

# OBITUARY

## Clifford E. Evoritt Jr.

September 20, 1920 - January 26, 1998

Clifford E. Evoritt Jr., 77, of Eagle Lake, passed away Monday, January 26, 1998, at 7:47 a.m., at Columbus Community Hospital in Columbus.

He was born September 20, 1920, in Lissie to C.E. Sr. and Marjorie Wood Evoritt.

He attended Lissie's Elementary School and graduated from Eagle Lake High School Class of '39. He was a good football player and would always recall playing Bay City as a tough game.

In December 1941, he and Betty Terrell were married.

In 1946 they had a son, Jerrald P. Evoritt, named after Clifford's brother, Jerrald, who died in World War II as a pilot and is buried in the U.S. Armed Services Cemetery in France.

Their daughter, Julia, was born September 19, 1951, the year he and Betty built their present home on Stockbridge Street.

Clifford raised rice and cattle with his father, Clifford Sr., for many years. In 1960, he bought out his father's interest in the cattle and began leasing their rice land to others.

He prided himself on perfection and quality and those became a trademark in his cattle. He always wanted the best.

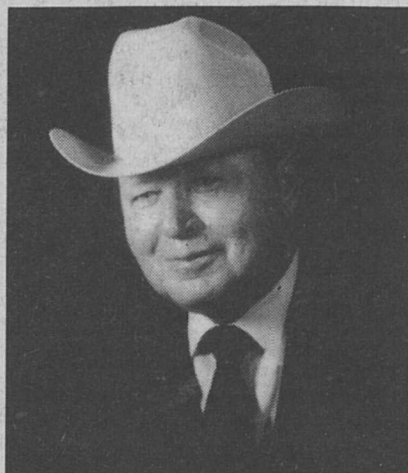
Hard work was nothing to him and his "word" was his bond. He had such quality in his cattle that he sold many a club calf to young people in the 4-H groups. One of his steers was Grand Champion at the Wharton Livestock Show. It was the first Brahma-Hereford cross to win.

He was a naturalist and conservationist. He loved the deer on the farm and made sure no one hunted them. He believed they belonged to the land. He would always take pictures of his deer and watch them for hours.

The Lower Lake was a place he loved for its beauty and bird habitat. Clifford lived a full life and made his mark in his community.

Friends who knew him in his younger days nicknamed him "Salty". He grew up during the depression and saw difficult times, but he thought this was the way of life for farmers and ranchers. The trademark one leaves behind tells the story of the man. His grit, determination and love for his family made his life complete.

A bright star came later in his life, a granddaughter named Taylor. He will always hold her in the palms of his



hands and close to his heart. His family will always be with him.

He was member of Duck Unlimited and the Texas Cattle Raiser Association.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Betty Terrell Evoritt of Eagle Lake; daughter and son-in-law, Julia Evoritt and Keith Gannon of Eagle Lake; son and daughter-in-law, Jerrald Preston and Regina Evoritt of Sugar Land; sister, Marjorie Giraud of Fort Worth; granddaughter, Taylor Evoritt Gannon of Eagle Lake; and nieces, Sharon Giraud Warren and Ann Giraud, both of Fort Worth.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 28, with Rev. Barry Bauerschlag, Pastor of Eagle Lake and Lehrer Memorial United Methodist Churches, officiating. Interment followed at Lakeside Cemetery in Eagle Lake.

Dulany Funeral Home, Eagle Lake, was in charge of arrangements.

Pallbearers were Heyne and Jack Dromgoole; Vance Duncan, John Mahalic Jr., and Joe Mike and Stephen Spanihel.

Honorary pallbearers were Raymond and Bruce Waddell, James and Ralph Gertson, Earl Rodgers Jr., J.R. Thomas, W.H. Harrison Sr., George Causey, Dr. Tom Hancher, Joe Lee and Joe Herbert McCreary, Harold Lloyd Williams, Robert Samuel Martin, Ted Brunner, Steve Balas and James H. Clipson Sr.

