

With 'Cowboy' Statuette

Young Artist Impresses

By STEVE SUCHER
(Dec. 6th issue of El Campo Leader-News)

A 18-inch piece of clay, shaped and molded by the hands of a 17-year-old Eagle Lake high school student, caused a lot of excitement at the El Campo Museum in recent weeks.

Those who saw the sculpture found it impressive. Dubbed "The Cowboy" by its creator, Mike Walker, a Rice Consolidated senior, the solemn figure displayed a no-nonsense attitude that one associates with today's working cowboy. With crossed arms, "The Cowboy" peers out from under a distinctively shaped hat with a cool, unwavering stare. He commands one's attention, and one's respect.

So does Walker. A trombone player in the Rice Consolidated band and regular church goer, Walker took up art as a junior and has made steady progress in his short tenure as an artist.

His first school project, a horse rearing to avoid a coiled rat-



Mike Walker of Eagle Lake and "The Cowboy" El Campo Leader-News Photo

tiensake, took second place at the 1979 Houston Livestock Show even though a critical Walker said the horse looked like a cow.

Another school project, a scratch art crab filled in with watercolor, caught the eye of the judges at the 23rd annual El Campo Art League show here in May and brought Walker a \$100 prize for the best youth project.

That \$100 proved to be the seed money for "The Cowboy," and the results for art league members and Walker as well, were heartening.

His work, which will compete at the 1980 Livestock Show, is a prime example of what a little encouragement can do for a young artist, a phenomenon that apparently is lacking in the El Campo area.

Walker, who took two months to complete "The Cowboy," got plenty of help along the way. Danny Stephens, local sculptor who specializes in the cowboy of the 1800's, gave Walker some pointers that got him well on his way. His art teacher, Sandra Bengt, also helped him with his proportions.

Walker admits that the work is by no means ready for contest, but

the form is complete and all that remains is a little touching up and last minute detail work.

The experience has been a rewarding one for Walker. A sense of accomplishment, plus the added knowledge that he is good and could fashion a career out of art work, is now a part of him that can never be taken away.

"It's changed my outlook on life. I can do something that people can look at and compliment me on. It makes me feel good that people look at my work and don't laugh," Walker said.

While not a big rodeo fan, Walker likes horses and cowboys, of which he has seen a lot during his 15 years in Eagle Lake.

"The cowboy I know is a busy man with nothing new on just what he needs. I'm not too much on the drug store cowboy," Walker said.

"I thought about doing a hippie. I like doing people more than animals because it's hard to make an animal sit still," he added.

Walker's development is equally rewarding to Vitera and the art league membership. They feel that encouraging youthful artists is important, and Walker currently stands as a symbol of this belief.

Santa's A Beloved Symbol of Season

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The jovial, genial figure of Santa Claus has had many names, and many origins throughout history. For over 1,700 years a Santa-figure has been said to visit in most regions of the globe and certainly no Christmas would be complete without the tradition of this cheery gift-giver.

The American Santa has

his origin in the person of Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in Lycia, Asia Minor. Nicholas lived in the early part of the Fourth century and was known for his good deeds and gifts for the needy. After his death, he became the symbol of goodness in Christian history. Numerous trades and professions took the kindly bishop as their patron and soon his role expanded to that of gift-giver. When Dutch settlers brought the legend of Saint Nicholas to America, the name "San Nicolaas" then became Santa Claus.

Two centuries later, Clement Moore's poem, "A Visit From Saint Nicholas," made Santa's popularity soar, and changed his appearance. Originally thought to resemble the gaunt Saint Nicholas, Moore's work describes Santa as the small and

stocky character we know today — a bearded man



In Bethlehem is born unto all a Saviour.

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Miss Holly Rolf To Wed Jerome Joseph Kubas Feb. 9



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Rolf of Eagle Lake proudly announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Holly Jean, to Jerome Joseph Kubas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kubas, Jr. of East Bernard.

Miss Rolf is a 1973 graduate of Rice High School and has for the past five years been employed at Elkins Lake Country Club in Huntsville, Texas. Mr. Kubas is a 1972 graduate of East Bernard High School, attended Wharton County Junior College and San Houston State University in Huntsville and is now employed with the Southern Pacific Railroad.

The wedding has been calendared for February 9, 1980 in the First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake.

with sleigh and reindeer, on the wings of the rapid North Wind. In these cold-er, sparser areas, reindeer are the sole means of transportation. Hence, Santa's association with sleigh and his eight antlered friends.

What about the reindeer? It is thought that Saint Nicholas traveled through the cold, northern region

123 To Die

(Continued from page one)
year ago. Last year there were 3,980 persons killed statewide in motor vehicle crashes.

