

Views Around The Lake

by Cindy Klopsteck

"Renew thyself completely each day; do it again, and again, and forever again." --- Chinese saying

I braked rather abruptly and the loose fortune cookies flew to the floorboard.

Worse yet was the book that followed and thus smashed the preceding items beyond reasonable consumption, cookie crumbs and white paper fortunes littered on the passenger side floor mat of my car.

Since my cell phone had also taken a flying leap, I pulled over before the sign that had initiated the change in my driving speed: "SLOW - Rough Road Ahead". Someone had altered the sign below it, adding two zeroes to read: "Next 200 miles". I figured that meant I really had two miles of rough road ahead of me.

And my floorboard was a mess. (I always buy Chinese fortune cookies for New Year's Day and was transporting some for a week-

end party.)

And it was starting to rain again.

NOT a good sign.

I had taken a wrong turn in Ft. Bend County and was paying the consequences. I began thinking of one's hopeful fortune in the New Year, one's plans and goals and then how just one wrong turn, one bad sign in the road, can alter the best-laid plans for optimism and good fortune and smooth traveling into the new year.

That was this past weekend.

Then this Monday I wake up to hear it's the most depressing day of the year. It turns out that several years ago one of those revealing research studies deemed that the third Monday in January should be called Blue Monday, because it was found to be the most miserable day of the year.

Factors such as past holiday blues, debt, failed New Year's resolutions (what? —I've already failed when it's only mid-Janu-

ary?) and, this year in particular, the deep freeze of cold that recently took most of the country. The continued rains and overcast skies certainly don't help.

In fact, some psychologists have deemed this a SAD time due to Seasonal Affective Disorders that are directly related to the cold and wet weather we experience in winter.

Lack of continued sunshine has been considered for years as the culprit inducing depression for many northern habitant - early 2010 has seen that extended into the south.

It's easy to get a little depressed when you open the newspapers and magazines that early in the new year abound with ads for losing weight, resolutions for exercise programs and all the challenges for creating a "new and more exciting YOU."

I'm retaining the extra five pounds I've accumulated during the holidays, my fortune is still sitting in pieces on the dirty floorboard of my car and I'm too tired

to exercise today or challenge myself toward new and exciting horizons.

Then, even on THIS day - the most depressing day of the year - I drive into Eagle Lake, pretty quiet in its recognition of Martin Luther King Day, as the sun finally comes out full and bright and shining from the day's overcast skies. I find myself directly in front of the new day care sign on Hwy 90 - "New Beginnings".

Bright and colorful and gleaming in the fresh sunlight, the words are positive and promising.

Now that's a good sign.

And following this dreaded day of depression comes:

January 20th - Buttercrunch

Day January 21st - National Hug-

ging Day

January 25th - Opposite Day

January 29th - National Puzzle

Day

Lots of different days and lots of different reasons for joyous living...with hopes that the sun will shine again - tomorrow.

