

Between You



And Me

By SARAH ECKOLS

It came to light the other evening that a certain gentleman in town has been offended that his name has never appeared in the lines of this column. Now I try to be fair and pick on everyone without prejudice. This man is probably known to most of the readers of The Merkel Mail. He seems to be a rather easy-going sort of guy and quite personable at the gatherings at which I have seen him. It was just the other night at the Beta Sigma Phi Valentine dance that he commented to me that I might print his name for the glorification of his immortality through the printed word. Well, he didn't exactly put it that way. What he actually said was that he was in agreement with my column of last week in which I related my "day in court" experience. Now, Ray Vanderwerker, I have put your name in print and have at last picked on you in my column.

Speaking of the Beta Sigma Phi dance, it was a gay affair with the gents all decked out in their best and the ladies in their loveliest gowns. Merkel had the honor of having Betty Allday named Queen of Hearts. Betty was chosen from among Valentine princesses from each chapter in Abilene and Merkel to reign over the ball. Princesses and their respective chapters from Merkel were Peggy Vanderwerker representing Alpha Nu Nu, Betty Allday representing Lambda Beta and Opal Gardner representing Xi Nu Chi.

With the current weather trend, one has the impulse to come down with spring fever, save the fact that it is not spring and the fever most of us are coming down with is accompanied with symptoms ranging from sore throats to coughs and even an ache or two thrown in. However, for those more fortunate who do not have the current "thing" that is going around, the weather is most inviting for out door activities. Personally, I think it is a terrible injustice that some of us must work several days a week for such trivia as money to pay the bills, etc. and are not able to enjoy the premature summer. There is one flaw in the whole thing that I'm sure does not need my mention, but that I will mention anyway. It sure is dry!!

To us each there must come a time, when we know our own true worth. I think to God the most offensive crime lies in the abuse of our birth.

Most of us take such little heed, and seem to have the least of care in what our fellow man might need. Or that our mere existence is indeed so rare.

We take so for granted the little things, like comfort and love and even life. Then one day the sound of truth rings, cutting through us like a knife.

Just what is the purpose and why were we born, is there rhyme and reason to our being? For all of time a question well worn. Perhaps more of us would know if we would just stop "me-ing."

Betty Allday, Lambda Beta Sweetheart - Queen Of Hearts

Mrs. Jim, (Betty) Allday was selected as the Queen of Hearts at the Beta Sigma Phi Annual Valentine Presentation at the Civic Center in Abilene, February 14. Betty Allday, Lambda Beta Sweetheart was presented along with 13 Abilene chapter sweethearts and two other Merkel sweethearts, Peggy Vanderwerker of Alpha Nu Nu, and Opal Garner of Xi Nu Chi.

Texas Classroom Teachers To Convene

Some 1,200 teacher representatives from all areas of the state will meet in Dallas February 19-21 for the 21st, annual convention of the Texas Classroom Teachers Association.

The major decision facing the teacher delegates this year is whether or not to adopt a major restructuring of the organization as outlined in the proposed new bylaws. Approval of the bylaws would trigger such changes as consolidation of committees, guarantee ethnic minority representation, establish a judicial committee, and eliminate the office of president-elect.

The bylaws also would require each member to be a member of the United Teaching Profession, which includes the National Education Association (NEA) and the Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA) in addition to local teacher organizations.

Delegates to the convention also will elect state and

TSTI Announces Meeting In Trent

Roy Neff, superintendent of Trent Independent School District has announced that Texas State Technical Institute of Sweetwater, in cooperation with Trent Schools will hold an organizational meeting February 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Trent School Library.

This meeting will be held to organize a class or classes in one or more of the following areas: Welding, refrigeration, typing or bookkeeping. For further information you may contact Roy Neff at Trent High School, 826-2411.

Vets To Meet

The World War I veterans and auxiliary of Barracks #2448 will have their regular monthly meeting with a pot luck luncheon at noon in the REA building Saturday, February 21.

Photos of the sweethearts

were sent to the Wichita Falls City Council for selection. First runner up was Carolyn Herman, Rho Phi, Abilene, and second runner up was Sammie Phillips, Perceptor Tau, Abilene. All of the candidates were presented with a long stem red silk rose.

