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Lucy Mascheck Wins $750 Clark UIL Scholarship

Miss Lucille Marie Mascheck, 1974 graduate of Rice High School of Alvair, has been awarded a $750 Clark Foundation Scholarship by the Texas Interscholastic League Foundation.

The Clark Foundation provided funds for 64 of the $750 grants to be given to outstanding participants in University Interscholastic League academic and literary contests. The TILF administers the grants.

Miss Mascheck earned eligibility for the Clark Scholarship by participating in League contests in Headline Writing, Shorthand and music.

In 1974 she won firsts at District and Regional, and then won the Conference AAA Headline writing first place, and overall Championship of all conferences. She competed at District in Shorthand.

From 1970 through 1974 she took part in League music contests, in concert, sight [illegible] and in the sum[illegible] ensemble events. She was a member of the Band Council, newspaper staff and drama club.

"Miss Mascheck is a fine student," said Dr. Rhea H. Williams, TILF secretary and League director. "Her grades, scholastic aptitude tests, extra-curricular activities, and interscholastic competition records all prove that she has the talent, energy and determination to succeed. We are proud to have her as a Clark Scholar.!"

Miss Mascheck plans to major in general education or journalism at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville.

BO GATES

Bo Gates To Speak at Noon Lions Installation

Bo Gates, billed as the Second Biggest Liar in Texas, will be the guest speaker for the installation of 1974-75 officers for the Eagle Lake Lions Club [illegible] Thursday evening [illegible] at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Mr. Gates is Lt. Governor of Toastmasters International and is one of the most sought-after speakers in this area.

Lt. Gov. Joe Al Picone will install the new incoming officers and also will install new members. Outgoing president Roy Dean Van Nort will preside at the ladies night meeting and will present special awards.

T Lang will be installed as the new president of the Noon Lions.

Rice Board Considers Insurance Items

Gay Applies For Agent of Record

The Rice School District Board of Education, in session Monday night, considered a number of insurance matters including the application of Edwin Gay of the Eagle Lake Insurance Agency to serve as the Agent of Record for the school district.

Robert Griffith of Strickland Insurance Agency now serves as the Agent of Record for the district and Eagle Lake Insurance is a participating agent. The agent of record handles the insurance business for the district and receives 70% of the commissions and the participating agent receives 30% of the insurance commissions.

Mr. Gay met with the board and discussed his qualifications commenting that if he [illegible] the program at a possible savings to the district. He pointed out that he has the backing of five of the state's top insurance companies and could offer a variety of services from these companies in working out the district's insurance program.

The board delayed action on the request pending a discussion with Mr. Griffith on the current division of the insurance commissions under the school board policy of a 70-30% division of the business.

Mr. Gay told the board that he feels that the agent of record program is not the best method of handling the insurance program and pointed out that the insurance business should be split evenly between the two agents in the district.

Supt. E. A. Krivacka pointed out that the system developed by the board has eliminated double coverage and has provided one key person to whom the board and administration can look for insurance problems. Board members concurred that the system has "worked smoothly."

The matter was tabled for final action at the next meeting.

BOARD LIABILITY

Supt. Krivacka reported to the board that the district's counsel, M. L. Null, has ruled that the district can spend funds for the purchase of liability insurance to cover the school board members. The board authorized the superintendent to look into the costs and coverage offered under such a program for consideration of the board at the July session.

Business Manager Roy Marshall discussed with the board plans offered for providing life insurance coverage for employees and teachers in the Rice District. He said that he received eight proposals and discussed three of these with the board. Plans are to provide each employee with $5000 worth of life insurance with the costs paid by the district (costs estimated at from 8¢ to $1.14 per employee monthly in 3 plans discussed) and also to offer additional life insurance at the same rates with these costs to be absorbed by the employees. The matter was tabled for a recommendation from a faculty insurance committee to be named by board president Dr. R. R. Thomas.

STUDENT INSURANCE

The final insurance matter was approval of the Pilot Life program which has been in effect in the district for the past four years, as the Student Insurance Program for the 1974-75 year. Supt. Krivacka commented that the premiums will vary only slightly from those last year. He added that the plan is favored by doctors and the local hospital because of the good record in payment of claims.

