

'It was a hard decision' to leave

--Earl Winebrenner

By VINI CARBONA

If there is one quality that is clearly visible as one speaks with police chief Earl Winebrenner, it is his common sense. It is visible in the way he handles an interview, in his mannerisms, his choice of words. No sense in making a polished statement out of something that can be said simply and directly.

"A person can go to school, but good common

sense makes a police officer," he admits. "You've got to know how to give and take."

Sitting before a cluttered desk in a small, modest office, Winebrenner spoke about law enforcement in general. "Although Texas is still a little understaffed, the overall caliber of the officers has been greatly upgraded due to the Texas Law Enforcement Commission. Years ago, anyone six

feet six would get a badge and a gun."

"In this area, the big change was when Jim Broussard took the office of sheriff of Colorado County. He's done more for law enforcement overall than anybody. The man is not in it for money or glory, he really cares. I've called him at bad times and he's always been glad to help."

It seems Winebrenner cannot say enough good

things about the man he says "has been like an uncle to me."

But he feels it is harder to be chief of police than any other position, even sheriff. "Among the worst aspects one encounters as chief is the fact that job security is minimal. One is at the discretion of the city council. A man can be relieved of his duties if the council doesn't feel you are doing what they expect," says Winebrenner.

"Another bad aspect is the strain on family life. It takes a special person to be married to a police officer. You have to deal with bad hours, changing plans, trips you plan which you have to postpone...."

"I guess I always wanted to be in county law enforcement. Two people (aside from Sheriff Broussard) have helped me in making a life in law enforcement, Sheriff Mike Flournoy and Wharton

County chief deputy Jack Tyler."

Winebrenner's career began in 1967 as Wharton County police dispatcher, a position he held until 1969. In October of that year he became identification officer in the Bay City sheriff's office, becoming Wharton County I.D. officer in mid 1973. He was then promoted to investigator. In 1975 he was appointed captain in

charge of criminal investigation.

In 1977 he became chief deputy sheriff and later became acting sheriff after the death of Sheriff Flournoy. He resigned the position in order to actively seek election to the office of sheriff, but was defeated in the election bid in 1980.

Since being appointed chief of police in Eagle Lake in January, 1981, Winebrenner says his main

task has been building a competent department. "The Etheridge has been a great asset as far as helping me get my feet on the ground. My main objective was to build a rapport and a trust with the people. They had to get to trust me. That has been hard."

Winebrenner believes most important thing is to be able to adapt to all of

See CHIEF Page 3

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Council approves sidewalk sales, speed zone ordinances

A sidewalk sales permit ordinance was adopted, and an alteration of the speed limits on U.S. Highway 90A were approved at a regular meeting of the Eagle Lake city council last Wednesday night.

The sidewalk sales ordinance, the speed zone ordinance and the fiscal year 1981-82 audit report were the three main points of discussion on the agenda. All three were approved unanimously.

The sidewalk sales issue was reviewed by city attorney W. W. Stuart and slightly altered in order to facilitate its passage. A clause specifically prohibiting the display of glassware and sharp objects was eliminated by having merchants assume liability for injuries. Non-profit organizations are exempt from the ordinance.

The city attorney had advised council that the

amount of insurance for merchants could either be required by ordinance or the permit itself to allow for changes in the economy should coverage need to be raised in the future. City manager Robert Klockman will handle all permit applications, and the ordinance itself will be reviewed on January 1983.

The speed zone ordinance involves lowering the present speed limits into the city, progressively by 5 miles an hour, from a point at the east city limit on U.S. Highway 90A (Main Street), to a point at the west city limit of the highway (McCarty Street).

An audit of the city's financial report was very favorable, and payment of the remaining \$3,100 of the total \$6,200 cost of the audit to a Columbus CPA firm was approved. Pierce Arthur, who presented the audit, said "the books are in excellent condition. No

changes are recommended."

Among other points of discussion raised at the meeting, Mayor Elmer Struss briefly touched upon Chief Winebrenner's decision to take a new job in Wharton County. Struss said Winebrenner had told him he would always "treasure the time spent in this city."

The mayor appointed Sgt. Gil Steen acting police chief beginning July 1.

In other business, council:

- Approved closing streets for safety during the annual Catholic Church picnic.

- Was notified that Entex will conduct a workshop for council to explain its charge system.

- Urged that trees be cut back around stop signs, so the signs may be readily seen.

- Was told by Klockman the completion date for the sewer plant is September.



Out at home!

Allen Morales could not get past the ball in catcher Andy Hawkins' glove Sunday afternoon, and was tagged out at home plate. Morales Painting lost the game but won fourth place in the three-day Laker softball tournament last weekend. Hawkins, playing with the Bay City High Voltage, helped his team win third place. Umpire at left is Ruben Salinas of La Porte. For tournament details and additional pictures, see the Sports Page.

Vacation Bible School opens Monday at First Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake offers Vacation Bible School to all children age 4 through last school year's sixth graders. The school dates are Monday, July 5 through Friday, July 9, 9:00 to 12:00 a.m.

Vacation Bible School will provide hours of Bible and mission learning opportunities, arts and crafts, and refreshments.

The school will conclude with a Parent's Night Service on Friday night at 7:30.

The faculty includes the Reverend Melburn Sibley, principal; Mrs. Clara May Nash, secretary; Mrs. W. L. Bauer, refreshment chairperson; and Mrs. Clark Powers, arts and crafts director.

Grade 5-6 will be taught by Mrs. Gene Brown, Mrs. Melburn Sibley, Mrs. Herman Boothe and Timothy Mann. Mrs. Ross Obenhaus will direct grades 3-4 with the help of Mrs. Wayne Lipperdt.

