

Eagle Lake Headlight

Single Copies

20¢

NUMBER 74.

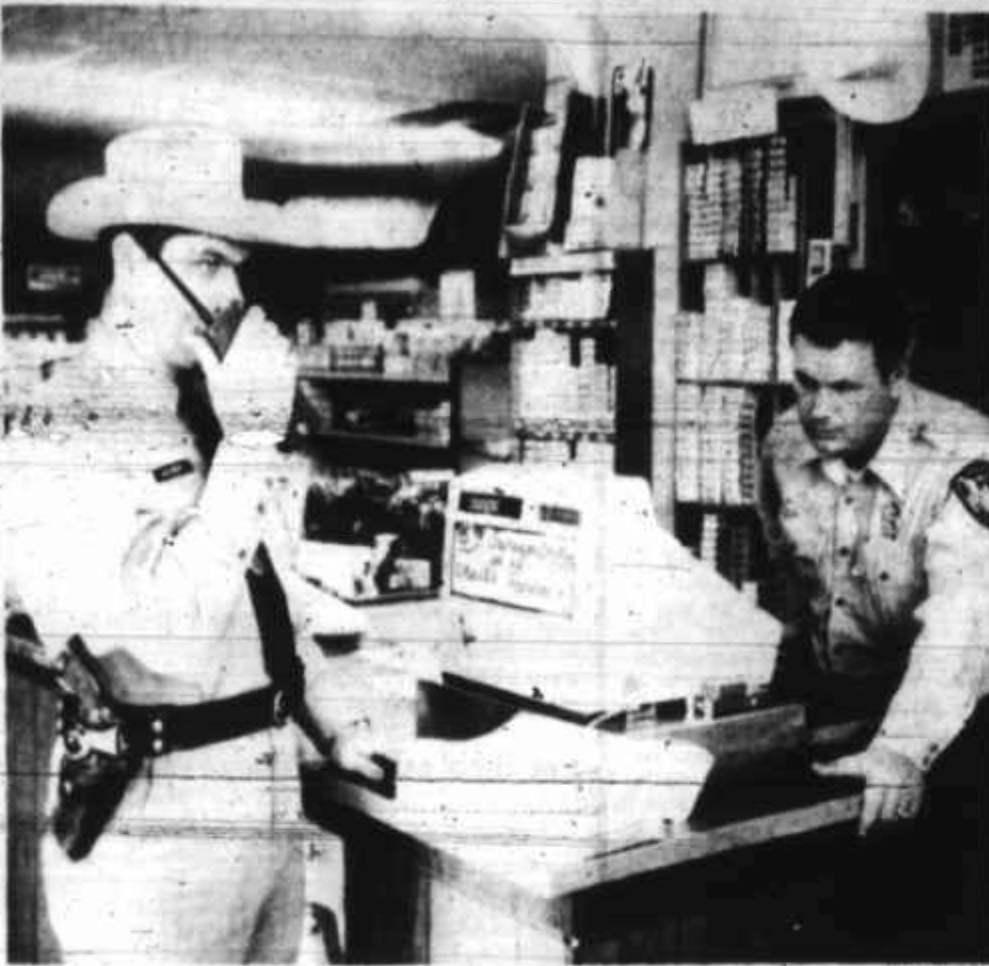
P. O. BOX 67

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1978

AC 713 234-2783

NUMBER 42.

Officers Check For Clues At G & D Robbery



Eagle Lake Chief of Police Buford Ashley, right, checks the cash register at the G&D Little Grocery on East Main Street for clues following an armed robbery at the drive in grocery at 9:02 p.m. last Wednesday, January 25th. Assisting Ashley in the investigation was State Game Warden Sam Center who relays information to other officers in the area on a walkie-talkie. Thirty-four minutes after the robbery, three persons were arrested in a pickup truck two miles north of Rosenberg, on Highway 36, and all three have been charged with aggravated robbery and most money taken from the grocery was recovered through the quick action of local officers and officers in this and neighboring counties.

20 Called For Grand Jury Duty Mon.

Twenty persons have been notified to appear in District Court in Columbus at 10 a.m. next Monday, February 9th for Grand Jury duty opening the February term of 25th Judicial District Court.