BUZZIN' ABOUT TOWN

• Larry Combest, associated with Senator John Tower's office, announces that he is being transferred to the Senator's office in Austin and urges interested persons to contact him at 961 Federal Bldg. 300 East Eighth St., Austin, Texas 78701. He hopes by the move to be of better service to the citizens of the state by a closer personal contact.

• Friday, June 14th is Flag Day and citizens of the United States will be paying homage to their Flag. One of our citizens, E. L. Beckmann, recently called us to express keen disappointment in the fact that the U. S. Flags were not flying on Memorial Day, May 27. Mr. Beckmann, now retired after operation of his drug store here for over 50 years, has always been a staunch supporter of patriotism and you can almost always see the U. S. Flag flying on the standard in front of his home on Prairie Street. We join his [illegible] that the U. S. Flag [illegible] holidays.

• Bill Thomas (Sr.) brought by a few copies of the Brazil Herald, the only English language paper in Brazil. He and Mrs. Thomas collected the papers on a recent tour to that country. The Herald serves Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

• We're happy to have Miss Paula Szymanski on our staff for the summer. She will join Connie Breithaupt Gertson in bolstering our staff this summer - that is when Connie gets back from her honeymoon after her wedding to Ralph Gertson last Saturday evening.

• Folks in Columbus have just reason to be proud in the fact that they will hold ground breaking ceremonies for the construction of their new $1.5 million hospital at 2:00 p.m. this Sunday.

• The newly organized Rock Island Lions Club will sponsor a benefit Variety Shoot at Freddie's Place in Rock Island on Sunday, June 23 at 1 p.m. and one and all are invited to come and try their hand at the various events for the best shots. All proceeds will be for the betterment of the Rock Island community.

4-H FOUNDATION

Many of the advances made by the 4-H Club program in Texas have been due to the continued support of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation, points out a 4-H and youth specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. The Foundation is a non-profit organization which provides funds to enrich and expand 4-H as well as to provide for special activities and achievement awards. The Foundation garners private support and interest in 4-H on a state-wide basis. It is administered by a board of trustees that represent a broad cross-section of leadership in Texas business, industry and agriculture.

CITY COUNCIL PASSES SECOND READING PHONE RATE ORD

Eagle Lake City Council in regular session Tuesday night approved the second reading of the proposed phone rate ordinance which will grant Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. an increase in some rates. The final reading of the ordinance is scheduled to come up at the June 25th meeting.

The council discussed prospective members for a board of equalization for the setting of valuations for 1974 taxes, and heard a report from Engineer S. A. Russell of Rosenberg on a preliminary survey that he is making in regard to proposed sewer improvements on Hubbard Ferry Road, West Main, and for possible expansion to areas along FM 102 west and Austin road. Mr. Russell expects to have more information for the council on possible plans and proposed costs in the next couple of weeks. Some discussion was given to applying for federal assistance on the project on a 75-25% basis.

City Manager T. J. Smith reported that the ball park concession stand is nearly complete and the Firemen's Auxiliary is operating the concessions and will get profits from the concessions.

He also stated that the sanitary landfill being prepared by Taylor Trucking between Altair and Columbus is very nearly complete and may go into use before the end of the month; also that work on the Ridgelea Subdivision improvements are progressing rapidly.

A fire truck chassis has been delivered to Fire Fox in Houston and the fire truck is expected to be completed in time to go on display at the annual Firemen's School at Texas A&M University the latter part of July.

Rites For Hough Held Here Wed.

Funeral services for Mark Anthony Hough, 21, were held from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Eagle Lake, where he was a member during his life's span, at 10:30 Wednesday morning, June 12th with the Rev. Father Edward E. Geiser officiating. His body was placed to a final rest in the Lakeside Cemetery in Eagle Lake beside his mother who preceded him in death in 1953.

Rosary was recited at the chapel of the Mill-Bauer Funeral Home at 8:00 o'clock Tuesday evening with the Rev. Father Geiser leading in the prayers.

Serving as pallbearers were: Larry Grigar, Robert Zahradnik, John Pastelka, Mike Prather, Wayne Krenek and Edgar Johnson. Mike Zahradnik was named an honorary pallbearer.

