

OBITUARIES

Deacon Elzie Axel

December 12, 1917 - July 27, 1993

Deacon Elzie Axel, 85, of Altair passed away July 27, 1993. He was a native of Colorado County, born December 12, 1917, to John and Emma Axel.

He was united with the Wright Grove Baptist Church. On February 2, 1941, he married Cleo Patra Brown. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Elzie Marie Axel. Survivors include his wife; daughter, Shirley Rowe Hemphill of El Paso; sons, Charles and Leroy Axel of Altair and Joe L. Axel of Houston; sister, Oda Lee Glover; brother, Lester Axel; daughters-in-law, Anna and Deborah Axel; 11 grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Friday, July 30, at 11 a.m. in the Wright Grove Baptist Church at Altair with Rev. T.J. Cunningham Jr. officiating. Interment followed in the Brown-Axel Cemetery at Altair. Arrangements were directed by Memorial Chapel Funeral Home of Eagle Lake.

Serving as pallbearers were Ernest, Thomas, Clifton, John and Gene Glover, Willis S. Chavis, Leo and Benjamin Axel.

Honorary pallbearers were Charles, Joe, Joe L., Leroy and Lester Axel and Edward Glover.

Leo P. Gannon

January 24, 1925 — July 31, 1993

Leo P. Gannon, 68, of Columbus, passed away July 31, 1993, at the Columbus Community Hospital.

He was born January 24, 1925, in Scranton, Pa., the son of James and Ester Roache Gannon.

He was united in marriage to Blanche Cooney on April 28, 1968.

Gannon was a disabled plumber and affiliated with the Catholic church.

He was with the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II and the Korean War.

Graveside services were held August 3 at St. Anthony Catholic Cemetery in Columbus with the Rev. Jesse Euresi officiating. Henneke Funeral Home of Columbus was in charge of the arrangements.

Survivors include his wife; three daughters, Gennie Donnelly of New Jersey, Tracy Vincent and Margaret Niska, both of Columbus; five sons, Patrick Gannon of New Jersey, Robert Gonnell of Eddie, N.J., Ralph Gonnell of Beaverton, Ore., Steven Gonnell of Columbus and Matthew Gannon of Columbus; two brothers, William and Martin Gannon, both of Philadelphia.

Mrs. Walter (Irene) Oppermann

August 6, 1915 — July 31, 1993

Irene Oppermann, 77, of Frelsburg, passed away July 31, 1993, at the Columbus Community Hospital.

Burial followed at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Frelsburg.

She was born August 6, 1915, in Rock House, Texas, the daughter of Herbert and Bertha Muske Veith.

On February 22, 1938, she was united in marriage to Walter H. Oppermann.

She was a housewife and affiliated with Trinity Lutheran Church in Frelsburg and Woodmen of the World.

Oppermann was preceded in death by a son, Herby, and her parents.

Survivors include her husband; a daughter and son-in-law, Belita and Alfred Hoffmann of Alton; a son and daughter-in-law, Kevin and Grace Oppermann of Columbus; three sisters, Leila Suchadoll of Columbus, Mailen Neidig of Elgin and Patsy Krebs of Fayetteville; and three grandchildren, Robert, Aaron, Byron and Heather Oppermann.

Services were held August 2 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Frelsburg with the Rev. Mike Burns officiating. Henneke Funeral Home of Columbus was in charge of the arrangements.

Pallbearers were Harlan and Ronnie Neidig, Terry Krebs, Ervin and Jack Closs and Dan Kulhanek.

Honorary pallbearers were Byron and Aaron Oppermann, Marvin, Randy, Warren and Darrell Becker.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

Prairie Edge Museum Notes

By Elizabeth Boothe, Reporter

The Thrift Shop will be open this Saturday, Aug. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Good buys include linens, curtains, lots of clothing for children, jeans, costume jewelry and men's ties. There is a special sale price on a group of casement windows.

This past week I wrote about the photograph of the late Dr. R. Henry Harrison, father of William H. Harrison Sr., being in one of our cases. This area.

Becky Anderson, speaking for the Chamber of Commerce, said because of changes that have been made, we need to come up with new ideas and plans. Members of the museum board were urged to attend the community meeting. Look for a report of this meeting in next week's Headlight.

I had the pleasure of taking new Eagle Lake residents Kenneth and Jennifer Wooten on a special tour of Prairie Edge this past Tuesday morning.