Fred Kunkel, a student at McMurry College, was the Master of Ceremonies. Betty was crowned with a jeweled tiara and presented a heart shaped opal necklace. The theme was "Gone With the Wind." The sweethearts dressed in southern belle fashion in white, pink, and red. Mrs. Allday chose a gown of white dotted Swiss. The full length gown featured ruffles, a high neckline and short puffed sleeves.

Lambda Beta members and husbands present were Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hohertz, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Allday, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Yaddow, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Teaff, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Bob Neff, Mr. and Mrs. Craig Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Couch, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Elliott, and Mr. and Mrs. Billy Lucas. Present from Alpha Nu Nu were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Vanderwerker, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Leach, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hammond, Anita Raymer, Sarah Eckols and

Hensley Named President For Second Year - New Directors Added

Don Hensley was re-elected to the president's post of the Merkel Chamber of Commerce board of directors at their recent meeting. Mr.



DON HENSLEY

...re-elected president of Chamber

Hensley has served in this capacity for the past year. A native Texan, Hensley graduated from Texas Southmost College in Brownsville and served in the U. S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He served in the European Theatre of Operations as an aerial photographer in Germany, assigned to the 317th. Troop Carrier Wing which was part of the NATO forces under President Eisenhower.

Following his return to the U. S., Hensley completed his schooling and graduated from Washburn University in 1954.

Having worked in banks in Brownwood and Sweetwater, Hensley is currently President of Farmers and Merchants National Bank in Merkel. He served as an Executive Vice President in the Texas Bank and Trust Company and came to Merkel in May of 1974.

Lone Star Sets New Gate Rate

Lone Star Gas Company has filed its regular monthly report with the Texas Railroad Commission showing that the company's weighted average cost of gas for January has risen to \$1.10 (\$1.1010) per thousand cubic feet of gas (Mcf) from 89.51 cents per Mcf in December, 1975. As a result, the new city gate rate will be \$1.36 (\$1.3613) per Mcf effective February 20, 1976.

January has been the coldest period of the season, and Lone Star has had to take larger volumes of more expensive gas from its suppliers to meet customers' needs. Thus the company paid almost \$50 million for gas in January compared to \$36 million in December--a \$14 million increase.

During any high demand period, the higher priced sources must be called on to deliver the customers' additional requirements. This naturally raises the average purchase cost of the gas. During 1975, Lone Star's gas costs were lower on the average than any other major Texas intrastate utility and pipeline company, the company said.

Draft Boards Terminated For First Time In 28 Years

On February 27th, all draft board offices in Texas will be closed. Colonel Melvin N. Glantz, State Director for Selective Service announced recently.

This action which will take place in all states terminates the operational capability of Selective Service for the first time in 28 years. All registrant processing including the obligation of men to register has been halted. "Draft records are being transferred to the Fort Worth Federal Records Center," Glantz said.

The National plans call for Selective Service to be reduced to a minimum deep stand-by posture. The phase down which is expected to be completed in the next 12 months will leave only a small National Headquarters, and five Regional offices located at San Francisco, San Antonio, Chicago, Atlanta and Baltimore. The function of these offices will be to develop plans for restoring the System in event of a National emergency and to continue the training of a small number of Reserve and National Guard Officers who have mobilization assignments with the Selective Service System. The only standby state draft structure which will remain will be the standby State Headquarters made up of the Selective Service National Guard Section.

escort Don Harville. Attending from Xi Nu Chi were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harris, Mr. and Mrs. George Starbuck, Mr. and Mrs. John Brady, Mr. and Mrs. Juan Ybarra, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby DuBose, Darla Mawson, Mamie Steck and her children Michael and Cynthia, and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Garner and their guest, Mr. Garner's brother.

Farmers Union Plans Fly-In Trip

The Taylor County Farmers Union held their monthly meeting February 10 with Billie Bob and Freddie Toombs presenting the program entitled "Parity and Abundance," by Victor Ray of Denver Colorado.

Plans were discussed for Joe Montgomery of Hamby and R. E. Clemmer of Merkel to attend the Farmers Union meeting in Washington D. C. They are scheduled to leave February 27.

