Lehrer, Boyd to wed May 18

Mr. and Mrs. William Neal Lehrer of Garwood are excited to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Nancy Caroline, to James Curtis Boyd, son of Dr. and Mrs. John Franklin Boyd of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The wedding is planned for May 18 at Christ Church in Eagle Lake.

Higgins presented recital at Southwestern Seminary

Jerrol Higgins, a master of music student, presented a piano recital at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at 4 p.m. on April 2. Higgins, a 1978 graduate of Texas Lutheran College and a 1974 graduate of Rice High School. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Higgins of Eagle Lake.

The recital included works of Debussy, Mendelssohn and Rachmaninoff. Many attended the recital in Reynolds Auditorium of Cowden Hall which is located on the northeast corner of the campus at 2001 W. Seminary Drive in Fort Worth.

Southwestern's school of church music provides graduate professional education for men and women preparing for Christian ministry. The school is the largest theological seminary in the world and an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

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Announcing New Arrivals

Kara LeAnne Kallina

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kallina of Nada announce the birth of their second child, a baby girl, born at 4:01 p.m. Thursday, March 21 at Gulf Coast Medical Center.

The baby was named Kara LeAnne and weighed 7 lbs.,1 oz. She was welcomed home by Keith Michael, 2 years old.

The baby's maternal grandparents are Richard and Bernice Stolle of Gilmer and the paternal grandparents are Anthony and Bernice Kallina of Garwood.

Great-grandparents are Paul Stolle of Gilmer and Helena Serpas of Austin.

The mother is the former Sally Blake Stolle of Plano.

Garrett Lee Neubauer

Darryl and Melissa Neubauer of Altair are proud to announce the arrival of their first child, a boy, born on Friday, March 22 at 5:27 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. He was named Garrett Lee, weighed 7 lbs and 6 ozs. and measured 20-1/2" long.

Maternal grandparents are Lawrence and Oze Ruether of Eagle Lake, while paternal grandparents are Harvey and Tillie Neubauer of Altair.

Maternal great-grandparents are Olivia Schramm of Nelsonville and Charlie and Mary Ruether of Columbus. Paternal great-grandparents are Mr. Frank Dusek of East Bernard and August and Ida Neubauer of Hallettsville.

The mother is the former Melissa Ruether of Eagle Lake.

Eagle Lake Community Hospital Patients

Week ending 3-30-91

Admissions

Eagle Lake: Elton Davidson, Emma Pustejovsky, Willie Richardson, A.J. Williams; Garwood: Latronda Johnson; Rock Island: Bertha Girndt, Arianne Hubenak.

Dismissals

Eagle Lake: Clement Richter, Mae Bell Sims, Brenda Manciaz & Baby Boy, James T. Frnka, Tyreance Dabney; Columbus: Johnnie Woodard, Sandy Hennek, Eleanora Kansteiner; Sheridan: Dwight Doplsauf, Glennie Buckley; Altair: Melissa Neubauer & Baby Boy; Boling: Herlinda Horta; Alleyton: Elmo Schmidt; East Bernard: Adella Jalowy; Hallettsville: Beverly High.

Castillo, Alvarado to wed April 20

Mr. and Mrs. Gregorio Castillo of Eagle Lake announce the approaching marriage of their daughter, Juanita, to Gilbert Alvarado Jr., son of Gilbert Sr. and Janie Alvarado of Eagle Lake.

Gilbert is a 1984 graduate of Rice High School and is currently employed at Lake Motors. Juanita graduated from Rice High School in 1990 and is employed as a dental assistant at Euers Dental Clinic.

The couple plan an April 20th wedding at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Eagle Lake.

Easter Season in Prague

By Donna Jones
On Location in Prague
Submitted and Edited by Stephen D. Fox, Attorney at Law

Long bundles of slender birch twigs bound together colorful ribbons and fragile, hand painted eggshells displayed in Prague's florist shops hint of Easter's quick approach. In the days before Easter, besides the Easter Bunny's nocturnal visit, Czech men and boys traditionally gather and then decorate their own bundles of sticks with ribbons and flowers. Custom dictates that on Easter Sunday, Czechoslovakian males "beat" their sweethearts, sisters, mothers and female friends with their merry beribboned weapons in return for intricately designed eggs, chocolate and sweets.

