

Property Values On Rise Locally

How much have property values increased in Colorado County in the last ten years or so? What has been the effect of the rise on the local tax situation?

According to a government survey, just released, the assessed value of property that is subject to local taxes has gone up substantially in the period. The increase is placed at 49 percent.

The survey, which covers every section of the country, was conducted by the Commerce Department as part of the 1977 Census of Government.

As a result, preliminary data is now available on the million pieces of real and personal property that are listed on the tax rolls of local communities throughout the nation.

Their assessed value, for local tax purposes, is over \$1.77 billion. Ten years before, when a similar survey was made, it was \$462 billion.

The rise was due partially to property reclassification in some states.

In Colorado County, the government's figures show, the assessed value of taxable property is close to \$83,307,000, as against the \$56,000,000 in 1967.

In general, the net assessed value, after allowances for exemptions, is the base against which the tax rates are applied. Usually, however, it is well below the true market value of the property.

Related to population, the tax base in Colorado County is equivalent to approximately 44,820 families, men, women and child in the local area.

Elsewhere in the West South Central States, the average is \$2,240 per capita and in the State of Texas, \$2,200.

The survey shows that the

Rain Is Citizen of Year in El Campo



Norris Rain, named last Thursday night as "Citizen of the Year for 1977" at the annual membership and awards banquet of the El Campo Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, strikes a pose familiar to his family, farm hands and friends during the rice harvest last summer. In introducing the "Citizen of the Year," the Rev. Lloyd Nixon commented, "We are not recognizing him for what he has done, but we are recognizing him for being a neighbor of integrity, a conservator of values, who loves his community."

Mrs. Rain is the former Amelia Truitt of Eagle Lake. El Campo Citizen Photo by Tad Hershorn.

Father Of Alton Spradley Passes Away

Funeral services were held Wed. Jan. 18th in Odem, Texas for Robert Lee Spradley, 89, the father of Alton C. Spradley of this city. The last rites were held from the First Baptist Church in Odem followed by burial in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Mr. Spradley, a native of Milan County, Texas, died at 9:45 a.m. Monday, Jan. 18th at his residence following a lengthy illness. He moved to Odem from McGregor, Texas in 1935 and remained there until his retirement in 1961 when he was employed by Precinct 2, San Patricio County.

Mr. Spradley and his wife, Mrs. Mary Lee Spradley and one son, Cody (Bill) Spradley.

He was married to Mrs. Lena Collins in McGregor prior to moving to Odem nearly 37 years ago.

Surviving are his wife; four sons, Alton of Eagle Lake, Wesley of Wall Point, Montana, Malcolm of Orange Grove and Lloyd of Refugio; one step-son, Oliver Collins of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, a daughter, Mrs. Beatrice Love of Corpus Christi; a step-daughter, Mrs. John W. Whiting of Odem; one brother, O. grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Photo Offer At Sears Store This Friday

A photographer from Prestige Photography will be at the Sears Store at 218 East Main Street in Eagle Lake this Friday, Feb. 2, to take portraits for a special Living Color offer.

The photos will be taken from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Sears Store. The offer is open to general citizens, youngsters of all ages.

The State of Texas is a leading, pace-setting state in its assistance to and encouragement of comprehensive regional planning through local elected officials and the Governor. Illustrated was the regional councils of government make a difference at the state level and how they are helping local governments improve their services to their citizens.

The Friday evening dinner meeting began with a reception at 8:30 p.m.

During the annual meeting, Colorado County Judge Lester J. Crazek served as chairman of the nominating committee which received nominees for the 1978 officers to the general body for their consideration.

Serving with him were Councilman Homer Ford of the City of Houston and County Judge Ray Hallbrook of Galveston County. All three are past presidents of the Area Council.

County Judge Crazek and District Attorney James E. Lott of the County of Colorado presented the county at the annual meeting. Mayor David Kahlisch and several councilmen from Weimar; Mayor W. A. Kuchar and other representatives from Columbus and the Smiths, representing the Eagle Lake Council, were among those attending the annual Area Council meeting.

T. J. Smiths Attend Annual H-GAC Meeting

Eagle Lake City Manager and Mrs. T. J. Smith represented Eagle Lake at the Houston-Galveston Area Council's annual meeting at Stouffer's Greenway Plaza Hotel in Houston last Friday evening, January 27th.

