

YCC Members Win Merit Certificates



The Youth Conservation Corps of the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge held its annual Open House last Thursday morning, bringing a close to its eight week summer program. Four corpsmen were honored with Certificates of Merit during the ceremony which featured

guest speaker Robert Saunders of La Grange.

Pictured above are: (standing l. to r.) Saunders, Jeff Pencil, Chuck Kohler, and Camp Director Rudy Kleck; (kneeling l. to r.) Charlene McGrew and Tracy Haveman. See story on page 5.

Little Interest
In Rice Tax
Rate Hearing

Little interest was shown Monday night in the public hearing held by the Rice Consolidated School District's board of education on the intent of the board to increase 1980 taxes by five percent. Only one person appeared to speak at the special session of the board in the administration building in Altair and his discussion was on a matter not pertaining to the proposed increase in tax income for the 1980-81 budget year.

J. G. Jenkins, of San Antonio and a resident of the Rock Island community for fifty years where he was interested in oil and gas leasing, appeared before the board to ask assistance in establishing his royalty rights on a well drilled by Prairie Producing on the Hollis Massey land some eleven or twelve years ago. Mr. Jenkins contended that he is paying a small tax (slightly over \$1.50) on royalty which he allegedly owns in the Massey well; however he contends that he has not received income from the well, even though it is producing, since the first several months after the well was drilled. He asked the board to provide information compiled by tax valuation engineers Latham and Stults, to help him establish claim to income from the well.

Accompanying Mr. Jenkins was attorney Oliver B. Chamberlin of San Antonio. However, Mr. Chamberlin did not make any comments during the session. The only other person to appear for the public hearing was editor Fred R. Frnka of the Headlight.

Only four board members attended the hearing, including president Jane Clippson and Bill Appelt, Lavo Brisco and Anthony Kallina. Also present were Supt. Harold King and secretary Mrs. Mary Faichtinger.

Supt. King reviewed the reason that the hearing was necessary under House Bill

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FIRE Fund
Passes \$25,000;
Voelcker Released

Contributions to the FIRE (Firemen's Injury, Relief and Endowment) Fund continue to come in and officials of the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department report the fund is now over the \$25,000 mark. The fund was established following a serious fire explosion here on July 28th in which four local firemen received severe burns while in the line of volunteer duty.

The most seriously burned fireman, Tim Lueddecke, remains in Brooke General Hospital at Fort Sam Houston but is reported to be recovering from serious burns over 40% of his body. He enjoys hearing from his friends here. His address is Tim Lueddecke, Brooke Army Medical Center, Ward 13B, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234.

Lane Voelcker, who received burns over 25% of his body, has recuperated sufficiently to be released from the hospital. Friends were happy to greet him in the downtown area on Friday of last week.

The fund will be administered by officers of the Eagle Lake Fire Department.

Fire Department and city officials and relatives of the injured firemen extend sincere thanks to all who have given to the fund or who have extended kindnesses in so many ways.

If you have not given to this worthy cause and would like to do so, you may leave your contribution at the First National Bank or offices of the Eagle Lake or with a local fireman.

County law officers will meet Eagle Lake firemen in FIRE Fund benefit softball games at the Little League Field at 7 p.m. Wed., Aug. 13.

Citizens Comm. Indicates
Desire To Sell Gas System

New Deputy Sheriff



SHARON P. HOLLAN

Sheriff's Dept. Adds First-Ever
Full-Time Female Deputy

Colorado County Sheriff George (Doc) Mueller announces a first-ever for the County Sheriff's Department in the appointment of the first full-time female deputy. She is Sharon P. Hollan, wife of Deputy Sheriff Kenneth Hollan and the former Sharon Potter of Sheridan. Sharon is 32 years of age. She started duties with the county sheriff's department last Friday, August 1st and her duties will consist of all aspects of law enforcement, according to Sheriff Mueller.

She will be attending training in the law enforcement field within the next six months.

The sheriff said that he is happy to have a female officer on his staff, adding that she will be of great value to the department and to the community when females and juveniles are involved in investigations made by the department.

Deputy Hollan fills a vacancy on the staff of the sheriff's department created by the resignation on July 5th of Deputy Jerry O'Connor. O'Connor resigned to accept a position with the Wharton County sheriff's department.

To Meet With Entex
Officials Before Final
Decision This Thurs.

Thirty-six of forty-four persons named by Mayor Elmer Struss to a Citizens Advisory Committee to make a recommendation to the City of Eagle Lake relative to the gas distribution system dilemma which the city is now facing, attended an enthusiastic meeting in the council room of the Municipal Building last Thursday.

The City Council has received a mandate from the Texas Railroad Commission to get the gas distribution system in compliance with state and federal regulations or face a forced shutdown of the entire system.

Harold Thomas, former mayor and former president of the Eagle Lake Gas Distribution System, presided as chairman of the advisory committee and during the session called for an unofficial show of hands on the question of disposing of the system to a private business, all but three of those present indicated they would favor such a recommendation.

