

The Merkel Mail

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PRICE 10¢ PER COPY—PUBLISHED WEEKLY MERKEL, TEXAS, THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1973—EIGHT PAGES VOL. NO. 84, NO. 10

MARK CLEMMER was presented the Agriculture Award at the All-Awards Banquet last Saturday night. Son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Clemmer, Mark was cited for his work in feeding lambs, and winning state on judging teams. Mark plans to attend Texas A & M University.



1st Awards Banquet Honors MHS Students

Merkel High School held its first annual All Awards Banquet Saturday night, April 28, at Barton Cafeteria in Abilene. A large crowd of students, teachers, and school administrators were present for the affair. Also attending the banquet were several members of the Merkel School Board.

Master of Ceremonies for the banquet was Merkel High School Principal Travis Davis. Davis pointed out that the banquet was designed to recognize every student that has been active in Merkel High. "I was very pleased with the banquet as I feel that a lot of deserving students were recognized for their achievements that do not normally get the recognition they deserve," Davis said.

Davis called on various faculty members to present the different awards.

Students recognized were:

Band—Patsy Button, Band Captain; Dennis James, 2nd Lieutenant; and Steve Teaff, 1st Band Lieutenant.

Twirlers—Kathryn Murrell, Patsy Button, Kathy Hendricks, Christi Boone, and Janie Clark.

Drum Major—Chris Childers.

Rodeo Club—Bobby Barnes, president; Lesli Reddin, vice president; Rufus Welch, secretary; Cindy Whisenhunt, registrar; Mark Clemmer, parliamentarian; and Liz Whisenhunt, sweetheart.

Library Club—Linda Black, president.

National Honor Society—Sue Castille, Don Clyburn, Mary Beth Boyd, Glenda Tuckey, Linda Black, and Patsy Button.

Drama—Albert Castillo, president; Tonja McAninch, vice president; Marsha Thompson, secretary; and Liz Corley, reporter.

Future Homemakers—Linda Black, president; Tonja McAninch, vice president; Liz Corley, secretary; Sherry Bratcher, treasurer; Mary Beth Boyd, degree chairman; Janie Clark, song leader; Patsy Button, parliamentarian; Roseann Noster, historian; and Jerrine Stephan, reporter.

Cheerleaders—Linda Black, Tonja McAninch, Anna Hughes, and Becky Acuna.

Pep Squad—Sharla Dean, president; Debbie Fincher, secretary; Ofelia Costillio, reporter; and Liz Corely, treasurer.

Future Farmers of America—Andy Stephan, president; Leslie Reddin, vice president; Steve Gentry, secretary; David Robertson, treasurer; and Steve Cochran, reporter.

UIL Events—Prose Reading, Steve Walker, 1st regional; Poetry Reading, Neilon Ely, 1st regional; Prose Reading, Tonja McAninch, 2nd regional. Play—'Androcles and the Lion,' 2nd in district—Neilon Ely, best actor; Tonja McAninch, all star cast; members of cast—Linda Black, Neilon Ely, Tonja McAninch, Anna Hughes, Terry Reed, Ronnie Sanford, Danny Higgins, Jimmy Land, Steve Walker, and Andy Hart.

Speech and Drama—Neilon Ely and Tonja McAninch.

Mathematics—Ronnie Sanford and Tonja Crenshaw.

Science—Jeff Cox and Becky Santee.

Band—Steve Walker and Patsy Button.

Business—Jeff Cox and Kathy Cypert.

Social Studies—Beverly Gilmore and Don Clyburn.

Home Economics—Debbie Fincher.

Physical Education—Steve Castille and Sue Castille.

Athletics—Steve Teaff and Patsy Button.

Vocational Trades—Mark Clemmer.

Agriculture—Mark Clemmer.

English—Don Clyburn and Patsy Button.

Foreign Language—Paul Duran.

Citizenship—Albert Castillo and Linda Black.

Also introduced at the banquet were the class officers of each of the four grades. They are: Senior Class—Dennis James, president; Albert Castillo, vice president; Mary Beth Boyd, secretary; and Liz Corley, business manager. Junior Class—Jeff Cox, president; Steve Donaldson, vice president; Tonja McAninch, secretary; and Susan Donaldson, business manager.

See AWARDS, Page 4

Merkel Country Club Sold, Major Expansion Planned . . . Construction Underway

Joe Babits, manager of the Hilton Inn in Abilene, has purchased the Merkel Country Club from Bill Wood, effective as of April 21. The sale includes the club house and the 9-hole golf course.

