

Pension Checks Hit \$6 Million

How much do Colorado County residents stand to gain from the boost in Social Security payments which has just gone into effect?

What will be the average size of retirement checks to local beneficiaries under the new schedule?

Based upon the latest figures from the Social Security Administration, which show the number of recipients in the area and the amount they have been getting, their benefits during the remainder of this year will be approximately \$181,000 greater than they were in the last half of 1975.

The total gain locally, over the next 12 months, will amount to \$361,000 under the new rates.

The increase represents a 6.4 percent hike for those getting Social Security benefits as well as for most of the people receiving Supplementary Security payments, which aid the aged, the blind and the disabled in those states that participate in the supplemental program.

The added benefits, which will affect 37 million people in the two programs, will cost \$5.3 billion over the year.

The increase was mandated by a change in the law, which became effective last year, under which any future increases in benefits are to be tied to increases in the cost of living.

The determining factor is the Labor Department's Consumer Price Index and

the amount it goes up between the first quarter of one year and the first quarter of the next.

Under the new scale, the annual payment for a retired worker rises from an average of \$2,448 to \$2,616; and, for the average couple, where both are receiving benefits, from \$4,176 to \$4,464.

The maximum, for men currently retiring at age 65, goes from \$4,398 to \$4,648. The new minimum will be \$1,295 as against \$1,216 previously.

What it adds up to, for Colorado County as a whole, is that pension payments to local residents will amount to approximately \$6,002,000 in the current fiscal year, as compared with \$5,641,000 last year.

As for Social Security taxes, they remain the same. The only adjustment this year has been to levy taxes on the first \$15,300 of income instead of on \$14,100.

Free Dinner

Mrs. Ofelia Sosa, this is your ticket for a free Fiesta Dinner at the La Fiesta in Eagle Lake where you get the finest in authentic Mexican foods in a pleasant atmosphere. Clip this out and present at La Fiesta not later than July 27, 1976.

drive

Get your **VACATION NEEDS** at M & M

Wrangler & Miller Western Wear
Nocona & Acme Boots, American Hats
Toral Boots, Billfolds, etc.
Hanes Underwear and Sox
Give a Gift Certificate on their special day.

M & M Western Store
217 EAST MAIN - DOWNTOWN EAGLE LAKE

1973 Rates Can't Cover CPL's 1976 Costs

We're making every effort to reduce expenses at Central Power and Light Company, but our costs continue to grow at a more rapid rate than our revenues. Virtually every aspect of our operation has been hit hard by inflation.

The last increase in our base rate, in 1973, added only about \$1.50 per month to the bill of the average customer. (Recent increases in your monthly bill have come from the fuel adjustment charge, which recovers the rising cost of the fuel needed to generate electricity.)

Meanwhile, CPL must spend considerably more than it did even a year ago for nearly all products and services necessary to provide you with reliable electric power.

- Although we have fewer employees on our payroll, salaries were 8.6% more in 1975 than in 1974.
- Taxes were up 13% in 1975.
- And during the same year operating expenses other than fuel, purchased power and salaries rose 9.9%.
- In contrast, the company's base revenues increased very little during 1975 — only 1.2%.

Inflated expenses, coupled with an out-of-date rate schedule, obviously are making our job much more difficult. If CPL is to continue a high standard of dependable service, we cannot go on absorbing these rising costs.

CPL

Central Power and Light Company

COUNTY AGENT'S NOTEBOOK

(By P. Johnnie Cooper, County Extension Agent)

Control Ants And Termites

Before you call a pest control operator for termite problems, make sure your 'termites' aren't really winged ants.

Winged ants are often mistaken for termites, but there are several ways to tell them apart.

Winged ants are pinched in the abdomen and their front pair of wings is much larger than the rear pair. Termites are not pinched in the abdomen and both pairs of wings are about the same size.

If you think you've definitely got termites, call a licensed pest control operator as soon as possible. You can

usually control ants yourself but termites require the services of a professional.

Ants, which damage trees and shrubs by boring into rotten wood, are attracted to shade and fruit trees and ornamental shrubs. They are also attracted to trees that have insects that excrete honeydew or trees that are exuding sap. They may enter trees through wounds, scars or decayed limbs.

To control ants, pour insecticide down the ant's nest and within a foot radius of the nest area. Then soak the entire area with water to wash the insecticide into the soil and nest.

Grain Farmers Urged to Request Whse. Receipt

Agriculture Commissioner John C. White today urged Texas grain farmers to request an official Texas grain warehouse receipt when depositing their crops for storage this year.

"Don't depend on a mere weight ticket as proof of deposit in a warehouse," White warned. "Weight tickets should be exchanged for official receipts as soon as possible. This is a recommended business practice which offers maximum protection under the law."

Commissioner White noted that Texas Department of Agriculture fieldmen make frequent inspections of storage facilities and release the warehousemen annually. However, ownership of grain in storage is sometimes difficult to determine unless an official warehouse receipt has been issued on request of the farmer.

Ancient Maya priest, astrologers regarded Venus so highly that they made the planet a god.

Soil Conservation News

Annie Kusey, a district cooper of the Weimar area, is planning to shape gullied areas which will be established to common bermuda grass to control erosion.

District cooper John Brasher is planning to shape eroded areas on his farm at Borden to control erosion.

Les Brades, a district cooper of the Weimar area, is in the process of shaping gullied areas which will be established to bermuda grass to control erosion.

John Hajovsky, a district cooper of the Weimar area, is constructing a pond for livestock water and is also shaping gullied areas which will be established to bermuda grass to control erosion.

District cooper Robert Brices of the Rock Island area has established Coastal bermudagrass on areas which were shaped to control erosion.

