

Eagle Lake Headlight

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\$4.00 PER YEAR IN COLORADO AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES - \$4.50 IN ALL OTHERS

VOLUME LXVIII

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434 THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1972

NUMBER 42

38 H.P. Lots Sell For \$2214.14

Sold For Taxes; City Buys 32 For \$1579.14

Thirty-eight lots in the Highland Park Addition of Eagle Lake sold for a total of \$2,214.14 at an average of just over \$58 each in a Sheriff's sale held Tuesday at the County Courthouse for back taxes due on the properties.

The City of Eagle Lake was the major purchaser at the auction sale purchasing 32 of the 38 lots for a total of \$1579.14. City Manager T. J. Smith was on hand to make the bids for the city of Eagle Lake. The lots purchased by the city brought from \$47.07 to \$52 or an average of \$49.35.

All of the lots are located in the area which now comprises the city's municipal airport on the eastern edge of the city.

Other successful bidders in the sale conducted by Sheriff George (Doc) Mueller were Ralph Payne who purchased Lot 10 in Block 37 for \$105.00; Louis Schott who purchased Lot 2 in Block 40 for \$70; Craig Schilling who purchased Lots 15 and 16 in Block 51 for \$150 each; Raymond Lee Kohleffel who purchased Lot 19 in Block 36 for \$60; and A. D. Cassidy who purchased Lot 28 in Block 59 for \$100.

Under terms of the sheriff's sale the successful bidders received a sheriff's deed. The original owners of the lots may reclaim the lots within one year from the date the deeds are filed for the amount of the judgment plus 25% of the judgment and \$1.00. Within the second year, the original owners may claim the properties by paying the judgment, plus an additional 50% and \$1.00. After two years purchasers will receive clear title to the properties.

Tickets On Sale For Jan. 17 C.C. Banquet

Tickets went on sale this week for the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet meeting which will be held in the Eagle Lake Community Center at 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 17th. Directors of the chamber met Monday in a special meeting to complete plans for the event. The directors will be contacting members for the purchase of tickets or they may be purchased from the chamber office or the First National Bank not later than Thurs., Jan. 13th. The banquet tickets are priced the same this year as last, \$3.50 per person.

Mrs. George Andel will cater the baked ham dinner. Mrs. R. L. Lange, Mrs. O. L. Mill and Mrs. L. W. Shiles, Jr., were named by retiring president Dan Thornton to complete the menu. Mrs. O. L. Mill will be chairman of the decorations committee.

Alec Chesser, vice president of the Houston Natural Gas Corporation and a former Humble football network broadcaster, will be the guest speaker for the banquet. Mr. Chesser has had wide experience as a former radio broadcaster with stations in Ohio and Texas. He began broadcasting football games for Humble in 1944 as the late Kern Tippis' regular partner from 1946 to 1966 and participated in 270 broadcasts over 24 seasons prior to retirement from sportscasting in the fall of 1967.

He also serves as a member of the Executive Board for Sam Houston Area Council and is Director for the Houston Housing Development Corp., and chairman of the civic affairs committee of the Houston Chamber of Commerce. "We feel fortunate in having obtained a speaker of the caliber of Mr. Chesser for our annual banquet meeting," said

242 Cases Handled In District Court Carryover Cut From 120 to 88

The 25th Judicial District Court in Colorado County had another busy year in 1971 handling a total of 330 cases and completing the year with 32 less cases on the docket than at the close of 1970. The courts started the 1971 year with 120 pending cases including 13 for personal injury claims, 5 workman's compensation, 30 divorces, 7 tax suits, 35 other civil cases, and 30 criminal cases. New cases filed during the year totaled 207 including 9 for personal injury, 4 for workman's compensation, 45 for divorce, one neglected child suit, 53 other civil suits and 95 criminal cases.

Three cases, one workman's comp, one civil and one criminal were reinstated during the year.

Included among the 242 cases disposed of during the year were: 14 for personal injury, 7 for workman's compensation, 58 divorces, one neglected child case, one tax suit, 56 other civil actions and 105 criminal cases.

Of the 137 civil cases handled during the year, two were transferred to another county on a change of venue, 28 were dismissed, five entered plaintiff's non-suit, 3 were default judgments, 5 final judgments by agreement, one summary judgment, 88 final judgments were entered, three final judgments on jury verdicts, and five others were removed from the docket for various reasons.

