Within the immaculatelytrimmed confines of the Oak Bay riding, there is one issue which stands above all the others in this election campaign.

It stands about 5'9" tall, wears small-c conservative clothes and speaks with a distinctive Scottish accent.

Its name is G. Scott Wal-As much as Wallace's oppo-

nents hate to admit it, he is the prime factor. Without him in the race, the riding would likely revert to the traditional Liberal-Social Credit confrontation which saw a succession of Liberal candidates win over the Socred challengers.

But with Wallace in the thick of things, the form charts can be set aside, at least temporarily.

In 1919, Wallace, running under the Social Credit banner, dropped a bombshell on provincial election-watchers by dumping barely-seated incumbent Allan Cox. When the smoke had cleared. Wallace had run up an overwhelming

total of 52 per cent of the vote to Cox's 36 per cent.

The margin of victory was attributed to Wallace's appeal to Oak Bay voters as an individual, as a man who would do what he felt was necessary to properly represent his constituents.

After two uncomfortable sessions as a Socred backbencher, Wallace did what he felt was necessary - he bolted the Socred ranks and sat as an independent before joining up with the rejuvenated Progressive Conservative effort led by Derril Warren.

And in the opinion of the three leading candidates for the Aug. 30 election, that is as far as the issue needs to be explained.

Wallace stands by his actions and is waiting for his two principal opponents to come and do something about

Social Credit candidate Howie McDiarmid is one who did something about it - he abandoned his original plan to retire from politics after six years as MLA for Alberni and

is going after Wallace with a vengeance.

McDiarmid doesn't mind admitting that the primary reason he is running this time, and the reason that former South Peace River Socred MLA Don Phillips has re-entered the political arena, is because Wallace and South Peace MLA Don Marshall both quit the Socreds to join the Tories.

McDiarmid calls Wallace a "Trojan horse", ("he was elected under false colors,") and says, "I want to see him get his come-uppance."

The Socred's somewhat unconventional newspaper advertising campaign has been strongly slanted against Wallace's performance in an attempt to galvanize the anti-Wallace vote and strengthen the basic Social Credit party

Liberal candidate Mel Couvelier is a slightly more conventional opponent of Wal-

Although he labels Wallace a "carpetbagger" for having By BRIAN BUTTERS **Times Staff**

deserted the party with which he was elected. Couvelier is more willing to fall back on the history of the riding as a Liberal bastion to justify his own predictions of personal

'If I can hold on to the hard-core Liberal vote in this riding, I'm a natural winner,"

Figures from past elections point out the strong Liberal support shown by Oak Bay

From Alan Macfarlane's 1963 and 1966 victories over Charles Ennals to Cox's 1968 byelection defeat of Peter Pollen, the Liberals' percentage of the vote rose from 42 to 54 to 60 per cent.

But Wallace's 1969 triumph threw tradition out the window and his highly individualistic actions since that time can only add to the confusion.

McDiarmid and Couvelier predicting first-place finishes for themselves, both

Convelier and McDiarmid anpear to have underestimated the widespread personal attraction throughout the riding

of Scott Wallace the man. Many of the people you speak to say Wallace is enough of an individual to make traditional party lines a secondary factor in this elec-

They say Oak Bay has for a long time been voting for the man rather than the party and that men like Alan Macfarlane, now a judge, and former mayor Cox would probably have been elected no matter which free enterprise party they stood for.

Wallace is compared favorably with these men and is given much credit for his willingness to speak out on the issues, regardless of the conseamences

are quick to point out, and

Wallace agrees, that Wallace is bound to lose a number of votes which went his way in 1969 because he was a Social Credit candidate "He couldn't have expected to take them all in a carpet bag across the floor with him," Couvelier says.

But two additional factors are expected to work as counter-balances to this possible loss of Wallace support.

One of them is the bloc of votes that is likely to fall into Wallace's lan because he is now a Progressive Conservative. The last Tory candidate in Oak Bay, lawyer Hugh Henderson in 1963, polled 17 per cent of the vote, by no means disgraceful in a fourcandidate race.

The other factor is the undetermined number of voters who did not support Wallace in the last election because he was a Socred.

Some people who say they used to vote Liberal and some people who say they would normally vote NDP admit a liking for Wallace's

way of doing things and will vote for him this time.

