

Eagle Lake Headlight

PHONE 234-2765 A.C. 713

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

VOLUME LXIX

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434 THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1973

NUMBER 48

9 GUNS STOLEN AT ALTAIR, 2 ARRESTED IN SMITHVILLE

Nine guns were stolen from two pickup trucks parked at the Western Club in Altair last Friday evening, Dec. 29th and all were recovered and two men were charged in just over an hour in a rapid order of events.

The county sheriff's office received a call at 9:45 p.m. from Herbert Blake of Eagle Lake and Jim Grantham of Pasadena reporting that their pickup trucks had been entered and guns stolen. Entry was made into the vehicles by prying open the vent glass.

A total of seven guns, including shotguns and deer rifles, were taken from Blake's truck and two rifles from the Grantham truck, reported the county sheriff's office.

A call was put out to officers in the area to be on the lookout for the guns and at 11 p.m. the department received a call from the Smithville city police department that two men had been apprehended and that they had guns answering the description of the ones stolen in Altair.

The arrest came about in a funny turn of events. Apparently the two subjects who stole the guns, stopped at the Che Patee on Highway 71 north of Columbus. One man went inside and ordered a drink to go and apparently the other tried his hand at burglarizing a pickup parked in front of the Che Patee. The owners of the pickup Eddie and Robert O'Neil of Pasadena and Houston came out of the Che Patee about that time and became suspicious of a man standing near the pickup. They went inside the tavern to talk to the owner and the man and his partner fled from the scene in a red 1971 Ford truck.

The O'Neils took chase in their truck and followed the men to Smithville where they lost the red truck in the residential area. About that time the O'Neils located a city officer who joined the case and soon had the red pickup stopped.

Sheriff George (Doc) Mueller sent a deputy to Smithville to bring the two men and the guns back to this county.

Meanwhile Blake and Grantham had checked on some serial numbers of their guns and they matched those taken from the red pickup.

Billy Ray Spicer of Pasadena and Jackie Ray Simpson of Houston, brothers in law, were charged in this county with breaking and entering a motor vehicle and were placed in county jail under bond, \$5000 on Spicer and \$3500 on Simpson. Both men have made bond and are out of jail pending action by the grand jury.

Of interest, but apparently of no connection, is the fact that Grantham, from Pasadena, had a passenger with him from Houston. The two men arrested were from Pasadena and Houston.

Another meeting of representatives of the three city municipalities, the county government and of the ambulance service operators will be held as soon as the committees come up with some findings, said Judge Cranek.

Resolve to read the Headlight regularly in 1973.

Tickets For C.C. Banquet On Sale

Tickets will go on sale next week to the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet to be held on Monday, January 29th in the Eagle Lake Community Center.

An outstanding program is being planned with Rolland Storey, a vice president with Houston Natural Gas booked as the principal speaker.

During the banquet, the 1973 officers will officially take office with Travis Wegenhoff, succeeding himself in the top spot of the local chamber.

Tickets to the event will be \$5.50 each and will be available at the chamber office in the Headlight Building or with all 1973 directors until January 25th.

Directors will be contacting members for tickets to the event in the next two weeks.

Mr. Storey is reported to be an outstanding speaker and his services are in wide demand not only in Texas but all over the United States and the local chamber feels fortunate in having obtained his services for the 1973 banquet.

Rice Students Return To Classes Mon.

All schools in the RCISD will resume classes on Monday morning, January 8th. The schools of the RCISD closed Friday, December 22nd for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Faculty members at Rice Schools will be holding workshops this Thurs. and Fri. The second semester of the 1972-1973 school year will begin when students return from their holidays on Monday, January 8th.

Committees Seek Answers To Ambulance Service

The beginning of the new year rolled around Monday and the ambulance service problem for this county appears to be one of the major problems to be solved by the city and county governments in the new year.

Ambulance service operators in this county, with the exception of the operator in Columbus, have indicated that effective January 1st they would discontinue service to the citizens of this county. The Hennecks Funeral Home in Columbus has indicated that it too would like to get out of the ambulance service business.

At the time of notifying the city and county officials that service would be terminated on January 1st the operators added that they would continue service as long as there was definite progress being made toward solution of the problem.

W. L. Bauer of Eagle Lake said that he would not leave the citizens here without service but indicated at several meetings and to the press that he wanted out of the business altogether and was not interested in a subsidy-type of program.

