

Eagle Lake Headlight

VOLUME 76

P. O. BOX 87

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1979

AC 713 234-2763

NUMBER 16

Retiring Bank Board Chairman Honored



William H. Harrison, chairman of the board of the First National Bank and prior to that president for sixteen years, left, is shown receiving a beautifully framed certificate commending him on the occasion of his retirement as an active bank officer at

the reception held at the bank Tuesday afternoon. Making the presentation on behalf of the directors, officers and employees was Harold Thomas, vice-chairman of the board, at left. For more on the reception and wording on the citation, see page 14.

Villarreal Is New Police Officer Here

Mrs. Villarreal To Be Dispatcher Here

Gaudalpe Villarreal, Jr., began duties with Eagle Lake Police Dept. on Wednesday of this week, August 1st. Villarreal was formerly a deputy with the County Sheriff's Department for the past year. Prior to that he worked with the Bastrop County sheriff's department and in Victoria.

Mrs. Villarreal will serve as the night dispatcher for the Eagle Lake Fire and Police Departments.

The Villarreal family has two children, Delicia Linea, 7 years of age, and Lupe III.

The Villarreal family has been residing here during his employment with the sheriff's department. City officials expressed pleasure in having Lupe and Olivia join the local departments.

The hiring of Mr. Villarreal leaves one vacancy in the Eagle Lake police department following the recent resignations of Clark Murgage and Richard LaCourse.

Youth Thought Missing in Canal Found Sunday

Two teenage Latin-American youth, swimming and floating on a raft in the Lakeside Irrigation canal south of the city Sunday afternoon, were believed to have been possible drowning victims, but the youth were later located several miles downstream from the senior bridge at the intersection of the new FM 5013 and Glen Flora Road.

A parent reportedly was with the youth while they were on a rubber raft going downstream and the parent called for the youth to return to the bridge where they had entered the water and she, thinking they had done so, left for a short time. When she returned at around 8:00 p.m. the boys' clothing was under the bridge but there was no sign of the boys nor the raft. After a search of the area failed to locate the youth, the Eagle Lake firemen were summoned to assist in the search and the Wittermann helicopter was readied to join in the search, but shortly afterward the youth were spotted washing across a soybean field just south of the Sun-

(Continued on page 3)

Work To Begin Soon On City Drainage Work

City OK's Bids For New Water Plant, Hose, Backhoe

Eagle Lake City Council, in session on Tuesday night of last week, approved bids for the construction of a new water plant facility on Davitt Street and also for the construction of a 500-gallon water storage tank on the site; also gave the city's approval for the purchase of fire hose for the new fire truck which is expected soon; and for the purchase of a new tractor backhoe-loader unit.

Acceptance of the bids on all of the above was delayed from the bid opening held on July 10th, until last week's meeting for recommendations of engineers and the city committees.

Fire Chief L. J. Spaniel met with the council last week and reported that a committee from the fire department recommended that the bid of Fire Fox Corp. be accepted since the company has promised immediate delivery on the fire hose. In the event that Fire Fox cannot make immediate delivery, it was the recommendation of the Firemen's committee and City Manager T. J. Smith that the bid of Claud Wright and Associates be accepted.

Bids were asked for 1500 feet of 2 1/2 inch hose and 500 feet of 1 1/2 inch hose, with alternate bids taken for cot-

ton and man-made fiber hose. Fire Fox offered to supply the 2 1/2 inch man-made hose for \$2,550 and the 1 1/2 inch man-made hose for \$575.00 for a total bid of \$3,125.00. Wright's bid was slightly less, a total of \$3,100, but the firm indicated 30 to 60 day delivery and the depart-

(Continued on last page)

Councilman Truly Stresses Need For Utility Director

Eagle Lake City Councilman Ralph Truly expressed the need, at the city council's regular meeting July 24th, for the council to take more positive action on hiring a utility director.

Truly noted that in light of the many improvement projects underway and under the Community Development Grant program, that city manager T. J. Smith is spread out way too thin.

He also added that the council members themselves should take more active participation in their roles as mayor and councilmen.

Mayor Elmer Struss responded by saying that a likely applicant is being interviewed for the utility director's office and that he and the city manager hope to have a report at the next meeting of the council on August 14th.

The council authorized the hiring of a utility director to assist the city manager when the priority projects under the 1979-80 budget were taken into consideration and approved.

Street Closing OK'd Mayor Struss reported in the absence of the city manager, who was on vacation, that a request had been received from the Wittermann Library to close the section of Walnut Street between the library

(Continued on last page)

Construction is expected to begin around August 10th on the Drainage Improvement Project in the Westmoreland Addition, in an area known locally as "the flat," reported Wayne Stolz, project engineer from the firm of O'Malley and Clay, at the meeting of the city council on Tuesday night of last week.

