

CARL A. BONTRAGER

Retired Assessor

Historical Questionnaire

1. Worked in timber industry, obtained BS and Masters Degrees, lab technician at Humboldt State University, employed by Siskiyou County Assessor as an Appraiser in 1973, certified as Auditor-Appraiser in 1986.
2. Elected: 1990
Retired: April 12, 2002
3. Passed away August 15, 2002
4. We had a good working relationship.
5. We had a good working relationship.
6. Strong family ties to Siskiyou County and a desire to serve the public.
7. Being able to maintain staffing and service to the public during difficult budget times. Implementing a total property appraisal and audit program, which substantially reduced escapes and has proven to be more cost effective.
8. Been more effective in preventing the special interest tax legislation that came after Prop 13.
9. The interaction with his staff and other Assessors' offices.
10. Better communication with CAO and Board of Supervisors over budget and department issues.
11. Carl was always an advocate for the small counties having more input into CAA policy. It seemed that at times policy was already set before it came to committee. Big is not always better.
12. Before his time.
13. There was a real effort to have equalization of value among taxpayers so that everyone paid their fair share.
 - A. Actively opposed
 - B. An idea that has outlived its usefulness. There is no equalization and special interest groups rule the day in a tax system that is unfair, unequal, and discriminatory. No further

exemptions or beneficial appraisal mandates should have been allowed after implementation of Prop 13, except by voter approval.

14. Local school boards

A. None

15. Above all, a person has to be fair and impartial in dealing with staff and the public.

A. An appraisal or real estate background is helpful, particularly in a small county. However, since implementation of the tax law is primarily administrative, and not appraisal work, it should not necessarily be a requirement.

16. Carl bowed his back and fought, often times successfully, against local special interest groups that attempted, through influential and/or political contacts, to receive special tax favors.

PLEASE NOTE: Questionnaire completed by Carl Bontrager's widow Evelyn, with assistance from Gary Anderson, retired Assistant Assessor (2003) and George Singewald, retired Assistant Assessor (1998).