

Joe Lassiter Named Chairman Of Employment Agency Board

Joe E. Lassiter of Merkel was elected Chairman of the Texas Private Employment Agency Regulatory Board at a December 14th meeting of the Board held in Austin.

Lassiter, a native of Merkel, has been a member of the Board since it was authorized by the Texas Legislature in 1969. There are 9 members on the board, all of whom have owned private employment agencies in the State of Texas for at least five years. Lassiter was appointed to a six year term on the Board by former Gov. Preston Smith in 1969.

The Board has regulatory and policy making power over the approximately 802 private employment agencies now operating in Texas. The Board operates in cooperation with the Texas Department of Labor and Standards. The Labor and Standards Department acts as the administration and enforcing agency of the employment law.

The Board's responsibilities include the setting of fees that



JOE LASSITER
...elected chairman

may be charged, has power to hold hearings and cancel the license of any person in violation of any provision of the Private Employment Agency Act, ethical standards and pre-

pare the questions for the examination of the licensing process of operators.

Lassiter's term on the Board will run until January 31, 1975.

"We have established an Educational Coordination Committee for the purpose of establishing a better liaison between the private employment agency industry and the Texas Department of Labor and Standards," Lassiter said. "We hope this will help us to better police our own industry. We plan to have special emphasis on proper preparation and timely submission and processing of applications for the licensing of both the operators and the employment agency business. Also we will put strong emphasis on better public relations between the employment agency industry, the employee-applicant, and the employer-client through the educational committee," Lassiter said.

"We plan to enforce strict compliance with the Private Employment Agency Law," he said.

Instrumental in getting the legislation passed creating the Board, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Private Employment Association that assisted in drafting the legislation. He was also named interim Chairman of the Guidelines Committee who implemented the legislative act into a workable, administrable law, in co-operation with the State Labor Commission.

The new chairman is owner-operator of Lassiter Employment Service in Abilene. His firm was the first private employment service opened in Abilene. It was established in June of 1948.

Lassiter is a graduate of Merkel High School and holds a BA Degree from the University of Texas. A veteran of World War II, he served 33 1/2 months in North Africa and Italy. After 28 years of active and reserve military service, he is now a retired Lt. Colonel.

He and his wife, Ruth, live at 1211 South 3rd in Merkel. They have two daughters, Mrs. Tim Beasley and Mrs. Rodney Robertson.

Lassiter served as 2nd vice president, 1st vice president and president of the Texas Private Employment Association and served four terms on the Board of Directors of that Association before being named to the regulatory board by Governor Smith in 1969.

Holiday Deaths Impossible To Predict Due to Crisis

AUSTIN--Colonel Wilson E. Speir, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, announced today that changing travel patterns brought on by the national energy shortage make it impossible for the DPS to validly estimate the number of traffic deaths which might occur in Texas over the upcoming holidays.

He said, however, it was hoped the traffic death count would fall below the 14.5 daily average observed during last year's Christmas period, and below the 18.5 daily average recorded for the last New Year holidays.

Speir said it is impossible to compare total deaths between this year and last year because the current holiday periods are both 102 hours as compared to 78 hour periods twelve months before.

The DPS director said factors expected to affect auto travel include driving curtailments which might result from lower speeds, weekend service

station closings, higher gasoline prices and the possibility of spot fuel shortages. Reduced travel might normally result in some reduction in traffic deaths. But Speir warned that if a substantial number of drivers have reduced their speeds while a high percentage of others are still driving at high speeds, the number of deaths could be considerably higher because of accidents possible resulting from more pronounced speed differences.

FD, Rescue Unit Aid In Search

The Merkel Volunteer Fire Dept. and Rescue Unit helped in the search of an 11-year old boy who was lost off Highway 270, south of Abilene Sunday night.

Those who helped from Merkel were: Billy Lucas, Jim Broussard, Vernon Wade, Finley Barnett, Leon Massey, Roy Schultz, Dean Goodman and Robert Harris.

Post Office Closed Christmas

The Post Office will be closed Christmas Day. There will be no lock box or rural delivery.

Christmas Eve Mass Set At Catholic Church

Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church will hold Midnight Mass Christmas Eve. There will be no mass on Christmas Day.

Priest at the church is Father Patrick Stinson.

Trent, Merkel Rural Routes Will Be Consolidated

E. T. Thompson, Postmaster announced today that effective Saturday, January 5, 1974 the Trent Rural Route will be consolidated with the Merkel Rural Routes.

The Customers on Trent Rural Route will continue to receive their mail addressed to Route 2, Trent, Texas 79561. They will be served by the Route 2 carrier from Merkel.

Due to the above change, it will be necessary for the routes from Merkel to be changed. Most of the customers that are receiving their mail on Route 2 Merkel will be receiving their mail on Route 1 or Route 3 Merkel. Some Customers on Route 3 Merkel will be changed to Route 1 Merkel.

The direction of travel by the carriers in some areas will change and will cause some customers to have to move their mail boxes across the road from where they are now located. All Rural boxes must be on the right side of the road on line of travel by the carrier to comply with State and Federal Laws.

All customers affected by the change will receive instructions from the Postmaster as to Box changes, Route numbers, Box numbers and Carriers.

Archie Boyd currently carrying Route 2 Trent will be transferred to a Rural Route in Abilene.



RECEIVES AWARD--Kenneth Moss, left, Director of Field Activities for Texas Farmers Union, presents a certificate to Bobby Tolliver, president of Taylor County Farmers Union, in recognition for having achieved their membership goal for 1973.

NOTICE

Effective December 1, to reach West Texas Telephone Repair Service dial 0 and ask for Enterprise 8-4037. To telephone the Business Office, dial 0 and ask for Enterprise 271.

There is no charge for Enterprise calls. These numbers are on Page 1 of the new telephone books.

Badgers Win Consolation With Win Over Hamlin

By RONNY ALDRIDGE

The Merkel Badgers won the consolation title of their own tournament by defeating the Hamlin Pied Pipers 68-65 in a

Merkel Thumps Rotan, 50-37

ROTAN -- Merkel came back from a three-point deficit at the half to defeat Rotan, 50-37, here Tuesday in District 8-A competition.

The Badgers took advantage of only three points scored by Rotan in the third period. Merkel outscored Rotan 35-19 in the second half.

Rotan's record now stands at 0-3 in district action, while Merkel ups its slate to 1-2 in district play.

Kim Gray led the losers with 11 points in the contest. In the girls contest, Merkel knocked off Rotan 58-40.

Terid Cade pumped in 28 points for Rotan.

MERKEL (8B)--Cox 3 9 8, Gray 2 8 4, Bunch 2 2 6, Popeland 3 8 6, Morgan 5 1 10, Sims 3 2 12, Rigdon 1 2 4, Wolffs 1 2 2. TOTALS 77 & 50.

ROTAN (17I)--Bruce Jones 3 9 6, Kim Gray 3 5 11, Reid Cove 2 2 6, Mike Code 3 3 5, Scott McKinney 3 1 7, Tim Allen 1 0 2. TOTALS 16 11 37.

MERKEL -- Homer Newby, 63, a former Merkel barber, died Tuesday afternoon in Elgin. Funeral will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church in Elgin under direction of Miller-Newby Funeral Home.

Born in 1910 in the Abilene area, he married Margaret Butman. He lived most of his life in Merkel where he was a barber. He came to Elgin in 1965. He was owner of Miller-Newby Funeral Home and Cooper-Newby Funeral Home in Bastrop.

Survivors include his wife; three daughters, Mrs. Paka Goodwin, of Sinton, Mrs. Phyllis Cartwright of Groveton, and Pamela Newby of Elgin; and one brother, Clarence of Colorado City.

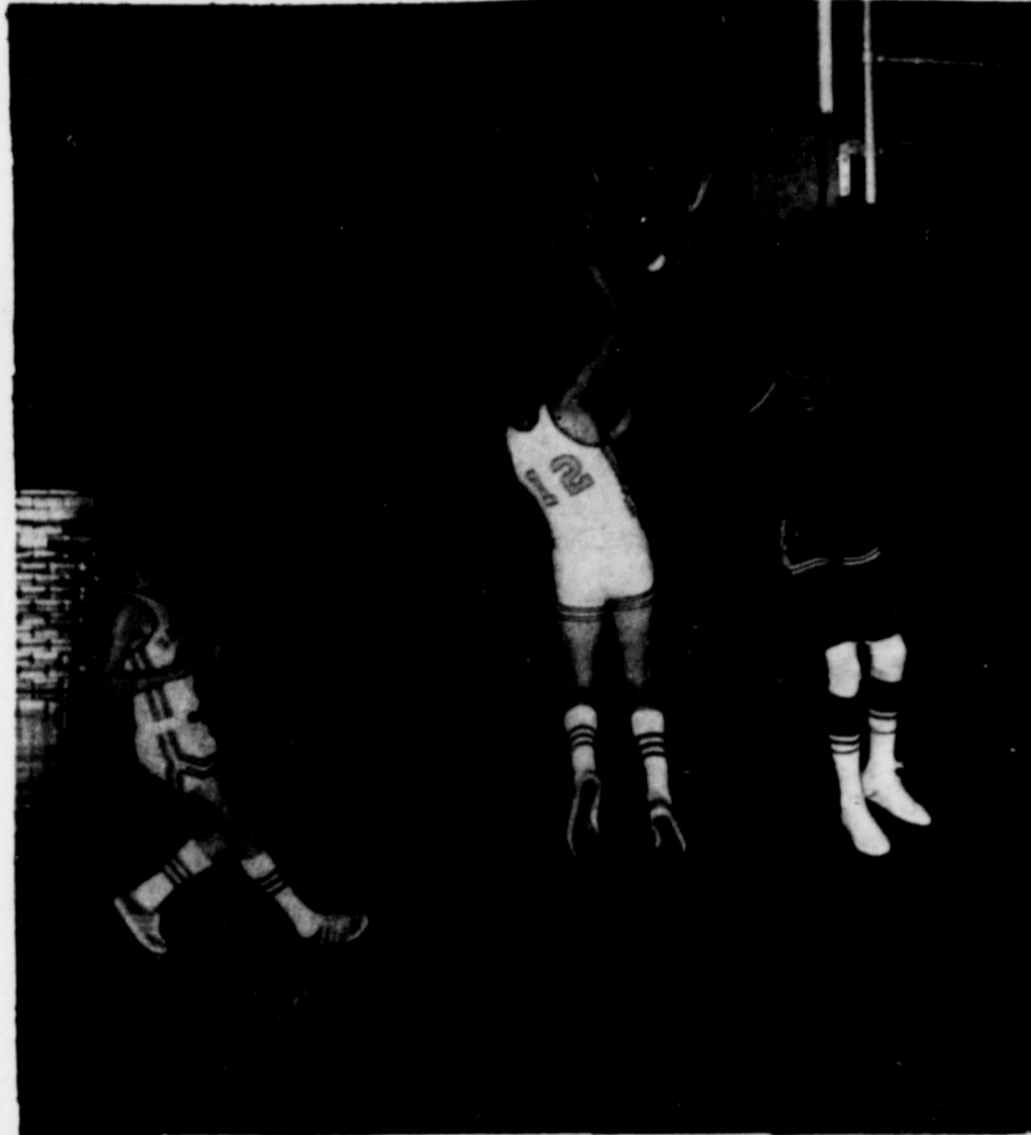
Cadet News

By PATSY BIERA

The Cadettes met December 12.

They finished their parents Christmas gifts and went to the Starr Nursing Home and took peanuts and candy and sang Christmas songs.

ADD TWO MORE--Jackie Sims, (No. 12) adds 2 points to the Merkel tally sheet Saturday night against Hamlin. The Badgers won the contest by a close 68-65 to capture the consolation title. Johnny Gray is also pictured. (Staff photo)



ADD TWO MORE--Jackie Sims, (No. 12) adds 2 points to the Merkel tally sheet Saturday night against Hamlin. The Badgers won the contest by a close 68-65 to capture the consolation title. Johnny Gray is also pictured. (Staff photo)



E. H. SEAGO
...deputy grand master

Merkelite's Son Appointed To Masonic Post

E. H. Seago of Midland has been named district deputy grand master for Masonic District 81 during 1974, succeeding J. C. Halbrook of Midland.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Seago of Merkel. A member of Acacia Lodge 1414, Seago served the lodge as worshipful master in 1970-71, and has held office as secretary of the 25th Degree and Degree Team of the Fifth Degree. He is also a member of the Scottish Rite of Dallas.

Seago is a member of Hope Lutheran Church, Southside Lions Club, Boy Scout Troop Advisory for Troop 152, and the American Right of Way Association, Southwest Chapter 35, El Paso. He is a right of way agent for Texas Electric Service Co.

