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To THE EDITOR & YOU

'Thanks' from the Rice Flag Corps

We would like to thank the community for purchasing dessert plates at the Eagle Lake Knights of Columbus chicken fried chicken breast dinner Tuesday, Nov. 11.

The proceeds will be used to purchase equipment and cover other

expenses.

The Rice Flag Corps will be taking part in Winterguard competitions April 3 and 4. The community's support is greatly appreciated.

Thanks again,
The Rice Flag Corps

What about another festival?

In Stuttgart, Ark., as you enter the city limits, a sign reads, "Welcome to Stuttgart, Rice and Duck Capital of the World".

During Thanksgiving week, about 65,000 people pack Main Street for the "Wings Over the Prairie Festival".

Circus tents filled with vendors jam the street. They offer everything from duck calls to dogs.

There is also a duck calling contest

(where the World Champion Duck Caller has been chosen for the past 61 years) and a Duck Gumbo Cookoff.

Why can't Eagle Lake do this for geese and use the annual "Spirit of Christmas" parade as the kick-off on Friday evening?

Just curious,
Eagle Lake resident
Name withheld by request

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Jan. 18, 1973

The rare opportunity to make a snowman called for a bigger than usual production and a dozen or so young people from the community gathered on the lawn of the Fred. R. Frnka home on Melody Lane. Taking part in this project were Ann Sunderman, Jerry Fink, Janelle Bauer, Kurt

Thomas, Dina Kohleffel, Glen Sunderman, Jeff Frnka, Louis Sides, Griff Thomas, Wayne Winkler and Jacalyn Bauer. They got some assistance from Gary Obenhaus, Jerry Williams, Jeff Ware, Jim Gertson, Marsha Thomas and Melody Faris...

James H. McClain of Eagle Lake, agent in the Bryan District office of the National Life and Accident Insurance Co., recently celebrated his 10th year with the firm...

At the end of the fall semester, Mack Botard, son of Mr. & Mrs. L.E. Botard of Sheridan, completed studies on a degree in math at the University of Texas, Austin. He is a 1969 Sheridan High School graduate and was valedictorian of his class...

The Church of Christ in Columbus was the scene of a double ring ceremony Wednesday, Dec. 27, 1972, at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Jerry Pearson officiating the union of Miss Kaye Elliot and Herbert Y. Kincheloe in marriage...

Ronald Michael Meitzen, son of Mr. & Mrs. Bob Meitzen of this city, has completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base. Mike is a 1971 graduate of Rice High School...

Mr. & Mrs. Leo Cordova are very happy over the arrival of a daughter at Caney Valley Hospital Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 2:45 p.m. At birth, the young lady weighed 6 pounds, 12

ounces and was named Natalie Ann...

Lonnie Flowers, 5-foot, 11-inch sophomore, was named Rice High School Raiders Cager of the Week by Coach Jack Grammer...

William L. (Billy) Walker, son of Mr. & Mrs. Harrison Walker of Eagle Lake, was among the Texas A&M students to receive degrees at the Dec. commencement exercises in College Station...

Graduate requirements were completed by 452 Texas A&I University students during the fall semester. Among the graduates was Davis Ray Waddell, son of Mr. & Mrs. R.H. Waddell of Eagle Lake, who received his BBA degree.

Oct. 14, 1949

Joe Schindler, son of Mr. & Mrs. August Schindler, lost the first joint of the middle finger on his left hand in an accident while using an electric jointer in the Ag Shop at school yesterday morning. He was treated at Laughlin Hospital...

Billy Reading was chosen president of the local chapter of Future Farmers of America at an election Monday, Oct. 10. Other officers were: George Cason, first vice president; Ralph Payne, second vice president; Tommy Scott, third vice president; Martin Pape, secretary; Frank Tate, treasurer; Lester Herman, reporter; George Birdwell, Sentinel; Patrick Lednicki, historian; Stanley White, parliamentarian; and Edward Mooney, song leader...

Eagle Lake adds another business classification to its list with the announcement this week that the Eagle Lake Airport is dealer for Piper, Stinson and Ryan aircraft, according to its manager, Tommy Pilkington...

Mrs. R.T. Westmoreland, high school teacher, said the rock-like specimens brought into the *Headlight* by Andy Seidel from the excavations at the Horton & Horton gravel pit are a teeth formation of some prehistoric animal...

Miss Ernest Mae Seaholm, attending the University of Texas spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. & Mrs. (See 24 & 48, Page 7)

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

•Putting more police on streets; and

•Ending early release for felons.

But the centerpiece for Mauro's campaign will be his "Texas Families First" plan that would put more money into the pockets of taxpayers. "I believe the families of Texas deserve to be protected from the tax man on the basics of life - no sales tax on shelter, transportation, food or medicine," he said.

