



Merry Christmas to All!

Yule Season Business Rates Good or Better

With only three shopping days left until Christmas, Merkel merchants contacted agree that "business has been good."

David Gamble with Merkel Drug said his customer buying this year had been "about the same as last year."

"Christmas buying here has been holding its own," said Gamble. "There have been smaller priced gifts bought, but more of them."

The Christmas buying season started early at Bullock's Hardware and Gifts, according to Mrs. Almeda Bullock.

"People began looking and even buying as early as September," she said. "We have had an extra good business from the trade area this year."

"An usually good buying period has been noted at Crawford's."

"We've had heavy buying," said Crawford, "and we were especially pleased with the shopping done during our stay open late on Friday."

Waymon Adcock referred to the Christmas buying as "great."

"The past two months we have enjoyed a good trade," said Adcock.

Of the late shopping hours Friday, Adcock said "people began coming in around 6:30 and were still buying at 10:30."

"A good Christmas season," said Mrs. Dee Grimes at Bragg's. "We have had heavy buying in every department, and expect it to be even heavier these next three days."

Johnny Hammond at Ben Franklin Store said they had "enjoyed an unusually good shopping season."

"We've had people in from a large area this year," said Hammond. "And our Friday evening hours carried heavy traffic."

Appliance sales at Palmer Motors and West Texas Utilities had been good," according to Nolan Palmer and Bill Button.

Ray Wilson at Wilson Food Store and Herman Carson at Carson's Super Market call this

a "good buying season."

"An excellent buying season for boots, hats, belts and tack," were Maurice Johnson's comments at Johnson's Boots.

"We had lay aways to begin early in the fall and the buying is still continuing at a heavy pace."

"We're selling more variety of merchandise this year than in several years," were Fred Star-

buck's comments concerning his Furniture Store. "Household items have been a good selling item."

Consensus of merchants concerning the late shopping hours this last Friday was "well worth the time taken to stay open."

Comments from several shoppers concerning the late shopping hours were "it should be done more often."

NEEDY FAMILIES GETTING HELP FOR CHRISTMAS

Volunteers for the Merkel Goodfellow Association worked "overtime" Tuesday, handing out food, clothing, toys to the area needy.

Chairman, Lawnece Hewitt, said that because of the fine contributions, he would be able to help many needy families this year.

"But we still need contributions," said Hewitt. "There have been several requests for food come in this past week, and if we are able to help all the needy we will need more contributions."

Many of the requests this year have been for food and clothing with "just a toy or two for our children." Parents are requesting clothing for their children, "especially shoes to wear to school."

Cash contributions of \$105.00 had come in as of Monday morning.

Goodfellow headquarters this year is the Merkel Telephone building and volunteer workers will be there Wednesday from 1 until 4 p.m. to complete filling requests for needy families.

Contributions	
George West	\$ 5.00
Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Kingsbury	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Fisher	25.00
Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Patterson	10.00
W. A. Witcher	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Pargament	10.00
Robert and Opal Malone (in lieu of Christmas Cards)	35.00
Rev. and Mrs. N. S. Daniel	5.00
TOTAL	\$105.00
Previously Acknowledged	\$294.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$399.00

'WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME'

Christmas means many things to many people — To grownups, Christmas means a time for fellowship with family — a time to be thankful for the year's blessings — and a time to renew acquaintances with friends.

And to the younger set, Christmas means many, many things — jolly, sharing, peace, and happiness.

A sixth grade class at Merkel Elementary School took pen in hand one day last week and with serious intent, wrote "What Christmas Means to Me."

Each one is a masterpiece in itself and The Merkel Mail asked that they be printed in the Christmas Edition.

To one sixth grader, "Christmas is a time for loving."

To another, "It means giving thanks to the Lord."

And to another, "Christmas is joy."

Christ's Birthday

"Christmas is celebrating Christ's birthday from the time He was born in a manger." — Garth Doan

"Christmas is the birth of Jesus. At Christmas there is joy, peace, and happiness all over the world." — Kandi Ascencio

"Christmas means that it is the day that Jesus was born. That is what Christmas means to me." — Mike Frazier

"Christmas is a time to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, and sharing thoughts and joys with others." — Tommy Jones

"Christmas means to me the celebrating of Christ's birthday, and the getting together with loved ones" — Grant Murrell

"Christmas is a time for celebrating the birth of Christ. Also sharing and giving, and getting together." — Donnie Riggan

"Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Christ by giving presents and being nice to everyone." — Suzy Rister

"Christmas means that it is

a time to celebrate because on Christmas Day Christ was born. It is also a time to be thankful." — Marshall Evans

It's Happiness

"Christmas means being cheerful, and giving gifts. We also celebrate it because of the birth of Christ. To me Christmas is the most wonderful day of the year." — Kim Kannell

"Christmas is happiness. Christmas is love, Christmas means peace to mankind." — Lisa Hughes

"Christmas means laughter and candy and when you go to bed Santa Claus, they say, comes with a lot of goodies." — Brad Shugart

"Christmas is love and happiness. It also means sharing with your friends. Christmas is a time to be happy." — Vicki Reddin

"Christmas is a happy season with bright and colorful decorations. It is also a time for sharing and celebrating Christ's birth." — Sabra Murray

"Christmas means sharing your happiness, the family getting together, and most of all celebrating the birth of Christ." — Kim Satterwhite

"Christmas is joy because it is Jesus' birthday and getting to decorate the Christmas tree." — Cathy Holloway

Christmas Is Love

Christmas means love from your family and being with the ones you love most every minute, every hour of the day." — Billie Clendennen

"Christmas is a time for love and joy and when you see children's eyes aglow on Christmas morning, Christmas is love for Jesus." — Freda Crenshaw

"Christmas means loving, sharing, giving, blessing, and being thankful for what you have." — Cindy Hagar

"Christmas means love, ex-

changing gifts with loved ones, and a time for hatred to come to an end." — David Williams

Family Time

"Christmas is a day to honor the Lord and share our love with Him because He has shared His love with us." — Randy Harris

"Christmas is love, happiness, and presents." — Salinda Justice

"Christmas is a time for loving, a time for sharing, a time for peace, a time for giving, a time for all people's hatred to

Fund Started For Trent Resident

People of Trent and the area have started a fund for Mrs. Louise Gregory, whose home burned Tuesday evening (Dec. 14) during the high wind.

Waymon Adcock, Merkel fire chief said that the Volunteer Fire Department answered the call, but "due to high winds there was very little saved from the fire and the house was a total loss." Cause of fire was "undetermined."

Persons desiring to make contributions may send them to Home State Bank. Clothing and household articles may be given by contacting Mr. John B. Young, superintendent of Trent School.

Dear Santa Claus

The Merkel Mail received a late - late letter to Santa this week, and even though our "special carrier" has taken off with the letters to Santa, we are going to see that he gets this special request from John Paul Starzyh at 912 No. 6th St.

"Dear Santa: "I am a little boy 5 years old. My Granny says I've been a very good boy this year.

"I would like to have a talking clock, a sizzler car, and a shotgun.

"My sister, Shana Beth is 3 years old. She would like a doll and buggy.

"We love you and thank you, Santa."

come to an end." — Sherry West

"Christmas is a time when I can be with all of my family who is always away." — Linda Williams

Christmas is a time to meet all my family and giving and receiving presents and love." — Michael Vinson

"Christmas is the most wonderful day of the year to me. We get to go see our relatives and take presents." — Ferrel Bagby

"Christmas means that you get to see your kinfolks and get to take them home and play with them." — Becky Page

A Joyful Time

"Christmas is a joyful thing — with toys, candy and lots of things — but one thing that is the most important of all is that Christ was born." — Kathryn Long

"Christmas is happiness. It means love and sharing. It means decorations. It means it is Christ's birthday." — Ronny Whisenhunt

"Christmas is happiness and presents, getting together and sharing, and when Christ was born." — Dwain English

"Christmas is joyful when we give gifts to others to celebrate the birth of Christ." — Christi Fudge

"Christmas is a happy day. It is a time for sharing things. Christmas is Christ's birthday." — Lesa Swinney

"To me Christmas means happiness for Jesus was born this day in Bethlehem." — Harry McDaniel

Giving Thanks

"Christmas means giving thanks. To believe in Jesus Christ, because it was His birthday, and to love one another." — Joe Bailey

"Christmas is a time for giving thanks and giving gifts. Christ-

Continued on Page 6-A

Winter Concert Presented In Summer Tempo

"Chestnuts Roasted on the Open Fire" Sunday afternoon while members of the Merkel Badger Band played (and wished) for a "White Christmas."

Parents and guests of the concert Band sat comfortably in the high school auditorium while members "roasted" on the stage and presented a variety of musical numbers, ranging from "Winter Wonderland" to "Here Comes Santa Claus."

Noodle Graduate Receives Degree

Mrs. Nolan Watson Jr., the former Janice Hill, received her Bachelor of Science degree from McMurry at the end of the fall semester Friday. Mrs. Watson will receive her diploma during graduation ceremonies in the spring.



Let us renew the message of Christmas at this season.

JESUS THE CHRIST; PEACE ON EARTH

By BILLY PATTON
Minister Church of Christ

We seem to live in a world of troubles, we think each time we couldn't take any more, but somehow we manage to bear up under each new trial.

Jesus the Christ, the Eternal Word of God and the Son of God Almighty, entered into this world of trouble, sorrow, grief and sin at a very dark time in the history of man. People had almost reached a point of despair when the "light of the world" came among men. "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not — He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto

his own, and his own received him not." (John 1:4, 5, 10, 11)

Though many followed him just for the "fringe" benefits and others followed him out of love, yet "the world knew him not." The saddest, most tragic thing in our times is that the world still does not "know" the Saviour of the world, who came to die for us. Oh they (many 1000's) "observe" what is called

Christmas, but that can hardly be called "knowing" the Messiah ("He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." I John 2:4). He came that we might have life and forgiveness of sin and peace within our hearts. Can anyone say with truth that the world — even our blessed America has PEACE in their hearts?