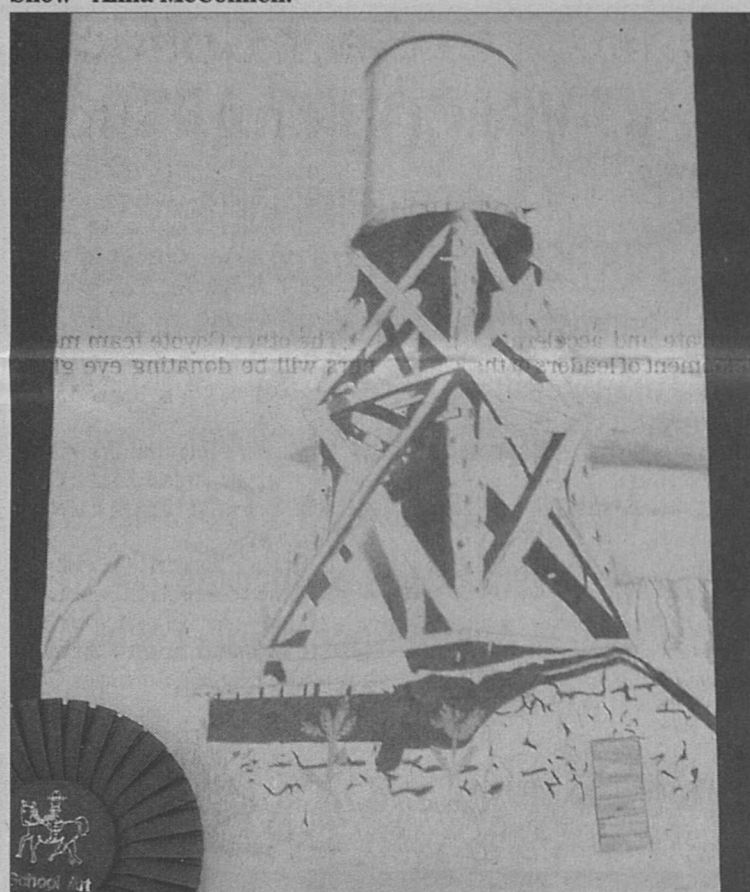
"I can scarcely wait till tomor-

row when a new life begins for me as it does each day as it does each day." ---Zen saying

You can contact Cindy with your views at cindyj_k@hotmail.com



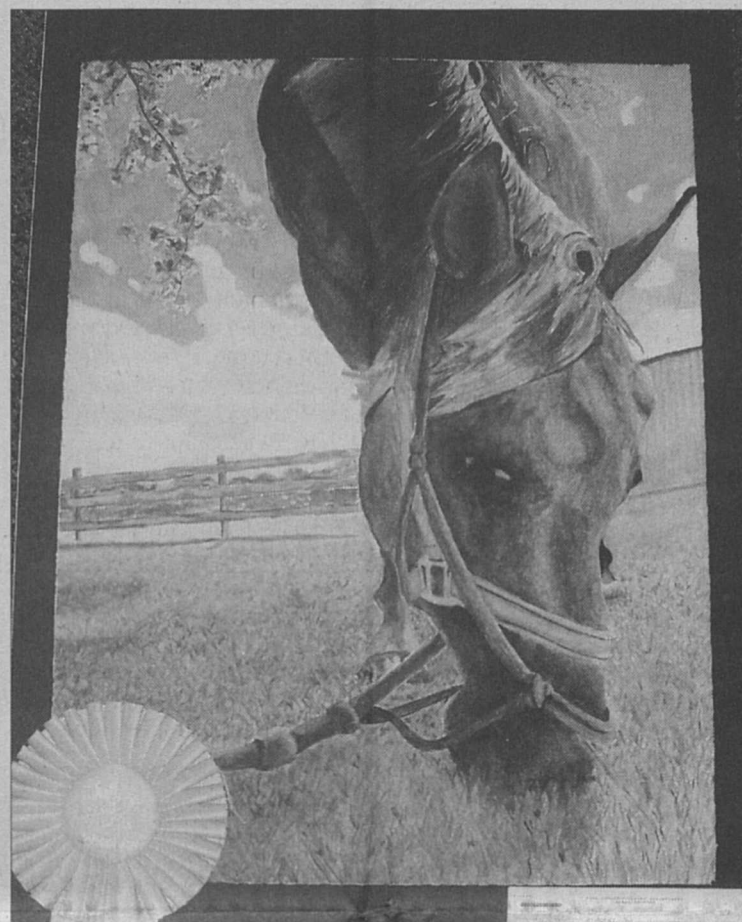
Winners were recently named in the Rice Schools Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Show. Rice High School Best of Show - Anna McConnell.



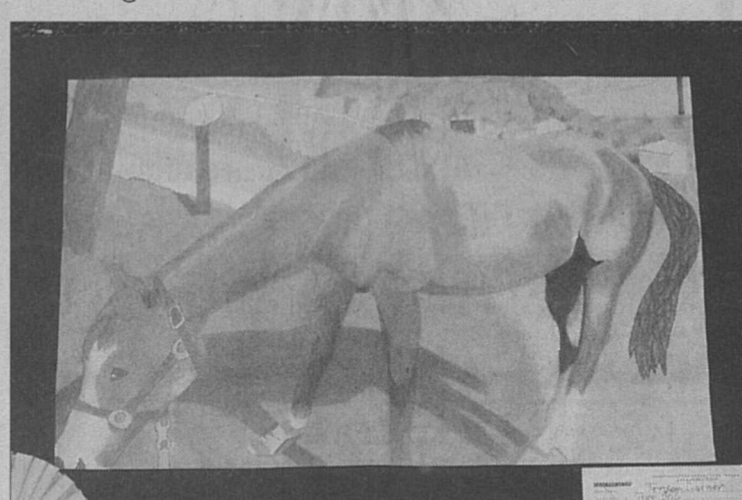
Rice Junior High Best of Show - Adrian Torres.



