

# Eagle Lake Headlight

THE ONLY PAPER IN MANY HOMES, THE ONE PAPER IN MOST HOMES IN SOUTHEAST COLORADO COUNTY AND NORTHERN WHARTON COUNTY

FRED G. AND FRED R. FRN, Publishers

"NOTHING EXTENUATE, NOR SET DOWN AUBRY IN MALICE"

\$2.50 per year in County; \$3.00 per year out of county

VOLUME LI

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1955

NUMBER 40

## Biggest Rice Cage Tourney Opens At 11 A.M. Next Thurs.

26 Boys, 28 Girls Teams Compete Through Three Days, Jan. 13-14-15

Eagle Lake citizens are fast developing a first class case of basketball fever, what with the Fifth Annual Rice Basketball Tournament more than a week off.

More than 500 players and coaches are expected to be in the fact that this year there will be thirty-three teams, twenty boys and thirteen girls' teams competing. Thus nearly 500 players and coaches and a following of fans will invade Eagle Lake, beginning next Thursday, January 13, and through Friday and Saturday, January 14th and 15th. The finals on Saturday night will decide the winners of the first four events and as usual a check-full gymnasium of spectators are expected.

Supt. Deane Fletcher and Coaches Ben Cobb and Homer Dancer are getting things lined up so that this tournament will go off with the clock-like precision of past years. With games scheduled on an hourly basis there will be action from early morning until late at night.

Overnight housing accommodations are needed for a few teams on Thursday night and several others on Friday night. Persons who have extra rooms and would like to provide overnight quarters for visiting athletes are invited to contact Mr. Fletcher as soon as possible. This feature of the tournament has proven to be one of its most popular drawing cards, as the coaches and players have always expressed appreciation for the wonderful hospitality offered.

Because of the six additional teams in the tournament this year, there will be seven more exciting games than last year. The beginning of the tournament has been moved to 11:00 a.m. Thursday and the schedule set up on an hourly basis in order to culminate action Saturday night.

Nine games will be played on Thursday, fifteen on Friday and nine on Saturday.

Opening the cavalcade of exciting games will be a thriller between the East Bernard and Needville boys teams. At 12:00 noon next Thursday the Sugar Land and Rock Island girls tangle; at 1:00 p.m. the Rock Island and Thorndale boys meet; at 2:00 p.m. Pearland and Weimar boys tussle ending the first session of play.

At 5:00 p.m. Thursday, the second session gets underway without a break with the Schulenburg and Hallettsville boys tangle; at 6:00 p.m. Columbus and Schulenburg girls; at 7:00 p.m. Columbus and Spring Branch boys meet; at 8:00 p.m. Eagle Lake and Thorndale girls meet in an expected exciting contest; and the Eagle Lake and Milano boys wind up the first day of play at 9:00 p.m.

There will be three sessions on Friday, January 14th, beginning at 8:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. Friday's schedule will be:

- 8 a.m. winner of East Bernard-Needville vs Pearland-Weimar
- 9 a.m. Crosby and Louise Boys
- 10 a.m. Charlotte and Cypress-Fairbanks Boys
- 11 a.m. Milano vs Magnolia Girls
- 12 noon Klein vs Pettus Boys
- 1 p.m. Pettus vs Klein Girls
- 2 p.m. winner Spring B.-Columbus vs Schulenburg-Hal Boys
- 3 p.m. Deer Park vs Crosby girls
- 4 p.m. Deer P. vs Van Vleck B.
- 5 p.m. Charlotte vs winner Columbus-Schulenburg Girls
- 6 p.m. Winner R. Is.-Thorndale vs Cyp. F.-Charlotte Boys
- 7 p.m. Winner E.L.-Milano vs Klein-Pettus Boys
- 8 p.m. Winner Sugar L. - R. I. vs E.L.-Thorndale Girls
- 9 p.m. Winner Pettus-Klein vs Deer Park-Crosby Girls
- 10 p.m. Winner D.P.-Van Vleck vs Crosby-Louise Boys

Saturday's schedule will be:

- 8 a.m. Boys
- 9-10 a.m. Girls
- 10-20 a.m. Girls
- 11-50 a.m. Boys
- 12-40 p.m. Boys
- 5-30 p.m. Girls 3rd-4th place
- 6-40 p.m. Boys 3rd-4th place
- 7-50 p.m. Girls finals
- 9-00 p.m. Boys finals

(Continued on last page)

