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To The Editor & You

'Thank you' from the Chamber

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce would like to say thank you to all of you who made our Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival successful.

The blessing of giving is always rewarded.

We believe the "seed" has been planted and now it's the community's responsibility to make sure we harvest our crop. It's our dream that all of you will share and work to make sure it COMES TRUE!

Sincerely,
Doug Schwemm
President, Eagle Lake
Chamber of Commerce

P.S. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas on how the Festival can be improved for next year, please call or write the Chamber at 234-2780; 408 E. Main, Eagle Lake TX 77434.

Think about it...

I guess being a member of the Ambulance Corps gives me a different view of our hospital situation. I am privileged to see first hand how important the Eagle Lake Community Hospital is to our area.

Last Friday night we brought a critically injured patient into the emergency room. The doctor and nurses on duty that night did an outstanding job treating this patient whose injures were life-threatening. I see this over and over; and until it happens to you or someone you love, you may not see the "need" for a hospital in this community.

If ELCH is forced to shut its doors, the closest hospitals will be Columbus and Wharton. This means at least a two hour round trip for the ambulance crew. As all of you know, the Eagle Lake Ambulance Corps is extremely under-staffed and many of us are called to leave our jobs to make emergency calls. It takes about 30 minutes to pick up a patient, get to this hospital and get back to work. I don't know of a member who can leave their job for two hours to do volunteer work. This means there will probably be NO ambulance service in this town. Do you want to wait 30 minutes for the closest ambulance (plus another 30 minutes to get to a hospital) when your life is on the line? I know I don't!

I don't want to pay more taxes any more than you do. But to me, the question is not can we afford a hospital district... but can we afford NOT to have a hospital?

Think about it.

Carolyn Baird
Eagle Lake

There is a question we all must answer - how much is a human life worth?

Let me say now, I am not a resident of Eagle Lake. I am a life-long native of Garwood, an older resident taxpayer of the Rice School District, so would no doubt be the same in the proposed Hospital District. I just thank God that I feel we can pay them. We supported the Hospital when it was built and will continue to support it. I served on the board for a period of years.

I agree that certainly we all want a hospital as convenient as possible. We, our companies, have had three of our employees, at different times, who would have died if they hadn't reached a hospital just minutes later. I feel it is my duty to help provide our employees, and the residents of our small community, life saving health care as convenient as possible.

I was not fully aware that Eagle Lake looks to the Federal government for their everyday endeavors. We in Garwood aren't accustomed to that. No political body paid one cent for the ambulance that delivers patients to the hospital; they charge nothing; the fine group of volunteers that man the ambulance receives no pay. The residents of Garwood support this effort. Yet the question is asked, "Can't we (Eagle Lake) support it?", referring to the hospital. Sure they can if they work together and hard enough.

It is suggested that this should be a county wide issue. I went to sixty plus (60+) meetings some years ago trying to organize a county wide high school. GUESS WHAT - Columbus and Eagle Lake could not get along.

I agree with the director of Eagle Lake Hospital that some changes need to be made. I believe it's called "downsizing". The Board of Directors is aware of this and is capable of accomplishing it.

Getting a patient to the hospital in time to save his life will be worth every cent of tax we pay.

We can afford it

As I said before, I am a senior citizen but I spend no time thinking about past competitive sports or Saturday night brawls. Most of my time is spent thinking about how I can help my country, my family, our employees and our community.

Come on, we can do it. LET'S GO!

William N. "Bill" Lehrer
Garwood

Hospital District...

Personnel considerations

Submitted By Bill Wilson

Those people in the community who have served on the Hospital Board are to be commended. They have given of their time without compensation, and they have probably done their very best in their service to Eagle Lake Community Hospital.

Certainly, the community has been fortunate to have family doctors such as the Laughlins and Thomases. In the difficulties the Hospital has experienced in recent years in getting and keeping doctors, Dr. Ray and Dr. Russell have been the constants that the community could depend on.

The present Hospital administrator has certainly been a lot of help to me in getting up to speed as to what has been going on at the Hospital in recent years. I have heard nothing but good about him and he seems to be a fine young man. He has been on board during some of the worst financial hemorrhaging of the Hospital, so we know that he is not a miracle man.

Given the above, I have very serious concerns in these areas as we contemplate a Hospital District.

