

The Merkel Mail

Lambda Beta Chapter Takes First Place In Annual Christmas Parade

Bright sunshine weather greeted Santa Claus as he visited downtown Merkel Saturday. A large crowd turned out to meet the 'Merry Old Gent' as he led the annual parade atop a fire truck. Santa threw

candy to the children along the parade route. Lambda Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority won first place in the float contest with a sleigh "Santa Is Coming To Town." The sleigh had Mr.

and Mrs. Claus riding in it and was pulled by reindeer. The reindeer were composed of sorority women dressed in reindeer costume riding bicycles. The Taylor County Young Homemakers float with the 'Three Wise Men' came in second. Winning third was the Taylor Electric Co-Op float featuring Willie Wirehand.

Taking first in the best decorated bicycle contest was Nancy Click. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Click. Other winners in the bicycle contest were Scott Alves, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Alves, second and Loyce Baker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Baker, third.

Chosen Miss Merry Christmas winners were Dusti Whisenhunt; Merkel Primary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dink Whisenhunt; Patsy Vinson, Merkel High, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Vinson; Charlotte Watts, Merkel Elementary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Watts, and representing Tye Elementary, Billie Blanscet, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. William Blanscet.

Hardin-Simmons University's famous six-white horses was also a feature of the parade. This is the second year for the white horses to appear in the Christmas parade.

The West Wind drill team of Abilene also participated in the parade. Christy Brady, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Brady and Kelly Magee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Magee, both of Merkel, are members of the drill team.

Other participants in the parade included the Assembly of God, Merkel Fire Department, Merkel 4-H Club, Merkel High School Band and several riders and horse drawn carts.

Turkey Shoot Winners Named
The Merkel Fire Dept. held its first annual Turkey shoot Sunday, Dec. 9 at the Bunk Tipton gravel pit. Events were open in Hi-powered rifle, 22-rifle and shotgun. There were three shots per target for the rifle events and 5 clay targets per shooter in the shotgun event.

Each round of shooting had 10 shooters with one winner per round. Winners of the first round of Hi-powered rifle shooting was Ned Watts; second round, Dr. Don Warren; third round, Mrs. D. A. Bishop; fourth round, Terry Gardner. In the 22 rifle event, the first round was won by Jack Bagby, second round, Jerry Barnes; and third round, Vernon Wade.

There were two rounds of shooting in the shotgun event with Dr. Don Warren winning the first round and D. A. Bishop the second round.

Members of the Merkel Volunteer Dept. and the Ladies Auxiliary wish to express their gratitude to all who came to the turkey shoot, either as participants or observers. We wish to invite everyone in the Big Country to the next Turkey Shoot Sunday Dec. 16 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Bunk Tipton gravel pit.

Choir To Present Program
The adult and children choirs at the First Baptist Church will present a Christmas program this Sunday evening, December 16th, at 7:00 o'clock at the church. Both choirs are under direction of Roy Davis. The sanctuary choir will present a cantata entitled, "The Joyous News of Christmas" by Joe E. Parks.

The children are excited and anxious to present their 20 minutes of recitations and songs. Together the programs will last one hour. All area churches and friends are invited and encouraged to attend this beautiful and meaningful Christmas story. Please come join us this Sunday at 7:00 o'clock.



TAKES FIRST--Lambda Beta Chapter took first place in the float division at the annual Christmas Parade Saturday. The winning float depicted Mr. and Mrs. Claus in his sleigh being pulled by reindeer. The parade was sponsored by the Merkel Chamber of Commerce. (Staff Photo)



SANTA ATOP FIRE TRUCK ... throwing candy to children

Miss Ghronda Tarpley Appointed Vice President at North Texas

Ghronda Tarpley, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. E.L. (Babe) Tarpley has been appointed Vice President in charge of programs of the North Texas Marketing Association at North Texas State University. The appointment was made at the November 28 meeting by President Alger Moore III. The North Texas chapter is the second largest collegiate chapter of the American Marketing Association in the nation. She is also a member of the American Marketing Association.

Miss Tarpley has just completed pledging and been initiated into Phi Chi Theta, an honorary, professional business fraternity for women. She was secretary of her pledge class.

She is also a member of



GHRONDA TARPLEY ... vice president

U.M.Y.F. TO WRAP GIFTS

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship will have gift wrapping for Christmas packages at the Fellowship Hall of the Methodist Church Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.

Everyone is urged to bring their packages to be gaily wrapped and help the U.M.Y.F. in the worthwhile project.

We will also be selling boxes, paper, ribbon and bows to individuals that would prefer to wrap their own gifts.



MISS MERRY CHRISTMAS WINNERS--Winners in this year's 'Miss Merry Christmas' contest are, from left to right, Dusti Whisenhunt, Primary Division; Patsy Vinson, High School Division; Billie Blanscet, of Tye, Tye Elementary; and Charlotte Watts, Merkel Elementary School. (Staff photo)

Merkel Livestock Show To Be Held January 19th at 1 p.m.

The Merkel Livestock Association held its annual meeting Monday Dec. 10th to plan the annual Merkel Livestock Show. Attendance was low with only Chester Collinsworth, Freddie Toombs, L.J. Gray, Lloyd Gilmore, David Robertson, Tommy Swinney and Benny Melton attending. But all plans were finalized for the show. The date for the annual show will be Jan. 19th with starting time to be 1:00 p.m.

The judge for the show will be Lawrence Winkler of Albany. He is the Shackelford County Agent. Mr. Winkler is a known judge having been a

judge for the county show in Abilene in the past years. Winkler will also judge the steer classes at the county show in Abilene again this year.

There will be 2 classes of Barrows, lights and Heavies in the Swine Division at the annual Merkel Show.

Planned for the annual Merkel show, will be 2 classes of Barrows--lights and heavies; four classes of lambs--Hampshire, Cross Bred, Finewool and Southdowns. There will be a grand and reserve champion chosen from both the Barrow and Lamb classes.

It is still undecided at the present time whether there will be a Steer class because the association knew of only one steer on feed, that steer belonging to Suzie Toombs.

"We are anticipating about 75 to 80 head of other livestock though," said Benny Melton.

Serving as Barrow Superintendent will be Johnny Gray, son of Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Gray. Serving as his assistant will be George English. Lamb Superintendent will be David Robertson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Robertson. Serving as his assistant will be Lloyd Gilmore, Steer Superintendent and assistant will be announced later.

Serving on the Finance Committee this year will be David Gamble, Wyman Wilkerson, Freddie Toombs, Lloyd Gilmore, George English, Eddie Glenn Sandusky and L.J. Gray. This committee and the Merkel Livestock Association wants to thank the area merchants and individuals who have financed this show in the past and hope that you can do so another year. The prize money is divided up on a pro rata basis among the contestants. This prize money not only gives the contestant something to work for but also helps pay part of the feed bill for their animals.

The increase in cost of the Livestock and the big increase in feed have cut some of the contestants out this year and the students still showing need all the help that you can give them.

The Showmanship Trophy will be given by the Taylor Electric Co-op again this year with another award to be given by Fred Crenshaw of the Wylie Truck Stop. Also the Merkel Chamber of Commerce plans to present some special awards.

The Merkel Livestock Associations want you to mark your calendar as to the date and time for our show and we will be looking forward to seeing you at the Merkel FFA Barn.

Post Office Open Sat.

The Merkel Post Office will be open from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday December 15 for the convenience of their customers. Food Stamps or money orders will not be sold.

NOTICE

The Merkel Mail has moved its office directly across the street from the building it had occupied for many years. Person wishing to visit the Mail should come to the new offices as both the business office and the production facilities are now located there.

Merkel To Host Basketball Tournament

By RONNY ALDRIDGE

See Badger Stats Pg. 7

Merkel High School will play host to seven other boys and girls basketball teams this weekend in the first varsity tournament to be held here in several years. Other teams besides Merkel are Hamlin, Coleman, Winters, Stamford, Wylie, Rotan, and Jim Ned. Play begins at 1:30 Thursday with Winters playing Jim Ned. The Merkel teams play Coleman at 6:50 and 8:10 p.m. Tournament favorites should be Hamlin, Wylie, Coleman, and Merkel in the boys division with Wylie and Jim Ned favored in the boys bracket. Hamlin and Wylie play their first round games Friday at 1:30.

Merkel lost their district opener to Aspermont last week by a score 63-56. Outstanding for Merkel were Darel Bunch, David Copeland, Robert Mor-

gan, and Jackie Sims.

