

# Orinda News

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME I

Orinda, Calif., March 1, 1938

Number 9

## Roadside Trees Planted

1) The Tree Committee will have a desk at the next Improvement Club meeting and we ask that the sponsors bring their checks or cash there to pay their subscriptions. These should be paid to the Committee and not to the Treasurer, in order that the records may be straight.

2) The trees have been planted and staked by the Orinda Nursery. The entire number of trees has been subscribed for and we feel that the community should be congratulated upon its hearty response to this project. Any overflow subscriptions will be used towards the care and maintenance of the trees and will be welcomed with pleasure by Mr. Martyn F. Warner, the efficient chairman of the committee.

3) The price at which the trees were contracted for precludes the planting of large branching trees, but we are assured that what is planted will be adequate for the purpose and because they are fast growers a showing should be made in a very few years.

## New Residents, Property Owners, and Builders

### Haciendas del Orinda

Charles Stout ..... Las Aromas  
John Tynes ..... La Campaña

### Orinda Park Terrace

M. T. Melvin ..... Loma Vista Drive

### Moraga Estates

Stanley Allen ..... 148 Orchard Road  
Arthur Cotten ..... 135 Moraga Road  
Bernard Ginsberg ..... 17 Orchard Road  
Cora A. Glein ..... 17 South Wood Drive  
Lillian Jackson ..... 5 Davis Road  
Francis Leslie ..... 131 Moraga Road  
Gennie Roy ..... 18 South Wood Drive

### Oak Springs

J. L. Quillitch ..... 3 Brookwood Road

## MOVING VANS BUSY

The sun came out and gave us a glimpse of Spring ahead. It also encouraged several families to move to Orinda: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stout, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Lueck, and Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Duncan.

We are happy to welcome these new residents in our community.

## P.-T. A. News

The next meeting of the Orinda Union P.-T. A. will be a dessert meeting at 1:15 at the schoolhouse on Tuesday, March 15th. There will be election of officers. Plans for a Spring party to raise funds for the necessary expenses of the year will be discussed, so please be ready with your suggestions.

## March Meeting Notice

The next regular meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday, Mar. 4th, at 8 p. m. in the Orinda School auditorium.

## Coming Meetings

Friday, March 4, 1938—President's annual report telling what has been accomplished by the Association since June, 1937.

Friday, April 1, 1938—No fooling! Appointment of Nominating Committee to nominate officers for year 1938-1939.

Friday, May 6, 1938—Election of new officers for 1938-1939 and installation of same.

## What Happened at the Feb. 4th Meeting

We had a very interesting report from the Boy Scout Committee explaining much of the organization and work of the Scouts which led to a heartfelt enthusiasm for our little band of 22 Orinda boys and their able leaders. Clifford Pierce and Donald Trucker talked to us about the proposed Scout Exhibit at Lake Merritt and also the Badge Exhibit on Saturday Feb. 12th at the Orinda Schoolhouse. No doubt many of us saw both displays. The Association voted to pay \$115 into the Scout treasury which is the obligation of the sponsoring body up to March 31st of this year. We may all be interested to know that the troop is growing and that Dr. Austin Carey is chairman of the committee with such able and enthusiastic men as Rosenthal, Snook, Kales, Badgeley, Martin and Cross assisting.

Mr. Dennis gave a report for the Safety and Public Welfare Committee. We now have a mandatory sanitary inspection for all  
(Continued on page 2, col. 3)

## THE STROLLER

Well, I see the *Orinda News* now has some competition. I ran onto a copy of the little paper published by the Orinda School called the "Orinda Oracle" edited by Jack Hulse with a great supporting staff of reporters. It sure is a fine school paper and the boys and girls that have the job of getting it out are doing great work. Kinda makes us folks with the *News* look to our laurels.  
(Continued on page 3, col. 2)

## HISTORY OF ORINDA

### The Old Orinda School

The old Orinda schoolhouse at the junction of the Berkeley Road, the San Pablo and Bear Valley Roads, cost \$700. It was built in 1883 on a lot donated by General Theodore Wagner, former surveyor-general of California, and resident of Orinda. General Wagner was the first man who believed explicitly in the destiny of Orinda, to the investment of about \$100,000. Born in Hesse-Cassel in Germany, he had come to the United States at the age of fifteen, serving in the Union Army, and coming to California in 1872.

