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THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT
(USPS 163-760)
P.O. Box 67 —220 East Main— (409) 234-5521
CITY OF EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS 77434-0067
Published Weekly —Every Thursday
ADVERTISING AND NEWS DEADLINE: 5 P.M. MONDAY

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Subscription Rates:
Colorado County, Lissie, East Bernard, Glen Flora and Egypt $12.75*
Fayette, Lavaca, Austin and other Wharton County residents $14.34*
Other Texas Residents $15.94*
Outside of Texas $16.50
*These rates include tax

Single Copy Price: 35-Cents (Includes Sales Tax)

Second class postage paid at Eagle Lake, Tx.
Address Corrections should be sent to P.O. Box 67, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434-0067

Government meeting notices should follow law

By John Fearing

I have been spending a good deal of time working in another county where I came across a government meeting agenda, and later the minutes from the associated meeting, that gave no real explanation as to what that particular governmental body was doing.

The agenda listed only an item which said executive session, personnel. The meeting minutes said the group opened the meeting, went into executive session, came out of executive session and closed the meeting. It did say the meeting started at 7 p.m. and ended at 1:47 a.m. the next morning. There were two "clues" about the meeting, one was the aforementioned word "personnel," and the other was the list of people noted in the minutes who attended the meeting.

Now, many people in this area know I pay particular attention to closed-door, public excluded executive sessions. Some people think I do so just to sell newspapers. I wish they did sell more newspapers — I would write about them more often. The fact is, there are very few people who pay that much attention.

A newspaper has an obligation to its readers. The readers are taxpayers. The elected bodies we deal with, school boards, city councils and county commissioners' courts, are charged with working for the public good. When the public doesn't know what their elected officials are working on, then the public can't make informed decisions about their future.

To keep the previously mentioned agenda and meeting minutes from reoccurring, I thought area elected officials need to be particularly aware of a 1986 state supreme court ruling concerning the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Every board, council and commissioners's court I've attended has been in violation of this Act, and thus are open to civil legal action.

Why would I just now be writing about something that is a year old? The time has come to speak up.

The 'Norm'

It has been the norm for most city, county and school bodies to include in their agenda the fact that the group may go into executive session. That means the public knows beforehand that part of the meeting will be held behind closed doors, without the public's knowledge of what exactly will be discussed. Some groups simply put the words "executive session" on the agenda. Others also follow those words with something like "personnel," so at least we know they are talking about personnel under their employ.

However, the Texas Supreme Court ruling in April of last year makes it clear that public bodies must be even more specific about a subject they plan to discuss in private.

The ruling is the result of a case in which the Austin newspaper brought suit against the Austin Independent School District claiming that school board was violating the open meetings act. The newspaper said the board of trustees did not provide full and adequate notice of subjects to be considered at a meeting. (The newspaper also claimed other items as well which do not apply here.)

The Texas Open Meetings Act requires every regular, special or called meeting of a governmental body to be open to the public, with certain narrowly drawn exceptions. The act provides for civil and criminal enforcement.

In a summary of the supreme court ruling in Volume 706 of the South Western Reporter, 2d series, the court held that "Purposes of the Texas Open Meetings Act cannot be circumvented by mere reference to one of (the) exceptions to (the) Act; statutory advance notice of a meeting of (the) governmental body should specifically disclose subjects to be considered at (the) upcoming meeting.... Less than full disclosure as to (the) subjects for consideration by a governmental body at (the) meeting is not 'substantial compliance' with Texas Open Meetings Act. Texas Open Meetings Act is intended to safeguard public's interest in knowing (the) workings of its governmental bodies."

"Section 2(a) (of the open meetings act) requires that each closed session and the applicable exception (as allowed in the act) be announced in an open meeting for which notice has been given in compliance with section 3A" of the act. "Section 3A requires advance notice of subject matter; thus it can be determined whether a governmental body is correctly applying the exceptions to section 2's general requirements of open meetings. The two provisions, taken together, further the Act's intended purpose of opening governmental decision-making to the public."

The court quoted a 1977 Attorney General opinion addressing the adequacy of notice for an executive session. "The primary interest protected by section 2(g) permitting personnel matters to be discussed privately is that (of) avoiding possible unjustified harm to the reputation of the individual officer or employee under consideration. While this is an important interest, it cannot be permitted to completely eliminate the public's right to be notified with reasonable specificity of the subject matter to be considered at a meeting of a governmental body, particularly when the subject is one in which the public can reasonably be expected to have a special interest... Thus the legislature has decided that the governing body must inform the public of the fact of its action, even though it may deliberate in private."

