

Heavy Damage As Gravel Truck Hits Bldg. On East Main Mon.



Chief of Police Jimmy Smith examines damage to building on East Main Street hit by large gravel truck Monday morning.

Considerable damage was done to a 1974 White truck and trailer and to a building owned by Anderson Manufacturing Co. when the truck slammed into the front of the building on East Main Street (Highway 90A) at 9:21 a.m. Monday, Eagle Lake Chief of Police Jimmy Smith investigated. He reported that the driver of the truck, Francisco Penocchio of Houston, said that he went to sleep and lost control of the truck as he was driving east on Main Street. The truck veered to the right and clipped off a telephone pole and a 30 mile-per-hour marker sign and ripped into the front of the building which is under lease to a truck repair company. Chief Smith estimated damage to the truck at around \$3000 and to the front of the building, to the telephone pole and signs at around \$4,000. The driver of the truck escaped injury but received a citation for failure to control speed.

J & D Furniture
1st Anniv. Sale
Begins Thurs.

**YCC Open House At
Refuge Thurs., July 31**

Don Hausler, owner of the J&D Furniture Co. of Eagle Lake, announces the opening of a big first anniversary sale this Thursday, July 24th and continuing through Thurs., July 31st.

During the sale there will be outstanding bargains and special sale prices which will be featured on the window of the business on the corner of Main and McCarty.

You may register, without obligation for three prizes—\$100, \$50 and \$25 gift certificates—which will be given away August 1st.

For a sample of the big savings see the advertisement on page 12 of this issue.

Doctor of Year
John Perry Is
Lions Guest Thurs.

Dr. John Perry of Houston, recently named "Doctor of the Year" in Texas for his work with handicapped and injured by Governor Bill Clements, will be the guest speaker at the noon meeting of the Eagle Lake Lions Club this Thursday at Lions Hall.

Two Die
(Continued from Page One)
pit. Damage to the vehicles was very heavy.

3 Cars In Accident Mon.
Three vehicles were involved in the accident at 12:10 a.m. Monday when a 71 year old Weimar woman was killed. Highway Patrolman Gary Eden of Columbus investigated.

His report showed that a 1969 Chevrolet station wagon was being driven east on Highway 90 a mile east of Weimar and was in collision almost head-on with a 1969 Chevrolet pickup driven west by Mrs. P. M. (Mae) Sanders of Weimar. The officer was unable to determine cause of the accident or who was at fault since the collision occurred near the center of the road and almost immediately.

Modern towboats, with diesel engines up to 9,000 horsepower, can push a fleet of barges longer than an ocean liner.

They suffered damages in the amount of \$500,000 plus funeral expenses, attorney's fees, costs of court, cost of estate taxes and others. They also ask for another \$500,000 in exemplary damages; also that funds be provided for the support and education of the two minor children; and additional damages for loss of moral training and loss of love and affection from their mother.

Investigation of the accident continues by Trooper Eden.

Mexican Dinners
At Andrew
Hall Saturday

Mexican food will be sold at Andrew Hall by ladies of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church Saturday, July 26 from 11:00 a.m. until all is sold. You may dine at the hall or take plates out.

Everyone is invited, say the ladies.

daughter Farah arrived here Sunday night from Bad Kreuznach, Germany to visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. McCarty and his mother, Mrs. Ervin Terrell, and other relatives and friends. They plan to be here through August 9.

LA. Colonel Dick Terrell is an adjutant general in the 8th Infantry Division stationed at Bad Kreuznach.

Mrs. Terrell says Bad Kreuznach is a lovely place, only forty-five minutes from Frankfurt. She invites any one traveling there to give them a call, they would be happy to show the visitors around.

Undergoes Back Surgery
Friends will be glad to hear Johnny Meitzen was expected to be released Wednesday from the Methodist Hospital in Houston and join in wishing him a speedy recovery.

VA Hospital
Friends will be glad to hear Johnny Meitzen was expected to be released Wednesday from the Methodist Hospital in Houston and join in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Friends with these two young men a continued speedy recovery.

The Winterman "crew"
Honored employee Susan Causey on the occasion of her birthday anniversary on Friday of last week with cake and drinks.

