

Taylor County's
Only
Legal Weekly
Newspaper



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Per Copy

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MERKEL, TEXAS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1970 - TWELVE PAGES

81ST YEAR

VOL. NO. 81, NO. 43

'DRIVE FRIENDLY' APPEAL GIVEN TO TEXAS MOTORISTS

AUSTIN — Gov. Preston Smith continued his strong personal appeal to Texas motorists this week, urging them to drive friendly during the coming holiday season to make this year one with fewer traffic fatalities than 1969.

"The holiday season is a time of year when family relationships and consideration for our fellow man are most meaningful," Gov. Smith said. "It is tragic to think of the heartbreak and sorrow which results from completely meaningless deaths on our streets and highways.

"I sincerely hope the negligence of a few will not mar the holiday happiness of many," the Governor said.

The Governor pointed to a chart in his office which shows traffic

fatalities this year are running slightly below the number recorded last year. "We have the opportunity to reduce the number of traffic deaths in Texas this year," Gov. Smith said. "But to do so, Texas motorists must heed the safety admonitions which are being publicized through an all-out effort of newspaper, radio and television facilities in our State.

He further expressed full support of the Department of Public Safety's "Operation Motorcade," the law enforcement department's effort to prevent highway fatalities. The DPS has estimated 87 persons will die on Texas streets and highways during the two holiday weekends, but is planning a massive drive to help keep the toll under its own estimate.



AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU
... Melissa, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Harris

MERKEL STUDENTS MAY REQUEST FREE SCHOOL LUNCHES

Families who have children in the Merkel Schools may now apply for entrance into a school sponsored program which provides lunches free or at a reduced price to those in need of such a service.

Mack Fisher, Merkel School Superintendent, said that families with children in the public schools have been sent application forms to be filled out.

Fisher said that the completed application, signed by an adult member of the family, should be

returned to the principals at the schools.

The application will be reviewed promptly, he said, and the family will be notified in writing of the decision concerning the acceptance into the program.

The decision will be made by the principals or superintendent of the schools, he said, adding that if a family is not satisfied with the decision made on its application, a hearing may be requested.

Fisher said that the request for appeal may be made orally or in writing to the superintendent at the school, who will then review the application with the family and see what can be worked out.

Current prices for school lunches are 30 cents for primary students, 35 cents for elementary students, and 40 cents for high school students.

Decision on the application will be based on an income scale, said Fisher.

Young People To Be Honored

The youth and college students of Merkel will be honored with a Supper in Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church Sunday, December 27 at 5:30 p.m.

Special recognition for the college students home on Christmas vacation will be made, said pastor, the Rev. James Merrell.

1971 Livestock Show Scheduled For Jan. 9

Merkel's Annual Livestock Show will be held Saturday, Jan. 9 and is scheduled to begin at 12 noon. Deadline for entries will be Wednesday, Jan. 6, according to Benny Melton, Livestock secretary.

Albert Maberry, vocational teacher at Trent High School, will be Livestock judge. Adult superintendents will be L. J. Gray, swine; R. E. Clemmer, lambs; Walter Whisenhunt, steers. Junior superintendents named are John Gray, swine; Mark Cemmer, lambs and Jeff Whisenhunt, steers.

Melton said there would be two classes of swine — light and heavy, barrows and gilts; four classes of lambs — fine wool, cross breed, Hampshire and Southdown, and two classes of steers — light and heavy.

Melton said that there would "possibly be one class of heifers." Rules set by the Livestock Association meeting earlier this month, state that "only students enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school, are eligible to show or participate in any way."

The Annual Showmanship Tro-

phy, presented by Taylor Electric Cooperative will be given to Livestock owners only, said Melton.

Men named this week to contact merchants for contributions are J.

D. Sandusky and Loyd Gilmore. Melton said that Gilmore and Sandusky would be contacting merchants "after the Christmas holidays."

GLEANERS CLASS NOTES CHRISTMAS

The Gleaners Sunday School Class of First United Methodist Church met Dec. 16 in the church fellowship hall for their Annual Christmas Dinner.

Tables were decorated in the Christmas motif, and a lighted Santa Claus and tree filled one corner, around which were heaped gifts for all.

During a brief business session, over which the president, Mrs. Minnie Howard presided, it was voted unanimously to buy carpet to cover the nursery. This and the carpet for the Kindergarten Department will be laid this week. These are the main projects for the class this year.

Mrs. T. K. Anderson read the Christmas Story, with Mrs. Anderson at the piano; Mrs. Denzil Cox led the group in Christmas Carols. By reading pebble directions, Mrs. John Cox presented

gifts from the tree. Those present were Mmes. Cox, Howard, Anderson, Tom Largent, Ross Ferrier, John Shannon and W. S. J. Brown.

Also Mmes. J. W. Moore, Dee Grimes, Roy Baccus, O. E. Harwell, Dee Moore and Winnie Cy-pert.

Also Mmes. Herbert Patterson, Mary Clink, E. A. Cox, Leon Tooms, L. S. Tipton Sr., and Oswald Everett.

Also Mattie Billingsley, Jimmy Brown, E. M. Dean, Winnie Walton, Ada Johnson and Albert Ciswell.

Also Mmes. Newton Daniel, James Merrell, J. A. McWilliams, T. L. Grimes, and Misses Mable McRee and Louis Hudson.

The Rev. James Merrell, Rev. Newton Daniel, Rev. Bob Harris and Herbert Patterson and A. H. McElmurray were guests

Stock Show Tickets on Sale

The Merkel Chamber of Commerce has been scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 6 at 8 p.m. performance for the 75th Diamond Anniversary of the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show. This will be their "Special Day." Benny Melton, Merkel Chamber secretary said Monday morning that Rodeo tickets are on sale at the Chamber office and with David Gamble at the Merkel Drug. Reserve seat tickets are \$3.50 each.

The 1971 edition of the Stock Show is scheduled Jan. 29 thru Feb. 7 and will feature more than 11,000 head of livestock, commercial exhibits and the "World's Original Indoor Rodeo."

In making the invitation, W. R. Watt, Fort Worth Stock Show president and manager, said, "A long-time tradition at Fort Worth, 'Special Days' are held to honor communities in Texas and Oklahoma.

It's our way of saying 'thanks' to communities for continued interest that assures a successful Fort Worth Stock Show.

BADGERS HONORED AT FOOTBALL FETE

A banquet room at the Starlite Inn, decorated with Christmas glitter, was the scene of the Cheerleaders' Annual Football Banquet, this past Saturday evening.

Badgers school members and their wives, school faculty and other guests, entered the room down an aisle lined with the school colors of purple and gold.

Following the welcome by Tommy Anderson and invocation by Coach Bill Tate, entertainment was given by Al Staggs, student at Hardin-Simmons University, who presented impersonations of well-known stage and screen personalities.

Cheerleader, Debbie Teaff, ex-

pressed appreciation to all who "had helped the Cheerleaders so much this year."

She had special words for Mrs. Don Duffey, their sponsor, who "had guided them so well this year."

Special awards went to football hero Paul Thames and football sweetheart, Leann Holloway. Other awards and recognitions were presented Merkel High School Band Favorites Vickie Robertson and John Dixon, and to Cheerleaders and Mrs. Duffey.

Following singing of the school song, "Hurray for the Purple and Gold," Paul Thames ended the evening's festivities with prayer.



BANQUET MERRIMENT — There was laughter aplenty at the Annual Football Banquet held Saturday night, when guests were entertained by Al Staggs, Hardin-Simmons University student who did impersonations. Enjoying a good laugh at head table were, from left, Tommy Anderson, Rhonda Patrignani, Sheila Smith, Debbie Teaff and Suzie Riney. (Staff Photo)

OPERATION MOTORCID

DPS

ESTIMATES

52

TRAFFIC DEATHS

Based on past experience, the Department of Public Safety estimates 52 persons will die on Texas streets and highways during the period from 6 p.m., Dec. 24, through midnight, Dec. 27. DPS joins the Governor's Committee on Traffic Safety in urging motorists to prevent these needless deaths.

CHRISTMAS

drive friendly

GOODFELLOWS GET OVER \$300.00

The 1970 Goodfellow campaign passed the \$300.00 mark Monday, with a large number of Merkel people sending in contributions.

"The Merkel Goodfellows always come through," said chairman Lawrence Hewitt, "and we have never failed to help the needy at Christmas time."

Mrs. W. R. Cypert, co-chairman with Hewitt, said Monday morning that requests were still coming in for help and that the Goodfellow Headquarters were crowded with people who were asking for clothes, shoes and gifts for their children.

"Most of our requests are asking for clothing and food," said Mrs. Cypert, "and with the many who have volunteered good, clean clothing we believe we will be

able to meet the clothing needs." Donations of money will help the needy with food, shoes and a few toys, said Hewitt.

Goodfellow Headquarters, this year at the Mellinger store, were open Monday and Tuesday for those who asked for help.

Hewitt expressed appreciation to those who were volunteering their time at the store.

"The people of Merkel who back the Goodfellows are the ones who have made the tradition of the Goodfellows happen each year," said Hewitt.

Latest Contributions

Ladies Auxiliary, World War I \$10.00
Mansfield Farm and Ranch Service 15.00

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Conley .. 5.00
Christine Collins 10.00
Mrs. Jennings Winter 5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Starbuck 25.00
Dr. and Mrs. Jarrett Williams 50.00
Rev. and Mrs. N. S. Daniel 5.00
Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Ueckert 5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Pargament 10.00
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Reed .. 5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Wozencraft (in lieu of Christmas Cards) 5.99
Betty Jane Tittle 5.00
Mrs. O. J. Reynolds 2.00
Mr. and Mrs. W. S. J. Brown 25.00
Merkel Drug 25.00
Merkel Duplicate Bridge Club 20.00
Previously Contributed .. \$105.00

TOTAL \$332.00
"Goodfellows" contributing after Monday will be published in next week's edition.

We Wish You A Merry Christmas...

