

\$3.00 Lunch Special \$1.00 After School  
**Los Primos** Nachos/Drink  
 Homemade Mexican Food  
 Mon. - Sat. 10a.m. - 9p.m. 1237 Bowie next to Columbus Post Office  
 732-3824 For Telephone Orders

# Is this someone you know?

When Sam was 16, he ran away from home to join the Army. After that he took a job in the oil fields, married and had five sons.

Sam is 78 now and seldom goes out. His wife died suddenly last year. His sons visit whenever they can, but they have families and responsibilities of their own. Sam used to barbecue some of the best steaks in the country, but now he lives on cold cuts and cold soup.

His sons worry that he'll forget to turn off the hot plate and accidentally burn down the house.

We've known many Sams over the years. We understand the loneliness, the despair. We've created a special living environment for important people like Sam, who need:

- companionship
- nutritious meals
- security
- and someone to rely on in emergencies

There is truly no place like home, but we offer the things that make life worth living. If there is a Sam in your life, call us today for more information.

**Heritage House**  
 200 Heritage Lane, Eagle Lake - 234-3591

**ARA LIVING CENTERS**  
 Services

## If You Are Not Earning Maximum Interest On Every Dollar You Make, You May Be Banking In The Wrong Place.

### At Delta Savings of Texas, We Offer Several Interest Bearing Checking Accounts, And This Is Where Every Uninvested Dollar You Make Can Earn Interest For You Until You Spend It.

Money Market Deposit Account	Super Now Account	Money Tree (Personal Account)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$2,500 Minimum</li> <li>• Limited Checking</li> <li>• 10.20% Compounded Daily</li> <li>• 5.25% Compounded Daily, if balance falls below \$2,500</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$2,500 Minimum</li> <li>• Unlimited Checking</li> <li>• Interest varies according to amount in account, from 2.25% - 10.20%, Compounded Daily</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$500 Minimum</li> <li>• Unlimited Checking</li> <li>• 5.25% Compounded Daily</li> </ul>

We also make loans, and we always offer competitive rates on certificates of deposit, IRA's and other investment options.

Get Your ATM Card.

**DELTA SAVINGS OF TEXAS**

Alvin 231-4457/Brazosport 265-3500/Eagle Lake 234-5556/Friendswood 482-3264/Gonzales 672-8656/Marvel 489-0423/Pearland 485-2731/Shiner 594-2729

Rates and Service Charge policy subject to change without notice.



Coby Shorter presented principal Fred Graham with a plaque of appreciation.



Above, special recognition was given to Supt. Harold King, Bill Harrison Jr. (with Billy Harrison accepting), Mrs. Fred Graham and Carol Ripper.



At left above, awards for the work done during the year were presented to FFA members, and left below, Anthony Williams reads the names of award winners. Above, the 1984 FFA chapter members made special arrangements to honor the Ag teachers. From left is Willie Fitzgerald, who will be retiring at the end of this year; Ron Roberts, who is president of the Area III FFA Ag Teachers Association; Troy Krensek, who retired at mid-term, and Finest Axel, who joined the ag staff in January.

## Rice FFA has banquet

The annual Rice High School FFA parent and member banquet, honoring FFA members and supporters, was held last Thursday at the school commons.

President Coby Shorter III, who also is president of the Area III FFA Association, presided. The officers in the organization participated, giving a chapter program work report and presenting a parliamentary procedure problem.

Special recognition was given to Willie Fitzgerald, who is retiring at the end of this school year. He received a standing ovation from the crowded dining area as Shorter made the presentation. Four others were made honorary members of the Rice FFA chapter. They are superintendent Harold King, Bill Harrison Jr., Mrs. Fred Graham and Carol Ripper.

Throughout the evening, president Shorter made other introductions of people especially supportive of him and the Rice chapter.

FFA members receiving proficiency awards were Thomas Mahalic, crop production; Albert Tomchenon, agricultural electrification; Glen Hefner, beef production; Jeff Dugie, soil and water management; Richard Waligura, outdoor recreation; Rob Pavlu, home and farmstead improvement; Martin Korenek, fish and wildlife management; Glen Leopold, turf and landscape management; Missy Huvor, public speaking; Keith Nance, placement in agricultural production; Larry Taylor, Joe Lang, Curtis Rose, Owen Gallagher, Wade Miller and Bill Hefner, chapter leadership awards; Anthony Williams, agricultural mechanics; Leslie Heard, chapter leadership and horse proficiency.

