

PRAIRIE EDGE MUSEUM NEWS

By Rollin Baker

Museum gifts recall soda-pop days
The younger generation may be surprised to learn that once upon a time in a community called Eagle Lake there were bottling works.

Curators at Prairie Edge Museum are still interviewing old-timers to learn if, by chance, youngsters, in those bygone days, could wander into one of these facilities - an early one was located on Main Street or a later one on Lakeside Drive - on a hot summer day and hang around long enough for a soft-hearted bottling-machine operator to finally hand out free cool soda pop just off the line to young visitors with pleading eyes!

All of this came to mind when Roy and Betty Till of Nada excavated out of their flower bed two hour-shaped pop bottles clearly labeled as being the property of the "Eagle Lake Bottling Co." The Tills were thoughtful enough to present these to Curator Bill Harrison for preservation.

It was anybody's guess what fla-

vor of pop had filled these bottles of long ago. Maybe, thought one person, it was Delaware punch or orange crush? Finally everybody who examined the bottles agreed that the carbonated fluid once deposited inside these ancient bottles could have had strawberry flavor.

Old Alleytown artifacts on exhibit

Alleytown gained fame in the days of the Confederacy because it was fortunate at that time to be the western terminus of the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railroad (BBB&C).

Consequently, much of the cotton grown in the Gulf area was shipped via rail to Alleytown, off-loaded to wagons and transported overland to British buyers in the Rio Grande Valley.

As a result, Alleytown became, almost overnight in 1861, both a busy commercial and military center. Not long after the war, however, the rails were laid across the Colorado and on to San Antonio and ultimately to West Coast. With Alleytown's demise as a terminus, its wartime facilities decayed and finally were obliterated.

In an effort to uncover traces of this exciting chapter in Alleytown's past, Historical Archaeologist Dr. Shawn Bonath Carlson of College Station was invited to survey the area.

With the cooperation of Prairie Edge Museum, Colorado County

Historical Commission and the Nesbitt Memorial Library, Dr. Carlson and her team of workers in May 1996 surveyed the Center Street area, from Bond Street to Canal Street, along three transects by means of a total of (See Museum, Page 4)

Sheridan Library News

The summer reading program concluded Wednesday, July 23, with a total of 58 youngsters and 14 adults attending the seven-week program.

The Incredible Dream Machine entertained the youngsters and allowed them to receive attendance certificates, prizes and awards.

On the final day, each of the boys and girls were taken to the Sheridan Dairy Delite for a summer treat. A special thanks to Beverly Houser for her time and the Sheridan PTS for their sponsorship.

The Sheridan Memorial Library is beginning its sale of the 1998 community birthday calendars.

The calendars are \$5 each with no limit of birthday listings. Commercial ads for the cover are \$20 and include a free calendar. Clubs, organizations and churches may purchase an ad for \$10; this also includes a free calendar.

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT



COUNTY COURT CASES FILED Aug. 4, 1997

David Broz, motion to revoke probation filed and capias for arrest requested.

Defendant was placed on probation 8-13-96 for driving while intoxicated (DWI). The motion alleges that defendant violated the conditions of probation by failing to avoid injurious and vicious habits in that he tested positive for cocaine use.

Harry Moore, motion to revoke probation filed and capias for arrest requested. Defendant was placed on probation 8-6-96 for DWI. The motion alleges that defendant violated the conditions of probation by failing to report to supervising officer by mail, pay court costs, fine and probation supervision fees and failing to complete community service.

Aug. 8, 1997

Everett Anthony Humphrey, Wharton, unlawfully carrying a weapon, occurring 5-17-97, City of Eagle Lake, investigated by Eagle Lake Police Department (ELPD) Officer Carl Risk.

William Gordon Mercer, Sheridan, assault, 5-21-97, on County Road 235 in Sheridan, investigated by Colorado County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Deputy Troy Neisner.

COUNTY COURT DISPOSITIONS Aug. 5, 1997

Gary Lee Smith, driving while license suspended (DWLS), 2-10-94, City of Eagle Lake, investigated by Eagle Lake Police Department (ELPD) Officer John Dawson. Defendant pled guilty; fined \$500 and court costs; sentenced to three days in jail, credit for time served.