Called for possible grand jury duty are: Herbert Meyer of Rt. 1, Cat Spring; Mrs. Leslie Miller and Mary B. Polasek of Alleyton; Alvin W. Frause, Mrs. Evelyn Hudec, James E. Dahse and Beanie Koehn of Weimar;

Also, Steve Balas, Mrs. R. L. Cook, Jr., Mike V. Duarte, Annie Lou McTear of Eagle Lake; Rudy Till III, Ben H. Waligura, John T. Ward, and Virginia Wicks of Garwood; Albert Brune, Lillie Gierese Vinson, Anna Howard Whitehead, and Mrs. Anthony Graf of Columbus.

The 20th person on the list selected by Jury Commissioners for the grand jury duty, Otto W. Schneider of Rt. 2, New Ulm, has since deceased.

3 Charged In Daring Armed Robbery Here Last Wednesday

Car Belonging To One of 3 Victims Found Burned Here

Missing Trio Is Found Dead Near Shiner Saturday

A vehicle owned by one of three persons who had been missing from Houston and who were believed to be kidnap victims and possible murder victims, brought the search for the three persons to this community last week.

Tuesday night at 9:43 p.m. Eagle Lake volunteer firemen were called to a car fire on FM 1093 3.4 miles east of Eagle Lake. The report of the fire was turned in by Eddie Wasse who had received information earlier from Mrs. Everett Anderson, when she noted the vehicle on fire.

It was determined that the burning vehicle was a 1974 Mercedes but the driver or owner of the vehicle was not found at the time of the fire. Most of the fire originated in the rear of the vehicle.

Highway Patrolman Randy Baisch was called to the scene and he asked for a check on the ownership of the vehicle with the Texas Department of Public Safety and it was determined that the vehicle was originally owned by a Carolyn Adams. Meanwhile the car was towed to Eagle Lake.

police department came here and along with Baisch and other officers made a search of the area and found evidence pointing to the fact that Fantic and the two other missing persons, Georgiana M. Rose and Dr. William S. Fitzpatrick had been in the vehicle. Also located in the area was a one gallon can containing gasoline and believed to have been used to set the car afire.

Search Made in This Area Thursday, officers from the Houston Police Department's (Continued on last page)

Youth Valentine Banquet Set Sat., Feb. 11

On Saturday, Feb. 11th, the First Baptist Church will sponsor a Valentine Banquet for young people in grades 7 through college age at 7:30 p.m. in the First Baptist fellowship hall. There will be a catered meal and entertainment will be provided by the singing group "Michael" from Houston, as well as entertainment by the youth committee. Tickets for the evening are \$3.00 each or \$4.00 for couples.

For tickets, contact Miss Kathleen Hamilton at 234-3063. Ticket deadline is Sunday, Feb. 5th.

Captured Near Rosenberg In Just Over 30 Minutes

An armed robbery at the G&D Little Market on East Main Street in Eagle Lake at 5:02 p.m. last Wednesday, January 25th, was solved in near record time with the arrest of three persons, two men and a woman, just north of Rosenberg on State Highway 36 at 5:36 p.m.

Eagle Lake Chief of Police Buford Ashley and State Game Warden Sam Center responded to the call from the G&D Little Market, and immediately put out a call on the radio for officers in the area to be on the lookout for a light blue or light green pickup truck. The first call on the radio reported that two black men were in the pickup, but this later was changed to two men and one woman after the officers had an opportunity to talk with the attendant at the grocery, Elizabeth Betancourt. She said that she had seen a woman sitting in the pickup when the two men came into the store armed with a .38 caliber pistol at 5:02 p.m. She was due to be relieved at 5:00 p.m. by another employee Janie Salinas.

G&D Little Market is owned by the Gilbert Wilbeck family.

Betancourt told the officers that the two men forced her into a storage room and locked her into the room and they then cleaned out a cash register. She estimated \$14 in cash and two checks for \$10 each. The attendant had just completed a check of the funds in the register prior to being relieved.

Mrs. Salinas came to work shortly after the robbery and she released Mrs. Betancourt from the storage room and went to a nearby phone to call the officers since the robbers had yanked the phone in the grocery store off the wall.

It was 5:05 when Salinas arrived at the store and at 5:10 the local police received the call and rushed to the scene and immediately put out a call for officers in the area to be on the lookout for the pickup.

At 5:36 p.m. a constable in Austin County, Joe Remorick, was traveling south on Highway 96 when he spotted a pickup which answered the description of the one involved in the robbery and he called ahead to officers in Rosenberg and a unit from the Fort Bend County Sheriff's office stopped the truck about two miles north of Rosenberg.

Other No Resistance Officers said that the trio offered no resistance. The money taken in the robbery was found in the glove compartment of the pickup truck, but the two checks were apparently discarded and were not recovered.