He and his wife, Gladine, reside at 1300 Cottonflat Road.

Trash Pickup Schedule

The City Refuse Department has announced the following trash pickup schedule over the coming holidays:

Pickup at business--only on Dec. 24.

Monday pickup will be Wednesday Dec. 26 and Wed. Jan. 2, Ash Street East.

Tuesday pickup will be Thursday Dec. 27 and Thursday, Jan. 3, Ash Street West and all of North.

Christmas trees will be picked up at this time.

Christmas--An Everyday Affair

By REV. JERRY KUNKEL
Pastor
First Methodist Church, Tye

For a long time the loss of John had been felt in a quiet way, but as Christmas day arrived and John's chair paid him tribute by remaining empty, the tragedy of loneliness seemed much more intense. Two younger brothers and a little sister sat and tried very hard not to look at the empty chair. Finally, in a voice that verged on tears, Sally said, "This will be Johnny's first Christmas in Heaven, won't it? But you know," she continued, "every day is Christmas in Heaven." The silence

was broken; Johnny was where it is Christmas all year 'round. What better description of Heaven: A place where the love and happiness of Christmas happens everyday. But why do we need to think of Heaven to think of everyday love and everyday happiness? At Christmas time we celebrate a very important event: the birth of our Savior, and we have a reason to rejoice. But look at the rest of the year. We can celebrate the life and death and resurrection of that same Savior. The Christmas event gave us a Savior, but the death and resurrection offer us eternal life. We have a home

scene more pathetic than the weary mother bringing forth her firstborn, and her partner doubtless exhausted not only because of the journey but also because of his labored efforts to find suitable accommodation; the undecorated and comfortless manger where perforce the mother must suffer her pains "because there was no room for them in the inn"; the cattle possibly not a little agitated, and who dare deny their soft howling was an accompaniment to the first cries of the Babe? Such a scene is not enhanced by the overdecorative brush of

See AFFAIR, Pg. 9

Christmas Messages The Whole Story

By RUSSELL McANALLY
Pastor
First Methodist Church

Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Joseph and Mary and the Holy Spirit. Too many people say that Jesus was born to die for us. This is true, but He was also born to LIVE. God didn't kill Jesus. There were enough evil men to do that job. --Jesus was not Son of God because he was born in a manger, and died on a cross. Jesus was Jesus because of what happened between his birth and his death. Jesus chose to be obedient to the will of His Father. Je-

sus chose to die for the causes he represented. He came to show us a more excellent way, and made it possible for that kind of a life to be lived.

We read scripture about the birth and life of Jesus. There is another portion of scripture which really tells us what it is all about. I think it should be made a part of the Christmas story. You will find that scripture quoted here from the J.B. Phillips Translation, Matt. 25:

"But when the Son of Man comes in his splendor with all

See STORY, Pg. 9

"The Messenger of the Lord"

By LEONARD PAYNE
Pastor
First Baptist, Tye

There was a certain kind and diligent pastor who was dearly loved by his people for his gracious spirit but whose preaching had a little power and appeared to be devoid of a vital message. One Lord's day when he took his place in the pulpit prior to the morning service, he found a slip of paper there with these words only: "Sir, we would see Je-

sus hurt at first, gravely so--but for days the words burned in his heart, and because they did, he began to meditate life and he began to meditate more and more upon the Person of Christ. This began to reflect in his life and in his preaching, and ere long a change in him was felt among his congregation. At length, on another Sunday morning, he again found a slip of paper on the pulpit. This time the message read: "Then were the disci-

See TYE, Pg. 6

The Coming of Jesus

By KENNETH F. JONES
Pastor First Baptist Church

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of a King. His name is Jesus, and indeed He reigns in the hearts of those who have received Him as Savior and Lord. It is fitting that we celebrate His birth, because He has brought too much joy in believers' hearts; too much peace in believers' souls; and too much comfort to believers in sorrow, for us to neglect the fact of His coming to earth.

villeges of the Christian is to celebrate the birth of Jesus in comparison to the return of Jesus! He came once. . . and He's coming again! Look at the contrasts between the two:

The first time He came, only a few were aware of it. The next time He comes, "every eye shall see him" (Rev. 1:7). The first time men asked, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" The next time He is coming, not merely as King of the Jews,

See COMING, Pg. 9

How Do You See Christ On Christmas?

By Rev. P. T. STEWART
Pastor Calvary Baptist Church

Christmas really means Christ. There is no sensible honest way to consider Christmas and ignore the fact that it really represents the birth of Christ and the coming of the Godman to a sinful world to offer salvation and to die for the sins of the world and those who would trust him.

Some will have family gatherings, but no prayer; with gifts for the children but no gifts for Jesus, and unless Christ is the center there is no Christmas.

To those who plan to leave Christ out of their Christmas I hope you will consider this fact.

WHAT CHRISTMAS IS NOT--It is not a time to get drunk.

PROVERBS 20:1-- Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

HABAKKUK 2:15-- Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him and maketh him Drunk--also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness.

There are so many that celebrate the birth of Jesus by getting drunk.

IT IS NOT A TIME TO WORSHIP FALSE GODS.

EXODUS 20:3-5-- Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is the

See HOW, Pg. 9

A Lowly Birth

By JOHN CURTIS
Pastor Assembly of God

CHRISTMAS CARDS, as a medium for friendly greetings, have become one of the most established features of the season in which we commemorate the birth of the world's only Savior, of whom it is written, "There is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Yet do not some of those beautiful expressions, with their printed portrayal of the manger scene, rob the incident of its simplicity when increasingly they show a scene highly decorated? There could not have been

scene more pathetic than the weary mother bringing forth her firstborn, and her partner doubtless exhausted not only because of the journey but also because of his labored efforts to find suitable accommodation; the undecorated and comfortless manger where perforce the mother must suffer her pains "because there was no room for them in the inn"; the cattle possibly not a little agitated, and who dare deny their soft howling was an accompaniment to the first cries of the Babe? Such a scene is not enhanced by the overdecorative brush of

See BIRTH, Pg. 4

BADGER TRACKS

By JANIE CLARK

This is the last week of school before the Christmas holidays, and everyone is so glad. The only bad thing is that this is the week for finals so everyone's going to have to do a little studying before Christmas.

Friday after lunch, the Band and Choir are going to give a concert for the student body. So that means that no more classes until the second of January.

Last weekend was the Merkel Tournament with Merkel A Boys getting Consolation and the A girls losing a hard fought battle. Buddy Morgan and Cindy Whisenhunt got on the All-Tournament teams for Merkel, but I know everyone's proud of all our mighty Badgers.

This past Tuesday, we played Rotan there and Thursday, it's

Albany there. Hope all our players do a great job and bring home a win.

The winner of the door contest was chosen last Friday with Mr. Walla's shop door winning first. Mrs. Beasley's and Mrs. Baker's tied for third and Coach Aldridge's came in second. I haven't seen Mr. Walla's yet, but I know it's got to be good to beat all the others.

All of the people at Merkel High School want to wish all of Merkel, Tye, Noodle, and Blair and anywhere else, a Merry Christmas.

Seaman Casady Returns to Port

Navy Seaman Apprentice Shelton D. Casady of Route 2, Merkel, Tex., returned to his homeport at Long Beach, Calif. on board the destroyer USS Edson after a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific. While in the Far East he participated in fleet train-

ing exercises and visited Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

A former student of Merkel High School, he joined the Navy in February, 1972. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. S.M. Casady of Merkel.

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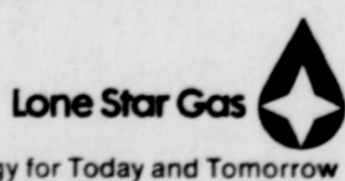
Answer:
Yes!

Let's lay this question to rest once and for all. Lone Star Gas Company has enough natural gas reserves under contract to adequately supply our residential, commercial and other higher priority customers for many winters.

To be sure we have enough for these consumers, we will make some extensive curtailments of service to our large volume customers during extreme cold weather this winter. In fact, our contracts with large volume customers anticipate the need to curtail up to 100% of their needs during these cold periods. This allows us to assure service to residential, commercial and other higher priority customers.

We're taking major steps to make sure you have gas for the future. New gas we're buying costs more than four times the price we paid just a few years ago. This is an astonishing amount of money! But it's the price all of us must pay for a continuing supply of natural gas energy.

This winter, and in the future, natural gas from Lone Star will continue to be your best method of home heating, water heating and cooking... just as it has been for more than 40 years. But we all must remember to help conserve this precious energy fuel.



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79¢

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CRISCO	With \$7.50 or More in Trade Exclusive of Cigarettes	3 LB. Can	1⁰⁹
GREEN BEANS	DEL-MONTE CUT 303 CAN	2 FOR	59¢
PEAS	Del-Monte 303 can	2 FOR	49¢
ASPARAGUS	DEW DROP 15 oz. CAN		39¢
PINEAPPLE	DEL-MONTE TIDBITS 12 oz. CAN		29¢
YAMS	JACK-O-LANTERN CUT NO. 2 1/2 CAN		39¢
PRESERVES	BEST MAID Apricot	18 oz.	39¢
CRANBERRY SAUCE	OCEAN SPRAY 300 size		29¢
FLOUR	Gladiola	5 LB. BAG	83¢
BAKERS ANGEL FLAKE COCONUT	14 oz. PKG.		59¢
KIMBELL'S SALAD CHERRIES	9 oz. BOTTLE		39¢
DEL-MONTE MANDARIN ORANGES	11 oz. CAN		29¢
DEL-MONTE PUMPKIN PIE MIX	303 CAN		39¢
LIPTON'S TEA BAGS	100 ct. PKG.		1²⁹
KRAFT'S MINEATURE MARSHMALLOWS	10 oz. PKG.		19¢

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Whipping Cream	FOREMOST		EGG NOG	FOREMOST
Sour Cream		39¢		QT.
Half & Half	ctn.			69¢
OLEO	BLUE BONNET			LB.
				39¢
BIG DIP MILK	FOREMOST		HALF GAL.	69¢
MILK	BORDENS EAGLE BRAND			CAN
COCA COLA				39¢
7-UP	12 oz. CAN	6 FOR		69¢

DROMEDARY DATES	1 LB. PKG.	49¢	IMPERIAL POWDERED or BROWN SUGAR	2 FOR	45¢
BORDEN'S MINCE MEAT	9 oz. PKG.	29¢	FROZEN FOOD Fling		
GALA FAMILY STYLE NAPKINS	160 ct. PKG	2 FOR 45¢	COOL WHIP	4 1/2 oz. crt.	39¢
REYNOLD'S ALUMINUM FOIL	18x25 FT.	59¢	OLE SOUTH PIE CRUST	PKG. OF 2	39¢
GALA TOWELS	BIG ROLL	2 FOR 69¢	PRODUCE Specials		
PALMOLIVE	KING SIZE	69¢	CELERY	STALK	19¢
TIDE	GIANT SIZE	79¢	Cranberries	1 LB. BAG	39¢
			BANANAS	LB.	10¢
			ORANGES	LB.	25¢
			APPLES	LB.	33¢
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GOOCH BEEF RIBS	LB.	49¢
ROUND STEAK	LB.	1⁴⁹
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Miscellaneous 1

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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.

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

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

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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. 735-2875. 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-- 5 room house and lot on North 2nd St., Merkel, Texas. Contact Ella Neeb, 897 Hickory, Abilene, Texas 79601, Ph. 673-0307. 43-3tc

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Abilene--Charming 2 bedroom home, uptop condition, garage, carport.

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Trent--Choice location near school, 3 bedroom, den, 2 bath brick home, double garage.

Anson--Catfish Haven with nice 2 bedroom home. Grocery store with dwelling. 3 bedroom home and station. 317 North Willis, Suite 20 Abilene 673-6444

Pauline Butman 692-2222
Joe Moore 692-0484

Merkel Branch Office
Billy & Pat Neff
1515 Heath 928-5623
Equal Housing Opportunity

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.