The family requests memorials may be made to the Eula & David Wintermann Library, 101 N. Walnut, Eagle Lake 77434; or Rice Medical Center Auxiliary, P.O. Box 277, Eagle Lake 77434.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

## CLUB & ORGANIZATION NEWS

### Daughters of the Republic of Texas

The Monument Hill Chapter, DRT met at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 10, 1998, in La Grange. Members of the Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) and the Children of the Republic of Texas (CRT) were invited to attend. President Marilyn Miller opened the meeting and recognized our guests—Marce King, Gary McKee, Gene Marble, Bonnie Knox, Neal Kocurek, W.O. Miller, Pat Moore, and Donald Kocurek. Also, we were pleased to have Associate Members Mary Ann Kocurek and Suzanne Kozurek and Affiliate Member Jo White with us.

In the absence of Chaplain Lillian Stuesser, Bessie Bean asked the invocation, followed by a special prayer for a recently deceased member, Mrs. Grace Kocurek of La Grange.

Minutes of the Nov. meeting were approved as mailed to the membership with the Jan. meeting notice. Treasurer Dorothy Albrecht's report was accepted as read. She reported that we now have 33 members, three associate members and one affiliate member. Two members were lost for non-payment of dues and one due to death. Albrecht reported that she did her utmost to get in touch with all members regarding the deadline date for payment of dues. She also reported that papers for one prospective member are ready to submit for approval.

President Miller asked that members be sure to submit their volunteer hours, including travel time to meetings, covering the period from April 16, 1997, through April 15, 1998.

Plans for the District VIII Workshop in Sept. were discussed. There is a possibility that the facilities at the high school may not be available in which case we will plan to have a salad supper on Friday evening at the Senior Citizen Building. Albrecht moved and Marble seconded that all attendees already in town be invited to the supper in view of the fact that daughters (other than those on the Board of Management) may arrive Friday afternoon or evening due to distance to travel. Motion passed.

The Christmas Open House at the French Legation in Austin was successful despite the inclement weather. Five members of our chapter donated major items for sale.

Our DRT brochures, designed and printed by Marble, were passed around. It is hoped that these will offer the information necessary to spur interest in our DRT organization, which honors our ancestors who settled in Texas while and before Texas was an independent republic, by preserving history and historical documents and locations.

Regarding award ribbons, Albrecht reported that it is unsure at the present time if these will be continued.

Albrecht reported that she had purchased two flags that had been flown over the capital-one for presentation to the La Grange High School to replace the very faded one presently in use, and the other one to the La Grange Chamber of Commerce for use at the Old Fayette County Jail. Imogene Williams moved and Bean seconded that she be reimbursed \$40. Motion carried.

Marble provided information about the 98 Parliamentarian Institute's meeting on Saturday, Jan. 17 at the Holiday Inn North in Austin; \$20 pre-registration fee.

Albrecht suggested that we purchase a current edition of the Founders and Patriots book. Bean moved and Mary Ann Kocurek seconded. Motion passed. Registrar Marble moved and Mary Ann Kocurek seconded that we accept Nicki Thornton as a prospective member. Her papers are ready. Motion carried. Albrecht reported that she had nothing further to report either as district rep. or as treasurer.

Marble, as First Vice President General, reported that the San Saba River chapter will be chartered on Feb. 20 and that the chapter will be in District V.

In the absence of CRT Sponsor Hill, Albrecht reported that there are plans for the CRT, to participate in the Washington on the Brazos annual celebration and that they continue to stay busy, planning to visit George Ranch probably on March 1.

Miller recognized Neal Kocurek for his service to CRT as Custodian General.

Bonnie Knox, guest, announced that she has traced one of her ancestors as being one of the founders of Brenham.

Gary McKee, member of the Fayette County Historical Society, gave us a fascinating talk on the life of the various tribes of Indians who lived in and visited the Texas area before the white settlers came. The tribes in East Texas were mainly farmers; the Plains Indians were nomads and followed their herds; West Texas tribes worked with rocks and gem stones; and the Coastal tribes concentrated on shells and objects made of shell.

