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CHRISTMAS MESSAGES PRESENTED BY AREA MINISTERS

MERKEL UNITED METHODIST

By RUSSELL McANALLY
Pastor
First Methodist Church

We are praying that this will be the best CHRISTMAS of all for you. There are many reasons why we think it will be something special.

1. This should be a good Christmas for you because of the SLOWER SPEED limits. You will not be able to get so far from home, and, there will be more of your family alive to enjoy the occasion. Anyway, Home is a pretty good place to be for Christmas.

2. This should be a good Christmas for you because of the HIGH PRICES. With all the higher prices you will have a good opportunity to explain to members of your family that there are certain things that you can no longer afford. It may come as a real shock to some, but it may be good for us all. You see, grandparents have a real problem buying presents for grandchildren after the parents have given them everything they want all year. What can you give to people who have everything, and still unhappy?

3. This should be a good Christmas for you because of CLOTHES STYLES. Since the rebellion against clothes designers recently you can wear some of last year's style and not be too embarrassed. They have been changing the style (not for the good of anyone) so they could force you to buy new clothes and they could make more money. It left you with a closet full of good clothes that you were not allowed to wear. There was always this guilty feeling because of so many people in this world without enough clothes to keep them from freezing. We didn't allow ourselves to think of this very often, but we were aware of it. It took a little pleasure out of buying new clothes. With you having more to say as to what you want to wear, and because you will not be so wasteful - you will find more satisfaction in life this Christmas.

4. This should be a good Christmas for you because of the hard to get SUGAR. Since sugar is a little scarce, and very high you are going to have to learn to be sweet on your own. You can be sweet without sugar you know! People point to other people and say, "Isn't that a sweet person." Well the world needs more sweet people. There is a song that says, "Jesus is the sweetest name I know." They are not talking about the name of Jesus; they are talking about the person of Jesus. He gave HIMSELF - and the world is dying for more people to be sweet like that - sweet.

5. This should be a good Christmas for you because of the STOCK MARKET. When the bottom dropped out of the stock market - and other markets we were caused to take a second look and perhaps now a third look at things AS THEY ARE, and may be. We can not put our TRUST in the stock markets - or the president - or the House Ways and Means Chairman as he plays around - with our lives - neither can you trust your own abilities to see and know what is best. Perhaps this Christmas we will learn to put our faith and trust in Almighty God. That is what Christmas is all about - isn't it?

So with the help of slower speed - to help more stay alive - with higher prices to tell us there are some things we will have to do without - Appreciating the things we have - Having to be sweet on our own, and placing our faith and trust in God instead of in THINGS - We may learn more how to be like the one who came to us of his own choice to suffer in our place - To lead the way - and to become our Savior, even Jesus - It is his birthday we celebrate. With all this - As Paul said, "Make the best of your time despite all the difficulties of these days. Why not make an effort to make this a Very Good Christmas?"

MERKEL FIRST BAPTIST By KENNETH JONES Pastor

Christmas is many things to many people. To some it is a time of frustration; worry over gift-buying; frayed nerves over crowds in the store; short tempers because of the traffic, and anxious concern about having company or going somewhere.

To others, Christmas is a time of happiness, good will, cheery greetings to one another; contentment with family togetherness; and most of all, inner peace.

What makes the difference? The difference is to be found in the heart of the individual. If Christ is indeed living in our hearts, we will approach the Christmas season with one great, sustaining purpose...to celebrate His birth with the kind of sincerity and simplicity that will truly honor Him.

How difficult it is to celebrate His birth with sincerity and simplicity! We have allowed the Christmas "season" to become uncontrollably out of hand! Far too many "customs" and "traditions" have complicated the proper observance of Christmas. Far too much "busyness" is distracting us from a worshipful experience. Our greatest need is to allow this religious holiday to become, indeed, a day of reverence and worship.

What is Christmas to you? It is what you allow it to become. It can be traffic, plastic trees, pushing, shoving, anger. Or, it can be Silent Night, Hope, Goodwill, Peace. It can be worry, frustration, fretting, frayed nerves. Or, it can be Anticipation, Joy, Celebration, Singing, Worship.

Because of His birth, we have the spiritual gifts of love, concern, and truth to share. This is the real meaning of Christmas!

ASSEMBLY OF GOD By JOHN CURTIS Pastor

Christmas is more than an occasion for the exchange of felicitous greetings and friendly gifts. It is more than the enjoyment of congenial company at a festive season. It is even more than the religious observance of a sacred memory. It sends forth God's supreme call to the highest and best in mankind. It brings to us His most cherished gift, and is His emphatic and final declaration of His love upon all that is low, mean, and unworthy.

The birth of the Prince was not to mark the end of a struggle but to inaugurate a more vigorous prosecution of it. The Angels sang "Peace on Earth" not as a compromise with evil but as a prophecy of its complete and final overthrow. Christmas therefore is God's challenge to the world, and consciously or not men classified themselves by their attitude to that challenge. The Babe of Bethlehem challenged Herod the King who, fearing loss of position, openly and cruelly opposed the plans of God. No generation since has been without its followers of Herod. The Babe of Bethlehem challenged the priests and elders, those pillars of organized religion, who might have been expected to understand. But no, though they knew where the Prince was to be born and could glibly quote the scripture reference to the event, not even interested enough to travel the short distance from Jerusalem to Bethlehem to see if these things were so. The effort of the Christ are still blocked by supreme indifference in unexpected places.

The Star of Bethlehem challenged the wise men and because they saw and followed led them from a far country to the place where they could open their treasures in the presence of the King. The Angelic choir challenged the shepherds who hastening to Bethlehem saw the Babe and returned to praise and glorify their God. And so from among the rich and the poor, the high and the low, the lettered and the unlettered, from among the astronomers in the observatories and the shepherds on the plains The Babe of Beth-

lehem has through the years called men to surrender and to worship, and dared them to fight with Him for truth and the Kingdom.

MERKEL CHURCH OF CHRIST The Joy of Christmas

Christmas is that wonderful time of the year when many people celebrate the birth of Christ, exchange gifts, decorate homes, reunite with loved ones, and in general show good will to others.

The word Christmas comes from an early English phrase which means "Christ's Mass." Even though many Christians celebrate the birth of Christ in December, the actual time of His birth is not known. It seems most likely that Christ was born in the spring of the year in 4-6 A.D. The practice of observing the birth of Christ on December 25th was begun in 354 A.D. by Bishop Liberius of Rome. It seems that the bishop chose this date because the pagans of Rome celebrated the Feast of Saturn and worshipped the sun on this date. Thus, it became a holiday for both pagans and Christians.

The spirit and ideas of Christmas are so wonderful. How much finer this world would be if the spirit of Christmas could dwell in the hearts of all mankind throughout the year. It seems so sad that some persons put on the "Christmas spirit" for a short time each year, and then return to daily routine of hating, quarreling, and fighting with their relatives and friends.

Think for a moment about the plight of Jesus. He came to love and serve on this earth and His reward was this: to be abandoned by those He loved, betrayed by those He trained, scarred by those He pitied, with a bloody mantle across His shoulders and a crown of piercing thorns on His head. He carried a cross to a scoundrel's grave. He was born in a distant city, in a borrowed stable, and laid in a borrowed manger, rode on a borrowed mule, and was finally laid to rest in a borrowed grave.

For Jesus there was no room in the inn, and throughout His life it seemed that there was no room anywhere except on a rugged cross. Perhaps, however, there is room in your heart for Jesus. It is my prayer that the room in your heart will be so great that not only the birth, but also the life and death and resurrection of Jesus will be shared at Christmas and throughout the years ahead.

Larry Gill, Minister
Merkel Church of Christ

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday
Bible Study 7:30 P.M.

CALVARY BAPTIST

By P. T. STEWART
Pastor
Calvary Baptist Church

LUKE 1:26-32 HE SHALL BE GREAT.

And in the sixth month the Angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a VIRGIN espoused to a man whose name was Joseph of the house of David and the VIRGIN'S name was Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, fear not, Mary; for thou hast found favour with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall See Messages, Pg. 6



ADDS TWO MORE—Jackie Sims (24) shoots and makes two points for the Badgers Friday night. Merkel won the game 82-55 over Winters. Looking on is Donald Dye. (Staff photo by Jody West)

Kathy Hendricks Is Named 'Little Sister'

Kathy Hendricks was named 'Little Sister of the Month' for December by the Taylor County Young Homemakers. Kathy is the 17-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Hendricks and is a Senior at Merkel High School.



KATHY HENDRICKS
... Honoree

After graduating this year, Kathy plans to attend the Texas State Technical Institute in Sweetwater to be a dental assistant or nurse.

Merkel Mail To Print Early Next Week

Due to Christmas falling on Wednesday this year, the Merkel Mail will go to press early this coming week. News and advertising must be in the Mail office by Friday of this week to get in next week's paper. The Mail office will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday so our employees may have Christmas with their families. The paper will be mailed for Thursday delivery.

Mrs. Ybarra Services Held

Mrs. Apolonia Moreno Ybarra, 59, of Merkel, died at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in Starr Nursing Home after a lengthy illness. Mass was held at 3 p.m. Saturday at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Merkel. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery directed by Starbuck Funeral Home.

Mrs. Ybarra was born Jan. 26, 1915, in Mexico, and was married to Librado Ybarra in Merkel in 1932. He works for the Taylor Electric Cooperative.

She is survived by her husband; four sons, Juan and Augustine, both of Merkel, Pedro of Abilene and Salvador of Hayward, Calif.; five daughters, Mrs. Villalobos and Mrs. Domingo Villarreal, both of Hayward, Mrs. S. Acuna and Mrs. Victor Lerma, both of Merkel, and Mrs. Louise Campos of Fremont, Calif.; four brothers, Cledario Moreno of Fremont, Jesus Moreno of Merkel and Albino and Marcelino Moreno, both of Abilene; one sister, Mrs. Cecilia Duran of Abilene and 15 grandchildren. Nephews served as pallbearers.

Band, Choir Concert Friday

Friday, December 20th, the High School band and choir will present their Christmas program for the Elementary school at 12:45. The general public is invited to attend.

Mrs. M. J. Shaw Services Held

Mrs. M. J. Shaw, 82, of Merkel, died at 1:15 p.m. Tuesday at Hendrick Memorial Hospital in Abilene after a brief illness. Services were held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel.

The Rev. Jerry Kunkel, Methodist minister of Tye, and the Rev. Aussie Watson, Abilene minister, officiated. Burial was in Stith Cemetery. Born Mattie Sue Harris on Oct. 2, 1882, in McClellan County, she married M. J. Shaw in 1910 in Merkel. He died in December 1958.

Mrs. Shaw was a long-time Merkel resident.

Survivors include three sons, M. J. of Abilene, Wade of Guineville and Warren; three daughters, Mrs. Roxie Meeks of Abilene, Mrs. Royce Mashburn of Longview and Mrs. Roy Mashburn of Stith; 14 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren. Grandsons were pallbearers.

Trash Pickup Scheduled Changed

The trash pickup schedule will be changed for the next two weeks because of the holidays.

Trash will be picked up Thursday, Dec. 26 and Friday, Dec. 27.

Next pickup date will be Dec. 30 and 31.

Beginning Jan. 6, Trash pickup will return to original schedule.

The dump ground will be closed Christmas Day.

Badger Cagers Continues Winning Streak

By JODY WEST

Friday night there was a blizzard in our midst, but the Badgers managed to put the heat on quite strong. The J.V. girls started out the heat with a very close game up to the last few seconds losing by only 2 points, but not to give in. With 10 seconds left to play and the Badgers gain a 1 point lead, but the Blizzards made a freezing drive to the basket and won by only 1 point. The final score was 42-41 and high pointer for the Badgers was Kerry Law with 14 points and leading the Blizzards was Phillis O. #31 with 18 points.

Next was the J. V. boys, who took over from the beginning of the game, leading at the end of the first quarter. Keeping up the good work they never fell behind. Half time score showed the Badgers winning 29-17, and on to a victory at the end of the game winning 53-38. High pointer for the Badgers was Paul Tucker with 17 points and Poundexter from Winters with 13 points.

The final game against the Blizzards and the Varsity Boys were leading the Blizzards by 4 points at the end of the first quarter. Keeping up the good work and the Badgers were winning at half time 39-23. The final score for the game found the Badgers ahead 82 points to the Blizzards 55 points. High pointer for the Badgers was Darel Riggan with 18 points and leading the Blizzards was McNeil with 18 points. The Badger Varsity Boys are now 11-0 in the season.

Varsity Girls Win 3rd Consolation

PICTURE, PG. 5

The Badger Varsity Girls competed in the H-SU Tournament Dec. 12, 13 & 14, winning 3rd Consolation. They started out by playing Midway on Thursday night but losing to the Badgers scoring 23 points to Midways 70 points. High pointers were Netta Stephan for the Badgers with 16 points and Johnston from Midway with 30 points.

The second game on Friday found the Badgers with a victory over the Stamford Bulldogs. The final score was 41-33 and high pointer for the Badgers was also Netta Stephan with 25 points.

The third game for the Badgers took place on Saturday morning and found the Badgers competing for Consolation against May. But May came out on top with the final score 49-40. High

pointer for the Badgers was Netta Stephan with 20 points and Murdock for May with 20 points.

The final game and the Badgers are playing against Winters for 3rd Consolation. The Badgers came out of the blizzard on top winning 62-47. High pointer for the Badgers was Netta Stephan with 43 points and leading the Blizzards was Becky Dean with 21 points.

Mrs. Newton Buried Sunday

Mrs. Emma Newton, 66, of Merkel, died at 4:15 a.m. Friday at Hendrick Memorial Hospital following a short illness. Services were held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the First Baptist Church.

The Rev. Kenneth Jones, pastor, officiated. Burial was in Rotan Cemetery in Hutak under direction of Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born Jan. 3, 1906, in Taylor County, Mrs. Newton moved to Merkel in 1969. She was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include two sons, Allen Cavitt of Purcell, Okla.; two stepdaughters, Mrs. J. Nelson of Big Spring and Mrs. Virgil Spencer of Plainview; a brother, W. J. Dulin of Roscoe; three sisters, Mrs. A. R. (Vera) Sanford of Meridian, Mrs. Bill (Opal) Sandusky of Merkel and Mrs. A. Z. (Viola) Decker of Abilene; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

William Morgan Services Held Thursday

William Charles Morgan, 3-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Morgan Jr. of Trent, died at 2:45 p.m. Wednesday at Hendrick Memorial Hospital after a long illness. Graveside services were held at 4 p.m. Thursday in Rose Hill Cemetery.

The Rev. Russell McAnally, pastor of First United Methodist Church of Merkel, and the Rev. N. S. Daniels, associate pastor, officiated. Starbuck Funeral Home of Merkel was in charge of arrangements.

The child was born Dec. 20, 1971, in Abilene. Survivors include his parents; one brother, Russell Morgan III; and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Morgan and Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Sandusky Jr., all of Merkel.