In the Austin newspaper case, the newspaper was concerned over the hiring of a new superintendent, and the paper said the public had a specific right to know what was going on. In the case of a recent meeting, the executive session apparently concerned a person employed by the governing body. Some may argue in applying the court's finding that the importance of a regular position is not as great as a person with supervisory experience, but I disagree. If there is reason for the public to be concerned about a person to the point of calling to make comments, then taxpayers have a right to know what the governing body is to do about such persons.

The supreme court said of the attorney general's opinion: "We find this reasoning persuasive. The Act's purposes cannot be circumvented by mere reference to one of the section 2 exceptions." While the court has held that less than full disclosure is not substantial compliance with the act, "Our prior judgments should have served notice to all public bodies that the Open Meetings Act requires a full disclosure of the subject matter of the meetings. The Act is intended to safeguard the public's interest in knowing the workings of its governmental bodies."

The court went on to say that "A public body's willingness to comply with the Open Meetings Act should be such that the citizens of Texas will not be compelled to resort to the courts to assure that a public body has complied with its statutory duty."

My reasoning

The reason I bring all of this up isn't so much the notice that various governmental bodies post concerning the subject matter of their agendas, although such agendas by law should be improved with a better explanation of executive session subjects.

I bring it up because the meeting I mentioned at the start of this column leaves a reader to only guess what the subject was (by reading the names of those who attended the meeting), since the minutes do not give any other clues. Believe me, guessing (which is akin to gossip) is much more dangerous to a person than the facts.

In the future

I would humbly suggest that all governmental bodies to which taxpayers have entrusted their faith, post meeting notices in accordance with the law, and play by the rules.

Not to do so invites court action from the citizenry, which I might add would have to be dealt with in the legal system as the supreme court suggests; the cost of course would be born with taxpayer funds.

Big Four of legislative politics compromise

State Capitol Highlights
By Lyndell Williams

Each giving a little and taking a little, the Big Four of legislative politics is forging perhaps the most dramatic turnaround in recent history.

The situation remains delicate and can still collapse as the session winds to its June 1 close. Not everyone is happy with the deal, particularly the Texas Republican Party, but many lawmakers see bluer skies.

A compromise forged by Gov. Bill Clements, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, Speaker Gib Lewis and Comptroller Bob Bullock promises to dispel the clouds of crisis, indecision, confrontation and bankruptcy which have darkened the legislative agenda for over a year.

A few days ago, conservatives and liberals were locked on a collision course to the poorhouse with the prisons, mental hospitals and public education seemingly falling down around them.

Now the plan is to broaden the sales tax base and lower the rate, increase tax revenues, save the institutions with adequate funding and give the governor new emergency budget authority.

Pressure for tax hike

The obligation is on the Legislature to adopt all the elements in the next two weeks without short-changing any players. Many business lobbyists are working behind the scene to halt the tax reform, because it means their services will include a sales tax for the first time.

If all goes right, Hobby and Lewis will get a tax hike, Clements gets budget authority to eliminate spending he doesn' favor, and Bullock will have the pleasure of knowing that his tax reform package has brought Texas government back to some semblance of solvency.

The surprise turnaround was Clements, who had just ended his no new taxes tour and had polled House Republicans on upholding a tax veto.

The pressure to raise taxes is enormous. The House and Senate have already passed budgets requiring additional taxes, and they have only to work out the differences in conference. Meanwhile, a group of prominent Texans, mostly Democrats, urged the Legislature to increase funds for public education.

And Clements apparently found some of his House Republicans were for a tax hike, too. Not many, but maybe enough to override his tax veto. The old Clements would have vetoed the bill and used the time before a special session to solidify the one-third majority bloc he needed to hold a veto.

But time is running out on the state Treasury. The new Clements saw that if he changed his stance, he would get half-a-loaf and Texas could move on to some new problems.

Clements blasted

Immediately, the governor was blasted by the Texas Republican Party for reversing his stand against new taxes.

His own party sent over a resolution urging him and the 56 House Republicans to stand fast against new taxes. It prompted Clements to say he may still veto the tax bill, but not before Houston Rep. Randy Pennington called his actions "disgraceful."

Quite a few House Republicans were miffed because he did not tell them first about his reversal. "Hung out to dry" was a phrase used by Garland Rep. Anita Hill.

