



DEMOCRATIC

VOICE

OF VENTURA COUNTY

An official publication of the

VENTURA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE



April
1972

Chairman Taylor Sees Demo Victory

The Democratic Party is alive and living in Ventura County. Premature reports of its early demise are greatly exaggerated. Not in many years has the party had the drive, unity of purpose, determination and strength it now has. Look at the facts: there are active energetic clubs in every major population area of the county (and more forming; the League of Democratic Women is on the political warpath once more; the Central Committee Headquarters is functioning and serving candidates; we have a full time able executive director in Dave Deihl; new registrations are heavily democratic and the new youth vote is overwhelmingly so; and perhaps the greatest evidence of all is that you are reading this in the first edition of the Democratic Voice.

Most of the programs were commenced under the able leadership of Lyman Smith and have been continued by the present board of directors; but none of it would have been possible without the wonderful support of the Democratic Donors who have pledged from \$2.00 to \$20.00 per month toward the support of the Central Committee and its work (every member of the Central Committee is a Democratic Donor).

If you like the new look of the party in Ventura County, I invite you to join with other concerned Democrats and pledge your support from \$1.00 per month upwards. Just call or write Headquarters or inform any Central Committee member and you will receive monthly statements along with that good feeling that you are a part of the great Democratic Victory in 1972.

George E. Taylor, Chairman
Ventura County Democratic
Central Committee

Democratic Women Are Dynamic Group

Democratic women have a long history of dedication to the Democratic party in Ventura County. The leadership has varied over the years, but the ideals and the effort has remained the same — to promote the candidates at all level of Government whose vision and performance best represent the ideals and programs of the Democratic Party.

The present organization is known as the "League of Democratic Women of Ventura County". Since the cost of campaigning has be-

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Who is Les Cleveland?

13th District Congressional Candidate

As the first Mayor of Simi Valley, Les Cleveland has provided the leadership that made possible firm foundations for its future. Simi Valley is known world-wide for its citizen participation and innovations. Les Cleveland has played a leading role in bringing these innovations about. His new Neighborhood Councils have provided this participation. His campaign slogan of "Local People Power" produced realistic citizen participation.

A highly trained professional in urban problems, he holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Theology degrees. He is currently a consultant in delinquency and crime prevention. He served twice as a U.S. Army volunteer; as an enlisted man during the Korean War and as a Reserve Officer. A native of Seattle, Cleveland is 40 years old; has been married to his wife Darlene for over 20 years, and has five children.

Cleveland's political experience includes serving as Vice-Chairman of the Simi Valley County Sanitation District, as director of the Ventura County Regional Sanitation District, and as the first Chairman of the Ventura County Association of Governments. He represented his City at the International Association of Local Governments' conference in Zagreb, Yugoslavia in October, 1971. He has, therefore, had considerable exposure to local, regional, national and international politics.

Cleveland is one of the new breed of Democrats who distrust centralization of government. He believes government must be decentralized as much as possible and returned to the people. He will develop extensive citizen participation structures, making government at all levels a partnership with the people. Yet he believes certain kinds of problems can only be dealt with by higher levels of government possessing the power to solve them.

He believes the war in Vietnam has been a disaster for both sides and should be brought to an honorable conclusion as soon as possible.

He believes the responsibility for our present economic woes rests directly on our present Republican administration.

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Our Assemblyman Asks Genuine Unity

The next six months will very likely decide the course of the Democratic party in Ventura County for years to come. Nationwide, Americans will not only be choosing a President, but thousands of new youthful voters will make important decisions regarding party affiliation. Some will join a party, but others will "take a walk" because neither the Democrats or the Republicans offer a genuine alternative.

In Ventura County the party struggle will be crucial because Democrats are on the verge of being squeezed out by the Republican voter preference. With two GOP Legislators, (Congressman Charles Teague and State Senator Robert Lagomarsino), the President of the California Republican Assembly and other Republican leaders residing within our County, we are destined to political obscurity unless we really and produce the vote. Governor Reagan has again ticketed me to political oblivion with a campaign war chest, an attractive candidate and promises of spiritual and fiscal aid. Reagan figures he can gerry-mander major portions of three Republican Assembly Districts off of Ventura County's 420,000 inhabitants.

However, I do not believe the Governor can buy Ventura County because the Democrats "are not willing to sell!" We will again survive the "Spencer-Roberts PR onslaught" as we did in 1968 and 1970.

The County Democratic Central Committee has launched an admirable drive to coordinate our energies this year. With genuine unity we can save the County from being labeled "North-Orange" far into the future.

I will continue to work for the people of Ventura County as being the best way to justify my re-election. With an excellent staff and outstanding volunteers I feel confident of our ability to keep the 37th Assembly District in the Democratic column.

J. K. "Ken" MacDonald

Les Cleveland

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He believes honesty must be restored to government by stringent controls on elected representatives and government officials.

He believes government by special interests, for special interests, must cease.

He believes the War on Poverty must be won if the American dream is to be more than a myth.

He believes racism is a cancer on our society, and will do all within his power to get at its roots and eliminate it.

