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STAR-SPANGLED HISTORY
HISTORICAL DRAWINGS BY JOSEPH ROUGH BEALE (1840-1920)

USDA Announces '76 Ag. Conservation Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced an \$85 million 1976 Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) designed to encourage the application of enduring soil and water conservation practices on the nation's farms. The objective is to obtain needed conservation on farmlands beyond which the farmer would accomplish with his own resources.

The 1976 program will be administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service through its farmer-elected committee system and will offer both annual and long-term conservation agreements with farmers. It will share with farmers from 50 to 75 percent of the cost of carrying out approved soil, water and woodland conservation practices. Under long-term agreements, cost-sharing will be scheduled over a period of from 3 to 10 years. The agreements will be based on conservation plans approved by local Soil Conservation Districts. These three agencies provide program development and policy overview assistance through county, state and national program development groups.

Local Soil Conservation Districts also provide support through assistance with long-term agreements and program development. Program details will be available from county ASCS offices.

Bond Sales At 53% Of Goal

United States Savings Bonds sales in Colorado County totaled \$11,023 during October. Sales for the 10-month period were \$105,637 which represents 53 per cent of the 1975 sales goal for the county, according to County Bond Chairman E. G. Miller.

All of the latest area news in the Headlight each week. - Call 234-2785 today.

available from county ASCS offices.



Santa Not Always Plump and Jolly!

Whoever heard of a skinny Santa? At one time, Santa was described as slim and tall, believe it or not. Today we are accus-

toned to thinking of Santa in terms of Clement Clarke Moore's "plump and jolly old elf," described in his poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," that we take it for granted that Santa has always looked that way.

But until Moore wrote his now-famous poem, there were differing notions as to Santa's appearance. He was described as slim and tall in some accounts, short and fat in others. No doubt many thought of him as being dignified, for he was known as St. Nicholas at that time.

But then Moore wrote "A Visit from St. Nicholas," which appeared in print for the first time in the Sentinel of Troy, New York, just before Christmas in 1823. At that time it was published anonymously. By 1837, after having been printed every year in the Sentinel, it had been attributed to Moore.

The amusing and endearing description of Santa - "a little old driver, so lively and quick... his eyes how they twinkled! his dimples



how merry! his cheeks like roses, his nose like a cherry - captivated the imaginations of readers and later, an engraving of Santa accompanied the poem to further establish him in the public's mind as a fat and jolly type.

With the passage of time, Moore's poem has become a traditional part of the Christmas scene. And every youngster, as the holiday season approaches, pictures Santa as "chubby and plump - a right jolly old elf," calling out as he takes off in his sleigh, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

"CHRISTMAS WITH THE BEALE FAMILY"

Christmas has always been a time for families to gather together to celebrate the holiday season. At the turn of the century, families were used to the tree, the candles, the carols, the gifts, the star in the sky on the night of the East which led the three Wise Men to Bethlehem. Every member of the family helped to decorate the tree by making paper crafts, stencils of popcorn and cranberries and candy. From the collection of American National Insurance Company, Galveston, Texas.

S.K. Seymour Lt. Alex Williams Completes Engineer's Course

(Continued from page one)

LCRA board. In his 30 years tenure, he has been appointed and reappointed to the director's job by five different Texas governors.

He was first appointed to the board of directors in 1945 by Gov. Coke Stevenson, was reappointed in 1950 and again in 1956 by Gov. Allan Shivers; was reappointed to the board by Gov. Price Daniel in 1962; and by Gov. John Connally in 1968.

His latest appointment was by Gov. Dolph Briscoe, and that six-year term continues until 1980.

Owner of Sam K. Seymour Lumber and Hardware and president of Colorado County Federal Savings and Loan Association, Seymour, a native of Columbus, is a graduate of Texas A&M University.

At age 80, he is a man of strong traditions. Each year, he sponsors a special Christmas party for 1,424 employees that features tables laden with food and gifts. Besides the river authority, he has strong ties with his alma mater—since 1915 he has not missed seeing a single University of Texas-Texas A&M football game.

His civic and social activities are numerous. He has been a Blue Lodge Master; commander of the American Legion's local post; director of the A&M Ex-Students Association; president of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club, and has held offices in various trade associations including the Lumbermen's Association.