Mason Rep. Gerald Geistweidt has become the closed to being an apologist for Clements: "We believe he's been right all along and should continue to stay that way. But if you don't start talking somewhere, we won't be any further along at the end of this five-month session than we were at the beginning."

Hobby plan passed

Meanwhile, the Senate passed two of three bills in Hobby's "Build Texas" economic program, labeled by some as similar to the depression-era public works program.

The Senate okayed $400 million in bonds for water and flood projects and $400 million again for local public works projects.

Open container bill

Clements signed the open container bill into law, making it illegal to drink alcoholic beverages while driving.

The prohibition applies only to the driver, not to passengers.

Other highlights

•Former Secretary of State Al Haig visited the Capitol last week seeking the Republican presidential nomination.

•The governor, neutral thus far, planned to attend a Houston fundraiser for Vice President George Bush's presidential bid.

•The foresight of 2 legislators last summer, San Angelo Sen. Bill Sims and Sanderson Rep. Dudley Harrison, led Texas to beat federal red tape last week in raising the rural highway speed limit to 65 mph and the governor signed the proclamation.

School board met after academic banquet

A bid on building a sidewalk near the Eagle Lake Middle School was reviewed Monday night by the Rice Consolidated Independent School District board of trustees.

Other items on the regular monthly agenda included discussion of a service award program and career ladder appointments, an address by a school patron concerning dyslexia instruction, and reports on each of the five school campuses, presented by the principals.

The meeting opened about 8:45 p.m., due to the board members attending the annual academic awards banquet at Rice High School. It adjourned about 1 a.m., including an executive session that was not included on the agenda (See editorial on Page Two).

The sidewalk issue came up when the board discussed what facility improvements might be made over the summer months. Other items discussed were adding on to the concession stands at the high school football stadium, carpet tile purchases as replacement items throughout the high school. No action was taken. The sidewalk construction discussed would be like the sidewalk recently built by the city along the west side of Cemetery St., and continue it around to the gravel driveway near the bus parking area.

The service award discussion concerned the design of the pin given to employees with certain years of work; After the executive session Billy Hefner made a motion, seconded by Natalie Dupré that the board adopt the career ladder appointments as presented in the executive session. The board did not make the appointments, which are similar to salary bonuses, public. Supt. Harold King said there are 50 people receiving career ladder extras, including 11 new teachers added Monday night.

The request for dyslexia instruction was made by Linda Ferguson. The state apparently mandates a program for this problem. King said a program is being developed, with teachers from each campus to be trained this summer on identifying and addressing learning disabilities. The main thrust for instruction will be for third and fourth graders. King also pointed out the problem with such a program is financial, due to the lower ratio of student-teacher. Mrs. Ferguson's point was that as a society, we can pay now for solutions to this problem, or pay later for social programs due to the high dropout rate among dyslexic children. She also informed the board that the intelligence level of dyslexic children generally ranges from average to far above average and emphasized the waste to our society if these children are not helped.

Although the campus reports took a good deal of time, the reports were rather routine. ELMS principal did say that the school was hard pressed for room. The small eighth grade class is moving to the high school, and the third grade class moving in next year is quite large.

As the public portion of the meeting ended, board president Reggie Briscoe announced, according to the Texas Open Meetings Act, that the board was going into executive session under article 2(g) of the act. That article allows public bodies to exclude the public from discussions of personnel matters. However, that notice of an executive session was not included on the agenda.

In other business, the board,

•Accepted the resignation of teacher Jimmy Petrash, a math teacher at the high school.

•Appointed a committee to study the service award further.

•Agreed to continue to participate in the Region III Education Service Center Media Services.

Lets Look Back...
24 Years Ago

(May 16, 1963)

Twenty-eight high school seniors are candidates for graduation at commencement exercises to be held Friday, May 24 in the school auditorium... Eagle Lake Jaycees plan to entertain a large crowd of citizens at their chicken barbecue dinner at the Recreation Center picnic grounds May 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m....

Dexter Anderson has been elected president of the Lions effective July 1 with Henry Sunderman, first vice president; Alvin Kohleffel, second vice president; Willard Ethridge, third vice president; Eddie Krivacka, secretary; Floyd Hodde, treasurer; R.L. Clipson, tail twister; Bobby Baird, Lion tamer... Twenty-one E.H. Henry high school seniors will be graduated on May 23...

