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VOLUME V

Orinda, California, November 1, 1941

NUMBER 5

POST OFFICE PETITION CIRCULATED IN ORINDA, MORAGA COMMUNITIES

In order to secure better Postal services, the residents of the Orinda Fire and School Districts on both sides of the Tunnel Road are circulating petitions which read, as follows:

"We, the undersigned residents of Contra Costa County, Calif., in the district now being served by Berkeley R. F. D. No. 1, do respectfully petition the U. S. Post Office Department for the establishment of a post office at the junction of the Orinda and Moraga highways with the Tunnel Highway, such post office to be known as the Orinda Post Office."

The District is filing this petition for the following reasons:

The District now being served by Berkeley R. F. D. No. 1 consists of over 800 families. The rapid and continuous growth of the community makes the present R.F.D. service inadequate to fulfill properly the needs of the district.

The present sub-station is not centrally located. The establishment in the business district at the highway crossroads would be of greater convenience to both the business men and the residents of the district.

The adoption of the name of Orinda for the entire district would eliminate the present confusion in the proper addressing of mail.

It has been asked whether this community would lose its carrier service if a new post office is established at the Crossroads. The answer is, we would not have what is called an R. F. D. service, but we WOULD have regular delivery service. Mr. Fred Schlaman consulted the District Postal Inspector regarding this point before preparing any petitions.

In addition to our present service our own post office would be a means of securing Parcel Post, Registered Mail, and Special Deliveries without going to Berkeley for same, as has been necessary in the past if there has been no one at home when the carrier stopped.

It is felt that since the Orinda Post Office now serves both sides of the Tunnel Road, the logical and central location for same is at the Crossroads.

(Continued on Page 5)

NOVEMBER MEETING NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Orinda Improvement Association will be held November 7th, at 8:15 p. m., in the auditorium of the Orinda Grammar School.

— COME TO THE MEETING —

W. P. A. HALTS WORK AT ACALANES

Formal acceptance of the eleven new classrooms by the board of trustees at Acalanes Union High School at their last meeting was simultaneous with the closing of the WPA project at the school recently.

The classroom units contracted by Elmer J. Freethy of El Cerrito were completed within a month of schedule despite the difficulty in securing men and materials.

The WPA project was one of the seven closed at this time. It was one of the last 20 projects in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. Its closing before completion leaves Acalanes without several facilities that had been planned on. Though the shell of the swimming pool had been poured, filtration and chlorination equipment that was to be part of the Government's material contribution is not available and can't be secured through district funds budgeted this year. Surfacing and fencing of the tennis courts and handball courts will be delayed practically a year and continuance of landscaping will be slowed.

The sub-drainage system, football bleachers, track curb, pool shell, and plant maintenance are outstanding benefits owed to the WPA project at Acalanes.

District project officials indicate that should workers become available, which does not seem likely in the near future, the project would be reopened.

Students Lend Hand

Planting of the central court is being undertaken by the landscaping class students as a continuance of the program. Proceeds from Fiesta de Acalanes, the student carnival, will reportedly start the \$2600 fund needed to complete the pool.

— COME TO THE MEETING —

FIRE RULES REVIEWED FOR CONVENIENCE OF ORINDA HOME OWNERS

Due to the prevalence of small fires this fall, caused by carelessness or lack of knowledge of the fire rules, we are printing the rules here:

1. In case of fire, phone Orinda 3451, the Orinda Fire Department, immediately.
2. Do not light fires of any kind, anytime, without first obtaining a Fire Permit from the Fire Department. Yearly incinerator permits will be issued for burning trash in an incinerator, after proper inspection has been made, and a burning permit issued.
3. Do not allow oily rags or waste to accumulate in your garage or on your property.
4. A fire break should surround your property.

