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EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

Public Input On Water Quality Management Plan Urged

In conjunction with the Colorado Basin 208 Planning Advisory Committee for Water Quality Management, public input into the program is solicited and urged. To assist you in understanding the program and in participating in making your thoughts known on the proposed programs for water quality management for the state, you are referred to page 12 of this issue on which page is published an advertisement, "Think Clean Water", through which you may obtain more information through the Lower Colorado River Authority.

The advertisement is sponsored by your conservation by the Lakeside Irrigation Co. of Eagle Lake.

The aim of Water Quality Management Planning is to determine what techniques and procedures, old or new, can be utilized to ensure that water quality in Texas lakes and streams consistently achieves the state and federal water quality objectives.

The intent of the State of Texas, as set forth in the Texas Water Quality Act, is "to maintain the quality of the water in the state consistent with the public health and enjoyment, the propagation of terrestrial and aquatic life, the operations of existing industries and the economic development of the State."

The federal government has set a similar goal in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended in 1972. The primary goal of the act is to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's waters."

As noted by former State Senator Culp Krueger of El Campo, chairman of the 208 Advisory Committee, "there is going to be a water quality management program, and it would behoove all citizens of the area to offer some input into the program. You can sit idly by and watch the program develop, but when it is developed it will be too late for you to do anything about it."

Now is the time for action if you are interested in this important water quality management program, cited by leading state officials as one of the top priority programs in the state, and considered of even greater importance than the energy crisis, added Krueger.

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Capt. Chris Shaw At Randolph AFB

Now serving at Randolph AFB, Tex., with an Air Training Command unit is Air Force Captain Chris W. Shaw, son of Mrs. Minnie I. Shaw Conners of Garwood.

Captain Shaw, an instructor pilot, was previously assigned at Williams AFB, Ariz.

The captain, a 1967 graduate of Columbus High School, received a B.S. and a M.S. degree in 1971 from Texas A&M University at College Station, where he was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps program.

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24 YEARS AGO
Let's Look Back

JULY 23, 1953

Two Eagle Lake Little Leaguers, Bobby Meitzen pitcher and Wayne Konzelbeck outfielder, named to 14-member All-Star team to seek national honors. . .Mahalitc Bros., Allen George and Arthur Mahalitc, credited with first county cotton. . .Council accepts Police Chief M. F. Campbell's resignation due to his objection to interference of a councilman acting as police commissioner. . .Council holds resignation letter of Councilman of W. L. Coffey who is moving from the city to the Tennessee Production Plant near Chesterville, until he completes his move from the city limits. . .County's first rice by Finley Hamner and G. E. Turner brings $5.63 . . .Son, Pierce Butler, born to Donald Kolberg last Thursday. . .O. N. Campbells are also parents of a son. The little gentleman, Stanley Michael, was born July 17th. . .Linda Barnett honored on fourth birthday by her mother, Mrs. Lee Barnett. . .It was a long three year wait for Mr. and Mrs. Joe Filipp of Eagle Lake but Sunday brought the realization of their plans and hopes with the arrival of a fine young man of three months who will make his home with them. . . Miss Joy Albrecht and companions return from 7,500 mile vacation trip. . .Chamber of Commerce Manager Lee Briscoe attending school for commercial executives. . . Billy Lloyd Walker has third birthday celebration. . .Bobby Meitzen hurls third no-hitter as Yankees win 1 - 0 over East Bernard Little League . . .Ashby Oilers whip high school team and also Sealy team in softball league; Shell leaps leap with single defeat . . .Riley Wiese chosen by local Scouts for the Order of the Arrow, an honor for outstanding campers. . .Lt. Chas. Fredericksen visits aunt in Denmark recently. . .Wednesday afternoon party honors Mary Ann Reese on ninth birthday. . .Mrs. Nannie Barrow has new great grandchild with birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Waller of Old Ocean. . .