WANT ADS GET RESULTS



Best wishes to our many friends & patrons from all the folks here at

Billy's Car Wash



Merry Christmas
To Each and Everyone

Ben Franklin Store



At This Holy Time

May the spiritual meaning of
the season be with you this
Christmas, and bring its blessing
TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

Fred and Naomi Starbuck

**RELIGIOUS
REVIEW**

MISSION BAPTISTA BETHEL
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Training Union 6 p.m.
Evening Worship 7 p.m.

Mid-Week Evangelistic
Service 7:30
Mid-Week Service .. 7:30 p.m.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
5th and Runnels
Herschel Smith, pastor

**GRACE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
JAMES SINCLAIR, pastor
SUNDAY
Sunday School 10:00
Morning Worship 11:00

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Kenneth Jones, pastor
SUNDAY
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Radio Broadcast .. 10:15 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Radio Broadcast 11:00 a.m.
Youth Choir 5:00 p.m.
Training Union 6:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Midweek Service 7:00 p.m.

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
307 El Paso St.
W. G. Richardson, pastor
SUNDAY
Bible School 10:00
Worship Service 11:00
Evening Service 7:00
WEDNESDAY
Evening Service 7:00

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
James Merrell, pastor
SUNDAY
Sunday School 9:45
Worship Service 10:55
Youth Meeting 6:00
Evening Worship 7:00
WEDNESDAY
Prayer Group 7:30

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
John Curtis, pastor
SUNDAY
Sunday School 9:45
Preaching 11:00
Evening Preaching 7:30
WEDNESDAY

SUNDAY MORNING
Sunday School 10:00
Worship Service 11:00
SUNDAY EVENING
Training Union 6:30
Worship Service 7:00
WEDNESDAY
Evening Service 7:30

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Billy Patton, pastor
SUNDAY
Bible School 9:45
Morning Worship 10:30
Evening Worship 6:00
WEDNESDAY
Bible Classes 7:30



Merry Christmas to All!

Hicks Auto Supply



Mack's Cleaners



We hope Christmas
is joyful for you!

**Modern
Beauty Shop**

**ALL
TYPES
OF
INSURANCE**

**BONEY
INS. AGENCY**

Phone 8-5151



Joy To All at Christmas!

Minter's
IN ABILENE



THE HAPPY GOODMAN FAMILY

Tickets Make Good Christmas Gifts

THE FOUR GALILEANS, ROSIE ROZELLE & THE
SEARCHERS — ABILENE'S CIVIC CENTER
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31st — 8 P.M.
Tickets Civic Center Box Office
\$2.00 — \$2.50 — \$3.00 — All Seats Reserved
Mail Orders: P. O. Box 60, 79604
Please enclose self-addressed stamped envelope



MERRY CHRISTMAS, FRIENDS!

Merkel Telephone



May you have a candy-cane Christmas
So bright and gay; may Yuletide's
pleasures linger past Christmas Day!

from WOODROW CLEMMER
at

Case Tractor and Equipment
692-5253 ABILENE

MERRY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL

Prices Good Wednesday
Through Saturday,
December 23, 24, 26

WE WILL BE CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

CRISCO (One Limit) 3 Lb. Can **79¢** FOREMOST EGG NOG qt. **49¢** FOREMOST WHIPPING CREAM Ctn. **29¢**

OCEAN SPRAY 303 CAN
Cranberry Sauce 2 for **49¢** **LUX** Liquid Giant Size **49¢**

DEL MONTE 303 CAN
COCKTAIL 2 for **49¢** **JOY** Liquid Giant Size **49¢**

YAMS Bruces Squat Can **29¢** **GAIN** Detergent Giant Size **69¢**

LIBBYS 303 CAN Green Beans 2 for **39¢** LIBBYS 303 CAN PEAS 2 for **39¢** KRAFTS PARKAY OLEO lb. **29¢** REYNOLDS ALUMINUM FOIL 18x25 ft. **49¢**

ZEE Napkins 150 Ct. Pkg. **29¢** SMUCKER ASSTD. GIFT PACK 10 OZ. JARS Preserves 6 for **3.19**

THIS YEAR GIVE FOOD. THE BEST BUY FOR YOUR MONEY. GIVE A GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM
WILSON'S FOOD STORE

KRAFTS MINIATURE 10 OZ. Marshmallows pkg. **19¢** IMPERIAL Powdered Sugar 2 for **39¢**
HERSHEYS 12 OZ. Dainties pkg. **49¢**
BORDENS NONE SUCH 9 OZ. Mince Meat pkg. **29¢**
WHITE Karo qt. **69¢**



HALF OR WHOLE 59c
HAMS ARMOUR SHANK Lb. **53¢**
ARMOUR BUTT END Lb. **63¢**
TURKEY Armour 10 to 12 Lb. Lb. **39¢**
STEAK T-Bone Lb. **1.09**
HENS CHICKEN - Fresh Fat Not Frozen Lb. **49¢**

HORMEL BLACK LABEL **BACON** Lb. **59¢**
CHUCK **ROAST** Lb. **65¢**
KIMBELLS Salad **CHERRIES** 9 OZ. JAR **29¢**
BAKERS ANGEL FLAKE **COCANUT** 4 OZ. CAN 2 for **45¢**

BROCKS CHOCOLATE COVERED **CHERRIES** 10 OZ. BOX **49¢**
SHELLED **PECANS** 10 OZ. PKG. **89¢**
PHILADELPHIA CREAM **CHEESE** 8 OZ. PKG. **29¢**
BORDO **DATES** 1 LB. PKG. **49¢**

FROZEN FOODS
BANQUET MINCE OR PUMPKIN **PIES** Each **39¢**
KEITHS **ROLLS** Pkg. of 24 **29¢**



FRESH **CRANBERRIES** Lb. **39¢**
CRISP **CELERY** Stalk **19¢**
CHIQUITA **BANANAS** Lb. **10¢**
DELICIOUS **APPLES** Lb. **25¢**
SUNKIST **ORANGES** Lb. **19¢**
WALNUTS 12 Oz. Pkg. **49¢**



"Where Customers Send Their Friends"
TWO DELIVERIES DAILY at 10:30 a. m. and 4:30 p. m.
Phone 928-5713



DOUBLE PREMIUMS ON WEDNESDAY ON PURCHASE OF \$2.50 OR MORE IN MERCHANDISE
SAVE VALUABLE CASH REGISTER TAPES FOR PREMIUMS

WANT ADS



Miscellaneous

FOR MONUMENTS and CEMETERY CURBING
M. A. (Sarg) NOSTER
1404 Herring Dr.
Merkel, Texas
Phone 8-5565

MASONIC MEETING

Stated meeting of Merkel Lodge No. 710 on 2nd Saturday and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Visitors welcome. Members urged to attend.
JOHNNIE BARNES, W.M.
ROY MASHBURN, Sec'y.

STRAYED from my farm, 4 miles south of Merkel, 2 white face heifers with M brand on left side. Approx. weight 300 lbs. Call Pete Morgan, 928-5265. 42 2p

DEER HORNS mounted, or furnish materials and instruction for do-it-yourselfers. 1401 Heath or call 928-5453. 42 2p

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR WEDDING INVITATIONS — See our excellent selection. Merkel Mail & Printing, 928-5712.

WANTED — Cooks, waitresses, and dishwashers. Merkel Restaurant, 928-4023. 8 tlc

WEDDING INVITATIONS, INFORMALS, ANNIVERSARY INVITATIONS — All may be seen at the Merkel Mail and Printing, 928-5712.

DON'T merely brighten your carpets — BLUE LUSTRE dyes eliminate rapid resodding. Rent electric shampooer \$1. Dullock Hardware and Gifts, 928-5310.

MELBA'S PASTRY SHOP open daily 8-6, 135 Kent, 928-4883. Cakes — all occasions, pies, cookies, candies, breads, etc. 29 tlc

BEAUTY BY MARY KAY for a complimentary Facial Call Delphine Watson, 862-2235. 31 4p

MAY WE SUGGEST that you see our Wedding Invitations — Good selections of styles and type, reasonable too. Merkel Mail & Printing, 928-5712.

MELBA'S PASTRY SHOP — We now have a coffee shop. Donuts, pie, breads, candy and cakes — all occasions. Call 928-4883, 135 Kent St. 43 tlc

For Rent

FOR RENT — Nice 3 bedroom house, carpeted, carport, furnace heat, L. H. McAden, 672-6610. 366 tlc

FOR RENT — One 2 bedroom, furnished and one 3 bedroom furnished, 1 Bacheor apartment, Call 928-5669. 41 tlc

For Sale

FOR SALE — Beautiful female Irish Setter bird dog, registered, cheaper not registered. One 4 month old tiny male Chihuahua, 1 1/2 miles east of Merkel, phone 928-5239. 42 2p

FOR SALE — Ford Building on large lot at Interstate 20 and Farm Road 126. Owner anxious to sell. Call Pauline Butman at Gold Key Co., 682-4006 or 682-2222. 43 2tc

FOR SALE — 2 wheel livestock trailer \$125; Appaloosa horse colt, 15 months old, \$150. Louis Butman, 846-4185. 43 2tc

FOR SALE — John Deere Tractor model 70 — 3 point hookup TFO, LP gas, excellent condition. Call 928-4876. 43 tlc

FOR SALE — Five piece dinette suite, fits any decor, good condition, reasonable. Call 928-5857. 42 tlc

FOR SALE — TURKEYS, Frank Benovak, call 846-4351. 42 2tp

FOR SALE — 66 Bel Air Chevrolet, V-8, actual miles 12,000, automatic transmission, radio, heater, air conditioner. See Faye Uecker 928-5765 or Robert Campbell, 928-5430 after 5:00 p.m. 42 3tc

FOR SALE — Deer rifle; also man's 26" bicycle and woman's 24" bicycle. See at 812 Brickhaven. 42 2tc

FOR SALE — 490 acres 20 miles south of Merkel, good deer hunting. For more information contact Sam Jones at 928-5712 or 928-4806, or contact Deyle Pougé at Snyder. 30 tlc

HOUSE FOR SALE — 4 room tile house on South 3rd St. Call 928-5160 or 928-5337. 41 tlc

FOR SALE — STAMP COLLECTION, U.S. Album, General Album, Singles, Plate Blocks, Duplicates, Specialty items. Call Abilene, 677-6041. 40 tlf

CARD OF THANKS

THE KINDNESS AND SYMPATHY OF THE NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS IN OUR RECENT SORROW WILL ALWAYS REMAIN WITH US AS A PRECIOUS MEMORY. Our sincere thanks and gratitude for all those comforting acts.

