

BANKING

Bicentennial Report

Robberies Plagued Garwood Bank



To be later plagued with robberies, banking in Garwood began with Charter No. 543 being issued to the Garwood State Bank on January 19, 1910. The bank opened for business on February 12th with J. J. Pinchback as president and W. S. Griffiths, W. M. Griffiths and Ed R. Franks of Garwood; J. F. Franks and Frank Arnold of Nada; and M. E. Gwynn of Eagle Lake as directors. Its capital was \$10,000.00. Henry Herder became president in 1922. In November of 1932 the first of several robberies was attempted with a loss of only \$400. The bank was robbed again in April of 1934 when \$1,200.00 was stolen. In broad daylight in September of 1937, robbers hit again and escaped with \$30,446, taking cashier J. L. Chapman, shown above as a hostage. Nov. 12, 1938 the Garwood State Bank closed its doors and assets were sold to a new group of owners with C. R. Schuring as president but they liquidated the bank and closed the door on Nov. 1st, 1937.

Bankers Prominent Leaders In Their Communities

First National Bank, E. Lake
William H. Harrison

On July 22, 1916, in Alletton, Colorado County, Texas, William H. Harrison was born to Dr. and Mrs. R. Henry Harrison. His mother was the former Bettie Dittmann, daughter of C. A. and Anna Dittmann, early settlers in Alletton. He graduated from Columbus High School, from Schreiner Institute with distinguished services award in music, military, scholarship, and literary activities, from The University of Texas in 1937 cum laude with a degree in business administration. Following a world tour in 1938, he was employed as a "trouble-shooter" by the Property Service Company, a real estate management and rental company in Houston.

On November 26, 1938, he married Rosanne Violet Stephen of Houston, and to them were born four children, Bill, Jr., Randa, Bettie, and Rosanne. He was elected to the Board of Directors of The First National Bank of Eagle Lake in 1958; and became the bank's ninth president on February 14, 1963; moved to Eagle Lake from the Alletton ranch in 1964; served as President of the Chamber of Commerce and director in Rotary Club; is Past President of the South Central

Texas Bankers Association and former director of South Texas Electric Co-operative in Victoria, Texas.

First State Bank, Columbus
Ellis G. Miller

Ellis G. Miller, President of The First State Bank of Columbus is a native Texan being born on the Miller Ranch in Colorado County on January 18, 1891. His father, Fred G. Miller, died in 1913 and was a prominent ranch and cattle man. Ellis attended public schools in the county and then went to Tyler Commercial College in Tyler, Texas. His first banking experience came in Weimar, after which he went to Humble, Texas and worked in the Humble State Bank; later he organized the Brookshire State Bank, and in 1915 bought an interest in The First State Bank in Columbus, becoming its President in 1941.

First State Bank, Weimar
John F. Heger

John F. Heger became president of The First State Bank of Weimar on January 7, 1947. He was born on the 22nd of May, 1908, in Weimar, Texas. His parents were John Heger, Jr. and Sophie Knebel Heger. As a young boy, John worked on the farm with his parents. He attended St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar and then finished a banking

course at the Tyler Commercial College. His first job in banking at the Rosenberg State Bank was that of bookkeeper in 1927. In March of 1928 he became associated with the Garwood State Bank as bookkeeper and worked there until June 30th. On August 1st of 1928 he started his long tenure of office with The First State Bank of Weimar, Texas, working his way up from bookkeeper to President of the bank on January 7, 1947.

Hill Bank & Trust, Weimar
John A. Hajovsky

John Hajovsky assumed the position of President of Hill Bank & Trust Co. on January 28, 1959. He was born in Holman, Fayette County, Texas, on June 1st, 1907, the son of Joseph J. and Mary Vack Hajovsky. He is one of 13 children born to this family. John attended the Weimar High School and in 1924 started to work for the Hill Bank and Trust Co. as a bookkeeper. Promotions were steady and he progressed from bookkeeper to the office of assistant-cashier, then cashier, then vice-president, and was made director of the bank on January 6, 1948. In 1959 he became the fifth president of this bank.