Let's Look Back
48 YEARS AGO

(July 6, 1929)

Floretta Sykora, 14 years of age, of Yoakum is drowned in creek. . .Trades-Day in Eagle Lake set for July 17 with a large group of San Antonio businessmen arriving on a special train for the event; activities of the day to include free eats, big parade, band concert, balloon ascension and parachute leap; local firms advertise special bargains for the day. . .Eagle Lake has three and one-quarter inches of rain Friday, July 5th with considerable wind from the east causing a few citizens to worry over storms. . .Robert O. Goldsmith, prominent resident of Columbus, is found dead in bed. . .Madeline McCarty, small daughter of Editor and Mrs. Bruce McCarty, entertains 20 of her young friends at a party in celebration of her birthday. . .The four door Pontiac sedan stolen from Lee Larson here is located in San Antonio. . .Miss Alice Mae Kollmann returns from a five weeks visit in San Antonio. . . L. D. Roberts, J. J. Whitley, Verner Mottheus, S. C. Smothers and W. C. Sanders are expected to leave for a week's fishing trip in Old Mexico. . . The B. H. Daily department store here is robbed of over $1000 in merchandise; suits, hats, shoes, underwear, suitcases and other articles taken — only the best of merchandise taken. . .Alderman and Mrs. E. W. Healy, Edward and Edith returned from a 14 day automobile trip through the west which took them some 6680 miles. . .O'Farrell Daughtry is buried from the home of his mother, Mrs. H. L. Reading. . .The Eagle Lake firemen's baseball team beats Glidden by a score of 8 to 5 . . .Cotton prospects in this area promise fine yield. Traveling men who cover considerable portion of the state say cotton prospects in this vicinity the finest in the state . . .Mrs. C. D. Stephens and daughter Charlyne spend a week visiting in Austin. . .M. L. Anderson and his mother leave for an automobile trip to their former home in Virginia. . .Peter Gerlesu places an order with the Frank Stephens Co. for a six-speed special international truck. . . The Catholic Altar Society entertains with a shower at the home of Mrs. T. H. Floyd honoring Mrs. Adolph Sobotik, bride of one week. . .Advertising specials offered by local merchants during the big Trades Day event July 17th; M. Steinwetz offering 81 x 90 seamless sheets for 74¢ each; Rex Theatre advertising "The House of Horrors" starring Chester Conklin and Louise Fazenda as the Sunday and Monday attraction. . .

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Spanish Camp "Prison Camp" Discovered By Wharton Officers

(By Chris Barbee, El Campo Leader News)

Possibly the most bazaar criminal case ever in Wharton County, which might well be termed "slave imprisonment," began to unfold some three weeks ago in a small settlement known as Spanish Camp, located three miles northwest of Glen Flora off FM 960.

To date a Van Nuys, Calif. man, Elmer Tompkins, age 34, has been arrested and charged with 12 counts of false imprisonment and is being held in Wharton County Jail on a $60,000 bond. Also charged with seven counts of false imprisonment is Lillian Gobert, age 45, also of Van Nuys, Calif.

Wharton County Attorney Homer Taylor said the penalty for each count of false imprisonment, in this case a third degree felony offense, is two to 10 years in the penitentiary and/or up to a $5,000 fine on each count.

The story began to unfold on July 29 when Department of Public Safety Intelligence Sgt. Charles Whitcomb of Houston contacted the Wharton County Sheriff's Department about a person who was missing and was reportedly being held at Spanish Camp.

A short time before this, however, a California man by the name of David Orato, one of 13 mental patients being held in a home at Spanish Camp for at least a year, sneaked away to call his mother in California. She contacted a friend of the family who is currently living in Ohio (police did not have his name) and asked him to locate her son. He contacted the DPS in Houston and their investigation led to Wharton County.

"We immediately started investigating at this point," Jack Kemp, a Task Force officer for the Wharton police department said.

At approximately 6:30 p.m. on July 29 Sgt. Whitcomb, the family friend, Task Force officers Jim Hoffman and Tommy Johnson of El Campo and Kemp and Joe Covarrubio, Task Force director, along with Chief Deputy Sheriff Earl Winebrenner made a trip to the house in Spanish Camp after locating it.

