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To THE EDITOR & You

WW II articles 'slanted, revisionistic'

At this time each year, much is written relative to events leading to the surrender of Japan and thus the ending of World War II.

Large city daily newspapers, including the one primary to our area, have this week printed articles which, in my opinion, are slanted and revisionistic.

When the happening of 56 years ago are viewed by the composers of those articles through their emotional and myopic prism of time, their true meaning, and that which leads up to them, is lost. Minds become closed to atrocities which occurred at Nan-

King, Corregidor, Bataan, and - yes - even Pearl Harbor.

One writer visited Hiroshima and wept and apologized. He then said that we should have used the bomb on some uninhabited island to show the Japanese that awesome power. There are two answers for that - our forces had devastated island after island with conventional weaponry. The enemy knew that this was coming to their mainland, but they did not stop fighting. Even after Hiroshima they did not immediately surrender. It took another trip, this time to Nagasaki.

This writer, along with the some

12,000 men and my infantry division served in Japan during the winter of 1945-46. I offer the following only to establish bona fides and credibility.

In Europe when we completed the Battle of The Ruhr Valley, we advanced across Central Germany and Bavaria. Our last assignment was to 'take' the City of Eger and it airfield in Western Czechoslovakia. In the scheme of things, none of these were really days and days of fighting. By then the ordinary enemy soldier knew that they were beaten. However, our company (Co. L, 387th INF.) lost every one of our officers - either KIA or wounded. I think we set some kind of record for battle field commissions.

At an earlier time our division had received extensive amphibious land-

ing training. When we ended the war in Europe we were immediately recalled to the states to prepare for the invasion of Japan because we had the training as well as battle experience. The experience of battle, the knowledge of battle, but not "battle hardened" as the saying goes. I submit to you that no one that has been there, and is still in their right mind, can truly admit to being battle "hardened". Our old Eisenhower jackets support a few rows of ribbons, some with stars, but in the place of honor "The Combat Infantry Badge". Ask any old foot soldier what that means.

We were given a one month leave. (See Slanted, Page 8)

Debate continues on Mexican trucks in Texas



State Capitol Highlights

By Mike Cox
Texas Press Association

such a system would be efficient once built, it would be expensive. And given the resistance that killed the high speed rail proposal, a tunnel across Texas doubtless would be controversial as well. "It took 25 years to get the interstate highway system in place, so a large, integrated freight system would certainly take decades," Roop said in the article.

Oyster harvest up

Texas' oyster catch last year was the largest in a decade, according to statistics compiled by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

The state's long coastline netted harvesters 6.1 million pounds of oysters during the season, which runs from Nov. 1 to April 30.

Value of that catch is estimated at \$14 million.


The Texas oyster harvest was only 2.9 million pounds in 1991.

Some Texas trivia

Everyone knows the state flower is the bluebonnet and that the state tree is the pecan, but do you know what the state shrub is?

It's not mesquite, which technically is a tree. It's not purple sage or mountain laurel. It's crape myrtle.

The Texas A&M University Research and Extension Center in Dallas has been studying the plant and the (See Highlights, Page 6)



Foot Facts


By Dr. Eric R. Tepper, Podiatrist

AVOIDING ATTACKS OF GOUT

Gout is a form of arthritis that causes intense joint pain, inflammation, and redness. The condition is caused by an accumulation of uric acid, a fluid formed during the breakdown of purines - found naturally in the body and in foods like red meat, shellfish, and beer. People experience gout because of excess uric acid production or an inability to eliminate it. Gout typically strikes the big toe joints, knees, ankles, and insteps. While there is no known way to prevent an attack of gout, there are medications that can help alleviate the symptoms of an attack. Other steps that can help include maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding high-purine foods, limiting alcohol intake, and drinking plenty of fluids.

Many medical conditions that affect the body's joints cause damage to your feet. That's why you should see your podiatrist regularly, especially if you have any condition that may cause gout. Although we don't treat the underlying medical condition, we do work closely with your primary care physician to provide care and catch problems early. For foot care for the family, please call 234-5571 for an appointment at Rice Medical Center. I am there every Tuesday.

P.S. More than 2 million Americans suffer from gout.



Join the Community Buyers

The 2001 Colorado County Fair is just around the corner and it's time to start thinking about what we can do as a community to support the youth of Eagle Lake.

We were very fortunate to have collected the monies we did last year. Our goal is to break that record this year.

There are 21 FFA and/or 4-H exhibitors competing from Eagle Lake - this is six more than last year!

Those of you who donated last year should have already received a letter in the mail. For those of you that would like to join the Community Buyers, you may do so by stopping by The First National Bank in Eagle Lake and talking to Carol Ripper.

We believe these kids are learning important life tools through their projects and they should and can be re-

warded for the good they do!

Please join with us and help support the "Youth of Eagle Lake" at the 2001 Colorado County Fair.