This old pagan tradition, used for centuries in the federated states of Czechoslovakia to celebrate this Christian holiday, reflects the status of religion here. An estimated thirty percent of Czechs during the last 40 years of communist rule were "closet Catholics", while most of the remainder of the population were not simply communist or atheist, but were almost untouched by the concept of religion.

Prague, the capital city of Czechoslovakia which is located in the State of Bohemia, is one of the most secular cities in Europe. One British man telling a joke about God's Eleventh Commandment left his Prague audience with puzzled expressions. This was not simply a problem of foreign language non comprehension. The majority of Prague's residents to whom I have spoken have never heard of Moses or the Ten Commandments, have only the vaguest notion of who Christ was, and have never seen a Bible. The almost undebated issue of whether or not abortion should be legal exemplifies the secular nature of Czech society. According to a 1989 Czechoslovakian Health Department report on birth control, for every 100 births in this country there are 103 abortions.

Olina, a teenaged daughter of a Czech military scientist, grew up in a non-religious, communist home. In discussing her feelings about religion, she stated candidly, "those few Christians I have met who pursued their religion quietly and sincerely are among the best people I know. In the past year, I have learned a bit about Christianity, Judaism, and Islam and I have decided that religion is mostly for the weak. I have just been freed from one oppressive religion (communism) and I do not yet feel that I need another. I feel strong enough to independently create my own successes and face my own mistakes."

Before the Communists gained power in 1948, Catholicism was the predominant religion in Czechoslovakia. Although the central and southern States of Moravia and Slovakis host the greatest number of Catholics, formal signs of the approaching Easter holiday can be seen and heard in Prague's ancient, time-worn, Gothic cathedrals.

At the afternoon mass at Saint Ludmila's Cathedral overlooking Peace Square, there is standing-room only despite the Siberian-like temperature within the church. Three priests, adorned in the customary green-colored vestments that precede the Easter celebration, speak of the upcoming holiday. The majority of worshipers are bent, elderly ladies with scarf-covered heads and white-haired men clothed in 1930's and 1940's attire; however, young people and families are also present. While I do all I can to control myself from fidgeting because of the icy temperature inside the church and to keep my eyes towards the priest rather than gawking at the magnificent high ceilings and stained glass, the Czechs stand quietly, their concentrated faces appear pleased simply to be allowed to worship in peace.

The Communist government in the 1950's tightly controlled the Catholic Church, while non-mainstream Christian sects such as the Jehovah's Witnesses were completely banned. What was left of the post-war Jewish population was so harassed by the Communists that today less than 1,000 mostly non-practising Jews live in Prague. During the 1950's the Pope directed many Czech and Slovakian priests and nuns to emigrate to Italy and other Catholic countries in Europe in order to avoid being placed in Communist Concentration camps for their beliefs. The Communist Regime also tightly restricted theological studies at Czech and Slovakian universities, thus creating the present day shortage of clergymen. Often, during the past four decades one priest had to minister to five or six villages.

The Communists harbored a special hatred for the monks and nuns; therefore, cloisters were seized and turned into hospitals, warehouses or army barracks. Like most private property, all church holdings were confiscated by the State and Rome was only allowed to send small amounts of money into Czechoslovakia to support parish life. Many of the Golden City's beautiful cathedrals, some which were built in the 12th Century A.D., are currently undergoing reconstruction to make up for the forty years of intentional neglect. Outside of Prague, some village churches have so degenerated that they have been declared a safety hazard. They will probably have to be destroyed.

Not only were buildings and church leaders abused, but so were Catholic laymen and persona of other beliefs who publicly exhibited their faith. Those Czechs who showed their faith publicly were denied jobs as teachers, the opportunity of entrance into Universities, and basic leadership roles in their communities. A twenty three year old Czech social worker named Lida was raised in a strong Catholic home. She says, "Being Catholic was not easy. My brother was not allowed to study at the university because of his religious views and I always had to be careful what I said outside of my home. I believe my faith helped me to see through the lies of communism. It is not easy for a little girl to wear one face at home and another in public. As a child, I drew pictures of Lenin at school and I listened to stories about Christ at home."

Soon after the Communists lost power during November of 1989, self exiled nuns and priests returned home to Bohemia for the first time in 40 years. Church services had to be extended to meet the demands of parishioners who felt confident enough to attend mass regularly and the curious who had never before listened to a church service.