County Judge Lester J. Cranek said Tuesday that two committees are functioning in an effort to come up with some solutions. One of these is headed by Weimar Mayor Ted Braisher and is to determine the number of units that would be required for an efficient operation in this county. The other committee, headed by Eagle Lake Mayor Elmer Struss, is seeking to come up with some plan for financing the operation of the service.

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County Shows Economic Gains During Past 5 Years

Despite the fact that the American economy as a whole has not been operating in high gear in the last five years, Colorado County can point to solid progress in the period.

A comparison of reports on business activity, running from 1966 to the beginning of this year, especially at the retail level, bear this out. They show that the volume of business done by local merchants was considerably greater at the end of the five years than at the beginning. Part of this rise, of course, was due to higher prices.

The advance was made, however, while people in most parts of the country were pulling in their horns and were refusing to spend money except for their immediate

New Patrolman Bufford Ashley Now On Duty

Bufford S. Ashley, Jr., the new night patrolman for the City of Eagle Lake, began duties Monday night, and he and his wife are now occupants of the apartment in the fire station.

Mrs. Ashley is serving as the dispatcher for the fire and police departments in this city.

The new patrolman formerly was a deputy sheriff with the County Sheriff's Office in Columbus. In his letter of resignation to Sheriff Geo. (Doc) Mueller he said that he would receive "more than twice my present salary (\$472 per month) for 24 fewer working hours per week."

It should be pointed out that in making the statement the new patrolman took into consideration his wife's salary and the free rent on the apartment at the old city hall. He was employed by the City at a salary of \$600 per month and Mrs. Ashley will receive \$300 per month for dispatching and they will have free housing in the fire station apartment.

In his letter of resignation Ashley urged the commissioners' court to "realize that law enforcement is a necessity and Commissioners should allow the proper amount of working capital that is needed for operation of the sheriff's office."

Tax Group To Be Here Mon. - Wed. In Sheridan, Rock Is. Fri.

Colorado County Tax Officer Henry J. Hajovsky and his deputies will be in Sheridan Friday morning and in Rock Island Friday afternoon and then will be in Eagle Lake for three days, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 8-9-10 to collect 1972 taxes and to take assessments for 1973.

The tax officer reminds all persons over 65 years of age who wish to claim the \$3000 homestead exemption on all county taxes must bring proof of age. Also those who are rendering property for the first time should bring their deeds to that property.

The group will be in Eagle Lake at the Municipal Building Mon., Tues. and Wed., Jan. 8, 9, and 10 from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. From here they will go to Garwood, on Thurs., Jan. 11 at Hopkins office from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.; then to Mayes Store in Oakland Jan. 12.

The tour continues at the Schoellmann Grocery in Nada from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Mon., Jan. 15; at the H&S Grocery in Bernardo from 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tues., Jan. 16; at Richter's in Lone Oak, 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Wed., Jan. 17; at Heinsohn

Store in Frelsburg from 12:30 to 3:45 p.m. Wed., Jan. 17; and the last stop will be at the Altair Rice Dryer office from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Thurs., Jan. 18.

All tax payments in January will be at net; and after Jan. 31st, penalty and interest will go into effect on all unpaid taxes.

All persons claiming homestead exemptions must sign the regular homestead exemption form not later than April 30, 1973.

This year for the first time persons 65 and over will be allowed to claim the \$3000 homestead exemption on the county ad valorem taxes. In the past it has been in effect only on state and county additional ad valorem taxes.

Two civil cases were reinstated during the year. Included among the 208 cases disposed of during the year were 6 for personal injury, 4 for workman's compensation, 46 divorces, one neglected child case, one tax suit, 51 other civil actions and 99 criminal cases.

Of the 109 civil cases handled during the year 1 was removed to federal court, 20 were dismissed, 4 entered plaintiff's non-suit, 2 were default judgments, 2 final judgments by agreement, 63 final judgments were entered, and 14 others were removed from the docket for various reasons.

Of the 99 criminal cases handled during the year, 45 were dismissed and 53 entered pleas of guilty.

OPEN DIST. PLAY
The Rice Raiders host War-ton for their district basketball opener in Raider gym at 6 p.m. Tuesday night.

INCREASE IN BANK DEPOSITS REFLECTS BUSINESS GROWTH

The First National Bank of Eagle Lake reported deposits up by over one and three-quarter million dollars over those reported at the close of 1971.

The bank reported that at the close of business Dec. 30, deposits totaled \$13,310,453.72 or \$1,777,151.48 more than the total of deposits at the close of 1971, \$11,533,302.24.

