Rice FFA Sweeps Prizes In Houston Show

(Continued from page 1)

who helped in so many ways at the Houston show.

This was the sixth time in the past seven years for the Rice FFA entries to win a first place in the Commercial Steer Show. Last year, Thomas Kallina won first place in the show and the second place winner last year, Raymond Mahalitc, captured that same position again this year.

Prize money awarded during the show was $74.08 for prime entries, and $56.00 for entries rated as good.

Rice FFA members had a total of forty-six steers to grade prime; while only five were graded good which in itself is an above average rating.

Sales of the animals ranged from 66.5 to 71 cents per pound.

12 From Rice Compete

Rice High School had 12 entries in the commercial steer show with a total of fifty-one steers.

Miller sold his pen of eight steers for $5,957.13; R. Mahalitc sold his pen of eight for $6,412.64; P. Pavlu sold his pen of three steers for $2,327.95; and Hefner sold his pen of three steers for $2,295.40.

Others competing, their ribbon moneyand sales money were:

Stephen Mahalitc, pen of eight, total of $556.48 in ribbon money, sold for $6,431.66; Kevin Brisco, pen of three, ribbon money $222.24 and sales money $2,131.44; Marilyn Mahalitc, pen of three, ribbon money $222.24, sales money $2,327.50; Jeff Berger, pen of three, ribbon money $222.24, sales money $2,162.05;

Also, Brian Korenek, pen of three, ribbon money $222.24, sales money $2,035.50; Paul Korenek, pen of three, ribbon money $204.16 and sales money $2,388.36; Thomas Mahalitc, pen of three, ribbon money $222.24, sales money $2,456.68; Larry Pavlu, pen of three, ribbon money $204.16 and sales money $2,189.03.

Thomas Mahalitc also received $40 and Larry Pavlu $20.00 as prizes for herdsman or showmanship first and third place awards, respectively.

This brings to $44,589.14 the prize, ribbon and sales money [not including the pickup and gooseneck trailer] brought home by the Rice FFA members for participation in the 1981 Commercial steer show. Including the $9100 pickup truck and the $3000 gooseneck trailer, the total earned by the Rice FFA members amounted to $56,689.14.

The pickup truck awarded to Ricky was given by Radio Station KTKK of Houston; Raymond's gooseneck trailer was donated by Neckover Mfg. Co. of Troup, Texas; and Ricky's $1,000 prize was given by J. W. Sartewelle Companies, Sealy and Brenham; Raymond's $500 by Blue Ribbon Packing of Houston; Patrick's $250 by Port City Stockyards and Brenham Livestock Co., Brenham. Glen's $50 for records was given by the Donald W. Beckendorff family.

In addition to the above earnings, Rice FFA Chapter President John Schneider received the $1,500 Go-Texan scholarship awarded to an outstanding agriculture student in this county.

Two Hogs Win Places

Rice FFA members also had five hog entries in the Houston Show and two of the five earned places. Kathy Ishee's entry won a seventh place and sold for $517.50; Albert Tomchess.n won ninth place and sold his hog for $364.00. Joe Lang sold his entry for $90.81, Deborah Kretschmer sold hers for $188.72; and Pam Morgan sold hers for $84.93 to bring the total in the swine division to $1,245.80.

Other Rice FFA Entries

Rice FFA also had two students who entered Dairy Scramble heifers, Larry Pavlu who placed 7th and Pat Labay who placed 9th in competition Sunday.

Two other FFA students entered Halter Steers. Bill Hefner won 7th place with his Brangus steer and DeWayne Dopslauf showed a Limousin-Angus cross but information was not available on what the steers sold for.

One Rice FFA student, Stanley Snyder entered a pen of five broilers in the Houston Show and he placed in the top 200 however sale price of the pen was not available early this week.