The Family of R. D. Ely

FOR POST 5683

Ladies Auxiliary Hosts Yule Party

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Merkel Post 5683, entertained members and veterans at a Christmas Party Dec. 16 at the Post Home.

The Post Home was decorated in Christmas theme, and members and guests were served a turkey dinner.

NEED

A New Water Well Drilled? Also Install Meyers Subs & Jacuzzi Jets
Call
ROBERT HIGGINS
928-5998



Letters to Santa

EDITORS NOTE — Hey children, your letters to Santa Claus arrived a little too late for our Dec. 17 edition, but with our paper coming out a day earlier and just two days before Christmas, we're going to print them. AND TO BE SURE, we'll send Ole' Santa an extra copy of your letters via "reindeer mail," and then he'll read them twice — your letter and when he stops off in Merkel, we'll put a copy of the Mail right where he can see it.

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a Chain roller coaster, a gun set and a transgrom speedway race game.
Love,
Dario Pena

Dear Santa Claus:
Sometimes I'm good, and sometimes I'm bad, but I've been trying very hard to be more good than bad. So will you stop at my house this year? I want a baby-go - bye - baton, jacks and Suzie Homemaker Stove, Santa, I have a little sister one year old, please bring her something she will play with, just anything.
I love you,
Mary

Dear Santa,
Bring me a football, football suit and race track with two cars. I have been good.
Love
Tim

Dear Santa Claus,
Please bring me a Barbie doll with some clothes, stuffed dog and bicycle. Thank you.
I love you,
Kay

Dear Santa,
Could you possibly bring me a rocky - horse for Christmas.
Love,
Gary

Barber Shops Closed Saturday

Vincent Barnett and E. A. Conley of Barnett and Conley Barber Shops said that they would be closed Friday and also on Saturday.

Both shops will be open for business on Tuesday morning but would close again on New Year's Day and on Saturday following the holiday.



MERRY CHRISTMAS, FRIENDS...

Conley Barber Shop



Christmas Cheer

HAPPY HOLIDAY TO ALL!

Windham Fina Station



MERRY CHRISTMAS

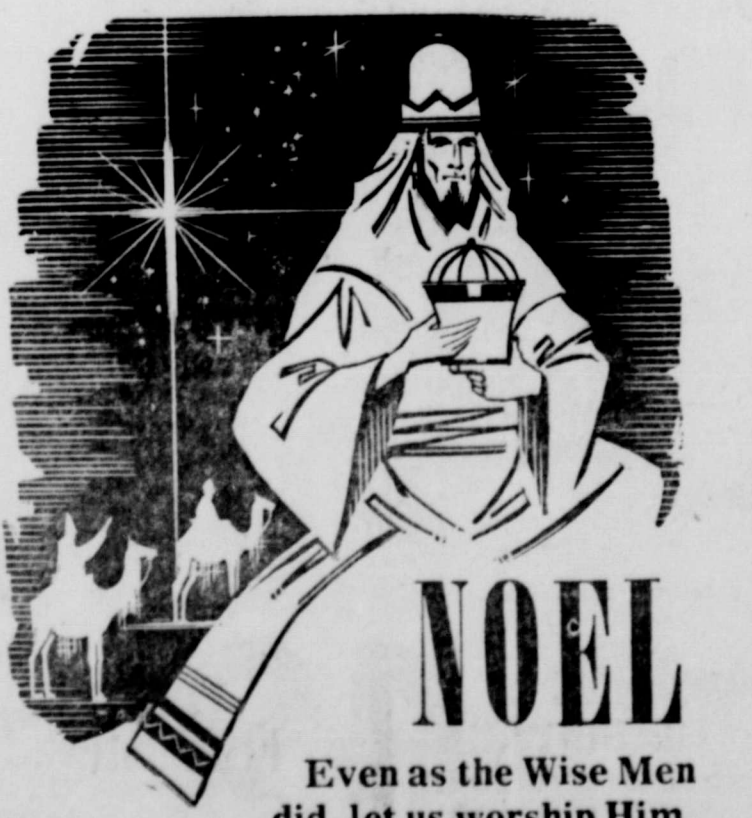
We hope Santa's got you on his list for all the good things of the season! Best wishes from

Adeock's Cleaners and Clothiers



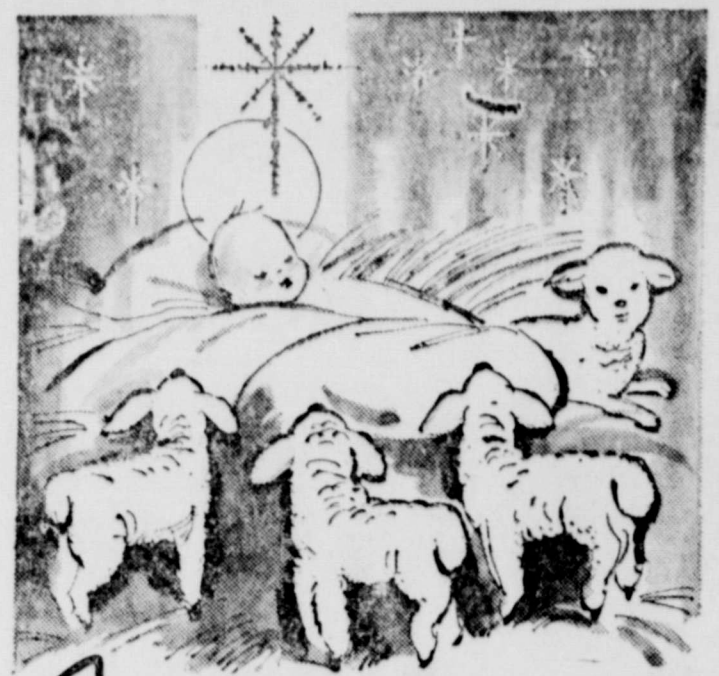
Carols ringing through the air, laughter everywhere... may the joys of the season be yours!

JIMMY, ROBERT, MIGNON, LATINA and ONIS
Crawford's



Even as the Wise Men did, let us worship Him.

Cyrus Pee Agency



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS
Holy Infant, grant us peace!

Cypert Tax Service



Let the good news ring out! Born is the King of Kings! We pray He may bless you and yours with peace and prosperity at Christmastime.

H. W. Lemons Inc.



It's always a pleasure to wish our friends happiness!

Wilson's Jeweler



To you and yours, sincere wishes for happiness and prosperity throughout the holiday season from everyone at

Ann's Flowers

Member TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION 1970

The Merkel Mail

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT
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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of the newspaper will be corrected, gladly, upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

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\$4.00 Per Year outside of Taylor and adjoining counties

Member of the Texas Press Association and West Texas Press Association.

ELAINE BRUMBEAU Editor
DAVE BRUMBEAU Publisher

ROUND-UP

By PAT BYRD

In spite of last minute Christmas buying — wrapping packages, getting cards and packages mailed — Merkelites and "areaites" still are finding time to get baking done for the guests who will be arriving and for those who will be leaving — there's the packing to do.

Leaving this Thursday morning to spend Christmas in Orange will be MRS. ONIS GRAHAM of Trent. She will visit her sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Caffey.

The W. L. (BILL) BROWNS will be in Lubbock Christmas Day having dinner with their daughter and family, the Royce Joplings, Joe and Suzie. And Mrs. B. will be taking along some of that Christmas baking she has been doing for the past week Yea ole' reporter sampled some of it and it's Christmassy good! Then, the Browns will return home for holiday visits from the rest of their children, scattered around Texas

Services Held For R. D. Ely

Funeral services for R. D. Ely, 58, were held Sunday, Dec. 20, at Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Jim Eastham of Tye Baptist Church and the Rev. Ralph Bullock of Tye United Methodist Church officiating. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Ely, longtime resident of Tye and Merkel, was dead on arrival at Hendrick Memorial Hospital in Abilene Saturday morning after an apparent heart attack.

Born Dec. 7, 1912 in Taylor County, Mr. Ely was a veteran of World War II having served in the Philippines. He was a member of the Tye Baptist Church. He had farmed in the Merkel area since about 1945.

Survivors are one son, Roger Don of the home in Tye; four sisters, Mrs. Walter Teaff of Tye, Vera Ely and Ideen Ely, of Abilene, and Mrs. Aura Ollar of Irving; one sister in law, Mrs. M. H. Ely of Tye; one stepson, Ronnie Alexander of Albuquerque, N. M.; and two stepdaughters, Mrs. Barbara Salazar of Fort Worth and Mrs. Charlotte Williams of Merkel.

Pallbearers were Tom Hogan, Weir Joainer, Berneil Teaff, A. M. Davis, Carol Best and Ken Law.

Merkel Visitors

Visitors this past week in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Ensminger were Mr. and Mrs. Howard Maserange of Eagle Pass, Mrs. Maserange and Mrs. Ensminger are sisters.

While here, the Maserangs also visited a sister, who is ill in the Anson Hospital.

and the U.S.

The JARRETT PINCKLEYS are getting ready for a "house-full," for Christmas. They are Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Collins of Lubbock; Mr. and Mrs. Otha Castle and daughter of Perryton; and the Rev. and Mrs. Roy Patterson, Tonya, Telia, Teresa and Tony of Lazbuddie, Tex.

Also Mrs. Fay Reeve, David and Carol, Friona; Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Morgan, Philip and Neal of Perryton, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Reeve, Debbie and Dena, and Mr. and Mrs. Ted White and son, Bill, all of Friona; the Rev. and Mrs. Van Gauthier and Jana of Avoca, and Mrs. J. S. Pinckley Sr., Merkel.

MR. AND MRS. WREN DURHAM left this week for San Antonio to spend Christmas with their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Boyd and children.

'Tis the season to be jolly — 'tis true — and right about this time, all the little ones want to be extra helpful — especially around and under the Christmas tree.