Assets for the bank on Dec. 30th are reported at \$15,297,681.36 as compared to \$13,300,999.13 at the close of 1971. The 1972 year end report

New Official Sworn Into Office 12:01 Mon.

A 12:01 a.m. ceremony on the morning of Monday, Jan. 1st, was held in the county courtroom in Columbus, officially administering the oath of office to numerous new and re-elected county officials.

County Clerk Lester Schneider administered the oath of office to the County Judge, Lester J. Cranek, re-elected for a new four year term.

Judge Cranek in turn administered the oath of office to Henry J. Hajovsky, re-elected County Tax Assessor and Collector; to Walter Hennecks, re-elected Commissioner in Precinct 1; to James Whitcomb, the new county attorney; newly appointed Justice of Peace in Weimar Precinct, Joe Kaye; Constables Billy Joe Schindler of Alleyton; Howard Chollett of Columbus and Joe Dusek of Weimar. Also sworn in were Sheriff George (Doc) Mueller, Chief Deputy Sheriff Bill Esterling, Deputy Sheriffs Jim Broussard and Jerry Staten; special deputies L. E. Kinstalner and Oscar Brandt; also Constable Lester Schindler of Mentz-Bernardo.

The oath of office was administered Tuesday morning by Judge Cranek to County Commissioner Crockett Leyendecker in Precinct 3; Constable in J.P. Precinct 2, Lawrence Berger; Constable of Precinct 8, J. T. (Jimmie) Frnka.

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showed loans and discounts totaled \$6,847,160.81 as compared to \$6,040,797.06 in 1971. Dividends payable listed in the current report totaled \$56,250.00 as compared to \$31,250.00 in dividend payments in the 1971 report.

The increase in deposits reflects a continued growth of business in this community. This was also reflected in a 25% increase in sales tax collections for the third quarter of 1972 as compared to a similar period in 1971, and an even larger increase is anticipated for the final three months of the year.

City Utility Bills Coming Out This Fri.

The monthly utility bills for the City of Eagle Lake and Eagle Lake Gas Distribution Co. from City Hall have been de-mechanical this month due to mechanical troubles with the billing machine. It is expected that the bills will be placed into the mail late Friday afternoon.

Your cooperation will be appreciated, said T. J. Smith city manager.

H. R. Block Office Here Opens Jan. 8

The H&R Block tax office located at Emily's Realty at 115 East Main Street in Eagle Lake will be open for the tax season beginning Monday, Jan. 8th.

Mrs. Emily Stiles, owner, and Mrs. Carolyn Rosprim will be in the office to take care of your tax needs.

208 Cases Disposed Of In District Court

The 25th Judicial District Court in Colorado County had another busy year in 1972 handling a total of 307 cases and completing the year with 99 cases on the docket at the close of 1972.

The courts started the 1972 year with 88 pending cases including 8 for personal injury claims, 3 workman's compensation, 17 divorces, 6 tax suits, 33 other civil cases, and 21 criminal cases. New cases filed during the year totaled 216 including 7 for personal injury, 4 for workman's compensation, 51 for divorce, one annulment, one neglected child suit, 49 other civil suits and 103 criminal cases.

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Rice Acreage Allotment Hiked 10 Per Cent

Celebrate 50th Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Ed Causey of Eagle Lake celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at an Open House at the Liasie United Methodist Church last Sunday. Many friends and relatives came to pay their respects to this couple who have made their home in Eagle Lake and Liasie through-out their years of marriage. See story page 3.

Despite Protests From Texas Rice Farmers

An acreage allotment for 1973 crop rice of 2,020,107 acres was announced Friday, December 29, by U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This is an increase of 10 percent over the 1972 allotment.

The 1973 acreage increase reflects continued strong demand for shipments of rice under foreign aid programs and allows for an orderly expansion of commercial markets here and abroad. The continued need for additional U. S. - produced rice for foreign aid beyond the 1973-crop marketing year is entirely dependent on the course of rice production in other parts of the world. The national rice acreage allotment determination is made annually and the acreage of 2,020,107 is applicable only to the 1973-crop.

Also proclaimed were marketing quotas for the 1973 crop, announced prior to Dec. 31, as required by law, to become effective. However, the quotas must be approved by two-thirds or more of the rice growers in referendum. USDA will conduct the referendum by mail during Jan. 22 through 26, 1973. The national acreage loan and purchase rate will be announced later.