Columbus State Bank
William Henry Mickow

Wm. H. Mickow, President of the Columbus State Bank of Columbus has held that position since 1906. He was born on January 4, 1891, the third child of John Henry and Mary Bartschelle Mickow, in the old home where his parents settled in 1884 at Ramsey's Bend - Colorado County, Texas. He attended a one-room schoolhouse in three different locations and then graduated from the High

Rock Island State Bank Before And After Storm



Rock Island's first bank was a private institution owned by H. L. Lundy. In 1900, after the bank was robbed in 1906 he hired L. H. Shinn of Eagle Lake to build a concrete vault. Established in 1904, Rock Island grew to a town of about 750 persons by 1908. This was the year the Rock Island State Bank was organized and chartered on Mar. 17, 1908 with Dick Hattler as president. The big storm of the 1900s destroyed the bank building and new quarters were arranged and banking continued until 1922 when a change of management took place. George Herder, Jr., became president and Henry J. Lark was vice-president. Banking disaster hit in 1925 and the Rock Island State Bank closed its door and went into liquidation.

Presidents Of 5 Banks In County



Here are the presidents of the five current banks in Colorado County, left to right, William H. Harrison, First National Bank of Eagle Lake; W. H. Mickow, Columbus State Bank; Ellis G. Miller, First State Bank of Columbus; John F. Heger, First State Bank of Weimar; and John A. Hajovsky, Hill Bank & Trust Co., Weimar.

Summary Of Deposit Growth Of County Banks

A review of the growth of Colorado County banks is indicative of the continued growth of this county and the continued prosperity which the citizens enjoy.

On Dec. 31st, 1910, the First National Bank of Eagle Lake listed deposits of \$125,970.60 and this increased by 1940 to \$887,023.83; at the end of 1950 to \$5,289,787.11; to \$5,406,884.97 at the end of 1960; and the deposits nearly doubled to \$10,781,338.42 at the end of 1970. They also doubled in the next five years span, ending Dec. 31, 1975; the deposits totaled \$20,600,386.00. The First State Bank of Columbus listed deposits of \$712,022.00 on Dec. 31, 1940; \$3,769,960.00 on Dec. 31, 1950; this increased to \$5,149,239.00 by the close of 1960; increased to \$9,811,670.00 by Dec. 31, 1970; and nearly doubled to \$17,941,389.00 on Dec. 31, 1975. Columbus State Bank also showed big gains with deposits of \$16,595.82 on Dec. 31, 1940; up to \$3,016,605.32 on Dec. 31, 1950; an increase to \$4,469,712.72 at the end of 1960; up to \$8,469,103.58 at the close of 1970 and more than doubled to \$18,071,657.00 on Dec. 31, 1975.

Hill Bank and Trust Co. of Weimar reported \$487,216.64 in deposits at the end of 1940; \$2,599,694.00 at the close of 1950; \$3,969,667.50 at the end of 1960; this went up to \$6,906,458 at the end of 1970; and up to \$10,646,858.00 on Dec. 31, 1975.

First State Bank of Weimar listed deposits of \$43,184.85 on Dec. 31, 1910; this was up to \$432,019.18 by the end of 1940; up to \$2,375,457.41 by the close of 1950; increased to \$2,924,955.52 on Dec. 31, 1960; jumped sharply to \$6,127,346.65 on Dec. 31, 1970; and up to \$11,037,833.00 on Dec. 31, 1975.

First National Bank, Eagle Lake



In this Bicentennial year of 1976, the First National Bank of Eagle Lake, shown above, achieved the distinction of being the first Colorado County bank to list total assets in excess of \$20,000,000.00. This bank was also the first one in the county to change from the manual posting of accounts to the electronic machine method and the first one also to adopt the computerization of daily demand accounts. S. S. Sinclair is chairman of the board; Wm. H. Harrison is president of First National Bank.

200 YEARS OF PROGRESS

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First National Bank

W. H. HARRISON, PRESIDENT
S. S. SINCLAIR, CHAIRMAN OF THE BD.
MEMBER F.D.I.C. - EAGLE LAKE

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First "24 Years Ago" Column

[Although we have never been able to answer the question "Why 24 Years Ago?", the Headlight staff over the years has found this popular column a rewarding source of information on the life of this community in the early 1900s. The following is the first of such columns, started by the late Bruce W. McCarty, publisher of the Headlight from its founding in the current form from 1903 until his death in 1940.]

CONGRATULATIONS AMERICA.. & EAGLE LAKE PEOPLE FOR PROGRESS!