Plans are also under way for Mr. and Mrs. Joe Montgomery to attend the National Farmers Union Meeting to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana in March.

The next meeting of the Taylor County Farmers Union will be held March 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Taylor Electric Cooperative Building in Merkel.

Notice

The Merkel Parent Teacher Organization has rescheduled their meeting for Tuesday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Merkel High School Auditorium. Special projects will be the topic of the meeting.

Mr. & Miss Merkel Junior High School Named For '76



MR. AND MISS MJHS-Chosen Mr. and Miss Merkel Junior High School recently were Mark Copeland, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Copeland of Tye and Becky Watts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ned Watts of Merkel. Both are 8th grade students and are very active in school activities. Mark is a member of the student council, was 8th, grade nominee for Valentine King, is active in football, basketball and tennis. He was named best lineman for his performance during football season. Becky is a cheerleader, member of the annual staff, homeroom vice president and a member of the girls basketball and track teams.

QUEEN OF HEARTS OF BETA SIGMA PHI-Betty Allday, right, was crowned Queen of Hearts at the Annual Beta Sigma Phi Valentine dance February 14 at the Abilene Civic Center. Runners up were Sammie Phillips, (left) second of Perceptor Tau and Carolyn Herman (center), first of Rho Phi. (photo courtesy of Abilene Reporter-News)

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The Light Touch

BY PA CASTILLE

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Cash is tight these days. Even the tooth fairy uses a credit card.

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Mrs. Horton Entertains Study Club

The Fortnightly Study Club met Tuesday, February 10, at the Merkel Restaurant with Mrs. Buster Horton as hostess.

Card of Thanks

A Special "Thank You" to a Special Community, Trent, Texas.

Girl Scout's Troop 35 and 103 and their leader Alyene Freeman would like to say thank you for a very successful cookie sale. Folks like you make the world a better place to live. I would like to say thank you to the mothers for backing the girls.

Thank you again, all of you. We sold 28 cases out of 30. Fifteen girls participated in the sale.

Alyene Freeman and Troops

SENIOR CITIZENS SCHEDULE EVENTS

1st Monday
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2nd Tuesday Noon
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Lions Hear COG Reps

The Merkel Lions Club met February 17 for their regular meeting at the Lions Club Building.

Presiding over the business meeting was president, Travis Davis. Following the luncheon, the program was introduced by J. A. Sadler, Bob Allen, assistant executive director of the West Central Council of Governments in Abilene and Randy Randolph, planning director spoke on the functions of their agency. Merkel is currently in the process of repair and replacement of water mains under a grant funded by COG. Mr. Allen and Mr. Randolph give technical assistance in such areas as community planning which involves not only water systems, but also sewer and flood control, recreational facilities and removal of slum areas.

The regional planning commission consists of 19 counties and also covers criminal justice training, equipment used in law enforcement and the manpower program.

Guests at the meeting were Mr. Allen and Mr. Randolph, Cecil Todd, principal of Tye School and Logan Craven of the Wilkerson Manufacturing Company.

Following the adjournment of the meeting, a meeting of the board of directors was called in which a committee to review the needs of a community center was named. Chairman of the committee is Fred Starbuck assisted by Russell McAnally, Don Hart, Connie Mac Seymore and J. A. Sadler.

Merkel Visitors

Visitors in the home of the Onis Crawford this week end were Mr. and Mrs. Jim Crawford and Leesa, from Odessa, Bobby and Mignon Brown, of Anson and Robert and Judy Crawford of Merkel.



MRS. GARY CARVER
... formerly Miss Hicks

Miss Hicks Is Bride Of Gary Carver

Bethany Ann Hicks became the bride of Gary Dean Carver February 14 at 7 o'clock in the evening. Rev. Newt Daniels, Methodist minister,

officialiated for the double ring ceremony in the home of the bride's parents.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hicks of Merkel and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill R. Smith of Knox City.

Best man was Glenn Smith, brother of the bridegroom, of Abilene. Organist was Mrs. Tex Barnhart.