Mayor Thomas called another meeting of the committee in the council room of the Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m. this Thursday, at which time officials from Entex (gas distribution enterprises) are expected to be on hand to answer questions which were brought forth at the initial meeting. It is contemplated that the committee will vote its final recommendation to the city council at the conclusion of the meeting.

Mayor Struss opened the meeting with a discussion of the gas distribution facilities in this community under Texas Southeastern Gas Co.; the later sale of the system to the non-profit Eagle Lake Gas Distribution Co. comprised of Harold Thomas, Alvin Wiese and Sam Davidson; and then the gift of the system to the citizens of Eagle Lake upon final payment of the system in November of 1977.

"Things have changed dramatically since that time," said the Mayor. "When the city took over the gas distribution system it was looked at as a 'bird nest on the ground' with the possibility of increased benefits to the citizens of Eagle Lake through profits derived from the operation."

He went on to explain that at the time the city assumed ownership of the system, approximately 32% of all of the gas being purchased from Texas Southeastern Gas Co. was being lost to leaks and faulty meters. This has grown since that time to 37% and continues to grow despite the city's stop-gap measures.

He said that the city lost \$4,000 in the first month of operation and over a period of 32 months has lost \$205,000 from operation of the system, all of which has had to be made up with tax revenue. He contributed the increased cost of natural gas as one of the biggest contributing factors. When Eagle Lake Gas Distribution Co. began operation, natural gas was being purchased at around 29c per 1000 cubic feet and it possibly was cheaper to assume this loss than to maintain the system and repair leaks. "But," added the mayor, "natural

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Rice Prices Below
Production Costs\$11.25 Top Bid Here
Last Wednesday

Rice growers expressed disappointment in the bids which were posted on 20 lots of 1980 rice which went up for bids at the Eagle Lake office of the American Rice Growers Cooperative Association on Wednesday of last week. This was reflected in the fact that none of the bids offered were accepted by the rice producers. However five lots sold on bids negotiated with buyers for mills.

The Eagle Lake rice office will have 33 lots of rice up for bids in a big sale on Wednesday of this week.

Eight of the eleven mills listed on the bid sheet offered bids during last Wednesday's sale, noted Donald Obenhaus, manager of the local rice association.

Top bid of the day was \$11.25 per Cwt. offered by Texas Rice Production for a lot of LaBelle rice grown by Harold Thomas and Wintermann and Co. The rice milled 58% whole grains and graded number one.

There were only six other bids over \$11 per Cwt. Henry Sunderman was offered \$11.06 for 56-68-1 rice, also \$11.18 for 59-69-1 rice;

Waddell Bros. \$11.21 for 57-69-1 rice and for another lot 56-69-1, \$11.11; Gayle Thomas was offered \$11.16 for 57-70-1 rice; Brunner Farms \$11.11 for 53-68-1 rice. All was of the LaBelle variety.

A total of 93,491 hundred-weight of rice went up for bids at the first sale. Top bidding was shared by five of the mills, Comet (4), Elco (2), P&S (8), Texas Rice Production (1) and Uncle Ben's (5).

It was noted by rice producers that the cost of production this year, due to spiraling costs in all areas of production, will be about \$13 per Cwt. Until some improvement in the bids offered by mills is forthcoming, little of the rice is expected to be sold on the bids offered.

The drop in quality of rice was noted in the fact that none of the 20 lots had whole grain percentages in the sixties while two dropped into the forties, reflecting the effect of the intense heat which has prevailed during much of the growing season. Yields are reported to be well below the normal yield, making it doubly difficult for the farmers to consider the bids which are already below their production costs.

Rental Office
For Kevin Ct.
Apts. Is Open

Ronald R. Friedman, President of Friedman and Associates, developers and builders of Houston, has announced the opening of the rental office for Kevin Court Apartments, a living environment for senior citizens on Austin Road in Eagle Lake.

Applications for rental of the apartments are now being accepted at the Kevin Court Apartments office at 400 So. Austin Rd., Eagle Lake, Texas 77434. Mrs. Sam (Wanda) Center has been appointed manager of the complex.

The apartments have been developed by Friedman and Associates of Houston, Texas for its subsidiary Eagle Lake Apartments, Associates, LTD., owners of the project.

Kevin Court Apartments consists of a total of 50 rental units, of which 45 are one-bedroom apartments for the elderly and 5 are one-bedroom apartments designed specifically for the handicapped. Each apartment contains a total of 560 square feet of living space and has such amenities as individual heating and air conditioning, emergency call buttons in both bedroom and bath, smoke detectors, dead bolt locks and peep holes at the entry doors. The apartments are designed to provide safety, security and convenience in a manner which responds to the needs of the self-reliant senior citizen.

Apartments consist of one-story row type buildings surrounding series court yards. Each apartment has a

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Entries Needed
In County Fair
Queen Contest

The first annual Colorado County Queen's Contest will be part of the activities of the second annual Colorado County Fair due to be held Sept. 11-14th in Columbus.

Mrs. Bill (Margo) Harrison, Jr., chairman of the entries for the queen's contest, says that entries are needed. Any unmarried girl between the ages of 14 and 20, who is a resident of this county, is eligible to enter, provided she has a sponsor. Entry fee for the competition will be \$20.

