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Septic tanks plague most rural residents

By MIKE CRIM
Assistant Editor

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of stories concerning the function of the Angelina County and Cities Health District. In this installment, one of the major duties of the health department is examined — that of sewage disposal system licensing.

For the majority of Angelina Countians, who live inside the city limits of one of the county's incorportated areas, the matter of sewage disposal is something thought of only when the monthly bill arrives, or occasionally when there is a clog in the system.

But for a number of rural residents in this county the problem of sewage disposal is one that is a constant battle. The main reason for the problem is that the septic tank systems used in rural locations where no city sewer lines are located just don't work properly here.

Septic tank systems in Angelina County are notorious for not operating properly. Complaints from neighbors living next door to a faulty system usually begin in the spring — when the soil is saturated from rain and it's warm enough for people to get outside again. What they sometimes find is that the septic tank has overflowed — surfaced — and is dumping raw sewage above ground.

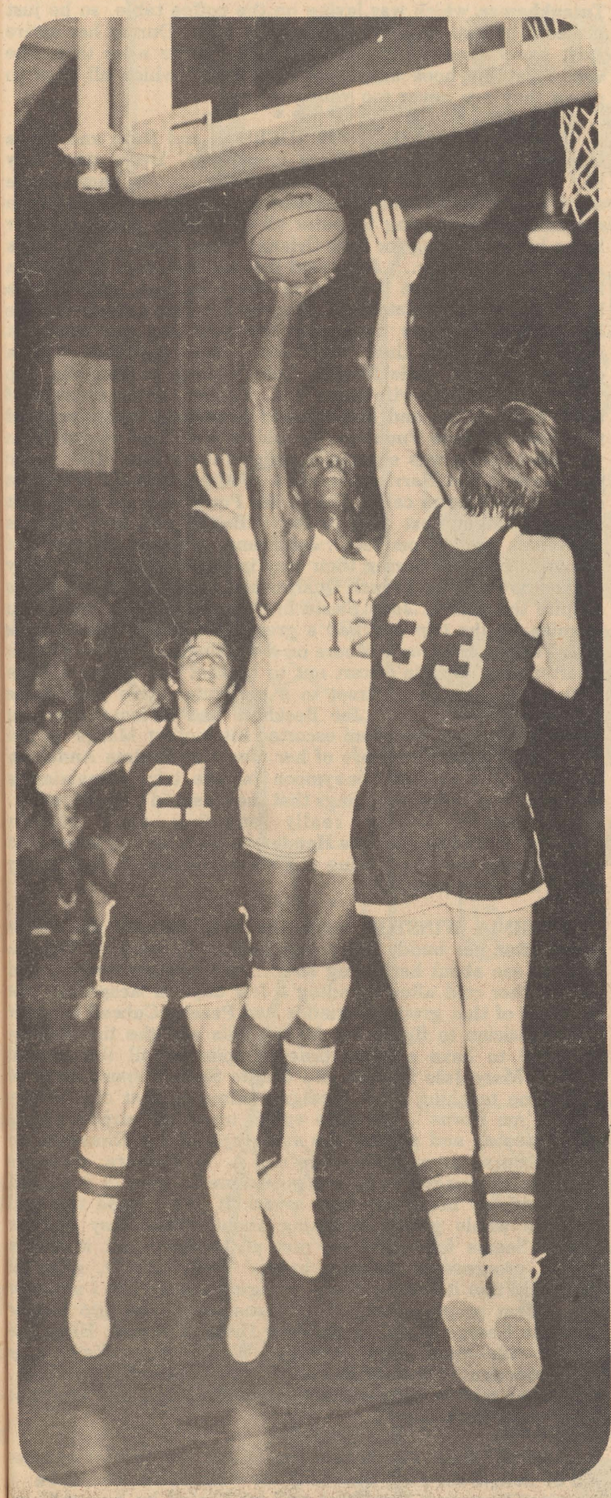
That's when the complaints start rolling in at the health department offices — and inspectors are sent to survey the problem. What they usually find is a disposal system which was installed before the state began requiring septic system inspection and licensing by the health department.

