The EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

Don't Let Food Poisoning Spoil Your Holiday Season

AUSTIN–The Christmas season means lots of good food, but it also means that the possibility of food poisoning increases.

The Texas Department of Agriculture home economist reminds cooks that unless they follow good sanitation practices, kitchens can become the breeding ground for the bacteria that cause food poisoning.

"According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 63 percent of American kitchens are "high risk" zones because of one or more undesirable practices regarding food preparation and storage," she explained. "And with many Christmas foods, it's especially important to be careful."

Following are suggestions for keeping the food you prepare free from contamination during the Christmas holiday season and all year long.

Make the grocery store your last stop so you can store perishable foods quickly. Perishable foods should be placed immediately into the refrigerator, which should be at 40 degrees Fahrenheit, or in the freezer at 0 degrees F.

Thaw meat and poultry in the refrigerator or cook them frozen. If you must thaw quickly, put the food into a plastic bag, close securely and submerge in cold water. Never thaw meat uncovered on a kitchen counter at room temperature. And be sure to cook food promptly after thawing.

Do not use the utensils used for cutting raw meat to cut other foods without first washing the utensils and your hands in hot, soapy water.

If your hands have cuts or sores, use rubber gloves when handling raw meat. This keeps bacteria in the meat from entering the sore, and bacteria from the sore is not transferred to the food.

Be especially careful with cold meat cuts, turkey stuffing, potato salad and other salads made with mayonnaise, cream pies, eggnog, and other dishes containing meat, poultry or eggs. Germs multiply readily in such foods.

Although a stuffed turkey may be aesthetically pleasing, it is much safer to bake the turkey and stuffing separately. Bacteria grows well in stuffing ingredients and in the warm, moist turkey cavity.

When preparing a hot dish ahead of time, place in refrigerator within 30 minutes after cooking; reheat thoroughly just before serving. Do not leave cold dishes at room temperature; instead, refrigerate immediately after preparation.

Finally, refrigerate leftovers as soon as the meal is over.

24 YEARS AGO

Let's Look Back

(August 7, 1952)

Members of the City Council at Tuesday night's meeting, voted unanimously to accept the offer of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company to install dial telephones in Eagle Lake in 1956, and at the same time authorized a hike in rates, effective one year after the increase of last September, which would in effect be in the September billing. . . . Lions Club begins plans for annual carnival Sept. 5. . . . Harold Andrews of Sheridan brought in the first rice in the county for the third straight year, during the past week. . . Mrs. J. E. McDonald, a resident of this community for over fifty years, passed away at her home near Eagle Lake in the early morning of Tuesday, August 5. She was 68 years old. . . The 1952 rice harvest is all set to begin this week when several farmers move into their fields to combine the precious golden grain. . . The 1952 cotton crop for Colorado County is beginning to roll in to the gins this week, with considerable picking beginning this week-end and next week. . . . . Lissie youth to hold ice cream social at 7 p.m. August 13. . . Last rites Aug. 3 for Mary Ellen Dornon, 85, and long time resident of Rock Island were conducted at the First Baptist Church in Rock Island. . . Quail season opens Sept. 6, limit 15 per day. . . Shower honoring Miss DeShazo , Walter Frnka set for Tuesday night. . . Many expected here for flying farmers festival. . . Next Thursday, V-J Day, Official Eagle Lake Holiday. . .The present publishers of the Headlight Fred G. Frnka and Fred R. Frnka, have completed their first year of publication.

Let's Look Back 48 YEARS AGO

(Saturday, July 21, 1928)

Considerable interest is shown in a highway proposed from Austin to the coast. Citizens at Garwood urge quick action toward early construction. . Farmers begin use of airplanes for poisoning cotton. Dusting planes began poisoning Tuesday of a large acreage of cotton in this area. . . I. V. Duncan yesterday shipped out twenty cars of cattle to points in the midwest. . . Henry F. Priesmeyer was officially named to the postmaster's office in Garwood. . . Mrs. G. H. Northington, Sr., Mrs. Will Northington, and Master Clements Northington of Egypt, Reid Westmoreland, Jr., and Miss Elizabeth Westmoreland are on a visit to the western states and Yellowstone National Park.

