Christmas Confusion!

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.

Christmas Blessings

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

Priesmeyer's

Department Store

Garwood

Firemen Have Another Busy Year In 1981

(Cont. from page 1 sec. 1)

Assistant Chief, T. J. Smith; Second Assistant Chief, Mickey Kochwelp; Major Training Coordinator, Ronnie Miller; Secretary, Melvin J. Stanclk; Treasurer, Pete Canaris.

Chuck Stephens was re-elected Captain of Co. No. 1 and Bill Blair as Lieutenant; Thurston Webb was re-elected Captain of Co. 2 but Clark Powers was named Lieutenant in place of Gary Glaiser. In Co. 3, Edward Sunderman and Monroe Briscoe will replace Johnny Prazak and Gene Jones as Captain and Lieutenant.

Buddy Mascheck and Darrell Gertson will be racing team captains; Todd Mascheck was named mascot; Clark Powers, Gary Glaiser and Jim Allen to the pension board; Leslie Wilkerson as sergeant at arms; Michael Barron as chaplain; and the membership committee for 1982 will include Terry LeNorman, Darrell Gertson and Gary Glaiser.

Special Guests

Chief Spanihel introduced special guests for the event including most of the thirteen life members of the Eagle Lake Fire Department; widows of deceased life members; honorary members; members of the Eagle City Council and Mayor Elmer Struss and wives; other city officials and employees who rendered "tremendous support and service" in behalf of the department during the past year. Also among the special guests were Eagle Lake police officers; Sheriff and Mrs. Jim Broussard; Ambulance Corps president and Mrs. John Mahalite, Jr.; County Commissioner and Mrs. Bill Stiles; and special guests recognized for their contributions to the department, Joe Koudelka, Johnny Kaluza, also representing Mrs. Miles Theuman, and Joe Mike Spanihel representing I. V. Duncan Ranch.

Also recognized by the Fire Chief were: the department's newest member, Highway Patrolman Joel Garcia; and a former member who was critically injured in an explosion while answering a fire call in Eagle Lake, Lane Voelcker and wife, Wanda, now living in Lyton Springs, La.

Auxiliary Presents Gift

Mrs. Ronnie (Barbara) Miller, president of the Eagle Lake Volunteer Firemen's Auxiliary, introduced members of her organization in a group and presented a gift to the Auxiliary's 1982 mascot, Jill Stephens, daughter of Mr.& Mrs. Chuck Stephens. She succeeds Rebecca Marsalia as the mascot, "Miss Sparkle."

Mrs. Miller presented, in behalf of the Auxiliary members, two pair of hip boots, items which the department members appreciate and which will be put to good use, said Fire Chief Spanihel as he accepted the gifts.

History, Service Report

First Assistant Fire Chief T. J. Smith gave a brief history of the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department which was founded in September of 1888 and reported on long service of eleven members which totaled 235 years; and on the 1223 man hours of service by the firemen in answering fire alarms in the year of 1981.

A full report on Smith's comments on these activities and others was reported in last weeks issue of the Headlight.

Second Assistant Fire Chief Mickey Kochwelp reported that the firemen answered 84 alarms in the period from Dec. 1, 1980 through Dec. 1, 1981, including 35 alarms in the city and 49 outside the city limits.

Ronnie Miller, Major in charge of Training Programs, for the Eagle Lake VFD, gave a report on this years training and equipment.

Further information on the reports of Kochwelp and Miller may also be found elsewhere in this section.

Fire Chief Spanihel closed the program by extending thanks in behalf of the department for the cooperation of everyone in making the 1981 year one of the best ever for the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department. The program closed with the singing of Christmas carols led by the special quintet mentioned earlier.

Shortly afterward the firemen and guests enjoyed daneing and entertainment by the popular Knights of Dixie Orchestra.

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 Firemenh Christmas Party held in the Community Center Sat., Dec. 12th. Presenting the framed life membership certificates was Melvin Stanclk, 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.

Medieval Carol

Make me merry, both more and less,
For now is the time of Christmas.
—From a Sixteenth Century Song

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.

The Star of Bethlehem

In some countries, at one time, Christmas Eve celebrations did not begin until the first star had appeared in the heavens, in memory of the Star of Bethlehem.

