

Eagle Lake Headlight

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New Ugarte Clinic Blessed



Father Tom Hanus, right, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Churches, offers a solemn blessing to the new Ugarte Clinic on the site of a portion of the former Eagle Lake Hospital during the Open House held

last Saturday afternoon. Dr. and Mrs. Jose M. Ugarte, also shown above, are owners of the new medical clinic which was dedicated to the health, service and welfare of all citizens of the community.

Engineer Says Some Large Gas Customers May Be Under-Billed

Cites Faulty Equipment As Major Gas Problem

(By Jeff Frnka)
An investigation of the city's gas system was updated last Tuesday, Oct. 23, as project engineer Charles (Chuck) Poole reported at the regular meeting of the Eagle Lake city council on his progress.

The investigation is part of the "crash program" instituted by Mayor Elmer Struss in late August in hopes of ceasing heavy losses being incurred by the city gas department, losses which, according to city officials, amount to between 30 and 35 percent of the total gas purchased by the city each month. Most of the blame for the losses was aimed at leaks in the city's gas lines.

Poole, engineer with O'Malley and Clay, Inc. of Brenham, was hired by the city to investigate the current gas system and last month recommended that the entire system be replaced. His estimate for such a project amounted to over \$900,000. After his report last Tuesday, he stood by his recommendation, despite several interesting findings in his most recent study.

Inaccurate Metering
In that most recent investigation Poole, assisted by city employee Paul Supak, checked the meters, regulators and connected loads for all large natural gas customers on the Eagle Lake Natural Gas Distribution System.

Eleven customers were checked by Poole and he found that in some cases equipment needs to be replaced. Figures from faulty equipment revealed that in some instances, according to Poole, more gas was being delivered than was being billed for.

In his check at three local grain-drying installations, Poole was unable to find any input ratings. But, according to Texas A&M Agricultural Engineering Storage and Processing Dept., a range of 125 cubic feet per hour of gas input (cfh) to 6000 cfh, with several in the range of 1000 cfh to 2300 cfh, might be expected.

Poole also was provided with the peak hour input to the city in July 1979, a period when presumably some of the dryers were operating. According to Jack Bader of Texas Southeastern Gas Co., the city's supplier, that input was 27,000 cfh.

Fifteen Grain Drying Units
"There are a total of fifteen dryers (at three elevators)" said Poole, "and if each of

All-Temperature Service Now Located in EL

A new business for Eagle Lake is All Temperature, an air-conditioning, heating and refrigeration service and installation company, which located during the past week in the Shindler Electric Service building on Highway 90A just east of the city limits.

Owners of the new business are Mike Harper and Chuck Muncy. They have a total of 40 years of combined experience in their fields of work and will do commercial and residential work.

The firm has been based in Missouri City and the owners will commute here until living accommodations are located here.

They invite you to come by for a visit or give them a call at 234-2527.

Crossroads Bookstore, Town & Country Gifts Re-Opening Thurs., Fri., Sat.

Upper Room Books and Gifts has been remodeled into two separate stores, Town & Country Gifts and Crossroads Bookstore, and the owners, Gay and Dexter Anderson, extend an invitation to everyone to come by during a grand re-opening this Thurs-

New Cable TV Rates Now In Effect

The Eagle Lake city council in session Tuesday, October 23, approved the third and final reading of an ordinance allowing a rate increase to Eagle Lake Cable TV which has now gone into effect. The council also heard from a local businessman concerning truck parking on city streets.

The meeting, held without the presence of Mayor Elmer Struss and councilman Ralph Truly, was presided over by Mayor Pro-Tem Alvin Kohlfel with councilmen James Cash, William Farris and Mike Duarte present. City Secretary Lucille Perry along with city manager T. J. Smith and Public Utilities Director Buddy Jacobs were also on hand for the meeting.

The rate hike approved by the council to the cable TV firm amounts to an \$8.00 to \$8.50 per month increase for first set installations and a \$1.50 to \$2.00 increase for each additional set.

New TV Service Offered
A new service now being provided by the firm necessi-

(Continued on page 11)

\$12,449 Consol. Fund Drive In Full Swing

The Eagle Lake Consolidated Fund Drive began officially on Monday of this week, October 29th, and a challenging goal of \$12,449 is being sought from area contributors for the benefit of thirteen worthy agencies.

Many contributions are expected from mail solicitations. Businesses are being furnished collection envelopes to use for the employer and employees. Among the organizations helping to distribute collection envelopes are the Eagle Lake Rotary Club, Eagle Lake Lions Club, MAYC, AARP, Senior Citizens, the Ambulance Corps, VFW, the Chamber of Commerce and Xi Psi Psi Sorority.

