

FARMCAST

By JOHN C. WHITE, Commissioner
Fantastic as it may sound, food today is still a bargain. Put the situation in its proper perspective and you realize this is true. While we complain about the high cost of food, most of the world population's major concern is finding enough food to just stay alive.

10-Year Old Holstein Sets Record

Most dairymen would probably say that a cow in past her prime after six or seven years of age. However, one Hopkins County dairyman could give a convincing argument with a 10-year old cow that has the highest production of any registered Holstein Friesian in Texas. The record was announced by the National Holstein Friesian Association.

Bill Jack Allen of Brinker is the owner of Nor-Stor Far Fuchsia Blossom, he state's leading Holstein producer with 35,322 pounds of milk and 1,105 pounds of butterfat for twice-a-day milking in 365 days on DHIA (Dairy Herd Improvement Association) records. The annual Texas average is 12,529 pounds of milk.

Allen's 100-cow herd is one of the best in the state with an average annual production of 18,461 pounds of milk and 624 pounds of butterfat. County Extension Agent Paul Herschler says that Blossom's production would mean an average of 10 gallons per day for the year. This is enough milk to furnish one pint per day to 81 persons for a year.

Records show that Blossom netted \$1,542 last year over grain and forage costs.

Open House Big Success

Open house for Syble's Beauty Nook was a big success with over 125 registering.

"We wish to thank our many friends who came and helped make this opening such a good day," said Syble Riney.

Hostesses helping were: Mrs. Herman Carson, Mrs. Howard Carson, Mrs. Donna Wilson of Abilene, Mrs. S. G. Russell and Jerri Cotton, an operator.

Winners were — Hairy spray: Connie Harris and Mrs. Jim Richards; Shampoo & Set: Thelma Thomas and Edith Fox; Haircuts: Minnie Coates and Ruth Lassiter; Permanents: Gayla Toliver and Ruth Baze.

Area Students On Team

Area students participating in coed volleyball at Hardin-Simmons University are: Cindy Wiley, junior of Merkel on Gents-Pemmos II; Pat Watson, freshman, Trent, on Nadene Buckaroos; Robert Serbin, freshman, Merkel, on Gents-Pemmos I; Shirley Morrison, sophomore, Tye, Christi Wiley, Merkel, Johnny Thompson, junior, Merkel and Ken Law, sophomore, Tye, all on the Gents-Pemmos III.

world's peoples are happy if they can find a piece of bread or any scrap of meat to help the next.

Because of the production efficiencies of agricultural producers, food in this country is in abundant supply and is of top quality. We are the only nation in the world that can produce enough for ourselves and have leftovers for the rest of the world.

This has not come about by accident. It is the quiet revolution that has been going on all around us without fanfare or notice by consumers. Ample food production is this nation's greatest blessing. Agricultural producers have constantly been increasing production. This is one of the major reasons food is still one of the best bargains in our economy today.

Consider these facts as they relate to farm prices before blaming the farmer for high costs of food:

Farm prices for food are up only six percent from 20 years ago.

The farmer gets only 40 cents out of each dollar spent on food; the rest goes for transportation, processing, packaging and marketing.

During the last quarter of 1972, the average American family spent only 15.8 percent of his income after taxes for food. Even with increases in early 1973, the level is about 16 percent. Compare this with 23 percent 20 years ago.

Farm production costs have more than doubled in the past 20 years; hired help is up two and half times higher than 20 years ago while farm machinery has more than doubled.

Average wage rates per hour of non-farm production workers are more than two and a half times higher than 20 years ago. In 1950, non-farm production workers averaged \$1.33 per hour; in 1972 they averaged 3.65 per hour; in 1973 it was up to \$3.78 per hour.

While retail food prices went up 33 percent from 1965 through 1972, per capita income was increasing 62 percent.

SINCE 1950 if prices received by farmers for cattle had risen at the same rate as first class \$72 per hundred pounds. Had cattle prices risen at the same rate as hospital care costs, cattle would now bring \$179.69 per hundred pounds.