A \$50,000 expansion and remodeling program is currently under way, with another \$50,000 to be spent by January of next year, according to Babits.

Plans call for the first phase of the construction to include a golfers lounge, pro shop, dining area, and swimming pool.

The schedule calls for the club to be open June 1. Construction will start by Friday on the 20 x 45 foot swimming pool and diving board. Planned in connection with the pool is a new building housing lockers, showers, and a concession stand to be open during summer months for the convenience of swimmers.

Gerry Magee, of Abilene, has been named general manager of the Club. He and his family will reside in Merkel. The Magees have three children, a son, 14, and two daughters, 12 and 8.

Two tennis courts will be built for club members with construction to be completed by the end of summer. "We plan to build another 9 holes for the golf course if volume warrants it," Babits said. "By the end of January we will have the facilities to water the present fairways, which will be a big improvement for the golf course," Babits continued.

A private club, the 'Merkel Country Club 10th Hole', will be operated in conjunction with the Country Club.

There are presently 72 charter members of the club. New memberships will be \$125 yearly with no monthly dues. "Present members of the Country Club will continue to pay monthly if they wish," Babits said.

"We plan for the Country Club to have a family environment, with special emphasis on good food," he said. Dining will be offered on weekends to club members and the general public. Live entertainment will also be offered on weekends.

"On our menu will be a special dinner which consists of a tossed salad, shrimp cocktail (all you can eat), fried chicken, fish, scallops, deviled crab, baked potato, rolls and honey served family style on a big platter for \$5.50," Babits said. A Sunday buffet will also be offered.

"We have land adjoining the club and golf course that we hope to make available for homesites in the near future," he said.

Babits and his wife, Arlene, moved to Abilene from Dallas where he was Catering and Convention Manager for the Adolphus Hotel. He has served in the same position with the Statler Hilton in Dallas. A native of New Jersey, Babits was stationed at Dyess Air Base in Abilene, where he received his discharge in 1965. The Babits have two daughters, Nancy, 5, and Debi, 9 weeks.

T-Shirt League to Begin Play on Saturday, May 5

T-Shirt League will begin play Saturday, May 5, with the Yankees vs. Eagles at 6:15. The 8:00 p.m. game will pit the Mustangs against the Braves.

T-Shirt Coordinator is Jimmy Atkinson.

Managers for each team are: Calvin Wolf and Jimmy Leverich, Braves; Billy Lucas and Pat Williams, Eagles; Roy Kimbrell and Billy Patton, Yankees and Felix Boyd and Elton Freeman, the Mustangs.

Sponsors for this year's teams are: Braves—Lambda Beta, Beta Sigma Phi; Eagles—First Baptist Church; Yankees—Merkel Drug; and Mustangs—Wilson's Food Store.

Players for each team includes:

BRAVES—Ricky Biera, Joe Ortega, Randy Leverich, Kyle Wolf, Ronnie Williams, Billy McKeehan, Jerry Jowers, Carl Jowers, and Mike Pape.

EAGLES—Steven Waldon, Jeffery King, Russell Lucas, Scotty Alves, Billy Williams, Mike Hagar, Jeff Scott, Donan Justis, Michael Tutt and Donald Tutt.

YANKEES—Scott Adair, Steven Davis, Tommy Hays, Howard Battreal, Jay Gibson, Wayne Horton, David Vinson, Rusty Toney, and Jerry Miller.

MUSTANGS—Brooks Boyd, Tim Brady, Calvin Cooley, Craig Cooley, James Freeman II, Eddy Harris, Chris Mashburn and Carlton Kincaid.

DATEBOOK

THURSDAY MAY 3

6:15—Kilowatts vs. Vets; 8:00—Bankers vs. Braves

FRIDAY MAY 4

6:15—Vets vs. Willies; 8:00—Braves vs. Supers

SATURDAY MAY 5

T-Shirt Seasons begins. 6:15—Yankees vs. Eagles; 8:00 — Mustangs vs. Braves

MONDAY MAY 7

Braves vs. Eagles, 6:15; Yankees vs. Mustangs, 8:00.

Senior Citizens will have their singing at 7:00 at the Senior Citizen Building.

Ladies Auxiliary to the Merkel Fire Dept. will have their regular meeting at 7:30 in the meeting room of the fire station.

