

Lake Knowles Christmas Tree Towed Out To Center Of Lake

By JODY FELTUS

Correspondent

WINTER PARK — Water temperature rather than electricity was the concern of the Cavalero brothers when they towed the Lake Knowles Christmas tree into the center of the lake.

"And being able to use scuba gear sure was a help," Mike Cavalero Jr. said. "Luckily we had Fleet Peeples with us to show us where to anchor it and the water was warm."

Cavalero and his brother, David, took over the project this year from the Red Pepper Garden Club at the insistence of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Rothstein, members of the club.

"WE DID all the decorating while it was still on shore," Cavalero explained. "Then Fleet came with us when we towed it out into the middle."

"He had put the anchor in place years ago, and has the ability to go straight to it. But we'll have to put some kind of a marker out there."

The tree rests on a dolly which floats on two 50-gallon drums. When the tree is anchored in place, the special cable wiring is brought back to shore.

"FLORIDA POWER hooks it into a pole set up for taking care of the tree lighting. They don't plug it in until we are out of the water. I guess if there were some kind of problem it could be a hair-raising experience," he added.

According to Cavalero, the tree comes on automatically with the street lights around the lake at dusk.

The Cavaleros also had to rebuild the dolly this year because of wear and tear during the many years of warm and cold water temperatures.

"WE HAD to scrounge around for lumber," he said. "We're hoping next year we can get a few contributions and do a better job. I live in a 50-year-old house and fortunately know carpentry."

Cavalero said he and his brother took on the job willingly because they are lakefront residents. He added it will probably be "their" project in the coming years.



(Sentinel Star Photo by Ray Powell)

LAKE KNOWLES CHRISTMAS TREE
Almost ready for its annual trek into the lake