Mark was born on April 2, 1953 in Liberty the son of Virgil Eugene Hough and Anzola Cecilia Marek Hough. He was a graduate of East Bernard High School and of Wharton County Junior College and was associated with his father in rice farming at the time of his tragic death.

He was loved by all who came to know him and friends and relatives throughout the area join in extending deepest sympathy to the family in their great loss.

Surviving are his father, Virgil Hough of Lissie; a sister, Mrs. Anita Scotka of Orange Grove; two brothers, Virgil Jr. and Edward Hough both of West Columbia; his aunt, Miss Vera Marek who reared Mark as a mother from the time that he was only three days old; and other aunts, uncles and other relatives and friends.

Earl Gerfers of Austin was turning off 71 onto the Interstate when the truck turned over spilling the scrap iron over the highway. Traffic was rerouted around the area for several hours while the debris was cleared. Gerfers escaped injuries.

Commr. Court

(Continued from page one)

the court begins a study of the 1975 budget and disbursing the revenue sharing funds in September of this year.

The court assured the Columbus Hospital Board representatives that assistance "in kind" through the various commissioners' offices will be available and that the consideration of the request for cash will be given top priority at the budget hearing in September.

In other action, the court approved a 35 mile per hour speed limit on Reese Lane at the request of Commissioner Leyendecker. Signs listing the new speed limit will be posted at the intersection of the road at Highway 90 on the south and FM 109 on the north.

A request to close a portion of County Road 162 between Columbus and Rock Island was tabled for further consideration in July. The road lies in part in Commissioner Precincts one and two. Filing the petition for closing the unused road were: C. H. Potter, Julius Ruffeno, Allan Hill, E. G. Miller and Gus Miller, Jr.

A resolution was passed citing the fact that elected officers as well as other employees of the county are covered under the workman's compensation program. The letter was requested by the state.

Judge Cranek reported that bounties of $5 each were paid on 47 wolves for a total of $235.00. He pointed out that the total is up this month because the wolves are now in dens raising young and are more easily captured.

County Tax Officer H. J. Hajovsky received permission to cancel duplications in tax receipts; and he reported that his staff will begin a second shift this week using the new computer to transfer property to the magnetic cards used by the computer. He said one crew plans to work from 7 to 3:30 with a half hour off for lunch and the other crew will start at 3:30 p.m.

The staff in his office is busy recording the property on the new computer system and should be working at this task right up to August getting things ready to use the new Burroughs computer for 1974 tax billings.

County Buys Sheriff's Car, Rejects Bid

Colorado County Commissioners' Court, in session on Monday morning, approved bids for the purchase of a new car for the County Sheriff's office, but rejected bids for a new two and one-half ton truck for Precinct Three and the court will readvertise for more bids on the truck.

There were two bidders for the new car for the county sheriff's office. Brasher Motor Co. of Weimar was the low bidder offering a 1974 Chevrolet for $3967 plus $100 to paint the car white after trading in of a car which was wrecked recently. Brasher offered delivery of the unit within five days.

Brandt Motor Co. of Weimar was the only other bidder offering a 1974 Ford for $4200 after trade in. Delivery of this unit was quoted at 45 days.

There was only one bid for the 1974 two and one-half ton truck chassis for Commissioner Crockett Leyendecker's Precinct three. W. A. Virnau and Sons, Inc. of Eagle Lake offered a 1975 GMC truck with 7 to 8 months delivery for $7469.86 less $1700 for trade in of a 1960 Chevrolet truck or a net of $5,769.86. The firm, however, retained the right to pass on any increases that may be made in the cost of the unit during the delivery period.

Commissioner Leyendecker asked that the bid be rejected and that he be authorized to re-advertise for bids to be opened at the July session. He plans to alter the specifications calling for an auxiliary transmission to a manual 5-speed which will permit more bidders to participate in the bidding. Also the commissioners agreed that it would be logical for the county to absorb any increases in prices to the dealer because of the long delivery dates that are now required by truck manufacturers.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Bill Stiles voted against the purchase of the new sheriff's car on the grounds that he did not believe that air-conditioning called for in the specifications was necessary.

Truck Loaded With Scrap Iron Turns Over

Highway Patrol Sergeant Gilbert Kell investigated an accident at the intersection of Highway 71 and Interstate 10 in Columbus Tuesday morning.

