

7th Annual Lighted parade, a huge success

Citizens lined Hwy. 90 (Main Street) all the way to the square to watch the 7th Annual Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce Lighted Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Forty-nine entries, the most ever, spread the Christmas spirit to all those who watched and participated.

The parade kicked off with the VFW Post #8783 and Boy Scout presenting the colors in front of the reviewing stand and the singing of the National Anthem.

Parade Marshall William Harrison Sr. and Mrs. Harrison led the parade riding in a 1966 Pontiac GTO convertible belonging to Dan Canaris. Harrison's family members were carried in a 1918 Dodge and a 1918 Model T Ford owned by Dan Gerstson and a 1996 Tahoe and 1996 Suburban loaned by Lake Motors.

Judges for the parade were Dora Brisco, Ronny and Susan Rogers and James Hawkins.

The big winners in the parade were:

First place and most outstanding in

the service division was Cub Scout Pack #3078; second went to Xi Phi Psi; and third, Colorado County Fair.

In the chambers, of commerce division, first place went to Fayetteville. Their float represented the Lick-skillet Celebration which is always the third weekend in Oct. Second went to the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce and third to Yoakum.

Winning first place in commercial was Thomas Clinic with the theme of A County Christmas - "Thomas Clinic is Roping in a Merry Christmas and Rounding Up A Happy New Year!" Second place went to the First National Bank and third to Paged Trucking Company.

In the decorated vehicle division, first place honors went to the former Miss Eagle Lake's who were riding in a 1974 Oldsmobile loaned by Lake Motors. Second place went to Curly Wied candidate for sheriff and third to Lake Motors.

Grace Lutheran Church won first place in the church division with the theme "Make Jesus the Heart of Christmas". Second place went to the

Vine of the Lord Church.

The marching division first place rosette went to the Super Strutters, instructed by Becky Moulder. Second went to Sherri's Starlight Twirlers and third to Rice High School Marching Band.

In the school division, first place went to the Eagle Lake Middle School Cheerleaders who used the theme of "Rock Around the Christmas Tree to a Jingle Bell Rock". Second went to Eagle Lake Primary School PTO and third to the Eagle Lake Middle School Student Council.

And last, but not least, the first place individual family division went to Colorado County Judge Vince Slosinski, who made his way down the parade trail in a lighted golf cart. Second place went to Earl Jones, candidate for County Sheriff and third to Hume and Nelda Baker's antique farm engines.

We hope that next year's parade will be even bigger and better.

Thanks to all those who participated to make the parade such a huge success!



Christmas, two viewpoints

Both aspects of Christmas were represented Saturday night during the 7th Annual Lighted Christmas Parade in Eagle Lake. Among the churches preparing entries was this one from The Vine of the Lord Church which took second place.

Riding the float were Carol, Cord and Lydia Cardenas, Carol Chavez, Belinda Navarro, Briana Morieda, Jennifer Navarro, Rebecca and Matthew Navarro, Brenda Morieda and Rosie Navarro.

In the photo below left, Santa is chauffeured into town on the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department's antique truck driven by Sam Pirtle.

Headlight Photos by Jeannine Furling

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Over 100,000 collegiate athletic scholarships are available each year to high school and junior college students, male and female. Contrary to popular belief, students don't have to be all-state to qualify and much of this money goes unused.

A new publication with forms, sample letters and tables of information is available and takes students step by step through the process of getting an athletic scholarship.

For information, send a self-addressed, stamped business size envelope to: National Sports Foundation, P.O. Box 940, Oakhurst, NJ 07755.

"To become mature is to recover that sense of seriousness which one had as a child at play."
— Friedrich Nietzsche

24 & 48 Continued from Page 2

Sunday and entertained with a party at the home of his parents, Mr. & Mrs. T.W. Scott...

B.H. McElhinney recently tendered his resignation as trustee of the Eagle Lake School District after 25 years as a member of the board...

Mrs. Dewey Gerstsonberg entertained at her home last Friday evening with a bridal shower naming Miss Peggy Jane Reel of Bay City as honoree...

A telephone message was received from Austin on Wednesday announcing the arrival of a daughter at 7:19 that morning to Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Payne... Old friends and neighbors in Garwood came with baskets of delicious food last Friday evening to compliment Mrs. L.E. Corneilus with a surprise picnic supper on her birthday...

Tiers of candelabras holding lighted cathedral candles and banded by floor baskets of fern, white asters and gladioli created an impressive setting for the wedding of Miss Lue Minette Fitzgerald, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Howard C. Fitzgerald, and Newton F. McDonald, son of Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Jeffers of McKinney, in Christ Episcopal Church at 8 o'clock last Sunday evening...

