

"OVER MY SHOULDER"

(By Rodney B. Kraus, Fort City Stockyards Co. Sealy and Bresham)

December's market seemed to be snake bit. During the holiday short-

Hello

A hat full of good wishes and luck in 1982

Commercial Electric

Eagle Lake
John Richard Torres & Family
Employees & Families

The very best to all and many, many happy days.

SEARS

Catalog Sales

Debbie, Jack and Jared Vawter
EAGLE LAKE

Happy New Year

Best wishes - Good luck throughout the New Year

1982

Eagle Market

Dorothy and Harrison Walker
Dorothy and Leonard Walker
Jimmy and Tommy Galvan
Eagle Lake

Joyous New Year

May the New Year as it unfolds - bring you happiness and peace.

Eagle Lake Iron Works

Andy, Linda, Walt & Dale Phillips
Fountain Springs
EAGLE LAKE

Lamaze Child-Birth Class In El Campo

The Childbirth Education Association of El Campo announces the beginning of another prepared childbirth (Lamaze) class session, which will start on Monday, Jan. 4 and will continue weekly for eight weeks.

Film night will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 26th and is open to the public. The Cesarean birth class is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 8, and mothers expecting a Cesarean birth are welcome to attend.

Anyone who is pregnant and is interested in attending prepared childbirth classes is invited to register now. For more information, please phone Sue Jackson (713) 543-4569 or Susan Ray (713) 543-2385.

Refresher Course

The association will also hold a series of classes designed to meet the needs of expectant couples who have previously attended a childbirth preparation course.

Class sessions are scheduled Monday, Jan. 4, Tuesday, March 2, and Tuesday, May 4.

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feeders came in many shapes and sizes. Some cowfolks shipping calves spoke of cleaning their pastures, rounding up all their calves that they had left.

Other folks said they still had a few more calves, but would hold onto them until next year. They hoped prices would be better in '82.

Fed slaughter cattle stayed discouraged and kept sending odd chills through stocker-feeder prices. Therefore, the month's stocker-feeder prices weren't anything to write home about.

By mid-December, when many markets closed for the holidays, found good steer calves flapping around \$63 to \$73, steers weighing 400 to 500 pounds, \$55 to \$65. Heifers weighing 300 to 500 pounds were usually \$52 to \$58.

Fed slaughter cattle supplies will be tightening and hopefully will point to an improved picture in the long term. By December 1, cattle on feed in the 7 major feeding states were down 8 percent from a year ago, according to the USDA report. Placements were off 2 percent from last year, making it the smallest number placed on feed during November since 1974.

Feed prices went adrift in December. Tremendous movements of hogs through the mid-west kept downward pressure on hog prices. Central, South and East Texas top hogs at mid-month were \$38 to \$42.

Locally, lean sow prices stayed equal to or sometimes over top hog prices. The strong seasonal sausage demand kept sow prices up.

December closed with the cattle market in the nearest thing to a wreck it's been in for a long time. For 1982,

Make the Connection

Texas Department of Public Safety

prices starting the year steady and holding its balance will be accomplished.

We wish you happiness and health in the days to come.

Texas Oilfield Contracting

Roy Dean Van Nort & Employees
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"Take over, young man."

Happy New Year

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR BEST WISHES.

Anderson - Allen Assurance Agency

Town & Country Center
Eagle Lake

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's 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 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 791-5360.

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Traditions Relating To N.Y.'s Come From Old

The first one you kiss after the New Year begins will love you most during the year.

If you lay a piece of silver outside the door on New Year's Eve night, get up the next morning without speaking to anyone and bring it in, you will have plenty of money the rest of the year.

If you leave the Christmas tree up after New Year's you will have bad luck.

These and other superstitions surround the last and first days of the year, and University of Houston folklore professor Lindahl says most New Year beliefs fall in the general categories of predictions, purification ritual and changing behavior patterns for the coming year. They also generally have to do with good or bad luck, and others to keep in mind as the year draws to an end.

"If you make a visit or have company on New Year's Day, you will have similar experiences every day of the coming year."

"If you move on New Year's Day, some member of the family will die that year."

"If a visitor originated the night on New Year's Eve, but not the next night, there will be a death in the family."

"If you see a man and a woman in front of the first when you arise on New Year's morning, you will get married before the year is out."

"If you take up ashes on New Year's you will have bad luck."

"On New Year's Day, to have plenty to eat all the year, you must eat black-eyed peas and hog jowl, and every member of the family must stir the pot."

Dr. Lindahl, an assistant professor of English, says this last bit of folklore seems to have originated in the U.S. Although no one knows for sure it may have started during the Civil War when some planters who had nothing to eat but black-eyed peas at a New Year's dinner were lucky enough to regain their fortunes so they credited the New Year's meal for their luck.

However, most New Year's traditions originated much earlier in our history, and our traditional "no holds barred" version of celebrating New Year's Eve has many historical precedents.

Lindahl says many anthropologists and cultural experts agree that for major transitions in life to be marked, a person goes through some type of separation and inverted behavior.

"For instance," Lindahl points out that "at a bachelor party the groom is expected to do things and act in ways which are exactly opposite from what the wedding is all about. This takes you out of the community for a while to emphasize that when you come back you will have a different status from when you left it."

"The same applies to New Year's Eve on a much grander scale. It's a time for people to be other than themselves, get disguised, adopt a different identity. The European mumming tradition is a good example of this. Citizens got dressed in costumes and performed plays for the community going from house to house. They adopted a new personality, acted aggressively and did things they wouldn't normally do to their neighbors. It provided a socially acceptable outlet for anti-social behavior, and that's still how we observe New Year's Eve," says Lindahl.

In the Middle Ages this period of time was marked by a mock court with the Lord of

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Earnings Limit to Rise For Social Security Tax

The earnings limit for Social Security taxes — the point at which the government stops taking money out of your paycheck for the retirement fund — will rise to \$12,400 in 1982, the Social Security Administration announced.

That is an increase of \$700 from this year's earnings limit of \$11,700.

And Americans paying top rate will pay out \$195 more next year, since the maximum tax will rise from \$1,975 to \$2,170.

Under a law passed in 1977 to bail out the retirement system, the Social Security tax rate will rise next January from 6.65 percent of earnings to 6.70 percent. Employers' contributions rise by the same amount.

The law requires the earnings limit to rise in response to increases in the average annual wages nationwide, the agency said Friday.

For the last four years, however, Congress has set its own earnings limits, which were higher than those the automatic escalator would have set.

For the self-employed, the 1982 tax rate will rise from 9.30 percent to 9.35 percent next year, resulting in a maximum possible tax of \$1,098.40 up from \$1,059.30 over this year, the government said. The earnings limit for self-employed people also rises to \$12,400 annually.

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Best Wishes

We hope the coming year will be prosperous for you!

CLYDE'S FOOD MARKET

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Farthing and Employees

Happy New Year

We wish health, happiness and good fortune to our friends and valued customers.

Duncan & Son

"A Friendly Store in A Friendly Community"

R. L. Duncan
Martha and Joe Duncan
& Employees
Eagle Lake

Happy New Year

We wish you health and happiness all days of every year.

RICE DRUG STORE

Bea, Fred, Fritz & Rich Beth
Eagle Lake

Happy New Year '82

Thanks to our many friends, we have had a wonderful year. Good luck to all.

From The DIRECTORS, STAFF & RESIDENTS

HERITAGE HOUSE

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