

Taylor County's
Only Legal
Weekly
Newspaper

BIBLE VERSE
Happy he who has found wisdom,
and the man who has acquired understanding;
for wisdom is more profitable than silver,
and the gain she brings is better than gold.
Proverbs 3:13-14



15¢

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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THE MAIL

All-Stars named, game set



By Carl Dingler

Well, the official Bicentennial birthday celebration is history and the nation can get on with another 100 years or so of its future.
For many, the past couple of years leading up to last weekend's chaos with w-h-o-m relief.
While Americans all over the state and nation were fighting parades, fireworks displays, traffic jams, sunburn and flooded campsites from disappear-ers, wonder what those 1776 citizens would have been thinking of the nation they had started.
If they had been around today and signed such a Declaration of Independence, they would have been quickly put down as hippies, and near-d-ck-w-lls not to mention rednecks and troublemakers.
As for celebrating the event, figure they were too busy getting ready for war or to prevent arrest to celebrate so profound a document.
However, they might not have come up with such a document at all had they had to fight a traffic jam to get to and from the event.
Then there was the office smarty who suggested we write a 200 second column in memory of the 200th birthday. Of course, it is impossible for this column to stop anything in 3 minutes or less--however, we did get the message.
This from here and there: I like to hear the rooster crow. He's like so many men I know, who rant and rave and shout and beat their manly chests without a single thing to brag about.
The City Council holds its regular meeting Thursday at 7 a.m.
The Miss Softball of America league is holding a benefit show Monday at Merkel High School at 7:30 p.m., when All-stars will be presented and the Ray Pack and Halfbreeds will perform.
The Merkel Country Club has started a special membership drive. Current membership fee is \$100 for initiation and monthly dues of \$17. However, this will increase to \$150 initiation fee and \$25 monthly dues effective August 1.
There also is a social membership available which allows for the use of the club and the swimming facilities. This will increase to \$30 and \$10 a month as of August 1.
The Country Club is currently remodeling the kitchen area and adding an additional nine holes to the golf course.

Little League All-Stars were named and other awards were presented Thursday at the Little League diamond as the season ended.
The All-Stars will play Hamlin at 7:30 p.m. July 19 on the Merkel diamond as the opening game of the All-Star tournament which Merkel is hosting this year.
Second game is Rotan vs. Stowell-Kent at 7:30 p.m. July 20.
Winners then meet either July 22 or July 23 for the championship.
Named to the All-Star team are Ronnie Williams, Ray Johnson, Greg Beasley, Ricky Biera, Greg Dickinson, W.A. Kinder, Sammy Tumlinson, Mike Hager, Willy Townsend, Richard Beaver, Danny Riggan, Royce Fowler, O.C. McKeenan, Bubba Atkinson and Manuel Biera.
Jimmy Leverich was named president for next year, replacing John Lozano.
Calvin Wolf was named first vice-president and Ted Hallford second vice-president. Jeanette Fursley was named secretary-treasurer.
For the Auxiliary, Peggy Gibson was named president to replace Barbara Fowler. Beverly Johnson is the new vice-president and Audra Horton is the secretary-treasurer.
In other action, the Little League officials recognized Deverl Teaff for a special donation of \$100 for equipment.
Special recognition was given to Rocklin King, Calvin Wolf, Jimmy Leverich, Gary Smith, Obie Coker,



LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STARS--Members of the Merkel Little League All-Stars are front row, left to right: Ronnie Williams, Ray Johnson, Greg Beasley, Ricky Biera, Greg Dickinson, W.A. Kinder and Sammy Tumlinson. Standing are Mike Hager, Willy Townsend, Richard Beaver, Danny Riggan, Royce Fowler, O.C. McKeenan, Bubba Atkinson and Manuel Biera.

Wayne Dean, Ted Hallford, Teddy Hallford, Felix Acuna, Randy Leverich, Tim Brady and Boy Scout Unit 218 for their work in keeping up the playing field.
Also recognized were umpires Dale Hammond, Larry Johnson, George English, Walter Harris, Obie Coker, Ray Pack, Ted Hallford, Calvin Wolf and Pat Fallarez, Winona Wolf, Cathy Leverich and Audra Horton worked the press box.
The Auxiliary thanked Taylor Electric for the donation of wire and plugs for the concession stand; Jimmy Leverich and Wayne Dean for their work on the concession stand; D. A. Bishop for plumbing; Budd Carey for work on the PA system; Ninth Street Grocery; Becky Pack as co-chairman of the T-Shirt League; and El-Tee-O Trailer Park for its donation.
Receiving certificates as they leave the Little League were 12-year-old Larry Land, Michael Tutt and W.A. Kinder of the Vets; Harold Dye, Richard Beaver, Danny Riggan and James Freeman of the Willies; Andy Fenter of the Supers; Willy Townsend, Greg Beasley, Todd Robertson and Eugene Ford of the Kilowatts; Bubba Atkinson and O.C. McKeenan of the Braves; and Manuel Biera, David Wilkerson, Royce Fowler, Mike Pate and Mike Fisher of the Bankers.

