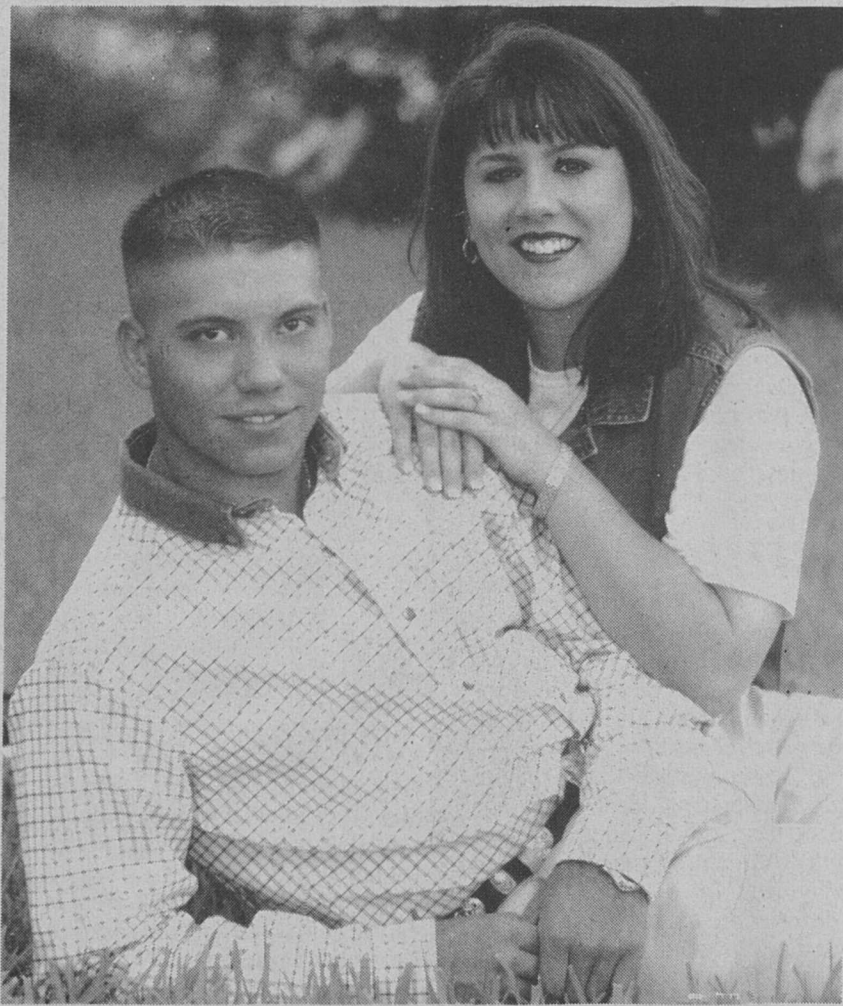




Korenek, Jones to wed Nov. 22

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence "Bubby" Korenek of Garwood announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Kimberly Eyvette, to Timothy Paul Jones, son of Howard and Ernestine Lott of Eagle Lake.

Both graduates of Rice High School, the bride-elect is a 1997 graduate of Wharton County Junior College with an Associates Degree in Health Information Technology and is currently employed at South Texas Medical Clinics P.A. in Wharton as a coding specialist.

The prospective groom is employed with Wyatt Drainage in Fulshear as a welder.

The couple will be married Saturday, November 22, 1997, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Nada.

More Prairie Chickens released, tours scheduled

Fifty-six endangered Attwater's Prairie Chickens are to be released into the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Colorado County and the Texas Nature Conservancy's Galveston Bay Prairie Preserve in Galveston County during the next few weeks.

This marks the third time in three years that captive-reared Attwater's Prairie Chickens have been released into the wild.

Biologists are studying several variables during each release and improving survival rates with each year's effort. A pilot release of 13 surplus male birds in 1995 resulted in a 15% survival rate.

During the summer of 1996, 69 birds were released into the wild with a 45% success rate.

"Our goal, this year, is to surpass last year's survival rate," said Terry Rossignol, Refuge Manager at the Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR. "Our long-term recovery goal for the species is to have a total of 5,000 individuals located at several different geographic areas within its historic range."

