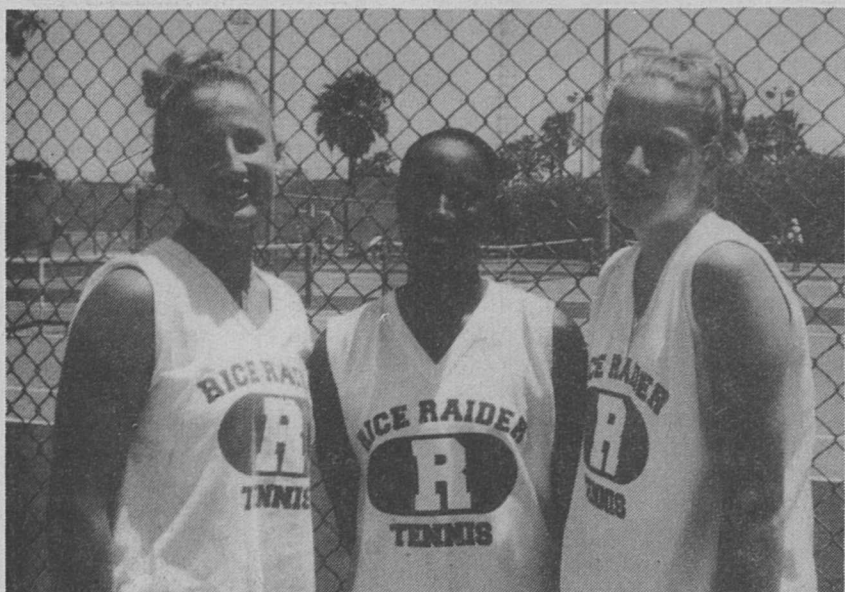




Qualifying for regional competition were Rice High School tennis team members Jacqueline Thomas, Angela Phillips and Leila Baggett.

RHS Photo

Three from Rice participate in regional tennis

Tennis season officially came to an end at the Regional Tournament in Kingsville. Three players represented Rice: singles player Leila Baggett and doubles players Angela Phillips and Jacqueline Thomas.

Baggett lost in the opening round to number four seed, Rivera of Taft, 6-4, 6-3.

Phillips and Thomas also lost to a number four seed from Hondo in split sets. The final score of the long grueling match was 5-7, 7-5, 2-6.

The Lady Raiders earned a berth in the tournament by taking second place in the District 25-3A meet held earlier in the month.

Baggett, a freshman, entered the district meet unseeded. She defeated Garcia of Needville, 6-0, 6-1, and

Enax of Sealy 6-1, 6-2.

She then came up against Krivik of Stafford, a senior who, this year, was making her fourth trip to Regionals. Krivik won 6-3, 6-2.

However, Baggett won more games against Krivik than any other player in the district meet.

This loss to Krivik forced Baggett into the third place match which she won 6-1, 6-0 over Machala of Sealy.

In a play-back against Castillo of Sweeny, she claimed second place by a score of 6-3, 6-1.

According to her coach, Baggett played the smartest tennis of any of the Rice players in the district meet. Her surprising finish is sure to be the first of many championships for this young player.

Phillips and Thomas entered the district meet seeded third.

They got off to a slow start against Allen and Baionte of Stafford, but won 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

In their second round, they were more focused and easily defeated Sealy's Hamner and Harper, 6-2, 6-2.

The championship match against Landry and Mican of Sealy was a nail-biter. After almost three hours of play, they succumbed to the more experienced Sealy team by a score of 4-6, 7-5, 6-7 (2-7).

Other members of the Lady Raider team were Tiffany Stern playing singles and Leslie Waddell and Kristin Wesselski playing doubles.

Stern was defeated in her first round by Machala of Sealy, 4-6, 6-4, 1-6.

Waddell and Wesselski went down to Marek and Powers of Needville, 3-6, 4-6.

As a team, the Lady Raiders finished in second place behind Sealy, who edged them out by only one point.

The men did not fare as well in the district meet. Each of the Raiders' entries went out in the first round against

some very stiff competition.

D.J. Sosa lost to Pai of Stafford, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5, 1-6.

Cliff Keith was defeated by defending district champion Robertson of Sweeny, 1-6, 2-6.

The young, inexperienced doubles team put up a valiant effort against the Sweeny teams who took first and second this year. Marques Johnson and Patrick Milentz lost to Kasper and Bannert, who eventually were the district champions, 6-0, 2-6, 3-6.

Koehl Cranek and Matt Hinze played defending champions and second place finishers Woodward and Chou and lost, 4-6, 5-7.

The JV team of Jessica Thomas at singles and Meagan Staff and Shelley Greak playing doubles claimed the JV District Champion title.

Thomas placed fourth and Staff and Greak placed first.

Both Raider teams were very young this year with only one senior boy and one senior girl. They are expected to be strong contenders in the future.

Congratulations to these athletes on a great season.

Native Plant Society to tour Monk's Mill Creek

The Columbus Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) will visit the Eastern Ga-

magrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*) property of Frank Monk Saturday, May 13, beginning at 9 a.m.

Mr. Monk is being advised by G.E. Pogue Seed Co. Inc. of Kenedy on a management program to improve the vigor and health of his native stand of gamagrass for its projected use for commercial seed production.

Over the last few years, the demand for eastern gamagrass seed has been increasing as the grass' hardiness and forage quality has been recognized by the farm community.

However, most commercially available Eastern Gamagrass seed is harvested from stands of gamagrass north of the Red River. This seed produces plants which don't stand up well to the hot summers of the lower South. Hence, the need for a seed source from grass that has flourished in south Texas weather conditions.