Adolf Kansteiner, Columbus, criminal mischief, 2-23-97, KCHall in Glidden, investigated by CCSO Deputy Gene Rebel. Defendant pled guilty to a charge of criminal mischief reduced to a Class B misdemeanor; placed on one year deferred adjudication, fined \$500, court costs, community service and public defender fees; ordered to make \$316.22 restitution to victim.

Melvin Martin, East Bernard, possession of marijuana, 2-1-96, City of Eagle Lake, investigated by ELPD Officer Keith Norman. Defendant pled nolo contendere; placed on one year deferred adjudication and fined \$500, public defender fees, court costs and community service; ordered to make \$140 restitution to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) crime lab.

Ramon Zarate, motion to adjudicate guilt. Defendant was previously placed on deferred adjudication for unlawfully carrying a weapon. Motion was filed alleging violations of the conditions of probation. Defendant pled true to the motion and was adjudicated guilty and placed on one year probation, fined an additional \$500 and ordered to pay delinquent costs and restitution of \$77 to the County Clerk and \$30 to the County Attorney.

tution of \$77 to the County Clerk and \$30 to the County Attorney.

John Ben Stovall, Eagle Lake, DWLS, 1-30-97, State Hwy. 71, investigated by DPS Trooper Jeff Pickett. Defendant pled guilty; placed on a one year deferred adjudication, fined \$500 and court costs.

Irene B. Gallaher, Columbus, DWI, 4-20-97, on Interstate 10 service road, investigated by CCSO Deputy D.C. Peikert. Defendant pled guilty; placed on one year probation, fined \$750, court costs and community service.

Ysmael Chavez Mendoza, Pecos, DWI, second offense, 5-20-97, Interstate 10, investigated by Weimar Police Department Sgt. Earl Jones. Defendant pled guilty; placed on two years probation, fined \$3,000, court costs and community service; ordered to serve three days in the county jail as a condition of probation, with credit for time served.

DISTRICT COURT DISPOSITIONS

Geoffrey Christopher Mier, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, 4-10-96, five years deferred adjudication, \$1,000 fine, 30 days jail (credit for time served) 340 hours community service, restitution and court costs.

Gabriel Corona, possession of a controlled substance, 4-15-95, five years probation, 160 hours of community service, restitution, \$1,000 fine and court costs.

CASES FILED

Steve and Lynn Murray vs Food Service Concept Inc., Denny's and Stone Construction, personal injury.

State of Texas vs Daniel Lawrence Coppedge, failure to appear.

DIVORCES FILED

Donald Harris Helmscamp and Lisa Helmscamp; filed 8-7-97.

Tanya Lynn Johnson and Gary Ray Johnson; 8-8-97.

DIVORCES GRANTED

Virginia C. Johnson and William P. Johnson; granted 8-7-97.

Arthur J. Banks and Betty Jackson Banks; 8-7-97.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Zilman Brown and Raquel Lajoy Foster; filed 8-7-97.

Willie Douglas Thomas Jr. and Teri Lynn Albrecht; 8-7-97.

Christian Anthony Rabel and Angela Rochelle Etlinger; 8-7-97.

Lozell Houston Dunagan and Debra Joyce Marshall; 8-12-97.

Charles Ray Woolman and Kristy Marlena Blevins; 8-12-97.

About Town...

*Cody Risk, son of Carl and Leslie Risk (employee of *The Headlight*), started kindergarten this week.

Cody was really excited and had been for a couple of weeks. His first day went off without a hitch and without tears or problems. He's already got a crush on his teacher.

Oh, and yes, Mommy took lots of pictures.

*The Fearing girls agreed (amazingly) that having the now freshmen at RHS is "weird".

Cathy says the eighth graders miss having them at ELMS and Amy says she's having trouble believing they're in high school.

Time marches on!

*Have you noticed in the last few years how various things around the school district have been "spruced up" or replaced? It amazes me at times that, with approximately the same income, this administration has been able to fix parking lots, tennis courts, roofs, etc. where the previous "powers that be" couldn't find the funds.

Such a nice change, too.

Highlights

Continued from Page 2

Texas Attorney General Dan Morales must testify in a court challenge to a law barring state employees from testifying against the state as expert witnesses. The Texas Faculty Association and Robert Hoover, a Texas A&M professor in Corpus Christi, are fighting the new law. Hoover wanted to be an expert witness on behalf of tobacco companies the state is suing.