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. 928-5271

CEMETERY FUND

A. B. Gregory Estate
Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hendricks in memory of Morris Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Wendel Moore in memory of Mrs. R. H. Kingston

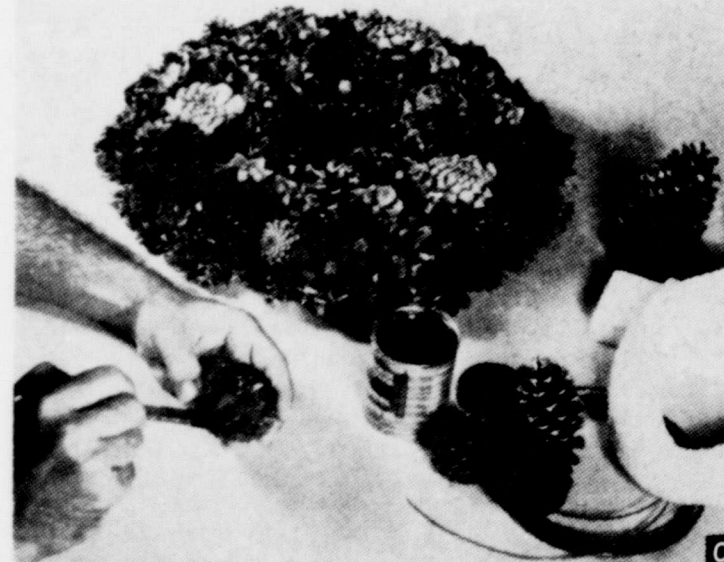
Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Falconi
Mr. and Mrs. Ted McAninch
Mildred Hamm
George M. & Marilyn Owens
Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Eason
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Murdock
Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Clark
B.J. Tittle in memory of Milton Case

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pee in memory of Milton Case
Mr. and Mrs. Ford Butman in memory of Charles Butman
Mrs. J.H. West
Melba L. Hudspeth
Mr. and Mrs. N.B. Teaff
P.W. & Neil Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Harris in memory of M. G. King & Tessie Mae Walling

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pee and Mrs. Anna Dunn, in memory of Cecil Guthrie
Mrs. Pet Touchstone in memory of Mrs. J.R. Walling
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Teaff in memory of Stacy Bird
Faye and Bruno Euckert in memory of Martha Corder
Mr. and Mrs. R.E. Pollard
Cecil Cochran

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Higgins in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Buck Leach
W.S. Mayes
Mr. and Mrs. Earle M. Watts
Mr. and Mrs. E. Yates Brown
J. Pierce Horton
Mr. and Mrs. D.J. Richie in memory of Linda Richie & Carolyn Cagle
Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Banner
Sylvia Riney in memory of Alvin Byrd
H.C. Rusk
Clifford Westenhover
T.G. Hull
Dr. and Mrs. Jarrett Williams
Mrs. A.H. Kucholtz in memory of George T. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Allen L. Byers
Mrs. M.M. Reese in memory of George T. Moore
Mrs. W.L. Murphy in memory of George T. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Sam T. Redwine
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Gay
Bill Collins
Mr. and Mrs. O.B. Wade in memory of Alvin Byrd
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Mundy
Mrs. Allen D. King

Tips on Wood Finishing



HOLIDAY HINTS WITH WOOD FINISH
This year solve the problem of dressing the house for the holidays with colorful wood finishes. Lasting Christmas wreaths and centerpieces of pine cones, acorns and other dried materials can be made easily and economically. Simply wire materials into a styrofoam frame. Then stain and finish in red, green or nut brown. Wood finishes penetrate and seal to keep even fragile twigs and cones looking satiny fresh for years to come. Apply wood finish liberally. After 5 to 15 minutes, wipe off excess and allow to dry overnight. To add a really professional touch--coat with a clear polyurethane finish. Then you're ready to celebrate the season. For handy year-round advice on easy wood finishing--a 16-page booklet, "Tips on Wood Finishing," is available. For a free copy, write Minwax Company, Inc., Dept. AG, 72 Oak Street, Clifton, New Jersey 07014.

COTTON CLASSING
The USDA, Abilene Cotton Classing Office graded 48,500 cotton samples during the week ending December 15; bringing the seasonal total to 382,600 samples. B. B. Manly estimates that 70 percent of the crop has been graded. Quality statistics indicated a trend to lower grades and shorter staple lengths. Grades were 32 percent white, and 64 percent light-spotted during the previous week. Staple lengths were little changed during the past week at 45 percent staple 30 or shorter, and 53 percent staple 31 or longer. Two weeks ago staple lengths were 30 percent staple 30 or shorter, and 69 percent staple 31 or longer.

FARMERS UNION INSURANCES
ONE STOP SERVICE FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS
See Farmers Union INSURANCES
MACK SEYMORE
102 Edwards
928-5379
Merkel, Texas

BIRTH

Continued From Page One
It is a tragedy that the over-complex life we live makes us disposed to add things to the scene that were not there. There is no evidence of a mercenary spirit at Bethlehem--though modern man too often makes unseemly efforts to capitalize on the incident, thinking of the profits and forgetting the reason for Christ's coming. At first sight there is no evidence of notoriety in the manger. Such publicity as came in the hours following Christ's birth was given by angels to shepherds in a field and through an unusually bright star seen by men who were sufficiently wise to take notice of the unusual. Let us take time to reflect that the most beautiful and permanent things have often stolen unnoticed into life. They are things that have the after-glow of fame, but there was little about them that was delightful at their beginnings. At the very heart of this simple scene enacted at Bethlehem is to be found, if we will not becloud it with unnecessary decorations, the most sublime of all truths: to save humanity, the invisible God came to dwell among us, first in the form of a Babe, then spanning the youthful years as He grew and then in the form of a Man, willing to make Himself known by the single and simple sign--love. Forever healing, consoling, tender to the unfortunate, even to the end, His love engendered light. In love He trod the humble and simple ways of other men, binding their wounds, wiping away their tears, relieving their distress, soothing aching hearts; and it is still the simple outpouring of that love, which had its spring in the "undecorated manger," that the world needs. The simplicity of His love remained with Him in the simple life He lived among men, and the modern life has robbed many of the peace and joy that He experienced. The depth of the richness of His being cannot be fathomed by our finite minds, and high-minded speculations about His nature will be but the "decorative trimmings" that blind the simplicity of the manner in which He came. So let us seek to put our minds not on the unintelligible and inexplicable things--injustice, disease, pain, evil, all of which we cannot divine the meaning--but let us have a mind and an eye and a heart for the simple manifestation of God's love as exposed in the lowly birth of His son, for if we look at Bethlehem, not as a scene glided with things that never were there, but as a simple expression of God's love, what charm that simplicity will have as His love enfolds us!

CARD OF THANKS
We would like to take this opportunity to thank our friends and the people of Merkel who made our Open House such a memorable occasion. It was a pleasure to have each of you, and we felt we were honored to have so many come to visit in our new home. We are happy to be a part of Merkel and this community. You have been wonderful to us, and your thoughtfulness, your goodness, and your friendship are treasured and deeply appreciated. Especially would we like to thank Mary Gentry, Gayle Baker, Patsy Walker, Joy Dean McMurray, Jane Carson, Betty Satterwhite, Emma Lois Shugart, Margaret McAninch, Elleta Orsborn, Jo Ann Smith, Becky Pack, Sue Henry, Dorothy Gilmore, Sue Tucker, Georgia Higgins, Abbie Gast, Zoe Russell, Inez Pursler, Virginia Sandusky, and Faye Robertson who were the hostesses for our Open House. We appreciate their making this event a special one. May God bless each of you during the holiday season and in the months to come.
Don, Mitzi, Andy, And Lesa Hart

1/2 PRICE
ON ALL
TREE DECORATIONS,
BOX CHRISTMAS CARDS,
GIFT WRAPPING PAPER,
RIBBON & BOWS AND
OTHER BARGAINS
BEN FRANKLIN
129 EDWARDS PH. 928-4933

A gift for the entire family

A DISHWASHER
"The Family Appliance"

A Christmas gift that's sure to please all the family... a portable or built-in dishwasher. See your local appliance dealer and he will help you to choose the correct model for your size family.

CONSERVE & SAVE TIPS
to help your family enjoy their new dishwasher

- To save money and energy, always wash only a full load. Store used dishes in your dishwasher until you have a full load.
- If dishwashing is delayed for several hours, use the "rinse and hold" cycle to prevent food from drying on the dishes.

Live the carefree way with Famous Frigidaire Electric Appliances. See them at WTU
West Texas Utilities Company An Equal Opportunity Employer

Page Four THE MERKEL MAIL, MERKEL, TEXAS

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: 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, Noclildren. 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 hereinafter styled and numbered cause:
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Domestic Relations Court of Taylor County, Texas, to be held 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 BERTHA MAE HARRIS AND WALTER EDWARD HARRIS, in which the following person is Petitioner: Bertha Mae Harris, and 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 41-4tc

Issued this 27th day of November, 1973.
IRENE CRAWFORD District Clerk of Taylor County, Texas
BY: Rilla Mahoney, Deputy 41-4tc

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: 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: Jim Griffin, DEFENDANT, Greeting:
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable 42nd District 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 14th day of January A.D. 1973, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 20th day of July A.D. 1973, in this cause, numbered 34, 224-A on the docket of said court and styled John Freeze, Plaintiff, vs. Jim Griffin and wife, Gaye Griffin, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Suit on account of \$7,512.47, plus reasonable attorney fees, and for attachment of property described as Lot 17, Block P of Lightner Subdivision of H. Ward Survey #90, City of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, known as 802 Ross Street, Abilene, Texas, 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 10th day of December A.D. 1973. (SEAL)
Attest: IRENE CRAWFORD Clerk, 42nd District Court Taylor County, Texas
By Marie Adkins, Deputy. 43-4tc

Starr Nursing Home News

This has been a wonderful week with no one real ill and we have had lots of visitors. The Merkel Brownies brought homemade Xmas balls and peppermint candy canes for the patients and also sang carols. They helped decorate the Christmas tree. Thank you little friends.

The Merkel Cadettes visited and brought bags of candy and nuts. They made a Christmas wreath for the home. They also sang carols. Thank you Cadettes Mrs. Blanch Landers and Ruth Jacobsen of Lawn visited W.C. Landers last week.

We wish to thank Mrs. C.A. Holder for the beautiful poinsettia to go on our piano in the lobby. We are enjoying it very much.

Sunday, the Pioneer Methodist Church was unable to fill their appointment for church

To our many friends and customers - One of the joys of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to thank you for a most pleasant business relationship; without you, we could not prosper and grow, May the coming year bring Good Health, Happiness, and Prosperity to you and your loved ones

Adcock Cleaners
Circle A Western House

Cle Juan Carson
Genevieve King
Rita Watts
Johnnie Adcock
Waymon Adcock

Fire Dept. Held 2nd Turkey Shoot

The Merkel Fire Dept. held its second annual Turkey Shoot Sunday, Dec. 16 at the Bunk Tipton gravel pit. There were three shooting events with ten shooters per event. The 22-rifle and hi-powered rifle had three shots per target and the shotgun event five clay targets per shooter.

The 22-rifle event had five rounds of shooting. First round winner was Horace Childers; second round, Ken Mattingly; third round, Bob Rankin; fourth round, Dean Goodman and fifth round, Mrs. D. A. Bishop. There was an event for boys only with Cliff Mattingly winning the turkey.

The hi-powered event had five rounds with Jack Bagby winner of the first round. Second round winner was Bob Rankin; third round, Bob Rankin; fourth round, Ken Mattingly, and fifth round, Keith Wilson.

There were seven rounds in the shotgun event with Terry Gardner the first round winner. Second round winner was Larry Bailiff; third round, Billy Lucas; fourth round, Terry Gardner; fifth round, Ronny Berry; sixth round, Jerry Don Sandusky, and seventh round, Donnie Doan.

Shooters were allowed to win two turkeys for one event. Turkeys may be picked up after Dec. 18 at Wilson's Food Store.

11 million persons received an average of \$54 in April 1973 from aid to three million families with 7.9 million children.

Edwards Plateau Deer May Die From Malnutrition

AUSTIN--Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists say they fear many parts of the Edwards Plateau will experience deer losses this winter due to malnutrition.

Donnie Harmel, department project leader for the Edwards Plateau Regulatory Area, has urged landowners in the affected areas to use as many antlerless deer permits as possible in order to thin the deer herd.

Harmel said although most deer inspected and weighed in locker plants throughout the Hill Country appear to be in fair condition, many reports of poor deer are being received.

Recent frosts slowed or stopped the growth of forbs, weeds on which deer are largely dependent, and deer conditions are likely to go downhill, according to Harmel. A lack of acorns and other fruits has already jeeted a food shortage.

Rod Marburger, the department's wildlife disease project leader in Kerrville, said that

although deer body conditions generally appear to be adequate at present, the animals he has inspected do not have fat reserves.

Marburger said these reserves are necessary to deer in case food supplies are cut sharply. He said an increasing number of the diseased deer reported to him recently are proving to be malnourished deer.

Biologists say landowners should encourage hunters to harvest surplus deer to help forestall a major die-off and utilize venison which might otherwise be wasted.