A Salute to You from YE OLD TOWNE SHOPPE & THE FRAME SHOPPE

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Colorado County Courthouse



The Colorado County Courthouse building, erected in 1889 is one of the area's most historic structures. The present building is the fourth such building to be used for county offices on the courthouse square in Columbus. In the foreground is the old water tower, erected in 1883 on the southwest corner of the courthouse square. Now used as a memorial hall and museum by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The water tower was made of 400,000 bricks by contractor Capt. R. J. Jones. In 1912 the use of the tower for waterworks was abandoned and after many proposals were considered, one of which was to tear the tower down. Cong. J. J. Mansfield suggested that the building remain as a monument to the city waterworks in Columbus and several years later the top was leveled and remodeled and the building was taken over by the Shropshire-Lipton Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy.

feed and sale stable; Meriwether & Barnes, engineers and architects; B. & B. H. Daily, dry goods, clothing, etc.; Calvert & Fitzgerald, druggists; R. J. Putney, groceries; J. R. Westmoreland, real estate; J. Nathan & Son, dry goods; the Frank Stephens Co., groceries and hardware; Geo. Redford, tailor; Dr. P. T. Gordon, dentist; Miss Willie McFarland, agent S. A. Antonio Steam Laundry; Eagle Lake Drug Co. (successors); Norris & Gilmer, drugs; Armstrong & Sigler, groceries; Vineyard & Carothers, real estate; Fred Ahlers, cream parlor and restaurant; Came Bell Railroad Company, Charles Boedeker, general passenger agent; S. O. McCarty, insurance; Abe Beakes, barber shop; Parlor Saloon, W. E. Welford proprietor; J. T. Carney, staple and fancy groceries; rice irrigation water work; J. F. Canaday; R. B. Dobbins, furniture; real estate and rice lands, N. A. Baker & Sons; C. Tatgers & Son, tinner.

Among the items contained in this number we note: Harman Deaton, traveling for the G. W. Deaton Co., has been out on the road all the week. Miss Jessie Bullock of Glen Flora is spending a few days in the city this week. Dr. J. K. Davidson is suffering with the gripe this week. Mrs. W. T. Meriwether and son, Master Gay, and Miss Alma Harris paid the Headlight office a pleasant call. Misses Stella Bonart and Mary and Robert Thatcher were among callers at the Headlight office during the week. John Baxter, a real estate and livestock dealer of Rock Island, was a visitor in the city and left a job printing order for us. Prof. and Mrs. J. S. Bond attended the teachers' institute in Columbus. James McCarty, Jr., left Friday for Bay City where he has taken a position as prescription clerk for Byars & Byars. Frank

Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge To Reach 8000 Ac.

Established As Nat'l Wildlife Refuge In 1972

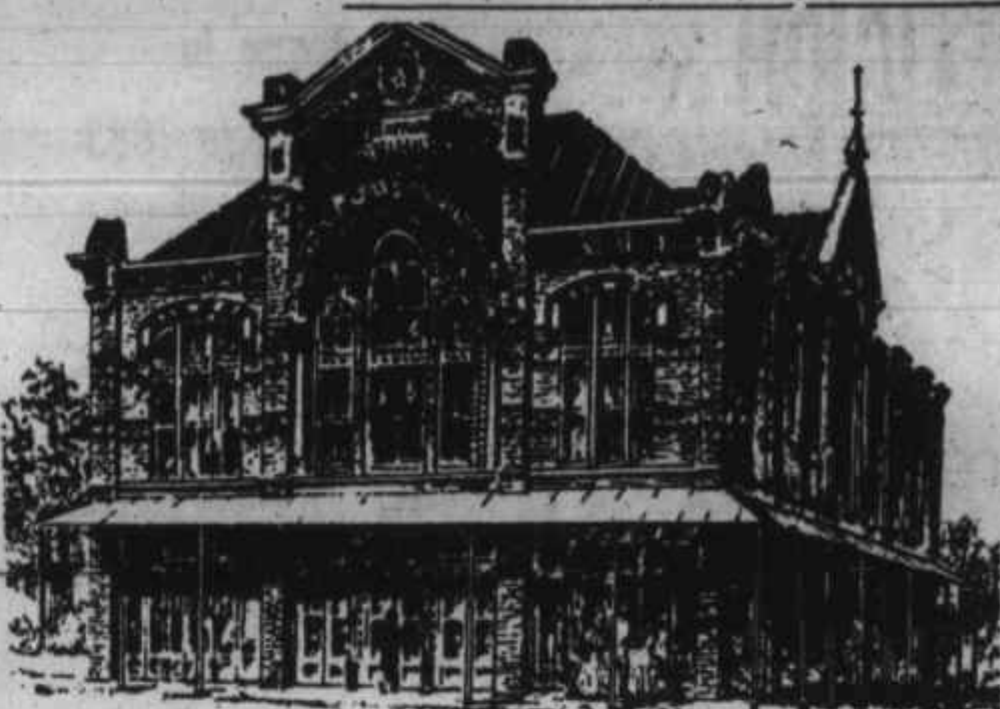
The Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge was established on July 1, 1972, when the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased a parcel of coastal prairie northeast of Eagle Lake, Texas. Land acquisition is currently underway, and the proposed size of the refuge is about 8,000 acres. In a very real sense, acquisition commenced in the mid 60's when The Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund, non-profit conservation organizations, purchased about 3,500 acres of land. These organizations obtained this land to hold it pending availability of federal funds.