TRUCK DEMOLISHED—This truck went off I20 about three miles east of Merkel and landed in Mulberry Creek Thursday morning at 3:15 a.m. Driving the truck was 24-year-old David Grinley of Rockville, Ind. The truck belonged to Jay Lines Trucking of

Anarillo. The truck was loaded with sides of beef. Officials worked all day and into the night trying to get the truck out of the creek. Grinley is still in critical condition at Hendricks Hospital. (Staff photo by Kaye Lanham)

Band News

High School band students are busy selecting their solos and ensembles for the U.I.L. contest to be held in the spring.

The Junior High Band played a Christmas concert for a combined meeting of the P.T.A. and Band Boosters on last Monday night.

Beginner band is now ready to attempt playing solos with pianist accompaniment.

The richer a community is, the lower its infant mortality rate, according to the March of Dimes.

'GORILLA GRAFFITI'

By Mrs. Dean King



MERRY CHRISTMAS to all of the people of the Big Country! Tomorrow at 2:30 Trent Schools will be out for the holidays - and the students will return next year; January 2, 1975. May Santa blow a circle of happiness around your head and clean your chimneys on the way back up and may he leave extra boxes

at all the store for next year. Did you ever see so many places "out of boxes"? It is discouraging, wagging all those "umpteen-dollar-purchases" around in a sack and rapping bumpety packages at home due to not being able to get boxes at the place of purchase.

Since as of today, there are only 4 more shopping days til Christmas, and some of you last-day shoppers may be getting the "rigor" over how you're going to make it, we feel the following quote will be apropos - to show you that you ain't seen nothing yet:

"You say you started out to buy your wife a gift, and you got down town and forgot what it was you promised you were going to get this Christmas? And you thought and thought but it didn't do any good, so you settled down and bought a night gown and some perfume...and they turned out to be identical with last year's?"

You say you started looking for some toys for the three grandchildren and all you could find was Viet Nam toy soldiers and jungle guns... and you say you thought this was too violent so you bought three dolls instead? A boy doll and two girl dolls for the grandson and two granddaughters. And you got home and your wife told you they were Peyton Place dolls... you wind them up and they form a triangle?

So you say you took the dolls back and traded them in on a police dog and a couple of German shepherds? And two of them bit you on the way home? And you got tangled up in the leashes and tripped and fell?...and the dogs had to take you home? And the neighbors looked out the window and said "Drunk again?"

And about that time your pastor came by for a visit...and you forgot to buy the chicken your wife told you to?

You say somebody gave you a bottle of that 107 1/2 aftershave lotion...and you were afraid to try it...so you tested it out on that ragged old tom cat next door...and now you're REALLY afraid?

And you say you're allergic to cedar so you bought a fir Christmas tree this year... and broke out in a rash just as you were up on a ladder putting a star on the top? And you started to scratch and fell off the ladder...into the bass drum and the set of china? And just as you got up, that old tom cat came through the house like he was on fire at both ends chasing all three of those dogs?

You say your boss gave you a Christmas bonus check... and when you tried to cash it, it bounced? And you say you sat down to add up all your Christmas bills, and you got out a big bottle of red ink just in case...and the doorbell rang and it was the man from the Bureau of Internal Revenue to tell you you still owed \$229 on your 1964 return...and they hadn't even checked the 1965 return yet?

You say all this happened to you, brother? Well, cheer up, friend; the world hasn't come to an end yet. Next year will be another year. This is the season of GOOD CHEER, the season of LOVE, the time to THINK ABOUT SOMEBODY ELSE FOR A CHANGE.

So climb up on the roof, brother, and shout it for all to hear: Merry Christmas!!! --W. H. Cooke in "The Rockdale Reporter"

I really learned another lesson a couple of weekends ago in the importance of "looking at the fine print" - and I don't mean in an insurance policy, on a contract or the like. I mean, look carefully when you buy a fine, printed shirt. What looked at first - and only, until after purchase and a 100 mile ride home - glance to be Hawaiian print of swirls and flowers - wasn't. Hmm - very frustrating - but good for a few laughs - and who doesn't need a few of those in these days of "winter wonderland"...

Rocky King was talking to Coach Thomas and Coach Campbell the other day about his approaching 10-year high school reunion, bemoaning the fact that the class hadn't been able to hold a five-year get-together.

"Oh," Coach Thomas interjected, "too many people in Vietnam then?"

"No," Rocky replied, "too many people in Canada..."

By request and especially for J. R., here is the Trent High School basketball schedule:

Dec. 19, 20, 21 - Eula Tournay
Dec. 30 - Jim Ned - Here-6:30
All the following games are at 7:00
Jan. 3 - Highland - Here
Jan. 7 - Hawley - There
Jan. 10 - Divide - Here
Jan. 14 - Blackwell - There
Jan. 16 - Bronte - Here
Jan. 21 - Eula - Here

Jan. 23 - Hawley - Here
Jan. 28 - Divide - There
Jan. 30 - Blackwell - Here
Feb. 4 - Bronte - There
Feb. 6 - Eula - There
See 'ya' at the ballgames, Jackie!

JR. HIGH SCHEDULE:
Jan. 6 - Buffalo Gap - There
Jan. 13 - Buttefield - Here
Jan. 20 - Divide - Here
Feb. 3 - ACHS Jr. H - Here
6:00

My "doctor" Dad (M.D.) was always a big believer in jogging and tried, I'm afraid in vain, to interest me in the sport - but about as far as I got was in writing this poem to ALL WOULD-BE JOGGERS. In this column today, I would like to dedicate this to Mayor of Merkel, Mr. Lou David Allen, by special request of his wife Rhoda: "One day I went a jogging - I did it for my heart - A virtue more important than beauty, fun, or wealth."

I made the first block briskly. The fresh air-tasted sweet; I waded and spoke to everyone - But on ran my flying feet.

Around the corner, I had a joint; Was attacked by a ferocious dog! He nipped a portion of my jeans - I think he was part "hog"!

Luckily, I found myself jogging near a tree; 'Twasn't long before the top of it held a very nervous me! I told the "monster" to go away and crept down cautiously; Then slowed my pace a little bit: walking better suited me!

On the next street, I met a friend who stopped her car to talk. Her parting words rang in my ear: "Do you really want to walk???"

My determination continued strong - Then in a 'very public place' I tripped on a crack in the sidewalk, and was sent sprawling on my face!

I laid there a good five minutes - Groping for strength from which to draw; Was too embarrassed to get up And just hoped nobody saw!

A valiant thrust of adrenaline let me continue on my trek, I was going to make this "earth-walk" if it broke my silly neck!

Some bicyclers circled me, chiding, "Is that all you have to do?" As I jumped aside to get out of their path, The heel broke right off one shoe!

By now, you can bet, I'd headed home, But the wind had begun to blow - Accompanied by a "just of dust" That made its own "big show".

With sand in my eye and sand in my hair I hobbled up to my door; Vowing, vehemently, under my breath, Not to do this anymore.

Yet - I still go a jogging To keep this "health-kick" boom; But I play it safe; I play it cool; I jog from room to room!!

Fifty-three people were in attendance at the Trent School Personnel-Board of Education gathered at the school cafeteria on Dec. 11 for the annual Husband-Wife Christmas Party. The R.L. Blands furnished delicious barbeque and gravy - and the other group members supplied the salads, vegetables, breads, and desserts. Christmas records provided "dinner music", as the couples ate a delightful meal and visited.

A surprise program by the teachers, with Carolyn Land as spokeswoman, had a few surprises in store for Trent Superintendent Dean King and family. After reading an original - and very humorous poem, in which Mrs. Land explained some very mysterious 'disappearances' of items from the office staff - such as Mr. Neff's paddle, Mrs. King's blue radio, and Mr. King's diploma - Miss Bever, Mrs. nCathey, Mrs. Thomas, and Mrs. Allen presented the Kings with a large gorgeous basket filled with exotic chee es, fruit, nuts, etc. - and announced that the faculty had enrolled them in a club whereby they are to receive a variety of cheeses every month for a year. The Neffs received an electric broiler-griddle from the faculty, and it is a dandy!!

Then everyone formed a large circle around the tree and a game of "trade" was played as gifts were exchanged...

Watch the 1st and 2nd graders on TV, Thursday, Dec. 19, over KTXS, Sweetwater, at 4:00!!

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS!!

March of Dimes volunteers in many cities make prenatal-care information in English and Spanish available throughout low-income areas.

Nursing Home News

By MARY OUTLAW

We have a few that have coughs and colds but no seriously ill patients at this time.

Mrs. Stanley King, passed away. She had only been with us for a month but she had many friends in Merkel. She had told me she had wanted to come back to Merkel and that is what she did. Our sympathy goes to her son, Norman King and family of Amarillo.

Mrs. Lee Ybarra passed away last week also. We had Paula several years and she was a brave person to stand so much suffering and pain. We will miss her very much but we know she is a lot better off where she is now than she was here. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family.

Sunday was a busy day around the Nursing Home. At 9 a.m. Church of Christ had their service. Then at 2 p.m. the Xi-Nu Chi chapter of Beta Sigma Phi came and brought a huge cake and pretty red punch and served to all the patients. They sang songs. It was such a nice party and the patients and I want to thank them for coming.

Then at 3 o'clock Ham-baptist Church came for church services which was enjoyed.

At 4 o'clock some of the people came back with Larry Gill from the Church of Christ and sang carols. Every one was ready for bed by that time, they had a full day.

We had our Christmas Party for the Staff at the R.E.A. building. Turkey and Dressing and salads and all the good things that makes Christmas nice and enlarge your waistline was served. Everyone was able to attend except Mrs. Jean Phippen who had gone to take her little boy to Dallas for eye surgery and Lossesa Smith who was sick. Out of town guests who attended the party were Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Crane of Granbury and J. W. Cole, Abilene. Of course, the staff brought, their husbands and children. Mrs. Crane was

here visiting her grandchildren Pam and Ricky Hair and Brenda.

We wish to thank Mrs. Minnie Howard for the set of plates and the Hospital bed she gave the Home.

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hill into our home. Dr. Sadler said Sam had better take care of that heart of his and we hope he does because they need each other.

Mr. and Mrs. Beam of Sweetwater visited his mother Ada Beam Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Red Carroll Abilene visited her mother Granny Bregendine, Sunday.



MARISELA ASCENCIO

Airman Ascencio Completes

Airman Marisela Ascencio, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnulfo C. Ascencio of 108 Haynes, Merkel, has been assigned to Keesler AFB, Miss., after completing Air Force basic training.

During her six weeks at the Air Training Command's Lackland AFB, Tex., she studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs, and received special instruction in human relations.

The airman has been assigned to the Technical Training Center at Keesler for specialized training in the administrative field.

Airman Ascencio, a 1967 graduate of Merkel High School, attended Draughton's Business College, Abilene.

Merkelites Kin Dies in St. Louis

Cleo Lile, 62, of Missouri, son-in-law of Mrs. Ira Stanley of Merkel, died at 8:30 p.m. Friday in DePaul Hospital in St. Louis, Mo. Graveside rite were held at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at Rose Hill Cemetery in Merkel.

Starbuck Funeral Home handled the funeral arrangement

Survivors include his wife, Gerturde; a son, Merwyn Lyles of Fort Worth; two daughters, Mrs. Myrna Brittain of Heidelberg, Germany, and Mrs. Paxton Jones of Fort Worth; several brothers and sisters and four grandchildren.

Mrs. Leach Host Sorority

Members and guests of Alpha Nu Nu met on December 3, 1974 at the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Dick Leach was hostess for the meeting.

After the business meeting, a program was given by Kathy Crawley of Lone Star Gas. She showed several kinds of cookies, cakes and candies to make for Christmas. She also gave ideas on how to wrap the special gifts of food.

Guests attending were Mmes: Ben Hicks, Fred Starbuck, T. K. Anderson, Bob Hammond, Joe Bettes, Henry

Toomb, J. D. Sandusky, William Booth, Tammy Booth, Beverly Mawson, Vicki Rodriguez, Phyllis Shanks, Cecilia Steinborn and Rose Brown.

Members attending were Mmes: Dick Leach, George Starbuck, Larry Justice, D.A. Bishop, Ray Vanderwerker, Robert Harris, Jerry Magee, Juan Ybarra, Marie Shanks, and Louise Sudderth.

SENIOR CITIZENS SCHEDULE EVENTS

1st Monday of Month singing

2nd Tuesday Noon Covered Dish Luncheon

Game Nights Every Thurs. & 4th Monday

4th Thurs. GAME Night Reserved for Talented Amateur

Trent Tax Office Closed

The Trent Tax Office will be closed December 25th and December 26 for Christmas. The Trent Public School will be closed Dec. 20 and will resume Jan. 2.

WESTERN BOOTS

IDEAL XMAS GIFT
WORK AND DRESS BOOTS
COWTOWNS - H&H - TONY LAMA
GOOD SELECTION OF CHILDREN'S BOOTS IN
ACME-TEXAS BRAND - TONY LAMA
Ninth Street Grocery

WE HAVE RECEIVED
OUR
CARDUI CALENDARS.

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121 EDWARDS PH. 928-5102

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See MACK SEYMORE
102 Edwards
928-5379
Merkel, Texas

NEW AMBULANCE SERVICE

FOR MERKEL-TRENT-NOODLE

AND MULBERRY CANYON

EFFECTIVE

JANUARY 1, 1975

CALL THE MERKEL POLICE DEPT.

Phone 928-4766

GIFTS FOR AN OLD-FASHIONED FARM & RANCH CHRISTMAS



Christmas in the country conjures up thoughts of tables laden with home-grown foods fresh from a crackling-wood-burning stove. Steaming meat and poultry dishes and an array of delicious dairy products!

While it isn't possible to bring back the past, we can still enjoy the foods that made Christmas in the country such a delightful experience.

And you can give this treat for that someone special on your Christmas list. Just go to your favorite grocery store and ask for a gift certificate redeemable in meat, poultry and dairy products.

Or, if you'd prefer to give by check or money order, come by our office and pick up a supply of colorful gift envelopes and message cards.



TAYLOR COUNTY FARM BUREAU
374 S. 27th Abilene, Texas

Crawford's

January Clearance

Sale Prices Today

SHIRTS LONG SLEEVES 1/2 PRICE
SHORT SLEEVES

MENS SIZES 36 TO 46 Suits POLYESTER DOUBLE KNIT \$55.00

MENS Cowboy Boots \$24.99

COVERALL HEAVY DUTY \$16.99

SHIRTS DENIM \$10.99

SHIRTS WESTERN \$7.99

SHOES MEN'S DRESS \$12.99

SHEETS FULL FLAT FULL FITTED \$4.99

KING SIZE SHEETS PERCALE NO IRON \$19.99

QUEEN SIZE SHEETS PERCALE NO IRON \$14.99

SOFT LUGGAGE 3 COLOR SELECTION \$6.99 UP

PANT SUITS VALUES \$34.99 \$20.99

PANTY HOSE THAT FIT 2 PAR \$1.00

LADIES SHOES VALUES TO \$13.99 \$7.99

REGISTER FOR FREE PRIZES

Crawford's

FINE CLOTHING FOR THE FAMILY
Ph. 928-5612 MERKEL, TEXAS 135 Edwards St.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

At this holy season, may we take the opportunity to wish you every blessing!