Hospital Board: When money is taken from the taxpayers to run a business, the Hospital, those persons selected to be trustees of the District's funds should be able, individually and as a group, to contribute to the efficient and economical operation of the business. I visualize persons who have run a business or are running a business and who understand what it takes to make a business successful. In put in the areas of accounting and records keeping could help. Contributions in the legal field are always desirable.

This is basically an agricultural community. There are not a lot of non-agricultural businesses still operating in the district. I hear the comment that it is almost impossible to find people willing to serve on the Hospital Board. Yet, under a Hospital District, we anticipate expanding the Board. Do we need nine Board Members? This is not a body of congress. I don't believe the need is for representatives of geographical, ethnic, or any other groups, but rather for people who can contribute to the successful running of a moderate size business. Do we have capable potential Board Members in the district and will they serve?

Physicians: I have talked with several Hospital Districts, and I have tried to select ones with populations and tax bases similar to what this District has. I have also tried to select ones that are apparently successful, that have been operating for a significant time at a very low tax rate. They all tell me the key is their physicians, and the ones I talked with have from four to seven resident doctors. Some of these Districts use very ingenious ways of recruiting and keeping doctors. I talked with one that schoiarships doctors in medical school with the understanding that the doctor, upon graduation, will work for the District two years for each year the District has provided a scholarship. One only needs to look at recent experiences of Eagle Lake Community Hospital to know that recruiting and keeping doctors is a major challenge. In today's market, is it even possible to get doctors to come and stay in Eagle Lake when there is not family and community ties such as existed with the Laughlins and Thomases?

Hospital Administrator: This is the key position to the successful operation of the Hospital, especially so when there is doubt as to how much solid administrative help is going to be available from the Hospital Board. There may be a good Administrator on board now, but from what I have heard, this has not always been the case. If you have good people in positions like Administrator, you can almost bet they are looking for better things for themselves and their family, and you can bet that someone else is looking for them. I don't know that we have people destined for the Hospital Board who have the time or energy to recruit key personnel such as Hospital Administrators. If you think there is such a person on the Board, ask yourselves what his responsibilities are to his business activities. One person can only efficiently do so many things. None of us can be all things to all people.

Yes, my choice would be to let a professional health care group like Health Trust Inc. have a go at providing health care for the community. It would get the Hospital out of debt. It wouldn't cost the taxpayers of the District anything. Health Trust Inc. would see to it that personnel are provided. It doesn't matter that they would try to make a profit. After all, isn't that the objective of any business enterprise?

Now, I encourage you to attend the Town Meeting scheduled for April 6 at 8 p.m. at the Prairie Edge Museum auditorium where we will discuss the Hospital Tax District.

Bill Wilson, Rt, 1, Box 69
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434

Note: The "letter" submitted by Mr. Wilson last week was supposed to be continued on Page 4, but, as you all know, it was not. The entire article is on Page 8 of this issue.

Senate passes education reform bill

The Texas Senate passed a sweeping education reform bill on 28-2 vote last week and sent the measure on for consideration by the House.

Senate Bill 1, sponsored by Sen. Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, would:

- Slacken state control over local school districts;
- Revise the 10-year no-pass, no-play rule;
- Raise the minimum salary for teachers to $18,500 per year;
- Allow charter school pilot projects; and
- Set up an experimental education voucher program for disadvantaged students.

Senators Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi and Greg Luna, D-San Antonio, voted against the bill.

Ratliff, chairman of the Senate Education committee, calling the bill "the most major revision of the public education code in this state since the 1940s," commented "The public, our educators and schoolchildren are depending on us to make a difference."

An amendment to the 1,200 page bill killed a provision that would have taken away the State Board of Education's duty to select public school textbooks.

Also among its many provisions, the bill requires that each of the state's 1,000 school districts adopt a charter to classify it a home-rule, special-purpose or general-law district. Home-rule and special-purpose districts would hold local-option elections exempting them from many state regulations, while general-law districts would be required to adhere to the education code.

Home-rule districts and more local control were main planks in Gov. George W. Bush's election campaign.

Pay Hike for TEA Chief

Texas Education Commissioner Mike Moses of Lubbock hadn't been in office for a week before his state senator proposed to increase his annual salary from $137,917 to $156,014.

Moses salary and benefits at his previous post as superintendent of Lubbock Independent School District totaled $170,800, according to the governor's office.

