



Views Around The Lake

by Cindy Klopsteck

"Whoever wants to know the heart and mind of America... the rules and realities do it by watching...(a) small town." -- Jacques Barzun

I think Norman Rockwell would have loved Eagle Lake.

This past Thursday evening, right before dark, I was privileged – yes, privileged – to drive through the streets of downtown Eagle Lake.

Days of rain had given a mystic, dream-like quality to the air as, on the distant horizon, one could actually see the gentle passage of approaching clear skies.

It was one of those moments that hang in time – an exact moment when one condition ends and another is beginning, and you

are a lucky person if you are there to witness it.

That alone would have been enough, but there was also the scattering of colored Christmas lights around the square, the decorated potted plants, the lovely wreaths hanging from each door and the sparkle of the town Christmas tree.

That's when I thought of Norman Rockwell and how the famed illustrator would have loved to capture this scene of small town America.

For more than four decades, Rockwell portrayed everyday life scenarios for "The Saturday Evening Post." He agreed with critics who said he was not an artist; he called himself an "illustrator." His

best creations were artistically captured by him when he lived for years in a small Connecticut town that inspired the everyday moments so memorable to us all.

Can it be that simple? Can small town USA portray the true essence of Americana?

The success of the Eagle Lake Christmas parade and Chamber activities a few weeks ago shows just how important the town's activities are to its citizens.

Chamber President Barbara Class told me how, throughout the week following the parade and Chamber-sponsored Christmas Mall, she heard many comments on how the town citizens really came together for the events.

"It was a combination of ef-

forts by the Chamber, the City of Eagle Lake and many local organizations working together to make the day a huge success," she said.

Now, I enjoy going into the big city. My children, a sister and a number of my friends live in Houston.

I can busy myself with activities there year-round, but this time of year there are so many events to enjoy. My friends and I attended a theatrical performance two weeks ago.

There are seasonal activities all weekend at Sugar Land Town Square and a number of holiday movies to enjoy.

As long as my own personal shopping is completed, I even

enjoy being jostled about in the malls watching others scurry from store to store to finish their holiday shopping.

I do not, however, like the hustle and bustle in the adjoining parking lots. And I always try to attend one Christmas service at a large Houston church or cathedral. It's all just part of my holiday traditions.

But to return in quiet peace to one's hometown. To attend a

theatre performance by the PJ's or students from school or church, to shop from local merchants, to worship in your beloved hometown church, to drive through the quiet lighted streets and wave in holiday greeting to neighbors and friends you've known for years, that's the real spirit of the season. You don't have to be an artist to capture that feeling.

I think Norman Rockwell would have loved Eagle Lake.

Final Kringle Cash Winners Named

Winners from the fifth and final week were Jeslyn Cantu and Jessica Galdamez of Eagle Lake.

Both will use their winnings

at Radio Shack/Eagle Lake Drug Store.

Thanks to all for entering and good luck next year. Happy Holidays.



Jessica Galdamez



Jeslyn Cantu

Rice Basketball Early Season Action

The Rice Raiders lost to The Woodlands Christian Academy on Thursday, December 10, 53-28.

Leading scorer for the Raiders was Jared Kaster with 11 points. Cody Lantelme added nine, JJ Reggins, four, and Corey Farrow and Spence Spencer each scored two points.

The Raiders also fell to Edna on December 15 by the score of 43-61.

Tied with nine points each were Kaster and Reggins. Chris Dorsey and Damian Stevens each scored eight points. Terrance Shorter added five. Terris Shorter and Farrow also added

two points each.

The Raiders took on La Vernia on Dec. 17 losing, 13-42. Top scorer was Reggins with 11 points. Stevens added two.

The Raiders then faced El Campo on Dec. 18. They lost that match up by the score of 42-87.

Kaster led the way with 20 points. Stevens added eight; Farrow, five; Reggins, four; Spencer and Sean Torres each scored two; Terris Shorter added one point.

On Dec. 19, the Raiders lost to Flatonia, 46-52.

Reggins was leading scorer with 18 points, followed by Kaster with 16. Farrow added eight; and Terris and Terrance Shorter each scored two.

Monday, Dec. 21, the Raiders lost to Wharton, 52-60.

Farrow scored 14 points; Reggins, 12; Stevens, nine; Terrance Shorter, eight; Terris Shorter, six; and David Michalak, added one.

Six Lawsuits Filed

Six lawsuits were filed in the last week in Colorado County District Court.

