

**Happy Holiday!
Happy Eating!**



STOCK UP NOW

for the holidays

AND SAVE!

8 Specials good for Christmas
Big Days Thurs., Fri., Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., & Fri.,
Dec. 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, & 24
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY,
SATURDAY, DEC. 25TH

Evangeline Cut
Yams
NO. 2 1/2 CAN
39¢

TIDE
Giant Size
99¢
(With \$7.50 or more purchase
exc. Cig. & Beer)

The Oscar Miller
Family's Annual
"Thank You" SALE

Gladiolus FLOUR
5 Lb. Bag
69¢

GLADIOLA White or Yellow
Corn Bread Mix 7 OZ. PKG.
6 FOR \$1.00

Sno Brite Rice 2 POUND BOX	59¢	Spiced Peaches DEL MONTE NO. 2 1/2 JAR	89¢
Popcorn 5-MINUTE COLORED LB. PKG.	33¢	Towie Olives STUFFED 7 OZ. JAR	79¢
Caress BAR SOAP 3 for \$1		Pumpkin Libby's Solid No. 303 Can	3 for \$1
Cascade DETERGENT Family Size Box	\$1.79	Miracle Whip KRAFT QT. Size	\$1.09

McCormick Holiday Spices

Cinnamon 1 OZ. CAN	45¢	Vanilla Extract 1 OZ. CAN	39¢
Ground Nutmeg 1 OZ. CAN	65¢	Vanilla Extract 2 OZ. BTL.	59¢

Crisco
FINEST VEGETABLE SHORTING
3 LB. CAN
\$1.49

Luncheon Meat KORN KING 12 OZ. CAN 89¢
Pitted Prunes SUNSWEET 12 OZ. PKG. 59¢

We have a good supply of
Holiday Nuts
and also Pecans Shelled or Whole

Free! REGISTER Without

7 Big Prizes

1. Solid State Multi-Band Portable Radio, AM-FM
2. Proctor Silex Toaster-Oven Unit
3. Sunbeam Professional Blower/Styler

HOLIDAY Produce
Fresh Produce Delivered to Miller
Three Times a Week

Celery Large Stalk **32¢**
ORANGES 5 Lb. Bag **69¢**
Green Onions 2 Bunches 35¢
Radishes 2 Bu. 35¢
Cranberries FRESH BAG 44¢
Delicious APPLES 6 for **79¢**
Texas Oranges 10 for **10¢**

ROSEDALE (SLICED OR HALVES)
Peaches NO. 2 1/2 CAN
2 for \$1

COCONUT 16 OZ. BAG **69¢**
Zee Napkins 3 for \$1
Fabric Softener \$1.59

CREME Kraft MARSHMALLOW 7 OZ. JAR 41¢
Marshmallows 10 OZ. PKG. 39¢

Reynolds FOIL 18 Inch Roll **59¢**
DUNCAN HINES Cake Mix BOX **69¢**

Eagle Lake Headlight

SECTION THREE, 3 PAGES EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS, 77624 DECEMBER 23, 1976

Santa Claus Greeted



Joe Duncan, president of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, left, welcomes Santa Claus on his annual visit to the children of the community Saturday, Dec. 18, following his arrival in the helicopter, in the background, piloted by Dan Thornton. Nearly eight hundred youngsters, and many parents and others, braved cold threatening weather to visit with Santa during his annual pre-Christmas visit to the community, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

School Xmas, N.Y. Holidays

The Rice School District will observe a long Christmas and New Year's holiday period again this year, with the holiday break beginning at the close of classes on Friday, Dec. 17th and continuing through Sunday, Jan. 2nd.

USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON 1977 RICE PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has called for comments on the 1977 rice program. Current legislation authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for a set-aside of cropland for the 1977 crop if he estimates that the carryover of rice on Aug. 1, 1976 will be more than 15 percent of the total supply (Aug. 1, 1977 carryover plus 1977 production).