Sen. John Montford, D-Lubbock, sponsored the bill for Moses' pay raise at the request of Gov. Bush.

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

House Approves Budget

The House voted 118-18 to approve a $77.6 billion proposal for the 1996-97 state budget.

Of the $77.6 billion total, $32.6 billion would go to public and higher education; $25.9 billion to health and human services; $8.7 billion to business and economic development; and $6.4 billion to criminal justice.

State Rep. Robert Junell, D-San Angelo, said he and other budget writers were ever mindful of four items as they carried out their work:

- Full funding for public school;
- Money to operate state prisons;
- Growth in the number of Texans eligible for Medicaid and assistance programs; and
- Reduction of the state bureaucracy.

This bill has been referred to the Senate, where it is expected to be rejected in favor of a Senate version, which is almost $2.6 billion larger than the House version and allocates $1 billion more for human resources.

Castration Bill Ok'd

The state Senate approved Sen. Teel Bivins' bill to legalize voluntary castration of child molesters who have been convicted two or more times.

Bivins, R-Amarillo, who said the bill would make castration a means to reduce an offender's sexual urges, added, "It's meant to be 101% therapeutic, and it's not meant to be punishment."

If the bill is approved by the House and signed by the governor, Texas would become the only state to perform surgical castration of inmates.

Helmet Proposal Crashes

An attempt to overturn the mandatory helmet law for motorcycle riders was defeated 18-12 in the Senate last week.

The bill by Sen. Jerry Patterson, R-Pasadena, would have exempted motorcycle riders 21 years or older from wearing a helmet, provided they could show they were covered by $50,000 in accidental injury insurance.

Sen. Greg Luna pointed out that Texas would have lost $19 million in federal highway funding had the bill passed.

Other Highlights

- Gov. Bush has nominated Jim Francis of Dallas to serve on the Public Safety Commission. Francis, a partner in an oil and gas company, served as a special assistant to former Gov. Bill Clements.
- More than 71,00 Texans have been added to the voter registration rolls since the National Voter Registration Act went into affect Jan. 1, according to Secretary Tony Garza.
- House and Senate committees last week approved welfare reform bills by Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville, and Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo. Hilderbran's bill would cut off benefits to families on welfare in as little as six months. Zaffirini's bill is considered less punitive.

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Colorado County Courthouse Report

DEEDS

Deed: Jack F. Leyendecker to Maverick Cattle Company Inc., 33.199 acres out of the John Hadden League, A-28; filed 2-15-95.

Deed: Wajama Productions Inc., to Arlan Enterprises Inc., 1.66 acres out of the W.B. Dewees Survey, A-18; 2-15-95.

Deed: Big Sur Development Co., to Robert S. Love, Surface Estate only of Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Block No. 2, Mentzwood Section 1; 2-16-95.

Deed: Janice Powell and Dennis L. Carroll to The Texas Falls Corporation, und. int. in Resort Villa Interest Ownership No. RV 0586 Resort Section One of the Falls Resort and Club; 2-16-95.

Deed: Estate of O.B. Clayborne to Otis Benjamin Clayborne, 1.340 acres, a part of the W.B. Dewees One-Half League, A-18; 2-17-95.

Deed: Estate of O.B. Clayborne to Otis Benjamin Clayborne, 1.840 acres, situated in the W.B. Dewees One-Half League, A-18; 2-17-95.

Deed: Estate of O.B. Clayborne to Shirley Ann Clayborne Bennett, 0.907 acres, known as Tract 3, situated in the W.B. Dewees One-Half League, A-18; 2-17-95.

Deed: Estate of O.B. Clayborne to Shirley Ann Clayborne Bennett, 0.907 acres known as Tract 1, situated in the W.B. Dewees One-Half League, A-18; 2-17-95.

Deed: Estate of O.B. Clayborne to Olan Burt Clayborne Trust, 0.234 acres, a part of the W.B. Dewees One-Half League, A-18; 2-17-95.

Deed: Estate of O.B. Clayborne to Melissa Ann Clayborne, 1.427 acres, a part of the W.b. Dewees One-Half League; 2-17-95.

Deed: Roy Honea and Nancy Cowley to Richard G. Behne Sr., et ux, 64.170 acres out of the J. Burton Survey, A-808, et al; 2-17-95.

Deed: John Link Shea to Texas Commerce Bank, N.A. interest in properties in Texas, et al; 2-17-95.