Even that day called Christmas which some have set aside to

observe as the birth of Jesus is used more for material gain, drinking parties, filling our selves with little restraint, etc., in the midst of what Catholics call a "Holy" day. Can this be meant by the statement of the "heavenly host:" "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men?" (Luke 2:13, 14)

Jesus came to save the world lost in sin. He made the supreme sacrifice — he gave himself to

die on a cruel abhorred cross. How can you "turn to your own way" (Isa. 53:6) and not "live for him who died for you" (II Cor. 5:14, 15)

My exhortation o you for the holiday season would be the reading in Isaiah 52:14 and Isaiah chapter 53. Where is "peace on earth and good will to man" found? "It's found in Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 1:3-6). May you find PEACE in HIM in this joyous season.



Always glad to wish
you Happy Holidays & Motoring!
Merkel Fina Station

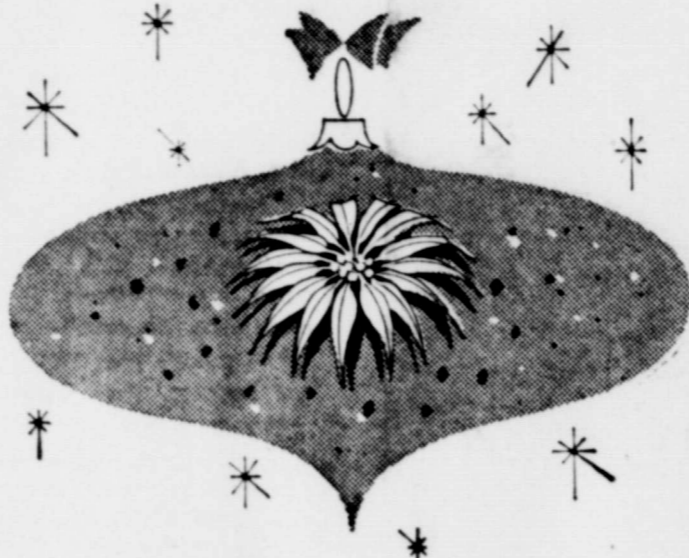
Buddy and Orene



to all our customers

**Mansfield
Farm and Ranch Service**

Merry Christmas

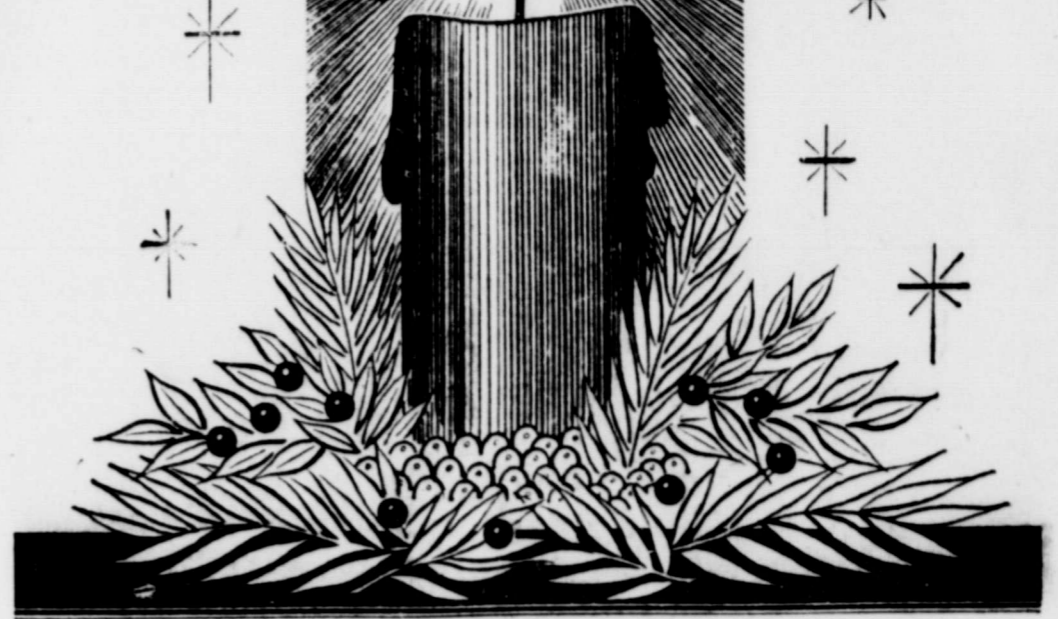


Here's hoping your Christmas
season blooms with good cheer!

Ann's Flowers

Vernon and Ann

Merry Christmas



OUR SINCEREST WISH
TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

MACK EPLEN'S

IN ABILENE

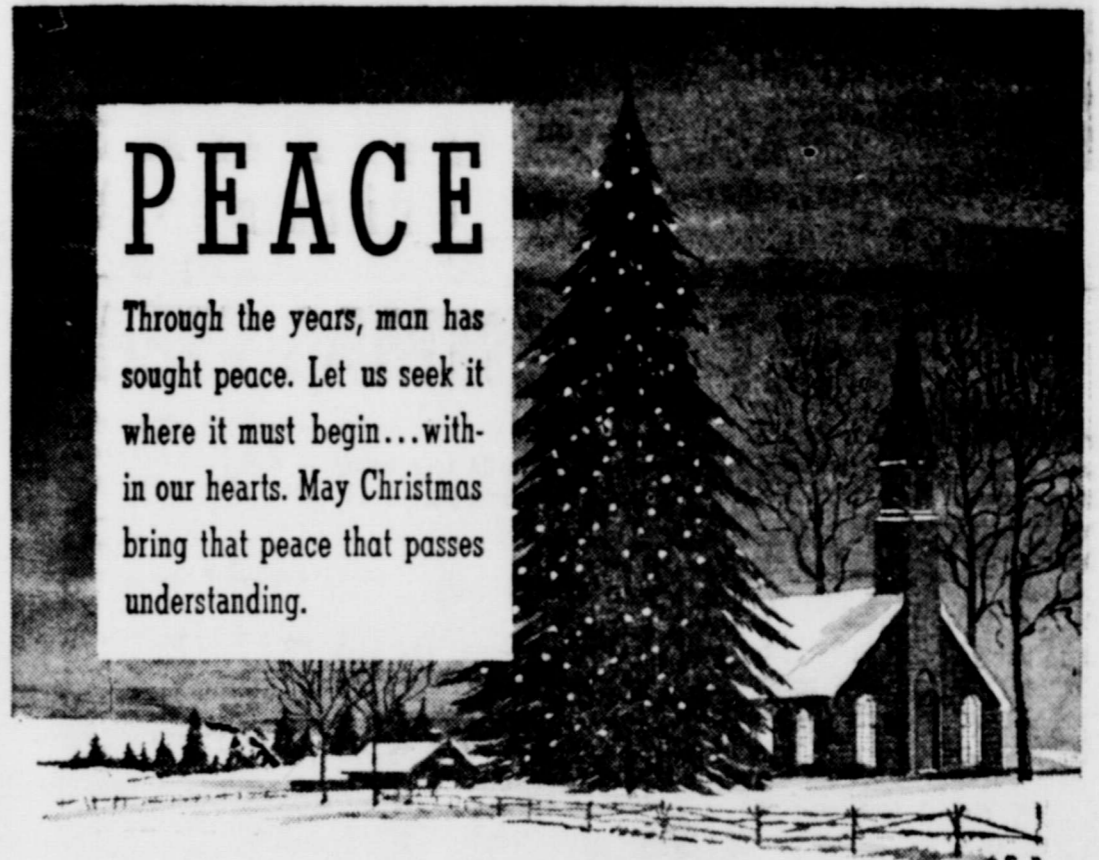


... best wishes
and much joy we
send to you, our
patrons and
friends!

West Laundry



Wylie Truck Terminal



PEACE

Through the years, man has
sought peace. Let us seek it
where it must begin...with-
in our hearts. May Christmas
bring that peace that passes
understanding.

MACK SEYMORE

AGENT FOR FARMERS UNION INSURANCE

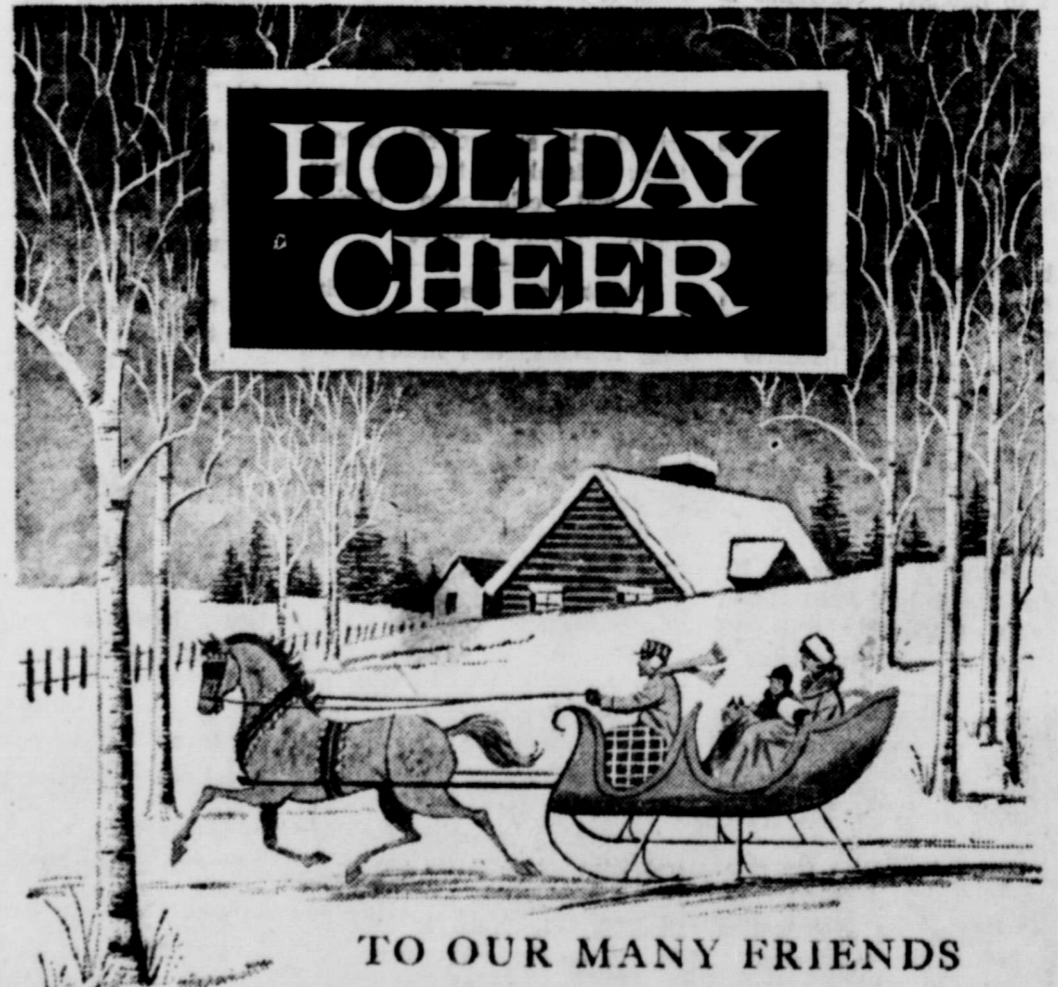


TO ALL OUR FRIENDS
**R. A. Pierce
Manufacturing Corporation**



May the peace
of Christmas be
in every heart this season.