"What we found was pitiful," Kemp said. "We knocked on the door and someone said to come in, so we did."

He said that Orato was asked by the friend if he wanted to leave and he did so. However, at this time officers had no evidence on which to charge Mrs. Gobert and Tompkins, so the Task Force began a three-week surveillance of the premises.

"We did this hoping we could talk to some of the people without Gobert or Tompkins seeing us," Kemp, who headed the investigation, said.

Finally the time came to make a move, Saturday, Aug. 20th, at approximately 9:30 a.m., officers arrived at the house along with Wharton County Health Officer Dr. John Moore, Veterans Administration Chief of Security Joe Patterson of Houston, and El Campo and Wharton ambulances.

"Through the interviews it was determined that six of the people were veterans, which put the VA involved. All 13 people were mental patients in California in either a mental hospital or the VA Hospital in Los Angeles," Kemp said.

Covarrubio said he understands that some of the people had been held for a year. He said their ages ranged from 31 to middle 50's.

Kemp said the FBI has an agent in the county now, but is waiting for a report from the Veteran's Administration before beginning a full scale investigation.

Kemp said from what the Attorney General's office in California has told him, all 13 people at one time lived in another home owned by Mrs. Gobert called Chateau Gobert Inc. in Van Nuys which carries a California hotel license. They were supposedly transferred in a mobile home by Mr. Gobert from Chateau Gobert to Spanish Camp. For what reason, officers are not quite certain.

Meanwhile the search continues for Lillian Gobert, who is believed to be back in California.

"The way things look, we're just getting started," Covarrubio said.

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Traffic To Claim 44 Lives During Labor Day

Drivers seem to be displaying more cooperation and alertness on Texas highways during major holidays. At least that's the opinion of the director of the Texas Department of Public Safety who says the 1977 Labor Day period could be safer than the same weekend in 1976.

Even so, Colonel Wilson E. Speir warned that Texas traffic collisions from 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2, to midnight Monday, Sept. 5, may claim 44 lives.

During the 1976 Labor Day weekend, traffic accidents killed 50 persons in the state.

Speir said that so far this year, traffic deaths are running five to six per cent higher than during the same period in 1976. He noted that during recent years, "we have experienced considerable increases in the number of vehicles, the number of licensed drivers, as well as the number of miles driven."

"However," he added, "holiday drivers seem to be exercising more restraint and we hope this trend will continue."

The DPS director urged motorists to refrain from drinking during the Labor Day period, keep their speed under control, and not take unnecessary chances.

The buying power of your food and fiber dollar has increased. Today, only $12.50 out of every $100 is spent on food compared to $23 spent in the U.S. in the 1950s, according to Agriculture Commissioner Reagan V. Brown.

Free Dinner

AL FAICHTINGER

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Thomas Rites

(Continued from page one)

mond, Texas.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Donys Thomas; a daughter, Mrs. Earl (Jo Ann) Voskamp of Dallas and a son, W. M. (Bill) Thomas, Jr., of Eagle Lake; five grandchildren, Wayne and Thomas Voskamp and Mrs. Harold (Susan) Mobley; and Kitty and Temple Thomas of Eagle Lake; three great grandchildren; one brother, Griff Thomas, Jr., and two sisters, Mrs. Glen (Esther) Sunderman and Mrs. G. B. (Mary) Heflin of Eagle Lake; and a large number of other close relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife; three brothers, David Thomas, Armit M. Thomas and Moses Thomas; and two sisters, Mrs. E. B. (Ruth Amelia) Powers and Mrs. M. E. (Minnie Amelia) Isenhower.

Active in Organizations

Mr. Thomas was active in many community organizations and community affairs, assuming leadership roles in many of these activities. He was a past member and past president of the Eagle Lake Rotary Club; a past Worthy

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County Completes ELPS Paving

Third grade students at Eagle Lake Primary School are pictured in a line prior to beginning the school day. The new pavement under foot serves to provide more room on a dry area for the children as well as to keep sand from blowing into the hall. Colorado County Commissioners' Precinct No. 4, Commissioner Bill Stiles, completed the work in July.

