

ORINDA NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME III

Orinda, California, March 1, 1940

NUMBER 9

Dr. Shook Pleads Guilty To Dog Poisoning Charge

Dr. Francis M. Shook plead guilty to a charge of poisoning dogs, after he had been held for trial by jury in the Walnut Creek court of Justice of the Peace C. L. Thomson on February 20, and was fined \$100.

Through his attorneys, Leo Sullivan of Oakland and Ralph West of Martinez, Dr. Shook had previously entered a plea of not guilty after having been denied a change of venue, a dismissal, and a bill of particulars. It was only after the jury had been selected, most of whom were pet owners, and the prosecution and defense had opened their arguments that Shook changed his plea.

Dr. Shook was arrested on Jan. 4 after a number of valuable pets, both dogs and cats, had died of strychnine poisoning in his neighborhood. Many of the animals were the beloved pets of small children, and it was their grief at the loss of their pets that so aroused their parents that a private detective was hired. The case was later turned over to the District Attorney, Francis P. Healy.

RUSH HIGH SCHOOL PLANS

Plans for the new Acalanes Union High School which call for a single story frame and stucco construction, have been approved by the State Department of School House Planning. The buildings will be developed in units, so that the new school will open in September, with the minimum construction completed. Protection against earthquakes and termites will be insured by the use of concrete foundations composed of slabs.

Some of the features of the new building include: first class material and construction throughout, installation of class rooms, acoustically treated ceilings, linoleum flooring to absorb sound and create hygienic conditions, bilateral lighting, cross ventilation for every class room to keep a circulation of air under all conditions. The plans call for concealed radiators so placed that all areas of the rooms will be served alike with heat.

Bids for the buildings will open at 2:30 on March 9, and construction must start not later than March 18. Union approved wage scales were adopted by resolution of the board. Penalty provisions of \$100 a day are
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March Meeting Notice

The next Regular Meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held Friday, March 1, at 8 p. m. in the Orinda School Auditorium.

THE STROLLER

Ambling around Lake Cascade the other day the Stroller's curiosity was so aroused by the denuding process going on around the shore, that he stopped in at the club and inquired about it. According to Joe Varni, the clearing is preliminary to the planting of trees and shrubs in an attempt to maintain a more pleasing edge to the lake, the year around. Larger drains have had to be installed, for with the construction of houses around the hills overlooking the lake, the natural drainage process has been upset and water rushes into the lake at a greater rate now.

Good news to small boys and their dads, too, no doubt, is that the club area at the head of the lake is to be cleared for the purpose of providing a playground and several barbecue units. Some time this spring a space will be available for community kids to play ball. In this hilly country, level playing areas are at a premium, so we anticipate Varni's offer to be snapped up with glee.

(Continued on page 3, col. 3)

ORINDA GIVES TO POLIO FUND

Orinda's first "President's Birthday Ball", held at the Orinda Union School on the evening of January 27, proved to be an outstanding success. Culminating five weeks of effort on the part of the committee, the dance and floor show was exceptionally well attended. When a final check was made, it was found that the goal of \$250 was exceeded by nearly a hundred dollars, and the net profit of \$342.46 has already been forwarded to the Contra Costa County committee to be used in the fight against infantile paralysis.

A feature of the evening was the turning of the ball into a surprise birthday party for Warren Harrold, chairman of the Executive Committee which led the successful campaign. Always affable, Warren appeared to
(Continued on page 2, col. 3)

Improvement Association To Hear Educational Aims

Philosophy of modern education will be the theme of the meeting of the Improvement Association to be held at 8 o'clock Friday evening, March 1, at the school. According to Mrs. Geoffrey Mayo, chairman of the education committee, the purpose of the meeting is to present the modern objective of education, good citizenship, particularly to those residents who no longer have children in school, so that they may see how the three "R's" are taught in connection with teaching children how to live successfully with others.

Miss Doris Park, principal of the school, will speak on one phase of modern educational aims, and Miss Cornelia Lincoln, supervisor of rural education, will give another approach to the same subject.

Miss Bidwell, school nurse, will be presented to the audience, as well as the rest of the teaching staff, which includes Mrs. Gertrude Williams, Mrs. Helen Grimsley, and Miss Mary Siefker.

Mrs. E. R. Taylor, chairman of the entertainment committee, announces that Mrs. T. F. Seward, will present some of her pupils in dances.

Copies of building restrictions for Orinda are available in the files of the Improvement Association and prospective builders may borrow them by contacting any officer of the Association, according to an announcement by William Fleager, chairman of the committee on Safety and Public Welfare.

