

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

May the love of Christ fill your hearts now at the celebration of His birthday.

**RICE DRUG STORE**

Bea, Fred, Fritz & Rich Beth  
121 East Main - Eagle Lake  
Phone 234 - 2888

**Noel**

May your holiday be bright with the glow of friendship!

**Anderson - Allen Assurance Agency**  
Town & Country Center  
Eagle Lake

**Rejoice**

May the blessings of the Christmas season be yours. Greetings from

**Larry's Super Station**  
Larry Smidovec  
Garwood

**It's Christmas!**

And all the world is bright and cheerful. May your holiday be one to long remember.

**COLUMBUS LIVESTOCK MARKET, INC.**  
Columbus, Texas

No Sale until Jan. 7, 1982

## Tell Santa of Christmas Wishes



These children were among those who visited with Santa Claus on his visit to the Eagle Lake community Dec. 12th under sponsorship of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce. At the top are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Buffington, David, Randolph, Sybil and Jonathan; in the center photo are Erin and Matthew, children of the Michael Gallaghers; and in the bottom photo are the foster children of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Miller, Jason and Alan.

**Silent Night**

Let the good news gladden every heart!

**Andel Catering**  
Mr. & Mrs. Geo. B. Andel  
and Geo. C. Andel  
Eagle Lake

**HAPPY YULETIDE**

BEST OF THE SEASON TO YOU AND YOURS!

**Mill-Bauer Funeral Home**  
And  
**Dulany Monument Co.**  
The Larry Dulany Family  
EAGLE LAKE

## If You Itemize, 1981 Is "Good" Year

If you "itemize" (use the "long form") on your tax return, 1981 is a "good" year for deductions, recommends Nancy Granovsky, a family resource management specialist.

The Economic Recovery Act of 1981 will lower tax rates for 1982, so it behooves taxpayers to take deductions before Jan. 1, 1982, she advises.

Granovsky is on the home economics staff of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System.

For example, if you had planned to contribute money to a favorite charity, church or educational institution anyway, do it now during 1981 - if you itemize, she says.

If you wait until 1982, your tax benefit on the itemized "long form" will be lower than it is this year.

Thank because tax rates will drop 10 percent from 1980 rates - starting Jan. 1, 1982.

That's when you'll be able to add to your standard deduction 25 percent of the first \$100 you donate.

The percentage allowed will keep climbing until 1986 when the allowable deduction will be the same as for people who file the "long form."

1982 marks the first time people who file the "short form" will have a chance to deduct any of their charitable contributions even though the allowable deduction is only 25 percent of the first \$100 donated.

Of course, not all donations are tax deductible. Granovsky reminds taxpayers. Some groups, such as lobbying groups, do not fit the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) definition of "charities" even though the groups themselves may have "tax-exempt" status.

When you donate money to these groups, the donations

## Santa Talks With Children



A lot of children visited with Santa Claus in Eagle Lake on Dec. 12th, and these youngsters apparently enjoyed talking with the bearded gentleman. At the top is Justin Jobe, son of Tracy and Kelly Jobe; in the center is Christopher, son of Danny and Jean Waddell; and at the bottom are Jason and Sean Dulany, sons of the Larry Dulany.

**Christmas Blessings**

Sweet Babe of Peace, let us rejoice in your coming.

**Hruzek Construction Co.**  
Michael, Christine, Dustin & Jonathan  
EAGLE LAKE

## Stop and Celebrate Christmas!!

[By the Rev. Paul Krupkies, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake]

It seems as if the season of Christmas gets more and more hectic every year. More parties are given. More food is prepared and consumed. More gifts have to be purchased and wrapped. It is little wonder that it becomes so difficult, as we hear Christmas carols played in stores, and decorations adorning homes and businesses, to get into the "Christmas spirit." There is simply too much to do, too much to get ready, to prepare, before we can stop and celebrate Christmas.