When permission is obtained to burn on your property, the following rules are in effect:

1. The permittee, or responsible delegated person, shall be present at the time of burning.
2. The permittee does hereby agree to pay any and all expenses incurred in handling this work and also to pay any just claims for damages resulting therefrom to property not owned or controlled by him.
3. If yearly incinerator burning permit is issued the permittee agrees to keep ground around incinerator cleared at all times and obey any and all rules and regulations now in effect or which may subsequently be enacted during the life of that permit.

— COME TO THE MEETING —

ORINDA BOY ELECTED CLASS PRESIDENT AT MILITARY ACADEMY

The dream of every student is to be elected president of his class. That honor came to Cadet Gordon L. Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Martin of Orinda, last week, when he was elected by popular vote of the students, to be their Junior Class President. Cadet Martin is attending the San Diego Army and Navy Academy at Carlsbad, where he has been for the past two years. Martin also holds the position of vice-president of the Rifle Club. He is majoring in Hygiene and will graduate from the academy in 1942.



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RECREATION CENTER
DISCUSSED AT MEETING

The regular meeting was called at 8:15, with President Morrison in the chair. After the minutes of the September meeting were read and approved, the Treasurer rendered his report, showing a balance of \$558.56. Mr. Warner, for the Membership Committee, reported about forty applications for membership. It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that all be admitted to membership. Harrison Ketcham announced that a movement is under way to secure a post office, to be located at the Crossroads. He reported that he and Dr. Morrison had attended the recent meeting of the Moraga Highway Association, and explained steps necessary to obtain the post office, and the advantages to be gained thereby. Copies of the petition were made available to all present.

Mrs. Hickock next reported on the Girl Scouts, giving the current number in each of the three age groups. She stated that, although they were allowed to meet in the schoolhouse, they were without equipment, and would like to avail themselves of the offer of assistance proffered by the Association some time ago. Mr. Clarence Fleager moved that a contribution of \$50.00 be made to the Girl Scouts. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

With the meeting in an expansive mood, Warren Harrold moved that a desk able to stand up under the gavelings of our husky President be procured for the functioning of the officers of the Association. The motion carried unanimously, but no definite sum was appropriated.

Ralph Wilson reported his attendance, as the representative of the Association, at a meeting with the Recreation Center Group; and Mrs. Edwin Wilson spoke of the need of such a place in the community as the group was trying to obtain. She reported Mrs. Marie Bennett had kindly offered the use of the leased quarters in the Orinda store building until Dec. 1, and that it might be possible to obtain a WPA employee as recreational director. Various mothers also offered their assistance in this respect to supplement that of the director. Meeting with the group is a committee composed of representatives from the various organizations and groups in Orinda. Mrs. Wilson reported the necessity of meeting various expenses in connection with the establishment of a meeting place, and Mrs. Bradshaw Harrison moved \$25.00 be contributed by the Association for this purpose. Mr. Warner moved an amendment to this motion to the effect that all members of the committee be members in good standing of the Association. The motion to amend was lost, and the original motion was voted on and passed.

A letter from Mrs. Chantler as Past President of the PTA was read, thanking the Association for the use of its kitchen equipment.

(Continued on Page 6)

Come To The Meeting

The road subject seems to be uppermost in the minds of the people of Orinda. The onset of rain has again called the attention of residents to the condition of our existing thoroughfares.

At this time the American Trust Co. has not taken final action upon the roads and restrictions proposal submitted by the Orinda Improvement Association. The bank assures the association that all is being done

to bring the negotiation to an early conclusion. However, we have no assurance that the rain will withhold the damage to the roads until actual road repair has begun.

With this thought in mind, we have asked Mr. J. Cummings, county supervisor of this district, and Mr. Barbly, county engineer, to appear at the next meeting of the association to enlighten the members on costs of road construction, maintenance, and county specifications.

