

Eagle Lake Headlight

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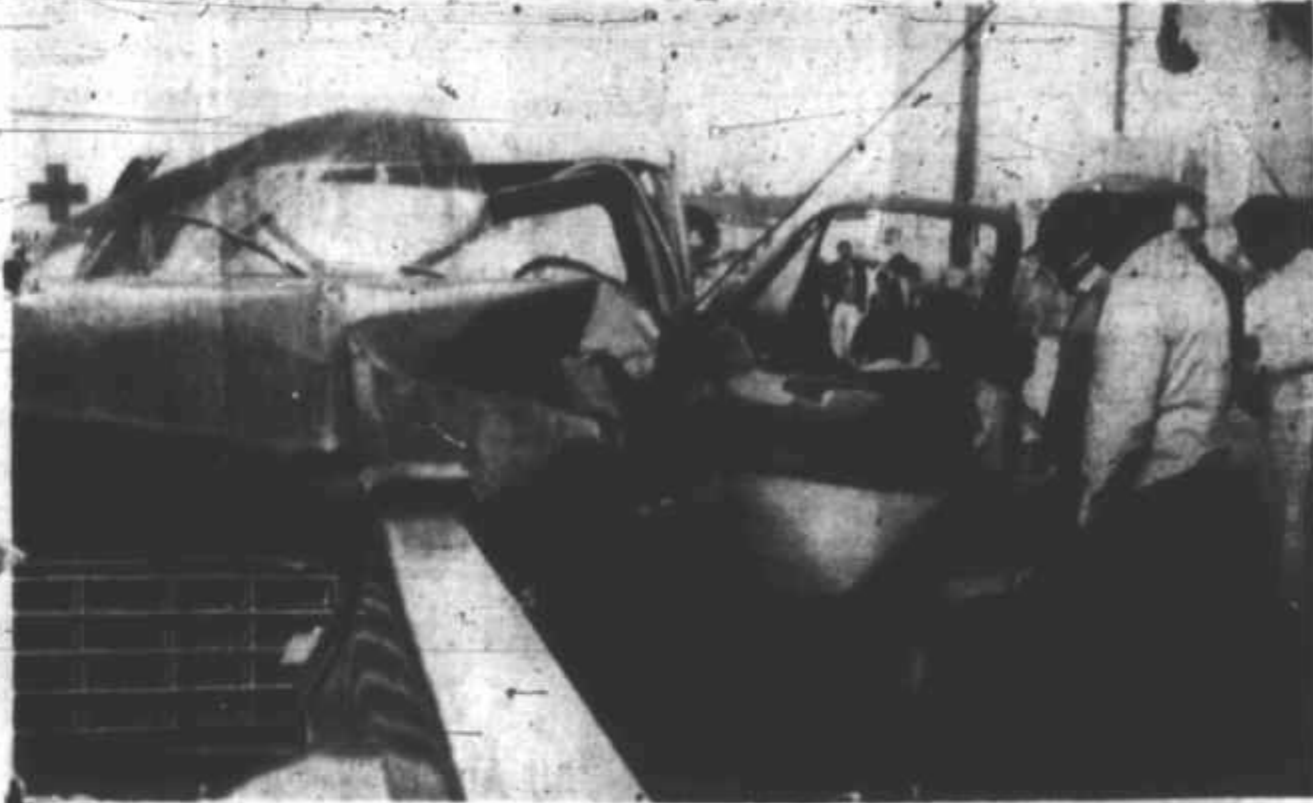
EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1977

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This Crash Claimed Life of Local Man



Volunteers from the Eagle Lake unit of the County Emergency Ambulance Corps, assisted by a number of others, are shown removing B. D. Fussell from the wreckage of his truck following a collision with a gravel truck on the

Highway 90A bypass last Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Fussell died two hours later from injuries received in the collision.

B. D. FUSSELL IS VICTIM OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENT LAST WED.

Benton D. Fussell, 79, prominent farmer and rancher in this area for many years, died in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital last Wednesday, Dec. 29th as the result of injuries received when his pickup truck and a large gravel truck were in collision on the Highway 90A Bypass (Boothe Drive) at around 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Fussell had stopped his 1976 Chevrolet pickup truck at intersection of the bypass and South McGary and apparently failed to see an approaching 1972 International gravel truck heading west on the bypass and Fussell began a left turn onto the bypass in front of the truck and the truck struck the left front of the pickup.

Driver of the gravel truck was Charlie Fetter Jr. The vehicle is owned by Leonard Thompson of Garwood.

Investigating officer Chief of Police Clifford Ashley said that witnesses and tire track indicated that the driver made an effort to stop when the pickup started across the intersection but was unable to avoid the collision. The officer said that no traffic violation ticket will be issued since the accident was apparently unavoidable.

A number of persons in the area assisted members of the Eagle Lake Ambulance Corps in removing the body from the pickup and assisting the driver to the hospital.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday for Mr. Fussell at the Baptist Church in Eagle Lake. Burial will be in the Columbus, Texas cemetery.

ECA Training To Begin Here Tues.