The refuge was established to protect, restore and enhance the habitat so critically needed for the survival of the endangered Attwater prairie chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido attwateri*). This species of grouse, now endangered by the threat of extinction, was one of the most abundant resident birds on some eight million acres of tall grass prairie in Texas and Louisiana. Its former range extended along the Gulf Coast from the Corpus Christi, Texas, area northward to the bottom lands of the Mississippi River and inland for an average distance of about 50 to 75 miles.

The Attwater's prairie chicken became extinct in Louisiana in about 1919. An extremely low population of about 1,000 birds was estimated to remain in Texas in 1967. Only about 2,000 chickens persisted in Texas in the spring of 1974, but biologists believe the population has increased this year. A statewide survey will be conducted in March to determine how much it did improve. Optimism is based upon a good hatch of prairie chickens last summer.

Refuge headquarters may be reached by traveling north-east from Eagle Lake on FM 3013 for six miles to a sign indicating the refuge. Also, one may take FM 3013 near Sealy one mile south of Interstate 10 on Highway 31. Travel southwest on FM 3013 about 10 miles to the sign indicating the refuge.

For additional information, contact: Refuge Manager, Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, P. O. Box 184, Eagle Lake, Texas 77834. Telephone: (713) 234-3021.



The Stafford Bank and Opera House in Columbus, Texas, designated the Bicentennial Meeting House for Texas.

\$37,225 Grant To Stafford Opera House

The National Park Service announced last week it has awarded a grant of \$37,225 to the Stafford Bank and Opera House.

The announcement was made through the office of U.

S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen. The federal grant will be matched by \$39,700 from the Texas State Historical Survey Commission. The National Park Service said the funds coming from the state commission are actually being provided by the Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc.

The Homes Tour is the owner of the Stafford Bank and Opera House.

Work on the project will include: carpentry and mill work; hardware repairs; duplication interior painting; installation of plumbing and air conditioning.

The restoration project began last year with the rebuilding of the roof. Exterior repair followed, concluding in time for this year's Homes Tour production of the drama "1776" in May. Colorado County Citizen.

Opportunity To Chime In On Bicentennial

When the Liberty Bell rings in the third century of these United States, the words of the Bible will vibrate to the sound. Circling the crown of the beloved bell are words from the Old Testament: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." (Lev. 25:10)

At precisely 2 p.m. (EDT) Sunday, July 4, 1976, church bells all over the country will proclaim one of the most religiously significant, as well as historically important, events this generation of Americans will ever witness. To commemorate this great event, and to provide the nation's churches and synagogues with a meaningful memento of this historic occasion, the American Bible Society has published a 5 by 5 1/2 inch natural copper-colored photographic likeness of the Liberty Bell, die-cut in the exact shape of the bell and its fittings. The Scriptural words are themselves printed in easy-to-read white lettering along the bell's base. These Liberty Bell Scripture Selections can be ordered from the American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, N. Y. at \$2.45 per 100 units.



"Be Americans. Let there be no sectionalism, no North, South, East or West; You are all dependent one on another and should be one in union. In one word, be a nation; be Americans, and be true to yourselves."

GEORGE WASHINGTON

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