The Headlight has received some more copies of the "History of Rock Island" compiled by Mrs. M. I. (Ethel) Niewander and they may be obtained at the Headlight office for only \$6.00 per book. The books contain not only interesting reading matter but some pictures of interest to all present and former residents of Rock Island. Proceeds from the sale of the books go to the Myrtle Cemetery Association. Come by and pick up your copy today.

Also the Headlight has copies of the Pink Ladies Cook Books, volumes one and two, and these only \$4.00 each and will make wonderful gifts for any occasion. The Pink Ladies are compiling a new book and want your recipes. If you have some to include in the next edition contact Mrs. Frank Higgins as soon as possible.

This week's showers were hardly enough to get the pavement wet, but every little bit of moisture is appreciated as the long hot drought continues over this part of the United States. One thing for sure, the City of Eagle Lake made the right move at the right time in installing a new water well and new storage and pumping facilities. Without them the older system would have been beyond its capabilities and this community would have had to resort to water rationing which has been the case in numerous cities in the area. But fortunately, there has been no water shortage here despite the fact that record gallons are being pumped daily by the city's water system.

Mr. Glenda Eberhart and daughter Vickie accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Altman and family of Brenham toured the East Coast. They flew from Houston to Cincinnati, Ohio, from there they traveled to Washington D.C. They enjoyed a train ride on the Metro from Washington D.C. to New York City. While in New York they attended a baseball game at the Yankee Stadium. The highlight of this trip was when Vickie Eberhart caught two baseballs hit by the Yankees. After sightseeing for several days they flew back to Houston.

Mrs. Walter (Snooky) Franks called from Oklahoma this week to report a change of address from Oklahoma City to Tulsa, Oklahoma. The family has moved to Tulsa where Mr. Franks has received an outstanding promotion by Getty Oil Company. Walter and Nellie (DeShane) are both former residents here.

Home From Germany
Mrs. Dick Terrell and

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Eagle Lake Headlight

VOLUME 77

P.O. BOX 67

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1980

AC 713 234-2783

NUMBER 16

Gas Advisory Comm. To Meet Thurs. Nite

A forty-member Citizens Advisory Committee appointed to the City Council of the City of Eagle Lake on whether to sell the city's gas distribution system or to issue bonds of over \$1 million for repair of the system, will have a meeting this Thursday, July 31st at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

The advisory committee, headed by former Mayor and current president of the Eagle Lake Distribution Co., Harold Thomas, was named by Mayor Elmer Struss following a mandate by the Texas Railroad Commission that the City of Eagle Lake has six months in which to get its gas system in compliance with federal and state standards. If the mandate is not met within six months, the agencies have issued notice that there would be a forced shutdown of the entire system.

In letters sent to the committee members, Mayor Struss commented: "Eagle Lake is faced with a major decision on its gas operation. The gas system has become an urgent safety matter. Along with this, the financial loss must be stopped. Increased government regulations will make operations more difficult."

"You are being asked to serve on a citizen committee to study the City's gas problems and to advise the Council of your opinions. There are some alternatives to this situation. This is your opportunity to serve your city in a very real way. The Council needs your help."

Previous officers were re-elected by the board as follows: president, Tommy Pilkington; vice-president, L. J. Spaniel; secretary, Mrs. Raymond Waddell; and treasurer, Mrs. Paul Causey. Members-at-large are: David Winterman, secretary; Mrs. Joe Reed, Jr. (one year remaining); and Wm. H. Harrison was elected for a three-year term.

Discussion was held on rental fees and the responsibilities of the renters of the Center's facilities.

Flooring Completed
A beautiful new maple floor in the main hall and a vinyl tile in the kitchen and serving area has just been completed. The First National Bank contributed \$5,000 toward financing this project. It was announced Monday.

The Eagle Lake Lions Club will be in charge of decorating the Center for the Christmas holiday season. A revised list of items for use of the Center will be announced soon.

Present for the meeting, besides the above-mentioned members, were Gen. Joe N. Frazer, Joe L. McGreary, Mrs. Ralph Johnson, Mrs. J. C. Langford, Mrs. Esther Sunderman and Bill Harrison, Jr.