An Emergency Care Attendant (ECA) course is being offered here beginning Tuesday night, Jan. 11 at 6:30 at the Ambulance Corps Hall (in the old fire station).

The course is a "must" for Eagle Lake Ambulance Corps EMT's who wish to renew their EMT rating. An EMT must have a refresher course (which is the ECA course) every two years to keep their certification. However, the course is not limited to EMT's. Anyone wishing to become a Volunteer Ambulance Attendant, anyone who is an ECA and needs to renew the rating or anyone who is simply interested in learning first aid for their own or their family's sake is invited to be on hand Tuesday night.

Only the first class will begin at 6:30 in order to begin registration. After that classes will meet from 7:00 to 11:00 Tuesday and Thursday nights. This is a 24-hour course plus one night for the test which the Texas Department of Health Resources representatives will be on hand to administer.

"This is not limited to Eagle Lake residents. If anyone in the surrounding communities wishes to attend, please, feel free to do so," said June Mahalic, Assistant Coordinator for the course.

Herman Novak, Emergency Services Supervisor for the city of El Campo, is Coordinator of the course. He will be assisted by instructors Joe Duncan and June Mahalic of Eagle Lake, Steven Goetsch and Carl Hunter of El Campo, Sam Paris and L. J. Klekar of Garwood.

Leon Hale To Speak To Study Club Next Wed.

Houston Post's noted columnist Leon Hale will be the guest speaker at the meeting of the Eagle Lake Study Club in the Community Center on Wed., Jan. 12th at 2:00 p.m. and all interested citizens in the area are extended an invitation to make plans to attend.

Mr. Hale will preside at a "rap" session when he will be available to answer questions from the audience on some of his experiences while traveling around the state gathering material for his popular newspaper column.

Brandie Dawn Contreras First Baby of 1977

Eagle Lake's first baby of 1977 arrived at the Community Hospital on Sunday.

Mrs. Philip Weyer, who has Oscar Nuyken as her husband, is George Galan, city.

Mrs. Carmen Harrison, Mrs. Juanita Hernandez, son, city.

Mrs. Andy Rolf, city

Claude Brewer, city

Jerald Scott, city

James Long, city

Kevin Long, city

L. C. Montgomery, city

John Mahalic, Jr., city

Dwayne Lopez, city

Kathy Frenzel, city

Fernando Almanzo, city

Sidney Miller, city

Willie Doyle, Glidden

Barbara Holland and son, Abilene

Mrs. Minnie Fling, Garwood

Mrs. Beita Bullard, Sheridan

Richard Booker, Columbus

Arthur Willard, Columbus

Scott Grube, Bastrop

Mrs. Ruth Schilhab, Hallettsville

Norris Chernosky, Bellville

Mrs. Audrey Lewis and Dr. Llanite

Mrs. Beatha Chavez and son, East Bernard

Ella Ghack Sr., C. Spring

Assault Is Charged In Cutting Sun.

Charges of aggravated assault were filed by City Police against Pete Cardenas Munoz early Sunday morning following an altercation at the Community Center when Munoz reportedly stabbed Gregoria Diaz several times with a knife during an argument between the two men.

They had been attending a dance at the Center. City Patrolman Steve Skinner was called to the scene at 12:30 a.m. and he reported that the two men were waving knives when he arrived on the scene and Diaz had signs of blood from the knife wounds. Diaz was taken to the Eagle Lake Community Hospital by a private auto.

Munoz was released later Sunday after posting a \$2000 bond set by Justice of Peace M. M. Jones on the charge of aggravated assault.

The investigation continues, said Patrolman Skinner.

Tickets On Sale For CC Banquet Jan. 17

Tickets are now on sale for the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet which will be held Monday, January 17 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center.

Guest speaker for the banquet will be former Houston Mayor and current President of the Houston Chamber of Commerce Louis Welch.

Mikeska's of Columbus will cater the barbecue supper to be served prior to the banquet program which will include the official installation of officers for the 1977 year.

The tickets to the banquet may be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce office in the Municipal Building or from any of the chamber's directors who will be contacting members within the next week. Deadline for obtaining tickets will be next Friday, Jan. 14th.

Outgoing president Joe Duncan is general chairman in charge of arrangements for the event.

Heavy Damage In Two Fires Here Last Sunday

Smoke Fills Furniture Shoppe



Eagle Lake volunteer firemen are shown in the photo above using one of the department's smoke ejectors to remove the dense smoke caused by a fire in the Furniture Shoppe in downtown Eagle Lake last Sunday afternoon. In the lower part of the photo, firefighters may be seen valiantly through the dense smoke in the process of extinguishing the fire caused by a faulty light fixture. Smoke damage to the contents of the store is expected to be extensive.

Fire Destroys Evoritt Hay Barn

Eagle Lake Volunteer Firemen were busy last Sunday answering alarms to open the new year's activity for the department.

At 10:15 a.m. Sunday, the firemen were called to a quonset-type metal building filled with hay, owned by Cliff Evoritt, Jr., on the Calhoun Road four miles south of Eagle Lake.