The Honorable Dolph Briscoe, Governor of Texas, was the principal speaker for the meeting.

These thoughts were extracted from a litany of agricultural woes recited Thursday night by Aubrey Roland, a Georgian peanut farmer speaking on behalf of the American Agricultural Movement at the National Community Center. The centerpiece of the movement is a plea for farmers to strike to improve agricultural policy, feeling "that political muscle to achieve 100 percent parity has been lost."

The tall, burly Roland said it was difficult for him to leave farm and family to speak on behalf of the American Agricultural Movement, but he said he would do so because he felt it was his duty.

He also pointed out that in many instances, such as increasing imports of foreign beef, that government policy seems to actively undercut the American farm economy.

He demanded a change in these trends, but quietly told his audience that political favors are rarely given, and that Washington must be told in strong terms that the current situation is intolerable.

"All we want is a living wage; costs plus a little profit."

He cited a few well-known subsidies, such as shipping companies, airlines, New York City and Lockheed, and then asked, "Why not farmers? Why are we denied a living wage?"

Roland said that Georgia Senator Herman Talmadge suggested that the most potent way to get this goal achieved was to strike, which he said would remain non-violent.

During his hour-long talk, Roland also did a bit of self-questioning of his own call to activism.

"If this strike call were strictly from a monetary point of view," he said, "I couldn't support it. But I consider it a moral responsibility to defend, profitable farmers."

"Farmers are a pretty patriotic bunch of folks," he said, "and I think they are going to do it at a moment's notice."

Aubrey Roland admitted to enjoying traveling on behalf of the cause, he said, "I'm getting back to farming and strumming his guitar."

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It's Rodeo Time

Now In Stock Ladies Western Wear on display at The Clothes Closet 113 N. McCarty - 234-2248 Eagle Lake Everyone invited to see the latest in Western Wear.

Georgia Farmer Speaks on Economic Blight in Agri.

The following story by Tad Hershorn of the El Campo Citizen newspaper (see 12th page) discusses the meeting held at Talton Community Center Jan. 26th on the American Agricultural Movement and is reprinted in this newspaper for information of our readers.

Area farmers were warned last Thursday night that economic blight befalling farmers nationwide might not have them yet, but that it will.

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ANNOUNCING- THE OPENING OF El Oriental Restaurant

THE OPENING OF El Oriental Restaurant

840 E. FM 1093 Road Eagle Lake

Specializing in TYPICAL CUBAN FOODS

Breakfasts, Lunches, Steaks, Chicken and Rice to order

Hours: 5:30 A.M. to 6 P.M. 7 Days A Week

Enjoy Dining in A Relaxed Atmosphere

RAUL REMOND, OWNER

Mrs. Bradford To Be Honored On 80th B'day Sat.

A reception honoring Mrs. W. R. (Becky) Bradford on the occasion of her 80th birthday anniversary will be held in the reception room of the Central Assembly of God Church in Baytown this Saturday, February 4th, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Mrs. Bradford's daughter and granddaughter and their husbands, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sundersum returned from a delightful trip Monday through Friday of last week to the "Valley" where the temperature was in the 50s and 60s and the countryside was beautiful.

They described the "Bowers and fruit trees, now being harvested, as lovely."

They visited the Air Force Base in Harlingen where they lived some twenty-five years ago while Frank was stationed there with the Armed Forces.

Highlights of their trip was a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Willard Ethridge in Weslaco where they are happily residing in a very attractive and active retirement location. The Ethridges, former residents here, observed their forty-sixth wedding anniversary by having dinner with the group for this happy occasion.

Other places visited by the local citizens while in the area included Matamoros and Reynosa.

Faye and Willard Ethridge said to tell all their friends here hello and they extend an invitation to visit them when in the valley, said the Higgins and Sundersums.

Visit In Valley, Ethridges Pass 46th Anniv.

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Concert at WCJC Tuesday Night

A variety of contemporary music performed by the Wharton County Junior College Band directed by Dr. W. Wendland will offer an entertaining contrast to a rendition of famous march music composed by Karl King, regt. number "Raggy" Roy, under the baton of R. V. "Bob" Leach, director of the school's first school band, in a public concert scheduled Tuesday, February 7 at 7:30 in the WCJC Fine Arts Theatre in Wharton.