Maid of Honor was Carol Wisenhunt of Merkel. Her gown was cranberry-red in color.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a full length gown of white crepe and eyelet lace. The princess style was enhanced by the

scalloped neckline, long sleeves and deep dust ruffle. Her shoulder-length veil of illusion was held by a lace caplet and trimmed in the same lace.

A reception followed the ceremony hosted by the bride's parents.

The bride is a graduate of Merkel High School and Glenn and Lottie's School of Beauty in Abilene. She attended Tarleton State University. She is employed by Milt Mail in Knox City.

The bridegroom attended Knox City High School and is currently employed by Marion Mobil Service in Knox City.

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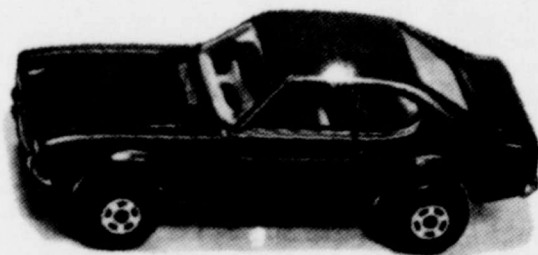
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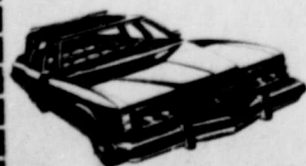
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BEEF LIVER LB **69¢**

BACON ARMOUR'S 12OZ PKG **\$1¹⁹**

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SIRLOIN STEAK HEAVY BEEF LB **\$1⁵⁹**

SAUSAGE GOOCH'S GERMAN STYLE PKG. **99¢**

RECIPE CHICKEN FLAVOR
DOG FOOD 15 OZ CAN **29¢**

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VIENNAS 5 OZ CAN 2 FOR **65¢**

WAGNER
ORANGE DRINK 32 OZ BOTTLE **39¢**

GANDY'S ASSORTED
DIPS **39¢**

FOREMOST 1/2 GAL
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INSTANT
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IN SALT OR PEPPER SHAKER

2 OZ JAR **79¢**

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SNOWDRIFT 3LB CAN LIMIT ONE **\$1¹⁹**

CORN KOUNTRY KIST WHOLE KERNEL 12 OZ CAN 2 FOR **49¢**

GREEN BEANS DEL MONTE WHOLE 303 CAN 2 FOR **59¢**

SPINACH DEL MONTE 303 CAN **29¢**

VEG-ALL 303 CAN 2 FOR **49¢**

FRUIT COCKTAIL DEL MONTE 303 CAN **39¢**

BEANS RANCH STYLE 300 SIZE **29¢**

PEANUT BUTTER MR. GOOD 48 OZ JAR **\$1⁶⁹**

FLOUR GLADIOLA 5 LB BAG **69¢**

MILK MARIGOLD 2% HOMO GAL **\$1³⁹** REG HOMO GAL **\$1⁴⁹** PLUS DEP.

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JACKIE HARRIS



LONNIE CARTER

Jackie Harris And Lonnie Carter, Working Students

In the remaining weeks of the school year, we will be featuring those students in the Multi Occupational Co-op Program at Merkel High School. Each week we will profile students with an on-the-job picture.

Supplies Needed

For Mission School

The Key Class of the First United Methodist Church of Merkel is collecting supplies to be sent to the Navajo Methodist Mission School at Farmington, New Mexico. Any of the following items can be used: dish towels and cloths, long mitten type pot holders, twin size quilted cotton mattress pads, sheets

(twin), washable blankets, comforters or quilts (twin), ironing board pads and covers, plain butcher aprons, cotton material in dress lengths, pins, bath towels, file folders, notebooks, loose leaf paper, pens, pencils, soap, toothpaste, Kleenex, and art supplies. Green stamps can be given to exchange for recreation equipment and games, and Campbell's Soup and Campbell's Beans labels are needed to be exchanged for athletic equipment. If anyone would like to donate any of these items please call Ida Mae Seymore, 928-5379, Milly Bright, 928-5680, or any Key Class member. All donations will be appreciated.

Merkel Visitors

Visiting Elsie Roland from Acola, Florida are his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Clemmens.

