

# Eagle Lake Headlight

VOLUME 72. P. O. BOX 67 EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434 THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1976 AC 713 234-2783 NUMBER 36.

## Mrs. Lillian Frnka Honored On Retirement



Registered Nurses Edna Mae Krivacka, left and Janette Frnka, right, present Mrs. J. T. (Lillian) Frnka with a silver service and tray given by well wishing friends in the medical and nursing staffs here upon her retirement after eighteen years of work in the local hospital. Mrs. Frnka is a Licensed Vocational Nurse. See story on page 12.

## First National Deposits Up \$2.1 Million

Assets Climb To Record \$24.5 Million

The First National Bank of Eagle Lake closed out another outstanding year on Dec. 31st with a new high of \$24,500,000 in deposits and a new record in assets of \$24,536,733.04.

The report for this year reveals that deposits for the year are up over \$2 million over those in 1974. As of Dec. 31st, 1974 deposits were listed at \$18,500,000.00 and assets at \$21,511,320.97. At the close of the 1975 year the deposits were listed at \$20,658,723.30 and assets at \$24,536,733.04.

Loans and discounts in the Dec. 31st, 1975 report are listed at \$14,598,076.90 as compared to \$11,271,006.72 in 1974 and \$8,435,947.38 in 1973.

The current statement reveals undivided profits are at a new high of \$1,960,000.80.

## 15 Year Old Boy Accidentally Shot Last Fri.

A 15 year old youth, Roy Lee Berry, who resides in the Altair area, is recuperating from an accidental gunshot wound while playing at his home last Friday morning.

Investigating officers said that Roy Lee Berry, a 15 year old boy, was playing with a .22 caliber rifle when he accidentally shot himself in the right arm and the bullet entered his back.

He was brought to Eagle Lake Community Hospital by the Eagle Lake Ambulance Corps and later taken to the John Sealy Hospital in Galveston.

He is reported to be recuperating nicely from the accident. Roy Lee is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Berry and they live on the Altman farm southeast of Altair.

## 2 Die As Result Of Shootings Friday Nite

### Griffiths Buy Eagle Lake Insurance Agency Here

#### Gays Move Bay City

Robert and Maxine Griffith, owners of the Strickland Insurance Agency of Eagle Lake, announce the purchase of the Eagle Lake Insurance Agency from Edwin Gay and took over the new business on January 1st.

The Griffiths have operated the Strickland Insurance Agency since Oct. 1, 1959 and say that the new acquisition will enable them to offer their customers and those of the Eagle Lake Insurance Agency complete insurance coverage with a wide range of leading insurance companies.

Mr. Gay purchased the Eagle Lake Insurance Agency Oct. 1, 1967 from Mrs. W. E. McRee and has operated the business since that time. He and his wife, Beverly, and children, Ed, Ellen and Amy, moved to Bay City where Mr. Gay plans to become associated with an insurance agency with which he was associated prior to coming to Eagle Lake.

The Gays extended sincere thanks to citizens of the community for their patronage and friendship over the past eight years.

Mr. Griffith said that he and Mrs. Griffith will continue to operate their business as the Strickland Insurance Agency and the name of Eagle Lake Insurance Agency will also be retained. Plans will be announced soon.

## New Year Opens With Violence

The New Year started with violence and tragedy in this county when two Eagle Lake men died as the result of gunshot wounds last Friday night, January 2nd.

At 10:30 p.m. Friday night Gordon Ellis entered the Western Club at Altair and used a high powered 7.7 mm. Japanese make rifle to shoot Richard Witte in the stomach, killing him instantly. Shortly afterward Ellis was found dead beside his car with the rifle still in his hand on a Farm to Market road between Garwood and Nada, apparently from a self-inflicted gunshot.