Wilkerson gets new contract

Wilkerson Manufacturing Company has announced

plans to expand its Anson plant.

The company recently announced a new long term con-

tract which will double the work force in Anson, starting within the next 2 or 3 weeks, Logan Cravens, plant manager has announced. Interviewing will start soon to secure the workers which will be needed for this new contract and the anticipated continuation of full operation of the Anson plant, it was indicated. But a definite date was not announced.
The handling of this expanded production, and all future growth of the factory in Anson will depend a great deal on the availability of an available labor supply, Cravens stressed.

The new contract is for ski wear and it will be carried on with other existing contracts obtained for the Anson and Merkel plants to justify an expansion of the total work force at Anson to about 40. That figure includes the cutting room employees since all of the cutting for both plants is now being done in Anson.
The Merkel plant is now making men's jumpsuits and women's blouses. The total work force of the plant in Anson and at Merkel is expected to be around 100 when production on present contracts is up to capacity.

Bank deposits continue climb

Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Merkel has increased its deposits over this time last year, according to the June 30 report from the bank.
Meanwhile, Home State in Trent has declined by 2 per cent over last year's report.
F & M Bank reports deposits of \$11,421,705 as of the close of business June 30. This is up from \$10,919,371 for the second quarter of 1975. It shows an increase of \$502,334. It is an increase of \$566,852 over deposits of \$10,854,853 at the end of the first quarterly report March 31.
Meanwhile, Trent's Home State showed \$907,786 deposits at the end of the second quarter last year and this year has

\$887,093, a decline of \$20,693. Deposits at the end of the first quarter this year was \$907,872.
F & M National Bank shows loans of \$5,963,863 at the end of the second quarter as compared to \$5,942,721 at the end of the second quarter last year. The first quarter loan balance showed \$6,153,248.
Home State Bank of Trent showed \$293,106 in loans last year and has \$362,108 this year. This also is up from the first quarter when \$332,135 in loans was reported.
All area bankers expressed optimism that the economy is continuing to recover although several admit that more rain is needed to help with crops.

Merkel Began by S.H. Merkel in 1881

In keeping with the Bicentennial theme fast building to a July 4 climax, Mrs. H. C. Reid of Merkel has compiled some historical facts on Merkel.
Mrs. Reid, a retired teacher, has made many presentations and talks about her past family and Merkel history. Here is her story.
Merkel was named for S. H. Merkel who arrived in the area early in 1881. The Texas and Pacific Railroad was built through this area in 1881 also. The railroad reached Abilene on January 9, 1881 and to Merkel soon after that date. In 1885 the population of Merkel was 25 and by 1890 it was 400. Mr. Merkel was a farmer and he also helped with the building of the railroad.
The first post office was opened in 1882, but was officially established June 12, 1883. It was located in the boxcar home of J. L. Vaughn and Mr. Vaughn was the first postmaster. Other locations of the Merkel post office were Front Street, North Second (where Glamour Bar is now), North Second (where Ann's Florist is now), North Second, (where Recreation Hall is now), then to 222 Edwards, the present location.
One of the earliest houses built in this area and is still standing was built about 1883. It is a rock house in the Shuloh community about five miles northwest of Merkel. It was built by Mrs. Sallis Story, a widow. Her son, Tom, operated a wagon yard in the

early 1900's located on Kent Street about in the location of where the parking area is behind Wilson's grocery. It was built of native stone, three stories with one room to each story. Portholes were left in the structure at various places, to hold a rifle pointed at any would-be attacker. Mrs. Story was the great-grandmother of H. C. Reid. The house was sold to the James family about 1901.
Another house that is still standing built in the early 1880's is the Vaughn house located in the first block on Oak Street. Mr. Vaughn came to the community in 1882, first living in boxcar which also served as a depot, post office, church, school, telegraph office, and any community gathering. Mr. Vaughn was the postmaster and the

depot agent. One of his daughters married Sam Butman and many of their relatives still live in this area.
The first Merkel Mail was published in 1890 and Mr. Mary Jane Cox was editor, an unusual name for a man. The first gin was built in 1893 by a Mr. Blanchard. Merkel became a college town in 1886 but the college only lasted about four years. It was first located in first block on Oak Street in a building that was a livery stable and later a feed store. Later a building was built about where Merkel Junior High is now, perhaps a little to the southeast of that building. Mr. Vaughn was instrumental in getting the Grimes County representative to donate five acres of land for a public school and a col-

