



Rojas, Becerra Announce Marriage

Justino and Salustia Rojas and Pablo and Carmen Becerra are pleased to announce the upcoming marriage of their children Perla Rojas and Pablo Becerra. The ceremony will take place November 18.

Rojas Becera Anuncian Matrimonio

Sus padres, Justino y Salustia Rojas de Eagle Lake y Pablo y Carmen Becerra de Eagle Lake, les decean muchas felicidades a sus hijos, Perla Rojas y Pablo Becerra en este dia tan especial, que celebran su enlace matrimonial este Sabado, November 18.



Speaker for the Gadabouts recent event was Erin Glueck, left, of Rice Medical Center of Eagle Lake, Swing bed Chairman. She is pictured with Anita Meisner, president of Nada/Garwood Gadabouts. (Photo courtesy of La Juan Braden)

Gadabouts Celebrate Make A Difference Day

Nada/Garwood Gadabouts honored their precious 80 and older citizens with a luncheon at their Annual "Make a Difference Day", held in the Lehrer Methodist Church recreation hall. Luncheon of assorted sandwiches, salads and desserts was served.

Those attending were Albert and Bea Bittner, Rudy and Lucille Till, Margaret Bunge, and Nancy, Frank and Josephine Becak, Dorothy and Robert Schiurring, Clara Lobpries, Walter and Bea

Schoellmann, Alfred and Jeralyn Prihoda, Viola Frels, Leona Wesselski, Eldin L. Wied, Dorothy Brooks, Iris Danklefs, Joe and Bernice Popp, Karol Kallina, Henrietta Patrick, Clara Gold, Cecelia Kallina, Booker T. Dabney, Lawrence and Edna Shimek, Anita Meisner, Helen Noteboom and La Juan Braden.

Four Attend 4-H Crossroads

Four Colorado County 4-H Youth will be attending District 11 Crossroads Nov. 17-19 at Camp for All in Burton. Avery Arendale, Hannah, Stacy Jobe and Kylee Werland will have the opportunity to attend one of four workshops which include Sport Medicine, Share-the-Fun/Theatre, Photojournalism and Vet School.

Jeri Jobe will accompany them.

Eagle Lake Headlight Want Ads Work Wonders

Texas Cooperative Extension To Mark 100 Years

It was a century ago on Nov. 12, 1906, that local leaders in Tyler hired W.C. Stallings, a leading farmer, to serve Smith County as the first Extension agent to serve a single county in Texas.

The groundwork leading up to that historic hiring began in 1892, when the boll weevil invaded Texas from Mexico. By 1903, the small beetles had cut Texas cotton yields in half. They were well on their way to toppling the long-held monarchy of "King Cotton" in the Lone Star State and the economic health of Texas.

Fear of losing the entire cotton industry led to extreme reactions.

Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, U.S. Department of Agriculture Special Agent for

Promotion of Agriculture in the South, toured the infested area and wrote: "I saw hundreds of farms lying out; I saw a wretched people facing starvation; I saw whole towns deserted..."

Congress appropriated \$250,000 for use in "stamping out the boll weevil" in 1904. The money was split between U.S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Entomology and Bureau of Plant Industry. Both bureaus promptly began "how-to" demonstration work on government-owned experimental farms for farmers to emulate. But the farmers were unimpressed.

The farming practices demonstrated were right, but the delivery methods were wrong. The human factor hadn't been considered. Most farmers scoffed at the ideas they were shown, because they knew any possible loss incurred would be completely covered by "Uncle Sam's" dollars. Knapp, though, knew how to communicate with farmers. His leadership skills and understanding of his audience had led to the first community-based, farmer-administered farm demonstration in the nation. That project occurred on the Walter C. Porter Farm in Terrell in Kaufman County.

Terrell community leaders had asked Knapp in 1902 if he would set up a government-run farm in their community. But Knapp already supervised five demonstration farms in Texas and Louisiana, and regretfully declined, having run out of the time and funds needed to take on another property.

The Terrell group didn't take "no" for an answer. They offered to run and fund the farm themselves if Knapp would give guidance and recommendations applicable to their growing conditions.

A formal agreement was ratified on Feb. 25, 1903, thus establishing the result method demonstration work that is so vital to Extension work today.

Porter subsequently planted 70 acres under Knapp's guidance and was rewarded with more return per acre than his family had ever earned.

