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Orinda Historical Society Newsletter

February 2005

P. O. BOX 82 , ORINDA , CA 94563

(925) 254-1353

A Fun & Festive Holiday Dinner

Our end of the year Holiday Dinner, held December 1st 2004, was a warm and friendly event! Many thanks to **Jane Cull, Pat Draa and Yvonne McDaniel** for organizing , arranging the details and doing the invitations. They joined a large decorating and setup crew comprised of **John Gillivan, Carl Weber, Susan Ross, Kay Norman, Ann O'Connell-Nye, Buz Williams, Sue Littlehale, Frank Baldwin, Jason and Crystal Hurley** who all did a fantastic job creating such a wonderful holiday atmosphere.

Thank you to the **Orinda Community Church** members for their assistance and for the use of their flowers, decorations and facilities.

We had the privilege to appreciate the talents of Orinda Senior Village chef, **Nana Brownell** and her staff who served us a delicious dinner.

Ann O'Connell-Nye, Kay Norman and Lucy Williams presented a certificate and life membership to **Sue Littlehale** honoring her husband, **Sarge Littlehale**, for his long time services to the Orinda Historic Landmark committee and the Orinda Historical Society.

The **Reverend Frank Baldwin** wrapped up the evening with a rousing sing-a-long.

Museum Location

Lower Level of
Orinda Library

Museum Hours of Operation

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

Also by Appointment
24 Hour Answering
Machine

925-254-1353

Upcoming Events

- **Board Meeting:**
Wednesday, February
16th, 3 to 5 pm at
OHS Museum
- **General Meeting :**
Thursday, March 17th,
7 to 9 pm at the
Orinda Community
Church



Pictured from left to right: **Sue Littlehale, Lucy Hupp Williams, Reverend Frank Baldwin, and Susan Ross** at the December 1st 2004 OHS annual Holiday Dinner.

Night Work Groups

Our night work groups are starting up again. Give Susan Ross a call. Her number is 254-3720 or call the museum message machine at 254-1353 if you want to have some nostalgic fun.

OHS Board Members 2005

President: Lucy Hupp Williams
(650) 349-3382

Vice President: Erik Andersen
(925) 254-8444

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Pat Jackson Draa
(925) 376-6657

Archivist: Susan Ross
(925) 254-3720

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

Museum Scheduler:
Ann O'Connell-Nye
(925) 788-7323

Assistant Archivist: Kent Long
(925) 258-9771

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

Membership: Yvonne McDaniel
(925) 254-2979

Newsletter: John Holmgren
(925) 254-5677

Teresa Long
(925) 258-9771

School Liaison: Kay Norman
(925) 254-9536

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

Grand Structures of Europe by John Holmgren

John Holmgren gave a slide show last month at the Orinda Community Church; here are some excerpts from his talk:

The world is filled with many wonders—some are natural wonders like the alps of Switzerland and the Grand Canyon of the Colorado—some are man-made. Europe certainly, has its share of these and today we are going to visit a few that have made a deep impression on me.

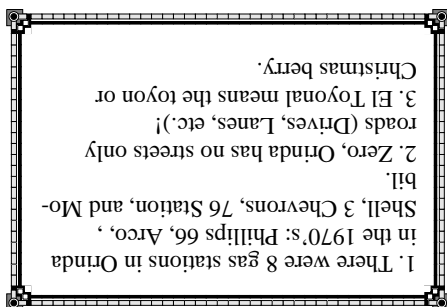
One of the great boulevards of the world is the Champs Elysee in Paris. It extends for some two miles in the heart of the city and was laid out at the end of the 17th century. At its northern end stands the Arc de Triomphe. It was built in honor of Napoleon in 1808 to commemorate his victories over Austria. It is one of the most impressive structures made by man—a majestic creation.

Notre Dame is the great cathedral of the archbishop of Paris. It was founded in 1163 but not finished until the 14th century. On the left side of the central doorway there is a staircase which leads to the top of the north tower. From this there is a fine view of the Seine and the heart of central Paris. From Notre Dame one can walk to Sacre Coeur Cathedral. It is built in the Romanesque-Byzantine style with a dome that is 83 meters high. Another of France's great artistic treasures is the chapel of the Sainte Chapelle also located on the Isle de la Cite. It is in fact two chapels, one over the other, and was built as the palace chapel during the reign of Louis IX to house the Crown of Thorns and other relics brought to France in 1239. The wall surfaces of the chapel are nearly 50 feet high and are almost entirely taken up by windows of vividly colored stain glass. They seem to have no visible means of support but no cracks have ever appeared.

We fly magically now to Spain and the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, the magnificent church built by Antonio Gaudi. It's curious spires rise over 100 meters above the city. The structure was never complete. Gaudi was killed in a street accident in 1928. In designing this monument Gaudi improvised designs from odd bits of material such as rubble, bricks and polychrome tile.

Our final destination on this brief tour of some of the treasures of Europe is to the south of France to visit the magnificent Pont du Gard. It is located near Remoulins and was built by the Romans at the end of the 1st century A.D. It carried water from the Uzes river to supply the town of Nimes. It is one of the best preserved and longest aqueducts in the world. Perhaps the most amazing thing about the Pont du Gard is that the Romans built it with fairly primitive tools such as picks, shovels, saws and levers. They had no power equipment no engines, no tractors. Despite this they were able to move large blocks of stone into place, and they were put into position without the use of mortar or any binding material. And here it has stood as strong and secure as the time it was built two thousand years ago!

Answers to Orinda trivia:



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Remember these Ads from 1954?
Notice the phone numbers.

LET'S GET Acquainted
 with
 Elisabeth B. Grey
 and
 the Pixie Shop
 catering to
 the needs of the
YOUNGER SET

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1723 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Walnut Creek
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TROY'S

**ASSOCIATED
 STATION**
 Clifford 6-9911

Do you have any old Orinda Suns lying around that you can donated to OHS? We are missing years 1975, 1978, 1981 thru 1984 plus the July to Dec. issues of 1979 and 1980. Call the OHS office at 254-1353 if you can help.

OHS has a website! Check out www.orindahistory.org The site is still in it's infancy, so feedback and suggestions are always appreciated.

Thank you to Allen's Office Supplies in Orinda for generously providing the printing of this newsletter.