

Eagle Lake Headlight

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Per Copy

VOLUME 81 NUMBER 9 P.O. BOX 67 EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067 THURSDAY, June 7, 1984 PHONE (409) 234-5521 © 1984, EAGLE PUBLISHING, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED (USPS 163-760)

Four-vote spread widens to nine

Janecka asks for recount in tax assessor race

When the vote counting was over in Colorado County after Saturday's primary election runoff, Evelyn W. Thomas was declared the tax assessor-collector winner over Mary Ann Janecka with a four vote margin.

But Tuesday afternoon Thomas learned she had five more votes in voting box one (Columbus),

to increase her slim lead to nine votes. In the latest report, Thomas has 1,074 votes, to 1,065 for Janecka. Complete box-by-box election results are on page 13.

Due to her narrow defeat, Janecka is asking for a recount, which will cost her about \$200. As it stands now, Thomas has 50.12 percent of the votes, with Janecka holding 49.88

percent.

Janecka was the victor in the first primary election held May 5. She received 879 votes, while Thomas had 763. The third contender, A. L. Behrens, received 714. That total of 2,356 votes cast compares with 2,139 votes cast this past Saturday.

In the county's three cities, Janecka came out

ahead in Weimar, where both women live. She won 56 percent of the 887 votes cast there. In Eagle Lake, Thomas won 64 percent of the 194 votes cast, and in Columbus she won 53 percent of the 189 ballots counted. Those city totals do not include absentee ballots, which tallied into the total county vote.

In other results of the

runoff election in Colorado County, Kent Hance received 1,281 votes for United States Senator. Lloyd Doggett received 763 votes, however, he was the victor statewide.

For Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 2, Bill White defeated Roy E. Greenwood receiving 1,000 and 657 votes, respectively. White also edged

Greenwood in the May 5 election.

For Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals Place 3, Bill White defeated Thomas B. "Tom" Thorpe receiving 1,134 out of 1,666 votes.

In her second opportunity opposing Frank Briscoe, Michol O'Connor defeated Briscoe for Associate Justice Court of

Appeals, 1st Judicial District Place 2. In Colorado County, she trailed Briscoe by 171 votes in the May 5 election. In the runoff, O'Connor received 939 votes to Briscoe's 915.

However, O'Connor was defeated overall in the statewide race for this position.

Ed Lindsay received 51 percent of the County

votes to edge Warren E. Hancock for Associate Justice Court of Appeals, 14th Judicial District. A total of 1,638 ballots were cast from County voters.

In Colorado County Republican runoff results, Mac Sweeney defeated Chris Mealy for U.S. Senator by four votes. They received 56 and 52 votes, respectively.

'Prof' Fitzgerald honored with dinner

Willie L. "Prof" Fitzgerald was honored Saturday night at Rice High School with a beautiful and personal "retirement" dinner that included the presentation of a new 1984 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck.

As one of the evening's many speakers said, "We don't look upon this retirement as the end of a career, rather it is the beginning of a well deserved change in life," allowing Fitzgerald and his wife Dorothy to devote their attention to themselves instead of others as they have done most of their life.

The party began at 7:30 p.m. in the school's Commons area with a catered barbecue dinner. Bill Carpenter served as master of ceremonies, a special choir accompanied by Coby Shorter III

presented "Battle Hymn of the Republic," as a most enjoyable change from previous such dinners. Shorter, who is up for election as state FFA president, continued with the piano music throughout dinner, making it one of the most distinctive meals in recent school memory.

The welcome was presented by Wilbert Williams, with the invocation offered by T. J. Smith, before dinner was served.

As a reminder that such an occasion should not be a serious, dry affair, MC Carpenter lead Fitzgerald to the "hot seat" on stage behind the dias, and opened the "this is your life" segment. A voice from behind the curtain would reminisce about some past event the professor had been in-

involved in, and it was up to Fitzgerald to guess the speaker's name. Belvin Mann came first, talking about the installation of irrigation water for the student farm in Eagle Lake in 1956.