Hardy's Grocery



**HOLIDAY
CHEER**

TO OUR MANY FRIENDS

C.A.S.E., INC.

Woodrow Clemmer
Our Address in Abilene is 1700 Industrial and 3010 So. Treadaway

OUR HOLIDAY SPECIAL
Merry Christmas
 TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

Wed., Thurs., Fri., Dec. 22-23-24-Closed Christmas Day, Dec. 25th

Snowdrift 42 Oz. Can **69¢**

Pineapple DEL MONTE CRUSHED Flat Can 2 for **35¢**

ASPARAGUS Dew Drop 300 Size **29¢**

ORANGES DEL MONTE MANDARIN 11 Oz. Can. **29¢**

MINCE MEAT BORDENS 9 Oz. Pkg. **29¢**

DEL MONTE WHOLE

Green Beans 303 Can **29¢**

YAMS Bruces Squat Can **29¢**

FLOUR Gladiola 5 Lb. Bag **49¢**

KRAFTS MINIATURE Marshmallows 10 oz. pkg. **19¢**

IMPERIAL POWDERED SUGAR 2 pkgs. **39¢**

HERSHEYS Chocolate Chips 12 oz. pkg. **49¢**

KIMBELLS OLIVES 5 oz. jar **35¢**

BAKERS ANGEL FLAKE 3 OZ. CAN COCONUT 2 for **45¢**

Hunting and Fishing License and Ammunition Headquarters



BEEF RIBS Lb. **39¢**

CHICKEN HENS Lb. **49¢**

CLUB STEAKS Lb. **93¢**

BACON Gooch Blue Ribbon Lb. **69¢**

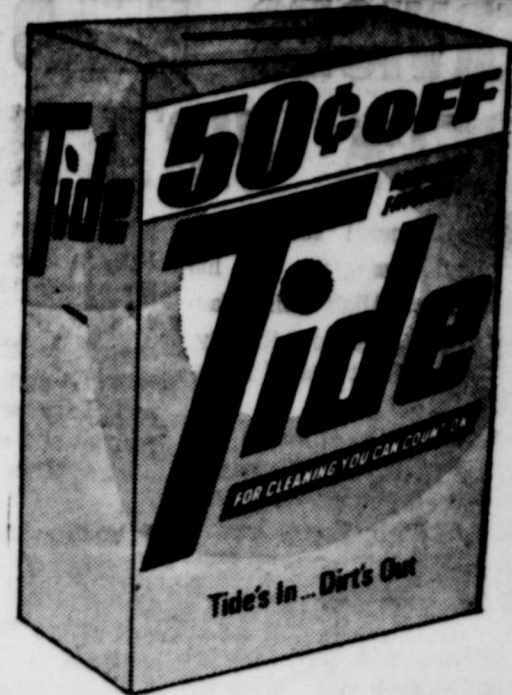
TURKEYS ARMOUR STAR or BUTTERBALL

HAMS Gooch Half or Whole and End Pieces and Also Canned Hams

10 FREE OUNCES!
 --get the 32 ounce King Size for the 22 ounce Giant Size price
 1st. KING SIZE ONLY
59¢

REYNOLDS ALUMINUM **FOIL** 12x25 FT. ROLL **29¢**

BROCKS CHOCOLATE COVERED **CHERRIES** Box **49¢**



FAMILY SIZE **2.29**

MILK MARIGOLD 2% HOMO 1 GAL. Plus Dep. **89¢**

REG. Homo Gal. **99¢**

FOREMOST WHIPPING CREAM SOUR CREAM HALF & HALF Ctn. **27¢**

FOREMOST EGG NOG Qt. **49¢**

MIRACLE WHIP Krafts Qt. **59¢**

CRANBERRY SAUCE Ocean Spray 300 Size **29¢**

COCA COLA 16 OZ. SIZE 6 Bottle Ctn. Plus Deposit **49¢**

PET **MILK** 2 Tall Cans **39¢**

HIP-O-LITE MARSHMALLOW **CREAM** 9 Oz. Ctn. **29¢**

KRAFTS PARKAY **OLEO** 2 for **59¢**

DROMEDARY **DATES** 8 Oz. Pkg. **29¢**

CHICKEN OF SEA **TUNA** Can **39¢**



BANQUET MINCE PIES each **39¢**

KEITHS ROLLS 24 in pkg. **29¢**



CELERY stalk **19¢**

CRANBERRIES 1 lb. pkg. **39¢**

DELICIOUS APPLES lb. **25¢**

SUNKIST ORANGES lb. **23¢**

BANANAS lb. **10¢**

FRESH COCONUTS each **29¢**

YELLOW ONIONS lb. **12¢**

CHRISTMAS CANDY AND NUTS



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

SERVICES HELD FOR WRECK VICTIMS

A double funeral service for John Wiley Bryan, 81, and his daughter, Mrs. Allah Lois (Jackie) Spiegel, 52, was held Sunday, Dec. 19 in the First United Methodist Church.

Elder Jessie Bass of Austin and the Rev. N. S. Daniel, pastor emeritus of United Methodist Church, officiated. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery under the direction of Starbuck Funeral Home.

Mr. Bryan and Mrs. Spiegel were killed at 9 a.m. Saturday from a car-train wreck at the Ash Street railroad crossing.

Investigating officers Byron Deal and Larry Hood said the driver of the car, Mr. Bryan, was thrown 337 feet and Mrs. Spiegel was trapped in the wreckage. The train was headed west and the car was traveling south.

Mr. Bryan was born April 25, 1890, in Blount County, Alabama. He married Maudie Wilson Dec. 4, 1910, in Blount County. He moved to the Merkel area in 1924. He farmed south of Merkel and later was employed as a painter and was custodian of the Merkel Methodist Church for several years. He was a deacon of Primitive Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife; one daughter, Mrs. Ross Ferrier, Jr., of Fort Worth and two grandchildren.

Mrs. Spiegel was born Nov. 6, 1919, in Florida. She had lived in California and moved back to Merkel in 1955.

She is survived by her mother and a sister.

Palbearers were Buren Bryan, Harvey Bryan, Ray Wilson, Buddy Hunter, Dick McAnelly and C. E. Clemmer.

The Musical Tradition Of Christmas

The musical tradition of Christmas is believed to have begun in 129, when Telesphorus, Bishop of Rome, decreed that "In the holy night of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, (all) do celebrate public church services and in them solemnly sing the Angel's Hymn . . ."

Since then literally thousands of carols have been written by such as Sir Walter Raleigh, Martin Luther, Johannes Brahms, Francis Scott Key, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Pope Pius IX.

But Christmas songs weren't called carols until well into the 13th Century, because during most of the Middle Ages, priests and monks did all the singing inside the churches.

"The first American Christmas carol was written by a French Jesuit missionary named John de Brebeuf. He composed a song called "Jesus Is Born" for the Huron Indians with whom he worked in the early 1640s.

BOOSTER PROJECT

TONY DOUGLAS HERE MONDAY DEC. 27

Vincent Barnett, president of Merkel Booster Club, said Monday morning that "ticket sales to the Tony Douglas Show were going rather slow."

"We know this is a busy season," said Barnett, "but we believe that we'll have a good crowd on Monday evening. A lot of work will be done between now and that time in pushing our ticket sales."

Tony Douglas and the Shrimpers will be here in person beginning at 8 p.m. Monday at the high school auditorium.

Advanced tickets will be \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for students. Tickets sold at the door will be \$2.00 and \$1.50.

Tickets are available at Barnett Barber Shop, Conley Barber Shop, KWFA Radio and the Merkel Mail.

Proceeds from the stage show will be used toward paying for

the Universal Gym which the Booster Club recently purchased. Cost of the project is approximately \$2,800.

Alvin Wozencraft, chairman of the Booster Club's finance committee said "this is our major fund-raising project and we are hoping for a good turnout."

Another project, a Spaghetti Supper, is scheduled for "some time in January" by members of the Booster Club.

Douglas has appeared in Merkel on several occasions for civic club projects. In 1969 he presented a stage show for the Parent-Teacher Association and in 1970 a show for the Merkel Volunteer Firemen.

His latest hit is "Going Home," with other popular recordings being "There Stands the Man," "His and Hers," and "Fastest Gun Alive."

Shop **CRAWFORD'S** and
SAVE DURING THE
PRE-CHRISTMAS
Close - Out Prices Today
CRAWFORD'S

Juvenile Delinquency And the Home (Number 3)

What some children call home is: a set of rooms shared by a shifting group of relatives, furniture shabby and sparse, many children in one bed, plumbing failing, plaster falling, roaches, sometimes rats, air dank and foul. Insufficient heating — whatever else that causes the "home" to not be pleasant or attractive, thus no holding power and not the place for a gathering of friends. Poverty does not justify filth. Disrepair and filth discourages neatness and happiness.