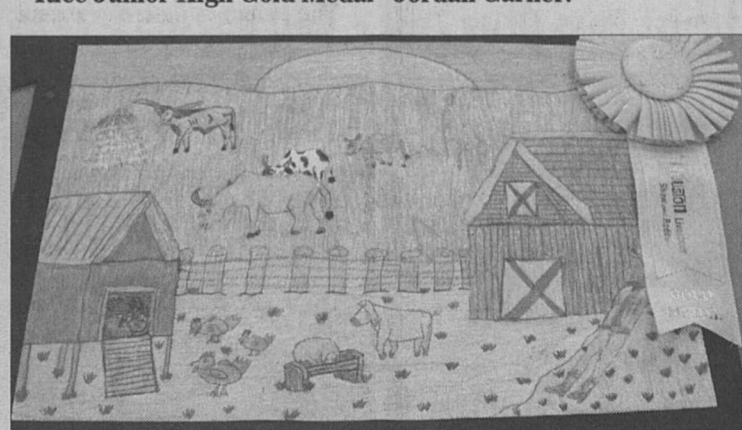
Elementary Best of Show - Emma Kelley.



Rice High school Gold Medal - Nicole Drlik.



Rice Junior High Gold Medal - Jordan Garner.



Elementary Gold Medal - Molly Smidovec.

Rodeo Art Winners Announced

Rice High School held their Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Show Open House on Jan. 13 in the high school commons.

The winners were as follows:

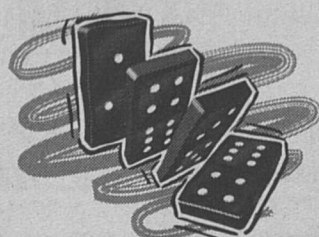
Rice High school Winners: Best of Show - Anna McConnell - Sunset (watercolor); Gold Medal - Nicole Drlik - (watercolor) Horse.

Rice Junior High Winners: Best of Show - Adrian Torres - Water Well; Gold Medal Jordan Garner - Horse.

Elementary Winners: Emma Kelley - Best of Show; Molly Smidovec - Gold Medal.

The winner's work will be displayed in the Hayloft Gallery in Reliant Center during the Houston Rodeo. The winners will attend an awards presentation on March 6, at Reliant to receive their awards and attend the Rodeo performance that afternoon. Congratulations to all the winners.

61st TEXAS STATE DOMINO TOURNAMENT



Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010
K of C Hall Hallettsville
PARTNERS

Registration 7 to 9 a.m.
Double Elimination
Play begins at 9 a.m.

Chicken BBQ Dinner Served in the Hall from
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or Plates To Go Served Outside

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We will be participating in the Weimar Trade Days which kicks off the first weekend of February. This allows us to exhibit and expand in selling our many custom items that we have featured in the store. It looks to be a great opportunity for the surrounding area and we hope that you support us there. It has been our pleasure to serve you and we appreciate all those who were loyal supporters.

WE WILL BE SELLING SOME OF OUR FURNITURE, DISPLAY ITEMS, LAMPS, LARGE PLANTS, ETC. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE COME BY THE STORE OR YOU CAN CALL LYNN AT 832.623.3818.

Sincerely,

Lynn, Jeanne, Sylvia and Trish

Cozy Lounge First Annual "A Taste of New Orleans" Mardi Gras Festival
January 29-31, 2010

Fri. - Masquerade Party - 5 pm - 1 am
Sat. - Lil' Flip Live in Concert - 5 pm- 2 am
Sun. - Live Zydeco & Blues Band Jabo & the Southside Playboys and "A Taste of New Orleans" - 12 pm - 12 am

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