Kenneth is one of our coaches at Rice High School and will also teach history. His wife plans to attend Wharton County Junior College.

Kenneth hopes to coordinate our museum with his history teaching. I am very happy to have them as neighbors.

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She is a caseworker at the clinic. She attended Los Angeles Tech where she studied communication, then spent seven years in direct care at Richmond State School. She was employed with the Eagle Lake Police Dept. for one year as a dispatcher

before joining the staff of Riceland in Columbus, June 1990.

Jenkins was hired as a case manager and later promoted to case worker.

She and her husband Joskie have three children and three foster children.

Jenkins commented, "This position allows me to help people and that is the most important gift one human can give to another. I thank God for all I have and all I'm able to give."

Other Highlights

A McAllen jury last week acquitted a man charged with the murder of a woman.

A federal judge last week ordered a man charged with the murder of a woman to stand trial.

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Brzowski, Rucka united at St. Mary's

An afternoon wedding at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada was the setting for the marriage of Lynn Rene Brzowski and Brian Patrick Rucka.

The wedding was held at 2:30 p.m. July 10 with Rev. Simon Brzowski as main celebrant. Revs. Greg Korenek and Victor Schmidtzyński performed the double ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of James and Leona Brzowski of Garwood. Parents of the groom are Preston and Barbara Davis of Nelsonville and the late Ervin Rucka.

Jean Hmicki, the bride's aunt, performed music for the ceremony with soloist LeAnne Swick. Songs included Ice Castle, Wedding Song, Wind Beneath My Wings, Lord's Prayer and Ave Maria.

The bride was dressed in a white, silhouette, bouffant, satin gown by Mori Lee. The fitted basque bodice was styled with embroidered Alencon lace accented with sequins and pearls and featuring a scalloped neckline. The long gauntlet sleeves formed a vee at the wrist.

The gathered skirt swept to a full chapel train of Alencon lace trimmed with scalloped bead cut-out lace appliques and pearls. Her train fell from a tiered lace pelum train in pearls and Alencon lace.

The bride's headpiece was a single white rose surrounded by organza rosettes and pearl filaments with lily of the valley. The fingertip veil with

rolled edges held a double filament ruffle.

She carried a cascade of white roses, miniature white roses and buds, baby's breath, English ivy and leather leaf accented with seed pearls and white ribbon.

Maid of honor was Ann Drik of Garwood. Bridesmaids were Lisa Brzowski, sister of the bride; Dawn Mack of Wharton, cousin of the bride; LuAnn Korenek of Garwood, cousin of the bride; and Amy Drik of Garwood.

The bride attendants wore tea length gowns with sweetheart necklines. The floral bodice with tapered, elbow length sleeves had a mauve chintz skirt. Each carried three pink roses with baby's breath, greenery and mauve ribbons.

Chelsea Ray, the groom's niece, was flower girl. Colton Epps, the groom's nephew, was ring bearer.

The groom was attended by his brother, David Rucka of Eagle Lake, as best man. Groomsman were Jimmy Brzowski of Garwood, the bride's brother; Stevie Almanza and Scott Ripper of Eagle Lake; Tiger Pratt of Colorado Springs, Co.; and Jaime Rios of Rosenberg.

Ushers were Travis and Steven Polach, nephews of the groom; and Randy Epps, his brother-in-law.

Serving as altar boys were Jared Korenek, bride's cousin, and John Michael Rucka, groom's nephew. Gary Rucka and Linda Polach, brother

and sister of the groom were witnesses.

A reception followed the wedding ceremony at the Eagle Lake KC Hall. Members of the houseparty included Becky Korenek, Charlotte Martin, Rachael Salas, Sharon Streger, Karen Epps, Beverly Wundrich, Lynn Rucka, Sylvia Rucka, Denise Thompson, Loreta Rucka and Brenda Potter.

The bride is a 1989 graduate of Rice High School and attended Wharton County Junior College. She will

graduate in August from the University of Texas Medical Branch with a degree in occupational therapy.

Rucka is a 1989 graduate of Rice and is employed by Utecon Inc. in Rosenberg.

The couple are residing in Rosenberg following a wedding trip to Las Vegas, Nevada.

A rehearsal dinner was hosted for the wedding party by the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, at the K.C. Hall Friday evening.