A member of the Baptist Church, Seymour is married to the former Marion Hopkins of Wheeler, and has one son, Sam K. Seymour III.

Highway Dept. Wants Info On Bus Services

Schools, churches and other organizations which provide bus and taxicab transportation services in this area are being called upon to furnish information relative to their operations according to Carl V. Ramert, District Engineer of the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

The Resident Engineer in your local area may be contacted if questions arise in completing the questionnaire. Confidentiality of the information received will be respected.

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Merry Christmas

Deck the halls with holly... may joy reign in your hearts and homes this season!

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CHURCH OF CHRIST Sunday Services: Bible Classes 10 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m., Evening worship 7 p.m. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Eagle Lake, Texas Rev. J. Melburn Shiley, Jr., Pastor Sunday Services: Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m., Evening worship 7:30 p.m. CHURCH OF CHRIST Sheridan, Texas Sunday Services: Morning services 11 a.m., Bible services 10 a.m., Evening worship 6 p.m. GREATER MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH Ref. T. Collins 705 Lake - Phone 234-3545 Eagle Lake, Texas Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 11 a.m., Baptist Training Union 6:30 p.m., Evening worship 7:00 p.m., Thru Prayer Meeting and Teachers Meeting 7 p.m. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Beale, Texas Dea. Graves, Pastor Phone 234-3136 Sunday School - 10 a.m., Morning worship 11 a.m., Church Training 7:30 p.m., Evening worship 7:00 p.m., Prayer Service Wed 7:00 p.m. Clyde's Food Market Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Partling P. O. Box - Eagle Lake The Eagle Lake Headlight Your Weekly Newspaper Chamber of Commerce EAGLE LAKE	LASSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Paul Wallace, pastor Sunday Church School 9:45 a.m., Morning worship 11 a.m., Fellowship groups 6:30 a.m., Evening worship 7 p.m., Adult Choir practice Wed. at 7:30 p.m. GRACE LUTHERAN Rev. Charles Meyer, pastor Sundays: 9:15 a.m. Church School 10:30 a.m. Divine worship The members and pastor of Grace Lutheran welcome you to come worship with them. ST. MARY'S CHURCH Nada, Texas 77640 The Rev. Henry Hall, Pastor Mass will be said at 7:30 p.m. each Saturday, 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays, 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. COLLY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (Rev. David Edgar, pastor) Sunday services: Church School 9:40 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m., Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Rev. Glen Kennell, pastor Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Morning worship 11 a.m., P.Y.F., 5:30 p.m. Fink's Variety Store Bill and Betty Fink 215 Main St. - Eagle Lake The Eagle Lake Headlight Your Weekly Newspaper Chamber of Commerce EAGLE LAKE	ROCK ISLAND METHODIST CHURCH Worship service 8 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH Rev. George T. Welch 10:00 a.m. Sunday - Holy Communion and Sermon 10:00 a.m. Wednesday - Holy Communion GARWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Thomas W. Hogan, Pastor 9:45 a.m. Sunday Church School 11 a.m. Morning worship 11 a.m. School of the Bible 10:30 a.m. Wed. Adult High MYF 6:30 Wed. Sr. High UKYF EAGLE LAKE GOSPEL MISSION Rev. Emil and Selma Bremer, pastors Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m., Wednesday at 8 p.m., Evangelistic service FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD Rev. Mr. and Mrs. John R. Davis, Pastors Sunday Services: Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Morning worship 11 a.m., Nightly service 7 p.m. ROCK ISLAND BAPTIST CHURCH 10 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Morning worship 11 a.m. 6:00 p.m. Evening worship The First National Bank MEMBER F.D.I.C. Eagle Lake Rice Drug Store "We'll Do Our Best!" 234-2518 - Eagle Lake D. R. Wintermann EAGLE LAKE	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CATHOLIC CHURCH Rev. Edward Geller, pastor Guadalupe Terrace Addn. Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Mass, 7:00 p.m. Mass OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC CHURCH Rev. Edward Geller, pastor Mass at 6 a.m. every Mon. and Fri. and 7:00 p.m. Mass at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday Devotional Services each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., First Friday of each month Holy Mass at 7:00 p.m. HOLY CROSS CHURCH East-Central, Texas Masses: Saturday, 8:30 p.m. hillside Sunday, 7:00 a.m. hillside Sunday, 7 and 9 a.m. Weekdays 6 a.m. Tues., & Thurs., 6 p.m. GETSEMANE BAPTIST MISSION Rev. Paul Ortiz, pastor Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Preaching service 11 a.m., Training Union 6:30 p.m., Wednesday: W.M.A. & BROTHERHOOD 7:00 p.m., Prayer Service 6:00 p.m. AGRIC Gulf Coast Agri - Constructors Inc. EAGLE LAKE
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Handel's "Messiah" Is A Beloved Tradition Of Christmas Season