## CSCD Cooperators Doing Something About Weather, Annual Report Shows

The old saying that weather is something everyone talks about but nobody does anything about, was not quite true in the Colorado Soil Conservation District during 1954, according to Arthur Koehn, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Koehn in his Progress Report of the local district stated that as a result of the drought more requests for technical and financial assistance in digging tanks were received this year than ever before. "Out of 162 tank requests received, 96 were actually dug which indicates Colorado County landowners tried to do something about the weather by getting more places to store water should it ever rain again. 1953 was a dry year, too, and feed supplies short, so consequently over 1000 acres of land in 1954 was fertilized in accordance with a soil analysis, and seeded to permanent pasture with such grasses as, KR Bluestem, Bermuda grass and common Lespedeza, Buffel, Angleton, Medio, and Indian grass. These pasture seedings were severely handicapped by the drought, and only where supplemental irrigation was used or where Hubam Clover preceded the planting did they survive," said Mr. Koehn.

In the sixth annual report of the CSCD directors, it was pointed out there were 12 regular and 7 special meetings, and all five supervisors attended the State Conference.

(Continued on last page)

## CROP DRIVE GOES OVER GOAL OF CAR LOAD OF RICE

The 1954 C.R.O.P. (Christian Rural Overseas Program) Drive in the Eagle Lake and Lissie communities went over the goal of a carload of rice, it was announced this week as the drive was concluded.

A total of \$2604.60 in cash and 75 barrels of rice estimated in value at \$500, totaled a collection of \$3104.60 in the goal of \$3000. The Eagle Lake Ministerial Alliance sponsors of the drive expressed appreciation for the cooperation of everyone, especially to the drive's co-chairmen, G. C. Duncan and Joe S. Reed, Jr., and the treasurer, W. E. Lenhart for assistance in bringing the campaign for a carload of rice for needy Korean families to a successful conclusion.

In the event anyone would like to make a further donation, the contribution may be mailed to Mr. Lenhart, however, officially the drive has now ended.

## NICKNAMES NOTABLE AMONG JUDGE "BILL" RUTTA'S FAMILY

Colorado County's new executive head, Judge Bill Rutta who took office this week, at 32 may be not be the youngest man in Texas holding that job but he doubtless can be counted among the youngest.

However, it is definite that he comes from a family in which initials have little or no bearing upon the names by which members are known.

Take Judge Rutta himself. He has expressed a desire to be known as Bill, the name by which members of his family and his friends know him. But his initials "J. M." stand for James Milton.

He has a brother whose first name so far as many close friends know, is Fritz. His initials are A. L. and mean Alfred Lee. Rutta is the name by which Dominic H. is known.

But this tendency doesn't stop there. Judge and Mrs. Rutta are the proud parents of an infant son whose birth certificate says his name is James Allan Rutta. Actually it is "Sam". Judge explains the Sam is for Sam K. Seymour III, his room mate while they were in the University of Texas together and his good friend.

Judge Rutta entered the University of Texas for pre-law studies in January, 1941, but discontinued his studies to enlist in

## Benson Sets Rice Referendum On Rice Quotas Jan 28

Washington — Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson has ordered a referendum among rice producers on January 28th to determine whether marketing quotas shall be established for the 1955 crop.

Benson set a national rice allotment of 1,859,099 acres, 24.7 per cent less than the estimated 1954 planting of 2,467,000 acres and 11 per cent below the five-year average plantings.

Distribution of the acreage to producers in Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas will be announced soon.

Two-thirds of the producers voting in the referendum must approve the quotas before they can be put into effect.

If this approval is given, price support will be available to eligible rice growers at a level between 82.5 and 90 per cent of parity, depending on the level of supply at the time price supports are determined.

## CITY, SCHOOL TAXES BECOME DELINQUENT 31st

Eagle Lake citizens have the reminder of this month, January, in which to pay city and school taxes before they become delinquent.

On February 1st, all unpaid 1954 taxes become delinquent and penalty and interest will be added.

Tax collections by both city and school units have been good, but a rush of last-minute payments is expected at both collecting offices.

## First '55 Baby Here Misses New Year Birthday By 3 Hr. 50 Min.

Eagle Lake's first 1955 baby missed having a New Year Birthday by three hours and fifty minutes according to birth records at the Laughlin Hospital.

At 3:50 a.m. January 2nd, a son was born to Irene and Jack Axtel, colored residents of the Altair area. The new arrival weighed 7 pounds and 8 1/2 ounces and was given the name, Finnest Andrew.

## Market, Transportation, Water, Sites Key Industrial Drawing Cards In E.L.

The market, transportation, water supply and availability of industrial sites are listed as four prime advantages of the Eagle Lake community as a site for future industry in the Industrial Inventory just completed by the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Engineering Experiment Station at Texas A. and M. College.