CHILI-HOT BAR-B-Q
POTATO SALAD BEANS
PIMENTO CHEESE
HAMS - TURKEYS
FRESH & FROZEN HENS

FRYERS GRADE A WHOLE LB. **39¢**
BACON GOOCH'S LB. **1⁰⁹**

MERKEL LOCKER SAUSAGE 2 LB. BAG **\$1⁹⁸** Hamburger LB. **69¢**

RIB STEAK LB. **98¢**

ROUND STEAK LB. **\$1²⁵** LOIN STEAK LB. **\$1⁰⁹**

KRAFT'S M.M. CREAM 7 OZ. JAR **39¢** POWERED SUGAR 1 LB. BOX **79¢**

WHITE KARO **89¢** BAKER'S Chocolate Chips 12 OZ. **59¢**

COMSTOCK CHERRY PIE FILLER NO. 2 CAN **79¢** BAKER'S ANGEL FLAKE COCONUT 14 OZ. PKG. **79¢**

GEISHI Mandarin Oranges 11 OZ. CAN **39¢** BORDO DATES 8 OZ. PKG. **39¢**

CRISCO WITH \$7.50 PURCHASE EXCLUDING CIGARETTES **\$1⁷⁹** LIMIT ONE

CRANBERRY SAUCE OCEAN SPRAY 300 SIZE **39¢**

PINEAPPLE DEL-MONTE CHUNKS 15 OZ. CAN **39¢**

COCKTAIL DEL-MONTE 303 CAN **39¢**

ASPARAGUS DEL-MONTE SPEARS 15 OZ. CAN **79¢**

GREEN BEANS DEL-MONTE WHOLE 303 CAN **39¢**

PEAS DEL-MONTE ENGLISH 303 CAN **2 FOR 69¢**

YAMS KIMBELLS SQUAT CAN **59¢**

FLOUR GOLD MEDAL LIMIT 1 5 LB. BAG **79¢**

Xmas Headquarters
FOR TREES - LIGHTS - PAPER
- FRUIT - NUTS & CANDY
- GIFTS -
5 BIG
THURS. DEC. 19 - TUES. DEC. 24

WILSON'S
WITH THIS COUPON
00-pound Can of
Maryland Club Coffee
98¢
Without coupon \$1.23
Limit one per customer
COUPON EXPIRES DEC. 24, 1974

BIG 64 OZ. BOTTLE
COCA-COLA - DR. PEPPER or PEPSI 79¢

EGG NOG
GANDY'S QUART **79¢**

CHOCOLATE CHERRIES 10 oz. Box **89¢**

PHILADELPHIA **CREAM CHEESE** 8 OZ. PKG. **39¢**

TOWELS ZEE BIG ROLL **49¢**

CLOROX HALF GAL. **49¢**

TIDE FAMILY SIZE **\$3²⁹**

FROZEN FOODS

BIRDSEYE **COOL WHIP** 4 1/2 OZ. **49¢**

KEITH'S **ROLLS** PKG. OF 24

DONALD DUCK 6 OZ. CAN **ORANGE JUICE** 2 FOR **49¢**

MRS. SMITHS **PIE SHELLS** PKG. OF 2 **89¢**



COLORADO RED DELICIOUS **APPLES** lb. **25¢**

DEL - MONTE **BANANAS** LB. **10¢**

FRESH **Cranberries** LB. **33¢**

SUNKIST **Tangerines** 3 LB. BAG **49¢**

YELLOW **ONIONS** LB. **10¢**

CELERY STALK **19¢**

RUSSET **POTATOES** 10# BAG **69¢**

MILK MARIGOLD 2% HOMO GAL **\$1³³** REG. HOMO GAL PLUS DEP. **\$1⁴³**

CREAM WHIPPING CREAM GANDY 35¢
SOUR CREAM FOREMOST
HALF & HALF CNT.

EGGS GARRETT'S GRADE-A- LARGE DOZ **79¢**

OLEO KRAFT'S PARKAY LB. **59¢**

MIXED NUTS TOM SCOT **69¢**

PICKLES HEINZ SWEET MIXED 16 OZ. JAR **59¢**

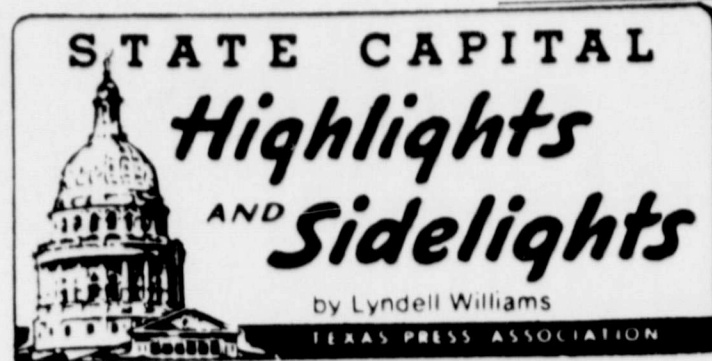
USDA APPROVED TO REDEEM FOOD STAMPS

Wilson's FOOD STORE

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

GET ACTION USE

CLASSIFIEDS
PHONE 928 - 5712



Pot Luck Supper Dec. 20

A Christmas Pot Luck Supper will be held at the Merkel V.F.W. Post Friday, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m. for members and family only.

Bring a dish and enjoy a holiday get together.
A Thanksgiving Bar-B-Q Supper was held last month with an abundance of tasty dishes made by the Ladies Auxiliary. A variety of meats were barbecued by several gentlemen of the V.F.W. Extra food was donated to patients of the Starr Nursing Home.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF TAX RENDITION

I, Mona Faye Bartlett, Assessor and Collector of Taxes of the Merkel Independent School District, do hereby give public notice that all persons, firms, corporations and associations, beginning January 1 or before the first day of May of each and every year, shall furnish the Assessor of Taxes a full and complete statement, list and schedule, verified by affidavit, of all real and personal property situated in the Merkel Independent School District, and all personal property located elsewhere and subject to taxation in the Merkel Independent School District, owned, held or controlled by them, or in their possession as agent or custodian on the first day of January, and shall in said statement state the name and address of the owner or owners of such property. Such list, statement and schedule must be filed with the office of the Assessor and Collector of Taxes of the Merkel Independent School District, Merkel, Texas.

Witness my hand this 19th day of December, 1974.
Mona Faye Bartlett
Assessor and Collector
of Taxes for the
Merkel Independent
School District

43-1tc

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

TO: Edwin Lee Mills, 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 27th day of January A.D. 1975, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 20th day of August A.D. 1974.

Public employees aren't entitled to premium pay for holiday work but are entitled to time and a half for work over 40 hours a week. Hill supplied the formula for computing overtime pay for public workers.

Minutes of school board meetings and data on sex, ethnic origin, salaries, title and dates of employment of government employees are open to public inspection.

A business to obtain a sales tax permit must post required bond or security. Bonds will vary with the taxpayer record of the predecessor business.

IMPACT STUDY ORDERED - State agencies were called on by the Governor to assess impact of President Ford's plan to reduce current federal spending by \$4.6 billion.

He said the cuts may have "substantial" impact on federally-aided state programs. The Governor asked the agencies to analyze the proposed cuts in terms of dollar effect for Texas, effect on programs and effect on the people. A summary of agency responses will be prepared for submission to the Texas congressional delegation.

REPRESENTATION INCREASED - Texas will probably double its strength on the Democratic National Committee as the result of action at the party's mini-convention in Kansas City. While the state now has six votes on the body, it apparently will have 12 under the enlarged committee approved by the mini-convention.

PROGRAMS PLANNED - A governor's recommendation to combine the Texas Highway Department and Mass Transportation Commission into a "Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation" is being framed for submission to the legislature next month.

Briscoe said the recommendation is one of a series to "effectuate efficiency and effectiveness and... realistically (to) eliminate costly duplication of effort."

Earlier, Briscoe said he will ask the 64th Legislature to establish a "state register," an official public document which would publish all proposed state regulations and scheduled meetings of agencies.

The register, maintained by the secretary of state's office, would be available on a cost basis to every citizen of the state. It is aimed at providing the public "easy access to every decision process of Texas State Government," Briscoe said. The governor pointed out that present procedures of public notice in general circulation newspapers should be continued.

GOVERNOR RECOVERING - Governor Briscoe is back on limited duty at the governor's mansion after being hospitalized with acute nephritis, a kidney ailment.

Doctors said he is recovering satisfactorily, although his illness was "very serious." He must return to the hospital for kidney tests this week.

Briscoe was stricken as he was preparing to depart for the national Democratic mini-convention in Kansas City December 7. He was hospitalized in San Antonio for four days and then allowed to return to the mansion for another 10 days' rest.

In this cause, numbered 9699-DR on the docket of said court and styled Ruy Faye Mills, Plaintiff, vs. Edwin Lee Mills, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit:

Divorce, no children, and no community property. Parties married on or about September 26, 1973. Separated on or about August 15, 1974 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 11th day of December A.D. 1974.

(SEAL)
Attest: Irene Crawford, District Clerk Domestic Relations Court, Taylor County, Texas; By Judy Kiser, Deputy.

43-4tc

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

TO: Mrs. L. J. Allison, 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 27th day of January A.D. 1975, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 30th day of October A.D. 1974, in this cause, numbered

34,651-A on the docket of said court and styled Jim Vanderveer, and wife Mary Vanderveer, Plaintiff, vs. Bernardo Paredes, and wife Guadalupe Paredes, and Mrs. L. J. Allison, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Lot 13, Block 2, R. L. Over Subdivision of Block 5, Over Place Addition to the City of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, Trespas Try Title.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Abilene, Texas, this 12th day of December, A.D. 1974.

(SEAL)
Attest: Irene Crawford, District Clerk, 42nd District Court Taylor County, Texas By Faye Temz, Deputy.

43-4tc

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

Buy Your Prepaid
Funeral Plan Direct From
The Funeral Home and Save
STARBUCK
FUNERAL HOME

MERKEL VFW
POST 5683
MONTHLY
REG MEETING
8:30 P.M.
SECOND THURSDAY
POST & LADIES AUXILIARY
Y'ALL COME NOW!

MASONIC MEETING
Stated meeting of Mer-
kel Lodge No. 710 on
2nd Saturday and 4th
Thursday of each month
at 7:30 p.m. Visitors welcome.
Members request to attend.
PETE MORGAN, W.M.
ROY MASHBURN, Sec'y.

CUSTOM plowing and hay
baling. Paul Hudman, Ph.
537-2348.
31-tfc

FOR QUALITY work at reason-
able prices call Randy's
Upholstery, 673-2238, Abi-
lene.
15-tfc

LOST - Bassett Hound, Brown
and White. Not full grown.
Ph. 862-3231, Kathy Bland.
43-1tc

Help Wanted

NEEDED - Parttime wait-
resses, cooks and dish-
washers. Phone Margo 928-
4923- or 928-4968.
17-tfc

WANTED - Mechanic, Good
labor rates, good working
conditions. Palmer Pontiac
GMC. Ph. 928-5113.
33-tfc

HELP WANTED - To work at
the Cemetery - Starbuck.
43-tfc

WAITRESSES Needed-Sham-
rock Cafe, Merkel, East
Highway 80. Apply in per-
son.
42-4tc

For Rent

APARTMENT For Rent-\$125
a month, all bills paid. As-
teroid Motel.
37-tfc

FOR RENT - Nice clean 2
bedroom furnished house.
Ph. 928-5669.
40-tfc

SEAT COVER
CENTER
*Seat Covers
*Truck Cushions
*Door Panels
*Arm Rests
*Headliners
1056 BUTTERNUT
677-1349
ABILENE

For Sale

LOTS FOR SALE in Western
Heights and other locations
in the city limits in Merkel
Contact H. J. Carson or
Nolan Palmer.

16-tfc
HOUSE FOR SALE - 3 large
bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, cen-
tral heat, 2 fireplaces,
fenced backyard, basement
well and enclosed cistern,
double garage, pecan and
fruit trees. Near School.
406 Locust, Call A.C. 806-
998-4108 or A.C. 817-644-
5135. Can be shown by ap-
pointment. Can be shown
Thanksgiving Day.

40-tfc
Mints - all flavors, and spe-
cially shaped for weddings,
showers, Xmas, etc. Order
2 days in advance. 928-4883,
108 Orange.

41-tfc
FOR SALE - Calves, 7 to
14 days old. Healthy and
started on bottle. Free deli-
very on 10 or more. Area
code 214-223-5171 after 7
p.m.

20-52tc
FOR SALE - 1969 Dodge
Super Bee. Has complete
motor overhaul. Special -
\$795.00 Tim Wozencraft -
509 Oak. Phone 928-5545.
40-tfc

FOR SALE: Record player,
3 speed \$10, Car Radio \$10,
Jig Saw with Motor \$35;
Go-cart \$25; Gas refrig.
\$20, Jim Wharton
43-1tp

FOR SALE - '73 Honda Motor
Sport - also, evaporative
cooler, 5289 Questa, Abi-
lene. Ph. 692-3046 after 5:00
43-1tp

Plaster, unpainted, whole-
sale, small items, wall
plaques. 108 Orange. 928-
4883.
41-4tc

FOR SALE: Booklet on "His-
tory of Merkel School" \$2.00
Nice Christmas gift for any
Merkel ex. Mrs. H. C. Reid
710 Yucca, Merkel, Texas
928-4946.
43-1tp

REPORT YOUR NEWS BY CALLING

928-5712

LUCAS & HAYS
WELDING
111 Kent
All Types
Welding
Ph. 928-5630 or
928-5794

WANTED
WHEAT OR OAT
PASTURAGE FOR
LIGHT CALVES
CONTACT
R. L. BLAND
862-2951
OR
862-2011

PRESTIGE HOMES & PROPERTIES

317 N. Willis Suite 20
Abilene 673-6444

SW Merkel - large oak, wil-
low and mesquite trees sur-
rounding a large, deep tank
makes this scenic place ideal
for a home site or secluded
recreational spot. 25 acres
part in cultivation.

CHOICE 155 acre farm on
FM 2746 SW Anson, 110 in
cultivation, sandy loam, good
well, stock tank, priced for
quick sale.

MERKEL - spacious 3 bed-
room home, 1 3/4 baths,
paneled den, formal dining,
stone fire place, central air,
2 lots with well & pump
house.

Shannon Teal, 692-0787
Jewel Nixon, 692-5552
Pauline Batman, 692-2222
REALTORS

MERKEL BRANCH OFFICE
Pat & Billy Neff
1515 Heath 928-5623
Equal Housing Opportunity

Good investment 2bed, 1 bath,
rents for \$60 mo.

Large Austin stone on 20
acres

2 bed-1 den-1 1/2 bath. Close
to schools, fenced yard. VA

Buy 14 to 18 acres at \$10,000
with only \$700 down for
eligible Texas Vet.

Linda Cravens
Marge Sheppard
Merkel 928-5340

Senter Realtors 677-1811

WE PAY
150% OVER FACE
VALUE FOR ALL
SILVER COINS
(\$2.50 FOR \$1.00
SILVER We pay 25c
for silver dimes)
PRATTS COIN &
STAMP SHOP
2155 S. 1st.
Abilene, Tex.

