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Orinda Historical Society Newsletter

July 2006

P. O. BOX 82, ORINDA, CA 94563

(925) 254-1353

Swimming Competition an Orinda Tradition

By Teresa Long

When driving around Orinda in the late summer, one can't help but notice SUV's that have grown shark fins or sea serpent tails, or car windows sprouting saying like "Go Sharks," "OPP Rocks," or "Meadow Swims Faster." Has the summer heat made Orinda residents go mad? No, it simply means the Orinda Moraga Pool Association (OMPA) is about to hold their annual championship swim meet. This year is a particularly historic occasion, as OMPA hosts its 50th annual swim meet at the Soda Aquatic Center on August 5th and 6th.

OMPA consists of 10 swim teams from Moraga and Orinda: the Orinda Country Club, Orinda Park Pool, Meadow Swim & Tennis Club, Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club, Moraga Valley Pool, Miramonte Swim Club, Moraga Country Club, Moraga Ranch Swim Club, Moraga Tennis & Swim Club, and Campolindo Cabana Club. Special this year, each swim team has put together its own history that will be included in the OPMA swim meet program. See page 3 of this newsletter for a list of OPMA winning teams for the past 40+ years.

The Orinda Historical Society currently has a fabulous window display created by OHS member **Barbara Burkhalter** honoring OMPA and Orinda's tradition of swim clubs and swimming competitions. Apparently the rivalry between the Orinda

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Susan Ross Receives Prestigious Award

Orinda Historical Society Archivist Susan Ross received an award of Individual Merit from the Conference of California Historical Societies on June 24th. She is the first Orindian to have received such an award. Several members of the OHS, including **Lucy Hupp Williams, Kay Norman, and Mary Ellen Jones** attended the awards ceremony in Burlingame. Lucy accepted Susan's award on her behalf as Susan was in Africa and unable to attend the ceremony.



OHS Archivist Susan Ross

Susan Ross was born and raised in Orinda and has seen many changes over time. She is a trained librarian and has been an active volunteer and a past co-vice-president of the Orinda Historical Society. While waiting for the Orinda Library to be constructed, she organized volunteers to inventory their boxes of archival material. She helped create a computer program for cataloging material. She also helped to preserve the Society's extensive map collection. During the January 2004 heavy rains, the new museum and library were flooded twice, She had to



OHS President Lucy Hupp Williams accepting Susan's award at CCH luncheon

Museum Location

Lower Level of
Orinda Library
24 Orinda Way

Museum Hours of Operation

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

Also by Appointment

24 Hour Answering Machine
925-254-1353

www.orindahistory.org

Upcoming Events

- **Next Board Meeting**
Wednesday, August 16,
from 3 to 5 pm at the
OHS Museum
- **September Board Meeting**
Wednesday, September 20,
from 3 to 5 pm
at the OHS Museum
- **October Board Meeting**
Wednesday, October 18,
from 3 to 5 pm at the OHS
Museum.

Save the Date!

The OHS Annual
Holiday Party will be
held Wednesday,
December 12th
from 6 to 9 pm.

Welcome New Members

Susan Karplus
Dana Sherry

Lifetime Members

** Dan Holmes is now a lifetime member.*

** Carol Zischke, and Kathryn Leland became lifetime members in honor of their mother Carol Leland who was a founding member of OHS.*



OHS Map Case is installed

Using a generous grant from the Rotary Club, OHS has purchased and installed a new and much-needed addition to the DeGrassi map case.

Many thanks to all who helped with this endeavor including, Dan Holmes, Steve Gentry, Carl Weber, Dick Burkhalter, and Lucy Hupp Williams.

Thank You

Recent Donations to OHS

- **Kay Norman** donated a booklet of *Historical Societies in Contra Costa County* and a book, *Ways Back*.
- **Dick Burkhalter** donated photos of Orinda Way.
- **Bobbie Landers** donated brass coasters.
- **Virginia Barrett** donated a piece of siding from the old Moraga school and 17 square nails.
- **Sue Johnson's 3rd grade class** donated "Our Orinda History" book made by the class.
- **Moraga Historical Society** donated plot maps of Orinda from the 1920's, 1930's, and 1940's.
- **Bill & Joey Judge** donated a shovel and hard hat from the July 2006 groundbreaking ceremony at Montenara/Gateway.
- **Universal Waste Management Inc.** donated a portion of its proceeds from the Bart Electronic Waste drop off where OHS members volunteered.
- **Chuck Blue** gave OHS a generous cash donation.

Orinda City Manager Speaks at OHS Meeting

Orinda City Manager Janet Keeter spoke at the OHS annual meeting on May 31st. She gave a very interesting talk and identified Orinda's highest priorities as follows: infrastructure, communications/web, former library, downtown revitalization (Theater Square, Phair's Building, old BP site, and the Orinda Theater as primary focus), and the Pulte/Pine Grove Development.

Orinda's Frank Lloyd Wright House

OHS is supporting an application made by the Orinda Landmark Committee to put the Buehler family house on the National Register of Historic Places. The Buehler house in Orinda was built in 1948 by famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright and was featured in the November 2005 OHS Newsletter. On August 4th, there will be a hearing by the State Historical Preservation Officer in Sacramento to consider the application.

Remember to
renew your
OHS
Membership for
2006.