And for some reason or other, they come up with sharper and brighter sayings.

Following are some remarks heard "here and there" by the bright young set:

"I know it's more blessed to give than receive, but it's not as much fun."

"Mommy and me got all the Christmas cards ready to mail. I was the licker."

"Daddy, you were wrong. I saw Santa Claus today and he said I can have an electric train."

"I wasn't trying to find where you hid my presents. I always bounce my ball under your bed."

"No wonder Santa Claus is so fat — with all that milk and cookies he has to eat on Christmas Eve."

Merkel's Father Dies at Age 59

The Rev. O. A. Hendon, 59, of Sweetwater, and father of Dean Hendon of Merkel, died Thursday. He was injured in an automobile-train accident Oct. 18, 1968, in Sweetwater, and has been in several hospitals since the accident.

Funeral services were held Friday in Lamar St. Baptist Church. Burial was in Garden of Memories in Sweetwater.

He was an ordained Baptist minister.

Survivors include his wife; two sons, Dean of Merkel and Audley of Ft. Ord, Calif.; one daughter, Mrs. Cindy Clowers of Sweetwater; one brother; two sisters; three grandchildren.

To Please God

It is essential if man is to please God to do ALL that is commanded in the scriptures for us to do, and it is equally essential that all we do be from scripture which is Gods revealed will for man.

Sin is to transgress what God has commanded (1 John 3:4). To transgress God's Law is to ADD TO it and to either subtract from it or ignore some of it, or to come short of it (Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18, 19; Romans 3:23). All of which is sin. And the result of sin is death — Romans 6:23; James 1:15 (when man sins he is spiritually separated from God — Isaiah 59:1, 2).

Proverbs 30:56 reads: "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."

Man therefore has not the right to make spiritual laws of any kind for God or His people regardless whether it be in regard to worship or church activities. Man's responsibility is to "Fear God and keep HIS commandments." Ecclesiastes 12:13.

BILLY PATTON, Minister CHURCH OF CHRIST

"COME VISIT WITH US"

You are invited to listen to the HERALD OF TRUTH program on KTXS-TV — Sat. Sundays.

Stith News

By MRS. FRITZ HALE



A Very MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE.

Mamie Hardin and Ruby Reddin visited Mrs. Rosa Barley and Mrs. I. N. Pentecost in Tye Friday.

Mrs. Billy Harris, Midland, and J. C. Beard, Odessa, visited their mother, Mrs. Mamie Hardin and also attended the funeral services for James Howard Beard at the Assembly of God Church in Merkel Dec. 16.

J. R. Mashburn of Fort Worth spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mashburn and Jo Nell.

Mrs. R. W. Hill and Mrs. Chester Faulks of Anson visited Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Hale Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Clyburn and children visited in Abilene Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kuch and with Mrs. Norman Farrington and children of Corpus Christi, who were visiting in the Kuch home.

Mr. and Mrs. James Strong, Odessa, and the Rev. and Mrs. Jesse Swindell attended a football game in San Angelo Saturday afternoon, Melinda Strong and Mac-Sherry Swindell spent the day with their grandmother, Mrs. J. E. Swindell.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bradley visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs.

Alvin Byrd, Tye, and Mr. and Mrs. Royce Benard, Abilene.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. McDonald visited over the weekend with their uncle, Joe Reeves in White-wright and helped celebrate his birthday.

The Rev. James Williams, Pam, Mike, Reggie and Ross Merritt were dinner guests Sunday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Browning.

After services at the Stith Baptist Church Sunday night, the church folks went to the Brownings' home, where they enjoyed singing and a social hour.

Mr. and Mrs. Orval Ely and children attended the funeral services of their uncle, R. D. Ely, at Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel Sunday.

Merkelite Gets Commendation

Mrs. Margie Bird, Accounting Technician for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, has been presented a letter of commendation for her work in improving efficiency in communication in branches "which could result in substantial savings."

Presentation to Mrs. Bird was made by Mr. L. D. Burrows, Chief, Texoma Exchange Region in Fort Worth.

Further benefits resulting from Mrs. Bird's work will be "improvement in the maintenance of records and a broader understanding of critical areas on the part of Accounting personnel."

She provides technical assistance to installations in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. She is the daughter of Mrs. T. T. Gray, 212 West St., and has one daughter, Patti.



AT CONVENTION — Merkel Farmers Union members attending the Amarillo Convention held recently and visiting with Senator Ralph Yarborough, are, from left, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Bob Toombs, and Mrs. Charles Jacobs. (Photo Courtesy The Abilene Reporter-News)

MINCE MEAT ENHANCES HAM SLICE

Pie sliced apples and mince meat make a tasty sauce for ham steaks.

Arrange two ham steaks sandwich-fashion, spread sauce between and over the top of slices. Bake until the ham is fork tender. Mince meat is available in condensed or ready-to-use form — plain or brandy and rum flavored. This traditional fruit and spice combination of tart-sweet flavor has a fine affinity for meats, particularly pork, smoked ham and poultry.

The Borden Kitchen recipe for the mince meat - apple sauced ham steaks follows:

Ham Steak With Mince Meat Sauce (Makes about 8 servings)

- 2½ cups (one 1-lb. 4-oz. can) Comstock Pie-Sliced Apples, drained, diced
- 2 (9 oz.) packages None Such condensed Mince Meat, crumbled
- 1½ cups water
- 2 center cut ham steaks, 1-inch thick

In heavy saucepan, combine apples, mince meat and water. Place lumps are thoroughly broken. over medium heat; stir until

Bring to a boil; boil briskly one minute. Bake ham in moderate Remove from oven; spread sauce (325 deg. F) oven 15 minutes. between slices and over top of ham, return to oven. Bake 30 to 45 minutes or until ham is tender.

Catholic Church To Celebrate Mass

The Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Merkel will have Midnight Mass Christmas Eve, according to Frank Duran.

Duran said there would be no service Christmas Day.

save LIKE THE DICKENS

APPLIANCES TELEVISION STEREO HOLIDAY VALUES

WASHER

Model WWAS400L

- 18 lb. capacity
- Filter-Flo® System
- Mini-Basket™
- Three Wash Cycles Including Permanent Press
- Two Speed Wash/Spin
- Cold Water Wash and Rinse
- Bleach Dispenser

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DRYER

Model DDE5200L

- 3 Automatic Dry Cycles
- Extra Large Capacity
- Automatic Permanent Press with Cooldown
- End-of-Cycle Signal
- Porcelain Enamel Top and Clothes Drum

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General Electric 15 Cu. Ft. No-Frost REFRIGERATOR

Model TBF15SE

Giant freezer — fast ice!

- Freezer stores up to 147 lbs.
- Jet Freeze
- Ice Compartment
- Separate temperature controls

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DISHWASHER

Model SC 663L

- Power-Flo Mechanism
- 3-Level Thoro-Wash: Power Shower®, Power Tower, Power Arm
- 5 Wash Cycles
- Textolite Top
- Double Detergent Dispenser

REDUCED

REFRIGERATOR

Model TFF 21R

- Delivers Crushed Ice or Cubes to Your Door
- 7-Day Meat Keeper
- Freezer holds up to 223 lbs.
- Adjustable Tempered Glass Shelves
- Rolls Out on Wheels
- 33" wide, 66½" high

REDUCED

COLOR TV

Model WM 218HWD

- 10" diag. Porta-Color® TV
- Private Earphone and Jack
- UHF Solid State Tuner
- VHF "Pre-Set" Fine Tuning Control
- Telescoping Dipole Antenna

REDUCED

COLOR

Model WN266WD

The Montrose

- GE Reliacolor® Chassis
- AFC—Automatic Fine Tuning Control
- GE Sensitronic® Tuning System Featuring: VHF "Pre-Set" Fine Tuning, UHF Solid State Tuning
- 23" Diagonal 295 sq. inch Viewing Area

REDUCED

NEW EARLY AMERICAN COLOR CONSOLE TV with INSTA-VIEW™ PICTURE Pre-Set Fine Tuning

Model M911LMP

- "Silver Touch" 2-Speed Tuning System
- Set and Forget Volume Control
- Early American Maple Furniture Styling Simulated TV Reception

REDUCED

Fresh Stock for Your Christmas Giving at Greatly Reduced Prices

PALMER MOTOR COMPANY

MERKEL, TEXAS

GE SERVICE SELDOM NEEDED ALWAYS NEARBY

LEGAL NOTICE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
To any Sheriff or any Constable
within the State of Texas —
GREETING:
You are hereby commanded to
cause to be published once each

week for four consecutive weeks,
the first publication to be at least
twenty - eight days before the
return day thereof, in a newspa-
per printed in Taylor County,
Texas, the accompanying citation,

of which the herein below follow-
ing is a true copy.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: Diane L. Oden, Defendant,
Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COM-
MANDED to appear before the
Honorable Domestic Relations
Court of Taylor County at the
Courthouse thereof, in Abilene,
Texas, 1/2 filing a written answer
at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of
the first Monday next after the
expiration of forty - two days
from the date of the issuance of
this citation, same being the 18th
day of January A. D. 1971, to
Plaintiff's Petition filed in said
court, on the 24th day of April
A.D. 1970, in this cause, number-
ed 5464 on the docket of said
court and styled Michael David
Oden, Plaintiff, vs Diane L. Oden,
Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature
of this suit is as follows, to-wit:
Plaintiff and Defendant were mar-
ried May 3, 1969, and became per-
manently separated about Nov.,
1969. Plaintiff sues for divorce as
is more fully shown by Plaintiff's
Petition on file in this suit.

If this citation is not served
within ninety days after the date
of its issuance, it shall be return-
ed unserved.

The officer executing this writ
shall promptly serve the same
according to requirements of
law and the mandates hereof, and
make due return as the law di-
rects.

Issued and given under my
hand and the seal of said court
at Abilene, Texas, this the 30th
day of November A.D. 1970.
(Seal)

Attest: IRENE CRAWFORD
Clerk, Domestic Relations
Court, Taylor County, Texas
40 41c



Health, wealth, and happiness!
Irvin Thompson Butane



It is our sincere
wish that happiness
and prosperity find their
way into the homes of
our friends and remain
with them throughout
the coming year.

