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Commr's Court Delays Action on Fund Division

Henicke in Hospital, Unable to Attend

Colorado County Commissioners' Court's scheduled meeting last Thursday morning to work on a formula for distribution of county funds, on the basis of needs in the county as a whole, failed to get off the ground when Precinct One Commissioner Walter Henicke was unable to be present since he was confined to the Columbus Hospital.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Bill Stiles' proposed opening of the agenda to discuss the matter due to Mr. Henicke's absence.

Those present, County Judge Lester Crank, and Commissioner Stiles; Precinct Two Commissioner Rafael Veselka; and Precinct 3 Commissioner Crockett Leyendecker, tossed the matter about for about an hour but adjourned without any kind of an agreement.

Commissioner Leyendecker is asking more than a 25% share of the funds available noting that he has no large surpluses on which to fall back. He said he would be required to curtail his operations since less funds will be available than were spent in 1975 and "cost of things are going up all the time."

Leyendecker said that he is asking for no more than the least amount spent by any of the commissioners in 1975, that being \$181,000 spent by Precinct 3 Commissioner Rafael Veselka, Phil Gates, Columbus attorney hired by Mr. Leyendecker at personal expense, told the court Jan. 12th that figures showed that precinct one spent \$211,000 in 1975; precinct 2, \$181,000; precinct 3, \$185,000; and precinct 4, \$220,000. Gates also noted that with a 25% split to each of the precincts funds available in 1976 would give each of the commissioners only \$148,000.

At the Jan. 12th meeting Leyendecker indicated that he had no plans to take the matter to court if the commissioners' court did not take the county's needs under consideration "as a whole or single unit," rather than by individual precincts. But Thursday his comments indicated that he might be considering this since he commented once that the commissioners in the other 3 precincts might take into consideration the additional costs that would be incurred to them "if this thing ever gets into the court."

No announcement was made on when the court plans to take up the matter again, but presumably the item will be a primary one on the Feb. 9th regular meeting agenda.

Bill Carpenter Is Lay Speaker Baptist Ch. Sun.

The First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake has designated Sunday, February 1st as Baptist Men's Day. Emphasis will be given to the Christian work of laymen.

Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. by the Baptist Men organization of the church. Men and boys are invited to share the meal followed by a devotional given by the Reverend David Edgar of Colly Memorial United Methodist Church.

A men's choir will sing for the Morning Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. The message will be given by William Carpenter of Garwood. Mr. Carpenter is a counselor at Rice High School and is a certified Lay Speaker for the Methodist Church.

Pastor Melburn Sibley extends an invitation to the community to share in the activities of Sunday.

BUZZIN' ABOUT TOWN

* Friends in the community were happy to see W. S. Gurdy of Hot Springs, Ark. about town last week. Mr. Gurdy said he was here for his annual physical checkup and is looking forward to living to be 100.

He also came to visit with his son, Carl Gurdy of Columbus, who underwent surgery Mon., Jan. 19th at the De Tar Hospital in Victoria. Carl was due to remain in the hospital for another week.

* More donations continue to come in to the Eagle Lake Flood Fund and the total now is \$2421.19. The new float is under construction and is due to be delivered sometime in March.

The latest donors are: \$10. Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Duncan of Duncan and Son; Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bradshaw of Royal Cleaners, \$10.00; Mr. and Mrs. Alvin W. Kohleffel of Rice Package Store, \$25.00; Eagle Lake Study Club, \$25; Eagle Lake Study Club, \$25; and Eagle Lake Hospital Auxiliary (Pink Ladies), \$50; Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Maitland of Maitland's 66 Service Station, \$25; and Mrs. J. H. Reel of Silver Creek Hatchery, \$25.

If you haven't given and would like to do so send your contribution to the Chamber of Commerce, Box 216 or leave it at First National Bank.

* The members of Ducks Unlimited plan to get out of the dog house by staging their first annual Duck Picker's Ball at the K. of C. Hall in El Campo this Sat., Jan. 31. The DU members have been staging annual stag benefits for a long time and the ladies have been excluded so this event is staged as a fun social with lots of good prizes for the ladies. Anyone who wishes can attend; admission is a \$10 donation to the Rice-Belt Ducks Unlimited.

* Friends in the community welcome Mr. and Mrs. G. I. Jennings as new residents of the community. Mr. Jennings recently retired with the Southern Pacific Railroad Co. and the family is residing in the Seaholm Apartments here until their new home on Bernardo Road can be completed. Mrs. Jennings is the sister of Mrs. Nell Rowe, Mrs. Lou Birdwell and Mrs. Cora Wallace and she was a former resident here for a number of years.

