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County Budget

(Continued from page one)

included: a reduction from \$9000 to \$7000 the allocation for parts and repairs to sheriff's department automobiles since two new cars are due to be purchased; reduction from \$1000 to \$500 in miscellaneous expenses in the sheriff's department; and reduction from \$7500 to \$6000 in amount set aside for feeding prisoners. It is planned to take a contract for TV dinners for prisoners with hopes of reducing costs in that area.

An error found in the preparation of the budget accounted for the release of \$1200. The proposed budget listed \$4800 for juvenile probation judges, when actually there are only 3 judges drawing \$1200 each so the \$4800 allocation for this was changed to \$3600. Finally a \$500 fund set aside for photostatic supplies was eliminated since the county does not use that machine any longer. This amounted to a total of \$5700 in funds released for other purposes.

But the commissioners, after considerable debate with Precinct 4 Commissioner Bill Stiles leading the opposition, voted 3-1 to increase an allocation for re-binding records in the county clerk's office from \$500 to \$750. County Clerk Lester Schneider had originally asked for \$20,000 for this purpose but the proposed budget had only set aside \$500. Later the clerk found a firm that would rebind the books for \$150 each in the original size, and requested a total of \$7500 for this purpose.

Commissioner Stiles said that he did not believe the

Cattleman's Assn. Meeting Tues.

The Colorado County Independent Cattleman's Association will have a meeting Tuesday, Sept. 21st at 8:00 p.m. at the Central Power and Light Building in Columbus. The meeting was called by County Chairman Henry Potter.

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Xmas Decor

(Continued from page one)

Christmas season, an order must be placed by October 1st and at that time one-third of the cost must be made as a down payment, hence the committee is urging that those businessmen and individuals who would like to contribute to this worthy project, should do so as soon as possible.

You may send your contributions to the Chamber of Commerce office, Box 216, or to the First National Bank in Eagle Lake.

The trees are green with red metallic decor criss-crossing the tree with a base and stars of gold metallic design and the tree is lighted with 23 lights. The candles are red stick candles with gold base and flame and have a white halo design and the unit contains 18 lights. Plans are to use the existing brackets which have been used in the past and to purchase eight additional brackets. The committee will advertise for sale of the existing metal scrolls and hopes to dispose of these soon and proceeds will be applied to the purchase of the new units.

Mrs. Thomas noted, "By adding eight fixtures, we can extend the decorations on McCarty and to further areas along Main Street."

Refurbishing of the fixtures used in the downtown area, on the Municipal Building, will be accomplished by replacing the materials with new metallic and vinyl garlands in red and gold to blend with the colors used in the new fixtures.

To be lighted

The committee noted that all fixtures will be fully lighted for night time display and the metallic garlands will make for a spectacular daytime illumination.

The present decorations are over ten years old and would require complete overhaul even to painting of the frames, and by using the present brackets and purchase of new units, we will come out better than trying to refurbish the old ones," the committee members said.

"If the citizens are really interested in promoting this project and in improving the appearance of the downtown area during this Christmas season, they must make their contributions at the bank under the Decorations Fund," hopefully in the immediate future, added the committee members.

Altair Rice Dryer Fire

(Continued from page one)

Eight fire departments from the area assisted at the dryer fire, although there was little the firemen could do to control the blaze for the first several hours. Most of the efforts were concentrated during that time in protecting adjoining properties and in keeping the adjoining concrete bins as cool as possible.

Firemen were on hand from Eagle Lake, Garwood, Columbus, Weimar, Sheridan, Rock Island, El Campo and Walls. Providing water for the fire trucks battling the dryer fire and numerous grass fires started in the area from flying sparks and debris, were tank trucks from Eagle Lake and Garwood areas, trucks from Eagle County precincts, and a number of individually owned tank trucks and trailers, as well as a large water tank truck from Columbus, and a large supply of water was made available from storage facilities at the Rice High School, only several miles from the dryer.

The firemen were at the scene until after ten p.m. when most of the blazing wood and rice was contained to small areas. Fire continued to be seen through Monday and it is anticipated that the wood and grain will continue burning until salvage work is completed.

Reynolds' salvage equipment was scooping up burning debris and grain this week, however it is anticipated that it will take at least ten days to complete the salvage operation.