Hunters and landowners should be alert for signs of deer malnutrition in their areas. Indications of poor food availability are deer with prominent ribs, deer feeding in oat patches throughout the day and decreased alertness of deer.

These symptoms indicate that procrastinating hunters may have difficulty finding deer in good flesh shortly.

Round-Up

FOSTER WATTS, who is making his home with his sister Mrs. Sherman Lane, 1303 South 3rd, is in Hendrick Memorial Hospital recovering from surgery. Recent visitors to the hospital were his sons and their wives, Mr. and Mrs. James Watts from Odessa, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Watts from Hobbs, New Mexico and a sister Mrs. Clarence Walden and son George from Midland.

VISITORS in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Greenfield and friends recently were Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Westenhover from Weatherford.

Miss Cloyd In Parade

Tammy Darlene Cloyd, a member of the Westwind-Winds of Abilene, participated in the Christmas Parade at Lancaster, and also the one here in Merkel. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cloyd of Merkel.

Gleaners Have Christmas Dinner

The Gleaner's Sunday School Class of The First United Methodist Church met December 12 for their Christmas Dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Mrs. O.R. Douglass, president, called on Rev. N.S. Daniel to give the prayer of thanks.

The president was in charge of the program. Mrs. T.K. Anderson gave the Christmas Story according to Saint Luke and then accompanied the group while Mrs. Denzel Cox led in the singing of Christmas Carols. Each member told a well remembered personal story of "Christmases Past."

The annual Christmas offering was made to the Methodist Home in Waco, Texas.

Santa distributed gifts from a beautiful tree to the following members and guests: Mmes. Fay Doan, Tom Largent, N.S. Daniel, W. A. Stockbridge, Mattie Billingsley, Anna Dunn, Wilmer Criswell, Floyd Davis,

Herbert Patterson, Sallie Moore, Etta McWilliams, Oswald Everett, Ada Johnson, Jimmy Brown, Jessie Howerton, Harold Odum, Richard Odum, of Dequeen, Ark., John Shannon, Winnie Coyert, Dee Grimes, Dee Moore, W.W. Toombs, Dewell McLean, Albert Criswell, O.E. Harwell, O.R. Douglass, Johnny Cox, Mary Clock, Roy Baccus, Vernon Simpson, Denzel Cox, T.K. Anderson, Misse Louise Hudson, Mable McRee and Bessie Reidenbach, Rev. and Mrs. Russell McAnally and Rev. Daniel.

Kiss, Don't Munch Under the Mistletoe

Though not commonly known, the waxy white mistletoe berry is highly poisonous. Adults as well as children have died from eating the harmless looking berries.

SWEETWATER LIVESTOCK AUCTION, INC.

LET US HANDLE YOUR CATTLE NEEDS
CECIL SELLERS, Owner

SALE EVERY WED. 11:00

WHETHER BUYING OR SELLING

Hamlin 576-2560 Sweetwater 236-6378



TOPMOST PHARMACY

MERKEL DRUG CO.

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

Your Health Service Store

PH 928 5012 MERKEL TEXAS W.D. GAMBLE



<p>LE SUN EAU DE COLOGNE 6 oz Spray</p> <p>Available: St. Tropez, Lumina, Antilles</p> <p>2.88 Mfg. list \$3.50</p>	<p>BIC MC-29</p> <p>.24 Mfg. list 29c</p>	<p>PURIT POWER DETANGLER from Gillette</p> <p>— Purrit gently separates wet or dry tangles — Helps prevent split ends and broken hairs — Leaves hair clean, natural and healthy-looking.</p> <p>17.88 Mfg. list \$22.99</p>	<p>ALKA-SELTZER 36's</p> <p>1.08</p>
<p>SOACLENS SOAKING AND WETTING SOLUTION FOR CONTACT LENSES</p> <p>1.68 Mfg. list \$2.42</p>	<p>ROMILAR III controls coughs clears congestion eases breathing</p> <p>1.34 3 oz</p>	<p>CHOCOLATE ZESTABS 60's</p> <p>1.79</p>	<p>LADY SCHICK WARM 'N CREAMY Expensive</p> <p>21.95 Mfg. list \$26.97</p>
<p>2-70 PONTIAC CATALINA 4 door sedans, air condition, power. Both have two-tone paint. REAL NICE. Starting at</p> <p>\$1495</p>	<p>JERGENS DIRECT AID LOTION 10 oz</p> <p>.49</p>	<p>SKINNY DIP FRUIT DIP Mild Meron, Mild Strawberry, Fruit Layered, White Lemon</p> <p>1.88 Mfg. list \$2.50</p>	<p>CHOCKS BUGS BUNNY naturally sweetened</p> <p>.78 Reg. 60's Mfg. list \$2.29</p>
<p>72 CHEVROLET CAPRICE 4 door, hard top, air condition, power, stereo tape, power windows and power seats. 13,000 actual miles. Still like new. Beige color with beige vinyl top. GOING THIS WEEK. only</p> <p>\$2895</p>	<p>Gillette PLATINUM PLUS 10'S 10'S</p> <p>1.69</p>	<p>HAI KARATE AFTER SHAVE LOTION 4 oz</p> <p>1.44 Mfg. list \$1.75</p>	<p>CHICK SAMSON STYLING DRYER Model 350</p> <p>18.99 Mfg. list \$24.95</p>
<p>72 GMC 1 1/2 ton pick-up, 350 engine, short narrow bed, automatic, factory air condition, power brakes, super custom, 6 ply tires, red and white color. 24,000 one owner miles. REAL NICE</p> <p>\$2495</p>	<p>POLIDENT EXTRA EFFERVESCENT TABLETS</p> <p>26's .82 Mfg. list 99c</p> <p>60's 1.29 Mfg. list \$1.59</p>		<p>THE SCHICK HOT LATHER MACHINE Refills in regular, menthol, lemon and lime.</p> <p>18.99</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>\$1795 GOING AT ONLY</p>	<p>NEW DIAL VERY DRY Anti-Perspirant 5 oz</p> <p>.89 Mfg. list \$1.29 and 12 oz</p>	<p>HAI KARATE COLOGNE 4 oz</p> <p>1.44</p>	<p>SCHICK FLEXAMATIC Model #400</p> <p>32.49 Mfg. list \$39.95</p>
<p>72 PONTIAC GRANDVILLE 4 door, hard top. This one has all the GOODIES. Beige color with vinyl top. Nice one owner car. Only</p> <p>\$3395</p>	<p>WATER PIK ORAL HYGIENE INSTRUMENT DELUXE MODEL 37</p> <p>Patented pulsating action showers the mouth with 1200 jets of water a minute to flush out food and help stimulate gums.</p> <p>24.95 The Ideal Gift for Better Family Health Mfg. list \$29.95</p>		<p>LADY SCHICK SHAVING WAND</p> <p>16.95 Mfg. list \$19.95</p>
<p>70 PONTIAC Bonneville 4 door hardtop, air and power, green color with gold vinyl top, electric windows, cruise control, tilt wheel. REAL NICE</p> <p>\$1595</p>	<p>ROMAN BRIO AFTER SHAVE LOTION 4 oz</p> <p>1.98 Mfg. list \$2.50</p>	<p>EVERY NIGHT SHAMPOO Lemon 12oz</p> <p>Also Available Herb Balsam</p> <p>1.59</p>	<p>MURINE Makes eyes feel good again!</p> <p>.84 Mfg. list \$1.09</p>
<p>72 PONTIAC Catalina 4 door sedan, air and power, bronze color</p> <p>\$2095 with white top, nice for only</p>	<p>PAPERMATE POWERPOINT SET</p> <p>2.98 Mfg. list \$3.95</p>	<p>CHLORASEPTIC WITH SPRAY</p> <p>Also Available 8oz, 12oz and aerosol. Mfg. list \$1.59</p> <p>1.19</p>	
<p>72 PONTIAC GRAND SAFARI 6 passenger wagon, air condition, power, tape player, tape player, tilt wheel, cruise control, power seats, power windows, light green color. Real nice. One owner</p> <p>\$3495</p>	<p>EVERY NIGHT SHAMPOO Lemon 12oz</p> <p>Also Available Herb Balsam</p> <p>1.59</p>		<p>LADY SCHICK LASTING CURLS HAIR SETTER</p> <p>18.99 Mfg. list \$24.95</p>
<p>65 PONTIAC TEMPEST 4 door sedan, air condition, power. Real nice for only</p> <p>\$695</p>	<p>CHLORASEPTIC WITH SPRAY</p> <p>Also Available 8oz, 12oz and aerosol. Mfg. list \$1.59</p> <p>1.19</p>		<p>LADY SCHICK TIME MACHINE SALON DRYER</p> <p>32.49 Mfg. list \$39.95</p>
<p>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</p> <p>\$895</p>	<p>ROMAN BRIO COLOGNE 4 oz</p> <p>2.66</p>		<p>EVEREADY TWO PAK BATTERIES 950 2 D Size 935 2 C Size</p> <p>.49</p>
<p>69 PONTIAC Tempest Custom wagon, air and power, we sold it new.</p> <p>\$1295 gold with white top, nice for only</p>	<p>EVERY NIGHT SHAMPOO Lemon 12oz</p> <p>Also Available Herb Balsam</p> <p>1.59</p>		<p>NEW DIAL VERY DRY Anti-Perspirant 5 oz</p> <p>.89 Mfg. list \$1.29 and 12 oz</p>
<p>69 PONTIAC Bonneville 4 door hardtop, air and power, good tires,</p> <p>\$1195 green with white top, only</p>	<p>CHLORASEPTIC WITH SPRAY</p> <p>Also Available 8oz, 12oz and aerosol. Mfg. list \$1.59</p> <p>1.19</p>		<p>EVEREADY TWO PAK BATTERIES 950 2 D Size 935 2 C Size</p> <p>.49</p>
<p>73 PONTIAC CATALINA 4 door sedan, air and power, driver education cars. 1 tan, 1 blue both still like new. Going at reduced prices</p> <p>\$3495</p>	<p>ROMAN BRIO AFTER SHAVE LOTION 4 oz</p> <p>1.98 Mfg. list \$2.50</p>		<p>EVEREADY TWO PAK BATTERIES 950 2 D Size 935 2 C Size</p> <p>.49</p>
<p>3-71 PONTIAC Catalinas, 4 door sedans, air and power, new tires, white with green vinyl roof, real nice — From</p> <p>\$1795 We have 3 1973 CATALINAS, 2 door hard top, 4 door hard top and 2 door sedans. Three have vinyl tops. DRIVERS ED AND DEMOS. All with air and power.</p> <p>\$3695 All real nice. Your Choice. only</p>	<p>EVERY NIGHT SHAMPOO Lemon 12oz</p> <p>Also Available Herb Balsam</p> <p>1.59</p>		<p>EVEREADY TWO PAK BATTERIES 950 2 D Size 935 2 C Size</p> <p>.49</p>

THE ABOVE ADVERTISED ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE AT MOST TOPMOST PHARMACIES.

ALL PRICES DRASTICALLY REDUCED

72 CHEVROLET CAPRICE 4 door, hard top, air condition, power, stereo tape, power windows and power seats. 13,000 actual miles. Still like new. Beige color with beige vinyl top. GOING THIS WEEK. only

\$2895

72 GMC 1 1/2 ton pick-up, 350 engine, short narrow bed, automatic, factory air condition, power brakes, super custom, 6 ply tires, red and white color. 24,000 one owner miles. REAL NICE

\$2495

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
GOING AT ONLY

2-70 PONTIAC CATALINA 4 door sedans, air condition, power. Both have two-tone paint. REAL NICE. Starting at

\$1495

72 PONTIAC GRANDVILLE 4 door, hard top. This one has all the GOODIES. Beige color with vinyl top. Nice one owner car. Only

\$3395

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

\$2095
with white top, nice for only

72 PONTIAC GRAND SAFARI 6 passenger wagon, air condition, power, tape player, tape player, tilt wheel, cruise control, power seats, power windows, light green color. Real nice. One owner

\$3495

65 PONTIAC TEMPEST 4 door sedan, air condition, power. Real nice for only

\$695

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.

\$1295
gold with white top, nice for only

69 PONTIAC Bonneville 4 door hardtop, air and power, good tires,

\$1195
green with white top, only

73 PONTIAC CATALINA 4 door sedan, air and power, driver education cars. 1 tan, 1 blue both still like new. Going at reduced prices

\$3495

3-71 PONTIAC Catalinas, 4 door sedans, air and power, new tires, white with green vinyl roof, real nice — From

\$1795
We have 3 1973 CATALINAS, 2 door hard top, 4 door hard top and 2 door sedans. Three have vinyl tops. DRIVERS ED AND DEMOS. All with air and power.