Investigating the shooting were Highway Patrolmen and deputies from the County Sheriff's office and other officers from this area. According to information received by the officers, the two men had been in the Western Club at Altair since early in the afternoon. Ellis left the place earlier that night and took Witte's pickup, reportedly unknown to Witte until he decided to leave some time later. Meanwhile Ellis went to his home on Stevenson Street and left the truck there and he took his car and his wife the pickup truck and they headed toward Altair but at the roadside park on Highway 90A west of Eagle Lake, he took the keys from the pickup and threw them in nearby brush and he left in the car.

Officers say that they have not been able to determine the exact reason for Ellis' entering the Western Club, calling Witte's name, and then firing the shot. Ellis then ordered Linda Jackson, owner of the club, to give him money. She fled out a back door, but Ellis allegedly went to the cash register and took an estimated \$100. He dropped \$34 outside the building. It was reported that another rifle shot was fired once outside the building.

Officers in the area began an all-out search for Ellis and the car. At around 1:15 a.m. Saturday, a passerby reported to the Garwood sheriff's deputy that a man with blood on his face was seen beside a car on FM 353 between Garwood and Nada. Officers rushed to the scene and found Ellis dead beside his car with his hand still clutching the rifle.

Justice of Peace Richard C. Schmidt from the Columbus JP precinct conducted an inquest at the scene of both deaths and ruled Witte died as the result of murder and Ellis died as the result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Bodies of both Ellis and Witte were brought to Eagle Lake by Mill-Bauer Funeral Home.

Both men were employed with the Prater Construction company and had been doing work at local gravel pits in the Matthews area.

Obituaries for the two men may be found on page five.

## Accident Kills Alleyton Man

Electrocuted When Pipe Hits 7200 Volt Line

A tragic accident at the Lone Star Industries plant south of Matthews at 3:30 p.m. Tues., Dec. 30th claimed the life of Edward Fitzgerald, 40, of Alleyton, the father of nine children and the nephew of Rice High School vocational agriculture instructor Willie Fitzgerald.

The freak electrical accident also hospitalized Alton Gottschald, Jr., of Garwood with severe burns on his hands and body.

Representatives of the county sheriff's office, the Bureau of Mines, Lone Star Industries and Central Power and Light Co. took part in investigation of the accident.

Mr. Gottschald reportedly told the investigators that a small rabbit had run into a 30-foot length of 6-inch aluminum pipe lying in a pile nearby. He said he summoned Fitzgerald who was nearby to help him stand the length of pipe on end to get the rabbit out of the pipe.

Reportedly the pipe came in contact with the center wire of a three phase C.P.L. primary electrical line, about 26 feet above the ground and carrying 7200 volts of electricity.

It is believed Fitzgerald was killed instantly but he and Gottschald were rushed to the Eagle Lake Community Hospital by the Garwood Fire Department's emergency vehicle and a private vehicle but Fitzgerald was pronounced dead on arrival.

Gottschald was momentarily stunned by the shock but managed to get assistance from a nearby drag line operator. He is reported to be recuperating from the shock and severe burns and has been released from the hospital.

LAST RITES SAT. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday for Fitzgerald from the Mt. Mariah Baptist Church in Alleyton with the Rev. L. B. Kemp officiating. Burial was in the Alleyton Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Clarine; nine children; his mother Mrs. Ruth Fitzgerald; two sisters and five brothers and other relatives. His father, Rex Fitzgerald, preceded him in death.

## 2 CB Radios Stolen Sat.

Local police are investigating the theft of two Citizen Band radios from vehicles at the Steve Taylor home on the corner of State and Lake some time during Saturday night.

Mr. Taylor reported to Chief of Police Roy Chism that the CB radios were taken from a pickup truck and from an automobile parked in the driveway of the Taylor home.

## TAX OFFICER HERE MON., TUES., WED.

Colorado County Tax Officer Henry J. Hajovsky and his deputies will be in Eagle Lake Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 12, 13, and 14th to collect 1975 taxes and to take assessments for 1976 taxes. They will also be taking voter registrations for persons not already on the poll list by virtue of the fact that they voted in an election during the past three years.

The group will be at the central room of the Municipal Building from 8:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. on each of the three dates.

