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County Agent's NOTEBOOK

(By Leroy J. Hajdik, County Extension Agent
 Colorado County)

Pruning Season Is Now Here!

Pruning Rules

Pruning season is here. This is the time of year that many fruit growers dread most. It's not that pruning is such a difficult or overly time-consuming task, it's just the thought of cutting these precious trees.

The best time to prune your favorite fruit tree or grapevine is immediately before it breaks bud and begins to bloom or leaf. If you prune any earlier, buds and blooms are stimulated into early growth. Early growth plus a late freeze or frost equals loss of this season's fruit crop and possibly a damaged tree.

Pruning makes plants stronger. If strong branches are selected which point in the right direction, then the whole tree is stronger. A stronger tree produces and supports more and larger fruit. Nothing is more discouraging than planting and growing a fruit tree for several years only to have the first heavy load of fruit break it down and ruin its appearance. So prune to select and strengthen.

Secondly, pruning stimulates. Most fruit is produced on or from year-old wood. The peaches and grapes which you eat this spring were actually initiated and formed last year. So if new growth is not stimulated each year by pruning, a fruitful plant can become a mass of old, non-productive wood. For each year a tree or vine is neglected, production is reduced.

The third reason for pruning is to make sure you have not been too stimulatory as outlined above. If you prune every year and follow proper cultural techniques, the tree or vine will initiate many more buds than it can possibly support. If all bloom buds turn to fruit. To prevent too much fruit set and

EAT MORE RICE

Eagle Lake Cub Scout Pack Holds Annual Blue and Gold Banquet

VFW Contributes \$250 Toward Cub Scouting Program

Nearly two hundred Cub Scouts, leaders, parents and guests attended the annual Blue and Gold Banquet staged by Cub Scout Pack No. 3078 of Eagle Lake, Larry Dulany, Cub Master, at 6:00 p.m. Monday, February 22nd. The event highlights the reorganization of the Cub Scouting program in Eagle Lake.

After a delicious covered dish meal, Cub Master Dulany recognized

J. T. (Tommy) Pilkington, past Post Commander and past Staff Deputy Chief of Staff of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, presented an American Flag to the Pack from the local Rice Area Memorial Post #8783 of the VFW.

Den No. 3 accepted the flag on behalf of the Pack. Mr. Pilkington also delivered a speech on patriotism and the meaning of the colors of our flag. He also surprised everyone

when he presented a check for \$250 to the Pack as a contribution from the VFW Post.

The program continued with a song by Den No. 1: a skit by Den No. 4. Den Mothers of the four dens presented badges which had been earned during the year to each Cub Scout.

The evening concluded with an appropriate ceremony by Den No. 2. Cub Master Dulany served as master of ceremonies for the program.

Dulany also serves as the Webelos Den Leader. Other leaders are: Den No. 1,

Becky Anderson, assisted by Mary Lou Anderson; Den No. 2, Lisa Gonzales; Den No. 3, Myra Wilson, assisted by Curtis Wilson; and Den No. 4, Wanda Center, assisted by Jean Williams and Virginia Duarte.

Cong. Pickle Discusses Use Of IRAs

(By Cong. J. J. Pickle)

A year ago, the letters IRA probably would have brought to mind only the Irish Republican Army for most Americans. But today almost everyone has heard of the Individual Retirement Account.

Profound Accomplishment. In fact, looking back on 1981, I'd have to say the IRA as perhaps my proudest accomplishment. For the first time they're available to anyone who works.

The IRA took effect the first of this year, and the preliminary results are gratifying indeed. Millions of American families have started their own IRA accounts and the benefits for society and the economy are several fold.

IRAs will mean more money going into savings and more money for capital investment. IRAs will take some of the strain off social security in the long run by reducing retirees dependence on social security as the sole source of retirement income (for which it was never intended) and finally, the IRA

Garwood Spelling Bee Champ



On February 23, 1982, six students met in the Garwood Elementary Library to compete in the Houston Chronicle Spelling Bee. Those taking part were from left to right: Melissa Engstrom, Old Emblem, Karen Blanton, Lynette Hanks, Brenda Jackson, and Jennifer Mader. The winner is Melissa Engstrom, at left, and she will represent Garwood in the county meet to be held on March 10 at Rice High School. Irene Mader was sponsor of the competition at Garwood School-Garwood School Photo.

allow a person to keep up with the economy. Generally speaking, they are one of the best deals around for the "common man."

Neither the money you invest, nor the interest you earn is subject to federal income tax until you start making withdrawals. In the meantime, working couples can set aside up to \$4,000 a year for individuals its \$2,000, and \$2,250 for a couple with only one income.

legislation which "Bill Frenzel of Minnesota and I helped put into the tax bill makes it possible for the average citizen to take advantage of potentially high yield, tax deferred retirement accounts.

No doubt you've seen the ads promising that if you invest now you will be a millionaire by retirement age. This may be stretching it a bit, since these lump sum figures depend greatly on interest rates and inflation, but still, the IRAs

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Does an EEA home live up to CPL's claims? Ask the builder who lives in one.

That's just what we did when we called on Mr. and Mrs. Carl Penn of McAllen, who have unusually good credentials for discussing the advantages of a house that qualifies for the Energy Efficiency Award (EEA) sponsored by Central Power and Light Company.

CPL developed the EEA program to help homeowners cut energy costs. As a builder, Mr. Penn conducted his own investigation of the plan before building the EEA home in which he and Mrs. Penn have resided since 1977.

Mr. Penn notes that he had attended CPL seminars on EEA and had built EEA houses for others, "so I decided to apply to my own home as much as possible of what I had learned." For example, insulation and sealing are recommended to help keep heating and air conditioning costs down.