* Drew Shell brought by a 1902 copy of the Sears and Roebuck catalog. You just wouldn't believe the prices that were listed in the thick catalog.

* Friends in the community will regret to learn that Mrs. John (Otilia) Kearney is very ill at her home at 4718 Alamo Drive in Galveston following several weeks stay in the St. Mary's Hospital in that city. We know that she would like very much to hear from her friends in the community. Mrs. Kearney was editor of the Headlight for many years while Mr. Kearney was on duty with the Santa Fe Railroad Co.

* Joining Louise and Ted Brunner and Eunice and Fred Frnka in San Marcos Monday evening for the Southwest Texas and Sam Houston basketball game were Janet and John J. Grigar III of Lockhart and Miss Florine Oltman of San Marcos. Miss Oltman is a former teacher and librarian in Eagle Lake High School.

* The large crowd on hand were Glen Spierman, a student at S. U. and Ross

Rice Belt DU Duck Picker's Ball Sat. Nite

The Rice Belt chapter of Ducks Unlimited will host its first annual "Duck Picker's Ball" on Saturday, January 31, 1976 at the K.C. Hall in El Campo. This will be a fun evening with many fabulous door prizes for the ladies only.

The evening's entertainment and music will be by the show band "Johnny Dee and the Rocket 88's".

For an entertaining evening, tickets may be purchased from Eagle Market, Johnny's Sport Shop, Louis Schorlemmer and Melvin Sunderman, all in Eagle Lake. The ticket price of \$10.00 per couple will include the set-ups.

Obenhaus of this city and Julie Goode, SWT student, from Odessa and the group had their own cheering section. Jeff Frnka is a member of the Bobcat team that turned in an outstanding performance in upsetting the SHS Bearkats 106 to 82. The group also enjoyed the performance of the Strutters during half-time intermission.

Hearing Mar. 26 On Garwood Irrigation Request

The Texas Water Rights Commission announces in a notice on page eight of this issue that a hearing will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Mar. 26th by the Commission at its office in the Stephen F. Austin State Office Building in Austin on certain water rights requested by the Garwood Irrigation Co. of Garwood, Texas.

The hearing is called on the matter of cancelling, in whole or part, certain water rights which have not been used under the permit granted to the Garwood company under certified filings during the past ten years.

The irrigation company also has filed for an application to change the points of diversion and place of use on the west bank of the Colorado River.

The water rights involved are filed in the county clerks' offices in Wharton and Colorado counties.

Interior Dept. Files DES On Refuge Management

The operation of the system of 367 National Wildlife Refuges in 49 states—currently a subject of debate within the conservation community—is described in detail in a draft environmental statement (DES) filed recently by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with the Council on Environmental Quality.

The statement was prepared as a result of a lawsuit brought by private conservation groups concerned with how the refuge system was being managed. Changes in Federal budgeting procedures in recent years obscured the amount of money going into the refuge system because of the shift to management by program objectives.

Public comments are invited on the DES through February 7, 1976. Comments should be addressed to Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Wildlife Refuges, Washington, D.C. 20240. Copies of the DES may be obtained by writing to the above address.

The DES considers six different levels of management of the entire system over the next 10 years and describes what results can be expected at three levels of funding and with three different kinds of program emphasis. They range from reverting to a custodial or "mothball" status to going full speed ahead on program funding. Additionally, the DES describes the expected results from shifting first priority to endangered species and migratory birds. Also, it considers what effect the establishment of a separate agency of government to manage the refuge system would have. Lastly, it considers what effect the shifting of refuge management to other Federal or State agencies would have.

(Continued next week)

Donald Bendy

(Continued from page one) and was valedictorian of the 1962 Teague High School graduating class.

He thereafter attended Baylor University, from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1966, ranking in the top 15% of his class. Following his graduation from Baylor, he entered the University of Texas Law School, where he became a member of Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity. He graduated in the top 20% of his class from the University of Texas, receiving a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1969.

Mr. Bendy attended Naval Reserve Officers Training School in 1969, and was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve during that year. He served as Legal Officer of Aviation Training Squadron Thirty-One in Corpus Christi, Texas, until his release from active duty in 1972.