Michael Burke, chapter leadership and diversified livestock production; Mike Sonntag, chapter leadership and extemporaneous public speaking; Connie Prazak, chapter leadership and floriculture; Coby Shorter, chapter scholarship award pin and swine proficiency; Jon Wunderlich, chapter scholarship award pin for the junior class; Travis Richter, chapter scholarship award pin for the sophomore class and chapter leadership award; Kevin Doranck, chapter scholarship award for the freshman class; Edwin Labay, agricultural processing; Phillip Huvor, star greenhand; Darrell Pagel, star chapter farmer; Thomas Mahalic, star chapter agri-businessman; and Missy Huvor, 4-T Ranch scholarship of one year's tuition at a Texas college or university, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Tise.

Ronel Roberts, Rice Ag teacher, also spoke and commended the chapter and Shorter for the work done during the year. He and Shorter have spent much of the year together traveling, carrying out their duties as president of the Area III FFA Association, and the Area III Ag Teachers Association that Roberts is president of.

Kindergarten registration

All parents who have a child five years old or before Sept. 1, 1984 should register at the Eagle Lake Primary School gym on Monday, April 30 between 2:45 and 3:30 P.M.

Parents are encouraged to bring a shot record and a birth certificate to the registration, if possible, as they will be required before a child will be assigned a room. The required immunizations are: D.P.T., polio, rubella, rubella and mumps. Copies of the birth certificates will be made and the originals will be returned to the parents.

## Rice students qualify for state at literary meet

On Saturday, April 14, Laura Appelt and Leonard Perry captured regional honors in spelling and prose reading at Brenham during regional competition.

Laura Appelt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Appelt of Eagle Lake, placed first in spelling by missing only one word out of the selected 120.

Leonard Perry, son of Mrs. Helen Perry of Eagle Lake, placed third in prose reading with his selection of Dick Gregory. These two students advance to state competition in two weeks.

Other Rice students participating at the regional meet were Leslie Heard in persuasive speaking, Tina Graham



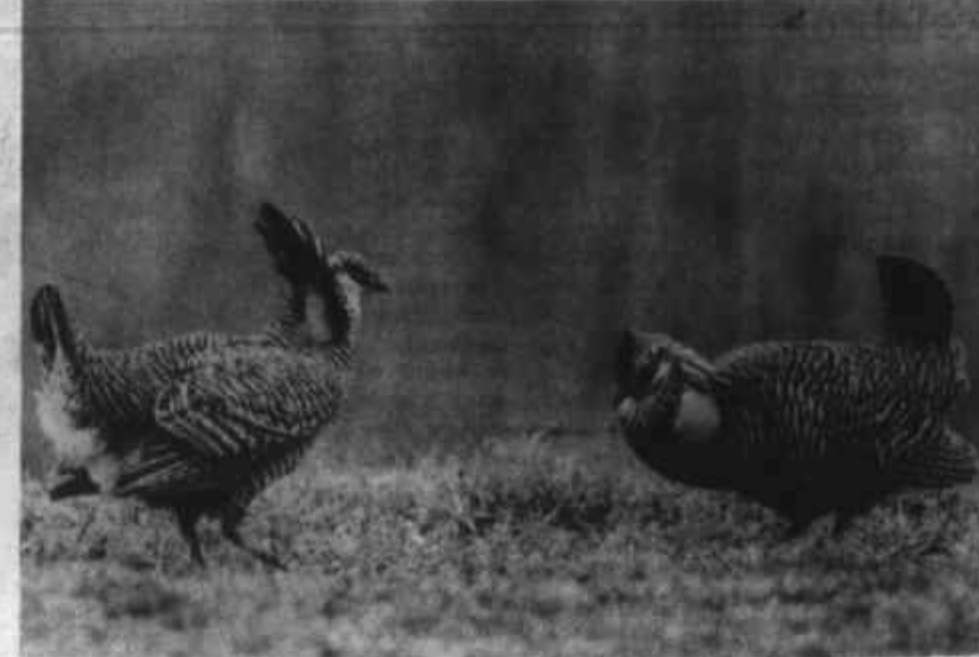
**Dennis Schroeder** representing **Mutual of Omaha**  
 People you can count on...  
 For All of Your:  
 • Hospitalization  
 • Accident, Life  
 • Income Protection  
 • Supp. to Medicare & Cancer Insurance  
**CALL OR WRITE**  
 P.O. Box 13  
 LaGrange, TX 78945  
 (409) 968-5211

## Refuge houses endangered Prairie Chicken

By CAROL REHAK  
 Staff Writer

The Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge in Eagle Lake, is the only refuge in the State of Texas established primarily for endangered species by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

To date, the 8,000 acre facility houses 168 prairie chickens. Population of the prairie chicken in Texas has declined from 2,000 in the 1970s to 1,500, according to Wayne Shifflett, Attwater Refuge manager. The fowl are prevalent in Colorado county and seven surrounding counties: Refugio, 670; Galad, 114; Victoria, 116; Aransas, 24; Austin, 276; Galveston, 74; and Fort Bend, 38. Colorado county has a count of 218.