The tax group will be at Hajovsky's office in Garwood from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. this Thurs., Jan. 8th and at Lone Oak this Friday morning and at the Heinsch Store in Freidburg Friday afternoon.

The group will continue after the visits in Eagle Lake at the Walker office in Oakland Thurs., Jan. 15th; at H&S Grocery in Bernardo on Fri., Jan. 16th from 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The next visit will be at the Nida, Grocery and Market from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Mon., Jan. 19th; then at the postoffice in Altair from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Tues., Jan. 20th. The group will be at the Sheridan school house 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wed., Jan. 21st and at the Rock Island Community Center from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on the same date.

"I want to be your County (Continued on last page)"

## Tax Officer H. J. Hajovsky Asks Re-election

Colorado County Tax Assessor-Collector Henry J. Hajovsky, who has served in the position for a number of years, will seek nomination for re-election to a new four-year term in the Democratic Primary election to be held May 1st. Mr. Hajovsky is completing his twenty-eighth year in office in Colorado County.

His announcement statement follows: "I wish to take the opportunity of expressing my sincere appreciation to the taxpayers and the voters who gave me the opportunity to serve as your Tax Assessor-Collector of Colorado County in the past and to announce that I am a candidate for re-election. "During the time I have served you as Tax Assessor-Collector I have given my best efforts to perform the duties of my office in a honest, fair and efficient manner.

"The office of the Tax Assessor-Collector has kept pace with its increasing responsibilities and we have endeavored to serve all the people fairly, accurately and with the least inconvenience to them as possible.

"I will appreciate your vote and support for re-nomination as the Democratic candidate for Tax Assessor-Collector of Colorado County in the Democratic Primary to be held on May 1, 1976."

Henry J. Hajovsky  
Candidate for Democratic Nomination  
For Tax Assessor-Collector, Colorado County, Texas

## Cassady, Euers Buy Land, Old Hospital

Directors of the Eagle Lake Community Hospital have approved the sale of the old hospital building and property.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen D. Cassady purchased the 2.534 acres of land at the rear of the hospital. The old hospital building and the land on which it is located were sold to Lester Euers, owner of the Eagle Lake Drugs.

The Community Hospital advertised for bids for sale of the property earlier in the year but the bids were unacceptable and the final sale was made through negotiations by the directors with the prospective buyers.

## HAS HEART SURGERY

Friends will be pleased to learn that Maurice Goodson is home and recuperating nicely from heart surgery by Dr. Denton Cooley in St. Luke's Hospital in Houston December 23rd. He was released New Year's Day.

## Witte Memorial Fund Established

A memorial fund in memory of the late Richard Witte, who died last Friday, has been established at the First National Bank in Eagle Lake and persons interested in making contributions to this fund to assist his family are asked to leave their contributions at the bank or mail them to the Richard Witte Memorial Fund, Box 215, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434.

Mr. Witte is survived by his wife and four children and any assistance that you can offer to this grieving family will be appreciated.

## Constable J. T. Jimmie Frnka First Baby Of Year Born Asks Re-election New Years Day

Constable J. T. (Jimmie) Frnka announces he will seek re-election and he asks for your vote and support in the Democratic Primary to be held on May 1st.

His announcement statement follows: "I have served as your Constable in Justice of Peace Precinct 8 for the past 12 years, I faithfully do all my duties in a friendly way and will always be willing to give anyone a helping hand. My record of the past 12 years will show this.

"I am an active member of the Colorado County Peace Officers' Association and get along well with all branches of law enforcement agencies. "If you good people of Precinct 8 will re-elect me, I will

The first baby of the 1976 year born in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital was little Ang Delida Diaz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Diaz of this city. She arrived at 3:30 a.m. on January 1, 1976.

At birth the young lady weighed eight pounds and eleven ounces and measured 21 inches long. She is also being welcomed by five brothers and sisters.

handle the job of Constable in the respectable way as I have done in the past.