\$3695
All real nice. Your Choice. only

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

Palmer Pontiac & GMC

MERKEL
G. E. APPLIANCES & TV'S

MERKEL, TEXAS 928-9113 ABILENE 673-1102

What Christmas Means To Me

The following articles about "What Christmas Means To Me" were written by the third grade class of Mrs. Anna Heile Shouse.

Christmas means love giving, getting and happy feeling and celebrating and Jesus was born.

Mike Hagar
What Christmas means to me is loving and joy. We love Christmas. Is loving one another, giving things to each



...and best wishes for a Merry Christmas. We wish you happiness in this holiday season

Barnett Barber Shop
Jo & Vincent

other. It is a time to put up the tree and to be happy. I love Christmas.

Jackie Owen
Christmas means love. Christmas is Jesus birthday. Its the best time of the year. It will always be your happiest day.

Sal Acuna
Christmas means love. When Jesus was living, the Wisemen gave him presents. But since Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins they are giving us the presents for love. It is happiness to me and love.

Tonja Bicknell
Jesus means more than anything to us and we love you very much and Christmas was the day you was born. We love you.

Doug Battreal
It is love and fun and the best Christmas I had all Christmas and it is feeling happiness and fun.

Darell Schultz
What Christmas Means to Me is happiness, feeling merry, to love one another, giving and that Jesus was born, sharing with one another.

Debra Kimbrell
Christmas means love and happiness. It means I like to give more than I like to get. But when I get it makes me think that someone who love and cares for me. When I give presents it makes me feel happiness. When people say, Oh I love this gift you gave me, it makes me feel very very happy.

Windi Whisenhunt
Christmas is love and I love every thing. But what Christmas means most of all is not getting presents. No, it's the Gift that Jesus gave us life and home and earth.

Eddie Martin
It means love, and happiness, giving gifts and you should always be good the whole year. Because something happens on Christmas Eve, at

Christmas means to me loving each other very much. And to have a good happy feeling like to be nice to each other and kind. Christmas is a very merry feeling for everybody. Even for animals.

Stormy Magee
It means to me love and happiness and happy feeling and you get toys to play with and he gave you stuff to do when you don't have nothing to do.

Eddy Harris
Christmas means love and happiness. Christmas is feeling Je-us. Christmas is getting together.

Kyle Wolf
Christmas is celebrated, to love, it means friends, and to have dinner together.

James Stephens
Christmas is always fun. I like Christmas. Christmas is fun family. Christmas is love all the time.

Michael Tutt
Christmas means to me loving each other very much. And to have a good happy feeling like to be nice to each other and kind. Christmas is a very merry feeling for everybody. Even for animals.

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TYE

Continued From Page One

ples glad when they saw the Lord.

More and more present day congregations are becoming aware of the need of God's message. Our pulpits today have become mere arenas of debate and oratory rather than the stage of life which presents the true answer to the perplexities and worries of the age.

Who then is capable of performing this awesome task? Only the messenger of the Lord—the messenger sent by the Lord, from the Lord to proclaim the truths of Jesus Christ.

On the first Christmas night, the angel of the Lord was the messenger from God and he came to bear the good news about the birth of Jesus. He came to lowly shepherds who were out in the field tending their sheep on the Judean hillside.

We like that he can be a messenger of the Lord. Our message is not about Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, even though this is part of the story. Our message is a complete message which spans the lengths of time and tells about Jesus' birth, His life, His death, and His resurrection. However, there are some things which the messenger proclaimed that night which apply to our message today.

The messenger of the Lord proclaims the reality of Christ's birth. (Luke 2:10-12) The angel of the Lord that night long ago did not come proclaiming that the world was created. He did not come telling about the expected birth of a Messiah. The message of the angel was that for a fact, Jesus is born!

Suppose that Christ had not been born. That far-away Judean morn. Suppose that God, whose mighty hand Created worlds, had never planned A way for man to be redeemed. Suppose the Wise Men only dreamed That guiding star whose light still glows Down through the centuries, Suppose Christ never walked here in men's sight Our blessed Way, and Truth, and Light. As far as piteous heathen know, These things that I've "supposed" -- are so.

The messenger of the Lord proclaims the direction into

Christ's presence. (Luke 2:11-12) The way to Christ is distinct. The signs along the way are clear and as long as the shepherds kept their attention on the Christ, they were not misled. Religions may confuse us about how to get to heaven, but the real messenger of the Lord knows that the only solution to the problems of people and the remedy for loneliness and frustration are to be found in a person, Jesus Christ.

The Messenger of the Lord proclaims the rewards of Christ's coming. (Luke 2:10) The angel of the Lord came proclaiming the things which Jesus Christ would be. "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people!" The rewards of Jesus' coming mean more to us than physical meat and water. They mean spiritual discernment, moral correctness, and an awareness of God's supreme providence. To think of the rewards simply in terms of the eternal "heaven" is to dampen the glorious prospect of a life filled with overflowing with the presence of Christ and a life overflowing to others his marvelous love and redemption and grace. The real reward which the messenger of the Lord has to proclaim is Jesus Christ himself! Who can be a messenger

of the Lord? Do you have to be a preacher? Do you have to be ordained? Some would have us feel this way. In fact, this has been a great tool of the Devil in the years gone by.

The world is waiting for someone who has this message. Therefore, let you and me

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
OVER THE HILL AND EVERYWHERE
GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BORN

Median Fences To Be Built At Trent

AUSTIN--The Texas Highway Commission today approved installation of median barrier fences to improve safety at four railroad overpass locations on Interstate Highway 20 in West Texas. The locations and estimated costs are: --in Mitchell County at the T & P Railroad overpass at Lorraine, \$77,600. --in Nolan County at the Santa Fe Railroad overpass at Adrian Road, \$123,600. --in Taylor County at the T & F Railroad overpass at Trent, \$675,000.

these tips on skid prevention wintry roads. The trick to stopping on ice and control. is to keep the wheels from locking. Jamming on the brakes only sends the car into a slide. Use rapid, hard jabs spaced out in traffic. More room is required for stops on on-course stop.

GLORY TO GOD

And peace on earth, good will toward men! May the Christmas message inspire us with love for all.

Bullock Hardware & Gifts
Alameda, Grace and Willie

and to all... a good night

Dreaming of a wonderful Christmas? Here's hoping all your dreams come true this Yule. Holiday greetings from the management of

Asteroid Inn Motel
Merkel, Texas

Holiday Greetings

Just putting together the best of wishes for all our good friends. May this Yule season be a happy one for you and your loved ones. Thanks for your patronage.

Higginbotham-Bartlett
Raymond and Anna Lou
Pat, Linda, Debbie and Billie
Ikie

Just a cheery little greeting to say, may your Yuletide season be merry in every way!

Cyrus Pee Ins. Agency
Cyrus & Ethel

Warren Chalker Retires At Coca-Cola Co.

Warren Chalker, an employee of Texas-Coca-Cola Bottling Company, 2074 North First, Abilene, Texas, will retire on December 21, 1973, after 31 years of service. Warren and his wife, Alene, reside at 1142 Meander, Abilene. They are the parents of one daughter, Linda Kile, and grandparents of Todd and Laura Lile. Warren is a Deacon and former member of the Auditing Committee at First Baptist Church, Abilene.

Christmas Greetings

To you and your family, our sincere wishes for a home blessed by all the joys of the holiday season. Happy Yule!

Prestige Homes/Prestige Properties
Pauline Butman Joe Moore
Billy & Pat Neff

CHRISTMAS JOY

REST "ASSURED" THAT WE'RE WISHING ONLY THE BEST FOR YOU AT CHRISTMAS TIME. MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE MERRY!

Boney Insurance
Benny and Boney

Best Wishes

We hope you have a happy holiday!

Wilson Jewlery
Francis & Woody

Happy Holiday!

with friendly thoughts and wishes too, that Christmas brings the best to you.

Farmers Co-op Gin Society No. 1

Christmas Greetings

...and best wishes for a New Year of happiness in a world of peace.

Ed's Feed & Seed
Ed, Alwayne & Glen

Joyeux Noël

May the spirit of Christmas abide with you now and through the New Year.

Barley Garage
Tye, Texas

GREETINGS

Here's hoping you have a holiday season filled with old-fashioned cheer. Best wishes from all of us at

STARBUCK FURNITURE

JOY!

May the spirit and cheer of the season follow you and yours. This is our wish for you for the holiday and all through the year. Merry Christmas!

Fox Repair
Edith & Ollie

Holiday Greetings

...to you and yours this happy holiday season. Thank you for your patronage.

Conley Barber Shop
E. A.

Christmas Joy to All!

...and from all of us to all of you, the best of the holiday season. Thank you for your patronage.

Merkel Locker Plant

NOEL

May this Christmas find you at peace with the world and yourself.

Maries Beauty Korner

We have seen His star

...and are come to
worship Him. Such
was the message of
the Wise Men who
laid their gifts
before the newborn
King. Now, at Christ-
mas, the star of Beth-
lehem shines before
us more brightly than
ever. Let us follow it
to lasting peace.

The Merkel Mail

Steve and Kaye Lanham

Cecil and Pat Plyler

Connie Harris

Susie Castille



Letters To Santa Claus

LETTERS TO SANTA
(Editor's Note: Letters to Santa are re-printed as they came to the Mail with the exception of a few changes for clarification from all of Santa's friends.)

Dear Santa,
I am a little boy and I want a truck shifter and a pitch back, and also a train set and a football. I have a little sister that wants a rock-in horse and a little doll and I guess that's all she wants.

Your friends,
Mike and Patricia Hagar
307 Haynes St.

Dear Santa,
I want 1. a Tiny Tears 2. a Make up Set 3. and a finger nar kit. 4. and a bress 5. and a pear of big bell 6. a surprise 7 and I want a maxey.

Love,
Gena Farr
2202 Over St.
Abilene, Texas

Dear Santa,
I want a Gabagel. And a

make up set. And a bottle of finger nail polsh. And a pear of sque boots. and a pace suit. and a pear of hip-pugers, and a long purse, and a long Granny gown and I want it to be red. And some tan panny hose and I want a long maxie.

Love,
Cindy Mitchell
3218 South 4th
Abilene, Texas

Dear Santa,
One letter was received by the Merkel Mail and was from Papie and Michael. They had a very long list but it was

not very legible as it was probably written from someone who is between the age of 2-4 years.

Hope you will fill their list.
Michael & Papie
Dear Santa Clause,
Please can I have a live monkey.

How are you feeling?
I am very glad of Christmas.
I like you Santa Claus. I am 7 years old.

Love,
Selina Murray
111 Rose

Dear Santa,
I am writing you to let you know what I want for Christmas.

I want a 3 speed bicycle, a new radio because mine is broke, a tender love doll, a snopy tooth brush and I need a new coat with a hood.

I Love you,
Luan Johnson
P.S. And I want a black purse.
Dear Santa Clause,
I want a Whiet Christmas

and a Rifle. I also want a WildRider and a Farm Set and a Camper.

Darren Pack
Dear Santa Claus,
I want a Baby Alive doll that eats and drinks her food, play typewriter, a ring, cash register with play money, a car, a purse, some doll clothes, some new dresses and new shoes for me, and a telephone.

My brother wants a Evil Kanevil Set and a 10 speed bicycle.

Love,
Melanie Lanham
2118 Glendale
Abilene, Texas

Dear Santa Clause,
I want a barbie going camping set, and a hen, and a white christmas. And I also want a Doll and a real ring.

Please say Hi to your elfs and reindeers. I love you.
Thank you,
Kimberly Dawn Pack
402 Edwards

The following Letters to Santa Claus were written by Mrs. Bryan Dunagin's Third Grade Class.

Dear Santa Claus,
I want two barbee dolls, a camper to the dolls, a boy and a girl doll. I been good all year. I want a hula-hoop, and a baton. I want a ten speed bicycle and shoes. And a bingo game for Christmas. And I want twister. I want some go-go boots. I want some multiplication plask cards. I want a body shirt, and some levi brichis, and a lunch pail.

Love,
Lola Mae Bailey
Rt. 2

Dear Santa Claus,
I been good the way I should. I want a bicycle, Barbee Doll, dish and Barbee clothes, Baby Tender Love Doll and a Long Dress. We will be home.