Alan Darr Causey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Causey; Sandra Carol Thomas, daughter of Ralph Thomas, and John Almond Behrens, son of Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Behrens, will be graduating from the University of Texas June 1... Miss Cynthia Rae Thomas, bride-elect of Michael Terrence Cheatham, was honored with a tea at the Community Center May 11 with Mesdames C.E. Evoritt Jr., J.A. Grieves, J.L. McCreary, W.F. Meitzen Jr., J.S. Reed Jr., B.W. Waddell, R.H. Waddell and R.R. Wells Jr. as hostesses...

Michael Janish was elected the new president of the Garwood Future Farmers of America chapter Monday... Horace Mitchell, E.H. Henry high school voc. ag. student, places fourth in state judging contest... Bob Raley was elected president of the Garwood Lions Club effective July 1.

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Views On Dental Health
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COMPOSITE FILLINGS
The kind of filling the dentist uses depends on the location of the tooth and the area to be filled. The most common filling is the silver or amalgam type. These are usually used on the flat, biting surfaces or where they will not be visible. For fillings where the material must match the color of the tooth, such as the front teeth and often for gumline fillings of back teeth, your dentist will probably use a filled resin or composite filling. It is tooth colored and the most popular material used today for this use.
Over a period of time, the composite may stain more than the natural tooth, and eventually filling and tooth may not match as well as they did originally. Also, they may wear at a faster rate because the material is not as hard as the natural tooth enamel (the hardest tissue in the human body) and are not recommended for usn on biting surfaces of back teeth. Composites, however, have the great advantage of being esthetically pleasing. For most people that far outweighs their few drawbacks.
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Letter to Editor
Article helped

To the Editor:

Please accept our thanks for the article your paper ran concerning the "Southern Pacific Glidden Railroad Reunion." It was quite a success! You certainly did help.

Thanks again,
Eula and Howard Besch
Charlie and Annie Herchek

Colorado County Courthouse Report

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Franklin Addicks, 41, and Rita Frances Henneke, 38.
Will Matthews, 69, and Edna Frazier, 48.
Fred Heger Jr., 20, and Janis Lynette Torres, 17.

DIVORCES FILED

Mary Leah Schmidt and Richard Wayne Schmidt.

REAL ESTATE DEEDS

Deed, John H. and Georgia L. McKee to Rupert and Bobbie Joe Contreras, .28 acre, G.W. White Survey, Eagle Lake; 4-17-87.

Deed, Residential Alternatives Inc. to Kenmar Residential Services Inc., lot 3 and part of lot 2, block 25, Weimar; 4-17-87.

Deed, Jean and Zelda Ann Walker to Angie Heinold, lots 1 and 2, block 74, Sheridan; 4-23-87.

Deed, V.L. Jr. and Laura L. Marek to Charles M. Gray, lot 14, Hillcrest Park Subdivision, James Tumlinson League; 4-24-87.

Deed, Colorado County Federal Savings and Loan Association to Thomas E. and Nancy J. Sherick, lot 16, Ridgelea Addition, Eagle Lake; 4-21-87.

Deed, Deloris Lalay Zimmerman to Wayne William and Darlen Jean Kubala, 11.8833 acres, Samuel Kennelly League; 4-24-87.

Deed, Effie and Mateo Navarro to Roberto and Hope Moreida, lots 4 and 5, block 2, Putney-Roos Addition, P. Reel's Survey, Eagle Lake; 4-23-87.

Deed, Effie and Mateo Navarro to Roberto and Hope Moreida, lots 4 and 5, block 2, Putney-Roos Addition, P. Reels Survey, Eagle Lake; 4-23-87.

Gift Deed, Meta Johnston to Albert H. Johnston and Joseph R. Johnston, mineral interest in 934.83 acres, I&GNRR Co. survey No. 37, 35 et al; 4-21-87.

Deed, Reyes Moreno to Guy Bennett, part of lots 9 and 10, block 23, Sheridan; 4-27-87.

Deed, Ronnie Dean Pfeffer to Jacqueline Carey Kallina, .613 acre, Preston Gilbert League; 4-23-87.

Deed, Columbus Quarterhorse Performance Ass's. Inc. to Dan and Mary Ellen Prause, int. in 3.588 acres, R.J. Fockes Survey; filed 4-28-87.

Deed, Julius and Mary Peikert to Dan and Mary Ellen Prause, 1.794 acres, John Hadden Legue and an easement; 4-28-87.