The council on July 10th accepted the bid of the Austin Bridge Co. of Houston, \$510,677, for the project but contingent on the approval of the contract by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through which the city received a Community Development Block Grant for \$700,000 for the drainage projects and other rehabilitation projects in the area.

The project engineer had recommended that the council go along with the concrete structure since he indicated that it would be a stronger product with a longer life. The city had received a lower bid, \$395,850 from E. E. Henry, Inc. of Edna using corrugated iron pipe.

Stolz told the council last week that Jim Alexander, Community Development Grant engineer with HUD, in Dallas, had given his tentative approval to the contract with Austin Bridge Co., however the contract was still being checked by HUD's legal staff. Stolz said that he expected results of the review by Thursday of last week.

He also reported that a slight modification on the work to be done at the south end of the ditch (expected to be done by city crews or by another contractor from this area) lowered the total contract to \$504,677. The council had originally budgeted \$436,000 for this portion of the work to be done under the federal grant, hence the actual cost will be \$68,677 more than the budget. The council has indicated that this work is the most important part of the improvements to be done under the grant and plans to reallocate some of the funds from rehabilitation of sub-standard housing (\$157,500 budgeted) and demolition of dilapidated buildings (\$31,500 was budgeted) and from a \$22,000 contingency fund to take care of the additional costs.

Work To Be Done

At the request of Mayor Elmer Struss, Stolz reviewed the work which will be done by the contractor on the drainage project as follows:

A concrete lined and covered channel will be constructed in the drainage ditch from Highway 90A (East Main) south to the location of a new bridge at A Street.

From A street to B street, the concrete lined-channel will continue along 4th street south.

At Ave. B the channel will go from a concrete-lined one to a covered double box drainage structure and continue to E Street in front of the Eagle Lake Primary School and then west on E Street to Third Street. At the intersection of E and Third, a narrow bridge will be removed and a covered box structure will replace the bridge, making for a wider intersection at this heavily used location.

(Continued on last page)

Courthouse Restoration Plans, Specs To Bidders

Comm. Court Reviews Final Plans Mon., Bids Due Aug. 27th

Colorado County Commissioners' Court met in a special session Monday devoted primarily to going over plans and specifications for the restoration of the Colorado County Courthouse.

A. J. Willrodt of Willrodt and Associates discussed with the commissioners and county judge the many projects to be included in the restoration program and said that plans and specifications are going out this week to prospective bidders.

He brought the good news that the county may get as many as six bids on the restoration program, possibly three from firms in Houston, and others from contractors in Columbus, Fredericksburg, San Antonio and Navasota. Previously there had been some doubt expressed that the county would get more than one or two bids.

The bids for the project will be opened at the session of the commissioners' court at 10 a.m. on Monday, August 27th. Willrodt told the court Monday that a base bid will be asked and that nine alternates are also to be bid on in the event the base bid exceeded the expected costs.

Bids Around \$750,000

Willrodt told the court Monday that due to the one percent per month escalation in costs due to inflation since the project was started, the total costs of the project could run as much as \$750,000.

The county expects to finance the restoration with proceeds from the 10c per \$100 added to the tax rate last year and from possible grants from the Texas Historical Society and other private agencies.

Certificates of obligation will be issued to cover the costs of the project once the bids have been opened and contract approved.

Also the bidders will be asked to state the number of days required to begin the project and the number of working days to complete the work.

Among the items

discussed by the court and Willrodt Monday were the elimination of plumbing on all floors except the basement (with the exception of water coolers on the first and second floors); improving the acoustics in the district courtroom by adding six speakers which will be concealed in the overhead lighting; replace

(Continued on last page)

3 Burglaries Investigated By EL P.D.

New '79 Oldsmobile Stolen At Lake Motors, Recovered Mon.

Eagle Lake police department investigated the burglary of a home and two businesses during the past week, reported Chief of Police Bufford Ashley this week.

The major burglary occurred during Saturday night at Lake Motors, Inc., at 323 South McCarty, where offices were ransacked, as the burglars apparently searched for money, and a 1979 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme was stolen.

The burglary was found by an employee of the firm shortly after 8:00 a.m. and Chief Ashley and owner Joe Reed were called to the scene.

Investigation showed that a window in the shop portion of the building was completely knocked out. Once inside the burglars (and the officer believes that there were at least two involved) ransacked desks in the sales, parts and mechanics departments and also a cashiers desk and file cabinets, tried to pry open a drink machine, apparently in search of money.