Below is a list of the exhibitors:

Goats: Taylor Cook, Kory Janow; **Heifers:** Ryan Henske, Heather Shanks; **Hogs:** Jason Godley, Carlos Hernandez, Eyan McClain, Richard Mullins, Cleve Scott, Robert Scott, Colt Wilson, Aaron Yanez, James Ochoa, Carlos Gonzales; **Lambs:** George Houliguin, Enemecio Lugo, Concullo Montemayor, Michael Morales, Timothy Morales, Ricky Ruiz; **Rabbits:** Kory Janow.

If you have any questions about the Eagle Lake Community Buyers, please feel free to call Eugene or Debbie Shanks at 979-234-3161 or 234-2012.

Thanks!

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Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Aug. 18, 1977

Bill Blair was elected as the new Little League President. Laurel Holden was re-elected secretary-treasurer of the league...

Carol Beheler, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. M.W. Beheler of Eagle Lake, is one of nine Texas State Technical Institute art students entered in the institute's art exhibit and sale...

Miss Shirley Kiel of Columbus was named District Farm Bureau Queen. Crystal Jones, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Woody F. Jones of Garwood, representing Colorado County, was runner-up in the Talent Find...

Clifton Hefner, son of Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Hefner of Garwood, made the honor roll list at the University of Texas...

Alex Ramirez was named the Eagle Lake Little League's most outstanding player for the 1977 summer season...

Sharon Hoffman, drum major for Rice High School, was selected as one of eight "Miss Sensational" drum majors with 41 in the competition at the band camp held at the University of Houston July 10-15. In the modeling contest, Nina Zbrank, a twirler at Rice, was named in the top five...

Miss Melinda Klump, bride-elect of Dave Kucherka, was complimented with a Rice Bag Party and Pantry Shower in the Joe Mike Spanihel home on Aug. 13...

Little Miss Kari Seaholm was honored with a birthday party given by her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Gus Seaholm, on Aug. 5. The occasion marked her third birthday...

Three Eagle Lake residents were among the 880 students who filed for diplomas in summer commencement ceremonies Aug. 13 at Southwest Texas State University. They include Glen Sunderman, son of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Sunderman; Carol Dostal, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Henry J. Dostal; and Jose A. Salazar, son of Mr. & Mrs. Eusebio Salazar...

James Torres of Rosenberg, son of Mr. & Mrs. Bill Torres of Eagle Lake, is a new member of the staff of Radio Station KFRD in Rosenberg...

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Gause of this city were in Ocala, Florida, July 31 to attend the 100th birthday of her mother, Mrs. Allie Herring...

Alan Kristynik of Garwood has returned from a very exciting three-week European Study Concert Tour as a member of All Student Groups U.S.A. ...

Belinda C. (Hemphill) Denley graduated from Sam Houston State University Aug. 13, receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Fashion Merchandise with a General Business minor with an emphasis in marketing management...

Leading hitters for the 1977 Little League season in Eagle Lake were: Pam Banks, leading hitter for the Tigers with a .500 proving (See 24 & 48, Page 4)

Let me 'share an excerpt'

Dear Editor:

I would like to share an excerpt of "Boys to Men" with your readers:

At 14, I remember lying to my mother, stealing, drinking, drugging and smoking. One day, I decided to go into a bar (beer joint). I hadn't told my mother, so I didn't want to be seen.

Across the street lived a man, who was a friend of my mother's. He was a big man, and all the kids were afraid of him. I was afraid too, but I wanted to be man and do my own thing, so I was willing to take the risk of being caught.

I summoned all the courage I could, walked up the steps, and opened the door. I was almost in, when I heard a loud voice calling my name, it was the man across the street.

I froze, I was shaking all over ("Be tough, I told myself") as I turned around to face him. "Do yo mama know you goin' in that place boy?" He asked. "Yes sir" (I lied). "Well, I'm gonna ask her and see what she says." At that moment, I really hated that man.

Often, while sitting in jail, I would think about that man, and get mad all over again.

Ten years later, at the same location (the beer joint has been torn down), I was at the Hole. (This was a place anything could happen, there was gambling, dealing, drinking, drugging, fighting, it was like the Wild West). The man was sitting across the street, and as I

was leaving, he stopped me. He said, "I've been watching you, you're not like the rest of these people, God has something better for you." I listened out of respect, but I was still mad at him from 10 years ago, and I really didn't want to hear about God.

A few months later, I was in the same place, doing the same thing, when the police raided the place, guns drawn. I was afraid, but I couldn't let anyone know it.

Of all the people (about 20) I was the only one to go to jail. As I was being put into the car, I looked across the street and saw the man, and the sadness in his eyes.

While incarcerated, I realized this man had cared more for me, more than I cared for myself. He was willing to be despised and hated by me in order to try to save me. As I looked back over my life, I begin to see there were people trying to help me all along. I was just too blind to see.

When I got out five months later I went and talked to this man, and I thanked him for caring enough to take a stand for right.

Today, I thank God for this man, and all those like him who are willing to show compassion to someone who society would consider a loser, but by the Grace of God is a winner.

"They say the greatest sorrow is the sorrow of not being a saint, that is, to never know, or become what God intended when He made you."

Submitted by The Evolution Center