Pictured above are the nineteen girls and their leaders getting ready to leave on their senior trip to Hawaii. They are, from left to right, Denise Rucka, troop leader Elfe Thomas, Susan Perry, Sylvia Barela, Peggy Austin, Debra Newsom, Anna Rohwer, Debra Cooper, Julia Thomas, Lisa Matcheski, Debbie Brune, Beth Raley, Kathy Frenzel, Lisa Keeter, Penny Szymanski, Berta Ramirez, Ann Duncan, Judy Ashby, troop leader Mary Lou Szymanski, Sherry Fajkus and Barbara Baker. Pictured at right are the girls who attended the 20 year reunion. They are, from left to right, front row, Barbara (Baker) Holderman, Peggy (Austin) DeBolt, Mrs. Debbie (Brune) Jobe, Anna (Rohwer) Warren, Sherry (Fajkus) Zbranek; middle row, Judy (Ashby) Miksch, Berta Ramirez, Julia Thomas, Susan (Perry) Burris; back row, Ann (Duncan) Graham, Debra (Newsom) Cook, Debra (Cooper) Shepard, Penny Szymanski.

Girl Scout Troop 71 hold 20 year reunion

Senior Troop 71 of the Eagle Lake Girl Scouts and their mothers enjoyed a 20 year reunion at the home of Dr. and Mrs. R.R. Thomas on Saturday, July 25.

The majority of these 19 girls began their scouting experience in the second grade and finished in their senior year with a trip to Hawaii. Eight of these girls were the first Girl Scouts in this community to earn the highly coveted "God and Community" award. Mrs. Szymanski and Mrs. Thomas were the co-leaders for these 10 years.

Refreshments were provided by Mrs. K.R. Szymanski, Mrs. Harvey Cooper and Mrs. R.R. Thomas. After much reminiscing and picture taking, the girls then joined the 10 year reunion of the Class of '77 at Circle G Danceland in Altair.

Those in attendance were: Girl Scouts, Ms. Julia Thomas, Ms. Penny Szymanski, Mrs. Susan (Perry) Burris, Mrs. Ann (Duncan) Graham, Mrs. Debra (Cooper) Shepard, Ms. Berta Ramirez, Mrs. Peggy (Austin) DeBolt, Mrs. Sherry (Fajkus) Zbranek, Mrs. Barbara (Baker) Holderman, Mrs. Debra (Newsom) Cook, Mrs. Anna (Rohwer) Warren, Mrs. Judy (Ashby) Miksch, and Mrs. Debbie (Brune) Jobe; mothers, Mrs. Martha Duncan, Mrs. Antonia Ramirez, Mrs. Harvey Cooper, Mrs. Gladys Austin, Mrs. Annette Fajkus, Mrs. Marge Rohwer, Mrs. Dorothy Newsom, Mrs. Mary Lou Szymanski and Elfe Thomas.

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		20x20	37.31

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Prairie Edge Museum Notes

Domingo Castillo announced at the board meeting Monday, August 3 that the air conditioning being installed in the "front room" of the museum can be ready by the next meeting which is calendared for September 14.

Much work has already been done and remains to be done by the faithful workers who are helping him to complete the project. Bill Harrison Sr., Rollin Baker and Bill Wilson are learning lots about the air conditioning business and are grateful for Domingo's expertise in the field. If you want to see a beautiful work of brick masonry, see the beautiful wall that is mainly the result of another of Bill Wilson's talents. This brick wall was installed to cover the space once occupied by one of the Ford garage's sliding doors.

We are still selling used books. Ethel Cone while on duty as hostess this past Friday afternoon sold quite a few to people from Houston. We are happy to have all our visitors, and I notice that Houston residents like to see our museum. If you are one of the Eagle Lake residents still planning on your first visit, why not decide to visit in the very near future? Bill Harrison Sr. looks forward to being host to members of the Shaw's Bend Demonstration Club one day this week.

Helen Craig reported that the museum has received a nice sum of money because of the donations made to the museum for the privilege of being enrolled in the tatting class. Helen will continue to start new classes if one of you will get four more to join you in forming a class. Just give her a call at 234-2807. Elfe Thomas is also one of the teachers.

Ethel Cone is wanting items to be brought in for the big garage sale scheduled for October 2 and 3. She especially wants large items including furniture. Kitchen utensils also are good sale items.

Several display cases are waiting to be filled with items for your viewing. We already have lots of articles for these but want you to know that we will welcome more. The themes of these cases will be Physicians, Veterans, keep Sakes, Needlework and Tin Pin Alley. Do any of you readers have any of the World War I songs?

Bill Harrison Sr. gave a favorable report on the progress of the book featuring the history of Eagle Lake. The editor has promised the books by Thanksgiving. You may order yours now at the Eula and David Wintermann Library. The cost is $31.88 (including tax). For an additional dollar the book will be mailed for you. These books will be such treasured and interesting gifts for many occasions.