As former students might guess, one story involved the punishment that could be meted out for misdeeds. Gene Smith related what happened one week when the Prof scheduled visits to students' homes to check on the projects required of agriculture students. One evening at one student's house, the Prof awarded an "A" for a pen of three rabbits.

However, the student scheduled for a visit the next evening didn't have a project, so the rabbits were moved to his house. Smith said Fitzgerald came to the student's house on

time, looked at the rabbits, scratched his head, then also gave that student an "A."

Since the third student scheduled for a visit the third evening failed to have a project, he too borrowed the rabbits. However, it only took a second for Fitzgerald to realize he had been had. "You might get me once," Smith said Fitzgerald told them, "but not twice." Several licks were administered the next day, so Saturday night, Fitzgerald

awarded an extra-large "board."

Several other stories told kept the pace moving, and everyone laughing in enjoyment. Dwight Rhodes, former Rice ag student who now has a masters degree, made a personal presentation following his remarks to the nearly full-house audience. But in a quick turn of events, gave Mrs. Fitzgerald a beautiful watch, instead of giving it to him.

Five speakers were then called on for a more serious note. Henry White commented that "You can't say too many good things about this man...who has devoted his life to

children." Tom Northrup added similar remarks with a question, "What do you say about a man who has given his life to students?" Relating the story about old soldiers fading away, Northrup



Willie Fitzgerald, Jr., made a surprise visit home from Europe and the Middle East to be a part of his dad's party. Additional pictures Page 3

said that "We can't afford to let you fade away...now you don't have to worry about school superintendents or boards of education."

Fred Grahmann added his laudatory remarks, and Coby Shorter III called Fitzgerald the "epitomy of a humanitarian."

One of the biggest surprises of the weekend was the unannounced visit home of Willie Fitzgerald Jr., who is on duty with the Air Force in Germany and Saudi Arabia. "I just wanted to tell his students that his 'board' didn't stay at school," he said, continuing with several minutes of personal praise for his parents. Another presentation was made to Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald.

One of their daughters, on behalf of their children, told them the family had arranged for a seven-night vacation in Hawaii, given "with love from your children."

In the final presentation of the evening, Ronel Roberts, on behalf of Finest Axel, Obie Rhodes and Clifton Glover, gave Fitzgerald the keys to the new pickup purchased at Lake Motors, Inc. It is a gift from many, many people Fitzgerald has worked with and has been associated with throughout this part of the state.

The choir helped bring the evening to a close with "How Great Thou Art," and C. Williams gave the benediction.

Fitzgerald, a Columbus resident who was born in

A Personal Note

Dear Friends and associates:

We want to make sure that you know how much and how deeply we appreciate all those who helped organize Saturday night's festivities at Rice High School. Memories of that night will remain with us always -- all because there are so many people in this area who took the time to help; there isn't room to mention each of you individually, but we

especially want to thank the Rev. and Mrs. Coby Shorter Jr., Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Smith, Travis Wegenhoft at the First National Bank of Eagle Lake, and Tom and Katie Northrup.