But there is an ingredient more important — called love and acceptance.

The family is the most basic institution in our society for developing the child's potential. It is within the family that the child must learn to curb his desires, accept rules, and satisfaction of needs. Whatever in the organization of the family that diminishes the moral and emotional authority of the family in the life of a child also increases the likelihood of delinquency.

It has been plainly seen that deep unhappiness between parents increases the likelihood of delinquency. Marital discord, either by outright rejection or neglect of the child or by cutting his respect for his parents, thus their authority, destroys the child's capabilities for adjusting properly to life.

More crucial — perhaps the most important factor in the lives of many boys delinquent is their failure to win the affection of their fathers — CONSISTENT affection. A large number of aggressive delinquents have been denied the opportunity to express their feelings of dependence on their parents. Families not respected in the community, families who don't work, play, pray, and worship TOGETHER also are delinquency breeding places.

BILLY PATTON

CHURCH OF CHRIST
"COME VISIT WITH US"

ENJOY
COLOR TV
for
CHRISTMAS



THE MONTROSE
● GE Reliacolor (T) Chassis
● AFC—Automatic Fine Tuning Control
● GE Sensitronic (T) 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
● "Silver Touch" 2-Speed Tuning System
● Set and Forget Volume Control
● Early American Maple Furniture Styling
Simulated TV Reception

REDUCED

See Our Color and Black and White TVs Display at
PALMER MOTOR CO.
MERKEL, TEXAS

WANT ADS

Miscellaneous

FOR MONUMENTS and CEMETERY CURBING M. A. (Sarg) NOSTER 1404 Herring Dr. Merkel, Texas Phone 8-5555

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. CHARLES EAGER, W.M. ROY MASHBURN, Sec'y.

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

WANTED — Cooks, waitresses, and dishwashers. Merkel Restaurant. 928-6023. 9 tie

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

ALL KINDS OF GREEN Work done. Free estimates. 928-5712, 27 tie

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

PUT YOUR BEST FACE FORWARD CALL for a complimentary facial — in your own home or home — and see why we say NO WOMAN NEED EVER LOOK 40. Call Delphine Wilson. 928-2232.

WANT TO BUY — 2 bedroom house, prefer south part of town. Call 845-4173. 4 tie

NEED A New Water Well Drilled? Also install Mayers Subs & Jacuzzi Jets Call ROBERT HIGGINS 928-5978

PILE IS SOFT and lofty — color retain brilliance in carpets cleaned with Blue Lustre. Rent electric shampooer \$1. Bullock Hardware and gifts. 29 tie

MELBA'S PASTRY SHOP now taking orders at home. Also fresh donuts. 108 Orange St., 928-4923. 9 tie

NOTICE — Will care for elderly ladies in my home. Phone after the 25th of December. 928-5533. 43 tie

FREE — One year old Daschund, female, to give away. Will make a lovely Christmas present. Call after 5 p.m. 928-4943. 43 tie

- For Rent -

FOR RENT — Furnished three bedroom house. Also two 1-bedroom apartments. furnished. Call 928-5929. 42 tie

- For Sale -

FOR SALE — Small Combination pump, two months old. AND registered. Phone 928-5289. 42 tie

FOR SALE OR RENT — Two bedroom house at 1101 South 10th. For more information call 928-5281. 41 tie

FOR SALE — House and lot. Plans to be moved. Close to business district. Ideal location for new home. Call Cyrus Poe. 928-5287. 41 tie

FOR SALE — Nice two bedroom house, screened in back porch, completely renovated (except dining and kitchen area), large back yard with big pecan tree, good location on south side. Call 928-5281. 43 tie

FOR SALE — East Ruppels County, 230 acres, 129 in cultivation, GI loan established. Mrs. Christine Waggoner, 1039 N. Concho, Winters, Texas, ph 784-5628. 43 tie

CLASSIFIEDS GET QUICK RESULTS

Stith News
By MRS. FRITZ HALE

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Some of the farmers started stripping cotton Saturday. They are very proud of the sunshine.

Odie Fikes, a longtime resident of Stith Canyon, died Thursday at his home of an apparent heart attack. Funeral services were held Saturday at the United Methodist Church in Merkel. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fikes and children are staying with his mother, Mrs. Fikes, until after the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Weldon Hudson, Fort Worth, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hudson, Rising Star, spent Friday night with Mrs. Louise Hudson and attended the Fikes funeral.

Mrs. Ira Stanley accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Bill Oearly to St. Louis where she will visit two weeks with her mother and family. Mr. and Mrs. Clio Linn, Mr. and Mrs. Cleo are visiting his parents in Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Clyburn and children, Mr. and Mrs. Tedor Burdick and David, and the Charles Redding family attended the Beginners Band Concert Monday at the Band Hall in Merkel. David Clyburn, Leo Redding and David Burdick are members of the band. The Clyburns attended the High School Band Concert at the auditorium on Sunday afternoon. Don Clyburn is a member of the band.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bradley attended the Odie Fikes funeral Saturday and also the funeral services of Curven L. Daniel in Abilene. Mr. Daniel was a former resident of Merkel.

The Bradleys attended the Golden Wedding Anniversary for Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Spence in the Gold Room of the Merkel Restaurant Sunday.

Visiting Mrs. Mattie Shaw Moody were Mrs. Dora Hinkle, Connie Goodrich and Ben White. Miss Louise Hudson spent last week in Fort Worth with her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Moody. They visited a brother, Rex Hudson, in a Dallas hospital. Mr. Hudson is doing fine and is now back home in Rising Star.

DEATHS & FUNERALS

Mrs. Redding

Mrs. H. M. Redding, 82, died at 1:40 a.m. Monday, Dec. 20, in Hendrick Memorial Hospital after a short illness.

Funeral was held Tuesday in the Merkel United Methodist Church with the Rev. Elra Phillips of Big Spring and the Rev. Lynwood Harrison of Ackerly officiating. Burial was in White Church Cemetery in southwest Taylor County, directed by Starbuck Funeral Home.

She was born Lucy Elizabeth Brown Nov. 16, 1889, in Mulberry Canyon. She married Walter Berry in 1905 in Mulberry Canyon. He died in 1950. She moved to Merkel in 1950 from Mulberry Canyon and married H. M. Redding in 1963 in Merkel. He died in 1966.

She was a member of the Methodist Church since early childhood.

Survivors are two daughters, Mrs. A. C. Widdowson of Merkel and Mrs. Clyde Whitehead of Abilene, N.M.; two brothers, Wilbert Downes of Merkel and Fred Downes of Sweetwater; three sons, Mrs. Kate Phillips, Mrs. J. C. Hanson and Mrs. Ben Taylor, all of Merkel; 12 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two nieces, Sara and Jesse Redding, both of San Antonio; three stepdaughters, Mrs. Becca Cook of Abilene, Mrs. Della Collier of San Antonio, and Mrs. Nettie Harris of Merkel; 14 step-grandchildren.

Palbearers were Dillard Harris, Leon Harris, Joe Weston, John Allison, Ray Osborn and Deval Barnes.

Odie J. Fikes

Odie J. Fikes, 68, longtime resident of Jones County, died at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16 at his residence of an apparent heart attack.

Funeral services were held Saturday in the United Methodist Church with the Rev. N. S. Daniel, pastor emeritus, and the Rev. Russell McAnally, pastor, officiating.

Born in Hunt County, he married Margaret Hudson in 1924 in Abilene. He had lived since that time in Jones County.

Survivors include his wife; three sons, Charles Fikes of Mt. Ida, Ark., Verdee of Odessa; two daughters, Mrs. Gene Powell of Odessa and Mrs. Robert Miller of Abilene; 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

BROWNIE NEWS

By CHRISTI BRADY

Brownie Group No. 102 had a Christmas Party for its members and their mothers at their regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 16. Mothers gave Christmas Cards before exchanging gifts. They also gave their mothers gifts which they had made.

Brownie leaders, Minnie, Melba Glasscock, Charlette Williams, Billie Walter and Delores Adair served cookies, cupcakes and punch.

Fourteen Brownies and eleven guests attended. Medicare's hospital insurance approved 1,550.70 claims for \$1,623.87 for January, 1971.

Greetings of the Season

To All Our Friends and Wonderful Customers We Extend a Big "THANK YOU" for Your Patronage.

Adecock's Cleaners and Clothiers
Johnny, Waymon, Mary, Genevieve and Billy

Member 1970 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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.

For Classified Rates: See WANT AD SECTION
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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

Don't Wait—Shop Now—Only 2 'TIL CHRISTMAS

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 newspaper printed in Taylor County, Texas, the accompanying citation, of which the herein below following is a true copy.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: Ruby Ross, Defendant,
Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable Domestic Relations Court of Taylor County at the Courthouse thereof, in Abilene, Texas, by 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 3 day of Jan. A.D. 1972, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 29 day of Oct. A.D. 1971, in this cause, numbered 6703 on the docket of said court and styled D. E. Ross, Plaintiff, vs. Ruby Ross, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Petitioner and respondent were married Aug. 23, 1959 and became separated on or about June 1970. Petitioner asks for a divorce

and custody of the minor children. There is no community property to divide 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 returned 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 directs.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Abilene, Texas, this the 22 day of November A.D. 1971.

(Seal)
Attest: IRENE CRAWFORD
Clerk, Domestic Relations
Court of Taylor County, Texas
By Marie Gill, Deputy.

40 4tc

Study Club Has Christmas Meet

The Christmas Program for the Fortnightly Study Club was held in Fellowship Hall of United Methodist Church Dec. 7.

President Mrs. S. C. Dixon, opened the meeting with prayer. Members answering roll call were Mrs. Don Dudley, Don Hart, R. C. Vanderwerker, Ernest Gauthy, Dixon, Andy Shouse and N. S. Daniel.

Also Mrs. Bryan Dunagin, Charles Eager, W. R. Cypert, Conner Haynes, Ray Wilson, David Gamble and Mack Fisher.

Guests were Mrs. Ben Hicks, Jack Hogan, Vincent Barnett, J. R. Clark and Lige Gamble.