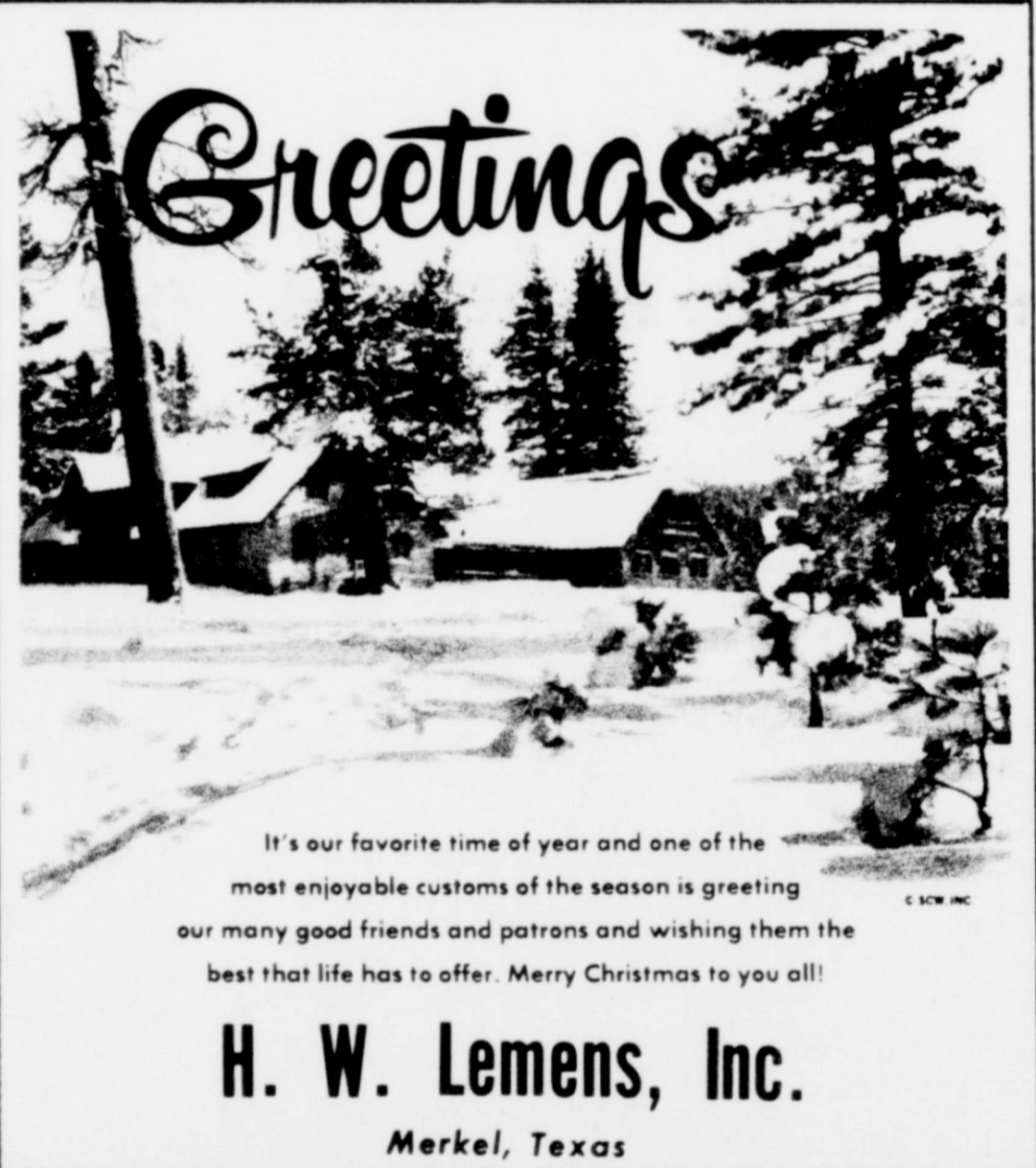
Your friend,
Stephanie Fortune
806 Rose St.



Happy Holiday
Tis the season to be jolly! Here's hoping your holidays are filled with only the very best!
Noodle Co-Op Gin
Noodle, Texas



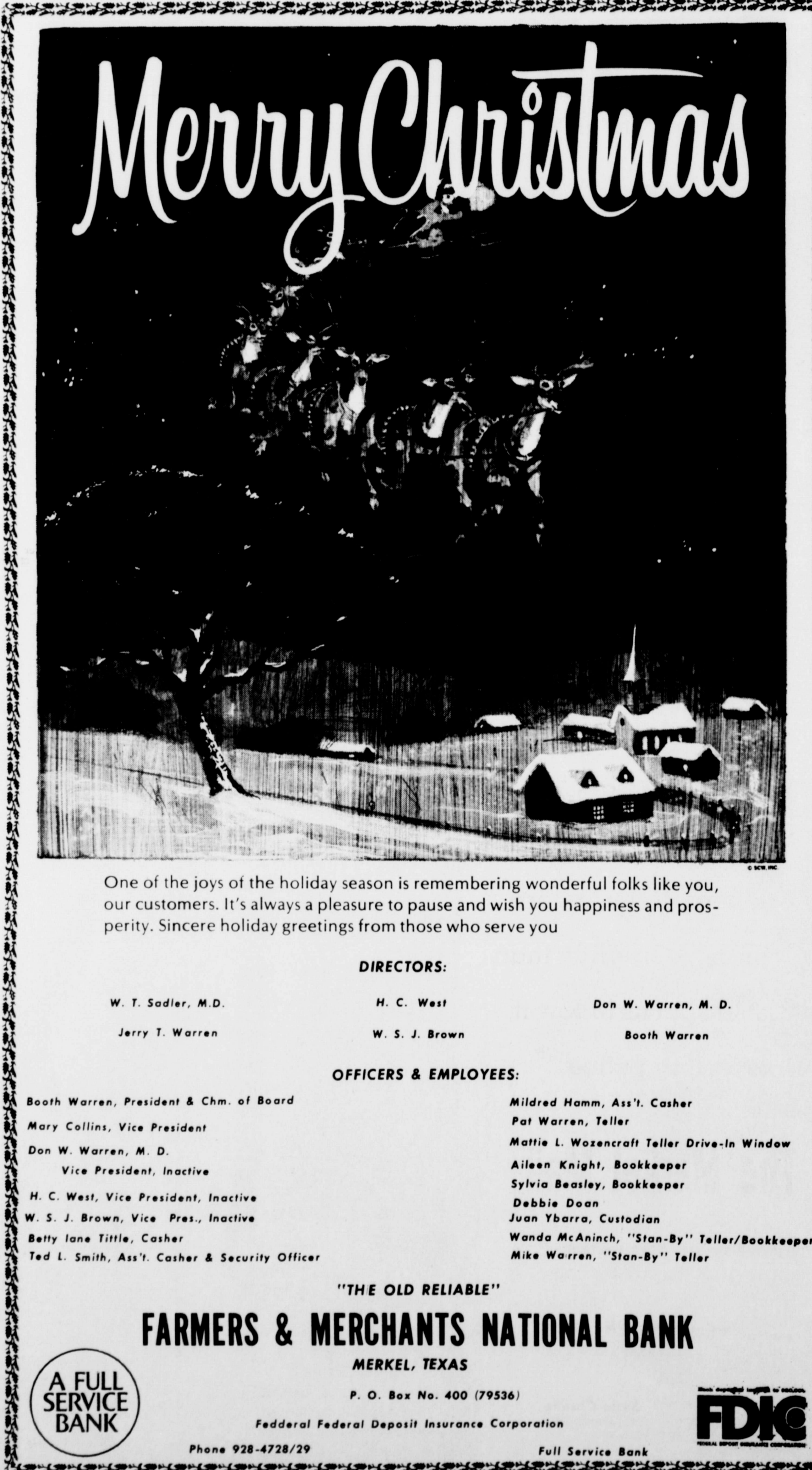
Season's Greetings
Times may have changed but one thing is still the same — sending holiday greetings to friends old and new. It's a pleasure to wish you happy holidays.
MERKEL DRUG CO.
Your Health Service Store
P.O. Box 501, MERKEL, TEXAS W.D. GAMBLE



Greetings
It's our favorite time of year and one of the most enjoyable customs of the season is greeting our many good friends and patrons and wishing them the best that life has to offer. Merry Christmas to you all!
H. W. Lemens, Inc.
Merkel, Texas



DOEL
Christmas blessings to you and yours at this holiday season...we sincerely hope that your fondest wishes will be realized. Greetings from the management and the entire staff at
Hardy's Grocery
Royce & Joy



Merry Christmas
One of the joys of the holiday season is remembering wonderful folks like you, our customers. It's always a pleasure to pause and wish you happiness and prosperity. Sincere holiday greetings from those who serve you

DIRECTORS:

W. T. Sadler, M.D.	H. C. West	Don W. Warren, M. D.
Jerry T. Warren	W. S. J. Brown	Booth Warren

OFFICERS & EMPLOYEES:

Booth Warren, President & Chm. of Board	Mildred Hamm, Ass't. Casher
Mary Collins, Vice President	Pat Warren, Teller
Don W. Warren, M. D. Vice President, Inactive	Mattie L. Wozencraft Teller Drive-In Window
H. C. West, Vice President, Inactive	Aileen Knight, Bookkeeper
W. S. J. Brown, Vice Pres., Inactive	Sylvia Beasley, Bookkeeper
Betty lane Tittle, Casher	Debbie Doan
Ted L. Smith, Ass't. Casher & Security Officer	Juan Ybarra, Custodian
	Wanda McAninch, "Stan-By" Teller/Bookkeeper
	Mike Warren, "Stan-By" Teller

"THE OLD RELIABLE"
FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK
MERKEL, TEXAS
P. O. Box No. 400 (79536)
Federal Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Phone 928-4728/29
Full Service Bank

A FULL SERVICE BANK
FDIC

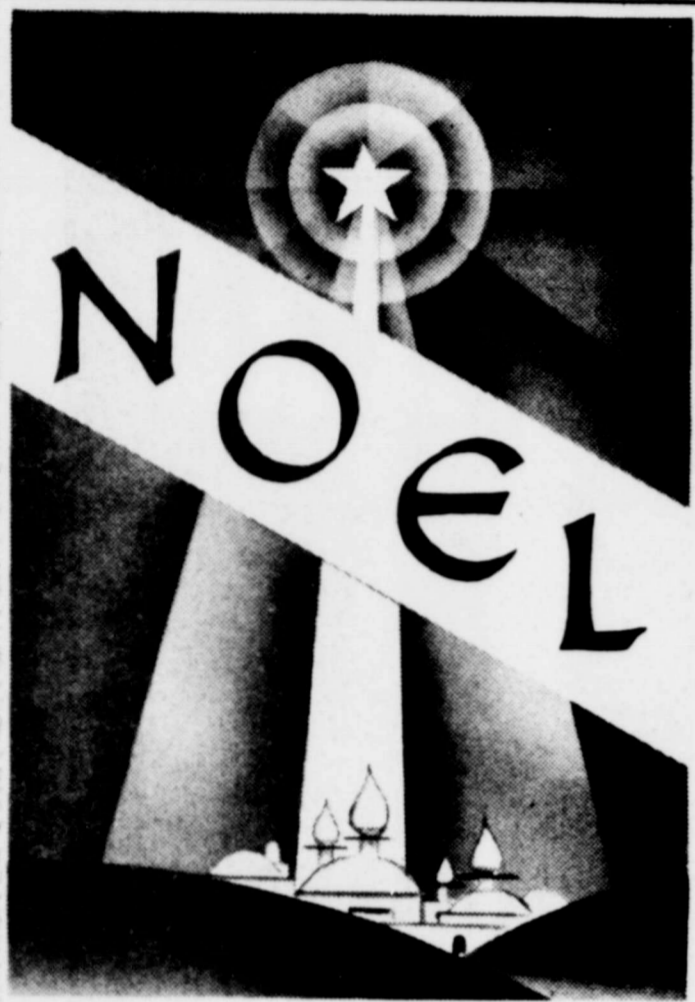


CHRISTMAS CHEER

We're sending old-fashioned greetings to all our good friends... may you have the merriest holidays!

Cypert Tax Service

Pinky & Mildred



May the true meaning of Christmas dawn once again and bring its blessings to the world and its people. We wish you all the best this holiday season.

Home State Bank

Trent, Texas Member of FDIC



We're never too busy to pause and wish you the best for this holiday season. Thank you for letting us serve you.



West Texas Telephone Company
A Member of Continental Telephone System

Ned Watts and Jimmy Atkinson

Letters To Santa Claus

Dear Santa Claus, I hope you are having fun reading our letters. I'm going to tell you what I want for Christmas. I want a football jersey, and a roadgrader, a train with a track, and a motorbike, and a plow for my tractor. I will be at home on Christmas night. But I will go to my grandfathers and grandmothers on Christmas morning. Your friend, Calvin Cooley Rt. 3

Dear Santa, This is what I want for Christmas. I want a 5 speed bicycle, a Barbie beauty cneter,

a Kodak instamatic camera. How is Mrs. Santa Claus? How are the elfs? I am fine. I wish you would bring me a real baby collie dog. I would love to have one.

