

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Orinda News

PUBLISHED BY THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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NUMBER 6

School Board Seeks Opinion

There has been mailed to all Orinda taxpayers an urgent invitation to every voter to express himself on December 6th, as to whether or not transportation shall be provided for our grammar school children.

While the Board of School Trustees is by law empowered to decide upon this question and to adopt a form of transportation compatible with the safety of the children and the laws governing such a service, your trustees felt it most desirable and appropriate to ask for your expressed opinion to guide its final decision.

With this thought in mind there has now been submitted to you as complete an analysis of all available facts, bearing upon the subject, as have been determinable. At the coming monthly meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association at least several of your school trustees will be present and glad to attempt to answer factual questions which may yet have been left unanswered.

Because your Trustees wish to predicate their decision and future action concerning this matter upon the majority opinion as expressed by your vote, you are very earnestly requested to cast your ballot on December 6th, between the hours of 3 p. m. and 8 p. m. at the Orinda School house.

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High School Petition

The Petition for a new High School district has been signed by more than 300 Orinda voters which is in excess of the required 50% so that as far as Orinda is concerned, the requirements are satisfied. It is reported that the petitions in the other interested districts are coming along well.

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PRIZE WINNERS

Fred Troy, Bernard Siefker and Bud Hauser, the boys at the Associated Service Station, Orinda cross-roads, won the District prize for the most unique football score board. They are now in line for the major prize offered to the West Coast States by the Associated Oil Co.

P.-T. A. Notice

There will be no December meeting of the Orinda P.-T. A., but the regular January meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of the new year.

December Meeting Notice

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, DEC. 2ND, AT 8 P. M. IN THE AUDITORIUM OF THE ORINDA SCHOOL.

CHRISTMAS GREETING

The Orinda Improvement Association extends its greetings to the residents of Orinda. We hope that every one will have a happy Christmas and that happiness and good cheer may prevail throughout the district without any exception. We have had a successful and progressive year and are glad that our enjoyment of Orinda may extend to all the new residents as well as the old.

We hope that the coming year will make it evident to all that the spirit of good feeling extends throughout the entire boundaries of Orinda, including all the territory served by the School District so that we may all go forward into the new year with a feeling of unity and mutual help and friendship.

Lowell Berry, Pres.

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Outdoor Xmas Decoration Contest

The Improvement Association has authorized the offering of three prizes for the best illuminated out door Christmas decorations. Prizes will be awarded on the basis of beauty of setting and taste in decorating. One need not have a pretentious home or garden to enter the contest and win a prize.

To enter the contest, phone Mrs. Ernest Mathy, Orinda 4571, giving your name and address. Tuesday and Wednesday, December 27th and 28th have been set aside for judging the winners. Be sure your decorations are illuminated on these two evenings between the hours of 8:00 and 10:00 p. m.

The Committee, on behalf of the association, hopes that every resident in Metropolitan Orinda will work to make this, our first effort at such decoration, an outstanding success.

Building Permits

Arthur C. Creek	Loma Vista
James C. Minor	Mira Loma
Miles C. Ponton	Los Coñejos
W. A. Ballinger	Cotton Ranch
Alden Macomber	Cotton Ranch
T. C. Edson	Cotton Ranch

Santa Claus to Visit Kiddies

The annual Firemen's Christmas Party for the Children of Orinda will be held again this year. Word has just been received from Santa Claus that he will arrive at the Orinda Fire House on Friday, December 23rd, 1938 at 2:30 p. m. and will bring a gift and a box of goodies for each of the children of Orinda.

Last year Santa Claus phoned that his reindeer team had broken down in the nearby hills, so that the Fire Truck was sent to his assistance in order that he could continue on his way. He did not arrive at the Fire House, however, due to his mishap, until 4:00 o'clock, but this year he says he will be here promptly at 2:30 o'clock and has asked that the Fire Truck come for him so that he will be on time.

So, children, save the day—FRIDAY afternoon, December 23rd, 1938 and listen for the FIRE SIREN. Come to the Fire House when the siren blows; it will mean that Santa Claus is near. Watch the mail for your personal invitation from Santa Claus.

Grown-ups who have never seen an Orinda Fire Department Christmas Tree Party should also plan to be present.

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Orindans Get Their Election 'Ham & Eggs'

Has Orinda grown? Just ask the ladies who served on the last election board and be advised that 483 Orindans out of 585 registered, took time out on Nov. 8th to vote, and they didn't forget a single amendment either. It took the board about forty hours, WITHOUT SLEEP, working as hard as they could to count the votes. This puts us in line for another precinct in this district before another election comes around, we hope. After counting "ham and egg" votes all night, with only the prospect of a cup of coffee for breakfast, ham and eggs actually became a reality as our good and faithful friend Stan Smith took compassion on the tired, half-starved election board and had the Country Club prepare a real HAM and EGG breakfast fit for a king, and brought it down to the voting poll. The board hasn't forgotten the taste of the good fried chicken dinner Mr. Trucker prepared and the lovely coffee and cake Joe Varni donated to the cause of the poor working gals either. Now I suppose you will all want to count ballots.