Often, a system will consist of little more than a 55-gallon oil drum connected to some sort of makeshift field line system which has clogged and caused the overflow. Sometimes, however, the sewer system consists of nothing more than a pipe flowing into an open bar ditch — what health inspectors call "a fragrant violation".

Such a situation is, in fact, a violation of the state health codes, but until recently there was very little the health department could do to enforce the law, since it is mainly an investigatory agency. Extreme cases might be turned over to the county attorney, but such cases are not common.

Since the creation of the Texas Water Quality Control Board, however, the health department can now require builders of new homes and owners of older homes who are planning to sell their

(See SEPTIC, Page Eight)



HUDSON FALLS

DIBOLL'S JOHNNY LEWIS (12) jumps between Hudson's Ricky Hefner (21) and Jerry Arnold (33) to score two points Tuesday night as the Lumberjacks defeated the defending zone champions, 32-23. It was one of the lowest scoring varsity games played here in some time, as Diboll held an 8-6 halftime lead. Diboll now leads the District 17-AA north zone with a 3-0 record and is now 12-8 on the season. See story on page five. (Free Press Photo)

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Blake running hard for Don Adams' Senate seat

By Mike Crim

As the deadline for filing in the Feb. 18 special election approached Wednesday, it appeared that Roy Blake of Nacogdoches would run unopposed for the State Senate seat recently vacated by Don Adams.

At press time Wednesday afternoon, Blakes' name was the only one listed on the official ballot for the special election with only hours before the filing deadline of 5 p.m. Blake resigned his post in the State House of Representatives to run for the Senate seat shortly after Adams gave up that seat to become legal counsel for the governor's office.

Absentee voting for the special election will begin Monday, Jan. 30 and will continue through Tuesday, Feb. 14. All absentee voting will be held at the county courthouse Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

Meanwhile, although there appeared to be little interest in the State Senate race, Angelina County Democrats were busy gearing up for the Democratic Primary election.

The most interesting race in county politics this year could be the race for county judge. Incumbent Claude E. Welch has only one opponent so far — former county tax assessor-collector Dan Jones who resigned that post last year to enter private business.

Welch's campaign thus far has been keyed on his record in the county courthouse — that of reorganizing county government, keeping a tight budget and working in harmony with county commissioners.

Jones says that one of the main reasons that he is running against Welch is because of the way funding for the courthouse expansion project now under way was handled.

The former tax assessor-collector said that he thinks that the matter should have been decided by public referendum, rather than by the commissioners court.

The commissioners court voted to issue the $1 million in certificates of obligation rather than call a bond election.

Several other major offices in county government are thus far uncontested. Incumbent county and district clerks Paul Selman and Jimmy Griggs have both filed for reelection, and neither has an opponent yet.

County Treasurer Frona Lee has announced that she will run for reelection to the office which she has held since Jewel McRae Roy resigned last year. Mrs. Lee, a longtime county employee, was appointed by the commissioners court to fill Mrs. Roy's unexpired term.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Robert Colwell remains unopposed in his bid for reelection to that post, but Precinct 2 Commissioner DeWitt Hinson has drawn opposition from L. B. (Jiggs) Smith, who served as interim county commissioner following the resignation of former commissioner Louis Parise.

Four of the five incumbents in the justice of the peace races have filed for reelection. Hulen McClure, Precinct 1; Bill Pinner, Precinct 2; Alvis Barge Sr., Precinct 4; and Thelma Fenley, Precinct 5; have all filed for the JP posts and are thus far unopposed.

Precinct 3 JP Chester Donnell has yet to file for reelection, but two other candidates have entered that race. Wilburn Carrell and Marie Flurry are both seeking the JP post in Huntington.

Neither district court judge has drawn an opponent. Both incumbents David Walker (159th District Court) and David V. Wilson (217th District Court) have filed for reelection.

County Court-at-Law Judge David Cook will also have to run for reelection this year due to a state ruling which will put all county court four-year terms back on even year staggered terms.

Deadline for filing in the Democratic Primary election is 6 p.m. Feb. 6. Candidates may file either with Democratic chairman John Henry Tatum or treasurer Dan Fenley.

Cold wave hits county

Rainfall, accompanied by frigid temperatures, again gripped Angelina County Wednesday, after a short clearing trend Tuesday. Rainfall amounts in excess of one-half inch were reported Wednesday afternoon, as temperatures hovered near the freezing mark.

