

Legend Of The Lake Keeps "Bobbin' Up"

[Reprinted from a May 10, 1924 issue of the Eagle Lake Headlight]

The Texas Folk-Lore Society, which is now meeting in Austin, has published the third number of its "Legends of Texas," in which the "Legend of Eagle Lake" is reproduced in its original form. The legend is reproduced in its original form, as it appeared in the first issue of the "Legends of Texas," published in 1924. The legend is reproduced in its original form, as it appeared in the first issue of the "Legends of Texas," published in 1924.

published in the American Sketch Book (The Eagle Magazine), Austin. The article in which it is embodied is unsigned, but the legend itself is said to be "fresh from the pen of Mrs. F. Darden, (Mrs. F. A. D. Darden), and it is apparently quoted from some other publication. According to this version, one of the lovers, Sonoto, was old and fierce, the other, Gray Cloud, was youthful and bold. The tree that the rivals climbed was cottonwood. Gray Cloud reached the nest first and had grasped one of the eaglets to bring it down when he was assaulted by the fierce parent eagle. Sonoto seized the opportunity to hurl his opponent to the ground a hundred feet below. Out in the lake were the Indians, watching the contest from their canoes. When she first saw her lover's fate, the maiden, Forest Flower, began the death chant; then she leaped into the water and was drowned. Later the two lovers were buried side by side at the foot of the tree.



Beautiful Eagle Lake - Before The Nutria Invasion

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Popular Fishing Pier And Pavilion At Lake In Early 1900's



In the top photo above is shown the fishing pier at the Eagle Lake Rod and Gun Club where some of the best fishing in the state prevailed among the beauty of blooming water lilies. In the lower photo are some of the local fishermen enjoying a boating and fishing expedition in a marshy area of the lake in front of the pavilion which once was the center for many of the social events of the area. The pavilion was built in 1893, the top was blown off in the 1913 storm, and the remainder of the pavilion burned in 1917 and was never rebuilt.

FLOODS OF 1913 BACKED UP WATER ALL WAY TO THE CITY

Eagle Lake Bottoms

An Island; Water Reaches Calaboose

[This report on the disastrous floods of 1913, rated worse than the 1869 floods, was in the December 13, 1913 issue of the Eagle Lake Headlight, published by the late B.W. McCarty.]

Many people from Eagle Lake drove out to the Aransas Pass bridge between here and Altair last Friday afternoon to look at the high waters of the river, which at that time was rapidly rising at the rate of a foot an hour, and at five o'clock in the afternoon lacked about two feet from reaching the flooring of the bridge. The railroad had a force of about eighty men busy loading two thousand bags with dirt which was being placed on the grades leading to the railroad bridge for protection. So rapidly did the river rise

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hastened to the place. She arrived there in the afternoon on the day on which the last of the two lovers breathed his last. Frantic with frenzy and despair, she plunged the lance into her breast, and died as she had always lived, in the language of the Indians who related the story, "the wife of no one."

Ever afterwards, the spot was regarded with superstitious veneration by every tribe of Indians to whom was related the happy story. One in every seven moons the young men and maidens assembled to consecrate the spot, and each time they erected a cenotaph of flowers to their memory. Thus Eagle Lake took a name by which it is known and will ever be.

History Of Our Lake Is Colorful

[David R. Wintermann presented the following report on the "History of the Lake" at a recent meeting of the Colorado County Historical Commission.]

The lake is seldom more than eight feet deep. It is hemispherical in shape, somewhat like a saucer with the deepest part in the middle. Wintermann said he believes that at one time faulting caused the Colorado River to gradually divert its course and Eagle Lake was created.

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1913 FLOOD REACHES CITY

(Continued from page four)

that the railroad men cut the road and dynamited both sides of the dump, for further protection to the bridge. The water came through the old Sluter place in a terrific volume, making a solid sea of water for two miles and a half on this side of the river bridge, cutting off the railroad's force of men on an island, where the boarding cars stood. Many negroes were marooned in trees and on house tops in the Sluter section.

Night of Terror in Tree Tops Many negroes in that section were cut off by the rapidly rising waters and remained in tree tops from Friday evening until late in the day Saturday.

The river overflowed into the lake and the lake gave an appearance similar to that of the Gulf of Mexico. Back

water from the lake came up to within a few feet of the calaboose, and in the McCarty pasture on this side of the timber the water was eight or ten feet deep. The lower part of the flat, the negro section of town, the water reached a depth of ten feet in places and extended toward town within fifty yards of the Aransas Pass Railroad. The back waters, however, did not reach the negro section until Saturday morning, and practically all of the residents of that part of town moved out before the highest waters reached them.

The water began falling Saturday night and many of the colored people moved back to their homes during Sunday.

Colored People Moved Out Nearly all of the colored people succeeded in moving all of their household goods out before the water reached a depth sufficient to get inside of their houses, though some few of them did not, and lost considerably by the water damaging everything in the house.

Jack Battle Drowned Several people have been

reported drowned in the bottoms, but later many who were reported missing have since been heard from. The first known death at this time is that of Jack Battle, colored, who was drowned near Bonus. He owned his own farm and conducted a general merchandise store near Bonus. His death occurred Saturday morning. Several negroes are reported drowned near Spanish Camp and

later between Garwood and Bonus, Horton & Horton, Parker Bros., Superior Sand and Gravel, and Gifford Hill and Co., Inc.; and Thorstensen has a gravel operation going on the east side of Highway 71 between Garwood and Vox Populi.

these methods were first used in Colorado County on the Tait Ranch.

