

Edward De Laveaga
56 Camino Del Diablo
Orinda 2932

Father

Mr. Miguel and family came to Orinda Park in 1888. Purchased 1050 acres of land.

Adobe house in Moraga was there in 1840. Moraga Ranch (13,318 acres) was part of Rancho Brants. Moraga Station was there in 1880.

Orinda Crossroads was called Bryant Station after Mayor Bryant of San Francisco. His summer home was at the Crossroads.

California-Nevada Railroad had its terminal at the Crossroads just about the site of Black's Market. It ran from Key Route Underpass in Emeryville. Was going to Nevada, but Crossroads was as far as it went. Route came from Emeryville to town of San Pablo, along bed of San Pablo Dam. Came up out of valley and San Pablo Creek besides Bridgwell's office in the Village. Trestle went over golf course of Country Club 18th fairway and Minor Road. From Village it ran along north side of Orinda Highway behind Orinda Union School to Crossroads. Ties still remain behind the school.

First thing at Crossroads was the Standard station in 1922.

Until 1923 the School District ran from the Orinda Village to Bear Creek and San Pablo Creek. In 1925 Mr. Nordquist bought the old school and demolished it to make room for his home on Moraga Highway.

The Orinda Hotel was situated on the northwest corner of Bear Creek Road and Wild Cat Road. In the late eighties the first hotel was built and had a few rooms at 50¢ a day, with ~~several~~ and store attached. The school was situated across the road on the southeast corner, with eight pupils. Mr. DeLaveaga remembers going to the store for soft drinks. Beside the school was a blacksmith shop where Mr. deLaveaga had his horses shod.

In the early nineties a second hotel was built on the same site but was not used much as a hotel. It stands in ruins.

Mr. James Sullivan, one of the eight pupils, is still living in Orinda.

Surveyer General Wagner built a house on the banks of the San Pablo Creek below the Orinda Hotel. Every year he had a large get-together on July 4 with firecrackers for the children and fireworks at night for everyone. Something looked forward to every year.

The Santa Maria Church was built by Mrs. Mary de Laveaga in 1892 and dedicated in November of the same year. It was given to the people of Orinda. Mrs. de Laveaga was on her deathbed when the church was dedicated.

To go to Walnut Creek by horse and buggy in the early nineties took $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Mt. Baldy which is the highest hill in Contra Costa County is 1901 feet high and has the radar tower on it at the present time. It is situated at the end of El Toyonal just before going into Tilden Park.

San Pablo Creek begins at the top of Fish Ranch Road and comes down by the new tunnel and along Tunnel Road to the willows. It crosses under the highway to Orinda Village and goes across under Orinda Highway to the back of Bridwell's office. It then empties finally into the dam. The large fish was caught years ago down by the bridge toward the dam. Many salmon and steelhead as large and larger than this fish were caught in San Pablo Creek.