Similar to past years, all of this year's birds will be fitted with a small, light-weight radio transmitter so that biologists can monitor their movements. Each transmitter is also equipped with a mortality sensor which indicates when a bird dies.

Important information collected from last year will be used to improve the survival rate of this year's release.

The birds will be placed in 30x50 foot acclimation pens constructed of chainlink fencing material prior to release. A soft netting is draped around the inside of the pen to prevent injury to birds that fly to the top or into the

sides of the pen. A solar-powered, electric fence surrounds each pen to discourage predators from attacking the birds during their stay.

Last year, researchers found that prairie chickens left in the acclimation pens for longer periods of time had a much better survival rate.

Only 8% of the birds that stayed in the acclimation pens for 14 days died during the first 30 days compared to 50% of those birds that stayed in the pens for three days. The majority of mortalities were attributed to Great Horned Owls.

This year's birds were hatched and raised at the Houston Zoo, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center and the San Antonio Zoo.

Based on last year's results, all birds will be placed in acclimation pens for two weeks in order to maximize their chance of survival.

Following this two-week period, gates at each end of the pens will be opened to allow the birds to wander into their new coastal prairie habitat at their leisure. This type of release is referred to as a "soft" release.

This year's Prairie Chickens are being released later than last year's because of disease complications which occurred at two of the four breeding facilities. An outbreak of a highly contagious virus called *Reticuloendotheliosis* virus, or REV, resulted in late pairing of breeding birds. As a result, reproduction was limited this year and release dates delayed due to testing protocols to ensure that young Prairie Chickens were healthy prior to their release.

Although very little is known about REV, Texas A&M University presently is working to determine the source of the disease and ways to

prevent it from becoming a major obstacle to the Attwater's captive breeding program.

A member of the grouse family, the Attwater's Prairie Chicken is a ground-dwelling bird about the size of a domestic chicken that inhabits coastal prairies.

Historically, it was found along the Texas coastal bend and in southwestern Louisiana. Today it is found in only three Texas counties: Colorado, Galveston and Refugio. In the late 1800s, an estimated 1 million birds roamed across approximately 6 million acres of coastal prairies. Today, an estimated 58 birds remain in the wild, up from 42 birds in 1996.

Although much more needs to be accomplished to prevent this imperiled Texas native from being lost to extinction, the promising results from last year's release and the expected success of this year's, provide a glimmer of hope for the species.

For more information, individuals are encouraged to contact the Prairie Chicken NWR at 409-234-3021.

TOURS SATURDAY ONLY!

Personnel at the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge will be offering special guided tours of the refuge to celebrate NWR Week.

Guided tours of the Refuge will be conducted Saturday, Oct. 18, only at 8 and 10 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m. Since seating space is limited, reservations are encouraged.

This is a time for all Americans to learn about the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), a magnificent array of lands set aside for wildlife and for Americans to learn about their natural heritage.

President Theodore Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge in 1903 in Florida. The NWRS is now more than 500 refuges strong, 92 million acres in size, spanning all 50 states and several territories. It includes lands of incredible beauty and diversity, from the icy north coast of Alaska to the balmy Florida Keys.

The tours will take visitors into an area that is normally closed to the public and will touch on such topics as refuge management techniques, prairie chicken recovery efforts and coastal ecosystem issues. Hands-on radio telemetry demonstrations will also be part of these special tours which are expected to last just less than two hours.

Although visitors may not be able to see endangered Attwater's Prairie Chickens in the wild, there is a reasonably good chance of seeing American bison on the refuge.

Visitors who cannot make these special tours are still invited to use the refuge's 5-mile self-guided auto tour loop and walking trails to view a diversity of birds associated with native coastal prairie, marsh and riparian habitats.

Videos of prairie chicken recovery efforts will also be available to view at the refuge's visitor center.

The refuge is located off FM 3013 between Sealy and Eagle Lake in Colorado County.

Those interested in learning more about these tours or to make a reservation should contact the APC-NWR, 234-3021.

ABOUT TOWN...

•Everyone say a big Happy Birthday to Rev. Joe James! He becomes an octogenarian Thursday, Oct. 16, when he turns 80 years young!

