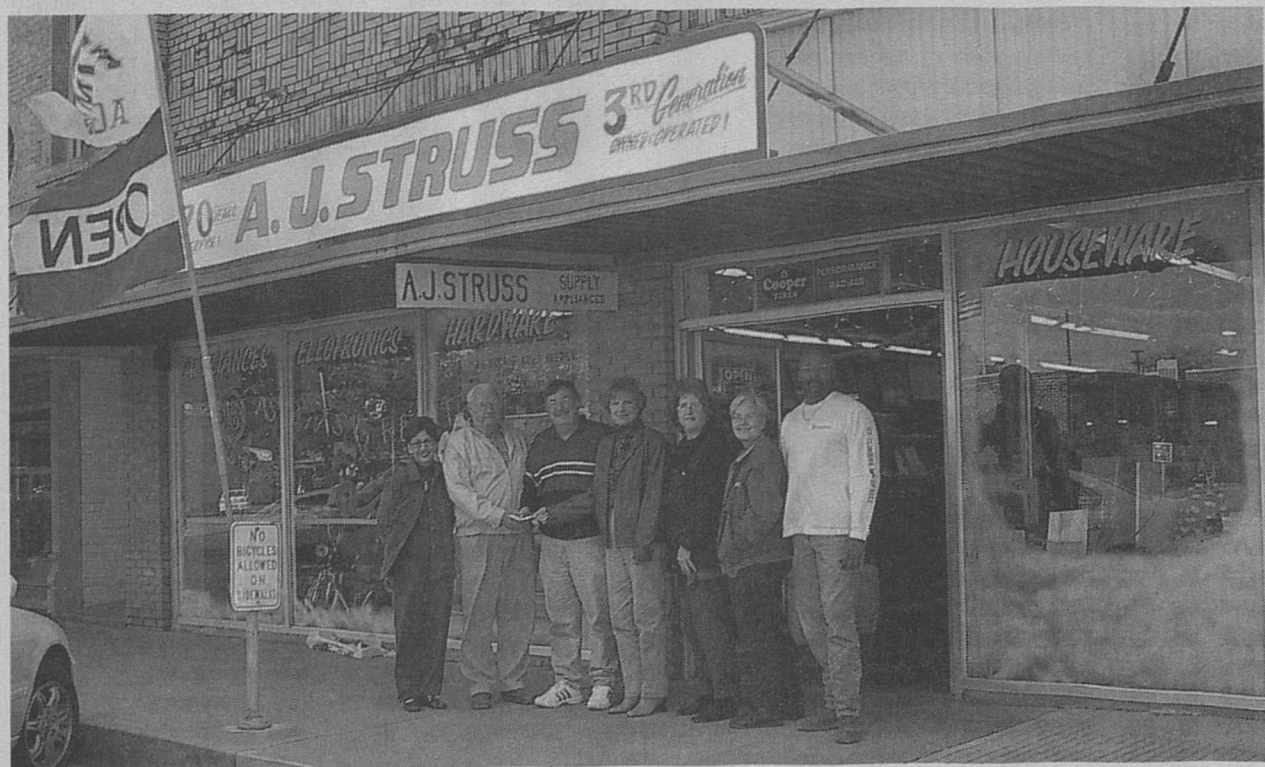


Struss

Continued from Page 1



Sandy Bendy, Louis Schorlemmer, Sidney and Barbara Struss, Mary Ann Kaluza, Rhonda Bridges and Tony Tyler gathered for the presentation of a Main Street grant to A.J. Struss Auto recently.

Headlight Photo by Carol Cardenas

SHERIDAN NEWS

Hello from Sheridan. My name is Velma Kutzer and I have been given the opportunity to send Sheridan news to the *Eagle Lake Headlight*.

I hope the readers enjoy the column and will feel free to contribute to it.

If you missed the game Saturday in San Antonio, you missed the most exciting game you could ever see. Congratulations to the Raiders and coaching staff for a season that will long be remembered.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Wanda Rosario who passed away last week in Eagle Lake. Burial was in Cheatham Cemetery with Pastor Larry Smith officiating.

Survivors include husband, Carmelo, son, Arthur Querner, and his wife of Sheridan and daughter, Shara, and her boyfriend of Houston.

Wanda was a driving force in the Sheridan PTS in years past. Some of her projects included new curtains in the gym, the storage building for the PTS and many, many loads of sand and

gravel for the playground. During her time as president of the PTS, records were set in many areas.

She was a strong and faithful worker for our school and community and we are thankful to have known her.

Earl and Voydell are proud to announce the birth of a great-grandson last week in Victoria. Kooper Karl was born at 12:45 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5, and weighed seven pounds, 14 ounces. Parents are Kim and Hunter Karl. Kooper is welcomed home by his four-year-old brother, Clay.

The Cheatham Cemetery Association recently received a donation from Jim and Lucy Ross in memory of Emma Enloe.

The Association graciously accepts memorials, which help with the maintenance of the grounds.

Estelle Sanders was a recent guest in the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Billy and Dana Sanders. Estelle is from Bay Springs, Mississippi.

Congratulations to Marcie Coffelt and Perry Sanders upon their marriage. The couple was married Saturday, Dec. 6, at the community center. We wish them many happy years together.

The annual food driver is underway. Delivery is set for Dec. 20. Students at school are reminded to bring canned or non-perishable items to school. The classes contributing the largest amount of items will be treated to Dairy Delite.