Wednesday's rains followed heavy showers Monday which dumped more than two inches on the county. Official totals at the Diboll Municipal golf course indicated 2.3 inches fell between Sunday night and Monday afternoon.

The rain Monday brought the year rainfall total to 4.4 inches, with forecasters predicting more rain and some sleet, and a slight chance of snow late Wednesday and Thursday morning.



SOIL TESTING

JAMES TEMPLETON, inspector with the Angelina County and Cities Health District, pours water into a test hole while performing a percolation test to measure water absorption. The health department performs dozens of tests each year prior to approving installation of septic tank systems in rural areas. The tests are especially useful in Angelina County, where poor soil conditions prohibit proper operation of septic tank systems. (Free Press Photo)

Huntington losing 60% of natural gas purchases

By PAM MOORE

HUNTINGTON — City officials in Huntington have stepped up their quest for funds to repair worn out natural gas lines after discovering that about half the gas it purchases is being lost through leaks and line seepages.

The Free Press was told this week that the city last year lost about 40 percent of the gas it purchased. That loss is believed to be near 60 percent during the early days of 1978.

A representative from the Texas Railroad Commission was in Huntington this week to look over the situation with city engineer Jerry Griffith and city officials.

Water was pumped into several lines along Highway 69 in a search for leaks, and the searchers found a number of leaks. They know others exist.

City officials explained that lines are so deteriorated that pressure has to be increased to maintain adequate pressure at the far end of the lines. This increased pressure apparently is responsible for additional cracks in the lines.

In addition to a possible dangerous situation, the city cannot afford the huge losses being incurred because of the faulty lines.

The city has purchased 5,000 feet of pipe to replace the worst line, from the regulator station down Walnut to Main Street. This line is to be installed soon.

But that is only part of the problem, and the city has applied for a grant from the HUD Community Development Program because it hasn't the money to completely overhaul lines that have been in use since the system was installed in 1954.

No word has been received on that application to HUD.

It was not clear what would be the result of the visit from the Railroad Commission representative, who came at the city's request.

Meanwhile, council on January 12 approved an increase in natural gas rates that it hopes will partially offset the rising costs of operation.

That increase will be effective February 1 and will include a $4.10 base plus 1.4 times the cost of gas used by customers inside the city, and a rate of 1.5 times the $4.10

(See GAS LOSS, Page Eight)

City delays rate request

Diboll City Council went through the formality Monday night of delaying for 120 days a rate increase requested by Texas Power & Light Co.

District Manager James Kerbo made the request and told council members that there could be good news for TP&L customers in the years ahead as fuel costs begin to stabilize.

Kerbo said that TP&L is far ahead of many other electric companies in developing new fuel sources, chiefly lignite, and that this "good management" will pay off in lower electric bills in the future.

He said some other companies are continuing to use natural gas and that they will eventually be hit with the same problems that TP&L has chosen to attack for the past ten years.

Council members had little to say about the request and went through the formality of delaying the request for 120 days. Diboll and other cities served by TP&L have employed experts to study the rate request, and nothing will happen until this study is completed and the Texas Public Utility Commission rules on the request.

In other action Monday the council accepted the bid of Greater Lufkin Ford for three new police patrol cars.

Greater Lufkin Ford bid $17,814.12, allowed a total of $4,100 for three trade-ins for a total bid of $13,714.12.

Morrow Buick-Pontiac had the lowest total bid of $12,809.76, but City Manager Jeff Holberg said their bid did not completely follow city specifications.

Ralph New Motors' bid was for $14,650.74.

The new patrol cars will be

(See CITY, Page Eight)

'Didn't get fair shake' says policeman Miller

Veteran Diboll police officer Ira Miller said this week he feels he "didn't get a fair shake" when he was terminated last week by City Manager Jeff Holberg.

Miller was fired Monday, January 9, by Holberg at the recommendation of Police Chief Dewey Wolf.

Holberg said Miller was "terminated for cause". Asked what the cause was, Holberg said that he questioned Miller's ability to continue to perform properly as an officer.