•Congratulations to Rosalyn Jenkins who was chosen the Employee of the Year from Riceland Regional Mental Health Authority Friday, Sept. 19. She has been employed for seven years in the Columbus office as a case manager and recently transferred to the Vocational Department at the Wharton Office as an employment specialist. Rosalyn is a dedicated, hard working contributor to the success of Riceland's patients.

Flatonia's Czhlispiet observes 25th anniversary

Located on I-10 halfway between Houston and San Antonio, Flatonia will once again close down its main streets, for the 25th time, and play host to 20,000 people Oct. 24-26.

Th fourth weekend in Oct. has become a part of life for this small Central Texas community as it observes its Silver Anniversary. This event was instituted 25 years ago as means to pay for the education and internship for a doctor for the community.

Since that first celebration in 1973, Czhlispiet has provided monies for a community clinic, Civic Center, library and scholarships for local high school seniors.

In addition, Czhlispiet has served as an approach for non-profit organizations to continue to support their annual projects.

In honor of its Silver Anniversary, the Flatonia Chamber of Commerce has announced that a portion of the net proceeds will be donated to the Flatonia EMS Building Fund, an account that has been established to help build a facility to house EMS staff as necessary and enable them to serve the community as efficiently as possible.

The jubilation begins Friday, Oct. 24, at 6 p.m. when the biergarten, food booths and carnival open.

At 8 p.m., the band "Lost Wolf", sponsored by Coors Light, will perform in the biergarten.

Over 200 "Czhlispiet" cooking teams will compete Saturday, Oct. 25, in the second largest chili-cooking contest in Texas, sponsored by Miller Lite Seeker Distributing.

Visitors will enjoy a great carnival by Crabtree, offering a special family "POP" deal for the children the entire weekend.

The Saturday golf tournament will be a three-person scramble at the Flatonia Golf Course with tee times at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Arts and crafts booths will also be open.

Czhlispiet XXV has many events planned to commemorate its 25th Anniversary.

Saturday will include the 5-K Fun Run and Walk, sponsored by Lavaca Medical Center, Hallettsville, followed by the 1.5 Mile Roller Blade Run, sponsored by Advanced Health Services, Moulton, and Ken Bigham Jr. Law Firm, Schulenburg.

Ladies, can you scream? Really scream? There will be a Ladies' Screaming Contest on Saturday.

For the men, a beard growing contest, which began the week of Sept. 5, will conclude with results Saturday.

Can't scream or grow a beard? How about baking a pie? The Lions Club will be hosting the pie-baking contest Sunday morning and will auction them off later in the day. The Lions will also be organizing its annual turtle races to take place Sunday.

With all the activities going on this weekend, people are sure to have fun! The Cow Chip Throw and Egg Toss will be among the challenges this weekend. Give it all you've got in the Tug-of-War '97 competition.

There will be a German-Czech Walk, D.A.R.E. Dunking Booth and Fry's Petting Zoo, sponsored by Balcones Minerals of Flatonia.

The Czhlispiet Parade starts at noon on Sunday followed by a Car and Truck Show sponsored by Bud Light/Brown Distributing of La Grange.

There will also be performances by the Cripple Creek Gunfighters.

"Texas Lovin' Cloggers", sponsored by Oak Manor Nursing Home of Flatonia, will entertain as will the P.O.L.K. of A. Dancers on Saturday.

The E.A. Armin Archives Museum will be open to the public.

At 10 p.m. Saturday, a fireworks display, sponsored by Flatonia State Bank, Fayette Savings Association and Mr. B's, will explode in celebration of Czhlispiet's 25th anniversary.

A variety of music will be provided continuously throughout the weekend by such performers as "Chris Rybak", sponsored by High Sierra; "Red Ravens", "Ken Bothers Band";

Austin's "Texas Fever", "Texas Unlimited Band", the legendary "Original Velvets", with "Johnny Dee & the Rocket 88's" winding up the festivities on Sunday evening.

Gate admission will be a one-time fee each day; adults, \$1; children 10 and under free. However, if you decide not to come until after 5 p.m. on Saturday, admission will be \$5.

It will cost \$1 anytime except Saturday after 5 p.m.