President Havel's free government has pushed through legislation which will ensure the return of church property to church officials. Needless to say, theological studies have been expanded at the universities. A sparkling new, modern Seventh-Day Adventist church and community center in Prague, as well as the unmistakable sight of American Morman missionaries walking about the city in their suits and ties, show that toleration of ideas such as the inalienable right of freedom of speech is the present government's policy.

Whether I spend my Easter Holiday with believers or non-believers, the custom of the "beating stick" and gifts of eggs is common to both sort of Czechs and should be very interesting to witness. I have been assured that a "beating" usually only means a gentle tap of the beribboned sticks; however, it is said that in some villages small gangs of men attempt to give women more hearty blows. Clever Czech women defend themselves by dousing those men with buckets full of icy cold water, cheap perfume and raw eggs.

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OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CATHOLIC CHURCH - Pastor Jesse Elizondo. Guadalupe Terrace Addition, Eagle Lake.
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC CHURCH - Pastor Jesse Elizondo. 700 N. Downtown, Eagle Lake.
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS - 200 N. Lake, Eagle Lake. 234-5888.
ST. MARY'S CHURCH - Box 97, Nada. 726-3218. Rev. Msgr. Victor G. Schmidt, Pastor; Most Rev. Hugo M. Gerbracht, M.M. (Retired).
PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH - 1207 E. Main. Rev. Coby Shorter. 234-5726.
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EAGLE LAKE GOSPEL MISSION - Rev. Enid Burger.
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - John Anderson, Pastor; 408 N. Jefferson. 234-3281.
LESSER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Garwood, Texas. Rev. James G. Shipes, Pastor.
LESSER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Lissie, Texas. Rev. Richard Elliot, Pastor.
ROCK ISLAND METHODIST CHURCH - Janet Dupree', Lay Pastor.
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Rev. Charles E. Bunch, Pastor. 301 W. Prairie.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 108 E. State St., Eagle Lake. Rev. Charles C. Miller, Jr., Pastor.
VINE OF THE LORD - Fixed Seventh, Pastor.
FRIENDSHIP A.G. - 301 Wallace, East Bernard. Fred Chambers, Pastor.
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP - Hwy. 90A, Sheridan. Del Stanford, Pastor. 234-5920.
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Law Enforcement

Continued from Page 1

the intersection, with Flores' pickup which had the right-of-way, striking the left side of Herman's Beretta.

At About 7:30 p.m. that same evening, Officer Argo was dispatched to an accident at Post Office and Stevenson Streets. Upon investigation, it was learned that Gloria Denise Foster, driving an 86 Pontiac, pulled up to talk to a subject on Stevenson Street, then backed onto FM 102 (Post Office), colliding with Roy Henry Cranek of East Bernard. Cranek was driving an '83 Ford pickup and attempted to avoid the accident by veering to the left, but was unable to do so.

Sunday morning at 7 a.m., Officer Staude was dispatched to a suspicious vehicle parked at Johnny's Sport Shop. When Staude arrived, he found a black male subject asleep inside it. After running a check on the license plate, the return showed that it was stolen out of Houston. Staude awakened the subject and ran a check on him and found him to be wanted for parole violation and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. He was arrested, processed at the station and transported to the County Jail.

Tuesday, April 2 at 12:52 p.m., Sgt. Jones was dispatched to an overturned car on East "E" Street. Upon arrival, he discovered that Prajedes Jaramillo Jr. had been working on his car, when it fell on him, pinning him underneath. An unidentified neighbor jacked the car up and transported Jaramillo to the hospital. After checking with the hospital, we learned that Jaramillo was a very fortunate person, only receiving cuts to his face and bruises to his chest area.

Colorado County Sheriff's Department

On March 29 at 11:59 p.m. Sheriff's Deputy Leonard Peters observed Billy Eugene Collier and a red 1988 Ford Taurus four-door traveling westbound on Hwy 71. Peters clocked Collier going 72 mph in a 55 mph zone. He also observed a black Range Rover that appeared to be traveling the same speed as the Ford. As soon as the Taurus was stopped, Collier jumped out and ran back to the patrol unit as if he didn't want Peters to look in the car. The subject had no driver's license and was unable to obtain proof of insurance. Collier was placed under arrest and Peters noticed that the passenger, Karl Alonzo Smith, matched the photograph of a person in a caution flyer that had been issued advising that he was known to carry weapons. Mr. Smith, too, was arrested and Peters requested backup.

