

Bicentennial Report

ORGANIZATIONS

Rotary Club Active Here For 53 Years

Eagle Lake Rotary Club observed its fifty-third anniversary of the founding of the service club in this community at a banquet held in the Community Center Tuesday, June 15, 1976.

The club had its founding on April 18th, 1923 with sixteen charter members. Charter members include W. E. Lenhart, Jesse Thomas, Harry Reading, S. Odie Boote, Joe H. McCreary, Ben H. Faber, L. D. Allen, George H. Bowles, Louis Burger, B. H. Daily, James A. Dromgoole, George Keith, James Morgan, Floyd Norman, Robert Potney and Joe M. Llewellyn.

The late Mrs. Mildred Davis Harbert was pianist and club sweetheart, upon its

organization. The club was the 1400rd to be organized under the Rotary International Charter program and was sponsored by the Downtown Houston Rotary Club.

Membership in the club has fluctuated through the years from a low of 13 to a high of 47.

The club will begin its 53rd year of service on July 1st, 1976. The 1976-77 president of the club is Jim W. Stansel. Past presidents include (in the order of service from 1923 through 1975):

W. E. Lenhart, J. H. Morgan, J. A. Dromgoole, Neil Ellis, Emil Harigel, W. C. Reed, Nic C. Ney, Harry L. Reading, Raymond Davis, Gilbert Chopin, Louis W. Stiles, W. E. Lenhart, Gresham Marmion, W. E. Strickland, Gardner C. Duncan, David R. Winterman, William B. Hinton, S. Odie Boote, Willard E. Shurt, M. Thomas, William Albrecht, Jimmy Jenkins, Wallace Lindsay, Simon S. Sinclair, E. F. Abercrombie, Also, Elmer Struss, Lloyd

Masons In 103rd Year In Eagle Lake

Eagle Lake Masonic Lodge No. 388, A.F. and A.M., celebrated the centennial of its founding on June 9th, 1973 with a program at the Rice High School.

Eagle Lake was still in its infancy when a group of persons decided in 1870 to request permission to arrange a Lodge here. The townsite had been designated a few years earlier and it would be another 15 years before Congressmen J. J. Mansfield (then County Judge of Colorado County) would issue an order incorporating the City of Eagle Lake.

On Dec. 9, 1872 officers of Eagle Lake Lodge No. 388 were installed including B. C. Jones as Worshipful Master. He was succeeded in that office by John F. Fuller on June 9, 1873.

The Lodge participated in the laying of a cornerstone of the Eagle Lake Public School Building on Aug. 10, 1910 and this installed members to erect a new building in 1911. The Lodge still occupies the same building although it underwent extensive improvements in 1969.

The Lodge meets every second Friday of the month. Current Worshipful Master is James L. Adkins. Buford Ashley is the incoming Worshipful Master.

William Chester Is Founder Of Chesterville

Named after one of its early settlers, William Chester, Chesterville became quite a good-sized little town around the turn of the century when many immigrants from Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri brought settlers to Texas and to the Chesterville prairie in particular. John Linderholm

Spalinger, Deane Fletcher, Charles W. Causey, Otis Pouncey, Hargrove Smith, M. L. Briscoe, Fred R. Frank, Clyde Nispet Albert Pustejovsky, Earl Rodgers, Jr., William Farris, Harold Thomas, Fulton M. Dromgoole, Dr. Raymond R. Thomas, Clyde Brown, Howard C. Johnson, Sherman Tryon, Vic Scott, Robert Griffith, Ed H. Shirley, Otis Coleman, Arthur Anderson, T. J. Smith, Donald Oberhaus, Frank Sherrer, Gerald Bradshaw and J. T. (Tommy) Pilkington.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...AMERICA!

Eagle Lake Rotary Club is proud to have had a part in this community's progress for the past fifty-three years!

1776-1976 WE MADE IT!

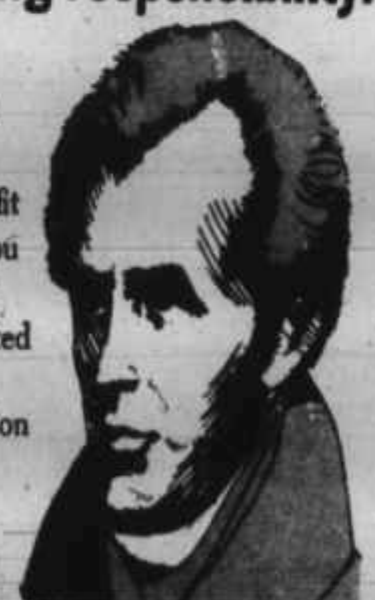
May the freedoms we enjoy today--last forever.