Deed: Leonard S. Svoboda to Joyce M. Svoboda, 50.00 acres out of the J. Bowie League, A-9; 2-17-95.

Gift Deed: John Seidl, et ux to Alice G. Umfrid, Lots No. five (5) and six (6) in Block No. thirty-three (33) of the Town of Glidden; 2-20-95.

Deed: Estate of Lola Inez Smith to Henry O. Priest, et ux, Lots 2 and 3 in Block 1 of the McCormick Addition No. three of the City of Columbus; 2-20-95.

Gift Deed: John Polach, et al to Margie Halfmann, et vir, Lot No. 1 of Block 2 of the McCormick Addition No. Three (3) in the City of Columbus; 2-20-95.

Deed: Henry O. Priest, et ux to Joe Halfmann, et ux, 0.1814 acre out of the E. Tumlinson Survey, A-44; 2-20-95.

Deed: Veterans Affairs to Juan Pareja, 0.272 acre, R.V. Sobbins Subdivision, Block No. 29, a part of Lot No. 13 in the City of Eagle Lake; 2-21-95.

Deed: Estate of Savanna H. Duson to Randy M. Clapp, et al, all Oil, Gas and other Minerals in the Whiting and Osborne Survey, A-48; 2-22-95.

Deed: Estate of Savanna H. Duson to Randy M. Clapp, et al, all Oil, Gas and other Minerals in the H.S. Lockler Survey No. 90, A-893; 2-22-95.

Deed: Leland P. Neuendorff, et ux to The Leland P. Neuendorff and Lucile Neuendorff Revocable Living Trust, int. in Lots Nos. Six (6) and Seven (7) of the Turner Subdivision in the J. Cummins Survey; 2-22-95.

Deed: Leland P. Neuendorff to the Leland P. Neuendorff and Lucile Neuendorff Revocable Living Trust, 48.049 acres in the Edw. Corbit Survey; 2-22-95.

Deed: Rice Medical Foundation Inc., to Davis R. Waddell, 50 foot by 200 foot in Block 18 of the City of Eagle Lake; 2-22-95.

Deed: J.D. Jones to Rose Ann Montgomery, part of Original Lot No. 2 in Block 60 (also known as part of Subdivisional Lot 7), in the Town of Columbus; 2-22-95.

OIL, GAS AND MINERAL LEASES

Mark N. Anderson, et al to Pantano Energy, 160.0 acres out of the GH&RR Co. Survey (Section 17), A-247; filed 2-26-95.

Pierce Aaron Hayden to Pantano Energy, 160.0 acres out of the GH&H RR Co. Survey (Section 17), A-246; 2-16-95.

Pierce Aaron Hayden to Pantano Energy, 160 acres out of the GH&H RR Co. Survey, Section 17, A-246; 2-16-95.

Ronald Stuart Hayden to Pantano Energy, 160.0 acres out of the GH&H RR Co. Survey, Section 17, A-246; 2-16-95.

Ronald Stuart Hayden to Pantano Energy, 160.0 acres out of the GH&H RR Co. Survey, Section 17, A-246; 2-16-95.

Linda Ruth Pearce Garcia to CICO Oil & Co., 20 acres, being Tract Numbers 1 and 2 situated in the No. J.B. Fenn Survey, A-215; 2-16-95.

Virginia Lee Winn and Dana Sue Bellamy Smith to CICO Oil & Gas Co., 42 acres, situated in the Southern Harvey Morey Survey, A-730, et al; 2-16-95.

Barbara J. Piper to CICO Oil & Gas Co., 42 acres, situated in the Southern Morey Harvey Survey, A-730, et al; 2-16-95.

Maxie H. Tesch to CICO Oil & Gas Co., 10 acres, being tract No. 50 out of the J.B. Fenn Survey, A-216; 2-16-95.

Robert L. Tesch to CICO Oil & Gas Company, 10 acres, being tract No. 50 out of the J.B. Fenn Survey, A-216; 2-16-95.

Dorothy P. Passev to CICO Oil & Gas Co., 10 acres being tract No. 51 out of the J.B. Fenn Survey, A-216; 2-16-95.

Richard V. Armstrong and Linda C. Chisholm to CICO Oil & Gas Co., 10 acres, being Tract No. 59 situated in the South J.B. Fenn Survey, A-216; 2-16-95.