Call Bill Harrison Sr. at 234-2662 or Elizabeth Boothe at 234-3361 if you wish to arrange for a special tour. The museum is open on Fridays from 3 to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m.

Elizabeth Boothe, reporter

Mary Catherine Laughlin celebrates third birthday

Mary Catherine Laughlin celebrated her third birthday with a party given by her grandmother, Mrs. J.R. (Bonnie) Laughlin, at her home in Rock Island on Wednesday, July 29. The delightful evening was spent swimming and enjoying a meal of charcoaled hamburgers, baked beans, chips, cake and ice cream.

Those in attendance were Mrs. Curtis (Darlene) Laughlin, Elizabeth Anne Laughlin, Kevin Dornak Laughlin, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Laughlin, Cheryl Laughlin, Richard Laughlin, Tony, Bonnie Lynn and Curtis Fournier and W.C. Alley.

Draft report released on soil and water resources

The 60-day public review period for a new USDA report is nearing the half-way point, a conservation leader said this week.

Connie Fair, district conservationist for the Soil Conservation at Columbus, said the comment period ends September 11.

"Despite erosion that could threaten farmland productivity," Fair said, "the report says the United States will be able to meet food production needs into the next century."

A draft version of the report was released last month for public review. It is the second appraisal of the nation's soil and water resources conducted in response to the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977. The Act requires USDA to monitor the status of the soil and water resources on nonfederal lands, and to develop program mitigating conditions that significantly deplete or damage those resources.

"The value of the report is that it identifies the status and condition of soil and water resources and gives the Department an opportunity to develop ways to conserve and protect them," Fair said. "Despite the fact that the report identifies some resource conservation problems, its findings show that the United States can meet food-production demands for the foreseeable future."

The report includes the effects of erosion on productivity, offsite effects of erosion, salinization of land, condition of rangeland, condition and quality of water supplies, upstream flooding, and projections of future conditions.

"The draft report should be considered a tool for developing workable conservation programs," Fair said. "People concerned about agricultural resource management should take a hard look at this appraisal, and submit their comments to us."

Connie Fair aid the first appraisal led to the development of the National Conservation Program implemented in 1982, and was a major source of information used in legislating the conservation provisions of the 1985 farm bill.

Copies of the draft report, "The Second Resources Conservation Act Appraisal," are available for review through the local SCS and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation offices.

Comments can be mailed or given to local USDA offices by September 11.

Dealing with children and summer

By Peggy Braden, County Extension Agent

The hot temperature of summer often reflects the "hot temperatures" of children. "Free" time and increased interaction during summer holidays provide many opportunities for youngsters to find themselves at odds with friends, brothers and sisters, and parents.

Instead of giving up or losing patience with children, try following these suggestions from the National Institute of Mental Health:

Find children's positive behavior and praise it;

Provide physical outlets for children's abundance of energy;

Plan surroundings and situations so undesired behaviors are less likely to occur;

Help children understand the cause of stressful situations so they can learn to respond properly;

Use physical restraint when necessary, but explain the reasons behind it;

Set as few limits as possible, in terms children understand;

Accept children's angry feelings and offer appropriate ways for them to express their anger;

Encourage children to see themselves as valued people;

Express affection and help children understand your love and concern;

Set good examples because adult actions are powerful influences.

Parents may find the summer season offers more opportunities than desired to teach children how to deal with anger and frustration. Hopefully, with understanding and patience, parents and children can benefit from their increased interactions and gain on self control.

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Immunization clinic August 13

An immunization clinic will be held Thursday, August 13 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Ugarte's Clinic located at 706 S. McCarty in Eagle Lake.

The clinic is sponsored by the Texas Department of Health on the second Thursday of each month.

Immunizations for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussia (DTP), polio, measles, mumps and rubella will be given to infants, pre-schoolers and school-age children. Tetanus and/or diphtheria will be given to adults.

Temporary families needed

It sometimes happens (for whatever reason) that a child needs a temporary home with a temporary family who can give him love, attention and the help he needs to grow into a healthy human being — permanently.

Sad as it seems, some of these children have special problems — blindness, retardation, speech or hearing defects, one handicap or another. Others have problems less detectable and harder to deal with — they've been neglected, abused, exploited and so suffer emotionally.

Whatever the problems and whatever the reasons, there are children who need a family who care and need them now.

A partial solution to the problem of these hapless children is foster care — homes where they can live, grow and feel worthwhile.

Homes are especially needed for children who are: minority, teenagers, handicapped, family groups. All you have to be is healthy, self-sufficient and able to provide physical care, guidance, love and understanding.

Both parents may work if one is at home when the child is there (Oh, yes — your home must be inspected for fire and health safety.)