Additional workers are needed and may contact Melburn Sibley, drive chair-

man, for assignments. Both individual gifts and business envelopes may be given to any teller at the First National Bank. Names of contributors and 100% businesses will be listed in the Headlight.

The Consolidated Fund benefits the Eagle Lake area with local relief and a response from citizens in the surrounding area would be appreciated, stated the drive chairman. "The drive will give the Eagle Lake area an opportunity to support agencies benefitting needs which arise in any part of our country. We are also pleased to have a part in cancer research at M.D. Anderson Hospital."

"The gifts of money and time of campaign workers is appreciated," added Sibley.

Seven Enter Pleas In District Court On Criminal Charges

Seven persons were brought before District Judge B. B. Schraub on criminal charges in district court in Columbus Monday of this week. Two were sentenced, three waived indictment and entered pleas and two also entered pleas on their respective charges.

Janie Gaskamp who was indicted June 11 on a charge of beating to death with her hands her 3 1/2 month old son Aaron on May 10, 1979, entered a plea of nole contendre on a charge of involuntary manslaughter, reduced from an indictment of murder. No sentencing has been pronounced in the case.

Patrice Owens, indicted Sept. 4 on a charge of aggravated robbery of the Fishbeck Texaco Station in Weimar Aug. 2, 1979, entered a plea of guilty and sentencing will be Nov. 28th. Carol Denise Nickerson Greak waived indictment on a charge of involuntary manslaughter in the death of Barbara Ehrhneberg, a pedestrian, on Sept. 17, 1979 and entered a plea of nole contendre. She also entered a plea of nole contendre to a charge of failure to stop and render aid. Sentencing has been set for Nov. 28.

Two others waived indictment and entered pleas of guilty before Judge Schraub, including: John Patrick Healy on a charge of possession of marijuana in an amount over 4 ounces Sept. 25, 1979; and Hack William Lockhart to a charge of credit card abuse, also on Sept. 25, 1979. Their sentencing is set Nov. 28th.

Two Are Sentenced
Harris Rester, indicted Sept. 4 on a charge of shooting Cecil P. Sanchez at Rester's Place June 28, 1979, entered a plea of guilty to a charge of misdemeanor assault, reduced from aggravated assault, and he was given one year probation and a \$400 fine and court costs. Cecile Peterson also entered a plea of guilty to a charge of assault, reduced from aggravated assault, for threatening Connie Lange with a handgun Dec. 3, 1978, and Peterson was given a one year probation and fined \$400 and court costs.

City Cancels Plans For HUD Grant

(By Jeff Frnka)

An application for a Community Development Grant for improvements to drainage and housing in the Rice Mill area as proposed by the Eagle Lake City Council earlier this month, will not be made since the city is not eligible under regulations set up by the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

O'Malley and Clay, Inc. of Brenham, the engineering firm hired by the city to set up the pre-application for the project, informed the city council at its regular session held last Tuesday, Oct. 23 of the regulation and recommended that further action not be taken.

The city had filed a pre-application for a 1979 HUD grant on last page.

St. Mary's PTC Fall Festival This Sunday

The Parent-Teacher Club at St. Mary's School in Nada will hold its annual Fall Festival this Sunday, Nov. 4th at St. Mary's Parish Hall. A hamburger and chili supper will begin at 5:00 p.m. and entertainment will continue throughout the evening with fun for all ages.

There will be snocones for sale, a surprise package and toy walk, sale of confetti eggs, cakes, cold drinks and all kinds of delicious pastry. Members of the PTC invite one and all to attend.

First National Deposits Climb

Deposits at the First National Bank continue to climb as indicated by the report at the close of business on Sept. 30th.

The bank lists a total of deposits of \$29,126,569.51 for the current period as compared to deposits of \$26,982,335.88 at this time last year.

Total resources and liabilities for the period ending Sept. 30, 1979 are \$34,241,014.29 as compared to resources of \$32,032,577.91 and liabilities of 32,038,160.79 a year ago.

Rice Dist. To Open Bids On Work Nov. 20

The board of education of the Rice Consolidated School District has set 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 20th as the date for the opening of bids for construction of an addition and renovations at the Eagle Lake Middle School.

A change in site has delayed the bid opening several times, but plans are now available to prospective bidders. The bids will be opened in the administration building at Rice High School.

Interested bidders may obtain plans from the architectural firm of S. L. Morris Associates in Houston.

The voters in the Rice District approved a \$825,000 bond issue last February for the work proposed at the Eagle Lake Middle School.