Aerial View of Altair Dryer Fire



This aerial view of the fire at the Altair Rice Dryer facility at Altair last Friday evening was taken by Boite Kallins of Garwood and Austin. The view shows the portion of building which held the 58 wood bins of 750 barrel capacity each and mostly filled with rice, contained between two rows of concrete silos as it appeared at the height of the blaze. In the foreground can be seen some of numerous grass fires which were ignited from the tremendous heat blown across Highway 90A by a brisk north wind. — Photo by Boite Kallins

Weimar Asks Check Forger Given 2 Yrs. In State Pen

(Continued from page 1)

James Collins who was charged in 1974 with forging a check given to the Borden Country Club and indicted on that charge in February of 1975, was brought before District Judge B. B. Schraub in 25th District Court Sept. 9th and Collins was assessed a two year term in the Texas Dept. of Corrections.

He was taken to Huntsville the same day by Sheriff Doc Mueller to begin serving his term in the penitentiary.

Ewing Gets Probation On Check Charge

(Continued from page 1)

Ronald K. Ewing, indicted by the September grand jury on three charges of theft by check, entered a plea of guilty to forgery in District Court in Columbus Sept. 9th, and he waived indictment by grand jury on the new charge.

District Judge B. B. Schraub assessed a term of two years of probation against the man on the new charge.

In the event of fire, Call 234-2533

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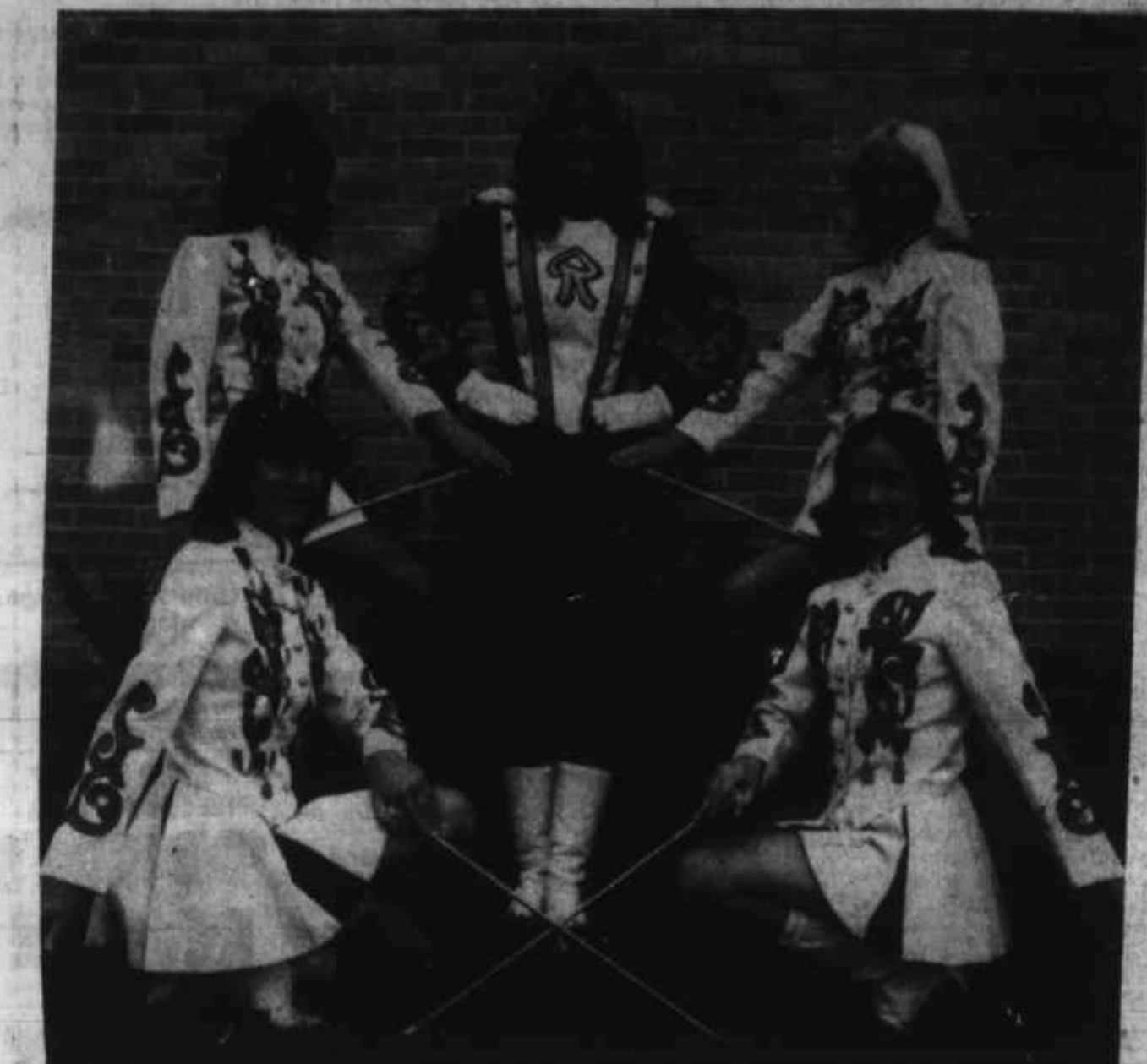
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VOLUME 78 P. O. BOX 67 EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77444 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1976 AC 713 234-2783 NUMBER 23.