EAGLE LAKE ROTARY CLUB
Eagle Lake, Texas

FREEDOM: A continuing responsibility!

"Providence has showered on this land blessings without number, and has chosen you as the guardians of Freedom, to preserve it for the benefit of the human race. May He enable you to guard and defend to the end of time the great charge He has committed to your keeping."

Andrew Jackson



Two centuries ago, our forefathers began a grand experiment in freedom and democracy. We owe it to them, and to ourselves, to keep that Experiment going, and with all the vigor we can muster.

We Salute Eagle Lake and Colorado County Progress!!

Happy Birthday, America!

From All The "Hard-Working" "Tax-Paying",

"Patriotic" Folks at

Lake Motors, Inc.

IN EAGLE LAKE CHEVROLET - OLDSMOBILE - CADILLAC



New Novel Tells Of County Confederate Cavalrymen's Ride

The ghosts of a hundred Confederate cavalrymen ride again in a new, critically-acclaimed historical novel, "The Devil Gun" (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York), by William Edward Syers, Kerrville author and Southwestern feature columnist, it was reported to the Headlight this week.

Syers is author of the best-selling Texas heritage collection, "Off the Beaten Trail," carried for many years as a feature column by Texas newspapers.

Captained by John S. Shropshire, the Colorado County men were troopers in Company A, second regiment of the Sibley Brigade of cavalry. In an audacious stroke aimed at annexing western gold and blockade runners, Sibley's Texans stormed west almost to the California line.

2 Lions Clubs Active Here

Eagle Lake community has not one but two very active Lions Clubs, the Eagle Lake Noon Lions Club, founded in 1941 and the Eagle Lake Evening Lions Club which was founded in 1970.

The Noon Lions Club was organized on June 18th, 1941 and R. F. Spaniel was elected president. Lloyd Spalinger was first vice president; W. M. Hendry, second vice president; Joe D. Luna secretary; E. J. Morse, treasurer; R. L. Cole, tamer; Buddy Randow, tail twister; and Joe L. McCreary, scribe. Other charter members were: Lewis Kopecky, W. R. Terrell, E. M. Kveton, C. A. Ziegler, Carter Walker, Frank Mazac, M. C. Fontenot, Fred F. Nye, Jr., and S. C. Cooper.

The Noon Lions meet at noon on Thursdays at the Community Center. They sponsor a wide variety of outstanding projects both locally and on the district level.

The Eagle Lake Evening Lions Club held its charter night on December 10th, 1970. Charter president was Carl Seasholtz, Jr., and other officers included: Leonard Walker, first vice-president; Franklin Reese, second vice-president; Ken Craig, third vice president; Nelson Lennhewer, secretary; Richard Bryant, treasurer; Darius Briscoe, Lion tamer; Dale Eberhart, tail twister. Other charter members included: James C. Crabbs, Jack Dannels, Dale Dixon, E. A. Krivacka, Jack Listowski, Bennie Miller, Kenneth Norris, Herbert Ramirez, Bill Rhoades, Lonnie Sommerlatte, Joseph Wilkerson, Willis Wilson and Dick Wood.

The club meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Jack's Restaurant and carries on an active community program with emphasis on youth projects.

Clyde Farthing is the current president of the Noon Lions and Ole Rhodes is president of the Evening Lions.

settled there in 1905 and built an office with a teller's window in it and a big safe. Although it was known as "the bank" it was never chartered or even organized as a private banking institution. Nevertheless "banking" was carried on through this office.

Miss Hannah Linderholm, putting down some "Historical Information" in 1962, does not use the word bank. She writes "The Linderholm office in Chesterville, carried on the business matters relating to the Colonization Projects. Miss Josephine Linderholm was the secretary."

Local KC Council Instituted in '59

The Eagle Lake Council of the Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council No. 4843, was instituted in ceremonies held August 30, 1959 in Nada, Texas with a total of fifty-one charter members.

During the past seventeen years the council has carried on numerous community and fraternal projects and the membership has continued to increase with a total of 123 members during this biennial year.

Albert Pustejovsky was the Grand Knight of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council when it was formed. The current Grand Knight is Darius Briscoe.

The council meets every fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m. at Dider Hall.

