

# His Name Is "Wonderful"

(By the Rev. Olen Kennell, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Eagle Lake)

And they who heard it wondered. Luke 2:18.

So it was written of the story of the first Christmas Day! The power is still there if we are able to receive it. Wonder is inescapable to the thinking person if the heart and mind center on him who made Christmas possible.

"All they that heard it wondered" because they could not help it. He was named "Wonderful". True to his name, how wonderful was he in his birth, in his works, in his life, in his death, in his resurrection, in his ascension, in his return to receive his Church and reign over the earth. He is just what his Name declares - "Wonderful". And he is just the same, yesterday, today and forever.

The wonder of his incarnation has not waned with the centuries. Our Christmas revives the world's flagging interest each year. But how few realize how much there is to wonder about! Not the least cause for amazement is that what then took place in the councils of God from the beginning.

The manner of the incarnation was decreed before the world had known the miracle of birth.

The wonder of his revelation after nineteen hundred years is still the main topic of conversation among people. That revelation or unveiling was mercifully gradual to enable the mortal eyes of people to become accustomed to the glory they yet to be.

## Story of Christmas: A Gift to the Young

One of the most beautiful of stories to be related to little ones at their mothers' knees, has been the legend of the babe in the manger, born of Mary . . . and of the angels, the star, the shepherds, and what it has meant to mankind.

A simple story, of how the weary travelers, Joseph and Mary, found shelter in a stable because there was no room for them at the inn. And in that humble place where domestic animals were kept, Mary brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger. Best loved of all the many accounts of that beautiful, starlit night is St. Luke's recalling of the "Shepherds' watching over their flock by night."

To every child comes the vision of that sky full of angels singing a promise of

peace on earth; the wonder and reverence of those shepherds filled with joy, and the blazing Christmas star, beacon to guide all and a symbol of hope and gladness which is forever to be seen atop every child's Christmas tree.

So natural, so lovable, this story of a baby laid on the doorstep of the world, who was God and King and Savior, must be told again this Christmas season to the children of the world.

### ALMS-GIVING CUSTOM

Giving alms to the poor at Christmas originated in the belief that the Christ child, disguised as a beggar during the holiday season, went from door to door in search of those who were kind and deserving. His test was to plead for aid, and it was feared that He might be turned away unrecognized, none were refused who so asked.

## Merry Christmas



In the story of the birth at Bethlehem lies the hope of all mankind. Peace be with you this holy season.

Garwood Rice Sales Co.

JAMES G. HOPKINS GARWOOD, TEXAS

## Janet Grigar, Lockhart, Wins Pink Ladies' Quilt

Eagle Lake Community Hospital Auxiliary, the Pink Ladies quilt, won last week by awarding a beautiful hand-made quilt made by Mrs. E. E. Vogelung to Mrs. J. J. (Janet) Grigar III of Lockhart.

Members of the Pink Ladies extend sincere thanks to all who contributed to the event and especially to Mrs. Vogelung for donating the quilt. The quilt was awarded at the Hospital last Wednesday.

## "Cook's Tour I" Now Available

A new shipment of the Hospital Auxiliary's original "Cook's Tour of Eagle Lake" has arrived. This is the first cookbook the Eagle Lake Community Hospital Auxiliary (Pink Ladies) had printed and the ladies have ordered a new supply due to many requests.

## Part of Big Crowd Waiting To Visit With Santa



Here's part of the huge crowd of youngsters, and parents, waiting their turn to visit with Santa Claus during his visit here under the sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, Dec. 11. Assisting Santa were Mark Anderson, at the left of Santa, and C. G. President Joe Duncan, to Santa's right.

Happy New Year To All!

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## VFW Donates Record Player To Heritage House



Members of the Rice Area Memorial Post No. 8763 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Eagle Lake, presented an AM-FM Stereo Record and Tape Player to the residents of the Heritage House last week. Making the presentation, shown above, were Post officers and members, left to right, Harry Supak; Jim Wood, senior vice-commander; J. L. (Sonny) Spaniel, surgeon; J. T. (Tommy) Pilkington, the new Post commander; Mrs. Alma Larmer of the Heritage House staff; Miss Patricia Foster, social activities director; James Clark, junior vice-commander; Mrs. Lela Miller, administrator of the Heritage House; and Earl Rodgers, Post quartermaster.

## County Economy Moving Forward

A look at the record books shows that the Colorado County economy made surprising gains in the last few years.