D. M. Mayer of Kermit spent Sunday night in the home of his daughter, Judy Crawford and Robert.

employed through VICA at the office of Judge Lewis L. Millett, justice of the peace for this precinct. Jackie is the court clerk and does secretarial duties and keeps the office in the absence of the judge.

Following graduation Jackie plans to get married and attend a business college.

Lonnie Carter, an 18 year old senior at Merkel High School is employed at Max Murrell Chevrolet. He is in the parts department where he checks parts into the shop as they come in. Lonnie is president of VICA and vice president of the Student Council.

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HOT CORN BREAD, RED BEANS & COLE SLAW
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REDBEANS, COLE SLAW & CORN BREAD
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MRS. THOMAS LAW
...formerly Miss Smith

Miss Smith And Thomas Law Wed February 14

Jerre Kay Smith became the bride of Thomas Mitchell Law February 14 at 7 o'clock in the evening in the First United Methodist Church in Merkel. Ken Law, father of the bridegroom officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Smith of Merkel and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Law of Tye.

Organist was Mrs. Junior Clark and soloist was Jamie Clark. Flower girls were Penny Smith, sister of the bride and Kindra Law, sister of the bridegroom. Candle lighters were Clody Smith, sister of the bride and Carrie Law, sister of the bridegroom.

Maid of Honor was Patty Toney and bridesmaids were Netta Stenhan and Debra Beard all of Merkel. The bride's attendants wore full length gowns of red polyester crepe. The bell sleeves and empire waists were enhanced with white lace trim. The bride's chosen colors of red and white followed the Valentine wedding theme, which was also carried through with the male attendants wearing red shirts.

Best man was Kenny Law, brother of the bridegroom of

Hermaleigh and groomsmen were Steve Taff and Dennis James. Ushers were David Copeland and Steve Gentry. Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a full length gown of white satin covered with tulle and trimmed with white lace at the neckline, cuffs, bodice and hemline. The gown featured a chapel train, long puff sleeves and high neck. Her shoulder length veil of illusion was held with a cluster of lace and pearls.

A reception hosted by the bride's family followed the ceremony in Fellowship Hall. The rehearsal dinner was hosted by the bridegroom's family at the Saddle and Sirolo Restaurant in Abilene.

The bride is a senior at Merkel High School where she is active in sports, Honor Society and is a cheerleader. She was named to Who's Who Among American High School Students her junior and senior years and The Society of Distinguished American High School Students her senior year.

The bridegroom is attending McMurry College where he is a sophomore. He is a graduate of Merkel High

School and attended Angelo State University before transferring to McMurry. The couple are employed by El-Tye-O Trailer Sales Corporation in Tye.

Russom 20 Years With Exxon Carla Fariello Is Young Homemakers Little Sister

T. H. Russom has observed his 20 year service anniversary with Exxon Company, U. S. A. He is assigned as senior electrical technician in the Midkiff area, Midland District, Midcontinent Production Division. His hometown is Merkel, and he and his wife, the former Vernell McLean are parents of 2 sons and 1 daughter.

Carla Fariello, daughter of William J. Fariello has been named February's Little Sister by the Taylor County Young Homemakers.

A senior at Merkel High School, Carla is employed by Stuckey's Pecan Shoppe. She is active in home and family living courses and is an officer in the HERO club. Miss Fariello has three

sisters and a brother and her plans following graduation are to be married.

The little sister named in January was Jackie Harris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Harris.

The Taylor County Young Homemakers met in the home of Jeanette Pursley with Ann Jacobs assisting in hostess duties.

The program on place settings was given by Roberta Walters.

Debra Turner Certified Pharmacist

Debra Dale Turner, August recipient of a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy

from the University of Texas at Austin, has been recently certified by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy as a registered pharmacist.

Students Make Dean's List

Larry Huff, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Neill and Mary Snow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Snow were among students named to the Dean's Honor Roll at Abilene Christian College for the 1975 fall semester.

Students qualify for the Dean's Honor Roll by enrolling in at least 12 semester hours and having a grade-point-average of more than 2.45 on a 4.0 scale.