The full 47-page inventory or industrial survey was returned here in its complete form this week and the Chamber of Commerce has copies for future distribution to business firms and manufacturing firms.

The industrial inventory deals with this community in ten chapters, namely, introduction; description of the city in general; business developments; financial and fiscal conditions; population and labor supply; buildings and sites; utilities; transportation and communication; raw materials and the market afforded in this area.

In summing up the survey, the

## Mrs. Becker Out On Bond In Baby Murder Charge

Mrs. Irene Marlene Becker, 22, who was charged with murder after a dead baby was found in the tank of a rest room commode at Eagle Lake last week, has been released from the hospital at Eagle Lake and has gone to the home of her parents in Lavaca county.

A \$5000 bond, fixed by Justice of the Peace Max Conner after an inquest hearing last week, was signed by about a dozen Lavaca county citizens, according to Chief Deputy Sheriff M. H. Buller.

The husband, Merrill Becker, 32, still was in jail at Columbus, where he also is held under \$5000 bond. No report had been received from a state pathologist at Austin, where the body was sent for examination, according to Mr. Buller.

## COMM. COURT TO DISCUSS PAY RAISES WED.

Colorado County Commissioners Court will meet in regular session next Wednesday, January 12th at 10:00 a.m. to consider making increases in the salaries of elected county officials.

Salaries of the following officers will be up for discussion: County Judge, County Commissioner, County clerk, County tax Assessor-Collector, County Sheriff, County Attorney, County Treasurer, District Clerk.

County officials appeared before the Court in December asking for increases in salary up to or near the limit as prescribed by law, however action was delayed until notice of the intention to increase salaries could be published for three weeks as required by law.

## Rice By-Products Converted Into Many Useful Items

Eagle Lake Rotarians left their meeting Wednesday convinced that the use of rice by-products is destined to become a bigger and bigger business following demonstration by L. C. Lemcke, president of the Texas Rice Oil Corporation of Houston.

Mr. Lemcke, who is a combined chemist and scientist, made amazing revelations on the many useful and valuable products now being made under experimentation by his firm from the by-products of rice, discarded for many years as worthless products.

Mr. Lemcke spoke of rice as "the magic crop of the century" and predicted ultimate higher demands for rice and by-products on a world-wide scale.

The first of the by-products to be discarded in preparing the rice from the way it harvested to the tender white kernels seen in the grocery store, are the hulls which are removed. Because of the enormous storage problem due to size of the hulls these have been discarded at a pace equivalent to production of mills. Among uses predicted for the ground hulls by Mr. Lemcke were: insulation for refrigerators, and when burned at high temperatures after soaking in water, produce 98 percent pure silica, which is highly demanded by the fiber glass industry, one of the up and coming modern industries.

## Portrait Calendar Photo Proofs To Be Shown Wednesday

Due to a mix-up in scheduling, proofs of the photos for the portrait calendars will not be shown at the Headlight office until Wednesday, January 12th, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The representatives of Wolz studio arrived today with proofs for Hallettsville patrons instead of Eagle Lake proofs.

Your co-operation will be appreciated.

## Fire Tuesday Afternoon

Members of the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department answered a call Tuesday afternoon to New Town where an apartment house owned by Boots Turners, colored, was burning. The house, in two apartments occupied by Buster Brown and Anna Lee Benson was burning on the Benson side. Since there were no occupants at the time the fire started origin is not known. The fire was controlled quickly restricting damage to the one apartment, although contents of both apartments were removed by firemen until the flames were extinguished.

Next by-product in the milling process is the bran, which is high in oil content but storage of which poses a problem due to the spoilage. Mr. Lemcke's firm extracts approximately 18 percent in volume of oil from the bran. Once the oil is extracted, the bran then makes ideal feed substance.

Next in the polishing process, by-products obtained are the highest in material value and food supplement, containing much of the germ of the kernel.

From the oil Mr. Lemcke displayed products made by his firm but still under experimentation, including a butterized pop corn oil, which incidentally his firm has a standing order for six carloads of; rust inhibitor watch lubricant; rust inhibitor in a spray container; wax of very high value; and tangonaise, a poppy flavored salad dressing prepared with rice oil.

He said the rice oil is some of the finest available for cooking.

(Continued on last page)

## Comm. Court Holds First Session Of Year

Commissioners court met a few minutes after 10 a.m. Monday, organized for the new year and approved bonds of three officials who were taking office for the first time. County Judge Bill Rutta, Commissioner Albert Hahn and County Auditor Lee Briscoe.

Bonds of remaining county officials are to be approved at the regular term next Monday. All officials, including those re-elected, are required to post new bonds at the beginning of a new term.