The pretty lakeshore home of Mr. & Mrs. David Wintermann was particularly inviting last Saturday evening when they entertained with a buffet dinner preceding the rehearsal for the Fitzgerald-McDonald wedding...

Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Austin entertained with a barbecue dinner at Altair Park last Sunday. The guests included the families of their children... Mrs. John Kearney and Miss Kay Kearney entertained last Saturday morning with a Coke party honoring Miss Lue Minette Fitzgerald, bride of last Sunday...

Mrs. Felix Brod was hostess for a dinner at her home Sunday honoring her grandson, Billy Joe Williams, son of Mr. & Mrs. S.J. Williams of Eagle Lake, on his 16th birthday... Mrs. Oscar Miller was hostess to a group of friends to celebrate the second birthday of her little daughter, Loretta Ann on Thursday afternoon last week...

Mrs. Roy W. Shoop of Garwood entertained 30 children and their mothers Monday afternoon from 4 to 6 o'clock honoring her son, Neil Owen, on his 4th birthday... Mr. & Mrs. Chris Harris were at Del Jardin on the Baysboro to attend a family reunion at the home of Dr. & Mrs. Fred Harris.

Storewide All-On-Sale Tuesday Dec. 12, 1995 Only at Sears in Wharton!

215 E. Boling Hwy. Wharton, Texas
409-532-1850

CLUB & ORGANIZATION NEWS

Colorado County Farm Bureau

Fourteen voting delegates from Colorado County Farm Bureau recently participated in the 62nd Annual Texas Farm Bureau convention Nov. 26-29 in Corpus Christi.

Policies directing the state's largest farm organization were adopted by more than 1,300 delegates from 211 organized Farm Bureaus. Approved recommendations on national policies will advance to the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting to be held in January in Reno, Nevada.

Speakers featured at the convention included Wayne Aves, the "Minister of Mirth" from Jesup, Georgia, who used humor to challenge people to overlook the unbecoming, understand the unconventional, tolerate the unpleasant and outlast the unbearable. Also addressing the delegates were Bob Stallman of Columbus, TFB President; David Krebs of Portland, TFB secretary-treasurer; and Vernie Glasson, TFB executive director.

The business session covered the final two days of the meeting. The last order of business was the election of the president, Bob Stallman of Columbus.



Delegates attending the recent convention were, in back, from left, Billy Hefner, Harry Engstrom, Bob Stallman (TFB President), Roy Stallman, Max Dittmar, Ted Brunner and L.L. Stallman. In the front were June Engstrom, Connie Stallman, Ann Stallman, Margie Dittmar, Louise Brunner and Jeanette Stallman. (Not pictured were Milton and Ora Nell Beken).

Kestrel, Dowitcher long and short-billed, Least Sandpiper, Shoveler, Mallard, Ruddy Duck, Green-wing Teal, Rosette Spoonbill, Barn Swallow, Killdeer, Snipe, American Woodcock, Ringneck Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson Hawk, Common Grackle, Savannah Sparrow, Black Bellied Plover, Dunlin, Rough-wing Swallow, Great Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Sandhill Cranes, White Ibis, Tri-colored Heron and the Vesper Sparrow.

Other animal species seen include Red-eared turtle and five Nutria.

Members of the Houston Audubon that graciously attended the trip were, Executive Director Gretchen Mueller, Associate Director Deborah Patterson, Director at Large and Curator of Birds at the Houston Zoological Gardens Chelle Plasse, noted birding guide, author and photographer Bob Behrstock and Barbara Massey.

TWONC was really excited to have such distinguished guests at our meeting and look forward to hosting another outing with members from the Houston Audubon.

Next Meeting
TWONC bylaws call for an Annual Meeting in Dec. at which time new officers are elected.

All dues-paying members are considered voters and are strongly encouraged to attend. Guests, friends and family members of TWONCers, and any one else who is interested in joining or just listening to what we are all about, are also invited to the meeting.

The annual meeting and social will be at the Cafe on Main (222 E. Main Street) in Eagle Lake.

The business meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. so come early and enjoy an evening meal before the meeting. Proprietors Mike and Sherri Gould offer a

varied light menu featuring sandwiches, salads, soups and desserts. The meal will be Dutch Treat.

Business to be conducted will be reports of 1995 officers and committees, election of new officers and a short program.

There will also be an informal auction of nature-related items to raise funds for the mailing of the newsletter. (If you have items to donate, please bring them along or telephone one of the officers to pick them up).

TWONCers on Park Board

Helen Craig and Susan Tomcheson have been appointed by Mayor Robby Cook to the Eagle Lake Park Board. Their task will be to help with plans to establish a major recreational area. Included will be the existing tennis courts and golf course on one side of US 90A and various other park facilities on the other.