A large truck loaded with scrap iron driven by Richard [illegible]

Mrs. Gohlke

(Continued from page one)

of teaching experience including two NDEA Fellowships at the University of Texas in both English and Spanish. She has traveled extensively in 40 of the 50 states and in seven European countries.

She has written articles on teaching hints for Texas Outlook, in Rice High School Mirs. Gohlke has sponsored UIL literary events; sponsored the Future Teachers of America during which time the chapter won two coveted state honors; is active on the Sheridan Library Board and is a qualified Red Cross swimming instructor.

In addition to membership in teacher affiliated organizations, she is a member of the National Council Teachers of English, the Texas Council Teachers of English, the Delta Zeta and Alpha Beta Alpha organizations.

New Teachers

(Continued from page one)

degree from Angelo State in Health, P.E. and history.

Mrs. Beth (Davis) Waddell of Eagle Lake will be a Plan A speech therapist for the Eagle Lake, Sheridan and Garwood schools. She has a BA degree in speech therapy from Texas A&I University.

New at the Garwood Elementary School will be Michael Gene Stanaifer, 23, who gets a BA degree in Health, P.E. and History from Southwest Texas State University in August of this year. He will teach social studies and will be coach at Garwood.

Mrs. Deborah A. Smith of East Bernard will be a new teacher at Eagle Lake Primary School. Her husband is foreman at the East Bernard Furniture Mfg. Co. She has four years of teaching experience with a degree in elementary education and a [illegible] from Minot State University in Minot, N.D. She will be teaching a first grade to replace Mrs. Tyra Felk who retired at the end of the 1973-74 school year.

GRASS FIRE

Eagle Lake volunteer firemen were called to a grass fire on highway and railroad right of way on Highway 1093 between Eagle Lake and Chesterville last Thursday afternoon.

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VOLUME 71. EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434, THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1974 AC 713 234-2783 NUMBER 9.

Sights and Sounds Of Progress In EL

The scene above will be a familiar sight in Eagle Lake's downtown area this summer as workmen install a new conduit and cable for Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. under the pavement to lay new telephone lines to be installed in the new construction. All the work is designed to improve service to existing customers and to give the company facilities to add new telephone patrons in the Eagle Lake exchange.

SW Bell Begins Work On Main St. Construction

New Underground Cables To Be Laid In Main St.

Work was started this week on a major improvement for the local Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. facilities in Eagle Lake.

An Austin contractor, E. E. Stewart Co., Inc. has been hired by the phone company to lay new cable and conduit along West and East Main Street.

The new installation will go underground and will be the first step to remove the poles and lines from Main Street and provide additional local and long distance circuits.

It is anticipated that this project and others planned by the company in the future will make available more phones to local customers and will increase the number of long distance circuits to Rosenberg and Houston.

The installation of the underground cable will be placed behind the sidewalk along West Main to the intersection with McCarty near the old furniture store building and then the conduit and cable will be placed underground in Main Street east to a point near the Eagle Lake Implement Co. and from there it will go underground through borings under Bootle Drive and the railroad crossing and then back into the street at a point near Alamo Lumber Co. and out East Main in the street.

The City of Eagle Lake requested that a saw be used to cut the concrete on Main Street in order to reduce vibrations that might damage the main water lines under the pavement. One edge of the cut with the saw will be along the line where the curb and the pavement meet and the cut will extend out about two feet from the curb line. Some jack hammers will be used to break up the concrete for its removal.

The initial work will be the installation of the four large man holes and removal of the concrete and pavement in the ditch area along main street. The opening will be refilled with gravel until such time as the final ditching, ranging from 4 to 6 feet, will take place.

The conduit to be laid will have fifteen openings each of about four inches for future additions and expansions.

Sidewalks which are torn up in the construction work will be replaced in new condition.

The entire operation will be under the inspection of city and state highway department officials as well as by Southwestern Bell Co. engineers.

While the contractor is working on Main Street in the downtown area some traffic controls will be required due to the narrow width of the street. Plans are to close ditches opened for the work daily except at the end of the day's work and this area will be covered with steel plates and properly marked so as not to impede traffic.

Eagle Lake City Council set October 15th as the deadline for completion of the project. This agreement was incorporated as one of the factors agreed to before passing the phone rate increase ordinance.