Roger M. Hooper, et al to CICO Oil & Gas Co., being Tract No. 59 situated in the South J.B. Fenn Survey, A-216; 2-16-95.

A.S. Vawter to Shell Western E&P Inc., two (2) tracts out of the Walker Wilson Survey No. 971, A-602; 2-20-95.

A.S. Vawter to Shell Western E&P Inc., 24.7 acres, situated in Lavaca and Colorado Counties, part of the Horatio Fitzroy Survey, A-193 and No. 212; 2-20-95.

Linda Pond Palma Oetinger to Shell Western E&P Inc., 20.00 acres out of the Walker Wilson Survey No. 971, A-602; 2-20-95.

Marie Malek Eade to Shell Western E&P Inc., 20.00 acres, a part of the Walker Wilson Survey No. 971, A-602; 2-20-95.

Cecil E. Johnston to Shell Western E&P Inc., 100.96 acres out of the Horatio Fitzroy Survey, A-193 and No. 212; 2-20-95.

Carl E. Hill, et ux to Rusty Carlson, 229.441 acres, part of the Charles R. Duncan Survey, A-180 in Colorado County and Lavaca County; 2-23-95.

Mark A. Hill, et ux, to Rusty Carlson, 229.441 acres, a part of the Charles R. Duncan Survey, A-180, Colorado County and Lavaca County; 2-23-95.

Vlasta Boehm, et al to Talon Development Company, 100 acres, situated on the Preston Gilbert Survey, A-25; 2-23-95.

COUNTY COURT DISPOSITIONS

Lealon Keith Hollie, Cleveland, driving while intoxicated, defendant plead guilty. Court found the defendant guilty, appealed to a higher court.

DISTRICT COURT CIVIL SUITS FILED

Fernando Garcia Jr. et al vs The Estate of Katherine Clipson, personal injuries/damages; filed 3-20-95.

William S. Bensen vs Herman Henneke, damages; 3-22-95.

DIVORCES FILED

Cynthia Ann Wilks and Frederick O'Neil Wilks; filed 3-20-95.

Charles DeHaven Coy and Mavis Marie Coy; 3-22-95.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Roger Dale Eilers, 34, Columbus, and Dorian Weigand Eilers, 23, New Ulm.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 Years Ago

August 13, 1970

Don Allred, patrolman for the Eagle Lake Police Department for the past two years, tendered his resignation to City Council...

Tommy G. Arlt, rice farmer in the Lissie community, received a broken leg and other injuries when the rice truck which he was driving west on Hwy. 90 A near Lissie was rammed by a large gravel truck at 2 p.m. last Thursday.

The drum major and twirlers for the Garwood Junior High School for the 1970-71 year have been chosen. **Miss Donna Danklefs** will be the drum major, twirlers will be Misses **Sheryl Abell, Larie Kasmiersky** and **Sharon Zbranek**...

Sgt. Alois J. Bittner Jr., has returned home for a 30 day leave after serving a year of combat duty in Vietnam. He the son of **Mr & Mrs. Alois Bittner Sr.** of Garwood.

Mr & Mrs. Walter Sommer of Eagle Lake announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, **Margaret Ann,** to **John Hill Ewin III,** son of **Mr. & Mrs. John Ewin Jr.** of Dallas. The couple plan an Aug. 27 wedding at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Eagle Lake...

Miss Mary Jane Seifert and **Robert Lee Schobel** were married in a double ring ceremony at 8 p.m. on Friday, July 24.

Mrs. Joyce Davison of Eagle Lake, Rice High District Homemaking Teacher, attended the State-In-Service Conference held on Aug. 3 through 7 in Dallas... **Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Johnson** and children, **Ellana, Bryan, and Russell,** returned Friday night from a two week vacation after visiting Oklahoma and Illinois.

Miss Deborah Ann Vacek, daughter of **Mr. & Mrs. John F. Vacek** of East Bernard, and **David W. Guthman,** son of **Mr. & Mrs. Lee Roy Guthman** of Lissie, were united in marriage on Friday, July 10, at 7 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church in East Bernard.

Major Robert Zahradnick, arrived from Korea on Sunday, August 9th, for a three-day visit with his parents, **Mr. & Mrs. David Zahradnick;** his sisters and their families, **Mr. & Mrs. C.D. Newsom** and **Mr. & Mrs. Emil Vasut;** and his daughters **Elizabeth** and **Barbara Jean.**

Funeral services were held Saturday, Aug. 8, for **Mrs. Pete (Mary) Canto,** who passed away at St. Joseph Hospital in Houston.

