

Rice Farmers Face "Open" Program In '76

It's now a wide open ball game as far as rice farmers are concerned. That describes the new rice program as it affects the 1976 and 1977 crop years. Under the new program, anyone can grow as well as sell rice," points out Dr. Randall Stelly, marketing economist for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. In explaining some of the provisions of the program, the economist notes that both

will be adjusted for changes in farm production costs prior to July 31. Target price payments will be made if the national average market price received by farmers during the first five months of the marketing year (August through December) is less than the target price. Stelly points out that the loan rate for rice now stands at \$6 per hundredweight but will also be adjusted to changes in farm production costs before July 31. He notes that both the final target price and loan rate for the 1976 rice crop will be announced in early August. Looking at disaster payments, the economist explains that the payment rate will be one-third of the target price. Payments will be based on the average of harvested yields per acre for the past three

WCJC Ensemble, Band Concert Tonight, Thurs.

The Wharton County Junior College Music Department in Wharton announces a combined concert by the Brass Ensemble and Concert Band will be held Thursday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Duncan Hansen Fine Arts Theatre. Admission will be 50 cents.

ROCK ISLAND NEWS Mrs. Bob Kerr Passes Away

Mrs. Mary Robert (Bob) Kerr, age 97, of 2374 S. 7th of Abilene, Tex., died Wednesday, March 24th at Hendrick Memorial Hospital and services were held at Elliott-Hamill Funeral Home and burial was in Elmwood Memorial Park. She was born May 14, 1898 in South Texas and spent her early days in Rock Island. She was married

to John Kerr March 8, 1919 in Houston and moved to Abilene in May, 1963. Survivors include her husband and one son Jim. The Kerr family visited often in Rock Island and will be remembered by the early residents. They always came back on Homecoming Day and enjoyed visiting with old friends. Mrs. Oscar Baker and Mrs. Fannie Kerr of El Campo went to Abilene for the funeral service.

PERSONALS Mrs. Robert Holbrook of New Orleans spent a few days here last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Trapp, and other relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jones and children of Richmond were visitors here this week with

day, April 16th at 10 a.m. Interested visitors welcome. **Rev. Russell Lewis Leaving R.I.** The Rev. Russell Lewis, pastor of the First Baptist Church, preached his last sermon last Sunday night from the Holston Baptist College. He will be working with the Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.



Darren McGavin plays Duke a rusty safecracker in Walt Disney's "No Deposit, No Return," opening Friday for one week at the Cole Theatre in Rosenberg.

Electricity Use Drops, Says CPL

Use of electricity in South Texas dropped in 1975 for the second year in a row, according to Central Power and Light Company's Annual Report, which is being mailed to stockholders and employees this week. The CPL report notes that total kilowatt hour sales were down 6.8 per cent from the preceding year, and use by the average South Texas family declined from 5,541 kilowatt hours in 1974 to 5,536 KWH in 1975. Cost-cutting measures by

creased, and CPL Chief Executive R. W. Hardy termed 1975 a "disappointing" year. Fuel expense rose 71 per cent over the previous year's average and other expenses were up 12.2 per cent. On the surface, the Report seems to indicate that 1975 was a good year for CPL, but on closer inspection, it becomes evident that most of the year's increased revenues were attributed to the pass-through of increased fuel cost. Through intensive cost cutting efforts, the company's net income showed a slight increase of six-tenths of one per cent over 1974. This slight increase provides practically no return on the \$66 million of gross plant additions made during the year. Expenses, moreover, continued to rise while sales de-

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Brooks Lumber Opens Store In El Campo

Brooks Lumber, with main offices at 6316 Mykawa Road, Houston, announces the opening of another outlet, along with the store in Houston. There is one in Alvin at 205 North Gordon, and the newest addition to the chain is in El Campo, 300 Monserate St. All the Brooks Lumber Co. yards operate on the same basis. The merchandise is discounted to save the "do-it-yourself" homeowner. The emphasis is on bulk building materials, such as lumber, plywood, sheetrock, roofing materials and concrete products, according to Dick Brooks, president of Brooks Lumber. According to Brooks, people are remodeling now more than ever and enjoying the benefits of large cash savings. "If you are not already a do-it-yourselfer, drop by Brooks Lumber to get some ideas," said Brooks.

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Wilson Named To State Affairs

State Rep. John Wilson of La Grange has been named to a subcommittee of the House State Affairs Committee to undertake a 60-day study of the advisability of placing natural gas utility rate regulations under the jurisdiction of the new State Utilities Commission. Rep. Wilson and nine other members of the subcommittee will be seeking to determine if consumers would be better served if legislation was introduced to transfer regulation authority from the Texas Railroad Commission.

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BETTY CROCKER CAKE MIXES WIDE ASSORTMENT OF VARIETIES! ASS'T. LAYER 18 1/2-OZ. BOX **59¢**

Potatoes Alma Sheathing 2 1/4-Oz. Cans **33¢**

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Marshmallow Peanuts Good Value 10-Oz. Pkg. **77¢**

Orange Slices Good Value Fresh 14-Oz. Pkg. **65¢**

Jelly Beans Good Value Brand 13 1/2-Oz. Pkg. **83¢**

GOOD VALUE DETERGENT LIQUID... FOR DISHWASHING! 32-OZ. BTL. **69¢**

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Salt Good Value Plain Iodized 28-Oz. Box **16¢**

Potato Buds Betty Crocker 16 1/2-Oz. Pkg. **\$1.03**

Popcorn Good Value White, Yellow 2 Lb. Pkg. **65¢**

Kotex Feminine Napkin, Maxi, Reg., Super 30-Ct. Box **\$1.95**

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Pancake Batter Aunt Jimmie Frozen Reg., Blueberry, Buttermilk 16-Oz. Ctn. **59¢**

Frozen Pot Pies Chicken, Beef Or Turkey 3 8-Oz. Pkgs. **79¢**

Vegetables Brocc. Caul. 19-Oz. Pkg. **41¢**

Topping Whipped 4-Oz. Ctn. **53¢**

Tater Tots ORE IDA 32 OZ. BAG **85¢**

Pizza Rolls Jim's Saus. Or Pepperoni 4-Ct. Box **69¢**

Tree Top Frozen Apple-Cake 11-Oz. Can **75¢**

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Fish Sticks Mrs. Paul 14-Oz. Box **\$1.09**

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Crisp Celery California Fresh Large Stalk **39¢**

Avocado California Delicious **15¢**

Sour Cream 39¢

Fruit Drinks 79¢

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