Holberg did not cite any specific examples, but said he questioned a series of incidents involving Miller.

Miller talked with The Free Press and said there had been several minor incidences, none of which he felt was "anywhere serious enough" to warrant his discharge.

"I just don't feel that I got a fair shake. I don't understand it," Miller said. "I have always tried to treat everyone courteously, and I've never had anything but cooperation from local citizens."

Miller, who is 66, said he had enjoyed his seven years on the force, and he did not wish to go into detail for publication on what he termed the minor reasons for his dismissal.

Miller said he had discussed the situation personally with all members of the city council. Council apparently discussed the matter in a closed meeting Monday night and upheld Holberg's decision.

Miller had been on the police force longer than anyone except Chief Wolf.

He is the second patrolman to be dismissed by Holberg since Holberg became city manager. Frank Braggs was terminated about a year ago, also for what Holberg termed a number of infractions against city and police policies.

Rev. Emma Irick: *A blessing to everyone*



REV. EMMA IRICK

By Ellen Temple
Special Press Writer

"Did you thank God this morning that you are alive?"
"Pray God, make me a blessing to someone today."

Rev. Emma Irick's voice rang out from the pulpit of the First Nazarene Church of Lufkin where she delivered the sermon last Thanksgiving. The words are not so unusual — just the fact that she absolutely lives by them.

Emma Irick is an extraordinary person. She'll be 90 years old this Jan. 24, and she's been preaching for 71 of these years. Simply to be a woman preacher is unusual.

Even though most Protestant denominations welcome women ministers, they only comprise two percent of the clergy in the nation. In Angelina County female missionaries come and go, but to the best of my knowledge, Rev. Emma Irick is the only woman who has served as a pastor, which she did at the First Nazarene Church of Lufkin for 26 years, from 1933 to 1959.

Before and after that ministry she was an evangelist, preaching all across the continent as she says, "from Philadelphia to Seattle, from Hawaii to Panama, from the U. S. to Canada".

But to hear Mrs. Irick tell it, there's nothing unusual about her being a minister. She says, "I never had any trouble being a woman preacher", except for once. And that incident occurred in a small West Texas town in about 1910. One of the church elders spoke privately to her husband Rev. Allie Irick, with whom she shared preaching and singing revival duties, and proclaimed that his church didn't want to hear "no woman preachers".

But Mr. Irick didn't have the heart to tell her because she was young in the ministry, and he didn't want to discourage her. So she went ahead and preached anyway, and the congregation loved her! And only later did Mr. Irick tell her what the elder had said. Mr. Irick always helped her; "He thought I was a great preacher."

And such discrimination never got her down, never, for a moment gave her any doubts that her main mission, her purpose in life, was to preach the Gospel. Probably no women and few men have preached for 71 years. What are Mrs. Irick's personal qualities that gave her the confidence to tread where few others have?

Her story, her autobiography, "The King's Daughter" (1973) gives us clues. Her main quality is her mental and physical independence. And she learned it as a child on her family's Oklahoma farm where as the oldest girl of five children with an ailing mother, she had to take on some household responsibility when she was only seven years old.

By the time she was ten she was baking bread and sewing her own clothes. Her mother needed her help, "never reprimanding when I did things less than perfect, but always letting me try my hand and thereby learn from experience."

Prayer, Bible reading, revivals, and the family altar were central in her family's life. And her parents' faith helped nurture Emma's independence. Because when she was determined, they let her go. She drove a buggy eight miles to high school and back in Jewell City, Kansas, and at 16, she set off for Northwest Teachers College in Alva, Oklahoma, with no money and no acquaintances at the college.

But she got a job at her boarding house, took all the subjects the administration offered, and was licensed to teach by the time she was 18.

Teaching helped meet expenses but her secret ambition was to be a doctor like her counsin Gussie in Chicago. But at a revival hosted by her father at their farm, she received God's call to preach His word. She resisted, "I don't want to!" She wanted to be a doctor, a teacher, anything but a preacher! There was no model to follow, no person to encourage her either way.