Music will be provided from 8 p.m. to 12 midnight by the Country Playboys. Admission will be \$5.00 per person donation to the FIRE Fund.

The ladies invite you to attend and show your support for the work done by the volunteer firemen and to aid firemen who were injured in a recent fire explosion here and their families.

EMS Symposium

At Sheridan
All-Day Sunday

A Colorado County EMS Symposium will be held this Sunday, August 3rd from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Sheridan Community Center and all interested persons are invited and urged to attend.

There will be a registration fee of \$2.00. Free coffee and tea and doughnuts will be served and cold drinks will be available. Those attending are asked to bring a brown bag lunch.

Featured speakers at the symposium will be the three local doctors, County Judge Lester Craney, Gene Weath-erall, TAYM President, and Kimberly Ward, "Paramedic."

All members and friends of the church are cordially invited to share in this fellowship.

The Rev. Barren assumed pastoral duties at the local Presbyterian Church on June 29th.

Council OK's First Payment For Care Of Injured Firemen

(By Jeff Franks)

The first of what will be a large number of unbudgeted and costly hospital bills was approved for payment by the Eagle Lake city council, at its regular session held last Tuesday, July 22.

The bills to be paid by the city are for medical costs sustained by local firemen who were injured in a fire explosion here on June 28th. Because of an "oversight" that left volunteer firemen without insurance coverage, the city has obligated itself to help pay the tremendous costs that continue to build as two seriously injured firemen are still recuperating in San Antonio's Brooks Army General Hospital.

The first bill approved for payment amounted to \$2,490.00 and covered the last three days of June for only one of the firemen, Tim Lueddecke, who remains in the San Antonio hospital, along with Lane Voelcker. Other bills are expected within the next week.

To cover the expenses, the council approved transfer in the budget of \$13,150 from Capital Outlay. That money was originally earmarked for the fire, sanitation and the parks and recreation departments (\$1,100 was to be used for buying a mower at the City Hall Park). Another \$6,000 earmarked for purchase of a new police car may also have to be transferred later.

Approves Rehab. Payments
In other action the council approved payment of \$14,710 for rehabilitation work done on two houses in the Westmoreland (Flat) Addition. The program is being funded by a Community Block Grant. According to city manager Bob Klockman, enough funds remained from the grant, as of last week, to allow work on possibly two more houses. No more work will be done once these funds have been depleted.

Commr. Court Sets County Tax Rate At 70c

Colorado County Commissioners' Court Monday unanimously approved an order setting the tax rate for 1980 taxes at 70c, up 6c from the ad valorem tax rate which was in effect for the 1979 tax year.

Colorado County Tax Assessor and Collector Henry J. Hayvsky certified to the court that a tax rate of .70253 would be required to raise the same amount of revenue as for the 1979 year. This certification is required annually under House Bill 16, the "Truth in Taxation" legislation. He certified that a tax rate of .70253 would be required for debt service and .5840 for the general operating fund.

Same Additional AV Rate
The court also approved the 90c per \$100 valuation additional ad valorem tax rate (excepting the \$3,000 exemption for homesteads) which was earmarked by the voters of this county for road and bridge construction and maintenance. Thus the total tax rate for the county taxpayer will amount to \$1.60 per \$100 valuation.

County Judge Lester J. Cranek said that the county can increase the calculated rate by 3% without the necessity of holding hearings on the proposed tax rate. Rounding off the figures to the next highest number, it adds up to the 70c per \$100 ad valorem tax rate approved by the court.

In the motion to approve the tax rate it was stipulated that the 70c maintenance tax rate, 90c will be transferred to the interest and sinking fund to take care of certificates of obligation issued to finance the courthouse restoration program. Several years ago the commissioners approved a 10c per \$100 tax rate increase to finance the courthouse restoration and jailhouse improvement programs. At that time it was anticipated that the additional 10c would be in effect until such time as the funds for the projects were paid off.

Judge Cranek acknowledged.

YCC Open House At Refuge This Thurs.

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) will hold open house at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge beginning at 9 a.m. this Thursday and the public is invited to attend and to visit the refuge and see the YCC projects carried out during the program this summer.