(Editor's note: Les Cleveland is the only Democratic candidate for Congress in the 13th District. It is important that Democrats rack up a big vote for him in the primary to help launch his campaign.)



Women

Continued from Page 1

come almost prohibitive, the Women have concentrated for the past year on raising money. They intend that their financial help will prove substantial to Democrats in the General election.

They have also tried, through regular and challenging programs to interest more women in the issues of the day and urge the involvement of women in the programs at all levels so vital to our lives and the lives of our children.

Since the organization is County-wide, there are area chairmen in each area who may be called for information. We urge all Democratic women to call their local chairman to learn the time and meeting place of the next regular meeting, and to come join with us for activity and fun.

For your convenience, we list the Chairmen of the County:

Ventura: Mickey Colwell (Sec'y) 647-3440
Oxnard: Fon Van Horn (1st V-P) 486-5597
Camarillo: Ruth Marvel 482-5764
Thousand Oaks: Betty Trudell - 495-3647
Ojai: Anna Turnbull - 646-3209
Fillmore: Kathryn Grady - 524-0479
Santa Paula: Jean McKee (Treas) 525-8233

Other officers of the club are:

Goldie Kennedy, 2nd Vice President and Program Chairman. Goldie was the instigator of the group and has been the guiding hand, hard worker and successful leader.

Jane Tolmach, former So. California Women's Chairman, who acts in an advisory capacity.

Margaret Lager is our Publicity Chairman.

Margaret Robertson is the Auditor and Ann Schlange is Chairman of Legislation and our "Girl Friday".

The next sponsored event will be an Enchilada Dinner held at the Villa Serena, 3400 Peninsula Road, Oxnard, on June 10. Cost per person will be \$3.00, and it will be preceded with a no-host cocktail hour beginning at 6 p.m.

Marie McCormick, President.

Phones: 643-7464 & 647-9513

FINANCE COMMITTEE AT WORK!

OXNARD DEMO CLUB HAS 104 MEMBERS

The Oxnard Democratic Club was founded in March of 1971 and has now grown to a membership of 104 Democrats of all ages and races. We were officially chartered by the Ventura County Democratic Central Committee and after our first full year we are growing in stature and looking for more good Democrats to join us.

The officers of the club are Ed Albrecht, president; Bernie Wallen, vice-president; James Chambers, secretary; Jean Mason, treasurer; and Bill Heckendorn and Charles Williams, member of the Executive Board.

Jim Chambers, Secretary

The Oxnard Democratic Club was organized because people wanted and needed to be involved in good politics. It will be up to the people to work and contribute their efforts freely to make our Democratic Party strong and healthy, not like the other party—ruled and decrepit. Ours is the political party full of people with different ideas, races, backgrounds, influences and stature in life. We have one basic idea: to promote "democracy".

The political apathy that has been prevalent in our nation must cease. The young, old, minorities, and majorities must now be involved in the political processes of our country or we will all be left behind in a world full of changes. The sensible approach is a Democracy, not a Republic—ruled by a few. The direct method to help is your Democratic club. Join now! Become aware and involved.

Our meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 135 Magnolia Street, Oxnard, at 7:30 p.m. sharp.

Ed Albrecht, President

Bar-B-Q Planned by Ventura Club

The Ventura Democratic Club is now concentrating its major effort toward a successful Bar-B-Q on Saturday, May 27, at Camp Comfort. Many club members spent almost full time working on registration of voters until April 13th, and now that that work is done temporarily, they are pushing all efforts toward this Bar-B-Q the week before the big Presidential primary.

We have been a busy club. The forum for Supervisorial candidates in the First and Third districts saw a jam-packed audience of more than 100 people. All nine candidates were present to express their views in these important non-partisan races.

As always, our club is working closely with other Democratic clubs and Labor in planning our big event at Camp Comfort. Vince Ruiz, our 1st Vice-President, is spearheading it, and delicious steaks and a good time are assured for all who attend. It

Newt Chase Heads Drive

Your Ventura County Democratic Central Committee now has in progress a drive for expanded support of the Democratic Donors who have been making possible our Democratic Headquarters. A great job by Shirley Ghitteman accomplished our first objective --every member of the Central Committee is now contributing.

Now the committee has researched the lists of those many good Democrats who have been so generous in the past, and a group of us are currently making personal or telephone contacts to gain the necessary additional funds needed this important election year. We will publish results of this drive in the next issue of the "Democratic VOICE" and the initial response would indicate success.

We are particularly seeking additional members of our "Century Club"—Democrats who pledge \$100 a year to the party operation. It so happens that our Democratic party currently has less than ten percent as many contributors of this size as the Republican party. Certainly we can improve this percentage.

As George Taylor has so well said in his message to all Democrats in this first issue of the "Democratic VOICE", our party locally and statewide is demonstrating a new unity and drive that bodes well for our future. Our committee is assigned the vital task of providing the monetary sinew needed to capitalize on the growing grass roots support of the party.

If and when you are contacted by one of us, give us an open heart and mind and pledge what you can afford to strengthen our important gains.

