

## Between you

and me

By SARAH ECKOLS



Lo and behold it is finally 1976. For those of us who at times wondered if we'd make it through 1975, 1976 is a welcomed sight. Happy New Year, everybody. I hope that 1976 is a very good year for each of us and brings with it joy and prosperity.

Now that Christmas is over, I have begun to relax a bit and reflect on the past year as is commonly done at this time each year. I have also spent some time considering whether to make resolutions (which are so often forgotten on January 2 anyway) or to just hang in there and let each day take care of itself.

Now were I to make the resolutions of a weekly newspaper editor in Merkel, Texas, they would probably go more or less like the following:

I resolve to make and keep a deadline each week.

I resolve to write my column first thing each Monday morning.

I resolve to develop my negatives early Tuesday afternoons so they will be dry enough to print before midnight.

I resolve not to fall asleep at the City Council Meetings anymore.

I resolve to be patient each time someone brings in news late, doesn't know the facts of the story, says "You just fix it the way it should be," and "Could you put it on the front page?"

I resolve to quit screaming at my early American (and I do mean early) typewriter just because it is taking part.

I resolve not to eat so much of the good food at Lions Club because it makes me want to go home and take a nap instead of coming back to work.

I resolve to proof read more carefully so that those errors don't snout at me when I read the printed edition.

I resolve to get more rest and be more artistic with my make up so that George Starbuck doesn't come in on Tuesday morning and tell me now "haggared" I look.

I resolve to know the news so that I can tell Woody Wilson what's going on in town when he asks me.

I resolve to get a stool to stand on so that Don Hensley will stop feeling sorry for me when I'm too short for microphones and the taller's window at the bank.

I resolve to think before I act so I don't go to the wrong place for coffee again.

I resolve to keep the camera in working order so that everytime I go to take a picture of Travis Davis the flash will work.

I resolve to make the paper more interesting so that even Jerry Byrd will read it.

Could you believe all that snow on Christmas Eve? I had never before experienced a white (or nearly white) Christmas. I was somewhat disappointed to awaken on Christmas morning to find most of the snow gone.

I hope the big country has had its quota of snow for the year, however. I spent one winter in the upper peninsula of Michigan and that was enough snow to last me the rest of my life. Never before (and I hope never again) had I shoveled snow, plugged in my car at night and worn so many layers of clothes. For a moment or the time I spent in Ishpeming I have kept my fur-lined snow boots with the sincere hope that they will not be necessary again.

There is nothing quite so spectacular though, as watching a giant body of water like Lake Superior turn from white ice to the beautiful blue liquid state. It is like a breath of spring itself when the sail boats begin to dot the bay that was a solid mass of ice for so many months.

It's the beginning of a year that's new  
And a time to celebrate, it's true.  
A time to count blessings of the year that's past,  
And to reflect the time that went far too fast;  
To look back on those things that went so well  
And a little saucy at the ones that fell,  
It's a time to reflect and to look ahead,  
For today is where it all has led,  
And tomorrow is where our path will lead;  
The plant grown from today's planted seed.

## Farm Bureau Annual Meet Set For Jan. 4-8

Texas Farm Bureau will send 13 voting delegates to the 57th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation January 4-8 in St. Louis. National policies to guide the Farm Bureau in 1976 will be adopted at the meeting.

Heading the TFB voting delegates will be Carrol Chaloupka of Dalhart, president of the 187,470-member organization.

Other delegates, all members of the TFB Board of Directors, include Bill Reid of Lamesa, vice-president; Reed Lang of Rio Hondo, secretary-treasurer; Jack Osborne, Pampa; Marvin Phemister, Weinert; Joe Fisher, McKinney; T. L. Roberts, Willis Point; Doyle Condra, Talpa; John A. Smith, Cameron; Henry Burton, Lufkin; Robert Faselier, Hondo; Donald Hebert, Waller; and Milton Harborth, Seguin. S. M. True Jr. of Plainview will serve as alternate voting delegate.



STATE FARMER'S UNION CONVENTION IN FORT WORTH. Pictured are Taylor County Farmer's Union delegates that attended the State Farmer's Union Convention held recently in Fort Worth. Pictured are (back row) left to right, Joe Montgomery, Eddie Glenn Sandusky, Ford Smith Jr., and Jack Hogan, (front row) Billy Bob Toombs, Mrs. Joe Montgomery, Mrs. Connie Mac Seymore, Mrs. Ford Smith Jr.,

Mrs. Jack Hogan and Freddie Toombs. Also attending the convention but not pictured were Mrs. Billy Bob Toombs and Connie Mac Seymore. Joe Montgomery, president of Taylor County Farmer's Union was elected as a delegate to the national convention to be held in New Orleans in March. He will be one of three Texas delegates.

## CJC To Offer Eight Courses, Registration Will Be Jan. 13

Cisco Junior College's night course extension program in Merkel will offer eight different college courses during the coming spring semester, Registrar Olin Odom III has announced. Mr. Odom said students could take up to twelve hours work in the program by attending class four evenings per week, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. once per week at the Cisco Junior College classroom building. On the schedule for Monday nights are History 123 (U. S. History from Reconstruction) and English 213 (Readings in English Literature). Tuesday night's courses include Government 223 (State and Local Government) and P. E. 133 (First Aid Safety Education). Offered on Wednesday evenings will be Psychology 123 (Social Psychology) and Business 253 (Salesmanship).

The Thursday night schedule will include English 123 (English Composition and Rhetoric) and Math 123 (Trigonometry). Costs for the CJC Merkel Extension program are the same as at all of the college's extensions as well as its main campus in Cisco, supported by the state. A full twelve hour load, \$112.00; nine hours, \$92.50; six hours, \$59.00; and three hours, \$47.50. Registration for the Merkel program will be held at the Merkel Community Center on Tuesday, January 13, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Any student desiring more information may contact Mr. Odom at Cisco Junior College at 317-442-2567 after January 5.

# IT HAPPENED IN MERKEL IN '75

In 1975, Merkel grew. A new Ben Franklin store opened. A Western Auto Associate store was established.

Wilkinson Manufacturing Plant's new location got its start here. The Gilene plant grew to employ over 30 persons. Black Pipe Threading Company began operations.

Development of the Country Club of Merkel included expansion of the clubhouse and golf course.

And the TV Cable of Merkel was finally installed.

Construction was begun on 20 new apartments in Merkel, being built under an FHA loan.

And the city received a \$30,400 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for water system improvements.

On the negative side, fire destroyed a downtown business, Casille Hardware Store.

7,919 Cities Participate In Bicentennial

On the eve of America's Bicentennial year, the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA) reports that over three quarters of the nation's population live in officially designated Bicentennial Communities.

As of December, 7,919 communities had been officially recognized for their Bicentennial efforts. The figure includes 26 Indian tribes and nations.

Additionally, 608 college campuses and 256 Armed Forces installations had joined the Bicentennial rolls.

Following approval by its 11-member policy board at their December meeting, the ARBA has announced that the Communities and College Campus recognition programs will be cut-off as of March 31 to allow time for processing applications before July 4.

The Board also approved a January 31 cut-off date for license applications for Bicentennial commemorative items now being manufactured under license from the ARBA.

And tragedy struck when Tye's young elementary school principal, Gene Stuckey, died of an apparent heart attack he suffered while refereeing a football game.

Month by month, a run-down of what 1975 brought to Merkel follows.

JANUARY January 1 meant the end of ambulance service provided by Starbuck Funeral Home. On that date, Merkel Police Department took over ambulance operations for the city and surrounding area.

The first of January also marked the resignation from office of Justice of the Peace Roy Buchanan, who had held the post for 16 years. He was replaced by Lewis L. Millett.

On January 19, Robert Roysden took over as Corporation Court judge, a position left vacant by the retirement of Sam Hill.

Michael Coach was named new loan officer at Farmers and Merchants Bank.

Trent school superintendent Dean King announced that he would resign to take a job as superintendent of Sundown Independent School District.

And Wanda Braune won the All-Around Showmanship award at the annual Merkel Livestock Show.

JANUARY 1975 DEATHS Reported in The Merkel Mail James Bryan, 95 Mrs. Harvey Allred, 67 Howard L. Garner, 68 Mrs. Minnie Lou Hunter, 76

JANUARY 1975 BIRTHS Reported in The Merkel Mail To Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Scott, Sha Rae Denise To Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gill, Tiffany Marie

JANUARY 1975 MARRIAGES Reported in The Merkel Mail Latina Mignon Crawford and Robert Walton Brown, Jr. Cynthia Annetta Fisher and Darel Clyde Bunch Carol Criswell and Michael Parsons Tonja Denise McAninch and Rickey Dale Meeks

FEBRUARY The Merkel High Badgers basketball team won the District 8A championship. Un-defeated for the season, the team beat the Baird Bears for the title by a score of 97-57. The team continued victorious, winning bid-district by defeating Knox City and moving on to regional.

J. A. Sadler became city coordinator for Merkel. F and M bank president Don Hensley was named Merkel Chamber of Commerce president.

Jim Broussard resigned as Merkel Police Chief, which he had been since 1973. He took a job doing police work in Columbus, Texas.

Abilene Savings applied for a Merkel branch. Roy Neff was named superintendent at Trent to replace Dean King, who was moving.

