

Eagle Lake Headlight

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Per Copy

VOLUME 80

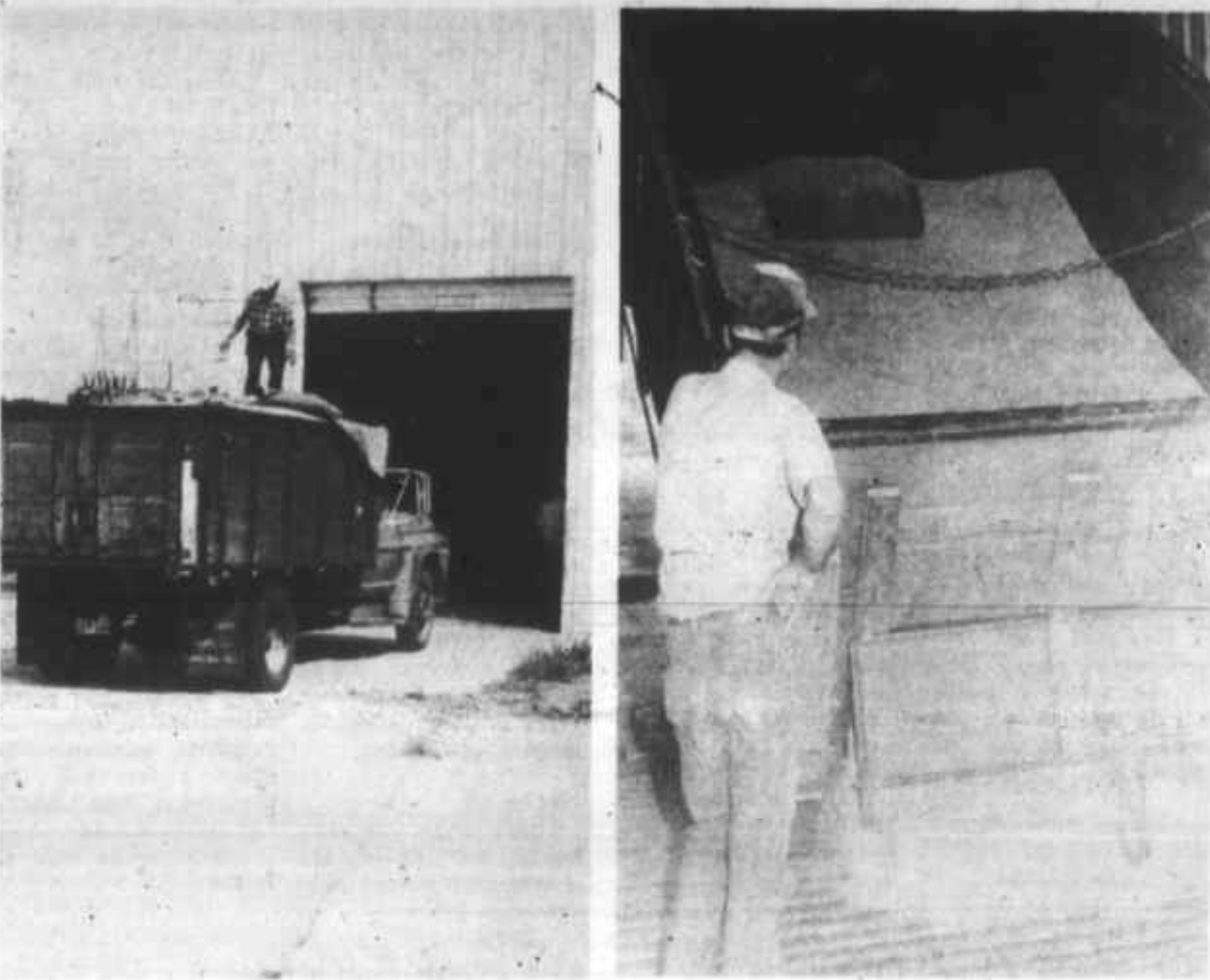
NUMBER 17

P.O. BOX 67

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067 THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1983

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Harold Hohlt, left, removes the tarp from one of the trucks he drives for Roy Stallman, in preparation for dumping the rice at the Eagle Lake Rice Dryer Tuesday morning. This load tested out at 18.9 percent moisture.

