

Two Get Life Membership Certificates



Two Eagle Lake Volunteer Firemen received life membership certificates after completing many years of service with the local department at the Firemen's Christmas Party held in the Community Center Sat., Dec. 12th. Presenting the framed life membership certificates was Melvin Stancik, secretary of the department, right. Both firemen earned the life membership status some time ago but presentation of the certificates was delayed until this year unintentionally. Roland J. Harbers, left, earned life membership by serving 20 years as an active member on Nov. 23, 1981; and Monroe Briscoe, center, became a life member with 20 years of active service, on March 25, 1977.

The Advent Wreath Is Harbinger of Christmas



In many churches and homes during the four weeks before Christmas, wreaths with candles are displayed to remind the faithful of the approaching holiday.

These decorations are known as Advent wreaths, symbolizing the eager awaiting of mankind for its redeemer.

Originally, the Advent wreath may have been part of pagan observances. Tribes in northern Europe would display cartwheels decorated with greens and lights in their homes during the winter season.

The custom became Christianized in time, with the wreath's circular shape symbolizing God's unending nature, and the evergreens symbolizing His unchanging nature.

There are four candles on the wreath, one for each week of Advent. Three of the candles are violet in color, as a reminder of our repentance and our longing for the Savior. One candle is rose colored, symbolizing our joy and hope in the coming of the Messiah. All the candles are tied with purple ribbon, again as a symbol of longing and repentance.

In some homes, the family will gather around the wreath on the Saturday evening before the first Sunday in Advent, four weeks before Christmas. Prayers are said and one violet candle is lit. An Advent hymn, such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" may be sung at this time. The ceremony is repeated with two violet candles on the second Saturday; on the third Saturday, two violet candles and one rose candle, a joyful sign of the nearness of the holiday, are lit; on the last Saturday, all four candles are lit.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS



Wishing you Good Cheer
For Christmas and the New Year.

Robert S. Martin, Postmaster
And Employees
At The United States Post Office
Eagle Lake

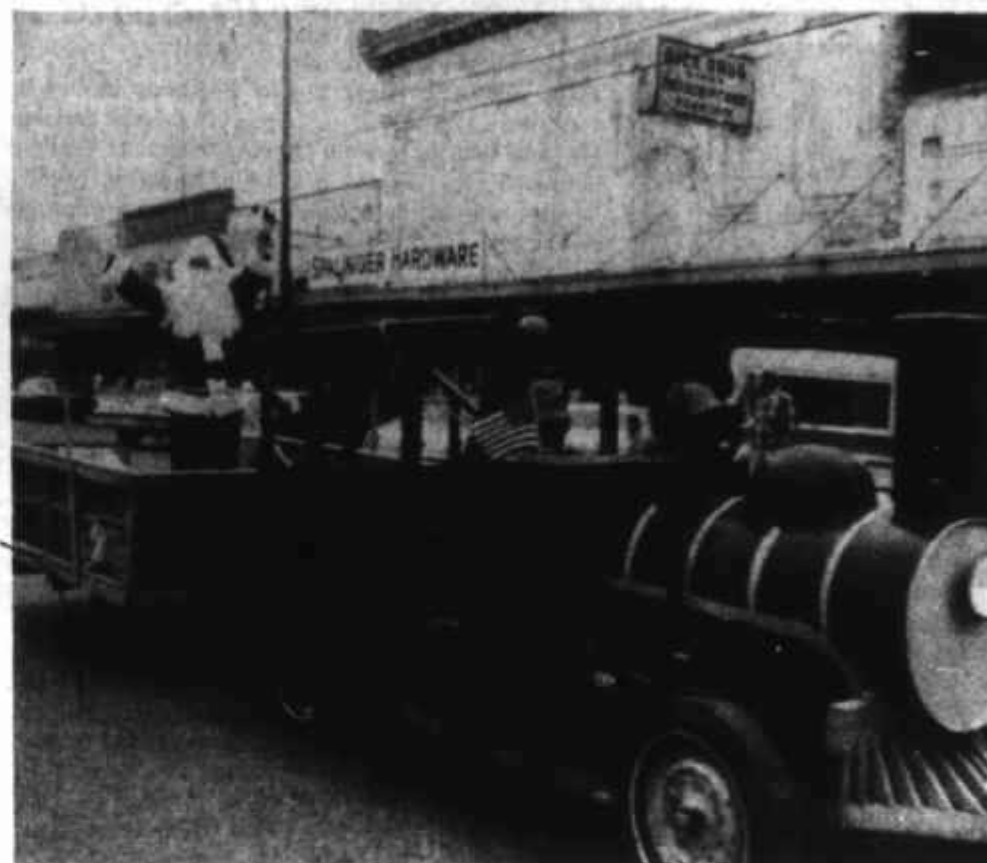


O Holy Night

May the Spirit of Christmas which is Peace fill your hearts with love and contentment this Holiday Season.