Of the 105 criminal cases handled during the year, two were transferred to county court on reduction of charge, 47 were dismissed, 55 entered pleas of guilty, one was not guilty on trial by judge alone.

Colorado Truck Dealer For Mobile Homes

Colorado Truck and Tractor Co. of Eagle Lake became the local dealer for the Valiant line of mobile homes this week, announces Bob Walker, manager of the firm.

The local dealer has on display a number of attractive mobile homes at prices to meet every budget, said Mr. Walker. He extended an invitation to interested persons to come by to see the units on display at the firm's location at 908 East Main.

H&R Block Office Opens Here Mon.

Emily Stiles announces this week that the H&R Block Co. tax office will open at 115 East Main Street in Eagle Lake next Monday and will remain open week-days through the tax season.

Mrs. Stiles and Mrs. Carolyn Hooprim have both completed tax schools and will be in the office to serve you from 9 to 4 on weekdays. They extend sincere thanks to all for their kindnesses and patronage during the last tax season.

Mr. Thornton, chairman of the event. Other entertainment is being planned for the banquet which is expected to draw a capacity crowd as usual.

Thrifty Discount Pharmacy To Open Here Mon

Another new business will open in Eagle Lake next Monday when Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Wilson open their Thrifty Discount Pharmacy in the building between the First National Bank and the Strickland Insurance Agency office at 208 East Main Street.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Wilson - she is the former Miss Brenda Wright of Eagle Lake - are Registered Pharmacists and are graduates of the University of Houston School of Pharmacy.

They came to this community from Houston. Mr. Wilson has completed several years of duty with the Armed Forces in Vietnam.

They became the proud parents of a baby boy on Dec. 22, 1971, in the Memorial Baptist Hospital in Houston. He weighed eight pounds and four ounces at birth and has been named Steve.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Terry Wright of Eagle Lake and Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Wilson of Houston.

The new pharmacy will officially open its doors on Monday and one and all are invited to come by for a visit. Watch next week's Headlight for further information on formal opening of the new store.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have purchased the new home recently constructed by Alamo Lumber Co. on Waverly Street and are now residing in their new home.

Citizens join in extending a hearty welcome to the Wilsons to the community and send best wishes on the opening of their new store.

The new pharmacy will handle a full line of drugs and prescription service at discount prices, said the Wilsons.

Weimar Man Killed In New Years Eve Crash

Joe Frank Neiser, 62 year old barber from Weimar was the victim of a two car traffic accident one and one-half miles east of Schulenburg on Highway 60 at 10:40 p.m. New Year's Eve, Dec. 31st.

Mr. Neiser was declared dead at the scene of the two car head-on accident. He was driving a 1967 Chevrolet in a westerly direction when the car was in collision with a 1965 Ford Falcon driven east by Guido Meyer, 61, of near Schulenburg, reported Patrolman Dale Wyatt of Schulenburg, the investigating officer.

Meyer and Mrs. Minnie Ulrich, 60, a passenger in the Neiser car were reported in fair condition in the Youens' Hospital in Weimar.

Tax Officer To Be Here Mon., Tues., Wed.

Colorado County Tax Assessor and Collector Henry J. Hájovsky and his deputies will be at the council room of the Municipal Building in Eagle Lake from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Jan. 10, 11, and 12, to collect 1971 taxes and to register voters for the 1972 voting year.

Taxes are payable during January at net figures. If not paid by Jan. 31st, penalty and interest will be added and in addition a \$1.00 per tax receipt will be charged, as required under a new Texas law this year.

The tax group will be at the Sheridan school this Thurs., Jan. 6th from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and at the Rock Island Community Center from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on the same date. Friday, Jan. 7th the tax group will be at the H&R Grocery in Bernardo from 8:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The tax officer will be at Hopkins office in Garwood from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Thurs., Jan. 13; at Mays Store in Oakland Fri., Jan. 14; at the Schoellman Grocery in Nada from

8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Mon., Jan. 17th; at Richter's Place in Lone Oak the morning of Jan. 18th; at Heinselm Store in Frelsburg the afternoon of Jan. 18th; and will close the tour with a visit to the Altair Rice Dryer office in Altair, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Wed., Jan. 19th.

