

Taylor County's
Only
Legal Weekly
Newspaper

The Merkel Mail

10¢
Per Copy

PRICE 10¢--PUBLISHED WEEKLY

MERKEL, TEXAS, FEBRUARY 28, 1974 -SIX PAGES

VOLUME NO. 85 NO. 1

L. B. Howard

Former Resident Tells About Early Cotton

Dear Sirs,
In November of last year, my wife and I visited my two sisters in O'Donnell, Lynn Co. The dividing line of Lynn and Dawson counties runs through the south part of O'Donnell in the Athlete-Reporter-News recently, Dawson County had ginned some 285,000 bales of cotton this year (1973). They expected to get 300,000 before the gins shut down. Lynn County, I am positive, will not be far behind, as both counties looked like a solid bank of snow. Most of Lynn County is dry land farming, and was making a bale per acre or better. That 'ain't hay' at 50 to 60¢ per lb. One gin in O'Donnell had 1,000 bales waiting to be ginned the day I was there. There were two other big gins in town.

This cotton business reminded me of my boyhood spent in Merkel, and the many facets connected with the raising and marketing of the fleecy staple.

My parents sold their strawberry and wheat farm in 1901 in the mountains of East Tennessee; came to Abilene, then on over to Merkel, and bought the short section (590 Acres) just east of Rose Hill Cemetery. Everyone said they paid too much for the old place; \$8,000 per acre with all minerals intact. My father, not knowing anything about cotton, rented the place out, and helped J. T. Warren and Tom Johnson open the F&M Bank. After land went 'real high,' \$25.00 Per A.

he sold out, bought the old Browning home place, where the Merkel School cafeteria is now located. This was our home for many years.

But back to cotton. We boys who lived in town had very little to do except play baseball and tennis. There were three to six weeks in June and early July that we would 'hit' the cotton and maize fields. The pay was always the same, \$1.00 per day with room and board. A day meant from sun to sun, which figured out about 14 to 15 hours, with a very 'short' hour out for dinner (no lunch) in those days. We did not need sleeping pills when we hit the 'sack' around 9:00 each night. No radio, no T.V., no picture shows, but some of the good farmers had 'family altar' each night, but we boys were too tired to stay awake, if the prayers were very long.

There were no government programs on cotton (or anything else) in those days. No co-ops, no classifying offices, no allotments, 'no nothing'. Farmers brought their cotton to the six or seven gins in Merkel in wagons (there were no pick-ups). After getting 'ginned off,' they would drive up on the main drag from the R.R. to the Anchor Mercantile Co. to get the highest bid for their cotton. Here's where the fun really started. Ten or fifteen hungry cotton buyers, with sharp pocket knives, would try to be the first to sample each bale.

SEE HOWARD Pg. Two

McMurtry Chanters To Give Concert at Butman Camp

The Chanters Choir from McMurtry College will present a concert on Saturday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m., at Butman Methodist Camp. The concert will be a preview of their annual spring tour. The choir will be at the camp March 1 and 2 for a retreat before beginning the tour.

The concert is free to the public. Refreshments will be served after the performance.

Church of Christ Presents Series On The Home

Glenn Owen, one of the ministers of the Church of Christ in Merkel announced a special series of studies to be presented on the home. The series of six lessons will be presented on six consecutive Sunday nights beginning March 3rd.

Dinner, Pie Sale Planned Trades Day

Merkel will have Trades Day Saturday, March 2. The Ladies' Auxiliary to the Fire Department are holding a Spaghetti Dinner at the Masonic Lodge from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The menu will include Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Salad, Garlic Bread, Tea or Coffee. The cost is \$1.50 for Adults and 75¢ for Children.

The Band Boosters will have a stand selling Frito Pie, which will be set up in front of the West Texas Utilities Building.

The Senior Citizens will have a Garage Sale in the Senior Citizens Building. Anyone wishing to rent a table may do so.



GARDEN CLUB SPEAKER--Mrs. Charles Griggs, left, of Sweetwater, with Mrs. Jonny Cox discussing a flower arrangement before Mrs. Griggs talk to the club. The flower exhibit is based on Johanthan Livingston's poem "Seagulls." Mrs. Cox is president of the Merkel Garden Club. (Staff photo by Kaye Lanham)

Mrs. Griggs, National Flower Judge, Merkel Garden Club Speaker

"Flower arranging is an art that requires knowledge of art principle and technique of design," said Mrs. Charles Griggs, National Flower Judge from Sweetwater, who was guest speaker of the Merkel Garden Club Thursday.

Mrs. Griggs stated,

"There is nothing awesome about being an artist with plant material--we can earn this title."

"Flower arranging is a stimulating, happy--and to some--a spiritual experience. It has been embraced by people of all nationalities, ideologies, ages and

sexes. Be not afraid of the word "artist," Mrs. Griggs told the 34 members and guests present.