On October 6, 1885, the schoolhouse was totally destroyed by fire. General opinion was that the fire was the work of an incendiary. The schoolhouse stood on rocky ground, with no trash around, so that the fire couldn't have originated from a match accidentally dropped. There was a stove inside the building, but there had been no fire in it for months. Nor could it have been the work of tramps, because some of the Rowland children who had spent the evening at the Wagner ranch, passed the schoolhouse at 9 o'clock on their way home. They saw nobody there. Eddie Rowland could see the schoolhouse from his window, but it wasn't on fire at 11 o'clock when Eddie went to bed. When he woke up at 3 o'clock in the morning, he saw the flames from his bedroom window.

They seemed to have eliminated as suspects everybody but the schoolchildren.

A reward of \$250 was offered for the arrest and conviction of the person who set fire to the schoolhouse. The school had been insured in the Home Mutual Company of Oakland for \$600 which was promptly paid. A tax of \$250 was levied for furniture for the school.

Mr. Willarts of Berkeley built a larger and better schoolhouse, completing it in six weeks, obviously cheating the school-children of a well-deserved vacation.

General Wagner's vision for Orinda, although unfilled in his time, was renewed years later by a similar vision of a member of an old Orinda family, Edward de Laveaga, who conceived the idea of a new Orinda. On the fulfillment of his dream for a greater Orinda, the old schoolhouse at the Crossroads was replaced in 1924 by the present modern school in New Orinda. Shortly after, the old schoolhouse was torn down.

## Lost & Found

Lost—A bronze oak-leaf and acorn patterned bracelet. Please notify Maurine Donaldson, Ashberry 1911.

**ORINDA NEWS**  
*Official Publication of the*  
**ORINDA**  
**IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**OFFICERS**

President ..... Warren Harrold  
 Vice President ..... Lowell Berry  
 Secretary ..... Donald Badgley  
 Treasurer ..... C. E. Donaldson

**Trustees**

Frank D. Bryant, Geo. H. Pitt, W. D. Scott

**STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

Program ..... J. W. Dieterich  
 Membership ..... Geo. H. Pitt  
 Publicity ..... Harrison L. Ketcham  
 Safety and Public Welfare ..... R. R. Dennis  
 Roads and Highway ..... R. V. Miller  
 Transportation ..... Owen S. Dibbern  
 Entertainment ..... Joe Varni  
 Reception ..... Harry R. Oakley  
 Music ..... Mrs. Beatrice Cleborne

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

Uniform Road Signs ..... Ralph Sisson  
 Tree Planting ..... Martyn F. Warner  
 Clean Up ..... John Zuur  
 West of Orinda ..... Sidney K. Rosenthal  
 South of Tunnel Road ..... Herbert Hauser  
 East of San Pablo Highway, Orinda... G. B. Schuyler  
 W. of San Pablo Highway, Orinda... A. W. Elkinton

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 Mrs. Geo. H. Pitt, Ashberry 10262.

**Co-operation Is Valuable**

During the past two years I have spent considerable time studying communities within the vicinity of our own community of Orinda, and while on an auto trip to Southern California during the Christmas and New Year holidays, I made it a point of studying, analyzing and asking questions relative to communities and sub-divisions comparable in some respects to ours.

Most of these communities have booster and other organized bodies similar to our ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION. They seem ambitious and in some cases they advertise, they beautify, they look after the safety of their people, they strive for certain public improvements and they sponsor certain organizations that are essential to the welfare and protection of their respective communities.

It was interesting to me to learn that in all the communities where there were no organizations to head their activities, or where the organizations were small or where most of the residents thereof were disinterested or non-cooperative, or where, after the developers had finished their work and no longer took an active part in the community's affairs, that such communities became stagnant and instead of going ahead and progressing, seemed to drift backward.