Parking will be free. Czhlispiet XXV has numerous activities scheduled for people of all (See Czhlispiet, Page 10)

Memorials acknowledged by RMCAuxiliary

The Rice Medical Center Auxiliary would like to acknowledge the following memorials received May 28 through Sept. 26, 1997.

In memory of Gilbert Hollub: Mr. & Mrs. Monroe Ripper; in memory of Gayle Thomas: Shoppa's Farm Supply; in memory of Othel Pirtle: Mr. & Mrs. John Adkins, Shoppa's Farm Supply; in memory of Cynthia Randall: Mr. & Mrs. Corvin Frenzel, Debra Ugarte, Mr. & Mrs. David Hengst, Mr. & Mrs. M.P. Tiggett, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Grigar;

Also, in memory of Myrtle Arnett Kohleffel: Mr. & Mrs. W.L. Bauer, Jennifer Obenhaus, Janet Bauer, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Warner, Mr. & Mrs. Jackson Hooper; in memory of L.L. Brisco: Mary Hulen, Jean McInteer, Viola Demel, Oscar & Margaret Martin, Bill Green, Mr. & Mrs. Allen

Konvicka and Allen Ray, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Dungen, Josie Konvicka, Lora B. Thomas;

Also, in memory of Margaret Wiese: Lora Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Grigar, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. H. Harrison Sr., Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. R.L. Cook Jr.; in memory of Renee Bullard: Richard B. Lee.

Couple Celebrates 15th Wedding Anniversary

Arthur & Chris Lopez
October 16, 1982



Some days we sit and wonder,
What this world is all about.
We love, we laugh, we cry,
Yet there has never been a doubt.
A doubt of...
Who to love,
Or, where our hearts belong.
Or why.
For all these years,
It has always been so strong.
Happy Anniversary

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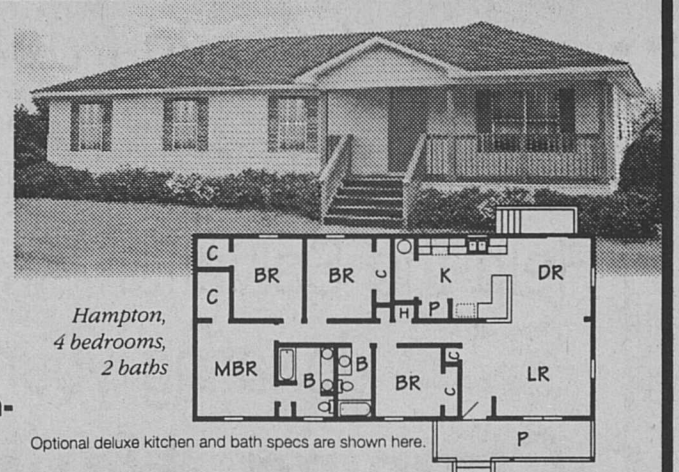
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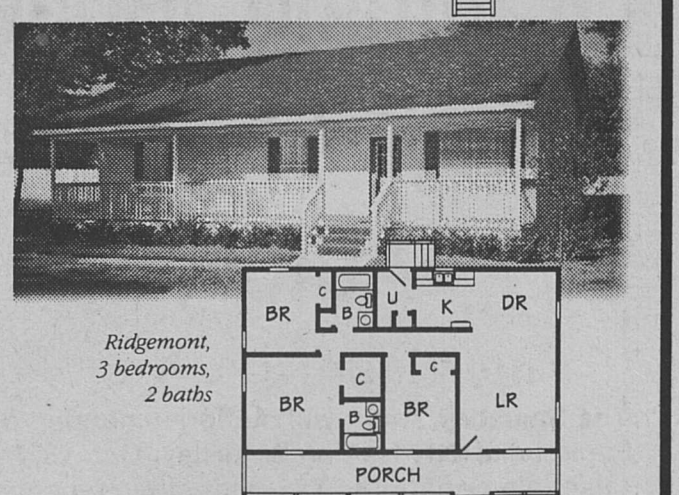
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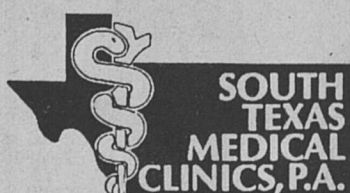


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