Two male prairie chickens challenge each other to gain dominance of the booming grounds at the Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge.

Decline of the prairie chicken can be traced to the loss of range land referred to as the "Gulf Coast Tall Grass Prairie," Shifflett said. This was the primary habitat for prairie chickens. Today, this particular range land has been reduced to 200,000 acres from a vast land of six million acres.

In order to maintain optimum living conditions for the prairie chickens, authorities at the Refuge rely on the implementation of cooperative farm agreements, management programs and student projects, Shifflett said.

This spring 400 acres of refuge land is utilized in cooperative farm agreements. In this instance a local farmer planted his crop in regulation with his suitability for the prairie chicken and other refuge wildlife, according to Shifflett.

Donny Wiese, of Eagle Lake, has 150 acres of rice planted at the refuge. He also farms 60 acres of soy beans. Nolan Ranz plants 20 acres of hay grazer and 20 acres of rice.

Ninety percent of all refuge visitors come during the booming season, February 15-June 1, Shifflett said. "This is the only place in Texas where visitors can go and be assured to see prairie chickens during booming season."

Many of the visitors are from school and university groups throughout the U.S. and foreign countries. "We have four groups

need cattle to graze to keep grass under control," Shifflett said.

Money received from the per head cattle count is absorbed into a general fund, required by the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act. In this particular revenue sharing program, a portion of the money is allocated for schools of the Colorado county independent school districts, and for county road maintenance, Shifflett said.

Local ranchers that have their cattle grazing are Thomas, Rens and Harvey Frause, of Bellville.

Shifflett stresses a problem that the refuge must keep in close contact with. When the facility was purchased in 1972, the former owner withheld sub-surface mineral rights to the land. Slavson Oil Company of Houston, is in the process of drilling on the refuge, Shifflett said.

"We try to work with oil and gas companies to establish suitable drilling sites, especially during booming (mating) season of prairie chickens," Shifflett said.

After breeding, females will travel no further than one mile from the booming ground to lay eggs. They will lay 12-16 eggs at a rate of one-per-day. Over 90 percent of these eggs will hatch; however, there is a high mortality rate among chicks, he said.

The mortality rate is attributed to the following factors: At the end of the summer, parents will lose their young chicks in tall grasses leaving them to fend for themselves; and the chicks will be invaded

from England that come to the refuge just for the sole purpose of photographing prairie chickens," Shifflett said.

Also of interest to visitors is a wildlife collection on display. Family members of the late Mr. Tom Waddell of Eagle Lake loaned his collection to the refuge. Mr. Waddell spent over 40 years gathering the animals, Shifflett said. He was a local game warden.

During booming season, males arrive on the booming ground before daylight, with the dominant male occupying the central part of the ground, Shifflett said. "It is led to believe that the dominant male does 90 percent of the breeding," he said.

Males "face off" to claim territory. In this instance, the chickens will stare at one another until one retreats, or until a fight begins.

After breeding, females will travel no further than one mile from the booming ground to lay eggs. They will lay 12-16 eggs at a rate of one-per-day. Over 90 percent of these eggs will hatch; however, there is a high mortality rate among chicks, he said.

The mortality rate is attributed to the following factors: At the end of the summer, parents will lose their young chicks in tall grasses leaving them to fend for themselves; and the chicks will be invaded

by such predators as skunks, coyotes, racoons, snakes and hawks, Shifflett said.

Each spring, the refuge is responsible for making a census of prairie chickens at refuges throughout the state, Shifflett said. In Colorado and Austin counties, this is done with the aid of a helicopter donated by David Wintermeyer of Eagle Lake and piloted by Dan Thornton, also of Eagle Lake.

In the other six counties a helicopter is contracted out and paid for by the Attwater Refuge. The census is compiled by biologists from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, in an attempt to count every male prairie chicken in the state, Shifflett said.

The Attwater Refuge employs six others besides Shifflett: Gary Montoya, assistant refuge manager

After the total number of males is observed, that figure is multiplied by two to come up with the total prairie chicken population. "Prairie chicken specialists theorize that there is a 1:1 ratio between sexes," Shifflett said.

Other wildlife that inhabit the refuge include Sand Hill Cranes, and Bald Eagles during winter months; White Tail Hawks, Carr Caras, Bob White Quail, Houston Toad (another endangered species) and herds of deer.