Love,
Tammye
Rt. 3

(Drawing of Santa and Christmas tree with package on bottom of letter)

Dear Santa Claus, I want a bicycle for Christmas and some new pair of shoes, pretty one. I use size 3. I want some socks and a baby bear to sleep with. I want a baton for Christmas.

Love,
Diana Landeros
408 Ash St.

(Drawing of Christmas tree with pre ents under it on bottom of letter)

Dear Santa, I have been a good girl this year. I want a New Born Baby Tender Love, Doll House, Refrigerator, Sink, Stove, Bacon and Hoppity Micky Mouse, Melissa Ayne Harris Age 3 1/2 605 Haynes

STORY

Continued From Page One

his angels with him, then he will take his seat on his glorious throne. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate men from each other like a shepherd separating sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, "Come, you who have won my Father's blessing! Take your inheritance- the Kingdom reserved for you since the foundation of the world! For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was lonely and you made me welcome. I was naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you came and looked after me. I was in prison and you came to see me there."

Then the true men will answer him: "Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food? When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you lonely and make you welcome, or see you naked and clothe you, or see you ill or in prison and go to see you? And the King will reply, "I assure you that whatever you did for the humblest of my brothers you did for me." That is the story of Jesus and his message to us, and my message to you. That is the Christmas spirit.

HOW

Continued From Page One

water under the earth. WHAT WILL YOU WORSHIP THIS CHRISTMAS? WILL IT BE GOD OR WILL YOU JUST WORSHIP ALL THE GIFTS THAT YOU GET? WHAT CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE.

A time to seek the Saviour-- MATT. 2: 1-2-- Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, there came Wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and are come to worship Him."

Will you put Christ in your Christmas? -- JOHN 1:12-- But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God even to them who believe on his name. JOHN 3:16-- For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

To put Christ in your Christmas you must first let him come into your heart.



Holiday Cheer

Here's hoping your Christmas "sparkles" with lots of good things...health, happiness, and plenty of gifts from Santa! It's been a pleasure serving you in the past and we're looking forward to serving you again in the future. Sincere holiday greetings from the entire staff at

Taylor Telephone Cooperative



Happy Holiday!

Sing your carols of joy this Christmas season and fill the world with love and happiness.

From All The Folks At
Hicks Auto Supply



Christmas Greetings

If we may "coin" a phrase, we'd like to say to all our wonderful customers: "Best wishes for a very merry Christmas!"

Merkel Laundromat

O. D. and Mary Frances

COMING

Continued From Page One

but as King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

The first time He came in poverty, the next time He is coming in power. The first time He came alone; the next time "He cometh with ten thousands of His saints." (Jude 14). The first time He came in meekness. The next time He is coming in majesty! The first time He wore a crown of thorns. The next time He will wear a crown of glory and of gold (Rev. 14:14).

The first time He came as a Lamb. The next time He is coming as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The first time He came to die. The next time He is going to raise the dead.

The first time He came in fulfillment of prophecy. The next time He will be fulfilling his own promise, ("...I will come again." John 14:3). The first time He came as a Saviour. The next time He will come as a judge.

The Bible says, "He which testifieth these things saith surely I come quickly." (Rev. 22:20).

Dear friends, He who came the first time is coming the second time. The KING is coming! Are you ready for Him to come?

AFFAIR

Continued From Page One

of love that will last for all eternity. Perhaps if we celebrate that only one day a year we don't realize what we have.

This Christmas let us look at our lives and realize what we have been given. Then let us rejoice, share in love and in happiness. But let the celebration be longer than one day, after all we have a lot to celebrate-- Jesus.

The social security retirement and survivors insurance trust fund increased from \$2-3 billion in mid-'63 to \$7.6 billion in mid '73.

"And it came to pass in those days"



As we listen to the gospel narrative of the birth of Jesus, let us do as the Wise Men did...let us follow the Star of Bethlehem to worship our King and Saviour.

Lassiter Employment Service
Joe & Ruth



Hi!
We bring to you the heartiest of greetings. "Merry Christmas"

Merkel Country Club

Sat. 29th featuring "The Topics"



Let peace ring out for all this holiday season and bring the true joy of Christmas to you and your loved ones.

Crawford's

Onis, Tina, Horton, Strawn, Janie and Ruth R.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



The Yuletide season brings thoughts of Christmases gone by...and thoughts of friends like you. We sincerely hope that you enjoy the happiest of holidays!

Wylie Truck Terminal




Sincerely wishing you all the joys and blessings of the Christmas Season. May they follow you thru all the days of the year.

Carl Edwards Gro.
Trent, Texas



May your Christmas be merry and bright!

DuBose Texaco & Butane



Merry Christmas

Deck the halls with holly
... may joy reign in your hearts and homes this season!

The Dairy Bar
J. E., Marie & Family



MERRY CHRISTMAS

...may your holiday celebration be filled with the gaiety and happiness of the season. Thanks for your patronage.

Merkel Restaurant and Motel



NOEL

May the peace of Christmas be in all hearts this the most joyous of seasons. Happy holidays to you.

Fisher Fina and Merkel Auto Parts

Holy Night



As we rejoice in the message of Christmas, our prayer is that your life may be blessed with love.

Fabric Care Center & Coin-O-Matic Car Wash

Billie Mac Cook & Ola

Silent Night



May the blessings of the Christmas season be yours. Greetings from

El-Tye-O Trailer Sales
Tye, Texas

Season's Greetings



May the Christmas Season be a memorable and joyous time filled with blessings and love for all.

Joyce, Iris, Jeanie Stanley and Sherry

Quikstop and Boot Shop

GLORY TO GOD



...and peace on earth, good will toward men! Let us rejoice at Christmastime.

Star Hardware
Trent, Texas

Silent Night

As we celebrate the Saviour's birth, we pray that His blessing may abide with you at Christmas and in the days to come.

Sybils Beauty Nook
Phone 928-4858

Letters To Santa Claus

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Santa,
How do you like it up at the north pole? How are your reindeers? This is what I want for Christmas. Evil Kivenil stunt chugin, rokem socken Robots, Chugin Choo Choo.
my sister wants something too, a play like dolly that cries and a Chugin Cho Cho. We have been good girls.
We love you,
Jill and Pam Douglass

Dear Santa,
I want a baby alive and a record player, I also want some clothe and bottles. I want a real kitchen (a white persian), Bring Sammie, my sister, A Teddy Bear, (my sister) Bring my big sister Vicki a makeup mirror, I also want Barbie-going camper.
Love,
Lori,
507 Ash
9 year old

Dear Santa,
My name is Bonnie Anderson, I want some dishes and a doll house. I want a saucy doll. I want Barbie doll camper. I want a play filmstrip.
Bonnie Anderson
401 Manchester

(Drawing of Santa on bottom of letter)
Dear Santa Claus,
At Christmas, we are always at grandmothers. I hadn't always got what I want. I am eight years old. I want a football jersey like the Dallas Cowboys, number 12. And I want a many-bike.

I better go on about it, lets get to the point. On Christmas you get too much and you don't now what to play with. I let one game out that is Stay-Alive. Christmas is love. You know that Christmas you have holow days. Have you ever really ever new what Christmas is?

Your friend,
Jeff
1516 Heath St.
Dear Santa,
I want for Christmas, a newborn baby tender love, baby carriage, and a electric typewriter.

How is Mrs. Santa and the elfs and reindeers. Its very cold in the North Pole isn't it?
We have been learning Christmas songs we learned When Santa Claus Gets Your Letter, and Santa Watches Little Children and Jingle Bells, and Christmas carols by the Old Carrol.

Well bye. See you Christmas Eve.
Love,
Linda Holmes
108 Ash St.

Dear Santa Claus,
I want for Christmas, a race trake, a bike, a bee bee gun, a big Jim, and a game called twister, I want a pair of boots size 4 and I want for my brother a pair of boots and he wants and he wants a train and a football game and some Levi pants.
Your friend,
Ricky Pena
410 Thornton St.
Dear Santa Claus,
I want a gun for Christmas and I want a hat for Christmas too. Can you get me a gun and a hat for Christmas.
Love,
Frank Lindsey
602 El Paso St.



Greetings

A Time To Say
Thank You
As we approach the threshold of another year, Our thoughts turn gratefully to those whose courtesy, good will and loyalty have helped make our progress possible. In this spirit we extend to you Season Greetings.

BRAGGS
Mary, Ethel,
Florance and Fern



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Here's a sleighful of good wishes for you, our patrons. Thank you for letting us serve you in the past—hope to serve you again.

Merkel Fina Station
Buddy & Orene




Blessings to All

Like the Wise Men of the Scriptures, let us follow the Star of Bethlehem, that our lives may be blessed by the Infant Jesus. We wish you and yours a happy Christmas season.

My Wife Billie and I
Wish All of You A Merry Christmas

Elmer Martin
State Representative
District 61

Greetings



We're milking this wish for all its worth— may this holiday season be your merriest & the year ahead your happiest!

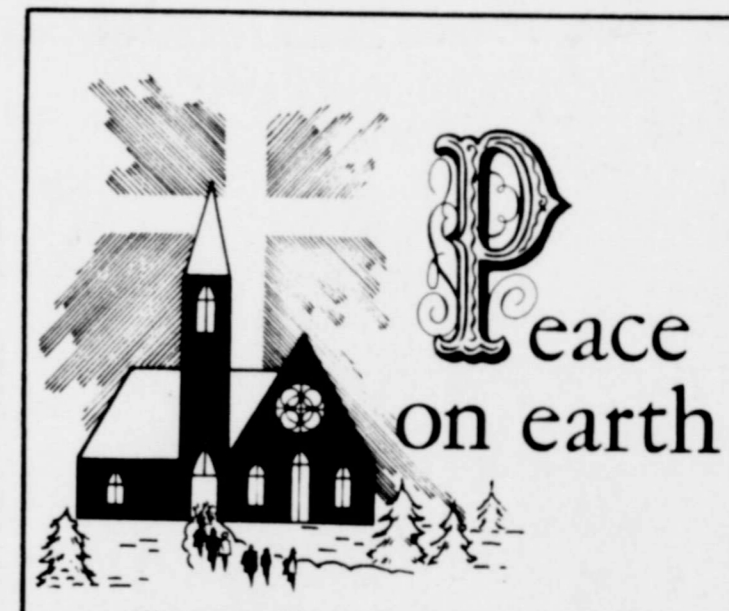
Hohhertz Dairy
The Harold and A. E. Hohhertz Families
Abilene, Texas



Joy to all

God's love, manifested on that very first Christmas, still lights the world. May that light dwell within every heart at this holiest of seasons. Greetings from

John and Gladys



Peace on earth

We extend our warmest wishes for the Christmas Season and the coming year. May He fill your heart with joy.

Seymore Insurance
Mac, Ida, Stacy & Ted



Good Tidings

We wish that this Christmas Season will bring the spirit of His loving grace to your heart. May His light guide you every day.

Starr Nursing Home
Mary Outlaw
Joyce Minnick

Letters To Santa Claus

Dear Santa Claus,
I been good the way I should. I want two Barbie dolls, bicycle, Mrs. Beasley and Buffy dolls, Baby Tender-Love, Watch, clothes, six Levi, shirts, baby bed, dishes, boots and a bunch of things.
Love,
Dilana Atkinson
1411 Stewart St.

baby bear. I have been good the way I should and I want paper dolls for Christmas.
Love,
Emma Flores
RT. 2
Dear Santa Claus,
We are learning our Christmas carols. I want a Mrs. Beasley and Buffy dolls. I want new born tender love doll. And I want a talking doll. I am in the third grade. I want some cloths and shoes and socks.
Love,
Lisa Gail Montgomery
1111 South 2nd St.
Dear Santa Claus,
I want a walkie talkies

and operation and a small radio and Criss-Cross game for Christmas.
Your friend,
Jeffery Wyatt
RT. 2
Dear Santa,
I want a ten speed bike and I want it little. I also want a new born tender love. I want a barbie vanity case. I want a pie maker. I want a game call operation also. I want some Kelly clothes for my barbie. I want a game call Mystery Date.
How is Mrs. Santa and the elfs and reindeer? I bet it is cold up there. Well see

you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas to all.
Love,
Tina Bicknell
512 Yucca
(Drawing on bottom of letter of Santa, bag of toys, house with christmas tree in window and snow falling outside house.
Dear Santa Claus,
I would like some cars for my train, a new train engine, and some track. I would like to have an electric shooting gallery. I would like to have the mousetrap game. I want a Target game. I want one of those Big Jim Rescue Rigs. I want a life game, I want a new 10 speed bike 26 inch or a 24 inch.
Your friend,
Randy Leverich
1513 Sunset Dr.
Dear Santa Claus,
I want a David Casady guitar, a shoulder purse like they have at K Mart and a Sew magic, a micky mouse radio, a jewelry box, a watch and a surprise. I will be at my house Christmas eve. I can hardly wait till Christmas Eve. I got my letter from you, tell the new baby reindeer that I hope he will have fun Christmas Eve.
Your friend,
Kandie Richie
1709 South 3rd
Dear Santa Claus,
I like you to bring sum toys for my letter brother. I want you to bring a model car for my big brother. I want a b-b gun, a wagon, a guitar. I like to have everything.
Your friend,
Willie Taylor
RT. 2
Dear Santa,
My name is Tim Brady. I am good as I can be. I want a sled, electric shot shooting gallery, and operation game. Big Jim camp and set, bumper shot on target, and Stratego.
How is Mrs. Santa and the elfs and reindeer? I bet its cold up there. I'll see you and Rudolph on Christmas Eve and I love you Santa.
Love,
Tim Brady
RT. 3
Dear Santa,
I want a bike for Christmas and TTP motorcycle. I will leave you milk and cookie and maybe some pie. And I will be at home. My brother wants a ten-speed and I don't know what else. I don't know what she wants.
Your friend,
Chris Mashburn
North 6th St.