Yet for some reason, when we do stop, the celebration of Christmas, the Christmas spirit, grabs us and moves us into the beauty and the joy of this special day of the year. For when we stop from the hustle and bustle of our busy, daily lives, we see a manger in Bethlehem with a girl giving birth to her firstborn. We see a miracle as our God becomes a human being, to live life as we each must live it. As we stop, we hear the voices of angels in heaven as they proclaim "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased." We share in the excitement of the shepherds as they are told that the Lord, the Christ, the Messiah has been born. And we journey with them and with the wise men as they go to see this gift of love and grace in the babe in the manger in Bethlehem; to present their gifts to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Yes Christmas can be a very busy time of the year with much movement and festivity. But it is only when we stop and share in the greatest of all gifts of this universe, that the real celebration begins. For it is when we stop long enough to allow our Lord's life, death, and resurrection to touch us, that our life is filled to overflowing with the love of God. That is what we celebrate at Christmas time - the love of God shared with each one of us, the love of God born as a helpless babe in a manger in Bethlehem.

It is the prayer of the members of Grace Lutheran Church that you take time from the rush of this Christmas season to stop and to share in the wonderful gift of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

are not tax deductions for you.

If in doubt about the tax status of any group - or a donation's "tax deductibility" check with the IRS, the specialist says.

Because the IRS will expect proof of your contributions, you should pay by check or get a receipt whenever possible, she adds.

**NOEL**

"Yesterday is a memory. Tomorrow is but a hope. Today is all we really have. Be happy."

Best Wishes For The Holidays And All The Rest Of The Days Of The Next Year.

**June & John Mahalite**  
Eagle Lake

**Merry Christmas Everyone**

Sincere wishes for a Christmas filled with joy and love. Peace on earth to all good men.

**American Rice Growers Association**  
Eagle Lake Division - Donald Obenhaus, Mgr.

30c Per Copy

# Eagle Lake Headlight

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## 1981 Rainfall Total Up Over '80 By 21 Inches

**Second Wettest Year In Past Decade, 10 Ins. Over Normal**

Total rainfall in 1981 was quite in contrast to the previous year with recordings at the lake plant of the Lakeside Irrigation Company showing that 1981 was one of the wettest years in the past decade, with a total of 49.02 inches this year (through Dec. 29th).

Rainfall in 1980 totaled 27.76 inches or over twenty inches under that of the previous year of 1979 (48.53); in contrast with the 49.02 inches in 1981, which is second only in this decade to the year of 1973 when 68.10 inches were recorded.

Average rainfall for this area is around 39 inches, thus the 1981 rainfall was some ten inches over the normal.

In 1981, August was the wettest month of the year with 9.07 inches followed by three months with over seven inches, May with 7.56, June with 7.75 and October with 7.06 inches.

The last two months of the year were the driest, with only .51 of an inch in November and .81 of an inch in December.

Monthly rainfall totals in 1981 as reported by Ralph Johnson, superintendent at the lake plant, were as follows: January 2.44, February 1.40, March 1.64, April 1.97, May 7.56, June 7.75, July 3.13, August 9.07, September 5.68, October 7.06, November .51 and December (thru Dec. 29th) .81.

Light rain was falling in the area at press time Wednesday.

Rainfall recordings at the lake plant for the past ten years are as follows:

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1981 | 49.02 |
| 1980 | 27.76 |
| 1979 | 48.53 |
| 1978 | 35.28 |
| 1977 | 34.89 |
| 1976 | 45.65 |
| 1975 | 38.78 |
| 1974 | 45.41 |
| 1973 | 68.10 |
| 1972 | 34.89 |
| 1971 | 38.14 |



May 1982 bring peace and prosperity to one and all!

## No Holiday Traffic Fatalities In County; 37 In The State

In spite of heavy traffic throughout the Christmas holiday period, from 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24th to midnight Sunday, December 27th, there were no fatalities nor serious wrecks reported in this county during that period.

The Department of Public Safety has estimated that 51 persons would die in motor vehicle accidents during the Christmas holiday period; however, when the final count was made at midnight Sunday, only 37 fatalities had been chalked up on highways of the state and on streets in cities and towns.

DPS director Col. Jim Adams says that 38 people are expected to be killed during the New Year holiday weekend which begins at 6:00 p.m. this Thursday, Dec. 31st and ends at midnight Sunday, Jan. 3, 1982.

The DPS director noted that "we can continue to

## Jan. 15th C. Of C. Banquet Tickets Are Now On Sale

Tickets for the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce annual banquet scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15th, 1982 in the Community Center, went on sale this week with all officers and directors of the chamber and also in the chamber office in the Municipal Building.

