

STATE ASKS FOR BIDS ON OYSTER PLANTING

STANLEY B. DAGGETT NEW RATION BOARD CHAIRMAN

Injured In Blast



LT. JACK SANDERS
... Loses His Hand

Lt. Jack Sanders Loses Hand In Explosion

Lt. Jack Sanders, engineering corps of the Marines, had his left hand blown off in an explosion at New River, N. C., last week. His condition was reported as satisfactory several days following the accident.

According to information received here by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Sanders, Lt. Sanders was injured when he pulled the releasing ring on a high explosive detonator. It is believed the mechanism was defective and the explosion occurred immediately after the ring was pulled, instead of ten seconds later as correct timing should have been.

Mrs. Sanders was with her husband, leaving here several weeks ago. Their small son is here with his grandparents.

Seven Hundred Pay Poll Tax Before Feb. 1

Sheriff and Tax Collector A. R. Curry said today that 703 persons had paid their poll tax before the close of Jan. 31, entitling that number to vote in elections this year.

Sheriff Curry estimated that there are some two hundred exempt from poll tax payment and can vote, making the voting strength of the county between nine hundred and a thousand.

Poll Tax payments show a slight decline this year. In 1942, 879 paid poll taxes, 702 in 1943, 784 in 1944, and 703 this year.

Judge T. M. Cox Rockport Native, Dies in Beville

BEEVILLE.—Funeral services for Judge T. M. Cox will be held in First Methodist Church here at 10:30 Friday morning with burial in Glenwood Cemetery under the auspices of the Masonic Lodge. Judge Cox died suddenly at his home at 3:20 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. He had been ill for some time but had been able to visit his office and serve his clients until Wednesday.

A native of Rockport, the son of the Rev. A. F. and Amelia Atlee Cox, Judge Cox came to Beville in 1894. He was employed as a stenographer in the office of Judge J. C. Crisp where he studied law and was admitted to the bar in San Antonio.

He served Bee County as county attorney for eight years, county judge ten years and was appointed judge of the 36th Judicial Court by Governor Pat Neff in 1922 to succeed Judge M. A. Childers resigned and held the office for 12 years. Prior to that he had been

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Daggett Replaces Hildenbrand On Local OPA Board

Hildenbrand Rounds Out Year and Half of Volunteer Service

Stanley B. Daggett is now chairman of the Aransas County War Price and Rationing Board, taking the oath of office Wednesday morning. He replaces Herman Hildenbrand, who has given volunteer service to the work of the war agency since May 1943.

Hildenbrand resigned because of increasing personal duties, making it impractical for him to carry on.

Daggett is the fourth chairman of the ration board since rationing began in 1942. J. F. Bullard was the first chairman, then D. C. McBride and Hildenbrand.

Daggett has been a resident of Rockport for 14 years. He came here from Decatur, Texas, in February, 1930, and for the past several years has operated the Cedars Cottages. He worked in the shipyard here when submarine chasers were being made for the Navy, and served from Nov. 13, 1942, until Mar. 23, 1943, in the Army. He missed by one week going into the Army in the first world war, coming of military age only shortly before the armistice.

Rockport Woman Receives Good and Bad News from Boys

Mrs. Gaudalupa Solis had sorrow and joy mingled in messages from her boys. She received a message from the War Department that her son, Jesus Solis, was wounded in Belgium, and also a message that her youngest son, Costancio Solis had arrived back in the United States for a 36 day furlough from the Pacific, where he has been in action.

Sergeant Jack Sparks Ill With Pneumonia

Mrs. Jack Sparks has just received a letter from her husband, Technical Sergeant Sparks, saying that he has been in a hospital with pneumonia since January 13th. The letter was written the 20th and in it he reported he was getting along fine. He added that a Major from Alice was taking care of him and that he really was a wonderful doctor. Sgt. Sparks is in Italy.

Sergeant Frank R. Muska Released From Overseas Duty In South Pacific

Sgt. Muska Has Flown 183 Combat Missions With Carrier Unit

FIFTH AIR FORCE, Southwest Pacific.—Staff Sergeant Frank R. Muska has been released from overseas duty with a Troop Carrier Unit, having spent 16 months in New Guinea.