2 Wrecks Almost Simultaneous



Highway Patrolman Alton Adcock was the officer on duty in this area last Thursday and he was called to investigate two accidents which happened at about the same time but in opposite directions from Eagle Lake. The top photo shows the auto of Mrs. Jessie Obenhaus of Ramsey which was involved in a two-car crash on FM 102 northwest of Eagle Lake. The bottom photo shows the large gravel truck and trailer which was struck by a Santa Fe freight train on a detour road leading to FM 102 south of Eagle Lake. See stories below for more details.

Mrs. Obenhaus Hospitalized Car Hits Bridge

A two-car collision on FM 102 three miles west of Eagle Lake resulted in heavy damage to two vehicles and one person was hospitalized.

Mrs. Jessie Obenhaus of Ramsey was rushed to the Eagle Lake Community Hospital after her car smashed into a concrete bridge culvert late Thursday afternoon. Mrs. Obenhaus was en route to her home at Ramsey when her car apparently went out of control on a section of the FM Road which is under repair and the right front wheel hit the concrete bridge culvert. The impact knocked the vehicle into the path of a Station Wagon being driven east on FM 102 by John Rice of this city.

The Obenhaus car hit the left front of the Rice station wagon and then turned over on its side on the road and then somehow righted itself and came to rest on the wheels.

Mrs. Obenhaus received severe bruises on face and has hip and leg injuries and is confined to the hospital, but is doing nicely.

Mr. Rice and a passenger in his car escaped injury. The Obenhaus car was nearly totally demolished and there was heavy damage to the Rice station wagon.

Bank Deposits Up \$720,913 At End of '71

The First National Bank of Eagle Lake reported a gain in deposits for the period ending December 30th, 1971 of nearly three-quarters of a million dollars.

The report for the end of 1971 listed deposits at \$11,533,302.24 or \$720,913.82 above the deposits at the end of 1970, \$10,812,388.42.

The report cited total assets on Dec. 31, 1971 at \$13,306,999.13 as compared to assets of \$12,612,377.55 on Dec. 31, 1970.

The current report shows loans at \$6,040,797.06 as compared with loans of \$5,655,576.37 a year ago.

Train-Truck Collision At Matthews

One person was injured and heavy damage was reported in a truck and train engine collision on a detour route on FM 102 south of Eagle Lake last Thursday afternoon.

A 1971 Diamond-Reo truck and trailer was driven on the gravel road being used as a detour route while work was being done on a railroad crossing on 102 just south of the Silver Creek Halchery. The truck, owned by Bice Equipment Co. and driven by Mike Gonzales of Eagle Lake was en route to the Gifford-Hill Gravel plant and had almost cleared the crossing when the truck was hit on the left rear side by a Santa Fe train engine pulling several cars toward Eagle Lake.

The impact knocked the left rear wheel several hundred feet down the track and rolled the empty trailer over on its right side.

The accident blocked temporarily the temporary detour route and motorists were rerouted to the next gravel road intersecting 102 at Matthews.

Considerable damage resulted to the front of the engine and Mr. Bice estimated damage to his truck at around \$2000.00.

Gonzales was reported to have received a back injury in the collision.

FIRE DAMAGES ALTAIR RICE DRYER MON. NIGHT

Quick Action By Area Firemen Limits Damage

Another near tragedy was narrowly averted at the Altair Rice Dryer, Inc. on Highway 90A near Altair Monday night when a fire erupted in the elevator head house of a rice storage section of the dryer facilities. In 1960, the Altair Dryer was completely destroyed by fire.

The alertness of a motorist on Highway 90A and the quick response of the Eagle Lake volunteer firemen and firemen from seven other departments in the area, was attributed with holding damage to a minimum.

First to see the blaze coming out of the top of the over one hundred foot high elevator head house was Luther (Slim) Barrett of Columbus, a gravel pit worker who was traveling on the highway with two other men. Barrett stopped to report the fire to Ernest Uzell, manager and one of the owners of the dryer at around 11:00 p.m. Mr. Uzell immediately called for the assistance of the Eagle Lake Fire Department and Chief of Police L. J. Spaniel summoned assistance of other departments en route to Altair.

The firemen from 8 cities Answer Call

Units from El Campo, Columbus, Garwood, Rock Island, Sheridan, Hallettsville and Wharton responded and over twenty pieces of equipment were at the scene to actually pump water, to make the trip to the nearby Rice High School for additional water, or were on a standby basis.

The firemen managed to get

water hoses to the top of nearby concrete bins and the El Campo department brought a extension ladder that was used to get water to the source of the fire in the headhouse.