One of the major projects for the past two years has been sponsorship of a benefit dance for the Shriners' Crippled Children's Hospital and the Burns Institute.

unearthed near Fairfield, east of Waco. Called one of the most

Legion, Citizens Built Swimming Pool



Citizens of the community contributed generously to the construction of the swimming pool for this community, constructed under sponsorship of the local American Legion Post and operated by the Post for a number of years, before turning over the facilities to the Eagle Lake Jaycees who are now the operators of the pool. A total of \$26,000 was contributed by local citizens to pay for the pool and bathhouses which were officially opened for the first time with a Splash Day May 16, 1946. Fred R. Frank was commander of the Post at that time and serving on an Advisory Committee were: E. J. Parma, Melvin Campbell, Roland Campbell, D. S. Taylor, Harry Larson and J. B. Wesson.

Capt. J. W. McCarty was a captain in the Confederate army and was a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute under "Stonewall" Jackson. His wife was the former Madeleine Oldham, daughter of Judge Oldham.

Bicentennial Report

AGRICULTURE

Purchases First Rice Combine

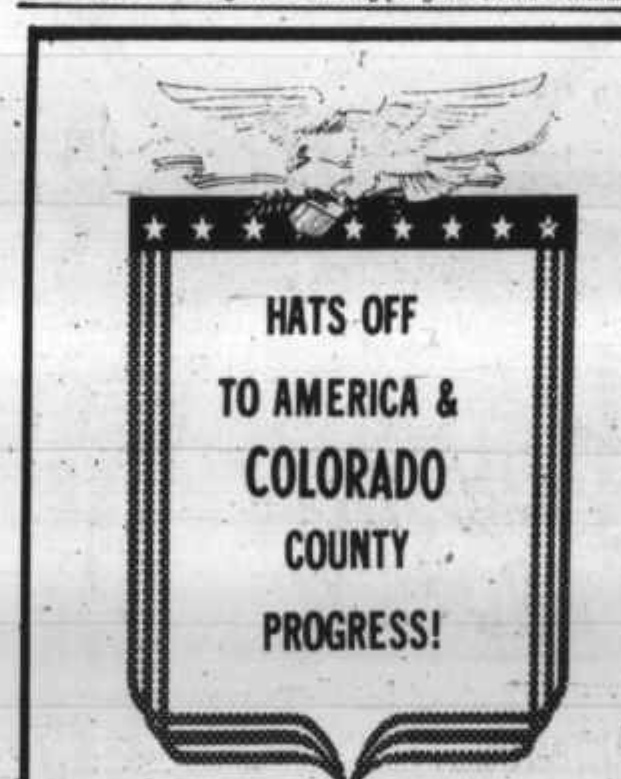


The late G. A. Sesholtz, shown above in the center, was the first Eagle Lake rice farmer to purchase a rice combine in this community. He is shown with the former owners of Schneider-Ware Company of Eagle Lake, International-Harvester dealer, Harold Ware at left, and W. A. (Bill) Schneider, at right. All three gentlemen are now deceased.

Area's Top Ranchers



The late I. Vance Duncan, left, and Helmer Sesholtz, right, are shown on a couple of their favorite horses. The two men were pioneers in ranching in the Eagle Lake area. They produced some of the state's finest cattle and quarterhorses. Mr. Sesholtz is retired, but still takes an active interest in farming and ranching progress in the community.



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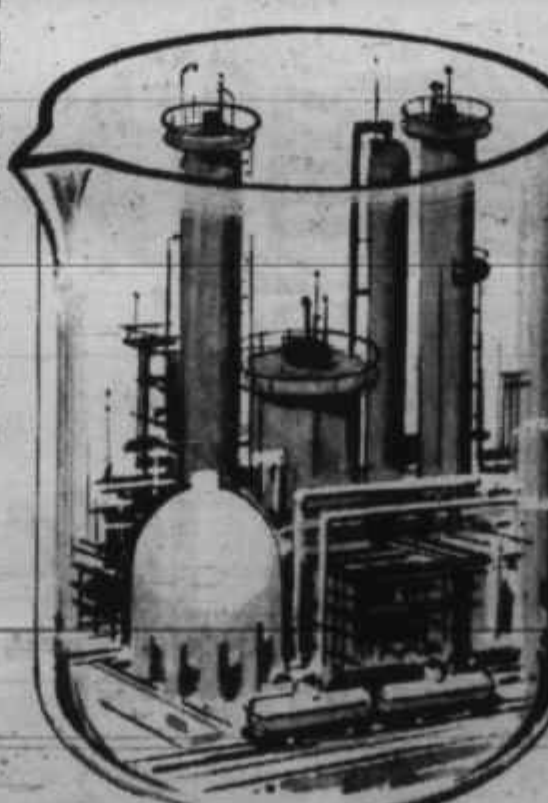
EAGLE LAKE

There's No End To Progress...