"Again, thank you all.  
Constable J. T. (Jimmie) Frnka,  
Precinct No. 8"

## Signs Soil Testing Week Proclamation



Colorado County Judge Lester J. Crank, seated at left, signs a proclamation designating Jan. 11-17, 1976 as Soil Testing Week in this county. Seated with Judge Crank is George Sebesta of Bernardo, chairman of the County's Program Building Committee. Others present for the signing of the proclamation were: standing left to right, Arthur Mahalik of Eagle Lake and Billy Youens of Columbus, members of the Committee; and County Agent P. Johnnie Cooper. Other members of the committee, not shown, are: Charles T. Tuttle of Watrous and W. R. (Butch) Martin of Garwood. (See story on page 9)

## VFW Post To Meet Next Mon.

The newly organized chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Eagle Lake will have a meeting at Jack's Restaurant at 7:30 p.m. next Monday, Jan. 12th.

Post Commander Roy Chism invites all interested veterans to attend. A name will be selected for the Post and other organization plans completed.

## More Donations To Flood Fund

Two more donors to the Eagle Lake Flood Fund are: the Eagle Lake Dairy Delia, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Smith owners \$20; Spallinger Hardware, Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Spallinger owners \$25.

The latest contributions bring the total received by the Chamber of Commerce to \$2161.10. Estimated cost of the flood which will be used for this community's participation in local and out of town activities in the bicentennial year is \$2700.00.

## Rice Allotment Down 8% In '76

But Congress May Adopt Target Price Plan

The U. S. Secretary of Agriculture has announced that strict controls will be imposed on rice production for the 1976 year and reduced the acreage allotment nationwide by eight per cent over last year. Total allotment for 1976 was set at 1,652,596 acres as compared to 1,802,906 in 1975. Of the 1975 allotment, 460,734 was allotted to the state of Texas.

However, the rice situation remains very much in doubt since the U. S. House of Representatives on Dec. 14 approved the target price system for rice, which would allow for cotton, corn and wheat. The Senate is expected to take up consideration of the new target price program when it reconvenes on Jan. 19th.

Farmers are wondering at this time if the present program will stay in effect or if Congress will pass the new target price law which would abolish existing controls and the price support system. Many rice leaders believe that the Senate may pass the proposed new legislation.

Under the existing law, the USDA must announce the allotment for the coming year

whenever there is a surplus in the previous year's crop as there is this year.

It is anticipated that if the 1976 allotment program remains in effect, producers will be called on to vote in a marketing quota referendum for the first time in three years.

If the target price system is adopted it would mean that a national allotment of 1.8 million acres would be set but would serve only as a guide for making government payments in the case of a disaster or in case the market price falls below the target price. The target price would be set at \$8 per hundredweight under the House plan and the price support loan will be set at \$4 per hundredweight. But under the target price system, there would be no marketing quotas and no penalties for exceeding acreage allotment but a farmer would have to plant within his allotment to be assured of getting the target price or a loan.

Most rice farmers in the area oppose the plan since the target price system would encourage farmers to plant "wheat" or over their allotment. It is anticipated that rice producers will have trouble arranging for financing for their 1976 crops if the target price system is adopted.

## Bomb Threat Investigated

Colorado County had its first bomb scare of the year late Tuesday night when the county sheriff's office received word from the Houston Dept. of Public Safety office that a bomb had been reported on a Continental Bus heading for Columbus and the bomb was due to go off at 9:25.

When the bus arrived in Columbus, passengers were removed and the bus taken to an isolated road and local officers and a Houston bomb squad waited over an hour and nothing happened. A search was made and the freight and three unclaimed pieces of luggage removed and placed in a dump truck and covered with a tarpaulin and the truck was placed in an isolated area of the city dump but fortunately the bombs did not go off - if there were any among the items, Columbus firemen stood by in case of an explosion.

At 11:12 the passengers boarded the bus and left for their destination. The bus company is due to send personnel to pick up the freight and unclaimed luggage.