Just south of Bellville is a 900-acre bottomland area which is naturally populated with a dense stand of gamagrass. Estimates say this gamagrass prairie once covered 33,000 acres. Even at the diminished size of 900 acres, it is the largest native stand of Eastern Gamagrass remaining in the entire U.S.

Eastern Gamagrass is a robust grass, often attaining six feet of height

in a single growing season. It is supported by a tenacious root system which normally out competes invasion by other grasses and forbs.

In the summer of 1999, Pogue Seed assessed Mr. Monk's Mill Creek bottomland area and found phosphorus deficiencies of other grass species in the stand. The conclusion was "stand regression". Why? What is being done to improve the situation? When will seed begin being harvested? Will seed be available in the local area? Can hay still be made while the grass is being grown for seed?

All interested persons are welcome to join club members at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 13, to find out the answers to these and other questions. Mr. Monk will be joined by a representative of Pogue Seed to lead the tour.

Directions to the Frank Monk property: From Bellville, head south on 36. Turn right on to FM 2429. The Monk property is on the west (right) just after passing over the small bridge over Boggy Creek. From Cat Spring, head northeast on 949. Turn left onto FM 2429. Just after crossing Mill Creek, you will see Frank's property on the west (left) side of the road. His field is the only gamagrass west of the road.

For further information, call Kathy Burris at 979-732-6188.

Did You Know...

The Alabama swamps are in New York state.

Continued from Page 8

Texans

ing and preparation of receptions and special functions for the church.

Her marriage to Guy Connor in 1977 opened another door to volunteer work in her participation in the VFW and American Legion Women's Auxiliary. Even to this day, she is still active in these clubs.

With the death of her second husband, Minnie Lee turned to other ways to take up that precious space left vacant. She began volunteering at the Rice Medical Center in Eagle Lake with the Lady's Auxiliary (Pink Ladies). A member since 1995, she presently holds the office of second vice-president and serves each Monday.

With the awareness that many of her friends were unable to drive or were in care facilities because of other circumstances, she began volunteering her time to assist them. On any given day, you can see her driving friends to doctors' appointments, visiting friends in care facilities, maintaining their financial records, taking needed items to them and doing assorted deeds of kindness.

Active is not a strong enough word to use in describing Minnie Lee's lifestyle, but busy and hectic is! She can be found in her garden or yard on any given day and her canning is one of her best kept secrets.

Once a month, her domino-42 club meets and it's serious business to those ladies who sit down to play.

To add the topping to the cake, she has recently turned from the teacher to the student. She is presently one of Mrs. Leona Abell's piano students. A fan of the arts for many years, she thinks nothing of jumping into her

Blazer and driving to San Antonio to attend the opera or the theater with her daughter or granddaughter and then returning to catch the weekly opera performances in Columbus on Saturday nights with friends.

But the real joy and loves of her life are her two children, four grandchildren and her family. Her daughter, Linda Swanson, a graduate of Texas A&I in Kingsville is the principal of Bullverde Elementary School near San Antonio. Linda's daughter, Lea, will graduate with a Pharm-d (pharmacist) from the University of Texas in Austin in the year 2001.

Son, Chris, is a graduate of Texas A&M in College Station and a retired Colonel from the U.S. Air Force. Chris now works for a private sector of the government as a pilot of a Boeing 737. Her daughter-in-law, Deborah Shaw, is a retired Lt. Colonel from the U.S. Air Force. Chris and Deb have three children, Chad, age 13, in junior high in San Antonio; step-daughter Lindsay, a sophomore at Texas A&M; and step-son Ryan, a graduating senior from Texas A&M this May.

Not to be forgotten are her brother, Andrew, age 90 and her sister, Annie Mae Gloeckner, age 86 of Pierce. Once a week, Minnie Lee drives to Pierce to clean Andrew's home and the three have a noon meal together. The three little Wilbecks still, to this day, look after each other and share in the love Mama and Papa taught them.

Minnie Lee Shaw Connor has touched the people of Colorado County for the last 60 years with her dedication, love, spirit of giving and caring. Even when her years of volun-

teering are passed, she will continue to touch people of not only our county but the state of Texas, the nation, and the world through those children and friends who's lives she has touched, molded and loved.

Nominees for 2000 Outstanding Older Texan Man were: Isam Brisco Jr., William Joseph (Ted) Brunnner, James W. Helfrich, Frederick Henry Leopold and Henry Sunderman.

The winner was Brunnner of Eagle Lake, nominated by Xi Pi Psi Sorority.

He and his wife of 55 years, Louise, have two children and four grandchildren.

Ted has been an active supporter of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League, FFA and the Prairie Edge Museum.

He has served as a school board member and was an active member of the Eagle Lake Rotary Club. The First Presbyterian Church of Eagle Lake has benefited from Ted being an elder. He is a World War II veteran and a member of the American Legion.

In connection with his vocation as a rice farmer, he has served on the board of directors of the American Rice Growers Association and has been an active member of the Colorado County Farm Bureau.

At 89 years of age, Ted is still serving the community, helping out at the Prairie Edge Museum Thrift Shop and always exhibiting that willing spirit of volunteerism.

Judge Al Jamison presented the Older Texan Awards to Connor and Brunnner.

A meal was served at the conclusion of the program.

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For more information:
Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau
1-877-444-7339 or www.columbusbustexas.org

Music

FRIDAY, May 19, 5:30 p.m.— Rudy y Grupo Completo • Paragon • Eric Taylor (ALL FREE!!)

SATURDAY, May 20, 1 p.m.— Donnie Wavra Orchestra • Robert Sanders Trio • Lost Tribe (ALL FREE!!)

JOHNNY DEE & THE ROCKET 88's (\$7 street dance), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, May 21, 1 p.m.— Bells of Joy • Dickie Muer's Dixieland Blues Boys (FREE!!)

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