All you have to do is care — really care! The Department of Human Services provides board payments, needed medical treatment and Social Services to help you and the foster child over the rough spots.

There is no greater contribution one can make to his society than to help a child become healthy, happy and productive.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent or would like to know more about the foster care program, then please contact Mary Latimer, Department of Human Services, 20 S. Holland, Bellville, Texas 77418, phone number (409) 865-9164 for Austin County residents; (409) 732-6231 for Colorado County residents; and (409) 826-8211 for Waller County residents.

Hospital News

Patients (August 3)

Eagle Lake: Edna Jane Kell, Arthur Derigo, Peter Munoz, Betty Bauer, Mae Ashby, Molly Nolen, Darla Brewer and baby boy, Barbara Cooper, C.L. Henry, Diana Salas and baby girl;

Wallis: John Holecek; from Sealy: Maria Campos: from Garwood: B. Ethel Howard; from Rock Island: Bertha Girndt.

Dismissals

Eagle Lake: Claudio Morales, Lonnie Hutchison, Katherine Sims and baby boy, Martha Holloway; from Columbus: Nina Bonsal; from Sheridan: Ora Kincheloe, Norman Botard; from Wallis: Debbie Howard, Mary Walker.

***

Britain recently dedicated what may be the world's first tunnel of love for toads. The 10-inch-wide tunnel, which runs 60 feet under a busy country road some 35 miles west of London, will enable lovesick toads to proceed safely to a nearby lake for romantic encounters. According to ***International Wildlife****, magazine, an estimated 20 tons of toads are squished each year on Britain's roads.*

***

New building

Work is progressing nicely on the building that will be the new home for Ludy's Mexican Cafe. The cafe is presently located in the center building of the NuCourt's Motel. In about three weeks, if all goes as planned, the new location will be finished and the cafe's seating capacity will be increased from 30 to 90 seats.

***

Eagle Lake Waterfowl Festival Sept. 18-20

***

New technology brings water management successes

Texas farmers are being equipped with cost-effective technology to improve water use efficiency and engage in water quality management strategies.

Present-day water management strategies are focused on maximizing precipitation effectiveness, limiting irrigation and maximizing water use efficiency (crop yield per unit volume of water use), points out Dr. John Sweeten, agricultural engineer with the Texas A&M University System.

Dryland, or totally rainfed, crop production is riskier but its acreage is increasing due to irrigation pumping costs. Key components of water management on dryland farms include reduced soil evaporation by conservation tillage and narrower row spacings for soil shading; weed control to reduce evapotranspiration; reduced runoff and increased soil moisture storage by conservation tillage, land leveling, level terraces, deep chiseling and furrow diking; and selecting crops, varieties and planting dates to coincide with rainfall probabilities.

Conservation tillage improves soil moisture

For example, conservation tillage, which involves maintaining crop residues on the soil surface, has increased soil moisture by 2.1-2.8 inches per fallow season following irrigated wheat as compared to conventional tillage, according to agricultural engineers and soil scientists with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service based near Amarillo. Increased storage of rainfall results from increased infiltration and reduced evaporation.

Furrow diking, in which soil dams are mechanically placed every few feet along furrows, prevents runoff from most rainfall, notes Sweeten. Researchers have reported that dryland grain sorghum yields more than doubled using furrow dikes as compared to open furrows, which lost more than 3 inches of runoff. Furrow diking increased cotton yields by 25 percent at Lubbock. Other tests have shown benefit-cost ratios for furrow diking usually exceeded 10 to 1.

Graded furrow irrigation systems, which are the predominant type used in Texas, have been improved in recent years to reduce tailwater runoff and deep percolation losses, Sweeten points out. Irrigation water use efficiencies have been increased through the use of shortened furrows, land leveling, limited irrigation frequencies and amounts, tailwater collection and reuse systems, skip-row planting and irrigation, alternate-row irrigation, tractor wheel compaction in irrigated furrows, conservation tillage and furrow diking.

Surge flow reduces water loss

Surge flow is an innovative method of graded furrow irrigation in which furrow streams are intermittently applied in on-off watering cycles controlled by a surge valve and timer. Light irrigations of 2 to 3 inches can be applied. Surge flow irrigation results in faster furrow stream advance due to partial soil sealing during off-cycles and primarily reduces deep percolation losses, especially for the first seasonal irrigation, notes Sweeten.

Surge valve sales in Texas have increased from only one in 1982 to 3,000 in 1986 on an estimated half-million acres. It appears that a 20 percent water savings with surge flow is a realistic expectation for many furrow irrigated farms, Sweeten points out. Benefits appear to be greatest on soils with moderate or high infiltration rates. Careful management is necessary to reduce excessive tailwater losses.

