

Eagle Lake Headlight

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Refuge Marker Dedicated



Charles Boatner, Texas coordinator for the National Park Service (NPS), left, and Lee Herzberger, manager of the Atwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, right, unveiled the landmark plaque at the refuge open house and dedication on Tuesday of last week. Taking part in the ceremony, left to right, were: Mr. Boatner; Michael Wright representing the Nature Conservancy and World Wildlife

Fund, Inc.; Gardner Duncan of Eagle Lake, whose family relinquished land for the refuge; Howard Dodgen of the World Wildlife Fund, Inc.; Val Lehmann, retired wildlife biologist (behind Herzberger); Mr. Herzberger; and David R. Wintermann of Eagle Lake, whose family also provided land for founding of the refuge. For more on the dedication, see page seven.

Inconsistencies Verified By Police Dept. Audit; Chief Roy Chisum Resigns

Report Shows Fund Inconsistencies, Missing Records

Former Police Chief Chisum Makes Statement

Eagle Lake City Council, in regular session on Tuesday night of last week accepted a special audit of funds of the Eagle Lake Police Department, and following a four hour executive session with City Attorney Willard W. Stuart and with various officers from city, county and state departments, Chief of Police Roy Chisum submitted his resignation from the position that he has held for the past seven and one-half years.

Chief Chisum, who came here from Pecos, Texas, over seven years ago to take over the position of chief of police, submitted the following resignation which was unanimously accepted by the city council at the conclusion of the executive session at around 12:45 a.m. Wednesday morning. His letter of resignation read as follows:

"It is with regret that I must terminate my employment with you after more than seven (7) years of good relations with the citizens of this community. My family and I wish to express our gratitude to each of you.

"Because of the reflection cast upon the police department by the recent audit check of the city police department, I feel that I can no longer have the support and confidence of the entire community as is so necessary to be police chief. I hereby submit my resignation effective immediately."

Action Taken

The council followed the acceptance of the letter of resignation with a motion that authorized City Attorney Stuart to "negotiate with the bonding agency for the recovery of all monies lawfully due to the City of Eagle Lake through the operation of the Police Department which have not properly been accounted for to the City of Eagle Lake."

A third motion passed by the council unanimously authorized City Manager T. J. Smith to immediately solicit applications for the position of Chief of Police and that Patrolman Buford Ashley be named as Acting Chief of Police.

The council also authorized that the Police Department be put under the immediate supervision of the administrative department for periodic audits, weekly, with cross references with the Corporation Court records and that adequate and accurate records be kept on all transactions.

Many visitors were on hand for the meeting, which was opened in routine order. Mayor Elmer Struss presided with all councilmen, Gene Baker, Alvin Kohlfeldt, Bennie Miller, Dick Obenhaus and David Evers; city secretary Lucille Perry; city manager T. J. Smith and city attorney Willard Stuart on hand; Mayor Struss opened the order of business concerning the police department with a discussion

(Roy Chisum, who resigned last week as Chief of Police in Eagle Lake, made the following statement relative to his resignation).

Seven and one-half years ago when I assumed the duties of Chief of Police in Eagle Lake, there was one man on the force, Don Allred. At that time I asked Don if this was the type bookkeeping and filing system that was kept. He told me that it was. I did make some changes but as time went by I could very well see why that was used. We had absolutely nothing to work with and it is very near the same now. In the 7 1/2 years I've worked for the city, I have gotten a chair and a two-drawer filing cabinet for the office. I had no place to keep confidential evidence or money that was taken in. There has been a lot of things which have turned up missing, which I have reported to the city manager.

There are six officers working out of the police office, all using the same receipt book and probably 15 to 20 people who have keys to the Police Station. I have more than once complained about this situation but it remains the same.

I have invited the city council and the mayor to look over

the situation and through my years, Dick Obenhaus has been the only man over.

The city jail is simply unfit for human beings. Enough water leaks through the toilets and wash basins to supply several families daily. This has been like that for five years.

Frequently I am asked to work the parking meters more and more. To me, crime is more important than the parking meters.

