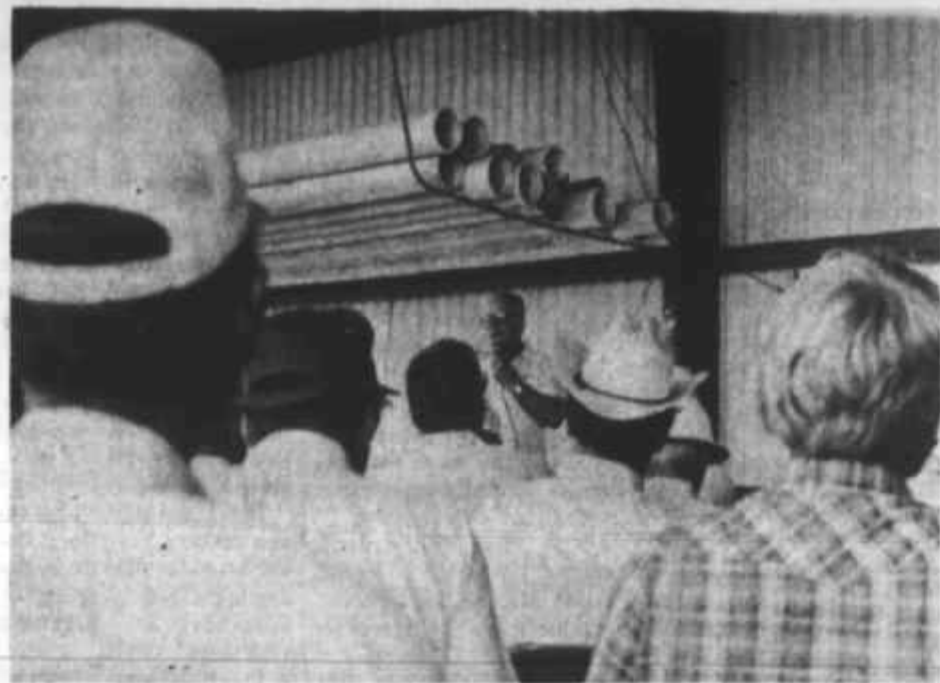




Stansel speaks

Dr. Jim Stansel welcomed area farmers last Wednesday to the area Rice Field Day held at the Eagle Lake agricultural experiment station.

Rice council host to Peru, Senegal

Rice representatives from the countries of Peru and Senegal visited the U.S. rice industry as guests of the rice council last month.

Jose Benitez, a director of ECASA (The Peruvian government's rice management agency) and president of the Rice Millers' Association of Peru, participated in the purchase of 35,000 tons of PL-480 rice for his country. The purchases consisted of medium and long grain rice. Bill Goldsmith, executive vice president of the rice council said, "Mr. Benitez and I also reviewed the crop condition in Peru and his country's future requirements for importing rice."

Heavy flooding in northern

Peru has resulted in crop damage to this country's rice and it is expected the import needs will be substantial.

Senegal's rice buying specialist, Ms. Fatou Ly, also was the guest of the council in June. Ms. Ly traveled to Washington, D.C., Houston and the Rice Millers' Association meeting in New Orleans.

While in Houston, Ms. Ly had the opportunity to visit the Federal Grain Inspection Service, rice farms, rice mills, and to discuss with the council staff the promotional activities of the rice council. Ms. Ly was very impressed with the council's programs and she expressed interest in developing some of these

techniques of rice promotion for use in her own country.

The council now is actively developing a program in a joint effort with the government of Senegal. Senegal has previously purchased U.S. rice under PL-480.

Another large crowd of area farmers were brought up to date last Wednesday on the rice economy as well as the activities of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station here, during the annual field day.

After the usual field tours and barbecue dinner, members of the research center's staff discussed activities in their areas, and answered questions.

Then, Art Gerlow, presented his annual "Rice Market Outlook," accompanied by a number of charts explaining the national and world rice sales picture.

"The market will open slow," Gerlow said, at about \$10 to \$11 per hundredweight.

However, he added, prices probably will fluctuate up and down, and not average over \$11. He admonished farmers to know the price at which they need to sell their rice for profit, watch the market closely, and sell when they

can get their price.