FFA Members Show Swine In Houston

Five Rice Future Farmers of America members entered hogs in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo last week and two of the animals placed in the competition. Members entering hogs in the show were, left to right, Pam Morgan, Deborah Kretschmer, Kathy Ishee whose hog placed seventh in the competition, Albert Tomcheason whose hog placed 9th, and Joe Lang. The FFA members are shown standing in front of the gooseneck trailer presented to Raymond Mahalitc [not shown] as one of his prizes for placing second in the commercial steer show. - Rice High School Photo.

Happy Birthday

L.G. Sosa & Molly Valdez

from Cata Sosa

Altar Society Hears Report On DCCW Meet

The Altar Society of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church held its monthly meeting Thursday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the Didner Hall with Mrs. Pearl Meitzen and Mrs. Jo Ann Gertson sharing hostess duties.

Present for the meeting were Father Tom Hanus, fourteen members, one new member, Mrs. Janice Obenhaus, and one guest, Mrs. Agusta Comte.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Cynthia Sunderman. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and the treasurer's report was given.

The members decided to provide a baby sitter at the future meetings.

Plans were made to have a kitchen shower for the Altar Society at the next meeting.

The members will work on a quilt to be used for the benefit at the annual church picnic.

Mrs. Mary Theuman gave a report on the D.C.C.W. meeting held at Bellville on January 20th. The next district meeting will be held at Brenham on May 12th.

Mrs. Martha Sommer won the door prize.

The meeting was closed with prayers led by Father Tom Hanus.

Final Rites Held For Mrs. Elizabeth Brisbois Feb. 26

Mrs. J. W. (Elizabeth) Brisbois of Edna, formerly of Eagle Lake, died Wed., Feb. 25th in the Ganado hospital after a lengthy illness. Funeral services were held for Mrs. Brisbois, known affectionately as Libby, from the Edna United Methodist Church Thurs., Feb. 26th at 2:00 p.m.

She was born Oct. 22, 1914 in Houston, the daughter of Donnie and Florence Holt Buffington. She and J. W. (Buster) Brisbois were united in marriage on Oct. 22, 1935 in Austin. They lived in Eagle Lake where Buster was employed by the natural gas company and later became manager of the Frank Stephens Co. implement department, a position he held for eleven years. He later worked with Eagle Lake Implement Co. before becoming engaged in rice farming here for three years and the family moved in December of 1949 to Edna where he continued farming until 1971. He presently owns a business in Edna.

While residing in Eagle Lake, Elizabeth was very active in church work in the Methodist Church. She participated in the W.S.C.S., the Sunshine Sunday School class, and the M.Y.F. She was also active as a den mother in Cub Scouting.

After moving to Edna she continued actively in the church work and in scouting as a Brownie leader.

In addition to her husband, Buster, she is survived by her mother, Mrs. Florence Buffington Smith of Ganado; one brother, Dr. F. C. Buffington of Norman, Okla.; one son, Millard Brisbois who was born in Eagle Lake in 1937, of Ganado; and one daughter, Mrs. Royce (Jonel) Knuppel, who was born in Edna in 1952, of Ganado. Also surviving are six grandchildren, Rhonda Brisbois, Renee Brisbois, Cindy Brisbois, Jana Knuppel, Ryan Knuppel and Justin Knuppel, all of Ganado.

3 Condemnation Suits Filed For Duncan Lane R'way

Colorado County filed three condemnation suits in district court this week seeking to obtain parcels of right of way for the widening of a county road in Precinct No. 1, known locally as Duncan Lane leading to Thorstenberg's Arena Plant and the TXI gravel plant.

The suits were filed against Dora Robertson and others, for a parcel of .3878 of an acre; against Mary Allen and others for a parcel of .392 of an acre; and against the unknown heirs of Charles Collier, deceased, for a parcel of .072 of an acre.

Garwood Church Sponsoring BBQ Dinners Sat.

The Garwood Church of God Missionary Society is sponsoring a barbecue dinner this Saturday, March 14th at the home of J. T. Ward in Garwood.

The plates of barbecue will sell for $3.00. The food will be ready about 11:30 a.m. Deliveries will be made by calling 758-3415.