FEBRUARY 1975 DEATHS Mrs. Eula Street, 89, of Tye Mrs. James Marvin Freeman, 65, of Trent Mrs. Ida Mae West, 99 James L. Pannell, 86, of Chico, California, formerly of Merkel Mrs. Zora B. Johnson, 84, of Dallas, formerly of Trent Wilbert Criswell, 67, of Merkel

FEBRUARY 1975 BIRTHS To Mr. and Mrs. Robert Leo Harris, Kristofor Joel To Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hobbs, Alisha Kay

MARCH On March 17, a mobile home belonging to R. L. Bland, Jr. at Cal-Tex feed yard was flipped by high winds and completely demolished. It was unoccupied at the time. Damage was between \$8-8,000. Bill Button was honored as outstanding citizen of the year and Mrs. H. C. Keadas Woman of the Year at the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet. Mack Fisher was elected chairman of the Red Cross fund drive.

MARCH 1975 DEATHS Dee Porter Moore, 80, of Merkel Arl Sharp, of El Paso, formerly of Merkel Mrs. Bessie Carter, 76, of San Angelo, formerly of Merkel Mrs. Maude Stalls, 90, of Abilene, formerly of Merkel George Linsay Rister, 54, of Hawthorne, California, formerly of Merkel

MARCH 1975 BIRTHS To Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bratcher, Casey Earl To Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Williams, Michele Leigh

APRIL Voters returned all incumbents in city and school elections: Charles Jacobs and Bobby Tolver as school board trustees, Darrell Farmer and Kent Satterwhite to the city council, and Lou David Allen, who was un-contested, as mayor. Jerry Gibson was elected to fill the unexpired term of Danny Doan, and Don Hart was elected to a three-year term on the school board.

Incumbent officers were elected for Taylor Electric Cooperative, Inc. For Zone I, J. Riley Miller, for Zone II Alton Whiteaker, and for Zone III Clovis McElmurry were named.

Winners in Merkel's Lambda Beta Beauty Pageant were named: Amber Whisen-hunt, preschool; Pamela Hair, primary; Sheila Adair, elementary; Suzanne Byrd, junior high; Teri Hamner, high school.

Travis Davis was named president of Merkel Lions Club for the coming year. Merkel Independent School District was approved for a federal Office of Education grant of \$16,304.

Gifts Calors opened at 102 Edwards in Merkel. The Beauty Shack, owned and operated by Judy Pape, opened for business.

APRIL 1975 DEATHS Calvin Coolidge Keith, Sr., of Odessa, formerly of Merkel William Campbell, 58, of Merkel Troy Miller, 58, of Merkel Mrs. Eva Lena Blackburn, 85, of Merkel Mrs. Fannie Criswell, 76, of Merkel Mrs. Hattie Merritt, 65, of Abilene, formerly of Mer- kel

MAY 1975 DEATHS Mrs. Betty Lou Cleveland, of Dallas, formerly of Mer- kel Thomas David Scott, 77, of Trent

MAY 1975 BIRTHS To Mr. and Mrs. Karl Irvin, David Lawrence To Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne Pack, Helen LeLayne

See 1975, Page 2



# NEW YEAR GREETINGS

# 1975

Continued from  
page 1

To Mr. and Mrs. Don El-land, Ryan David

**MAY 1975 MARRIAGES**  
Pamela Jean Hamilton and Danny Fred Jones  
Mary Kathryn Toland and Johnny Sam Jones  
Betty Kathryn Hendricks and Dennis Ray James

**JUNE**  
Donnie Cloyd was employed by the Merkel Police Department, it was announced by Chief of Police Leroy Austerman.  
Riding club sweetheart was Shelli Stout, junior sweetheart was Lisa Dokey.  
Christi Boone took first place in the senior division of the 4-H Dress Revue in Abilene.  
Fred Starbuck resigned as civil defense director for Merkel, stating reasons of health.

A tornado was confirmed four miles west of Merkel at 9:20 p.m. June 9.  
City council approved a patriotic color scheme for painting fire plugs in the city.  
Mrs. Thelma Griffin was installed as worthy patron, Order of Eastern Star.  
Darryl Harris, 13, took second place in the singles division as a E junior at the American Junior Bowling Congress in El Paso.  
Franchise name change was approved in city council for the planned TV cable system from Mathis and Shelton to Mathis and Scott.  
The golf course at Merkel Country Club was undergoing a complete renovation.  
A group of men from Texas A & M came to Merkel

and several other Texas towns seeking a site for a training center.  
Twenty-nine women competed in the invitational golf tournament at Merkel Country Club.

**JUNE 1975 DEATHS**  
Vernon W. (Bobby) Marton, 64, of Mulberry Canyon

Mrs. Nora Curtis, 91  
**JUNE 1975 BIRTHS**  
To Mr. and Mrs. Tom McAninch, Ashley Angela  
To Mr. and Mrs. Jacky Reynolds, Renli Jade  
To Mr. and Mrs. Randy Carson, John Cody  
To Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Green, Ricky Scott  
To Mr. and Mrs. Danny Kise, Timothy Aaron

**JUNE 1975 MARRIAGES**  
Debra Gregory and Jeffrey Wells  
Rebecca Sue Freeman and Roy Lee Sharp  
Phyllis Rose Shanks and Michael Darwin King

**JULY**  
Vietnamese refugees Nguyen Minh Tan and family arrived under the sponsorship of Judge and Mrs. Lewis Millett.  
Max Murrell was appointed area director of the Texas Automobile Dealers Association.  
Glen Braune and Bart Whisenant went to the Future Farmers convention in Houston.  
Herman Aiken, West Texas Utilities serviceman of Merkel, was honored as outstanding appliance serviceman in Dayton, Ohio.  
Buster and Michele Brown of Merkel were exhibitors in the National Junior Beef Heifer Classic in Omaha, Nebraska.

**JULY 1975 DEATHS**  
Curtis D. Clyburn, 47, of South Community  
George Hunter, 82, Merkel native  
Mrs. Clark Mundy, 65, of Fort Worth, formerly of Merkel  
L. V. Perkins, 57, of Mulberry Canyon  
Sam Bankston, 83, of Merkel  
Mrs. J. W. Love, Trent

**JULY 1975 BIRTHS**  
To Mr. and Mrs. Joe Nichols, Casey Jo  
To Mr. and Mrs. Mac Sipe, a son  
To Mr. and Mrs. Ford Roberson, Joy Cathalya  
To Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hester, David James  
To Mr. and Mrs. Darel Bunch, Amanda Lynette

**JULY 1975 MARRIAGES**  
Mary Beth Phillips and Robert Ray Rabb  
Lorelei Lynn Sherrell and Allan Campbell  
Blance Wharton and Travis Elliott  
**AUGUST**  
Mrs. Mary Outlaw sold Starr Nursing Home to Lloyd A. Knicht and Associates. She continued as administrator.  
Paul L. Crouse was named Merkel Chief of Police effective August 18.  
A complete re-evaluation of all property in the district was completed by the Merkel

School Tax Office.  
School began in Merkel on August 18.  
Four new teachers were on duty at Tye: Teresa Treadaway, Judy Coco, Mildred Winter and Phyllis Van Winkle.  
Trainer Don McDonald rode Jacket Bars, a stallion owned by Wyman Wilkerson of Merkel, to the national senior cutting horse championship in Kansas City, Missouri.  
School superintendent Mack Fisher announced that he would retire on June 30, 1976.

**AUGUST 1975 DEATHS**  
Mrs. Mary Jinkens, 66  
Mrs. Jerry Sandel Mills, 58, of Trent  
Edwin W. Lewis, 63, of Merkel  
Mrs. Dorothy Nell Goode, 60, of Merkel  
Lindie Eugene Martin, 66, formerly of Merkel  
Val P. Byron, 76, of Nolan  
Barney Gibbs Slough, 76

**AUGUST 1975 BIRTHS**  
To Lt. and Mrs. Douglas Barnhart, Tamela Ann

**AUGUST 1975 MARRIAGES**  
Carla Sue Hobbs and Jimmy Rae Ellison  
Sunshine Cooper and Mack Stephen Sherrell  
Lisa Gwen Moore and David Robert McFall  
Becky Ann Reynolds and Wade Lee Johnston  
Sherry Martin and Glenn W. Burton

**SEPTEMBER**  
Gene Stuckoy, Tye elementary school principal, suffered an apparent heart attack while refereeing a football game and was dead on arrival at Stamford Memorial Hospital.  
Dr. Edward W. Rongers, D. C., 34, opened a chiropractic practice in Merkel.  
Mrs. S. B. Toombs, Mrs. G. L. Zimmerman, Mrs. Jack Hogan, Mrs. W. R. Cypert and Mrs. Ford Smith Jr. attended the National Farmers Union Food Conference in Bailey, Colorado.  
Groundbreaking was held September 30 on the Wilkerson Manufacturing Plant location.

**SEPTEMBER 1975 DEATHS**  
Mrs. Neoma Webb, 61, Merkel  
Mrs. Maggie Winney, 93, Merkel  
Mrs. Gladys Swinney, 72, of Mulberry Canyon

**SEPTEMBER 1975 BIRTHS**  
To Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nalley, a son  
To Mr. and Mrs. Pat Warren, Kelly Ann.