"The mills are in a somewhat better stock position," he said, compared to last year, "so they won't be coming as hard" in search of grain to buy after this harvest.

Although the price seems to be inching up slowly, Gerlow said the strength of the U.S. dollar abroad continues to weaken U.S. rice exports. The price in American dollars hasn't changed much but foreign buyers continue to need more of their own currency to buy U.S. dollars, making the rice more expensive in their market.

Gerlow also presented statistics on current rice availabilities, in relation to the Payment in Kind program, calling the situation a problem area for some farmers.

"We goofed last fall," he said, farmers panicked when the price started going down. Therefore commodity stocks of long-grain rice are short, so

when the government starts giving farmers their payment in kind stocks, there won't be enough long-grain rice to go around.

About half of available rice stocks are in California medium grain rice, Gerlow said, "so some of us may wind up with that." That rice sells lower than our long-grain rice, so the government is supposed to give farmers enough of the lower-priced stock to equal the value of our higher-priced rice.

In his coverage of the current world market, Gerlow pinpointed country-by-country production and demand statistics, and was somewhat positive about the near future prospects for demand increasing.

"Sure, you fellows feel discouraged tonight," he told the audience, "but it (demand increase) is coming."

As for the current Texas crop, he feels first crop

yield potential will range from a level equal to last year to perhaps as much as five percent below last year. That is a result of the cool April weather.

He said second crop potential may be down 15 percent from last year.

The other speakers included Barry Jeffrey, president of the board of directors of the Texas Rice Research Foundation. "I believe the program already is bringing you, the producer, benefits," he said. He outlined how TRRF was founded and its recent history.

One item he did ask of farmers was to allow the 5-cents per hundredweight, which supports TRRF research, be withheld from sales of PIK rice, just as participating farmers do from rice grown in their fields.

Charles N. Bollich, rice breeder, talked about Skybonnet as a variety that is a probable replacement for Lebonnet. Glen

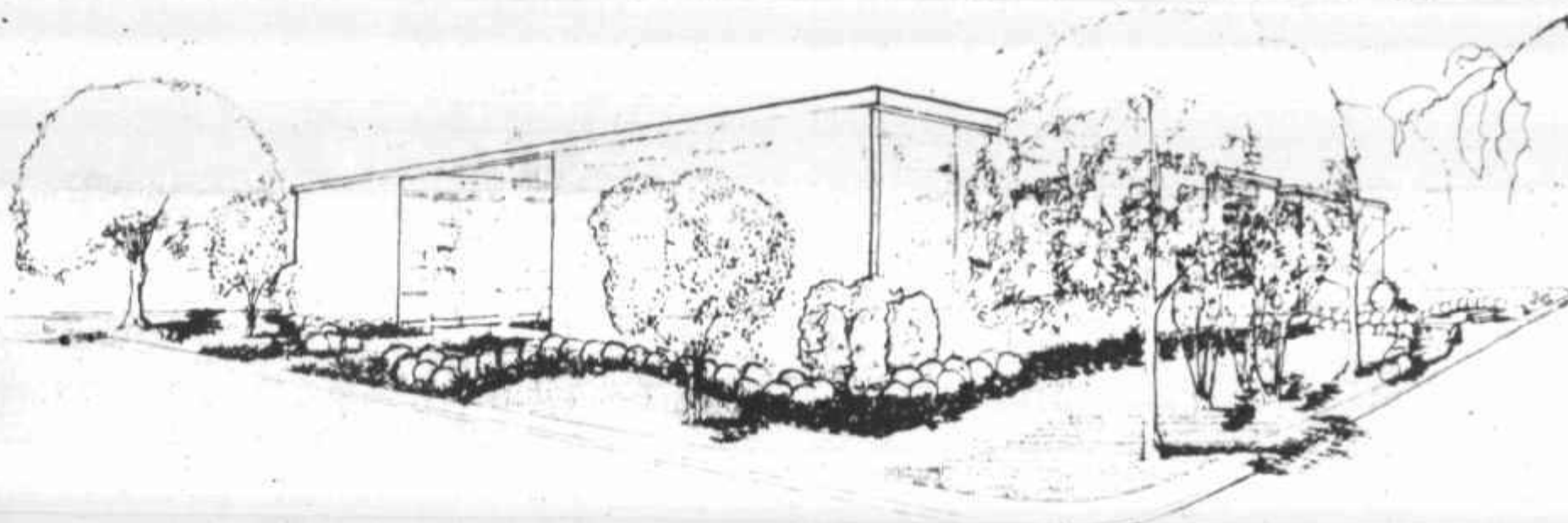
Sundermann asked if there was any progress on a variety that has better tolerance for colder weather. Bollich said work was in progress, but there are no results as yet.

