

If You Work After You Retire

"How much can I earn and still receive social security retirement checks?" This question is asked by many people now retired who wish to return to work and by others who will soon apply for benefits.

The answer depends partly on your age. If you are under 65, you earn up to \$3,720 in 1980 (\$4,050 in 1981) and receive all benefits due. If you are 65 through 71, the annual exempt amount is

\$5,000 for 1980 and \$5,500 for 1981. And if you are 72 or older (70 starting in 1982), there is no limit on how much you can earn.

If you earn substantially more than the annual exempt amount, you still will be able to receive some benefits. The basic rule is that \$1 in benefits is withheld for each \$2 you earn above the exempt amount.

In addition, there's a special rule that may help you. It can be applied only once and during the first year



Sure as Santa's coming, we're thinking of you!

Western Club
Linda Jackson
Altair



We wish for you great gifts, good friends, peace.

Cherokee Corner
The Robinsons & Employees
Rock Island



In the spirit of Bethlehem, peace and good will to all.

Mascheck-Marx Gulf Sta.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Mascheck and Employees - Eagle Lake

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wishing you an old-fashioned holiday filled with mirth and warmth, love and laughter and all the special delights of the season.

SPALINGER HARDWARE

Charlie & Kate Spalinger
Rex Sanders, Lela Herman
John Young
Eagle Lake

Eagle Lake Boy Scouts On Sojourn To Houston In 1926



This group of Boy Scouts from Eagle Lake spent two days in Houston in early September of 1926. They spent the night in pup tents in Hermann Park. They visited a number of manufacturing plants during the two days, including Ford assembly plant on Harbison Blvd. The trip also included a visit to the Houston City Hall and the mayor.

A number of the scouts had their first ride on a roller coaster at Luna Park on Houston Avenue. They also had their first introduction to bumper cars. Although scouts are not supposed to gamble, several tried their hand at winning Kewpie Dolls by knocking over milk bottles with baseballs. The balls were so lap-ided that no one ever knew where

they were going when they left the thrower's hand. Shown in the copy photo by Waldo W. [Poule d'Eau] Townley of Houston are: back row, left to right: Senior Patrol Leader Ernest Lenhart, Bruce Oliphant, Sam Lewis Little, Willie Randoon, Simon S. Sinclair, Ben McElhinney, Jr., Overton Campbell, Waldo W. Townley, Robert Cochran, Charles Morgan, Howard Cernat, William Waddell, Roger Fuller; front row, l. to r.: Scoutmaster Rev. Frank M. Johnson, Houston Mayor Oscar Holcomb, T. L. Evans, Houston Chamber of Commerce. The photo was taken in front of the old Houston City Hall.

PLANETS BUNCH UP AND SHOW OFF No, Virginia, It's Not a Flying Saucer

University of Texas astronomers say they are bracing themselves for a rash of unidentified flying-object reports this month because of a rare and striking early-morning show being put on by Venus, Jupiter and Saturn.

Now and for the rest of

December, the planets will be visible in a cluster in the eastern sky, rising before the sun. They appear about 4 a.m. and can be seen until they are dimmed by the sun, UT researcher Mark Slovák said.

"They are quite striking and dominate the eastern sky, and are bright enough to cast a shadow," said Slovák. He said that whenever an unusual light appears in the sky, UFO calls pour in to astronomers because "people don't know what they are looking at." Venus and Jupiter will be the brightest, with Saturn appearing pale. Observers using low-powered telescopes or even binoculars should be able to see Jupiter's four brightest moons, first described by Galileo in the 17th century, Slovák said.

Venus will drift away slowly in coming months, but Jupiter and Saturn will "zigzag past each other" until 1984, when they will be joined again by Venus, as well as Uranus, Mars and

Neptune for a spectacular astronomical display, he said. The phenomenon visible now is a prelude to that grouping of the planets. Some astronomers predict that the 1984 alignment "could cause earthquakes and other unusual natural phenomena, but others give little credence to the claims, known as 'the Jupiter Effect,' he said.

Paul Vandenberg, UT astronomy chairman, calls the predictions of disaster "foolishness."

Vandenberg said the current alignment of the three planets has caused some astronomers to speculate that the phenomenon, which occurs periodically throughout history, was the biblical star of Bethlehem that supposedly led the Magi to Christ's birthplace.

The proximity of the planets visible this month occurs every 60 to 80 years, Slovák said.

sleep. It was morning when I got up and ate all of my candy. Richard Breimon.

This Christmas we are going to Mexico because we are taking a Christmas tree to my Grandpa. We are going to put the Christmas tree up. Then the next morning we will get up and there will be presents under the tree. We will open the presents and I hope there will be toys. Victor Mendez.

One night when I was in bed, I heard somebody saying, "Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas!" I saw Santa Claus giving us presents and peppermint and even candy canes. Then he went out the window and I saw Santa Claus' reindeer flying in the air. After that I went to

CHRISTMAS JOY

Wishing you a holiday rich in the blessings of friendship, peace and happiness.

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Braden
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Braden, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Hadley
GENERAL CONTRACTING
Eagle Lake

MERRY Christmas

May it bring to you joy, love and peace.

Garwood Rice Sales Co.
James G. Hopkins
Garwood, Texas

Christmas Blessings

May this Holy time bring to all hearts His clear message of Christmas love.

Lake Lumber Co., Inc.
Walter, Mary Ann Gold & Staff
Eagle Lake

Phone Co. Foreman Recalls Work Done Here After Bad 1913 Floods

[Editor's Note: The following was contributed to the Eagle Lake historical committee and recalls work done here during the floods of 1913].

[By Carl Moore of Beaumont, Texas]

In the fall of 1913 I was working as Construction Foreman rebuilding the Bay City, Texas, local exchange.

As was the usual procedure in those days, I was using about 25 men on common labor at \$1.75 per day for nine hours' work, and was first getting the pole and anchor work complete before placing any linemen to work. After the work was well

under way, heavy rains continued as had been all that fall, and the talk of floods was everywhere. Bay City is near the Colorado River and between the Colorado and Brazos Rivers a levee had always protected Bay City and the surrounding farming country from the flood waters.

Soon this levee began to weaken and all available men were pressed into service to work on the levee.

All up and down the country touched by the Colorado and Brazos Rivers, lower lands were being swallowed up by the muddy waters of these two enormous rivers that carry so much of Texas' surplus water

to the Gulf of Mexico. The Telephone Company's lines were getting their share of the damage, and toll service interruption was frequent.

One day in the month of December of that year, I was eating lunch and the telephone rang. It was the Houston office advising me to go to Eagle Lake as soon as possible. There was only one way: that was by train which was due at 1:30 p.m., and it was then after 12:00 p.m. I was advised to lay off most of my force and get additional men that I might need at Eagle Lake. I did not have time to pay these men so I arranged with Mr. Walters, the Commercial Manager, to handle that matter and gather up tools and material scattered out on the job as would be in the middle of the day. (Mr. Walters is a Pioneer and is retired. He still lives at Bay City.)

I managed to get on the 1:30 train with no luggage or clothes other than those on my back; also five men who went with me had the same amount of clothes.

That was the last train out of Bay City for many weeks. In fact, when the water was at its height a hand concert was held on the county courthouse square and every

one who attended came by boat and sat around on the square in boats as we do now in automobiles.

Floods Reach Egypt

As we were on our way to Eagle Lake, we could see the flood water, and near Egypt, Texas, the water was over the ties but the rails were visible. We passed over safely, but within a few hours the tracks were washed away.

On arrival in Eagle Lake we found that the toll circuit on the S.A. & A.P. Ry. toward Hallettsville were swept away, about two miles toward Houston on the same road, about four miles being gone. West on the Southern Pacific Ry. toward San Antonio the wires had not broken as yet but were under water. On the east end toward Houston part time service was available as the Brazos River was tearing down almost as fast as L. E. Cox, Construction Foreman, and gang could replace it, and they finally lost the fight and had to wait for the water to go down.

On the Santa Fe Ry. the route we came to Eagle Lake on, the line was lost, several miles of it by the time we reached Eagle Lake.

We soon found ourselves between Brazos and Colorado Rivers with toll circuits leaving three ways and could not talk anywhere except with local calls in Eagle Lake.

We found ourselves up against the proposition of restoring toll service in some way, and as such a thing as a specification was not considered much in those days, we could use any first aid measures at hand.

The first thing we had to have were boats. We have four of them built, 18 ft. cypress. We lost three of them; only one was saved and hauled back to Eagle Lake.

To be sure, we soon recruited more men and some material. The majority of the [Continued on page eight]

BEST WISHES

We send best wishes for a Happy Holiday. Warm thanks to friends and neighbors.

Cattleman's Restaurant & Catering Service
Roy, Robin, Jackie & Lori Chest
Alton, Restivo & Boys
Columbus, Texas

HAPPY HOLIDAY

To all our friends, the very best.

LONE STAR INDUSTRIES, INC.
EAGLE LAKE PLANT
EAGLE LAKE

Register At Jo Ann's For Christmas Gifts

Jo Ann Mahalik, owner of Jo Ann's Dept. Store in Eagle Lake, invites citizens of the area to come by for a visit during the pre-Christmas season and to register, without obligation, for valuable prizes to be awarded at 11 a.m. on Wed., Dec. 24th.

Included among the prizes will be a \$100 gift certificate and second and third prizes will be valuable Christmas gift merchandise items.