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.

'Orinda Red' Menace

There is a group of people calling themselves the Orinda Reds which is quite a menace,—not to the stability of our form of government, but to the other clubs in the Baseball Leagues in which they have been doing such excellent work that they expect to win the championship in the 'National' league, a Class A League in the East Bay district, and to win or take second place in the 'Berkeley' league which is a Class AA league. The only contender which seems likely to equal or beat them in the Berkeley League is the St. Mary's team. The Orinda Reds play in the Berkeley league and the Orinda Red Juniors play in the 'National' league.

These teams have no direct connection with Orinda but take the name given them by Professor Chapin, who in addition to his University work finds time to be active in Baseball on a national scale and incidentally to promote these teams of candidates for professional baseball places.

It is reported that the names of these groups will soon be changed to Lafayette Reds because Lafayette interests are providing them with a playing field and dressing rooms. It is a matter for regret that we could not have given them a similar field in Orinda, but they feel they can play better ball on level ground. They do not wish to be goats, and anyway goats do not win baseball pennants. They have been using the San Pablo playing field up to this time.

It will be up to some other athletic group to organize and put 'Orinda' on its banner.

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House Numbers

In view of the approaching Christmas mailing season, we can assure ourselves of prompt and accurate deliveries by placing our assigned numbers on our houses. If your house is not visible from the road, place the number at your driveway entrance.

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New Books at Orinda Library

A group of "best-sellers" have just been added to the shelves of the Orinda Library, according to Mrs. Elbert Dawson, librarian.

Among the popular new fiction titles are *The Yearling*, by Marjorie Rawlings; *Mortal Storm*, by Phillis Bottome; *Rains Came*, by Lewis Bromfield; *Too Many Cooks*, by Rex Stout.

The non-fiction list includes *Escape to the Present*, by Johanna Steele; *Laughing Odessa*, *Free Lance*, and *Four Hundred Million Customers*.

Library hours are from two to five p. m., on Monday and Friday.

History of Orinda

Present Orinda is confronted with a problem faced by Old Orinda 44 years ago. Below is an account of The First Application Made for a Liquor License for Orinda as it appeared in the *Contra Costa Gazette*, May 30, 1896, above the signature of the Orindan correspondent, OLD DECEMBER.

"Quite a commotion was occasioned here recently. Such a flurrying and skirmishing can hardly be conceived by one who would view the calm, quiet vicinity of Orinda Park in repose. It reminds me of the commotion exhibited on an ant hill when some foreign invader appears, or the fright of herds when the shadow of a hawk passes by. Everyone wore a look of care and apprehension. We have had several successful picnics at Orinda Park and the success must be due to this energetic principle contained in the composition of the Orindans. The fright was caused by the application of a liquor license by John Symons and the bustle was the arrangement of a protest and the presentation of the same to each voter with an eloquent speech on the vices of intemperance, destruction of property, etc. The result was that the protest when mailed to Martinez contained the names of nearly all the voters in this district and even some who were not interested or at least should not be. The license was refused for want of two more signers. It is believed that they would not be hard found. However, it is immaterial to Mr. Symons as he believes it is best to run a temperance grounds. It would encourage clubs and society and be different to other such arrangements on the creek."

Carmel Martinez.

Pruning Suggestions

By A. J. MEMMESHEIMER

To go into details of pruning of fruit trees, citrus trees (such as Lemons, Oranges, Kumquats, Grapefruits, etc.) and berries would lead too far. I would like to say, however, that it is better to leave nut trees and citrus trees well enough alone. An occasional cleaning out of dead wood should be sufficient. Should you plant a family orchard, ask your nurseryman where you buy the trees to cut the trees back prepared for planting. The first few years of the building up of a fruit tree is of utmost importance because you are setting the foundation of a well-bearing tree. I would advise to have the fruit tree pruning done by one who has a thorough understanding of the nature of every tree.

12-15 Club

Having as its first objective "Helping Others" and secondly to enjoy a friendly afternoon, the 12-15 Club meets twice a month. After lunch nimble fingers make various articles, such as luncheon sets, dish towels, etc. which are sold and the proceeds used to help the needy. Mrs. Helen Stevenson has charge of the sale of the articles and anyone needing a gift may phone her, Orinda 3661. Orders are taken by any of the members of the Club and filled as soon as possible. The Christmas luncheon for members only will be held on December 13th at the home of Mrs. Ralph Sisson.

