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The Front
Rice field day most educational
 by Vini Carbona
 Not only did I not know what to expect, but I had to follow everyone else because I didn't know where to go. There were a lot of people at the agricultural experiment station that day. Soon I found myself sitting on a bale of hay with a group of people on the back of a pickup truck. It did not take me long to find out just exactly what was Rice Field Day.
 The rows of different varieties of rice, soybean and a few sorghum plants opened and closed as we slowly drove by, the water reflected a sky that was growing cloudy. "You should have been here yesterday when we took our practice run. It's cool today," said the tour guide. Somehow I believed him. "These are some of the new varieties," he said as we drove around experimental plots.
 At certain intervals we would stop to listen to a short synopsis of the work being done to help the rice farming industry by different experts.
 The reason I speak of all this, you see, is that I had a different vision of farming, an antiquated impression I thought of it as something someone did to feed his immediate family, with his hands, in small plots. I really don't know why, except that I had never taken the time to find out.
 Although it indeed takes a lot of hand and back work, and it definitely is not something just anyone can do, today's farmer is a new breed. With new markets and new technology, farming has become a hybrid between a science and an art.
 The art-aspect of it has to do with common sense, know-how and intuition. The other, one learns from experience, field days, research centers and printed information. It becomes imperative to be intelligent, well informed and somewhat of a gambler. These are no small plots, and the economic derivative is enormous.
 I said to Leroy Hajdik, the county extension agent: "This is very useful. I bet people all over the world wish they had a system like this." They do," he said. "With our research and theirs we can both benefit. We have to provide food to a good portion of the world."
 I learned a lot that night. I learned what the world rice market outlook is, what the price is likely to be and what would affect that price. From that, the problems facing local farmers became a bit clearer.
 I also learned about diseases, weed control, irrigation, fertilizers, nitrogen levels, defoliants, and two startling discoveries. Don't even go to the bathroom when Dr. Gerlow is speaking—you may miss something important or entertaining, and don't go near the rice fields at night without smearing yourself with mosquito repellent. At least not you new-blood northerners.
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A Local Column
How do you like it here?
 by John F Fearing
 The most often asked question — "Well, how do you like it here?"
 The answer is difficult, because it really can't be answered yet. It takes people to make any community, no matter where you live, and we just haven't met everyone yet.
 However, this weekend was a lot of fun, for me any way, as I got out and socialized a bit. Believe me, after last week's edition and the time it took to start the photo darkroom, I really needed it.
 Saturday night with a visit to Johnny Meitzen's house out on the lake. There were maybe 20 people there, including perhaps five I had met previously.
 In a situation like that, where a new person is in the company of locals who have known each other a long time, you have to play politician, and just introduce yourself.
 Politician really is the word too. That's what I felt like as I milled around between groups and the beer keg. By the way, many compliments to Johnny and Pat on their home—it is beautiful, well decorated and most relaxing. Future invitations appreciated.
 Unfortunately, Jeannine didn't get to go. She was in LaMarque visiting her parents and family.
 Then Sunday, Louis Schorlemmer, invited me to play in the golf tournament at the recreation center. It was my pleasure to share a ride with Jack Harrell, hospital administrator, all thanks to Tommy Pukington, who loaned the use of his car. Also in the foursome was Frank Pidgeon and Marie Pinchback.
 While I get to play golf (or rather take the time to play every several months, the day wasn't a disaster, as I shot 107 which is good for me. However, Jack and Marie did excellently. Glad to see that proves wrong the myth that bad players slow down the good ones. Jack had to play coach to me also.
 Finally Sunday evening, Jeannine and I joined Fred and Beatrice Beth at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Ugarie and their family. Vini Carbona, Headlight news editor, and John Paslay, new pharmacist at Community Hospital was there also.
 So, when you ask, how we like it here, the answer is developing into "very well." People make any community, and the people we've met so far have been exceptionally nice. Not just the ones we were with this weekend, but others we've met and those with whom we do business.
 Thanks for the fine welcome.

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Features
Summer learning is fun
Wintermann Library program

The Children's Summer Reading Program, in full swing at the Wintermann Library here, owes its success to people's involvement, according to librarian June Pirtle.
 "All the work in the summer program, which (tentatively) involves all children from age four through completed eighth grade, is done by volunteers," said Pirtle. "We take themes from the Texas State Library and the Texas Reading Club. Volunteers also come in and make up their own little programs for children. Fay Anderson, for instance, recently spoke to children about David and Goliath...we also had a program about dental hygiene. This is what makes the program so successful."
 Those from four years to those who have completed kindergarten meet in the library Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Older children who have completed grade 1 through 5 meet Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m., and movies are run every Thursday at 2:30 p.m. Last week's scheduled film was "Grete, the Misfit Greyhound."
 Charts are posted on the library walls where children apply a star next to their names once they have successfully completed a book. Success is determined by an informal quiz of understanding. Those completing 10 books get their name on a rocket, tacked to a large board, which will travel an illusory trip to the moon and back as a child reads more books. This year's theme, provided by the Texas Reading Club, is named Space Capers.
 The program began June 1 and will end August 3 and 4, when children will have their pictures taken with Darth Vader. Certificates also will then be awarded to all children having read 10 books or more.
 This summer is typical of the children's program. Children in kindergarten and first grade are brought to the library in the spring and there is some assignment coordination with school teachers, according to Pirtle.
 "Although there has been a library in Eagle Lake since 1931, this library, donated by Eula and David Wintermann, and Eula's concept, was first built in 1975 and has recently been doubled in size. It was completed this past May," said the librarian.
 It contains 12,000 volumes and 35 periodicals, and "has adequate space and shelving to serve the needs of a city of 15,000 people," Pirtle said. It is open to all in Colorado County and Lissie and Chesterville in Wharton County. Some funding is acquired from the County Commissioners.
 The new brick facade building on North Walnut Street is of spacious design and includes many features. Among them are high ceilings with fans, workrooms, conference rooms and an auditorium-projector room, copiers (a charge of 25¢ per copy), kitchen facilities and facilities for microfilm storage and viewing. In the microfilm collection, there are copies of The Headlight dating from the early 1900's.
 Librarian June Pirtle, a native of Eagle Lake, is very proud of the children's program. She has been at the post for four years, "full time since Mrs. Truly recently stopped working. I have always been addicted to reading," she said.
 "My main point to children is that if you want to read about football or bicycles, that's fine. The main thing I want to get across is that reading is fun."

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