Jan. 3, 1947

John "Tony" Pinchback, prominent Garwood rice farmer, who had resided all his life in Colorado County died at 4:15 on the morning of Thursday, Dec. 26th, at Nightingale Hospital in El Campo of a heart attack...

Death claimed one of Eagle Lake's oldest citizens, **August Tipp,** who resided about three miles from the city for many years.

Alvin Pachall, 18-year old son of **Mrs. Dan Gibson,** passed through Eagle Lake on the noon Southern Pacific train on Tuesday, enroute from the Naval Recruiting Station at Houston to San Diego, Calif., to take his "boot" training in the United States Navy... The **Eagle Lake Eagles** basketball squad will travel to Wharton for the first conference game of the season on Tuesday, Jan. 7th.

Miss Selma Florence German, daughter of **Mr. & Mrs. R.H. German,** and **James A. Mathis,** son of **Sam Mathis,** have this week announced the date of their wedding which will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12th at the First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake.

Mr. & Mrs. S.O. Boothe had as dinner guests at their home on Christmas Day **Miss Elizabeth Allen** of Luling, **H.W. Boothe** and **Frank Ruwwe** of Houston, **Mr. & Mrs. Herman O. Paul** and daughter, **Julie,** of San Antonio... **Mr. & Mrs. Lee Glass** of Garwood were hosts at a din-

(See 24 & 48, Page 4)

CCLEA visits with Eagle Lake Police

Officers of the newly-formed Colorado County Law Enforcement Association stopped by the Eagle Lake Police Department recently to talk with Sgt. Steve Hassin, in foreground, at left, and Officer Russell Dunn. Speaking is Shirley Kearbey who was accompanied by Patty Stavinoha, Brenda Becker and Rhanda Luttimore. *Headlight Photo by Lynda Appelt*

About Town...

•Boy! Did we come up with some screw-ups last week! Not only did we have you moving your clocks the wrong way (front page box), but the continuation of Bill Wilson's "letter" was **no where** (in the paper that is). Luckily, it was still on the computer!

•Allyssa and Logan Young were treated to a trip to the Blue Bell Creamery in Brenham on March 24 where they enjoyed the delicious ice cream.

•Thousands of fans across the U.S. mourned the loss of Tejano superstar Selena who was killed Friday, March 31, in Corpus Christi.

Among those making the trip to Corpus for her funeral were members of the Morales family, some formerly of Eagle Lake: Linda, Gloria, Brenda, Yolanda & Pete Munoz, Chris, Mary, John, John Jr., Jennifer, Becky & Ricardo. The group was able to see Selena's home and pay their last respects.

A role model for many Hispanic women, she will be missed. Adios, Selena.

An Important Message for CPL Customers

Recently you may have read or heard about a plan proposing "competition and choice in the generation of electricity" with the implication that everyone's electric bill would go down if that happens. If you think that sounds too good to be true, you're right.

A handful of unregulated power producers is promoting a scheme that would allow them to sell power at retail directly to consumers. They want you to believe that's competition and that it would lower everyone's electric bill. In reality, their goal is to sell power to large industrial customers at low rates which will be eventually subsidized by smaller consumers. They are not interested in assuming an obligation to serve anybody.

At Central Power and Light Company, we achieve success with a tradition of reliability, community involvement, competitive rates and dedication to superior customer service. The electric industry is changing. Deregulation, expanding customer expectations, new technologies and other dynamic forces are having a profound effect on our business, but the strong commitment to our customers and communities remains.

Contrary to the self-serving efforts of a few special interest groups, the state's electric utilities have proposed legislation to increase competition in a way that will benefit all consumers. The proposal would open the wholesale generation market to all who want to participate, thus allowing every consumer to benefit from the least costly sources of power. Unlike the unregulated power producers' scheme, no consumers or group of consumers would face higher rates so a few could pay less.

CPL has been a provider of electrical service for some 80 years. Our involvement with and commitment to the communities we serve are stronger than ever. We take our obligation to provide the best possible service to each and every one of our customers very seriously. Always have, always will! If you would like more information on this important issue, please call us at 1-800-274-2611.

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