Study Club Begins Plans For Bazaar

Fall is here and it's time to take a break to start thinking about the Annual Study Club Bazaar.

Make your plans for the Bazaar to be held this year on Friday, November 18th from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. The place is to be announced at a later date since construction at the Community Center makes it unavailable.

Members are expected to bring both bakery and stitchery items worth $15. Any contributions from non-club members are most welcome.

There will be a lunch patio as usual, so plan to spend the day.

In order to give the public an opportunity to purchase the bakery items, club members will be asked not to make any purchases before 1:00 p.m.

If you have any suggestions or questions about needlework, contact Mrs. John Atkins, 234-2017, or Mrs. Davis Waddell, 234-3138. "We need help from everyone to make this year's bazaar a success to support our library," said Mrs. Waddell, chairperson of the annual event. Other committee members include Mrs. Paul Causey, Mrs. Sonny Powers, Mrs. Robert Wilson and Mrs. Adkins.

Pride Stressed By Rice HS Coach Rice

Mike Rice, the new head football coach at Rice High School, was the guest speaker at the meeting of the Eagle Lake Rotary Club on Wednesday of last week in Didner Hall and he stressed that the primary aim of the coaches this year is to instill pride in the football program.

Rice told the Rotarians and guests of the members of his staff and their functions in the football programs at Rice, Eagle Lake and the Garwood-Sheridan teams.

"Our primary goal this year is to instill a sense of pride into the football programs," he stated, "pride not only in themselves and the team, but in the school, and we seek the cooperation of the citizens of the community and the students of the school in this objective."

The coach stressed the importance of discipline in the football program and noted that the Raiders have been doing a lot of running and weight lifting and should be in excellent physical condition for the season's opener in Columbus Sept. 2nd.

He noted that the squad has a good crop of freshmen and some may be among those on varsity starting units. The coach responded to a question and said the offense will run the Houston veer with Gregory Rubela and John Grammer the prime quarterback candidates. The Raiders will be lighter this year and as last year will be facing a tough ten-game schedule which will include nine district games with foes that are listed among the top teams in the state.

The coach said the coaches and team have set for themselves a goal of at least five victories which will be quite an achievement, if accomplished, since the Raiders were 0-10 against the same foes in 1976.

"We believe they can do it and if the players believe in themselves and the team, our goal is not out of reach," concluded the coach confidently.

He was introduced by T. J. (Sonny) Spanihel, program chairman for the day.

Scholarship To Rucka

The Rotary Club awarded its two year scholarship last spring to Miss Linda Sommer, but since Miss Sommer received other scholarships and will not use the WCJC award, she asked the club to assign the scholarship to another 1977 graduate. T. J. Smith, representing the scholarship nominating committee, expressed appreciation to Miss Sommer for this consideration, and announced that the committee recommended that the two-year scholarship to Wharton County Junior College be awarded to Miss Denise Rucka.

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Assault Charged After Man Hit In Head Sun.

A charge of aggravated assault was filed during the week-end against an Eagle Lake man after another man was hit over the head early Sunday morning.

Roy Morales called the local police department at 12:30 a.m. to inform them that there had been an accident on Allen Street and that he thought some one had been hit by a car, but it turned out to be otherwise.

Eagle Lake Patrolman James Brooks answered the call and found Doloris Cordova lying in a ditch and bleeding from a cut on the head. The man refused to be taken to the hospital for treatment but was brought by Brooks to the police station for interrogation.

It was revealed that Cordova and a Julius Ramon Salinas had argued first at the Nu Courts Cafe and later at Rice Cafe. Brooks with the aid of Eagle Lake officer Bill Chavis and Highway Patrolman Randy Balsh went to the Rice Courts and arrested Salinas and Cordova filed the complaint, of aggravated assault against Salinas in the court of Justice of the Peace M. M. Jones. Bond of $1000 was set on Salinas pending trial of the case in county court.

Investigation showed that a warrant was pending against Cordova on a charge of disorderly conduct in a prior incident.

Misc. Bridal Shower Honors Melinda Klump

Didner Hall was the setting for a lovely Miscellaneous Bridal Shower honoring Miss Melinda Klump last Monday evening, August 29th at 7:30. Miss Klump and Dave Kucherka will exchange marriage vows this Saturday, September 3rd, in a ceremony at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church at 4:00 p.m.

The honoree; her mother Mrs. Lawrence Klump of Columbus; and the prospective groom's mother, Mrs. W. D. Kucherka, received corsages of yellow carnations with yellow ribbon accents. Another special guest was Mrs. Stanley L. Kucherka, grandmother of the groom-elect.

As guests arrived they registered in the bride's book at a table draped with yellow lace. It also held the bride's yellow feather pen and the couple's engagement picture.

The bride-to-be opened many lovely and useful gifts assisted by her bride-maids, Diane Spanihel, sister of the groom-elect, registered the guests in view and also served the punch. The gift table was covered with yellow lace to match the registry.

Refreshments of finger sandwiches, cookies, mints and punch were served from a table draped with a white linen and holding the silver punch service. Centering the table was a massive bouquet of yellow feathered mums in a silver epergne flanked by silver candelabra holding tall yellow tapers.

Hostesses for the delightful occasion were: Mesdames John Brooks, L. J. Spanihel, V. J. Kana, F. H. Brechbugel, Charles Stephens, Sr., Victor Maschek, Nolan Greenhill, Louis Grizzo, Walter Sommer, Homer Briggs, Charles Gluck, Henry Postal, Wilfred Wirk, Adolf Hollas, Ralph C. Gertson, Oscar Miller, Willis Fussell, Albert Stupinsky, John Mahalitc, Sr., Chester Gluck, Dupree Stephens, Raymond Lee Kubelka, Arthur Mahalitc, David Hooper, Ellis Gluck, Ed Kucherka, R. F. Sandel, M. C. Thomas, Bill Wilson and Misses Ann Kucherka, Mary Ann Mocilnec, Thomas Gaither, doing business as Gaither's and the plaintiff alleges that an account totaling $1900.50 is past due and unpaid in merchandise purchased from Sept. 6, 1976 to Oct. 18, 1976. The firm also asks for 8 percent interest from Jan. 1, 1977 and reasonable attorney's fees.

MARKET REPORT

Columbus Livestock Co.

The market was steady at last Thursday's sale at the Columbus Livestock Market with bidding very active from a lot of buyers on hand.

Owners of the firm report a good run of cattle due to the dry weather of late.

The firm handled 1763 head of cattle with good to choice butcher calves and yearlings selling 35 to 37, heifer-ett packer cows went 25 to 27, commercial packer bulls 30 to 32. Heavy Hereford and Angus steer calves sold 33 to 45 and heifers 30 to 34, while crossbred steer calves went 33 to 45 and heifers 30 to 34. Good stocker cows and heifers brought $190 to $225 per head. No. 1 hogs sold 43 and 45 while limbs went 25 to 35.

2 Suits Filed On Accounts

Two suits seeking judgments for past due accounts were filed in District Court during the past week.

In a suit filed Aug. 29th styled United States Steel Corp., U.S.S. Agri-Chemical Division, vs. Thompson Fertilizer, Inc., Neal E. Stallman and Leonard N. Thompson seeks judgment for a balance of $28,452.08 which the plaintiff says is due, plus finance charges accruing after May 31, 1977 and attorney's fees.

The other suit filed Aug. 29th styled Nelson and Mocilnec vs. Thomas Gaither doing business as Gaither's and the plaintiff alleges that an account totaling $1900.50 is past due and unpaid in merchandise purchased from Sept. 6, 1976 to Oct. 18, 1976. The firm also asks for 8 percent interest from Jan. 1, 1977 and reasonable attorney's fees.