"To be one, it helps--of course--to have an eye for color and design but the major factor is instinct. Success stems often from a personality that is not satisfied with mediocrity and is willing to work hard for distinction."

Mrs. Griggs also told the group the impact of an arrangement depends equally on the emotions felt by the arranger and the sensibility of the viewer. Interpretive arrangements can be very special kind of still life--the humor and tragedy--the beauty and ugliness--in other words: story telling. Be an adventurer--develop your own style--call up the images of your mind, she explained.

Nineteen flower exhibits were shown and explained to the club by Mrs. Griggs, one of which was called "West Texas" which won her 1st place in San Antonio out of 9 districts competing.

She has served two terms as State Conservation Chairman, has written a series of articles on conservation in Lone Star Gardeners, is past president of Texas Judges Council, past district director, won 1st Texas State award for T.V. program on Flower Arranging over KPAR in Abilene, and is on official state speakers list.

Mrs. Johnny Cox, president, welcomed the members and guests.

The guest speaker was introduced by Mrs. W. T. Sadler.

Program chairman is Miss Christine Collins. Next meeting will be March 21 when Mrs. Ross Ferrier Jr. of Ft. Worth will conduct a flower workshop at the Senior Citizen Building. Mrs. Albert Criswell and Mrs. Tom Allday will be hostess.

First United Methodist To Hold Revival March 3-6

The First United Methodist Church will hold a Revival March 3rd through 6th.

Dr. Clifford Trotter, District Superintendent of the Lubbock District will be guest speaker. Dr. Trotter has been pastor at Hawley, Trent and Fair Park Methodist Churches in this area.

All-District Teams Include 4 Merkelites

The following basketball players from Merkel made the following teams in District 8-A All-District:

BOYS
Second team: Robert Morgan, Darel Bunch, and Jeff Cox.

Honorable mention: Jackie Sims and David Copeland.

GIRLS
Second team: Cindy Whisenand, senior.

Honorable mention: Forward, Netta Stephan, and Guard, Jody Barnes.



ELECTED MR. AND MISS Merkel Junior High School recently were Pam Morgan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Morgan of Tye, and Grant Murrell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Murrell. (Staff Photos by Connie Harris)

Don Hart Re-Elected CofC Prexy; Banquet Finalized

Don Hart was re-elected president of the Chamber of Commerce at a meeting of the board of directors of the Chamber Monday night. This will be the second year that Hart has headed the Chamber. Betty Jane Tittle was elected vice president of the organization. Miss Tittle is the outgoing secretary-treasurer. Joe Lassiter is the outgoing vice pre ident.

Elected to serve as secretary - treasurer for the coming year was Travis Davis, principal of Merkel High School.

The results of the recent election for directors was also announced by Benny Melton, Chamber Manager. New directors elected were Travis Davis, Blanche Hewitt (Mrs. Hewitt was an associate director), and George Starbuck.

Retiring directors this year are Mrs. Ray Wilson, Bill Button and E. A. Conley.

Plans were finalized for the Chamber of Commerce Banquet to be held at the school cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. March 12. Mrs. Ray Wilson, Banquet Committee Chairman, told the board that Bartons Cafeteria from Abilene will cater the annual event. Price of the tickets has been set at \$3.00 each. She also told the group that Larry White of Merkel will be the Master of Ceremonies for the banquet.

Chamber Manager Benny Melton told the board that Larry Gill, Associate Minister of the Merkel Church of Christ will give the invocation. The Rev. Russell McAnally, pastor of the First Methodist Church, will give benediction, Melton said.

At the suggestion of Joe Lassiter, the Board issued a special invitation to all ex-Merkel residents to attend the banquet.

New officers for the coming year will officially take office at the banquet.

The Board ask all members of the chamber to get behind



DON HART
...president

TRAVIS DAVIS
...secretary-treasurer

the ticket sale. It was pointed out that a good estimate as to the number of persons to attend the banquet was important for the committee to be able to give the catering firm direction on how many persons to plan for. There were 14 members

present which included Herman Carson, Mack Fisher, Travis Davis, Benny Melton, Mrs. Ray Wilson, Betty Jane Tittle, Blanche Hewitt, Duane Shugart, Don Hart, Joe Lassiter, Bobby DuBose, Truitt Thompson, George Starbuck, and Steve Lanham.

Stephan, Tucker File For School Board

Robert Stephan became the 16th person to file for the Merkel School Board. Stephan filed this week. He is presently a member of the Board.