A local sheet map which includes the principle sections of the Orinda school district will be distributed by the boy and girl scouts to those who desire them. To secure a map contact any scout, or call J. V. Gardner, the scout master, or Mrs. G. F. Hickok, chairman of the girl scout committee. The map will probably sell for 75c, but the Improvement Association in sponsoring the map, has a limited supply which will be available for 50c.

RAINFALL DATA

During the month of February to date, the 17th, 3.81 inches fell. On the night of Feb. 9 the lake rose 1 ft. 3 inches.

Rainfall to Feb. 17—1940, 19.61 in.; 1939, 10.55 in.

Depth of Lake Cascade—1940, 35 ft. 10 in.; 1939—20 ft. 6 in.

ORINDA NEWS

Official Publication of the
ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Circulation Richard Cross
Publisher Jesse J. McMillan

New Residents Join Association

The following residents in Orinda were voted to membership in the Orinda Improvement Association at the regular monthly meeting on Friday, Feb. 2, 1940.

Mrs. Mary H. Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. C. Minor, Mr. H. T. Birr, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd D. Rees.

We wish to congratulate our new members on joining the Association, for they show that they are interested in our community. Our Improvement Association is operated for the welfare of the residents in Orinda and is the place where helpful suggestions may be offered for the betterment of our district. We also hope that our meetings will be used as a place to get better acquainted with neighbors in our community.

All new residents in Orinda are invited to our meetings held the first Friday of each month at the Orinda School at 8:00 p.m. These meetings are interesting and whether a member or not you are invited to attend.

—D. C. JONES, *Chairman*
Membership Committee

HISTORY OF ORINDA LIBRARY

The Orinda branch of the Contra Costa County Library was opened in the Orinda store in 1929. At this time the library consisted of one case of five shelves, containing all the books and there was no librarian. As there was no direct supervision of the books, the County Library was about to remove the branch from Orinda. Mrs. J. W. Dieterich, under the sponsorship of the Orinda Union P. T. A. made plans for moving the library into one of the vacant stores, the one occupied by the Orinda Store since the fire this year. Here members of the P. T. A. took turns acting as custodian of the library on Monday and Friday afternoons from 2 to 5.

About two months later Mrs. E. A. Dawson became librarian. After two or three years in this location the store was rented and the library moved into the second store. Subsequently it occupied a portion of Warren Harrold's Real Estate office. All this time owners of the building received no rental from the library.

When the fire house was enlarged the fire commissioners included in their addition a room which they have allowed the community to use for a library. This is the present location. Also there is the larger room which may be used as a reading room. There is a supply of children's books, fiction, non-fiction and magazines. All requests for books not on the shelves are sent to Martinez and nearly any book is available in this way. The Library is now open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2 to 5 p.m.

Notes of February Meeting

A colored film of the King's Canyon in the high Sierras produced by the Sierra Club and displayed by Richard M. Leonard was the feature at the February meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association. At the conclusion of the film Leonard expressed a desire that the Association endorse the bill which is now before Congress known as H. R. 3794 converting 384,000 acres of King's Canyon into a National Park. This was presented to the Association in the form of a motion by Owen Dibbern and was carried.

A plan outlined by William Fleager was presented by President Ralph Sisson to print and distribute maps of the Orinda district. It was agreed that it would be of interest to all Orindans.

President Sisson expressed the gratitude of the Association to Warren Harrold for the splendid work he had accomplished with the Christmas party and the President's Ball. Harrold then outlined his work for the future as park commissioner to which he was recently appointed. He explained that though money at this time is not available, practical future plans were being made for Orinda parks.

Martyn Warner, chairman of the committee to appear before the Railroad Commission in behalf of Orinda's interest in the new transportation system made a report on the activities at the meeting. He expressed his belief that it would be some time before any definite decision will be made.

MARCH GARDEN SUGGESTIONS

A busy time for the gardener is the month of March, for with the warmer sun and longer days things spring into growth. Finish planting bare root roses and deciduous trees and shrubs. This is the best time to set out Australian plants, such as acacias, pittosporums, and eucalypti.

Chrysanthemum, calceolaria, celosia, calliopsis, gerbera and geum may be transplanted now. Seeds that may be sown now include: ageratum, hollyhock, sweet alyssum, anchusa, snapdragon, columbine, English daisy, wall flower, cosmos, foxglove, candytuft, stock, petunia, portulaca, mignonette and zinnia.

Bulbs to be set out now include dahlias, gladioli and cannas. Start tuberous begonias in flats of peat moss. Water carefully around them, leaving the hollow center of the tuber dry. Next month they may be set out in the garden where the soil is acid and they will be in deep shade.