Farmers Supply Co. Set Special Closing

Colorado County Farmers Supply, Co., Inc. of Eagle Lake will close at 12 noon on Wednesday, Dec. 24th and remain closed through Sunday, Dec. 28th.

The business will reopen at the regular time on Monday, Dec. 29th but will be closed again on Thurs., Jan. 1st, New Year's Day and remain closed through Sunday, Jan. 4th.

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GOOD TIDINGS

The bells ring out the happiness of the season. May you share in all its wondrous joys.

W. F. MEITZEN 66 STATION
W. F. Meitzen, Jr. Bob Meitzen
EAGLE LAKE

The Wonder Of Christmas

[By the Rev. Tom Hansen, Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Good Shepherd Catholic Churches]

Christmas is filled with wonders. A virgin becomes a Mother. A village carpenter finds himself the guardian of the Savior of the world. An angel choir sets the night resounding with glorious music. Shepherds are the first to hear the news of salvation. But the greatest wonder of Christmas, the glory of Christmas, the incredible miracle of Christmas is that God became Man!

Who would ever have thought of it, if God had not thought of it and done it? King of the earth, King of all the universe, King of heaven, he becomes a King whose palace is a stable, whose throne is a manger, whose scepter is a stick of straw, whose royal raiment is swaddling clothes, whose retinue is made up of shepherds and dumb animals.

This was the wonder which the angels announced in song, which the star signaled with fire, which the shepherds rushed to see, which Mary cradled in her arms that he who was great became small; he who was rich became poor; he who was divine became human. With grateful love, we try to thank God who gave us his own Son that we might receive through him eternal life. But how can we thank God? What can we give to God who has everything? Even the most majestic cathedral with the tallest spires and the loftiest arches and the most blazing windows are not good enough for him.

And yet man does have something to give to God, namely, his love. From the Almighty, we have free will. This free will we can use to love God who became Man for our sake and to love all men for God's sake—this is the gift we can give to God at Christmas! It is not candles singing before candlelit windows that best express the spirit of Christmas. It is really love the Babe of Bethlehem, let us light candles not only in our windows, but in our minds, candles that will illuminate the truth that all men are our brothers, ever since God became a Man himself.

Let us hang not just our homes, but also our hearts with holly, meaning that we will show our love for our fellow men in our speech, not slighting one man, nor snubbing another, nor keeping a sullen silence, but letting Christian kindness, which is rooted in the heart, flower at our lips. Let us deck not just our trees, but our lives with shining glory by loving helplessness to all in pain or trouble. There is no better way that we can atone for the fact that Christ was turned away from the inn at Bethlehem. Jesus himself said: "What you do unto others, you do unto me." If we do this, then our own special wonder will be the serene peace and joy that fills our hearts on Christmas Day.

May you have a most happy Christmas with your loved ones and may the love of Jesus fill your hearts and lives this coming New Year.

Christmas Thoughts By ELPS 3rd Graders

[Following are short stories on the Christmas Season by Mrs. Glenda Eberhart's third graders at Eagle Lake Primary School.]

It was Christmas. The time was 6:00. Mom said it was two hours. Santa will be here. She said that, just to get us to bed. But I said, "Mom can't we fix Santa a snack?" So we did. We fixed him some orange juice, one apple, and some toast for his reindeer. After that we went to bed. Then a few hours later we heard bells overhead. It was Santa. He landed on the roof and he came down the chimney. He brought me a bike, and he brought my brother a tricycle. That was the best Christmas I ever had! Preston Broesecke.

On Christmas we were decorating the window with decorations. I went next door

Clipson. Last Christmas my mother and father were putting up the Christmas tree. They were decorating it by putting candy canes on it. I went to bed and suddenly I heard a noise. "Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas." It was Santa Claus flying in the air. I saw him land on a house and go down the chimney. He put presents under the tree. After that night, I got up and opened all my presents and then I went to my stocking and ate cookies and my candy. Corena Olgien.

Glad Tidings

May your holidays be bright, beautiful and beautiful!

Colorado County Butane Co. Sheridan, Texas

Blessings

AND THE BLESSINGS OF HIS LOVE BE LOUSED UPON YOU THROUGHOUT

M-G Truck Tire Service
Willie and Mercy Gonzales and Employees
Highway 90A - Eagle Lake

Joyous Holidays

Carrying the message of Christmas true, on wings of love and hope, the greatest gift of all... Peace.

UGARTE CLINIC
Dr. and Mrs. Jose Ugarte, Jr., Ana, Sofia, Peter Mr. and Mrs. Jose Ugarte, Sr. Juan Maria, Florence Houston. Patricia Goodrich Linda Morales Dolores Azel Eagle Lake. Debra Marshall Emily Ann Gilman Geri Flowers Gerald Flowers Dolores Matthe.