Thursday I read an article in the Houston Post concerning my resignation. It is my understanding that they became aware of this matter through an anonymous caller. I feel as though through the years that I served as Chief of Police in Eagle Lake, I have gained the respect of the citizens of the community and I did the best that I could under the working conditions. I was never too tired or too sleepy--day or night--to render my services to someone who had called for me.

I knew that the present situation would get worse before it gets better and that is the reason I resigned. When peace and harmony is lacking in a department, it is time to call it quits.

ROY CHISUM

son; and officers, chief Chisum, patrolmen Buford Ashley and Steve Skinner and city officer Bill Chavis; highway patrolman Rodney Green; game warden Sam Center; sheriff's deputy Bryan Touche.

Prior to the executive session the only visitor who spoke was Les Evers, a former city councilman, who asked the council for the name of the person or persons who initiated the investigation and he was informed that the inconsistencies were reported by numerous officers, primarily by patrolman Skinner, early in June.

At the conclusion of the executive session, the discussion of the audit and interviews with the chief and various other officers was held in executive session with only members of the council, the mayor, the city manager, city secretary and city attorney present.

The council gave due consideration to all aspects of the audit and actions that might need to be taken, reported the mayor.

After Chisum was questioned at length in the closed session, he returned later for another discussion with the council, and it has been reported that he agreed at that time that as chief of police he assumed responsibility for the department.

At the conclusion of the executive session, Truly questioned the advisability of state officers using city receipts; and Stiles asked for clarification of several points in the audit.

Audit Report

According to the audit report prepared by Mr. Arthur and accepted by the council, various inconsistencies and fund shortages are noted.

In comparing cash receipts as shown in the receipt books available from the period of Feb. 25, 1975 through June 21, 1976, shortages totalling \$4,809.93 are reported; also the report states that fifty-two original receipts from the police department receipt books were missing from the books that were available. Arthur noted that "receipt books for prior periods could not be located."

In the first exhibit in the report, the CPA lists receipt numbers, the payor, date and amount for which the receipt was issued (and these do not include the fifty-two missing receipts). He found that the receipts were written for a total of \$4,774.45, but actual amounts shown collected per the docket book of the corporation court was \$1,197.50. The auditor was able to verify that an additional \$32.00 was collected for departments out of the city of Eagle Lake, thereby leaving a deficit of \$3,514.93 on the first exhibit.

In the second exhibit the auditor compared money collected from prisoners as shown in the jail register book and/or the municipal court docket records for the period March 1, 1975 through June 30, 1976. This examination showed that the amount of funds collected according to the jail register totalled \$1,675.00. The amount collected per the docket book, however, was only \$380.00, or \$1295.00 less than the amounts for which the jail register indicated.

A third exhibit in the audit listed thirteen traffic tickets from January 2, 1975 through June 29, 1976 which were compared with the receipt books and/or the court records and the auditor found that the tickets were not traceable to the docket book and a total of fifty-one of the traffic tickets were missing completely.

Information was not available this week on whether the council will or will not pursue the situation further. But meanwhile Ashley is Acting Chief of Police in Eagle Lake and Patrolman Steve Skinner and Special Officer Bill Chavis have assumed all duties of the local police department pending acceptance of applications for the position of Chief of Police on a regular basis.

Due to the length of the discussion of the police department and corporation court records the council decided not to act on other items listed on the agenda.

CPL To Ask For Rate Increase

At Council Meet On Tues., Aug. 23

Central Power and Light Company has announced plans to file applications for new electric rates later this month which will provide an increase of approximately 11 per cent in the company's total operating revenues.

The rate request, only the second general increase in the company's 60-year history, is scheduled to be filed the week of August 23 with city commissions in the 104 South Texas cities served by CPL. New rates for CPL customers outside of the incorporated areas will go into effect the same week.

Copies of the new rates also will be filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas, which assumes jurisdiction over electric rates outside incorporated cities September 1. City Councils continue to serve as regulatory agencies for electric rates in incorporated areas.

CPL's last general rate change, which amounted to a six per cent revenue increase, went into effect in April, 1973.