Miss Turner is currently employed by Sommers Drug Stores in San Antonio. She is a member of Kappa Epsilon, American Pharmaceutical Association, Texas Pharmaceutical Association and Bexar County Pharmaceutical Association.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ike D. Turner of San Antonio and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Harwell and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Gregory all of Merkel.



CARLA FARIELLO
... little sister for February

**DANCE TO MUSIC BY
RONNY SCOTT
&
THE FUGITIVES
AT
THE MERKEL V.F.W.
SAT. NIGHT FEB. 21st 9 til 1 A.M.**

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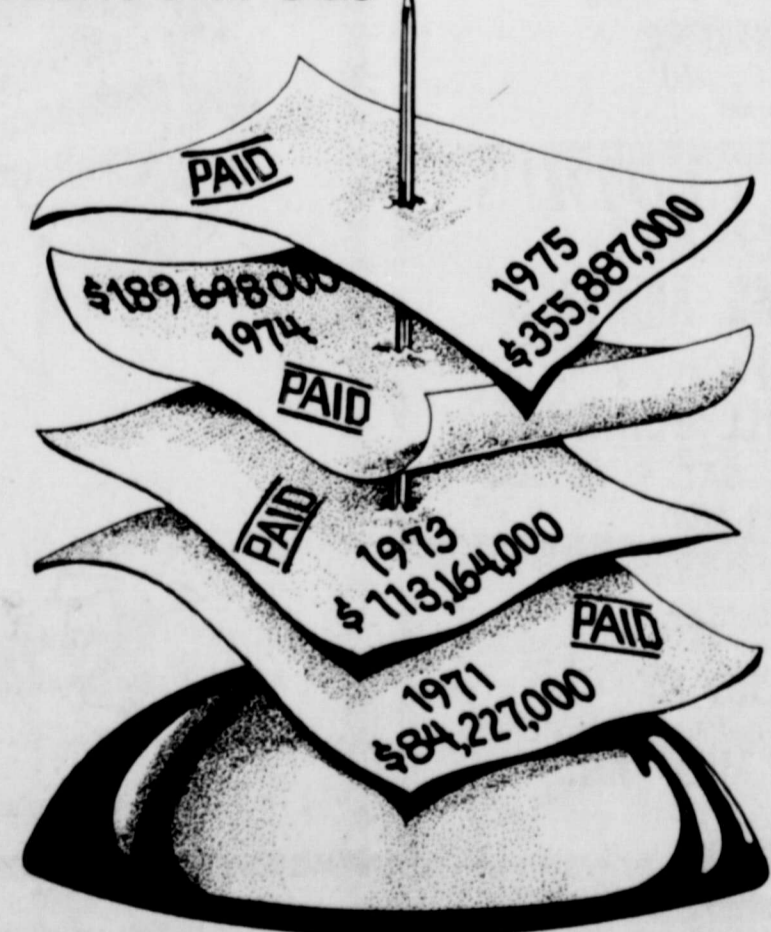
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Lone Star makes no profit on that portion of your gas bill which passes on increases in the average cost of gas we buy. In fact, Lone Star Gas Company utility profits have declined 56 per cent since 1972. Even with a full flow-through of its gas costs from the producer to the customer, Lone Star would lose money because of Gross Receipts Taxes (those taxes paid to each city under our franchises on gross revenues).