We also lost our Friday game to a very strong Bred ridge team by a score 57-52. Good game were turned in by Billy Watts, Derrell Reagan, Johnny Gray, Sims, Bunch.

We have very good competition and are improving rapidly with every game. We would like for everyone possible to come out and back tournament and make it a successful one.

Two Merkelites Receive Year Pins

Duane Shugart and Lee Turner were in Dallas this past weekend compliments of the Pontiac Motor Division members of Pontiac Salesmen Guild. The two were honored at a breakfast at which they both received diamond studs pins. Salesmen receive a diamond for each year they work with the Pontiac Motor Division.

One of the big highlights of the trip was seeing the Dallas Cowboy-Washington Redskins game which was also hosted by Pontiac Motor Division. Wives of the two also accompanied them on this trip.

Services Held For Merkelites Father

ANSON — Funeral for Alvin J. (Shorty) Byrd, 67, of Anson will be at 10 a.m. Thursday in the Elliott-Hamill Chapel of Memories in Abilene. The Rev. James Williams, pastor of Prairie View Baptist Church, will officiate, assisted by the Rev. Leonard Payne, pastor of Tye Baptist Church in Tye. Burial will be in Tye Cemetery.

Mr. Byrd died at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in Hendrick Hospital following a short illness.

He was born Feb. 17, 1906 at Stith, and married Sarah Hasey Sept. 12, 1926, in Tye, where they lived until they moved to Anson in May, 1973.

The retired farmer is survived by his wife of the home; two sons, Jerry of Merkel and Teddy of Ganado; five daughters, Mrs. Jean Irvin and Mrs. Myrtle Holloway of Merkel, Mrs. Daphna Holloway of Cedar Hill, Mrs. Sue Jones of Denton and Mrs. Joan Neill of Atlanta; a brother, Jack Byrd of Plainview; three sisters, Mrs. Beulah Bradley of Stith, Mrs. Ophie Peterson of Merkel and Mrs. Inez Conley of Kilgore; 20 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

ROUND-UP

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Watt and Rita spent the past week end in Fort Worth. They enjoyed watching the NCHA Cutting Sale and Furly Sale Final. Rita enjoyed visiting with her girl friends, Kandice Jess and Linda Montgomery, from Hillsboro.

GUESTS in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Browning on Stith Sunday for dinner were Rev. and Mrs. A. S. Watson, pastor of Stith Baptist Church and Frank Munday of Abilene.

The Stith Baptist mens and womens Sunday School Class will have their Christmas Party Friday at 7:30 p.m. The members will round the pastor, The Sunday School members will donate to the mission in place of exchanging gifts.

Starbuck Finishes Special CD Director's Seminar

Fred Starbuck of Merkel, who is Civil Defense Director has just completed a special Civil Defense Operation Center (EOC), Austin, Texas. The Seminar was held December 4-6, 1973, with Civil Defense Directors from 25 locations in the State attending.

The primary purpose of the seminar was to provide information and guidance to local Civil Defense Directors and Coordinators so that local governments may achieve readiness capability to cope with any disaster or hazard. Instruction was provided in the organization of Federal and State governments in meeting disaster so as to inform local directors of assistance available and channels of communication to obtain the assistance.

Staff members from the Division of Disaster Emergency Services and the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, Region Five, Denton presented the course of instruction.



ENJOYING COFFEE BREAK--Fred Starbuck and Chief C.O. Layne, State Coordinator, Division of Disaster Emergency Services, Austin enjoy coffee break at Seminar held Dec. 4-6 at Austin.

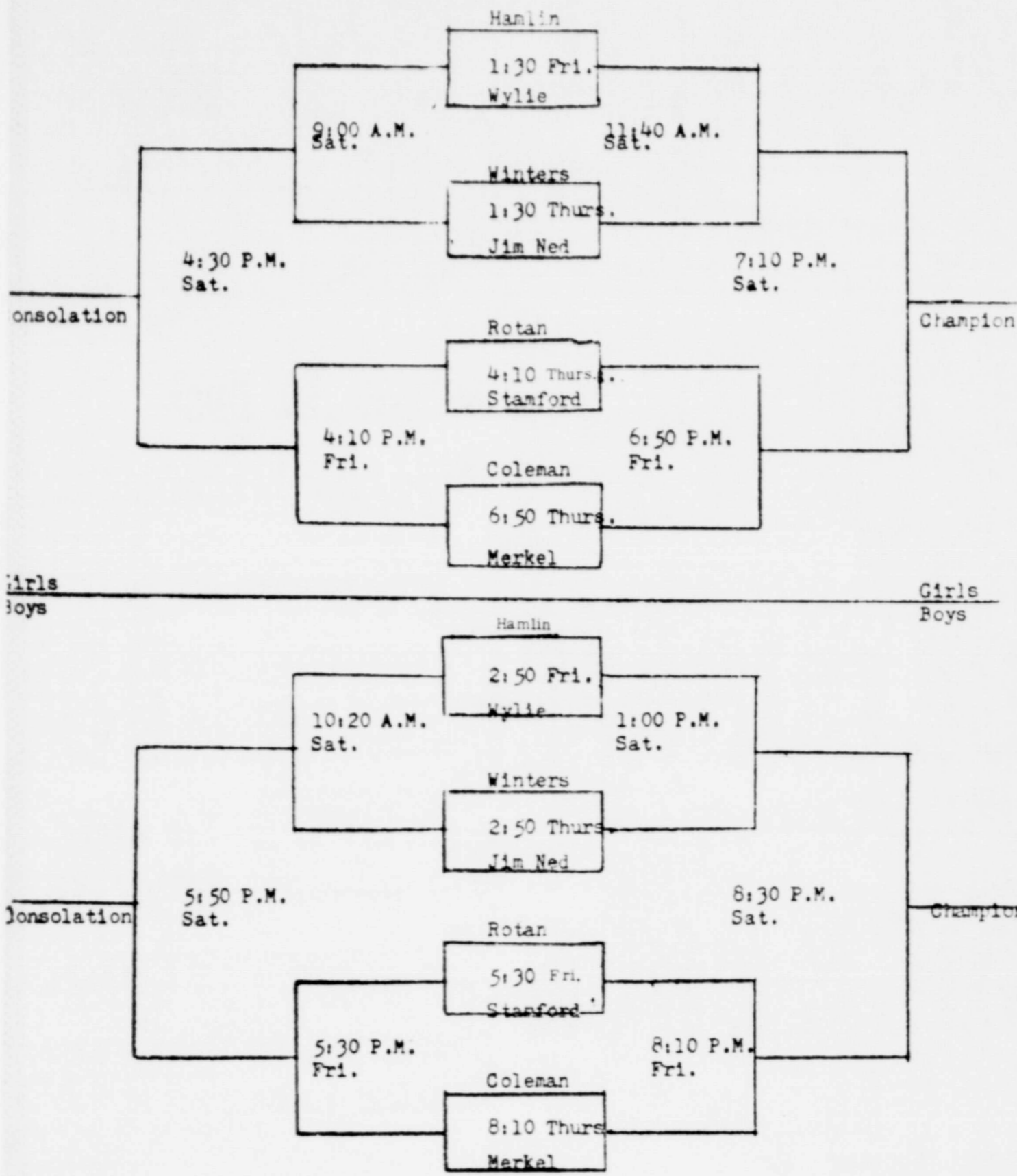
The cotton harvest is probably in its peak, reports B. B. Manly, Jr., of the USDA, Abilene Cotton Classing Office. Daily receipts at the Abilene Office are averaging about 9,000 samples per day. As of December 8; 334,400 samples have been graded, compared with 123,600 graded by this date last year.

A total of 51,100 samples were graded during the week ending December 8. Grades show some decline. Predominant qualities were as follows: 15 percent grade 31, 20 percent grade 41, 29 percent grade 32, and 23 percent grade 42. Grades reduced on account of

bark dropped from 16 percent to 11 percent.

Predominant staple lengths were: 40 percent 30, 44 percent 31, and 10 percent 32. Micronaire readings show no change, with 89 percent in the premium 3.5-4.9 range. Five percent mike below premium, six percent above.

Cotton prices reported to the Agricultural Marketing Service were steady and the market fairly stable this week. Prices are strongest on staples 31 and longer. Prices quoted, range from 30 cents above Government loan for staple 29 to 45 cents above loan for staple 34.



THE BOTTOM TEAM IN EACH BRACKET WILL BE THE HOME TEAM AND WILL WEAR WHITE UNLESS OTHERWISE AGREED UPON.

