

Eagle Lake Headlight

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Pre-registration on RHS calendar

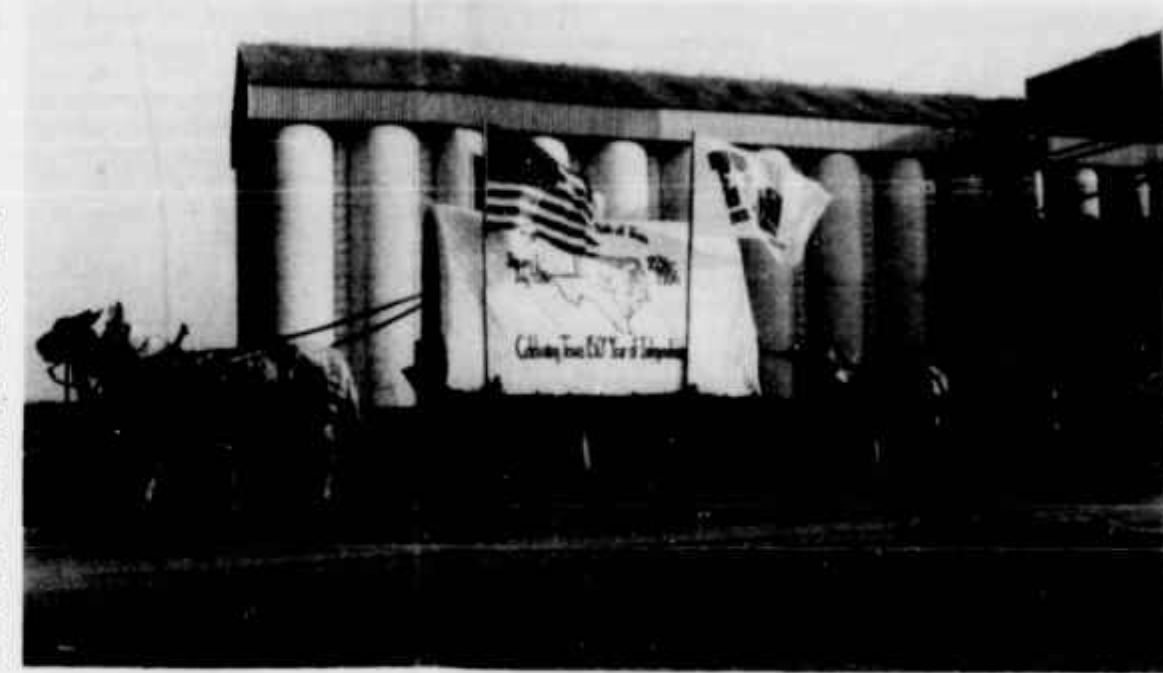
Pre-registration for next year's classes at Rice High School are listed as some of the January activities that will make the month a busy one for students, according to Doug Wright, counselor. Here is a schedule:

- Local scholarship applications, January 6 through March 3.
- Six-week exams scheduled, January 15-16.
- Student holiday January 17, no school for students (teacher work-day).
- Spring semester begins Jan. 20.
- Report cards out, January 22.
- Honor roll due, January 24.
- Pre-registration: January 25-30 are the dates students at Rice High School can pre-register for classes for next year. The schedule is specific:
- January 25 is registration day for students who will be seniors next year.
- January 29 is for students who will be in the 11th grade next year.
- January 30 is for students who will be in the 10th grade next year.

For students from Eagle Lake Middle School, who will be entering the 9th grade at Rice High School next year, registration will be held at ELMS on February 3 and 4.

Students from Garwood entering the 9th grade next year will register at the Garwood School on February 5, and Sheridan students will register at their school on February 6th.

Those students presently enrolled in St. Anthony's or St. Mary's Catholic schools, who will be entering Rice High School next year, should contact Wright at the high school, 234-3535. They will be provided with pre-registration information, so they can sign up for 9th grade classes.



Riding on. The Sesquicentennial Trail Ride of Texas moved past the Rice Industries dryer last Friday morning. Riders had spent the previous night camped in Lissie and were heading to Eagle Lake for a morning break.

Telethon gets local promotion

The United Cerebral Palsy Telethon scheduled January 19 will receive a local boost, thanks to the Pilot Club of Eagle Lake and the Delta Savings Association office here.

Linda Phillips, pilot club chairman for the telethon, has placed coin collectors in businesses around the area and urges everyone to please drop their change into the container.

On the Sunday of the telethon, Pilot members will staff Delta Savings' office on McCarty. In the meantime, they are selling tickets for barbecue sandwiches. Since Delta Savings is purchasing all the food needed, all money raised from the sale of the sandwiches will go to UCP.