In other school news, the Christmas program and monthly PTS meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. The school is presently sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair and the

Remembering Richard L. Eggers

Number 10 in a series in remembrance of our World War II dead
By Joe C. Fling

One of the more interesting grave-stones for one of Eagle Lake's war dead is the tombstone of Richard Lloyd Eggers in the Lakeside Cemetery. In addition to the usual information of dates of birth and death and branch of military that Eggers served in, the stone is engraved with the image of a submarine conning tower with sea creatures swimming beside, which further indicates Eggers' military service.

Twenty-year-old Richard Eggers was serving aboard a submarine, stationed at San Diego, California, in the fall of 1943, when he met his death in a freak accident.

Eggers was born Aug. 13, 1923 in Bonus, the son of Richard L. and Geraldine Eggers.

Eggers' father was killed in 1927 in an equally unusual threshing accident on Ernest Seaholm's farm.

By the time of her son's entry into the service, Geraldine had remarried, to George Cason, and had another son, George Jr.

Submarines relied heavily on their batteries for underwater operations, and as such they were a major security concern, being as was supposed, a prime target for saboteurs.

Eggers, who had reached the rank of electricians mate 3rd Class, was on guard duty looking after the sub's batteries. Ironically, Eggers had just received promotion from EM-2c, on Dec. 1, the day of the accident that claimed his life.

When his shift ended, another sailor came on duty to relieve him. As that man, following regulations, checked and adjusted his .45 automatic sidearm, the gun went off and the bullet hit Eggers in the abdomen.

Eggers was rushed to the naval base hospital in San Diego. Word quickly reached Eagle Lake.

According to the *Headlight*, local physician J.R. Laughlin telephoned the base hospital on behalf of Eggers' mother but could not obtain any concrete information about Eggers' condition.

Thereupon, David Wintermann, who was at that time head of the local Red Cross, arranged for Mrs. Cason to fly to California to be with her son.

Eggers' mother arrived at his side Dec. 2. Eggers was reportedly able to talk to his mother and scores of visitors from among his shipmates but he died the following Sunday afternoon, Dec. 5, 1943 in that navy hospital.

Geraldine Cason holds a unique distinction among the mothers of men from Colorado County who died in World War II.

Only she was able to go to her wounded son's side before he died and speak to him.

All others got the news by telegram, weeks or months later, or found their sons listed only as "missing" for over a year before being classified as "lost" or "killed in action."

And for most, the funerals were years after death, some as late as 1950.

Many never returned home for burial, and a few were never recovered from the sea.

In fact, Eggers was only the second war-time burial of a serviceman in the City of Eagle Lake (John Westmoreland being the first in Jan. 1943) and would be the last until Maurice Parker was brought home from Bermuda and laid to rest in the Masonic Cemetery Dec. 9, 1947.

The intervening four years saw countless military services and news of burials in foreign lands, but no actual funerals in the city for any war dead.

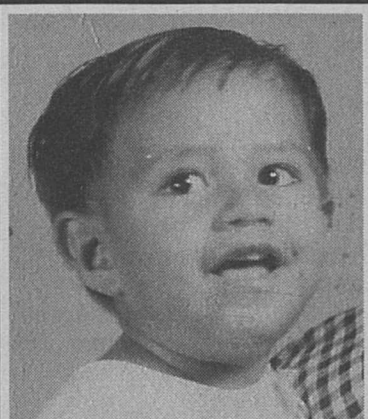
Mrs. Cason arrived back in Eagle Lake two days after her son's death on the train bearing Richard's remains, accompanied by a military escort.

The funeral was held at Colley Memorial Methodist Church in Eagle Lake on Dec. 11 with Rev. J.N. Thompson, pastor of Garwood Methodist, officiating.

Ten sailors came from California to guard and bear the casket. A 13-year-old bandsman, Draper Stephens, played "Taps" on the bugle.

Eggers' body was laid to rest near the top of the hill in Lakeside Cemetery, where his cousin Glenn E. Eggers, who gave his life serving in an armored regiment in China, would join him Nov. 10, 1947.

Eggers was survived by his mother and 10-year-old George, Jr.



Happy Birthday
Leo Cordova
Dec. 9
From Your
Brothers & Sisters



Girndt, Mahalite announce engagement

Wavely A. Girndt and Calvin C. Mahalite are pleased to announce their engagement and approaching marriage.

Wavely, the daughter of Clara L. Menke of Bernardo and the late Fred Menke, is employed by Dr. Tom Hancher of Columbus.

Calvin is the son of Arthur and Clara Mahalite of Eagle Lake and is a fulltime farmer and rancher.

A January wedding is planned.

ELPA

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same. The event will take place at the Norris Building, 113 E. Main St., on the historic downtown Eagle Lake square.

The old-fashioned get together will begin at 5 p.m. and continue until the Christmas parade is finished that evening. Everyone is invited to stop by the Norris Building to share in a festive seating area and have a terrific vantage point to view the parade.

While there, an array of baked items such as pies, cakes, cookies and kolaches may be purchased. These goodies will be served by the piece to enjoy there or to go. Coffee, hot chocolate and cold drinks may also be purchased. These baked items are great to take home for later or for gift giving.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to help ELPA restore the historic building in downtown Eagle Lake that was recently donated to the non-profit group. Please support the efforts of ELPA in restoring this important historic building. For further information please call 979-234-6848.

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