

A City Of Felton In 1971?

Felton will become the county's fifth city early next year if a small but determined group of cityhood advocates can convince the community they have a feasible plan for giving the 102-year-old town control of its destiny.

The plan was unveiled Monday night by the Felton Incorporation Committee (FIC) to area businessmen and residents.

The plan calls for a beginning city with boundaries congruent to the Felton Fire Protection District, Mount Hermon excepted. The city's "sphere of influence," or expansion area, would stretch from the Santa Cruz city limits in the south to Skyline Boulevard in the north and to the Scotts Valley city limits in the west.

Boulder Creek would retain the right to incorporate at some future date, according to Frank Lamoly, FIC chairman, but not Ben Lomond or Brookdale "because they wouldn't have the revenues to support a city."

The committee anticipates the new city would have revenues of \$145,755 in its first year. The revenues would be derived without any property tax. The bulk of the income would be state rebates of sales and use taxes, in-lieu taxes, gasoline taxes and cigarette taxes.

Expenses in the first year are estimated tentatively at \$106,000. The estimate is highly tentative, FIC members stressed, and may well be revised a number of times before a final incorporation package is put before the public.

In outlining expenditure categories, Tony Black, FIC public relations officer, made the following statement:

"The committee got together a number of times to investigate the kinds of expenses a city will have. We were insistent that we figure the expenses high enough to do the job. In making our feasibility study we felt we would rather shoot at a high target and not reach it than shoot too low and go into the red. So we probably set some of the expenses too high at this stage to make certain our anticipated revenues would be enough to support a city."

The city would end its first year with a \$39,682 surplus if anticipated revenues and the tentative expenses are unchanged.

Incorporation would give Felton 19 benefits, Black said, ranging from law enforcement by its own police department to better road maintenance, local building inspection and planning and zoning.

Black claimed Felton is presently contributing \$24,500 yearly to the county for road maintenance but is not getting this back in the form of services from the county public works department.

"We tried to find out what they spend here," Black said, "but we were told in a letter from Don Porath, public works director, that breakdowns of this kind are not made. Porath estimated that his department spends about \$1,600 per mile a year for maintenance of the kinds of roads we have here, and you know how little work is done on the Felton roads."

Lamoly added, "They haven't spent \$24,000 on our roads in five years."

Police protection, another sore point in the area, would give Felton 24-hour-a-day coverage

by its own officers who know the area and would not leave it except under mutual aid arrangements with other agencies.

Lamoly, who operates a night patrol service for businesses and residents, emphasized that during the city's first year the Sheriff's Department would be obligated to continue service to the Felton area. "In addition," he said, "you would have your own police officer to call on to handle local problems."

At the end of the year, Lamoly said, the Sheriff's Department would discontinue its service and Felton would provide its own police protection.

"It would be the way Scotts Valley did it," Lamoly concluded. "They started out this way, with one man. Now they have four officers and their own cars and radio system and a reserve force."

Lamoly recommended Felton

also form a reserve police force. "It wouldn't cost anything except insurance and they could give more coverage," he said.

An election on incorporation is hoped for early in 1971, "just after Jan. 1," Lamoly said.

A formal public hearing on an application to incorporate Felton will be held Aug. 19 by the Local Agency Formation Commission.

If the project wins approval, FIC will have 120 days to get 25 per cent of the community's voters to sign a petition to put the incorporation issue before county supervisors.

At a public hearing held by the supervisors, citizens opposed to incorporation will have protest rights. Incorporation can be killed if protests are made by owners of property with a valuation equal to 51 per cent or more of the community's total land value.