A CB radio was ripped out of a pickup owned by Jim Clippan Jr., under repair in the shop, and a tape recorder was taken from Mr. Reed's office but for some unknown reason

(Continued on last page)

Little Interest In Rice CISD Tax Hearing

No Comments Offered On "Instant" To Increase Tax Rate

A public hearing held by the Rice Consolidated School District's board of education at 8:00 p.m. Monday night on the intent of the board to raise taxes for the 1979 year drew little interest and not a single comment was offered by the public pro or con the proposal to increase the tax rate.

The public hearing was mandated by state statutes and was called by the board after it became obvious from reports from former school superintendent E. A. Krivacka, who is preparing the 1979-80 budget, and Business Manager Roy Marshall that increases in the maintenance tax rate and the bonded indebtedness tax rate will be necessary to meet the 1979-80 budget requirements, without making drastic cuts in some areas of instruction and operation.

The public hearing on the board's intent to increase taxes was attended only by board members Bill Appelt, Steve Balas, Billy Hefner and Lavo Brisco and board president Jane Clippson, Acting Supt. Charles DeShazo, Business Manager Roy Marshall, faculty members Helen Craig and Al Boudny and editor Fred R. Frnka.

Budget Hearing Aug. 13

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. after the board adopted a resolution unanimously that it does intend to adopt a tax increase after a tax rate hearing at 7:00 p.m. Monday, August 13th in the Rice Administration Bldg. in Altair. It is anticipated that the 1979-80 budget will be completed by that time and another public hearing is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. the same night (Aug. 13th) on the 1979-80 budget.

At the third separately scheduled meeting on the night of August 15th at 8:00 p.m. the board is expected to officially set the tax rate, adopt the budget, and handle the business to be included on the agenda for the August regular session.

Pet Show At Library Next Wed.

The last Summer Program at the Wittermann Library in Eagle Lake will be Wednesday, August 8 and it will be a pet show. Cherry Corman and Beth Waddell are in charge of this event. To enter all children must register at the library before Tuesday, August 7. Ribbons will be given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and honorable mention in each category. The categories are cats, dogs, birds, unusual, insects, larger animals and rocks.

The rules for the pet show are:

1. Register at the library before August 7, 1979.
2. Animals on leash or in cage.
3. Insects in see thru containers with lids.
4. Each pet owner is responsible for their own pet. Please do not bring any pet you cannot control.
5. Only one pet per child. Children may share a pet.
6. Remember all animals should have proper vaccinations.
7. Be at Community Center Pavilion no later than 2:30 p.m., August 8, 1979.

Reading certificates will be awarded at the pet show and there will be refreshments.

ABC's With Texas Twist

Last week two volunteers for the Summer Program at the Eagle Lake Library were Susan Causey and Linda Balas. Linda told the younger group about the ABC's with a Texas twist. Susan brought old items that used to be in the average home and explained how they were used.

Presbyterian Open House Sun. To Honor Kennells

The First Presbyterian Church of Eagle Lake is having an open house Sunday, August 5, in the fellowship hall from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. honoring the Rev. and Mrs. O. J. Kennell who will be retiring from the ministry soon.

All interested persons are invited to share in this fellowship.

Rice Harvest Progressing Rapidly

The 1979 rice harvest is progressing very nicely in this area and lots of the first crop has already been harvested with a lot more due to be cut in the next couple of weeks.

Although the area has had some periodic rains, they have not been of the nature of those along the Texas and Louisiana coasts where millions and millions of dollars in damages have been reported to the rice crop.

The lake plant of Lakeside Irrigation Co. reported a total of 6.33 inches of rain in July, with the rain coming on eleven different days and ranging from 2.43 inches in one reading early in the month. Around two inches fell during the period when the Gulf Coast was having torrential rains as the aftermath of Tropical Storm

(Continued on page 15)

Rock Is. Man Killed In Accident Tues.

A tragic accident claimed the life of Darrel Wayne Meyer, 20, of Rock Island at 5:55 a.m. Tues., July 31st just east of Hallettsville on Highway 90A.

It was reported that Darrel was on a motorcycle en route to his employment with Brown and Root (he was a diesel mechanic) when his motorcycle collided with a vehicle pulling a trailer from the

(Continued on page 15)

Dedication Plaque Unveiled



Sam K. Seymour, Jr. and wife, Marion, affectionately known to friends as "Maddie" proudly display the beautiful plaque officially dedicating the Fayette Power Project's Sam K. Seymour, Jr. Generating Station. For more on the story see pages 2 and 3.