Gift Deed, Mathilda Brieger to Leland G. Oeser, and. obt. in 25 acres, Henry Krey Survey; 4-27-87.

Gift Deed, Mathilda Breiger to Leland G. Oeser, part of lot 4, block 30, Columbus; 4-27-87.

Deed, Justine F. Marik-Touma to Ernest L. and Mary Ann Marik, 8.37 acres, John Dunlavy Survey, filed 4-28-87.

Deed, Ernest L. and Mary Ann Marik to Justine F. Marik-Touma, 8.37 acres, John Dunlavy survey; filed 4-28-87.

Deed, Arthur Beken, estate, to Wilma G. Beken, part of lots 1 and 2, block 73, Weimar; filed 4-29-87.

Deed, Judy and Gilbert Gaertner, Laurie Mae and Harry Heintschel, Helen and William Pavlicek, Edwin R. and Alvina Poenitzsch, Gilbert H. Poenitzsch, Lawrence C. Poenitzsch, Margaret Pauline and Donald Tipton, and A.D. Willbern, to Lurline Bertha Willbern, et al, 17.74 acres, James Tumlinson League; filed 4-29-87.

Deed, Judy and Gilbert Gaertner, Laurie Mae and Harry Heintschel, Helen and William Pavlicek, Edwin R. and Alvina Poenitzsch, Gilbert H. Poenitzsch, Lawrence C. Poenitzsch, Margaret Pauline and Donald Tipton, and A.D. Willbern, to Lurline Bertha Willbern, et al, 65.93 acres, W.R. Hunt League; filed 4-29-87.

Deed, Gilbert H. Poenitzsch to Judy Gaertner and Helen Pavlicek, .82 acre, W.R. Hunt Survey; filed 4-29-87.

Deed, Judy and Helen Gaertner and Helen and William Pavlicek to Gary and Susan Poenitzsch, .18 acre, W.R. Hunt Survey; Filed 4-29-87.

Deed, Gary and Susan Poenitzsch to Judy Gaertner and Helen Pavlicek, .18 acre, W.R. Hunt Survey; filed 4-29-87.

Deed, Judy and Gilbert Gaertner, Laurie Mae and Harry Heintschel, Helen and William Pavlicek, Edwin R. and Alvina Poenitzsch, Gilbert H. Poenitzsch, Lawrence C. Poenitzsch, Margaret Pauline and Donald Tipton, and Lurline Bertha and A.D. Willbern, to Larry J. and Carolyn D. Poenitzsch, 3.69 acres, W.R. Hunt League; filed 4-29-87.

Deed, Bessie M. Dorhauer to Tom and Ginger Stuehler, lots 4 through 11, block 83, Sheridan; filed 4-30-87.

Deed, Mary Elizabeth Bartlett and Willie Ray Bartlett, Estate, to Mary Elizabeth Bartlett and Family Trust, 162.61 acres, J.M. Thomas Survey, et al, and und. int. in 200 acres, S.P. Birt Survey, et al; 4-28-87.

Gift Deed, Irene C. and John H. Pavlik to Ester F. Kubesch, und. int. in four tracts, R. Andrew One-Third League, et al; 4-27-87.

OIL, GAS LEASES

RR: Southern Pacific Transportation Co. to Robert Mosbacher, 17.84 acres, John Hadden League; 4-10-87.

Mary Beth Houchins, et al, to Occidental Energy Co. Inc., 40 acres, J.F. Smith Survey; 4-29-87.

65 mph on interstate only

Driving 65 mph on IH-10 or any other rural Interstate highway in Texas will no longer be a sin.

By noon Saturday, May 9 all new speed limit signs were posted across the state by the State Department of Highways and Public Transportaion.

The new law only effects interstate highways in rural areas. All others will remain posted 55 mph.

The new law applies to private automobiles, motorcycles, light trucks and passenger buses. Heavy trucks will be limited to 60 mph during daylight hours and 55 mph at night. School buses can do 50 mph and house trailers over 32 feet long 45 mph.

The State Highway and Public Transportation Commission announced the decision to raise the limit after a hearing in Austin, May 1.

Elizabeth Boothe continues writing about Washington, D.C.

In reading **The Houston Post** (May 10, 1987) I noticed that Roger Stevens, director of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., was present for the gala opening of the Wortham Center in Houston. These two centers contribute greatly to the cultural arts enjoyed in these cities. In my first write-up I told about witnessing the play starring Richard Thomas as he acted the part of Thomas Paine. This play was in the Eisenhower Theatre of the center.