Rice Raider Band Drum Major, Twirlers



These five pretty young ladies will be leading the Rice Raider Band during its 1976-77 activities. The Raider Band, under the direction of Floyd Spearth, presents outstanding performances at the half-time of all Raider football games. Drum Major for the Raider Band is Miss Judy Ashby, center. Twirlers are, in front left to right, Lisa Mihaltis and Patti Mathis; standing, left to right, Becky Garrison and Sharon Hoffman.

City Resolutions Delay CPL Rate

On Tuesday, September 14, 1976, along with several other interested citizens, attended the City Council Meeting when representatives of Central Power and Light Company presented a PREPARED brief stating the reasons the company should be allowed to raise their base electric rate by over 10%. Actually, this 10% is a misrepresentation. Eleven percent is the OVERALL increase they are asking for, when in effect, the rate increase for the individual homeowner is 19.4%.

First, Central Power and Light Company never gave the City Council a clear answer as to whether or not the \$800,000,000 investment cost was derived from actual cost, depreciated cost or replacement value cost. They were not specific as to whether or not this was the figure used in any other place and I suspect this figure was used just for the rate increase presentation. All they ever said was that their rate of return on the above investment capital was approximately 5.46%. They failed to tell us that even using the above figures that Central Power and Light Company made a profit of \$43,840,000.00. That, Mr. Mayor and Council, is nearly forty-four million dollars profit that Central Power and Light Company made in the reporting 13 month period. Now, they say they need a rate increase!

Second, during a great portion of their presentation, they continually harped upon the fact that the high cost of fuel was one of their reasons for requesting a rate increase. How naive can they think we are? Fuel costs should not even be considered as they have circumvented the law and are charging the customer ALL of the increased cost of the fuel, and they have been doing this for over two years. Therefore, they have absolutely no increased cost of doing business as a result of higher fuel costs. This in itself is a clouding of the issue because Central Power and Light Company has been charging customers the increased cost of fuel starting with the very first kilowatt hour used instead of just the increased cost of the excess over the 1973 base needed to generate the electricity used.

Thirdly, they did show that supplies cost more now. As an example, a 45 foot pole now costs approximately 46% more. But they failed to tell us what base they used to figure the 46%. Could that have been the cost was in 1950? Did they already amortize that figure? No! They presented only percentages. I think this was another misrepresentation.

Fourth, by their own printed literature they showed that they charged approximately \$43.00 for 1,000 KWH's and that Houston Lighting and Power Company charged approximately \$30.00 for the same 1,000 KWH's. During their percentage presentation they failed to emphasize or even mention that this is 46% higher than another nearby company charges their customers. In other words, for every one dollar the customers of Houston Lighting and Power Company pay, we as citizens of Eagle Lake must pay to Central Power and Light Company the sum of one dollar and forty-four cents (\$1.44). I submit to you that we citizens are already paying excessive electric rates and that Central Power and Light Company should be required to REDUCE, NOT INCREASE, their already exorbitant rates to within 10% or 15% of the rates charged by Houston Lighting and Power Company.