Lee Tucker filed Tuesday morning, making 17 persons to file for the seven vacancies. The voters will fill the entire board this year due to the recent consolidation of the Tye and Merkel School

Coyote Control Course Set for March 5th

A training school for the recently EPA approved experimental program for the control of the coyote will be held in Abilene March 5. County Agent for Taylor County, H. C. Stanley announced that the meeting will be held on the third floor of the old Taylor County Courthouse at 3 p.m.

Dr. Milo Shult, Specialist with the Texas Agriculture Extension Service at A&M will be the instructor for the course.

"Anyone with a Coyote problem should make plans to attend the meeting as this is a requirement for participation in the experiment," Stanley said. "If a person does not attend the meeting, they will not be able to obtain the M-44 gun or sodium cyanide," he said.

There will also be a representative from the Texas Department of Agriculture at the meeting Stanley said.

Noel Walters Services Held

Noel Walters, 59, of Trent, died Thursday at 3 p.m. in Trent. Services will be Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Trnt Baptist Church.

The Rev. Price Mathieson, pastor, will officiate, with burial in Trent Cemetery under the direction of Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born Aug. 11, 1914, he had been a resident in Trent for the past 15 years.

Survivors are two sons, Alvin of Kansas City, Mo., and Gary of Lubbock; three daughters, Mrs. Hollis Walters of Bryan, Mrs. Sherry Wagoner of Fort Worth and Penny Campbell of Hobbs, N.M.; two brothers, A.D. of Hobbs, N.M. and Merkel of Pittsburgh, Pa.; one sister, Mozelle McBrady of Jacksonville, Fla.; and two grandchildren.

VALENTINE KING & QUEEN for Merkel Junior High are Lisa Shugart and Scott Cain. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Duane Shugart and Mr. and Mrs. John Cain.

SHOP IN MERKEL SATURDAY --- TRADES DAY

March Menu Makers

THU.-FRI.-SAT.-FEB.28-MAR.1-2

WILSON FOOD STORE

SAVE 60¢ WHEN YOU BUY A
2 LB. CAN of FOLGER'S COFFEE



SPECIAL PRICE WITH THIS COUPON
\$1.49

WITHOUT COUPON \$2.29
Coupon cash value 1/20 of 1¢

GOOD THRU 3-30-74

CRISCO	With \$7.50 or More in Trade Exclusive of Cigarettes	3 LB. CAN	1 ⁰⁹
CORN NIBLETS	12 oz. CAN	2 FOR	45¢
TAMALES	GEBHARTS NO. 300 SIZE		29¢
PIE FILLER	WIN-YOU CHERRY 16oz. JAR		59¢
SLOPPY JOE	MORTON HOUSE BEEF 15 oz. CAN		59¢
PEANUT BUTTER	JIF 28 oz. JAR		1 ⁰⁹
CAT SUP	HEINZ 26 oz. BOTTLE		49¢
SYRUP	STALEY'S WAFFLE 24 oz. BOTTLE		59¢
PANCAKE MIX	AUNT JEMIMA COMPLETE 24 oz. BOX		59¢
FLOUR	GLADIOLA 5 LB. BAG		89¢

BUTTER	GANDYS 1/2 GAL.	69¢
MILK	MARIGOLD 2% HOMO	1 ³³
MILK	HOMO REG.	1 ⁴³
MIRACLE WHIP	KRAFTS SALAD DRESSING QT.	79¢
EGGS	GARRETT'S MEDIUM doz.	67¢
STEW	SWIFT PREMIUM 24 oz. CAN	79¢
PEARS	CAL-RIPE NO. 2 1/2 CAN	39¢
KLEENEX	200 COUNT PKG.	35¢

SNAPPY TOM TOMATO COCKTAIL	10 oz. CAN 2 FOR 39¢	BEST MAID ORANGE DRINK	1/2 GAL. 39¢
HUNTS TOMATO SAUCE	8 oz. CAN 3 FOR 39¢	3 MINUTE POP CORN	10 oz. CAN 19¢
VIENNAS	2 FOR 49¢	HUNTING LICENSE	NOW AVAILABLE
Instant Tea	3 oz. JAR 1 ¹⁹	MONEY ORDERS	

NABISCO VANILLA WAFERS	22oz. BOX 39¢
PICKLES	BEST MAID SOUR or DILL QT. 49¢
BEST MAID APPLE BUTTER	28 oz. JAR 45¢
PINEAPPLE PRESERVES	18 oz. JAR 45¢
PALMOLIVE LIQUID	GIANT SIZE 49¢
FAB DETERGENT	GIANT SIZE 79¢


FROZEN FOOD

FOX SAUSAGE or HAMBURGER PIZZAS	EACH \$1 ⁰⁹
KEITHS DINNER ROLLS	PKG. of 24 39¢
ELCHICO MEXICAN or ENCHILADA DINNERS	EACH 49¢