lege. This frame building housed the college and all public school children until the college disbanded.
In 1900 Mr. J. Pa Sharp bought a store building from Mr. C. M. Largent located on corner of Front Street and Kent. It was of native rock and is still standing. Mr. Largent took that money and bought the Largent farming and ranching land north of Merkel at a price of \$1 to \$1.50 an acre. Mr. Sharp was the father of Mrs. Elsie Nash.
Merkel had quite a boom in early 1900's. New land was being put into cultivation and it was reported about 20,000 bales of cotton was marketed in 1906.
In the early 1900's the first bank was operated by George Berry. The Farmers and Merchants National Bank was organized in 1904 with J. T. Warren as President. He was followed by Booth Warren and now Don Hensley is president.
Fire destroyed much of Merkel in its early days. With only a bucket brigade the people worked all night to combat the blaze. As two men were walking home in the early morning hours they passed an elderly man's house and he rushed out of his house yelling "fire, fire." He was trying to wake up the town, not knowing people had worked all night to put out a fire while he slept.
The first opera house was built in 1904 by A. T. Sheppard and was located where the fire station is now. The native rocks for the building were hauled from the mountains south of Merkel.
The Ice and Light plant was built in 1904 by J. C. Hamm. It was in southeast Merkel. The first bottling plant was built in 1905 by J. M. Williams and was located on Front Street between Marion and El Paso. The first steam laundry was built in 1905 and was built and operated by Clark and Simmons on Front Street. The first skating rink was built in 1906 by Berry and Craig on Oak and South Second Street. Merkel had a planing mill in the early 1900's. It was located in northeast part of town on North Second Street. First creamery was built in 1905 by W. M. Grinnitt and was located where Wilkerson's factory is now located.
In the early 1900's Merkel became known as the "windmill town" as most of the people had their own wind-



EARLYDAY MERKEL--This picture of Merkel in the early 1900's still has signs of present day design. The street at right was known at the time as Cemetery road and, right, it led to the cemetery. It is North 2nd now. The building in the foreground on the left of the street is the present fire station site and the vacant lot in front is where the city hall is now located. Of course the Burton-Lingo Co. lumber yard at right is evident and is still at the present location although it is closed and the building's now rotting. The picture was taken from the stand pipe looking West.

Tonya Crenshaw of Merkel has been named to the President's list for the 1976 spring semester at Western Texas College. She is a sophomore physical education major.

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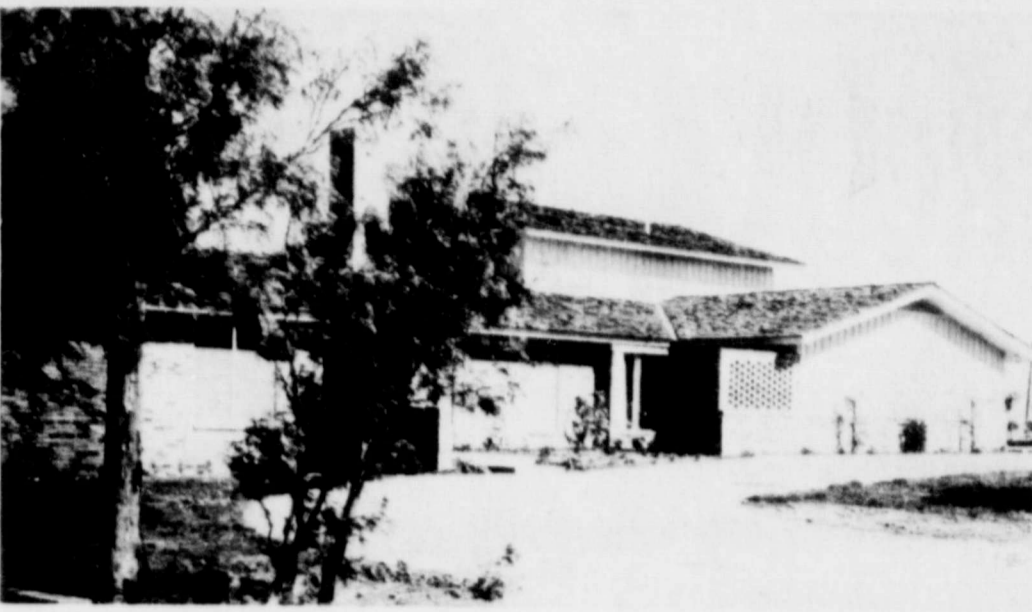
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THE MERKEL MAIL
Thursday, July 3, 1976



OPEN HOUSE--Mr. and Mrs. Don Hensley, president of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Merkel will have an open house Sunday from 2 until 4 p.m. Their new home on the Merkel Country Club Estates is the first one completed on the area surrounding the Country Club. Their house is located on the northeast corner of the Country Club property and all the lots have been sold on this side of the addition. All but five of the lots on the south end of the Country Club also have been sold.

