

Man put in middle of conservation board dispute

■ Hundley on election ballot for seat as means for one incumbent to oust foe.

By CATHY CUMMINS

Courier Staff Writer

Carl Hundley will be on the ballot Nov. 3, but you won't find a flier, billboard or television commercial with his face on it.

His candidacy is a favor to a friend, he said. A friend — and a candidate — who has a long-standing conflict with the third candidate in the race.

Hundley is odd man out in the race for two of the county's five seats on the Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners board.

Granted, the race is rather obscure, relegated to the bottom of the second page on absentee ballots and almost overlooked on the far right side of the third line in the polling booth.

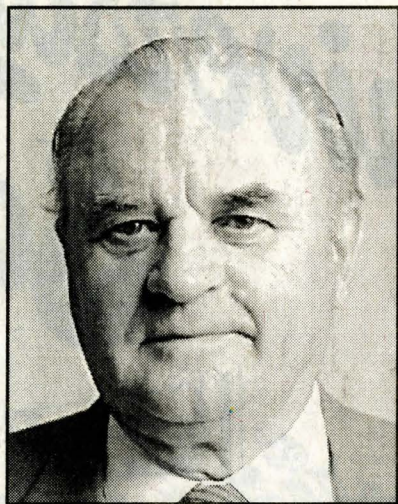
But while Hundley, 73, isn't too excited about the possibility of winning, his opponent, incumbent L. Jeanette Winegarden, 62, is worried about what will happen to programs she spent six years developing if she loses.

"We're just getting started," said Winegarden, who is chairwoman of the board.

"I hope she gets it," Hundley said of Winegarden re-election bid. "If the people want me, I will serve, but I'm not out there asking for it."

Commissioners on the Soil and Water Board work closely with the Soil Conservation Service to promote preservation and moderate use of natural resources. At the county level, the board doles out federal and state funds to farmers to share conservation costs.

In the fiscal year that ended in June, Black Hawk County soil commissioners disbursed about \$20,000 to support the cost of earthen terraces, redirected waterways and other practices



Marv Haugebak

designed to keep ground water clean and soil anchored to fields, not floating down the nearest creek.

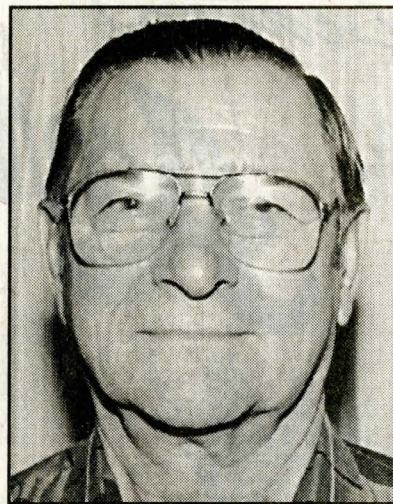
Commissioners serve six-year terms. This year, three people are running for two seats. But according to election rules, only one person from each township can serve on the board.

Winegarden and Hundley both live in Cedar Falls Township and are running for the same position. The third candidate, incumbent Marv Haugebak, 72, also lives in Cedar Falls, but inside the Waterloo Township lines. A single vote will return him to the board. Voters vote for two of the three people on the ballot.

But while the race isn't political, it is personal.

Haugebak and Winegarden have been at odds for more than a decade. Winegarden remembers the conflict starting when she was a member of the Cedar Falls City Council in the late '70s.

Haugebak asked the Planning Commission, of which Winegarden was chairwoman, to do something about water dripping off a railroad track onto his land. Railroad officials had told him



Carl Hundley

it wasn't their problem, Winegarden recalled. The city couldn't do anything, either, she said, and Winegarden delivered the Planning Commission's report to the council.

Later, when she ran for Cedar Falls mayor in 1979, Haugebak was a vocal opponent.

Haugebak dates the start of the conflict from that election race, but maintains he isn't carrying a grudge. "It's a difference of philosophy," he said. "She believes in passing regulations to tell farmers what to do. I don't. It's that simple."

Neither Winegarden nor Haugebak won the mayoral race, although Winegarden garnered more votes than Haugebak.

Since the two have joined the Soil and Water Commission, philosophical differences have been at the core of disagreements between the two, fellow commissioners say.

However, regulations Haugebak rails against, such as new rules protecting wetlands, are passed by Congress. The commissioners simply carry out the programs on a local level.

Winegarden says she favors compro-



Jeanette Winegarden

mise between environmental, recreational and agricultural factions. "Farmers know they have to (follow regulations) and they do, but it affects cities, too," she said. "They put salt on the streets and that runs in the water and what people put on their lawns runs off into the water stream, too."

The latest conflict appears to have started over Haugebak's suggestion early last summer that the board give Deere & Co.'s Waterloo branch an award for conservation efforts, board members said. The motion failed for lack of a second, Winegarden said.

"I've been on there for six years and I've been ignored," Haugebak said of the board.

Perhaps with that in mind, Haugebak talked Hundley into running against Winegarden. Hundley said he was reluctant at first, but then decided to do his old friend a favor. "I told him you're going to have to do the work," Hundley said.

Haugebak did, picking up the petition forms and gathering the 25 signatures needed to put Hundley on the ballot.

Hundley figured he didn't have a

ghost of a chance to win as the third man against two incumbents. He says he didn't know he was actually running against Winegarden, a friend for years.

Hundley said he learned differently during a phone call from a friend wanting to know why he was in the race. "I found out that things weren't exactly the way Marv said they were," Hundley said.

Hundley retired 10 years ago from farming and does practice conservation tillage. "I haven't plowed bean ground in 30 years," he said.

But he isn't looking for another organization to join. "When you've served on as many boards as I have you get tired of it," he said.

Winegarden doesn't appear to be tired of the Soil and Water Commissioners board, fellow commissioners say. She's credited with activating the board after a slow period in the mid-'80s and building links between farmers and environmentalists.

"We're out there doing things now and that's her; she's the one leading us," fellow commissioner Arnold Harting said. "She's a real good leader, impressive."

As for Haugebak and Winegarden butting heads ... "a little conflict now and then keeps everybody on their toes," Harting said. "It makes it interesting, especially when it's on something we're not even working on."

"They've always kind of thought differently," Commissioner Janeen Seehase said. "But the differences are usually smoothed out. It's too bad that it comes to this."

Seehase said she plans to pull Winegarden's lever when she goes to the polls Nov. 3. Harting does too. He even plans to talk up Winegarden's record on the board.

He won't have to call Hundley.

Hundley said he's already made up his mind on who he'll vote for: Winegarden.