Mrs. Shouse introduced the program by reading a poem, "Again It's Christmas." Mrs. Clark played a medley of Christmas Carols, with members and guests joining in singing.

A quartet composed of Mrs. Hicks, Barnett, Hogan and McGahey sang "White Christmas," "Silent Night" and "Winter Wonderland" were sung by Mrs. Hicks, McGahey and Barnett.

Mrs. Hogan sang "O Holy Night," and "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly." Closing the program was a story, "Anniversary," given by Mrs. Daniel.

CLASSIFIEDS ARE YOUR BEST BUY

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 newspaper printed in Taylor County, Texas, the accompanying citation, of which the herein below following is a true copy.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: R. G. (Bud) Farmer, De-

fendant, Greeting:
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable Domestic Relations Court of Taylor County at the Courthouse thereof, in Abilene, Texas, by 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 17 day of Jan. A.D. 1972, to Plaintiff's First Amended Petition filed in said court, on the 16 day of July A.D. 1971, in this cause, numbered 6360 on the docket of

said court and styled Lynda Gayle Farmer, Plaintiff, vs. R. G. (Bud) Farmer, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: The parties were married on or about Sept. 3, 1961 and ceased to live together on or about June 1, 1970. Petitioner sues for divorce and requests that she be given custody and support of the minor children. There is no community property accumulated, 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 returned 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 directs.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Abilene, Texas, this the 6 day of Dec. A.D. 1971.

Attest: IRENE CRAWFORD
Clerk, Domestic Relations
Court, Taylor County, Texas
By Marie Gill, Deputy

42 4tc

Ghosts

There is an Old World belief that ghosts are free to roam about on earth from St. Thomas' Eve, Dec. 20 until Christmas Eve,

Boar's Head

A traditional feature of the Christmas festive table is the boar's head. This legend, told in Queen's College, Oxford, provides a basis for the tradition:

A student walking and reading in the woods on Christmas Day, was attacked by a wild boar. He overpowered the boar by choking it with his book, a volume of Aristotle. Then he cut off the boar's head to retrieve his book and brought the head triumphantly to table.

The newly retired persons monthly social security check for April 1971 averaged \$136.76.

NOTICE

We Will Be
Closed Saturday

Dec. 25 and
Monday, Dec. 27

ADCOCK'S



Abilene Auction

Christmas ...it's WONDERFUL

WITH
**REMINGTON
ELECTRIC SHAVERS**



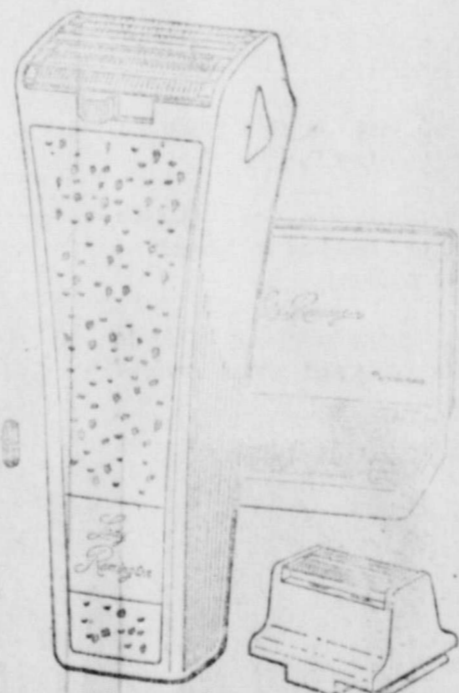
Only
\$9.95

NEW
**REMINGTON®
PRINCESS®
SHAVER**

Safe, Gentle, More Effective
Extremely Low Priced!

Large heads shave closely and safely... with new comfort. New guard combs designed for safer leg and underarm shaving. Convenient push-button cleaning, easy to handle. Comes in striking new gift case.

Easier...
Closer...
More
Comfortable
Grooming



The All New
**LADY REMINGTON®
SHAVER**

Only
\$13.95

- 2 HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE
- NEW "EASY-TO-HANDLE" CONTOUR

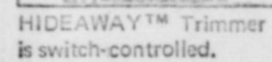
Lovelier, silkier legs are yours in a jiffy with the super-sharp, "closer" shaver head. For safer underarm grooming, there's a gentle, contoured head. Appealingly designed, with ON-OFF switch and compact gift case, the new LADY REMINGTON is a shaver you'll love to use.

A truly fine gift for him...

NEW SUPER-CLOSE
"DISPOSABLE BLADE"
SHAVES



Easy, economical
blade replacement.



HIDEAWAY™ Trimmer
is switch-controlled.

NEW
**REMINGTON®
LEKTO BLADE® LB25
SHAVER**

Only
\$21.95

Only REMINGTON has it... the new DISPOSABLE BLADE SHAVING SYSTEM that keeps shave after shave super-close, super-smooth. Incredibly sharp replaceable blades are quickly and economically changed. New Slide-bar COMFORT CONTROL sets shaver for his face and beard. HIDEAWAY™ Trimmer flips up. Push-up button extends heads for easy cleaning or blade replacement. Comes in handsome gift case with extra set of blades.

GREAT REMINGTON GIFTS

- New REMINGTON LB 29
ELECTRO BLADE
CORDLESS SHAVER ONLY **\$27.95**
- New REMINGTON LB 24
DISPOSABLE BLADE CUTTERS
EXTRA LOW PRICE **\$17.95**
- New REMINGTON LBX
LECTRO BLADE CORDLESS
SHAVER — ONLY **\$21.95**



FREE GIFT WRAPPING
For Christmas Giving

MERKEL DRUG CO.
Your Health (R) Service Store
PH. 928-5012 MERKEL, TEXAS

CHRISTMAS

Continued from Pg. 1

mas is when Jesus was born. We give gifts to other people." — Mary Roeder

"I am thankful for Christmas because I like to decorate the tree and put up the outside lights. I also like to get toys from Santa Claus." — Mike Brady

"I am thankful for Christmas because I like to unwrap presents I also like to go to my grandmothers and my uncles and

aunts" — Craig Bowen

It's Many Things

"Christmas is looking behind the gift to the thought." — Pam Evans

"Christmas is the time when all the wars should end and peace be with everyone, and love too. It is one of the most happy times." — Alan Glascock

"Christmas is when we get to see all the family and also our uncles and aunts." — Rudy Biera

"Christmas means giving thanks to Christ and what we have in the world." — Alice Cunningham

"Christmas is celebrating God's birthday." — Craig Land

"To me, Christmas means the birth of Jesus Christ, getting presents, giving presents, and green Christmas trees." — Neal Ray

"Christmas is opening gifts and eating grandma's turkey. It is going to Daddy's house to see my cousins." — Tammy Martin

"Christmas is a time for sharing and giving presents. We also celebrate the blessings of God's birthday." — David Baruch

"Christmas is a time for giving, for receiving, for God's birthday, for peace and well being, a time to feel good." — Chester Massengill

"Christmas means a whole lot to me. Christmas is fun to give something." — Connie Jackson

"Christmas is a day to give presents and to be happy." — Hector Ascencio

"Christmas is fun, I like to

open presents and see what I got." — Rebecca Williams.

"Christmas is a very nappy day. Everyone gets gifts and enjoys being together." — J. D. Lindsey

"Christmas means to get gifts from the family and good cheer to Pam and me." — Mary Goodman

"Christmas is a time to play with toys under the tree." — Vivian Arney

"Christmas is great meaning to everyone because it is a happy time." — David Lee

"Christmas is fun to me, fun to eat all you can hold and get more and more." — Kelly Holloway

"Christmas is to celebrate Jesus' birthday and Christmas presents." — Steve Gleniewinkel

"Christmas means Jesus' birth to me and I like to celebrate it." — Gregory McDaniel

"Christmas is a time for happiness. It means food, presents, fun and putting up mistletoe." — Rusty Watts

"Christmas means getting presents and giving presents to other people." — Gina Farmer

"Christmas means love and joy for all people." — Gwen Teaff

"Christmas means happiness at all times. It is joy and all kinds of pretty things." — Carla Rister

"Christmas means the day we celebrate Christ's birthday, and our family gets together." — Jan Wade

"Christmas is a time to celebrate and open presents." — Roger Dye

"Christmas means to me that I like to decorate the Christmas tree and go visit aunts and uncles and cousins." — Patsy Biera

"To me, Christmas means Jesus was born." — Eleno Quinonez

"Christmas is fun. You get lots

of toys and this year I am going to get a 410 shotgun." — Dale Higgins

"Christmas is a happy time." — John Constable

"Christmas is presents under the tree and happiness in the air." — Lugenal Guenther

"Christmas means the most lovely day of the year." — Pam Crenshaw

"On Christmas Day I hope to get a mini-bike — I don't think I will, so I hope for a train set." — Louis Goodman

"For Christmas, I wish I had a five year diary, and that it would snow." — Betty Lindsey

"Christmas is the most happy day of my life." — Guy Cullum

"Christmas means happiness and sharing. The candles are in the windows and the mistletoe will be hanging at the door." — Yolanda Bailey

"Christmas is coming and children are happy." — Johnny Jackson

"Christmas means lots of toys and snow." — Gayland Mitchell

"Christmas is Christ's birthday." — Santos Pena

"Christmas means to play and have fun with your friends." — Billy Wayne Mashburn

"Christmas to me is fun and opening gifts." — David Blair

"Christmas is getting together with people and our families." — Suzanne Hernandez

"Christmas means that Christ was born." — Mike Tucker

"Christmas means giving and receiving." — David Clyburn

"Christmas is a time for sharing and giving." — Lori DuBoise

"Christmas means happiness and love." — Kelly Ann Barnes

"To me Christmas means a joyful time." — Rebbie Baker

"It means a time to celebrate Jesus' birthday." — Cindy Smith

"It means giving and receiving." — Mike Sims

"We celebrate Christ's birthday." — Drew Mawson

"It is Christ's birthday. It is giving and sharing." — Lesa Hart

"A time of giving and sharing and having fun." — Tammy Thomas

"It is joy in my heart." — Dana Russell

"A time of joy and happiness." — Teddy Byrd

"It means the birth of Christ." — Steve Clark

"Christmas means peace on earth." — Lee Reddin

"Christmas means Christ's birthday, surprises in boxes." — David Burfiend

"Christmas is giving things to one another and giving thanks."