Bullock's Hardware & Gifts
ALMEDA and WILLIE



Good Cheer,
Friends!



A Very Merry
Christmas To All

Clyde Wurst
Garage



May the happiness of the holidays remain
with you long after the Season has come and gone

FROM ALL THE FOLK AT THE
MERKEL DRUG

Basketball Schedule

December
28, 29, 30 — Stamford Tourna-
ment, boys
31, Jan. 1, 2 — Hawley Tourna-
ment, girls
January
5 — Coahoma, there, A&B boys

7, 8, 9 — Merkel B Team Tour-
nament A girls
19 — Hamlin, there, A&B boys,
A girls
8 — Rotan, there, A&B boys, A
girls
12 — Anson, here, A&B boys, A
girls
14 & 16 — Winters B Team Tour-
nament 26 — Open date
15 — Haskell, there, A&B boys, A
girls
22 — Stamford, here, A&B boys,
A girls
23 — Rotan, here, A&B boys, A
girls

For
COLDS
take 666

NOEL

BLESSINGS AT
CHRISTMASTIME

Ann's
Beauty Shop

SERVICE
Our Specialty

**J. L. FISHER
FINA SERVICE**
TWO LOCATIONS
INTERSTATE 20 &
WEST HIGHWAY 80
* * *

**MERKEL
AUTO PARTS**
921 N. 2nd
WE WELCOME
YOUR BUSINESS

**Smith
ELECTRIC**
water
heater

- NO PILOT
- NO FLUE
- FITS ANYWHERE
- CLEAN, ODORLESS
- QUICK RECOVERY
- 10 YEAR GUARANTEE

FREE WIRING
Normal 220 volt wiring to WTU
residential customers who buy an
electric 40 gallon or larger water
heater from a local dealer or WTU.

**Merritt Plumbing
COMPANY**
Phone 928-5622
Merkel, Texas

IDEAL GIFT FOR MOM

Westinghouse

PORTABLE DISHWASHER

- Single-dial timer control
- Self-cleaning filter
- Multi-level washing action
- Exclusive Tilt-Guard door
- Chopping Block Top
- Dual detergent dispensers

PRICES START AT
\$150.00

THE CHRISTMAS GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING . . . GIVE MOM A
BREAK FROM THAT AFTER-MEAL DISHWASHING CHORE.

SALESMAN ON DUTY AT OUR DISPLAY STORE
AT NORTH 2nd AND EDWARDS — DOWNTOWN

MAKE IT A MERRY CHRISTMAS FOR YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY WITH
A WESTINGHOUSE APPLIANCE — WASHERS, DRYERS, DISH-
WASHERS, RANGES, REFRIGERATORS AND DEEP FREEZES.

**TAYLOR ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**
DISPLAY ROOMS — DOWNTOWN MERKEL

**MAY WE
SUGGEST**


Subscriptions
TO
THE MERKEL MAIL

For Your Christmas Gifting.

Notice of your gift will be mailed with a
Christmas Gift Card and subscription will be-
gin on date you designate. Call or write THE
MERKEL MAIL, send name, address and Zip
Code.

TELL ME

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN OPINION AND A DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT?




AN OPINION IS AN EXPLANATION OF A DECISION REACHED BY THE COURT. AFTER A DECISION THE CHIEF JUSTICE ASSIGNS A JUSTICE TO WRITE THE OPINION!

HOW DO SMALL ANIMALS PLAY A USEFUL ROLE AS NATURE'S FARMERS?




THEY HELP "PLOW" THE SOIL BY DIGGING AND TUNNELING THROUGH IN SEARCH FOR INSECTS AND WORMS!

FROM A HEIGHT OF ABOUT 130 MILES HOW DO LARGE LANDMARKS APPEAR?



MT. EVEREST'S 29,000 FOOT HEIGHT IS A MERE PIMPLE, MOUNTAIN RANGES ARE JUST WRINKLES AND THE GRAND CANYON IS A VERY TINY CREASE!

WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT TO MAN'S SURVIVAL... FOOD OR WATER?



WATER! IT TAKES A PERSON AT LEAST 2 WEEKS TO EXPIRE OF HUNGER... BUT ONLY 3 DAYS TO DIE OF THIRST!

TIE A SAFETY 'EXTRA' TO THAT NEW BIKE

A shiny new bicycle parked along side the Christmas tree can be an exhilarating sight — so exhilarating, in fact, that it often crowds out all thoughts of safety rules.

So here's a suggestion for parents from the American Automobile Association.

Well before the heady atmosphere of holiday time arrives, parents who plan to surprise their youngsters with a bike should write out a "safety code" for them. Then, before wheeling the bike into the living room on Christmas morning, they should tie it to the handlebars with a bright red ribbon.

As the number of cars on the road increases, the number of bicycle mishaps also soar. In 1968, 573 deaths resulted from these accidents — in 1969, there were 820.

The American Automobile Association also warns that parents shouldn't delude themselves into thinking that if their youngsters are older, they're less likely to have an accident. In fact, he says, a recent study by the National Safety Council found that the bicycle-motor vehicle accident rate is about 50 per cent higher among youngsters from 10 to 14 years old than those below the age of 10. It appears that most younger cyclists are more likely to ride on sidewalks and other non-traffic areas.

The Auto Club has come up with tips for that safety code. A bicycle owner should:

1. Think of himself as a DRIVER. he's responsible for his own safety and the safety of others on

the road and sidewalk. And learning sound driving techniques will make him a superior motorist once he's old enough to own his first car.

2. Signal for left and right turns and slowing down and stopping with same hand motions that car drivers use.

3. Learn and obey all traffic signs and signals, including traffic lights, stop signs and crosswalk markings at intersections, as well as the directions of officers guiding traffic. The largest number of cyclists — 80 per cent — are killed or injured because they were violating traffic laws.

4. Always drive ONE TO A BICYCLE. When more than one cyclist is on the road, they should drive single file, close to the right side of the street, and make no sudden changes in course.

5. Always keep both hands on the handlebars unless signaling. The habit of "clowning" around is childish and dangerous.

6. Never drive fast going downhill or on rough, slippery roads.

7. Cross railroad tracks as straight as possible to avoid skidding.

8. Never drive at dusk or after dark unless the bike is equipped with a horn or bell, a strong headlight and a red taillight reflector.

Parents also should be familiar with local laws affecting cyclists. Some require licensing of bicycles, some forbid their use on sidewalks and some give parents the responsibility for equipping their

child's bike with proper lights and warning devices. Finally, if there's the slightest suspicion that a child is too immature to take on the responsibility of driving a bicycle, wait a year or two before getting him one. Meanwhile, buy him a puppy — they're a lot less expensive, and much more affectionate.



Our sincere thanks to all our friends for your wonderful patronage and good will this past year.

Harold Crawford Tire Company ABILENE



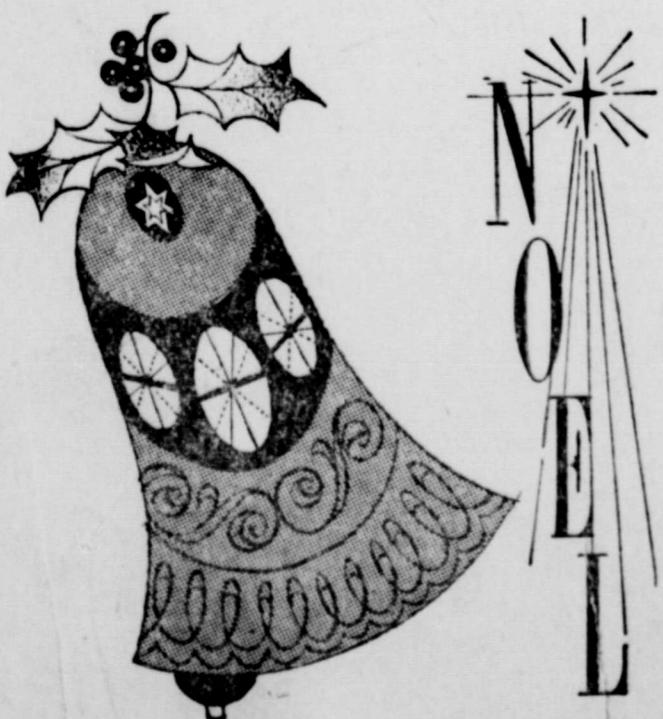
... TO ALL Edgar Davis Grain Co.

GREETINGS



"Smooth driving" thru the season!

DuBose Texaco



TO ALL, A JOYOUS GREETING

Malone Implement

Holiday Cheer



Laughter, good cheer and kindness come from good friendships throughout the year. All this and much more is our Christmas wish to you and yours this happy holiday season.