However, under the law past officials holdover under their old bonds until the new ones are approved.

The court also had expected to open bids on a new precinct barn which Commissioner Hahn expects to erect on land being acquired by the county at Rock Island. However, it was found advertisement for bids had not appeared for a sufficient length of time. The bids will be opened Monday.

## MOD Containers Out, Drive Plans Tonight

The test tube containers for your March of Dimes contributions were distributed this week, and your contributions to this worthy cause will be appreciated, said S. L. Guthrie, chairman of the local Lions Club MOD committee.

Funds are urgently needed by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis for its continual battle against polio, and to continue the treatment and care of afflicted.

Eagle Lake Lions Club members will map plans for an active campaign at their meeting tonight. Meanwhile you are urged to give often and give generously in the March of Dimes containers distributed about the city.

## Portrait Calendar Photo Proofs To Be Shown Wednesday

Due to a mix-up in scheduling, proofs of the photos for the portrait calendars will not be shown at the Headlight office until Wednesday, January 12th, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The representatives of Wolz studio arrived today with proofs for Hallettsville patrons instead of Eagle Lake proofs.

Your co-operation will be appreciated.

## Fire Tuesday Afternoon

Members of the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department answered a call Tuesday afternoon to New Town where an apartment house owned by Boots Turners, colored, was burning. The house, in two apartments occupied by Buster Brown and Anna Lee Benson was burning on the Benson side. Since there were no occupants at the time the fire started origin is not known. The fire was controlled quickly restricting damage to the one apartment, although contents of both apartments were removed by firemen until the flames were extinguished.

## Market, Transportation, Water, Sites Key Industrial Drawing Cards In E.L.

The market, transportation, water supply and availability of industrial sites are listed as four prime advantages of the Eagle Lake community as a site for future industry in the Industrial Inventory just completed by the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Engineering Experiment Station at Texas A. and M. College.

The full 47-page inventory or industrial survey was returned here in its complete form this week and the Chamber of Commerce has copies for future distribution to business firms and manufacturing firms.

The industrial inventory deals with this community in ten chapters, namely, introduction; description of the city in general; business developments; financial and fiscal conditions; population and labor supply; buildings and sites; utilities; transportation and communication; raw materials and the market afforded in this area.

In summing up the survey, the

## G. E. THOMAS, SR. PASSES AWAY TUES. NITE; SERVICES FRIDAY AM.

### Memorial Fund Started For G. E. Thomas, Sr.

Members of the family of the late Griff E. Thomas, Sr., have requested the Headlight to announce that a "G. E. Thomas, Sr. Memorial Fund" has been started at the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Lissie.

All friends interested in adding to the fund rather than in sending flowers, are invited to send their memorials to the G. E. Thomas, Sr. Memorial Fund, Lissie Church, Lissie, Texas.

### Earl Rodgers, Jr. Elected President Eagle Lake C of C.

The Board of Directors of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce met Monday night and elected Earl Rodgers, Jr., new president for 1955. Also elected were: John Clippson, vice-president; Dan Thornton, treasurer.

With four new incoming directors, Dr. J. C. Laughlin, R. L. Clippson, G. H. Crane and Otis Pounsey, other directors include: L. S. Tate, W. C. Alley, J. R. Thomas and Lloyd Spalinger.

Retiring from the Board this year were: R. B. Powell, Mose Thomas, Edgar Baring and H. C. Johnson.

Mr. Rodgers will officially succeed retiring president, Lloyd Spalinger at the annual banquet meeting January 25th.

### Services Today For Year-Old Charlie Birdwell

Funeral services for Charlie Birdwell, 16-month-old infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Birdwell, will be held this afternoon, Thursday, at 2:30 o'clock at the Mill-Bauer Funeral Home with the Rev. Joe Anderson of the Evangelical United Brethren Church of Lissie officiating. Interment will be at Lakeside Cemetery.

Baby Birdwell passed away yesterday, January 5th, at 9:48 a.m. at Laughlin Hospital following a choking spell of very brief length.

He was born August 29th, 1953 in Laughlin Hospital in Eagle Lake and was the youngest of six children for the Birdwells who reside between Eagle Lake and Ramsey.

Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Birdwell; four brothers, Harvey Jr., Roy, Richard and Johnny; and one sister, Carol Ann; and grandfathers, E. C. Birdwell and Will Kessler.

### Supt. Deane Fletcher Listed In Who's Who Of Amer. Education

Eagle Lake School Superintendent, Deane D. Fletcher is listed in the 1953-54 volume of the "Who's Who in American Education," an illustrated biographical directory of eminent living educators of the United States and Canada.