FILL SANTA'S BAG

Gift to Please Anyone On Your List

Hundreds Of Items Saturday Only

1/2 PRICE

GLLENE MFG. CO.

AUCTION

MONDAY-DECEMBER 17, 1973

10:30 A.M.

E. T. PITZER FARM

NOLAN COMMUNITY

Located 22 Miles South of Abilene, Texas on Highway 277 (San Angelo Highway) Then Turn West on F.M. Road 89 and Go 17 Miles.

Watch For Auction Signs!

"730" John Deere L.P. Tractor, Wide Front and Power Steering
 "60" John Deere Tractor w/Front End Loader and Blade on Gasoline
 John Deere 11 Ft. Offset Tandem
 (2) John Deere Sticker Unit Planters
 John Deere 10 Disc Serflex One-Way
 John Deere Double Tool Bar
 2 Row Front Mount Swing Out J.D. Cultivator
 3 pt. Double Tool Bedder w/gauge wheels
 (2) 18 ft. Cotton Trailers
 John Deere Terracing Machine
 Continental Post Hole Digger
 10 ft. Self Feeder w/Feed Mill

500 Gallon Propane w/Filler Hose
 250 Gallon Propane Tank, Trailer Mounted
 (9) John Deere Chisel Shanks, spring loaded
 3 pt. Rear Carrier
 180 Amp Electric Welder
 Acetylene Cutting and Welding Rig
 1963 Ford 6 Cylinder Pickup
 (50) New 6 ft. Steel Fence Posts
 Plus barb wire, electric fence charger, Electric Fence Posts, Chain Saw, Wool Racks, Saddle, Vises, Hand Tools, Power Tools, (6) 10 x 4 ft. Steel Panels, Feeders, Sweeps, Busters, Foot Pieces, and Many Other Related Items Too Numerous to Mention.

COL. TEX HERRING, AUCTIONEER

PHONE 915-583-2244 LAWN, TEXAS

Catering by Handy-Ann of Abilene

HAPPY Holiday

AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

We Appreciate Your Business And Friendship Through The Many Years We've Been Here And Hope To Continue To Be Able To Serve You.

PALMERPONTIAC-GMC

MERKEL, TEXAS

NOLAN PALMER, OWNER

DUANE SHUGART JOHNNY MCDANIEL
 LEE TUCKER WRIGHT DISHMAN
 MARIE WHITE LEE YADOW
 SUE JUSTICE MIKE PEPIN
 JOE BRYAN HOMER WATSON

Suggestions from Santa

If you don't want to send Christmas cards this season, but also want to wish everyone the very best, let us solve that problem by fixing up a very special ad for You and Yours in our Christmas Edition Dec. 20. Call today. Deadline Monday Dec. 17 at 3 p. m.

THE MERKEL MAIL

Ph. 928-5712 917 No. 2nd

Can't Decide On That Difficult Gift?

Give a Subscription to The Merkel Mail

We will send a card to the Recipient at no charge.

The Merkel Mail

5 BIG DOLLAR DAYS

WILSON FOOD STORE COUPON

save 40¢

WITH THIS COUPON WHEN YOU BUY A 10 OZ. JAR OF

Instant MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE

AT WILSON FOOD STORE

10 OZ. JAR ONLY \$1.39 WITH COUPON

ONE COUPON PER FAMILY - OFFER EXPIRES 12-29-73



PRICES GOOD THURSDAY 13 THRU TUESDAY 18

WILSON FOOD STORE COUPON

save 40¢

WITH THIS COUPON WHEN YOU BUY THE 8 OZ CAN OF

INSTANT SANKA COFFEE

AT WILSON FOOD STORE \$1.95

8 OZ JAR ONLY 79¢ WITH COUPON

ONE COUPON PER FAMILY - OFFER EXPIRES 1-26-74

WILSON FOOD STORE COUPON

save 25¢

WITH THIS COUPON WHEN YOU BUY THE 1 LB. CAN OF

MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE

AT WILSON FOOD STORE

1 LB. CAN ONLY 79¢ WITH COUPON

ONE COUPON PER FAMILY - OFFER EXPIRES 12-29-73



SHORTENING	WITH 7.50 IN TRADE OR MORE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES SWIFTS JEWEL 3 LB. CAN	79¢
TOMATO SOUP	CAMPBELLS 8 FOR	1.00
VIENNAS	RED BIRD 5 FOR	1.00
CATSUP	DEL-MONTE 20 oz. BOTTLE 3 FOR	1.00
CORN	KOUNTY KIST 12 oz. CAN 5 FOR	1.00
JAM	RED PLUM BEST MAID 18 oz. JAR	39¢
WESSON OIL	48 oz. BOTTLE	1.39
BROWNIEMIX	DUNCAN HINES FAMILY SIZE	59¢
FLOUR	GOLD MEDAL 5 LB. BAG	89¢

MILK	2% HOMO GAL.	\$1.33
	HOMO GAL.	\$1.43
	PLUS DEP.	
ICE CREAM	FOREMOST PURE GAL.	89¢
	Whipping Cream FOREMOST	
	Sour Cream FOREMOST	
	Half & Half ctn.	39¢
COCA COLA	12 oz. CAN 6 FOR	69¢
OLEO	ALL-SWEET LB.	39¢
PICKLES	Best Maid Sour or Dill QT.	49¢
APPLEBUTTER	BEST MAID 28 oz. JAR	39¢

HUNTS 8 oz. CAN	2 FOR 29¢
GEISHA MANDARIAN ORANGES 11 OZ CAN	29¢
CAL-RIPE PEARS 2 1/2 CAN	39¢
REYNOLDS ALUMINUM FOIL 18X25 FT.ROLL	59¢

POPS RITE POP CORN 4 LB BAG	69¢
Hip-O- Lite Marshmallow CREAM 9 OZ JAR	29¢

NABISCO CRACKERS 1 BOX	39¢
INSTANT LIPTONS TEA 2 oz. JAR	89¢

TOM SCOT MIXED NUTS 13 oz. CAN	59¢
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DOWNY FABRIC SOFTNER GIANT SIZE	69¢
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DASH JUMBO SIZE	1.89
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CHEER GIANT SIZE	79¢
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FROZEN FOOD

KEITHS ROLLS PKG. OF 24	39¢
BANQUET-CHICKEN-BEEF-TURKEY POT PIES 2 FOR	49¢

PRODUCE Specials

BANANAS lb.	10¢
MEXICO ORANGES 5 LB BAG	49¢
CELERY CELLO BAG	39¢
COLORADO DELICIOUS APPLES 3 LB. BAG	69¢
RUSSET Potatoes 10 LB BAG	79¢

GROUND BEEF LB.	79¢
BEEF RIBS LB	49¢
STEAK PORK LB.	89¢
BACON ARMOUR LB.	1.09
HAM SHANK END	79¢
HAM BUTT END	89¢
STEAK LOIN Or T-BONE LB.	1.59

Turkey-Chicken Hens-Hams Leave us your order NOW for Christmas



Double Premiums On WEDNESDAY On Purchase of \$2.50 OR MORE IN MERCHANDISE. Save Valuable Cash Register Tapes For Premiums

USE WANT ADS

DIAL 928-5712

Miscellaneous 1

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

MASONIC MEETING

Stated meeting of Merkel Lodge No. 710 on 2nd Saturday and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Visitors welcome. Members urged to attend.

DUNNING McCONNELL, W.M. ROY MASHBURN, Sec'y.

Buy Your Prepaid Funeral Plan Direct From The Funeral Home And Save

STARBUCK FUNERAL HOME

WELL KEPT Carpet shows the results of regular Blue Lustre spot cleaning. Rent electric shampooper \$1. Bullock Hardware & Gifts.

Help Wanted 2

WANTED -- Cooks, waitresses, and dishwashers. Merkel Restaurant, 928-4923. 8-tfc.

WANTED Babysitting under school age any hour day or night in my home. I live on old highway 80 between Seller Trading Post and W.A. Lyday east of Fina Gas Station. Call 928-5741. Mrs. William Hatley. 42-2tp

FREE -- Beautiful three-quarter Persian kittens. 1411 Health. Ph. 928-5132 after 5 p.m. 42-1tc

Garage Sale

GARAGE SALE--312 Kent. Friday only. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Old solid Oak washstand, 3 wicker chairs, lots of clothes, and misc. 42-1tc

For Rent 3

OR RENT--Real nice 2 bedroom house, attached garage, furnace heat. Call L.H. McAden, 672-3804, Abilene. 42-1tc

FOR RENT -- Unfurnished apartment, Ray Wilson. Ph. 928-5615 or 928-5713. 31-tf

FOR YOUR BUILDING AND REMODELING NEEDS

FRED RICHIE
928-5030

REWARD

Your satisfaction
Get that Dirt,
Caliche or Gravel hauled or spread
We need you if you need us.
Call Harold Watts
928-5769

MERKEL AUCTION Saturdays Nights

7:00 P.M.
Consignments Welcome
We Buy, Sell & Trade
Merkel Ph. Abilene Ph. 928-5523 672-7119

WANTED TO BUY U.S. Silver Coins

1964 or earlier
Half Dollar, paying 86¢
Silver Quarter, pay 43¢
Silver Dime, . pay 17¢
PRATT'S COIN & STAMP SHOP
2155 S. 1st.
Abilene, Tex.

FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

MOTOROLA LANE
BASSETT HOOVER LA-Z-BOY
STARBUCK FURNITURE TELL CITY

For Sale 4

HOUSE FOR SALE to be moved, 212 Runnels, Merkel. \$650. Call 445-3547 Pecos, Texas. 40-4tc

FOR SALE--2 bedroom house and lot at 304 Runnels. Contact C. D. Herron, Box 697, Rotan, Tex. Ph. 735-2878. 41-4tp

school bus For Sale
BIDS are being received for sale of athletic school bus, GMC model. Contact Mack Fisher, Superintendent of Schools. 39-tfc

For Sale in Merkel nearly new Spinnet piano. Concert approved. Tremendous Bargain. This is your chance to own a fine piano by assuming small payments. Write at once--
McFarland Music Co.,
1401 West 3rd
Elk City, Okla. 73644 42-1tc

FOR SALE--Swinn 20" 5 speed bicycle. Excellent condition. Call 928-4736 or 928-5132. 42-1tc

FOR SALE--12 ft. Sea King Aluminum Boat with 7 horsepower motor and 3 1/2 gal. tank. All new, would sell for \$250.00. Would make nice Christmas Gift. See Bill Merritt. 42-1tc

FOR SALE--Honda Trail 70 Motorcycle, automatic clutch, 2500 miles. Excellent condition. Call 928-4736 or 928-5132. 42-1tc

Booster News

The Merkel High School Band, directed by W. G. Reed, presented a program for the Band Boosters, Thursday, Dec. 6. The Fifth Grade Band won the membership award with 70 per cent.

At a short business session, purchase of a Video Tape Recorder was selected as the Club's project. A Chili supper will be sponsored by the Booster Club Friday Jan. 11.

School Menu

THURSDAY, DEC. 13
Beef Cheese Pizza, Buttered Corn, Vegetable Salad, Whole-wheat Bread, Butter, Chocolate Pudding, and Milk
FRIDAY, DEC. 14
Hamburgers, Oven French Fries, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Onions, Milk and Ranger Cookies.

Texas DPS Is Now Accepting Applications

Major E. K. Browning, Jr., Regional Commander of the Texas Department of Public Safety in Midland, announced that the Texas Department of Public Safety is now accepting applications for appointment for the position of Patrolman. General qualifications for DPS Patrolmen and DPS Patrolwomen are these: Applicants must be 20 through 35 years of age (inclusive); good moral character; excellent physical condition; height not less than 68 inches nor more than 76 inches; weight not less than two pounds nor more than 3 1/2 pounds per inch of height; visual acuity no worse than 20/40 correctable to 20/20; and a citizen of the United States. Education requirements are a minimum of 45 semester hours of college credit.

Persons selected as Cadets will be assigned to Austin for an 18 week Training School beginning in February, 1974, at the DPS Academy. Qualified female applicants are now being accepted for the Uniformed Services of the DPS, and the Department has been increasingly successful in recruiting persons from minority groups.

During the Training School, Cadets will receive a salary of \$630.00 per month. After graduation, Cadets will be commissioned as Probationary Patrolman I at a salary of \$719.00 per month and assigned to the Highway Patrol, License and Weight Service, Motor Vehicle Inspection Service or Driver License Service according to the needs of DPS and consideration of personal preference. The salary automatically increases to \$743.00 per month after six months and to \$794.00 after 12 months. Officers are eligible to compete for promotion to Patrolman II after 60 months Commissioned Service.

All DPS Officers receive fringe benefits including hospitalization and life insurance, paid vacations and sick leave, and holidays as for all State employees. Uniforms, vehicles and equipment are furnished and Patrolmen receive a uniform cleaning allowance and receive travel expenses when away from their station. In addition, personnel are members of both the State Employees Retirement System and Social Security.

Applicants should contact any DPS Office or Patrolman for an application. The completed application form should then be taken to DPS offices in Midland, Abilene, El Paso or San Angelo where the competitive examination is given.

NEED A New Water Well Drilled? Also Install Meyers Subs & Jacuzzi Jets Call

ROBERT HIGGINS
928-5998

USED APPLIANCES

16 Ft. Gibson refrigerator 2 door frost free with ice maker like new. \$189.00
12 ft. Frigidaire \$59.00
GE DRYER Good Condition \$75.00
GE Custom Clothes Washer \$150.00
Palmer Pontiac & GMC
Ph. 928-5113

Wanted

Back Hoe and Loader Work
Cellars, Septic Tank, and Ditching
DON DICKERSON
928-5952

PEST CONTROL

Tree and Shrub Work
Free Estimate
Cedar Post-All Sizes
Berlie Wilson
Ph. 928-5211

ALL TYPES OF INSURANCE

BONEY INS. AGENCY

Phone 8-5151



BOB THOMPSON
... seeks position

Abilenian Will Seek County School Post

An Abilene special education teacher has announced plans to seek the position of Taylor County Schools superintendent in the 1974 election.

Bob Thompson, 52, of 3533 Highland, will run to fill the vacancy of Taylor County Supt. Clive Pierce, who will retire at the end of 1974.

Thompson has taught special education classes at Cooper High School and Mann Junior High for the past 10 years. Before that he served as principal of Butterfield School for seven years.

In announcing his intentions, Thompson said, "I feel like I can make a contribution to the special education programs, to which so much attention is given these days. Also, I'm willing to provide any additional service that this office might give the county schools."

This is Thompson's first venture into politics. His father, Ed Thompson, was Knox County treasurer.

Thompson earned his administrative certificate and master of education degree at McMurry College. He has also attended Midwestern, New Mexico State, Hardin-simmons and Southern Methodist University.

He is a past president of the Abilene Classroom Teachers Association, and presently serves as an officer in the Taylor County chapter of the Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA). He has served as a co-chairman of the public schools division of United Way.

Naman Raps Sec. Butz's Texas Visit

Texas Farmers Union President Jay Naman of Waco released the following statement regarding Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz's visit to Texas:

"I understand that Secretary of Agriculture Butz is coming to Temple, Texas to announce a 'streamlining plan' for various USDA offices."

"Let me tell you, this Administration reminds me of ancient Rome. These guys are like Nero -- fiddling while Rome burns."

"While the USDA is occupying itself shuffling desks around, cotton farmers all over Texas are facing a fuel crisis. It's a crisis that may mean losing some of our cotton harvest. And that's going to hurt the American consumer."

"This is not a fuel crisis caused by the lack of availability of diesel fuel. This is a crisis caused by more Administration fiddling."

"The Administration has given the farmers a lot of tough rhetoric and 'jawboning' about how agriculture is a top priority, but apparently everybody was listening but the oil companies."

"I've heard the Secretary say how he fights like a wounded steer for American agriculture. If he would just fight a little more like a Texas bull than a steer, he might be down here getting the farmers some fuel instead of some new addresses for ASCS offices."

"I don't want to quibble about the merits of his streamlining program. I am saying that this is not the time to be worrying about who sits where when there is an immediate serious problem. The fact is that the fuel fly the 270 state agency administrators into Temple and that fancy jetstar that the secretary flies down here to tell us about it can sure be put to a better use."

"If all Butz has to worry about is the desk shuffling, a simple telegram would have been all the agencies would have needed."