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DIRT
ROCK & GRAVEL
LEVEL & REPAIR
DRIVEWAYS
Call Evenings
Harold Walker
Phone 928-5872
202 Cherry

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for every
Occasion
*Weddings
*Funerals
*Anniversaries
*Birthdays
*Get Well
*Showers
Estes
FLORAL CO
MRS. ERNEST W. ESTES
928-5039

NEED
A New Water Well
Drilled? Also Install
Meyers Subs &
Jacuzzi Jets
ROBERT HIGGINS
928-5998

FOR YOUR
BUILDING AND
REMODELING
NEEDS
FRED RICHIE
928-5030

AUTHORIZED DEALER
Allis-Chalmers-Moline-Oliver
Farm Equipment and Forney
Welding Equipment
Shafer Plows - Continal Belton Products
677-4349
DOTY FARM EQUIPMENT CO.
366 Chestnut
Nights-Sunday-Holidays 672-2451 - 698-2572

Card of Thanks

MY SINCERE THANKS to
my friend and neighbors for
their many deeds of kindness,
the flowers, cards, and visits,
during my recent stay in the
Hospital.
Clarence Newton
43-1tp

Card Of Thanks

I WISH TO take this way
to thank each and every one
for your kind remembrances
of me during my long stay in
the Hospital, your cards,
pokes, letters, phone calls,
pretty books, Gifts, food,
prayers, visits and flowers
made my stay more pleas-
ant. Let's not forget the
Ministers who came to my
bedside. Word cannot ex-
press my deep appreciation.
Gladys Swinney
43-1tp

Card of Thanks

WE WOULD LIKE to thank
all of you who helped in any
way during the illness and
loss of our "Beloved Mother"
Mrs. M. J. Shaw. We would
like to especially thank Dr.
Sadler, Vivian and Dr. Gant.
May God Bless each of you.
The Family of
Mrs. M. J. Shaw
43-1tp

Card of Thanks

THE FAMILY OF Winnie
King would like to thank all
of their friends for the kind-
ness and sympathy during her
stay here in Merkel and
at the time of her death and
our time of sorrow.
Norman and Nell King
Mr. & Mrs. B. C. Callaway
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Beter-
schmitt
Mr. & Mrs. Christ King
43-1tc

Card of Thanks

Thank you for all your
prayers, cards, and visits
during my stay in the hos-
pital. May God bless all of
you. A special thanks to Bro.
McAnally and all my rela-
tives.
Mrs. Morris B Smith
912 Locust
43-1tc

All Types
Building
&
Remodeling
Work
Albert Gregory
928-5474
Jerry Goode
928-4800

FOR THOSE GOOD
SHELL PRODUCTS
STOP BY
DISHMAN'S
SHELL
211 KENT
928-5222
MECHANIC ON DUTY

SERVICE
Our
Specialty
J. L. FISHER
FINA SERVICE
TWO LOCATIONS
INTERSTATE 20 &
WEST HIGHWAY 80
MERKEL
AUTO PARTS
921 N. 2nd
WE WELCOME
YOUR BUSINESS

The Merkel Mail
PUBLISHERS STATEMENT
Established in 1889
Published weekly at 916 N Second St., Merkel, Texas
Entered at the Post Office at Merkel, Texas, 79536
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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing of
reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may
appear in the columns of the newspaper will be corrected,
gladly, upon being brought to the attention of the publisher
SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$4.00 Per Year Taylor and adjoining
counties, \$4.50 Per Year outside of Taylor and adjoining
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and West Texas Press Association.
STEVE LANHAM and CECIL FLYLER Publishers
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\$1.10 minimum for the first four lines. Excess of 4 lines will
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less account is already established. NOTICE of typographi-
cal or other errors must be given before the second inser-
tion of claims for refunds or extensions will not be recog-
nized.

Tri City Baseball

By JOCILLE BRADY

The Field Representative of the Woodman of the World met with the local group working on the construction of the two baseball parks. The Woodman of the World Fraternal Organization is interested in our project and they have offered to help. This offer to help may be the boost we need to get this project rolling faster. The offer includes their office facilities, legal aid, and help in securing donations of material and money. There is also a possibility of financial help from the organization as well as volunteer labor.

At the present time we are waiting on the purchase of the land for the ballfields. As soon as this is completed work can begin.

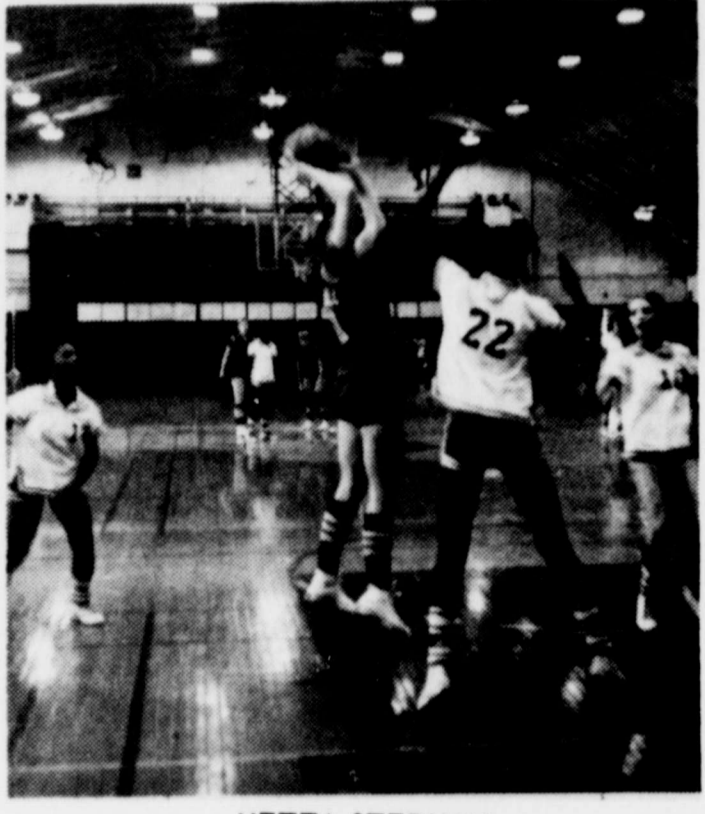
It has come to our attention that some businesses have been contacted for donations for our project. We have not made any plans for contacting the businesses for

cash donations. If we do in the future, there will be advance announcements made here in the paper and solicitors will be properly identified. If anyone else asks for a donation in our name please do not make a donation and contact local police.

Ticket sales for the turkeys to be given away Saturday, Dec. 21, are going well. If you have not bought your tickets you may call Jocille Brady at 928-5705 or Melba Glasscock at 928-4883.

The date for our next meeting was set for Jan. 6 at the Asteroid Restaurant at 8:00. The Taylor Electric Coop has donated the \$25.00 prize money which they won for the float in the Christmas parade. Our thermometer is now at the \$195.00 mark. The bank balance for the project is over \$1200.

Donations:
Mr. & Mrs. Starbuck and Johnny, in lieu of Christmas cards to area friends.....\$ 5.00
Mr. & Mrs. Don Hart and family, in lieu of Christmas cards to area friends.....\$25.00
Taylor Electric Coop prize money.....\$25.00



NETTA STEPHAN adds two for the girls

Police Report

Effective January 1, 1975, the City of Merkel, will assume the responsibility of operating the Ambulance Service for Merkel and surrounding areas.

This responsibility was placed on the Chief of Police to organize and maintain Ambulance service. At present an ambulance was purchased from Norths Funeral Home in Abilene. We feel Mr. North

was very generous in selling the ambulance and equipment at the price he charged the City of Merkel. The ambulance is now in Merkel and is undergoing checks for proper performance and and Emergency Equipment.

Mr. Fred and George Starbuck were kind enough to assist in checking the ambulance for the proper amount and type of emergency equipment and assisting Chief Broussard in preparing and submitting the forms required for Insurance Service and obtaining a Permit To Operate from the Texas State Department of Health.

The ambulance will be operated by the Police Department, and all personnel will be trained in the operation of all emergency equipment and trained in First Aid, and will be trained continuously on equipment maintained by the Ambulance Service.

There will be no changes on how, when or where the ambulance will operate. There also will be no change as to how much the City will charge in comparison as to what Mr. Starbuck was charging. The only difference you will observe in the Ambulance Service will be different people operating the service.

Each Police Officer have a Police Phone and Police Radio in their residence, so the Police Telephone number will be used to call an ambulance. This number is 928-4766. When you call this number, there will always be someone to answer the telephone with the capability to dispatch the ambulance where it is requested.

A follow up report will be made in the next addition of the Merkel Mail relating to the Ambulance Service, however, if anyone has any questions on anything pertaining to the ambulance, do not listen to rumors, call Chief Jim Broussard at 928-4766 and he will be more than happy to explain to anyone how the service will operate. Just remember that there will be no break down in the operation of the Ambulance in our area.

Former Merkel Resident Dies

Mrs. Mary Emma Stephens, 88, of Houston and formerly of Merkel, died at 3:55 a.m. Wednesday at Center Pavilion Hospital in Houston. Services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday in Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel.

The Rev. Kenneth Jones, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiated. Burial was in Elmwood Memorial Park in Abilene.

Born Mary Emma Lander on Feb. 20, 1886, in Pittsburgh, Pa., Mrs. Stephens was a Baptist. She moved to Merkel in 1963. Her husband, Lon Stephens, preceded her in death.

Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Marceline Moore of Houston; one son, Albert of Wichita Falls; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Tye Elementary Beats Hamby

Tye Elementary played Butterfield school Friday, Dec. 13. The boys were defeated 28-14 and the girls won 3-0.

Monday Tye Elementary played Hamby in basketball at Tye. The boys won 20-2 and the girls won 12-8 in overtime play.

The scores for the two boys games combined were: Billy Morgan, 4; Ricky Mathewson, 18; Larry Hagle, 2; James Turner, 2; Cary Metts, 6; Allan Boyle, 2; and also playing were Randy Martinez, David Sims, and Johnny Brazell.

The girls scores for the two games were: Kim Bien, 12; Angie Wells, Coleta Barley, Linda Graves and Alice Berry.

Next game will be in January.

Dance At Cooper Friday

The Cooper Gennis Patron's Club is sponsoring a Square Dance, Friday, December 20, at the Cooper High School Gym at 8 p.m.

Tickets for the dance are \$2.50 per couple and \$1.50 single. They may be purchased at the door.

Proceeds from the dance will be used toward purchasing wind screens for the courts, according to Frank Meyers, president of the club.

Badger Tracks

By DAREL BUNCH

As you know, Christmas is almost here and everyone is hurrying to get all their shopping done. Besides the hurry for Christmas, everyone has been busy at school. So many activities have occurred at one time in the past few weeks that Santa's helpers haven't had much time to themselves; Sammy Badger and I have asked Phyllis Shanks to be our guest writer this week.

"Last week, the Home and Family Living class went to Wilson's Jewelry Store and Castille's Hardware. They learned about diamond selections, china, glassware, and pottery. The reason for this was because of a wedding which was held Tuesday morning at 8:45 a.m. in the Merkel High School auditorium. Jackie Sims and Donna White were married by the preacher, Andy Hart. Billy Watts was the best man, and Phyllis Shanks was the maid of honor. Groomsmen were Larry Cox, Mike Magee, Wayne Webb, and Steve Castille. Bridesmaid were Bobbie Hobbs, Gale Ware, and Nancy Fudge. The parents of the bride was Mendes Moreno and Patsy Ascencio. Groom's parents were Lonnie Carter and Pam Hagar. The reception followed in the living room with punch and cake served by Rachel Vasquez and Theresa Lawrence. About 60 guests were present. Pianist was Rhonda White. Ann's Flowers furnished the arch and flowers which really added to the ceremony. Sponsor for the HFL class is Mrs. Mary Grimes.

Consumer Education has been going on field trips to several of the businesses in Merkel. They visited Carson's and Wilson's and learned about selections of foods. One of their projects was to buy and prepare a

Mrs. Doan Shower Honoree

Mrs. Gaylon Doan was the honoree for a bridal shower given December 2nd in the home of Mrs. David Gamble.

Mrs. Gamble greeted guests and presented to Mrs. Doan.

The table was laid with an ecru cut work and embroidered cloth centered with an arrangement of brown and orange in a bronze centerpiece. Punch was poured from a green carnival glass bowl. Mrs. George Peachy poured punch and Miss Cathy Hendrix served the cake.

Mrs. Doan, the former Debbi Caffey is a teacher of remedial reading in the Merkel Elementary School. Mr. and Mrs. Doan were married Homecoming Day.

Drawing Winners Are Listed

Winners in the merchants Christmas drawing last week were as follows:

- \$100 - Willie Reynolds
- \$50 - Mrs. Hugh Baker
- \$25 - Mrs. Ogletree of Trent
- \$10 - E. H. Martin
- \$5 - Donnie Tutt
- \$5 - Leon Kelso
- \$5 - Frank Breaux

The last drawing will be held Saturday at 3:30 p.m. at N. 2nd and Edwards.

The March of Dimes reports affect the daily lives of about 15 million Americans.

Merkelite's Sister Buried Wednesday

Mrs. Ida Campbell, 95, of Roby, died at 1 a.m. Tuesday at Golden Haven Home for the Aged. Services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at First Baptist Church.

The Rev. Allan Cartrite, pastor, officiated. Burial followed in Roby Cemetery, directed by Weathersbee Funeral Home.

Born Ida Jane Bridges on Nov. 26, 1877, in Dalton, Ga., she moved to Texas with her parents in 1883. She moved from Jones County to Fisher County in 1910.

She married Owen S. Campbell on Dec. 26, 1910, and he died on July 7, 1926.

Mrs. Campbell was a member of First Baptist Church. Survivors include one stepson, Preston G. of Roby; one stepdaughter, Mrs. Stella Mae Brooks of Bakersfield, Calif.; and one sister, Mrs. Lucy Ford of Merkel.

"Is My Baby All Right?" a comprehensive book on the causes, treatment, and prevention of birth defects, is a valuable resource for both health professionals and the public. The authors are Dr. Virginia Appgar and Joan Beck.

ALL TYPES OF INSURANCE

BONEY

INSURANCE AGENCY

Phone 8-5151

APPLIANCE Sale

We now have a good stock of refrigerators, washers, dryers, T.V.'S, dishwashers, & deep freeze

Just In Time For Christmas

PALMER MOTOR CO.

CONSERVE AND SAVE

DISH WASHER SAVER-TIPS

- A dishwasher will usually hold a whole day's dishes. It takes as much hot water and energy to wash 1 dish as it does a full load. Stack your dishes out of sight in your dishwasher and wait until you have a full load to turn it on.
- Use only detergents manufactured specifically for dishwashers. A wetting agent helps prevent water spots on glasses and silverware.
- Clean the filter screen often. A clogged filter can reduce the efficiency of your dishwasher.

Pick up your FREE copy of "ENERGY CONSERVATION" Booklet from

Frigidaire

Home Environment Division of General Motors.

West Texas Utilities Company

REMEMBER, REDDY SUPPLIES THE ENERGY BUT ONLY YOU CAN USE IT WISELY!

In lieu of sending Christmas cards to local friends, we have contributed \$25.00 to the Tri-City Baseball program

Best wishes for a happy holiday season!