**SEPTEMBER 1975 DEATHS**  
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Truett Jones, 62, of Gatesville, formerly of Merkel

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## Card Of Thanks

## Merkel Visitors

WE WOULD Like to thank all our friends and neighbors for being so kind and sympathetic during Truett's illness and death.  
The family of  
Truett Jones  
45-1tp

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Humphrey of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Burgner of Fort Worth, Texas, Rev. and Mrs. Bob ... and Miss Iva Nelle Bookman and also Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Ray during the Christmas holidays.

Wishing You the Best Yet in '76

**Season to Waste**  
By Lillie Stuckey

**MUSHROOMS: DELICIOUS ALL WAYS**

The best reason why American mushroom growers have to grow as many as three hundred million pounds of these delicious vegetables is that there are so many good uses for mushrooms.

Dunk fresh mushrooms into a well-seasoned dip to work up an appetite.

Add them, sliced, to all kinds of salads, leafy green tossings and cooked vegetable mixtures. They are especially good in meat, chicken, turkey or fish salads. Or in macaroni, egg or potato salads. Needn't measure; more fresh or canned mushrooms will make the dish better. Fewer mushrooms will make it not quite as good.

Fresh or canned mushrooms are especially good in stewed tomatoes, buttered peas, creamed white onions, zucchini sauteed in olive oil and a whiff of garlic.

For brunch or breakfast, add mushrooms to scrambled eggs—plus some minced chives and parsley. Good, too, with creamed hard-cooked eggs and here again, add a little onion.

To saute mushrooms, blot dry and add to a generous bit of hot oil, butter or margarine. Stir constantly, but do not cook them longer than 4 or 5 minutes.

If wishes do come true, all our friends will have a great year!

**MERKEL AUTO PARTS & MERKEL FISHER FINA STATIONS**

Season's Best

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

**SENIOR CITIZENS SCHEDULE EVENTS**  
1st Monday of Month Singing  
2nd Tuesday Noon Covered Dish Luncheon  
Game Nights Every Thursday & 4th Monday  
4th Thur. Game Night Reserved for Talented Amateurs.

**STARBUCK FURNITURE**

# Offshore Oil Discovery Helping British Economy

The current issue of Petroleum Today emphasizes that the onshore impact of petroleum development in the North Sea need not be adverse.

The American Petroleum Institute magazine says that in Scotland, particularly, "the onshore impact has been significant in several areas. It has been made manageable because local authorities started early to plan where, whether, and under what conditions onshore development should take place and because they have had close and continuing cooperation from the national government."

Because of its successful program of offshore development, the magazine adds, there is no shortage of natural gas in Britain today. And in five years or so, Britain's North Sea oil fields may be delivering all the crude oil that country needs--and possibly more.

The magazine points out that the energy situation in the U. S. on the other hand, is considerably different. The U. S. not only has a shortage of natural gas, but it may be importing nearly 50 per cent of its oil five years from now, the magazine warns.

"Ten years ago," says Petroleum Today, "the United Kingdom had virtually no oil or natural gas of its own, and no prospects of finding enough to fuel its own economy. In the future, it may be selling its oil to such places as New York and New England, where the low sulfur oil will attract premium prices."

The magazine notes that if this dramatic turnaround from complete dependency to full self-sufficiency develops as expected, it will happen "largely because American oil companies were willing to risk vast amounts of capital in the hostile environment of the North Sea."

"The U. S. petroleum industry diverted to the United Kingdom the technological skills and sophisticated offshore drilling equipment that lay idle in our own country because there was no national commitment, as there was in the United Kingdom, to develop speedily the resources of our own Outer Continental Shelf," the magazine states.

The publication also notes that the British government estimates that the North Sea petroleum development has created some 40,000 new jobs onshore and offshore.



When buying lamb chops remember that rib chops are likely to be more tender than shoulder chops.

## Man Seeks Ticonderoga Veterans

I am seeking men and officers who served aboard the mighty aircraft carrier, the U. S. S. Ticonderoga. Every man who ever served on this fine ship is entitled to join our group. We will be having our next Annual Reunion this coming May at Ticonderoga, New York.

If interested, and for more details, write me, giving your name, rank, the Division or Air Group, and year (s) on board.

James H. Morgan, Jr.  
Big "T" Veterans' Association  
Waterside Lane  
So. Berwick, Maine  
03908

Answer to Puzzle

ANS	OR	LA
LEAS	END	LA
AMEN	TOTTERED	
REDDAN	STONE	
SETTER	NO	
ILL	READ	NESS
BOA	THE	TRY
LIMED	LATE	ARA
NE	NUDDER	
BASIC	ERRIE	
RESPIRES	OLEO	
REAP	PALS	VETO
HAM	SOFA	BOIT

**MAY IT BE A GOOD YEAR!**

health, wealth and happiness for all time!

**THE DAIRY BAR**  
J.E., MARIE  
FAMILY

**Happy New Year!**

We hope the coming year will be prosperous for you!

**PALMER PONTIAC & GMC**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Hope 1976 makes a happy landing for all our good friends. We wish you the best of everything!

**V. F. W. POST 5683 & LADIES AUXILIARY**

**Good Luck for '76**

We hope our many friends and customers enjoy a New Year filled with happiness!

**Ann's Flowers**  
ANN & VERNON WADE

We hope the New Year rings in the very best for you. Good luck, good health and good times to all!

**HICKS AUTO SUPPLY**  
BEN, EARNEST & MARVIN  
W.A., GARY, WANDA,

**Our Best to YOU**

in '76

It's a brand new year... may it bring you success in all your endeavors! Our sincerest thanks for your patronage in the past.

**FROM ALL OF US AT THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK**

*In the Spirit of '76*  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

WE WILL BE CLOSED  
ALL DAY JAN. 1st.

PRICES GOOD  
WED. DEC. 30

THRU SAT. JAN. 2

KIMBELL'S DRY  
**BLACK EYE  
PEAS**

1 LB. PKG

29¢

**FOLGERS COFFEE**

LIMIT 1

LB \$1.19

CHICKEN  
**HENS**

HOT BAR-B-QUE  
POTATO SALAD BEANS  
PIMENTO CHEESE

**SHORTENING**

SWIFT JEWEL

3 LB. CAN

1.19

**LOIN STEAK** HEAVY BEEF

LB. \$1.79

**HAMBURGER** FRESH GROUND

LB. 69¢

**SALT JOWL**

LB. 59¢

**TURKEYS** 12 TO 16 LBS  
SUNCO

LB. 49¢

**HAMS** ARMOUR'S FULLY COOKED

3 LB CAN \$6.89

**BACON** ARMOUR'S

12 OZ. PKG. \$1.09

**CRACKERS**  
NABISCO

1 LB. BOX

55¢

**Cookies**

KEEBLER

RICH'N CHIPS OR  
PECAN SANDIES

79¢

**TONE**

COMPLETION SOAP

23¢

BAR

**CASCADE**

35 OZ. BOX

89¢

**Crystal White**

LIQUID

69¢

48 OZ. BTL.

**GAIN**

DETERGENT

\$1.79

KING SIZE

*Hot Days On*  
**FROZEN FOODS**

KEITH'S  
CORN  
PEAS OR  
MIXED VEGETABLES

20 OZ. PKG.

59¢

KEITHS CRINKLE CUT

2 LB. BAG

**POTATOES** 39¢

DONALD DUCK

**Orange Juice** 60Z CAN

29¢

*A Garden Of Good Things*  
**PRODUCE**

VINE RIPE  
**TOMATOES**

LB. 39¢

WASHINGTON D'ANJOV

**PEARS**

LB. 29¢

ARIZONA  
**TANGELOS**

LB. 25¢

YELLOW

**ONIONS**

LB. 15¢

RUSSET  
**POTATOES**

10 LB. BAG 89¢

LIPTON INSTANT  
**TEA** 30Z JAR \$1.29

LIPTON ONION MUSHROOM  
**SOUP MIX** PKG 49¢

BEST MAID  
**SYRUP** QT. 89¢

DUNCAN HINES  
**CAKE MIX** BOX 63¢

COMET  
**CLENSER** 21OZ CAN 35¢

BORDENS EAGLE BRAND  
**MILK** 14 OZ. CAN 59¢

PHILADELPHIA  
**CREAM CHEESE** 8 OZ. PKG. 49¢

RANCH STYLE  
**BLACK EYE PEAS** 300 SIZE 29¢

LIBBY'S WITH SNAPS  
**BLACK EYE PEAS** 300 SIZE 29¢

**COCKTAIL** STOKLEY'S FRUIT 303 CAN 39¢

**PEACHES** CAROLINE NO 2 1/2 CAN 49¢

**GREEN BEANS** STOKELY'S CUT 303 CAN 29¢

**BEANS** RANCH STYLE 23 OZ CAN 39¢

**CORN** STOKELY'S 303 CAN 2 FOR 65¢

**CHILI** GEBHARDTS 300 SIZE 49¢

**VIENNAS** ARMOUR 5 OZ CAN 2 FOR 65¢

**PICKELS** BEST MAID SOUR-DILL QT 59¢

**FLOUR** GLADIOLA 5 LB BAG 79¢

**MILK** MARIGOLD 2% HOMO GAL \$1.39 REG HOMO GAL \$1.49 PLUS DEPOSIT

**DR. PEPPER** 64 OZ BOTTLE 69¢

**MAYONNAISE** KRAFT QT \$1.09

**PLUM JELLY** GRIFFIN 18 OZ. JAR 59¢

**GANDYS** WHIPPING CREAM SOUR CREAM HALF & HALF CRT. 39¢

**EGG NOG** GANDY'S QT 79¢

USDA APPROVED TO REDEEM FOOD STAMPS DELIVERIES DAILY AT 10.00 A.M.