Mauro ties the cost of his education proposal to an estimated 4.3% annual growth rate - a projected \$7.6 billion - in state revenues over the next biennium.

However, Sen. Bill Ratliff, R-Mt. Pleasant, has questioned Mauro's proposal, saying the \$7.6 billion is probably closer to \$3 billion or \$3.5 billion "in actual general revenue discretionary money."

If so, Mauro's projections are indeed optimistic.

Ratliff is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and former chairman of the Senate Education Committee.

Recertification Dropped

Jim Nelson, chairman of the State Board for Educator Certification, said he will abandon a plan that would require current teachers to be recertified every five years.

"I didn't know people felt so strongly about lifetime certification and the meaning of it," Nelson was quoted by the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Nelson's 15-member board will vote Jan. 9 to change the proposal requiring all Texas teachers to take 150 hours of training over five years to maintain their teaching licenses.

The board continues, however, to favor renewal requirements for new teachers who obtain licenses after the vote.

PUC Files Legal Brief

The Public Utility Commission of Texas filed a brief last week asking a federal court in Wichita Falls not to overturn a section of a federal law that keeps Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. out of the long-distance business until it has competition for local service.

The commission said the restriction is needed to protect consumers.

The brief is directly opposite to one filed by Attorney General Dan Morales, who argued that consumers would benefit if Southwestern Bell could enter the long-distance market.

Doctors Fight Takeovers

A group of doctors and nurses in Texas is organizing to push for a "moratorium on for-profit takeovers of hospitals, insurance plans, HMOs and physicians' practices."

The Texas Ad Hoc Committee to Defend Health Care lists Dr. Ron Anderson, CEO of Dallas' Parkland Hospital, among its early supporters.

The group plans a series of teaching and meetings in hospitals, clinics, HMOs, nursing and medical schools to discuss health-care trends in Texas.

A similar ad hoc committee in Massachusetts had more than 2,000 signatures on its "call for action" earlier this year. The doctors rebelled against what they call the "industrialization of medicine."

Other Capital Highlights

Austin real estate broker Gary Dugger is the first Democrat to declare his candidacy for Texas Railroad Commission. Dugger, a political novice, whose father, Ronnie, founded the *Texas Observer*, pledged to make the agency more accountable to voters. He said the commission is too close to the oil and gas industry and "a blatant gentlemen's club."

The Texas attorney general's office has sued a Harlingen nursing home in the death of a patient who wandered away from the facility and was found dead. The lawsuit against Retama Manor Nursing Center accused the home of inadequately supervising 75-year-old Gloria Valadez. The attorney general's office is seeking civil penalties of up to \$10,000.

State District Judge John Dietz of Austin has refused to block rules approved by Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer that will require workers' compensation insurers to return \$195.3 million in surplus premiums to policy holders. Dietz refused to grant a temporary injunction blocking the new rules because insurers had failed to show they would probably win the suit.

Bible Verse of the Week

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Submitted by Neddy Phillips



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Loy Sneary running for Congress

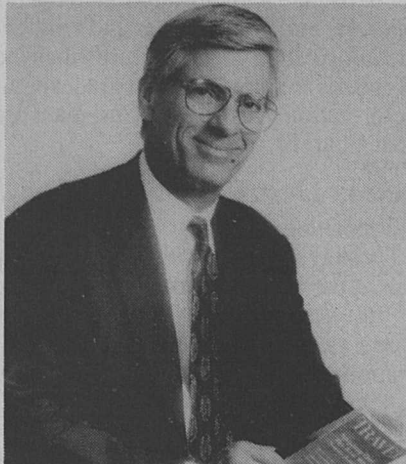
Pledging to take common sense and rural Texas values to Washington, Matagorda County Judge Loy Sneary recently announced his candidacy for Congress from the 14th District of Texas.

"As a farmer, rancher and public servant, I want to be a voice for rural Texas families in Congress," said Sneary, who is running as a Conservative Democrat.

A rice farmer and cattle rancher in Matagorda County, Sneary is a recipient of the Outstanding Rice Farmer of Matagorda County Award. He has also received the prestigious "Man of the Year in Texas Agriculture" Award from the Texas Agriculture Extension Service.

Sneary stresses the importance of agriculture to the 14th Congressional District. "I look forward to working together with farmers, ranchers and all those in the local agricultural and business community to build a strong future for rural Texas," Sneary commented. An avid hunter and sportsman, he is a member of CCA and the Texas Trophy Hunters Association.

He has served on the board and as president of the Matagorda County Farm Bureau, and as president of the (See Sneary, Page 4)



Matagorda County Judge
Loy Sneary

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