PRODUCE Specials

DOLE BANANAS	LB. 10¢
TEXAS ORANGES	5 LB. BAG 59¢
RUBY RED Grapefruit	2 FOR 25¢
CABBAGE	LB. 10¢
LETTUCE	HEAD 25¢
Strawberries	CTN. 49¢

GOOCH	HOT BAR-B-Q BEANS CHILI - POTATO SALAD PIMENTO CHEESE	
BOLOGNA	GOOCHS ALL MEAT	98
WEINERS	ARMOUR PKG.	69¢
BACON	ARMOUR	1 ⁰⁹
FRYERS	GRADE A WHOLE ONLY	45¢
STEAK	LOIN	1 ⁷⁹
SAUSAGE	GOOCH 1 LB. BAG	1 ¹⁵



Wilson's FOOD STORE

Where Customers Send Their Friends

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



SAVE 2 WAYS!

STOREWIDE LOW PRICES

SUPER SPECIALS

PRICES GOOD THURSDAY FRI. & SAT. FEB.-28 MARCH 1-2 ND AMERICAN BEAUTY MACARONI 12 oz. PKG. 35¢



3 L.B. CAN 139

WITH 7.50 IN TRADE OR MORE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

Frozen Foods

WHOLE SUN ORANGE JUICE 12 oz. CAN 39¢
MORTONS T.V. DINNERS EA. 49¢
BIRDSEYE COOLWHIP 4 oz. CTN. 39¢

BOYS CORDUROY 10 TO 16 SIZE PANTS REG. 598 ONLY 349

CARSON'S SUPER
SAVE 30¢ WHEN YOU BUY A 6oz Jar of INSTANT FOLGER'S COFFEE CRYSTALS
SPECIAL PRICE WITH THIS COUPON 99¢
WITHOUT COUPON \$1.29
GOOD THRU Mar. 30th

CARSON'S SUPER
SAVE 60¢ WHEN YOU BUY A 2 LB. CAN of FOLGER'S COFFEE
SPECIAL PRICE WITH THIS COUPON \$1.49
WITHOUT COUPON \$2.09
GOOD THRU MAR. 30th

WHAT A GREAT WEEKEND FOR A WONDERFUL PICNIC*

DECKER SAUSAGE POUND SACK 79¢

BACON STEAK FRYERS STEAKS
PATTIE BEEF FRESH Salt Jewel LB. 45¢

ARMOURS 5 oz. VIENNA SAUSAGE 2 FOR 69¢

BRER RABBIT BLUE N BROWN SYRUP 24 oz. BOT. 55¢

HUNTS CATSUP 2 20 oz. BOTTLE 69¢

FOLGERS BEEF STEW FLOUR GOLD MEDAL 5 LB. BAG (1 LIMIT) 93¢

Homo 2MILK I.G. DAIRY FRESH GAL. JUG 143

OLEO PARKAY LB. CRTN. 45¢

BREEZE FREE HOSE KING SIZE 119

GAIN BOX (1 LIMIT) 69¢

LIPTONS TEA 1/4 LB. BOX 43¢

CHOCOLATE CHIP DAINTIES 12 oz. PKG. 49¢

KRAFT MAYONNAISE JAR QUART 89¢

COFFEE (1 LIMIT) POUND CAN 89¢

LIBBYS 24 OZ. CAN 69¢

GOLD MEDAL FLOUR (1 LIMIT) 93¢

I.G. DAIRY FRESH 2MILK GAL. JUG 139

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

PILLSBURY BISCUITS 2 CANS FOR 33¢

IVORY LIQUID KING SIZE 63¢

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

DEL MONTE 303 FRUIT COCKTAIL 2 FOR 63¢

TEXSUN Orange Juice 46 oz. 39¢

HUNTS 300 Tomato SAUCE 2 FOR 49¢

KOUNTY KIST 303 Garden PEAS 2 FOR 39¢

RENOWN CUT 303 Green BEANS 2 FOR 39¢

KOUNTY KIST 12 oz. Golden CORN 2 FOR 39¢

NABISCO CRACKERS LB. BOX 43¢

DEL-MONTE 12 oz. SWEET PICKLES JAR 43¢

EPIC SLIP-ON LEISURE REG. \$2.19 HOUSE ONLY 139

KRAFT CHEF SURPRISE ASSORTED DINNERS EACH 39¢

STRAWBERRIES FRESH 3 PINTS FOR 100

DECKER WHOLE ONLY POUND 69¢

LETUCE FRESH LB. 19¢

BANANAS DOLE LB. 12¢

RUBY RED Grapefruit 5 LB. BAG 53¢

FRESH CELLO CARROTS 2 FOR 25¢

COLORADO APPLES RED DELICIOUS LB. 23¢

CARSON'S SUPER MARKET FREE DELIVERY MON. WED. FRI. 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM