

GARWOOD EXPRESS

CHAS. MRAZEK, Editor and Publisher.

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NADA NEWS.

Heavy rains fell throughout this section the past week. Rain was needed badly for the crops and if no rain falls for a while the rains of the past week will not do much harm. Corn is looking good and growing fast, and the farmers are about through plowing it the second time. Cotton has a good stand but is hidden in grass. Farmers began work in the fields Wednesday and if no rain falls for a few weeks they will make a good headway.

Many from here were ready to leave for Weimar Monday morning to be present at the dedication of the new Catholic church at that place when a telephone message came that the dedication was postponed indefinitely on account of bad weather. In spite of this some of those already prepared to go did not stay back but went anyway to spend a few days in Weimar while they are unable to work in the field. Those that went were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Popp, Sr., and daughter Miss Mary, Mrs. Paul Heine, daughter Miss Annie and son Leo, Messrs Frank Staff, Jr., Joe Popp, Henry Hruzek, Cyril Cernoch, E. J. and W. L. Leopold, Johnny Schneider and Miss Albina Hruzek. Those that intended to go but did not were Messrs Frank Dornak, Sr., Frank Arnold, C. Leopold, Ed.

Braden and Rev. Father Held.

The St. Joseph Society celebrated Sunday in honor of the members. Practically every member was present at the first Mass which began at 8 o'clock and received Holy Communion. Immediately after the service the members went to the parish where breakfast was served them by the good ladies. After attending the second service they went home for dinner. At 3 o'clock in the evening everybody was there again to attend the May devotion, after which a good time was open to all at the parish house. Families brought with them cakes and sandwiches and what else was needed was prepared. The men played Tarock, the women conversed with each other, the young ladies and men rendered several nice songs with Father as director and Miss Adolphina Vogel at the piano. The children played on the outside. The hours passed away pleasantly and everybody enjoying themselves greatly, leaving for home at sunset.

Mr. John Dornak returned from Galveston Monday where he met and accompanied here two people from Bohemia.

Rev. Father Held was a business visitor to San Antonio the first part of the week.

Mr. G. M. Dixon shipped to Kansas Monday 27 head of milk cows. They were all good ones and netted him \$45 a head.

Another dance and party was enjoyed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dornak Sunday evening.

Messrs John and Alois Matucha and sisters Misses Annie and Vlasta, left Monday for their home at Plum.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schoellmann and children of Mexico arrived here one day last week to remain until peace in Mexico is restored.

Mrs. Waligura, who has been making her home with her son, Mr. Robert Waligura of near Garwood, purchased five acres of land from Mr. Joe Dornak, south of the Catholic church, on which she is erecting a home and will make her home there in the future.

Mr. Joe Drapela went to Houston Monday.

We are glad to report that Mrs. John Labay, Sr., who was very sick, is fast recovering.

Messrs Frank and Emil Staff were visitors to Rock Island Monday.

Dedrick Bros., photographers of Weimar, were in this section the past two weeks on business.

By selling for cash we can afford to sell a little cheaper. Let us fill that grocery bill for you. Ben H. Franks.

FORD

THE UNIVERSAL CAR

BUY IT BECAUSE IT'S A BETTER CAR

Model T Runabout \$500
Model T Touring Car \$550
F. O. B. Detroit

Get particulars from C. H. Potthast, Weimar, Texas. Limited agency for Fayette and Colorado counties and part of Wharton county north of a line drawn from Eldridge in Wharton county to Beasley in Ft. Bend county. Sub-Agencies open for good, live men in this territory. Apply at once.

We solicit a share of your 1914 business and promise you courteous and prompt service.

Call at our store before you buy what you need and get our prices, if you want

Shoes, Fine Dress Goods, Ladies', Misses' and Children's Trimmed Hats, or anything in the General Merchandise Line.

We carry a most complete line of GROCERIES and our prices are lower than first-class groceries can be sold at and we guarantee satisfaction. We will sell for cash or in trade for country produce a few articles quoted below:

18 lbs. Granulated sugar for \$1.00
15 lbs. Fancy Head Rice for 1.00
5 lbs. Good Roasted Coffee for 1.00
3 cans Clipper Brand corn25
3 cans Clipper Brand tomatoes25
1 5-lb. can Velva syrup35
1 bushel fancy Idaho eating potatoes 1.30

Give us a trial order, then you will know that we can save you money on your grocery and general merchandise bills. Bring us your country produce. We have the market that we can pay you the top prices. Special prices will be paid for turkeys from now until Easter. We earnestly solicit your business.

A. A. FAREK,
TAITON, TEXAS.

Card of Thanks.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to those that supported me in my race for commissioner at the election Saturday, and to those that could not support me, likewise, realizing that each man voted according to his choice.