1977 Fire Dept. Officers

Officers for the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department for the 1977 year are shown above at the Firemen's Banquet and Ball held earlier this month. Left to right are: Johnny Pranak, treasurer; L. J. (Sonny) Spanhel, Fire Chief; Ronnie Miller, training coordinator major; Monroe Briscoe, second assistant fire chief; Gary Glaiser, secretary; Clinton Mascheck, captain company 3, Gene Jones, captain company 1; Mickey Kochwelp, captain company 2; John Baca, lieutenant company 1; Gus Seaholm, sergeant at arms; Bennie Miller, lieutenant company 3; and in front is the new mascot Wade Miller. Missing from the picture are: first assistant chief and chaplain T. J. Smith; Dennis Wilkerson, lieutenant company 2 and racing team captain; Roland Harbers, racing team captain; and Pete Canaris, member of the pension board.

Tax Load Is $400 Per Capita

Are residents of Colorado County paying a high or a low price for the operation of their local government?

Per capita, how much is it costing them, in state and local taxes, compared with the cost in other communities?

In Colorado County, as in almost every other area of the country, taxes have been rising sharply in recent years, in line with the mounting cost of government.

To provide the services that people want, such as better educational facilities, more police protection and improved health care, and to meet their welfare, transportation and other needs, has put most communities in a bind.

The net result, according to statewide figures compiled by the Commerce Clearing House, an authority on government finances, Americans paid an average of $664 in state and local taxes in fiscal 1975, an increase of $46 over the previous year. As recently as 1970, the average was $427. Thus, in five years, there was a jump of 55 percent.

In Colorado County, based upon the report and upon data from other sources, such taxes amounted to approximately $400 per capita in the past year.

By way of comparison, the average throughout the State of Texas was $515 per capita, which was $48 more than in the prior year. In the West South Central States as a whole, it was $490.

In some states, faced with special local conditions, such as unusually heavy welfare costs, the tax load was much heavier than in others. The range was from a high of $1,025, in New York, which was the only state above $1,000, to a low of $405 in Arkansas.

In Colorado County, the tax burden came to approximately $6,680,000.

In many areas of the country there has been growing resistance recently to higher taxes. It has forced a reduction in spending for capital improvements and, in some cases, a cutback in existing services.

County Takes No Action On Release Of Mineral Rights

Colorado County Commissioners Court, in session Dec. 14th, heard an appeal for the county to release mineral rights on property which it formerly owned and on which it allegedly had some mineral rights.

Attorney Conners of the firm of Conners, Odom and Clover met with the court in behalf of his clients, Mr. and Mrs. James Berger, relative to the county's release of its mineral rights on lands which the county formerly owned and sold to the Wooten family.

After considerable discussion, there was some doubt as to the county's ownership of any mineral rights and the description of the land was vague. Hence the court decided to postpone discussion of the issue pending further clarification.

Mr. and Mrs. Berger now own 40 acres of the land and wish to remove the right for ingress and egress to the property so that they may enjoy the "peaceful enjoyment of the land without danger of having this interrupted in later years by a possible oil or gas drilling operation or by exploration of other kind."

Conners indicated the Bergers would be willing to give up mineral rights to insure this "peaceful enjoyment."

He queried the court on the possibility that the county might issue an order to prevent such egress and ingress but to benefit from pooling of minerals, in the event it was found the county did have mineral rights. He received little encouragement along that line and Judge Lester Cranek added that the court is believed to be of consensus of opinion that the county will not release its mineral rights, if it does hold such.

Happy Holiday to you all!

We wish you and your loved ones a truly festive holiday season. It's a pleasure to greet you and to say thank you for your patronage.

BETTER BEVERAGES, INC.

R. J. CAMPBELL, Pres.

A cheery hello to all our many friends, with warmest wishes for a very happy Christmas season!

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

EAGLE LAKE

NOEL

Stay warm and happy this holiday enjoying family and close friends. We consider you our dear patrons and warm friends. We hope that you have a wonderful holiday season.

Eagle Lake Gas Distribution Co.

Serving Eagle Lake Community with Natural Gas

New Firemen's Mascot

Wade Miller, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Miller, shown at left, grins proudly upon his installation as the new mascot of the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department. At right is Glenn Leopold, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Leopold, the outgoing mascot.

—Thornton Photo.

Christmas Is Giving

(By J. Melburn Sibley, Jr., Pastor, First Baptist Church, Eagle Lake)

Christmas is traditionally the season of giving, and because it is the season of giving, it must be, also, the season of receiving.

We keep our parcels and presents for Christmas Day. They may have arrived weeks before, from who knows where, with reminders of the affections of those we love. But we do not open them the minute we get them.