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On WEDNESDAY ON  
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OR MORE IN MERCHANDISE  
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CLASSIFIEDS

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### Miscellaneous

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**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 Merkel Lodge No. 710 on 2nd Saturday and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Visitors welcome. Members urged to attend.  
**BILLY D. DOAN, W.M.**  
**ROY MASHBURN, Sec'y**

NOW OPEN - Kandy's Fabrics in Abilene, 1120 Butter-nut. Good Furniture fabrics at great prices. Upholstery Available.  
18-tfc

NEED HELP? Call the Merkel OUTREACH PROGRAM. 928-5850 or 928-5017.  
tfc

POODLE GROOMING at 1405 Heath. Call 928-5445 or Abilene 677-1193, Cathy Carson Kelley.  
30-tfc

**GUARANTEED REPAIRS ON FREEZERS, REFRIGERATOR, WASHER, DRYER, STOVES, VACUUM-CLEANERS**  
**WESTERN AUTO**  
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REPORT YOUR NEWS BY CALLING  
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**NOTICE IN ANSWER TO REQUESTS OF FRIENDS & PAST CUSTOMERS, BEGINNING IN JANUARY I WILL OPERATE A TRUCK IN MERKEL SERVICING PLUMBING, AIR CONDITIONING, HEATING AND ELECTRICAL**  
**ALLISON COMPANY**  
308 Runnels  
Licensed - Bonded & Insured  
John Allison  
928-5787

MEMBER  
**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

## 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 as second class Mail.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or 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: \$4.75 Per Year Taylor and adjoining counties. \$5.50 Per Year outside of Taylor and adjoining counties.

Member of the Texas Press Association and West Texas Press Association.

**STEVE LANHAM**, Publisher  
**Sarah Eckols**, Editor  
**Martha Sue Justice**, Advertising Sales Manager

For Classified Rates:

\$1.25 minimum for the first four lines. Excess of 4 lines will be charged at the rate of 8 cents per word. Cards of Thanks \$2.50 for the first 50 words, 6 cents per word for each additional word. TERMS: Cash in advance unless account is already established. NOTICE of typographical or other errors must be given before the second insertion of claims for refunds or extensions will not be recognized.

### Help Wanted

**CUSTODIAN WANTED:** Immediate opening for school custodian, \$2.36 per hour-2 week paid vacation annually, 5 holidays plus sick leave. Contact Mack Fisher or Obie Coker, Telephone 928-5813.  
36-tfc

**SEAMSTRESS**-Now hiring experienced sewing machine operators for new Wilkerson Co. plant. Positions will be filled immediately. Wage Scale-\$2.25 to \$2.40 per hour. Call Logan Cravens or Steve Hamilton at 677-2606.  
34-tfc

**TRAINEES:** If you can sew, you can earn \$2.25 per hour as a sewing machine operator. Call Logan Cravens or Steve Hamilton at 677-2606.  
34-tfc

**NURSES AID** 6 til 2 five days a week. Apply in person at Star Nursing Home.  
42-tfc

### For Sale

**H-FARMALL Tractor**-see on parking lot behind Wilsons Food Store. Ray Wilson, 928-5713.  
42-tfc

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A New Water Well Drilled? Also Install Meyers Subs & Jacuzzi Jets  
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### Garage Sale

Let us have your garage sale: If you plan to have a garage sale let us help. However, at this time we are unable to handle anymore clothes on a percentage basis due to our limited space. If you hold it in the youth center we only charge 10 percent of your gross. If you wish to leave the sale entirely up to us we will charge only 50 percent. Proceeds will go to the Merkel Youth Center.  
PLEASE HELP US MAKE OUR YOUTH ACTIVITIES A SELF SUPPORTING PROJECT.  
For further information call Russell McAnally, Mrs. Leon Harris or Mrs. Larry Justice. Youth Activity Telephone No. 928-5859.  
tfc

### Lost & Found

**NOTICE OF STRAY Animals:** 2 black heifer calves, black white-faced heifer calf, one steer calf, one black white-faced cow. Contact Sheriff Jack D. Landrum if you have lost or stray animals.  
45-2tc

### CLASSIFIEDS

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Car Parts Patio Covers Small Buildings Security Window Guards Mobil Home Porches And For All Your Welding Needs Call John Luckey  
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Abilene, Texas

**AUTHORIZED DEALER Lawn & Garden Equipment Allis-Chalmers-Owatonna Hay Machinery Farm Equipment and Forney Welding Equipment**  
**Shafer Plows - Continel Belton Products**  
677-4349  
**DOTY FARM EQUIPMENT CO.**  
366 Chestnut  
Nights-Sundays-Holidays 672-2451 - 698-2572

### Garden Club

The Merkel Garden Club met December 18th, at 12 noon for Christmas luncheon in the home of Mrs. Albert Criswell 1510 Sunset. Mrs. Tom Allday was co-hostess. A short business session was held by first vice president, Mrs. E. J. Patterson. She

### Xi Nu Chi News

Lytle Shores Auditorium was the site of the Christmas dinner for the Abilene Indoor Sports Club last Thursday evening. Xi Nu Chi prepared and served Christmas dinner to the members and their families. The forty-eight people present were entertained with a varied musical program provided by Doug Roysden and Mike Davis of Merkel High School.

### Comper H D News

Comper Home Demonstration club met Friday night December 12 in the Don Adair home in Merkel for a Christmas party.  
Guests were invited into decorated rooms where they enjoyed an hour of visitation with club members and friends. Club pals were revealed and pal gifts were exchanged.  
Refreshments were served to Mmes. Ab Hunter, Dewey Ramsey, Hugh Taylor, Ernest Spurgin, Clyde Chancey, Rupert Woodard, Tommy Hunter, Brenna, Brandi and Tate Hunter, Christi Brady, Scott and Shiela Adair and the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Don Adair.

### News

presided in the absence of president Mrs. Oda Clark. A program was given by Mrs. Mack Fisher on "Christmas is for Birds," and Mrs. W. T. Sadler on "The Richest Women in Town."

Gifts were exchanged by the following members, Mesdames Mary Click, Lottie Everetts, R. M. Ferguson, Mack Fisher, Otis Griffen, Ora C. Griggs, Dee Grimes, Earl Hughes, Alan King, E. J. Patterson, G. R. Peachy, Tom Russom, W. T. Sadler, John Shannon, Charlie Sherrel, Aaron Sudderth, Tom Allday and Albert Criswell.

### Merkel Visitors

The children of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Farmer got together for their annual party in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Travis Farmer in Abilene.  
Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Farmer of El Paso, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Farmer of San Antonio, Brenda Farmer of San Antonio, Melinda Farmer of Brownwood, Mr. and Mrs. Travis Farmer of Abilene, Mr. and Mrs. Derrill Farmer of Merkel, Vicki, Gina, and Kevin Farmer of Merkel, Fred Farmer of Dallas, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hewitt of Merkel, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hewitt of Abilene and Marty Jeffrey of Seguin.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ANY SHERIFF OR ANY CONSTABLE WITHIN THE STATE OF TEXAS---Greeting:  
You are hereby commanded to cause to be published once each week for four consecutive weeks, the first publication to be at least twenty-eight days before the return day thereof, in a newspaper printed in Taylor County, Texas, the accompanying citation, of which the herein below following is a true copy.

**CITATION**  
BY PUBLICATION  
THE STATE OF TEXAS  
TO: H. L. Smith, Roy E. Smith, Jewel Condon Blacksher, Lila Pearl Livergood, J. W. Blacksher, U. B. Blacksher, G. L. Blacksher, Mrs. D. Sloan, A. J. Bartrug, C. R. Blevins, Margaret C.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NO. 12,310  
THE STATE OF TEXAS  
To any Sheriff or any Constable within the State of Texas-Greetings:  
You are hereby commanded to cause to be published one time in a newspaper printed in Taylor County, Texas, the accompanying citation, of which the herein below following is a true copy.

**CITATION**  
BY PUBLICATION  
THE STATE OF TEXAS  
TO: William Agnell, Jr., James Peter Agnell, John Culwell, Caren Culwell Shelton and A. S. Kimmel, and the unknown heirs of Lois Laverne Agnell, Deceased.  
Respondent (s), and said suit being numbered 12,310 on the docket of said Court, and entitled, Estate of Lois Laverne Agnell, Deceased.  
A brief statement of the nature of this cause is as follows, to-wit:  
A petition for determination and declaration of heirship and application for order for no administration as is more fully shown by Petition on file in this cause.  
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 18 day of December A. D. 1975.