Of major interest to TWONC members will be the development of a lake-side nature trail and an elevated bird-watching observation platform. City officials are currently seeking funds from interested agencies.

Cowbirds Involved in Songbird Decline

Cowbirds are conspicuous members of blackbird flocks wintering in the Eagle Lake area. Unlike other flock members, however, which in summer build their own nests, incubate their own eggs, and nourish their own hatchlings, cowbirds parasitize the nests of other species. By this is meant that the female cowbird never builds a nest but instead seeks out the nest of other species of birds and lays her eggs therein.

Usually the hatched cowbird nestlings dominate the nest-builders' offspring. (See TWONC, Page 8)



Barrow, Richardson to wed

Louis Richardson and Paula Barrow announce their engagement and approaching wedding.

Paula, a senior at Rice High School, is the daughter of Jennifer Barrow and Olivia Maxie of Eagle Lake. Upon graduation, Paula plans to attend North Texas State University in Denton.

Louis is the son of Adeline Richardson and a 1988 graduate of Rice High School. He is presently employed as a steel operator at Metal Company in Houston.

The couple plan a May wedding.

Eagle Lake Study Club

Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. the Eagle Lake Study Club will celebrate Christmas with an old fashioned tea and program in the home of Mrs. Robert Wells.

In keeping with the season, the afternoon program will be a combination of levity and seriousness.

All members are urged to attend; bring a guest, and be prepared for a fun and uplifting afternoon.

Waddell Outdoor Nature Club

1995 is rapidly drawing to a close, and what a year it has been! TWONC will not officially be one year old until mid-March of 1996, but our by-laws are composed on a calendar year basis. Therefore, it is time to elect officers and plan our new programs.

I want to inject a personal note and say that I have thoroughly enjoyed being TWONC president these 10 months. I also want to thank everyone who worked on a committee, served as officer, planned or led field trips, arranged or gave a program. You made TWONC a success and with your help 1996 will be even better.

Calendar of events
The TWONC calendar of events for the 1996 calendar year is open for dates. There is not a scheduled meeting or topic of discussion planned for Jan. as of yet. Perhaps at the Dec. meeting we will have some suggestions for that time.

Last Meeting
Sixteen members and nine guests

Kainer urges support of trade agreements

Although American farmers and ranchers have not seen completely free trade as a result of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT) or the North American Free Trade Agreement, producers should be optimistic about the prospects for U.S. ag export growth, according to an in-depth report commissioned by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Colorado County Farm Bureau President Gary Kainer said America's international trading partners must open their markets in accord with their NAFTA and GATT negotiated commitments before any long-term growth in agricultural exports can be realized.

"In supporting the trade agreements, U.S. agriculture agreed to some sacrifices in reduced support and increased competition to gain access to bigger opportunities abroad," said Kainer.

The report found that in 1994, NAFTA's first year, U.S. ag exports to Mexico jumped 25%, up to \$4.5 billion. Corn, beef, pork, poultry, fresh and processed fruits, vegetables and their products, oilseed products and nuts showed the largest increase.

In contrast, U.S. ag imports from Mexico increased only 5% to \$2.9 billion.

While the first six months of 1995 saw a sharp drop in exports to Mexico, medium to long term prospects continue to be promising, according to the study.

An economic austerity program in Mexico has increased taxes, cut government spending, decreased the value of the peso by about half and pushed inflation up by about a third in only one year.

GCMC welcomes new staff

Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton is proud to welcome two new members to its staff.

Rosie Dickerson, RN, has successfully completed eligibility and testing requirements to earn her Oncology Nursing Certification.

This certification demonstrates her qualifications and knowledge in the specialty area of cancer nursing.

Ms. Dickerson works in the Radiation Oncology section of the Gulf Coast Regional Cancer Center.

She is also pleased to welcome Debra Loftin Hoaks, MSN, RN, C, as the new Director of the Gulf Coast Regional Cancer Center.

Ms. Hoaks earned her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston.

She is a graduate of the Oncology Nurse Clinician program and worked 12 years within the University of Texas System Cancer Center, M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute.



SWCD directors honored

An independent judging committee of state agricultural leaders selected the Colorado SWCD to receive the Goodyear Honor Award on the basis of the district's accomplishments in soil and water conservation.

Pictured above are, from left, Carl McElroy, Goodyear's District Sales Manager of Houston; Melvin Albright, Chairman of the District; James Helfrich; Henry Sundermann; Theo Schultz; Clara Horridt, District Secretary. In back is Connie Fair, District Conservationist with NRCS.

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