At the end of preliminary holiday counts last year, 57 deaths were reported during the Christmas period and 39 during the New Year holidays.

Spier said all available DPS troopers would be on duty. State Troopers and local officers will be working

together to keep traffic moving safely. "I have asked our officers to place special emphasis on removing drunks and reckless drivers from the streets and highways," he added.

"We will continue to work with the news media to keep motorists posted on unusual traffic conditions and to advise them where and why serious holiday wrecks are occurring," Spier said.

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Lower Net Income In '80 Bolton Raises "King Size" Turnips

Texas farmers and ranchers face prospects of lower net incomes in 1980 than during the current year, an agricultural economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service says.

Dr. Carl G. Anderson, marketing economist, says it simply boils down to costs increasing faster than farm prices.

He notes that cow-calf operators generally will fair a

little better in 1980 than most other agricultural producers. Fewer calves and strong demand are expected to help hold prices near the level averaged in 1979. An exception would be those ranchers of South and Southwest Texas who are hard-hit by the current summer and fall drought and are dispersing their entire herds.

Higher feed costs and the likelihood of a sluggish fed cattle market may mean that cattle feeders may find profit margins slim over the next 12 months, Anderson points out.

"Large supplies of competing meats, particularly pork and poultry, will likely dampen any big rise in price of fed beef. The expected economic recession will increase unemployment and add to the cooling off of demand for beef," he predicts.

As a result of abundant supplies, hog, broiler and turkey prices are expected to remain low until late in 1980, when a possible reduction of output could bolster markets.

Lamb prices may run slightly less than in 1979 as total meat supplies are

expected to be sizable, particularly in the first half of 1980. A small increase in U.S. lamb and mutton production is likely in 1980, with the inventory of sheep and lambs expected to be up from a year earlier.

Crop farmers of the state can expect 1980 price levels to remain near those of 1979. Little price change is foreseen in average prices for cotton and grains, but soybean prices may weaken slightly as increasing world consumption failed to match this year's increase in production, says Anderson.

The economist says vegetable supplies are up, causing market prices to weaken. And the plentiful supply of fruit and tree nuts points to moderately lower prices for producers until the 1980 crop size can be determined.

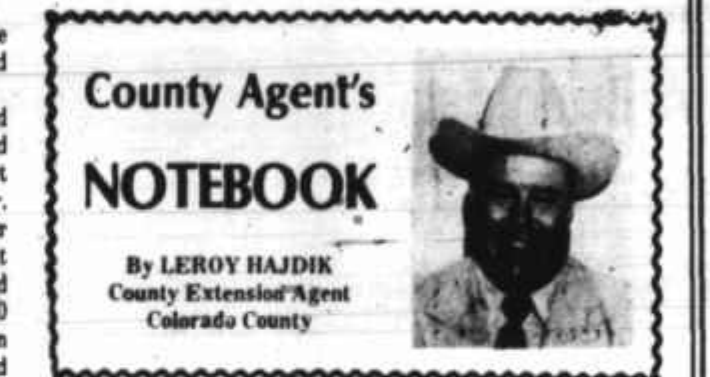
Anderson says production expenses for U.S. farmers moved up about 16 percent in 1979 and will probably increase another 11 percent or more in 1980.

"For irrigated farming in Texas, the increase will be much higher because of rising fuel and energy costs," he points out.

No let-up is foreseen in the rising price of energy and climbing inflation rates.

"Early this fall, prices paid by farmers for fuels and energy were a 44 percent higher than a year earlier. Prices for tractors and other machinery rose 11 percent higher, and for building and fencing, prices were up 10 percent. Interest rates on farm mortgages had jumped 25 percent during this period," Anderson notes.

Some "tender loving care" has really paid off in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. (Woody) Bolton at 616 North McCarty, with some giant-sized vegetables being harvested for their table and for the tables of many of the friends in the area. Shown above is Mr. Bolton with one of a number of four-to-five pound turnips. Although vegetables of that size usually become less tasty, the Headlight staff found this to be "not true" with Woody's turnip which we enjoyed during the past weekend. Other vegetables including mustard greens, beans, snap beans and others have produced abundantly for the Boltons.



County Agent's NOTEBOOK
By LEROY HAJDIK
County Extension Agent
Colorado County

Cattle May Need Protein Despite Good Grass

Despite an ample stand of grass in pastures throughout the county, the seasonal decline in forage quality is beginning to set in. This means that cattlemen should start thinking about providing some protein supplementation.

All warm-season grasses lose protein rapidly with the onset of cool nights and the season's first frost. Digestibility of these grasses also drops. As these changes occur, the amount of nutrition that grazing animals get also declines. In high rainfall areas (30 inches or more annually) such as Colorado County, summer grasses deteriorate to the point that they are little more than filler material.