THE MERKEL MAIL

DAVE, CHICK, CARL, BOB, GARY, PAT, ELAINE and JAN

KRAFTS



PRICES GOOD Wednesday, Thurs., Sat., December 23-24-26 CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

MIRACLE WHIP
Quart Jar **39¢**

WITH \$7.50 OR MORE IN TRADE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

Frozen Foods

WHOLE SUN **ORANGE JUICE** 12 Oz. Can **29¢**
OLD SOUTH 2 in W-Pan **PIE SHELLS** Pkg. **29¢**
BIRDSEYE **COOL WHIP** 9 Oz. Pkg. **49¢**

KEEBLER CLUB **CRACKERS** LB. BOX **35¢**
NABISCO **RITZS** LB. BOX **43¢**

CRISCO Creamy (1 Limit) 3 Lb. Can **73¢**
FLOUR Gladiola 10 Lb. Bag **98¢**
COFFEE Maryland Club 2 Lb. Can (1 Limit) **1.55**
SUGAR Imperial Powdered 2 Lbs. **39¢**

BORDEN or GANDY **EGG NOG** Quart **49¢**

METZGERS, GANDYS or BORDENS **WHIPPING or SOUR CREAM** 1/2 Pt. **29¢**

METZGERS HOMO 2 **MILK** Gal. Jug **95¢**

METZGERS 1/2 GAL. **BUTTER MILK** 2 for **89¢**

BAKERS ANGEL FLAKE **COGNAC** 2 3 1/2 OZ. CANS **39¢**

REYNOLDS **FOIL WRAP** 25 FT. ROLL **25¢**

MARSHMALLOW CREAM **HIP-O-LITE** 9 OZ. CTN. **29¢**

ZEE **NAPKINS** 60 CT. PKG. **10¢**

SUDDEN BEAUTY **HAIR SPRAY** JUMBO 14 OZ. CAN **49¢**

PHILADELPHIA **CHEESE** Cream 8 OZ. PKG. **33¢**

GLADIOLA **MEAL** 5 LB. **49¢**

HERSHEYS CHOCOLATE **DAINTIES** 12 Oz. Pkg. **49¢**

TOWIE SALAD **CHERRIES** 9 Oz. Bot. **35¢**

TOWIE STUFFED **OLIVES** 5 Oz. Bot. **39¢**

DEL MONTE 303 **FRUIT Cocktail** 2 for **43¢**

DEL MONTE NO. 2 CRUSHED **PINEAPPLE** 2 for **69¢**

OCEAN SPRAY CRANBERRY 300 **SAUCE Jelly** 2 for **49¢**

DEL MONTE OR LIBBYS 303 **PUMPKIN** 2 for **39¢**

OUR DARLING 300 **ASPARAGUS** Can **29¢**

DEL MONTE CUT 303 **Green BEANS** 2 for **43¢**

DEL MONTE 303 C. S. **Golden CORN** 2 for **39¢**

DEL MONTE 303 **Garden PEAS** 2 for **43¢**

KRAFTS MINIATURE **MARSHMALLOWS** Big 10 Oz. Bag 2 for **39¢**

PUSS 'N BOOTS 300 SALMON or TUNA **CAT FOOD** 2 for **25¢**

FRESH CELERY LB. **10¢**

CALIF. NAVEL SALAD **ORANGES** Lb. **15¢**

FRESH **LETTUCE** Lb. **15¢**

WASH. RED DELICIOUS **APPLES** Lb. **19¢**

CHIQUITA **BANANAS** Lb. **9¢**

RUSSET **SPUDS** 10 Lb. Bag **39¢**

NUTS - CALIFORNIA **WALNUTS** Lb. **39¢**



GAIN Giant Box **59¢** (1 Limit)

JOY Liquid Giant Bot. **49¢**



SAVE! Giant Size Only **63¢**



WE GIVE GIFT BOND STAMPS

DOUBLE ON WEDS.

Happiness is Eating a **HAM**
ARMOUR or DECKER 1/2 OR WHOLE **53¢** LB.
TENDER JUICY CURED

TURKEYS RANGER 10-2 LBS. HENS **39¢**
TOMS Lb. 37¢

ROAST CHOICE BEEF CHUCK LB. **69¢**

HENS FRESH 5-8 LBS. CHICKEN LB. **49¢**

BACON GOOCH B. R. POUND **59¢**

CHEESE WISCONSIN CHEDDAR LB. **85¢**

FRESH PORK **LIVER** lb. **39¢** FRESH PORK **ROAST** lb. **45¢**

CARSON'S SUPER MARKET
MERKEL, TEXAS
FRESH VEGETABLES
FREE DELIVERY MON - WED - FRI
BEST MEATS IN TOWN

Santa's holiday list...

It's sure to include each and every one of our wonderful friends and customers. We hope Santa's put you down for the very best of the Christmas season. And we hope that the holidays bring you not only presents under the tree but the gifts of life as well: happiness, peace, good health, and love.

from the staff
at

Taylor Electric Cooperative, inc.



WE WOULD ASK FOR FAVOR WITH GOD

By REV. RALPH BULLOCK
Pastor, Tye Methodist Church
"And the angel said, Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God." (Luke 1:30 RSV)

Today we would question the value of the favor which Mary found with God. She was required to go on a hard journey to a distant land. The mode of transportation was riding bare-back on a donkey or else to walk — A three day journey in the last month of pregnancy. She made the journey not by choice, but because the foreign rulers had decreed that everyone return to their ancestral home for a world census. To her it was a strange town with no friendly faces or voices to offer words of comfort and cheer. There, in a town of strangers her first born son came

into the world.

The idea of leaving the comforts of home and friendly neighbors is, in itself, enough to make one bitter with life. But once there in that distant land to be unable to find even a small room in which to spend the night! This is favor with God? The only visible favor Mary realized that first Christmas night was a small measure of compassion from some unnamed hotel clerk who offered the comfort of a stable. In that stable she gave birth to her first born child with nothing but wheat straw for a mattress.

This does not meet our definition of a favor. Mary may have doubted the glory of this favor too, as she faced the hard and harsh facts of life.

From the time of his birth, the

child, Jesus, lived in jeopardy. Herod the King heard of him and his greatness, and immediately had all male infants under the age of two put to death.

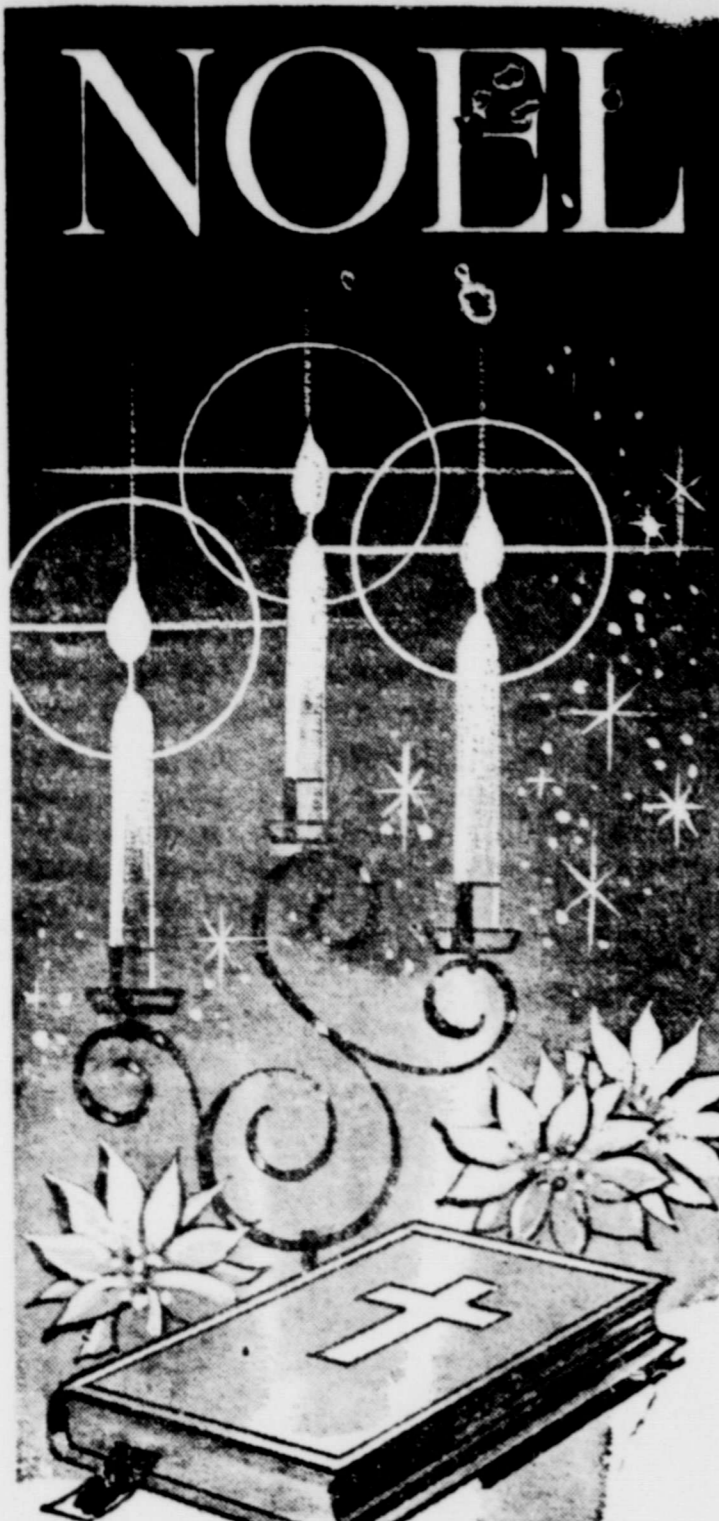
Mary had to flee to another strange land with her new infant son. Almost from his birth the shadow of the cross began to fall and Mary seems to have realized this. The way of sorrow

marked his entire life.

As we look into the years, we see Mary's first born child grow to adulthood and thereafter he is despised and rejected by men. Finally, we see him put to death at the tender age of 33 on a cross of pain. At the shadow of that cross we see Mary standing in tears.

This is favor with God? But not

by our standards. The Christ child story has been polished by millions of lips as the story has been retold. And as we celebrate another Christmas, let us be reminded that God's greatest gift did not come to us cheaply. The price was paid in the suffering of a mother and more especially as she watched the suffering of her child — the Child of God who paid it all. "Mary, you have found favor with God."



We pray for lasting peace
at Christmastime and always.

Seymore Insurance Agency

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS IN BOOK OF HEBREWS

By BILLY PATTON

I suppose the world (especially the U.S.) entertains more thoughts about Jesus Christ this month, if he hasn't been lost in the shuffle of buying "things," than at any other time of the year.

The inspired writer of the Book of Hebrews gives us some good thoughts concerning this Jesus. In chapter one of the book these realities are set forth:

(1) A son, born of woman. (2) The Heir of all things. (3) He was involved in the creation of all things. (4) He is the Brightness of the Divine Glory. (5) He is the express image of the character of Divine substance. (6) He is set forth as sustaining the immense fabric of the universe by the word of his power. (7) As having purged our sins. (8) He is now on the right hand of God, infinitely exalted above all created beings, and thus the object of adoration of the angelic host. (9) He has an eternal throne, neither his person nor his dignity ever changes nor decays. (10) And as continuing to exercise dominion when the earth and the heavens are no more.

Would it not behoove us to think of him as much all through the year?