Fifth, they haven't furnished their financial statement, as reported to their stockholders, along with the actual certified profit and loss statement instead of a loaded set of graphs and charts showing the high cost of fuel that we are already paying every increased cent that it costs Central Power and Light Company?

Sixth, unknown to the average citizen who is paying an increased fuel cost, Central Power and Light Company does not charge an excessive fuel cost to the 25 cities it serves, but divides the extra cost and adds it to the individual consumer's bill. This means that the excess fuel cost for the large cities of Corpus Christi, Victoria, Brownsville and the cities in the Valley are having their excess fuel cost borne in part by the citizens of Eagle Lake. What a travesty!

Seventh, because of the above discrepancies and abuses, I hereby charge the Mayor and City Council of Eagle Lake with the responsibility of either attempting to find another source of power for this community or requiring Central Power and Light Company to be competitive in their rates.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe N. Frantz, Jr.
Brig. Gen. USAF (Ret.)

(Continued on page 2)

Dopslauf's Son 12 Plead Guilty To Dies In Tragic Criminal Charges Monday Auto-Mishap

Darrel Justin Dopslauf, one and a half year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence F. Dopslauf of Sheridan, apparently died immediately when he was run over by a car at the Dopslauf farm between Sheridan and Spears, Thursday, Sept. 16th, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening.

State Trooper Rodney Owens of Hallettsville investigated the unfortunate incident. He said the little boy was run over in the private driveway of the Dopslauf place.

The Dopslauf farm is located 24 miles southeast of Hallettsville and a mile west of FM Road 2487, near the Newton Ranch.

Owens said Mr. and Mrs. Dopslauf had gone to their place in the evening to do some work; they had their three small children with them. They had gone to the farm in separate vehicles. Mrs. Dopslauf drove a 1973 Chevrolet Caprice and her husband had gone to the

(Continued on last page)

ASHLEY IS APPOINTED POLICE CHIEF

Eagle Lake City Council voted Tuesday night of last week in regular session, to promote Buford Ashley to the position of Chief of Police in the City of Eagle Lake effectively immediately.

Ashley, formerly a patrolman with the city for the past 4 years, had been acting police chief since the resignation of former Chief Roy Chism last July 27th.

The action taken by the council included allowing time served as acting chief toward the regular 90-day probationary period.

In questioning by the mayor Elmer Struss, and city councilmen, the new police chief pledged to have the parking meters worked regularly, to continue regular patrols to insure safety in the school area, and to maintain control on traffic in the business and residential areas.

Chief Ashley said he and his wife Vicki are the parents of a daughter, Mrs. Ashley is a part-time dispatcher for the city police and fire departments.

Mr. Ashley came to Eagle Lake in December of 1972. Prior to beginning duties here he was with Richmond police department for two years and with the Victoria police department for two years.

Helicopter Service Topic Of Amb. Corps' Meet Thurs.

The Eagle Lake Volunteer Ambulance Corps will meet in the Ambulance Hall Thursday, September 23 at 8:00 p.m. to hear John Self of Houston, speak.

Mr. Self will explain the helicopter service of Houston Hospital and show slides on this subject.

The public is cordially invited and urged to come.

CC Christmas Decor Fund Drive Begins

Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce directors met Monday afternoon and set into motion plans for the purchase of new Christmas Lighting and Decorations for the downtown area, provided sufficient contributions come in by the October 1st deadline for ordering the fifty new fixtures.

A special Christmas decorations committee announced last week plans for the purchase of fifty new fixtures, 25 Christmas tree decorations and 25 candles. (Continued on last page)

PPK Winners To Be Honored

Winners in the Ford Motor Co. Paint, Pass and Kick competition held last Saturday will be honored at a dinner at Jack's Restaurant this Wed. First place winners will compete in the area competition in Victoria Sat. See page 2 for more information.

RE: CPL RATE REQUEST OPEN LETTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL

September 18, 1976

Gentlemen:

On Tuesday, September 14, 1976, I, along with several other interested citizens, attended the City Council Meeting when representatives of Central Power and Light Company presented a PREPARED brief stating the reasons the company should be allowed to raise their base electric rate by over 10%. Actually, this 10% is a misrepresentation. Eleven percent is the OVERALL increase they are asking for, when in effect, the rate increase for the individual homeowner is 19.4%.