Wallace himself feels that his actions since the 1969 election are merely an embodiment of his "fundamental policy - to stand up and be counted.'

He feels there will be repercussions among the electorate but that these "will not be sufficient to defeat me.

Asked about the long-standing support for Liberal candidates in Oak Bay, Wallace said it is possible that there will be a return to past voting patterns, but added that he has encountered sufficient disenchantment with the federal Liberal party to keep him from losing too much sleep over Couvelier's candidacy.

McDiarmid says that he too has run into a general feeling of discontentment with the f e d e ral Liberal government and, like Wallace, is predicting a close three-way fight for the seat. The NDP candidate, 25-year-old UVic student Gordon Neuls, is not considered much of a factor

McDiarmid is confident that there are enough staunch Socred voters in the riding to carry him in.

Almost a side-issue in the race is the exuberance with which McDiarmid is cam-

paigning. His blunt newspaper ads and loud, festooned campaign trailer have raised more than one eyebrow in the quiet, resi-

"Sure, we may offend some of the staid Oak Bay people who think it's all hucksterism," he said. "But with me, what you see is what you

get." Couvelier bases his election hopes on the strength of a restructured Liberal party and his long and ardent personal

campaign in the riding. And so the battle is shaped. Wallace, whose supporters call him an individual and whose opponents call him a loner, leads the pack into the home stretch.

The betting says it will be close but it remains to be seen if a "Trojan horse" of a different color can win

Car Insurance Cost Swings Young Burnaby Voters

cialist takeover has sprung up among older voters here while the younger ones say they are more interested in the possibility of low-cost government car insurance.

The car insurance issue is causing the main erosion of Social Credit votes here, with young people who pay \$300 or \$400 for insurance switching from Bennett to the NDP oi the possibility that the rate may be as low as \$25 per year.

An older NDP party worker who described himself as one of the few genuine socialist left in the party, said he had converted several young Social Credit supporters on the car insurance issue.

"One young man said he

cause it would save him maybe a couple of hundred dollars a year," he said.

"That's not my idea of a very committed voter." He signed deeply. "It's a long way from the class

struggle. This is the area where fiery socialist Ernie Winch used to pile up huge majorities for the CCF but now it is changing from a working class area to the affluent home and apartment bedroom for Van-

Social Credit comes closer and closer every year as the nature of the riding changes and car insurance is the only thing giving the NDP MLAs a feeling of confidence.

In the 1969 election James

BURNABY - Fear of a so- was coming over to us be- Lorimer won Burnaby-Willingdon by 557 voes, Gordon Dowding held Burnaby-Edmonds by 952 and Eileen Dailly won Burnaby-North by 2,185 votes. In each case it was an NDP win over Social

> Says Lorimer: "It will be quite close but my canvassers tell me I will win again. If this riding falls, a lot of them will fall as well."

On Kingsway, in the centre of the Burnaby-Willingdon riding, young John Bowack works in a barber shop.

'I'm not a barber, I'm a

hair stylist," he says. "Election issues? the young people who come in here are really interested in the NDP plan for car insurance is changing a lot of

By AL FORREST Times Staff

"Why not? Some of them are paying hundreds of dollars for ear insurance. It's too much. Myself, I voted f or Bennett last time but not this

"I'm paying \$750 a year for insurance. I figure any party that can get it for me for \$25 can't be all bad."

Conversely, the car insurance plank has almost no interest for the older voter but the fear of socialism does. After Bennett made his

ringing declaration last Mon-

day night that the socialists

were at the gate and the NDP was in bed with the communists, many committed Social The interviews were conducted on Wednesday, two

Credit supporters were cau-

discussing election issues. Said one retired man: "The election? No comment. I'm undecided. Put me down as undecided, Issues? The socialists. Keep the socialists out, That's all. Otherwise, things

tions and even hostile about

An elderly woman said she was too upset to talk about the election.

When asked what the issues were she said: "Communism!"

She refused to elaborate and, like many of the elderly persons interviewed, said she was afraid to give her name.

days after Premier Bennett's speech on the socialist threat.

laugh off the premier's warn- security prison that takes up

Burnaby-Willingdon is long north-south riding to the right of Boundary Road which divides Vancouver and Burnaby. The northern section of the riding is opposite Vancouver-East and is NDP terri-

southern section borders on Vancouver-South and like that riding it leans to Social Credit.