KC's To Stage St. Patrick's Day Dance Saturday

Eagle Lake Council of the Knights of Columbus will stage its annual St. Patrick's Day Dance at the Eagle Lake Community Center from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. this Saturday, March 14th.

Country Playboys will provide music for the event. Admission will be $10 per couple and free beer and set-ups will be provided.

Dennis Schroeder representing

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Call or Write P. O. Box 13 La Grange, Texas 78945 Tel 968-5311

2 Men Lose Jeans To Burglars Sat.

Eagle Lake police are looking for clues in the burglary of a room at the Sportsman's Motel during the early hours of Saturday, Mar. 7th, when the burglar walked away with a couple pair of jeans but very little else for his trouble.

Patrolman Lupe Villarreal received a call from the motel manager at 7:45 a.m. Saturday. Two men in the room, Tommy Warren, Jr. of Houston and Aron Noel of Humble, told the officer that they had watched television in their room until about 2:00 a.m. and then went to bed. They woke up later that morning to find their jeans missing. Warren reported his wallet with business cards and driver's license was gone; also $5 in his pant's pocket; however Noel reported that nothing of value was in his jeans. Items left on a night stand were not disturbed.

During the investigation, the officer learned that M. C. Bower, an uncle of Noel, was in an adjoining room and was awakened at around 2:30 to find a black man in his room. The man pretended that he had entered the wrong room by mistake and Bower thought nothing of the incident until he learned of the burglary in the room next door.

Officers have little to work on in the case except that the man was black and was about 5 feet and 9 inches tall. The investigation continues.

The officer said that the doors in both rooms were apparently left unlocked for there was no visible sign of forced entry.

Meetings Planned This Summer On Fire Ant Controls

Colorado County Commissioners' Court Monday discussed the fire ant control program proposed by the Texas Department of Agriculture but decided that it was probably too late for spring application of the chemical AMDRO and plans to hold meetings this summer over the county in hopes of entering the program this fall.

Carl S. Rost and Mark Trostle, representatives of the Texas Dept. of Agriculture; R. J. (Bob) Heinrich of Weimar, named chairman of the fire ant committee in this county; and committee members Robert S. Wolters of Columbus and Frank Tate of Eagle Lake met with the court Monday afternoon to discuss the program.

Plans were discussed for public meetings in Columbus, Weimar, Eagle Lake and Garwood this summer in order to ascertain how much acreage can be blocked out for possible aerial application with AMDRO.

Under the program proposed by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Texas Dept. of Agriculture, cost to the landowner would amount to only 25% of the cost, or around $1.00 per acre.

County Judge Lester J. Cranek assured that ample publicity will be given to the meetings so that any persons who might be interested in participating in the cooperative program could attend.

WCJC Track Team Wins San Jac. Meet, Tillman Runs Relays

The Wharton County Junior College track team won fifteen of nineteen events in the junior college division and also captured seven events in university competition of the San Jacinto "All-Comers Meet" held Friday, February 27 in Pasadena, Texas.

Dennis Ketchum of Needville and Sherman Hall of Angleton teamed up to control the sprints and helped lead WCJC to wins in both the 400 Meter Relay and 1600 Meter Relay. "The dynamic duo joined teammates Lewis Tillman of Eagle Lake and Johnnie Hill to upset the T.S.U. 400 Meter Relay," stated Coach Ray Davidson who was pleased with his team's performance.

Ketchum and Hall collaborated with Tillman of Eagle Lake and Hill of Austin (Reagan) in capturing first place in the 400 Meter Relay with a 41.25 time that was also better than the National Qualifying Standard.

The WCJC 1600 Meter Relay Team took first place in a time of 8:17.6. The team consists of Hall, Ketchum, Santiago, and Tillman who is a product of Rice Consolidated High School at Altair.

Rice CISD Board Re-Elects Teachers

The Rice School District's board of education Monday night approved contracts for teachers for the 1981-82 school year and accepted resignation from one teacher. The resignation of James Jackson, a third grade teacher to Eagle Lake Primary School, was accepted by the board.