Although farm prices have shown some increases in recent months, agricultural income is still below the rest of the economy. Parity—that figure used to show how agriculture is farming with the rest of the economy—is about 80 percent, still 20 percent under the rest of the economy.

The prices the cattlemen get today for their livestock are only slightly higher than they were receiving 20 years ago.

Only six commodities are currently above parity; all others are at price levels below that ratio.

Cotton Picture Looks Good Going Into 1973 Season

Texas cotton farmers can look forward to another good crop year if weather conditions don't



Stith News
By MRS. FRITZ HALE

After the freeze Sunday night, it is thought the fruit and small vegetables were killed.

Rev. James Williams has resigned as pastor of the Stith Baptist Church and has accepted the call of the Prairie View Church in Anson. Rev. Williams was pastor of the Stith Church for nine years.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bradley and Mr. and Mrs. F. J. McDonald attended the funeral of Virgil Bradley, 77, at Elliott - Hamill Funeral Home in Abilene Thursday. Mr. Bradley died in the Starr Nursing Home in Merkel.

Billy Ray Browning of Tuscola visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Browning Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Browning of Lefors, Tex., spent Friday night with Mr. and Mrs. Browning. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cleary of Abilene and Mr. Cleary's mother, Mrs. Cleary of Pennsylvania, were visitors Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Shaw Jr. are parents of a son, Warren Brandon, born April 8rd in Irving hospital. Warren Brandon is the 25th great-grandchild of Mrs. Mattie Shaw. Mr. and Mrs. Warren Shaw Sr. of Arizona are his grandparents.

Mrs. Royce Mashburn returned Sunday to her home in Greenfield, Mass., after a three weeks visit with her mother, Mrs. Mattie Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mashburn and other relatives.

Sam Mashburn has been quite ill in the Starr Nursing Home in Merkel.

affect production too severely, believes Charles Baker, marketing economist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

"Overall, the cotton picture looks good going into the 1973 season," says Baker. "In many cases, the situation is similar to last year. Crop contracting is active in southern areas of the state, with many farmers contracting for good prices — up to 35 cents a pound. The demand should again be strong this year, perhaps more so than last year since acreage allotments have been cut by 13 percent throughout the United States."

The 1973 crop should get off to a good start with favorable soil moisture levels over all the state.

On the gloomy side, reduced government payments and increased production costs will lower net income for the coming season, points out the economist.

Looking at the demand picture, Baker expects world consumption of cotton for 1973-74 to be up one million bales over the record 57 million bales for 1972-73.

Carryover in the U.S. last August was 3.4 million bales, the lowest in 20 years. By August 1 of this year, carryover is expected to up a million bales even though exports are expected to increase from 3.3 million bales last season to 4.5 million this year.

"Texas farmers will produce about 3.5 million bales this year compared to 3.9 last season," reports Baker. "Most will stay close to their allotments as cotton prices are expected to be somewhat lower while feed grain prices are zooming. However, some of the set-aside acres that have been freed recently may encourage additional plantings."

Nationwide, production for 1973 is expected to total about 12.5 million bales, down from the 13.5 million bales last year. The 1972 crop was the largest since 1965.

Womens Lib Hits Organization

AUSTIN, Texas — One of the longest all-male traditions at The University of Texas has crumbled.

The Friar Society, which since 1911 has been UT's highest honorary organization for outstanding men students, accepted its first women members this spring. Friar members made the decision after more than a year of consultation with Friar alumni.

Included among former Friar members are three of the last five Governors of Texas and the current Chief Justice.

Old Patent Models To Be Studied at UT

AUSTIN, Texas — About 1,000 patent models from the 19th Century — ranging from locomotive headlights to an 1876 carpet sweeper—form a new collection for study at The University of Texas.