The vehicle was searched and a .357 magnum was found under the driver's seat. The computer check on another passenger, Mr. Terry, showed numerous outstanding DPS warrants. As Mr. Terry was frisked, Deputy Peters found $200 cash in the subjects right sock. Another large wad of cash had been found earlier in a bag in the vehicle. Mr. Terry was placed under arrest along with Collier and Smith.

DPS Troopers Bonewitz and Trammell arrived at the scene to assist Deputies Peters and Scott. Shortly after Scott's arrival, the black Range Rover that had been traveling with the suspect vehicle came to the scene and stopped ahead of the Ford. When questioned, the driver advised both vehicles were traveling to Austin to visit a cousin. Collier and Terry advised they were going to see a sick aunt. Prisoners were transported to the Sheriff's Office where Charles Coulter of the Weimar Police and his drug dog revealed several small chips of a white cake-like substance on the passenger side floor (believed to be crack cocaine).

Collier was charged with Unlawfully Carrying a Weapon, Possession of a Controlled Substance, No Driver's License, Failure to Maintain Financial Responsibility and speeding. Terry was charged with Possession of Controlled Substance and numerous DPS warrants for traffic. The total amount of cash confiscated totaled $2,101.

Prairie Edge Museum Report

By Elizabeth Boothe, Reporter

Eagle Lake is more on the map than ever. Our Main Street is a very busy thouroughfare, especially in the vicinity of the museum. Large crowds continue to visit Prairie Edge and then go on to the flower fields. Following are the states not included in last week's report: Alabama, Arkansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota and South Carolina. Foreign countries not included in last week's report are as follows: Bolivia, Columbia, India, Iraq, Ireland, Mexico, San Salvador, Scotland and Venezuela.

Working as a volunteer at the museum is such a pleasant experience. There are still times when you can work if you haven't already signed up. Victor Scott, who is the coordinator, will be happy to put your name on the time schedule. His telephone number is 234-2792. Many interesting facts come about when conversing with our visitors. Victor Scott told me about a young boy signing his name on the back of the card which he hopes will be drawn to make him the owner of the baseball autographed by Nolan Ryan. His mother told him that no one would believe the name was really his, for it was signed "Ryan Nolan". Jean Abel talked with Robert K. Knape from Alvin, who was Nolan Ryan's Little League coach years ago. He said that he often had to bench Nolan because of missing practice. (He evidently made up for lost time when he did report). Marjorie Criswell McIntosh from Arkansas said that the beautiful glass blue birds being sold at the hospital auxiliary booth were made about six miles from where she lives. I hope you will tell me interesting facts you learn from our visitors so that I may include them in my reports.

How I wish I had seen all the sections of this past Saturday's "Eyes of Texas", because one of these concerned collectible fountain pens. Please tell me if you saw the video. People continue to be very interested in our display. Two people from Beaumont have promised to add to our collection, the oldest of which is an 1869 artifact.

The monstrous alligator specimen draws much attention. I think a good name for him would be "Alley-Oop". There are no plans, as far as I know, to name this former denizen of our lake.

There are many beautiful flower sights right her in town. The bluebonnets blooming along the S.P. right-of-way next to Post Office Street seem to be very hearty. One of my favorites, the pink primrose, is very beautiful on Austin Road. The old S.A and A.P. right-of-way across from the museum is beautifully aline with miscellaneous wildflowers. In Saturday's Houston Post there was a bluebonnet picture with the words "Everything's better with a bluebonnet on it". Many thanks to John Canaris for placing three large pots of bluebonnets in front of the museum. The Post also carried the following information in the March 30 edition: "Maps to the different fields (wildflower) are available at the Prairie Edge Museum… The absolute best place to see masses of planted wildflowers is around Eagle Lake… The season lasts almost to the end of April in Eagle Lake."

The Thrift Shop will be open Saturday April 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m There are lots of ladies handbags available, also shoes. Aluminum window screens and an aluminum screen door are for sale. Your workable home appliances are very popular sale items.

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever."
— Keats.

OBITUARIES

Raymond W. Braden

August 24, 1908 - March 31, 1991

Services for Raymond W. Braden, 82, of Bernardo were held April 3 at St. Roch's Catholic Church in Mentz with Father George Henninger officiating. Rosary services were held April 2.

Interment followed the funeral services at St. Roch's Catholic Cemetery in Mentz.

Braden died March 31 at River Oaks Nursing Home in Columbus where he had been a resident for 13 months.