Lae Kwon Do Day proclaimed

Colorado County Judge H.O. Strunk signs a proclamation declaring Saturday, Aug. 7, as Master Choi Lae Kwon Do Day in the county. He is surrounded by members of the Columbus martial arts group. The 1993 Universal Martial Arts Association will have a Lae Kwon Do Tournament Saturday, Aug. 7, at the KC Hall in Columbus beginning at 10 a.m. Schools will be competing from Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Dallas and Columbus. The public is welcome to attend and admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children, under five are free.

ANNOUNCING NEW ARRIVALS

Joshua Aaron Lawson

Mr. and Mrs. Neal Allan Lawson of Katy announce the birth of their third child, a son, May 24, 1993, at 1:50 a.m. in Eagle Lake Community Hospital.

Joshua Aaron Lawson weighed eight pounds, four ounces and measured 20 inches at birth. Dr. Russell Thomas was the attending physician.

Joshua is welcomed home by Lacey Lyn, two, and

Jared Allan, one.

His maternal grandparents are Joe and Jeannine Bright of Katy. His paternal grandparents are Randell and Colly Sue Lawson of Bryan and Trent and J.J. Daniel of Austin. Great grandparents are Onie and Lucille Lawson of Bryan and Martha Gross of Katy.

The mother is the former Stephanie Lyn Bright.

Kelsey Blake Schneider

Mr. and Mrs. John Schneider of Katy announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, July 25, 1993, at 5:37 a.m. in Memorial Hospital Southwest in Houston.

Kelsey Blake weighed seven pounds, nine ounces and measured 20 inches at birth.

Her maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. George

Williams and great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, all of Garwood.

Her paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. N.J. Schneider also of Garwood.

The mother is the former Audrey Williams.

Garrett Johnny Stribling

Johnny and Linda Stribling of Dallas announce the birth of their first child, a son, June 15, 1993, at 7:31 p.m. in Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas.

Garrett Johnny weighed eight pounds, six ounces and measured 20 inches at birth.

His maternal grandparents are John Lee and Virginia

Korenek of Garwood.

His paternal grandparents are Pete and Sugar Stribling of Kaufman.

Great grandparents are Mrs. Richard Korenek of Garwood and Mrs. Alice Bludan of Hallettsville, Joe and Rose Bedrick of Terrell and Pete Stribling of California.

HERITAGE HOUSE NEWS

I would like to introduce myself as the new activity director at Heritage House. Really I'm a veteran in the activity program with eight years experience.

My name is Patricia Bubela and I'm from Columbus, formerly of Eagle Lake. I am glad to be back working at Heritage House and look forward to seeing former volunteer groups and individuals visiting our facility.

Last week's activities started off with Bingo on Tuesday afternoon with volunteer Jean Cranford as caller for our residents. We had many winners during the afternoon's games. Special thanks to Jean and Gladys for helping the residents.

Wednesday, we started with our daily warm-up exercises which are always well attended. Afterwards juice was served to residents by Shelly and Anna Schmidt. Thanks girls.

Bingo and blackout were played with residents and Ruby Hirschback won at blackout. Everyone enjoyed refreshments of vanilla and strawberry milkshakes. Sure took the heat off!

Last Thursday, Heritage House

By Patricia A. Bubela, Activity Director

had an activity directors meeting attended by area nursing home ADs from Bay City, Cuero East and West, Wharton and Sweeny. We enjoyed exchanging ideas for different resident activities, crafts and forms. Everyone had a blast exchanging "Chinese Gifts" as we celebrated Christmas in July. Why not?

Special thanks to Heritage House administrator Wendy Gerner for decorating our meeting room in the beautiful and festive Christmas theme.

Friday afternoon residents celebrated July birthdays with a very special party hosted by the White Cloud Baptist Church ladies group and the Mehner family, children of Irene Mehner who turned 90.

Debra Smith sang favorite hymns for residents and had everyone clapping in their seats. Thanks to all these wonderful people for providing refreshments of cake and tropical punch for our guests.

Residents celebrating birthdays

were Bessie Williams, Roosevelt Carson, Edith Duff, Proxey Mikeas and Irene Mehner. Hope everyone had a ball!

Volunteers Shelly and Anna Schmidt made the birthday party extra special with festive decorations in the dining room. Thanks!

A huge thank you is in order for Steve Balas for donating last Wednesday's Bingo prizes. Everyone was ecstatic over the great prizes.

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