ORINDA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

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

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Boy Scouts F. A. Kales
Girl Scouts Mrs. George Hickok
Reception G. F. Hickok
Music Mrs. C. J. Cleborne
Membership Warren Harold
Publicity Martyn F. Warner

Community Church News

The Women's Guild will hold its Christmas party at the home of Mrs. G. F. Hickok at 12:30 noon on Tues., Dec. 6th. Mesdames E. A. Norton and Ralph E. Wilson are associate hostesses. The program is in charge of Mrs. A. W. Elkinton who announces that part of it will include the exchange of inexpensive gifts with touches of humor, if possible. The Guild will also give its annual Christmas party for the children of the Sunday School at a date to be announced later.

Mrs. Ralph E. Wilson, the choir director, is planning special Christmas music for the worship services Christmas morning at 11 o'clock. Dr. Miles B. Fisher, the pastor, will preach. Everyone is most welcome.

PASTOR'S RECEPTION

On the evening of November 18th, the Women's Guild gave a reception honoring Dr. and Mrs. Miles B. Fisher to the Community Church at the Church quarters. The chairman for the evening was Mrs. Bradshaw Harrison, assisted by the officers of the Guild. The Church rooms were appropriately decorated by Mrs. Clarence Fratzke. The program, arranged by Mrs. Ralph E. Wilson, included a piano solo by Orinda's own incomparable Mrs. Martyn Warner, a group of songs by Mrs. Harold Broderick of Berkeley, and a short address by Dr. Fisher.

CHURCH NOTICES

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.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Santa Maria Church Association meetings, held monthly. Next meeting Tuesday evening December 6th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller on San Pablo Road, Orinda. All interested in the welfare of the Chapel are asked to come. Call attendance committee at Orinda 5746 for further information.

PERSONALS

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Mr. and Mrs. George D. Gibson have moved from the residence of Mrs. Robert Miller, where they have been living, to the new home which they bought at 154 Camino Sobrante.

Little Barbara Berry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Berry, celebrated her fifth birthday with a delightful party on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 15, 1938. Games, Movie Pictures and refreshments were part of the afternoon's fun. Her little guests were as follows: Carol LeMasney, Nancy Harrold, Anne Summers, Jacqueline Osborne, Patty Berry, Terry Taylor, Stephen Wood, Wylie Osborne and Ridley Taylor. The kiddies reported a big time and wished Barbara would have another Birthday soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fee entertained at a cocktail party on Sunday, Nov. 13th from four to seven p.m. at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Wood near Lafayette. Her honored guest was Mrs. Robert Hunter, former resident of Orinda.

The home of Mrs. E. I. de Laveaga, on Miner Rd., was a scene of much merriment after the Big Game, Nov. 19th. It was a night of family reunion, celebrated by a dinner, games, etc.

John Cleborne, son of the late Capt. Cleborne and Mrs. Cleborne, was home over the week-end of Nov. 13th.

Master Jimmie Bausch, son of Dr. and Mrs. Bausch, was also a home-comer for the Thanksgiving Holidays. Young Jimmie is attending St. Vincent's School for Boys near San Rafael, Calif.

We are very happy to see Mrs. Harrison Ketcham back among us again after several weeks' siege of the flu.

Speaking of Good Orinda Citizens, guess we will have to place Mr. and Mrs. Chester Williams on the list. Understand Mr. Williams drove through from L. A. election day without a stop in order to arrive in time to cast his vote for his favorite Candidates. Mr. and Mrs. Williams spent a week at the Gaylord Hotel in L. A. and attended the U. S. C. game.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Smith were Orindians who motored South to see the U. S. C. game. Stan didn't stay long as his big interests are at the Orinda Grammar School grounds, as you all know.

On Tuesday evening, Nov. 15th Mrs. Beatrice Cleborne entertained at the Orinda Country Club for dinner, Commander R. O. Glover and wife, also Lieut. Commander Miffitt and wife, of Orinda. Commander Glover is a nephew of the late Capt. Cleborne and is on board the Indianapolis, Staff of Admiral Andrews.

Mr. Frank Bryant left Friday Nov. 12th for a Business trip throughout the East and expects to be gone for three weeks or more.

Mr. and Mrs. George Rasmussen recently entertained Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Davenport, from Porterville, Mrs. Rasmussen's parents.

Mrs. Kenneth Allen spent the week of Nov. 14th in Modesto, Calif., visiting with her daughter Mrs. Phil Meyer who has recently moved there.

We are indeed sorry to hear of the passing of Admiral Yauncey Williams at the San Diego Naval Base Hospital in October. The Admiral had purchased a lot on Don Miguel Rd. and expected to build and retire here in the near future. You heard his distinguished voice over the hook-up at the Orinda Improvement Club Picnic at Orinda Park Terrace, if you were there.