There are many customs associated with the star: Tyrolean "star-singers" follow a star-shaped lantern as they go about caroling, and Swedish boys and girls follow a child carrying a large star.

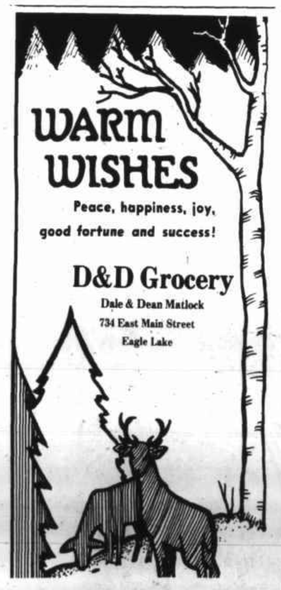
HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Wishing you Good Cheer
For Christmas and the New Year.

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

WARM WISHES

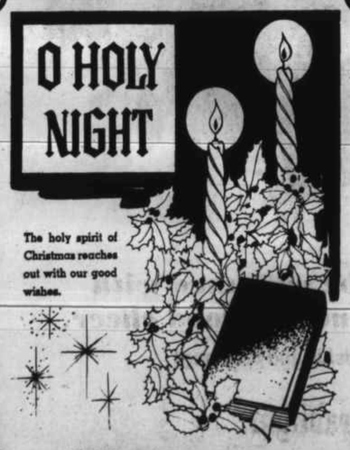
Peace, happiness, joy, good fortune and success!



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

Season's Greetings

O HOLY NIGHT



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

Kallina Dryer, Inc.
ALTAIR

Christmas Cheer

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

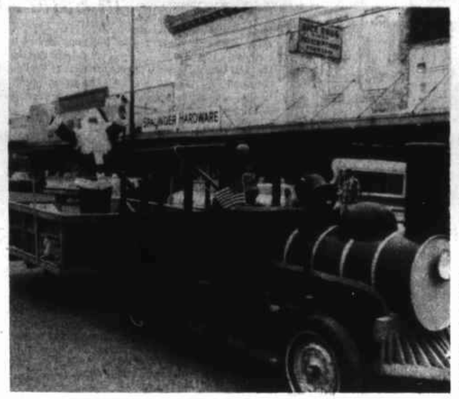
O holy night

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

SPANIHEL & SON

Sonny & Charlyne — Rudy & Bertha
Mary Rose
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 Firemenh emergency unit.

Christmas Customs Of Other Countries

Most of our Christmas customs are a gift brought from other countries, so there is much to be learned about the Christmas spirit by visiting them.

In North America

Our journey begins in Canada. In passing through this country's contrasting regions, we find Christmas celebrations vary from the folkloric dances of the Innuit, to French and British carols, trees embellished with candles, gifts, and a wine-soaked yule log.

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 pinata. 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 from sunrise to sunset, highlighted by horse racing and Indian dances, you'll know you're in Chile.

The season is ripe, and so, Bolivians celebrate their harvest festival along with Christmas.

In Africa

Christmas has long been an important occasion in Ethiopia. Following the old calendar, it occurs 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 "Hoteiosho," 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 ou. imagination to visualize life in Christ's time.

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 Alliances 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.

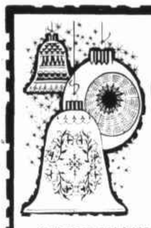
To make an appointment to donate on Jan. 2, call Rev. Goodell at 657-4942. For questions about donating, call The Blood Center at 791-6360.

Make the Connection

Texas Department of Public Safety

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

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



Happy Holidays

Ringing in the Holiday Season with Greetings and Best Wishes.

SHERIDAN LUMBER CO.
The Jean Walker Family – Sheridan, Texas

JOY AND PEACE

WISHING YOU A HOLIDAY FILLED WITH HAPPINESS!

Sheridan Dairy Delite
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Nance & 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 26 counells on alcoholism in Texas communities, with the support of local organizations.

The campaign is based on the successful Holidays Ahead campaign run for the past seven years by the Tarrant County Counell 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 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."

NOEL

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

Merry Christmas

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