Familiar names in the gravel industry in the first few years of this century included: J. M. Mahon, G. W. Weeks, T. W. Schaefer, L. S. Lawrence, George F. Horton and his brother, J. C. Burke, W. H. Gemmer, and John Tanner. Later the names of Parker Brothers, Tamborella and R. Thorstensen were included.

In 1921, Gemmer and Tanner started operations in Alton on the Everett and Wooten lands. When the shop burned in 1922, they went southwest of Columbus and in 1923 they began operations south of Eagle Lake.

In 1924, the Columbus Gravel Company was formed by J. J. Everett, L. T. Everett, L. S. Lawrence, Ellis Miller and L. Zatopek. In 1929, it consolidated with Gemmer and Tanner and the Beaumont Building Material Company to form the Texas Construction Material Company. Heirs of the founders who were still active in the company when it was sold to Lone Star Cement in 1955 were: E. P. Gemmer, Mrs. Margaret Everett Griffith, Ernest Lawrence and Mrs. Cynthia Tanner Younsa.

If demand continues at the current rate, Lawrence predicted that there is likely enough gravel in Colorado County at Blue Roan Bend to last between forty to sixty years.

4,000 Millionaires At the turn of the century the nation counted about 4,000 millionaires, 1,100 of them in New York. A member of the wealthy Astor family observed, "A man with a million dollars is as well off as if he were rich," according to "We Americans," the National Geographic Society's informal history of the United States.

Capitol Dome WASHINGTON - The dome of the nation's Capitol in Washington, D. C., is double-walled iron, weighs nine million pounds and may expand and contract as much as four inches on days of temperature extremes.

several more farther down the river bottoms.

County Bridge Still Standing The county bridge between Eagle Lake and Altair was reported washed out, but people who have gotten as close as possible to that point, report that the bridge is still standing, though the approaches on both sides are out. The Garwood bridge was reported washed out, but later reports are that this bridge also is still standing, with the approaches gone.

River 45 Feet at Columbus At Columbus the river reached a maximum of 45 feet at 4 o'clock Saturday morning, and has fallen but slowly since.

Alleyton Under Water The river at Columbus at its highest stage was between 44 and 45 feet above normal, the water reaching a depth of nine feet over the rails between Alleyton and Eagle Lake, and at one point between Columbus and Alleyton water reached to a height of seven feet over a twenty-five foot telephone pole.

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Gravel Plants Border River



Sand gravel plants, such as this one at Parker Bros., south of Eagle Lake, border the Colorado River. J. J. Columbus to Wharton, with Eagle Lake the center of operations for this thriving industry. Currently, plants operating along the Colorado River near Eagle Lake are Lone Star Industries at the Eagle Lake and Blue Roan Bend plants (the

Gravel History Dates To 1850

Ernest Lawrence of Columbus, associated with Texas Construction Materials and later with Lone Star Industries gave the following report on the gravel industries in Colorado and Fayette Counties to the Colorado County Historical group. Gravel was not used commercially in 1850, but in that decade it was used to build a fence around the Tait property. Sands from the Colorado River were used to build the Dilgo Rose Harris home. Gravel has been used on a commercial basis in Colorado County since 1870.

Lawrence discussed the types of gravel produced and the men who developed the industry. In 1870 river bed gravel from below the north bridge was used for railroad ballast on the Columbus Tap Railroad. In 1880, bill-top gravel from the surface was used in railroad ballast in Gladden. Subsurface became a major production and more recently, wash-out. Both of

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Pink Ladies Nearing 20,000 Hours Of Volunteer Work

The Eagle Lake Community Hospital Auxiliary was organized at a meeting September 27, 1967 at the home of Mrs. Carey Stuart and since that time through July 31, 1975 the Pink Ladies had contributed a total of 15,669 hours of volunteer service to the hospital and its patients.

Mrs. Stuart was elected as the first president of the Auxiliary; Mrs. Rose Lange, first vice-president; Mrs. Eleanor McCreary, second vice-president; Mrs. Frank A. Higgins, treasurer; and Mrs. Judy Willis, secretary.

A public meeting was held on October 25, 1967 and at that time forty-three ladies attended the meeting and twenty-three became active members and ten inactive members. Three became life members.

On November 6, 1967 the Auxiliary adopted its first set of bylaws and set up a Memorial Fund to be used to purchase useful items of lasting benefit to the hospital. Items that the hospital with its limited budget would otherwise have to forego as

luxuries. Included in these contributions was a pledge of \$11,700 for purchase of equipment for the laboratory at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital.

As of July 1, 1976 the Auxiliary has thirty-five active members and nine in-active members. The active members have given 19,315 hours of service to the hospital since October of 1967.

Functions of the Auxiliary members vary as the need arises; they do volunteer work with the hospital administration, the nurses, and staff to add to the comfort of the patients; they deliver mail and flowers, do escort service to the X-ray department, write letters, make calls, feed patients and do any task to alleviate the duties of nurses.