

Friends, Family Help Alice Celebrate Her 90th Birthday

SEP 24 1979

By DENISE SIEBENTHAL
Sentinel Staff Writer

With tears welling up in her clear blue eyes, Alice Earl Wilder was joined by about 150 friends in celebrating her 90th birthday Sunday.

Her friends crowded Ben Lomond's Park Hall to honor this amazingly energetic lady who for many years has been called the county's "sixth supervisor" because of her consistent vigilance of county government.

A supervisor's meeting is rarely held where Alice's perpetual red hat isn't seen near the front row of the audience.

Her famous red hat was graphically portrayed in an acrylic portrait of Alice that was unveiled at the birthday event which was sponsored by the San Lorenzo Valley Chamber of Commerce.

A red hat also topped the tiered birthday cake that was baked by Lyle Allyn.

The portrait, painted by Paul Lee, Ben Lomond's artist in residence — hopefully will be hung somewhere in the county

center, reported Chamber President Wayne Williams.

Fifth (San Lorenzo Valley-Scotts Valley) District Supervisor Pat Liberty, in attendance at the party, promised she would put on the next agenda the request to hang the painting in the newly remodeled supervisors' chambers.

All guests in attendance made donations toward the cost of the large painting.

Also helping to celebrate her nine decades of life were many of Alice's relatives, including one of her 11 great-grandchildren.

Alice explained that 67 family members had gathered at her Ben Lomond home Saturday to begin the celebration. Though several relatives couldn't make the Sunday party, all of Alice's six children attended.

It was easy to pick out Alice's offspring since many were attired in Alice Earl Wilder tee shirts or wore Alice Earl Wilder buttons, both made for family members by grandson-in-law Michael Welch

Just before the unveiling of the portrait, Dr. Richard Jahn announced that the SLV Youth Council will sponsor an annual Alice Earl Wilder scholarship of \$100 which will be given to a graduating senior of SLV High School who was active in student government and who plans to go to college.

Florist Shirley Beneke also announced that a red flowering tree will be planted at Highland County Park in Ben Lomond in honor of the "lady with the red hat."

Alice's varied and active life probably was best summarized in a poem written and read by Claudia Scott.

The poem ends as follows:
She's done so much to make our county
a better place.

And at 90, she doesn't seem to slowing
down her pace.

Alice is a fine example of America at
its best.

Wouldn't it be great is we all had just
one iota of her zest?