TUESDAY MAY 8

Vets vs. Bankers, 6:15; Kilowatts vs. Braves, 8:00.



MRS. W. L. BROWN is shown with her Creativity entry which won first place in the flower show sponsored by the Merkel Garden Club.

Merkel Garden Club Has Large Crowd At Annual Spring Flower Show Sat.

The Mellinger Building in downtown Merkel was transformed into a garden of flowers as the Merkel Garden Club held its Annual Spring Flower Show last Saturday.

A large crowd turned out to inspect the beautiful arrangement and flowers that were on display. There were approximately 40 entries in the show.

Gin Gives Donation To Cemetery

The Merkel Cemetery Association has received from Farmers Co-Operative Society No. 1 Merkel, Texas a check for \$500.00.

The Directors of the Cemetery Association, indeed all those people who are interested in the maintenance and up-keep of the Cemetery are most grateful to the gin for its continued support.

President Beth Warren and Secretary Fred Starbuck expressed the associations thanks to Joe C. Higgins and his associates at the Gin.

Winning first place in the Tri-Color division was Mrs. John Shannon. Her entry of Lillies and a Madonna, depicting our faith won the award for her.

Mrs. W. L. Brown won first place in creativity.

Award of Merit was won by Mrs. R. M. Ferguson.

Mrs. Odie Griffin, club president, expressed her delight with the fine turnout for the show. "In view of the late freeze we had, I was particularly proud of the beautiful flowers. I didn't think there was this many flowers left," she said.

Other winning entries in the show were:

ROUNDUP

A recent weekend visitor in the Ralph Miller Sr. home was Mattie T. Murray of Carson City, Nev., who flew in because of the illness of their father, B. E. Reynolds of Abilene.

Other homes she visited in were the Ray Reynolds Sr. and Ila Mae McLean.

Mr. Reynolds is improved at this writing and at home at the Windsor Hotel in Abilene.



MRS. JOHN SHANNON won first place in the Tri-Color division with her entry of Lillies and Madonna portraying our faith. Merkel Garden Club held their annual Flower Show last Saturday.

SCHOOL MENU

<p>MONDAY</p> <p>Hot Tamales and corn chips, Spanish Pie, Green Beans, Corn Bread, Milk, Strawberry Short Cake.</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Beef Cheese pizza, pinto beans, cabbage-pepper relish, whole wheat bread, milk, apple-cheese crisps.</p>
<p>TUESDAY</p> <p>Fried Chicken, gravy, mixed vegetables, tomato wedges, hot rolls, butter, milk, fruit jello.</p>	<p>THURSDAY</p> <p>Fried fish fillets, catchup, ranch-style black-eyed peas, new potatoes in cream cheese sauce, milk, and peach cobbler.</p>
<p>FRIDAY</p> <p>Hamburger, oven french fries, onions, pickles, lettuce, tomatoes, milk, peanut butter cake.</p>	

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Missionette News

By SUSAN WHEELER
The Missionettes met Friday April 27 at the Assembly of God Church. Four or five songs were sang. We also practiced a play which will be held this Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the church. Everyone is invited to attend. Attending the meeting were Susie Davis, Susie and Benny Allgaier, Oleta and Ray Walters, Betty Lindsey, Janet Wade, Gwen Teaff, Jean Cypert, and Pam and Susan Wheeler.



MRS JUDD McREYNOLDS PRESENTED the Social Studies award to Beverly Gilmore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Gilmore.

Jr. Conference Track Meet

By Coach GEORGE MARTIN
It was a fight to the last event in the boys division last Saturday between Merkel and Wylie. Merkel was just one-third of a point ahead going into the 1320 Relay. Wylie won the Relay and the Jr. Badgers took second, thus giving the team trophy to Wylie.

This is the type of competition that has been going on all this school year with these boys and girls, and they just will not give up at all. The community of Merkel should be proud of our girls and boys and give them a pat on the back because they have really represented Merkel in every aspect this year. We would also like to thank all of the people who have helped us this year and say that it is encouraging to know that people still are interested as much in the boys and girls in our community.