The trio were taken to the Fort Bend Sheriff's Department in Richmond and shortly afterward Ashley and Center went to Richmond and returned the three suspects back to Eagle Lake.

They were held here in the city jail overnight and transferred Thursday evening to the County Jail in Columbus.

The trio have been charged with aggravated robbery and bond has been set on each at \$20,000, pending action by the February grand jury which is expected to consider the charges next Monday, Feb. 6th.

Charged in the robbery are: Donald Victor Rogers, 27, of Wharton, Texas; Elijah County Pettit, 33, of Wharton; and Beverly Burdison Williams, 27, of Port Lavaca. Although Pettit's home address is Wharton, he had been living for some time with the Williams woman in Port Lavaca.

Investigation by the local officers revealed information that the trio had been in Eagle Lake about Wednesday afternoon, apparently "using" local business places. They reportedly had been seen in the G&D Little Market earlier in the afternoon.

(Continued on last page)

2ND READING OF CABLE TV HIKE IS OK'D ON 3-2 VOTE

Council Hears Engineers' Report On Sewer Plant

(By Jeff Franks)

The second reading of the amended ordinance permitting an increase in rates for Eagle Lake Cable Television Service was passed by the Eagle Lake City Council by a 3-2 vote at their regular meeting last Tuesday night, Jan. 23rd, at the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

The council also heard a review and recommendation by representatives of Bernard Johnson, Inc., engineers of a sewer facility plan for the city.

The rate hike proposed by the Cable TV Service will increase the current basic rate of \$6.95 per month to \$8.00 per month and make some modifications, some up and some down, for installation services. In approving the first reading on January 10th, the council voted 3-1 for approval with Councilman Roy Dean Van Nort voting against approval on grounds that the council did not have sufficient information available on the firm's financial status.

In approving the second reading last Tuesday night by a 3-2 vote, Councilman Van Nort and David Ewers voted against approval, stating there was still not enough information to "give a clear picture of the situation." Councilmen Gene Baker and A. W. Kohlfel and Mayor Elmer Struss cast their votes for approval of the second reading.

Richard Thiessen, representing the parent company in Manhattan, Kansas, was on hand to answer any questions by the council and provided Van Nort with a detailed financial statement of the local firm.

However, Van Nort told Thiessen that he wanted to see a financial statement of the parent company since the Eagle Lake firm's statement does not give a clear picture of the whole company's financial status.

Thiessen assured the council that the report included "true and honest" figures of the financial status of the local firm. He also insisted that Eagle Lake Cable TV's financial status, not the parent company's, was the only concern of the council.

After the council approved the second reading, both Van Nort and Ewers asked Thiessen that a certified audit be presented to the council, including records of the parent company, before (Continued on last page)

Garwood Lions Mop-Broom, Light Bulb Sale Feb. 8

The Garwood Lions will hold their annual Mop-Broom and Light Bulb Sale next Wednesday, Feb. 8th and citizens in the Garwood and Nada communities are invited to mark the date.

The Lions will be making a house-to-house canvass and will also have items for sale at the American Rice Growers Cooperative Association office on Highway 71.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Lighthouse for the Blind and local community projects, said John Engstrom, president of the club.

Schneider Asks Re-election As County Clerk

County Clerk Lester Schneider announces this week that he will seek re-election to the position of County Clerk in the forthcoming Democratic Primary election and the general election in November.

Mr. Schneider is completing his second full four-year term, having been elected to fill the office following the death of Edgar L. Litzmann.

Mr. Schneider says that he will appreciate the vote and support of all citizens of the county. He pledges to continue serving conscientiously in all functions of the county clerk's office.

2 Charged In Burglaries In Garwood Area

An investigation conducted by the Sheriff's Office for the past six months finally paid off last Thursday, Jan. 26th, when two subjects were charged with at least nine burglaries in the Garwood area. Most of the merchandise taken in the

last two burglaries were those at the Elizabeth Ladolph residence which was reported last week and the residence of Reverend Donald Rooney of Garwood. Other burglaries included: Kris Kalina's pickup truck; a gravel truck parked on 950 outside of Garwood; Milton Anderson's truck; Clarence Zbrank's truck; and Nacho Rodriguez's truck. Some of the burglaries solved had not been reported to the Sheriff's Office. The investigation also solved some burglaries in the El Campo area.