— COME TO THE MEETING —

Safety On Our Roads

In Orinda one is always hearing the remark, "What can we do to make people drive safely over our roads?" This is truly a question we are all interested in. Each organization has at some time made a study of this problem and endeavored to find some means to make people go more slowly in Orinda. The police have been cooperative in marking our roads and in giving us a patrolman's time when it seemed justified. However, safe driving depends on the in-

dividual driver. If every resident driver made sure that he drove with care over our roads at all times then parents would not longer fear for their children's safety. At least a great part of this problem would be solved.

Now that the rainy weather has begun and the roads are slippery, let each one of us drive more slowly over our roads with their many curves.

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ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH GUILD NEWS

The regular monthly meeting of the Women's Guild of the Orinda Community Church will be held on November 4th, at the home of Mrs. H. T. Doten, 307 Via Hermosa. Mrs. Robert P. Binkley and Mrs. U. B. Smith are co-hostesses.

A special musical program is to be given by Mrs. Gladys V. Lotter, of Alameda. Mrs. Lotter will discuss the development of music over the past 300 years up to the present time, illustrating at the piano the works of various composers during that period. Mrs. Lotter is an authority on her subject and has been President of the Alameda County Music Teachers Association.

At the last Guild meeting, Mrs. George Mills was elected to fill the office of Vice-President, due to the resignation of Mrs. Lynn Bell.

To help raise funds a series of card parties are being arranged among Guild members. The first one to be given November 13th, at the home of Mrs. U. B. Smith, will be a dessert bridge. Phone for reservations to Mrs. George Mills, Orinda 3841, or Mrs. L. R. Givens, Orinda 6531. Tickets are 50c.

— COME TO THE MEETING —

DORCAS

The regular monthly meeting of the Dorcas Society of the Women's Guild of the Orinda Community Church will be held at the home of Mrs. Ralph Wilson, on Thursday, November 27th. Mrs. J. J. McMillan will be co-hostess.

— COME TO THE MEETING —

BRIDGE PARTY

To raise money for the Recreation Center, the Orinda High School Mother's Club gave a delightful card party on October 23, at the home of Mrs. J. E. Winfrey, club secretary. Mrs. Leo Alexander was in charge, assisted by Mrs. Paul Goodwin and Mrs. E. J. Hertel.

Fifty-eight guests enjoyed a delightful afternoon. Especially fine door prizes were donated by members and local merchants.

— COME TO THE MEETING —

GIFT SHOP MOVES TO CROSSROADS

On or about November fifteenth the Orinda Gift Shop will move to its new location in the theater building at the Crossroads.

Mrs. Gordon will be a partner in this business with Mrs. Myra Manasse, and they will have on display a large assortment of Christmas gifts and novelties.

The lending library will also be under this new partnership as Mrs. Cleborne has sold out her interest.

PARK POOL

The season closed for the Park pool on October 15th, to the regret of many young people, although the atmosphere had turned definitely cool.

According to Mr. Edwin Miller, on the membership committee, the pool had a good year and improvements to be made during the winter were discussed at a business meeting after the last steak dinner in October. It was decided a new dressing room was needed for the ladies and this building is already under construction. Other repairs on pumps and filters will be properly taken care of so by warm weather next spring we can all enjoy a good swim once more, to say nothing of those delicious barbecued steaks.

— COME TO THE MEETING —

ORINDA COUNTRY CLUB HOLDS ART EXHIBIT

The art exhibit sponsored by the California Chapter of the American Artists Professional League and presented by the courtesy of the Orinda Country Club, Wednesday, October fifteenth, was a real success. Over two hundred residents in Orinda enjoyed the beautiful paintings arranged in a most pleasing manner on the walls of the reception hall. The furniture and drapes made a warm setting for the pictures which far surpassed the cold formality of most art galleries. Paintings by Jean Turner, Emerson Leeis, Joseph Bennett, and Thomas McGlyn were particularly admired.

Hallowe'en was celebrated by children at the Country Club as well as at other places on the eve of October 31st. All under twelve were invited and, of course, costumes were in vogue. Games, fortune telling and refreshments added up to lots of fun the night the witches ride and the ghosts walk.

Church Notices

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.

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 2:00 to 4:00 o'clock. Everyone welcome.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday Morning Masses the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at 10 o'clock, and the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 8:30 o'clock.

Santa Maria Church Association will meet on Tuesday evening, November 4th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Tate, 12 El Sueno.

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POST OFFICE

(Continued from Page 1)

The ultimate outcome of any change of post office depends upon the recommendation which the District Inspector submits to Washington after making a thorough survey of the community's needs and conditions. It has never been the policy of the Post Office Department to reduce the quality of service in any live community. It will also be noted that the wording of the petition states clearly that one reason for making this request is that BETTER Postal service be secured.

— COME TO THE MEETING —

BOY SCOUTS

Two patrols of the Orinda Boy Scouts had an overnight trip to Marsh Creek for their camporee, October 11th and 12th. Scouts of the Panther Patrol: Curt Harrison, Peter Wilkin, and Wayne LaValle, received Class C rating for their work. The Cobra Patrol: Dick Chapman, Mike Dills, Bob Fields, Frank Fee, and Wendall Rawlins, received Class B rating. The boys enjoyed this camporee, particularly as they were away from civilization and not in a park or school yard where they are usually held.

Mr. Jack Gardner, who is responsible for the fine troop of Boy Scouts here in Orinda, has been transferred to Santa Rosa, November 15th. The parents of these boys wish to express their appreciation for the excellent leadership Mr. Gardner has given the Troop and the good times he has made possible for them. Next summer he plans to have all the boys up to his summer home at Russian River, where they can be together again.

The new leader, Mr. Laine Ainsworth of Orinda, who will take over the Troop, has had a great deal of experience in Scouting. He is an Eagle Scout and has received the gold palm reward which is the second highest rank. His father was interested in Boy Scouts for years in Alameda County, and was former president of the council there. We are fortunate to have Mr. Ainsworth accept the leadership of our Scout Troop.

— COME TO THE MEETING —

ORINDA LIONS CLUB

To the list of speakers the Lions Club has enjoyed each month was added Mr. Blackwood and Mr. Walter Christie in October. Mr. Blackwood, operator of the shuttle bus to the Crossroads, gave a report on this bus system, and his plans for the future to help transport more often those living too far from the main bus line. Mr. Christie, former track coach at the University of California, talked about the sports today.

At the next meeting on November 12, a surprise football program will be given. The football team of the Acalanes High School is invited to attend, as well as all Orinda Grammar School boys and their parents who are interested in football. Program will commence at 8:15.

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AT THE CROSSROADS

**DONALD DONALDSON
ENLISTS IN ARMY**

Donald De Vee Donaldson, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Donaldson of Orinda, has enlisted for a three-year term in the Army Air Corps. Don is in training at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

— COME TO THE MEETING —

COMPARATIVE RAINFALL

	1940	1941
September33	.03
October	1.49	.94

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MEETING NOTES

(Continued from Page 2)

Warren Harrold relayed a message from Fire Chief Joe Varni that the following week was to be "Fire Prevention Week," and asked every one to remove at least one fire hazard from his premises. Warren also announced that the 1941-1942 tax rate would be reduced about 26 cents. (Loud cheers from the membership).

The speaker of the evening, Wm. Penn Mott, spoke on the subject of soils, surprising most of us with the information that there are three kinds of adobe soils, instead of two, as we had always supposed — "bad" and "worse". He spoke of the treatment of soils and manufacture of natural mulches, and also the adaptability of plant material to local conditions. After Mr. Mott's talk, which was both interesting and informative, he answered questions on all phases of planting.

The meeting was adjourned to refreshments.

— COME TO THE MEETING —

GIRL SCOUT NEWS

Girl Scouts of both intermediate troops meeting at the Orinda Grammar School are enjoying exciting activities these fall days.

The old group, under the leadership of Mrs. C. L. Parham and Mrs. C. B. Chantler, enjoyed a cook-out at Lake Temescal on September 26th. Going through the Fun House, which was planned by some of the girls, was exciting entertainment after dinner.