But finally she had to yield to God's call. As Mrs. Irick said in a DALLAS TIMES HERALD interview in 1977: "When the Holy Spirit bears

(See REV. IRICK, Page Eight)

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DIBOLL FOLKS

By Nan Miller

THE SUPER BOWL is over — what do we talk about now? Buddy, Ellen, Lottie and Arthur Temple went to New Orleans for the big game. They ran into several ex-residents of our area — Don Weir was there from Nacogdoches, Janelle and Clifford Grum flew down from New York and Donna and Benny Brown drove in from Conroe.

— —

STILL HOSPITALIZED this week and undergoing more tests is Constable Monk Warner...We wish a speedy recovery to Carole Taylor who is also in Lufkin's Memorial Hospital.

— —

VOTED EMPLOYEE of the Month at the Sirloin Stockade is Diboll's Barbara Windsor. Barbara was employed at the old Country Manor but has been at the Sirloin Stockade since November...Peggy Scarborough is now working at Temple Associates...Beryl Moses recently transferred from Sabine Investment to Temple's Accounting Department.

— —

VISITING HERE this week from Beaumont are Beverly and Glenn Wells. They are with his mother Mrs. Liddy Wells of Lufkin and her parents the J. D. Taylors and other friends and relatives... Dianne Pavlic was in from Waco for a visit with her parents, the Carl Pavlics.

— —

THINGS ARE REALLY slow this time of year so I need all the help I can get. Please call me with your items of interest at 829-4196 or 829-5547.

— —

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following: Cecil Purdy, Leah Ritchie, January 19; Cathy Carr, Betty (Sam) Russell, Robert Fenley, January 20; Avis Vaught, Terry Grantham, A. R. Weber, Charlene Murry, Peggy Moore, Jim Childs, January 21; Paul Stovall, Patti Glass, Ray McLain, Nell Havard, January 22; Lowell Green, Tommy Fenley, Billy Wayne Breazeale, Lloyd Youngblood, January 23; Melba Johnson, Brenda Ruby, January 24; Jim Dunlap, Lila Murphy, Effie Hanson, Tom Williams, F. W. Taylor, Geraldene Lesan, Oleta Craft, January 25.

— —

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to Harold and Hazel Turner, January 20; Ernest and Lane Camp, January 21; Dick and Oneta Hendrick, Lucy and Doug Warner, John and Sandra Ingram, January 25.

The News Of HUDSON

Frankie Barington

Happy birthday to Laura Glover, Markus Madden, Gabriel Guerra, Joyce Little, Lisa Murphy, Pat Cook, Melissa Standifird, Ada Havard, Julie Temple, Lisa Lee, Ronny Johnston, Robert Strisko, Stephanie Miles, Cindy Green, James Brock, Bessie Buerra, L. G. Murphy, Dell Harris, and Brad and Chad Barington.

Happy anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. James Brock and Mr. and Mrs. John Jones.

The Hudson Booster Club met Monday, January 9, for their regular meeting. The main topic of the meeting was concerned with the organizing of the Little Dribblers basketball program for eleven and twelve year old boys and girls. The club scheduled a try-out session for Saturday, January 21, at 1 p.m. in the old gymnasium on the junior high campus. Officers for the Little Dribblers League were selected.

The Hudson PTA will not have a regular scheduled meeting in January or February but will resume in March.

The Hudson Hornets boys basketball team played the Corrigan-Camden Bulldogs, and won by a score of 59-28 last Friday night. They played the Diboll Lumberjacks Tuesday night at Diboll. Diboll and Hudson have a 2-0 record in 17-2A District.

The Hudson Hornet girls basketball team beat Broaddus this past week. This brought their record to 20-1. Hudson beat Broaddus 58-40.

The first session of kindergarten ended Friday, January 13, at Hudson Elementary School. The second session began Monday, January 16. About 65 five-year-olds have pre-registered for second session. The first session contained only 41.

Mr. and Mrs. Elton Anderson have a new yellow LTD automobile. So proud for them. Boy, is it pretty!



RON TURNER (right) was one of the last hunters to wind up a successful deer season before it closed Dec. 31. Turner bagged his five-point buck in Old River Club No. 2 on Dec. 28 while hunting with brother Bobby. (Free Press Photo)

Rev. Emma Irick

A blessing to everyone

(Continued From Page One)

witness with your spirit, you know what God wants you to do. It's not guess work."