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: Hubert Lee Martin, 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 7th day of January A. D. 1974, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on

the 29th day of October A.D. 1973, in this cause, numbered 8662 on the docket of said court and styled Joyce Elaine Martin, Plaintiff, vs. Hubert Lee Martin, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Divorce, No children. No community property. Petitioner requests her former name of Lamb restored to her, 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 26th day of November A.D. 1973. (SEAL)
Attest: IRENE CRAWFORD Clerk, Domestic Relations Court, Taylor County, Texas By Myrna Lawrence, Deputy. 41-4tc

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: Walter Edward Harris, Respondent in the herein after styled and numbered cause:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Domestic Relations Court of Taylor County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in the City of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, at or before 10:00 a.m. of the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say, at or before 10:00 a.m. of Monday the 14th day of January, 1974, and answer the Petition of Bertha Mae Harris, Petitioner, in Cause Number 8759 styled IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF BERTHA MAE HARRIS AND WALTER EDWARD HARRIS, in which the following person is Respondent: Walter Edward Harris, which Petition was filed in said court on the 27th day of November, 1973, and the nature of which suit is as follows:

A suit for divorce. If this citation is not served within ninety (90) days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

Witness Irene Crawford, Clerk of the Domestic Relations Court of Taylor County, Texas.

Given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in the City of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas this the 27th day of November, 1973.
IRENE CRAWFORD District Clerk of Taylor County, Texas

BY: Rilla Mahoney, Deputy

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: Don Vittitoe, 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 21st day of January A.D. 1974, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 16th day of October A.D., 1973, in this cause, numbered 8621 on the docket of said

court and styled Linda Vittitoe, Plaintiff, vs. Don Vittitoe, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Petitioner and respondent were duly and legally married on June 22, 1961 and continued to live together until on or about October 11, 1973; at that time they separated; there were two children born as a result of this marriage, to-wit: Florence Vittitoe, and Jesse Vittitoe; 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 the 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 6th day of December A.D. 1973.

Attest: IRENE CRAWFORD Clerk, Domestic Relations Court, Taylor County, Texas By Sandra Van Cleave, Deputy. 42-4tc

PUBLIC 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: James Henry Swart, 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 31st day of December A.D. 1973, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 15th day of November A.D. 1973, in this cause, numbered 8724 on the docket of said court and styled Yvonne



NEW EQUIPMENT--Captains of the Merkel Badgerettes, Cindy Whisenhant and Tonya Crenshaw, show off the new warmup jackets and traveling bags of the team. (Staff Photo by Connie Harris)

Cotton Market News

Higher spot prices, stronger foreign demand, and short supplies resulted in increased activity in Western Region cotton markets this week, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA. In general, spot prices strengthened throughout the week. Domestic mill demand was sporadic and mostly limited to small lots for prompt or nearby delivery. Foreign demand strengthened for cotton for nearby and forward delivery. Merchants were active bidders on most lots offered by growers. Growers offered available supplies of uncommitted cotton freely in most locations. Demand was strongest for grades 41 and higher in areas where predominant staple was 34 or longer. In shorter staple areas, demand readily absorbed most offerings with staple 31 and longer. Supplies of these qualities were not adequate for the level of demand. According to

some reports, a sizeable volume of 1974 crop, San Joaquin Valley cotton was contracted at 61.00 to 65.00 cents per pound, basis grade 31, staple 35 during the week. A light volume of South Texas cotton was contracted at around 65.00 cents per pound. Rains delayed harvesting efforts in portions of Arizona, California, Texas, and Oklahoma during the week. The San Joaquin Valley, California harvest was nearing completion. The Arizona harvest was around three-fourths complete. Harvesting made good progress except in areas where light rain was received in Texas and Oklahoma. Many Texas Plains gins were not able to obtain enough labor to operate at optimum rates.

4.1 million widows and dependent widowers received \$615 million in social security payments in May '73.



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- Frigidaire offers mobility and usability... plus it converts to under-the-counter installation with an optional kit.

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BADGER TRACKS

By JANIE CLARK

School is kind of quiet this week for some unknown reason. Maybe everyone is thinking about finals or when they're

Homemaker Xmas Party Dec. 15

The Taylor County Young Homemakers will hold their December meeting Thursday Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Jarrett Williams. Hostesses will be Mrs. Jerry Miller, Mrs. Danny Sanford and Mrs. Raymond Kincaid. The program will be given on "Christmas Decorations" by Judy Cardwell from West Texas Utilities.

The Taylor County Young Homemakers will have their Christmas Party Saturday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Taylor Electric Co-op Building.

Chairman of the Christmas party committee is Mrs. Wyman Wilkerson. Working with her are Mrs. Travis Davis, Mrs. Joe Gregory and Mrs. John Beatty.

In the annual Christmas Parade, the Taylor County Young Homemakers won 2nd place with their float "Jesus is the Light of the World." Riding the float as the Three Wise Men were Bill Fowler, Zeb Armstrong, and Jackie Reynolds. Mrs. Bill Fowler was chairman of the Christmas float committee. Working with her were Mrs. Mac Seymour, Mrs. Raymond Kincaid and Mrs. Danny Sanford. The chapter congratulates the girls on their 2nd place win.

going to finish their Christmas shopping.

The doors of the rooms are being decorated all pretty like Christmas. This is a Student Council sponsored project being held between the fifth period classes. All of them look nice so there's no telling who will win.

Last week, basketball-wise, was good and bad. Tuesday night the A & B Boys and A Girls all lost to Aspermont. Then Thursday the A girls started the H.S.U. Tournament. Although they won the first game against Albany, they lost the next game to Wylie. The boys played Breckenridge here Friday with the "B" boys winning and the "A" boys losing a hard fought battle by 5 points. This week on Tuesday, the A & B boys and A & B girls play Wylie here. This is one of the most important games of the season, because they have beat us once and think they are going to do it again. But with the spirit the teams have, Wylie is going to have a hard time winning.

This Thursday starts the Merkel Tournament, so you can come out and see how all the surrounding teams are doing and ours, too.

This week is when everyone is finding out if they get exempt from their finals. If their grade is good and they don't have many times absent from class, they might not have to take some of their finals.

Well, if any of you happen to be around the gym Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, come on in and back those Badgers to a win!



MR. AND MRS. M. L. PAYNE
... to celebrate Sunday

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Payne To Celebrate 64th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Payne of Trent will celebrate their 64th Anniversary Sunday December 16.

Hosting the celebration in their home from 3-5 p.m. will be the children and grandchildren. The Payne's children are R. O. Payne and Mrs. George Byrom of Trent and

Mrs. Clifford Talbott of Abilene. Mrs. Payne was born Sept. 1, 1892 in Mississippi to the late Mr. and Mrs. R.O. Caffey. When she was eight years old, the family moved to Anson.

Mr. Payne was born Feb. 25, 1890 in Oklahoma and moved to Anson with his family when he was six years old.

The Paynes were married Dec. 19, 1909 in Anson. In 1948, they moved to Trent where he was a Humble and Phillips 66 station operator until he retired in 1959.

The couple have eleven grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren. They would like to invite all their friends to come by Sunday.

Garden Club Christmas Party

The Merkel Garden Club will have a covered dish luncheon December 20 at 12 noon in the home of Mrs. Aaron Suderth. Co-hostess will be Mrs. Odis Griffin. Members will exchange gifts.

Burleson Announces Summer Job Examination

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman Omar Burleson (D-Tex) said today that the Civil Service Commission is now receiving applications for the 1974 competitive examination for summer employment with the United States Government. The examination leads to eligibility for appointment to most temporary summer jobs in the clerical field and as aides in engineering and science occupations.

Those who are interested in the summer jobs covered may apply to take the written test on or before two filing dates-- December 28, 1973 and January 25, 1974. Representative Burleson stressed that applications for the written test postmarked after January 25, 1974, will not be accepted. If you miss the last test, you can not be considered for jobs filled by this application and for maximum consideration, you should apply as soon as possible.

Unlike its practice in past years, the Commission will not automatically send forms to those who qualified in 1973, but who may wish to remain on the lists for consideration in 1974. Those who qualified for summer employment in 1973 must update their applications by submitting a form enclosed in Announcement No. 414. They are not required to

repeat the written test. The U.S. Postal Service is not participating in the summer employment examination for 1974. Inquiries regarding summer employment with the Postal Service should be directed to the post office where employment is desired.

Any application forms needed to apply for jobs described in Civil Service Announcement No. 414 may be obtained from most college placement offices and U.S. Civil Service Commission Area Offices.

Copies of Announcement No. 414, entitled "Summer Jobs in Federal Agencies," which provides complete information about summer job opportunities in Federal Agencies, are currently available on request through Congressman Burleson's Washington office, located in Room 2369 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

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For Her 100% POLYESTER DOUBLE KNIT SUITS \$19.99	LADIES BLAZERS \$20.99	INSULATED COVERALLS \$22.99
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Warm & Cozy SWEATERS \$10.99 & UP	JARMAN SHOES for men	2 FOR \$9.00 HOODED ZIP FRONT SWEATSHIRT \$6.99
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Merkelites Grandson Teaches Blind to Bowl

If you want to try something interesting next time you go bowling, try rolling one or two frames with your eyes shut or better yet blindfolded.

