

Little League's drawing is a success

The Eagle Lake Little League would like to send a big thank you to Eagle Lake Rice Dryer for donating all the paper and printing for the Eagle Lake Little League raffle tickets. Their time and effort are greatly appreciated.

Also, a very big thank you to Lynn Ellis, who thought of doing the raffle for the Little League to raise money for many items that the Little League still needs to purchase.

Lynn went out of her way to get all the prizes donated and had no problem in doing so.

Thanks again to Eagle Lake Rice Dryer and Lynn.

Thanks also goes out to the parents, kids and coaches who went out of their way to sell, sell, sell and raise money. This is the first raffle that's been held in Eagle Lake for the Little League and it was a great success. We expect next year to be the same, if not better.

Prizes, the donor and winner included:

\$100 off scratch-off Lotto, Eagle Lake Little League, Mike & Elizabeth Duarte; autographed Jeff Bagwell card, B&S Taxidermy, Paul Cadriel; two plate lunches at Blue Plate Cafe, René Al-Obaidi, John Cardenas; one large big ten pizza, Simple Simon's Pizza, Gary Obenhaus; \$25 Johnny Sport Shop certificate, Dwayne Pagel, Lorraine Quintana; Igloo cooler, the Brian Ellis Family, Jukend Lopez; \$20 Sportsman's Restaurant certificate, Doug & Janie Schwemm, Carolyn Baird;

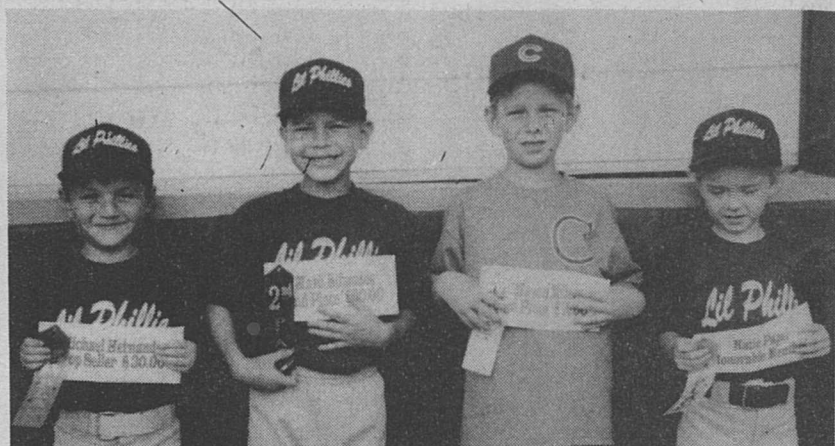
Also, hair care products, Tresses Inc., Donna Gertson, Juan Carlos Acosta; Quick lube oil change, Lake Motors, D. Allison; \$50 saving bond, The Cupboard-Brent Mathis, Javiel Acevedo; \$25 Johnny's Sport Shop certificate, Mike Grigar, Effie Navarro; two plate lunches to Blue Plate Cafe, René Al-Obaidi, Graham Beisel; exam, cleaning and x-rays dental clinic, John Myres, Lorie Jones; two

regular dinners, Taco Tony's Restaurant, Kaneesha Knight;

Also, \$20 Sportsman's Restaurant certificate, Doug & Janie Schwemm, Paige Vandermark; one large supreme pizza, Simple Simon's Pizza, Maria Arellano; \$50 saving bond, The Cupboard-Brent Mathis, Andrew Harbich; 1999 uncirculated silver dollar-Wallis State Bank, Rosalynn Eversole; rice gift basket, Eagle Lake Rice Dryer, William Henry; \$20 Wal-Mart

gift card, Morales Construction, Jerry Wills;

Also, 1 lb. bag of Texas-Oklahoma seed mix, Wildseed Inc., Nina Salazar; tool box, Lake Lumber, Hilarion Martinez; two beef or chicken fajita plates, 2K's Taqueria, Susan Wilkerson; John Deere dozer toy tractor, Shoppa's Farm Supply, Ray Ramirez; 1 lb. bag of Butterfly-Hummingbird mix, Wildseed Inc., Mike & Elizabeth Duarte.



Winners in individual ticket sales and the amount of the prize money awarded to them were, from left, first place, Michael Hernandez, \$30; Mark Sifuentes, second, \$20; Mason Miller, third, \$10; and Katie Pagel, fourth, Honorable Mention.



Winners of the Little League pizza party for "Top Team Sales" were the Lil' Phillies. Pictured with their coaches Alex Ramirez, David Sosa and John Young, are Mark Sosa, Mark Sifuentes, Logan Young, Frank Navarro, Diamond Ramirez and Alyssa Young. In front are Katie Pagel, Simon Barrios, Tre Cadriel, Michael Hernandez and Tre Brandon King. Not pictured is Arthur Cordova.

Headlight Photos by Carol Nelson

Connor, Brunner chosen Outstanding Older Texans

The first Colorado County Older Texan Fair was held in 1979. This year, the 21st Older Texan Fair was held May 4 at the Sheridan Community Center.

The Fair includes a cultural arts exhibit, where county residents over the age of 60 may enter items to be judged in seven different categories. There were informational booths and booths for selling items by county organizations or individuals over the age of 60.

A program of interest is presented and the Outstanding Older Texan Award is presented to one man and one woman from Colorado County.

Jo Knox, Older Texan task force chairman, served as master of ceremonies for this event. Betty Fehrenkamp and Carol Braden of Columbus Community Hospital presented a very informative program highlighting the 55+ program at the hospital and the importance of Living Wills.

Cultural Arts Exhibits awards were presented by Rita Addicks of Weimar and Alvina Poenitsch of Columbus to the following Grand and

Reserve Champions.

Art: Grand Champion (GC), La Juan Braden, Nada; Reserve Champion (RC), John Koepke, Columbus; Baked Goods: GC, Madeline Hattermann, Weimar; RC, Bernice Heinsch, New Ulm; Canned Goods: GC, Min-nie Lee Connor, Garwood; RC, Connor, Garwood; Crafts: GC, Bobbie Haines, Sheridan; RC, Joyce Ohm, Sheridan; Floriculture: GC, Connor, Garwood; RC, Connor, Garwood; Fresh Garden Produce: GC, Clara Gold, Garwood; RC, Braden, Nada; Needlework: GC, Margaret Bunge, Garwood; RC, Clara Bruemmer, Nada.

Lillian Gohlke and Ora Spittler of Sheridan presented the nominees for the 2000 Outstanding Older Texan Woman: Minnie Lee Shaw Connor, Fay Elliott, Laura Mae Glueck, Irene Hagendorf, Barbara B. Helfrich, Alice Sunderman and Elsie Wick.

Chosen Outstanding Older Texan Woman was Minnie Lee Connor, nominated by the Nada-Garwood organization.

Connor, a resident of Garwood,



Minnie Lee Shaw Connor

was born March 8, 1917 in Pierce to Chris and Theresa Wilbeck.

The family consisted of three children, Andrew, Annie Mae and Minnie Lee. Being of Danish-Czech heritage, they farmed for a livelihood.

After graduating from El Campo High School, she continued her education at Texas Women's University in Denton. Upon graduation, she returned to this area to teach school in Garwood in 1939.

In 1941, she became the bride of Ed Lee Shaw, who was employed with Lehrer Industries as head foreman. She continued teaching primary school (first and second grade) in a two-room school house until May 1945.

She left teaching in Sept. of 1945 to start her family, giving birth to a daughter, Linda, in 1946 and a son, Chris, in 1949.

With the sudden death of her husband in Jan. 1956, she resumed her teaching position in elementary education but this time for the Columbus ISD. In June of 1969, she returned to Garwood Elementary and continued her career in teaching until her retirement in 1980.

In Aug. 1977, Minnie Lee married Guy Connor of El Campo. They continued to make their home in Garwood. Mr. Connor passed away in 1995.

Her volunteer and community activities sound like a long-playing record that still plays a sweet melody even today, at the young age of 83.

During the 40s, she served as president of her local Home Demonstration Club, was a member from 1946-1956, president of the Home Demonstration County Council for four years, and served as interim County Agent during the six months the county was without an agent between Miss Dorothy Crosslin leaving and Edna Prenntice being hired. She gave demonstrations to the Boggy Branch, Frelsburg and Weimar Clubs. During this time, her club was responsible for the "never to be forgotten" Home Demonstration float in the

Garwood's Lion's Club parade.

Minnie Lee, Laura Littleton, Mrs. Heiman and Mrs. W.A. Stallman had worked diligently on building and decorating the float with a specific theme in mind. Before the parade, they baked dozens of biscuits and dressed in period costumes to complement the theme of the float, that was decorated to resemble an old kitchen with a wood burning stove.

As the parade began, the women opened the oven's door and pulled out pans of "fresh-baked, light and fluffy biscuits" and began to toss them into the crowd, much like float riders throw candy to the spectators of today. Their "light and fluffy biscuits" were a hit of the day (in more than one way) and luckily no casualties were reported!