— Bryon Cullin

"It's caring enough about people to give them presents." — Debra Ybarra

"It means people getting together to celebrate the birth of Christ." — Janice South

"Christmas is being together." — Johnny Hernandez

"It is a joy and Christmas is snow." — Joanne Jewers

"The story of Christmas is what Christmas means to me." — Jody Savage

"It is happiness, joy and sharing." — Cindy Boone

"It is the most happy day of my life and is so pretty." — Debra Glascock

"The day when Jesus was born in a manger." — Jamie Castillo

"A time to celebrate Jesus' birthday." — Darthea Pannell

"Christmas means a lot to me, gifts and putting up the tree." — Randy Holmes

"A time to worship the day Jesus was born." — Grant Sandusky

"It is Christ's birthday." — Clell Murray

"It is happiness, sharing and we don't go to school for 12 days." — Lupe Ortega

"Families get together and share love and happiness." — Kim Holloway

"It is a time for peace and good will." — Donald Bishop

"A day when Christ was born and a day of joy." — Bill Fisher



JOY this Christmas

We're wrapping up best wishes for all our good friends at this holiday season!

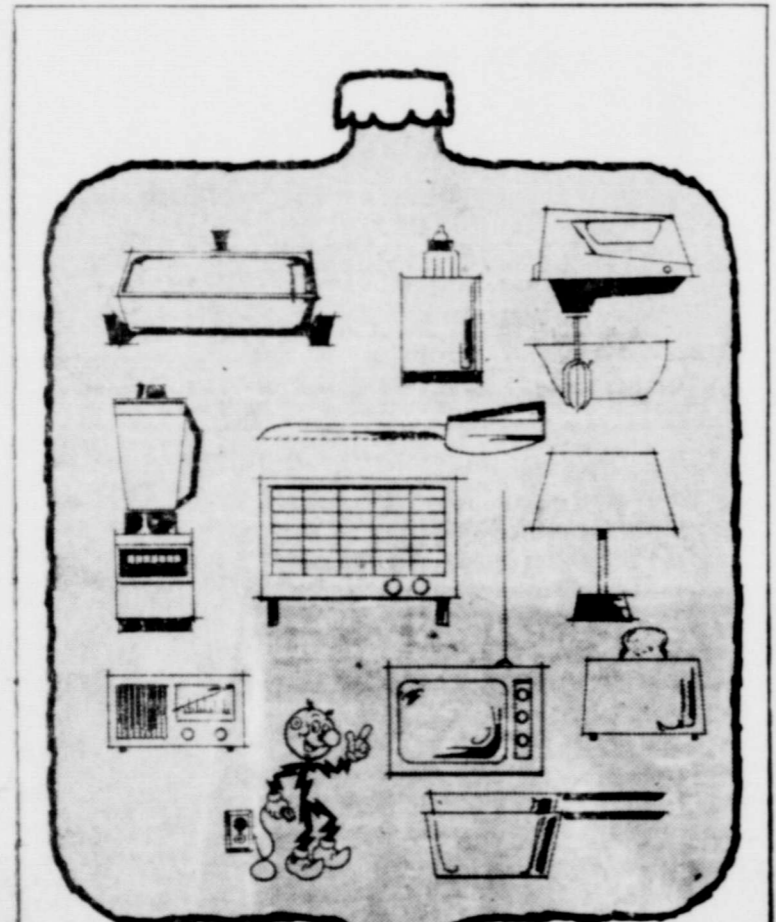
MINTER'S

IN ABILENE



A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Ann's Beauty Shop



Kiss getters for Santa

Electric, of course

An electric small appliance is something to keep you in (her, his) mind all year through.

Shop at your electric appliance dealer

West Texas Utilities Company
Equal Opportunity Employer
an investor owned company



Your friendship is our pride!

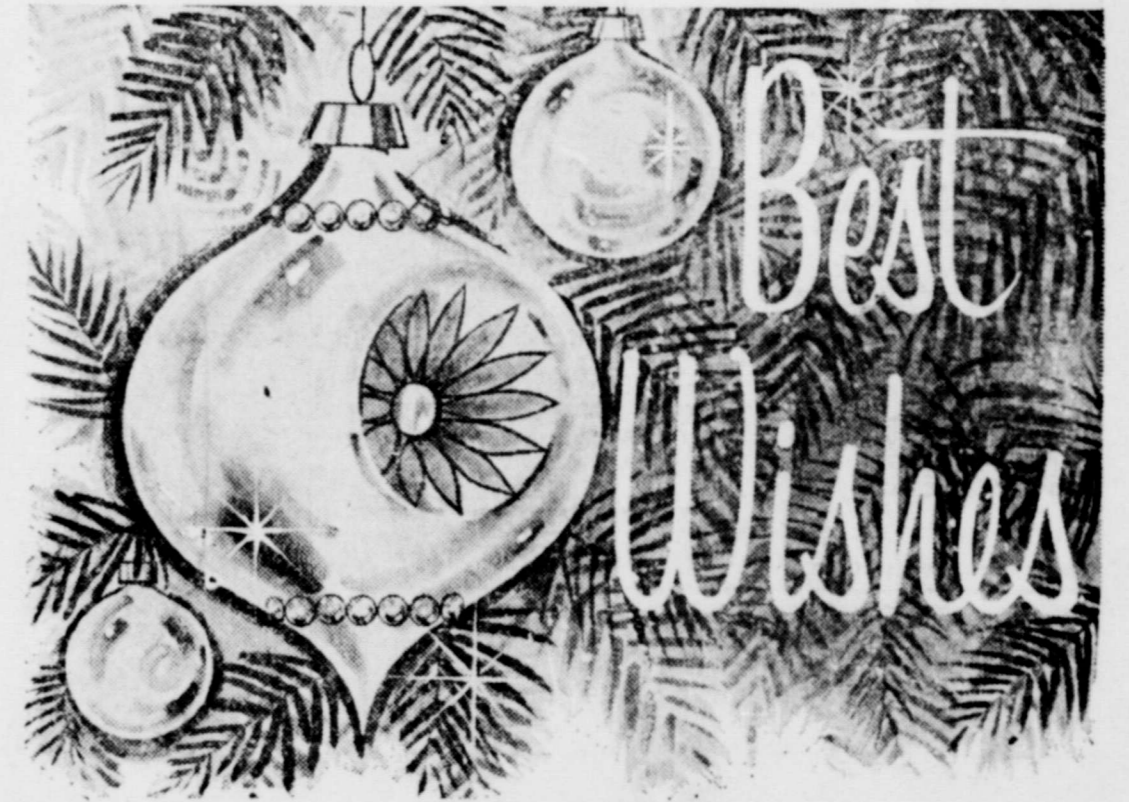
Barnett Barber Shop



Happy Holidays

Old-Fashioned Wishes for a very Merry Christmas!

Ed's Feed and Seed
Alwyne, Glen and Ed



We hope your joys are many and your troubles few...
A very Merry Christmas from all of us to you!

MAX MURRELL CHEVROLET

From All Your Friends at



It adds much to the enjoyment of the season to extend to our friends and customers our best wishes for a MERRY CHRISTMAS...

Sears

ABILENE, TEXAS

THERE IS ONLY ONE CHRISTIAN MESSAGE

By KENNETH McANALLY
Pastor,
First United Methodist Church

There can be only one Christmas Message, and that would be for the whole wide world. It is quoted here from the Bible, verse, and song, and many think this

to be the end of the matter. "For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him should not be lost but have eternal life. You must understand that God has not sent his Son into the world to pass sentence upon it, but to save it through

Him." — John 3:16-16 — By Phillips —

This is the Christmas Message for any year, and that is about all there is to it. You can see, however, that we have left out many of the technical parts of the message — such as, How He came — the Where — the When, and the Why.

What do we mean when we talk about the Christmas Message? The Christmas Message is given, but the most important thing is how and why we give the Message. An atheist could memorize the Christmas Message and say it to all he meets, but it would have little meaning.

We place great emphasis on "That God sent His Son," but perhaps the greatest part of our Christmas Message ought to be, "That God loved the World so much —" Do you suppose that God would like to trade a great part of our pride and selfishness for a whole lot of Love in this world? He might even like to

trade some of his church members and ministers for a few more who would be willing to take up their cross and follow this same Jesus in service and dedication.

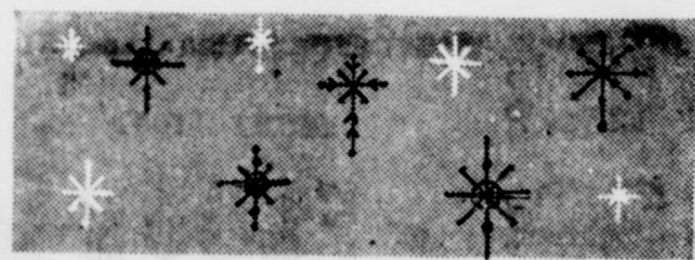
I do wish for all of you a Merry Christmas, but won't you also be mindful of the millions upon millions who would consider it a real feast for Christmas if they could have what most will be throwing into the trashbarrels. They are a part of the World which God loved so much. This world that God loved — needs more love and concern in it.

There is also a wish for a Happy New Year for you and yours, but you must surely know by now that the year ahead will be what you make it.

It would be well for us to remember that we are what we are by the Grace of God — and trials and tests and tribulations, and not by happiness and the easy go lucky attitude of — Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.



We hope you have a happy holiday!
The G. D. McConnells



SEASON'S BEST



Health, prosperity
and good cheer . . .

may these be yours at Christmastime!

Harold Crawford Tire Co.
ABILENE



to all our
loyal friends
Happy holiday!

Hope Patterson
Your Watkins Products
Dealer



**Joyous
Christmas**
BLESSINGS OF TRUE
HAPPINESS.

**The
Glamour
Bar**



With thanks
to our many friends
we say A Happy Holiday.