One of the characteristics of the Christmas pilgrimage is its element of surprise. To the youngest it brings the unveiling of "great secrets". Half the joy of Christmas morning comes from the surprises we receive, whatever our age, as we feverishly tear open the wrappings. The squeals of delight from the children are indications of pleasure at the gifts they receive, of course, but they are quite as much exclamations of surprise, that surprise which furnishes half the pleasure.

There is no surprise more magical than the surprise of being loved. It is the finger of God on our shoulders. On Christmas Day, He lays His whole hand upon us, for as we gaze at the lowliness of the Manger, seeing glory in humiliation and realizing something of the sacrifice involved, He says to us again, "I love you, like that." "God so loved the world, that he gave – His only begotten Son."

Our loved ones may be far away. We may not be able to see them, although we long to do so. They send us their Christmas greetings, and sometimes, they send the best greeting of all: "We are coming to spend Christmas with you!"

God has sent us His message, which we call "Immanuel", and we rejoice that it says, "God with us"; and as we look again at that stable, seeing glory in humiliation, we know He is with us, and we rejoice in His presence.

Houston Rodeo Announces Stars For '77

A star studded line up of the biggest stars in the recording industry was announced recently to headline the 1977 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. "With these superstars, we're sure we have the performers to satisfy everyone's taste in music," said Show President N. W. Freeman.

KC and the Sunshine Band, Mac Davis, Helen Reddy, Conway Twitty and Loretta Lynn, Mel Tillis, Merle Haggard, Roy Clark, The Osmonds starring Donny and Marie and Allen, Wayne Merrill, Jay and Jimmy, and Charley Pride will share the spotlight (in that order) with professional rodeo cowboys in the world's largest rodeo, February 25 through March 6 in the Astrodome.

Ticket prices range from $2 to $5.50 and include admission to the Livestock Show and Horse Show events, as well. Ticket information can be obtained by writing the Ticket Director, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, P. O. Box 20070, Houston, Texas 77025.

THE TRUE VISION

"The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see . . . Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that (curtain and view) and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond . . ."

—Charles Dana to a little girl named Virginia

THE LEGEND OF THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

The poor little drummer boy was very sad that first Christmas, for he had no gift to offer the Infant Jesus.

But then he thought, "Perhaps I can play my drum for the Baby Jesus." He played his very best and was rewarded with a smile from the Infant, for the gift he gave was the gift of love, and that is the most precious gift of all.

All the world is young at Christmastime.

. . . Author Unknown

GLAD TIDINGS

We hope your Christmas is filled with Joy and Happiness

ALTAIR DRYER, INC.

ALTAIR, TEXAS

Miles of smiles, much merriment, all good things be yours during this Christmas season.

PEOPLES LAUNDRY & CLEANERS

MR. AND MRS. C. R. PASCHALL AND EMPLOYEES

EAGLE LAKE

Election For WCJC Dist. Expansion Set Jan. 15

Petitions signed by citizens of Matagorda County have been presented to the Wharton County Junior College Board of Trustees requesting an election for the purpose of enlarging the Junior College District to include "all of the territory now comprising Bay City, Tidehaven, Van Vleck and Matagorda Independent School Districts of Matagorda County, Texas, and Palacios Independent School District of Matagorda and Jackson Counties."

The WCJC Board of Trustees met last week accepting the petitions and set Saturday, Jan. 15 for the election to be held throughout the Matagorda County area as well as in the present WCJC District.

A simple majority of endorsement from voters in both the present district and in Matagorda County is required to pass the issue.

Every registered voter is eligible to participate in the election. Absentee balloting begins December 27.

Only fifty qualified electors are required to call an election but almost 300 petitions were received from Matagorda Countians requesting the WCJC District boundary to be changed to include the territory within Matagorda County.

Dr. Robert B. Kelly of Bay City presented the petitions to the Board Thursday on behalf of Matagorda County petition circulators who included WCJC Foundation Board members R. E. Trull of Palacios, Mrs. C. C. Mathews and John Wilson of Bay City.

Free Dinner

MRS. SUSIE 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 Dec. 28, 1976

THRU A CHILD'S EYES . . .

". . . For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas . . ."

from *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Best Wishes

Christmas is the sound of bells, the laughter of children, the glow of candles and the scent of pine. Christmas is the joy of families and the happiness of friends. We hope your Christmas has love, warmth and laughter. You have given us a wonderful Christmas throughout the year with your continuing patronage.

GARWOOD IMPLEMENT & SUPPLY CO.
GARWOOD IRRIGATION CO.

MODERN FUELS, INC.
EL SEVEN RANCH

GARWOOD, TEXAS