**All Types Building & Remodeling Work**  
**Albert Gregory**  
928-5474  
**Jerry Goode**  
928-4890

(SEAL) Attest: Mrs. Chester Hutcherson Clerk, County Court Taylor County, Texas  
By: Janice Lyons, Deputy.  
45-tfc

**The Consumer Alert**  
by John L. Hill  
Attorney General

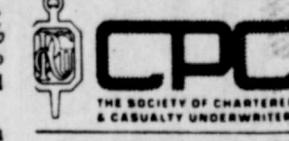


AUSTIN—As more and more Texans search for antique furniture anywhere from neighborhood "flea markets" to antique specialty shops, there is an increasing need for educated buying, say our Attorney General's Consumer Protection lawyers.  
That's because many novice antique hunters know little or nothing about antique furniture styles and periods, methods of construction or relative value. Thus they could be easy prey for the small percentage of unscrupulous sellers in the antique field.  
The wise shopper will first educate his eye by browsing in museums and in shops that carry fine antiques, and by reading books or magazines on antiques, especially those that carry many illustrations, before spending money on major furniture items.  
It's also important for the novice to be aware of certain distinctions between authentic antiques, antique reproductions, and fakes. There are furniture manufacturers who specialize in producing antique reproductions of designs by famous early craftsmen. Use of fine woods and other

### PUBLIC NOTICE


ton and A. S. Kimmel, and the unknown heirs of Lois Laverne Agnell, Deceased. Respondent, (s) Greeting:  
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable County Court of Taylor County, Texas at the Court-house in said County, in Abilene, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A. M. of the Monday next after the expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the petition of W. A. Agnell, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 18 day of December, 1975, against William Agnell, Jr., James Peter Agnell, John Culwell, Caren Culwell Shelton and A. S. Kimmel, and the unknown heirs of Lois Laverne Agnell, Deceased.  
A brief statement of the nature of this cause is as follows, to-wit:  
A petition for determination and declaration of heirship and application for order for no administration as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this cause.  
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 seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this 8 day of December, A. D. 1975.

**PLAN YOUR PROPERTY PROTECTION**  
Prepared by The Society of Chartered Property & Casualty Underwriters, the national professional society whose members have earned the C designation by meeting educational, ethical and experience requirements.



Q. Revenge is sweet. office practical joker is co to my home for dinner and rigged up a trick that's gotten not only to dampen spirit, but his party su well. I figure that the part of my homeowners will protect me against damages. Am I right?

A. No, no, you are w Your homeowners insu policy protects you ag damage caused by accid but not from damage rest from your intentional Here's one case where own joke may be on you.



## Miss Constable Is Bride Of Wesley Gregory

Dorothy Louise Constable became the bride of Wesley Kenneth Gregory December 20 in a ceremony held at Calvary Baptist Church officiated by Wayne Taylor. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Constable and the bridegroom is the son of Mrs. Louise Gregory of Trent.

Given in marriage by her parents, the bride wore a gown of white organza with veil of white not held at the crown by white flowers. Maid of honor was Sherri Constable, cousin of the bride. Bridesmaids were Gay Constable and Carla

Brown, both cousins of the bride and Becky Page. Flower girl was Angela Constable, cousin of the bride. Candle lighters were John Darwin Constable, brother of the bride and Deana Ann Constable, cousin of the bride. Best man was Bubba O'Kelley of Trent and groomsmen were Rocky, Lavon Constable, brother of the bride and Jac Sipes. Pianist was Mrs. Leon Constable, the bride's aunt. Following a wedding trip, the couple will make their home in Trent where the bridegroom is employed by Othel O'Kelley.

## Think Awhile

The New Year lies before you like a spotless track of snow, be careful how you tread it, for every mark will show.

Giving thanks is a course from which we never graduate.

The most acute indigestion is sometimes caused by the words we have had to eat.

A close look at the chips may reveal flaws in the block!

What they leave in their children should concern parents more than what they will leave to them.

Why do some act as though merely saying, "I'm sorry," gives them license to repeat the offense?

The wisecrack that  
Spreads most cheer  
Is your smile  
From ear to ear.

## Stella Cutler Died December 17

Stella Cutler 70, a native of Merkel died at 6:50 p.m. Wednesday in Hendrick Memorial Hospital in Abilene following a short illness. Services were held at 2 p.m. Friday in the Merkel United Methodist Church. The Rev. Russell McAnally officiated assisted by Rev. Newton Daniels. Burial was in Rose Hill cemetery directed by Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born October 25, 1905, she had lived in Merkel all her life.

Survivors include one son Tommie of Merkel, one grandson Chris Cutler of Merkel, two nephews, Norman King of Amarillo and Doctor Shelby King of Silver City, New Mexico.

## Miss Gilmore To Wed In January

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Gilmore have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Beverly Sue, to Johnny Hilmer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wustenausen of Houston.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Merkel High School and attended Angelo State University in San Angelo. The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Houston high school and at-

tended TSTI in Waco. He is Company in Houston, currently employed by Craig and Heldt Construction, pianist.

## GREAT SELECTION

- 74 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX**  
Air and power, cruise control, tilt wheel, elec. windows, tape player, Rally II wheels, radial tires, 19,000 miles. Black color with black vinyl top - Burgundy interior. Real NICE ..... **\$4795**
- 75 BUICK LE SABRE** 4-door sedan. Air and power, 24,000 miles, local owner. Real nice, light blue color. ONLY ..... **\$4495**
- 74 CATALINA** Sedan, air, power, tilt wheel, cruise, stereo tape player. Bronze with white top. Real nice for ..... **\$3495**
- 74 PONTIAC GRAND VILLE** 4 dr. This one has all the goodies. white with white vinyl top. real nice ..... **\$4395**
- 73 PONTIAC CATALINA** 4-door sedan. Air and power, radial tires, 36,000 miles. Beautiful blue color. Real nice ONLY ..... **\$2895**
- 75 CHEVY IMPALA** 4-door Sedan air and power, radial tires, white blue vinyl top. Real nice, only ..... **\$3995**
- 74 GMC** 1/2 ton V-8, 4 speed air, power, beige ..... **\$3495**
- 73 PONTIAC CATALINA** 4-door hard-top. Air and power, 33,000 miles. Silver with black vinyl top. Real nice. ONLY ..... **\$3395**
- 73 PONTIAC VENTURA** 2 door. V8, automatic, air and power, yellow color with black vinyl top. ONLY ..... **\$2695**
- 73 OLDS 88** 4-door Sedan air and power, AM-FM stereo. Bronze color, beige vinyl top. Nice, only ..... **\$2795**

We have Several other nice cars, SO COME SEE US.  
"We Sell 'Em-We Lease 'Em"  
**Palmer Pontiac & GMC**  
**MERKEL**  
MERKEL, TEXAS 928-5113 ABILENE 673-1182

## Miss Green, Ramsey Exchange Vows

On December 20, 1975 at 3:30 p.m. Annie Mae Green, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Deaver, and Kellee Ramsey were united in mar-

riage in the home of Elder and Mrs. Dewey Ramsey. Elder Ramsey performed the double ring ceremony under a decorated arch. He is a

grandfather of the groom. Cindy Doan, cousin of the bride was bridesmaid and Steve Castille was best man. The bride was given in

marriage by W. C. Humphreys of Abilene, grandfather of the groom. Sherwyn Guenther registered guests.

The wedding was western with the wedding party wearing western clothes. The rooms and tables carried the western theme.

The brides colors were red and white. The table was laid with white lace over a red linen cloth and red bows at each corner. A miniature western cart carried the red and white theme for the center piece.

The brides cake was decorated in white with red roses and white wedding bells and topped with a bride and groom.

The bride wore a white western suit trimmed with red. The couple took their vows standing on a red rug while the minister read the vows standing on a white rug.

The bride and bridesmaid carried their bouquets of red and white, others of the wedding party wore red carnations. White and red corsages were worn by others of the house party.

## Girls' Dormitory.....

To plan a room big enough to house three lively little girls (ages six, eight and nine) and all their activities, interior designer Carl Fuchs creates a dormitory that includes space for play, study, reading and sleeping. Starting with a good-sized room (if not available, he suggests putting two small rooms together) he built-in a two-level lounging-sleeping platform along one wall. Steps at one end provide easy access. When lower beds are not in use they slide under the platform.



Compact lounging-sleeping area has three full-size beds.

Each girl has her own drafting table-desk complete with study lamp and a personal cork and pegboard bulletin board. Cushioned cubes on casters serve as desk chairs and are completely mobile. Walls are covered in a sunny yellow and white check Fortrel/cotton fabric. "Jack & Jill" by Bloomcraft. Shades are laminated with the same fabric that is "buttoned" back at the windows like lent flaps. Double-duty comforters (bedspreads by day) by Countess York are covered in the Fortrel/cotton check.



Reading corner has comfy chair, good reading light.

For maximum quiet, a sturdy, hard-wearing carpet of Celanese Nylon, "Cythera" by Cabin Crafts covers the floor. The overall pattern hides surface soil, spills and cleans easily.

## Card Of Thanks

OUR HEARTFELT Thanks to our friends and neighbors for all the many acts of kindness shown during the illness and death of my mother, Ora Mann, for the food, flowers, the beautiful service and music. We thank Rev. N. S. Daniel, Rev. Russell McAnally, and Annette Clark, also to Dr. Sadler and Vivian for their kindness.