The public is also invited to a WCJC Spring Concert of jazz music on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. Admission to both sessions is \$1.50 and will be used to raise money towards the 40th piece band's trip to a national meet of bands in Denver, Colorado during May.

Area students performing in this concert will be Margaret Hawkins of Eagle Lake; Alan J. Kristynik of Garwood; Elizabeth Losack and Pat Viktorin of East Bernard.

DEAR CONCERNED SHOPPER:

Your letter of January 24, 1978, will benefit you as well as other shoppers in our store. We sincerely thank you for the "TIP" of observing SHOPLIFTING in our store as a recent shopping. THE INDIVIDUAL MENTIONED WILL BE WATCHED CLOSELY HEREAFTER should others not be aware of the fact, SHOPLIFTING IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE!!

TO PROTECT OUR CUSTOMERS AGAINST HIGHER PRICES DUE TO THEFT, SHOPLIFTERS WILL BE ARRESTED AND PROSECUTED at any time that such thefts are observed by us or REPORTED TO US BY OUR CUSTOMERS WHILE THE ACT IS BEING CARRIED OUT IN OUR PLACE OF BUSINESS.

Most Sincerely,
R. P. Wilcox and
L. J. Massey

Free Dinner Alpha Delta Phi Hears Program On Recreation

Sammy Melton, this year's ticket for a free Fiesta Dinner at 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 February 3, 1978.

Members of Alpha Delta Phi met in the home of Marilyn Sparks for their meeting on January 23rd.

Linda Hales presented her program "Recreation". She explained that recreation is a part of leisure, but is supposed to mean freedom from required tasks; recreation is a kind of leisure when you do something rather than nothing. It is supposed to make a new person of you. Linda asked the members to share what they do in their leisure time. Needlepoint, sewing, crocheting, horseback riding, reading, ceramics, golf, skiing, and dancing were among several activities mentioned. Linda then asked the members to evaluate their leisure activity. What are its main sources of enjoyment? How time consuming is it? How does it make you feel emotionally, mentally and physically?

The business meeting began with the reading of the minutes. President Charlotte Reed informed members of the Beta Sigma Phi State Convention to be held June 23, 24 and 25th in El Paso.

Dianne Casway reported on the plans for the Western Dance to be held with Xi Psi Psi. Members from both chapters have been meeting to finalize plans for the dance. Linda Hales said there was an increase in attendance at the Story Hour on January 17th. She used a musical clock and read a story about each hour of the day to demonstrate telling time. Linda Wiese read a story on horses and used horse models to show the different types of horses to the children on January 18th.

Five members who attended the Space Area Convention on January 14th in Houston reported on the meeting. They said they attended various committee meetings which provided them with ideas for activities for future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned and an informal social followed.

The group enjoyed a delicious Mexican food meal at the Inn and the fellowship of members of the other chapters. Reporter, Mrs. Hazel Havens.

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HOSPITAL NEWS NOTES

Patients this week (Jan. 30): Miss Linda M. Smith, city; Miss Oba B. Smith, city; Mrs. Ollie Simmons, city; Mrs. Mary Simpson, city; George Clark, city; Mrs. Teddie Phmons and baby girl, city; James Gordon, Sr., city; Anton Kozurek, Garwood; Frank Bruesch, city; Gayle Thomas, city; Maggie Long, Garwood; Eddie Martin, Garwood; Bobby Guthrie, Garwood; Edward Castaneda, Jr., Garwood; Mrs. Giselle Wade, Alleyton; Mrs. Lorena Miller, Nade; Miss Lucienne Zibick, Cat Springs.