J. H. Schoellmann.

Rough Rice For Sale.

Ground or unground rough rice for sale cheap. Good for stock or poultry.

K. M. Cochran.

Clothes Cleaned, Pressed and Repaired

Prices Reasonable and Satisfaction Guaranteed.

J. W. Schneider, Eagle Lake.

Plant cow peas to fertilize your land. On hand now at the Racket Store.

That County Printing Contract

Here Are Explanations From Both Sides—Let The People Judge.

Columbus, Texas, May 10th, 1914.
Mr. Chas. Mrazek,
Editor Express, Garwood, Tex.
Dear Sir:

In your issue of last week you, by innuendo, seek to criticize the action of the commissioners' court in awarding the contract for the county printing. You make no specific statement or charge against the court, but you ask a number of hypothetical questions, and say that you do not agree with the court in the opinion that the contract was awarded to the lowest bidder. Still you give no reasons as to why you do not agree with the court, nor do you attempt to show that any other bid presented would have been better for the county.

While availing myself of your offer of free space for reply, permit me to suggest that it is not a question as to whether or not there is an agreement between you and the court upon the matter. The only question to be considered is, as to whether or not the court accepted the lowest bid, and entered into the best contract for the county that was presented by the bidders. The public are not interested in our agreements, or disagreements. They will want facts, and then judge for themselves as to whether or not the court entered into the best contract.

If you can furnish the space to publish the bids in full, then every body interested can see just what they are, and let each reader be his own judge. I will then cheerfully answer any criticism or give any explanation that may become necessary. If you should desire to publish the bids, please let me know and I will have certified copies sent you free of charge, and will be pleased to have you, or any one else to offer such criticism as you may think proper, reserving the right to reply to the criticism, or of explaining the bids as applied to the county's need. For the present, I shall simply reply to the questions raised by you in your article.

You make the following statement: "It is probably true the court does not know much about printing or the business, but they surely ought to know how to figure." It is true the court knows very little about the printing business, but you being a practical man in that respect, might publish the bids, and figure out and show us wherein some other bid would have been better for the county, than the one accepted by the court.

You also say: "What we want to know is, if the Honorable Commissioners' Court passes on all contracts or bids or any other business coming before them as they did on the county printing." To this question I answer, yes; provided, of course, that the lowest bid was accepted. For the past 18 years the court has always accepted the bid which was to the best interests of the county, unless, possibly, a mistake was made in the figures, as you seem to think was done in this case.

You further say: "We will ask the court the difference between 'legal no-

tices printed as news items,' and legal notices printed as advertisements." In this question you use quotation marks, yet you do not quote correctly. The statement in the bid of Mr. W. R. Gray, to whom the contract was awarded, was as follows:

"Advertisements and legal notices published as news items, free."
You omitted the word "free," in your article. I will say that I believe you did so inadvertently, as I do not believe you would have done so intentionally, and thus willfully have misrepresented the facts. I will add that the late lamented Col. Ben M. Baker always published such matters as news items for the benefit of his subscribers, and very seldom, if ever, accepted any pay therefor. Such things are, as a rule, extremely interesting to the people and tax payers, and a paper by publishing them, will confer a great benefit upon its readers, and add to its popularity.

I suppose that this question needs no further answer, but if so, I will say that the difference between publishing legal notices "free," and legal notices at 1 ct. per line, is a difference of 1 ct per line for each insertion. The difference between legal notices "free," and legal notices at 1 & one third cents per line, is a difference of 1 & one third cents per line. The difference between legal notices "free," and legal notices at 3 cts. per line, is a difference of 3 cts. per line, and those were the figures submitted respectively by the other three bidders. The publication of a single stock law election notice for four weeks as required by law, and the County Judge's proclamation on the result, will amount to considerably more than \$5.00 at only 1 ct. per line, so you can see where this item will figure.

You ask the still further question: "Also if sealed bids are called for have the commissioners the authority to make inquires of the bidder for items omitted after the bid is in and opened for consideration." To this, I will say, that they not only have that authority, but I consider it their sworn duty to do so if the bid is under serious consideration. Evidently it is better to have all uncertain points settled and understood before contracts are entered into, or else disputes and law suits may result. Furthermore, if the bidder were not present to make full explanations of his bid, or to add points inadvertently omitted, then if they were of sufficient importance, it would become the duty of the court to reject all bids, rather than through a mere technicality, enter into a contract detrimental to the interests of the county.