Two Inches Of Rain
Over two inches of rain fell in the Eagle Lake area with the arrival of a cold front Tuesday afternoon. The Lakeside Irrigation Co.'s lake plant measured 2.02, and the rice experiment station 2.02.

Work Progressing On Jail, Courthouse Renovations

Halloween Queen



Miss Cathy Lanyon, member of the Sheridan School eighth grade, right, was crowned Queen of the Sheridan PTS Halloween Carnival last Saturday evening in the Sheridan gymnasium. At the left is Miss Lisa Owens, sponsored by the sixth grade, named Princess of the coronation; and in the center is Kim Wunderlich, the 1978 Queen who was present to crown the new Queen and Princess.

Firemen To Hold Stew Supper Mon.

The Eagle Lake Volunteer Firemen will stage their annual benefit Beef Stew Supper next Monday, Nov. 5th at the Eagle Lake Fire Station and one and all are invited to attend.

Tickets are being sold by the firemen for a \$2.00 per person donation or they will be available at the fire station Monday evening.

The beef stew will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. in the fire station or there will be servings to go in a curb service line on the east side of the station. Containers will be furnished or you can bring your own containers for stew to go if you so desire.

Members of the Firemen's Auxiliary will be selling drinks and sweets.

Proceeds from the event will be used to purchase equipment for the department to better protect your homes and property. Your support will be appreciated by the firemen and the auxiliary members.

During the evening, the firemen will have on display fire trucks and equipment and will be happy to show these to you, especially the new fire truck which was recently added to the department.

HALLOWEEN CURFEW

Parents of children who will be trick or treating on Halloween Wednesday, Oct. 31st are reminded that the children must be off the streets by 8:00 p.m.

Latest Inspection Lists Only 13 Deficiencies at Jail

Colorado County Commissioners' Court, in special session Monday in Columbus, heard reports on courthouse renovations which are well underway by the contractor Circle Double "C" Enterprises firm and on improvements to the county jail to bring it into compliance with the Texas Jail Standards.

County Judge Lester J. Cranek reported sub-contractor Houston Roofing has started water-blasting the outside of the courthouse building. He noted that sandblasting will be used only on metal stairways, etc. in order to preserve the exterior stone of the 75-year-old courthouse.

Work is also underway on the roof and in the basement of the courthouse and Judge Cranek commented that the work will continue toward the first floor of the courthouse where most offices are located which will be the final floor to be restored.

Elmo Clark is project director for the contractor and he has advised Judge Cranek that work is expected to be completed well within a ten month period.

County workmen were busy this week moving tax office and county court records which have been piling up in rooms in the basement of the building so that workmen can get to work in these areas. The records are being stored in the DPS annex across from the courthouse and in a double garage next to the county jail. Judge Cranek was authorized to rent additional space (probably a mini-storage area) if more space is needed. Equipment which will be removed (and some returned and some replaced) will be stored either on the corner next to the jail or on the courthouse lawn. Items not returned to the building will be sold at the completion of the restoration project, it was indicated.

Commissioners Otto Loessin, Rafael Veselka and Crockett Leyendecker are providing assistance in clearing the records from the courthouse basement.

Jail Deficiencies Are Down

Three years ago the county was cited for 88 deficiencies in meeting the Jail Standards Code; in an inspection two years ago, corrections by the county had reduced the number of deficiencies to 46; and Judge Cranek reported Monday that after an inspection Oct. 11th, only 13 deficiencies remain to be corrected in order for the county jail to become officially certified.

Maurice Wood, of the Jail Standards Commission, conducted the latest inspection. He agreed that the county can probably get variances on two of the 13 deficiencies, and three others are now ready to be approved, leaving only eight deficiencies that need to be corrected.

The county will apply for variances in the area requiring that 30% of the jail's cells are single cells (the county has only 15% single cells) and on the requirement of a single lever cell unlocking device on each floor. Judge Cranek said that these two items have been found impractical in most areas of the state and approval of the variances has been indicated.

The county has a single lever unlocking unit on the third floor but not on the second. At the time the jail was built in 1941, federal standards required single unlocking devices on only one floor.

Judge Cranek added that three of the deficiencies were minor ones and were current.

(Continued on last page)

Rice High School's 1979 Homecoming Queen



Miss Gwen Black, Rice High School senior, second from left, was crowned 1979 Homecoming Queen at Rice High School at last Friday night's football game with Magnolia. She was escorted by the RHS student body to the home from among the students from the senior class. Taking part in

the coronation were, left to right, Miss Judy Bunge, representing the RHS Student Council in presenting a bouquet of red roses to the new queen; Miss Black; her escort, Craig Wicks; and Philip Lenzell, who represented the Student Council in crowning the Homecoming Queen.