Despite inflation, unemployment, high taxes and the various other problems that arose, common to all sections of the country, there was progress locally. A principal indicator of this progress is the volume of business that was done by local retail establishments. The reports show that it increased considerably during the five years ending January 1, 1976.

It reflects the fact that as families, most of whom have had their pay envelopes fattened each year, remained active in the marketplace, spending as much as was necessary to maintain the standard of living to which they had become accustomed.

Fundamental to the growth in retail activity in the local area during the five-year span was the marked increase in income accounted for by the average family. The figures for Colorado County show that personal income, after deduction for taxes, climbed to \$63,523,000. Five years before it was \$43,657,000.

It was a bigger increase than was recorded in many parts of the country. It was equivalent to consumer spending last year at the rate of \$7,724 per local household, as compared with the 1970 rate of \$6,165 per household.

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## Special Closings Listed For New Year's

The Eagle Lake Headlight has received notice of the following special closing dates for the New Year's Day week-end.

Eagle Lake business firms will be closed all day Saturday, Jan. 1st for New Year's Day, a regular Chamber of Commerce approved holiday. The offices in the county courthouse in Columbus will be closed only on New Year's Day, Sat., Jan. 1st. The offices will be open Fri., Dec. 31st.

Schools in the Rice district dismissed Fri., Dec. 17th for the long holiday break and will re-open at the regular hours on Mon., Jan. 3rd.

The Garwood Veterans Memorial Library will be closed from Dec. 30th through January 3rd for the holidays. The local Sears Catalog Sales store will be closed Sat., Dec. 23rd through Jan. 2nd.

The Enla and David Waterman Library will close at noon on Fri., Dec. 31st and will remain closed all day New Year's Day, Sat., Jan. 1st.

Eagle Lake Iron Works will remain closed until Monday, Jan. 3rd.

Central Power and Light Company office will be closed all day Fri., Dec. 31st and Sat., Jan. 1st for the New Year holidays.

Merle Norman will be closed on New Year's Day and Jan. 2nd.

The program is scheduled to conclude with the pre-registration of the freshman class for 1977, and will enable the parents to assist their child in selecting courses during the registration process.

## 1977 Outlook Promising Says Babson's Forecast

(By Babson's Reports Inc., Wellesley Hills, Mass., December 30, 1976.)

Although surrounded a year ago by fears that the then young business recovery might peter out, the staff of Babson's Reports went ahead and issued a reassuring forecast calling for further economic progress in 1977.

As 1976 howl out and 1977 makes its debut, studies conducted by the Research Department of Babson's Reports indicate that the upswing in economic activity is expected to be sustained during the coming twelve months.

The post-recession revival which began in the spring of 1975 is still far short of maturity. In fact, it should have enough vitality to extend its life span beyond the average length of cyclical recovery-expansion phases seen in the past.

There have yet to develop the major economic imbalances which have signaled such reversals before.

Strength in First Half. In the 1976 Forecast, we looked for economic strength to be concentrated early in the year, and indeed the most impressive year-to-year gain was registered in the first quarter. As of now, it appears likely that in 1977 the high point will occur in the second quarter, owing principally to the probable extra thrust from strike-broke inventory accumulation in the face of Big Steel labor talks.

Year-to-year gains are expected in the second half of 1977 over the like 1976 period, but the shape of business progress will be influenced by the steel industry's labor negotiations. (Continued on page 2)

## New County Officials Take Office Mon.

Numerous elected officials from the President of the United States on down to local precinct constables will begin new terms of office on January 1st, however since that is a holiday, it is anticipated that the new officials will not begin duties until Mon., Jan. 3, 1977.

However, County Judge Lester J. Gynick has notified elected officials that he will hold a "receiving" ceremony in the county courtroom at midnight this Fri., Dec. 31st for those interested.

Among those on the county level who were elected to office in the General Election Nov. 2nd were Donald R. Bandy, the new County Attorney replacing Jim Whitcomb who has filled that office for the past four years; and Otto H. Loewen, the new Commissioner of Precinct No. 1 who succeeds the veteran Walter J. Henicke who did not seek re-election due to his health. Whitcomb also declined to seek re-election in the 1976 elections.

National attention will be focused on the inauguration of James E. (Jimmy) Carter as the new president of the United States and Walter F. Mondale as the new Vice President.

Others beginning new

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## Council Passes Resolution Denying CPL Rate Request

In Special Session Last Wednesday

Eagle Lake City Council met in a special session Wednesday, Dec. 22 at 9 a.m. and voted unanimously to deny a rate increase to Central Power and Light Company.