The court has frequently found it consistent with its duty to reject all bids. In the year 1900 when bids were under consideration for the erection of a bridge at what is now the prosperous little town of Garwood, and for the bridge over Cummins creek, all bids were rejected, and thirteen bridge con-

tractors whom we had reason to believe had entered into a combination against the county, were detained until a wire bridge man could arrive from the State of Missouri, and not until it was thought that we were seriously contemplating the erection of wire bridges, could the truss bridge men be brought to satisfactory terms. We finally secured bids and entered into contracts for something like \$8,000 less than the original bids, and thus saved that amount to the tax payers of Colorado county. Mr. Lewis Brownson who was the commissioner of your precinct at the time, will remember this. Viewing the matter from your standpoint, we would have been compelled to have accepted the bids in the first instance, and paid \$8,000 more than the value of the bridges.

Last month when bids were submitted for rebuilding the bridges that were washed out by the flood of last December, three of the bidders were called in to explain certain points in their respective propositions about which there might be some misunderstanding. There was no objection to this from any of the bidders present, as all conceded it was perfectly right and legitimate. The time has come when no man should hope to win on a technicality.

In conclusion permit me to say that at no time within the past 18 years, has any bidder been given an advantage over another bidder in the commissioners court of Colorado county, and if I am permitted to live for the next two and one half years, such shall not be the case during that time. All bidders have been, and shall continue to be treated fairly, squarely, and honestly; but at the same time, the tax payers of Colorado county, who pay the bills, shall receive the same careful consideration, and be entitled to the same rights accorded to others.

Thanking you in advance for the publication of this article, which I have written without an opportunity of consulting the commissioners, and hoping to be given an opportunity of making further explanations in the event the bids are published by you,

I am, Very Respectfully,
J. J. Mansfield,
County Judge.

CITIZEN'S BID.
Columbus, Texas, May 2nd, 1914.—To the Hon. Commissioners Court of Colorado County. I make the following bid for the county printing:

Legal Blanks.
One-half sheet per 1000 \$3.20
One-fourth sheet per 1000 2.15
One-eighth sheet per 1000 2.10
Envelopes and Letter Heads.
6 3-4 size Envelopes per 1000 2.15
10 size envelopes per 1000 3.20
Letter Heads per 1000 2.80
Advertising and legal notices published as news items free.
Very respectfully,
W. R. Gray,
Editor Citizen.

cents a name for delinquent tax list.

MERCURY'S BID.
Weimar, Tex., April 30, 1914.—Bid for county printing, Weimar Mercury.

Legal Blanks.
Full sheet per 100 \$1.25
" " " 1000 4.80
Half " " 100 1.00
" " " 1000 3.40
Quarter " " 10075
" " " 1000 2.25
Eight " " 10065
" " " 1000 2.00
Letter Heads.
Lithographed, standard price according to quality.
Printed, per 10035
Printed, per 1000 2.75
Envelopes.
No. 6 3-4 size, per 10025
" " " 1000 2.00
No. 10 size, per 10035
" " " 1000 3.00
Advertising.
Advertising and legal notices 1 cent per line per issue.
Delinquent tax list as provided by law at 7 cents per name.
Respectfully submitted,
The Weimar Mercury.

We publish in this issue the letter from Judge Mansfield replying to our recent article on the letting of the county printing to the Colorado Citizen. The Judge states at the outset of his article that we are charging the court "by innuendo," and invites us to publish the bids. To show that we are fair with the people we are publishing the bids of the Colorado Citizen and Weimar Mercury for comparison, as, in our opinion the Mercury should have been awarded the contract.

We are also going to state not only our reasons for saying the bid presented by the Mercury would have been better for the county, but also state why the bid should not and could not legally have been awarded to the Citizen. At the outset, however, we wish our readers to verify each statement we make by the figures as shown on the bids, as most of our contentions are based on the figures. The law providing for the letting of county printing on bids states (Art. 2262, R. S.) that "the stationery shall be divided into four classes," and the class under which the bids were submitted is classed as "B," which the law says "shall embrace all legal blanks, letter heads and other printing, stationery and blank papers." Our understanding of the law is that publishing

(Continued on page 2.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FOR STATE SENATOR.

We are authorized to announce Dr. I. E. Clark of Schellenburg as a candidate for re-election to the office of State Senator for this senatorial district, subject to the action of the democratic primaries. He solicits your vote and your influence.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE.

We are authorized to announce Mr. J. V. Franks of Columbus a candidate for the office of State Legislator of the 71st district, comprising Colorado and Austin counties, subject to the action of the democratic primaries.

WHARTON COUNTY.

The Express is authorized to announce J. M. Kujewski of Taiton as a candidate for commissioner of precinct No. 2, Wharton county, subject to the action of White Man's Union Association Primaries, July 29th, 1914.

Meat Market.

Beef and Pork.

Fresh meats on sale at all times, kept in our big ice refrigerator. Sausage during cool weather. Country lard at all times. Your patronage will be appreciated. Call on us.

All Steaks, at per lb. 14c.
Chill meat, at per lb. 9c.

Brate & Gerrard