In a pre-construction meeting between the contractor, Southwestern Bell engineers and city officials last week, emphasis was placed on working on a seven day schedule if needed in order to complete the project in advance of the Oct. 15th date when the fall business traffic is expected to increase in the downtown area.

City officials call for the patience and cooperation of the citizens of the community during this period of construction which is necessary for continued growth of the city and for improvement of the phone service in this area.

Mascheck-Marx Station To Close June 23 thru 30

Victor Mascheck announces that the Mascheck-Marx Gulf Service Station on Postoffice Street will be closed this Sun., June 23rd through Sun., June 30th. He said that his allotment of gasoline has been used up for this month and the station will be closed for the week to permit employees to take a vacation.

The station will reopen on Mon., July 1st with a fresh supply of gasoline under the July allocation.

Final Reading Phone Rate Ord. Tues.

The third and final reading of the city ordinance which will grant Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. authority to increase rates to local customers for some services, will come before the city council at the session at 7:30 p.m. next Tuesday night, June 25.

Interested persons are invited to attend and express [illegible]

Under the ordinance, the phone company proposes to increase one party business rate from $11.25 to $12.50; one party residence rate from $5.75 to $6.25; and two party residence rate from $4.50 to $4.75. Other increases include: suburban 4-party business from $9 to $10.50; the suburban 4-party residence from $5 to $5.25; rural 4-party business from $7.50 to $9.60.

The new rates will go into effect at the next billing following final approval expected at the meeting Tuesday night.

Rising Fuel Costs Increase CPL Bills

Rapidly increasing fuel costs, primarily due to curtailments of natural gas by Lo-Vaca Gathering System, a subsidiary of Coastal States Gas Producing Company, are causing electric bills to be higher, CPL President Barney M. Davis said this week.

He said the average cost of fuel to operate the company's power plants had more than doubled in the past year, and projections show the costs could go up even higher by the end of the year.

"Lo-Vaca doesn't have the gas to meet its commitments, and we have suffered recurring gas curtailments for the past year and a half. The rapid rise in CPL's fuel cost is due almost entirely to the inability of Lo-Vaca Gathering System to deliver the gas it contracted to supply, which is more than 75 percent of our supply."

"We are doing everything possible to hold down the fuel costs," Davis stated, "by using the cheapest fuel possible to replace the natural gas that Lo-Vaca is not delivering to us. We at CPL do not like these rising costs, and we know our customers don't like them either; however, it is due to a situation that is an outgrowth of the natural gas shortage.'

"We're facing a very critical situation that will affect everyone who uses electricity in South Texas," the CPL

(Continued on page two)

Joe Frybert Awarded Rotary Scholarship

JOSEPH FRYBERT

Joseph Frybert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Frybert, has been named as the recipient of the Eagle Lake Rotary Club's two year scholarship to Wharton County Junior College.

Joseph is a member of the graduating class of 1974 and he was an honor graduate in the class. He will receive a scholarship equivalent to $100 per semester or $200 per year to Wharton County Junior College from the Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club annually sends a graduate to the college under a two year scholarship program. Connie Breithaupt Gertson is attending Wharton County Junior College under the scholarship awarded in May of 1973.

CC OK's Plans To Start Development Foundation

Brown Discusses Improvements At Tenneco Plant

Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce directors in session Monday afternoon, authorized the Trade and Development Committee to begin plans for the establishment of an Economic Development Foundation on plans similar to an industrial foundation.

T Lang, chairman of the committee, and members Alvin Marquart, Frank Sherrer and Roy Dean Van Nort and president of the CC, Mark Anderson, met last week and decided to ask the chamber to sanction formation of the foundation as a separate organization, apart from the regular Chamber of Commerce.

Lang said that plans are yet to be developed on methods of raising funds, but generally guidelines will follow those advocated by the Texas Industrial Commission.

The committee is to bring more complete plans to the chamber's board of directors at future meetings.

Purpose of the foundation will be to develop this community through enticing new businesses and industry and through expansion of local businesses and industry.

Clyde Brown, superintendent of Tenneco's Chesterville plant, met with the board of directors Monday at the request of president Anderson to discuss improvements underway at the plant. Brown told the group that the plant is undergoing around $600,000 in improvements to increase the production of propane and ethane from 45% to approximately 90%. He said the work is expected to be completed early in July.