OHS Board Members 2006/2007

President: Lucy Hupp Williams
(650) 349-3382

Vice President: Erik Andersen
(925) 254-8444

Treasurer: Pat Jackson Draa
(925) 376-6657

Archivist: Susan Ross
(925) 254-3720

At-Large: Charles Blue
(925) 254-2324

Assistant Archivist: Kent Long
(925) 258-9771

Finance/City Liaison: Carl Weber
(925) 254-8473

Tours: John Holmgren
(925) 254-5677

Newsletter: Teresa Long
(925) 258-9771

School Liaison: Kay Norman
(925) 254-9536

Videographer:
Jerry & Ruth Vurek
(925) 253-7995

Displays: Barbara Burkhalter
(925) 254-6868

Grants: Dan Holmes
(925) 254-3360

OMPA Historical Champions

Here is a list of teams who have placed 1st in the Orinda Moraga Pool Association championships. An interesting historical note—except for 2 years, an Orinda Team has always won the team competition.

First Place Teams

2005	Orinda Country Club	1983	Orinda Country Club
2004	Orinda Country Club	1982	Meadow
2003	Orinda Country Club	1981	Orinda Country Club
2002	Orinda Country Club	1980	Orinda Country Club
2001	Orinda Country Club	1979	Miramonte
2000	Sleepy Hollow	1978	Orinda Country Club
1999	Sleepy Hollow	1977	Moraga Valley Pool
1998	Sleepy Hollow	1976	Orinda Country Club
1997	Sleepy Hollow	1975	Orinda Country Club
1996	Meadow	1974	Orinda Country Club
1995	Sleepy Hollow	1973	Orinda Country Club
1994	Sleepy Hollow	1972	Orinda Country Club
1993	Meadow	1971	Orinda Park Pool
1992	Meadow	1970	Orinda Country Club
1991	Miramonte	1969	Moraga Valley Pool
1990	Miramonte	1968	Orinda Park Pool
1989	Orinda Park Pool	1967	Orinda Park Pool
1988	Meadow	1966	Orinda Park Pool
1987	Meadow	1965	Orinda Park Pool
1986	Meadow	1964	Orinda Park Pool
1985	Meadow	1963	Orinda Park Pool
1984	Meadow	1962	**

** No Team Competitions 1957 to 1962

Susan Ross (continued from page 1).

assess the damage, clean and reframe artwork, dry out photos, arrange for special blowers, order new storage containers, and rearrange areas to prevent further and future damage. It was an enormous project and involved supervising many volunteers. Between her extensive knowledge of the city and abilities as an archivist, she has been a great asset in the preservation and sharing of Orinda's history.

The Orinda City Council honored Susan Ross for her award at their July 18th meeting.

★
★ *Thank you to Rose Bolin,* ★
★ *the new owner of* ★
★ *Treible's (formerly* ★
★ *Allen's Office Supplies)* ★
★ *in Orinda, for generously* ★
★ *providing the printing of* ★
★ *this newsletter.* ★

Swimming Competition an Orinda Tradition

(Continued from Page 1)



Orinda Swim Trophy
1946-1953 now on
display at OHS

Country Club and the Orinda Park Pool has been around for a long-time! Even before OMPA, there was an annual competition for the Orinda Swim Trophy. This Silver Trophy is currently on display in the OHS window and is engraved "Orinda Country Club Versus Orinda Park Pool". The two oldest swim teams in Orinda had a competition every year from 1946 until 1953. Park Pool dominated by winning it for six years, while the Country Club only won it twice. The trophy is on loan from the **Kirby family**, who generously provided many other swim mementos for this display.

OMPA started as the Orinda Community Swimming Meet held on September 7-8, 1957, at the then new Meadow pool. This meet was sponsored by the Orinda Jaycees and was open to all youngsters residing in Orinda. An estimated 500 swimmers competed. Swimmers competed on a individual basis in events such as freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, freestyle relay, and medley relay. Team competitions didn't began until 1963. Six swim associations participated in this meet: Sleepy Hollow, Meadow, Oak Springs, Orinda Park, Orinda Country Club, and Carroll Ranch. Both Sleepy

Hollow and Meadow were new clubs, having just opened in 1956. (While Oak Springs no longer has a swim team; it is still an active Orinda swim club.)

Over the years, more pool associations were added to the OMPA. Several Olympic swimmers have come from OMPA pools. Notably **Matt Biondi** started out as an OMPA Champion and went on to compete in the 1984, 1988, and 1992 Olympic games, winning a total of 11 Olympic medals. There is a photo of Matt as an OMPA champion in the OHS window display.

Thanks to all who contributed artifacts for this celebration of 50 years of OMPA and the Orinda Swim Teams display.



Orinda Country Club Pool Circa 1925.
E. I. De Laveaga Photo

Orinda Park Pool Renovated

This is a big summer for swimming pool history in Orinda. After a major renovation, the Orinda Park Pool reopened in July. In honor of this occasion, a photo history of the park pool was created by OPP member **Eileen Fitz-Faulkner** and is currently on display at the pool.

Orinda Park Pool started in 1921, and is the oldest pool in Orinda with lots of great history. Did you know that there used to be a scout hut located in the OPP parking lot that was a meeting place for Girl, Boy and Cub Scouts? Did you know that the pool was originally a pond formed by damming a local creek?



Orinda Park Pool Circa 1960.



Were you a ever a member of the Orinda Park Pool swim team? The pool is having an alumni BBQ and swim meet for past OPP Swim Team members on July 29th from 6 to 10 pm. See the OPP web site www.orindaparkpool.org for more details.