Community helps in hit-and-run tragedy

The Eagle Lake community once again opened its pocketbook during the past week to help out when a Mexican youth died after he was struck by an unknown vehicle Wednesday evening on Calhoun Road.

Rogelio Avila Soto, 26, was pronounced dead at 9:05 a.m. Thursday morning at Hermann Hospital in Houston. The body then was taken to the Guillen Funeral Home there.

Texas Department of

Public Safety trooper Sam Trammel is investigating the accident with sheriff's office and city police here. He said Soto was walking about three feet behind another Mexican man, Juan Rodriguez, heading south on Calhoun Road, about three-tenths of a mile from U. S. 90-A.

Rodriguez was knocked to the ground by Soto and later told Trammel he did not get a look at the vehicle, but said it had wide tires and a real loud muffler.

We've questioned people and have a pretty good lead. Trammel said Tuesday, but no arrests have been made.

Immediately after the accident was reported, police units sealed Calhoun Road for about three hours, but were unable to find a vehicle.

The community became involved when relatives learned it would cost about \$1,000 to transport the unemployed victim back to his hometown of Coahuila, Mexico. Susie Rodriguez

and Mrs. Guadalupe Cano knocked on doors asking for donations, collecting more than \$600 cash. The remainder was donated through the local Salvation Army unit by the Wegenhoft Benevolence Fund handled through the First Baptist Church, the Knights of Columbus, and by the local relief fund.

"We would certainly appreciate any information the public might have," Trammel said Tuesday, to help find the vehicle.



Summer fun almost over

Monday, Matthew Gunn, 9, and Richard Breimon, 11, playfully ride their bicycles on Center St., near Prairie, but the fun will soon be over as the start of school nears. Matthew will be in the 4th grade

this year, and Richard in the 6th. School starts for teachers next week, but students don't report until August 22. For complete back-to-school news, watch for your Headlight issues of August 11 and 18.

Rice harvest getting into full swing; moisture OK

What started last week as a trickle became a steady flow this week as area farmers have begun widespread cutting for this season's rice crop.

That flow is expected to become a flood next week as the later-than-usual harvest needs to be taken out of the fields to give the second-crop rice a chance to produce. By Monday evening, Eagle Lake Rice Dryer reported about 39,800 hundredweights had been delivered from the fields.

Although not every dryer was contacted, moisture levels are pretty "typical" for this point in the harvest, and as a whole are not

unusually high. While early rice may normally average between 18 and 21 percent, this year's ranges seem to be in the neighborhood of 20 to 21 percent.

Two dryer managers agreed that some still is coming in at 22 percent, but that rice cut this early in the harvest starts off a little greener.

Rain and winds in the Bonus area laid some rice down in the field both Sunday and again Monday when another half-inch of rain fell, but if the skies remain clear, that probably will cause more difficulty in combining, than it will a loss.

Ducks were reported in

that area, feeding off the crop, but Jim Wiese said he hired an aircraft to fly the field in an attempt to make the birds move on.

Nationally, a report from the Rice Council for Market Development, said planted acreage is about 30 percent less than last year, but in Eagle Lake, one dryer expects volume from Colorado County's crop to be down between 35 and 40 percent, because of the Payment In Kind program. Actual volume is yet to be proven, however, and with several area farmers, yield seems to have increased somewhat.

Total United States rice production for 1982 was

154.2 million CWT, harvested from 3.25 million acres in the states of Texas, Arkansas, California, Louisiana and Mississippi and Missouri. That was a national average yield of 4,742 pounds per acre. These figures represent acreage reductions in reduced yields from the 1981 harvest of about 15 percent.

Arkansas produced about 2.5 times more rice than Texas, but their average yield was about 4,225 pounds per acre while in Texas it was about 4,686. Long grain rice accounted for about 62 percent of the crop, while medium grain was about 32 percent.