"Plan to go by Delta Savings Sunday, January 19th, and make your donation," Mrs. Phillips said.

New members, donation

The Pilot Club recently accepted new members into the club. They are Bea Beth who was a member of the Pilot Club in Humble, Jeanita Mayfield, Doris Thomas and Marion Werland.

Also, the Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus No. 4843 have given \$250 to the local Pilot Club to help with community work. Ray Sykowski, the KC's grand night, presented the check to Min. Decey Kobhefeld, project coordinator for the Pilot Club here. (Picture inside this issue.) The funds will be used where needed most, she said.

LifeLine chairman Lucille Lange asks that if anyone needs information about the program, they should contact her or any Pilot member.

Election nearing

Election time is quickly rolling around with local prospects keeping a low profile, while there is trail of regional and state politicians beating a path to the voters' doors.

Local interest revolves around the mayoral position which Elmer Struss is relinquishing after nearly two decades in public office. In Colorado County, county judge Lester Crank and commissioner Bill Siles are two of the many officials whose positions are open for competition. Two positions are to be voted on in the Rice school district board of trustees.

District 30 state representative Robert Saunders will have several opponents, and nationally, first term congressman Mac Sweeney also will have opposition.

Candidates for positions in Eagle Lake will be able to file starting Monday, January 20. Filing deadline this year is 5 p.m. Wednesday, February 19. In the past filing deadline was midnight but that has been eliminated. The city election will be held April 5th.

The two school board seats now are held by board president Steve Balas and by Natalie Dupre of Sheridan. Candidate filing dates have not been announced but the election will be held on the same date as the Eagle Lake city election.

In the county, other offices that will be voted on include county clerk (now held by Annie Frantz who was appointed when Lester Schneider retired), district clerk

held by Harvey Vornand of Weimar), all justice of the peace positions in the county, commissioner for precinct two (held by Rafael Veselka of Weimar), and county treasurer. That last position is held by Martha Bodungen, who has announced she is retiring and will not run again. After she made that announcement last year, county commissioners cut the salary in half and reduced the job to a part-time position.

To file for county office, prospects must register with their respective parties, who conduct the elections.

County Republican chairman is Mark Anderson of Eagle Lake. Democrats seeking county

positions can register with county party chairman Reggie Briscoe of Sheridan, P.O. Box 219, zip 77475. His telephone is 234-5792. Briscoe said registration opened January 4, and closes February 3 at 6 p.m. The election is May 3.

Secretary needed

Briscoe said there is no necessary for the county democratic organization, and he is seeking volunteers.

Candidates for district or state offices file in Austin. Saunders has scheduled a public meeting for Columbus on Tuesday, January 14th to announce his candidacy. Several others have announced as candidates for that office, including Ed Janicka of Weimar.

You can pay taxes locally

The Tax Man Cometh! That is, for the ease of tax-paying residents, a representative of the Colorado County central appraisal office will be in Garwood and Eagle Lake later this month so you won't have to mail your tax payment or go to the Courthouse in Columbus.

More importantly, records of all property in the southern end of Colorado County will be available so you can file homestead and agricultural exemptions, and check the exemptions you now have to see that they are correct. For instance if you have purchased a new car in the past year, you are advised to check the records to make sure it's valued properly.

The representative will be in Garwood at the Hopkins Rice Office on Thursday, January 16, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Residents in that area can pay their 1985 taxes for Colorado County, Rice School District and for the water improvement district (#2) in the Garwood area.

On Friday, January 17, the representative will be in Eagle Lake at the Municipal Building for county, school and city tax collections, also from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

'United Buyer' donations for FFA needed for project sale

With the Rice High School FFA project show and sale right around the corner, it is time to start thinking about purchasing a student's animal.

On Monday, principal Fred Graham said letters were being prepared to be sent to past donors to the "United Buyers" fund. That group of men and women is one of the most important aspects of the sale.

If you did not receive a letter whether it is large or small, Graham said.

Last year United Buyers purchased eight animals that otherwise might not have been sold. The purpose of the group is to allow those who could not buy an entire animal to join together and purchase shares.

Donations will be accepted until January 24, the day before the sale.

They should be mailed to Graham, c/o Rice High School, P.O. Drawer 338, Altair, 77412.

Checks should be made payable to Rice FFA. Graham can be reached at the school, 234-3535, to answer questions.

Employe of year to be named

A new award, Employee of the Year, will be given to some deserving area worker later this month when members of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, their guests and others interested in an enjoyable, humorous evening meet for the annual Chamber banquet. If you plan to attend, you should purchase tickets now. The annual banquet is scheduled Tuesday night, January 21.