The communities that have prospered and gone ahead were those that had a live wire, booster organization to guide them, an organization such as our ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, striving for a large membership, striving to acquaint its peoples with the affairs and problems of its community, striving to obtain and keep a good harmonious community spirit, striving toward a better acquaintanceship with one another

**Orinda Women's Guild**

On February 1st the Women's Guild of the Orinda Community Church met with Mrs. A. S. Guerard, Mesdames A. B. Hayward, W. D. Scott and J. E. Sullivan, assisting hostesses. It was the annual reports meeting, and they revealed a most successful first year of activity.

In the president's report Mrs. R. C. Sisson paid sincere tribute to the woman-of-the-year, Mrs. E. Jeffrey, chairman of the Dorcas Society which cleared about \$40.00 for the Guild.

Mrs. A. W. Elkinton is general chairman of the church community supper to be given Saturday evening, March 26th, at the schoolhouse. Mrs. Elkinton will announce the members of her committee at the next regular meeting of the Guild.

The new officers of the Guild are the following and they will be installed at the next meeting. Mrs. E. Jeffrey will be installing officer; Mrs. R. C. Sisson, president; Mrs. C. J. Cleborne, vice-president; Mrs. R. M. Cross, recording secretary; Mrs. R. E. Wilson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. W. B. Thomas, treasurer; Mrs. A. W. Elkinton, chairman of program committee; Mrs. E. W. Miller, chairman of Dorcas Society.

The Executive Board wishes to extend a cordial invitation to all women in the community to meet with the Guild on the first Tuesday of each month. The Dorcas Society meets on the third Thursday. For details of time and place, telephone Mrs. R. C. Cross, THornwall 5217.

**ATTENTION!**

Your 1938 Association Dues are now payable.

and striving to assist larger organizations on vital issues affecting their welfare.

Ours is a prospering community and through our ever growing ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION let us strive for more improvement, let us strive to obtain greater benefits and to attain greater heights. *It can be done*, and we can all do a part—

By stimulating in others the desire to join our Association, attend our meetings and help its officers and committee heads.

By cooperating with and helping all our other community organizations.

By bringing before our Association worthwhile community improvements.

By patronizing our *Orinda News* advertisers.

By unselfishly foregoing smaller gains for larger, entire-community gains.

By boosting more and criticizing less.

By whole-heartedly welcoming newcomers into our community.

By taking an active part in our Association's work, and especially in clean-up and beautification programs.

The ultimate result will be: a more progressive Orinda, a better place in which to live, a larger Orinda, with greater assessed valuation, and last, but not least, an Orinda with greater property values.

—WARREN HARROLD

**Fire Prevention Message**

The recent Orinda house fire, according to my personal survey, was due to spontaneous combustion.

The following suggestions to owners who vacate their homes, here, might prevent a similar fire.

1. Pull main electricity switch.
2. See that accumulated newspapers, rags, oily or otherwise, and paints, oil or kerosene are properly disposed of.
3. Leave water turned on.

—P. R. DONALDSON, *Chief*  
*Orinda Fire District*

**INSURANCE RATE REDUCED**

Orinda is fortunate in having a reduction in insurance rates as follows: For one year policy, 55c base rate instead of 60c per \$100. For three year policy, \$1.10 rate instead of \$1.20.

**WHAT HAPPENED (Continued)**

new buildings in this district which will undoubtedly prevent many future problems for our home owners. Any old difficulty with sanitation will be inspected and diagnosed by the County Inspector upon request to any member of the Safety and Public Welfare Committee.

We were glad to learn that the new Bus Line is gaining rapidly in patronage but hope it will continue to do even more to insure a more complete schedule in the months to come.

A good presentation of the needs of our schoolhouse was given by Mr. Badgley and Les. Dana. After hearing how crowded the two little classrooms are now and also realizing what a rapidly growing attendance the school has, the Association could not help but heartily applaud the plan for increasing the size of the schoolhouse and the playground.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**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 Corder Building, Orinda.

**ORINDA COMMUNITY**

Sunday School for all ages meets at 9:30 o'clock every Sunday morning. A. W. Elkinton, Sup't.

Church Services of worship conducted by Henry Adams at 10:45 A. M. the first Sunday of each month.

Christian Endeavor for teen age young people meets every Sunday evening at 7:00 o'clock. The services are held in Casa Verano, San Pablo Road and El Toyonal. Visitors cordially welcome.

**CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Masses every Sunday and Holy Days. Sunday masses at 9:00 o'clock. All are welcome.

Santa Maria Church Association meetings held monthly. Next meeting to be held March 1st, at the home of Mrs. Geo. H. Pitt, No. 4 Santa Lucia Road, Orinda. All interested in the welfare of the Little Chapel are asked to come. Call attendance committee at Ash. 10262 for further information.

**PERSONALS**

In the early part of February Mrs. Leslie Roos of S. F. honored Miss Betty Ballachey of Orinda in a delightful kitchen shower at her home. Miss Ballachey, whose marriage to Mr. Chas. Bonner will occur on March 12, 1938, will reside in Fresno in a new home now under construction. Our heartiest congratulations, Betty.

On April 23, 1938, Mr. Richard (Dick) de Laveaga will sail for Honolulu, T. H. to claim as his bride Miss Nancy Everett Trotter of that city. Miss Trotter is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Trotter. Dr. Trotter is territorial health Commissioner of the Islands. Mr. and Mrs. de Laveaga will return shortly after the wedding and make their home in S. F. where he is now employed. A big handshake and lots of luck, Dick.

Mr. & Mrs. G. Mayo of Orinda bade their daughter Betty a fond "Aloha" in January as she sailed on the Lurline for Honolulu to accept a position in the Public Health Division of the Island.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. T. Kendall of Orinda on the recent arrival of a grandson born to their daughter Mrs. Richard McAllister early in February. Grandpa and Grandma to you, please.

It is with deepest regret that we learn of the death of the sister of Mr. Sidney Rosenthal on Feb. 11, 1938.

Mrs. William A. Rich, one of the members of our 12:15 Club of Orinda reported that her husband, Mr. William A. Rich, has accepted a position as head architectural designer for the State Buildings of the 1939 exposition on Treasure Island. A hearty Big Hand shake to Mr. Rich. The Rich's are now residing in Reliez Valley but formerly resided in Orinda.

Glad to see so much of the W. D. Scotts in Orinda. Since selling their beautiful home here they have taken up quarters at the Claremont Hotel. Once an Orindan always an Orindan. What say, W. D.?

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Dawson and son Philip left by train Saturday Feb. 19th for Texas to attend the funeral of Mr. Dawson's brother who passed on after a brief illness.

Speaking of traveling, the families of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dietreich and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bryant will soon be bidding our fond Orindans farewell as they are leaving for Europe within the next few weeks. They expect to visit Paris, France, Copenhagen, Denmark, trips into Switzerland and an extended stay in Germany. A good deal of their trip will be done by airplane. They will visit friends in New York before sailing.

Happy to see Mr. A. Gerard back on his feet after a severe attack of the gout these past few weeks. Who wouldn't be out of bed with such good bedside company daily by Stan Smith. Who in Orinda does not know Stan Smith, speak up and we will arrange a happy meeting in case you need him!

Commander Miffit and wife moved into their lovely new home on February 10th. Congratulations.

Mrs. James Sullivan has been ill at the East Bay Hospital for some time but we are happy to know that she is doing very well now and can begin to make plans for a homecoming.

**THE STROLLER (Continued)**

Getting back to the subject of the Orinda School, do folks realize that it is not going to be long before we are going to have a bond election for the improvement of this school and have you stopped to think whether you can vote or not. Possibly through just carelessness you haven't registered. Now if that is the case, just make it an object immediately to call on Warren Harrold or August Reuter who are authorized and will be pleased to fix you up for this most important election.

Well I see that our trees have been planted and soon will be blossoming—that is, if we can depend on our weather man. Had occasion to stroll over to the Moraga side the other day and guess I have been passing up some pretty interesting things in that neck of our district. You folks should hike around and see Dr. Cary's new home and get a peek at Herb Hauser's place and see our good neighbor Sands laying brick. If he does not get finished with his bricklaying soon someone will accuse him of running opposition to the Winchester house.

As I passed the Willows I noticed quite a bit of activity there and was told that some of the gambling fraternity from Pittsburg had moved in and commenced business, but thanks to our sheriff's office they did not last long and were out and on their way in a few days. We are good, open-minded folks around Orinda and like good fun and clean sport, but I don't think we need any gambling resorts here, there are too many other fine things for our folks in Orinda to do, so gamblers keep traveling.