The board went into executive or closed session for the discussion of the teacher contracts. Principals of the five schools in the district met with the board in closed session individually to present reports on their schools and faculties.

After the executive session, the board returned into open session to approve the contracts, some for one year, but most on a two year basis. New teachers without prior teaching experience must be in the district for three years before a two-year contract is offered. If a teacher had prior teaching experience elsewhere, he or she must have been in the Rice District for two years to be eligible for a two year contract.

New contracts and/or extensions were approved for the following:

Plan A

Obie Rhodes, Randall B. Amour, Joyce Kolbe;

Eagle Lake Primary School

Marie Argo, Mae Ashby, Betty Brown, Agnes Klekar, Cathy Keuneke, Glenda Eberhart, Claudine Shorter, Jeanette Spenrath, Jean E. Leopold, Lynda L. Appelt, Josephine L. Kossa, Aileen S. Peck, Ruby Darnell, Alma G. Gonzales, Elizabeth J. Dowell, Rosemary Smith;

Sheridan Elementary School

Deborah Blinka, Annie Kossa, Bennie W. Machac, Darnell Varley, Annette M. Tise, Catherine Munoz, Lori L. Vornsand, Michalleen Allen;

Garwood Elementary School

Cynthia J. Boenisch, Jo Ann Bunge, Tommie Lynn Heard, Michael Michalka, Tom Rohwer, Calvin M. Zwernemann, Betty J. Janish, Jose Salazar, Mary Salazar, Isaac H. Berry;

Eagle Lake Middle School

Helen L. Craig, Eddie Gibson, Lois Hamilton Rasbe, Elizabeth Miller, Carol E. Pavlicek, Winona Rolf, Vivian C. Rollins, Beatrice Scott, Charlyne Spanihel, Floyd Spenrath, Karolyn R. Foster, Raymond J. Sykowski, Betty Wegenhoft, Calvin Zwernemann, Delores Grammar, Jeannette Woods, Fred Armstrong, D. Geraghty, Irene Villagomez, Majorie D. Tiffany, June C. Morgan, Martha Sibley, Betty Kay Janow, Helen L. Glover, Diane Schneider, Janis Munn, Laoula Eschberger, C. J. Gonzales, Paulette Sanchez;

Rice High School

Finest A. Axel, Henrietta Baumgarten, Sandra Benge, Suzanne Chiu, Iris Danklefs, Clifton B. Darden, Lillian Gohlke, Jesus Gonzalez, Jack N. Grammer, Alfred Matlage, Floyd Spenrath, Gilmer J. Stalbaum Jr., Joseph J. Wendel, William David White, Thomas F. Davidson, Ralph W. Williams, Reuben Wunderlich, Michael Vornsand, Wayne H. Zimmerhansel, William P. Carpenter, Irene F. Mader, Lewis Lee Hess Jr., Guy A. Beane Jr., Marjorie Crabb, Joyce Davison, Willie L. Fitzgerald, Sidney Frey, Troy Krenek, Florence V. McShan, Ronel W. Roberts, Dorothy S. White, Diana Wunderlich, Jill K. Steward, Dale P. Norris, Henry Gindratt.

$4,325,000 Damage Suit Filed In Wreck On IH-10 Mar. '79

One of the largest, if not the largest, damage suits ever filed in District Court in this county, was filed recently seeking a total of $4,325,000 in damages resulting from an accident on IH 10 March 10, 1979 two miles west of Weimar, in the accident Mrs. Alecio Negrete, 49, of San Antonio, was killed and two of her children, Janie, 14, and Norma, 17, were critically injured. They were in a 1976 Dodge station wagon with five other people when they pulled off the roadway to eat some lunch under a bridge. Their vehicle was hit from behind by a U-Haul truck driven by Gusdalupe Pena of Smiley.

The suit was filed by Ruben Negrete, the father, individually and as administrator of the estate of Alecio Negrete, deceased, and next friend of Robert Negrete and Norma Negrete and Jo Ann Aguilar, minors; also Louis Sanchez and Rosalinda Sanchez.