Prior to entering law practice in Eagle Lake, with Willard W. Shuart, in September, 1973, he practiced for one and one-half years with the law firm of Watkins and Hamilton in Houston, Texas. He and Mr. Shuart formed the existing law partnership of Shuart and Bendy in March, 1974.

Mr. Bendy is married to the former Sandra Truly of Midland, Texas, and they have two sons, Kevin, age 4, and Keith, 9 months. He is presently a member of Eagle Lake Noon Lions Club, where he is serving his second year as treasurer; a member of Colly Memorial United Methodist Church of Eagle Lake, Texas, where he is a member of the Building Committee for the new church and a past member of the Administrative Board; a member of the State Bar of Texas; and a member of the Colorado County Bar Association, for which he is presently serving as president.

Liberty Tree Planting In Columbus Sun.

A symbolic "Liberty Tree" planting ceremony will be held on Sunday, February 1, 1976 at 12:00 noon on the Colorado County Court House Square. The program is sponsored by the American Revolution Bicentennial Committee of Columbus, the Texas Forest Service, and the Texas Forestry Association as an official American Revolution Bicentennial project.

The highlight of the ceremony will be the presentation of a "Liberty Tree", a Texas pecan, by John W. Stine, District Forester, Texas Forest Service, to Colorado County and its acceptance by the Hon. Lester Crank, Judge of Colorado County.

This Bicentennial pecan is called a Liberty Tree after the famous elm in colonial Boston under which the first act of public resistance occurred in 1765—the hanging in effigy of a newly appointed stamp tax officer. This tree was a symbol of resistance to British rule, and many towns planted or dedicated their own liberty trees.

At this time the Harris County Mounted Sheriff's posse, Ambassadors of Good Will for the American Revolution Bicentennial Committee of Houston, will present a scroll in Columbus on their way to Austin to make a similar presentation to Governor Dolph Briscoe. This is commemorating a Pony Express run between Houston and Austin.

All the citizens of Colorado County are cordially invited to attend this Bicentennial event.

2 Fire Alarms This Week

Eagle Lake firemen were called to two fire alarms this week.

At 10 a.m. Monday the firemen were called to a grass fire at the Southern Pacific switching yards west of the city.

At 8:45 a.m. Tuesday, an alarm was sounded when smoke filled the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Owens at 700 East State, the former Leo Borak home.

Firemen could find no fire and it is believed that the smoke came from a heater unit. Firemen used smoke ejectors to remove the smoke with little damage to the home.

Sales Tax Collection Past Year Doubled

State Comptroller Bob Bullock released information this week showing how collections by Texas cities of the city sales tax—which has always been one per cent—have skyrocketed in recent years.

Bullock released a list comparing each city's 1975 sales tax rebates with the rebates during the first full calendar year that city collected the sales tax.

Seven hundred and eighty cities showed increases ranging up to 1,538 per cent. Only 30 cities showed a decline in rebates.

Eagle Lake collections went up 100% from \$43,097.21 in 1974 to \$86,240.85 in 1975.

A comparison for other cities in the area was as follows: (first figure for 1974, second for 1975): Columbus, \$45,445.28 to \$97,041.17 or an increase of 114%; Hallettsville \$43,833.26 to \$75,470.29, an increase of 73%; La Grange, \$56,812.83 to \$115,616.16—an increase of 104%; Sealy, \$31,650.85 to \$79,557.43, an increase of 151%; Wallis, \$7,065.30 to \$10,363.87, an increase of 47%; and Welmar, \$34,252.21 to \$50,257.94, an increase of 47%.

Ind. Cattlemen To Elect Officers Fri.

The Independent Cattlemen's Association of Colorado County will have a meeting at 7 p.m. this Friday, January 30th at the County Agriculture Building at 316 Spring St. in Columbus, announces Henry Potter head of the association.

Purpose of the meeting will be to elect officers for the 1976 year. All members and others interested in becoming members are invited and urged to attend, said Potter.

RICE LOANS

CCC Loans on 1975 crop rice for eligible producers will remain available through March 31, 1976.

Thomas Wine

(Continued from page one) hat Infantry Badge, and The Air Repelling Wing.

I am a member of the Veteran's Association, was raised in Masonry in 1948, and have been active with the American Legion.

If elected to this office,

I promise to have "day and night" patrols, and to the best of my ability to establish a department with permanent employees dedicated to serve and protect the persons and properties of the people of Colorado County with pride and integrity.

I intend to wage an active campaign and earnestly solicit the vote and support of each and every one of you in the coming Democratic Primary.

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