Cattle grazing such grasses in fall and early winter begin to lose weight and their body condition declines. That's why feeding of protein supplements is so important, particularly regarding rebreeding.

The time required for rebreeding is directly related to the nutritional level and body condition of cows at calving. If cows must use stored body fats due to delayed winter feeding, they will likely take longer to rebreed.

Once grass growth stops, animals are subjected to a protein deficient diet unless

supplementation takes place. However, the energy content of grasses does not vary drastically, so energy will not become a limiting factor until cold weather increases the body heat requirements of livestock.

A protein block or liquid protein supplement would provide adequate protein during the fall months before cold weather hits. Once grasses deteriorate due to cold weather, heavier protein supplementation will be needed.

Schoellmann, Leopold Are U. of H. Graduates

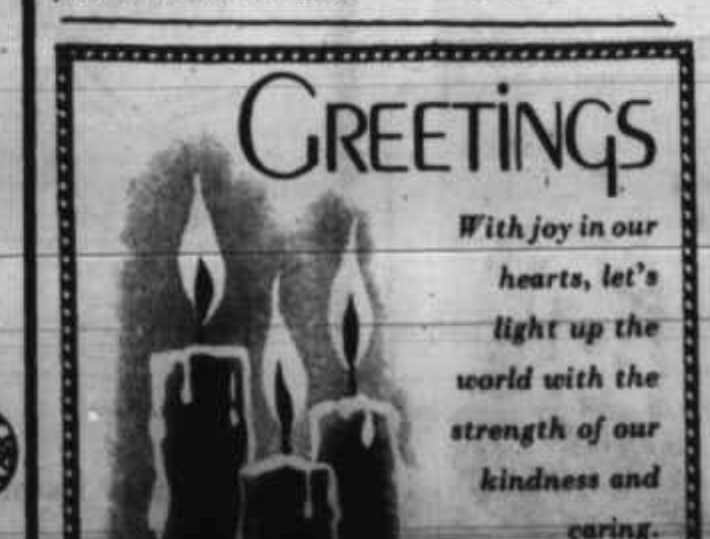
A total of 44 students are candidates for graduation from the fall semester at the University of Houston-Victoria Campus, according to Claude F. Gilson, director of admissions and records.

Candidates for bachelor's degrees from area cities included: Jean Schoellmann Leopold of Eagle Lake and Beatrice Leopold Schoellmann of Nade.

The candidates will participate in commencement exercises in the spring.

The key to getting along well in wintering, in, says Dorothy Taylor, a family life education specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System.

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Season's Greetings



Here's hoping Santa brings you lots of happiness this Christmas. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Jo Ann's
Kenneth, Jo Ann and Employees
112 Commerce - Eagle Lake

1980 Crop Loan Program Is Told

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has announced a 1980 loan rate of 48 cents per pound for upland cotton, the statutory minimum provided by law. This is 2.23 cents below the 1979 level.

Bergland also announced a 1980 seed cotton program similar to that available in 1979, with recourse loans available to borrowers.

The 1980 upland cotton loan rate applies to Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch upland cotton (micronaire 3.5 through 4.9) net weight, at average location in the U.S.

Based on the spot market calculation, the loan rate would have been 47.45 cents per pound, but law requires the rate be at least 48 cents per pound.

A schedule of premiums and discounts for other qualities and the base loan rate for SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton at each warehouse location will be issued later.

Under the recourse loan available in the seed cotton program borrowers must repay the full dollar amount of the loan. This is different from the department's regular nonrecourse loan which permits producers to satisfy loans by forfeiting the crop under loan to the Commodity Credit Corporation.

This program, initiated in 1971 to help producers reduce harvesting, marketing and processing costs, will be offered where Agricultural

Stabilization and Conservation state committee determine facilities and conditions make it feasible.

As in the 1979 program, upland cotton loans will be for 10 months beginning on the first day of the month the loan is made. In the 90th month, loans may be extended for an additional eight months at the producer's request, providing the average price of the basic cotton grade in the designated spot market for the preceding month does not exceed 130 percent of the average spot price for the preceding 36 months.

Program provisions will be similar to those of the 1979 program.



With joy in our hearts, let's light up the world with the strength of our kindness and caring.

Colorado County FARM BUREAU
Columbus, Texas

Make Spring Sets Safe
To make spring sets safer on the playground, select those with lightweight seats, or replace heavy seats with lightweight ones, recommends Claudia Kerbel, a consumer information specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System. Hard, heavy swing seats can cause still fractures, she cautions.

For unto you is born this day a Saviour. Let us rejoice!