

## Orchard produces after 7 years

# Trisches turn hobby into business

It took Lloyd and Ruth Trisch seven years for their hobby to bear fruit.

They have an orchard. It was planted seven years ago, and except for a few peaches in past years, this is the first year everything has blossomed.

And blossomed it has. The rain may have been bad for wheat and beans, but for fruit, it has been terrific, especially for apples and peaches, all of which are nice, big and juicy. Harvesting of early varieties is just getting underway.

The Trisches, who live on

Colwood Road, 1½ miles west of Ellington, planted 300 trees on their property seven years ago — 100 peach, 100 apple and 100 total of sweet cherries, pears and plums. They have planted about 170 more peach trees since then, a few of which were replacements for trees that fell victims to rabbits, mice and other problems.

Mrs. Trisch, 65, described the orchard as "something to keep us busy during our retirement years."

She describes herself and her husband as semi-retired ... Lloyd, 68, still runs the

Tuscola County Vault Co., a manufacturer of concrete burial vaults, which he started in 1965.

He has turned over Trisch Septic Tank Service, which he started in 1947, to sons Wayne and Roger. They manufacture and install concrete septic tanks, with both businesses operating out of the large building behind their father's house.

Lloyd and Ruth are both widowed from their first marriages and will be celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary in October. Be-

tween them, they have 11 children (eight are his) and 17 grandchildren.

Mrs. Trisch and her first husband owned the Ellington store in the 1950s.

TRISCH INHERITED 33 acres, part of the farm he grew up on, in 1972 when his father died. He has lived in the house there since 1936.

The orchard occupies three of the 33 acres. His father once had cherries growing there. "I don't know what that man would say if he could rise out of his

grave. He would be so happy," Trisch said as he looked over his bountiful crop.

There are various factors which make the site a good place for an orchard. The loam soil is of the right type, it is on a slope and the higher elevation lessens chances of damage from frost.

Many of the branches are so heavy with fruit, they are braced with boards so that they don't break off.

"We look at it now, at what we've done," he commented. "The Lord has really blessed us, I'll tell you."

OTHER THAN A GRANDSON who painted the trunks of the trees to counteract heat, Mr. and Mrs. Trisch do all the work themselves. Ruth handles all the mowing (all of the orchard is covered with grass and other vegetation) and her husband does the spraying and trimming.

There is a lot of work involved. Each of the almost 500 trees must be trimmed annually. Spraying to guard against insects and fungus is done usually seven or eight times a year.

The main purpose of the trimming is to open the inside branches to let in sunlight so that it can better reach the fruit.

None of the trees will ever get very tall. They are the

semi-dwarf variety, which reach a maximum of about 12 feet.

In addition to the fruit trees mentioned, the Trisches have also grown some strawberries and this year tried some raspberries.

To keep everything pollinated, they added three colonies of bees. Learning to extract and process honey will be a new learning experience this year.

Another addition, now on order, is a small cider press.

IN CREATING THEIR orchard, the Trisches received lots of advice, for which they credit William Mueller, regional horticulture extension agent, and Don Kebler, Tuscola county extension agricultural agent.

When they were first starting, they also went on International Dwarf Tree Association orchard tours.

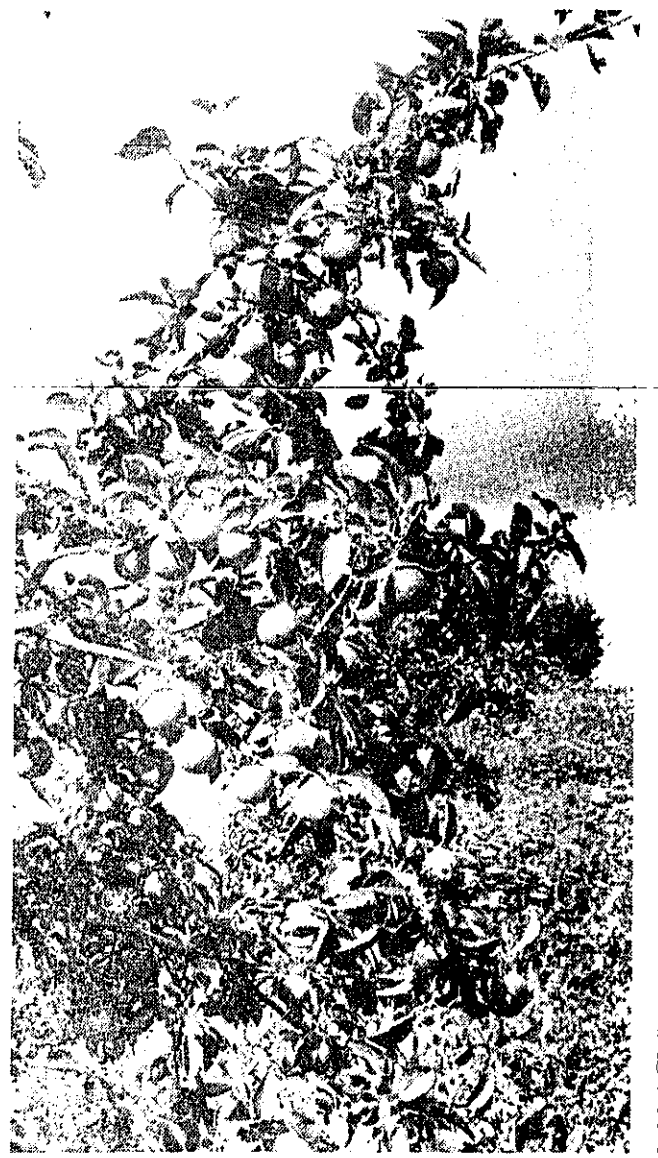
It has been, one of them noted, "a lot of hard work before you get any returns whatever."

With both of them collecting Social Security, the Trisches aren't aiming to get rich, but there is more fruit than they and their children and grandchildren can eat, so they will be selling fruit, some as pick-your-own.

But making money wasn't the primary aim when they started. "We both like to see things grow," Mrs. Trisch explained.



APPLES A DAY -- Examining the crop in one of their 100 apple trees are Lloyd and Ruth Trisch. Planted seven years ago, this is the first year their apple trees bore fruit. They also have peach, pear, cherry and plum trees.



GOOD APPLES -- How's this for a loaded tree?



RESUSCITATOR -- Al Pratt plays guinea pig while his fellow Jaycees look on as Elkland Township Assistant Fire Chief Jerome Root Jr. demonstrates use of the resuscitator the organization helped purchase for the fire department. The Jaycees donated \$300, proceeds from their Jelly Week sale in April, and the township board paid the remaining \$300 needed. The unit, replacing an old one that no longer worked, aids firemen and fire victims who breathe too much smoke.

### Games seen as helpful

Sensing when a young person needs real understanding and when it's better to pretend his problems are new to you can be a difficult task, so the more you know about what your child thinks, the more likely you are to be truly helpful.

Many parents are finding that planning game-playing evenings at home can be among the best ways to get to know their teenagers, and each other. A new board game created by one understanding mother, Mrs. Rhea Zakich, encourages players to be open and honest with one another.

Even teachers and professors, marriage counselors and religious educators find it stimulates exploration of attitudes, feelings, motives and values. Called the Ungame, it asks players to answer questions like What do you want to be doing in 10 years? and How would you define "love"?

Some teenagers like the game so much their teachers are using it as a reward for completing academic tasks in the classroom! Though it comes with a game board, playing pieces and two decks of question cards, it's really an exercise in interpersonal communications that can be very revealing.

### ABOUT THE SAME

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