Public urged to attend hearing on federal aid program here

A public hearing will be held this evening (August 4) at 7:30 p.m. in the city council chambers to explain

the Community Development Block Grant program for 1983 and to discuss possible projects.

St. Mary's registration Monday

Registration for students planning on attending St. Mary's school in Nada will be held Monday in two sessions, according to principal Jesse Morales. Both sessions will be in the parish hall.

The first session will be from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., then the other will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Morales said the evening hours were added because of the harvest activities.

A \$12 registration fee will be collected, but other fees, such as tuition, bus and lunch fees also can be paid.

Morales stressed that new students must bring last year's report cards to receive proper credit and class placement.

Among some of the new activities at the school, to be detailed further in The Headlight's back-to-school editions this month, include the addition of bus service from Eagle Lake. Our Lady of Guadalupe parish purchased the bus and will operate it between Nada and Eagle Lake for the school. Two new computers have been located in the library.

Morales said the school is accredited with the state,

so a student attending St. Mary's, then transferring to a public school, receives class credit.

In 1981, Congress amended the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, providing for administration of the non-entitlement portion of the Community Development Block Grant program by states beginning in the federal fiscal year 1982. States were given an option to administer the program

and Congress mandated that activities continue to be directed toward three broad national objectives.

First, the grant program is to benefit low and moderate income families. Second, it is to aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight and third, it is to meet other community development needs which

have a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community.

In July, 1982, the Texas notified the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development of its decision to administer the program this year. The

Texas Department of Community Affairs was designated as the lead agency for the development of the program design in January, and in July the new application and procedures manual was distributed to cities.

There have been four major areas of funding designated.

The Community Development Program covers projects relating to housing, public facilities, and public service projects. It will be funded once in 1983 with application due in September. In the Houston-Galveston area, of which Eagle Lake is a part, \$2.1 million has been allocated.

The Jobs-Bill Program was designed to aid areas in which unemployment is the highest. It is to be funded once in 1983 and \$900,000 has been allocated for the Houston-Galveston area.

The Economic Development Program will be statewide competition for the \$9.6 million allocated. It has been designed for projects which will result in either an increase in new permanent employment within a community, retention of existing permanent employment, or an increase in the local tax base resulting in an increase in local revenues. This project will be funded quarterly.

The final area of funding is that of Project Planning. \$1 million has been allocated statewide with quarterly funding. This fund has been established to help communities become more involved in the community-economic development process and is not for communities participating in the Texas Community Development Program through either the

community development project fund or the economic development project fund.

The funding process is a competition, either statewide or within the region, which takes into account need (as outlined in the application and federal guidelines), capacity to carry out the project, and how the need has been addressed. Citizen involvement and participation is a required for any application.

Two projects which the city has funded through block grant funds have been the sewer extension at West Main and Hubbard Ferry Road, and the drainage and housing rehabilitation project in the Westmoreland addition.

The hearing will address in detail all aspects of the program with public participation and ideas being welcomed.



Pique your interest?

These items, displayed by Mrs. Ada Cook, are some she might loan the new Prairie Edge Museum in Eagle Lake, if enough funds are raised to purchase the old Miller Ford dealership. With an eye toward reserving those material things

from the city's past, many people have items they have indicated they might loan or give the museum. For details on these items, see accompanying story.

Steel shot seminar Aug. 11 in Altair

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials have announced that two seminars will be held to help acquaint waterfowl hunters with the use of nontoxic steel shotgun shells.

The seminars will be held August 11 at the Blue Goose Hunting Club in Altair and August 12 at the Taylor High School meeting room in Katy. Both

seminars will be from 7 to 10:30 p.m.

The Altair and Katy areas of Southeast Texas are situated in a region in which the use of standard lead-loaded shotshells will be prohibited for waterfowl hunting for the first time during the upcoming seasons.

The use of steel rather than lead-loaded shells is an effort by the department to

reduce the incidence of lead poisoning in waterfowl, which pick up and ingest spent lead shot deposited by hunters.

Both seminars will be conducted by Tom Roster, an independent ballistics consultant. He will provide background information on why the change is needed and offer tips on the effective use of steel loads, of officials said.