Deaths: Ted Clay, city; Ed Frank, city; Mrs. Clara Thomas, city; O. D. Mason, city; Mrs. Elsie Wagonhoft, city; Mrs. Rita Mendosa, city; Edgar Baring, city; Mrs. Elizabeth Waddell, city; C. T. Wiese, city; Mrs. Eliza Baring, city; Harry Larson, city; Miss Michelle Powell, city; William Hodde, city; Mrs. Ruby Drive, city; Mrs. Elton Castillo, city; Arnold Lay, city; Miss Tracy Gerston, city; Johnny Pannick, city; Rose Lee Black and baby girl, city; Mrs. Abernethy Parker, city; baby boy, city; Pete Ray Jurez, city; Mrs. Gladys Cristal, city; Mrs. Doris Meisnick, city; Miss Darlene Stank, city; Mrs. Jacqueline Jones, Alleyton; Mrs. Marlene Shoop, Garwood; Mrs. Annie Schneider, Garwood; Mrs. Linda Brandt, Columbus; Lawrence Klump, Columbus; Mrs. Marilyn Yearwood, Columbus; Mrs. Dorothy West, Sheridan; Mrs. Sarah Brisco, Sheridan; Mrs. Audrey Woodworth, Lexington; Lorrell Dye, Houston; Mrs. Mary Etta Becker, El Campo; Lester Goehring, Round Top; Mrs. Irene Hanzelka, Weimar; Mrs. Carolyn Ross, Altair; Martha Miller, East Bernard; Mrs. Mary Moreno and baby boy, East Bernard.

LCRA President Statement On Operation of Mansfield Dam

(By Charles Herring, General Manager of Lower Colorado River Authority)

Misunderstanding has clouded the genuine concern shared by all of us who are vitally interested in the flood-control operation of Mansfield Dam.

After listening to statements by numerous citizens at the public meeting conducted by the U.S. Corps of Engineers on January 5, I would like to clarify the responsibility of the LCRA to the operation of Mansfield Dam and its reservoir.

Since the dam was built, the LCRA has been and is now responsible for the operation of the dam for levee conservation of water, irrigation, hydroelectric generation, and other specified uses up to elevation 661 feet from elevation 661 to 714. The Authority operates under rules established by the Corps of Engineers. Between elevations 661 and 691, there is a joint-use pool to be operated both for flood control and hydroelectric generation, with releases from the dam to comply with the release requirements of the Corps.

Release Rates

In determining the rate of release of flood waters from Mansfield Dam, the Corps of Engineers has always attempted to balance the equities of the problems involved in possible damage to property and danger to life. These release rates are established by the Corps. Our responsibility is to comply with their rules to the extent reasonably possible. The dam was obviously built initially to protect downstream people and their property.

An important element in the operation of the dam is the rate of release and the duration as they relate not only to the levee at Lake Travis but to downstream rates of flow. These are measured at Austin, Eastrop, La Grange, Columbus, Wharton and Bay City.

Flood Plain Responsibility

At the hearing, the main concern expressed seemed to relate to the 100-year flood plain. The LCRA has nothing to do with establishing the 100-year flood plain. This

Settlement Reached In Davenport Case

Austin-Cause No. 245,177, styled "In The Interest of Karis Suzanne Davenport" was settled and the settlement agreement stipulated before District Judge Jim Dear on December 1, 1977.

Karis Suzanne Davenport, 1964, an action in February, 1978, requesting custody of Karis, four year old daughter of Karl Davenport and Roseanne Printo, alternatively requesting increased visitation rights beyond the existing 36 hours per month granted him in the divorce decree of 1976, and requesting lowered child support payments. Karl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Davenport, requested an official grandparent visitation rights. Respondent Roseanne Printo, requested increased child support payments and a prohibition of visitation of Karis by Karl in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Davenport, along with an order of any visitation privileges to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Davenport. On or about March 15, 1977, the maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Wilbrock were served with citation of an amended petition requesting the Court deny visitation of Karis by them.

The case was settled as follows: Roseanne, who presently lives in El Paso, Texas retained custody of Karis and Karl received visitation of Karis for three weeks each summer, with Karl and Roseanne alternating possession of Karis for the holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, such possession by Karl to be the length of vacation accorded statements of the El Paso Independent School District, Mr. and Mrs. Davenport, as part of the custody/visitation agreement, dropped their request for specified visitation rights with Karis, and Roseanne was denied visitation with Karis under the possession granted Karl and Roseanne. Child support remained the same. Karl Davenport had a technical arrearage in child support payments due to a period of time when he paid reduced child support payments under an agreement between himself and Roseanne. As these arrears do not show arrears of a divorced husband and wife, Roseanne agreed to pay the difference between the amount of child support she should have paid and the amount actually paid, and Roseanne and the original divorce decree.