Can we give the "glory due his name" by just remembering one day?

Jesus didn't tell us to observe his "birthday," whenever it is, that's man's doing. But he did tell us to "remember and show forth his death until he comes again to receive us unto himself" (I Corinthians 11:23-30; John 14:1-3). Jesus came to die and to give us the "abundant life." Aren't you proud he died on that tree?

Remember Him every day as such as December 25th. Live for Him who died for you.



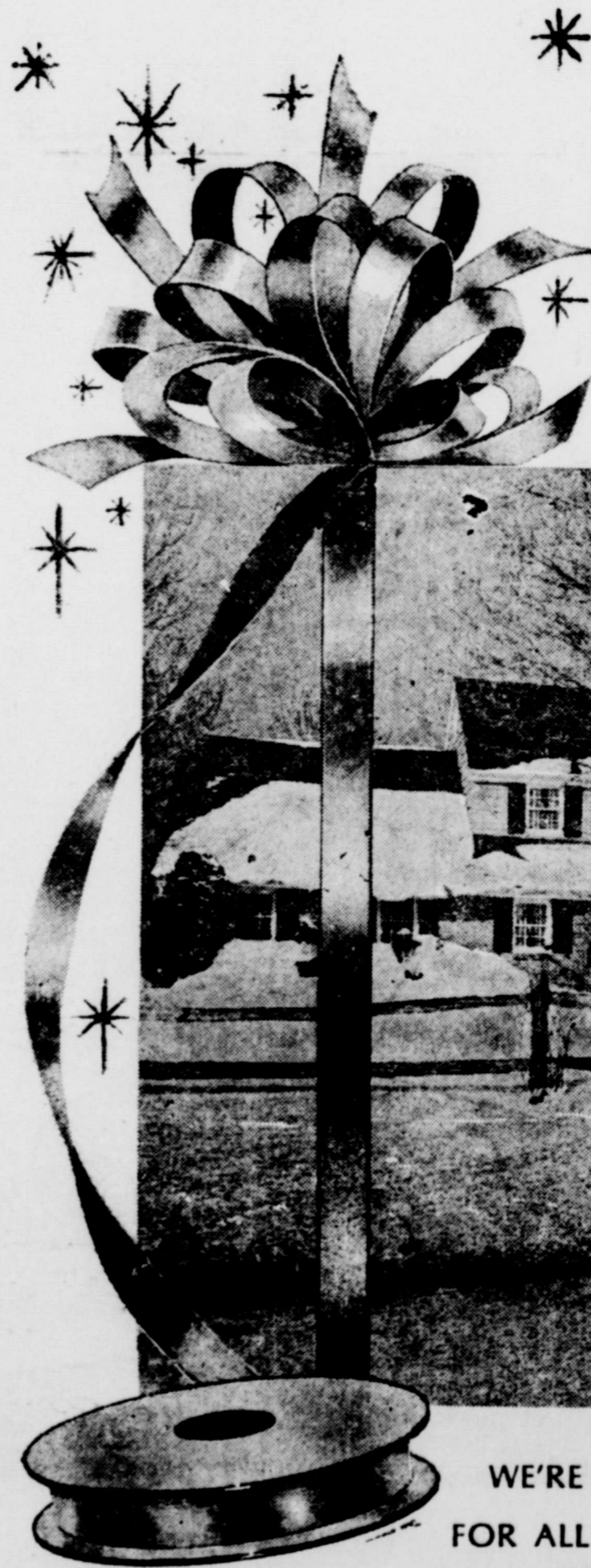
Christmas Greetings

FROM ALL YOUR FRIENDS AT
MACK EPLEN'S
IN ABILENE



Let us follow the Star of Bethlehem, in search
of that peace that passes understanding. May
Christ's love abide with you and yours!

FARMERS AND MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK



HAPPY
HOLIDAYS
*TO ALL!

WE'RE WRAPPING UP BEST WISHES
FOR ALL OUR WONDERFUL FRIENDS
AND CUSTOMERS AT CHRISTMASTIME

HIGGINBOTHAM-BARTLETT CO.

Raymond

Pat



Happy Holiday!

To our customers at this festive season we wish all blessings.

In spite of today's pace, we still feel that an old fashioned "Thank You" is necessary and appropriate. We realize more than ever how much it means to have the friendship and confidence of folks like you. Without you we could not prosper and grow. May the coming year bring Good Health, Happiness, and Prosperity to you and your loved ones.

Bragg's

MARY, ETHEL, FLORENCE and FERN

CHRISTMAS IS . . . A TIME FOR LOVE

Editor's Note — The following letter was written last Christmas by the late Johnny Cox, to the children of the Rev. and Mrs. Ernest McLaughlin. A reprint of the letter is in this week's First United Methodist Church bulletin and is being shared with the Merkel Mail and its readers.

To Suzannah and Andrea, My favorite little girl friends.

How very sweet of you to remember me at this Christmas Season, when you have so many little friends. Someone has said that little girls are made of "sugar and spice, and everything nice." To this I agree, while others say that little boys are made of "bugs and snails, and puppy dog tails." But, to this I cannot fully agree — at least not for all, as our Jesus was once a little boy, even about your size and age. Had our Lord Jesus never been born we would not have

Christmas — no gifts from those who love us, no glittering star, star of Bethlehem in all its beauty on top of the Christmas tree. No wise Men traveling from afar, bringing gifts, bringing love, coming to worship the new born King, born in a stable, for there was no room for Him at the Inn, no shepherds watching their sheep and hearing the heavenly host of angels singing — Without the birth of our little Jesus, there would be no Santa Claus, no holidays from school, so you see, there was one little Boy who was made of "sugar and spice and everything nice." Yes, Suzannah and Andrea, this little boy was our Lord Jesus.

It is our wish and prayer that as your little bodies and minds continue to grow that you will always remember the Babe Jesus, born in a stable, with a manger for His bed. He was always so lovely and kind to others; espec-

ially to children. In your prayers and gifting, don't forget those who are lonely and hungry, both for love and attention.

If you will always remember these things, the world will be brighter, people will be happier,

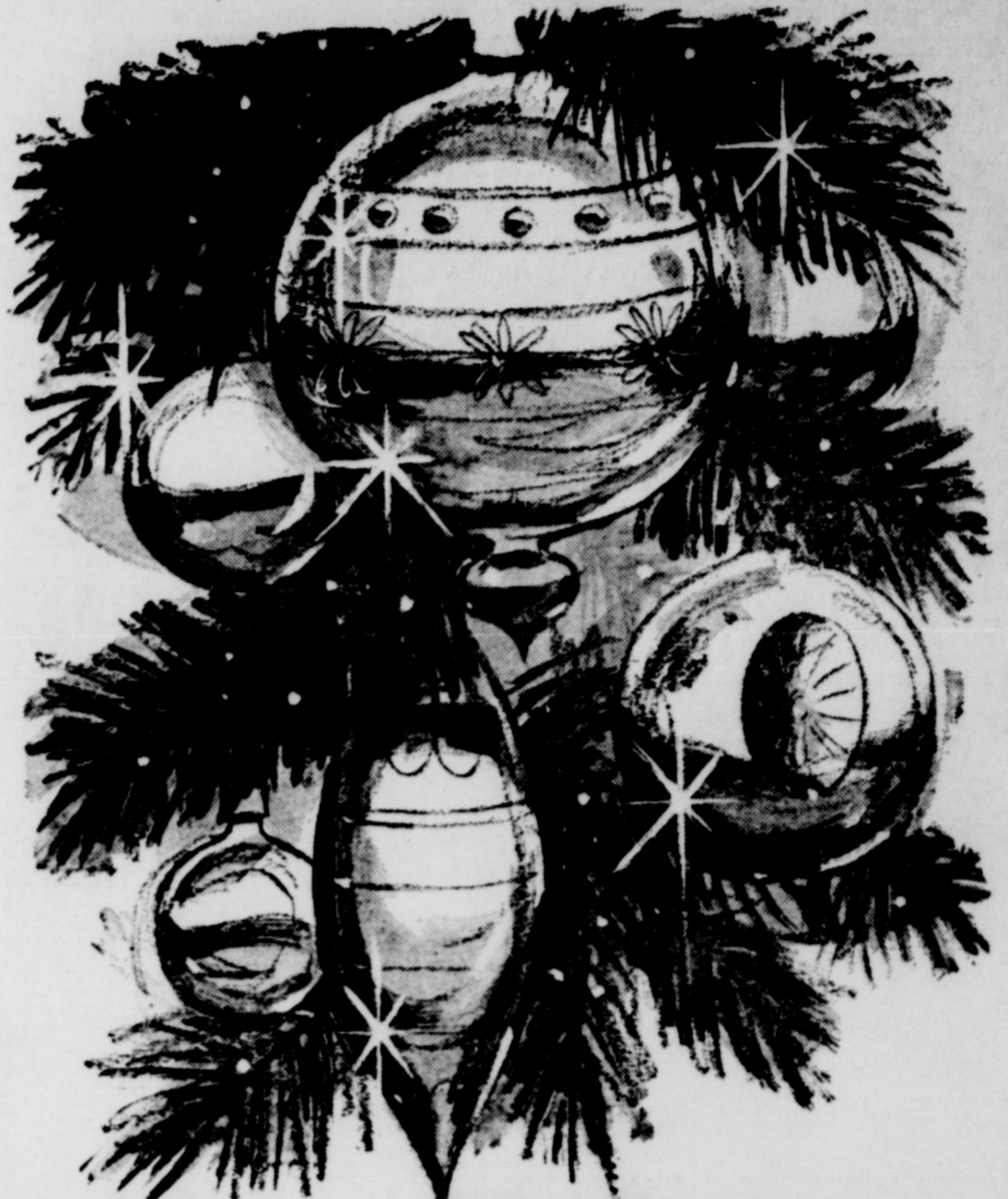
and everyone less lonely, then all through life you can count your blessings instead of sheep . . .

And so, to you and yours, it is our prayer that on this Christmas Day you will find a very merry and happy New Year. And, as a

parting thought, don't ever forget, but always remember, to love the Babe Jesus who made all our blessings possible.