Newton K. Chase, Chairman
Finance Committee

will be modestly priced, and we seek many families from all over the county to join us. No speeches—but most local candidates will be present to "table hop" and meet everyone. Awarding of Kennedy Bonds and other prizes will be a highlight, as will an interesting Auction.

Our club is such a hard-working club that we sometimes wonder if we expect too much. We have all been concerned about Max Lipney, our treasurer, and John Yewell, our reliable right arm, who have both suffered coronaries. And Larry Curtis, our 2nd Vice-President, spent a few days in the hospital and "took it easy" for awhile because of a touch of the same.

So we all send our heartfelt thoughts to John Yewell, who had heart surgery last week, and welcome back Max Lipney to "tend the checkbook" with a warning not to overdo. And Larry, who is active in so many things, we will watch and advise also not to overdo.

So work, good Democratic friends all over the county, but don't overdo too much! We need you all—and look forward to seeing you at our Camp Comfort Bar-B-Q.

Democratic Doings:

It's time to "Ken Again"...and a festive occasion honoring our Assemblyman Ken MacDonald is slated for Friday, May 12, in the Oxnard Room of the Oxnard Community Center. Speaker of the evening will be Robert Moretti, Speaker of the Assembly and Jack Fenton, the Assembly Majority Leader will be Master of Ceremonies. George E. Taylor will be Honorary Chairman of the top-drawer \$25 per person occasion. Hard-working Paul Kinney, Ken's Administrative Assistant, is chief organizer. You can reach him by phone at 648-5329 or 485-5311 or Jim Dougherty in Simi at 522-3251.

Presidential politics mounts locally: Muskie headquarters on California St. in downtown Ventura is a bee hive of activity. Grand opening last Friday was great, with John Stevens, state committee treasurer as main speaker. A \$5 dinner followed at the Ondolounda home of Goldie Kennedy that was so jammed that tables were even set up in the bedrooms!... McGovern headquarters are set up at Magnolia & "A" Sts. in Oxnard, with others scheduled in Conejo and Ventura. A great picnic at Camarillo Oak Grove park last Sunday was an early highlight of this campaign... The Paul Chadwick home with its fantastic view was the scene of wine-tasting and a videotaped talk by Shirley Chisholm delighted a big assemblage on April 16th... Gene Perello is busy organizing growing grass root volunteers for the Humphrey campaign in the 13th District, and Jim Loebel and enthusiastic young supporters of Henry Jackson's campaign are busy... June 6th is not far away and California is the BIG one for all candidates!

A public Forum for Democratic candidates for Congress in the 27th District is slated this Thursday (April 27) at Oxnard Community Center by the Oxnard Democratic Club. The six candidates hail from Burbank, Reseda, Encino, Woodland Hills, Malibu and Pasadena! Oxnard and Port Hueneme are now in the 27th District which is currently represented by (boo!) Barry Goldwater Jr.

Les Cleveland will be the principal speaker at the Camarillo Club meeting on Monday, May 8... Omer Rains of the Environmental Coalition will analyze Proposition 9 at the May 11 meeting of the Ventura Club.

Simi Tidbits...

On April 2, 1972, one of the coldest nights of the year, the Democrats of Simi Valley turned out to welcome NBC Newscaster Jess Marlow. Mr. Marlow, accompanied by his lovely wife Phyllis, gave a very interesting talk on politics and television coverage.

Recently, the Simi Demos held a completely successful Potluck dinner.

Now, the Simi Valley Democrats are involved in organizing speakers from the various Presidential campaigns. Our first was Dr. Buchanan, from San Fernando State. Dr. Buchanan spoke on behalf of the McGovern campaign. In the plans, before the June primary, specifically, at the May and June meetings, are speakers from Muskie and Humphrey campaigns.

In our city council elections, Congratulations are in order because two members of our club were re-elected--Dick Ostler and Jim Smithe. Our new Mayor, Ted Grandsen, while not a member, is also a Democrat. Sad to say, we also numbered two of our members among the losers. They are Cathie Wright and Fred Reiss Jr., who finished 10th and 12th respectively, in a field of 27. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

The Simi Valley Democrats take this opportunity to give special recognition to Fred Reiss Jr., who singlehandedly has registered about 1,800 voters.

Hurrah! The East End of Ventura County has not been forgotten. James Dougherty, a founding member, was appointed by Ken MacDonald to be his Representative for Simi Valley, Thousands Oaks, Moorpark and points inbetween. His office is now open on Los Angeles Avenue near Tapo Canyon. Congratulations, Jim!

REGISTRATION RECORD BROKEN

Biggest county-wide registration in history for a primary election! That's the news from Bob Hamm's Election Division. With final tallies expected this week, it seems certain the registration will top the 160,000 mark. For the 1970 primary, the total was only 129,896. That's a 30,000 plus gain! Now go get 'em, Deputy Registrars, for November. The goal is to top 175,000. If we succeed, the Democrats can pull some REAL surprises!

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Dave Deihl.....Managing Editor
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