Defendants in the suit are U-Haul Co. of South Texas, Mid-Town Moving and Storage, Inc., U-Haul Co. of Houston, Inc., U-Haul Co. of Texas, Inc., U-Haul Co. of New Mexico, U-Haul Co. of Colorado, Guadalupe Pena, Frank Maldonade and Walter Sheffield.

The suit asks for the following: a total of $2,000,000 in damages for lost support and others; Ruben Negrete asks for $600,000 for loss of earnings, medical expenses, etc.; $200,000 for Robert Negrete; $750,000 is asked for Norma Negrete; $50,000 for Jo AnnAguilar; $600,000 for Juanita Negrete; $25,000 for Louis Sanchez; and $100,000 for Rosalinda Sanchez.

All of the plaintiffs were passengers in the station wagon at the time of the accident.

County Discusses Health Ins. For Employees

Colorado County Commissioners' Court spent much of the lengthy session Monday in discussing plans proposed by three insurance companies for providing health and hospitalization insurance for county officials and employees.

The current carrier is Blue Cross and Blue Shield, but the county has received word of significant rate increases and is "shopping around" for the best possible coverage for the best possible price.

During the meeting Monday morning a representative of the Prudential Insurance Company which is the carrier for the program offered by the Texas Association of Counties, was present.

Monday afternoon the court heard a presentation from a representative of Employee Benefit Claims Insurance Co.

No decision was made on which company to use for the program, but the matter is due to be up for consideration at the next meeting on March 23rd.

The county pays the premium for coverage of an employee or official; however the employee or official must pay for the cost of additional coverage for a spouse and his or her family.

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FSLIC

SAVE WHERE YOU BORROW LENDER

5th Annual Struss Bass Tourney Set At Sam Rayburn May 2-3

The Fifth Annual Struss Invitational Bass Tournament has been scheduled for May 2-3 at Sam Rayburn Reservoir, according to 1981 tournament chairmen Sid and Barbara Struss, who are expecting this year's event to be the "biggest get-together yet."

The tournament, with headquarters set up at Cassells-Boykin Park at Sam Rayburn, will kick off at 6:00 a.m. on May 2nd and conclude at 8:00 p.m. that same day. It will begin again the morning of the 3rd at 6:00 and complete at high noon that day.

"It is a memorable event, each year, and it has been said that it is as much a gathering of good friends as that of the gathering of good fishermen," according to the chairmen. "Besides the fishing competition, there are fish fries, cookouts, and story tellings galore."

Trophies will be presented shortly after noon on May 3rd along with several outstanding door prizes. Included in the trophy presentation will be first through third place for the largest bass caught in both men's and women's divisions; three trophies given out to a special children's division; trophy for the World Famous Chug-a-Lug Champ in both men's and women's divisions; and an award for the largest crappie caught.

The tournament is strictly made up of persons on the event's mailing list and their friends who enjoy to fish, but are not professionals, say Sid and Barbara Struss. If anyone is interested in getting on the invitation list, please contact Sid E. Struss, 11427 Sharpcrest Lane, Houston, Texas 77072 or call 496-8522. Entry deadline for the 1981 event is April 15th.

BOWLING

[Continued from page 7]

Moonlighters League

In the Moonlighters League action at Sealy Bowling Palace last Thursday, Blood & Guts rolled top team scores of 774-2153 and Wolf Ignasiak had high individual scores of 214-237-642. Joey Babik rolled a 206-210-603, Ben Castillo 223-596, Mickey Kochwelp 213-560, Brice Stephens 223-554, Joe Trojan 221-536, Darrell Gertson 223-521, Ronnie Pfeffer 201-512 and Sonny Spanihel 511.

Sandbaggers lead the league with 66 wins followed by Webb's with 55, J. B. Trojans 52½, Blood & Guts 52 and KC's 50½.

8 Teams Expected In Tri-County Babe Ruth League

The Tri-County Babe Ruth League, for boys aged 16 to 18, is making plans for the summer program with teams from Colorado, Fayette and Lee counties. Teams from Weimar, La Grange, Giddings, Flatonia, Eagle Lake, Columbus and Sealy are expected.