Kingsway runs through the middle of the riding and it is the area with the highest number of new voters, moving to the high-rises which are going up around the developing business centre.

Both the NDP and Social-Credit canvassers claim to be out in front among these new voters. NDP candidate Lorimer says that even with a 50-50 sawoff he has enough

The only local issue is Oakalla, the provincial medium

200 acres in the centre of Burnaby.

Lorimer says the provincial government in 1960 promised to move it out of Burnabywithin 10 years and the deadline has come and gone.

He says Oakalla is hampering development in the core of the municipality which is nearing city status.

Former Burnaby alderman Dave Mercier (prounced mercy air), the Social Credit candidate, says some of Oakalla's 200 acres could be converted to park but there is no need to move it out of Burn-

Conservative Cal Davis, a 25-year-old ironworker, said he has heard a lot about the Socialist threat from voters in Burnaby but he counters it by saying that the NDP will win by default if Conservatives fail to get a large representation in the house.

He argues: "When Bennett

lapse. We need a viable free enterprise alternative or the NDP will win by default. Voters seem to be accepting this argument but I am a bit nervous. Everything is too quiet to suit me.' Meanwhile, the Liberal

retires, Social Credit will col-

campaign in this riding is literally coming unglued.

There are many signs urging support for Bernice McDonough, the Liberal candidate. But she isn't running. Due to ill health she had to step down and professional engineer Don Jamieson was

nominated. The name Don Jamieson was pasted over the McDonough signs but a rainstorm knocked some of the Jamiseson pastings off. In one area checked, there were more McDonough signs than Jamie-

All in all it is not a good sign for the Liberal campaign in Burnaby-Willingdon,

'Little Old Ladies' at Polls Keep Victoria Socreds Happy

Premier Bennett is fond of saying that in politics as in love, a little mystery is impor-

By that standard, one of his most faithful constituencies makes for an unexciting mistress.

The two-seat riding of Victoria is not only tedious in its solid Social Credit support. It is painfully obvious (to Socred opponents) why that allegiance exists. A city full of "little old ladies in tennis shoes" is an exaggerated description but a city with large numbers of elderly citizens and elderly voters - is no exaggeration at all.

* * * "Mr. Chant is such a nice man," says a Socred worker, explaining how the retiring public works minister went over so well in Victoria.

Nice Mr. Chant is 74 years old, Bennett's oldest MLA and a particularly old-fashioned sounding and looking gentleman, who was cabinet minister in Alberta way back during that dirty decade that the old folks remember so well. Chant's reward in the 1969 election was 15,899 votes. more than any other candidate in the province re-

By way of contrast, the other city-centre riding in the province, Vancouver Centre, returned hip Herb Capozzi, a Socred, albeit one of the seemingly more reluctant of their

numbers. Chant is leaving the riding to Waldo Skillings, no mean vote-getter (15,443) and a new running mate, a political nobody in the city, Newell Morrison. If this forced change in the Socred drawing card is a sign of trouble, there are very few reading it that way, Victoria is still thought of as one of the surest of the Socred ridings.

If for no other reason, this can be proved by the fact that the central Socred office is giving no money to Victoria from its reputedly corpulent

war chest. Victoria is the kind of riding that causes people to sigh and say that the government will be re-elected again in 1972, nist as it has for so many

But the yawning has to stop. when considering the attempt by the Liberal party to find a home for its leader, David. Anderson, in a riding that shows little inclination to upset its voting pattern.

By CLEMENT CHAPPLE Times Staff

Socred staff worker this week. He judged Anderson's

Undoubtedly, the elderly

But the power of the elderly voter may lie as much in his or her willingness to actually east that vote as in the numbers of the age group.

"Why didn't he take Esquisaid a perplexed chances to oust Herb Bruch as excellent in an area that has already approved Anderson at the polls in a federal

That question, if Anderson should lose, will linger on, as will the elderly people in Victoria riding who are one of the few really predictable voting blocks in B.C. politics.