Don, Mitzi, Andy, and Lesa Hart

Big Christmas Savings From

10 to 65% Off

Come And See Our Bargains

WESTERN HOUSE MERKEL

CHRISTMAS SALE

25% OFF ON ALL PANTS & BOOTS COWTOWN BOOTS

INSULATED COVERALLS FOR \$23.95 While They Last

SHIRTS - WESTERN Reg. \$14.95 FOR \$10.95

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGES CONTINUED

Calvary Baptist

Cont. from Pg. 1

be called the son of the high God; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.

Intro. as we come into the Christmas season we should remember what Christmas is really all about, it is the day that is set aside to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, as we remember this, let's notice what the angel said about Jesus before he was born, in verse 32 HE SHALL BE GREAT. Lets look at some of the things that make him so great.

I. He is great because he is the only way man can be saved.

John 14:6 Je us saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the father, but by me.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten son of God.

Now I know that some men want to get into the plan of salvation by doing their part but what make Jesus so great is he doe n't need any help to save us.

II. JESUS IS GREAT BECAUSE HE CAN KEEP US SAVED.

John 10:27-29. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me;

And I give unto them ETERNAL LIFE; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

My father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my fathers hand.

Now if your salvation is in your hand or in your

ministers hand he is great enough to keep it for you.

III. HE IS GREAT BECAUSE HE IS COMING AGAIN. Acts 1:11 Which also said, ye men of Galilee whv stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also. Now with these facts in mind don't you think we ought to keep CHRIST in our Christmas.

TRENT
UNITED METHODIST
By KENNETH W. JAMES
Pastor
TRENT UNITED METHODIST

I hear a lot of criticism these days from the religious community regarding the commercialization of Christmas. Is their criticism valid? I believe that it is. There are many reasons for Christmas becoming a commercial venture, but there are two which I believe are paramount.

First, there is the refusal of the adult to appropriate the true essence of the Christ event and second, the opportunity of the business firm to make money.

Let us deal with these in turn. It is a natural part of our cultural heritage to think of children but for the Christian, it should be more important for the adult. One of the characteristics of an adult is wisdom. We need to understand what Christmas means for us if we are to help children share in this important event.

The customs of Santa

Claus, the Christmas tree, holly, mistletoe, singing carols, giving and receiving gifts, and etc., have their place but are not central to the story of Christmas. They are only symbols of the true reality of the Christ Event. Matthew understood the meaning of the word "Emmanuel" as "God with us." (Matt. 1:23) Have we understood Christmas as signifying God's coming to be in our midst, to share life's experiences with us? Is Christmas something that we do, or is it an indication of what God has done and is doing? Once we have acquired the true essence of Christmas for ourselves, we will then be in a position to share it with others.

No business can survive unless it make a profit, but the goal to do a booming business during the Christmas season is not the means by which we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. The advertising industry gears its commercials to the emotion, sentiment and the five sense of the public, and sometime to our need. We cannot blame the commercialization of the advertising industry, however. Neither can we blame the business world. It is the Christian community, you and I, that bears the responsibility. We have allowed the social, political and economic community to interpret the meaning of Christmas for us. Rather it should have been the Christian Community that should help the other communities to understand the significance of Christmas.

TRENT
FIRST BAPTIST
By WAYNE OGLESBY
Pastor
FIRST BAPTIST, TRENT

I suppose I am like everyone else when it come to the Christmas season, I find myself caught up in the excitement of choosing just the right gift for each of my loved ones. My thoughts turn to the pleasures found in the holiday music, the smiles of little children dreaming of Santa Claus coming, and the warmth of people giving of themselves to bring joy to others during this season. As everyone does, I always look forward to Christmas.

As I think of Christmas each year, my thoughts wander back to that first Christmas. I find myself many times picturing how I would have felt had I been one of the shepherds watching their flocks that night or perhaps one of the wise men bringing their precious gifts from afar to the Christ child. We look forward to the coming of Christmas because of all the excitement, but the men were looking for the Christ of Christmas, the Saviour of the world.

Their minds and hearts were filled with the words of the prophets of old as they told of a coming Messiah. I can feel their heart leap in their breast as they pondered perhaps the words of Isaiah, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isiah 9:6)

With expectancy they looked for the Promised one. All of their hopes were built around His coming. Can you imagine along with me the joy that was theirs as they heard the angels say, "Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11) The greatest moment in their lives was spent as they looked upon the face of the Christ child. The Messiah had come. The first and greatest Christmas gift given was from God to man, for "He gave His only begotten Son." (John 3:16)

Just as in those days our only hope for today lies in the person of that first Christmas gift, Jesus Christ. If we could find ourselves more earnestly to Him to meet all our needs our lives would be more abundant.

Perhaps if in the hustle and bustle of each Christmas season, we could spend more time thinking on the true meaning of Christmas, the season would mean even more to each of us and our families. Perhaps if we could give our gifts with the same love that God had in giving us His son, our giving would be more rewarding. Let us truly think upon Christmas by looking to the Christ of Christmas.

Wayne Oglesby
Pastor, First Baptist Church
Trent, Texas

LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa Clause,
My name is Sharleen, I want a doll and a game. We have my Christmas tree up. It is pretty. I will be glad when Christmas comes. Then I will get my toys. I will have three or four toys. I do not know how many I will get.

Your friend,
Sharleen Shelton
R Box 118

Dear Santa,
I want a bicycle for Christmas, a easy bake oven and a picture of you.

My baby sister wants a doll and a 32 Christmas ornaments. My two brothers want a cowboy set and they want a bicycle too. And my mother want a 10 speed bicycle. All of us want a ten speed bicycle. My daddie want a big Dictionary and ten speed bicycle and suit.

Love,
Marie Eley
321 West Street
Merry Christmas.

Dear Santa,
I want Barbie's Townhouse, and a real watch, and toy box, and a table with four chairs, and lots of clothes, and socks, and cow boys hat and a saddle and a bridle, and horse blanket, and horse brush, and candy in mine and my sisters stockings. I might leave a glass of milk and cookies on the table for you.

I am 10 years old. So is my twin and my baby sister is 4 years old. And she wants cars and trucks and 3 barbie dolls and easy bake oven and a tractor with plows. And my maece want a puppy and a tricycle and truck.

Your Truly,
Karen Jackson
R. R. 2

Female teenagers spend approximately \$6 billion annually on clothing and footwear. Claudia Mitze, consumer education clothing and textiles specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System, reports.

Riggan Receives Ag. Degree

A total of 160 seniors were graduated from Tarleton State University at Stephenville Sunday, December 15, during Commencement Exercises held in Wisdom Gymnasium.

Receiving the Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Education was Timothy W. Riggan of Merkel.

Riggan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Riggan of Merkel.

Alpha Nu Nu Has Float

Members of Alpha Nu Nu presented a float in the annual Christmas Parade. The club used Beta Sigma Phi's theme for this year, "Stairway to Happiness," in building the float.

Riding on the float were Martha Sue Justice and Charlotte Starbuck, dressed as "little old ladies." Children riding on the float were Melissa Harris, Johnny Starbuck, Donnan Justice and Stormy Magee. Alpha Nu Nu's float placed second in the parade.

Miss Farmer, Mr. Ybarra Vows Exchanged Dec. 13

Jana Marie Farmer and Augustine Ybarra both of Merkel, were married Friday, December 13, 1974 in Abilene with Justice of the Peace Silas Clark officiating the ceremony. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Sam Jones and the late Walter Lewis Farmer and Mr. Lee Ybarra and the late Mrs. Ybarra.

Miss Susan Donnon of Tye attended the couple. Mrs. Ybarra attended Merkel High School and Draughn's College. She is a Clerk-typist in the medical department of the Abilene State School. Ybarra attended Hayward, Calif. and is employed by Packaging Inc. of Abilene. The couple will reside at El-Tye-O Trailer Park in Tye, Texas.

Miss. Bland To Receive BS

Marjorie Rebecca Bland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Bland of Trent, will complete all requirements for graduation at the close of the fall semester at Hardin-Simmons University.

Miss Bland is a candidate for a Bachelor of Science degree. The December graduates will receive their diplomas at spring commencement next May.

Girl Scout News

By LOYCE BAKER

The girls met at the Scout Hut Monday afternoon. They had a Christmas party and exchanged gifts.

Melba Glasscock served refreshments to Janice Jacobs, Stacy Seymour, Nancy Click, Judy Glasscock, Viola Elby, Rene Aiken, Sharon Austerman and Loyce Baker.

Student Council Has Meeting

By DEBRA YBARRA

The Student Council met Monday, Dec. 16. The members of the '74-'75 school year are: president, Gay Pfister; vice-president, Mike Sims; treasurer, Leta Hart; secretary, Carla Rister; and reporter, Debra Ybarra.

A committee was appointed to post the honor roll. They are Sharryl Luckey, 5th & 6th grade, and Carla Rister, for 7th & 8th grade.

A door decoration contest was also sponsored by the Student Council. The winners were Mrs. Daria Watson's room of the Primary building and Miss Hugh's room of the Elementary building.

The Student Council will also be selling candy that was left over from the 8th grade candy sale at \$1.25 a box.



TREE LEGEND

One of the many legends about the Christmas tree tells of Martin Luther wandering through the woods on Christmas Eve and marveling at the stars shining through the branches of the fir trees. Inspired by the sight, he cut a fir tree for his family, set it up, and lighted it with candles to represent the stars.

NOEL

May this holy season
inspire us all with
renewed love and
hope... that we may
each enjoy a truly
"Merry Christmas!"

THE MERKEL MAIL

CECIL, STEVE, KAYE, JENNYE, DOROTHY, JOBY, AND DAVID

(1) New 74 Grand Prix, 1 Ventura 4 Door Sedan

We have (1) 74 CATALINA that was a drivers education car, all have air, power, BIG SAVINGS ???? ?

1974 FORD RANGER 3/4 ton pickup, Camper Special, air, power, auxiliary gas tank, red & white color, 16,000 miles. REAL NICE only \$4595

72 PONTIAC Catalina 4 door sedan, air, power, bronze color, with beige interior. NICE, ONLY \$2295

71 FORD 1/2 ton pickup, long narrow bed, 360 V8 Engine, 3-speed transmission, air-cond. REAL NICE..... \$1995

72 CHEVROLET 1 1/2 ton pickup 350 engine, air, power, new tires, long wide bed, 2 tone green. NICE ONLY \$2495

71 CHEVROLET Monte Carlo air, power, bucket seats and console, local owner, black with white vinyl top. REAL PRETTY \$2395

70 BUICK Le Sabre 4 door hardtop, air, power, blue with white vinyl top. ONLY \$995

73 PONTIAC Sabre 3 passenger wagon, air, power, luggage rack, green color. ONLY \$3595

73 CHEV Vega - 4 speed, air-cond. Mag Wheels, Red color, REAL NICE..... \$2495

72 PONTIAC Catalina 4-door sedan, air, power, white with black vinyl top. NICE \$1995

71 PONTIAC Catalina 4 door sedan, air, power, white color with blue vinyl top \$1695

71 PONTIAC Catalina 4 door sedan, air, power white color, GOING FOR ONLY \$1395

73 PONTIAC Grand Prix, air and power, tilt wheel, stereo tape player, honey cone wheels, white w/white vinyl top. New radial tires. A Steal at..... \$3995

73 CHEVROLET Monte Carlo air, power, stereo tape player, radial tires, 14,000 miles, burgandy and white vinyl landau top, real pretty, only \$3995

We have several other nice used cars, SO COME SEE US.
"We Sell 'Em-We Lease 'Em"

Palmer Pontiac & GMC

MERKEL

MERKEL, TEXAS 928-5113 ABILENE 673-1182

LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa,
Will you please come to my house. You will find a tree. We got that tree free.
I will leave some cookies I made for you to taste. They do not taste like paste.
I may have been a bad boy. But on Christmas I'll be filled with joy.
I'd like to have a stereo or a tape recorder or even a box full of toys.
Yours truly,
Tony
R.R. 1

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a watch, a tape recorder and a Barbie.
Love,
Sharon Jackson
Rt. 2

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like for you to bring me a real movie camera and a real polaroid camera and a paint set, a real television, a real record player, a dictionary set and adding machine. I am years old. My birthday is April 27. I sell Grit. I just like to sell newspapers.
Your friend
Diana Landeros
304 Runnels Street

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a baby alive and a radio, and a paint set.
Yours truly
Sharon Austerman
502 Thornton

Dear Santa,
My name is Tim Brady. I am nine years old. My teachers name is Mrs. Mawson. I am in the fourth grade.
I want a speedometer, Ricochet Racer, pocket knife, Round King mountain mine, aurora racing car, and a ghost gun. That is all I can remember.
I will leave milk and cookies for you.
Your Truly,
Tim Brady
R. R. 3 Box 161

Dear Santa,
I am in the 4th grade, in Mrs. Mawson's room. I am writing my best for you. I don't want much this year. I have tried to be good this year.
I would like to have some games and clothes and a B.B. gun and a hamster.
I will leave you some goodies out you can eat, and some lettuce for your reindeer.
Yours truly,
Stormy Magee
Farm Road 126

Dear Santa,
My name is Jackie Owen. I am 9 years old. I am in the fourth grade. I would like a Barbie beach bus and a billfold and some clothes and a coat. I will leave some milk and cookie on the table.
Love,
Jackie Owen
1518 Heath

Dear Santa,
What I want for Christmas is some track shoes and I want a Beauty Set and I want a Barbie Doll with clothes and I want some pants and shirts and I want a kitty cat and that is all.
Your true
Mozell Jowers
407 Yucca

Dear Santa Claus,
Just writing these few lines to say hello. For Christmas I want a bicycle, pool table, air hockey, football, suit of Dallas Cowboys Number 14, size 10, tennis net, and ping pong table.
I like you very much Santa Claus. Please bring me something to give my mother.
Your friend,
Ricky Biera
411 Runnels Street

Dear Santa,
I want a pellet gun, a Evel Kenevel set, a airplane that flies on a battery. At first I wanted a ten speed and a pool table. Then I wanted a mousetrap game and a toss a cross game. Well that will be all now. Bye.
Your friend,
Mike Hagar
307 Haynes

Dear Santa,
My name is Tonja Bicknell. I am in the 4th grade. I am in Room 9. My teacher's name is Mrs. Darla Mawson. I want a tape recorder, sleeping bag, a belt with my name on it, and some western clothes, and a pair of boots.
Merry Christmas
Love,
Tonja Bicknell
512 Yucca Street
P.S. I will leave a surprise on the kitchen table.