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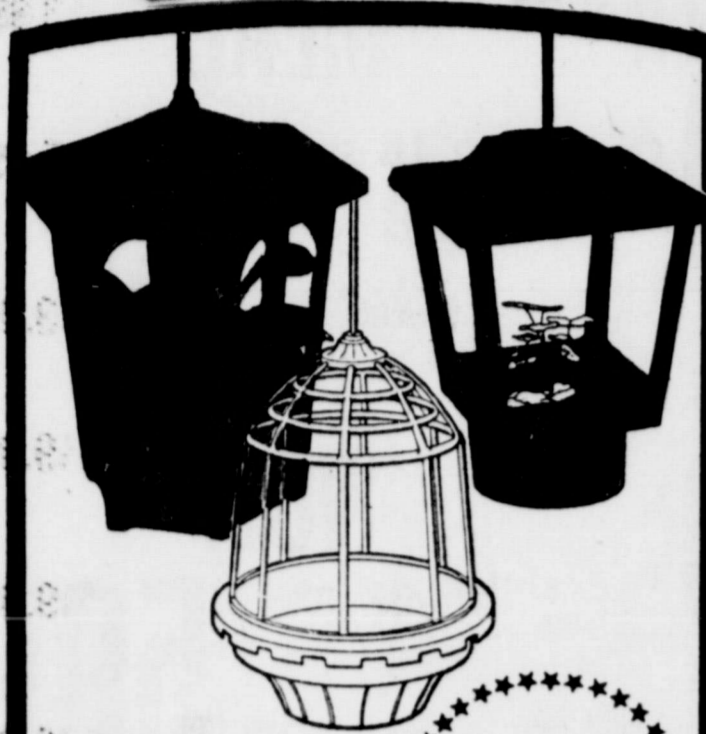
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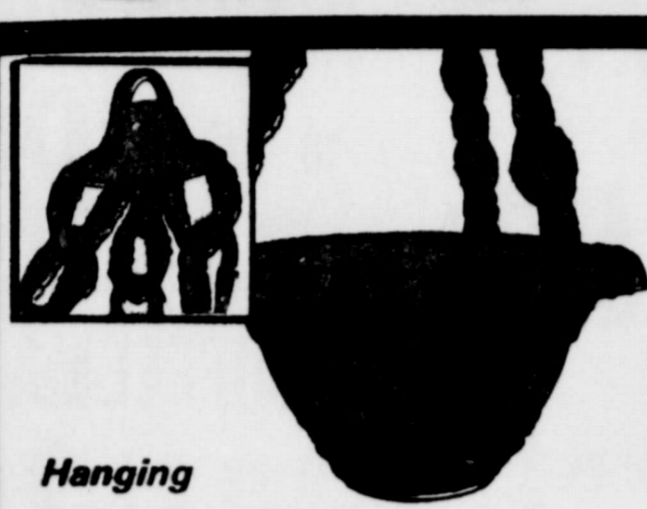
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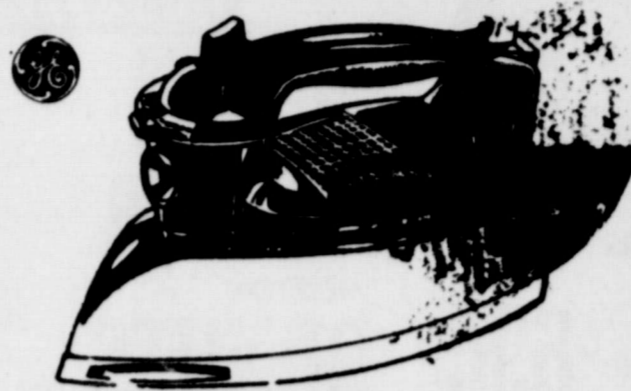


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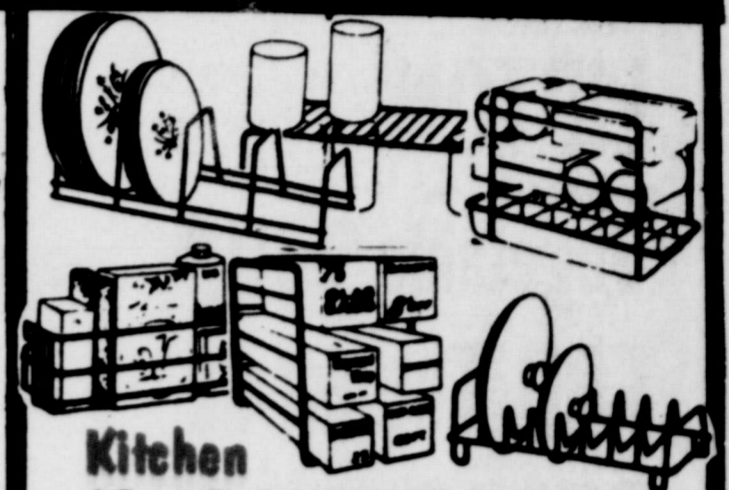
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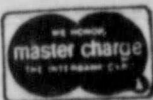


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