Victorians respond in large numbers directly to Premier Bennett's cash incentives. The incentives are particularly enticing in this election. The bomewoner grant has gone from \$170 to \$235 for those over 65 years of age and Bennett has promised an increase in the old age pension supplement if he's re-elected. There are further goodies like the senior citizens' courtesy card and cut-rate fishing licences for

Canadian taxation statistics show that Victoria is indeed heavily populated with old folk. By last count, 32 per cent of the income tax forms from the city area reported superannuation, and 17.5 per cent reported receiving old age pension or supplementary pensions. The average figures. for the province were 13 and

the elderly.

. . . To the pensioner whose statincome is being eroded by inflation, the Bennett-designed dividends could mean the dilference between independence and welfare. For the elderly who have a little more to live so, life can be ensier.

Because the riding is a safe Socred area, Anderson's at-

tempt to establish a base eamp there makes it a pundit's delight. The fact that he chose Victoria dictates that the candidacy be taken seriously, but it doesn't make the formula for success any easier to develop.

Anderson is relying largely

ses the personal appeal be

created as a pollution-fighting

Member of Parliament,

the group most attracted to that image. In any case, he is far better known by the public than the Socred newcomer, Morrison, whose hope is to inherit the Socred seat by riding the Skillings cont-tails and while

the memory of Chant is fresh. Anderson has made no special attempt to run against either Morrison or Skillings, or anyone else, except Bennett. His strategy seems to be tobreak the pattern of voters who choose two candidates from the same party. It is a chance to get elected without topping the polls.

Working against that format, however, is the presence of the Progressive Conservative ticket. Both Saanich Ald. Edith Gunning and city Ald. Clyde Savage are names that have been around in print longer than Anderson's and they also will be attempting to fracture the Socred double

PC camp predict a better showing from Gunning than from Savage because of the former's work in social services that has often brought her in contact with the elderly a dimension in her camthat Anderson also lacks. Then there is the disconcerting to the Liberals and (PCs) fact that in the 1969 election, the New Democrats brought in 29 per cent of the vote, a portion which in the possession of the NDP is always considered a handcore" vote that is difficult to

(The Socrada won with 54. per cent of the vote, while Liberals got 17 per cent. No PC candidate was entered in

Still, NDP campaign or-

panisers admit their two can-

didates are swamped with all the big tames in the riding and will be happy to hold that 29 per cent. Kathleen Buff, 52, and David Hobson, 29, will if nothing else provide a good especiment of how elderly Victoria

So far the Victoria chingislett. lacks any compelling issues and is running merely on the name recomition factor plus this built-in appeal to old oce. So at another level, the carry paign that answeeds best in reaching the voter with per- nake. though the elderly may not be

reacts to youthful candidates.

sonal visits or pamphlets stands to make gains.

Door to door canvassing is difficult in Victoria riding because about half or more of the people live in apartment buildings. Although a provincial law authorizes political canvassers to do their work in apartments, none of the campaigns here are using the right to bull their way in.

It would hardly be worth it. says Socred manager Byron Barker. The Socred campaign began early in July, in the belief an election was coming Aug. 25 and many apartment dwellers were first reached by phone. Some of the riding's reus will have been hit a total of four times before voting day Aug. 30. This is by far the most intensive coverage. It is supplemented with garden parties, a favorite func-

tion for the elderly. The NDP claims to be completing a second full canvass before voting day, which makes that party's road work the second most intensive. The Liberals are relying on mail drops but have only completed one canvass. The PCs. late to organize, may cover 80 per cent of the riding

with person-to-person contact The punch line of the Socred campaign is a mailed out postcard that could be mistaken for a voter-registration card except for the party name on it.

"You have two votes," it

Skillings, Walds M.

says, "Your Social Credit can-

didates are Morrison, Newell

Vote for both of them. Barker says the card is to remind elderly people still resultined after the 1966 redgetribution, that in Victoria there are two, not three, votes, and that the bogulary

vitinges brought some voters into the riding from outside. What seems more likely is that the card is an attempt to fucht off the Anderson hid to barge through the double support Social Credit has been accustomed to in Victoria.

If he does barne through he may have venelord Social Credit in the middle, and he many open up new voting patterror, perhaps with the help of the new young vote and the 6.000 new registered voters in the riding. The elderly vote above little

sions of chancing. For one

thing, it doesn't always see

change at good for its each

are fine."

votes to hold the riding. Younger voters seemed to

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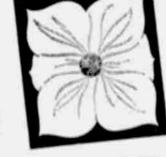
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