The area of Buckner's crossing north of La Grange was a well-known crossing where many tribes would meet and exchange their various wares—somewhat like our modern-day flea market. McKee is currently working on a book on the "Invincible" of the Texas Navy. He stated that the group he works with has located what they believe to be the "Zavala", a steam ship of the 2nd Texas Navy.

Also of interest was that the time from 1550 to about 1850 was a mini ice age during which the buffalo came down into our southern area because of the extremely cold weather which at times would penetrate deep into the Rio Grande Valley.

Our meeting on March 7 was to be in Austin. It was moved by Albrecht and seconded by Marble that we accept Miller's invitation to meet in La Grange and have a grave marking ceremony for Grace Kocurek in the early afternoon. Motion was made that the chapter purchase the medallion. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned with prayers and all enjoyed a delicious covered dish luncheon.

### Eagle Lake Rotary Club

"A 7-inch walking plow pulled by a team of mules turned the soil for Eagle Lake's first rice crop 100 years ago." This was one of many interesting facts about the beginning of rice cultivation in the Eagle Lake area told to the members of the Eagle Lake Rotary Club and guests Wednesday by Wm. H. Harrison, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Historical Committee and the Board of the First National Bank of Eagle Lake.

"Since this is the 100th anniversary of an agricultural activity that has contributed millions of dollars to Eagle Lake's economy and created hundreds of jobs over the years since 1898, I thought we ought to at least recognize the occasion with a program about the rice industry," said Harrison.

A definition of rice in the Encyclopedia Britannica reads in part "a well-known cereal, the staple food of hundreds of millions of people in Asia, botanical name is *oryza sativa*; cultivated rice is an annual plant with glabrous leaves, with spikelets borne on a loose panicle which is erect at blooming but nodding as the grain matures; the flower consists of six stamens and an ovary which after fertilization, develops into grain enclosed by the palea (hull)."

The ancient Egyptians, the peoples of India, China and other Orient countries

have been eating rice for thousands of years.

Rice was introduced to America in 1687 when Capt. John Thurber put his sailing ship into the harbor at Charleston, S. Carolina, to make repairs and take on fresh water.

During his stay in Charleston, he made friends with the local planters and gave them a small bag of seed rice from the island of Madagascar. It was less than a bushel.

From this meager beginning, enough seed was obtained each year so that by 1710 the raising of rice had migrated westward to Louisiana where a French planter named Bienville cultivated his major crop.

It was not until 1884 when it became a major crop after an Iowa farmer demonstrated that mechanical equipment used in wheat fields could be adapted to rice farming.

In 1892, rice farming came to Texas when 175 acres were planted near Beaumont.

In 1898 (100 years ago) Capt. Wm. Dunovant, a planter from the East coast who migrated to Eagle Lake after the Civil War, obtained enough seed to plant 40 acres of land that is known as "the Lower Lake", owned by the Cliff Evoritt family.

The land was plowed with a 7-inch walking plow, disked and then the seed was broadcast by hand and followed by a harrow made of tree limbs from a pecan tree. Harvesting of the grain was done by convict labor.

In 1899, Capt. Dunovant built a pumping station on the south-east corner of the lake with a canal extending toward the south. Shortly after, he built a plant to pump water from the Colorado River. It was short-lived however, because the Sept. 1900 flood washed it away.

Also in 1899 B.L. Vineward built a plant on the lake on the site of present plant now in operation.

In 1901, a third pumping plant was built by Capt. Dunovant on a site just north of the present Lakeside Cemetery. It was known as the "Electric Plant" since it was to get the power to operate from the Lakeside Rice Mill just across the road. This plant burned.

Mr. Vineward then built another plant on the river to send water through a canal to replenish the lake.

To supplement the supply of water needed, shallow wells were drilled east of Eagle Lake and were equipped with a pump powered by a steam engine connected to the pump pulley by a rope belt.

Mr. Frank Stephens, a local merchant, was one of the very few men who could successfully splice the rope so that it would stay on the pulley. Consequently, he was always in great demand.

One inventive farmer connected seven windmills together and transmitted their power to his pump, earning him the nickname, "Windmill Adams".