Feed established lawns with a commercial fertilizer to insure their greenness next summer. One may start new lawn sites now. The ground should be well spaded and fertilized with peat moss added. Water thoroughly to encourage the growth of the weeds. Hoe them out and next month the lawn seed may be planted.

For good chrysanthemums, slips should be taken this month. Select shoots from the outer edge of the clump. Plant in rows in rich, well-drained soil in the sun. After the plants are established, disbranch the shoots, leaving only two or three to a plant.

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 David Jones
Publicity Mrs. Malcolm Lamb
Music Mrs. Martyn Warner
Taxes and Finances Edward H. Sibbett
Education Mrs. Geoffrey Mayo
Roads and Highways Kenneth Allen
Safety and Public Welfare..... William Fleager
Community Park and Planning..... Warren Harrold

BIRTHDAY BALL (Continued)

be taken entirely unprepared but his appreciation was nonetheless genuine and sincere.

Thinking that it may be of interest the *Orinda News* takes pleasure in printing the financial statement of the party:

RECEIPTS

March of Dimes	\$127.09
Donations (2)	20.00
Ticket sales	267.50
Refreshments	39.40
Hat checking	9.90
Total receipts	\$463.89

DISBURSEMENTS

General expenses	\$121.43
Net income	\$342.46

REAL ESTATE NEWS

Building Permits

W. J. Pilling Las Vegas
H. W. Peterson Ardilla Road
H. P. Atkinson Orinda Highway
Eugene Sullivan Camino Del Diablo
R. E. Norris, two houses Las Vegas
E. A. Pattison Las Vegas

Sales

S. E. Briggs La Espiral
J. L. McSwain Valley View and Miner
Charles Dunwoddy Camino Sobrante
Bert Dawson in the Cotton Ranch
Lester Hurd 9 acres in the Cotton Ranch

Building

Verne De Ago, in the Garden of Eden Properties.

Rentals

S. E. Briggs.....Druhe house, Via Floreado

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

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

The next meeting of the Santa Maria Church Association will be held at Bien Venida, the home of Mrs. E. I. De Laveaga.

PERSONALS

Mrs. Annie Hibbs is moving from her home at Orinda on El Toyonal to Lafayette.

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Davis recently spent several days in the Yosemite Valley enjoying the snow sports with their son, Stuart, who had been skiing for a week at Badger Pass.

Mr. and Mrs. William Patterson have just returned from a combined business and pleasure trip through Southern California.

Mrs. Lowell Berry is reported to be recovering slowly from her long illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Martin and Gordon and Sylvia Martin left for Los Angeles on February 21st with Gordon's boat, the *Pop-eye* in a trailer in order to enter in the Mid-Winter Regatta in the little ship's class held at Cabrillo Beach the 24th and 25th of Feb. Gordon was at the helm.

The Girl Scout Troop Committee honored Mrs. Kenneth Thompson at luncheon on February 13th. Mrs. Thompson has been Scout leader for the Orinda Troop for some time and the Troop regrets her departure from the community. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson moved to Denver the latter part of Feb.

Mrs. E. Barnes and her daughter Phyllis and Miss Mildred Hickok spent the weekend of February 10th with Mrs. George Hickok.

A. W. Elkinton and son Fred recently returned from a trip to Boulder Dam.

Dr. and Mrs. Alex Hayward have as their houseguest Mrs. Cornwell Savage, their daughter from Philadelphia. Mrs. Savage plans to visit her parents for a stay of two months. On Sunday, February 12, Dr. and Mrs. Hayward entertained at a cocktail party honoring their charming daughter.

Lt.-Commander and Mrs. J. J. Miffitt left for Honolulu for a stay of at least two years due to sea duty in the navy. Their many friends at Orinda where they have made their home for quite some time will miss the Miffitts and be happy when they can return once again.

On Thursday, February 8, Mrs. George H. Pitt, of Santa Lucia Road entertained at a luncheon in honor of Mrs. Leslie Dana. The occasion being a farewell to the Danas who have sold their home on El Sereno and are now making their home in Sacramento where Mr. Dana is engaged in business.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard deLaveaga and new son Richard (Andy) who have been making their home here have recently moved to Marin County to a new home.

News has just reached us that Mrs. Ralph Sisson is lying seriously ill after a major operation at the East Oakland Hospital. We regret this and wish her a speedy recovery.

BOY SCOUT NEWS

The Orinda Troop of the Boy Scouts had their first hike under new leadership on February 10th. Camp Laurel in the Regional Park was their destination and there they received instruction in judging and signaling. Games were played and they had practice in nature study and stalking.