"The tickets are \$6.00 each which includes a delicious catered meal, entertainment and an address by Oliver Albritton who currently serves as chairman of a task force appointed by Governor Bill Clements to promote industrial and tourist development in this state. He is expected to bring an informative and entertaining message."

Other new officers, to assume office on July 1, 1982, include: Vice-President Wayne Shifflett; Secretary, Harold L. Williams; Treasurer, George Welch; Sergeant-at-Arms, Larry Rodgers; Directors for one year, Fred R. Franks and A. R. Coe; and Directors for two years, Earl Rodgers and Vance Duncan.

## Columbus Man Killed When Car Hits Truck

Colorado County's only contribution to the fatality list in the days prior to the Christmas holidays came at 6:10 p.m. last Wednesday, Dec. 23rd when a 64 year old Columbus man, Willie Laurence Mrkwa, was killed in the collision of his car and a truck and trailer on Farm to Market Road 109 1.9 miles north of Columbus.

Mrkwa and his wife, Mary, were planned in their 1980 Chevrolet for over thirty minutes before they were freed from the smashed vehicle after slamming under the trailer of the rig which was making a u-turn on FM 109. Columbus volunteer firemen and Ambulance Corps members from Columbus assisted by officers from the Sheriff's department and the Department of Public Safety worked to pry apart the Chevrolet and free the two injured persons. Mr. Mrkwa was pronounced dead upon arrival at the Columbus Hospital. Mrs. Mrkwa was taken to the Columbus Hospital with severe head and internal injuries and was later lifelifted to the Hermann Hospital in Houston where she is reported to be recuperating from her injuries.

According to the investigating officer DPS Trooper Alton Adcock of Columbus, the Mrkwas were heading north on FM 109 when a 1974 white truck and trailer, loaded with lumber, was driven by Earl Robert House of Columbus, began a u-turn from the northbound to the southbound lane. The Mrkwa car slammed beneath the trailer of the rig. House escaped injury and there was little damage to the truck and trailer. The Mrkwa car was demolished.

According to Trooper Adcock, the case will be presented directly to the next grand jury in this county for its consideration and possible charges. He praised the work of the sheriff's department at the scene of the accident and

## Police Investigate Slashing Of Auto Tires

Eagle Lake police department was called Sunday to investigate slashing of four tires on a parked car in the "flat" section of the city.

The vehicle was owned by Harold Bally of Victoria who is employed on the sewer plant construction project.

A Mrs. McVey called Relief Officer Ike Etheridge to report the incident but when Etheridge arrived at the scene the car had been moved and it was not until the next morning that the vehicle was found at 407 East C. Street with all four tires cut, apparently with a knife.

Investigation of the incident continues by the Eagle Lake police department.

Parked Picking Hit. The police department was notified Monday morning that a 1979 Ford pickup owned by Lakeside, Inc. and being operated by Roger Birdwell, was parked at 116 North Davis Street Sunday night and some time after 10:30 p.m. another vehicle apparently hit the side of the parked pickup truck. Investigation of this case also continues.

## Economic Conditions At End Of '81 In Stark Contrast To Those In 1980

**Economy Gripped In Recession; Further Dislocations Expected**

[By Babcock Reports Inc., Wellesley Hills, MA., December 31, 1981]

Economic conditions and the status of public sentiment in the closing weeks of 1981 stand in stark contrast to those of late 1980. A year ago, overall business was still trending upward. Moreover, there was hopeful expectancy that the change in the nation's leadership would lead to an alleviation - and ultimately a resolution - of problems which had been gnawing at the core of the economy. Now, as 1981 gives way to

1982, the economy is gripped by a recession and there is a rising tide of anxiety that the Reagan prescription will produce further harsh dislocations.

**Deep Pessimism Not Warranted**

The staff of Babcock Reports feels it is premature to summarily dismiss the Reagan Administration's efforts to shore up the foundation of the economy. It must be remembered that not all of the provisions of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 are yet in effect. In addition, pessimism with respect to fundamental and long-term considerations is not justified when one gives due weight to the fact that at least some progress has

already been made in slowing inflation and lowering interest rates. Yet, much more improvement must be attained on both fronts before the dangers are genuinely subdued, and this is a task which undoubtedly will take a good deal of time - and dogged persistence - to accomplish. The backlash on both counts in 1980 attests to the absurdity of hand-saw type solutions.