Arrested and charged with burglary and theft were: Michael Anthony Hoelscher, 20 years of age; and Michael Clifton Reese, 17 years of age, both from Garwood. There is also a juvenile involved in the burglaries and the Sheriff's Office is coordinating with the district attorney's office as to what disposition to make on the juvenile.

The investigation continues and more subjects may be arrested after it is completed, says the Sheriff's Office. Hoelscher and Reese are out of jail on a \$5000.00 bond each.

Some of the items recovered were tools, guns, a 12-ton jack, a harp, a record player, a TV, tape recorder and many other household items.

Rotary's Hot Cake Supper Next Tues.

The Eagle Lake Rotary Club will stage its annual Hot Cake Supper at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7th and one and all are invited to attend the event. Tickets are available from all Rotarians or may be obtained at the door next Tuesday.

The menu will include hot cakes, butter and syrup and sausage. Cold drinks and coffee will be available for sale during the event.

Entertainment will be provided throughout the serving hours. You may also go in a fast car service line at the rear of the building.

Proceeds from the event will go to sponsorship of many worthy community projects.

Visit With Gov. Briscoe Tues. At Holiday Inn

Citizens of the area are invited to meet with Governor Dolph Briscoe in an informal reception to be held beginning at 3:45 p.m. next Tuesday, February 7th at the Holiday Inn Jr. in Columbus.

Ralph Meadows of Columbus is making arrangements for the governor's brief visit in this county in behalf of his candidacy for re-election to the governor's office. Meadows invites one and all to come to enjoy a cup of coffee and to visit with Governor Briscoe during his visit of an hour or so in the Holiday Inn.

The governor will fly from Columbus to Brenham where he will be guest of honor at another reception in that city.

Workshop For Rice 7th and 8th Students, Parents Begins Tues.

All seventh and eighth grade students in the Rice School District and their parents are urged to attend a workshop entitled, "There's Something We Need To Talk About" which will open with the first of four sessions from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Eagle Lake Middle School next Tuesday, February 7th. The remaining sessions will be held on each Tuesday night in February, Feb. 14th, 21st and 28th at the same time and in the same location.

The purposes of the project are: (1) to improve communications between teenagers and parents; (2) to present facts concerning the development of teens; and (3) to aid in decision making in matters of social conduct.

Parents really concerned about the increased sexual activity of their children, about the number of teenage pregnancies, cases of VD, and abortions experienced by this age group? If so, they will make every effort to attend this free workshop, say sponsors of the workshop.

Dr. Raymond Thomas and Jose Ugarte have helped to organize and wholeheartedly support this project. They fully realize the need for helping in this area since they see the results of communications and sex related problems in their young patients. They are giving of their valuable time to actively take part in the sessions in which they will give facts and encourage parents and youngsters to take a new look at themselves and the situation at hand.

Raiders Host Wharton Fri.

The West Zone, District 14AAA, boys cage title likely will be on the line when the Rice Raiders host the Wharton Tigers, both with 5-1 records, Friday night in Raider gym. Be there to support the Raiders!

City Council Studies List Of Priorities

City Manager T. J. Smith presented to the members of the Eagle Lake City Council, at their meeting on Tuesday night of last week, Jan. 24th, a list of priorities to consider and to number in the order of their importance before the next council meeting on Feb. 7th. The list will be used to allocate money for projects to be included in the 1978-79 budget to take effect April 1, 1978.

The list of priority projects, compiled by the city manager, contains projects which the city must consider during the next fiscal year. Each council member has been asked to number these priorities in order of importance so that the 1978-79 budget, taking effect in April, can be adjusted accordingly.

Post Office Contract In his report to the council, City Manager Smith said that the Post Office lease extension with the Postal Service has been finished and the city will receive \$2,750 per year for a five year term for (Continued on last page)

Hearing Mon. On Sewer Facility

The City of Eagle Lake will hold a public meeting at 2:00 p.m. Mon., Feb. 6th at the Council Room of the Municipal Building, for the purpose of discussing the economical and social effects of the location, design and environmental impact of a 0.5 million gallon per day wastewater treatment facility to be constructed at the existing treatment plant site.

The hearing is one of the requirements that must be met in the City's application for federal funds through the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City has received some

funds for engineering study of the proposal and for an infiltration study which was conducted last year.

City Manager T. J. Smith said that all persons interested in the project are invited to appear and express their views on the proposed project and the associated Facility Plan and Environmental Assessment. Also written statements may be submitted prior to or during the hearing. "One of the purposes of this hearing will be to discuss the potential environmental impact of the project and alternatives to it," added the city manager.

(Continued on last page)