The first Court of Honor will be held March 8th at 8 p.m. at the Orinda School.

HIGH SCHOOL PLANS (Continued)

approved for non-completion of class room units after Aug. 31, and for the gymnasium and shop after September 30.

Architects Franklin Kump and Keith Narbett were authorized to complete construction of plans for ground development and the recreational plant at once. Plans for these units will be submitted for approval as a W. P. A. project.

Dr. Charles Bursh and Doyt Early of the Division of School house Planning of the State Department of Education have approved the plans with the exception of minor changes in the science and home making units. Final approval from the State Division of Architects will be required.

According to the member of the board of trustees from Orinda, Melvin Jacobus, the board has very carefully considered every detail of the plans to insure an excellent type of school building. In fact, they expect members of the community to be very proud of the new school for they are sure it will be one of the finest high school buildings in the state.

DO YOU KNOW...

Ask "DO YOU KNOW" what you want to know about Orinda and Contra Costa County.

THAT—the tallest smoke stack in the world is in Contra Costa County. It is at the American Smelting and Refining Company at Selby—610 feet high.

THAT—there are 454 members of the Orinda Country Club (the above number includes Life, Regular and Social members).

THAT—there are 26,240 acres of land in the Orinda School District.

THAT—the tax delinquencies in Contra Costa County for 1938 was the lowest in 20 years. Figures obtained from the Tax Collector for the past five years show:

- 1934—7½% tax delinquencies
- 1935—5.8% delinquencies
- 1936—4½% delinquencies
- 1937—4½% delinquencies
- 1938—3% delinquencies

THAT—During the month of July, 1939, the average daily consumption of water by the Orinda Country Club (mostly used on the golf course) was 400,000 gallons, and during August 1939 was 350,000 gallons daily.

—Warren Harrold.

THESPIANS GIVE FIRST PLAY

A play of the sea, presented by the Barnstormers on February 13, was the first dramatic venture of the newly organized players. The production was made by a group under the direction of Mrs. Robert Harrison.

Mrs. Richard Cross was elected business manager of the Barnstormers. Anyone interested in this activity should call her at Orinda 4851. The next meeting will be held Feb. 28 at 69 La Espiral. Two plays will be presented for comment and criticism by the members of the group.

THE STROLLER (Continued)

Some years ago, three Orinda residents imported some deer to these hills with the idea of having plenty of game at hand should one feel the urge to draw a bead at a fine buck. Needless to say, the once few deer are now many, and are making residents in certain districts very wrathful by the depredations they make in their gardens. Now a loose deer is plenty hard to control. Deer-proof fences are expensive and unsightly. After all, in a residential district such as this, the elements of a game reserve are a little out of place. What suggestions have you to offer the distressed owners of homes and gardens in the deer-infested areas? The Stroller will be glad to hear from you.

The plans as outlined last fall by the Orinda Union Grammar School Board for the planting of the grounds around the school are to be carried out as soon as weather conditions permit. Money for the work has been provided by a W. P. A. grant. Some five hundred young trees from the U. C. department of forestry have been donated, which should in time provide adequate shade for the hot summer days. It is to be hoped that not far in the future the school grounds will be more than just a cleared space in the landscape.

March will find the hills around Orinda blooming with wild flowers of many kinds, baby-blue-eyes, lupins, poppies, Mariposa lilies, whose botanical name is castillejas, hounds' tongue of the big velvety leaf and little flower as blue as Lake Tahoe, trilliums who love deep shade and leaf mold, wild currant, and many others.

Let us remember to conserve these treasures and not allow them to be greedily picked and wasted. Do you know that when you pick a trillium you destroy the bulb, because the leaves are attached to the flower and without leaves the bulb dies because it cannot breathe? Every seed-bearing flower, such as poppy or baby-blue-eye, that is picked sacrifices ten new plants for the next year. Can you not stop a minute to look carefully and wonderingly at the beauty of the growing plant, which after all, is far lovelier in its natural surroundings than in any vase in your home? If you are interested in planting wild flower seeds, Carl Purdee, at Ukiah will send you a catalogue for the asking, which will give you careful direction for location, time to plant and care of our California natives.

GUILD HOLDS MEETING

The Women's Guild of the Orinda Community Church held its monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. B. Cleborne at which forty members were present. Mrs. L. Dana and Mrs. L. Geoffrey were the co-hostesses.

Mrs. C. Johnson who recently returned from Europe gave an interesting talk on the present conditions in both England and Germany. Dr. Fisher spoke on the Lenten season.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. George Pitt on Don Miguel and Santa Lucia, at 12:30 March 5th.

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