Some of the other pioneer rice farmers, just to name a few, were the Seaholms, Banings, Vineyarders, Wintermanns, Adams, Gertsons, Cooks, Cormans, Wieses, Thomases, Duncans, Powers, Clipsons, Waddells, Adkins, Casadys, Salladays, Stephens and Kohleffels.

Some of the early varieties of rice planted included E-P (Early-Prolific), Nira, Texas Patna, Jap (named changed during WWII to Texas Pearl), Belle Patna, et. al. also Nato, Blue Bonnet.

Rice farming and its supporting businesses (equipment, fuel, etc.) and labor requirements have contributed much to the economy and well-being of Eagle Lake in spite of the fact that a new combine in 1944 only cost \$3,931.98.

A Sept. 1944 issue of *The Eagle Lake Headlight* reports, "Gus A. Seaholm purchased the first rice combine in this area, sold by Spalinger Hardware Co. for \$3,931.98."

### Eagle Lake Study Club

The Eagle Lake Study Club met Jan. 14, 1998, at the Eula and David Wintermann Library.

Elaine Hess introduced the speaker, Ray Sykowski, counselor at the Eagle Lake Primary School.

Mr. Sykowski gave a very enlightening program entitled, "Early Texas". He discussed what some of the first ladies in Texas did for Texas. He said behind every great man is a great woman.

Elaine Hess, President, conducted the business meeting.

Minutes were read by Betty Wilcox, secretary and treasurer's report was given by Betty Wegenhoft, treasurer.

Delicious refreshments were served by Jackie Middleton and Pat Dunham.

### United Daughters of the Confederacy

The Shropshire Upton Chapter of United Daughters of the Confederacy celebrated the birthdays of Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Matthew Fountaine Maury with a luncheon on Jan. 8 at the Methodist Fellowship Hall in Columbus at 11 a.m.

Present for the meeting were President General Hilda Bell, Texas Division President Jo Ann Lloyd, Chairman of Cross of Military Service, and Texas Division Scrapbook Chairman Suzanne Kern.

Also present were 50 members and guests.

Included among the guests were the members of the Col. Charles W. Tait Chapter of the Children of the Confederacy which is sponsored by the Shropshire Upton Chapter.

Guests for the program were the members of the St. Anthony's U.S. History Class. Members and guests enjoyed a delightful luncheon.

Hostesses for the luncheon were Carolyn Hastedt, Helen McDow and Dianna Foster.

Decorations were in red, white and blue. Blue candles in crystal candle holders were set with red, gold and blue stars with scattering of colored stars. The centerpiece was an arrangement of white magnolias.

The very intriguing program was given by Mr. John M. Keahey of Missouri City.

He gave a "Living History" demonstration of a portrayal of life during the time of the War Between the States.

His presentation was designed to better understand how our ancestor veterans lived their daily lives. The talk was entitled, "The Uniform and Equipment of the Common Soldier during the American Civil War".

Mr. Keahey studies history as a hobby. His interest in the past is lifelong, but is currently focused on what he calls "the nuts and bolts of history".

In short, he focuses on the daily lives of people from the past.

He has taught himself to work leather and sew. Many of the items he uses, he has made himself, using period hand construction techniques.

His interpretation is of what life was like for the average enlisted soldier in the infantry during the Civil War period. The infantry regiments comprised the majority of most period armies. He told how they lived, were uniformed and equipped as soldiers of that time.