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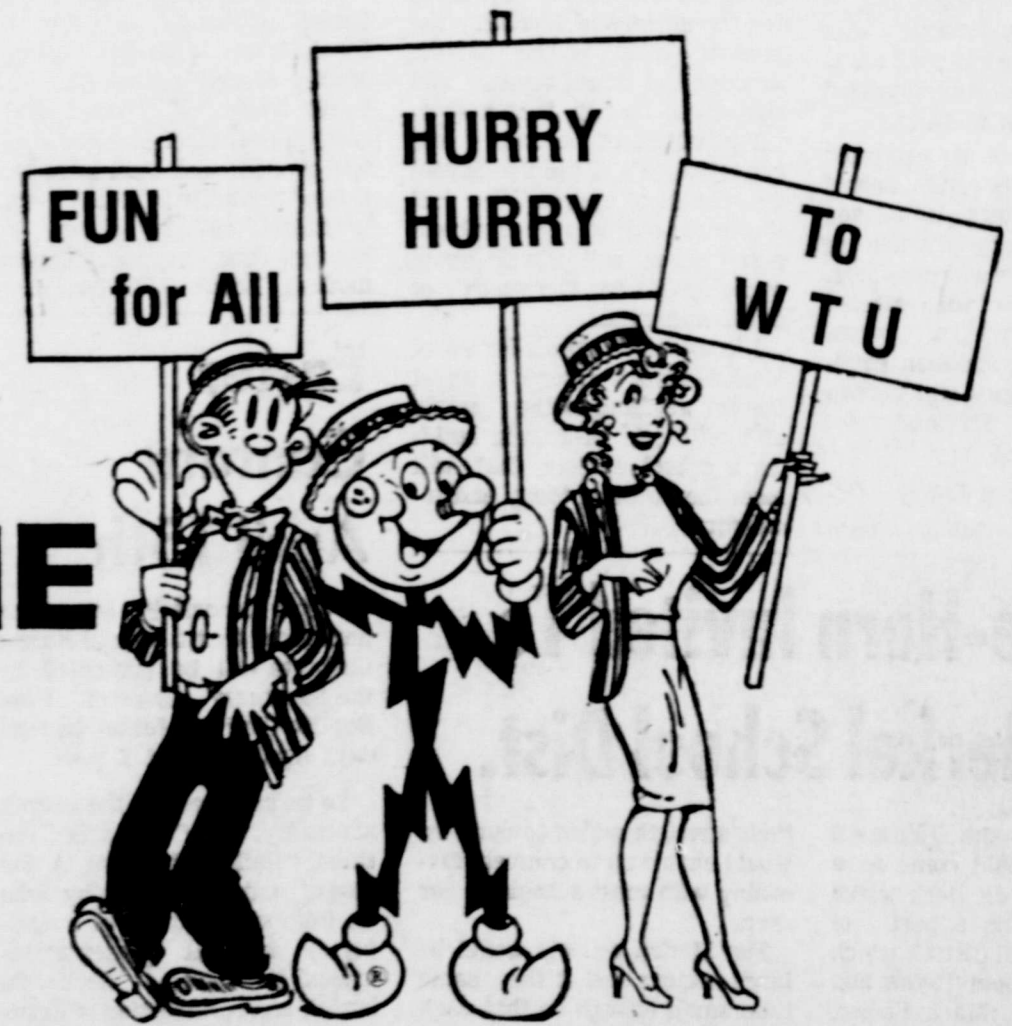
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STARR NURSING HOME NEWS

By MARY OUTLAW
Sorry I haven't had any news, but have been kept busy with lots of work. I also took my great grandson, Ricky Dale Hair, back to Arizona recently. It is so beautiful in Arizona. The orange, lemon and grapefruit trees are so pretty at this time of year. There are some vegetables now and they have had lots of rain which they haven't had in 25 years.

tion Center. Guests from Merkel, Irving, Dallas and Stamford were present. Granny Bresendine celebrated her 91st birthday April 4th with