Some projects conducted by the refuge include: construction of oil and paint houses, fences and concrete pumphouses, and delivery of shrubs and grass to headquarters. Past groups have built two photo blinds, an observation tower, and replanted shrubs.

Future plans at the Refuge include a 13 mile self-guided auto tour loop and a wildlife interpretive tour loop to be completed within the next three years. According to Shifflett, it will include 12 wayside exhibits and an observation tower overlooking the marsh. It will also include diagrams explaining different wildlife areas on the refuge, exhibit areas and movies.

The Attwater Refuge employs six others besides Shifflett: Gary Montoya, assistant refuge manager

**M&M Western Store**

GOOD SELECTION OF  
 • Restored & American Hats  
 • "Hanes" Socks, T-shirts, Shorts  
 • "Acme" Boots, "Norona" Boots  
 • Wrangler Outerwear, Jeans, Shirts, Jackets for Youth and Adult

217 E. Main-Eagle Lake-234-3986

**Kevin Court Apartments**  
 A living environment for Senior Adults  
**NOW RENTING**  
 One-Bedroom Apartments Featuring:  
 • Individual heating and air conditioning  
 • Cable TV outlets  
 • Smoke detectors  
 • Laundry facilities  
 • Conveniently located to shopping & doctors' clinics  
 • Designed for adults  
 • Community building featuring weekly activities such as: exercise class, movies, covered dish suppers, bingo

**Rental Rates-Based upon Income**

Monthly Income	Rent	Utility Allowance
\$400	\$79	\$41
\$600	\$139	\$41

EXAMPLE:  
 MAXIMUM RENT: \$273

Rental Office: 400 S. Austin Rd., Eagle Lake  
 Call Heidi Mills, Manager,  
 at (409) 234-2855

**ELECT: FRANK BRISCOE**  
 Judge, First Court of Appeals

A NATIVE TEXAN

THE BRISCOE FAMILY HAS LIVED AND WORKED IN FORT BEND COUNTY SINCE THE 1830'S.

AFTER ATTENDING TEXAS A&M, BRISCOE RECEIVED HIS LAW DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN.

HE SERVED WITH DISTINCTION IN THE MARINES IN WWII WITH SERVICE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

HE IS A WIDOWER WITH FOUR SONS, AND IS ACTIVE IN THE METHODIST CHURCH.

FRANK HAS 33 YEARS OF LAW PRACTICE, TWICE ELECTED HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR BY THE BRISCOE FOR JUDGE CAMPAIGN, 1021 MAIN STREET, HOUSTON, TX 77002.

## Alligators may be added to hunters list

Public hearings will be held in three Southeast Texas counties during April to obtain comments on proposed regulations for a controlled harvest of alligators this September.

An open alligator season was made possible as a result of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service reclassifying the American alligator in Texas as a "threatened due to similarity of appearance." Formerly, alligators were classified as a "threatened" species in coastal Texas areas, and "endangered" elsewhere in the state.

Hearing times and locations are:  
 •Jury Impanelling Room, County Courthouse, Beaumont, Jefferson County, 7 p.m. April 10.  
 •White Community Park, Anahuac, Chambers County, 7 p.m. April 11.  
 •County Courthouse, Bay City, Matagorda County, 7 p.m. April 12.

Testimony from the hearings will be considered by the Parks & Wildlife Commission prior to adopting regulations, according to Bruce Thompson, alligator program leader.

Thompson said if approved, the regulations would provide an open season September 7-29, 1984, with bag limits based on issuance of alligator tags to landowners after population surveys are completed during the summer. Only alligators four feet in length or longer would be legal for harvest.

The proposal would limit gear for taking alligators to baited hook and line, harpoon or gig and archery, except crossbow. All gear, including archery, would have to utilize line of at least 300-pound-test to maximize retrievability of the animals.

The proposal would establish licenses including a \$25 resident alligator hunter's license (\$75 nonresident) and a \$150 resident alligator buyer's license (\$450 nonresident).

Regulations for importation, exportation, propagation, purchase and sales of alligator parts also are included in the proposal.

Thompson said the reclassification of alligators in Texas was in response to a dramatic increase in populations of the reptiles in the state's coastal marshes and bayous during the past decade. A 1980 survey estimated the coastal population at approximately 90,000 animals.

The proposed regulations were patterned somewhat after those established in Louisiana, where there has been a controlled harvest of alligators since the early 1970s, Thompson said.

**Perk Up Your Patio**  
 For Easter With Traditional Easter Plants and Hanging Baskets

**SUNSHINE PERSONS**

All purpose blend potting mix All This And More Available At

**CANARIS NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER**  
 234-2869  
 900 W. Main Eagle Lake