Jamie Russom, who along with her husband Randy instructs blind bowlers once a week in Idaho Falls, Idaho tried this experiment. Randy Russom is the grandson of Mrs. Aris Russom and Mrs. Bessie Perry of Merkel.

Mrs. Russom tried to bowl blindfolded because she wanted more empathy for the blind bowlers she had been working with. "It was just unbelievable," she said. "I almost fell in the alley. I often thought I had bowled so much I would have no trouble bowling blindfolded, but when I tried it I was really surprised."

Jamie and Randy, working without pay, get together with 10 bowlers, all of whom are either legally or totally blind, every Saturday to give instruction and help them enjoy the sport. The program has been under way in Idaho Falls for ten weeks and has been well-accepted by those involved. The whole idea for such a program began when the Russoms had LeRoy Anderson, a blind piano tuner, at their

house to work on their piano. Anderson overheard a conversation about bowling and later asked if they would be willing to help organize and instruct a blind bowlers league.

The Russoms are both fairly accomplished bowlers--Randy carries a 181 average and Jamie 146 -- and both have coached bowling before. Evidently, the challenge of helping the blind bowlers was appealing and they accepted.

Since that time, the two have put in a dedicated effort each Saturday. Usually the blind bowler must be assisted with the foul line and helped with the release of the ball, although some are becoming fairly independent. Of course, all have to be told which pins remain standing after the first ball is thrown. The highest game bowled thus far was a respectable 165.

The program is sponsored by the local chapter of the Gem State Blind Association, which pays for the bowling.

Bowling without being able to see must be discouraging at times. But, according to the Russoms, the bowlers do not feel sorry for themselves, nor do they have much patience for others who do.

Plan Candle Safety

A glowing candle may be a charming addition to holiday decor, but Texas Safety Association points out that candles can be one of the worst fire hazards.

According to TSA, candles should never be used in arrangements of flammable material such as evergreens, hay, cotton, paper or plastic. Never leave candles burning all night. And, never use candles as decorations on or under the Christmas tree.

Care should be taken in making candles as well, says TSA. Some hot waxes and paraffins will burn wildly if spilled onto a flame.

Ladies Auxiliary Met Dec. 3

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Merkel Fire Dept. held its regular monthly meeting Monday, Dec. 3. A surprise baby shower was given for Mrs. David Seymour. Special guests were Mrs. Billy Joe White, mother of honoree, Mrs. Joe Seymour, mother-in-law of honoree, Mrs. Connie Mack Seymour, and Melba Seymour.

Refreshments were furnished to all attending. Members present were Mrs. Robert Harris, Mrs. Walter Harris, Mrs. Roy Schultz, Mrs. Dean Goodman, Mrs. David Seymour, and Mrs. Jerry Horton.

Cadette News

By PATSY BIERA

The Cadettes met December 5, 1973.

The Cadettes made their fathers' Christmas presents.

There were six attending. The refreshments were served by Debbie Glascock.

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Our 3-Day Expense Paid Trip to Las Vegas Contest Ended Wednesday Dec. 7. However, We Are Still Buying Milo At Top Prices. Contact Ed Sandusky at Ed's Feed and Seed in Merkel or R. L. Bland at Cal-Tex Feed Yards at Trent.

Our Las Vegas Trip Winner is
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Lawlis, of Hamlin

CAL-TEX FEED YARD

Trent, Texas

Phone 862-2951

Starr Nursing Home News

By Mary Outlaw

Rev. Leonard Payne, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Tye filled his appointment, Sun. It was really a nice service and we appreciate you coming.

Mrs. E.L. Clark, of Abilene, formerly Ruth Jones visited Nola Sprattine Sunday. They grew up together and have been friends for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse L. Beam of Irvin, Texas, Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Scroggins of Sweetwater visited their mother Mrs. Oda Beam this week.

The Jr. Girl Scout Troop 313 brought oranges, apples and sang Christmas carols Tues. evening. Melba Glasscock is leader and Billie Walters, helper. Sixteen girls came. Thank you very much. The patients enjoyed it.

Well, we finally got the hogs off to be butchered, thanks to Carolyn Martin's father-

in-law Jesse Martin for taking them. It won't be long until we will have some good fresh meat. It will give me a lift as that was one of my duties.

Mrs. Loessa Allison went to San Antonio on the weekend to visit her son. Last week I told you she had a new grandson, this was the first time to see him, you grannies know what it means to her. That is all her talk.

Thank you Mr. Pribble for continuing filling the coke box besides your added duties at the church. It is very thoughtful of you.

Mrs. Cleo Douglas went on the weekend of last week to visit her daughter, Mrs. Lavern Teaff of Tye. She and Mr. Douglas got to go to Abilene. That was a real treat for Mrs. Douglas.

We were sorry to hear of Foster Watts having to go back to the hospital for leg amputation. Hope he soon recovers.

Thank you Jerrel and Carolyn Martin for painting our beauty shop. It means so much to have a room freshly painted.

Floyd and Helen Outlaw of Stephenville visited in our home last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Crane of Granberry, Texas came by and visited Monday. They were on their way to Chandler Ariz. to visit Jim Hair and family.

Mr. Jim Reed, Abilene, Mrs. Irene Carrol, visited Granny Bresendine on the weekend.

Mrs. Sanders went out to lunch Sunday with her daughter Mrs. J. B. Swanson.

Dr. Ed Dressen
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of his son
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GORILLA GROWL

By CINDY BEASLY

Hi! Last week was a very busy one as far as basketball is concerned. There were high school games Monday and Tuesday and a Jr. High game Friday. The high school girls won over Hermlough and the Jr. High girls won over Buffalo Gap.

The high school teams were entered in a tournament this past weekend at Talpa-Centennial. Saturday the boys team came home with the consolation trophy. Everyone is really proud of Mac Sipe for making the all-tournament team.

Trent's tournament gets started Thursday with four games and will conclude Saturday with four more. Teams entered are the Divide Trojans, the Blackwell Hornets, the Highland Hornets and the Trent Gorillas. Everyone be sure to come.

I'll be back next week with more news from THIS!

FHA News

By KATHY HENDRICKS
The Future Homemakers of America of Merkel High School had their monthly meeting last week and elected Galen Boone as this year's FHA Beau.

Any children who wish to write a letter to Santa Claus may send them to the Merkel Mail or to the Post Office and they will receive a personal letter from Santa. Please send all letters by December 15th.

New Arrival

Trent 4-H News

By JOHN STEVENS
The Trent 4-H Club met November 26 at 8 p.m. in the Trent School Library.

A program was presented on leather crafts. Robbie Freeman was in charge of the program. It was enjoyed by all boys and girls.

Refreshments were served and the meeting adjourned. See ya' next month with Trent 4-H News.

Question:
Is Lone Star doing everything it can to hold down costs?

Answer:
Yes!

We're operating more efficiently than ever before. But our costs are going up none the less... just like yours.

For instance, the interest rates on money we have to borrow for constructing new gas supply systems have increased dramatically. These rates have recently been at all time highs.

Within the last 18 months, we have invested nearly \$100 million:

- to build a large diameter, 400-mile pipeline from West Texas to the Dallas-Ft. Worth area,
- for other facilities along this pipeline,
- to attach major new reserves and
- to pay for well drilling by producers... all for the purpose of assuring continuing natural gas supplies to our customers.

These investments don't even include the cost of all the gas we must buy to fill the line. In 1969, natural gas

cost us about 19 cents per thousand cubic feet. Recently we paid more than 85 cents for major new supplies. And the price is still rising.

Costs like these are the price Lone Star must pay for your continuing natural gas supplies. It's important that you understand our need for adequate rates so we can continue to deliver clean gas energy to your home for winters to come.

We're doing everything possible to hold down controllable costs. But even with gradual rate increases, natural gas from Lone Star will still be your most economical and efficient non-polluting fuel.

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Make Christmas Merry

Don't let your children be mere spectators of the Christmas scene, or they'll miss most of the fun. Involve them in the pre-holiday festivities with a tree-trimming party for their friends on December 24th.

In preparation for the trimming, assemble raw materials that require a minimum of dexterity to handle. Bright pieces of felt, scissors, paste, sequins and glitter, colored pipe cleaners, scraps of calico and yarn from your work basket: these are the makings of a truly splendid tree!