Plans for a Hallowe'en party, held at Joan Jacobus' home, occupied the main event of October. Nancy Chantler and Claire Breuner had charge of refreshments; Joan and Jean Norton, Jean Pettingill and Dona May Mate, entertainment; Joan Jacobus, Lee Dill, Sally Tinkham and Nancy Campbell decorated the barn for the event.

Dona May Mate was invested as a Girl Scout on October 16th and welcomed into the Troop.

Celebration of National Girl Scout Week, October 26th to November 1st, was inaugurated by Orinda Girl Scouts attending the Orinda Community Church on Sunday, October 26th. Dr. Miles B. Fisher spoke to the girls on "Being Great."

The new Troop, under the leadership of Mrs. H. A. Summers, with Mrs. R. Nason and Mrs. D. Williams assisting, elected Nancy Macomber Assistant Patrol Leader, and Claire Stoffel, Patrol Leader; Scribe, Jacqueline Gardner; Treasurer, Patsy Teiche, at a recent meeting.

At a fly-up ceremony for Brownies old enough to be Scouts, held October 6th, Dale Cocherton, Anne Fleager, Anne Goodwin, Norma Harrington, Lois Anne Haworth, Carolyn Anne Kletgard, Nancy Miller, Shirley Sands, Nancy Scroll, Joan Woolsey, and Dorothea Miner were welcomed into the Troop. Barbara McVickers is the new Patrol Leader, and her assistant is Nancy Miller.

**RED CROSS
BEGINS ROLL CALL**

Mrs. Beatrice Webber of the Pacific Area Headquarters of Red Cross in San Francisco, was the guest speaker at the Red Cross Roll Call luncheon on October 30. She spoke of matters pertaining to Roll Call activities, emphasizing the program carried on in the United States by the organization which include, among other things, local relief, disaster relief, and home activities.

Walnut Creek Chapter now has six First Aid classes, two in Orinda, two in Lafayette, one at Acalanes, and one in Walnut Creek, three of which, one in Orinda, one in Lafayette, and one at Acalanes are being conducted during the day for school children, the others being held in the evening for adult's convenience. D. C. L. Feiler of Lafayette, instructs the classes.

— COME TO THE MEETING —

TAX REDUCTION

Orinda residents have received their tax bills and we, one and all, were delighted with the reduction made in them. A comparison of the tax rate for 1940 and 1941 is given so that we may see how this reduction was obtained:

1940	1941
\$1.280 — County	\$1.250
.539 — Orinda Elementary558
.180 — Orinda Elementary Bond..	.152
.750 — Acalanes High616
.181 — Acalanes High Bond150
.114 — Richmond High Bond.....	.110
.250 — Orinda Fire285
.625 — Orinda Water Bond540
.200 — East Bay Municipal Utility	.200

\$4.119 \$3.861

— COME TO THE MEETING —

MOTHER'S CLUB

Orinda High School mothers will meet at 1 o'clock on Monday, November 3, at the Recreation Center, behind the Orinda Store. Mrs. Kenneth Gelwix is hostess for the day. Dessert will be served, followed by a business meeting.

Mrs. Robert Harrison, editor of the Orinda News, will speak on, "What We Can Do to Help Civilian Defense."

— COME TO THE MEETING —

**ORINDA TO HAVE
DANCING CLASS**

Frances Hatch Park, a well-known dancer and teacher in the bay region, is investigating the possibilities of opening classes in Orinda. Miss Park will hold classes for her pupils here as soon as an available place is found.

Miss Park is a University of California graduate and a former student of Mills College. Her ballroom classes offer a splendid opportunity to both young people and adults for the latest in ballroom dancing, rhumba, conga, tango, fox-trot and waltz. Attractive classes in tap dancing, which gives excellent training in coordination and is equally suitable to boys and girls, are offered by Miss Park.