He was born Aug. 24, 1908 in Mentz to Elo and Tillie Maertz Braden and was united in marriage with Lena Kuhn on Oct. 2, 1929.

Braden worked as a farmer and was a member of St. Roch's Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus Council No. 10249 in Mentz.

He was preceded in death by his wife on April 23, 1978.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Jennie and Floyd Borski and Barbara and Alton Machinsky, all of Columbus; one son and daughter-in-law, William and Barbara Braden of College Station; one sister, Anna Marie Braden of Bernardo; and seven grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Stephen Borski, Jerome Wicke, Roy Jones, Gary Miller, Anthony Kuhn and Kenny Howard.

Henneke Funeral Home Inc., Columbus, directors.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

Sarah D. Flores

Mrs. Sarah D. Flores, Age 68, of Eagle Lake, passed away Wednesday, March 27 at the River Oaks Nursing Home of Columbus at 5:10 a.m. following a lengthy illness.

Born in San Antonio, Bexar County, to Hilario Solis Diaz and Elizabeth Gallegos Diaz, she had been a resident of Eagle Lake for most all of her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Mike Flores; daughters, Mary Elizabeth and Rachel Cardenas and grandson, Atilano Cardenas III.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Lydia and Atilano Cardenas Jr.; sisters, Martha Sosa of Missouri City, Esther Contreras of Eagle Lake and Rachel Braswell of Madison, Florida; brothers, Manuel Diaz of Houston, Robert Diaz of Eagle Lake and David Diaz of Ft. Worth; 9 grand and 7 great grandchildren, other relatives and a host of loved ones.

Prayer services were held Thursday evening from the Gethsemane Baptist Mission of Eagle Lake with funeral services following Friday, March 29 at 2 p.m. with Rev. Paul Aguilar, pastor, Vine of the Lord Church in Eagle Lake and Rev. Zargoza Gonzales, pastor, Gethsemane Baptist Mission both officiating.

Interment followed in Lakeside Cemetery of Eagle Lake.

Pallbearers were grandsons, Michael, Daniel, David and Mark Cardenas and nephews, Larry Contreras and Danny Diaz.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

American Rice Growers Association Report

Thailand's prices over the past week are considerably weaker.

Pakistan's prices are somewhat firmer than Thailand; Pakistan has a tendency to sell surplus rice.

Iran will need to buy rice in the near future, they purchase rice on a cash basis, but will search for better prices in other places very quickly.

Brazil's demand for rice at the present is very weak. Price controls in Central and South America does not help the market.

Mexico has a steady market for rice, which is the opposite of Brazil. Mexico likes the Thai rice and Vietnam prices suit Mexico. The steady increase in the World Market drove Mexico to purchase rice form Vietnam and Thailand.

Sales continue in Saudi Arabia, but are much smaller than in the past.

Locally, some trading has been done at the $2.75 premium.

World Market Price

The World Market Price (55-70) as of Tuesday, April 2 remained at $6.04.

Weather

Moderate to heavy showers (25-100mm or more) continued over southern and western Indonesia and returned to local crop regions of western Malaysia, boosting irrigation reserves. Dry weather persisted over much of eastern Malaysia. Further north, showers (25-118mm) from the remnants of Tropical Storm Sharon covered plantation crop areas of the southern Thai peninsula. In contrast, drier and unseasonably warm weather dominated northern Thailand's rain-fed grain areas. In the Philippines, drier weather returned to most regions, although light to moderate rain (10-31mm) fell from central Luzon to northern Mindanao.

Bill G. Searcy

December 6, 1929 - March 21, 1991

Mr. Bill G. Searcy, age 61, of El Paso and a former Kerrville, Texas resident, passed away Thursday, March 21, 1991 in a El Paso hospital.

He was born December 6, 1929 in Menard, Texas and attended North Texas State Teachers College in Denton receiving a Masters Degree in Music.

In earlier years, he was band director in Eagle Lake and later moved to Wharton where he served as an insurance agent. He then moved to Houston where he owned and operated a construction business.

In 1976, Bill and his family moved to the Hill Country where he and Linda owned Casa Linda Restaurant. He was a noted Artist and Silversmith. At the time of his death, he and Linda were managers of Camlu Retirement Center in El Paso. He was a member of the Kerrville Elks Lodge.