Grades 1-2 will be taught by Mrs. Lanny Powers,

Becky Bengé, Darlene Stancik, and Mrs. Bill Harrison, Jr. Mrs. Case Hollub will direct preschool age 5 with the help of Valerie Bengé and Kathy Lanyon. Preschool age 4 will be taught by Mrs. David Baird, Mrs. Charles Hosman, and Jamie Ferrell.

Nursery age children of faculty members will be cared for by nursery attendants.

Pastor Melburn Sibley invites all children of the community to take part in the Vacation Bible School.

Rotarians install McInteer president

R. E. (Bob) McInteer was installed the new president of the Eagle Lake Rotary Club; Frank N. Davidson was installed as Rotarian of the Year; and Bryan Hale, "The Laredo Cajun", entertained at the Rotary Club's annual installation banquet. The event was held at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 22, in the Eagle Lake Community Center.

McInteer, local CPI office manager, will succeed Dan A. Thornton as president of the club July 1st. Other officers for 1982-83 include: Wayne Shifflett, vice-president; Harold L. Williams, secretary; the Rev. George Welsh, treasurer; and directors A. B. Cone, Fred R. Frnka, Earl Rodgers and Vance Duncan. The new officers were installed by Thornton.

The new president extended appreciation for the opportunity to serve as president and predicted, "with your help, our club will have another great year of service in 1982-83." Thornton commended club members and officers for

their diligent work during the year.

Welsh served as master of ceremonies for the event and led in singing of "America" and gave the invocation. The pledge to the flag was led by Tom Pilkington. A delicious ham and salad dinner was catered by Mrs. George Andel and staff from a beautiful buffet table.

Rotarian of the year

After introduction of guests, Thornton presented an engraved plaque to Davidson for being selected as "Rotarian of the Year" for his outstanding work in the club's many activities since becoming a member.

Hale entertained the Rotarians and RotaryAnns and guests with some "cajun humor" and conducted his talk with serious comments when he urged all present to "appreciate the freedoms and opportunities offered in America." He noted that optimism, not pessimism, should continue to be a way of life in this great country.

Hale noted that he had



Frank N. Davidson, center, accepts the "Rotarian of the Year" plaque from Dan A. Thornton, immediate past president of the Eagle Lake

Rotary Club. At right is R. E. (Bob) McInteer, who succeeded Thornton as president last week.

Hit and run

Two lives claimed

A flagman for the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation, and a truck driver, were killed last week in separate highway accidents, according to a Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman.

Stephen Liermann, 28, a truck driver from Columbus, was killed at 7:20 a.m. June 24 on FM 950, 500 feet east of State Highway 71 in a hit-and-run accident.

According to public safety officials, Liermann had

left his 1974 International tractor-trailer stopped in the right-hand lane eastbound. An unidentified dual wheel vehicle traveling East went around the tractor-trailer on the shoulder and struck Liermann 137 feet west of his own vehicle.

State Trooper Adcock responded to the call and Justice of the Peace W. A. Hefner pronounced the victim dead at the scene.

Liermann's body was taken to Mill-Bauer Funeral Home in Eagle Lake.

and then to the Harris County Morgue in Houston.

In an unrelated fatality, flagman, Bennie Albert Schertz, 54, of La Grange, was struck by a 1975 Chevy pickup truck driven by Oscar Red Hollis, of Schulenburg. Schertz was directing traffic from the road shoulder due to the presence of road construction crews.

The accident occurred June 23 at 9:20 p.m. westbound on U.S. 90 3.4 miles east of Schulenburg, according to State Trooper Myers.

Schertz was pronounced dead at the scene by Justice of the Peace Norman Priske and the body taken to Koenig Funeral Home in La Grange.

No window service, residential, business or rural delivery will be provided.

Normal service will resume on Tuesday.

U.S. Postal Service will be closed

The United States Postal Service will operate on a normal holiday schedule on Monday, July 5, 1982, in observance of Independence Day.

Courthouse

closed Monday

The Colorado County Courthouse will be closed Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day.

No garbage pickup

Due to the July Fourth holiday Monday, there will be no city garbage pick-up service, according to city manager Robert Klockman.

Regular Monday route service will be conducted Tuesday, Tuesday's route will be run Wednesday, along with the normal Wednesday route.

Merchants schedule sales

From merchants around the square of Eagle Lake, to other stores in town, special July Fourth holiday weekend special sales events have been scheduled for local shoppers.

Today's edition of The Headlight contains several advertising inserts for special sales events, and the center section of the newspaper is devoted to the merchants around the square participating in sidewalk and in-store sales.

Saturday afternoon there will be a pie and cake tasting contest with \$50 in prizes, followed by

judging of a bicycle decorating contest for youngsters.

The tasting contests are open to everyone. Bakers simply have to bring their home-baked goods to the tables to be set up on the square opposite the municipal building.

Register at 1 p.m. At 2 p.m. the tasting will begin followed by the awarding of \$25 to the baker of the best tasting pie, and \$25 to the baker of the best tasting cake. The prize money is being given by Fred Beth of Rice Drugs. A special award will be given for the cake with the best July Fourth decorating theme:

Cakes do not have to be decorated with the theme to win in the tasting categories.

For the youngsters, the simple bicycle and rider decorating theme is July Fourth, Honor America. First prize will be \$25 from The Headlight. Other prizes will be awarded.

Bicycle registration will be afternoon, also by the tables on the square, with judging to start at 1 p.m.

Photographs of all winners will be published in the next edition of The Headlight. Judges will be Chamber of Commerce Officials.