Mrs. Gladys M. Muska, his wife, resides at 1107 Ohio Avenue, Alamo, New Mexico. His parents live near Rockport.

As radio operator of a Douglas Transport airplane, Sgt. Muska has flown more than 1000 hours in operational flight missions, many of which involved flying at low altitudes over dangerous mountain terrain. He has flown 183 combat missions into territory where enemy interception was most probable and expected.

Sergeant Muska was graduated from Rockport High School in June 1936, where he was a letterman in football and basketball for three years. He subsequently attended Texas A. and M. where he studied Civil Engineering.

Prior to his joining the Army Air Forces in October 1942, Sergeant Muska was employed by the Texas Highway Department.

V. F. W. BENEFIT OYSTER FRY SET FRIDAY



VFW OYSTER COOKERS—Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Thomson will preside at the oyster frying kettles Friday to supply all the fried oysters—done to just the right degree—that anyone wants to eat at the Veteran of Foreign Wars benefit oyster fry. They are shown above preparing a few samples.



NOT ON K.P. DUTY—Mrs. Richard Hapner, left, and Mrs. J. R. Williams, are not WACs on K.P. Duty. They merely volunteered to help prepare food for the VFW oyster sale Friday from 11 a. m. until night at the fire house. Result they peeled 25 pounds of potatoes and mixed them into a salad.

Sgt. Henry Robbins Wounded In Action In France January 11

Mrs. Charline Robbins received a message last week from the war department that her husband, Sgt. Henry D. Robbins, was wounded in action Jan. 11 in France. The message said that full details would follow from a hospital.

Singing Convention Meets Sunday At Fulton Community Church

The Aransas County Singing Convention will meet Sunday afternoon, from 2 until 5 o'clock, at the Fulton Community church, according to announcement by Joe Smith, president of the convention. It is expected that a quartette of singers from Corpus Christi will be a feature of the program.

Public Invited To Eat Oysters At Fire House

Anytime from 11 o'clock Friday morning, Feb. 2, until late in the evening anyone can go to the fire house and eat fried oysters.

The oyster fry has been arranged as a benefit for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the VFW Auxiliary. Members of the organization will be on hand to prepare and serve the oysters from the morning opening hour until as late in the evening as people come to eat.

Funds derived from the sale will go into the treasury of the V. F. W. and Auxiliary to aid those organizations in carrying out their programs of work.

Everyone is invited to stop by the fire house some time during the noon hour, afternoon or evening and enjoy an oyster dinner, and at the same time help a worthy cause.

Rockport Miss Is Indiana "Cover Girl"

Little Verna Anne Taseman appeared as "Cover Girl" on the December magazine published by the Indiana State Board of Health of which her aunt, Miss Charlotte Haseman, is associate editor.

Under the "Our Cover" was the following caption: "This is our fourth wartime holiday season, but this youngster is enjoying a more or less typical Christmas—for this we can be thankful. She is too young to miss her daddy overseas. It is our prayer that the New Year may bring peace and all of us together again."

In the picture, Verna Anne was clad in pajamas and was gleefully rocking on a platform horse under her second Christmas tree. Other toys surrounded the tree. The picture was taken by Jack Blackwell.

Verna Anne is the daughter of Capt. and Mrs. J. D. Haseman. Capt. Haseman is battery commander of "A" Battery in the 294th F. A. Observation Battalion and is now overseas. Mrs. Haseman and daughter are staying here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Brundrett.

Although written in 1776, the original copy of our Declaration of Independence is still in good, readable condition.

NEW RATION BOARD CHAIRMAN



STANLEY B. DAGGETT
... Fourth Board Chairman

Stanley B. Daggett became the fourth chairman of the Aransas County War Price and Rationing Board here Wednesday when he took oath of office. He is shown above taking his oath, which is being given by Mrs. Dudley Bracht, chief clerk of the board.