Sixteen teenagers participated in the program under the supervision of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Robert Saunders of La Grange, Democratic nominee for the position of State Representative in the 30th District, which includes Colorado County, will be the guest speaker.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. The YCC staff and enrollees will be introduced at 9:30 a.m. followed by a talk by Mr. Saunders.

At 10:30 there will be a tour of the refuge and the YCC projects, and then refreshments will be served to all in attendance.

The Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge is located on FM 3013 between Eagle Lake and Seely. Watch for the refuge marker on FM 3013 about five miles east of Eagle Lake.

1928 Eagle Lake High School Orchestra

Eagle Lake High School was proud of its talented and well-dressed orchestra back in 1928. Shown in the photo are the band members who played at the band concert given by the band.

Charles Edwin Johnson, Edgar Addison, Louis Nathan, George Allen, Ruth Carley, Anne Margaret Martin (soprano), William W. Tinsley, Coby Flato by Wade W. Tinsley of Houston.

Tommy Hamilton, Ralph McCord, Bruce Hamilton, Edna Hamilton, William W. Tinsley, Coby Flato by Wade W. Tinsley of Houston.

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A-G's Opinion Asked By County In Appraisal District Action

Preliminary Indications Are County May Have to Pay Part Of Costs

An opinion from Attorney General "Mark" White is expected to be forthcoming in the immediate future on the position of Colorado County following its withdrawal (in the July 14th session) from the Countywide Tax Appraisal District, in particular on the legality of the move and whether the county will or will not be obligated to pay a share of the costs.

Officers from the county, Eagle Lake and Weimar, set up roadblocks in an attempt to locate the vehicle but the subject, nor the vehicle was located.

However at 6:30 p.m. Scott and his employer, Ralph Gertson, Jr., reported to local officers at Scott's Snack Shack that Scott had been abducted and forced to drive a black male to the intersection of FM 102 and IH-10 at Alletton.

The investigation was renewed and it was learned that the black man had approached Scott and others working for Gertson at a rice field off Beckendorf Road. He asked for a ride and Gertson agreed to let Scott take the man to the highway in his pickup truck. En route the colored male produced a gun and told Scott to drive him to the intersection.

(Continued on page 12)

Hearing On School Tax Rate Monday

Hearing Required Since Anticipated Tax Increase Up Over 3%

All interested citizens in the Rice Consolidated Independent School District are invited to attend a public hearing to be held at 8:00 p.m. Monday, August 4th in the Administration Building in Altair on the proposal for setting the 1980 tax rate for this district at the same level as for 1979, \$1.75 per \$100 valuation.

The board of trustees does however plan to increase the Local Maintenance Tax from \$1.48 to \$1.50 while reducing the Interest and Sinking Fund allocation from 27c to 25c per \$100 valuation.

Under Texas House Bill 18, known as the Truth in Taxation legislation, a taxing entity which expects an increase in tax revenue in excess of 3% over the previous taxing year, must call a public hearing on the proposed increase in tax revenue.

After the public hearing Monday, the board will call another public hearing on Monday, August 18th at which time the 1980 tax rate will be officially set.

The discussion of the tax rate will be the only item on the agenda for the meeting Monday night.

Taxpayers will be given ample opportunity to express their opinions and to discuss the tax rate issue with the members of the board of education of the Rice District.

First Rice Sale Held Here This Wed.

The Eagle Lake office of the American Rice Growers Cooperative Association will hold its first public sale of the 1980 season on Wednesday of this week (July 30). Twenty lots of rice will be up for bids.

Quality of the rice and the yield continue to run well below normal.

A sale was held Tuesday morning in Ganado and the top bid was \$11.33 offered by Elco Mill. However most mills bid well below that, from \$10.75 or below. Quality of the rice in that area also is showing the effect of the cold spring season and the hot, dry summer.

The Garwood Rice Sales Co. may have its first sale on Tuesday of next week. "We're having to play it by ear, day by day," said James Hopkins, manager of the Garwood Rice Sales Co.

Quality and yields in the Garwood-Nada area also are down well below normal, he added. "There's no way on the horizon we can see any of these kind of prices, or even kind of production."

The commissioners' court indicated that it wants another opinion and asked the county attorney to get an opinion from the Attorney General's office. Results of this inquiry will be aired at the August 11th session of the commissioners' court.

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