Dear Santa,
I want a football suit, an electric toothbrush and a coat. My big brother Bill wants a coat and something else but I can't remember.
My sister Kim wants a coat and a basket ball. I forgot. I am ten years old.
Yours Truly,
Chris Mashburn
North 6th Street

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a ten speed for Christmas and a Spin Welder, a set of Walkie Talkies and a Nerf football so I can play football and a Pit Change Charger for Christmas. And my daddy would like some golf balls and he wants some more work pants and he wants a new billfold. And my mother wants some earrings and some clothes and a tiptritter and a adding machine and some paper to go with it.
Your friend,
Eddy Harris
501 Kent Street

Dear Santa,
My name is Windi Whisenhunt. I am nine years and I am in the fourth grade. My teacher is Mrs. Mawson. She is very nice.
I want a ten speed bike for Christmas and that is all.
Merry Christmas.
Windi Whisenhunt
R.R. 3

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a bike and a train and my brother wants a knife for Christmas and I want a football for Christmas.
Your friend
Frank Lindsey
602 El Paso

Dear Santa,
Before I tell you what I want for Christmas please get something for all the suffering people that don't have anything.
What I want for Christmas is a sleeping bag and a paint set and I want everyone to have a very Merry Christmas.
Yours truly,
Amye Amerine
1006 South 9th

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like for you to bring me a real movie camera and a real polaroid camera and a paint set, a real television, a real record player, a dictionary set and adding machine. I am 9 years old. My birthday is April 27. I sell Grit. I just like to sell newspapers.
Your friend
Diana Landeros
304 Runnels Street

Dear Santa,
My name is Tina Bicknell. I am in the fourth grade. I am 10 years old, and this is what I want for Christmas. A new basketball, a sleeping bag, baton, and a belt with my name on it.
Yours truly,
Tina Bicknell
512 Yucca


Dear Santa,
From you I want a record player with two speakers on it, a BB gun, a pair of walkie talkies, and 145 pieces of lego. Good By. Thanks.
Yours Truly,
Scott Adair
701 Walnut



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We sincerely wish our many customers and friends every blessing of the season.

BARNETT BARBER SHOP



Silent Night

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

WILSON JEWELRY
Woody & Frances



Greetings

DECEMBER 25

It's nice to have so many friends! Here's hoping you have the merriest of holidays and gifts galore!

MANSFIELD FARM & RANCH SERVICE
Bobbie & Kathy



Season's Greetings


To all of our customers: best wishes for a happy holiday. May our friendships continue.

LUCAS & HAYS
WELDING



JOY TO ALL!
Let the glad tidings ring out and let us rejoice!

CARSON'S SUPER MARKET



MERRY CHRISTMAS

A tip of Santa's cap to all our customers! We wish you happiness!

Taylor Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(Employee's & Directors)

At this Yuletide season, we extend to you and yours, our thanks for your patronage, and very best wishes.

MERKEL RESTAURANT & MOTEL, INC.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Here's a hearty greeting to you, our loyal patrons: may you have a joyous Yuletide!

MERKEL DRUG CO.



NOEL

May the Spirit of Christmas bless you and yours and bring you the Joys of the Season.

HAUTE COIFFURE
Lee Ann & Lois



NOEL

Wishing you & yours a very happy Yuletide season!

ANN'S FLOWERS
Vernon & Ann Wade



Best Wishes

During this wonderful season of the year, we welcome the opportunity to extend our very best wishes to you... along with a big "Thank you" for your patronage.

FISHER FINA STATIONS & MERKEL AUTO PARTS

MERRY CHRISTMAS

A tip of Santa's cap to all our customers! We wish you happiness!

Taylor Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(Employee's & Directors)

Jane M. Carson	Wayne Deen
Dorothy Gilmore	C.E. Derington, Jr.
Georgia Higgins	Allan Tucker
Margart McAninch	Dannie Doan
Inez G. Purser	Ronny Doan
Faye Robertson	Vaughn Doan
Betty Lu Satterwhite	J.D. Gentry
Jo Ann Smith	Dale Hammond
Pasty Walker	Leo Harris
Tommie F. Cutler	Paxton Hays
B.J. Gist	Bob Hook
Don Hart-Manager	Henry L. Howard
Kent Satterwhite	Jimmy E. Leverich
Wayne Adcock	Hollis Mitchell
Hugh Baker	Manfred Naster
Walter Harris	Roland Pack
Lonnie T. Beard	Jerry F. Patterson
Carroll Benson	Jerry W. Russell
Mack Bigbee	David Scott
Horace Childers	Gary Smith
John Clark, Jr.	Buster Thompson
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LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa,
How are you? Do you know what I want for Christmas? I want a tobogan, and pants and tops and Barbie dolls and the game of Clue.

Love,
Joan

Dear Santa,
How are you? I'm okay. I try to be good, I want a race car set for Christmas. And we have our Christmas tree up. That's all I have to say.

Your friend,
Carlton

Dear Santa Claus,
How is the weather up in the north pole? I bet your elfs are getting ready for Christmas. We have been reading stories about you in class, I watched a show on T.V. about you. In our classroom we have a tree. I guess I better go now.

Your friend,
Kimberly Pack

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I am okay. I would like you to bring me toys and clothes too. Bring me dooks and a trashcan for my teacher. Bring me a G.I. Joe for Christmas.

Your friend,
Steve

Dear Santa Claus,
My brother is getting his mini-bike fixed for Christmas. I want a bee-bee gun with a telaskope. When you come to my house on Christmas you will see our Christmas tree by the couch and chairs. On Christmas you will see me asleep in my bed.

Your friend,
Darvin

Dear Santa,
I am waiting for you to come. We have put up our Christmas tree. We have not put up our lights yet but we will. We was going to go see you. But we have not had time. At school we have not put up our Christmas tree. But we will on Friday. Well by Santa, I hope you will come.

Your friend
Craig



The message of Christmas shines as brightly today as it did almost 2000 years ago... may it bring peace into each heart & joy to the world!

Crawford's

Ruth Horton, Delphene Watson, Theda Hutchenson, Thelma Strawn, Beverly Gilmore, Onis & Tina



Santa's bringing wishes for a happy Yule to all our friends!

Western House
& Employees



Warmest greetings of the season to you, our friends and customers.

Home State Bank

Trent, Texas Member FDIC

Dear Santa Claus,
I think your nice to bring toys to boys and girls all over the world. For Christmas I want a Barbie and some doll clothes for my doll. And I want a Bible. And that's all I want. I don't have a chimney for you to slide down in but I will leave my back door open. And on our kitchen table I will leave you some cookies. Your nice.

Love,
Angela Allen

Dear Saint Nick,
I always wanted a miny bike but you now how it goes. And some rowler skate and a lot of junk. So many games such as The Game of Life and some Walkie Talkies and a Nerf football so it won't go flat.

I wanted a ten speed bike but my dad said it would tie up to easy and I hope to see you Christmas night.

Your friend,
Jeff Scott
1516 Heath Street

Dear Santa,
I hope you can bring me what I want for Christmas. All I want is two things for Christmas. All I want is a air hockey set and a bumper pooltable.

Your friend,
Jay

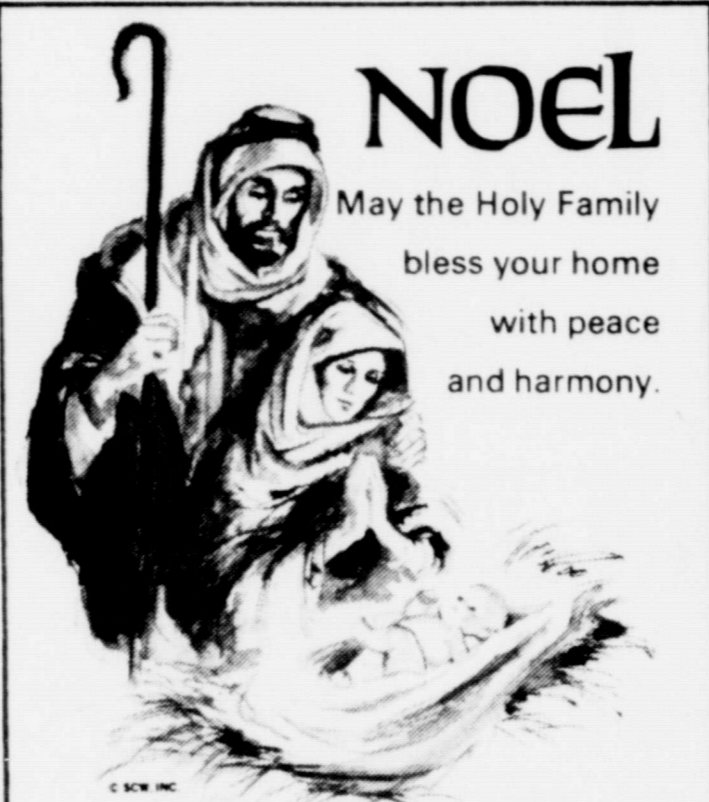
Dear Santa Claus,
How are you? I want a train and a bicycle for Christmas. I will ask my mother if I can leave you something good. We had made a Santa Claus head. We are going to put up our Christmas tree Friday.

Your friend,
Billy

Dear Santa Claus,
I am writing for you we have put our Christmas tree up.

We haven't put our lights up yet. I want a bb-gun and a game called bengo I want a truck. And a coat. I have time a very good boy.

Your friend,
Ronnie



May the Holy Family bless your home with peace and harmony.

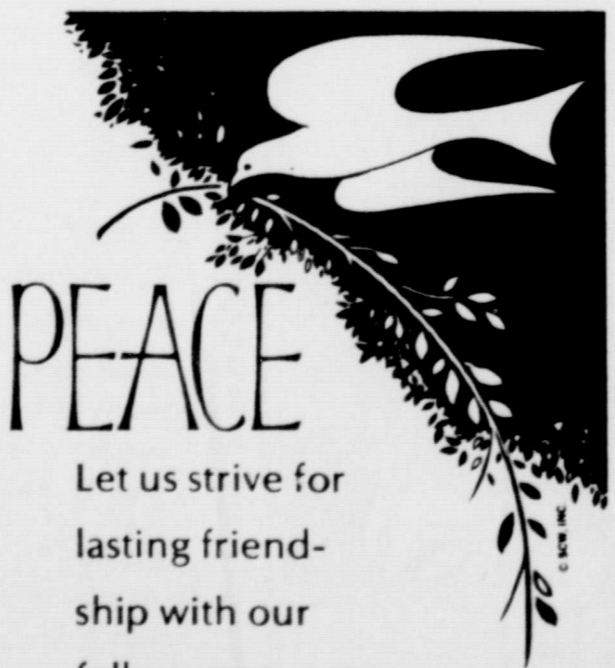
BONEY INSURANCE AGENCY

Benny & Boney



May your Christmas tree be gay with decorations, and your home be bright with warmth & laughter! Sincere greetings from all of us at

Continental Telephone of Texas

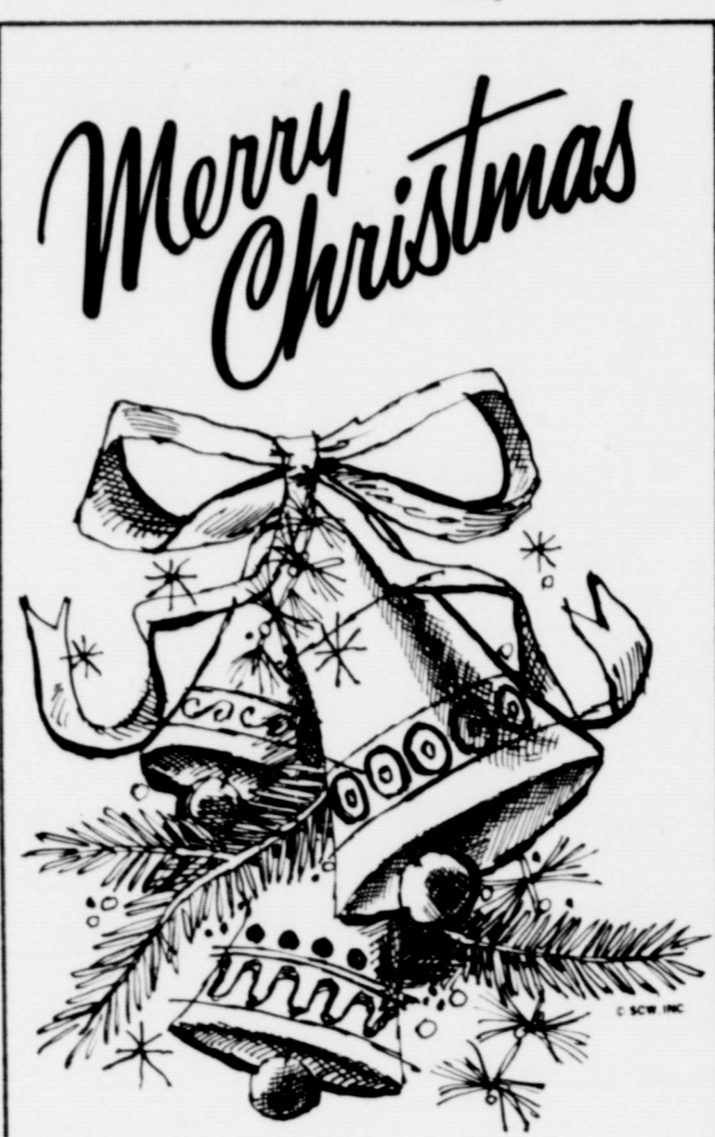


PEACE

Let us strive for lasting friendship with our fellow men, now and after Christmas.

CAL-TEX FEED YARD, INC.

Trent, Texas



As the Yuletide bells ring out their message of good cheer, we would like to extend best wishes to all our wonderful patrons. It's been a pleasure to serve you!

TAYLOR TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE



Coming your way with greetings of the season! May it be lighted with both love and laughter!

Castille Hardware



Guess who's wishing you a wonderful Christmas season? May the festive spirit be yours throughout the holidays and after!

HICK'S AUTO SUPPLY

Merkel, Texas

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Fresh from us to you... greetings of the season. We hope the Yule holidays are happy in every way!

Hohhertz Dairy

The Harold & A.E. Hohhertz Families
Abilene, Texas Kristy



Comin' down your chimney with loads of good wishes for the holiday season. We hope Santa brings you everything you've been hoping for!

Bragg's

Mary, Ethel, Fern & Florence

BLESSINGS



Our prayer at this holy time is that every home may be rich in the blessings of Christmas: love, joy, peace, and friendship.

Star Nursing Home

Mary Outlaw

LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you and your rain-deers doing. I hope none of your raindeers are sick so that you can go around the world and give every little boy and girl a present. Thanks to you most of them are very very happy. My name is Greg Dickinson and I am ten years old. And I live in Merkel, Texas and I would like to have the G.I. Joe training center.

Love,
Greg Dickinson
806 Yucca St.

Dear Santa Claus,
I am ten years old and I am in the fourth grade. And I want a football and a five-speed bike and walkie talkie and a train set and airplane. Your friend,
Michael Tutt
R. R. 3 Box 148

Dear Santa,
My name is Randy Leverich. I have been good all year. I hope you are feeling well and I hope your reindeers are to. For Christmas I would like a King Oil, the game of life, pinball machine, and a race track and some sizzler cars. My brothers name is Lee

Leverich. He likes Roudolph. He wants a pump truck, a G.I. Joe, some Action Jackson suits, and the helicopter. He wants a little pooltable and some records.
Your friend,
Randy and Lee
1513 Sunset Dr.