SPANIEL & SON
Sonny & Charlyne Mary Rose
Rudy & Bertha Eagle Lake

Santa On His Choo Choo Train



Santa Claus waves to the large number of persons, young and old, assembled in the area of the downtown city square last Saturday afternoon, Dec. 12th, when he arrived for his annual visit under sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce for a visit with the children of the community in the foyer of the Community Center. Santa came to town this year in a unique fashion, aboard the Lions, Shirley

and Kohleffel miniature train engine. The train engine was designed and constructed by the late E. H. Shirley, a Southern Pacific Roadmaster for many years. Engineer for the train was Alvin W. Kohleffel, a former engineer for the S.P. Railroad Company. Santa visited with over 500 children and gave each a bag of goodies. The train was escorted into the community by the Eagle Lake Volunteer Firemen's emergency unit.

January 6th. On Christmas Eve, people pray and chant outside the church until dawn. At 4 a.m., priests lead the people into church services. Christmas day is celebrated with gifts for children, dancing and feasting.

In Ghana, the advent season begins four Sundays before Christmas, and refers to Christ's coming. One can only admire the homes adorned with flowers and palm branches, and candle-filled palm trees!

In Asia, although in recent years it has gained significance, Christmas is not a grand scale holiday in Asia, except for Japan. Commercial stores have fostered many U.S. customs such as gift exchanging and turkey dinner. Similar to Santa is "Hoteisho," believed to have eyes in the back of his head.

In Bethlehem where it all began, Christmas is purely a religious ceremony, not encompassing the festive spirit found in other countries. Not much change can be seen in this Judean town, which helps

Blood Drive In Wharton Sat., Jan. 2

Area residents will have an opportunity to help prevent a holiday blood shortage by participating in the Wharton Ministerial Alliance blood drive on Sat., Jan. 2.

Skilled personnel from the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center will screen and draw donors from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First

Methodist Church at 1717 Pioneer in Wharton.

Rev. Kenneth Goodell, blood drive coordinator, urges all area residents to donate and cover their families' blood needs for an entire year. If you are a member of a Life Plan II group, your donation will also count toward the group's goal.

To make an appointment to donate on Jan. 2, call Rev. Goodell at 657-4942. For questions about donating, call The Blood Center at 791-0360.



our imagination to visualize life in Christ's time.



Another year is beginning... we hope it's a good one for you!

W.A. Virnau & Sons, Inc.
Massey-Ferguson Dealer
Eagle Lake - Sealy

Christmas Blessings

For three centuries following His birth, Christ's nativity was celebrated at various times in January, March, April, May, September, and October by Christian groups.



Health, wealth & happiness — that's what we wish for all our friends!

Priesmeyer's
Department Store
Garwood

WARM WISHES
Peace, happiness, joy,
good fortune and success!

D&D Grocery
Dale & Dean Matlock
734 East Main Street
Eagle Lake



O HOLY NIGHT



The holy spirit of Christmas reaches out with our good wishes.

Kallina Dryer, Inc.
ALTAIR

Season's Greetings



In the very best tradition, we'd like to wish our friends, old and new, holidays filled with the joy of the season!

J. F. Miller Ford Inc.
408 E. Main Mr. and Mrs. Jim F. Miller and Employees Eagle Lake

JOY AND PEACE

WISHING YOU A HOLIDAY FILLED WITH HAPPINESS!

Sheridan Dairy Delite
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Nanco & Sons
Sheridan, Texas

Alcohol-Traffic Safety Campaign Is Inaugurated

A statewide alcohol/traffic safety campaign was inaugurated at a press conference called by Governor William P. Clements Dec. 7.

Holidays Ahead, sponsored by the Texas Commission on Alcoholism in cooperation with the Department of Highways and Public Transportation, is being carried out by 28 councils on alcoholism in Texas communities, with the support of local organizations.

The campaign is based on the successful Holidays Ahead campaign run by the Tarrant County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Last year, the campaign was run for the entire Metroplex area by the Tarrant County group and the Dallas Council on Alcoholism.

James Grabbs, TCA director of information, who coordinates the statewide

Southbound, in that "land of the posadas," Mexico, families gather for nine consecutive nights to re-enact the first Christmas. This ceremony of drama, song, and prayer is followed by blindfolded children breaking a piñata. What a scramble to pick up the fallen pieces of trinkets and sweets!

Continuing south, we discover many countries have adopted the posada custom. South American children also put notes beside the manger for the good angels to take up to Jesus.

Upon seeing festivities

campaign, said public awareness efforts during the campaign focus on responsible hosting and on not allowing guests to drive drunk, "not on abstinence as such, since we realize some people will drink alcohol during the holidays."



We pray for the blessings of the Infant Jesus upon you and your loved ones at Christmas.

From The DIRECTORS, STAFF & RESIDENTS
HERITAGE HOUSE
EAGLE LAKE

JOY
Glad Tidings of Joy to everyone

Anna's Beauty Shop
Mrs. Joel (Anna) Coleman
Eagle Lake



Sing a song of joy this Christmas season and fill your world with happiness for the coming year.

EAGLE LAKE DRUGS & GRILL
Mary Jo and Les Euers and Employees
702 South McCarty Eagle Lake Phone 234-2502