

Lamorinda's historical societies join forces with a Caldecott Tunnel/Orinda blast-from-the-past event

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A 19th century photo of Alice Marsh explains that while married to William Camron, they purchased a Mexican land grant in 1876, and named the new subdivision Orinda Park after her favorite poet Katherine Fowler Philips (aka Matchless Orinda).

A late 1800s photo depicts four women in long white dresses walking down a dirt road. They are members of the James Miner family, who later inherited his property which today is known as Orinda's Sleepy Hollow.

Orinda Village was the dream of one man, E.I de Laveaga, who in 1921 began to create a community that included a general store, garage, riding stables, a swimming lake and country club. When the Depression hit, his fortune all but vanished, yet he managed to repay all of his debts more than 10 years later.

A train running on a trestle over Miner Road is depicted in an 1890s photo. It eventually crossed over what is now the 18th fairway of the Orinda Country Club. The train continued past Orinda Village toward Bryant's Corner dropping off picnickers.

One photo from 1937, shows an early Orinda library building surrounded by a sizable amount of snow on the ground; and a 1939 Orinda Union School class photo of first and second graders was taken amidst the rubble of a deteriorating building.

The late 1800s brought the drilling-for-oil fever to Orinda; the 1940s saw the movie craze come to town with the opening of the Orinda Theatre; and the 1960s saw the Cold War hysteria hit new heights with the building of bomb shelters.

To quote from Burns' Introduction page: "While landmarks and plaques may tell one story about a city, it is the people contained in

these pages – in the photographic journey that charts Orinda's unfolding evolution – who have the final word."

To purchase "Images of America: Building the Caldecott Tunnel" by Mary Solon and Mary McCosker, or "Images of America: Lafayette" by Mary McCosker and Mary Solon, visit: Lafayettehistory.org. To purchase "Images of America: Orinda" by Alison Burns, visit: Orindahistory.org. To purchase "Images of America: Moraga" by Susan K. Skilton, visit: Moragahistory.org.



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