

ORINDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 82  
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925.254.1353

## JULY 2004 NEWSLETTER

JOHN HOLMGREN gives this reminiscence about Moraga 50 years ago.

"I moved to Orinda in 1951 and on weekends I would often ride my bike down to Moraga. There wasn't much there. On the right side of the road stood the Moraga Barn which at one time served as a train station. The trains that stopped here originated in Stockton and eventually ran into Oakland. In addition to the Moraga Barn there was a group of red wooden buildings on the east side of Moraga Way. These were part of a complex called the Moraga Ranch Company and consisted of a cook house, commissary and a mess hall. In 1914 the Ranch had a garage, a repair shop, several bunk houses and a blacksmith shop. There was a village for migrant workers nearby, plenty of barns, a few houses and corrals and even a real estate office.

The Moraga Ranch company has been owned and operated by the Bruzzone family from its very beginnings. John Bruzzone was the original owner. He is deceased but his wife, Joan, still manages the property. At one time it had pears and walnuts but they are not harvested anymore. Across from the ranch just south of the present-day Moraga post office, is the Moraga Barn. It was originally built as a hotel and stage stop. Moraga became an important stop for the Sacramento Northern Railroad.

Another railroad called the Oakland, Antioch and Eastern was an electric line. It ran coaches out to Redwood Canyon called "Picnic Specials". A park was established in the canyon and a merry-go-round was built. The park became so popular it was necessary for visitors to make reservations well in advance. The park was active from 1914 until the 1930's.

Trains once operated along a line that ran across the St. Mary's College campus. They operated from March 1913 until March, 1957. The rails eventually extended from Oakland to Sacramento. They passed the little town of Canyon, went through a tunnel continued along the north edge of Lake Temescal and went down Shafter Avenue in the heart of Oakland.

## Following The Rules:

### RULES FOR TEACHERS IN THE YEAR 1915

1. You will NOT marry during the term of your contract.
2. You are NOT to keep company with men.
3. You MUST be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function.
3. You MAY NOT travel beyond the city limits without the permission of the chairman of the board.
4. You MAY NOT loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
5. You MAY NOT ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
7. You MAY NOT smoke cigarettes.
8. You MAY NOT dress in bright colours.
9. You may UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES dye your hair.
10. You must wear AT LEAST two petticoats.
11. Your dresses must NOT be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
12. To Keep the school room clean you must:
  - sweep the floor at least once daily.
  - scrub the floor with hot soapy water at least once a week.
  - clean the blackboard at least once a day.
  - start the fire at 7 a.m. so that the room will be warm by 8 a.m.

## Needed For Display:

What do you have to loan or donate in the way of Kitchen/cooking artifacts? We will need for several months.

### Future Field Trip::

December 5, 1937 was the grand opening of the Caldecott Tunnel. This important artery has been in continuous service ever since. Thousands of vehicles go back and forth between Oakland/Berkeley/S.F. and Contra Costa County every day.

CalTrans offers tours of the old upper tunnel and the current tunnel operation. They welcome individuals and/or groups to these tours. John Holmgren will be making arrangements for a group from the Orinda Historical Society to take this tour. He will select several dates as possibilities and then ascertain who is interested in going on the tour. Call 254-1353 if you are interested.

### Save The Date:

Holiday Dinner on Wednesday, December 1, 2004

### Wish List:

Computer upgrades and graphics programs needed for newsletter publication and future internet connections.

Coordinator for oral history interviews.

Early phone books, city directories, insurance and real estate maps, menus of other local memorabilia

### MUSEUM HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Wednesday-Friday 3-5 p.m.

Also by Appointment

24 Hour Answering Machine

925-254-1353

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