Very sincerely and always your friend,

JOHNNY COX



Merry Christmas

It's always a pleasure to take time during the holiday season to wish our friends well!

MERKEL RESTAURANT AND MOTEL



IT'S LIKE SITTING UNDER THE MISTLETOE WHEN YOU GIVE ELECTRIC GIFTS!

A sure way to her heart is to select a gift you know she will really enjoy long after Christmas is over . . .ELECTRIC GIFTS ARE LIKE THAT; men and boys like them too, shop around, they are everywhere!



West Texas Utilities Company

Equal Opportunity Employer
an investor owned company



Boney Insurance

BENNY and BONEY



May the gladness and cheer of the HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON Bring much happiness to you!

Home State Bank

TRENT, TEXAS

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON...

May we take this opportunity to wish the best for you and your loved ones. We hope your holidays are truly joyful, and marked with harmony in every way. Merry Christmas to all!



FISHER FINA and MERKEL AUTO PARTS

CHRISTMAS . . . IT'S A GRAND TIME

By REV. HERSCHELL SMITH
Everywhere you look — you see Christmas in the air. Everyone is making plans for Christmas — gifts are bought, family get-togethers being planned, and great

meals are being cooked. Yes — Christmas is in every way, a grand time of the year.

But, Let's Crown Christ King — give SPECIAL remembrance to Christ during this Season.

During Christmas time, it is easy to forget Christ, His Church, and our obligations to the church.

Be sure and read Matt. 2:1-12, Matt. 2:2 — "Where is He that is have seen His Star in the east, and are come to worship Him." Matt. 2:11, "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother; and fell down, and wor-

shipped Him; and when they had opened their treasurers, they presented unto Him, gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh."

You and I can be like these Wise Men. We can worship Christ every Lord's Day. We can give Christ gifts — the greatest, ourselves. We can praise Christ for His blessings — that is what Frankincense and Myrrh represent.

Luke 2:7, "and she brought forth the firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, be-

cause there was no room for Him at the Inn."

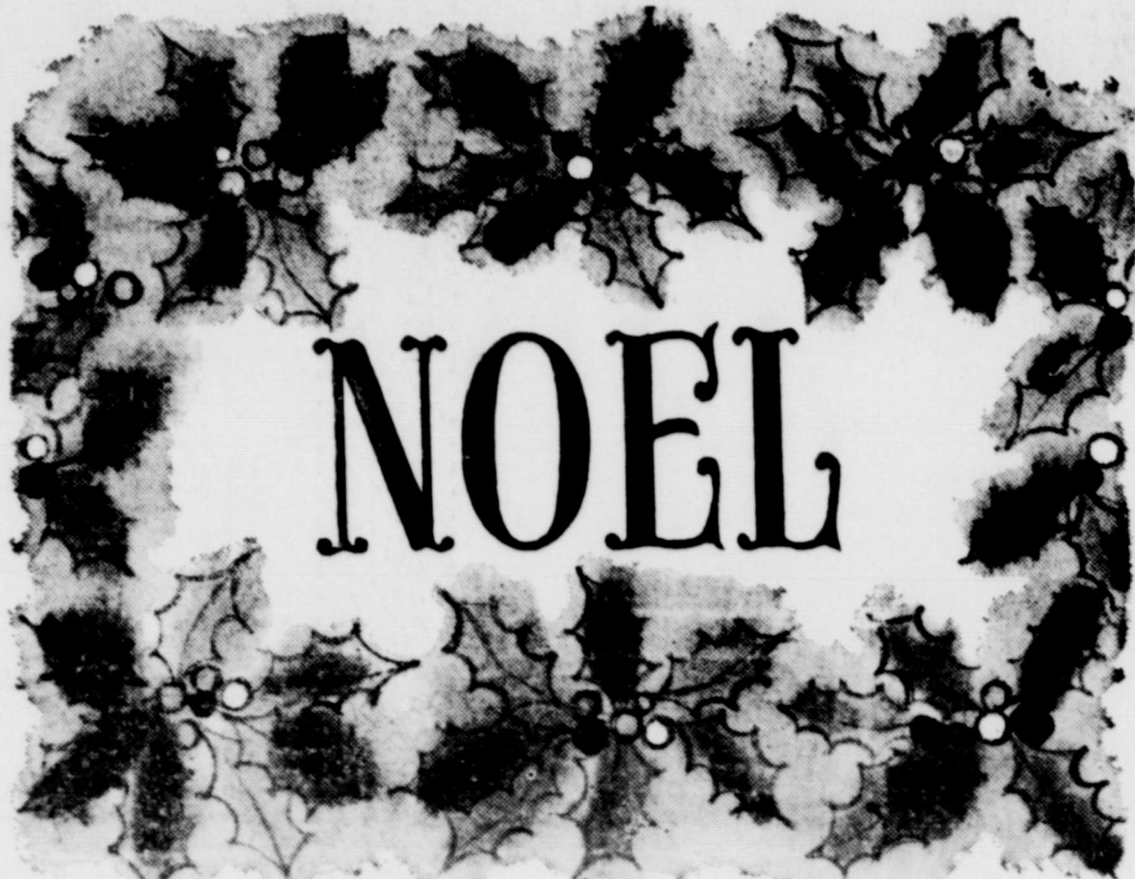
May the Lord richly bless each of you, this wonderful Christmas Season, is my prayer.

Christmas Always

By REV. JAMES MERRELL
Dear Friends,

Christmas is always a joyous time and this Christmas season is more so — for each day that we live in Christ we become closer to His will for us. Jesus said, "as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Dwell in my love. I have spoken thus to you, so that my joy may be in you

and your joy may be full." us at Christmas as a new morn-
Certainly we can see the begin- baby. This to me, is characteristic
ning of that fullness in the birth of the newness that is Christians ev-
of Christ. We always picture Jes- ery day.



Joy to All Our Friends at This Most Blessed Time

HARDY'S GROCERY
ROYCE, JOY and LINDA



*The Blessings
of the Season
to Our Friends*

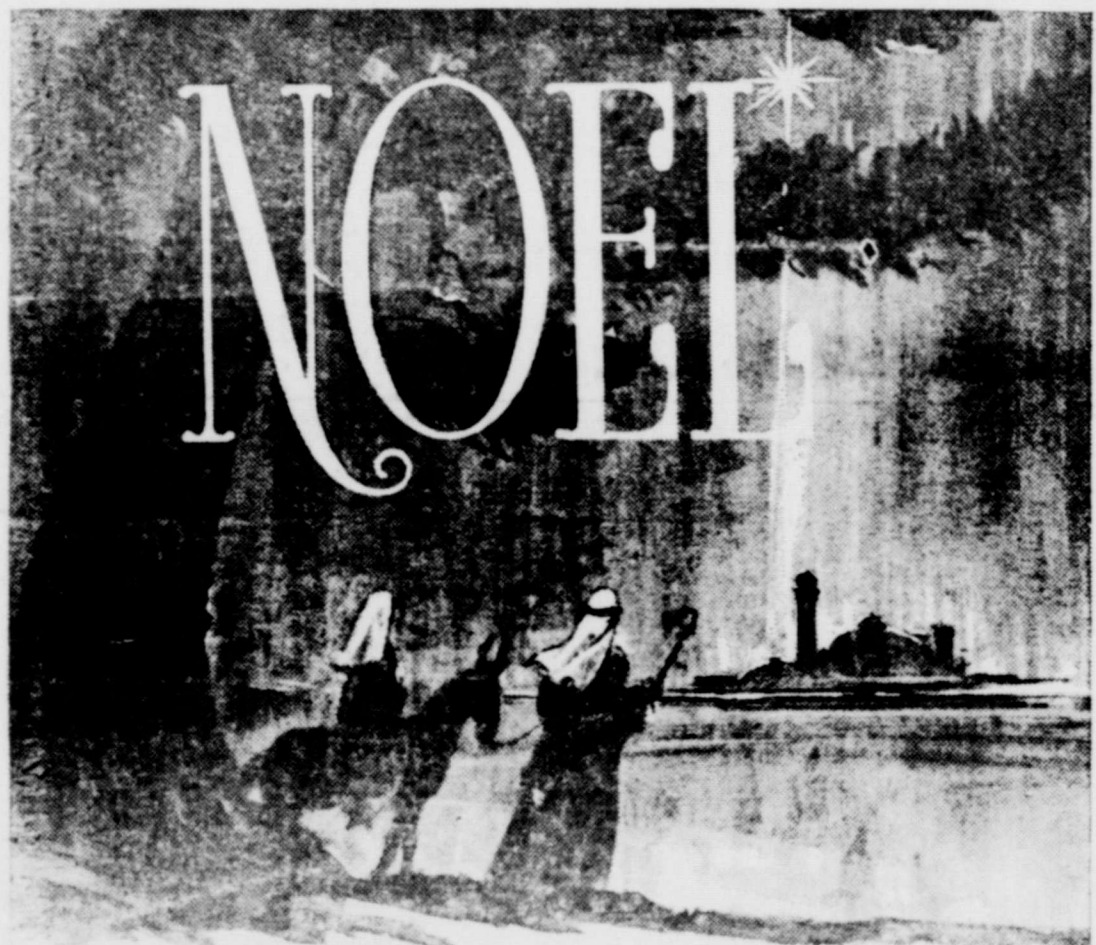
**Mansfield Farm
and Ranch
Service**



**Barnett's
Barber Shop**



FROM ALL THE FOLKS AT
Cal-Tex Feed Yards



Wishing You and Yours All the Blessings of the Season

TAYLOR TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE



May we extend our best
wishes to one and all

Johnson Grocery, Cafe & Boot Co.



*A
Very
Merry
Christmas*

Sears

ABILENE, TEXAS | 155 Sayles Blvd.
677-2811

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO.



Each of us here send to each of our many loyal customers the warmest wishes of the Yule Season . . . "Serving you has been a real pleasure."

Max Murrell Chevrolet



In the spirit of
the Season we wish
you true happiness.
Merry Christmas
to our many friends!

Thornton's
DEPARTMENT STORES
SINCE 1919