Sponsors may include businesses, organizations or individuals. Many organizations in the county have been contacted and plan to have an entry, said Mrs. Harrison. "But if there is an eligible girl and she wants to find her own sponsor, that's fine," said Mrs. Harrison.

Out of county judges will pick the winners on the basis of poise, personality and beauty, said the chairman. Girls or sponsors in the Eagle Lake area, or other areas of the Rice School District, interested in the event, may contact her in Eagle Lake.

Entries will be taken until Sept. 8th. The event will be held as part of the activities of the Fair on Sat., Sept. 13th.

(By Jeff Frnka)

Council OK's
Bid For Paving
Program

The Eagle Lake city council in session Tuesday night of this week accepted the bid of Schwabe and Mikes Construction of Shiner for the 1980 street improvement program.

The council was also scheduled to take action on a retirement plan for city employees, but postponed that action until its regular meeting next Tuesday night. The retirement committee, headed by councilman Gene Baker, is scheduled to meet next Monday to complete plans for the presentation to the council.

Four complete bids were entered for the street paving project and one partial bid by Johnnie Schmidt offering grader and loader services was also entered.

The Shiner firm was the low bidder in last year's

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Baptists Sponsoring
"Backyard Bible
Club" Aug. 11-15

The First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake is sponsoring a "Backyard Bible Club" for children who will begin grades 1-6 this year.

The group will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon every morning beginning Monday, August 11 through Friday, August 15 at Peroni's Mobile Home Village.

The youth of the church will be teaching Bible stories, games, and a lot of fun activities that will be of interest to all children.

Norbert Meisner Gins
First Bale At
Nada Last Thurs.

The Nada Gin Co. owned by Raymond Korenek ginned this county's first bale of 1980 cotton on Thursday of last week, opening a harvest season which has been termed as "one of the worst cotton crops ever seen in the area."

The first bale of 1980 cotton brought in by Norbert Meisner was produced on J. A. Meisner land between Nada and Garwood. Ginner Korenek said that the bale, which weighed 465 pounds was of excellent quality middling cotton with one and one-third seconds lint. Meisner is expected to receive a premium for bringing in the first bale of cotton.

The Nada Gin had ginned 62 bales shortly after noon Tuesday and expected to be busy for the next couple of weeks.

Average Third Of A Bale
Mr. Korenek said that it looks like the yield in the Garwood-Nada area will average about a third of a bale per acre, as compared to a normal average of around three-fourths of a bale. He predicted that production from the 1400 acres of cotton in the area will produce only 500 to 600 bales due to the long dry weather which has plagued the entire state for the past month and a half.

One bright spot in the fact that the price offered for the cotton is good. Cotton early this week was bringing

around 75c per pound. However, a lot of the cotton was put under contract prior to harvest at 70c per pound.

Grounds Pleads
Guilty To Duncan
& Son Burglary

Jimmy Grounds, 25, Eagle Lake black man indicted Feb. 4th for burglary of the Duncan and Son dry goods store and Lake Motors, Inc., both of Eagle Lake on Jan. 15th of this year, entered a plea of guilty to the Duncan and Son burglary in District Court before Judge E. W. Patteson on July 31st.

Grounds is due to be sentenced on the plea of guilty to burglary of Duncan and Son at a later date.

In the only other action in District Court last Thursday, Judge Patteson pronounced sentence on Johnnie Prince Bishop, who entered a plea of guilty to a charge of burglary of Beyer's Sporting Goods store in Weimar, at five years of probation. He was also assessed restitution of \$1,000 and costs of court.

Raider Yearbooks
Now At RHS

The 1980 yearbooks have arrived at Rice High School in Altair. You may pick up your yearbook from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. during weekdays. If you owe a remaining

balance, bring the amount along with you.

Rice H.S.
Cheerleaders
Clinic Aug. 11-15

The Rice High School Cheerleaders will be hosting the annual cheerleading clinic on August 11 through 15 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The fee for each participant will be \$5.00.

New cheers, stunts, and chants will be taught by the cheerleaders after they return from summer camp in San Marcos. This year's cheerleaders: Judy Bunge, Becky Benge, Pam Kallina, Janice Walligurs, Karen Rucka, and headcheerleader Cindy Rodriguez, are looking forward to a great clinic and to seeing you there.

RHS Raider
Band Begins
Rehearsals Mon.

The Rice High School Raider Band will hold its first rehearsal of the 1980-81 year next Monday, August 11th in the Raider Band Hall. Practice will begin at 6:30 p.m. and continue until 8:30 p.m. for the full band on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Section rehearsals will be scheduled during the day on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

A bus will leave Eagle Lake at 5:30 p.m. Garwood at 5:50 and Sheridan at 6:00. Anyone wishing to join the

band as a new member or interested in more information about the band should call Floyd Spenrath, director, at 234-2666.

Everyone is looking forward to another outstanding band and will work hard to keep the Raider Band at the top, said director Spenrath.