Army Seeking Women to Help In Hospitals

Women from the San Antonio area can now enlist in the Women's Army Corps and be assured of an initial assignment at Brooke General Hospital. They will serve as medical or surgical technicians or hold commensurate administrative duties, according to information received from Headquarters Eighth Service Command, Dallas, by 1st Lt. Edythe S. Cobbe, commanding officer of the 3898th service unit, San Antonio.

Women are eligible for this enlistment if they are between the ages of 20 and 50, have two years of high school education, and successfully complete the current basic qualifications for enlistment in the Women's Army Corps.

Edward Stumberg Injured In War Visits Rockport

Lt. Edward Stumberg, who suffered a severe leg injury in a parachute fall in the European theatre, is paying a visit this week-end to old friends and enjoying an outing. He was accompanied by his wife, mother, Mrs. H. E. Stumberg, and brother, Louis Stumberg.

Lt. Stumberg is on a 30-day sick leave from an El Paso hospital. He was injured after he had bailed out of a flaming B-17 over Europe, the jump being made from about 22,000 feet. As he neared the ground a down-draft let him drop suddenly, injuring his leg. He will return to the El Paso hospital at the end of his leave.

The Stumbergs now live in San Antonio.

Rehabilitation Program to Get Underway Soon

\$25,000 Allotted to Project of Rehabilitating Oyster Reefs

The Game, Fish and Oyster Commission has announced that it will now receive bids on planting oysters in connection with an announced oyster rehabilitation program. The oysters are to be taken from Copano Bay and will be planted on designated reefs in Aransas Bay.

Bids are to be based on the cost per barrel of dredging, cleaning and planting the oysters. The basis is an oyster barrel, 8,100 cubic inches or the equivalent of a box 20 inches by 30 inches by 13 1/2 inches inside.

Proper blank bid forms can be secured at the G.F.O.C. office at the Court House in Rockport, with full instructions. Bidding is open to all operators. The lowest bids will be accepted and contracts awarded.

The purpose of the program is to rehabilitate the best producing reefs, thus keeping a supply of good oysters available for commercial use. The saltier waters of the lower bays are more suitable to the growth and development of oysters, and the oysters taken from the back bay will be properly spaced in planting to allow for better development and growth.

Dr. Gordon Gunter, marine biologist, will act in an advisory capacity in planting the oysters.

Truck Driver Charged In Fatal Crash

(PICTURES ON PAGE 2)

Negligent homicide charges were filed here Tuesday against Julius Benavides, San Antonio truck driver, following a truck-motorcycle crash on highway 35 Friday night that left two dead. The complaint charges that Benavides was on the wrong side of the highway when the crash occurred.

Mrs. Vavara C. Burks, 20, and Richard Bailey Brown, 44, were riding the motorcycle. Brown was killed instantly, with almost every bone in his body being broken. Mrs. Burks lived about an hour and a half and died after being taken to a Corpus Christi hospital in a Cage Funeral home ambulance.

Justice of the Peace Joe Smith held an inquest at the scene of the crash.

Sheriff A. R. Curry and Jimmy Huntsman of the State Department of Public Safety made an investigation of the accident Friday night and were at first of the opinion that the truck driver was not at fault. After a re-check of the accident scene the next day, the officers came to the conclusion that driver of the truck was on the wrong side of the road and the negligent homicide complaint was filed.

A warrant for the arrest of Benavides was sent to San Antonio. He was apprehended there and placed under bond to appear in County Court here Monday.

With Benavides in the truck at the time of the accident was Ben Gillian. They had been setting stones in the Rockport Cemetery and were on their way back to San Antonio when the crash happened about a half-mile south of the city on highway 35. Benavides has only recently been released from the Navy after two years duty in the South Pacific.

Mrs. Burks is survived by her husband, Sgt. Thomas S. Burks, now stationed in England, her step father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Preston of Harlingen; a brother, Walter Cole of Aransas Pass; and five sisters, Mrs. Awilda Dooling, yeoman, third class, USNR of San Pedro, Calif., Mrs. Theone Beasley of Aransas Pass, Mrs. Athonette Ward and Mrs. Dovenia

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