Mr. Searcy is survived by his wife Mary Linda of El Paso; daughter, Tana Ellyson of Houston; sons, Stuart Searcy of La Grange, Georgia and Greg Searcy of Houston; two step-daughters, Donna Zimmer and Debbie Hart of Houston; step-son, Ricky Gilbert of Kerrville; brother, Jack Searcy of Kerrville; step-mother, Lucille Searcy of Kerrville; and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Monday, March 25, 1991 at the Chapel of the Kerrville Funeral Home with Rev. Red Bond officiating. Kerrville Elks Lodge No. 2081 assisted with the service.

Burial followed at the Comfort Cemetery in Comfort, Texas. Kerrville Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

Herman Christ

At press time, funeral services were pending for Herman Christ of Needville, from the Davis-Dawson Funeral Home of Rosenberg.

Survivors inlcude a son and daughter-in-law, Rick and Debbie Christ of Eagle Lake.

A complete obituary will appear in next week's *Headlight*.

Date set for Weimar 'Wild and Wonderful Women'

The Wild and Wonderful Women of Weimar have set the date for their "Parade of Hats" extravaganza. The event is to be held on Thursday, April 25 at the New Bielau Dance Hall. The Hall will open at 6 p.m. Ticket price will be $7 and include dinner and the Hat Show. Dinner will be served at 7 and the Hat Show will begin immediately following. All entries MUST be in by April 20 and MUST be accompanied by a written description of the entry. The categories are Wildest, Wonderful, Vintage, Wedding and Miscellaneous. Please register your entry at Georgia's Hair Gallery, 111 N. Mechanic in Weimar, 725-8181. The date the tickets will go on sale will be announced in our next update.

OK, girls, put on those "thinking caps" (now there's a clue for an entry) and come up with some really wonderful entries and remember, all proceeds from this event will go to the Weimar Community Development Steering Committee to be deposited in their account for the use of the four development committees.

Eagle Lake woman ready to start life again

When Adela Lednicky looks at the foot-long incision in her knee, she does not wince or look dismayed. Instead, the housewife and mother of four from Eagle Lake ("Goose Capital of the World!" Lednicky exclaims proudly) smiles. The long, purplish line of stitches bisecting her knee has given her an escape from a world darkened by pain, weakness and immobility.

Lednicky had osteoarthritis, a non-inflammatory, degenerative joint disease which left her knee painful and stiff, especially after prolonged activity. Her condition had become severe enough to throw her knee out of joint, forcing her lower leg to point outward. Finally, she says, "I just couldn't go on living with that much pain." Her family, too, could not stand to see her in so much discomfort, and her doctor told her that something had to be done.

The decision to have knee joint replacement surgery was a major one. The operation itself requires general anesthesia, followed by a period of hospitalization and physical rehabilitation which normally takes about three weeks. Lednicky, however, was committed.

She felt a difference almost immediately after the operation. Her energy and concentration were returning; the pain before had left her preoccupied and drained. After a few days, she no longer needed acute medical care and was able to transfer to Memorial City Rehabilitation Hospital to begin the active phase of her recovery.

Lednicky's daily four hours of occupational and physical therapy included a series of exercises designed to increase her daily living skills. All her children are grown, and she likes being independent and living at home by herself. She worked on routine activities, such as dressing, bathing and cooking. In addition, she performed tasks to decrease specific weaknesses, such as in her grip and pinch strength for repetitive motion type skills in chopping and slicing.

"She lived independently before she came here," says her occupational therapist, Nancy Beaton, who trains patients in overcoming their disabilities. "Now that she has recovered the use of her leg, our ultimate goal was to enhance her ability to live independently at home again."

Before she could go home, however, she had to pass a full kitchen evaluation — which entailed baking a batch of chocolate chip cookies — and demonstrated that she can bathe, dress, and perform self-care with a minimum of supervision.

Lednicky also worked on floor and stair exercises with her walker. She practiced stepping up and down, putting the healthy leg first on the way up and the healing leg first on the way down. In this manner, she kept the major portion of her body weight off the healing leg while still being able to use it.

In visiting with hospital staff before she left, Lednicky looked forward to doing some yard work, riding her exercise bicycle, and being reunited with the close-knit community of Eagle Lake. Due to her motivation and enthusiasm, she made enough progress to be released a week earlier than had been anticipated.

Adela Lednicky relaxes and enjoys praise from her physical therapist at Memorial City Rehabilitation Hospital after the successful completion of a challenging stair exercise.

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