GARY STUTTS
... initiated at ASU

Stutts In Sorority

Gary Stutts was initiated into the Eta Theta Chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, a professional fraternity at Angelo State University. He was given the Best Pledge Award at initiation ceremonies April 7th. Membership in Delta Sigma Pi is open only to students seeking a degree in commercial or business administration. Gary is a 1969-70 graduate of Merkel High School and is employed by the U. S. Postal Service in San Angelo, where he and his wife Brenda, reside at 84 S. Lincoln. Gary is a second semester junior and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Mashburn of Merkel.

a party. Punch and cake was served to the patients and nurses. Her children and their families were present. They are Neva Stinson, Gene Baird, Irene Carrol and Gene Bresendine of Abilene. Granny was very happy on this occasion and we want to wish her many more birthdays. We've had Granny a long time and she seems like ours. Tommy Toombs of Lubbock and Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Bradley of Hico visited Sam Mashburn last week. Mr. Mashburn is doing better at this writing. Mr. C. M. Church of Stith visits the nursing home weekly to see Sam Mashburn.

The Methodist minister and his wife from Tye Methodist Church brought a car full of pot plants that Mrs. Mildred Elder sent to the home. We wish to thank Mrs. Elder for them.

We have a new employee, Mr. Ashton that lives here in Merkel. He will be working as an aide until fall then he will go into training as an R.N. at Hendricks. He has worked at Hendricks and at the Abilene State School so he has had plenty of training. We hope he will be content to stay and work in our home until he starts back to school.

We wish to thank the family of Eric Anderson for the beautiful potted mums they sent the nursing home. Everyone has really enjoyed them. We express our sympathy to the family.

Thank you Mrs. H. C. Reid for the clothing you brought to the home.

We appreciate the nice things Mrs. Bradley left the home.

Thank you, Mrs. Newsom for the boxes of fruit jars you brought to the nursing home. We hope to use them this fall.

Robertson-Bibb Wedding Planned for May 13th

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Robertson are announcing the engagement of their daughter, Vickie Diane, to Tommy Edward Bibb,

son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bibb of Rising Star.

Vickie is a 1971 graduate of Merkel High School and Hendrick School of Medical Records Technician. She is employed by Dr. W. R. Sibley Jr.

Tommy is a 1971 graduate of Rising Star High School and is a sophomore at Abilene Christian College.

Wedding will be May 13 in Tye Baptist Church.



An unusual thing occurred during the running of a recent United States Auto Club race. The leader's right front wheel came off!

Spectators were amazed that the car continued to run smoothly around the oval and into the pits. The naked brake disc never touched the pavement.

This is a genuine, if unexpected, example of chassis tuning. To go around an oval with all due haste, weight is biased toward the inside or left portion of the car.

A less hazardous method of proving chassis tuning is to drive a contemporary USAC race onto an automobile weighing scale, one wheel at a time. The scale will tip in favor of the left front and rear wheels.

If a racing car thus set up weighs 1,500 pounds, perhaps two-thirds of the car's weight is canted toward the infield.

Today's Tip:

Many of the new cars advertise a chassis that seldom, if ever, needs lubricating. Next time your car is serviced, make sure the mechanic inspects all lubrication points to ensure that seals are in place and intact.



VICKIE ROBERTSON
... plans May wedding

Mrs. Jackson Rites Held

Mrs. R. I. Jackson, 92, of Merkel, died at 10:15 a.m. Saturday in the Anson Care Home after a long illness. Funeral was held at 2 p.m. Monday in the First Baptist Church in Merkel.

The Rev. Kenneth Jones, pastor, and the Rev. V. D. Walters of Abilene officiated. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery in Merkel.

Born Oct. 23, 1890, near Huntsville, she moved to Gorman where she married R. I. Jackson in 1898. He died in 1949.

The couple lived in Gorman until 1926. They moved to Noodie in 1934 and to Merkel in 1946.

Mrs. Jackson was a member of the First Baptist Church in Merkel.