Mr. Fletcher gained the distinction of being listed in the "Who's Who in American Education" after nineteen years as a teacher and school administrator.

The biography which accompanies a picture of Mr. Fletcher in the elaborate 1400-page edition, states that after teaching from 1936 to 1939 he served as superintendent of Pliska school 1939-42; high school principal of Canadian Schools 1942-45; superintendent of Canadian schools 1945-48; and superintendent of Sharyland schools from 1948-50. He has been serving here as superintendent since 1950.

### Spalinger Hardware Universal Supply Set 6 PM Closing on Saturday

The Spalinger Hardware and Universal Supply Company, local hardware dealers announce this week that the business firms will observe the following new store hours every Saturday. The two firms will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m. every Saturday.

Agriculture provides the base for the economy, and serves as well as a good source of raw materials, though other raw materials, notably petroleum products and

(Continued on last page)

Death came swiftly and suddenly to G. E. Thomas, Sr., one of this community's oldest and most beloved citizens. Mr. Thomas, (Grandpa Thomas) as he was known to everyone, died at 8:30 o'clock Tuesday evening, January 4th as he would have wished, without causing undue hardship and anxiety to his family and friends. He died of a heart attack while playing cards with his son at his home here and death was almost instantaneous. Had he lived until April 18th he would have reached the ripe age of 98 years. He was born Griffith Edward Thomas in Aberdeere South Wales on April 16, 1857.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 o'clock Friday morning, January 7th at the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Lissie, Texas. Interment will be in the Masonic Cemetery in Eagle Lake, with Mill-Bauer Funeral Home officiating. Until time for services, his body will lie in state at the funeral home.

Services were delayed until Friday morning in order that his grandson from Arizona might reach here, fulfilling one of his requests, before his death to have his grandsons as pallbearers.

Survivors include: four daughters, Mrs. M. E. Isenhower and Mrs. G. B. Herfin of Lissie; Mrs. E. B. Powers of Temple; and Mrs. Glen Sunderman of Eagle Lake; five sons, Armit of Lissie; and Dave, Moses, Griff, Jr., and W. M. Thomas, Sr., all of Eagle Lake, and a host of other relatives.

Eye to the full life enjoyed by Mr. Thomas, a full obituary will be delayed until next week when the fullness and beauty of the life of this patriarch of the Eagle Lake and Lissie communities will be described in full.

The banquet occupied most of the discussion during the regular directors meeting as plans were nearly completed for the event. A speaker has not been definitely obtained although several outstanding guest speakers have been contacted.

Tickets to the event will be mailed by the Chamber of Commerce secretary, Miss Martha Pidgeon as soon as final arrangements have been completed.

### CUB SCOUTS TO CONTINUE MITTEN DRIVE THRU JAN.

Members of the Eagle Lake Cub Scouts and their Den Mothers decided Monday to continue their "Good Will" mitten and sock drive through the month of January.

This decision was reached when a tally of mitten and sock contributions was made and the Cubs felt that they would be able to send even more to the children of Korea if the drive was continued.

During this month the Cubs plan to make a house-to-house contact and have asked that it be made clear that mittens and socks do not have to be new. Out-grown items will be appreciated, however, they request that contribution be wearable; that is, without holes.

### Portrait Calendar Photo Proofs To Be Shown Wednesday

Due to a mix-up in scheduling, proofs of the photos for the portrait calendars will not be shown at the Headlight office until Wednesday, January 12th, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The representatives of Wolz studio arrived today with proofs for Hallettsville patrons instead of Eagle Lake proofs.

Your co-operation will be appreciated.

### Fire Tuesday Afternoon

Members of the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department answered a call Tuesday afternoon to New Town where an apartment house owned by Boots Turners, colored, was burning. The house, in two apartments occupied by Buster Brown and Anna Lee Benson was burning on the Benson side. Since there were no occupants at the time the fire started origin is not known. The fire was controlled quickly restricting damage to the one apartment, although contents of both apartments were removed by firemen until the flames were extinguished.

### Market, Transportation, Water, Sites Key Industrial Drawing Cards In E.L.

The market, transportation, water supply and availability of industrial sites are listed as four prime advantages of the Eagle Lake community as a site for future industry in the Industrial Inventory just completed by the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Engineering Experiment Station at Texas A. and M. College.

The full 47-page inventory or industrial survey was returned here in its complete form this week and the Chamber of Commerce has copies for future distribution to business firms and manufacturing firms.

The industrial inventory deals with this community in ten chapters, namely, introduction; description of the city in general; business developments; financial and fiscal conditions; population and labor supply; buildings and sites; utilities; transportation and communication; raw materials and the market afforded in this area.

In summing up the survey, the