CPL Manager Frank Sherer said the rate increase was needed to offset rising prices for "just about everything we use to make electricity." He said that CPL's rate of return has been dropping sharply for the past two years. Although customer electric bills have risen substantially in the past few years, these increases have been the result of skyrocketing costs for natural gas. These costs are passed along to customers through a fuel adjustment clause in CPL rates, noted the CPL spokesman. He added that construction costs have increased rapidly since the company's last rate increase, and pointed out that the average interest rate the company pays to borrow money for new plants and equipment has more than doubled in the past few years.

CPL and other Texas utilities, which have traditionally used natural gas as power plant fuel, have extensive pro-

Eagle Lake Float Wins First In Schulenburg

Eagle Lake's beautiful float won a first place trophy for the top Chamber of Commerce sponsored entry in the Schulenburg Festival parade held last Saturday.

Misses Debbie and Brenda Jones, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Jones, added beauty to the float which depicts this community as an agricultural and hunting center.

The City of Eagle Lake provided transportation for the float with Weldon Wolf driving the pickup.

The float is scheduled to appear this Saturday in the Bastrop parade.

Ind. Cattleman's Assn. Meet This Thurs.

A meeting of the Independent Cattleman's Association will be held Thurs., Aug. 5 at 8 p.m. at the Central Power and Light Building in Columbus.

The purpose of this meeting is to report on the State Convention which was held July 16 and 17 in Austin. Attending from Colorado County were: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Chollett, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Schindler, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Loessin, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ise, and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Elliott. Reports will be given by each of these representatives on the convention.

Plans for the fall fund raising events will also be discussed.

Upper Room Books Music Clinic This Sat.

This Saturday, August 7, Upper Room Books & Gifts in Eagle Lake, will sponsor a music clinic for musicians from all churches in the area.

Perry Taylor, an experienced musician and choir leader will direct the clinic. Mr. Taylor is associated with Artistic Communications, Inc. (ARTICOM) of Houston.

The clinic will last from 10:00 a.m. till 1:30, at which time there will be an open house at the bookstore.

County Projects Included In 1976 Highway Dept. Plans

Highway improvement projects in Colorado County are included in the 1976 State Highway Safety and Betterment and Farm to Market Road Improvement Program, recently approved by the State Highway and Public Transportation Commission.

Carl V. Ramert of Yoakum, District Engineer for the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, said work in this area includes: Interstate Highway 10 between the Austin County Line and the Colorado River Bridge at Columbus, install shoulder underdrains and pavement repair on sections for a total distance of 2.0 miles and at an estimated cost of \$40,400.

Interstate Highway 10 between the Colorado River Bridge at Columbus and the Fayette County Line, a distance of 14.4 miles, mudjack concrete pavement at various locations at an estimated total cost of \$7,200.00.

State Highway 71 from the Fayette County Line to 8.8 miles South will receive a level-up course and a seal coat application at an estimated cost of \$414,300.00. State Highway 71 from the Colorado River at Columbus to 2.7 miles North, State Highway 71 from US Highway 90A at Altair to the Wharton County Line, and FM Highway 102 from the Wharton County Line to 5.1 miles Northwest, a total distance of 21.1 miles, will receive seal coat applications at an estimated total cost of \$107,700.00.

State Highway 71 between FM Highway 333 South of Garwood and 3.5 miles Northwest of Garwood, the highway ditches will be regraded and the sideroad drainage structures adjusted by state forces at an estimated total cost of \$27,800.00.

FM Highway 155 between the Lavaca County Line and FM Highway 2144, base repairs and surfacing on sections for a total distance of 2.7 miles and at an estimated cost of \$24,100.00.

The program provides for improvement of a total of 3,164.8 miles of highways and FM roads with 58 per cent assigned to US- and State-numbered routes, 39 per cent for FM routes and 8 per cent reserved for later assignment.

In all, the program includes 552 projects in 190 counties of the state.

Western Auto Service Dept. Closed This Wk.

The Service Department of the Western Auto Store in Eagle Lake is closed this week, August 2nd through August 7th, for summer vacation.

H. G. Lockler, owner of the firm, asks for your cooperation during the absence of his servicemen who will be on vacation.

Hwy. 71 Drainage Work Approved Near Garwood

Highway construction contracts let in July by the State Highway and Public Transportation Commission include work in Colorado County.

The work will be supervised by District Engineer Carl V. Ramert.