### Attend the Church of Your Choice...

LIVING HOPE CHURCH: Revs. Joe and Mercy Fling; 234-5536.  
TEMPLE BERE: 621 Maple Street, Eagle Lake. Rev. Romero.  
ROCK ISLAND FULL GOSPEL: P.O. Box 232, Rock Island; 234-5840; Nick Williams, Pastor.  
LATIN-AMERICAN ASSEMBLY OF GOD (Belen de Judea Mision): 1000 East E. Eagle Lake; Ruth Olvera, Pastor.  
SEALY ASSEMBLY OF GOD: 1140 Meyer St., Sealy; Warren Richardson, Pastor.  
THE DAY OF PENTECOST APOSTOLIC REVIVAL: FM 102 S., Matthews, 4 p.m. (at Mt. Zion). Rev. R.L. Carter.  
GREATER NEW FAITH CHURCH: 6406 Guyler, Wallis; Rev. Clay Spears. 409-478-2169.  
EAST BERNARD FIRST BAPTIST: Rev. Clifford Rorer.  
FIRST BAPTIST: N. Lake at E. Prairie, Eagle Lake.  
FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST: 405 S. Lake, Eagle Lake; Rev. Earl Shorter, Jr., Pastor, 234-5795.  
IGLESIA BAUTISTA GETSEMANI: 901 B Street, Eagle Lake; Rev. Mario Vasquez.  
GREATER MT. OLIVE BAPTIST: Rev. R. Kiser, Pastor. 705 Lake, Eagle Lake, 234-3545.  
PROVIDENCE BAPTIST: 1207 E. State, Eagle Lake. Rev. Coby Shorter; 234-3755.  
ROCK ISLAND BAPTIST: Bob Allison, Pastor.  
SHERIDAN FIRST BAPTIST  
WHITE CLOUD BAPTIST CHURCH: 202 Old Altair Rd., Eagle Lake; Rev. Obie Rhodes; 234-3800.  
CHURCH OF CHRIST: Sheridan, Texas.  
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP: Hwy. 90A, Sheridan; Del Sanford, Pastor; 234-3276.

CHRIST OUR REDEEMER - Charismatic: 478-7534, 478-6512, Jerry C. McKinney, Pastor.  
HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH: East Bernard.  
PARISH OF THE NATIVITY: Our Lady of Guadalupe Sanctuary: Guadalupe Terrace Addition; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sanctuary: 310 N. Stevenson; 7 a.m. (Español), 9 a.m., 11 a.m., Father Eddie Winkler.  
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH: Box 97, Nada, 758-3218. Rev. Joseph Koebel, Pastor.  
CHRIST EPISCOPAL: 306 E. Stockbridge.  
EAGLE LAKE GOSPEL MISSION: Rev. Emil Burger.  
GRACE LUTHERAN: 408 N. Stevenson, 234-3381; Rev. Robert E. Schlottl.  
LEHRER MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST: Garwood, Texas. Rev. Barry Bauerschlag, Pastor.  
LISSIE UNITED METHODIST: Sandra Kimbrow, Pastor; 234-2112; Lissie, Texas.  
ROCK ISLAND METHODIST: Ken Sellers Jr., Lay-Pastor.  
UNITED METHODIST: Barry Bauerschlag, Pastor. 200 W. Prairie; Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Worship 10:45 a.m.  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: 106 E. State Street, Eagle Lake; 234-3368.  
VINE OF THE LORD: Paul Aguilar, Interim.  
FRIENDSHIP A.G.: 501 Wallace, East Bernard. Fred Chambers, Pastor.  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 600 West St., Sealy; Marshall Crosby, Branch Pres.  
CHURCH OF CHRIST: 815 Milam, Columbus. Roy V. Palmer, Minister.  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 200 N. Lake, Eagle Lake; 234-5805; Miguel H. Arellano, Branch President.  
THE SHEPHERD'S WAY: Non-denominational Christian Fellowship; 217 Main, Sealy. Frank Lucas, Pastor. 885-7873.

### Census

Continued from Page 2

by law. This Census will provide benchmark agricultural statistics for decision making for the next five years for the U.S., Texas and each of the nation's 3,100 counties.

Make it known-America counts on agriculture!

### Bible Verse of the Week

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way."

— Psalms 37:23

Submitted by Nedd Phillips

### Schindler LPG, Inc.

234-3314

Eagle Lake

### The First National Bank

Member F.D.I.C.

Bank of Friendly Service

Eagle Lake

### Lissie Flying Service

Farmer to Farmer Agriculture Flying

Lissie, Texas

234-2482

### Attend the Church of Your Choice

### Eagle Lake Headlight

220 E. Main

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

234-5521