Heeding the call, Mrs. Irick saved enough money from teaching to attend the Texas Holiness University at Peniel, Texas. She studied theology, "sermon building," and the Bible until 2:00 in the morning and then was up early to fix breakfast for the boarders in her house.

She went before the examining board of the State Holiness Association to be grilled on such matters as the reality of her call, her life, theology and the Bible.

In 1907 she was officially licensed to preach. The chief joys of her life, according to her book, have been preaching the gospel of full salvation and having a part in building the Church of the Nazarene.

Mrs. Irick was one of a group of 113 who in April, 1908 joined to form the first Church of the Nazarene in Texas. And in October, 1908 at Pilot Point, Texas, they united with holiness churches from all over the country thus beginning the Church of the Nazarene.

After her 1908 marriage to Allie Irick, an evangelist who had just returned from a year long missionary trip around the world and who was one of the 113 who joined to form the Church of the Nazarene in Texas, they pioneered together for 25 years.

They preached in the South and Southwest, organized churches, led revivals and camp meetings, served as pastors for a church in Kentucky, and then in various church offices in Texas. There was no salary; the money they raised as evangelists was all they had.

The Iricks had three children — Ray, who is deceased, Paul and Ruth Metcalf of Lufkin. As she says in her book, when the children were too young to travel, they stayed with Emma's mother and sister and when they were older and in school, she hired a housekeeper.

She writes: "Like any typical mother, I had my anxieties about leaving our children; yet I had no doubt they were well cared for. I left them with responsible people, and I never failed to leave them with God; I said many prayers for them while we were away."

And when the children were older and on vacation, they also participated in revivals — playing instruments like the trombone, cornet and piano while their parents did the preaching and led the singing. Her children respected her call. When they were older and living in Lufkin, they filled in at home while she helped care for the needs of her congregation.

Mr. and Mrs. Irick had preached at revivals in Lufkin in earlier years, and in 1933 Emma got a call from the Lufkin Nazarene Church to be its pastor. She accepted and the family headed for Angelina County, arriving on Labor Day, 1933.

Lufkin was still feeling the Depression. The church that greeted the Iricks was in debt, the baked clay churchyard was scarred with ditches, and the parsonage roof leaked. With her characteristic joy in tackling a new job, she and Gertie Woods borrowed a one horse wagon, hauled dirt and filled in the churchyard with help from the women of the Church's Missionary Society.

Then she got hold of some shingles, climbed to the top of the parsonage and patched that leaking roof herself. And to ease the ladies' burden, she stopped their fund-raising chicken dinner efforts and demanded instead that members tithe to meet the budget. And they did!

Mrs. Fannie Pigg of Lufkin, who joined the Nazarene Church in 1932, remembers when she first met Mrs. Irick: "She walked from the parsonage to a house on South First Street, quite a distance, knocked on my door, came in at my invitation, sat down on the bed I was making and told me that she was my new pastor, Rev. Emma Irick. After visiting awhile, she said, 'Let's get this bed made up. I've got several places to go yet today!'"

Mrs. Pigg used to travel to various district "preachers' meetings" with Rev. Irick (who only missed two of her church's district meetings in her whole career) and says that: "It always built up your ego to be with Sister Irick. When we'd walk up to a group or just be sitting in a restaurant, preachers from all over the country would come up to greet her. And when it was her turn to give a talk at one of those meetings, she'd make her report interesting — make it fun and bring on a laugh. You got a great deal of satisfaction being with her."

Mr. Irick suffered a stroke shortly after their arrival in Lufkin. And he passed away 15 years later in 1949. Mrs. Irick describes her marriage in "The King's Daughter", her husband's choice of a title for her autobiography.

She writes: "We were married on June 18, 1908, and were happy together 42 years, laboring for the Lord and for souls. We lived in the same world, loved and did the same things. We were agreed on everything in the work of the home, the church and Kingdom."

The Nazarene Church in Lufkin replaced its old building under Mrs. Irick's leadership. She helped to scrape the funds together, pounded nails herself, and served lots of coffee and encouragement to members toiling to erect a fine new building.