Dear Santa Claus,
I am ten years old. I am in the fourth grade at Merkel Primary. I would like a lot of things but I only want these things. A three-speed bike, football, and a army camp, a train set, walkie-talkie, and I hope you can bring these things to me. I wish you a Merry Christmas.
Yours truly,
Calvin Cooley
Rt. 1, Box 56

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like to tell you what I want for Christmas. I would like a puppy. I want a purple long dress, and a hotcomb dryer. I want a Baby Alive, a pair of black boots, and some clothes. And I hope to see you soon.
Kimberly Qirgamis
605 Rose Street

Dear Santa,
I am Brooks Boyd. I am 8 years old. I want a Electric-shot-shooting Gallery. And a watch. G.I. Joe set, boots-saddle for my horse and a rope.
Love,
Brooks Boyd

Dear Santa,
My name is Russell Lucas. I hope I am on your good list. I want a ghost gun and sum B-Bs. My sister wants a baby. I want a rifel set. And a Rickashay racer set. And I don't know about my sister. I think there is a lot of other good children on your list. I know there will be some of my friends, nephews and cousins. I hope everybody on this earth has a very Merry Christmas.
Your friend,
Russell Lucas



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

May your holiday be bright with the glow of friendship!

Cypert Tax Services
PINKY & MILDRED

Holiday Cheer

Just want to let you know we wish you Yuletide joy!

THE BLOOMIN' BOUTIQUE
JO ANN REED
PHONE 928-5923



NOEL

Season's Greetings to our Friends!

Sybles Beauty Nook
215 Edwards



GREETINGS of the season to our many good friends! We hope your Christmas is bright with love and joy.

DOTY FARM EQUIPMENT
366 Chestnut Abilene, Texas



HELLO to all our good friends

Robert & Mabel Higgins



Joyous NOEL!

The holy spirit of Christmas reaches out with our good wishes.

Juan's Garage & BODY SHOP



Season's Best

Greetings to all our friends... we thank you for your patronage!

BEN FRANKLIN STORE
Johnny, Bob, Dorothea, Nadine & Wenona



Joy

and our best wishes for a cheerful CHRISTMAS

CLYDE WURST GARAGE
Wrecker Service
Hwy 80

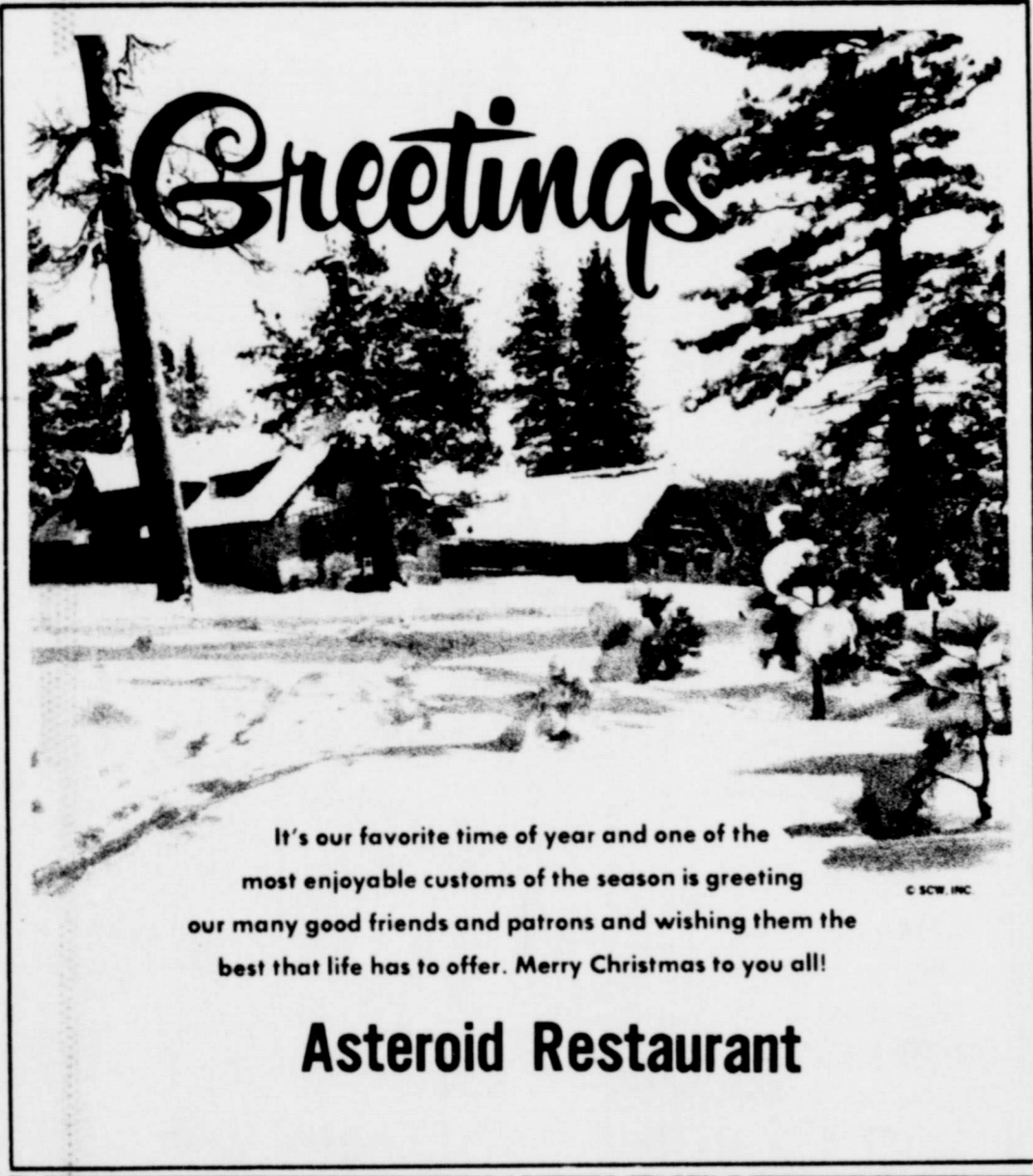


Christmas Joy

During this most wonderful season of the year, we welcome the opportunity to extend our best wishes to all!

From All The People At

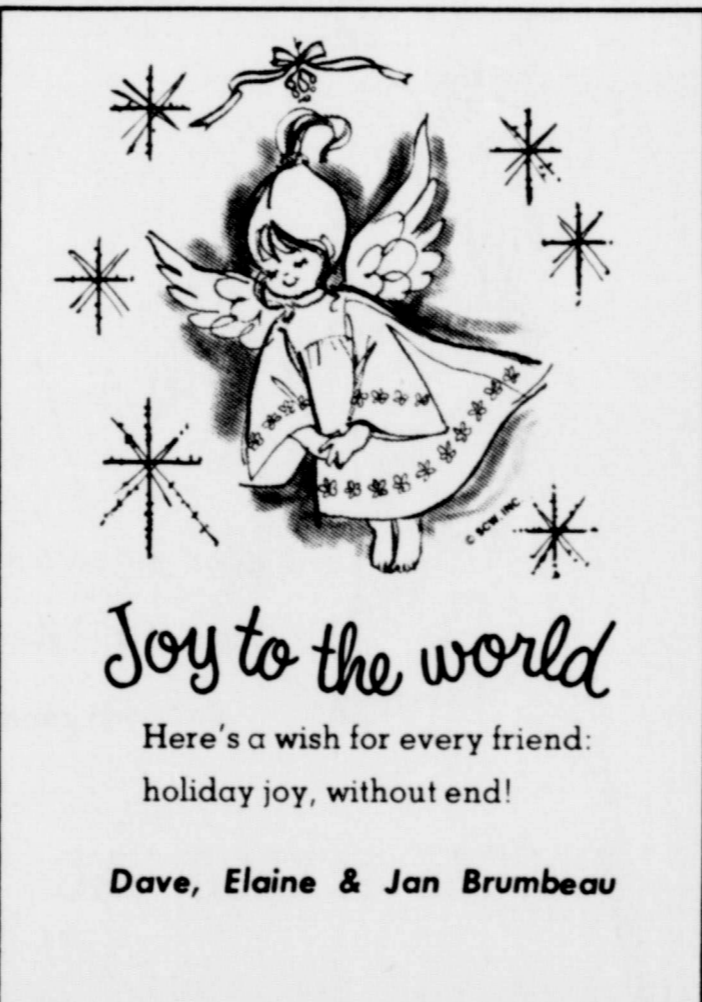
MAX MURRELL CHEVROLET



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!

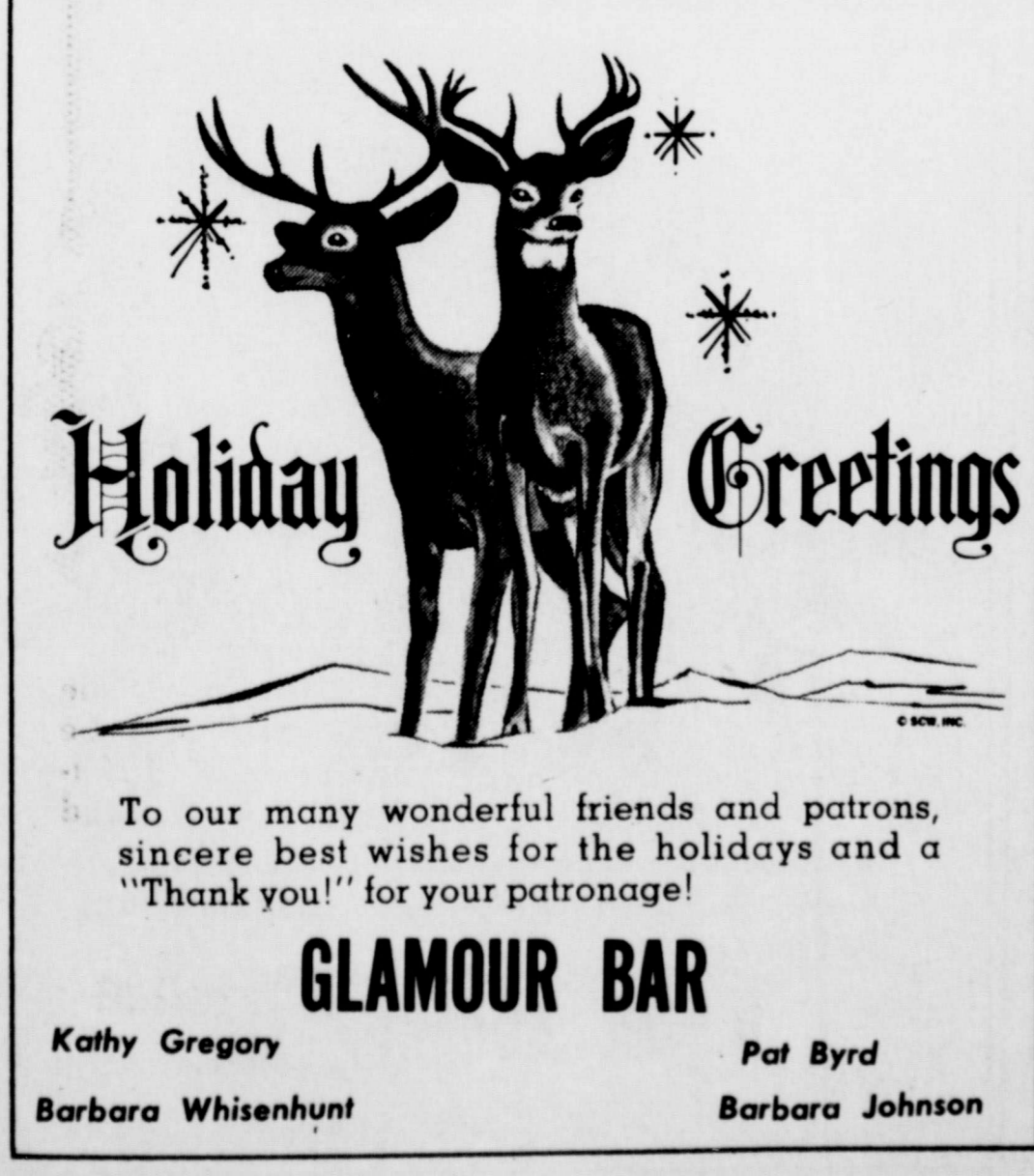
Asteroid Restaurant



Joy to the world

Here's a wish for every friend: holiday joy, without end!

Dave, Elaine & Jan Brumbeau



Holiday Greetings

To our many wonderful friends and patrons, sincere best wishes for the holidays and a "Thank you!" for your patronage!

GLAMOUR BAR

Kathy Gregory
Barbara Whisenhunt

Pat Byrd
Barbara Johnson



Hi!

We hope your home and heart will be filled with laughter, joy and good will this glad Holiday season—

HANDY FOOD STORE
Merkel, Texas
Ken & Lester



a Holiday Special!

We've been shopping around for a good way to express our wishes to you at this holiday season... and "Merry Christmas" seems to say it best!

Carriker Food
Doug & Margie Trent, Texas

LETTERS TO SANTA

HOLIDAY Greetings



May the true meaning of the season come alive in your heart with joy!
Cyrus Pee Insurance Agency
Cyrus & Ethel

Dear Santa,
My name is Tommy Hays. I am 8 years old. I have a brother his name is Lynn. I want a Evel Knevel, his stunt and crash car, a pack of B.B.'s and a Rickashay racer. Lynn wants a Evel Knevel, his stunt and crash car, a Rickashay racer and a bicycle seat. We both want a big bag of candy, too.
Your friend,
Tommy Hays
Rt. 1, Box 20

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Pam Wheeler. I am eight years old. I am in third grade. For Christmas I would like a,
1. Baby Barbie-sits,
2. Sewing machine,
3. Sunshine family,
4. Barbie Camper and
5. I want a picture of you Love,
Pam Wheeler

Dear Santa,
I want some toys please, 2 big Jims, 2 hatary suits, bicycle tire pmp, 2 big Jim plane, and camper, 2 sky commander suits, 2 Big Jim's 2 Big Josh's, a sled, a picture of your deer's, 2 Big Jim's Kung Fu studio, 2 Kung Fu suits, 2 Big rescue units, 2 fire suits, and 2 baseball suits.
Truly,
Hobbs Putman
814 Yucca

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I want a baby Bottoms, pampams and a pair of shoe. I want some clothes, too. My name is Lori Aldridge. I like your pretty red suit. At school I learned a lot of Christmas songs. I like Rudolph the Red Nosed Rain deer the best. It is a pretty song. My brother wants a football and the pads he wants a SSP car too. My brother and I want some tinkler toys. My brother's name is Mark. And we want some candy too. I will like you to wake me up when you come by. I will leave you some cookies and milk on the table.
Your friend,
Lori Aldridge
1511 Heath Street

Dear Santa,
I am 10 years old. I watch your shows and I like them too. I am in the 4th grade. I go to Church Christ and I know that God saves us. I have two dogs. The littlest one is named Missy, the big one is Moocher. Sissy looks little but you know how old she is. Shes pretty big. She can't have pups or it would kill her.
This is what I want for Christmas, a walkie talkie, a little TV, a neckless, a ring, and thats all I can think of.
Your friend,
Debra Kimbrell
1506 Heath St.

Dear Santa,
I want a record player, a dog and cat, a set of dishes, a baby alive, a neckless, makeup kit, Tenderlove, Nancy Nonsense, watch, doll house, horse, pony, nany goat, sheep, pencils, raeser, rooler, notebook paper, World books, bicycle and that's all...
Your friend,
Sarah Stine
604 Rose St.