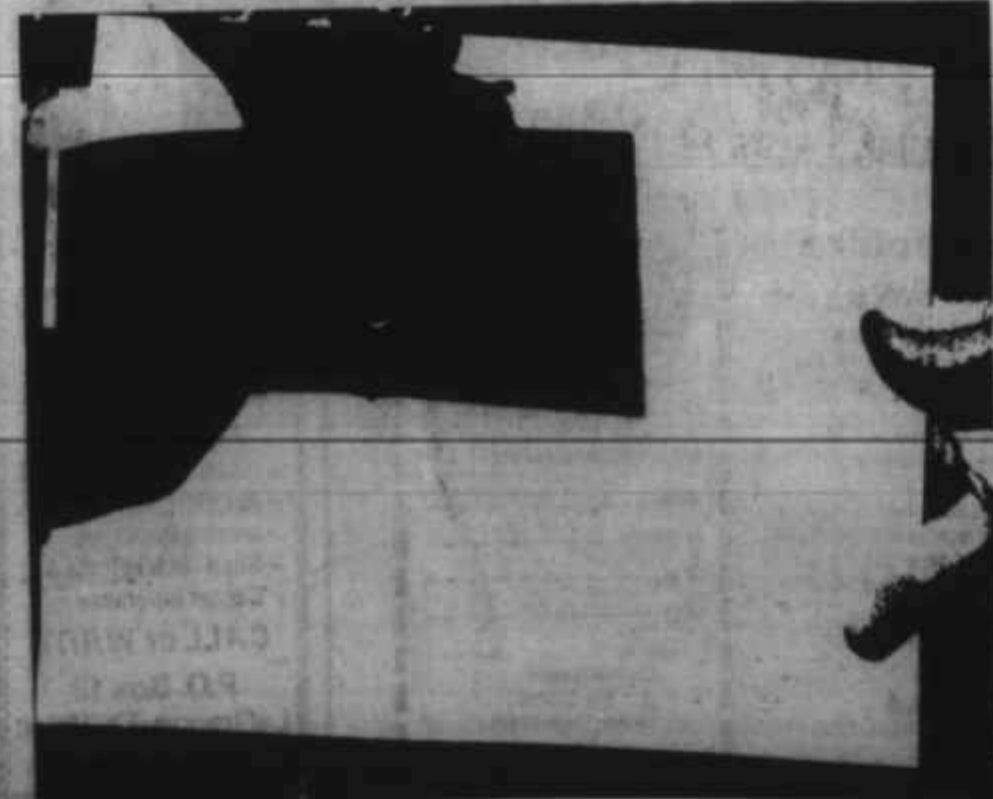
We ask all of you to accept our personal thanks...We hope we can do as much for you in the future.

-Willie and Dorothy Fitzgerald



Eclipse spots

Headlight co-publisher John Fearing, and his sister Michele van Poppel, watched last Wednesday's partial eclipse of the sun through a make-shift pin-hole projector, thus avoiding the damaging rays of the sun. Below is a special photographic blow-up of the shadow on the paper Fearing is holding. The small crescent is the sun, with about 90 percent of its rays blocked by the moon.



Farmers hear report on '83 crop, sales

Members of the Eagle Lake division of the American Rice Growers Coop held their annual meeting last Wednesday at the community center here, enjoying a catered steak dinner.

The business meeting that followed included election of board members and the annual report on the 1983 crop.

Donald Obenhaus, division manager, opened his report with a chuckle when he said it would be a short report, referring to last year's Payment-In-Kind program which reduced acres planted. For instance, the 1982 crop was grown on 46,515 acres while only 34,537 acres were cultivated for the 1983 crop. As a point of comparison, the Lakeside Water Division served 27,942.25 acres in 1981, and in 1983 served only 20,990.24 acres.

At the end of his report Obenhaus said he would like to report how many acres were planted this year, and what types of rice were planted, but the

farmers are late in turning in their reports. "They probably are still in your trucks," he said, asking that they be turned in promptly.

This year, LCRA's water division is serving 25,413.51 contracted acres. That means acres under water this year should be between 40,000 acres and 45,000 acres.

Obenhaus also reported on yield and sales. The average price per hundredweight of last year's first crop was sold for \$10.75 while the second crop averaged 9.96. PIC rice, which was mostly lower-quality California grown, went for an average of \$8.60. He said there were 1.6 million hundredweight sold.

Average yield on the first crop was 41.5 CWT, while the second crop was 3.35 CWT. Gross sales last year was \$19.5 million, compared to \$22.5 million the previous year.

Board members elected to the local division were Nelson Isenhower, Danny Gertson and Paul Johnson.

David Wintermann and W. J. Brunner were re-elected to the central board, and R. L. Clipson Jr. was named representative to

the American Rice Growers Exchange.

Robert Cook, division president here, served as master of ceremonies.

Lonnie Sommerlatte read the previous meeting minutes, and Earl Rogers gave the healthy treasurer's report.



Donald Obenhaus, left, manager of the Eagle Lake division of the American Rice Growers Coop, talks with division secretary Lonnie Sommerlatte about the crop report.