In 1959 Rev. Irick chose to continue her evangelistic work and began traveling, preaching the gospel once again. In 1974, at 86, she made her last full preaching slate — working from Kansas City to New Brunswick, Maine — it was one of her heaviest slates ever.

She's watched and helped her church grow nationally from 10,000 to over half a million members, from 50 to more than 600 dedicated missionaries. Mrs. Irick was never one to take time off from her mission. As she says, "I've never gone to the mountains to cool or to the Gulf of Mexico to splash."

A hip operation has kept Rev. Irick pretty much confined lately, but she still preaches when she can. The day that my daughters and I heard her, at the Church of Nazarene in Lufkin, she wore a white suit and she radia joy and humor and love confidence. And I just good being there, enjo very much her Thanksgi sermon in which she gav what she called, a " coastline history" — stori early Americans' strug for freedom. And she to her story. And it struck how much like those e settlers she is. She like didn't wait for someon give her her freedom.

Although Mrs. Irick never preached a ser about women's right preach, because as she s "I don't have to. The pro the pudding is in the eat she does have a pri description for those wh women can't preach — " expose their ignorance". she keeps foremost knowledge that, "God c me to preach, not man".

And so her indepen mind, her physical stre her joy in living, and help have kept her on c for 90 years. The Nazarene Church in L will celebrate her birt and her great contribu with Emma Irick Day Sunday, Jan. 22, at 10 a. the church. Angelina tians should join this salu a great woman.

I judge that every da her 90 years, Rev. E Irick has been a joy an blessing to someone".

Septic tanks plague most rural residents

(Continued From Page One)

homes to install proper sewage disposal systems. Without a health department permit — those homes may not be sold to any prospective buyer.

But one major, insurmountable problem remains: the soil conditions here in Angelina County prohibit even the best of systems to function properly. So the health department requires the best system possible, licenses it, and then hopes against all reason that it will work at least well enough to get by.

Dr. Alfred Hamilton, director of the Angelina County and Cities Health District, explains: "Actually we shouldn't be licensing the number of septic systems in the county that we now have to because we know that they won't work well at all. If you're thinking of moving to the country, the best advice I can give you is don't," he concludes.

Dr. Hamilton further explains that even owners of big, expensive homes with the best septic tank system money can buy are not immune to problems if they build where there is poor soil. And that's just about everywhere in Angelina County, he says.

One piece of advice to anyone considering a move to the country is to have a health department inspector perform a percolation test on the property before you buy. A "perk test" is used to determine how fast the soil in a particular area will absorb water.

The standard test data used by the health department uses a chart which lists requirements for systems installed in soils of varying rates of absorption. The chart is graduated in minutes per inch (MPI) — the amount of time it takes for one inch of water to be absorbed in a test hole. The chart runs from one to 60 minutes.

A rate greater than 60 minutes per inch is considered unacceptable for soil absorption systems. Most of Angelina County tests out at 60 MPI or better, says G. V. (Andy) Anderson, registered sanitarian for the local health department.

Anderson agrees that a soil test before buying is a sound idea. The health department will perform the test for $65, and will tell you what type of system will be required.

The average cost of installing a septic tank system in Angelina County is $1,200 or more, depending on location. The health department now requires two separate tanks in the system, installed in series, plus an adequate length of field line through which the effluent is absorbed.

The use of two tanks further affords greater capacity to the system and further insures that effluent from the system will be adequately cleaned by the time it is absorbed into the soil. Field lines are surrounded by gravel which makes the absorption easier.

But again, it is the soil which determines how well the system will work — so consider location carefully before buying any property. And should you contemplate a home which already has a licensed system installed — be sure and check with the health department before committing yourself — for even if the system is a good one — the soil may be bad.

One happy note, however. Although state law prescribes fines from $10-$200 for each day a malfunctioning system creates "a public nuisance" — the penalty only applies to those who willfully create such a nuisance.

So if you want to take the risk, install the best system you can buy and if it malfunctions, the state won't penalize you at all. Of course when springtime comes and the fragrance of flowers is not all you smell — the penalty, and the problems are all your own doing.

Next: The health department's Clinical Section — prevention and treatment of potentially dangerous diseases on a year-round basis.