A Texas Agricultural Experiment Station engineer has developed an advance-rate feedback irrigation system (ARFIS) which is essentially a computer-controlled surge flow system for each furrow. Remote sensors in each furrow trigger calculations of rate-of-advance and infiltration rate and result in furrow stream adjustment. irrigation water application efficiencies have ranged from 90-100 percent and distribution efficiencies from 85-92 percent.

In center pivot systems, which are labor efficient, low pressure spray nozzles operated at 25-30 psi just above the crop canopy have largely replaced higher pressure nozzles, notes Sweeten. Low pressure nozzles reduce evaporation losses but tend to increase runoff, which can be virtually eliminated through conservation tillage, soil chiseling and furrow diking.

LEPA systems pay off

A low energy precision application system (LEPA) was developed by Experiment Station agricultural engineers at Lubbock to lower evaporation losses and energy requirements of sprinkler systems. The LEPA system consists of very low pressure emitters (5-6 psi), suspended from moving laterals, that discharge water 6-15 inches above each furrow. The LEPA system has consistently achieved 96-100 percent water application efficiency when furrow diking is used to control runoff. Higher application efficiencies combined with lower system pressures often mean a savings of 25 percent or more in both water and energy costs. The LEPA system costs much less per acre than drip irrigation, especially when an existing center pivot irrigation system can be converted to LEPA.

Engineers now have developed a new second generation LEPA system known as MFIS (Multi-Function Irrigation System), which contains an additional adjustable nozzle that can spray various types of agricultural chemicals while irrigating. The system is especially effective in controlling insects that usually live on the bottoms of leaves where they are protected from overhead sprays. The extremely high application efficiencies of MFIS are expected to minimize spray drift and chemical leaching below the root zone, says Sweeten.

Drip (or trickle) irrigation systems have been used in vineyards, orchards and nurseries in Texas for many years where high valued crops can justify the additional capital cost. Drip irrigation systems also have been used in West Texas cotton demonstration projects, where increased yields were usually obtained. High capital costs and the need for high quality management means that investments in trickle systems for row crops such as cotton are difficult to justify economically at this time.

Agricultural engineers in Texas are aggressively developing and helping to implement technology for water conservation, water supply enhancement, and water quality protection, says Sweeten. Enhanced productivity and economy, conservation of natural resources, and new business opportunities are frequently the result.

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Some bug bites can be serious

Insect stings and bites are usually annoying and mildly painful, but in some cases they can be dangerous.

"Few people have extreme reactions to bug bites and stings," says Dr. Mary Ann Heussner, a health education specialist with the Texas A&M University Agricultural Extension Service. "Yet for the few who are allergic, reactions can be quite severe."

"Unfortunately, most people don't know they're allergic until they're bitten, so it's important to recognize and understand the difference between a local and systemic reaction," says Heussner. "Local reactions may cause swelling and redness at the site of the sting or bite. Systemic reactions are far more serious and involve the entire body."

Symptoms of systemic reactions include dizziness, shock, fainting, wheezing, hives, a tightness in the chest, and facial swelling.

In the case of a systemic reaction, the specialist recommends you call the local poison control center, or immediately take the victim to the nearest hospital emergency room.

To prevent stings and bites, the specialist suggests the following:

•Always wear shoes outside.

•Avoid wearing bright colored and floral print clothing, and shiny jewelry which attract insects' attention. Wear long sleeved shirts and pants whenever possible.

•Keep picnic areas free of garbage. Spray garbage containers with insecticide and close the lids tightly.

•Avoid wearing perfume or cologne, or using scented soaps. Their odors may attract insects.

•Use insect repellent, preferably a brand containing diethyltoluamide which will not harm your skin.

•If an insect lands on you, don't move. If you are attacked by a swarm of insects, run indoors, into water, or into a wooded area.

•When you notice an insect nest on your property, treat it promptly with appropriate insecticides.

"Most people can use simple home remedies to treat insect bites. However, those who are allergic should bring an emergency sting treatment kit along when they're planning to be outside for extended periods of time," says the specialist.

Heussner adds, "Insect stings and bites are usually annoying and somewhat painful, and in a few cases are very dangerous. The best way to stay out of danger is to avoid the bites, and understand what course of action to take if a violent reaction occurs."

Keeping cool

Trying to stay cool this summer doesn't have to be as difficult as it sounds. There are many ways to beat the heat, and expensive energy costs, says Dr. Peggy Owens, a housing specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. "Turning up the air conditioner isn't always the best way to try to keep cool, though it's often the easiest. A little effort in other areas may be the "coolest" thing to do. Closing windows, doors and fireplace dampers tightly, and cutting long steamy showers short will help the air conditioner run more efficiently."

Fans are regaining popularity. Ceiling, portable and whole house fans circulate air in the house and make it feel a lot cooler, and are cheaper to run than air conditioners. Other ways to help beat the heat include: using major appliances during cooler parts of the day; closing drapes and shades to keep out direct sunlight; turning off unnecessary lights.

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