May God bless you.  
Billie Fae and Othar Suber  
45-1tp

**CAL TEX**  
**BUYERS OF**  
**CATTLE MILO AND**  
**HAY**

ROUTE 2 BOX 128  
TRENT, TX.  
915-862-2951

**CUSTOM CATTLE FEEDING**

**The Light Touch**

BY PAT CASTILLE

Gentleman: a patient wolf. ....

Woman to friend: "I always know what's behind the headlines. My husband at the breakfast table." ....

Fellow we know says every year there's something about a Christmas tree that brings tears to his eyes--the price. ....

Inflation is like golf. Even when you get to the green, you still wind up in the hole. ....


Architects cover their mistakes with ivy. Advertising men put theirs on television. ....

We're on the ball at CASTILLE HARDWARE & GIFTS. Stop in and see our new stock on display at the old Ben Franklin store. Here's wishing everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

**Castille Hardware & Gift**

214 Edwards Ph. 928-5310

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Farm Bureau Insurance provides that good feeling of security with policies that are especially designed to cover the farmers' or ranchers' individual needs. From fire protection to farm equipment, from automobile to Workmen's Compensation, life or disability, Farm Bureau Insurance can give you that good feeling of security you deserve.

Call your Farm Bureau Insurance agent ... he can give you that good feeling of security.

**R. Lee Brown**  
Taylor County Farm Bureau  
Abilene 692-1213  
Merkel 928-4885

**Best Wishes**

Greetings in the spirit of the season to all our wonderful friends and patrons. You deserve the best!

**MERKEL TV CABLE**

MITCHELL ATKINS

# Farm-facts

A Weekly Report Of Agri-Business News

Compiled From Sources  
Of The Texas Department of Agriculture  
John C. White, Commissioner

**Good To Be Alive in '75 . . . Production Records.**  
Although final figures aren't in yet, it is clear that during 1975 Texas farmers did what they like to do best—produce, produce, produce.  
In major areas of crop production except cotton, Texas farmers out-produced themselves in 1975 compared to 1974. Production increases were noted in sorghum, wheat, peanuts, soybeans, oats, and other crops. Unfortunately for agriculture producers, expenses were also up; so they did not benefit as consumers did by the bountiful production.  
Wheat production, for example, totaled 1,031,000 bushels for this year. For 1974, the total output was only about half that, or 52,800,000 bushels.

**COTTON PRODUCTION** was down considerably in 1975 from what had been projected earlier in the year, but even at that, the final figure will likely show the 1975 cotton crop only slightly below 1974.

Latest cotton production figures from the Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service show the 1975 production at 2,450,000 bales. Earlier, a production of 2,800,000 was expected in Texas. The decline came about due to unusual September weather on the High and Low Plains.

The 1975 estimate compares with 2,462,000 bales produced in the state in 1974. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 4,000,000; this is down 10 per cent from the 4,400,000 acres harvested in 1974. Average per acre yield for 1975 is set at 294 pounds compared to 269 pounds in 1974.

**OTHER PRODUCTION FIGURES** for 1975 show now that sorghum production in the state is at 387,600,000 bushels. This compares with 317,000,000 bushels in 1974.

Corn production for Texas is set at 115,500,000 bushels for this year compared to 73,600,000 bushels in 1974. Per acre yield is one of the highest ever for Texas, set at 105 bushels.

Peanut production for the state this year is estimated now at 474,300,000 pounds; the 1974 production figure was 413,280,000 pounds.

Soybean production also increased this year compared to last year. The 1975 production is set at 9,100,000 bushels; the 1974 production was 7,830,000 bushels.

Oat production is more than double this year compared to a year ago. The 1975 production is set at 19,500,000 bushels; for 1974 the total production was 8,100,000 bushels.

**EVEN PECAN PRODUCTION** is well above a year ago. Figures now indicate pecan production this year will be 50,000,000 pounds. Last year, pecan production was two-thirds below that figure. It appears that Texas this year will produce about a fourth of all the pecans to be harvested in the nation.

Livestock producers will be watching future estimates on cattle and calf numbers. As of Jan. 1, 1975 there were 16,600,000 cattle and calves—more than the human population—in Texas.

Many economists believe 1975 will see the end of the buildup in cattle numbers, one of the major reasons for the poor profit prospects for the cattleman.

## Young People Urged To Learn SS Benefits

What do young people think about social security? Unfortunately, too many don't give it much thought. To most young people, social security is a retirement program, and they are a long way from retirement age! Nevertheless, an important part of social security begins early for most young workers and their families—disability protection.

Young women, both workers and mothers, particularly need to find out about disability benefits under social security. One of the big challenges in life is the realization that problems will occur. Some people will become severely disabled, and many of them will be young workers. Women may be affected two ways, either as the disabled worker or the wife of one. Social security disability benefits offer much to help prevent financial disaster when this happens.

If you are a young worker and want further information about this program, contact your social security office and ask for the free booklet "If you become disabled, it contains information you need to know about."

## CRAWFORD'S PRE-INVENTORY 1/2 PRICE SALE

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Save More At Your Home Town Store

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Fine Quality Clothing  
And Shoes For The Family

# Marie Cunningham Has A Long Day

Part Three Of A Series  
MERKEL MERCHANTS

"By 8:30 in the morning there's always somebody wanting a hamburger," Marie Cunningham laughed.

And a hungry Merkel populace keeps Mrs. Cunningham, operator of The Dairy Bar at 1428 North First, busy at the grill for almost 14 hours a day.

The Cunninghams—Marie and her husband J. E. and now their oldest daughter, 15 years old, choose to keep the operation of the stand in the family, and so do all of

the work, from cooking to cleaning up to buying the food—all by themselves. They are open from about 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m.

Mrs. Cunningham can identify hundreds of local citizens by their voice over the phone. That's because she gets dozens of calls a day from regulars who telephone to place an order at The Dairy Bar and to chat for a minute. Many don't even identify themselves by name, but she has come to know who they are.

Mrs. Cunningham admitted that she does the cooking for her own family in the hamburger stand.

"Why mess up two kitchens?" she asked. The Cunninghams live in a house adjacent to their stand, making it easy to run back and forth from the house to feed her family of four children, aged 15, 13, 11 and 8.

Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham bought the Dairy Bar five years ago, when it was standing vacant. The family has been in Merkel for eight years.

Cunningham had been in the grocery business in Midland previously. Mrs. Cunningham is a native of Colorado.

Over 300 pounds of potatoes and 280 pounds of chicken a week are served by The Dairy Bar.

Mrs. Cunningham breaks up the long days with friendly banter over the CB radio she has in the stand.

For a family to singlehandedly run such a busy operation is hard work, Mrs. Cunningham admitted.

"We take it for as long as we can," she said. "Then when we can't take it anymore, we close up for a couple of weeks in the summer. Everybody always comes right back as soon as we open again."

Attending the horse races in Ruidoso, New Mexico, fishing and swimming occupy much of the Cunninghams' vacation time.

# Senator Lloyd Bentsen Watching Washington

Four months ago, representatives from thirty-two small cities in Texas and in other states came to me asking for support.

They had just formed the American Association of Small Cities, an organization limited to cities and municipalities with populations under 50,000 people. Its goal: to resolve those special problems faced by cities this size across the nation.

By the time the Association met in Bellmead, Texas, barely a week ago for its first general meeting, its membership had grown to more than 250 cities and municipalities across twelve states.

Obviously, this cause has some very strong drawing power, and with good reason. The representatives that came to see me focused on a central issue that has long concerned me. That issue is this: Although these smaller communities face the same critical problems that big cities do, they do not receive the same amount of federal attention.

We're talking about people here. There are some 20,000 small cities in this country—950 in Texas alone—with a combined population of over 70 million people. The local governments of these small communities, just like those of larger cities, want to supply their citizens with the services needed to maintain a good standard of living; services like an efficient transportation system, adequate health programs, and effective police protection.

But these small communities don't have big city payrolls. They can't afford a specialist to keep them up-to-date on available federal support. They haven't got the manpower or time to work their way through a maze of federal red tape and, if they manage to, they usually find that federal programs aren't flexible enough to meet their special problems.

Small cities lack cash reserves, and can't take advantage of federally-funded reimbursement programs. Yet, their city budgets are so tight that they can't meet the matching share requirements of other programs.

These small cities need help, and as Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Economic Growth, I'm going to see that they get it. Early next year, I will be holding hearings into the plight of our smaller communities, and I've already targeted several areas that need examining.

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, for instance, provides funds on a formula basis for cities of 50,000 or more people. Smaller cities wanting their share face a very complex application process.



## THE SCIENTISTS TELL ME...

By Robert L. Haney, Science Writer  
The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

## Shrinking, Swelling Soil Costs Millions Each Year

Some of Texas' largest cities are built on soils that shrink when dry and swell when wet. Such soils cost property owners and taxpayers millions of dollars each year in damages to buildings, roads and airport runways.

Texas has about 10 million acres of clay soils which are noted for these swelling, shrinking properties. The cities of Fort Worth, Dallas, Waco and Austin are located on a strip of these black,

deep, uniform clay soils. On another less continuous strip are the cities of Beaumont, Houston and Victoria. All these cities were originally market cities for the agricultural products grown in their black soils.