The Secretary of Agriculture is required by law to establish an allotment at a level to produce a crop when added to the 1972-73 carryover--which will equal domestic and export use plus a 10 percent allowance for carryover. This has been determined to be 99.4 million hundredweight. When adjusted for carryover and based on the 5-year average yield, this results in the allotment of 2,020,107 acres for 1973.

The law also requires the Secretary to proclaim quotas for a forthcoming crop year, along with the referendum when the total supply of rice for the current marketing year exceeds the normal supply.

If quotas are approved, the production from individual grower and farm allotments would become the 1973-crop marketing quotas. Growers who exceed acreage allotments would be subject to marketing quota penalties.

If marketing quotas are disapproved, there would be no restrictions on 1973 rice marketing. Acreage allotments would remain in effect as a condition of eligibility for price support at 50 percent of parity.

The apportionment of the 1973 rice acreage allotment of 2,020,107 acres to states is as follows: Arizona 279, Arkansas 487,664, California 368,350, Florida 1,169, Illinois 84, Louisiana (area) 660,532, Mississippi 57,044, Missouri 5,615, North Carolina 47, Oklahoma 183, South Carolina 3,479, Tennessee 633, Texas 516,152, Unapportioned National Reserve 747, U. S. total 2,020,107.

Texas and Louisiana rice producers had appeared before USDA officials recently opposing an increase in the national rice acreage allotment.

PEDESTRIAN KILLED BY HIT-RUN DRIVER AT GLIDDEN

A 76-year-old Negro man who resides in Glidden, Carl Miller, was the victim of a pedestrian hit-and-run accident on Highway 90 in Glidden at 7:30 p.m. last Saturday, Dec. 30th.

Highway Patrolman Ray Scholton of Columbus investigated the accident and reported that Miller was struck by a dark colored pickup with camper body and the truck continued west on U.S. 90 without stopping to render aid. Another resident of Glidden reportedly was a witness to the accident and reported this information to Scholton.

After being struck by the pickup, Miller's body was knocked into the east bound lane and was struck again by a 1971 Toyota driven by Linda Nierlich of Deer Park.

It is believed that the initial blow was sufficient to have inflicted the fatal injuries.

Although officers in the entire area were alerted, no sign of the pickup truck had been reported early this week.

MOVE BACK TO EL
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Campbell have moved from Matagorda back to Eagle Lake. They resided here for a number of years before going to Matagorda where they operated a popular bait and fishing camp for a number of years. They are residing in a mobile home on Austin Road.

NEW STAFF MEMBER
The Headlight is happy to have Miss Carol Birdwell back as a regular member of its staff.

TO subscribe to the Headlight call 234-2763.

ASCS COMMUNITY AND COUNTY COMMITTEES NAMED FOR 1973

Results of the ASCS Community and County Elections for 1973 have been announced by D. F. Streckfus, executive director for Colorado County ASCS office.

On Dec. 15th the community committee members met and re-elected Louis Cranek, Jr. the chairman of the county committee. Milton Beken of Weimar was named the vice-chairman; Charles T. Trefny of Weimar was elected to a new three-year term and will be the regular member on the county committee. Ewald L. Grndt of Columbus was named first alternate to the county committee and Lawrence Stallman of Garwood was named the second alternate.

Results in the four community elections held in this county in mail balloting which ended Dec. 1st were: Community A, Columbus:

Charles Glueck, chairman; Royal Hennecks, vice chairman; Ewald Grndt, regular member; Robert F. Potter, first alternate; R. C. Kleimann, second alternate;

Community B, Weimar: Franklin Addicks, chairman; David V. Wanjura, vice chairman; Bill E. Bretthaupt Jr., regular member; Fred F. Berger, first alternate;

Community E, Garwood and Eagle Lake: Lawrence Stallman, chairman; Kenneth Mahallie, vice chairman; Gus Swoboda, regular member; W. J. Brunner, first alternate; Milton Minarcik, second alternate;

Community G, Frelsburg: Arnold Kneiblich, chairman; Albert L. Moeller, vice chairman; Alfred Canik, regular member; Gilbert M. Gessner, first alternate; and Lawrence Korenek, second alternate.

Carburetor Emission Course Reset Feb. 5-8

Auto mechanics and service station operators and other interested persons are invited to take part in a four-day short course on "Carburetors and Emission Controls" during the week of Feb. 5th through 8th at the Lake Motors, Inc. in Eagle Lake. The course is sponsored by the Texas State Technical Institute of Waco and is conducted by the Mobile Automotive Association. Local co-sponsors are Lake Motors and the Rice High School Auto Mechanics Dept., Sidney Frey, instructor.