Fred T. Turner, soils and plant nutritionist, discussed the fertilizer needs of the new semi-dwarf varieties. There is a need for as much as 50 pounds per acre more of nitrogen, but the field should produce more rice to overcome that increased production expense.

He also said the research is developing testing equipment that will tell a producer when and how much more nitrogen a rice plant needs.

Michael O. Way, an entomologist, explained the life cycle of weevils.

John W. Sij, production agronomist for soybeans, told farmers this is the age of precision farming.



MUNICIPAL COMPLEX - LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

This drawing will give you some idea of the improvements the Beautification Committee is proposing for the Municipal Building complex. Although the improvements will be done commercially, the committee expects to raise

funds privately to cover the costs, so the city will not be using tax money. The committee is part of Revitalize Eagle Lake, Inc.

Mark, Dexter Anderson honored by Lions

Mark Anderson and Dexter Anderson of Eagle Lake have been honored by the Lions Club organization for their work and support of Lions Club activities.

In May at the district convention in New Braunfels, International Lions' president Ed Grindstaff presented to Dexter the International

President's Award for support of that office's goals during the year.

Dexter was presented the award because of his involvement in the American Diabetes Association. He helped coordinate communications and literature and helped it become established.

Dexter was district governor for the Lions Club in 1968-69, is a life-time member of the Crippled Children's Camp, and was international campaign director, among other many local and district offices held.

Mark's award, the Harry Reasonover Award, is given by the West Austin Lions Club and is the most distinguished district award given in the organization.

It honors Reasonover who was a charter member of Lionism in Austin, helping to start the club there. It is earned by long-time involvement with Lions at the local and district level.

Members of the West Austin club were last month to personally present the award, a handsome plaque.

Mark was nominated for the award by the Eagle Lake club because of his personal involvement with the club since 1965. He was district governor



MARK ANDERSON

in 1976-79 and used "Lionism — a Natural Response" as his motto. While district governor he received the 100 Governor's Award, and the International President's Award. He has held most offices

of the local organization, many on the district level and "exemplifies his motto with his continuous unselfish service to his club, his district and his community," according to the nominating information.

Upper Coast rice field day announced

The 1983 Upper Coast rice field day and tour will be July 19 in Edna, according to the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Field day headquarters will be in the Jackson County Services Building with registration starting at 3 p.m., according to Marvin Lesikar, Jackson County extension agent.

"This year's field day will focus on rice varieties just before harvest," Lesikar said. "Our rice currently is making rapid progress after delays caused by cool spring weather. Most fields should be ready to harvest about a week after the field day."

Field day visitors will be able to see the main

long-grain rice varieties being grown in Texas, including Bellmont, Lebonnet, Labelle and the newest variety, Lemont.

In addition to varieties, the field day and tour will feature discussions on various nitrogen treatments, and weed and disease control, Lesikar said.

Nitrogen studies include a comparison of liquid versus dry anhydrous ammonia formulations. Weed control demonstrations include various herbicide treatments to control weeds on ditch banks and irrigation canals.

A barbecue sponsored by area agribusinesses will conclude the annual field day.

Bible school reminder

The community bible school is schedule for July 11 to July 15 and is jointly sponsored by the Methodist Church, Grace Lutheran Church, the First Presbyterian Church and Christ Episcopal Church.

The classes will be for children age 3 to those that have just completed the 6th grade.

The children are asked to

bring \$1.00 each on the first day to cover the cost of refreshments. On the last day, July 15, there will be a picnic, and children will be asked to bring a sack lunch.

This year, parents are asked to register their children at one of the sponsoring churches. The churches, and bible school director Sandy Bendy, invite all children to attend.



Teaching the cooks

About 150 members of the cafeteria teams from area schools were in Eagle Lake last week attending a three-day seminar. Classroom work allowed the women to leave with new ideas.