Speaker for the evening, Dr. Barry Landrum, is described as a speaker who adds humor with fresh ideas and a contagious

enthusiasm about life and work. He is pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pasadena, Texas.

The Banquet will mark the end of the year of presidency for Don Bandy, who will report on the work the chamber has done the past 12 months. The Chamber has enjoyed a year of growth and excitement in 1985, with strong community support.

Becky Anderson has been elected president and will become president during the banquet.

The staff of the Sportsman's Restaurant will cater the meal.

FFA Trail Ride

The annual FFA trail ride is scheduled for 8 a.m. Jan. 25, according to Roy Van Nort. It will be held weather permitting, and all FFA queen candidates must participate in the ride. Contact Van Nort for details.

Tickets are \$7.50 each and may be purchased from any Chamber director, or at the chamber office in Laker Printing, 111 S. McCarty.

Trail riders show spirit of sesquicentennial

This is the year of the Texas Sesquicentennial -- something a lot of people have heard a lot about, many through governmentally-sanctioned bodies.

Last week, one group that didn't care too much about sanctioning came through Eagle Lake with perhaps the best salute to Texas 150th birthday.

James Martin of Houston and a group of friends and others who agree with him brought their version of a Sesquicentennial trail ride across the southern end of Colorado County, including Lissie, Eagle Lake, and Sheridan, because they wanted to demonstrate the traits of Texas -- independence, personal ambition, and patriotism.

The group was small when it stopped Friday at J&K Corner, but it was long on symbolism.

Drawing on his experience in trail rides, Martin and his wife Cathy and friends began planning this trail ride last year. They did their own research, sought their own sponsor (without much success they add) and mapped their own route.

The basic plan, developed after reading Texas history books in libraries, was to follow a route to take them to as many state battle grounds as they could see in six months on horseback and in wagons.

They applied to the state sesquicentennial commission and received sanctioning, but little else, including no funds. That didn't daunt them. They raised their own money through dances and such in Houston, their home base, and decided to travel a circuitous route that started January 1 in Houston, will take them along the Spanish Trail to San Antonio, then down to the coast.

They will head north to the panhandle, along the northern border of the state to East Texas, and zig-zag south again, ending, hopefully, on July Fourth at the San Jacinto Battle Grounds.

Experience from '76

Don't ask why someone would spend six months on the road like this, Martin has done it before.

When it came time for the count-

ry to celebrate its 200th birthday in 1976, Martin and other friends planned a trail ride from Houston to Valley Forge Pennsylvania, and they carried it off. That year, Martin spent nine months making the journey.

Dedicated

"Dedicated to the Early Texans whose courage and valor made the dream of freedom and liberty a reality," is the statement that Cathy Martin wrote to explain the journey.

Education is what the riders talk about a lot however. It is an opportunity for those riding to see the historical sites, and for those in cities they visit to see what a real trail ride is made of. One of the riders, Billy West of Houston, kind of laughed inside when asked about the publicity given to the Walt Garrison-organized ride that left Sulphur Springs also on New Year's Day.

"That's a wagon train," he explained, "where the wagons are in the lead and those who join up ride along in back in their motor coaches."

"This is a trail ride, much more like the old days. Riders can mount their horses and ride alongside their wagons or with their friends' wagon...this is much more enjoyable," West said.

His job this past Friday was to take care of the horses the group is using to "rest" those that are being ridden. When a horse is asked to carry a rider for nearly 30 miles in one day, they get pretty beaten-down, West said.

The Houstonian matches the mental picture one might create of an old-time trail rider too... rugged, unshaven face, old hat, and trail-worn clothes.

Sherry Dubuisson is another rider who joined up for the fun of it but has responsibilities too. From Vidor, Texas, he is driving a wagon that carries extra horse shoeing supplies. The horse farrier also has some tools of the trade, like a portable torch, to make repairs. Before the trip, he made up extra shoes for emergencies.

Friends riding along are C.K. and Melba Shirley, also of Vidor. "We just like trail ridin'," Mr.

Shirley said. He is retired, and with Dubuisson, plans to make most of the journey.

Typical of other riders, Martin said, is the Vidor group. They won't be with the ride the entire six months, but will join up when they can.

That's why there were only a dozen or so people who stopped with Martin at J&K. When the group left State Highway 6 in Houston, there were 150-200 people. Some could only stay for a day then had to return to work. West has a car body shop that he leased out so he could make the six month trip and Martin has a trucking business that is being operated by others. Dubuisson returned home Sunday night for a few days, will return to the riders later this month, then after another trip home plans to complete the rest of the journey.

Martin emphasizes that those in towns along the way can join up. In fact he hopes many people will. Others already planned to join the ride when it stopped Friday evening in Sheridan, Martin said. More will join along



Trail Boss Jim Martin.