Ironically, the Porter Farm demonstration had nothing to do with the boll weevil. Porter's work focused instead on soil improvement and crop diversification. However, Knapp's educational method of reaching farmers, called "cooperative demonstration work," was immediately adopted to address the boll weevil problem.

The Knapp-Porter success grew to include 7,000 farmers by

1904 and 32,000 by 1908. There were too many demonstration projects going by 1904 for Knapp to personally supervise, so USDA, aided by a national philanthropist group known as the General Education Board, hired regional agents to travel from farm to farm.

By 1906, local interest in demonstration work became so strong that taxes levied by commissioners' courts and school boards were appropriated to hire agents to work in single counties.

Stallings was the first one hired.

According to Joseph C. Bailey (1945), Knapp's biographer, Knapp wanted men much like himself with: an abundance of sound common sense; a well-earned reputation for successful and superior farming practices; a readiness to serve their fellow farmers and the cause of better agriculture...; a position of some authority and leadership in their own communities arising from these attributes; and, finally, a good bit of ... shrewd discernment and adroitness in converting skeptics and recalcitrants.

Today, all of Texas' 254 counties are served by at least one county Extension agent.

Their realm of educational knowledge has extended from solely agriculture and natural resources to now include agents with responsibilities in 4-H, Extension's youth component; family and consumer sciences; and community resources and economic development.

These agents are backed by subject-matter specialists across the state who act as resource people in a wide variety of disciplines.

Knapp had the foresight to include the credibility of what is now the Texas A&M University System in the supervising of demonstration work to minimize possible objections to federal intervention in state and local affairs.

It's been 100 years since Stallings was hired, but the same values of credibility and respect that made the agent of that era such a success still hold true today. Extension's credo of "real learning for real life" is as imperative to the success of the organization now as it was then.

And what's become of the boll

weevil that galvanized Texans to act and kick-started Cooperative Extension work?

He's still here, but his threat to the industry is greatly diminished thanks in no small part to the educational efforts of Extension agents and specialists who convinced farmers statewide to support and cooperate with the efforts of the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation.

Today, every area in Texas is in the eradication program and 2/3 of all the cotton acres have only a very low boll weevil infestation.

The Colorado County office of Texas Cooperative Extension

is located at 316 Spring Street in Columbus.

For further information on how Extension can help you, contact either Dale Rankin, County Extension Agent - Agriculture/Natural Resources or Sally Garrett, County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences at 979-732-2082 or 979-732-2530.

Subscribe To The Headlight 979-234-5521

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WHARTON

Cowboy Christmas

Friday, November 17, 2006

- Kick off the season with a Holiday Parade at 7 p.m. featuring Santa and the "Texas Reindeer"; downtown festivities beginning at 5 p.m.; holiday lighting ceremony at 6:30 p.m.
- Live entertainment & sing-along with Santa
- Music on several stages -- FREE ADMISSION
- Downtown dining, festival food & craft vendors
- Holiday shopping at unique downtown shops

Saturday, November 18, 2006

- Shop 'til you drop - Wharton County Farmers' Market (9-Noon) - Downtown shops and local stores (all day) - Festival food and arts & crafts vendors (all day)
- Real Chuckwagon Cooking - just like the "Old West"
- Tame "Texas Reindeer" (Texas longhorns) - bring the kids & the camera!
- Pony rides, kids games, fun for all!!!
- Continuous entertainment on several stages -- FREE ADMISSION
- Open Mic stage: come-one, come-all (acoustic entertainment)
- Texas Oldtime Fiddlers' contest - 3 p.m.
- Community Theatre presentation of "The Nutcracker" - 7:30 p.m. @ Plaza Theatre
- Texas Barn Boys - FREE dance at the Innkeeper, 9 p.m. - Midnight

Wharton Chamber of Commerce: (979) 532-1862

Sunday, November 19, 2006

- Biscuits & Gravy at the Chuck Wagon at 8 a.m.
- Cowboy Church -- "Western Style" at 9 a.m.
- Gospel Hour at 10 a.m.
- Die-Hard Musicians "closing jam" at 11 a.m.
- Downtown shopping & dining
- Performance of "The Nutcracker" at 2:30 p.m.

November 17th - 18th - 19th
On the Square - Downtown Wharton, Texas
(27 miles south on FM 102 from Eagle Lake)