The true severity of the current recession can also be better evaluated by taking into account the postponement of business capital equipment investment as soon as it became evident

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## Hospital Completes Improved Communications System



Shown above is Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper, Joe Garcia of Eagle Lake, testing new radio communications between the D.P.S. patrol unit and the Eagle Lake Community Hospital.

## Commissioners Table Payment On Restoration Until Jan. 11

Colorado County Commissioners' Court met in special session at 10 a.m. Monday with the principal item on the agenda, approving the payment of a claim for \$9,623.34 to the courthouse restoration contractor; however, the commissioners voted to table the payment until the regular session on January 11th.

County Judge Lester J. Cranek said that an error had been made in application for issuance of certificates of obligation for the payment of \$9,623.34 to Charles Clark's Circle Double (C) Contracting of Conroe. Judge Cranek suggested that the sum could be paid out of permanent improvements, Bonded 4 Commissioners Bill Stiles suggested that the payment be tabled until proper certificates of obligation could be issued. It was agreed by the judge and commissioners that if the funds were paid out of permanent improvements, one of the \$5,000 certificates of obligation could not be used since they are designated solely for payment of the courthouse restoration program. The certificates of obligation carry a 6 1/2% interest payment, while the court can draw 17 1/2% interest on funds placed into certificates of deposit with the county depository, First State Bank of Columbus.

The commissioners' court and the contractor, on the

## Wallis Man Charged After Accident Sun.

Eagle Lake police with the assistance of officers from the sheriff's department, the Department of Public Safety and the Parks and Wildlife Department, investigated an incident involving a family argument which ensued after the collision of two vehicles at the intersection of Beaks and Church streets at around 8:30 p.m. Sunday.

Eagle Lake Relief Officer Ike Etheridge was called to investigate the collision of a 1979 Mercury and a 1979 Toyota pickup. His report showed that the pickup, driven by Arthur Raymond Besser of Wallis, was struck in the rear by the Mercury driven by a 16-year-old juvenile.

Besser allegedly jumped out of his pickup with a pistol and struck the juvenile in the face and broke out windows in the car. The vehicles were

## Former Restaurant Owner, Jack Listowski, Dies Suddenly

Citizens of the Eagle Lake community were shocked to learn of the sudden death of Jack Listowski, 64, former owner of Jack's Restaurant and Coffee Shop for eight years. Mr. Listowski suffered a heart attack while watching television at his home Sunday night, Dec. 27th. He was rushed by Eagle Lake Ambulance Corpsmen to the Eagle Lake Community Hospital, but valiant efforts at the hospital to revive him were in vain.

Mr. Listowski was born June 24, 1917 in Syracuse, New York the son of Witold and Anna Baborzyna Listowski. He served with distinction in the United States Armed Forces, with overseas duty in Germany during World War II with the 66th Infantry Division. He was in the service for a total of thirteen years. Listowski later managed bowling establishments in Syracuse, Richmond, Ind. and Chicago, Ill.

He and Erlene Austin of Eagle Lake were united in marriage on March 23, 1969 in Columbus, Ohio. They came to Eagle Lake shortly after and had operated Jack's Restaurant for the past eight years before selling the business to the Fred Broeseches and had been enjoying retirement since April of this year.

Mr. Listowski was a Life Member and a Past Commander of the Rice Area Memorial Post #783 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Under his guidance as commander the Post engaged in numerous outstanding community and veterans activities. He also was a member and past officer of the Eagle Lake Rotary Club. He was affiliated with the Transfiguration Catholic Church of Syracuse.

He was a strong supporter of youth activities in this community and also of the volunteer fire department and other organizations. His friendship and association in

(Continued on last page)

## The Snack Center Begins Operation This Saturday

Sam and Wanda Center will begin operation of The Snack Center, formerly Scott's Snack Shack at 1001 East Main this Saturday, Jan. 2nd. The business will be closed this Friday, Jan. 1st for the New Year's Day holiday and change of ownership.

The Centers invite citizens of the area to come by for delicious home-cooked foods of all kinds.

They plan to hold a formal open house at a later date.

Wanda will manage the business; Sam will continue duties as a Parks and Wildlife supervisor.

also assistance from the Columbus firemen and ambulance corps members.