On Dec. 16, prosecutors filed suit seeking the forfeiture to the state of \$1,408 that was seized on Dec. 15 from Charles Everett Mosby. The suit states the money was seized by Columbus Police Officer Sterling Taylor and is believed to be contraband.

On Dec. 17, Dennis W. Hanna and Karen Hanna filed suit against Almost Heaven Stables. The suit contends that the stables, located at 1046 Almost Heaven Lane in Alleyton, are operating in violation of a deed covenant prohibiting commercial businesses on the property.

On Dec. 18, Darrell Deshotel filed suit against Charles L. Watson, involving injuries received when Deshotel said he fell on a rusty nail on property in Eagle Lake owned by Watson, which Deshotel was renting.

In a separate suit on Dec. 18, Beverly Taylor filed suit against Cecia Castillo for injuries Taylor said she received in auto accident on Dec. 17, 2007 in Eagle Lake.

On Dec. 21, Reliant Energy Retail Services, llc, filed suit against Nazarli Noorali, doing business as Super Stop Eagle Lake. The dispute involves payment on an account of \$10,385.

Also on Dec. 21, Leigh Elizabeth Hastedt filed suit against Stuart Hastedt, trustee of the Stuart Hastedt family trust.

The suit is seeking to invalidate a deed, signed on Oct. 23, 2008, conveying 40 acres of property from Leigh Hastedt to Stuart Hastedt.

Divorce Filed

--Christa Marie Prichard-Smith and Jimmy Dean Smith, Dec. 16.

Weekly Migratory Bird Report

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Dec. 16, 2009

Weekly migratory bird hunting reports are posted from early September through early February.

South Zone Duck: Fog put a kink in the duck flight along the coast during the second-split opener.

However, hunters along the coastal prairie did not mind because the fog encouraged geese to fly lower and some impressive straps of both ducks and geese were taken from duck blinds.

Gadwalls, wigeons, teal and pintails were taken on most ponds. Many hunters have noticed a significant influx of gadwalls this season compared to previous campaigns.

Large wads of green-winged teal are present, but the fog reduced the flight. Bay hunters enjoyed limits to half-limits near Port O'Connor and Rockport; again, the fog played a major role in limiting the flight.

Goose hunters enjoyed four days of thick fog and harvest improved because of it. Many outfitters are saying the juvenile population of snow geese is less than five percent.

Specklebellies have cooperated at times, but have shied away from calling. Sandhill crane numbers are steady, and hunters will get their first crack at the large gray birds this week (Dec. 19).

Reminder: hunters must possess the free crane permit to hunt sandhill cranes and the bag limit is two. Prospects are good.

High Plains Mallard Management Unit: Duck hunting remains solid in the Panhandle. An abundance of playa lakes have given birds plenty of wintering habitat. Good numbers of mallards, gadwalls and teal have been harvested.

Wigeons, mallards and gadwalls have been steady around Knox and Haskell counties. Goose hunters have enjoyed steady shoots for Canadas. Snow geese, as always, have been tougher to decoys.

Best hunts have come over wheat and corn in the Panhandle,

and peanuts between Lubbock and Abilene.

Dumas hunters have noticed larger species of Canada geese showing this week. Pheasant shoots have been excellent as well. Prospects are good.

North Zone Duck: The second-split opener was much better than the initial opening of duck season.

Many hunters reported good shoots on mallards and wood ducks in Pineywood sloughs and rivers. Caddo Lake and Lake O'Pines were good for divers, gadwalls and a few mallards. Lake Fork and Toledo Bend saw good shoots in coves for mallards, canvasbacks, gadwalls and green-winged teal.

Hunting remained steady around the zone boundaries of IH-10. Freshwater impoundments held pintails, wigeons, shovelers and teal. Ponds around Sealy, Brookshire, China and Hamshire enjoyed combo shoots for ducks and geese in the thick fog. Another push of cold air should prompt more mallards to cross the Red River. Prospects are good.



Dear Santa...

Dear Santa,
I have been a good little girl and I want you to bring me a Hello Kitty Bike and a Barbie Jeep and some new clothes and

a puppy dog.
Love,
Bre'Asia Kuykendall
Head Start



Rice Medical Center's Surgical Department has upgraded the sterilization area with a new autoclave, Steris Amsco Eagle 3013 Prevac Steam Sterilizer thanks to the generous support from the Rice Medical Foundation.

RMC strives to provide our patients with the latest technology and state of the art equipment.

Left to right, Susan Ross, Betty Perry, and Natalie Thompson of RMC Surgical Department.

Still "Purty" at "30"

Happy Birthday Sammi
From Family and Fellow Employees

Merry Christmas

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