 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 Casa Verano Bldg.

## PERSONALS

☆☆☆

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Ketcham spent the holidays with friends in Pittsburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Carol Davies and children spent the holidays with Mrs. Davies' parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Bryant.

The employees of the Orinda Store and Tunnel Grocery entertained the owner, Mr. Jarvis I. Clark at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Guthrie Clark on December 21st. This being the regular Christmas tree party, Santa Claus had gifts for all present, after which Mrs. Clark sang Christmas Carols and later served refreshments.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bennett have been entertaining Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Mecherle of Bloomington, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Allen are planning a trip to San Diego to visit their parents.

Mrs. S. V. Wagler has been entertaining her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fairley of Colorado and also her sister Mrs. Byington.

On the evening of Saturday, Dec. 10th, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Sisson entertained a group of friends at an evening of Bridge. Her guests included Mr. & Mrs. M. Warner, Mr. & Mrs. R. Wilson and Mr. & Mrs. Leo Fenton of Berkeley. The prizes were won by Mrs. Warner and Mr. Fenton.

The Ritchie Smiths returned Saturday, Dec. 17th from a three months' stay in Honolulu. Take a gander at the Honolulu License plates on the car brought back with them.

We are happy to learn that Dick Grayson, employee of the Standard Oil Station at the Crossroads who was seriously injured three months ago has been able to leave the Berkeley Hospital for his home. Good come-back Dick, we are all with you.

The Orinda representatives of the Woman's Board of Contra Costa County for the S. F. World's Fair have recently been appointed. They are as follows: Mrs. G. P. Ballachey, Mrs. F. Kales, Mrs. F. Shook, Mrs. C. Hubbard, Mrs. E. I. deLaveaga and Mrs. W. Harrold. Mrs. E. Bray of Martinez is County Chairman.

We are glad to hear that Mrs. E. R. Taylor was out of the hospital and able to enjoy her Christmas at home.

Judging from the looks of things, Orinda certainly enjoyed a very happy Christmas. Many packages were being sent and received from the Post Office of the Orinda Store. One of the most interesting presents known was a present to a dog. This is the copy of a letter received by Mr. McVickers of the Orinda Meat Market:

"Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find 15c for which please send one large bone for a dog to the W. A. Patterson residence on Saturday, December 24th, addressed to 'Pinch' Patterson, with the enclosed card. Sincerely yours, Mrs. —, Seattle, Washington."

Little Carol Kales spent the week following Christmas in Yosemite visiting relatives and friends. Carol returned to her school room as usual with a big smile and reported a lovely time.

## Girl Scout News

During the month of December, the Girl Scouts, under the direction of Mrs. Val Daniels, have been working on leather coin purses, which they gave their mothers for Christmas gifts.

On Dec. 22nd, the Troop went Christmas caroling and finished the evening with a party at the home of their Captain, Mrs. Kenneth Thompson where they exchanged gifts and played games.

The Girl Scouts wish to thank all their friends who so kindly purchased Christmas cards from them, part of the proceeds of which enriched the Scout treasury.

Miss Bernice Warren has returned from a nine weeks' trip to New York, Chicago and other Eastern points. The Publicity Committee will be glad that Miss Warren will be able to resume her work on the *News*.

One of the many homes in Orinda holding Open House to their friends on Christmas was the lovely new home of Mr. and Mrs. Warde Sorrick on Oak Arbor Road.

Mr. Warren Harrold has recently been appointed a member of the Grand Jury of Contra Costa County for the year 1939. He has also been made Chairman of the Public Building and County Equipment Committee, and we also find him serving on the Roads and Highways Committee. Nice going, Warren.

Mrs. A. B. Hayward of 50 La Espiral entertained at the Orinda Country Club recently in honor of Mrs. E. U. Reed, wife of Commander Reed who has recently been appointed to the command of the Naval Hospital at Mare Island. Her guests were Naval Officers' wives as follows: Mrs. E. U. Reed, Mrs. G. Sheppard, Mrs. E. Marquett, Mrs. C. W. Fox, Mrs. G. Larsen, Mrs. Karl Christoph from Vallejo and Mrs. Mabel Garcia of Berkeley. Luncheon was served and bridge was enjoyed by all the remainder of the afternoon.

On Thursday Dec. 29th, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Dennis were hosts to 36 guests at a Progressive Dinner given by members of the Apex Co. We find the Dennis' serving the main course with another member in Berkeley serving the dessert. The Apex Convention was held in the East Bay and many of its local people were entertaining for their fellow workers.

Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Val Daniels and her boys, in the loss of her husband, Clarence Daniels on December 19th. Mr. Daniels was accidentally killed when the car on which he was working in his garage slipped from the jack and crushed him. The Daniels had recently purchased property on Las Vegas, intending to build next summer.

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## LIONS INVADE ORINDA?

On Dec. 11th Mrs. Geoffrey W. Mayo of Orinda, notified the Sheriff's office that she had seen two mountain lions near her home, 28 Las Cascadas. We have not been informed as to whether these animals were really mountain lions, or bobcats of which several have been seen.

## Christmas Parties in Orinda

Orinda was the setting for a great many large Christmas Parties this year. The parties drawing the greatest amount of interest and the largest crowds were: Fire Department Christmas Party for 155 children, the Orinda Country Club Children's Party for over 80 children, the Orinda Women Golfers' Christmas Tournament and Party, which entertained about 60 women, and the Orinda Country Club's Annual Caddie Show and Dinner, which was attended by approximately two hundred.

## Better Bus Service?

Mr. Dibbern, chairman of the Transportation Committee advises us that conversations are going on with the management of the Sacramento Northern R. R. looking toward some change in schedule and improvement in service to lighten the peak loads morning and evening due to increased patronage of the busses. There appears to be some prospect of increased service.

## Kindergarten Reopening

The second term of the Kindergarten conducted by Mrs. G. A. Woods in the Community Church rooms will begin January 3rd. It is interesting to visit this kindergarten and see the tiny chairs and tables provided for the youngsters, as well as the samples of their painting, hammering, modeling and other activities. This school fills a need in the community and the pupils have a full and active morning five days each week. When we get the new grammar school and the new high school Orinda will be even a better place to live in.

## Women's Guild

The Women's Guild of Orinda will hold its regular monthly meeting on January 3rd, at the home of Mrs. F. D. Bryant in Minersville. Co-hostesses are Mrs. George Pitt and Mrs. Richard Cross. Mrs. Miles B. Fisher will entertain with an account of the trip to Europe she and Dr. Fisher took last year.

## FAIR ORINDA

Lying in the hollow of the hills,  
Embroidered with the colors of the Spring,  
Mid hoary oaks and verdant mountain-laurels,  
Where rejoicing birds, returning sing:  
There Orinda spreads her spacious homesteads,  
Along the river and its mountain streams,  
Up wooded glens and lovely grassy hillsides,  
Where, basking in the sun, she dreams.  
When at last the twilight falls, and fading,  
Soft, as a rosy veil, it dims the sight;  
While the blazing colors merge to darkness,  
Flickering house-lights greet returning night.  
—Perry Dale Wilson.

## TAPS FOR HARRY DORRINGTON

Many Orindans were saddened by the passing on Dec. 11th of Harry Dorrington, 16-year-old son of Mrs. L. Dorrington of Orinda. Harry had been seriously ill for some time in the U.C. Hospital, San Francisco, and at the Martinez County hospital. Services were held at Martinez, Tues., Dec. 13th, followed by interment at the Lafayette cemetery. The Orinda Boy Scouts, of which troop Harry was a member, acted as pallbearers, and troop bugler F. Bennett played taps.

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