**Girl Scout News**

Mrs. Lloyd Farrar, Captain of the Orinda Girl Scout Troop, entertained the members of the Troop Committee at a luncheon at her home on El Toyonal Road recently. Miss Ann Aab, Director of the Berkeley Girl Scouts, was guest of honor. The Troop Committee was revised and enlarged to meet the growing needs of the troop. Mrs. Chas. Bennett will be chairman of transportation; Mrs. Fred Elkinton, nature; Mrs. Maxine Thompson, singing; Mrs. William Pearson, camp; Mrs. Nina Schower and Mrs. Warren Harrold, finance. Mrs. G. F. Hickok is the Troop Committee chairman. Plans were discussed to help girl scouts attend camp this summer. The Berkeley Council will hold its annual cookie sale the first part of March and the girls hope to make even a better record than they did last year when the group sold over a hundred bags of cookies. Part of the money will be used to improve the summer camp at Far-a-way Mine. Connie Pearson, Vida Schower and Kathleen Sullivan attended this camp last year.

**Don't Be A Meanie**

Do you have to be coaxed? If so, it's going to be hard for the Publicity Committee. We want more "Knowhows," and we know you have them. If you are bashful, send them anonymously; we won't mind. The main thing is *send them in*. An exchange of knowledge is all that makes any paper worth the stuff it's printed on.

**Scout and Cub News**

Both the Orinda Scout Troop and the Orinda Cub Pack took part in the Merit Badge Exhibit which was held at Antioch on Thursday and Friday, February 10th and 11th. Both groups received awards for their exhibits.

A new committee has been formed for the Cubs with Mr. Harold Martin Chairman of the Cub Committee.

Mr. Grover La Velle has been chosen Den Dad of Den No. 1 while Mrs. Grover La Velle has been chosen as Den Mother with Mrs. Hulse assisting.

Mr. L. V. Dana is Den Dad of Den No. 2 and Mrs. Harold Martin is Den Mother.

Other members of the committee are Mr. Geo. Shepherd and Mr. Elvidge.

**¿QUIEN SABE?**

**Roads—Haciendas del Orinda**

- Camino Sobrante—Called after the Spanish Grant Rancho Sobrante. This was the name of the country extending from San Pablo almost to Martinez. This is the main road to the property.
- La Espiral—This is the second main road of the property. The Spiral.
- La Plaza—The plaza or square
- El Patio—The Courtyard
- Mira Loma—View of the Hills.
- Linda Vista—Beautiful View
- Via Farallon—The Cliffs
- La Cuesta—The Summit
- El Caminito—The little road
- Las Cascadas—The Cascades
- Las Aromas—The aromas
- La Vuelta—The turn
- Dos Posos—The two wells. So called because of the two wells along this road.
- La Noria—The draw well (Apparatus used in the well to pull up the bucket) So called because there was an old well here which supplied Bien Venida, the home of the de Laveagas, Bien Venida means Welcome.
- Miner Road—So called after the Miner family that lived at the end of the road.
- Camino Lenada—The shaded or wooded road
- La Senda—The path
- El Sueño—The dream
- El Sereno—The road of serenity
- La Cintilla—The ribbon
- Días Dorados—Golden days
- La Campana—The bell
- El Campanero—The ringer of the bell. The bell ringer.
- La Puerto—The point
- Via Hermosa—The beautiful road
- El Gabilan—The eagle
- Los Dedos—The fingers
- El Pulgar—The thumb
- Las Vegas—The fields
- Las Vegas—The fields.
- El Verano—The Summer
- Via Floreado—The flowered way
- Orinda Park Terrace**
- El Toyonal—Road of the Toyon (Christmas) berries.
- Ardilla—Squirrel
- Bonita—Beautiful
- Rio Vista—View of the river
- Los Conejos—The rabbits (Cottontails)
- El Dorado—Gold
- Mariposa—The butterfly
- Vallecito—The little valley
- Madronal—The road of Madrones
- La Encinal—The road of the oaks
- Camino Diablo—The Devil's Highway
- Monte Vista—View of the mountains

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