Hick's Auto Supply



Season's Greetings
May the joys of Christmas follow
you throughout the coming year . . .
Kit's Plaster 'N Things
AND
Gift Shop



May the joys and blessings
of Christmas be with you
through this season.

MERKEL TELEPHONE CO.

**Merry
Christmas**

This sincere
wish we heartily
extend to you, our
many loyal friends
and customers.



Thornton's
DEPARTMENT STORES
SINCE 1940

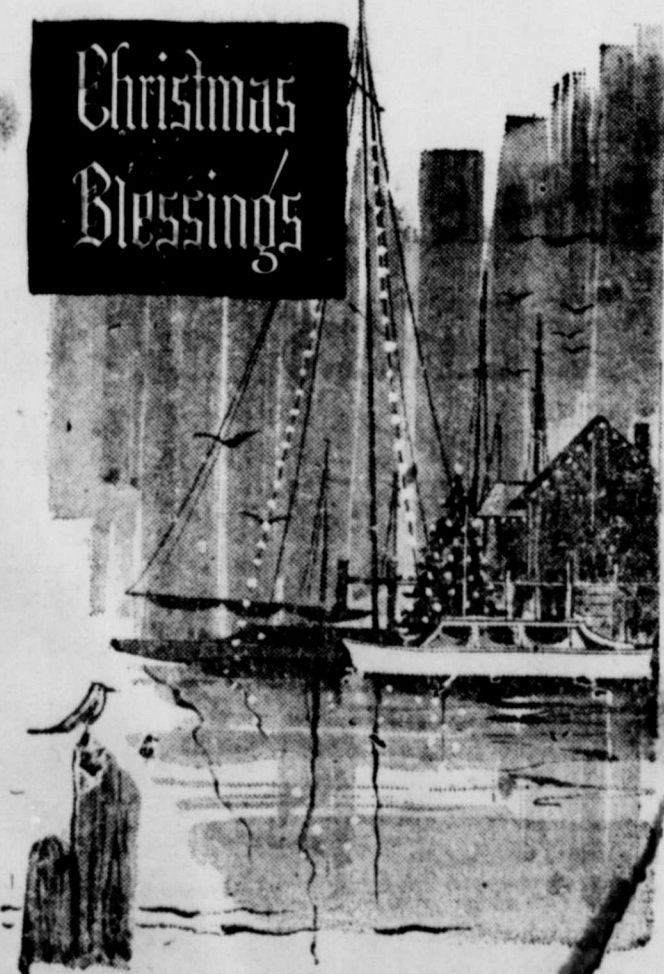
'TIS THE SEASON OF BEST WISHES
and
THANKFULLNESS

You have made the Year 1971 such a wonderful and Happy one for the patients and staff at Starr Nursing Home. Your thoughtfulness toward us has been over-whelming and we are all so deeply grateful.

Our Season's Greetings and Gratitude are extended to one and all. Especially to all of our ministers for their visits, our churches for their services, the Salvation Army, farmers, ranchers, business men, housewives, civic clubs, doctors, young people, FFA, FHA, 4-H Clubs, and just everyone for making life so cheerful for our patients.

THANK YOU AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

MARY OUTLAW
Starr Nursing Home



**Christmas
Blessings**

May this coming year be
a time of happiness, joy
and lasting peace for you

Cyrus Pee Insurance Agency



IMPERIAL
SUGAR

5 Lb. Bag **49¢**

WITH \$5.00 OR MORE IN TRADE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

CREAMY
CRISCO

3 Lb. Can **69¢**

WITH \$5.00 OR MORE IN TRADE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

Frozen Foods

STRAWBERRIES
GENNESSEE 10 OZ. PKG. 2 for **49¢**
MORTON POT PIES 2 for **39¢**
MORTON CREAM PIES ea. **25¢**
16 OZ. BOTTLE Coca-Cola 6 bot. ctn. **49¢**

HERSHEYS CHOCOLATE
DAINTIES

2 6 Oz. Pkgs. **43¢**

CARSON COUPON
WITH THIS COUPON 1 Pound Can of Maryland Club Coffee
SAVE 15¢ without coupon 83¢
Cash value 1/20¢. Limit one per customer.
Coupon Expires Dec. 31

SAVE VALUABLE COUPON SAVE
3 lb. 1oz. GIANT SIZE TIDE ONLY
SAVE 15¢
59¢
GOOD ONLY AT CARSON'S
WITH THIS COUPON WITHOUT COUPON 74¢
Offer Expires Dec. 30, 1971
LIMIT 1 COUPON PER PURCHASE

PRICES GOOD WEDNESDAY (Double Stamps) THURSDAY AND FRIDAY DEC. 22 - 23 - 24 CLOSED SAT., DEC. 25th

SUNSHINE HI-HO's lb. **43¢**
METZGERS HOMO 2 MILK gal. **85¢**
METZGERS 1/2 GAL. BUTTER MILK 2 for **89¢**
METZGERS - BORDENS - GANDYS HALF & HALF PL. SOUR OR WHIPPING CREAM 1/2 pt. **29¢**
BORDENS - GANDYS EGG NOG qt. **49¢**

MEAL

Gladiol 5 Lb. Bag **39¢**
TENDER CRUST BROWN & SERVE ROLLS 3 for **89¢**
EAGLE BRAND MILK can **37¢**
PHILADELPHIA 8 OZ. CREAM CHEESE pkg. **33¢**

OCEAN SPRAY - JELLY OR WHOLE CRANBERRY SAUCE 2 for **49¢**

DEL MONTE 303 PEARS Can **29¢**
DEL MONTE 303 FRUIT Cocktail 2 for **53¢**
DEL MONTE 1 1/2 SLICED PINEAPPLE 2 for **49¢**
DEL MONTE 303 WHOLE Green BEANS 2 for **53¢**
DEL MONTE C. S. 303 Golden CORN 2 for **43¢**
DEL MONTE 303 Garden PEAS 2 for **49¢**
DEL MONTE TUNA Flat Can **39¢**
EVANGELINE 2 1/4 CAN Sweet POTATOES 2 for **49¢**

MEADOLAKE

SOFT

OLEO

Lb. Ctn. **29¢**

REYNOLDS

FOIL

WRAP

25 Ft. Roll **29¢**

LIGHT CRUST

FLOUR

5 Lb. Bag **49¢**

TOYS

NEW SHIPMENT BATTERY OPERATED BIG ASSORTMENT AT Discount Prices

Miracle Whip

Kraft Qt. **59¢**

DATES

Drcmedary Pound Box **53¢**

CAKE MIX

Duncan Hines ASSORTED 2 Boxes **69¢**

TOWELS

Bounty Jumbo Ea. **29¢**



TURKEYS

USDA 10-20 Lbs. **43¢**
HENS Lb. **43¢**

HAM

Hormel Whole or Shank 1/2 Lb. **59¢**

ROAST

Choice Beef CHUCK Lb. **83¢**

BACON

Gooch B. R. Pound **63¢**

STEAK

Choice Beef Sirloin or T-Bone Lb. **1.39**

SAUSAGE

Olde Virginia Gooch 2 Lb. Bag **1.39**

WISCONSIN CHEDDAR CHEESE lb. **89¢**

FRESH FROZEN OYSTERS can **1.39**

TOWIE STUFFED OLIVES 5 oz. jar **33¢**
BAKERS - CELLO COCANUT 7 oz. pkg. **33¢**
KRAFT MARSHMALLOWS 10 oz. **19¢**
HIP-O-LITE MARSHMALLOW CREAM 9 oz. ctn. **29¢**



King Size REG. 95¢ ONLY **69¢**

DUZ GT. BOX **63¢**

CASCADE REG. SIZE **33¢**



FRESH **CELERY**

STALK Each **23¢**

DELICIOUS Red APPLES Lb. **19¢**

FRESH CRANBERRIES Lb. **33¢**

DEL MONTE BANANAS Lb. **9¢**

CALIFORNIA NAVEL ORANGES Lb. **15¢**

RUSSET SPUDS 10 Lb. Bag **49¢**

WE GIVE GIFT BOND STAMPS

DOUBLE ON WEDS.

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



GREETINGS

at Christmas time...

The Dairy Bar

Marie and J. E.



WISHING YOU THE BEST THAT THE SEASON HAS TO OFFER YOU AND YOURS!

H. W. Lemens, Inc.

From Your Friends at

A HURRYING WORLD PAUSES FOR A DAY OF REMEMBERING

KENNETH F. JONES

Pastor First Baptist Church

What do you see at Christmas? We see people becoming more kindly toward one another. We see folks showing genuine interest in the welfare of those around them. We see compassion and concern for the ill; the helpless; the poor. We see families — gathering from far-flung places — for a few brief hours of "togetherness." We see Christians making their way to places of worship that they might thank the Heavenly Father for the gift of His Son. We see a hurrying and worrying world pause for a brief day of remembering God's Supreme Gift. We see these things at Christmas — and our hearts are made glad!

What do you hear at Christmas?

We hear familiar carols —

Christmas Is Most Wonderful

By NEWTON S. DANIEL

Pastor Emeritus

United Methodist Church

Christmas to me is the most wonderful time of the year. It is shining lights and Christmas trees; greeting cards and gift wrapped packages. It is the happy smile of children's faces. It is greeting loved ones, friends and neighbors. We smile and greet a stranger as a friend, and every man our brother.

Christmas is a time of giving. We give gifts in token of the wonderful gift of God's own son to us.

Christmas is a time of receiving. If we fail to accept God's gift by taking Christ as our Lord and Savior, then his gift will mean little to us. So let us be gracious receivers as well as generous givers. Let us receive Christ into our lives, then we can feel the warmth and wonderment of Christmas through the year and through eternity.

Christmas is "Joy to the world the Lord has come, Let earth receive her King."

songs that are old, yet never grow old. We hear familiar words from the Holy Scriptures: "... now the birth of Jesus was on this wise ..."; "... and it came to pass in those days ..."; "... and there were in the same country, shepherds ...". Marvelous words! — being read by so many different persons and in so many different ways, — yet it is the Word of God! We hear carolers in the streets, cheerily sharing the songs of the Yuletide season. We hear friends greeting one another with a warm and friendly, "Merry Christmas!" We hear these things at Christmas — and our hearts are made glad!