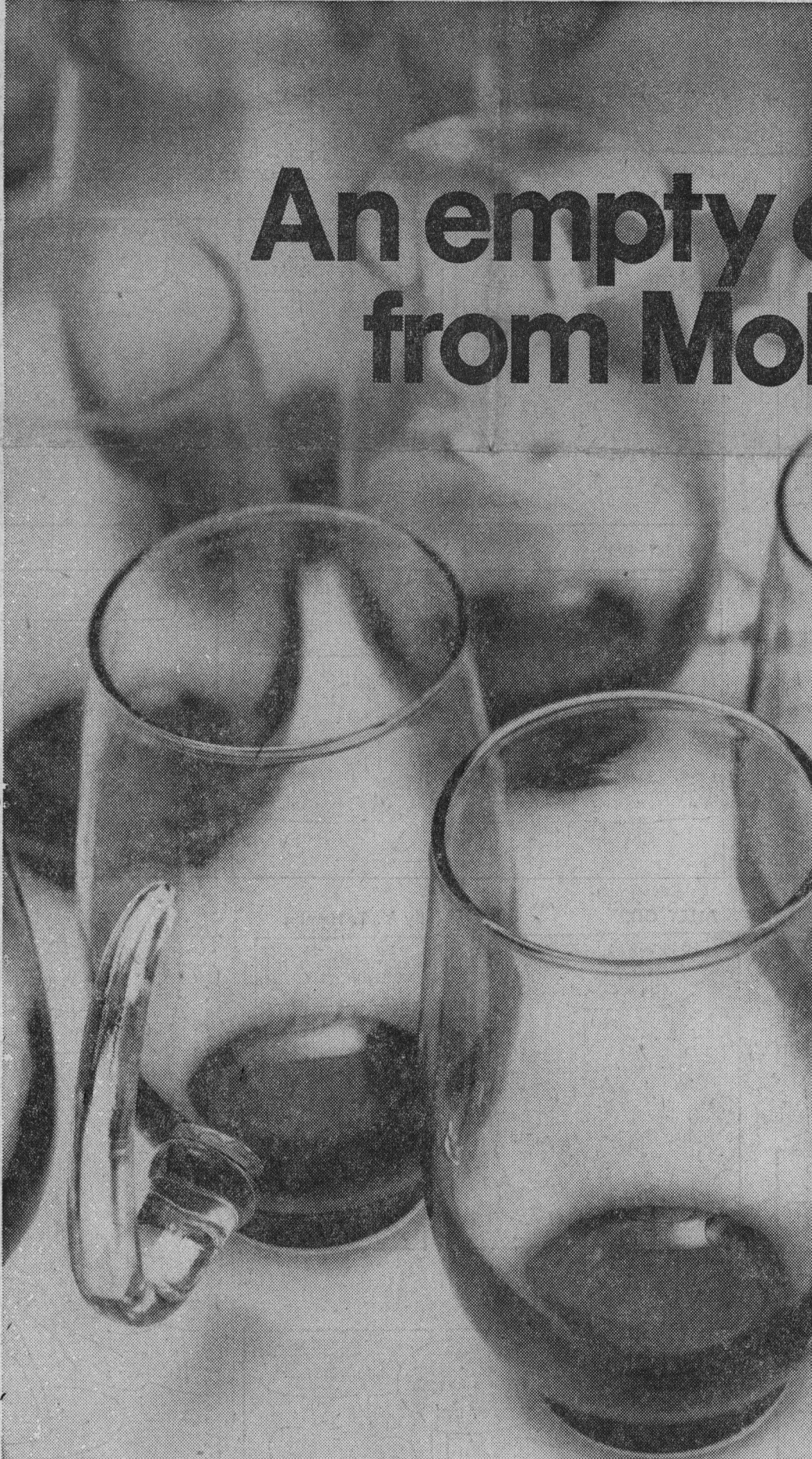
If the incorporation plan is not killed, the matter will go to an election decided by a simple majority of the voters.

The FIC plan has been in development since the first of the year, Black said. Information on anticipated revenues was obtained from various state agencies, including the state Board of Equalization. Other information was obtained from the county public works department and from Ed Hanna, executive director of the Local Agency Formation Commission.

City staff the first year would include a city manager, secretary and a police officer. A city attorney and engineer would be retained.

Committee members include Lamoly, Black, George Huchcroft and Anita Baskins. Ken Burke has been named chairman of a subcommittee to circulate incorporation petitions.

© Mobil Oil Corporation.



An empty cup from Mobil