Each Christmas season finds music-lovers enraptured by performances of George Frideric Handel's oratorio, "Messiah."

Since its first performance in 1742, "Messiah" has been thrilling listeners and adding to the significance of religious holidays.

The libretto is generally attributed to Charles Jennens, a wealthy patron of the arts. The libretto is a compilation of passages from the Old Testament and the New Testament.

"Messiah" begins impressively with stately measures that become a vigorous fugue passage, giving way to the recitative for tenor voice, "Comfort Ye." A lovely aria, "Every Valley Shall be Exalted," is followed by a stirring chorus of praise, "And the Glory of the Lord." A recitative for bass proclaims: "Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth." The aria, "But who may abide the day of His coming?" is then followed by a chorus, "And He shall purify the sons of Levi."

Now the narrative centers on the birth of Jesus... a recitative for alto, "Behold! A virgin shall conceive and bear a son..."

(Continued on next page)

Best Wishes of the season!

It's always a pleasure to greet our friends at Christmas and wish them the very best! Thank you for your patronage and happy holidays!

ALTAR DRYER, INC.
ALTAR, TEXAS

Piano Students Entertain Mothers

These piano students played for their mothers at a Christmas Tea at the Draper Stephens home. They are: first row, left to right, Audrey Addins, Denise Reese, Billy Cook, Patty Ann Stephens, second row, left to right, Rebecca Roberts, Connie Pratz, Roxanne Ripper, Jimmy Clipson, Donna Pratz; third row, left to right, Mrs. John Miska, Luann Brown, Mrs. Stephens.

Mrs. Stephens' Students Play For Mothers

The piano students of Mrs. Draper Stephens honored their mothers at a Christmas Tea Wednesday, Dec. 17th at 4:30 p.m. at the Stephens home.

Upon their arrival the students were presented with a Christmas corsage or boutonniere. Each mother was also presented with a corsage.

After the recital refreshments of assorted cookies, dips, chips, punch and coffee were enjoyed by the students, their mothers, and other special guests.

Selections chosen by the students were: "Mary Had a Little Lamb" by Tyne and Stephens and Mrs. Stephens; "Silver Bells" by Luann Brown; "Jingle, Jingle, Jingle" by Luann and Mrs. Brown; "Deck the Halls" by Jimmy Clipson; "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" and "Away in the Manger" by Rebecca Roberts; "Are My Eyes on Straight" by Denise Reese; "Up on a House Top" by Denise and Mrs. Ted Reese; "White Christmas" by Roxanne Ripper; "Angels We Have Heard on High" by Roxanne and Mrs. Ripper; "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" by Billy Cook; "The First Noel" by Audrey and Mrs. Stephens.

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Appelt Attends 100 TO DIE IN XMAS, NY HOLIDAYS

Bill Appelt of Anderson, Althorn Associates Insurance Agency was among the two hundred fifty people who attended an Estate Planning Seminar at Texas A&M University that was planned to bring professional estate workers up to date on new concepts in working with estate problems.

Topics covered included estate valuation, gifting programs, liquidity problems, and various instruments of transferring property. The seminar was sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The state's top lawman said 40 of the deaths are likely during the Christmas period which runs from 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, through midnight Sunday, Dec. 28.

An estimated 40 deaths will occur in the New Year period which runs from 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, through midnight Sunday, Jan. 4, 1976.

Spir said the DPS will be working with local law enforcement agencies to mount as strong an enforcement effort as possible.

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