During World War II, she belonged to a volunteer organization for the Air Corp that consisted of women that would drive out into the country and watch for "spy planes" and report back to the Air Corp. She actually spotted one plane and received a certificate and pin as an award for her work.

During this time in Garwood, there was also located a German Prisoner of war camp. One evening, the American guards had taken the German prisoners to an area behind Ed Lee and Minnie's home to practice "digging foxholes". While she was baking gingerbread in the kitchen, Ed Lee went outside to inquire about the activity going on in the pasture behind them. One soldier took a whiff of the gingerbread and remarked, "Umm, that gingerbread smells just like home".

Well, she baked gingerbread until midnight and Ed Lee took it out to the German soldiers as well as the American guards. When the story was later repeated, she just said, "They were all God's children-just some got on the wrong side."

Her dedication to education will continue to her last breath as she still continues, to this very day, to tutor students and adults in reading and has never charged for this gift. She has volunteered endless hours after school-giving of her time and talents to assist and improve the education of the many youth of the community.

During her 41 years of teaching, she has served in every facet of the P.T.A., from the teacher to president to parent.

During her early teaching days in Garwood, she undertook the responsibility for organizing a volunteer group to raise money for the addition of a restroom facility for the two-room school building that housed her first and second graders. She raised enough money for the rooms to also be painted a bright cheerful color, to have an obsolete used kitchen table sized

and cut down, painted, and covered to become her "little people's reading table" and re-established the library for the elementary students.

Because of her ability to enlist the community in a venture to raise money to cover the cost for this well worth project, the district did not have to incur the cost and her students greatly benefited.

As a result of her outstanding work in the field of teaching and education, she was inducted into the honorary teacher's society, Delta Kappa Gamma. She has been a member since 1958 and has served as president as well as many other positions. The membership of this dedicated organization is responsible for many scholarships that enable our youth to turn their dreams of today into the realities of tomorrow.

She is also a member of the Colorado County Retired Teacher's Association and has served as president as well as other positions, locally and district. The Retired Teacher's Association is responsible for volunteering in the local schools as "mentors" and also contribute scholarships for continuing education of our youth.

The community of Garwood has been her life for 61 years and she is a very active member in her community association, volunteering endless hours trying to maintain the "spirit" of Garwood. Whether it is helping with the "Rice Festival" or "Christmas in a Small Town" to the Lion's Club parades of the past or being in charge of decorations for the Lion's Club 50th anniversary celebration in 1998, she is first to volunteer and the last to leave.

Serving on the Board of Directors of the Garwood Veteran's Memorial Library is a love of her heart and an honor that Minnie Lee has taken seriously for many years. As one of the "founding directors" in the early 50s, she has volunteered many hours and encouraged monetary as well as material contributions. The library is today a tribute to the community of Garwood as well as its citizens.

Minnie Lee's devotion and faith in God was instilled in her as a young child by her parents. A loving childhood intermingled with giving and caring are the roots from where all her deeds of kindness grow. The faith was her "pillar of strength" during the greatest loss in her life-her beloved husband Ed Lee in 1956. With two small children, her faith, and God, she persevered.

For the last 60 years, she has been a member of the Lehrer Methodist Church. During those years, she has served over half of them as a Sunday School teacher and belonged to the Women's Missionary Club. She now serves as a Trustee on the Board and still volunteers and oversees the serv-

(See Texans, Page 9)

Bible Verse of the Week

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." — Psalms 150:6

Submitted by Neddy Phillips

IF THE EMERGENCY ROOM DOCTORS KNOW YOU'RE AN ORGAN DONOR, WILL THEY WORK AS HARD TO SAVE YOU?



Myths. Rumors. Misinformation. The fact is, if you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the absolute number one priority is to save your life. Organ and tissue donation can be considered only if you die and after your family has been consulted. Don't let bad information keep you from making a great decision. Call 1-800-355-SHARE or visit www.shareyourlife.org for honest information on organ donation.

TALK TO YOUR FAMILY ABOUT DONATING LIFE.



Coalition on Organ & Tissue Donation



Garwood Jr. High Cheerleaders

Garwood Jr. High Cheerleaders for the 2000-01 school year were recently chosen. They are, in back, from left, Kristen Danklefs, Laura Engstrom, Jessica Engstrom, (cheerleader manager) Katie Hoffman, Jenna Cook, Kaylyn Boenisch and Allyson Lanier. In front are Mandy Staff and Ashley Labay.

Photo Courtesy of Cynthia Boenisch