A contract was awarded to Texas Road Boring Company of Louisiana-Mississippi of Houston. Low bid was \$61,372.50.

The project, which will require an estimated 50 working days, is for reconditioning drainage structures on State Highway 71 between Farm to Market Road 333 south of Garwood and 3.5 miles northwest of Garwood.

City Gets \$38,610 Grant For Sewer Plant Study

Congressman J. J. Pickle's office called the Headlight office on Wednesday of last week to report that a \$38,610 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to the City of Eagle Lake was approved.

The grant will be used to carry out a water infiltration study in the proposed wastewater treatment plant improvement program for this city. The allocation was an increase over the previous estimate due to additional work required to determine the amount of water infiltrating into the existing sewer system, said the report.

Frelsburg Man Accidentally Shot Sun. Nite

Columbus Hospital reported to the County Sheriff's office at 11 p.m. Sunday that a man had been admitted with a gun shot wound in the stomach. Daniel Schmidt of Frelsburg was the victim of an accidental gunshot wound from a .22 pistol, investigation revealed.

No charges were filed against Schmidt's wife who had accidentally discharged the pistol, reported the sheriff's department.

Schmidt was taken to the Hermann Hospital in Houston by that hospital's emergency helicopter ambulance for treatment of the gunshot wound.

For Emergency Ambulance Service Call 234-5311

Garwood Man Found Dead In Yard Friday

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department received a call at 9:10 p.m. Friday, July 30th informing them that a man had been found dead in a yard near the intersection of Highway 71 and FM 1693 near Garwood.

Investigation revealed that a black man, Nathan Johnson, 64, apparently died while mowing grass in the yard. Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace W. A. Heffner held an inquest at the scene and ruled the man died of natural causes.

Later the family expressed fear of foul play and Judge Heffner ordered that the body be sent to Houston for an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

A report was received by Judge Heffner this week that the man had died of a stroke.

\$7.12 Cwt. Top Rice Bid Mon.

Bids on 7 of 9 Lots Accepted

With the rice harvest nearly ninety percent complete, the first rice sale of the 1976 season was held at the American Rice Growers Cooperative Association office here last Friday and another sale was held Monday, but the bulk of the rice remains in dryers and will be coming up for bids at a later date.

Donald Obenhaus, manager of the local rice association office, said that only two of the seven lots offered last Friday were sold. Top bid of the day was \$7.10 per cwt. or \$11.50 per barrel. The bid was made by Moore Mill, the leading bidder of the day, for LaBelle rice grown by Frank Hough. Other bids scaled down to \$6.73 per cwt.

Nine lots of rice totalling 53,646 cwt. went up for bids

here Monday and the top bid of the day was \$7.17 per cwt. or \$11.62 per barrel. The bid was posted by Uncle Ben's Mill for a lot of LaBelle grown by Waddell Bros. The rice milled 62-71 and graded No. 1. Other bids scaled down to \$6.92 per cwt.

Yields continue to be good, ranging from 32 to 40 barrels per acre, and the quality of the rice is also good. The market continues weak with only three of the seven mills up on the board offering bids at Monday's sale.

Obenhaus noted that even though the bids are below expectation for this time of the year, seven of the nine lots up for bids Monday were sold for the bids offered.

The Eagle Lake office will have eight lots of rice up on the table for bids at a sale this Wednesday. Sales will be held regularly on Mondays and Wednesdays, said the rice office manager.



BOB GRIFFITH

Bob Griffith Directs Continental Singers, Orchestra

At First Baptist Church Aug. 18

Bob Griffith will direct the Continental Singers and Orchestra in a concert of contemporary Christian music on Wednesday, August 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake.

Now in his third year with the Continental Singers, Mr. Griffith served as assistant director for a 1973 group that toured throughout the Caribbean, and in 1975 directed his Continental group which toured southern Europe.

He is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, with degrees in both Music Education and Theory, and is currently doing graduate

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Church of Christ To Conduct Bible Campaign

The Church of Christ is sponsoring a "Know Your Bible Campaign" in Eagle Lake" beginning Saturday, August 7th.

Christians from Houston and Eagle Lake will be by your home to share the message of the Bible with you. For more information contact the Church of Christ in Eagle Lake.