What do you feel at Christmas?

We feel the open and warm friendliness of the folks we meet on the streets. We feel the need to contact those friends we have too long neglected. We feel the desire to share our blessings with others around us. We feel the urge to enjoy to the fullest every fleeting moment of happiness and peace and fellowship with our loved ones.

We feel the necessity of proclaiming the good news of eternal life through the Christ of Christmas. We feel His love — His power — His presence.

We remember that even as He once came to redeem, He is coming again to rule and to reign!

We feel a renewed hope, a deeper faith, a greater trust in Him who "... shall reign forever and forever."

"All these things we feel — and our hearts are made glad!"

The Merkel Mail

MERRY CHRISTMAS, Sec. 2, Page One



NOEL

At His Birth the Angels sang, "Peace on earth to men of good will." May this same peace, the gift of the Prince of Peace, be yours this Christmas and may it fill your life with joy!

STARBUCK'S

Fred and Naomi

Best Wishes



... to you and your family. May the beauty of the season be reflected in the hearts of all men.

HIGGINBOTHAM - BARTLETT CO.

Raymond

Pat



Season's Greetings
May your Christmas be everything you've been hoping for!

Best wishes for a jolly holiday from our entire staff!

CAL-TEX FEED YARDS

TRENT, TEXAS



Silent Night
Christmas Blessings on You & Yours
Crawford's
Ruth Horton, Thelma Strawn,
Onis, Tina, Robert and Mignon

SANTA COMPLAINS ABOUT PRESENT WORK CONDITIONS

EDITOR'S NOTE — Santa's letter to children appeared in the "Coyote Howl," Abilene's Jefferson Junior High School paper. It is being re-printed with permission.

Dear Children:
For years you have been sending your letters to me asking for different items. Well, this year I decided to write you a letter.

The first thing I would like to request is that you don't light fires in your fireplaces on Christmas Eve. In the first place it is hard on the clothes and also I have had my beard to catch on fire several times.

Another thing, is I wish that you would please stop making those terrible cookies.

The little boy that left the sock in his stocking must have thought that it was funny to frighten Santa Claus, but let me assure you that it is not!

Someone put oil on their roof which almost gave Rudolph a slipped disc.

There are only a few of the many incidents that I have endured during my life. If you keep on doing these things you might awaken on Christmas Day with a burned Christmas Tree.

Yours truly,
SANTA CLAUS

Superstitions

Christmas decorations remind us of old beliefs. In England people kept a sprig of holly in the house after the holidays to protect the house against lightning. Mistletoe was likewise kept in the house as a guard against witches. People in rural areas were known to wear a bit of mistletoe tied in a tiny bag about the neck as a witch repellent.



May all that is "merry and bright" be yours!

Conley's Barber Shop



Good Tidings

Ben Franklin Store

Nadine, Dorothy, Debra and Johnny



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Wilson's Jeweler



... to all our good friends! We've enjoyed serving you — we look forward to serving you again!

Bragg's

Ethel, Florence, Fern and Mary



PEACE
May His birth live ever in the hearts of men.

Edna's Beauty Shop



Our thanks and good wishes ring out to our friends...

JOYOUS HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Cypert Tax Service

Pinky and Mildred



Health, wealth, and happiness!

LaRoe Feed and Seed Co.

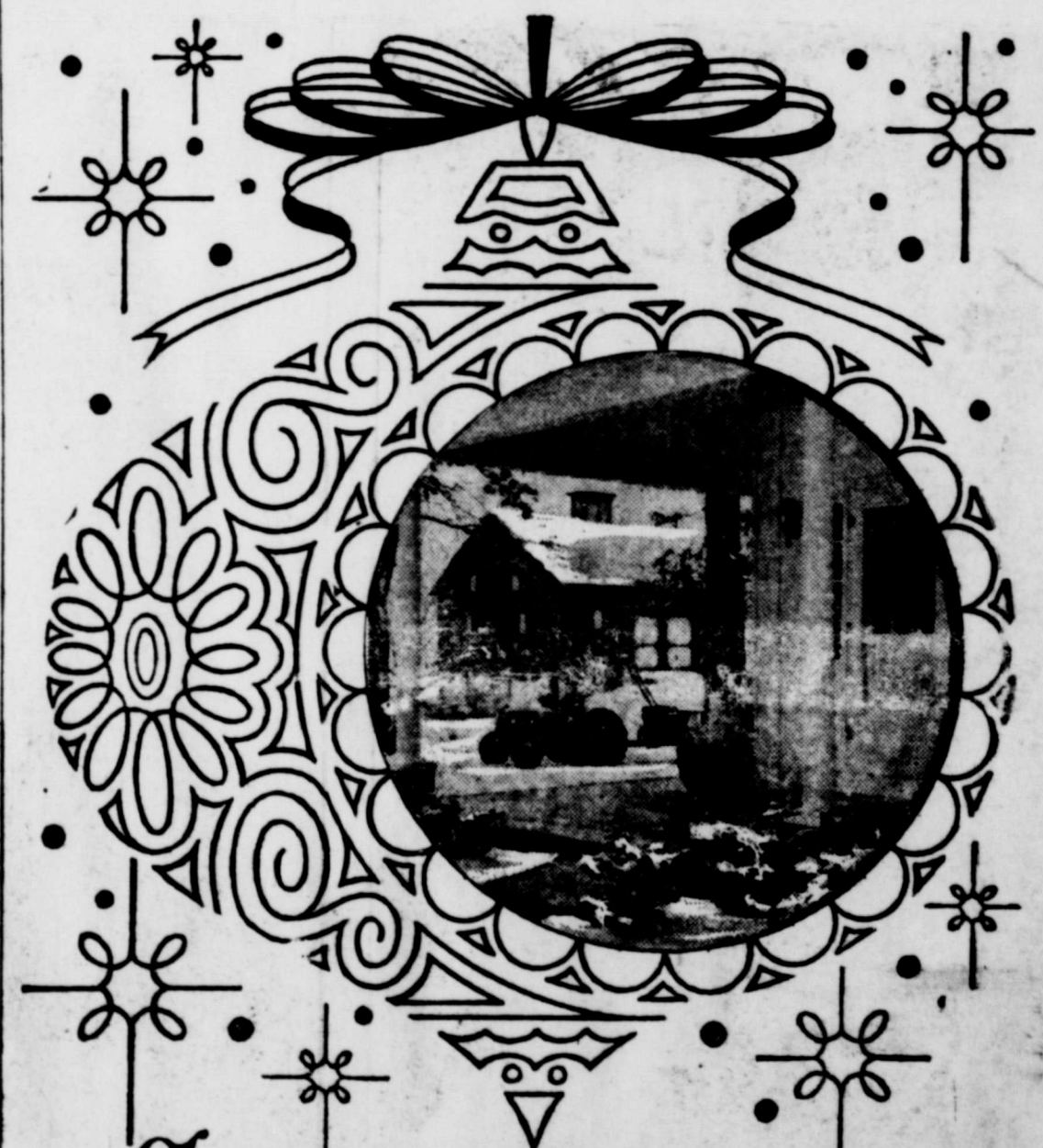
Christmas



HEARTIEST GOOD WISHES!

Bullock's Hardware and Gifts

Almeda, Willie and Grace



GREETINGS

It's our favorite time of year — when we have the opportunity of wishing all our good friends a very merry Christmas!

From All the Folks at:

FISHER'S FINE

AND

MERKEL AUTO PARTS



FILL 'ER UP WITH BEST WISHES!

Bobby DuBose Tex

Christmas JOY



It's always a pleasure to greet the many friends we've known through the years

Taylor Telephone Cooperative

Christmas Greetings



TO OUR MANY FRIENDS
And along with our fondest wishes that every wish will come true for you, we also extend our sincere "thank you" for your loyalty during this year.

The Merkel Mail

Carl, Chick, Bob, Connie, Gary, Steve, Gregg,
Dave, Elaine and Jan

GLEANERS

Yule Dinner Served SS Class

The Gleaners' Sunday School Class of the First United Methodist Church held its Annual Christmas Dinner in Fellowship Hall on Dec. 15. A turkey dinner was served on tables decorated with Christmas motif.

Mrs. Roy Baccus presided for a brief business session and the program.

Following the group singing Christmas Carols, with Mrs. O. R. Douglas leading and Mrs. Oswald Everett accompanying at the piano, Mrs. N. S. Daniel gave the story of "The Wives" of the Three Wise Men.

Gifts were presented to the following members and guests: Mmes. Daniel, Baccus, Douglas, Everett, Tom Largent, Harold Odum, Mary Click, Mattie Billingsley and Ada Mae Johnson.

Also Mmes. Sally Gant, Etta McWilliams, Winnie Cypert, E. M. Dean, John Shannen, Albert Criswell, Fay Doan, Minnie Howard and Ross Ferrier.

Also Mmes. W. A. Stockbridge, L. S. Tipton, James Brown, Denzil Cox, W. W. Toombs, O. E. Harwell and Herbert Patterson.

Also Mmes. Dee Grimes, Dewell McLean, Leon Toombs, Sallie Moore, Johnny Cox, Miss Mable McRee and visitors, the Rev. N. S. Daniel, Tom Largent and Harold Odum.

Holiday Moon

A waxing moon is more favorable at Christmas than a waning one, according to an old Scottish folk belief.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

At this holy season, may we take the opportunity to wish you every blessing!

Lassiter's Employment Service
Taylor County's Oldest Private Employment Service
Ruth and Joe

Merry Christmas

TO ALL OUR GOOD FRIENDS

It's always a pleasure to greet you and wish you the best of the season!

Asteroid Restaurant & Motel
Carol and Joe Boyd

Greetings

Everybody in this firm, wishes each and every one a
Wonderfully Merry Christmas!

The Board of Directors and Staff
AT
TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
MERKEL, TEXAS