Only the older children should handle scissors or needle and thread, of course. If all children are small, an adult should hang around unobtrusively to give an assist where needed. You may have to cut out basic star and snowflake shapes from the fabric, for example, and show the younger children how simple it is to stroke on paste and sprinkle on glitter.



be constructed by stringing several ornaments together so they sway and dance in

the slightest air current. For modern, geometric ornaments, stack different colored fabrics in a pile with the largest piece on the bottom. Glue or sew them all together through the middle. Pipe cleaners plus yarn add up to some very original icicles.

Angels and snowmen, cut from felt in simple cookie-cutter shapes, are fun for even the youngest children to decorate. Sequin eyes and bright yarn hair can be glued on easily. To attach fabric wings or skirts, a stapler comes in handy.

When the tree-trimmers are ready for refreshments, bring out your first batch of homemade Christmas cookies along with mugs of Carnation Instant Hot Cocoa Mix. The milk is already in this delicious drink. You just add hot water and stir. Considering the occasion, why not stir each drink with a peppermint stick? Mix the hot cocoa to a frothy, chocolate richness, and serve with the candy cane inside.

After the party, teach them to leave a plate of cookies and a mug of cocoa on the hearth (or beside the tree) for Santa. This is an old Christmas tradition that each new generation loves. As a climax to the party, you might add some Christmas giving to the trimming. Have the children decorate several small trees rather than one large one. Drive around with the children to neighboring convalescent homes, children's hospitals and shut-ins to deliver the trees personally. Sharing their own happiness with others, your young tree-trimmers will come face to face with the true spirit of Christmas.

Badger Statistics

	F.G.A.	F.G.M.	F.G.%	F.T.A.	f.t.m.	F.T.%	T.P.	AVE.
Cox, Jeff	7	54	14	26%	15	9	60%	37
Gray, Johnny	6	35	14	40%	9	4	44%	32
Reed, Terry	3	4	1	25%	3	2	67%	4
Toliver, Larry	3	4	1	25%	3	1	33%	1.0
Bunch, Darel	7	77	40	52%	32	17	53%	13.9
Copeland, David	7	24	9	38%	12	6	50%	27
Morgan, Robert	7	116	31	27%	26	18	69%	80
Sims, Jackie	7	76	31	41%	20	12	60%	72
Riggan, Derral	6	23	9	39%	22	8	36%	26
Watts, Billy	7	32	9	28%	5	3	60%	21
Teams	7	447	159	35%	147	80	54%	398

STATE CAPITAL
Highlights
AND Sidelights
by Bill Boykin
 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Public Auction

Friday Dec. 14, 1973 10:30 A.M.
 Abilene, Texas

Sale To Be Conducted at the "Old Taylor County Courthouse" By Order of the "Taylor County Commissioners Court" To Dispose of Used and Surplus Equipment Consisting of:

Wood and Metal Office Desks of all sizes, Chairs, Tables (all sizes), Judge's Platform, Witness Platform, Stools, (3) Roll Top Desks, Slabs of Marble, Hall Trees, Waste Baskets, Ash Stands, 3 Floor Fire Escapes w/chutes, Safe, Venetian Blinds, Heating/Air Conditioner Comb. Units, Slat Metal Bench, Plumbing Fixtures, Expanded Metal, Conduit, Air Conditioning Vents, Alum. Window Screens, 1959 Volkswagon Panel Truck, (1) 60' x 60' Wood and Sheet Iron Building, and (1) Tile and Metal Building To Be Moved. Plus other related items too numerous to mention.

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AUSTIN, Tex. - Hearings will be held soon by the State Insurance Board to see if misleading or deceptive "sales pitches" are being used by the insurance industry in Texas. Joe Christie, Chairman of the Texas Insurance Board, says the goal of the board is to protect the consumer and build confidence in the insurance industry.

"People need insurance. The Board wants to make certain they are getting good information about the product," he told the Austin Ad Club last week.

"Some of the troubles of the insurance industry are caused by failure to communicate properly with the buyer. We are not getting life insurance rates, and we will hold hearings to compare rates. The Board will issue comparisons on life insurance policies and rates for the buying public."

Insurance is the largest industry in Texas, he added, and a difficult industry to regulate. "The board started publishing names of agencies and agents who have been found guilty of abusing the public, and we have seen a decrease of complaints," Christie continued.

Another goal is to clean up deceptive advertising, he told the ad group. Christie asked the ad leaders to help the Board make certain the buying public knows about deviating rates in fire and casualty insurance. "Shop for your insurance as you would groceries or any other product. You can get a 10% reduction on your auto-

mobile insurance for example if you take the defensive driving courses. Watch for optional coverage on personal injury insurance. It will be on your bill if you do not specify that you "do not" want it.

"We are going to study "no-fault" insurance and health care in Texas too. We want to know if "no-fault" will lower our insurance rates, and what the buyer might have to give up in rights to get the lower rates."

"The Board plans to set up a Health Maintenance Organization to see how health care is delivered in Texas. "We do not question the quality of health care in Texas, but we want to know the quantity of health care," he concluded.

DEMOCRATS CRANK UP - Texas Democrats are looking down the road to 1974 and 1976 national party conventions.

They set for December 15 here a State Democratic Executive Committee rules panel hearing to consider delegate selection procedures for the December 1974 "mini-convention" or policy conference.

State party officials must, by resolution, provide for compliance with rules on delegate selection and "affirmative action" to assure wide open participation in lower-level conventions.

The party must take steps to encourage convention activities by youth, minorities, women and others traditionally under-represented in its conventions. The same requirement carries over to the 1976 national presidential nominating convention process.

Gordon Wynne Jr. of Willis Point described the "mini-convention" full-participation program to be agreed on by SDEC here next month as the "forerunner" of the 1976 concept to be followed in presidential nominating procedures.

SDEC's resolution on delegate selection and affirmative action must be submitted to the Democratic National Committee prior to Feb. 1, 1974.

HOSPITAL PROGRAM CHANGED - The Governor declined to sign an agreement with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to implement state and local review of health care facility construction in Texas.

His action left hospitals and nursing homes eligible to participate in federal programs without getting a state certificate of need.

Aides to Briscoe said the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington has assured them there is no penalty to the health care industry if a state does not participate in the review program.

Briscoe advised new construction proceed cautiously so as not to build a facility where it is not needed.

SHORT SNORTS

Harrison Vickers of Houston resigned as executive director of the State Democratic Executive Committee.

Lee Godfrey of Austin has been named state campaign manager for Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby.

Revenue from cigarette sales increased from \$19.8 million in November 1972 to \$20.1 million last month.

Spring Registration Begins At H-SU Jan. 14

ABILENE--Hardin Simmons University Spring Semester will begin on Jan. 15, with the registration for classes on Jan. 14.

All new students to H-SU are asked to report to Moody Center on Friday, Jan. 11, at 8 a.m. for a new student orientation meeting. Later that day, the new students will be able

to receive academic advising from the faculty members. The Personal Development Inventory Tests for new students will be given from 8 a.m. - 12 noon in Moody Center Cafeteria on Saturday, Jan. 12.

Registration, which will begin on Monday, Jan. 14, is scheduled in order of classes with the seniors beginning at 8:20 a.m. Graduates and Post-graduates may register at any time.

Evening College Registration will be at 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Monday evening, Jan. 14, 1974.

The last date to register for credit or add a course is Jan. 25, 1974.

Registration information may be obtained from the Registrar's Office, 677-7281, Ext. 511.

NOTICE

All news copy and classified ads for the week of December 27 must be turned in by 3 p.m. Friday December 21 so the staff of The Merkel Mail can enjoy the Christmas Holidays.