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a minibike helmet. I already have the minibike. I have to brothers, their names are Mike and Jerry. Mike would like a bike. Jerry would like a gun. I will be at home.
Your friend,
Timmy
RT. 1
Dear Santa Claus,
I want a Barbie Beauty Center and a Easy Bake Oven and a Easy Bake Oven Refill and a Basketball goal and a Basketball and Knuckle Busters and Socker Bockers. That's all I want.
Your friend,
Melissa Tomlin son
609 Locust

Dear Santa,
I am seven years old. I want a baby alive and a stroller and buggy. I'd rather have the stroller. I want a nursekit. I also want some doll clothes and a diaper and diaper bag.
By the way how is Rudolph and Mrs. Santa Claus?
Remember not to go down our chimney because it is blocked off. But we have a play fireplace.
Be nice to all the little kids (and Jodie too).
Love,
Judy Jinkens
P.S. I want a record player and records.

Colored Christmas tree on bottom of letter.
Dear Santa Claus,
I want two barbee dolls, and a baby doll and I want a bicycle and I want Mrs. Beasley and Buffy dolls. I want



'Tis the season to be jolly! We hope your holidays are filled with good cheer and lots of good things! Thank you so much for your patronage throughout the past year.

From All The Folks At
MAX MURRELL CHEVROLET



It's Christmas once again! May the season be a truly joyous one for you, our many fine customers. Thank you for your loyal patronage.

Taylor Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Jane M. Carson
Dorothy Gilmore
Georgia Higgins
Margaret McAninch
Inez G. Purser
Faye Robertson
Betty Lu Satterwhite
Jo Ann Smith
Patsy Walker
Tommie F. Cutler
B.J. Gist
Don Hart- Manager
Kent Satterwhite
Wayne Adcock
Hugh Baker
F.T. Bartlett
Lonnie T. Beard
Carroll Benson
Mack Bigbee
Horace Childers
John Clark, Jr.
A.C. Cuin

Wayne Deen
C.E. Derington, Jr.
Danny Doan
Donny Doan
Ronny Doan
Vaughn Doan
J.D. Gentry
Dale Hammond
Leo Harris
Paxton Hays
Bob Hook
Henry L. Howard
Jimmy E. Leverich
Hollis Mitchell
Manfred Noster
Roland Pack
Jerry F. Patterson
Jerry W. Russell
David Scott
Gary Smith
Buster Thompson
Walter E. Whisenhunt
Lee Ybarra

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Taylor Electric Cooperative, Inc. Merkel, Texas
Odos Moore, Chairman
R.C. Watts, Jr., Vice Chairman
Jack Marrow, Secretary- Treasurer
Tommie Johnson
Clovis McElmurray
J. Riley Miller
Ray Orsborn
J. D. Sandusky
Alton Witeaker
Maurice V. Brooks, Attorney
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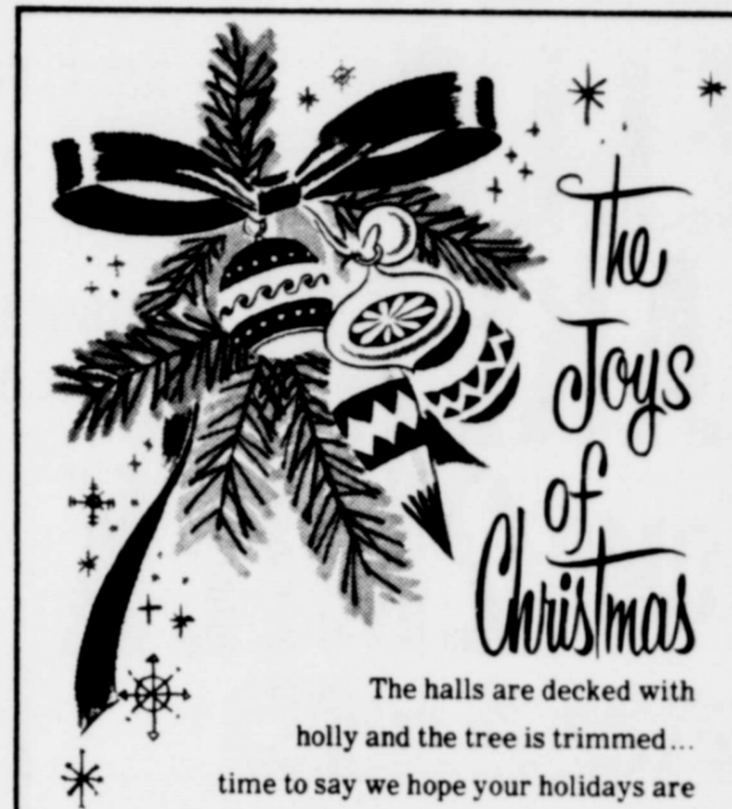
Here's hoping Santa brings you all the things you wish for...including health and happiness.

Walter Riney Gulf

Walter and Ruth
Trent, Texas



We can't think of anyone we'd rather greet than you, our patron! Here's hoping your holiday season is joyful!
Modern Beauty Shop
Gladys & Renea



The halls are decked with holly and the tree is trimmed... time to say we hope your holidays are merry and filled with many good things!

Minter's
Abilene, Texas



Here are wishes expressly for our many friends: the happiest of holidays and the best of everything! Thanks for your patronage.

Abilene Farm Supply

"Your Authorized John Deere Dealer"
Abilene Phone 692-2255



May every joy and blessing of this season be yours. We're happy to have the opportunity to thank you for your patronage.

From All The The Folks At
Cal-Tex Feed Yards

We wish to take this time to thank you, our patrons for your support during the past year.
Henderson Grain Co.
Merkel, Texas

a joyous Noel to all our good friends...may the blessings of Christmas abide with you and yours all through the season and in the year to come.
Mansfield Farm & Ranch Supply
Bobbye Mansfield

We wish to thank you for your patronage during the past year and to express our warmest wishes for a very Merry Christmas and New Year.
Harold Crawford
Westgate Firestone
Abilene, Texas

We wish to thank you for your patronage during the past year. Merry Christmas.
From All The Folk At
Carson's Super Market

Our sincerest wish this holiday season is that all our friends may know the joy of Christmas. Thank you for your patronage throughout the year.
Pug and Leo
And All The Employees At
Asteroid Restaurant

Merry Christmas FEASTING and Happy **SAVINGS** too!

PRICES GOOD THURSDAY THRU MONDAY
4 BIG DAYS
DEC. 20-21-22-24th
CHRISTMAS MIX CANDIES
Bag 33¢

MRS. TUCKER
SHORTENING
3 LB. CAN **79¢**
WITH 7.50 IN TRADE OR MORE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

CANNED FRUIT ALL KINDS
BORDEN-GANDY-FOREMOST
WHIPPING CREAM
HALF HALF CRTN. **39¢**

SUNSHINE
HIHO CRACKERS LB. **49¢**
WHITE SYRUP
KARO
QT. JAR **69¢**

EAGLE BRAND
MILK
14 oz. CAN **43¢**

TEA
LIPTON
1/2 LB BOX **79¢**

REYNOLDS
FOIL WRAP
25 FT. ROLL **49¢**

GLADIOLA
MEAL
5 LB BAG **59¢**

BORDEN-GANDY-FOREMOST
EGG NOG
QUART **69¢**

FLOUR
JELLO (6 LIMIT)
CAKEMIX
HOMO 2MILK

GLADIOLA 10 LB. BAG **1.69**
ASST. FLAVORS 3oz. BOX **3 FOR 29¢**
DUNCAN HINES ASSORTED **2 FOR 79¢**
I.G. DAIRY FRESH GAL. THROW AWAY JUG **1.25**

12 oz. CAN SEVEN UP or **COKECOLA**
6 PACK CRTN. **69**

OLEO **PARKAY**
POUND CRTN. **39¢**

CARSON'S COUPON
SAVE 50¢ WHEN YOU BUY A 10 oz. Jar of INSTANT FOLGER'S COFFEE CRYSTALS
SPECIAL PRICE WITH THIS COUPON **1.49**
WITHOUT COUPON 1.99
GOOD THRU DEC. 24th

CARSON'S COUPON
SAVE 25¢ WHEN YOU BUY A 1 LB. CAN of FOLGER'S COFFEE
SPECIAL PRICE WITH THIS COUPON **73¢**
WITHOUT COUPON 98¢
GOOD THRU DEC. 24th

Frozen Foods
BIRDS EYE
Cool Whip 9 oz. ctn. **49¢**
TROPHY 10oz. **STRAWBERRIES** **29¢**
MORTONS **PUMPKIN PIE** **39¢**

I.G. DAIRY FRESH
HOMO MILK GAL. JUG **1.35**
DAIRY FRESH
BUTTER MILK 1/2 GAL. CRTN. **63¢**
BORDEN-GANDY FOREMOST
SOURCREAM or DIPS ctn. **49¢**

DEL-MONTE 303 **FRUIT Cocktail** 2 FOR **63¢**
DEL MONTE CRUSHED or SLICED **PINEAPPLE** 2 for **69¢**
OCEAN SPRAY 300 **Cranberry Sauce** 2 for **59¢**
DEL MONTE CUT 303 **Green BEANS** 2 for **53¢**
DEL MONTE 303 C. S. **Golden CORN** 2 FOR **45¢**
DEL MONTE 303 **Garden PEAS** 2 FOR **49¢**
DEL-MONTE 303 **SPINACH** 2 FOR **43¢**

Happiness Is Eating a
HORMEL HAM
WHOLE **99¢**
SHANK HALF LB. **89¢**
BUTT HALF LB. **95¢**

WISH BONE
FRENCH DRESSING 8 oz. BOT. **33¢**
PHILADALPHID **CREAMCHEESE** 8oz. PKG. **39¢**
KRAFTS MINITURE **MARSHMELLOWS** 10 oz. PKG. **23¢**
FRANCO AMERICAN **GIBLET** CHICKEN GRAVY **29¢**
MYCO 11 oz. **MANDARIN ORANGES** CAN. **29¢**

KRAFT 7 oz. **MARSHMALLOW CREAM** .. **29¢**
SUN KIST **NAVEL ORANGES** POUND **19¢**
FRESH **Cranberries** LB. **33¢**
WASHINGTON DELICIOUS **RED APPLES** LB. **29¢**

TURKEY USDA HENS
GOLD CREST 12-16LBS **73¢**
BUTTER BALLS 12-18 LBS **85¢**

DASH GT. BOX **69¢**
TEXSUN **GRAPEFRUIT JUICE** 46oz. CAN **39¢**
GAIN GT. BOX (1 LIMIT) **69¢**
IVORY GT. BOT. **49¢**

FRESH **LETTUCE** LB. **15¢**
DOLE **BANANAS** LB. **10¢**
FRESH **CELERY** LB. **12¢**
YELLOW ONIONS LB. **15¢**

CHICKEN FRESH HENS LB. **69¢**
ROAST STEAK CHOICE BEEF CHUCK LB. **89¢**
CHOICE BEEF T-BONE LB. **1.59**
BACON SAUSAGE DECKER POUND LB. **99¢**
DECKER POUND **79¢**

Authorized STORE FOR FOOD STAMPS CARSONS
WE GIVE GIFT BOND STAMPS
Double on Wednesday with \$5.00 or more

CARSON'S
SUPER MARKET