If the Secretary estimates that this is the case, he is required to determine (1) whether there should be a set-aside requirement for rice for the 1977 crop and, if so, the extent of such requirement; (2) whether there should be provisions for additional diversion of cropland and, if so the extent of such cropland diversion and the payment rate; and (3) other provisions necessary to carry out the cropland set-aside program, should it be deemed necessary.

Courthouse To Be Closed Dec. 24, 25

The county courthouse in Columbus will close all day on Friday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve and also all day on Saturday, Dec. 25th, Christmas Day, decided members of the Commissioners' Court in session last week. However, the court voted to allow the county offices to be closed only on Sat., January 1st for the New Year's holiday and the courthouse will be open all day on Friday, Dec. 31st for convenience of those citizens who have year-end business to conduct in the courthouse offices.

of the Director, Room 3741 of USDA's South Building during regular business hours. The Secretary will make a final determination on 1977 set-aside provisions no later than April 1, 1977.

Wishing You Santa's Best

Santa Has Many Parallels in Other Parts of the World

Christmas to American children conjures up visions of Santa in his red suit, with his sack full of gifts, stuffing stockings merrily on Christmas Eve, while reindeer prance upon the roof.

But in Italy, youngsters eagerly await the arrival of an old woman, called *la Befana*. Because she was told by the shepherds about the birth of Jesus, legend says, but delayed in following the Christmas star, she is doomed to search ever after for the Holy Child. She leaves gifts at each home, as that might be where the Christ Child is staying.

In Holland, the gift-giver is Sante Klaas, who fills shoes either with sweets and presents or with birch-rod.

The Christ-Child brings gifts to children in Germany, as a messenger for the new-born Infant Jesus. This role is usually enacted by a female member of the family, or a window is left open and youngsters are told that the Christ Child has just left.

The Christ Child is also awaited in Switzerland, but there the representative of the Infant Jesus is drawn through the streets in a sleigh, by small deer.

Swedish youngsters look forward to the gifts brought by *jultomten*, a somewhat gnomish figure. However, little elves called *julnissar* must be placated with porridge by the young Swedes.

In Spain, little children must wait until the feast of the Epiphany, in January, for their gifts. These are brought by the Three Kings during the night, before the feast. The youngsters put out shoes on balconies or window-sills, and fill them with straw or barley for the camels of the Three Kings. The Kings show their appreciation by leaving gifts in return.

The good youngsters find gifts in the morning but the naughty find only a black mark on their wrists.

Finnish children eagerly await gifts from Father Christmas, who is a man dressed as a yule goat.

A Bulgarian tradition has the Christmas tree and gifts for youngsters brought by Grandpa Koleda, who is the equivalent of our Santa Claus. The youngsters do not see the tree or the gifts until Christmas Eve, when real candles are placed upon the tree and gifts are joyously opened.

Our own Santa Claus is probably descended from St. Nicholas, who was a bishop of Myra in Asia Minor during the 4th century. He was known as the patron saint of maidens, because of a legend crediting him with having provided dowries for the three daughters of a poor father. Through the centuries, St. Nicholas has become associated with gift-giving and helping little children.

In Holland, we have already noted that he became known as Sante Klaas, and it was under that guise that he was introduced to America, by the Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam. But it was not until 1822 that the figure of Santa Claus as we know him today, really took form.

A professor of divinity, Dr. Clement Clarke Moore, decided to write a poem for his children as a Christmas treat. The resulting *The Visit of St. Nicholas* presented us with an engaging picture of "a little old driver, so lively and quick," with twinkling eyes and merry dimples. "His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry," wrote Moore, "and the beard on his chin was as white as the snow." Moore described St. Nicholas as being "chubby and plump - a right jolly old elf," who busied himself filling the children's stockings. No wonder this description captured the imagination of America's youngsters.

Today, thanks to Moore's classic poem and Thomas Nast's illustrations during the 1850s, we see Santa as a jolly, generous old gent.

Merry Christmas



Christmas is the time to celebrate, the time for love, laughter and merriment. We would like to express a wish for a beautiful holiday season to all of our wonderful friends and patrons. We are happy to have so many fine friends and we look forward to doing business with you again in the future.

ASHBY OIL COMPANY
Eagle Lake