Because We All Have One Goal!

Each scientific discovery... technological development we make benefits all of us.

Every advancing step leads us closer to our goal - that of a better, more promising tomorrow. And we're making progress every day.



Lake Lumber Co.

1406 Glen Flora Rd. 234-3102 Eagle Lake

Story Of Pioneering Is Story Of American Rice

First Planted In Carolinas In 1600's

Rice, Cattle, Hunting Add Greatly To Area's Economy

The ox team and back breaking work which marked the beginning of the American rice industry are a sharp contrast to today's highly mechanized multi-million dollar business.

A story of pioneering is the story of American rice.

First planted in the Carolinas in the 1600's, rice was carried westward by settlers who carried seeds in pockets and saddlebags along with hopes and prayer for prosperous farms.

Primitive equipment and lack of dependable water supply forced early farmers to produce only enough rice for their own use and it was not until after the Civil War that attempts were made to raise the grain in quantity.

To obtain necessary water, early farmers caught rain in low places, dumped the rice in and worked it into the ground by walking over or other cattle around and around in the mud.

Leaves were shoveled by hand and seeding was done by tossing seed from a bucket as the farmer walked back and forth across the field. Some utilized back-pouches for seed carriers.

Hand scythes were used for weeding and the rice was tied in bundles, carried to high ground and left to dry. Straw was held over a barrel and the grain beaten off. Hulling was accomplished with a mortar and pestle.

In the late 1800's the first commercial quantity rice crops were grown. By this time some farmers owned steam powered wood stoked threshers which speeded grain into hand seven bags. When the threshing was completed, every available storage space was filled with grain, eventually sold and hauled by wagons and teams to various destinations.

As progress accelerated and rice farming increased, small steam powered mills came into operation. Farmers, seeking more dependable sources of water, pumped from baysou, rivers or streams, or built small canal systems.

Later, the industry was to see canal companies formed to provide intricate systems and wide irrigation.

With increased production, wagon and ox or mule teams were inadequate transportation. About the turn of the century railway transportation had grown to the point where it could be used to carry rice. Boats and barges were grain carriers on waterways.

Climate and soil in the rice producing region attracted settlers. Immigrants came from Holland, Turkey, Sweden, Germany, Japan and other sections of the United States to establish rice farms. Some remained and even today their descendants are often found still engaged in the production of rice on or near original homesteads. Storms, mosquitoes and other hardships drove others away.

Combine Era Begins

In the late 1920's the first combines arrived on the rice farm scene. Early models were unwieldy, pull-type which sometimes took five



Rice combines will soon be seen throughout the area as rice producers harvest another bumper crop of top quality rice from this area. Over a million acres of rice are expected to be harvested in the area serviced by the Eagle Lake office of the American Rice Growers Cooperative Association, bringing millions of dollars into this community's economy.



A good mixture of products that add to the economy of the community is exemplified in this photo, as Hereford cattle graze in tall forage while ducks swim in a pond in the foreground. The cattle industry has been one of the backbone of the community's economy. While duck and goose hunting on a commercial basis has come into its own only in the past several decades, the hunting of migratory birds, now brings thousands of dollars into this community each fall and winter season.

Oakland Was Once Named "Prairie Point"

In about 1894 Oakland was a small town of about 300 inhabitants, situated in the western part of the county, eight miles southwest of Weimar.

Oakland was established long before the Civil War. The first name of that town was said to be Prairie Point, but when application was made to the national government for a post office to be established the name was changed to Oakland, as there was already a post office in

long way from oven and laborious work and continues to seek the most efficient means of production for one of the nation's major grain crops.