Technical assistance in carrying out these conservation practices was received from the Soil Conservation Service technicians. Cost-share is being received through the ASCD REAP program.

A soil and water conservation plan is being developed with Charles Leyendecker on his farm near Ellinger.

The Columbus Field Office provides expert services to all landowners regardless of race, creed or national origin.

Mid-Summer Night Concert, Picnic In Rosenberg Sat.

A Mid-Summer Night's "Dream" concert and picnic will be held Saturday July 24 at the Ft. Bend County Fair grounds in Rosenberg from noon till midnight.

The concert will star

500 Attend Beaumont Rice Field Day

A standing room only crowd of more than 500 rice producers and agribusinessmen heard latest information on rice research and technology during the annual Rice Field Day in Beaumont July 7.

Although rains postponed tours of field research plots until mid-afternoon, scientists with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station presented talks on research highlights throughout the morning at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Dr. Julian P. Craigmiles, resident director for research with the Experiment Station at Beaumont, called attention of field day visitors to special historic exhibits at the TAMU Center that were planned in conjunction with the nation's Bicentennial observance, theme for the 1976 Rice Field Day.

For visitors had an opportunity to view an older variety of rice, "Rexora," that was being grown under the cultural system of 50 years ago with little or no chemicals. Near this historic rice plot was a contrasting plot of the newest released variety, "Lebonnet," featuring the most modern rice management system.

Exhibits of older farm machinery, some of which featured animal power, also presented a sharp contrast to modern rice production and harvesting equipment on display at the TAMU Center. Samples of processed and cooked rice of older varieties as well as modern popular varieties were available to visitors.

Rice is the most economically important crop grown along the Texas coastal plain, emphasized Craigmiles.

"Texas' rice industry has grown to a 600,000-acre giant, producing 19 million hundredweight, 25 per cent of the U. S. rice production. It is worth more than \$250 million, and more than half is available for export," he said.

U. S. Congressman Jack Brooks of district 9, spoke on the importance of rice in his address, "Past, Present and Future of Rice." He presented a U. S. flag for use at the Experiment Station to Craigmiles and Miller. Brooks emphasized that producers should strive to increase the consumption of rice through a more aggressive promotional program, particularly in the U. S.

The filmed story of research at the State Agricultural Experiment Stations of the nation, "Unfinished Miracles," was viewed by the Field Day crowd. Mini-tours of some of the field plots were conducted in the afternoon.

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Firm Asks Permit To Mine Gravel In Columbus

Columbus city council was asked Monday night, July 12 to approve a gravel mining operation which would extend inside the city limits on property owned by the Miller family and adjacent to the Irwin Addition.

The city council took no action on the request, saying it would check with City Attorney Phil Gates on what its legal authority might be.

The request came from Walter Lee Miller and Robert Patterson of Stafford, vice president of Truckers, Inc., an aggregate trucking firm.

The meeting at which the request surfaced Monday night was attended by a group of Irwin Addition residents who apparently are opposed to the project.

However, none voiced direct opposition and none asked the council to reject it.

South of Golf Course The mining operation would be directly south of Columbus golf course, concentrated in the slow into which the golf course is said to drain.

Patterson said the new project would tie into the old Horton & Horton operation. He said his company's main interest is in the slow, but said the company would maintain a 100-foot separation from any residential fence line.

About 35 Feet Patterson said the gravel vein is approximately 20 feet deep, so the theoretical depth of the mining operation would extend to about 35 feet.

Miller said the company would be required to reclaim and beautify the area after the gravel is mined with the idea of creating an attractive lake which would be available to the public as a city recreational area—Colorado County citizen.

Spread The Word! THE OTHER AMERICA IS AT SEA-ARAMA MARINEWORLD

A thrilling water ski show saluting Bicentennial '76: The Other America plays weekends in the Spring, daily in Summer.

Talented skiers amaze and delight islanders and visitors with feats of skill and daring.

Wonderful family fun for you and your friends... spread the word... Galveston has Sea-Arama! Children (3-12) \$3.25, adults \$4.25.

sea-arama marineworld a world of family fun

Galveston, Texas OPEN DAILY - TALK ROUND 9:00 A.M. TO DUSK

Ground Broken for 1776th Flood Prevention Dam

The 1776th upstream flood prevention dam to be built in Texas was the site of a ground breaking ceremony in Coleman July 12, announced Connie Fair, district conservationist with the Columbus Field Office of the Soil Conservation Service.

Memory Lake '76. The name of the new flood prevention dam. It will be built at the site of Old City Lake, built at the edge of Coleman in 1904. The old dam has deteriorated so badly that it will be removed and replaced during construction of Memory Lake '76.

The new lake will provide both flood prevention and recreation storage. The City of Coleman will pay the cost of the added recreation storage.

She assisted with preparation of state tax forms, with application for numbers for new businesses covered under the state sales tax program, and with other state tax problems.

Enforcement officer Diane Lightfoot of the Victoria office of the State Comptroller's office, was in this county Wednesday of this week, July 21st from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the county courtroom in the courthouse for assistance to interested citizens.

State Comptroller Officer Offers Assistance

Jerry Marhofer, SHHBA president, said that all office charges collected from the cutting will be set aside for an annual Kingsley Kingsley Award.

citizens of the area are invited to participate in a NCHA-approved cutting horse contest which will be held at the North Houston Livestock Auction arena on Rankin Road in Houston this Friday, July 23rd with proceeds earmarked for a scholarship fund to be set up in memory of the late Aulton Kingsley of Eagle Lake, a member of the San Houston Horse Breeders Association, sponsors of the contest.

The association is asking that all premiums won in the various classes be donated to a scholarship fund which is being established for Kingsley's youngest daughter, Cindy. All donations will be tax deductible.

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