Dear Santa,
I want a B.B. gun, Gulf set, pool table, billfold, baseball bat, GI Joe set, and a thing that I rely want for my dog is a doghouse. I am sorry that I cannot write more.
Your friend,
Steven Davis
800 Locust St.

Dear Santa,
I want a country go camper and a white horse as white as snow and a bedspred, a quick curi and a bike. I am trying to be as good as I can be.
Your friend,
Mandy Guenther
711 Ash St.

Dear Santa,
My name is Scott Alves. I am 9 years old. I want a automatic calendar watch and a B.B. gun (pistol). I also want some B.B.'s and a pistol holster. I have a sister. She is 10 years old. She wants a chemistry set.
Your friend,
Scott Alves
1003 South 8th

Dear Santa,
I want a B.B. gun, football game, watch, rock'em sock 'em racetrack, big Jim, train set, target set and new pencil.
Your friend,
Casey Johnson
R. R. 2

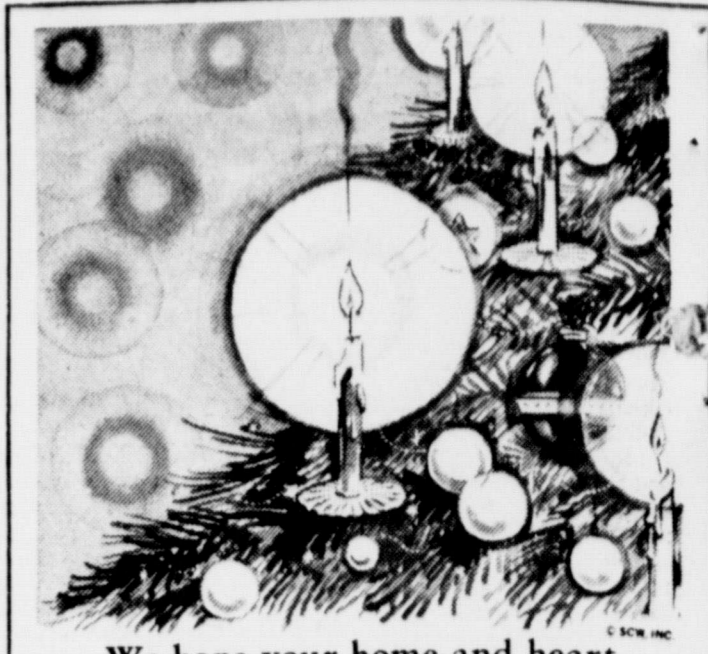
Dear Santa,
I want a 10 speed bike and a watch and a game. I would like to have a gun. I would like to have a horse. I would also like to have a motor-cycle.
Yours truly,
Jimmie Shelton
Rt. 1 Box 118

Dear Saint Nick,
The things I want for Christmas are a Barbie Beauty Center, Barbie's Beach Bus, Mod Hair Ken, Barbie Doll, Sewing Machine. The thing I want most is a coat please. I am 9 years old I am in 4th grade. Please give all the people that don't get a Christmas let them have a little Christmas. And the people in the hospital let them have Christmas dinner and some Christmas present. Because thats what God would want you to do. I wish everybody a very Merry Christmas. I have been a good girl all year.
Your's truly,
Linda Holmes
106 Cherry Street

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like to have a Beach Bus. And I would like to have a Net Set too. I guess that's all for know. And please bring a little candycane for Christmas.
Your friend
Brenda

Dear Saint Nicholas,
I want a record player and a set of records. I want some roller skates and some barbies. I want a ten speed bike and a little colored television. I want a brand new coat. Please get me these things.
Your friend,
Pam Massey
513 Elpaso Street

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Tammye Cloyd. I am 9 years old. My birthday is December 28. I was born in 1964 in Denton, Texas.
I would like a baton, a 5 speed bike, an organ, a paint set, Mystery Date game, The Game of Life, a set of trick cards, a necklace, two set of pajamas red and blue, a set of checkers, a set of Chinese checkers and set of dominoes.
Your friend
Tammye Cloyd
Route, Box 68



We hope your home and heart will be filled with laughter, joy and good will this glad Holiday season—
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Kraatz Repair
David & Sue Kraatz



Imagine the joy the shepherds felt, on hearing the glad tidings! We wish that joy to you and yours.
Seymore Insurance
MAC, IDA, & TED



Merry Christmas!

Here's an old-fashioned greeting from all of us to all our friends!
Employees Of
PALMER MOTOR CO.

Greetings
There's no better time to wish our friends the best! Merry Christmas!
ESTES FLORAL
Carolyn & Weldon

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS
...and great joy to you and yours this holiday season.
ED'S FEED & SEED
ED, ALWAYNE & GLEN

SEASON'S GREETINGS
Wishing you Christmas cheer!
Thank you for your patronage!
MERKEL FINA
Ricky, Judy, Tami & Kristy Elliot

Merry Christmas
A cheery greeting to all our fine patrons from
DuBOSE TEXACO, INC.

Peace on Earth Good Will Towards Men!
May the spirit of love that is the essence of Christmas permeate all hearts. we pray. Noel!
Abilene Farm Supply
3526 S. TREADAWAY
ABILENE, TEXAS

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
A friendly greeting to our many loyal customers!
Bulah's Shamrock Restaurant & Staff
E. Hwy 80 -120
Merkel, Texas

At this joyous Christmas season, we wish you the gift of peace of mind and heart!
FARMER'S CO-OP GIN
Merkel, Texas

SEASONS GREETINGS
It is with a great deal of sentiment and gratitude that we wish our friends the best!
STARBUCKS
FRED, NAOMI, GEORGE, CHARLOTTE & JOHNNY

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
We're singing our merry wishes for you and yours during this Christmas Season. We wish to thank our fine customers.
CONLEY BARBER SHOP
E.A. Conley & Family

MERRY Christmas
We hope this holiday season will be a truly prosperous one for all our friends—but most of all, we wish you good health and good cheer!
H. W. Lemens, Inc.
10 N FIRST

LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa Claus,
My name is Leisa Montgomery. I am 9 and a half. My birthday is December 21, 1974. I have been a good girl this year. I hope you can get me what I want for Christmas. I want a bicycle for Christmas. And I want a Night Before Christmas book. What I really do want is a blue and pink granny dress. I want a new pair of track shoes for school. And I want some beauty kit. I want some rocks and a coloring book. Santa I love you because you are so nice and you have a parade and give us what we want. So By Bye for now.
Love,
Lisa Montgomery
1111 South 2nd St.

Dear Santa,
My name is Cindy Sims. I'm eight years old. I love you very much. If it wouldn't be any trouble I would like a Happy Baby, Easy Bake Oven, bike, radio and that's all. Cookies and milk will be on the table. I just can't wait till you come.
Your friend,
Cindy Sims
Route 3

Dear Santa,
The e are the things I want for Christmas. I want a radio, train set, lego, a game and B-B gun.
Your friend
John Ybarra
1512 Sunset

Dear Santa,
My name is Sissy Atkinson. I want a doll that eats and drinks, a baby bed, and a watch. I want a record from you, some pants and shirt, a barbie doll and a case for her. I want some boots and a belt that has my name on it. I want some dishes, stove, dryer, washer for clothe, a bicycle, a swing and a trapoling. That's all.
Merry Christmas to you.
Love,
Sissy Atkinson
1411 Stewart St.

Dear Santa,
I would like to have a record player, make up kits, records, hair brush, camera, mirror, babe doll, Tender Love, swing set and Baby Alive and a bike.
Love, Missy
601 Marion

Dear Santa,
My name is Denise Pack. I am in the third grade. I would like these things for Christmas. I would like a 1. Barbie Beauty Center, 2. Sewing Machine with case, 3. Barbie Beach Camper, and 4. A picture of you.
The e are the four things I want for Christmas.
Your friend,
Denise Pack
211 Oak St.

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Pam wants some house-hoe and a ice bird. I want a radio. How is your reindeer. We are going to leave some milk and cookies for you, Merry Christmas Santa Claus. We love you and Mrs. Claus.
Your friend,
Jill
Brickhaven 812

Dear Santa,
I want a walky talky set, skates, 3 model airplane, a BB gun, and a real horse.
Your friend,
Jerry Miller
R. R. 1

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a softina and a radio and a record player.
Love,
Pam Hair

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want Sweet sounds, the game of life, a radio, a stroller and a buggy.
Love,
Judy Jenkins

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a tape reectre and a dardy bird and a road a roadgrader for Crestmas.
Whith love,
Keith

Dear Santa,
I want a baby doll and a lightbright. And a big wheel. That's all I want.
Love,
Charlotte Toney

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the toys you gave me. I want a tape reectre and a baby doll.
From Margaret
Wilde

Dear Santa Claus,
I have been good, I have a picture of you. I am waiting for you to come. I have got a picture of rodolf.
Wayne Horton

Dear Santa,
How are you? I hope that you are doing fine. I am. I want a train set, ring, baseball set, airplane set and watch. My brother wants a guitar, rock 'em sock 'em, racetrack, 22 shells and a biggim set.
Your friend,
Freddy Fortune
806 Rose St

Dear S.T. Nick,
How are things in the north pole.
I want baby's friendship, baby alive, baby bottom, Ruba-dub-dolly.
Love
Kim

Dear Santa,
I want a Baby Bottoms. I would like some games and some pencils. My brother Tim would like a bulldozer and a horse. We both would like some candy.
Your friend,
Brenda Hohbertz
Route #4

Dear Santa,
I want a B.B. gun, football game, hockey game, mini bike battle game and socker boopers. There will be cookies and milk on cupered.
Your friend,
Scotty Niemann
1524 Sunset



As Christmas carols fill the air, our thoughts are with our many friends. Greetings to one and all!

MY WIFE BILLIE AND I WISH ALL OF YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Elmer Martin
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 61



TO ALL OUR FRIENDS!
Heartiest greetings of the season! It's always a pleasure to wish our friends the very best!

NINTH STREET GRO.
Pete & Madge Shouse



Greetings

To our many fine customers. May your Holiday Season be full of happy blessings and the joys of Christmas cheer.

Higginbotham - Bartlett Co.

Pat, Linda, Debbie & Billy Williams Ikey Garrett



Season's Greetings

It's the happiest time of the year—because it's the time we pause to greet friends old and new, the time when we draw closer to those we love. It's our sincere hope that our many fine patrons will enjoy the best of this holiday season!

THE FARMERS AND MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK OF MERKEL



MERKEL, TEXAS





5 BIG SHOPPING DAYS
THURSDAY THRU TUESDAY
DEC. 19-24TH
SHOP OUR TOY SELECTION FOR 20% OFF ON \$1.49 OR MORE ITEMS

CREAMY CRISCO
3 LB. CAN **1⁶⁹**
WITH \$7.50 IN TRADE OR MORE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

FROZEN FOODS
WHOLE SUN ORANGE JUICE 12 OZ. CAN **39¢**
BIRDSEYE COOL WHIP 9 OZ. CRTN. **59¢**
BIRDSEYE STRAWBERRIES 10 OZ. PKG. **45¢**

BAMA 18 OZ. RED PLUM JAM **63¢**
KRAFT JET OR MINATURE Marshmallows 10 OZ. BAG **33¢**

ASSORTED JELLO 3 FOR **49¢** (6 LIMIT)

KARO WHITE SYRUP PINT BOT. **49¢**
TALL CAN **55¢**
PET MILK 2 FOR **39¢**
I.G. FRESH

PEACHES
FOLGERS COFFEE 1 LB. CAN (1 LIMIT) **89¢**
COKECOLA 32 OZ. BOTTLE 3 FOR (3 LIMIT) **1⁰⁰**
FLOUR (LIMIT 2) Gold Medal 5 LB. BAG **79¢**

VIL-VITA 2 1/2 CAN **45¢**
COFFEE 1 LB. CAN (1 LIMIT) **89¢**
32 OZ. BOTTLE 3 FOR (3 LIMIT) **1⁰⁰**
Gold Medal 5 LB. BAG **79¢**

INSTANT TEA LIPTON 3 OZ. JAR **99¢**

Brown & SERVE 12 CT. BAKERS 12 OZ. PKG. **39¢**
Chocolate CHIPS PHILADELPHIA PKG. **69¢**
Cream CHEESE 8 OZ. PKG. **43¢**

BORDEN MILK 14 OZ. CAN **53¢**

I.G. DAIRY FRESH Homo MILK 1/2 GAL JUG **\$1⁴³**
I.G. DAIRY FRESH Butter MILK 1/2 GAL JUG **65¢**

DUNCAN HINES CAKE MIX ASSORTED BOX (2 LIMIT) **59¢**

1/2 Moon CHEESE LB. PKGS. **\$1²⁹**
BAKERS ANGEL FLAKE COCANUT 3 1/2 OZ. CAN **33¢**
KRAFT MAYONNAISE QT. JAR **\$1²⁹**

DAIRY FRESH Homo 2 MILK GAL. JUG **1³³**

PARKAY TWIN PACK LB. CTN. **79¢**
DEL MONTE DILLS 22 OZ. JAR **49¢**
GANDY-FOREMOST-BORDEN SOUR OR WHIPPING CREAM 1/2 PT. **35¢**
FOREMOST-BORDEN EGG NOG QUART CRTN. **79¢**

have a HAM-happy holiday
HORMEL OR DECKER BUTT-IN POUND **95¢**
WHOLE POUND **98¢**
DECKER OR HORMEL TENDERIZED SHANK IN LB. **89¢**



PRINGLES POTATOCHIPS TWIN PACK **79¢**
LIBBYS CUT 303 GREEN BEANS 2 FOR **69¢**
LIBBYS 303 CS. Golden CORN 2 FOR **59¢**
CONTADINA 300 TOMATOES 2 FOR **59¢**
OCEAN SPRAY Cranberry SAUCE CAN **39¢**

APPLES
The JUICY, CRISPY Kind
You LIKE BEST



TURKEYS GOLD HENS CREST 12-20 LB. **59¢**
STEAK BABY BEEF T-BONE SIRLOIN LB. **1²⁹**
BACON DECKER POUND **1¹⁹**
HAM DECKER COOKED BONELESS 3LB. CAN **4³⁹**
SAUSAGE DECKER 2LB. BAG **1⁴⁹**
FRYERS FRESH GRADE 'A' POUND **39¢**
CHEESE WISCONSIN CHEDDAR LB. **1¹⁹**
SHORTRIBS FRESH BEEF LB. **49¢**

AJAX DISHWASHER KING SIZE **73¢**

BONUS GT. BOX **1²³**

STOVE TOP STUFFING MIX BOX **39¢**

OXYDOL KING SIZE (1 LIMIT) **1⁶³**

WASHINGTON DELICIOUS POUND **39¢**
CELERY FRESH LB. **15¢**
ORANGES SUNKIST LG. LB. **23¢**
LETTUCE FRESH LB. **19¢**
BANANAS DELMONTE LB. **15¢**
Cranberries CELLO LB. **39¢**
ONIONS YELLOW LB. **15¢**
SPUDS RUSSET 10 LB. BAG **73¢**

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS
SHOP AND SAVE

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

CARSON'S SUPER MARKET
MERKEL, TEXAS
FREE DELIVERY MON. WED. FRI.
FRESH VEGETABLES