The action was taken in the form of a resolution that noted that this municipality is cooperating with other Texas municipalities in the CPL service area in opposing the request through special rate consultants, auditors, accountants, attorneys and engineers hired by the group. The resolution also sets out the city should be reimbursed for its costs of the services of these individuals.

Primary argument in denying the rate request was that the cooperating municipalities have requested from the CPL company the necessary data to make a reasonable determination of rate base, expenses and investments and rate of return within the municipal boundaries of each of the cooperating municipalities, such information is necessary to make the determination of reasonable rates within the boundaries of this municipality. To date the company has failed to comply with such requests.

Alternatives Listed. Mayor Elmer Stratus listed for consideration of the council three alternatives which might be followed in handling the rate increase request from Central Power and Light Co. The first would be the approval of the full 15 percent increase requested by the company; the second would be to deny any increase; and the third, approval of a partial increase.

The mayor added that it is not certain whether the CPL company will go ahead and invoke the increase and hold such increases under bond or in excess pending final decision of the State of Texas Public Utilities Commission; or will delay putting into effect the rate increase in municipalities cooperating in opposing the increase. Until such time as the Utilities Commission makes a determination.

Although CPL officials were notified in meeting time to attend the meeting, no proper notice was posted as required under the open meetings law, no one appeared in behalf of the company. All members of the City Council were present with the exception of

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## Rainfall Total To Date Is Above Average

Unless the weatherman fools up this report, more rain, it appears that 1976 will record slightly more than normal rainfall for the year.

Gauges at the Lakeside Irrigation Company have recorded 45.40 inches to date (Dec. 27) about six inches over the normal rainfall for this area.

Wettest month for the year was April when 10.44 inches were measured. To date in December 6.74 inches of rain have fallen. There was no measurable rainfall during the month of February.

The 45.40 total is over six inches more than the 1975 total of 38.78 but under the 1974 total of 45.41. Measured in 1973 was 68.10, one of the wettest years on record; 34.39 inches fell in 1972; 38.14 in 1971; 39.86 in 1970; 36.39 in 1969; 64.61 in 1968; and 33.55 in 1967.

The following measurements were reported at the Lake plant day months, January, 1.35; February, none; March, 1.74; April 10.44; May, 2.56; June 1.54; July 6.67; August 2.30; September 3.31; October 6.14; November 3.91; and 6.74 so far in December.

## Pilkington Elected VFW Commander

J. T. (Tommy) Pilkington was elevated from senior vice-commander to commander of the Rice Area Memorial Post in Eagle Lake at meeting at Jack's Restaurant on Tuesday last week. Pilkington succeeds Roy Chisum as commander. Mr. Chisum recently resigned his position with the newly

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## Rice Short Course Opens Here Jan. 5

The Colorado County Rice Subcommittee has scheduled a Rice Shortcourse for rice producers on four dates in January. All sessions will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center.

Dates, speakers and subjects are as follows: Wednesday, January 5: Dr. Arthur Gerlow, Extension Plant Pathologist, Rice disease identification and control; Dr. Arlen Klontz, Rice weeds and their control.

Wednesday, January 26: Dr. Arthur Gerlow, Results of two years of farm records on rice fields in Colorado County; Dr. Jim Stansel, Scientist in charge of the Western Division Experiment Station in Eagle Lake. Research results, management practices, recommendations and research needed.

There will be a "one-time" \$2.00 registration fee to cover the costs of hall rent and coffee for all four sessions. The Shortcourse is being sponsored by the Colorado County Rice Subcommittee, The Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University and the Colorado County Commissioners' Court.

## New Town Fellowship Chorus Musical Fri.

The New Town Community Fellowship Chorus will sponsor a musical on New Year's Eve night, Friday, Dec. 31, beginning at 9 p.m. The musical will be held at the White Cloud Baptist Church, Rev. O. Rhodes, pastor.

Churches that make up the fellowship are White Cloud Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Rev. R. A. McCain; and Greater Rising Star Baptist Church, Rev. G. Scott. The public is invited, said Mrs. Jessie Banks, president.

No Garbage Pickup Fri. The sanitation department of the City of Eagle Lake will not pick up garbage this Friday, New Year's Eve as all city offices will be closed for the New Year's holiday. Those normally serviced on Friday will have garbage picked up on Thursday and those serviced on Wednesday will be included in Wednesday's run, said city manager T. J. Smith.

## D. R. Wintermann Warehouse

EAGLE LAKE