"We sealed every opening around every electrical box and wherever any pipes enter the house; sealing the joints was more important than the insulation itself," Mr. Penn explains. "We did the ceiling insulation and encapsulated the air conditioning and heating ducts as well as the hot water pipes."

The Penns also are aware that wise-use procedures will increase the energy efficiency of their home—and outline several practices they follow. "We keep the draperies closed to keep the sun out," Mrs. Penn says.

"Our thermostat is set for 78° in the summer and 66° in the winter. We also use an exhaust fan. We keep the doors and windows closed because the humidity is a big part of the problem, and it requires as much energy to remove water as it does to cool the air."

Mr. Penn reports that he is pleased with their EEA home, especially when he compares their current electric bills with previous ones. And although such "extras" as dual-pane windows add to the original cost of the house, Mr. Penn believes the results in comfort and savings make the investment worthwhile.

In fact, he adds, "I'd recommend doing as much as we've done—and, if there are any new innovations, doing those too."

For more information about the EEA program for all-electric homes, ask your architect, designer, builder or realtor—or pick up a free booklet at your CPL office.

Stretch Your Energy Dollars with Wise Use of Electricity

For more information about the EEA program for all-electric homes, ask your architect, designer, builder or realtor—or pick up a free booklet at your CPL office.

Stretch Your Energy Dollars with Wise Use of Electricity

CPL
 CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY
 A Member of the Conquest and South-West Systems

"The exact amount of savings will depend on individual circumstances."



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Penn

City Council Discusses Projects

18 Year Old Drainage Problem Still Haunting City

Local Citizen Complains Of Problem At Day Care Center On Prairie

(By Jeff Franks)

A drainage problem that has been a topic of discussion at city council meetings for the past 18 years, once again cropped up at the regular session of the Eagle Lake city council on Tuesday night of last week.

The problem area is on West Prairie at its intersection with Stevenson Street, right in front of the fellowship hall of the old Methodist Church. The building is now being used as a day care center and mothers who leave their children at the center are concerned about the lack of drainage in that area.

Mrs. Ralph Getson, Jr., who has two children attending the nursery, appeared before the council to present the problem. She told the council that water does not drain from the gutter or dip in front of the center and that it takes three or four days to dry up.

"It's a real problem," she says. "If we park in front of the nursery we have to wade through the water. If we park further down the street it's not so bad unless

its raining or it is a cold windy day." Getson also added that the standing water gets stagnant and could be a health problem. She noted that recently a car passing along the street splashed water into the playground area of the center and several of the children were hit by the water.

Mayor Elmer Struss admitted that there was a problem in the area and that it has existed for about 18 years. The lack of drainage, he says, resulted because of an engineering error during construction of the street.

"It's a problem that needs to be corrected," said the mayor, "but the truth of the matter is that it is just too costly a project for the city to handle."

Struss did indicate that the city would look into the problem and appointed councilman Roy D. Van Nort and city manager Robert Klockman to study the situation and to offer some alternatives at the council's next meeting on March 9th.

Mayor Elmer Struss authorized city manager Robert Klockman, at last week's regular session of the city council, to notify highway officials and request some type of statement concerning the proposed project. Struss urged the action since several residents along the road, which have protested



At Meet Last Week

Problem Area!!



This dip in front of the former United Methodist Church, and now the location of a children's day care center, frequently is filled with standing water, making access to the day care center difficult and at times motorist on Prairie Street "splash" water (as shown above) on the students playing on the playground of the day care center.

No Word Yet On Widening Hwy. 90A W.

The Texas Highway Dept. has made no official announcement on the proposed widening of U.S. Highway 90A in Eagle Lake since notifying the city of the project several weeks ago.

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Council To Get Proposed '82-83 Budget Tues.

The 1982-83 proposed budget will be presented for consideration of the Eagle Lake city council at its next regular meeting Tuesday, March 9th, according to City Manager Robert Klockman.

The budget is being prepared by the city manager at this time and a rough draft will be ready for consideration when the council meets next week. Emphasis on Street Work

Emphasis in the budget is expected to be put on street work, following an urgent request by Mayor Elmer Struss. The mayor indicated that many of the streets in the city are in immediate need of repair and that the problem needs to be allocated in the upcoming budget.

The council is not expected to make any immediate approval of the proposed budget but will use the next two meetings, and possibly a workshop, to study the budget and to make any additions or corrections.

A public hearing will be called prior to final approval to allow citizens to give any input they wish to the budget proposal.

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Trendmark To Start Housing Project Soon

(By Jeff Franks)

The Eagle Lake city council, in regular session on Tuesday night of last week, heard a wide range of reports on several different projects currently underway or being proposed in the city.

The projects range from a new middle-income housing development being proposed, to plans for annexation of a section of land on the end of West Main Street.

Housing Development Trendmark Builders of Katy were at the council's meeting last week and presented a plan of a proposed middle-income housing project being planned on Hubbard-Ferry Road near the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Thirty-five lots are being planned for the project on which brick homes in the \$35,000 range will be built.

FHA, FmHA and VA financing will be available to prospective buyers once the council gives its approval of the plan presented. The city is requiring curb and guttering with paved streets, as well as utilities that meet all specifications required by the city in the past.

The council is expected to act on the matter at its meeting next Tuesday night, March 9th.

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Other matters discussed by the council included: improvements to the City Ball Park (see page six); more stringent traffic control in the city, especially the enforcement of the "No U-Turn" ordinance in the downtown area; and improvements to the Heritage House Road.

action is expected by the city but further discussion is expected at the next meeting and any input from local citizens is welcome.

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HOW DO I START MY I.R.A.? Visit us in person or write for the necessary forms. Basically it's as easy as opening a savings account. You may make your entire I.R.A. contribution for the year at that time or, if you wish, we'll be happy to arrange for deposits to be made in regular installments during the year.

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