Rice farming has come a

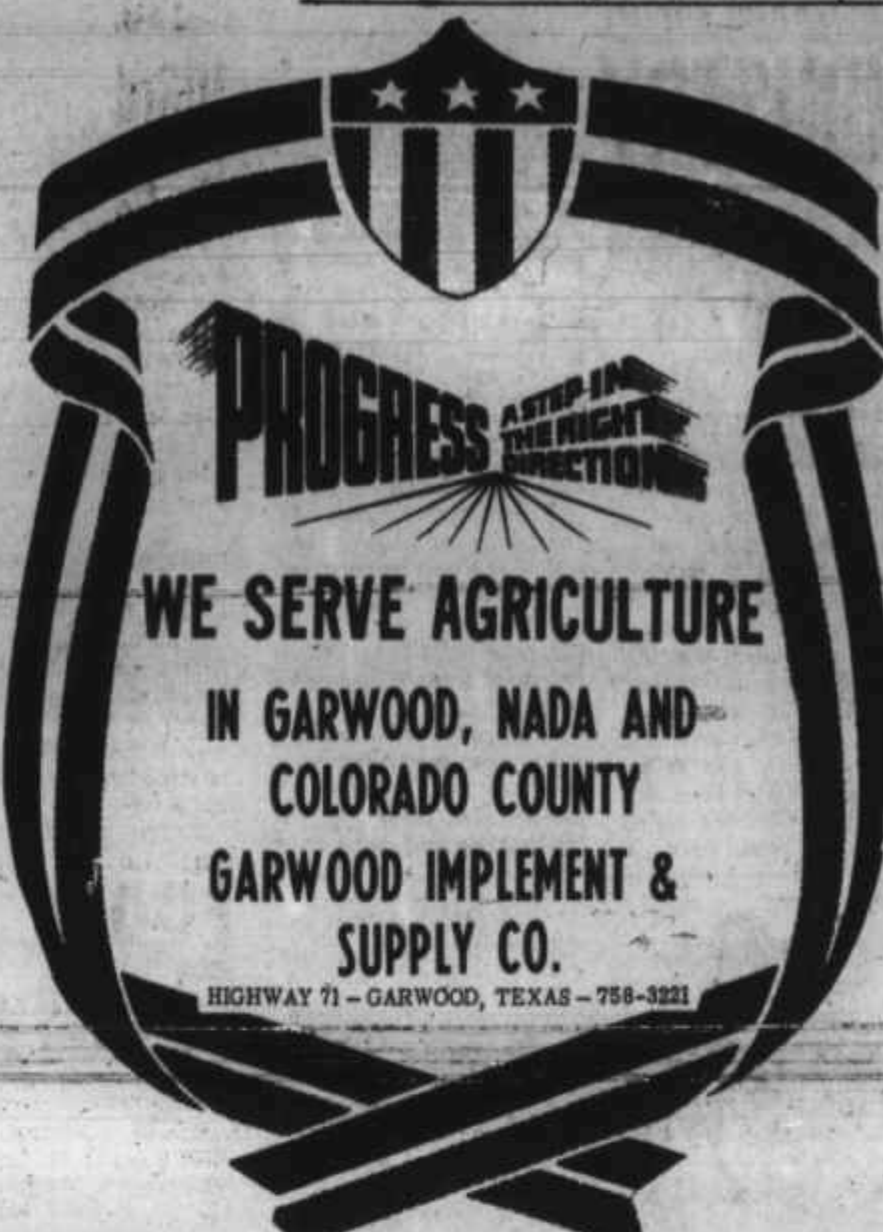
"When an American says that he loves his country, he means not only that he loves the New England hills, the prairies glistening in the sun, the wide and rising plains, the great mountains, and the sea. He means that he loves an inner air, an inner light in which freedom lives and in which a man can draw the breath of self respect."

Adlai Stevenson



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Capt. Dunovant Introduced Rice Here In 1896

How did it happen that rice, the No. 1 crop in Colorado County in 1976, was introduced into the county?

Well, a man by the name of Capt. William Dunovant of Eagle Lake planted 20 acres of rice in 1896 as an experiment. It was on marsh land around the lake which bordered his plantation.

The experiment was successful. Next year, Capt. Dunovant planted 200 acres and built a pumping plant on the lake to irrigate the rice.

Next year Capt. Dunovant planted 1000 acres to rice, and other landowners woke up and began to plant rice.

Another pumping plant was built at Eagle Lake and then a third at Garwood, and the rice industry was a going concern.

Today, over a million barrels of rice are produced in this area annually, bringing an income of over \$20,000,000.

Texas called Prairie Point. John H. Mullin served as postmaster of Oakland for many years.

Happy Birthday, America!



As we celebrate our 200th Anniversary, we look back on our heritage, proud to be the land of the free.

ESTLINBAUM LUMBER AND CONSTRUCTION CO.
EDNA AND ERVIN ESTLINBAUM
EAGLE LAKE

We're Proud To Be AMERICANS!

May the true meaning of our American Heritage of Liberty endure in our hearts to govern our thoughts and actions forever!

We Salute the Citizens of Eagle Lake and Colorado County!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

LONE STAR INDUSTRIES, INC.

EAGLE LAKE PLANT