

At 75 Alice Wilder Keeps Strong Interest In People, Government

By Len Klempnauer

Venerable Alice Earl Wilder is 75 today.

The grand old lady of local politics reminisced yesterday about her life, and her love for life.

"If I had to do it all over again, I wouldn't do anything differently," she said. "If I changed anything, probably I would find something that I don't like as well."

Voluntary guardian of the public trust, lobbyist for the San Lorenzo Valley, purveyor of information vital to the conduct of county government, the county's "sixth" supervisor said that life's been "fun, worthwhile and interesting" but most of all "challenging."

"Everything in the world that people have is dependent on how the county is governed," is Mrs. Wilder's reason for becoming such an involved participant in local government.

Besides, her father, late State Senator Guy Chaffee Earl of Oakland, brought up his children to take an interest in the world about them, she added.

His code was that "you only get what you give."

Alice is a familiar figure to Santa Cruzans as she scurries among county offices downtown and her own, privately financed (by her) community planning office at 825 Front street.

Her red hat, a mobile landmark in already historical Santa Cruz, is bedecked currently with a Goldwater button, and she wears a jeweled elephant pin on her suit, which proclaims no more enthusiastically nor sincerely than she does verbally her favorite political party.

But partisan politics aside, Mrs. Wilder earned the title "sixth" supervisor by her constant participation in non-partisan local government.

She attended her first board meeting in 1934. Why? "Because I wanted a road."

Needless to say, she got it, a four-mile stretch of dirt that today is Hillside avenue in Ben Lomond, where she makes her home. However, the county didn't construct the road; the property owners living on it banded together cooperatively, without benefit of a formal assessment district, to finance construction of the street to county standards.

Three years later she was attending supervisors' meetings as a matter of routine, and today her absence at a meeting, however seldom, is noticed by all

She Likes Politics, Too



When Republicans come to town, they visit Alice Earl Wilder, the county's "sixth" supervisor in non-partisan local politics, a rabid Republican in party politics and a vol-

untary guardian of the public trust for all of us. Today she celebrates her 75th birthday, and no doubt you'll see her in the red hat that has become her hallmark, visiting

county offices. Yesterday she "chaperoned" James Halley, pictured here, when the vice chairman of the State Republican Central committee visited Santa Cruz.

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board regulars before a supervisor might be missed.

Monday was a typical day in the governmental life of Alice Wilder.

She promoted and succeeded in getting the county board to back her battle against Greyhound; saw the San Lorenzo Valley county water district get quit claim deeds to two small independent water companies (she's been a prime supporter of the water district since its formation); applied for and won a dance permit for the Ben

Zooming Utility Costs Become Capitola Development Issue

By Wallace Wood

Are developers shying away from Capitola and the mid-county because of high water and sewer rates?

Capitola city officials think so, and say they are facing threats of a pull-out by one large concern because of expensive hook-up charges from the Soquel Creek county water

In addition, they noted the Soquel Creek district is still facing a \$40,000 water main relocation cost on Soquel drive, ordered by the county, and said "we don't know where the money will come from to do it."

HERRON-NIGH

now- by all bound; saw the San Lorenzo Valley county water district get quit claim deeds to two small independent water companies (she's been a prime supporter of the water district since its formation); applied for and won a dance permit for the Ben Lomond Fire department's annual Hallowe'en ball; fought and instrumentally helped defeat a proposed motorcycle course in her beloved San Lorenzo Valley.

She lost an attempt to prevent community commercial (C-2) zoning in spots along Highway 9 from Felton to the Toll House.

But that's 4 to 1 and 80 per cent, which is a good average in any ball park—or legislative chamber.

To say that Alice is an important cog in the ever-growing machine that runs local government is to call Barry Goldwater a conservative.

She first entrenched herself in the grass roots' political scene by running for the old Ben Lomond Elementary school district board of trustees in 1936. She was elected. It was a short step later to the old Boulder Creek High school district board and then "on to various and sundry things," as she terms them.

Like, currently, an elected member of the county board of education, an appointed member of the county public welfare board, an elected member of the Republican Central committee from the San Lorenzo district, secretary of the County Republican Central committee, elected member of the board of directors of the Ben Lomond Recreation district and state chairman of the legislation committee of the State Association of Recreation and Park Districts.

Furthermore, she's a member of the Santa Cruz chapter of the American Association of University Women, secretary of the San Lorenzo Valley Business and Professional Woman's club, secretary of the San Lorenzo Valley Property Owners association, secretary of the San Lorenzo Valley Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Ben Lomond Scottish association and Ben Lomond Business association, president of the Ben Lomond Community club and secretary of the Boulder Creek Recreation district (the latter so that Ben Lomond and Boulder Creek will have "coordinated recreation programs").

Of course, everything hasn't been all Alice Earl Wilder even when Alice Earl Wilder is demanding that Alice Earl Wilder be heard, heeded and honored.

She even admits so herself:

"I wouldn't be worth anything to anybody if I agreed or am agreed with every time."

Alice thoroughly prepared for her role in politics. She's a 1912

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