Lions Carniva Opens With Parade 3 P.M. Saturday

The Eagle Lake Noon Lions Club invites one and all to attend the annual Street Carnival which will be held this Saturday, Sept. 26th at the Eagle Lake Community Center.

Flores, marching bands, other marching and decorated units and commercial entries will be featured in the parade, according to Bill Appel, parade chairman.

The parade chairman said this week that late entries of all kinds are welcome. If you are not listed among those here and would like to be in the parade, report to the State Street area at least 30 minutes before parade time and you will be placed in the parade.

The Lions invite you to enjoy supper with them - there will be hamburgers, hot dogs, cold drinks, cakes and other goodies for sale.

Exciting Turtle Races

The exciting turtle races will begin at 9:00 p.m. with the races to be run off in heats with a \$25 Savings Bond to be given to the heat winners. The heat winners will complete for the grand prize of a \$100 Savings Bond as a finale to the races.

A special prize of \$25.00 worth of groceries will be given to some lucky person attending the carnival. No purchase is required but you must be present in order to win.

(Continued on last page)

Proclaims Cystic Fibrosis Week

Mayor Elmer Struss is now signing a proclamation designating the week of Sept. 27-Oct. 3 as Cystic Fibrosis Drive Week in Eagle Lake as Mrs. Glenn Harbers and daughter Sharon Renee look on. Sharon Renee is a victim of Cystic Fibrosis. Mrs. Harbers is leading a fund-raising campaign for the Gulf Coast Chapter of Cystic Fibrosis next week. See page 2.

Gr. Rising Star BBQ, Fish Dinner This Saturday

The Greater Rising Star Baptist Church in the New Town area will serve barbecue and fish dinners at the noon hour this Saturday, Sept. 26th and they invite one and all to enjoy the dinners for only \$2.00 per plate.

You may call Alberten Parson at 234-2523 for advance reservations. The dinner is in the church cafeteria.

(Continued on page 2)

Teen Queen

(Continued from page 1)

system broke down as follows: 1. Appearance - 10 points total (dress, coiffure and posture); 2. Personality and Poise - 50 points total (attitude, pleasantness, ease and manner, sincerity, smile, alertness and response); 3. Talent - 25 points total (ability, selection of program and presentation); 4. Education - 15 points total (review of contestant's school transcript and resume). Kathy scored high in each category.

Each of the final contestants appeared on stage in a long dress for a few minutes of general questioning and conversation. Each contestant was then required to pick a blind question and answer it. The next portion of the program consisted of the various talent presentations. Kathy's talent was a comedy dance routine done to the music of Herb Alpert's "Love Potion No. 9" and choreographed by Mrs. Barbara Mackey of Rice Consolidated Independent School District.

At the end of the talent presentations the judges tabulated their scores and winners were announced. There were winners in the categories of Miss Congeniality, First Runner-Up and Miss Texas Teen Queen. Kathy was then crowned by last year's Miss Teen Queen, Miss Eagle Lake brought about some interesting conversation at the meeting of the council on Tuesday night of last week.

After spending over an hour hashing over some of the aspects of the proposal, especially the proposed kennel fee and authority for a dogcatcher to enter upon the property of a citizen in case of violation of the leash provisions, being the main topics.

Five individuals were on hand to comment on the proposals, including Mrs. Louis Balas, who advocated an animal shelter might solve some of the problems of stray dogs; H. E. (Snooks) Burger who said he was opposed to anyone coming up to his private property to get his dog; Michael Cooper, who asked for clarification of the kennel provisions and indicated opposition to this proposal; Mary Canella, who

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MANY MORE NEW MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM!!

C.C. To Meet 2:30 P.M. Mon.

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce will meet at 2:30 p.m. next Monday in the council room of the Municipal Building and all directors are urged to be present for an important meeting.

Plans have been made for year-end activities and the Christmas Decorations Committee will have an important report to make for consideration of the directors.

NOTICE

Any one that would desire to have prayer meetings in their home and teaching about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost...

Write Box 96, Columbus, Texas 77034

THE BAPTIST CHURCH
(19-141)