

Register

— 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

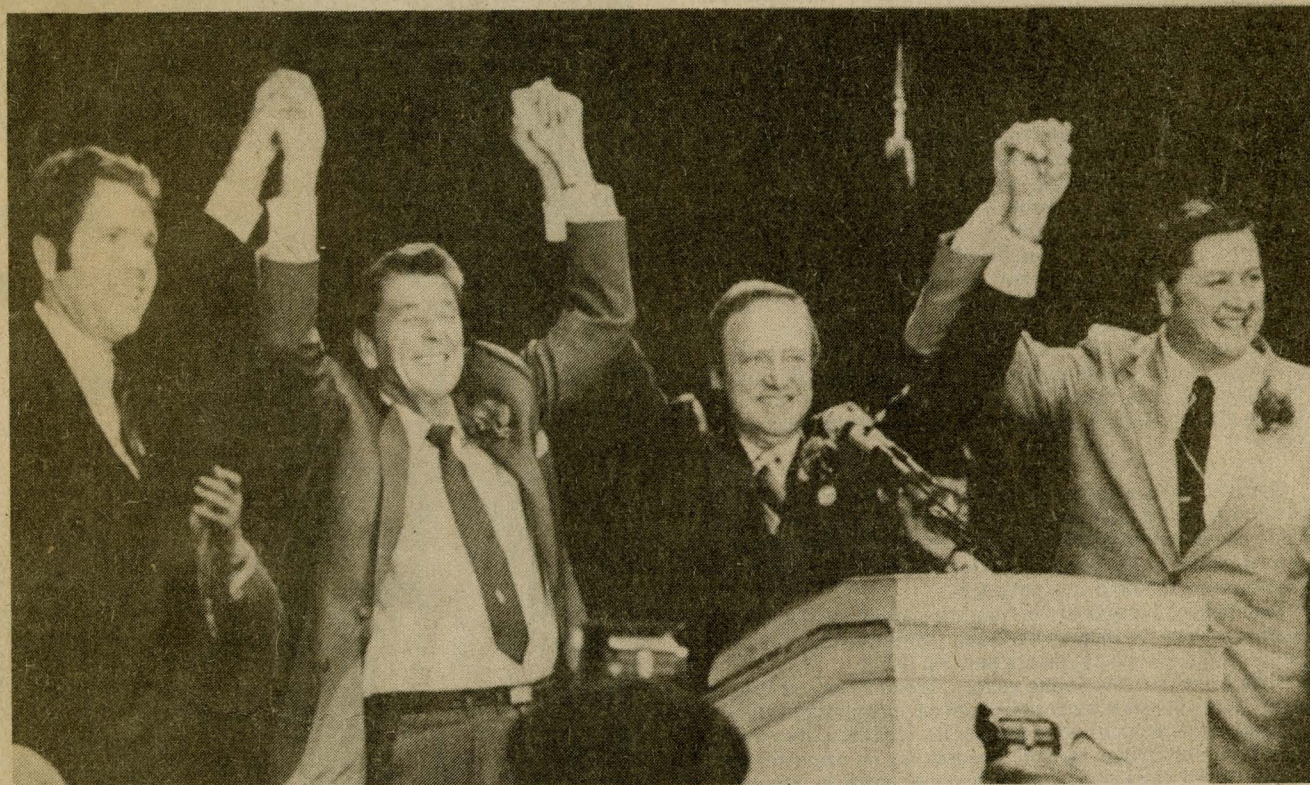
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Review of 1980

Section E

Republican banner year



Post-Register photo

Republican hurrahs

RONALD REAGAN's appearance in Idaho Falls Oct. 14 was the highlight of Idaho's heated political campaign in 1980. He delivered a major policy talk before some 5,000 cheering onlookers in Bonneville High School gymnasium. Raising

their linked hands in a victorious posture preceding the talk, from left, were Congressman Steve Symms, Reagan, Sen. James McClure and Congressman George Hansen.

Richard A. Egbert, Teton, dean of the legislature with 30 years service; and Rep. Wendell Miller, Idaho Falls.

The only Democrats remaining in the East Idaho delegation are Sen. Israel Merrill, Blackfoot, and Rep. Melvin Hammond, Rexburg, now the House minority leader.

Wine sales approved

Of local interest and deviating from the trend, a Bonneville wine proposal to permit retail sale of wine in grocery stores and other places handling packaged beer products, and wine by the drink in beer taverns, won by a 55 percent margin.

In this connection, Sheriff Blaine Skinner, who opposed the wine issue, was narrowly defeated for re-election by Democrat Richard Ackerman, one of the few Republican incumbents who lost.

Republicans also were heavy winners in most county races where there were contests, and in fact Merrill was the only Democrat to win a legislative contest in the nine East Idaho counties north of Bingham.

Aside from the highly interesting Bonneville wine proposal, other local proposals include defeat of liquor by the drink at Teton, loss of an addition for a Custer County law enforcement funding for jail facilities, but approval for a Jefferson County fire district and for an Island Park fire district funding.

The primary election was a rather dull affair in which Reagan and President Carter were easy winners and there were few primary local contest.

Congressman George Hansen again defeated Jim Jones, Jerome, for the Republican nomination for 2nd District congressman. Nearly all incumbents on the local level turned back challengers. An exception was the defeat of Jefferson County Sheriff Joe Potter by 2-1 margin by a former deputy, Garth Gunderson, who later won the general election.

In the only Bonneville County local contest, Commissioner Tom Loertscher defeated Delmar Anderson for the Republican nomination.