An employee of Mr. Evoritt, Charlie Ludwig, said that he had backed a 1964 model pickup truck into the hay barn to load some hay for the purpose of feeding cattle. As he was about to leave, he noted a small flame under the truck and he tried to extinguish the blaze but the fire got out of control. He said that he tried to start the pickup to get it out of the shed but was unable to do so.

By the time firemen arrived on the scene the entire building was enveloped in flames. It was estimated that there were from 7000 to 8000 bales of hay in the barn and all of the hay was destroyed, along with the building and the pickup truck, making losses very high.

Phone Co. To Charge For Dir. Assistance

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company will institute a charge for Directory Assistance beginning Friday, January 7th, 1977.

Here's how the statewide Directory Assistance charge plan will work:

Customers who call Directory Assistance (1 plus 411) more than 10 times during a monthly billing period will be charged 25 cents for every call after their tenth. A maximum of two numbers may be requested during each call to Directory Assistance. Multi-line customers will have an additional allowance of one call for each line, up to 25 lines.

The Directory Assistance charge also will apply to calls for numbers in other towns within your home Area Code with one important exception. You won't be charged for calling Directory Assistance in another town that has the same Area Code as yours provided you make a corresponding Long Distance call within your home Area Code. That call has to be placed through a pay phone or a public pay station. You can't place a pay phone call through a pay phone company representative.

To request numbers in

No Acre. Controls On Rice In '77

Assistant Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Bell said that no acreage controls will be in effect for 1977, with USDA following the same policy it had in 1976.

The good news for local farmers is that the government hasn't instituted set-aside provisions, which means paying farmers not to produce rice.

The bad news, however, is that rice farmers will continue to have to struggle to make ends meet. Because of record and near-record rice crops the past two years, the United States has a tremendous surplus stockpile.

With the great excess, prices are down.

It costs a farmer about \$300 an acre to produce rice, according to rice officials. The government loan price is \$6.19 per hundredweight, and that's below production cost.

What this means is if a farmer tries to sell his rice crop and isn't able to get \$6.19 per hundredweight for it, the government will buy it from him for that price. If by April 30 the farmer gets a better bid, he can buy the rice back for the \$6.19 figure, then sell it at the higher price.

Under the present control system, farmers can cultivate

At Thomas Clinic Sunday

The Thomas family has spent many years in planning the new clinic and the completion and open house Sunday is the culmination of a dream come true.

The new facility is another valuable addition to the existing medical facilities in the western portion of the county, and is being donated to the County Hospital and also to the Heritage House.

"We extend our congratulations to the winners, and we are proud of their interest in this subject and we want all to know we are unshakably opposed to abortion on demand."

Christmas Guests Mr. and Mrs. Hans German had as Christmas guests Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Franks, Curtis and Elizabeth of Victoria, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. German, Hans and Connie of Palacios, Mr. and Mrs. Lester German and Linda Nell and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Gibson and Cindy of San Antonio, and Mrs. J. A. Mathis and children.

Film Featuring Corrie Teague Baptist Church

"Corrie Behind the Hills" is a new full-length film from World War II will be shown at Baptist Church this Sunday, Jan. 8th at 7:30 p.m.

The film is a story filmed in other European based on the Corrie tea house, written by Corrie Teague.

Reading With This Coupon - \$2.00

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Heavy Smoke Damage at F. Shoppe Fire

At 1:20 the firemen were called to the Furniture Shoppe on East Main Street in downtown Eagle Lake when smoke was discovered pouring from the building.

Oscar Miller, who owns the adjoining Miller's Grocery, and others who had been in the store had detected the odor of smoke since early morning and had tried to locate the source of the smoke in their building. Finally that afternoon while checking the back of the building the smoke was seen coming from the Furniture Shoppe and the alarm was sounded.

W. L. Bauer, who owns the business along with Mrs. Bauer and Mrs. O. L. Mill, arrived just ahead of the fire trucks to open the building. The entire building was completely filled with dense smoke. It was found that a transformer in a neon lighting ballast had ignited the ceiling and the fire had spread to several ceiling joists and other wood framing on the ceiling surrounding the fixture. Firemen quickly extinguished the blaze with hand fire extinguishers and removed the burning portion of the ceiling. One of the main ceiling joists which was in the area was burning and the burning portion was cut out to contain the fire. The firemen remained on the scene until well after 3:00 p.m. clearing out the burned materials and using smoke ejectors owned by the department to eliminate smoke from the building. Supports were placed under the damaged area and on Monday morning Construction Franklin Benson and workers were on hand to make repairs in the damaged area.

Hay Barn Destroyed

Extensive damage was done to the hay barn owned by Evoritt and Ludwig in the store and adjacent barn in the morning emergency work on hand every Monday to begin restoration of the damage to the building and to the contents. Considerable damage is expected primarily from the dense smoke which filled the building and made it impossible to enter.

The owners of the Furniture Shoppe said the building was open on a limited basis until such time as repairs and clearing can be made.

The losses and the cost of the rebuilding are expected to be very high.

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