Sandra and I had an excellent view of so much of Washington through the window of our fourteenth floor room in the J.W. Marriott Hotel. One of the most thrilling sights to see was the Washington Monument which seemed to be so very close to the hotel. Another interesting landmark was the old post office, which is the capital's oldest federal building. It is of Romanesque architecture and was constructed in 1899. This wonderful old edifice was saved several times from the wrecker's ball and is now a very special place to visit with its restaurants and shops surrounding a stage which features free entertainment each day. Several years ago this beautiful old post office was featured as the stamp on one of our United States post cards. I regretted not having kept some of the ones I had purchased; however, I had no idea at that time that I would see this very beautiful building some day. Saturday I was happy to receive one of these cards which I had sent to my sister Kathryn Baker, who lives in Edna, Texas.

We drove by so many interesting buildings while enroute by taxi to certain points of interest. Sandra called my attention to a number of these. One was the building where she and other national board members and other dignitaries, such as our Postmaster General met to observe the 75th anniversary of the organization of Girl Scouts of America. She took two very good pictures of cases displaying Girl Scout memorabilia when we were in the National Museum of American History. She told me over the telephone this past Saturday evening about the time that the late Mr. and Mrs. H.J. Campbell took her and other girl scouts and their sponsors to Washington, D.C. to attend a Girl Scout Convention. They went in the Campbell's van.

We saw Ford's Theatre, where on April 14, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was mortally wounded. He was attending the play "Our American Cousin." The theatre's interior looks like it did then, including the bunting-draped President's box. Performances still take place there, and it is the location of the Lincoln Museum. We did get to visit the lobby of another old and well-known theatre, which is the National Theatre.

I wrote briefly this past week about seeing the Willard Hotel as we passed near it. I wish to add that Charles Dickens staged there in 1842, and it was there that Julia Ward Howe wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Sandra made a picture from our taxi of the United States Treasury Building. We also saw the office building of so many of our congressmen.

Visiting the very impressive Vietnam Veterans Memorial, of course, evoked sadness. The monument is V-shaped and is of black granite. Inscribed on it are names of 58,000 who died or who remain missing in Vietnam. From a booklet given me are these words: "The long, polished stone wall appears to emerge and then recede into the earth."

Next week I want to write about attending a morning worship service at the National Cathedral, a drive through a part of Georgetown, and a visit to the National Museum of American History.

I hope you will continue "visiting" Washington with me.

— Elizabeth Boothe

What is Extension Homemakers?

By Peggy Braden,
County Extension Agent

Around 1914 and 1915, Extension Homemakers' Clubs were organized in most counties in the United States so rural women could meet and learn skills to improve the family and community in which they lived. The club members in turn agreed to pass on to others what they learned in club work.

Today, Extension homemakers are from rural and urban areas. The clubs consist of women who continue to learn how to have a better home, family and community. They also work on countywide projects such as raising funds to improve the community and county where they live.

Extension homemakers have long played an important role in the community. Extension Homemaker Clubs began early in Extension history when Dr. Seaman A. Knapp realized that farmers' homes must be as successful as their farms if agriculture was to progress.

As early as 1903, Dr. Knapp started result demonstrations by showing examples of better farming on the Walter Porter Farm near Terrell (Kaufman County). During that same time, a household arts department was established at Texas State College for Women (then the Girls' Industrial College). However, there was a greater need for trained women than the college could meet.

The temporary answer was to find a mature, rural school teacher who had an understanding of farm families, who was not afraid to drive around the countryside alone, and who knew something of keeping house. In 1912, Mrs. Edna Trigg, a school teacher in Milam County, was appointed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the first Texas home demonstration agent. She worked with farm girls in growing, preparing and canning tomatoes. Sixteen women agents, as they were called, were appointed to work in other counties during canning season.

While home demonstration work was underway in Texas, efforts were being made to pass national legislation in support of Extension work in agriculture and home economics. The final passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 established the Cooperative Extension Service. In 1915, the Texas legislature accepted the Smith-Lever Act authorizing Texas A&M College to administer the Cooperative Extension Service in Texas.

Extension Homemaker Clubs now have the largest number of women in one national organization in the United States. The basic goals of Extension Homemaker Clubs are to promote education, inspiration, recreation and community involvement. Club membership is open to all regardless of race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin.