President of the league will be Tom Strickland of Weimar; vice president, Roy Ripple of Giddings and secretary, Mark Migl of Flatonia.

The regular schedule will start the latter part of May. At the end of the regular season, an all-star team of 18 will compete with the remainder of the South Texas Zone in a tournament in Georgetown. The winner of the playoff will compete with winners of the other two Texas zones for the state championship and a shot at the World Series in Tennessee.

Kimberly Ann Henske Has Party On 4th Birthday

Kimberly Ann Henske was honored on her fourth birthday on Friday, March 6 at 2:30 in her home by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Henske. Kim's birthday was March 2.

Kim enjoyed opening the gifts brought for her. Afterwards everyone enjoyed refreshments of birthday cake, decorated with a Sesame Street scene, Sesame Street cookies, ice cream, punch and soft drinks.

Helping Kim celebrate her birthday were special guests, her grandmother, Mrs. Frank Tate (Nanie) and great grandparents, Mrs. Buck Perry (Nan) of Altair and Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Tate (Papaw and Nanny) of Eagle Lake; and aunts, Mrs. Leon (Sandy) Schneider of Garwood and Mrs. Mark (Janis) Henske of Eagle Lake. Also present were cousins Brent and Justin Schneider of Garwood, Robby Henske of Eagle Lake and friends Sunny and Ralphie Gertson, Clint Gertson of Eagle Lake, Jennifer Krenek of Garwood, and Justin Jobe of Wharton.

Kim presented favors to her friends as they departed after a fun-filled afternoon.

It is said that Louis XIV of France owned 412 beds.

Congratulations

TO OUR

RICE HIGH SCHOOL RAIDERS

BOY'S BASKETBALL TEAM

and Coach Jack Grammer

DISTRICT 22AAA CHAMPIONS

and

BI-DIST. CHAMPIONS

Good Luck to the Raiders in Regional Play

Raiders vs. LaVega

At Blinn Jr. College in Brenham, Fri., Mar. 13, 7:30 P.M.

(Finals at 7:00 p.m. Saturday)

Sponsored by the following Raider Boosters

Ann & George Matthys
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Elizabeth & Bogyie Miller
Mitchell & Wade Miller
Bernice & Anthony Kallina
Shirley & Allen Smith
Jean & Don Thornton

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Evelyn & Oscar Miller
Virginia & Walter L. Bauer
Maria & Joe Ugarte
Ella & Roy Thomas
Anna Lee & Frank Higgins
Jane & Jim Clipson
Betty & Robert Wilcox
Susan & Paul Causey
Rose Ann & Bill Carpenter
Loraine & T. J. Smith
Kate & Charlie Spallinger
Helyn & Bill Farris
Sharon & Fred Grahmann
Willie Mae & Louis Grigar

Estrella & Ralph Truly
Pat & Johnny Meitzen
Fair & Robert Wells
Cindy & Jerry Fink
Sandy & Don Bendy
Jeff Frnka
Ruth and Lavo Brisco
Mary and Charles DeShaza
Lynda & Bill Appelt
Pat & Bob Cook
Scharlene & Johnny Prazak
Brenda & Wayne Corman
Evelyn & Jimmy Thomas
The Priesmeyer Dept. Stores
Linda & Steve Balas

Gail & Gerald Bradshaw
Jacalyn & Brock Ashby
Margo & Bill Harrison
Betty & Gene Brown & Carl
Eunice & Fred Frnka
Mary Lou & Arthur Anderson
Traylor Walker
Cherry & Vic Corman
Rose Marie & Don Frnka
Yolanda & Steve Almanza
Marlene & Jim Miller
Pat & Gardner Seaholm
Eula & David Wintermann
Bun & Bruce Waddell
Margie & Hootie Wiese