WE'RE SWEEPING THE TOWN "CLEAN"

All Day THURSDAY, FEB. 2

DURING THE NOON LIONS CLUB'S ANNUAL BROOM AND MOP SALE

All proceeds will be used to Sponsor Local Community Projects

We'll be selling brooms, mops, brushes, ironing board covers, towels, dish cloths and many other top quality household items, all manufactured by Texas blind workmen in Texas Lighthouses.

The Caravan Truck will be located at City Hall. Businesses will be canvassed.

Phone in your order to this phone number: 234-2780 • 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Housewives... FREE DELIVERY ON PHONE ORDERS BEFORE 4 P.M.

SPONSORED BY THE FOLLOWING EAGLE LAKE LIONS CLUB SUPPORTERS:

- Clyde's Food Market
- Mac's Marine Service
- Taco Tony's
- Rice Package Store
- Strickland Insurance Agency & Eagle Lake Insurance Agency
- Duncan & Son
- J. F. Miller Ford, Inc.
- Lake Motors, Inc.
- Beauty Box
- Production Credit Assn.
- First National Bank
- Wilcox Minimax
- Eagle Tractor, Inc.
- Spalinger Realty
- Miller's Grocery

FREE CAR WALK-IN THEATRE BARGAIN: \$1.50 'til 2:00 p.m. Where Millions Prevail. Observance 'til 6:30 p.m. Cole Theatre BOSEWICK 20424

Friday thru Thursday February 3 thru 9th

"The Quick and The Dead"

The Real Life Drama of the Grand Prix Race Drivers with Peter Reardon Rated PG

Sat. & Sun. Matinee, Feb. 4 & 5th

"Beartooth"

Rated G 2:00 and 3:40

AARP Officers Attend Dist. Meet in Columbus

The Eagle Lake chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons was represented by the officers and committee heads at the District meeting, held in Columbus January 25th at the Holiday Inn.

The meeting was the area workshop represented by five directors and led by State Director Mr. Foot, assisted by Mrs. Bertie Allord, who is the Assistant State Director. The meeting was to acquaint officers with their duties and keep them up to date on various programs.

The group enjoyed a delicious Mexican food meal at the Inn and the fellowship of members of the other chapters. Reporter, Mrs. Hazel Havens.

"Buy A NEW CAR For USED CAR Payments"

See Ritchie Cunningham or David Hought at LAKE MOTORS, INC. CHEVROLET - OLDSMOBILE - CADILLAC

Colorado County Federal Savings & Loan Assoc.

The directors, officers and staff of Colorado County Federal Savings and Loan Association would like to express their gratitude to all their friends and customers who helped celebrate their \$100,000,000 Association Celebration at their home office at 408 Walnut in Columbus, Texas.

Thank you for your support.

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OAKS Theatre

COLUMBUS, TEXAS

Show Times Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat., and Sun., Only One show, beginning at 7:30 P.M.

Wednesday thru Saturday, February 1st thru 6th

THE BILLION DOLLAR HOBO

Starring TIM CONWAY and Will Green

Sun., Mon., Tues., Feb. 5-7 THE FURY OF THE "Black Bell"

WANTED 8 HOMES THAT NEED PAINTING

Eight homeowners in this general area will be given the opportunity of having new Fibre Glass Brick and Stone applied to their homes with optional decorative work at a very low cost. This amazing new product has captured the interest of homeowners throughout the United States who are fed up with constant painting and other maintenance costs. It will last for 25 years and provides full insulating covering and is as easy to install as the traditional. Our new product can be used over any type of home, including brick, concrete block, stucco, also it comes in a choice of colors and is now going to be introduced in the local area. Home owners can be a great variety.

How Lost Earnings Can Be Found Again...

If a fire forced your business to shut down for a while, could you meet ongoing expenses like taxes and salaries? Commercial Income Coverage from The Hartford can help by replacing lost earnings. Ask us about this vital protection.

Robert and Maxine Griffith Eagle Lake Insurance Agency 234-2500

Rotary Program On Playing The Banjo

Denise DeLougher was the program chairman for the meeting of the Eagle Lake Rotary Club on Wednesday last. She was accompanied by her husband, Bill DeLougher.