Newspaper groups seek injunction

Texas newspapers filed suit Aug. 6 in Travis County District Court seeking an injunction to prevent enforcement of a law closing public records of motor vehicle accidents.

The law, Section 13 of Senate Bill 1069 passed in the 1997 Legislature, forces municipalities to remove accident reports from police logs.

Thereafter, public and press would have access to the records only if they already know when the accident occurred, names of those involved and exact locations of the accident.

Dolph Tillotson, publisher of *The Galveston County Daily News* and co-chairman of the newspapers' Legislative Advisory Committee, said the action is the first time newspapers have sought such an injunction.

"The result of this law will be to make it much more difficult for Texas newspapers to do their jobs," Tillotson said. "It will make it much more difficult for the public to gain access to records all taxpayers own and should control."

"We don't believe that most people in the Legislature understood what was in the bill. In fact, Gov. George W. Bush vetoed the measure in its original form because he said it was 'overbroad and unduly restricts access to information of legitimate interest to the general public.'"

The legislation originally was introduced as House Bill 399 by Rep.

Toby Goodman (R-Arlington). That bill passed but Gov. Bush vetoed it.

However, the same language was in another bill, SB 1069, mandated by the Federal Drivers' License Privacy Protection Act. According to the suit, Gov. Bush signed SB 1069 apparently without realizing that the vetoed language of HB 399 had been "logrolled" into the bill.

The newspapers seek relief from enforcement of the provision on three grounds. They allege:

•It violates the "single purpose" clause of Article 3, Section 35 of the Texas Constitution.

•It violates the free speech and press provisions of the Texas Constitution.

•It violates the equal protection and due process clauses of the Texas Constitution.

Plaintiffs who brought the action are the Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association and their 542 member newspapers, including the Dallas Morning News, Ft. Worth Star-Telegram, Houston Chronicle, Galveston County Daily News, Austin American-Statesman, San Antonio Express-News, The Snyder Daily News and Wise County Messenger, Decatur.

Defendants named in the suit are Texas Attorney General Dan Morales and chiefs of police in the cities served by the filing newspapers.

The two press associations have hired George, Donaldson and Ford to represent the state's newspapers. The Austin law firm handles First Amendment issues.

Tillotson said the intent of the new law was to hinder unscrupulous businessmen from making money off accident victims. However, he said other and better methods have been found to do that without closing public records.

"The newspapers of Texas and ordinary citizens too often have to fight for access to information and meetings that should be public," Tillotson said. "This bill is one more example of lawmakers thoughtlessly closing access to important public information."

Tillotson, said of some 5,000 bills filed during the 75th session of the Texas Legislature, nearly 200 would have had a negative impact on open government.

Bible Verse of the Week

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

—Psalms 118:8

Submitted by Neddy Phillips

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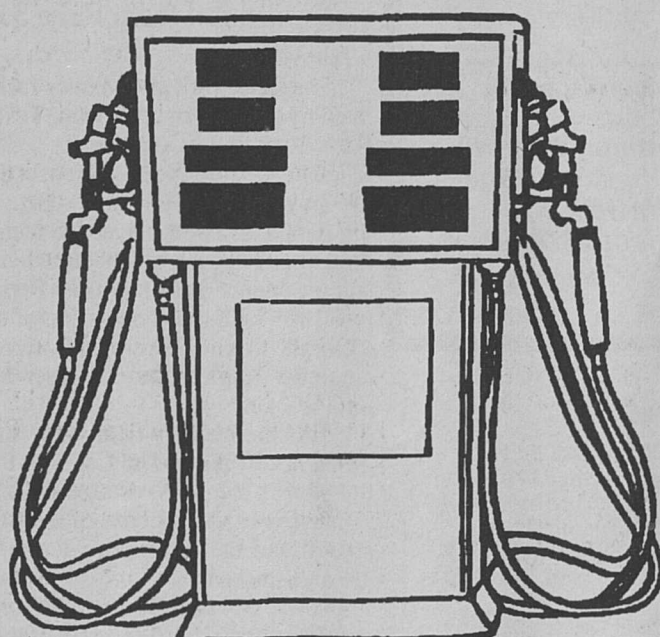
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