Results:

BOYS DIVISION
440 Relay — 1. Merkel 50.3 (Garland Childers, Stanley West, Larry Smith, Keith Austerman).
660 Yd. Run — 1. Keith Wolf, 1:41.2; 2. Grant Murrell, 1:41.2.
100 Yd. Dash — 1. Keith Austerman, 11.0; 3. Garland Childers, 11.8; 4. Larry Smith, 12.0.
60 Yd. Dash — 1. Keith Austerman, 7.2; 3. Stanley West, 7.4; 5. Larry Smith, 7.5.
330 Yd. Dash — 2. Thomas Jones, 44.2; 5. Mark Steinert, 44.8.
Shot Put — 3. Keith Austerman, 36'2"; 4. Keith Wolf, 35'7 1/2".
Long Jump — 4. Dana James, 15'1".
Discus — 1. Larry Smith, 107'9 1/2"; 2. Keith Austerman, 102'3".
High Jump — 4. Larry Smith, 4'10"; 4. Keith Wolf, 4'10".
1320 Relay — 2. Merkel, 2:58.0 (Stanley West, Keith Wolf, Garland Childers, Thomas Jones)
Points Scored: 53 and two-thirds.

GIRLS DIVISION
440 Relay — 4. Merkel, 57.2 (Melinda Bowen, Rhonda

Howes, Marsha Clyburn, Pam Morgan)
380 Relay — 1. Merkel, 2:02.1 (Gayle Teaff, Retha Mattingly, Christie Fudge, Deborah White).
220 Yd. Dash — 1. Retha Mattingly, 29.2; 2. Melinda Bowen, 29.5.
103 Yd. Dash — 5. Christie Fudge, 13.5.
60 Yd. Dash — 5. Deborah White, 8.3.
Long Jump — 5. Gayle Teaff, 13' 1 1/4".
High Jump — 5. Teresa Griffith, 4'2"; 6. Retha Mattingly, 4'2".
Discus — 4. Patty Wood, 67'9".
Triple Jump — 6. Gayle Teaff, 26'1".
Shot Put — 2. Melinda Bowen, 26'7"; 4. Freda Crenshaw, 25'3 3/4".
Points scored — 27.

Girl Scout Round-Up

For the past 3 weeks the Brownies have been very busy making easter baskets from milk jars and having their egg hunt. There were several winners at the hunt. Rene Aiken won a chocolate rabbit for finding the most eggs, and Deneen Patton won a small chocolate bunny for finding her own personalized boiled egg first. There were several money prizes ranging from 25 cents down to 1 cent in plastic eggs, which they found.

Then last week they had a hand in learning to work with paper-mache. They made a little plaque from tree bark, flowers and made paper-mache snakes and snails to trim them up.

The Junior Girls have been hiking; gathering wild flowers and learning to make wild flower notes from them with wax and saran paper and stationery. They are very unusual and cute. They had no meeting last week because of so many other school activities going on.

On Saturday, 'Keep America Beautiful Day', about 25 girl scouts, and boy scouts took part in this nationwide clean-up day by cleaning up in downtown Merkel and along interstate 20. These kids were treated to a hamburger, coke, chips, drink, and ice cream after 2 hours work. The merchants who donated to buy their food were: Crawford's, West Texas Utilities, Ben Franklin, Palmers, Barnetts, J.V. & Tessie's Snack Bar, Wilsons, Ann's Flower Shop, Starbucks, Norma's Beauty Shop, Merkel Drug, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Seymore Insurance, Toombs Real Estate, E. A. Conley Barber Shop, Sanduskys Feed Store, Ben Hicks Auto Supply, The Merkel Mail, Adcock Cleaners, Bullocks Hardware and Braggs Dept. Store.

The kids enjoyed all this and and thank these merchants. The money that was left was used to put in a new window & hailscreen wire on the girls end of the scout building. Everyone is invited to drive by and see our new windows which we are very proud of.

Farmers Union President Hails Loan Re-opening

Protest petitions, court action, and political pressure paid off for farmers last week when the Farmers Home Administration announced the reopening of the Disaster Loan Program. Hundreds of farmers in over two hundred Texas counties who suffered crop losses as a result of a drouth between January 1 and June 19 of 1972 are now eligible to apply for the \$5,000 Disaster Loan at a low interest rate with a forgiveness provision.

Texas Farmers Union president Jay Naman hailed the announcement of the program reopening as a "great victory for farmers." Naman

said that farmers were successful in accomplishing the reopening of the important program because of their organized efforts using political pressure and court action. "Hundreds of family farmers who were stricken by disaster last year will now have a new lease on life and will be able to get the financing that they need to continue farming." Naman said.