One advantage of shrinking, swelling black-clay soils is the ability they have to store water. They often have enough stored water to get a crop through an extended dry period, whereas soils with less clay do not.

Another characteristic can be either an advantage or a disadvantage: when these soils are worked while wet, they become nearly impermeable. In an ordinary field this is a disadvantage, but for rice production, where continuous flooding during the growing season is desirable, it makes an ideal soil.

"Shrinking, swelling soils are among the worst soils on which to build houses, roads, runways and pipelines," says Dr. Kirk Brown, soil physicist with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES).

"These soils may rise and fall as much as 4

inches from wet to dry," according to Brown. "Cracks may open to a width of 2 inches and may be 6 feet deep."

"Such volume changes cause roads to break down, pipelines to rupture, and houses and foundations to crack and break apart."

"The rise and fall alone is bad enough, but to make bad matters worse, it often isn't uniform."

"The soils below the center of the house remain wet while those around the edge dry out from evaporation and from absorption of water by the roots of grass, shrubbery or trees."

## Strippers Are Working West Virginia Hills

When an oilman talks about a stripper, he usually isn't talking about adult entertainment. He's talking about an oil well such as those found in the hills of West Virginia.

The current edition of Petroleum Today reports that strippers account for 13 per cent of this country's oil production. Every barrel they produce is a barrel that doesn't have to be imported, the magazine points out. West Virginia, for example, has 13,500 oil wells, all but a handful of them classified as "strippers." A stripper well is officially one which produces 10 barrels or less per day.

In West Virginia, the average daily output of each well is only half a barrel, but together these wells produce 2.4 million barrels of oil a year. There are thousands of strippers in other states, too, according to Petroleum Today.

The magazine points out that simple economics dictate whether stripper wells are kept in operation. Until

July, 1974, the federal government held the price of stripper oil at \$5.25 a barrel, but then lifted controls in order to encourage production.

Apparently this strategy has worked. According to Petroleum Today:

"The improved price for stripper production has already showed up in renewed activity in stripper areas—cleanouts, workovers, new drilling, and general rejuvenation of properties. And the increase in the number of wells abandoned slacked off—the smallest increase in wells plugged for any of the past five years."



In spite of today's pace, we still feel that an old fashioned "Thank You" is necessary and appropriate. We realize more than ever how much it means to have the friendship and confidence of folks like you.

Without you we could not prosper and grow. May the coming year bring Good Health, Happiness and Prosperity to you and your loved ones.

**BRAGG'S**

**PACKAGE STORE**

ALL OF YOUR FAVORITE BEVERAGES ON THE WEST END OF TOWN - LAST STOPLIGHT

Come By & Check Our Specials Of The Week  
DRIVE CAREFULLY HAPPY NEW YEAR

# GLLENE MFG CO.

FACTORY DOORS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
JAN. 6TH THRU 9TH

THIS GRAND EVENT WILL OPEN EACH MORNING AT 9 AM TILL 5PM

OVER \$50,000 IN MERCHANDISE OVERUNS WILL BE OFFERED

## Drinking Driver... he'll deck a few halls this holiday season.

If you do the drinking, please let someone else do the driving.

drive friendly

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

# TEXAS 1876

January 1 - 7, 1876

**FORT WORTH** — Happy New Year — this is the first day of January, 1876. Quite a number of drunks and downs were reported for Christmas Week, but not a single fight, as far as we have learned. Truly Fort Worth is a peaceable town.

**WACO** — Marshall & Early's block was burned on New Year's Eve with the entire stock of goods lost. Loss totalled \$20,000; insurance on block \$6,000; on stock \$5,000. Cause unknown.

**HOUSTON** — The meeting of the opponents to the new constitution called at Perkin's Theater at noon today was a complete failure. The Houston reporter of the Galveston News, the commercial editor of the Telegraph and one of the publishers of the Age were the only persons present. Two of those favor the instrument and the other is on the fence.

**GALVESTON** — This week, month and year closed simultaneously upon a dull cotton market.

**BREHAM** — There are 14 prisoners in our county jail, and nine of the number are charged with hog stealing. This amusement costs the taxpayers a dear price.

**GALVESTON** — Two dead bodies have been discovered in a cesspool in the rear of, and on the outside of the City Hospital grounds. Although the bodies were too far decomposed to ascertain their identities, it was obvious from the state of the corpses that they had been used as subjects in the dissecting room. An investigation has been ordered in the "shocking affair."

**FORT WORTH** — There is something wrong at the Dallas post office. Letters have been received here recently 10 days after they were mailed and postmarked at Dallas.

**NAVARRO COUNTY** — Corsicana shipped from Sept. 1 to Dec. 29, 10,053 bales of cotton, 33,700 pounds of wool, 58,403 hides and 1,383 head of live stock.

**NACOGDOCHES COUNTY** — The bones of a large mastodon have been discovered near Nacogdoches.

**ADVERTISED IN LEADING TEXAS NEWSPAPERS** — "The Great Tonic." The West India Stomach Bitters — Distilled from vegetable ingredients — it is guaranteed to improve the appetite, increase the quantity of blood and provide a swift and certain cure for dyspepsia, liver complaint, indigestion, intermittent fever, fever and ague, flux, colic and female problems.

Mass Communications  
Texas Tech University

May you have:  
Enough trials to keep you strong;  
Enough hope to make your heart sing;  
Enough sorrow to keep you human;  
Enough labor to keep you from rust;  
Enough leisure to make you relax;  
Enough happiness to keep you sweet;  
Enough of the love of Christ in your soul  
To make you glad to serve.

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DAVID KRAATZ - OWNER  
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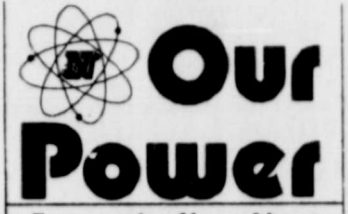
## Tech Publishing Column On Texas 100 Years Ago

Whatever was going on in Texas a hundred years ago? "Washington County: The Brenham Opera House is nearly completed, and is indeed a fine structure."

"Fort Worth--For Sale: 80 acres of timber, about five miles from here. Price is \$6 per acre."

"Navarro County--Corsicana shipped from September 1 to December 29, 10,053 bales of cotton, 33,700 pounds of wool, 58,403 hides and 1,383 head of livestock."

It all happened in 1876. Texans will learn more about their state as it was during America's Centennial in a new column to be distributed through the Texas Press Association.

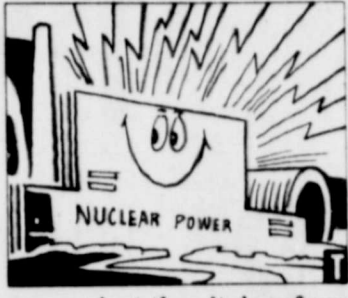


Encouraging News About Our Energy Supply

By W. Donham Crawford  
President, Edison Electric Institute & Chairman of the Federal Energy Administration's Electric Utilities Advisory Committee

Q. Is nuclear power economical?

A. Favorable economics is one of nuclear power's most important advantages. It costs considerably less to produce electricity from a nuclear



power plant than it does from one fueled by oil, coal or natural gas. The initial capital costs for nuclear power plants are higher than for comparable fossil power plants, but the gap between them is constantly narrowing.

The lower cost of fuel gives nuclear power its big advantage. This factor greatly outweighs the higher capital costs of nuclear plants and generally results in savings to consumers of millions of dollars annually.

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION ON ENERGY? Write to: Edison Electric Institute, 90 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Eve's name was mentioned only four times in the Bible.

It is called "Texas 1876," and the material has been compiled from 100-year-old newspaper accounts by the Department of Mass Communications at Texas Tech University, Lubbock.

Sarah J. Stone, now a member of the faculty at West Texas State University, was the principal researcher for the project while she was a graduate student at Texas Tech. She earned the master of arts degree in mass communications last August.

The column takes a week at a time and begins with January 1-7, 1876, with this entry:

"Fort Worth--Happy New Year--this is the first day of January, 1876. Quite a number of drunks and downs were reported for Christmas Week, but not a single fight as far as we have learned. Truly Fort Worth is a peaceable town."

Dr. Billy I. Ross, chairman of the Department of Mass Communications at Tech, said that Mrs. Stone edited news stories for length but did not change wording.

"The style is strictly 1876," he said. "Length had to be cut to allow variety."

Each column contains about 10 items, and the first reports happenings 100 years ago in Fort Worth, Waco, Houston, Galveston, Brenham, Navarro County, and Nacogdoches County. The final item in each column is an advertisement. During the week of January 23-30, 1876, readers of the Galveston Daily News were tempted by this:

"Of all the saws that you ever saw, saw, you never saw a saw saw like those saws at Manuel & Company."

"While we are celebrating the national Bicentennial," Dr. Ross said, "we think Texans will enjoy looking back to the American Centennial as seen across their own state."

An old Roman superstition held that May was an unlucky month for weddings.

In the 9th century, the King of Persia was known as the Illustrious Jam.