Chief Spaniel said that the assistance of other units from neighboring towns and the availability of water from the Rice High School and from tank trucks from El Campo and Rock Island contributed to the fact that the firemen were able to control the fire in the area in which it started.

The section of the dryer where the fire started is referred to as Farmers Storage No. 1 and many of the concrete stave tanks are the property of farmers. Mr. Uzell said that the section is the only part of the present dryer that has any wood in it.

The brisk cold north wind fanned the blaze and if it had not been contained in the head house, could have easily leaped to nearby wooden sections and caused heavy damage.

Mr. Uzell said that some 30,000 barrels of rice are in the bins in that particular area, but no rice was in the bins nearest to the elevator head house, hence there was no damage to the rice neither from the fire or from water.

An estimate of the damage to the elevator head house which contained motors and equipment which controlled the flow of rice to the various storage bins in the area, was placed at from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

It was only mere speculation as to the cause of the fire. The dryer had been closed for the long holiday period and employees had returned to work only Monday. Motors in the head house had been used during the day and it is possible some accumulation of materials or a short in the systems might have caused the fire. Apparently there were no signs of any fire when the workmen secured the plant Monday evening.

Work was started immediately by the Coastal Contract-

ing Co. of Eagle Lake on repairing and rebuilding the elevator head house.

Eagle Lake firemen were called back to the scene at around 10:30 Tuesday morning when it was found that some smoldering continued in an area where firemen had been unable to reach with water. This was extinguished without any problem, said Chief Spaniel.

The firemen were at the scene in the cold bitter north wind for over three hours until the blaze was brought completely under control at around 1:00 a.m. Some units with crews remained on a standby basis as a precautionary measure until after 5 a.m. Tuesday.

Several Eagle Lake firemen including T. J. Smith and Mickey Kochweil and others, narrowly escaped injury when a large section of the outer metal from the building broke loose and sailed precariously over the heads of the firemen and continued in flight all the way across nearby Highway 90A.

Ladies of the Eagle Lake Firemen's Auxiliary were on hand to provide coffee and sandwiches to the firemen.

Owners of the dryer extend their sincere thanks to the firemen who responded and provided such expert service in controlling the fire and limiting the damage.

Damage Is Estimated \$20-\$30,000

2 Guns Stolen From Fireman's Truck Mon. Nite

We sometimes wonder how low some people can be? While Eagle Lake volunteer fireman Edwin Schuenemann was fighting the fire at the Altair Rice Dryer Monday night, someone stole two guns from his pickup parked near the fire and police station in Eagle Lake.

Schuenemann reported to Eagle Lake Chief of Police Roy Chisum Tuesday morning that a .30-30 caliber rifle and a 12 gauge pump shotgun were stolen from his pickup while he was at the Altair fire.

Year's Day, Jan. 1, 1972, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Romo of this city.

Dest weighed six pounds and twelve ounces and was 17 inches long at birth. Welcoming him are three brothers, David, Larry, and Daniel; maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cumpain Sr. of this city; and paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Romo, also of this city.

Romo Baby First Of Year

Little Desiderio Joseph Romo was the first baby born in the new year at Eagle Lake Community Hospital. He was born at 8:45 p.m. on New

23 CARS PILED UP IN RR DERAILMENT AT CHESTERVILLE

Twenty-three railroad cars loaded with sand and gravel en route to Houston on the Bellaire Branch railroad line of Southern Pacific Railroad Co. were demolished into a pile of scrap and rubble when they were derailed in an accident last Friday night a half mile from the Anderson facilities at Chesterville and six miles east of Eagle Lake.

The railroad cars were twisted into a pile of steel that plowed nearly to the edge of Farm to Market 1063. Damage to the rolling stock, the load, and to the track facilities was reported to be very heavy.

Workmen were still busy early this week attempting to get the railroad track repaired so that trains could begin rolling along the line to Houston once again.

Fortunately there were no injuries to crewmen of the train.

Railroad Workmen Clean Up Derailed Cars



Southern Pacific crewmen are shown untangling the huge pile of steel and sand and gravel at the site of the 23-car derailment on the Bellaire Branch, six miles southeast of

Eagle Lake, near the Prairie Rice Dryer at Chesterville. Steel bodies of the railroad cars carrying sand and gravel were twisted and torn as they had been made of paper.