If you are interested in joining an E.H. Club or starting a club in your area, call 732-2530.

Congratulations 1987 Class
Rice High School
The Future Is Yours!

Frank Alan Adkins*
Kimberly Lanesa Aldridge
Danette Dee Alvarado*
Hubert Steve Antrich Jr.
Baldemar Benavides Jr.
Brian Todd Blair
Michael Lee Burke
Roxanne Cantu
Timothy Joseph Cash
Jose Antonio Castillo
Lena Castillo
Maria Guadalupe Rangel Castillo
Stacey Lynn Causey
Marina Vargas Cavazos
Terri Lynn Chenon
Nitha Faith Ann Cooper
Grady Cox
Stacey LaNette Davis
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Kevin Michael Dornak
Deidre Annette Douglas
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Dean Edward Faichtinger
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**Salutatorian
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Sheridan News By Velma Kutzer

Janice Wimberly of Lockhart spent last weekend in Sheridan with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Hollub.

Mr. and Mrs. O.H. Spittler and daughter, Carol, and granddaughter of Portland attended a birthday celebration in Caldwell Saturday. The occasion was the 94th birthday of Howard Spittler. Eighty-three relatives attended the happy occasion including Mr. and Mrs. C.W. West of Sheridan.

Mr. and Mrs. West enjoyed spending Mother's Day with the West children Sonny, Rose, Barbara and their families.

Get well wishes are extended to Estelle Tesch who is an out-patient at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston.

The Cheatham Cemetery Association is planning for their next annual meeting. On June 7 a barbecue plate lunch will be served at the Sheridan Community Center beginning at 11 a.m. Plates to go will also be available. Prices are $4 for adults and $2.50 for children. The business meeting will follow at 2 p.m. The profits from the meal will be used to pay the expenses to plot the new addition of the cemetery.

In order to prepare enough food, the members are asking you to purchase your tickets in advance or contact them and reserve your tickets. Officers of the association are: Jay Spittler, president; Walter Bullard, first vice president; Albert Botard, second vice president; Teel Blanchard, third vice president; Lois Vawter, treasurer; Ora Schirmer, secretary; and Omi Kincheloe, historian.

Rebecca Kutzer Placke of Austin has completed her third semester of school at Austin Community College. She is majoring in Commercial Art and is minoring in Fine Art. This semester she took 19 hours of class and maintained a 4.0 average. Some of the classes Becky has taken are graphic design, production art, watercolor and calligraphy. Summer classes resume on June 1.

Mrs. Ora Schirmer attended the Colorado County Older Texans Fair May 7 at St. Paul's Fellowship in Columbus. She was among nine other ladies who were nominees from Colorado County for the "Outstanding Older Texan" award. Ora was nominated by the Sheridan Baptist Church.

Adolph and Theodore Brast descendants celebrate reunion

Descendants of the late Adolph and Theodore Brast held their ninth annual reunion at the Lux camphouse in Sealy on Sunday, May 3. After getting reacquainted, the group enjoyed a covered dish spread which was provided by all for lunch.

Present for the reunion were: Mrs. Hattie Peschka, Mrs. Ella Bartay, Leroy and Elaine Brast, Walter and Viola Konesheck, Bertrand and Jo Ann Brast of Sealy; Henry and Annie May Schmidt and son, Henry Jr., Mandy Allen and children, Dena, Leon and Lottie Allison, of Eagle Lake;

Robert Sr. and Monty Brast with son Russell, came from Wharton; Kenneth and Delores Vasina of Houston; Homer and Eleanora Kansteiner, Bennie and Betty Jean Kansteiner and son, Shane, Billy and Kay Brown and children, Jennifer, Nathan and Dale, L.E. and Imogene Kansteiner and son, Jimmy, and Mark and Patsy Melnar and son, Marcus, all of Columbus; Marcus and Tillie Brast, of Wallis;

Albert and Dianna Foster and daughter, Abbigail Rose, of Sugar Land; Herbert and Elsa Hoff and daughter, Dorothy, of Waller; Mrs. Christine Mau and son, Edwin, of Hempstead; Ervin and Violet Mau and Steve and Janie Baumeister of Katy; Richard and Dorothy Mau, of Cat Spring; Jeanette and Melvin Rinn and Donna Rinn and children, Alanna and Alex, of Austin, and Mrs. Hilda Schroeder of Bellville.

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