Fire destroys Wayne Clark home at Burke

Diboll volunteer firemen answered four calls during the week ending January 17 with two of these being major fires.

Firemen responded all four units to a house fire call last Wednesday afternoon in Burke. The firefighters arrived to find the frame home of the Wayne Clarks completely engulfed in flame. The home was listed as a total loss.

The volunteers answered a call shortly after noon on Thursday to a car fire in Burke. The late model Pinto belonging to John Smith was totally destroyed by a fire apparently resulting from an electrical short under the dash.

The Carl Mettlen home off Ryan Chapel Road was heavily damaged in an early morning fire on Friday. The fire started when a can containing gasoline was accidentally spilled near an open fire.

The week's last call came on Tuesday afternoon about 1 o'clock when firemen responded to a kitchen fire at the Robert Harrison residence on Glass Street. The firemen were able to confine the blaze to the kitchen area and the damage was minor.

The fire started with burning grease on the stove and spread to the vent hood and cabinets near the stove.

Your firemen remind you that the grease which collects in kitchen vent hoods is a serious fire hazard. Be sure to keep your vent hood and filter clean and grease-free.

—Skip Richardson

CRISIS HOTLINE

The Deep East Texas Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Services began an emergency-crisis line program in October, 1977.

This program provides a toll-free emergency number to all residents of the 13 county deep East Texas region.

Any person experiencing an emotional crisis can call toll free to the emergency-crisis line for help.

1-800-392-8343

The first kraft paper mill in the South was built at Orange in 1910.



BILL DASE (left) of the Texas Railroad Commission and Huntington city engineer Jimmy Griffith looked on Tuesday as water was pumped through a natural gas line near Highway 69 in Huntington to show numerous leaks. City officials estimate they are losing between 40 and 60 percent of the gas they buy through the worn out lines that were installed in 1954. See story on page one. (Free Press Photo)

Birds saved

St. Regis Paper Company and the Nature Conservancy have combined efforts to preserve the only known colony of the Mississippi sandhill crane, an endangered wildlife species.

St. Regis, which recently acquired Southland Paper, a major Texas-based newsprint manufacturer, sold 5,000 acres of company land and donated the equivalent of another 1,000 acres in Jackson County, Miss., to the Nature Conservancy.

Gas loss...

(Continued From Page O

base, plus 1.4 on the co gas for customers outside city limits.

The increase was appr by council members Co Cowart, Wilroy, Walker Flurry.

Mayor R. D. Gibson asked again that any cit knowing of gas leaks sh report them promptly to city, which will try to r the worst ones unt comprehensive repair gram can be initiated.

In other business at Thursday's meeting, council heard Bob Brow Texas Power & Light make the company's of request for another increase.

Council postponed increase for 120 days, as cities are doing until Texas Public Utility Com sion rules on the T request.

City delays rate hike for TP&L

(Continued From Page One)

full size Ford LTD's. They will replace two 1977 Chevrolet Impalas and an older Pontiac.

Councilman James Simms, a banker, questioned the $4,100 trade-in allowed on the three cars. He said he felt sure the two one-year-old Impalas should bring more than that. He questioned the wisdom of trading patrol cars every year, but Manager Holberg said he thinks it saves the city money on maintenance to trade every year.

Even so, Simms said he feels the city should try to make a better deal on trade-ins in the future.

Council also awarded a contract for the much-discussed northwest sewer extension project off Lawrence Street.

Oscar Crawford Construction Co. offered the low bid of $55,531, but that price is expected to level off at $50,528 with change orders in routing of the line.

The Bemis Company was again awarded the bid for a year's supply of garbage bags at a price of $8,076.80.

It took the council abou minutes to spend $72,31 the three contracts, for sewer extension and gar bags.

In final action cou granted water service to Brewer, at a residence outside the northwest limits.

Councilman Simms a spoke up for a city polic granting water service people living outside the Sooner or later, the city have to start turning d such requests, and pe should be made aware o Simms said.

Manager Holberg agr saying that the city has no success with three holes for a new water and the situation could desperate unless a new w source is found soon.

Council also put its stam approval on another m discussed subject — a p on the extension of se service. The new ordin provides for the prop owner paying certain port of costs incurred in exten sewer services to new ar

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