Brown stressed that even though the number of people employed at the plant has dropped from 38 to 20, the payroll today is equal to that when the plant went into operation in 1950. He stressed that employees are obtained from local sources, and the bulk of the payroll remains in this community. He added that as much equipment as possible is purchased locally also contributing to the economy of this community.

He stressed that through the energy crisis the demand for natural gas and its products continues to increase and thereby more wells that once were dead are being brought back into production. He said that this has increased the plant's life expectancy from five to thirteen years.

CC members were invited to inspect the new facilities after their completion.

The move of the chamber office from the Headlight office to the Municipal Building will be delayed until Sept. 1st while applicants are being considered. The chamber had

(Continued on last page)

Pidgeon Retires After 32 Years With Shell

FRANK PIDGEON

Frank C. Pidgeon retired from employment with Shell Oil Company after thirty two years of service with the company on May 31st.

Mr. Pidgeon was honored at a retirement party given by fellow employees in the production dept., Shell Oil Co. at the Shell Recreation Building in Sheridan on the day of his retirement and he was presented with a supply of golf balls which he will put to good use in his days of relaxation.

Mr. Pidgeon became associated with Shell in Homer, Louisiana in 1941. He and his family came to Eagle Lake in 1949 and he has been with the production department up to his retirement, the last twelve years in the corrosion preventative program.

Mr. and Mrs. Pidgeon plan to continue their residence here and will continue to be active part in the community and especially in the Colly Memorial United Methodist Church. Mrs. Pidgeon was for many years in charge of the Community Center operations and she and Frank were chaperones for the youth activities for many, many years and provided spiritual leadership to these youth.

Frank says that his retirement will give him an opportunity to catch up on some

(Continued on last page)

No Protest On County Oil, Gas Tax Valuations

SAND & GRAVEL ASSN., DPS CHECK 101 GRAVEL TRUCKS

146 Defects

Safety inspectors from the State Sand and Gravel Association assisted by the Department of Public Safety license and weights officers, George Hoppe and Jerry Hester, spent two days in this area last week, checking gravel trucks for proper equipment.

Tom Halbert, safety officer for Taylor Trucking in Eagle Lake, assisted in the survey and inspection. He reported that a total of 101 units were stopped. Inspections were made last Wednesday east of Columbus on IH 10 and on Thursday on Highway 90A east of Eagle Lake near the county line.

The inspectors found a total of 33 trucks passed all requirements while 146 notices were given for various types faulty equipment. Department of Transportation citations were issued to the drivers, and they were asked to get the corrections made. The inspectors found none of the trucks with a condition such as to warrant a completely shut-down of its operation. [illegible] located in the [illegible] below the minimums required. Twenty-four were found to have defective marker and clearance lights, 19 with brakes that need improving, 12 with broken headlights, 12 with inoperative turn signals, 10 with defective stop lights, and 29 with a miscellaneous assortment of defects such as air hoses weak, mud flaps, etc.

Taylor Trucking Co. provided a mechanic at the scene on each of the inspection days to provide service in the event such was needed.

The trucks checked were owned by a number of companies operating in the area, some of which are members of the Sand and Gravel Association and some that are not.

Halbert said that plans are to make similar inspections once every month or so, in hopes of insuring that only top-rated equipment is rolling on the highways in this county in order to insure safety on the highways and to prevent possible property damage through faulty equipment.

He stated that the inspection made last week was rated "very good" by the inspectors and by the DPS personnel at the inspection sites.

County Officers Get High Band Radio Equipment

The Colorado County Sheriff's office has received sixteen new high band radios to be used to link the local department with a statewide communications network. The new equipment was provided through a grant from the Criminal Justice Department to the Houston-Galveston Area Council with the county providing 25% of the costs.

The new radios are being installed in the units of the sheriff's department and also in automobiles owned by constables in seven of the eight Justice of the peace precincts.

The new base station for the high frequency communications system was due to arrive Wednesday and will be installed in the sheriff's offices in the county jail.

Shell Accepts $3 Million Increase

The Colorado County Commissioners' Court met as a board of equalization to hear oil and gas interests in the [illegible] to discuss assessments with representatives of the firm of Latham and Stults of Austin, hired by the county to set oil and gas valuations, there were no contests and the session passed as one of the quietest in some time.