SHUGART COUPON
ORDER PICTURES FOR CHRISTMAS NOW
 Merkel Drug Saturday
 121 Edwards December 15th
9
 WALLET SIZE
 COLOR PORTRAITS
99¢
 ASK FOR FREE 8 x 10 OFFER Extra charge for GROUPS

Answers to your gift Problems
 Check This LIST and Fill Your Needs Here

- Famous Duplicates #1 #2 #3 #4 Cologne & Bath Oil 1.27
- Mickey Mouse & Batman Childrens Radios 31.88
- 2 lb. 2.59
- Brach's Chocolates & 4 lbs 4.88
- Portable Cassette Recorder Player 31.88
- Midland Black & White Solid State 12" T.V.'s 89.99
- Hurrican Lamps 18.99
- Towel Sets 2.99 & up
- Blankets 4.99 & 6.99
- Botique Tote Knitting Bags 4.98
- No Iron Sheets King size 7.99 Queen size 6.99 Regulars 3.97
- Luggage 4.49 to 11.95
- Polyester Material Double Knit 2.88 per yd

- Wilson's
- Volley Balls 4.49
 - Bill Cunningham Autographed Basketballs 4.99
 - Dennis Shaw Autographed Footballs 5.49
 - Lighted Dial Digital Clocks 9.97
 - Electronic Flash Cameras 32.87
 - 126 Film Kodacolor 93¢
 - Childrens 2 speed Phonograph 14.99
 - Norelco 12 Flashes Flash Cubes 89¢
 - Red Boot-Green Tree-Santa High Pile Rugs 3.99 & 4.99
 - Maguis Electric & Padded Bench Chord Organ 39.95
 - Gift Glassware Tank Cover Sets Electric Blankets Banlan Nylon Pant & Top Sets Socket Sets Saber Saws
- MANY MORE TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST
BEN FRANKLIN STORE

ALL PRICES DRASTICALLY REDUCED

- 72 PONTIAC GRANDVILLE 4 door, hard top. This one has all the goodies. Beige with Beige vinyl top. Nice one owner car. Only \$3495
- 70 PONTIAC Bonneville 4 door hardtop, air and power, green color with gold vinyl top, electric windows, cruise control, tilt wheel. REAL NICE \$1595
- 72 PONTIAC Catalina 4 door sedan, air and power, bronze color with white top, nice for only \$2195
- 72 PONTIAC GRAND SAFARI 6 passenger wagon, air condition, power, tape player, tilt wheel, cruise control, power seats, power windows, light green color. Real nice. One owner \$3495
- 72 CHEVROLET CAPRICE 4 dr. hardtop, air & power, power windows, power seat, factory tape player, 13,000 miles, gold color, beige vinyl top, extra clean, only \$2895
- 70 GMC 1/2 ton pick-up, long wide bed, 350 engine, automatic transmission, power steering, power brakes, factory air condition, bronze and white color, 56,000 one owner miles. A real nice pick-up. \$1795
- 65 PONTIAC TEMPEST 4 door sedan, air con- \$695 dition, power. Real nice for only
- 69 PONTIAC GTO 2 door hard top, V-8, 4 speed, power steering, factory air, chrome wheels, new tires, brown color with brown vinyl top \$895
- 69 PONTIAC Tempest Custom wagon, air and power, we sold it new, gold with white top, nice for only \$1395
- 69 PONTIAC Bonneville 4 door hardtop, air and power, good tires, green with white top, only \$1195
- 73 PONTIAC CATALINA 4 door sedan, air and power, driver education car still like new, tan color. Going at reduced price \$3595
- 3-71 PONTIAC Catalinas, 4 door sedans, air and power, roof, real nice - From \$1795
- 71 BUICK Limited 225 4 dr. This one has all the goodies. Beige color, beige vinyl top, real clean. Was \$3695.00 Now \$3195
- 72 GMC 1/2 ton Pickup, Super Custom, short narrow bed, V-8, automatic, factory air, power brakes, 6 ply tires 24,000 one owner miles. Red & white color. Only \$2495
- 70 PONTIAC Catalina 4 door sedan, air & power, white color with sold interior, real nice for only \$1495

WE HAVE SEVERAL OTHER REAL NICE USED CARS TO CHOOSE FROM
 "We Sell 'Em - We Lease 'Em"

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When you SHOP AT HOME ...

CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS are just some of the many extra benefits that you enjoy, along with the pleasure of shopping in attractive, familiar surroundings!

Schools, law enforcement, good streets ... all these community needs are supported by your taxes ... and the taxes of the merchants whose stores you patronize! That's why **MERKEL** merchants say:

SHOP AT HOME. ... SHOP IN MERKEL

Pre-Christmas Stock Up SALE

PRICES GOOD THURSDAY THRU. TUESDAY
DEC. 13-14-15-17-18th
5 BIG SHOPPING DAYS

ALL VEGETABLE
SNOWDRIFT
3 LB. CAN **93¢**
With \$7.50 or More In Trade
Exclusive of Cigarettes

GRIFFIN
BLACKPEPPER
4 oz. CAN **33¢**

3 MINUTE
POP CORN 4 LB. BAG **49¢**



INSTANT TEA
NESTEA
LEMON FLAVOR 4 oz. **89¢**

DROMEDARY
DATES 16 oz. PKG. **53¢**

DIAMOND
PLATES 40 ct. PKG. **79¢**

Stock Up for the Holidays

LIBBYS 303
PEARS CAN **35¢**
DEL-MONTE-PINEAPPLE-GRAPEFRUIT
DRINK 46oz. CAN **33¢**

NABISCO
SNACKS ASSORTED YOUR CHOICE **43¢**

LIBBYS 303 FRENCH
Green BEANS 2 FOR **49¢**
OUR DARLING 303 W.K.

Golden CORN 2 FOR **39¢**
Green Giant 303

GRIFFIN
WHITE SYRUP QUART JAR **59¢**

Garden **PEAS** 2 FOR **49¢**
Griffin 303 Cut

Green BEANS 2 FOR **43¢**
Contadina 300

TOMATOES FOR **39¢**

DIAMOND
FOILWRAP 25 FT. ROLL **19¢**

DEL MONTE
TUNA FLAT CAN (2 LIMIT) **43¢**

GOLD CROSS
MILK TALL CAN 2 FOR **43¢** (2 LIMIT)

MOUTH WASH 14oz.
LISTERINE BOTTLE **93¢**
PEPTO 12 oz. BOTTLE **1.19**
BISMOL NEWBORN or OVERNITE 12 oz. BOTTLE **1.39**
KIMBIES BOX

Frozen Foods
MORTONS ASSORTED
T.V. DINNER EACH **49¢**
LIBBYS
ORANGE JUICE 12 oz. CAN **39¢**
JOHNSTON APPLE OR
MINCE MEAT EACH **89¢**

I.G. DAIRY FRESH
HOMO 2 MILK GAL. JUG **1.29** PLASTIC THROWAWAY

I.G. DAIRY FRESH
BUTTER 1/2 GAL. CRTN.
MILK **63¢**

save 60¢
CLIP COUPON AND SAVE

CARSONS COUPON
SAVE 60¢
WITH THIS COUPON WHEN YOU BUY A 2 LB. CAN OF
MAXWELL HOUSE® COFFEE
AT CARSON SUPER
2 lb. CAN ONLY **1.49** WITH COUPON
ONE COUPON PER FAMILY OFFER EXPIRES, DEC. 29th

BORDENS NONESUCH
MINCE MEAT 9 oz. PKG. **33¢**

GRIFFIN
STRAWBERRY PRESERVES 18 oz. GLASS **59¢**

FLOUR GOLD MEDAL (1 limit) 5 LB. BAG **83¢**
CRISCO COOKING OIL 48 oz. JUG **1.33**

OLEO CHURNGOLD SOFT LB. CTN. **39¢**
COKE COLA 12 oz. CAN 6 PACK **69¢**

Better BEEF... Better TASTE
T-BONE STEAK \$1.59 Pound

BORDEN-GANDY-FOREMOST
HALF & HALF or WHIPPING CREAM CRTN. **39¢**

LISTROL 7 oz. SPRAY **69¢**

STA-PUF FABRIC SOFNER QUART BOTTLE **33¢**

ROSY RED APPLES
The JUICY, CRISPY Kind
You LIKE BEST
COLORADO POUND **23¢**

BEEF FRESH GROUND LB. **65¢**

PORK CHOPS FRESH ENDCUT LB. **93¢**

BACON GOOCH BR. POUND **1.09**

STEAK CHOICE BEEF CLUB **1.39**

BACON ENDS & PIECES DECKER 3 LB. **1.39**

SAUSAGE GERMAN STYLE GOOCH BR. PKG. **1.05**

FRESH PORK SPARE RIBS LB. **79¢**

PRIZE SOAP
BREEZE KING SIZE **1.19**

CHEER GIANT BOX (1 LIMIT) **69¢**

LUX LIQUID GIANT **47¢**

CORN FRESH 2 EARS **19¢**

BANANAS DOLE POUND **10¢**

CARROTS CELLO 2 For **25¢**

ORANGES TEXAS 4 LB BAG **49¢**

SPUDS RUSSET 10 LB. BAG **79¢**

Authorized STORE FOR FOOD STAMPS CARSONS

WE GIVE GIFT BOND STAMPS
Double on Wednesday with \$5.00 or more

CARSON'S SUPER MARKET
MINERAL TEXAS
FRESH VEGETABLES