"Farmers Union never gave up when President Nixon announced the cancellation of the Disaster Loan Program. Texas farmers organized petition campaigns to show the Administration and members of Congress the need to restore the program. Minnesota Farmers Union coordinated successful legal action that was brought by a group of farmers in that state against the Secretary of Home Administration officials. The court action plus the organized political effort of farmers was responsible for the restoration of the Disaster Loan Program.

"We urge that all farmers eligible for a disaster loan make application at their county Farmers Home Administration office before the May 8 deadline. We want to be sure that all farmers who suffered losses from disaster circumstances to take advantage of the program," Naman said.

Cadette Heyday Held

On the weekend of April 14, 57 Cadette girl scouts and 9 adults camped out from Friday afternoon until Sunday, breaking camp at 12 noon. Troops were from Merkel, Abilene and one troop from Abilene State School.

Arriving at camp about 5:30, we unloaded gear and chose our camp area. Twenty girls and 2 leaders to each camp unit, and had free time until supper.

Our meals were eaten in the dining hall to save time and money except for Sunday morning breakfast. This meal of bacon and french toast was prepared on campfires in each unit with the scouts sharing the chores.

Contests were held Friday night with loads of laughs. Things were determined such as who peeled a potato with the longest piece of peeling, who could drive nails faster, sack races, stilt races, cracker eating — (eat 3 crackers, then whistle — the first one to do this was the winner.) Each contestant represented a person from the "town" such as the sheriff, Ma, Pa, school teacher, etc. Punkin Center won 1st.

Wide game of compass, lashing, knot tying and nature identification were participated in. Each group of girls spent one hour at each station. Also they took turns guiding the Brownie scouts. Over 300 brownies visited the camp that Saturday.

Oh yes! We began our day Saturday with a nature hike at 6:30 a.m.

Attending from Merkel were Tammy Marin, Mary Roeder and Peggy Helmer. Mrs. Boyd Baker attended with the girls.

WILL YOU BE NEXT?

This may be the year when Internal Revenue Service wants to take a "look at the books". It makes good sense to have a complete record of income and expense.

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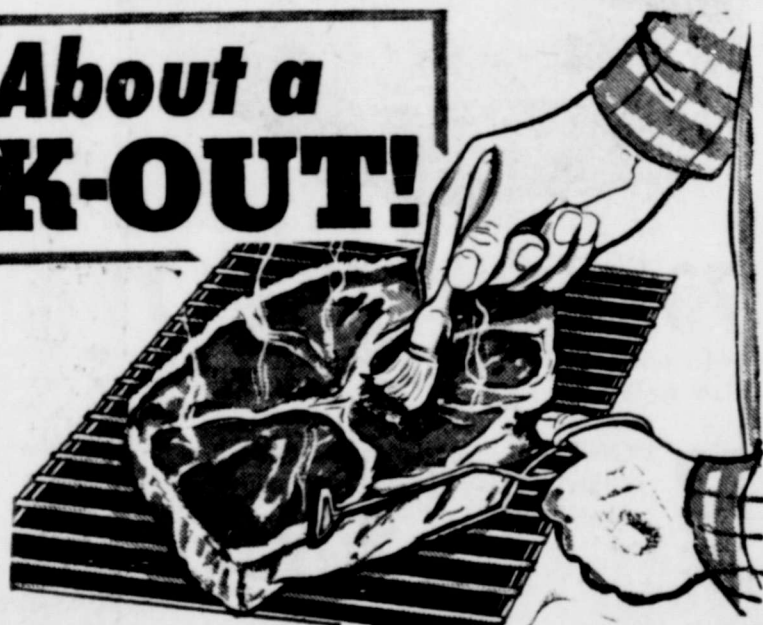
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Tide
TIDE'S IN... DIRT'S OUT
FAMILY SIZE ONLY 10 LB. 11 OZ. **2.19**

CARSON'S GIFT BOND
WE GIVE GIFT BOND STAMPS

DOUBLE ON WEDS.

BANANAS Lb. **12¢**
FRESH K.Y. **Green BEANS** Lb. **35¢**
CALIFORNIA **AVOCADOS** 2 for **39¢**
FRESH **CARROTS** 2 for **23¢**
FRESH **New POTATOES** Lb. **15¢**

CREAMY
CRISCO
3 Lb. Can **69¢** (1 Limit)

WITH \$7.50 OR MORE IN TRADE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

CARNATION CORN BEEF OR TURKEY SPREADABLE
SALAD Can **49¢**

KRAFTS DELUXE SLICED 8 OZ.
CHEESE 8 Oz. **49¢**

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