Laurel & Jack Holden
Frances & Paul Powers
Ann & A. W. Rohleffel
Janette & Pete Canaris
Viola & Bill Zboril
Carol & Monroe Ripper
Chris & Buck Swords
Annie & Tony Schneider
Frances & Elmer Struss
Gladys & Marvin Tyler
Marjorie & James Crabb
Charlene & Frank Becak
Edwina and O. J. Perini
Sandra & Major Benge
Catherine & Lawrence Berger

Rice Beau & Sweetheart Teachers

In honor of Texas Public Schools Week [Mar. 2-6] the Rice High School Future Teachers of America chapter members [FTA] chose as their favorite beau and sweetheart teachers, Mrs. Sandra Benge, left, and head coach Clifton Darden, right. In the center is Carol Crabb who represented the chapter in presenting awards to the honorees.-Rice Raider Review Photo and Story.

Questions And Answers About Prop. Taxation

[Editor's note: The following are questions most asked about new property valuation laws. Answers are provided by the State Property Tax Board, Box 15900, Austin, Tex. 78761]

Q: Why do we have a property tax? Who does the money go to and for what purpose?

A: The property or ad valorem tax is the primary source of local government revenue in Texas. Cities, counties, school districts and special taxing authorities such as municipal utility districts, junior college districts, etc., collect a property tax to pay for the operation of community services such as fire and police protection, street construction and repair, utilities, and public schools.

Q: Who controls the property tax?

A: The property tax is the only tax which is locally controlled, locally generated and locally collected. Locally elected and appointed officials--those most responsive to the needs of individual taxpayers--direct the property tax system in Texas.

Q: Why should I render the value of my property to the tax assessor?

A: By law, property owners must render the value of their taxable property to each jurisdiction's tax assessor during the rendition period (Jan. 1 to April 1 or 30 for most taxing entities). Apart from the legal requirement to render, there are three reasons why it is to the taxpayer's advantage to do so:

1. By filing a rendition, you will place into the record your opinion as to the value of your own property.

2. If you do not render your property, the tax assessor will do it for you, as the law states he must. He does this by making his own estimate as to the value.

3. Through rendering, you create a responsibility on the party of the tax assessor and board of equalization to notify you if they intend to increase the value of your property over the amount you have rendered.

Q: What if I disagree with the value the tax assessor places on my property?

A: If you have rendered your property, and if the assessor has disagreed with you by raising the value you rendered, he must notify you of the time and place of the board of equalization (BOE) meetings for the taxing jurisdiction he represents. You then may appear before the board of equalization and explain why you believe the value assigned by the assessor is incorrect.

Q: Under what circumstances will the BOE make an adjustment in my taxable value?

A: First, if you can find and submit evidence to the BOE which indicates that the value assigned to your property exceeds local market values, then you would be entitled to a reduction in valuation. Second, if you can show that your property is being valued higher than similar properties in the jurisdiction, you should be entitled to a reduction in the value assigned even though the assessor's estimate did not exceed the actual market value.

Q: Aren't a number of exemptions available to help reduce my overall tax bill? When and how do I apply for them?

A: There are several exemptions available under state law to help provide you with tax relief. School districts must provide a $5,000 exemption from the market value of your residence homestead, and must provide an additional $10,000 exemption from market value to homeowners 65 and older and to those with total and permanent disabilities. Counties must offer a $3,000 residence homestead exemption from the assessed value for the portion of the county tax rate levied for flood control or farm-to-market roads. All jurisdictions must offer an exemption form assessed value of from $1,500 to $3,000 for qualifying disabled veterans.

Cities do not have constitutional authority to offer a general homestead exemption, but cities, counties, school districts and special taxing districts may offer optional homestead exemptions to those who are elderly or disabled. You should check with your local assessor (s) to see if optional over-65 or disability exemptions are available in your area.

[More Next Week]

BACK THE RAIDERS!

Poison Emerg. Phone No.

Since a poisoning emergency occurs whenever you are least expecting it, the telephone number of the Poison Center is a very important number to keep handy. In Houston, the telephone number is 654-1701. It is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Keep the number handy, remember, children eat fast, so do poisons.