Survivors are two sons, Carl of Merkel and Fred of Floydada; three daughters, Mrs. Otis (Eunice) Burnett of El Dorado, Okla., Mrs. Carter (Lois) Spradlin of Quanah and Dorothy Jackson of Roswell, N.M.; eight grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

THE GORILLA GROWL

By ALLEN GREGORY
Trent High School has decided to feature three V.I.P.'s (Very Interesting Person) each week until school is out. This is an appreciation and recognition for their participation in school activities for the past four years. The Seniors are the V.I.P.'s to be recognized. This week, our V.I.P.'s are:

DIANA BISHOP — FHA member; Pep Club; FHA Historian; Yearbook; Senior Play; Yearbook Business Manager; Basketball; Basketball Manager, and she plans to join the Navy.

ROSA GARZA — FHA member; FHA Songleader; Pep Club; Senior Play (Advertising); Yearbook; Assistant Business Manager (Yearbook); Basketball Manager and Volleyball.

ANITA JO REED — FHA member; Basketball; Annual Staff; Senior Play; Pep Club; Volleyball; Track; Homemaker of Tomorrow; Honorable Mention National Merit Scholar; Honor Society and she plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin.

We had a group of students to attend the U.I.L. Literary contest at Lueters this last Saturday. Many of the Trent students did very well. For the ones who did not do quite so well, they will have a good chance at it next year. These students put forth a lot of time and effort in preparing for this contest and they deserve a good word of thanks. Congratulations to the winners and better luck next year for the ones who did not come back winners.



Glasscock To Hold Grand Opening at Snake Trailer

Don Glasscock will have grand opening of his snake trailer located on IH 20 just east of Merkel Tuesday April 17 and continue through Sunday April 22.

Featured in the trailer in glassed front cages are some 23 different varieties of snakes as of press time with more expected to come in over the weekend. Also on display are 12 different rattlesnakes. The snakes come from such

countries as India, Asia, South America, Africa and from all over the United States.

Door prizes will be given away such as a snake skin belt and buckle, a mans or ladies billfold, coin purses, key chains and key cases. To register the trailer must be toured.

Admission is 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children under 12.

The snake display will be open from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m.

ROUND-UP

By KAYE LANHAM

MR. AND MRS. JERRY Don McWilliams of Singapore were home for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chester McWilliams recently.

RUTH PANGLE and Mary

Law School Gets

Too Many Applicants

AUSTIN, Texas — The University of Texas Law School, one of the leading public law schools in the nation, receives applications from more than five times the number of students it can accept each year.

Last year 525 students entered the UT Law School out of 2,900 who had applied.

According to Associate Dean T. J. Gibson, an applicant is considered on the basis of undergraduate grade-point average in combination with his score on the Law School Admission Test.

Outlaw took a trip to Phoenix, Ariz. last week. Mary took her great grandson, Ricky Dale Hair, home. They came back through the mountains and the flowers were so pretty.

MR. AND MRS. R. L. Denson, of Ft. Phantom Lake at Abilene, spent a few days last week at Falcon Lake. They caught lot of fish and had a good time.

Mrs. Denson and her sister, Mrs. Thelma Blackwell of Sweetwater, visited in Sylvester last week, just looking at the old vacant school building and other places that meant a lot to them years ago. They both lived there at one time.

The Denson Family had a reunion at the R. L. Densons at Ft. Phantom recently. They had plenty of fish to eat. There were thirty-four persons attending from Broadus, Mont.; Monahans; Big Spring; Colorado City; Brownwood; Winters, Wingate; Jacksburg; Sulphur, Okla.; and Abilene.

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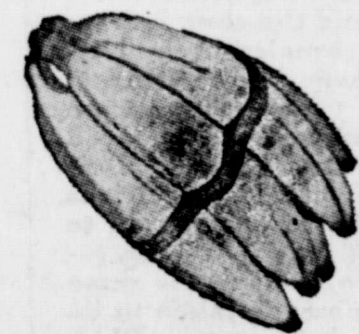
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