Bob Elkinton spent the Thanksgiving Holiday at the home of his parents on Ardilla Road. Bob is a student at Whittier College.

We were sorry to hear of Lieutenant Commander Miffitt's accident a few days before Hallowe'en. Happy to see him back on his feet again even if it is on crutches.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. George Herbert Pitt was baptised Sunday, Nov. 13, 1938 at the Santa Maria Chapel on Miner Road. The Rev. Father Miller of Danville officiated. The little Chapel was filled to the doors and several people had to stand for lack of seating capacity. The Chapel was built in 1894 and as far as we know, there has been only one other christening, that of Miguel de Laveaga, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. I. de Laveaga in 1908, 30 years ago. The Pitt home was open to all their friends for the remainder of the afternoon when about 90 guests paid their respects to George Herbert the 2nd.

We are all asked at this time to join hands in answer to the yearly Red Cross Roll Call. Ann Elkinton is chairman for the Orinda Branch of the Walnut Creek Chapter. Mrs. Warren Harrold is her assistant and the Orinda District Committee is composed of the following ladies: Mrs. G. Hickok, Mrs. G. Robbins, Mrs. W. Pearson, Mrs. B. Dawson, Mrs. F. Allen, Mrs. E. I. deLaveaga, Mrs. R. Mack, Mrs. L. Berry and Mrs. A. Chantler of Moraga Estates.

Mr. Carl Zamloch is in Seattle where he is opening up new territory for the Signal Oil Company. He expects to be gone four to six weeks.

On November 16th Mrs. D. W. Badgley of Moraga Oaks entertained with a birthday dinner for her sister Mrs. Dorothy Fletcher and her two nephews Bob and Jim. Bob was 17 on the 16th and Jim 15 on the 10th.

The Herbert Hausers were busy with guests during the Thanksgiving season. Mrs. Hauser was hostess to a family reunion on Thanksgiving. On November 19th, celebrating Big Game night Herbert Hauser Jr. entertained five couples for dinner and the evening. The honor guest was Miss Joyce Engstrum who is spending a short time in the bay district enroute to join her parents in China. She has been attending school in England.

Among the newcomers to Orinda are Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Levy and their fourteen year old son. They have moved into their new home just off the Moraga Highway. Mr. Levy is managing editor of the Oakland Tribune.

Orinda Choral

The Choral group has resumed its meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, from 7:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Casa Verano. Mrs. Cleborne is unable to arrange her affairs so as to conduct these meetings at present but it is hoped that within a few weeks she will be able to resume her work for this group.

The Choral is now working on some good music, kindly loaned by the Berkeley High School. All those interested and willing to devote two evenings a month are asked to join.

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CATHOLIC MEN ORGANIZE

On Friday, Nov. 11, 1938, a meeting was held at the residence of Lieut. Commander Miffitt for the purpose of organizing a Holy Names Society of the Santa Maria Parish. This society is over 500 years old, being international in scope with groups formed in practically all Catholic churches. The members strive by their own lives to set an example of a good Christian life. On Sunday, Nov. 13, the Pastor, Rev. Father Miller enrolled eight members into this society.

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Vesper Musicale Dec. 18th

Orinda music lovers are invited to attend a Vesper Hour of Christmas music to be presented by the Christian Endeavorers at seven p.m. on December 18th at the Casa Verano. Dr. Miles Fisher, pastor of the Orinda Community Church, will give a message of "peace on earth, good will to men." Velma Edson, chairman of the C. E. program committee will be in charge of the affair.

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Girl Scout News

At an impressive investiture tea on Nov. 3rd, at the home of Mrs. G. F. Hickok, six girls were welcomed into the Orinda Girl Scout troop.

On November 22nd, a bean feed prepared by the girls to pass their Second Class cooking, was enjoyed by the troop. This was the evening meeting which is held each month to allow Scouts who attend High School to participate in at least one meeting a month.

Remembering the needy at Thanksgiving time, the troop, in conjunction with the troop committee, made up a basket for a deserving family.

Mr. Alfred W. Reiber, well known interior decorator who was active in decorating the Country Club when it was built and who lived some years on La Espiral Road, passed away in his sleep during the night of Nov. 20th at the Claremont Hotel.

The uncle of Mrs. Lester D. Peterson of San Pablo Highway who had come to live with them passed away in November.

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Muse and eleven-months-old Junior are now occupying their new home on Camino Encinas. Mr. Muse is a consulting engineer in San Francisco.

One of Orinda's newest residents, Major James S. Greene passed away very suddenly at his home at the head of Cascade Lake on Friday, November 18th.

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