Shell Oil Company, the county's biggest taxpayer, agreed to its assessment figure which will amount to an increase of nearly $3 million in valuation, without protest.

The Shell Oil Co. royalty holdings were assessed at $14.3 million or an increase from $11.4 million a year ago. The 1973 assessment was reached after considerable discussion and deliberation.

The assessed value on Shell Oil Co.'s plant at Sheridan was reduced however from $1.3 million to $1.08 million due to depreciation and drop in production from a year ago.

The valuation experts had earlier told the commissioners and Judge Lester Cranek that the county should have a minimum increase of $3 million in 1974 oil and gas valuations and based this on the increased prices being paid at this time for petroleum and gas products. Oil and gas valuations in 1973 totalled $22,873,090 over one-third of the total valuations of $65,615,850. This total however was reduced to $43,779,420 by the 65-and-over homestead exemptions.

County Tax Officer Henry J. Hajovsky said Tuesday that the total increase is not known at this time since the tax firm has not as yet turned over its complete figures to the county tax office. The Latham and Stults firm also representing the Rice School District met with oil and gas interests Tuesday afternoon.

Rock Is. Lions Variety Shoot 1 P.M. Sun.

The Rock Island Lions Club will stage a benefit variety shoot at Freddie's Place in Rock Island beginning at 1 p.m. this Sun., June 23rd and one and all are invited. The Lions Club, recently organized, will use proceeds for the benefit of community projects.

Shells will be furnished and a variety of prizes will be awarded to winning shooters.

Everyone's invited.

Annual Catholic Picnic Sunday

Delicious foods, and all you can eat, fine fellowship and entertainment for young and old will be features of the annual Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church barbecue picnic to be held this Sun., June 23rd at air-conditioned Didner Hall.

Citizens from throughout the area are invited to make plans to attend this event.

The barbecued beef and sausage dinner will be served for $2.50 for adults and $1.50 for children beginning at 11:00 a.m. and the serving will continue until all are served. Dinner only will be served. Barbecue by the pound will be offered for sale.

Diners may enjoy the barbecue in the air conditioned hall or in a curb service line. It should be noted that ONLY adult plates will be served in the curb service line.

Amusements and entertainment will begin at 12:30 p.m. and will continue throughout the afternoon.

Father Edward Geiser and members of the parish hope that you will come to their "old-fashioned picnic" on Sunday.

Community Bible School Begins Mon.

The Community Bible School is scheduled to begin on Monday, June 24th and will continue through Friday, June 28th with a closing program slated on Sunday night, June 30th. The classes will be held at the Colly Memorial United Methodist Church and ages three years through the sixth grades are eligible and invited to attend.

Teachers for the school will be: pre-nursing, Mrs. Judy Reese and Mrs. Doris Meinecke; nursery: Mrs. Sandy Bendy; kindergarten: Mrs. Cynthia DeLaugher; primary I (completed first grade): Miss Kay Beth Brunner; primary II (completed second grade): Mrs. Janet Schorlemmer;

Also, junior (completed grades 3 and 4): Mrs. Jane Clipson; pre-teen (completed grades 5 and 6): Mrs. Marie Argo; and helpers for the school will be Mesdames Kathy Hamilton, Judy Ashby, Brenda Argo, Julia Thomas, Debbie Balusek, Kathy Fressel, Susan Kelf, and Penny Szymanski.

If you have a child that you would like to have enrolled in the school, please contact Mrs. Anna Lee Higgins.

TB OFFICE OPEN

Mrs. Margie Novak, who is with the Texas State Department of Health Tuberculosis control, has an office in the courthouse annex at Columbus which is open each Wednesday.

She will have a free skin testing clinic for the summer on the second Tuesday of each month, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Spanihel, McCreary Get Lions Life Member Awards

Life memberships in the Lions Crippled Childrens' Camp were presented to three charter members of the Eagle Lake Noon Lions Club at the installation of officers banquet last Thursday evening. Present to accept the awards from 1973-74 president Roy Dean Van Nort, center, were Rudolph F. Spanihel, left, and Joe L. McCreary. Harry Larson was unable to attend. (For story see page 12)