**WATCH FOR  
ARTS & CRAFTS  
SHOW  
IN MARCH  
DAY TO BE ANNOUNCED  
AT A LATER DATE**

## STATE CAPITAL Highlights AND Sidelights

by Lyndell Williams  
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

**AUSTIN** — Another fat surplus is building in the state's general revenue fund.

House Speaker Bill Clayton said Legislative Budget Board projections indicate the 1976-77 fiscal period may close with a balance of up to \$700 million, assuming continuation of federal revenue sharing.

Assistant State Comptroller Lynn Moak reported a new official revenue estimate will show a surplus of between \$400 million and \$500 million.

Moak's figure differs from Clayton's largely in calculating the effect of federal revenue sharing. The assistant comptroller bases his estimate on expiration of revenue sharing Dec. 31, 1976. Clayton figures the program will continue.

The speaker and Moak agreed that existing revenue sources are booming and will continue to do so with a healthy economy. They did not agree on just how good the news is for taxpayers.

Clayton expressed confidence the surplus will help the 1977 legislature avoid a threatened major tax bill.

Moak said he was fully aware of the looming surplus when he predicted recently a \$1 billion tax bill may be necessary in 1977 if lawmakers continue to increase spending as they have in the past. Appropriations jumped 36 per cent this year over the previous biennium.

### Gas Cut Ordered

Texas Railroad Commission ordered a 10-year program to reduce consumption of natural gas by

large industries and electric utilities.

The order directs those who used an average of three million cubic feet of gas daily for boilers during the last two years to cut back 10 per cent, starting on or before Jan. 1, 1981. A further 25 per cent reduction is mandated by Jan. 1, 1985.

Only 10 per cent of the state's gas consumers are affected, but those industries and utilities consume most of Texas' natural gas.

### Demo Dinner Planned

Gov. Dolph Briscoe and top statewide Democratic elected officials are uniting to promote one of the biggest party fund-raising dinners in state history March 30.

Party Chairman Calvin Guest of Bryan said finan-

cial goal of the \$25-per-admission event is \$100,000 to \$150,000 clear.

The state party is \$82,000 in debt. Funds will go to strengthen the party and encourage broad participation in its affairs.

The officials pledged their support to 1976 Democratic party nominees.

### Short Snorts

Texas Highway and Public Transportation Commission has suspended

right of way acquisition except on interstate and farm to market systems.

Texas Department of Public Safety warned that holiday traffic accidents may claim nearly 100 Texas lives.

House Speaker Bill Clayton predicted 1976 may be a "banner year" for bringing new industries to Texas.

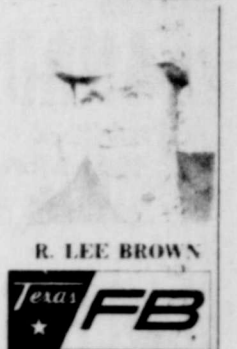
Texas cities have received \$264.5 million in sales tax rebates so far this year.

### INSURANCE

FOR YOUR HOME RANCH FARM AUTO CROPS LIFE

How can I provide for my retirement and reduce my current taxes?  
For help with insurance questions and needs call...

TEXAS FARM BUREAU INSURANCE COMPANIES



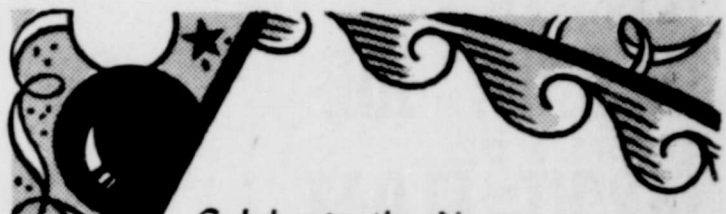
R. Lee Brown Taylor County Farm Bureau  
Abilene 692-1213 Merkel 928-4885



Chiming in with the wish for a prosperous 1976 for all our friends. Thanks for your past patronage!

### CRAWFORD'S

Delphine Watson,  
Edna Widle,  
Kristi Nease  
Mignon Brown,  
Onis & Latina



Celebrate the New Year with friends and family. Share each moment of celebration and reminiscing.

Enjoy this festive time to the fullest. We hope

it's the best ever!

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TERMINAL & RESTAURANT



IS THE DIAL ON YOUR RADIO SET ON 1500? IF NOT, JUST LOOK AT WHAT YOU'RE MISSING. THE BEST OF COUNTRY MUSIC PLAYED ON KWFA EVERY DAY BY SOME OF THE BEST DISC JOCKEYS. SO BE SURE YOUR DIAL IS SET ON 1500!

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**BICENTENNIAL 1976**

Time to ring in with our best wishes for the coming year! Thank you for your patronage.

**THE MERKEL MAIL & PRINTING**

Steve, Kaye, Sarah, Martha Sue, Ann, Becki, Karolyn, David, Pee Wee, Paul, & Janice



PRICES GOOD  
WED., FRI., SAT.,  
DEC. 31 - JAN. 2  
WE WILL BE  
CLOSED JAN. 1

MARYLAND CLUB  
**COFFEE**  
1 LB. CAN **98¢**  
WITH \$10 IN TRADE OR MORE  
EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

KEEBLER VANILLA WAFERS 12 OZ PKG **55¢**

ASSORTED HI-C DRINK 46 OZ CAN **49¢**

CANADA DRY 28 OZ BOTTLE **29¢**

GLADIOLA POUND CAKE BOX **59¢**

KRAFT CHEESE DIPS 8 OZ CRT **63¢**

HUNTS 4 CAN SNACK PACK CRTN EA. **59¢**

MORTON HOUSE SLOPPY JOE 300 CAN **69¢**

LIBBYS 9 OZ. FRUIT FLOAT 3 CANS **49¢**

KRAFT LOW CALORIE FRENCH OR 1000 ISLAND DRESSING 8 OZ BOTTLE **43¢**

COCKTAIL KLEENEX NAPKINS 50 CT. BOX **39¢**

BOTIQUE FACIAL KLEENEX TISSUE 125 CT BOX **43¢**

RANCH STYLE 300 CAN BLACK EYE PEAS 2 CANS **43¢**

RAGU 16 OZ. SPAGHETTI SAUCE JAR **53¢**

CONTADINA 300 TOMATOES 2 FOR **63¢**

SUNSHINE 303 RUTABAGAS 2 FOR **49¢**

TOM SCOTT MIXED NUTS CAN **79¢**

DR. PEPPER 64 OZ. BTL **69¢**

POP RITE POPCORN 4 LB BAG **\$1.19**

FOREMOST - BORDENS - GANDYS WHIPPING OR SOUR CREAM 1/2 PT **39¢**

ASSORTED KOOL AID 3 FOR **29¢**

BORDEN HOMO 2 MILK 2 1/2 GAL CRTNS. **\$1.55**

NEW YEAR'S TREAT CASSEROLE BLACKEYED PEAS LB **29¢**

FLOUR PEACHES GOLD MEDAL 5 LB. BAG **79¢**

FRESH SALT JOWL LB **55¢**

MRS. TUCKER CHILI MORTON PLAIN 15 OZ. CAN **53¢**

Frozen Foods  
TONY'S ASST. PIZZA EA. **\$1.19**

MORTON DO-NUTS PKG **73¢**

MORTONS POT PIES 2 FOR **49¢**

MEADS CORN DOGS 3 PACK BAG **43¢**

BORDENS EGG NOG QT CRTN **79¢**

BORDENS BUTTER MILK 1/2 GAL CRTN. **79¢**

TRI-VALLEY 2 1/2 CAN 2 FOR **89¢**

3 LB. CAN **\$1.09** (1 LIMIT)

GRIFFIN GLASS PLUM JAM OR JELLY 18 OZ. **69¢**

Delicious 'n Meaty!

**Spareribs**

OSCAR MAYER FRANKS BEEF 16 OZ. PKG. **83¢**

a Tasty-Bet-for the Budget and You!  
GOOD FOR BAR-B-QUE

GOOCH LB. **79¢**

KOTEX MAXI PADS 12 CT. BOX **69¢**

HAIR SPRAY STYLE 13 OZ. CAN **89¢**

CHURN GOLD OLEO SOFT LB **49¢**

Super Suds GIANT BOX **79¢**

WASHINGTON APPLES RED DELICIOUS LB. **29¢**

KING SIZE OXYDOL BOX **\$1.79**

KING SIZE CASCADE BOX **\$1.29**

FRESH TOMATOES LB **39¢**

KING SIZE JOY BOTTLE **93¢**

SUNKIST NAVAL ORANGES LB **25¢**

FRESH CABBAGE LB **10¢**

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS  
SHOP AND SAVE

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

FRESH -CELLO CARROTS 2 FOR **29¢**

RUSSET SPUDS 10 LB BAG **89¢**

BACON LB **\$1.29**

SAUSAGE GOOCH GERMAN STYLE PKG **89¢**

TURKEYS RIVERSIDE 10 TO 18 LBS LB. **63¢**

STEAK CHOICE BEEF T-BONE LB **\$1.89**

ROAST STEAK CHOICE BEEF ROLL LB **89¢**

STEAK CHOICE BEEF SIRLOIN LB. **\$1.59**

**CARSON'S SUPER MARKET**

MERKEL, TEXAS

FREE DELIVERY MON. WED. FRI.

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