Mrs. Patterson chairs commission

Keta Patterson, assistant to the McMurry Campus minister, has become the first layperson to chair the Northwest Texas Conference Commission on Health and Welfare Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Patterson lives on Route 3, Merkel, where her husband Virgil farms. She joined the McMurry Department of Religious Life eight years ago.

The commission she heads oversees the work of five United Methodist institutions. It was formerly entitled "Commissions on Hospitals and Homes."

It oversees: the Methodist Home of Waco, which cares for orphans and disturbed children; the Methodist Mis-

sion Home of San Antonio, which cares for unwed mothers and teaches deaf children; Methodist Hospital of Lubbock; Sears Memorial Methodist Center of Abilene; and King's Manor of Hereford.

Over the years Mrs. Patterson has served in many important United Methodist conference posts. She served for five years as conference director of children's work. She has long worked as a

Mrs. Bullock is honored

Mrs. Alameda Bullock was honored with a party on her birthday Saturday. Members of Xi Nu Chi Sorority arranged for the celebration at Amy Lynn Manor where she is presently residing.

Mrs. Bullock was Director of Lambda Beta Sorority for many years. Then when the Exemplar chapter Xi Nu Chi was formed, she became an honorary member of that chapter.

A lovely white and yellow birthday cake and punch was served to sorority members and guests.

certified teacher of courses in leadership training schools specifically in the areas of nursery, kindergarten and young adults-for United Methodists.

Mrs. Patterson worked with the curriculum revision committee of the Board of Education of the United Methodist Church in preparing new children's literature made available to churches in the fall of 1964.

Also she has served on the conference committee on research and planning of the council on ministries.

Mrs. Patterson was one of twenty persons elected to go to the Conference of UMC Educational Ministries, which included persons from all over the world.

Car wash set

The Merkel High School cheerleaders are having a car wash Saturday, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Palmer Pontiac.

SENIOR CITIZENS SCHEDULE EVENTS

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

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LIMIT 6 BIG 32 OZ BOT.

15¢



HOT BAR-B-QUE
POTATO SALAD - BEANS
PIMENTO CHEESE

SUGAR

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WITH \$10 PURCHASE EXCLUDING CIGARETTES

5 LB BAG

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BACON GOOCH LB **\$1.49**

FRANKS GOOCH 12 OZ PKG **79¢**

BEEF RIBS LB **49¢**

HAMBURGER LB **59¢**

CHUCK ROAST LB **79¢**

ROUND STEAK LB **\$1.49**

JOY LIQUID

89¢

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69¢

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6 OZ CAN

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CALIFORNIA **PEACHES**

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LIPTON **TEA BAGS** 48 CT. PKG. **89¢**

INSTANT **NESTEA** 3 OZ. JAR **\$1.39**

INSTANT FOLGER'S **COFFEE** 1 OZ. JAR **29¢**

KOUNTRY FRESH **Peanut Butter** 18 OZ JAR **79¢**

RANCH STYLE **BEANS** 300 CAN 2 FOR **49¢**

KEEBLER **CRACKERS** 1 LB BOX **59¢**

BETTY CROCKER **HAMBURGER HELPER** 7 OZ. BOX **59¢**

BEST MAID **PICKLES** SOUR OR DILL QT. **59¢**

KIMBELL **Apple Butter** 15 OZ. JAR **39¢**

SHORTENING SWIFTS JEWEL 42 OZ CAN **89¢**

CORN DEL MONTE WHOLE KERNEL 12 OZ CAN **29¢**

TOMATO JUICE 46 OZ CAN **49¢**

FRUIT COCKTAIL DEL MONTE 303 CAN **43¢**

VEG ALL LARSEN'S 303 CAN **29¢**

VIENNAS ARMOUR 5 OZ. CAN 2 FOR **65¢**

SPAM HORMEL 12 OZ. CAN **98¢**

BISCUIT MIX PIONEER 32 OZ. BOX **89¢**

FLOUR GLADIOLA 5 LB BAG **79¢**

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

OLEO KRAFT PARKAY LB **39¢**

MIRACLE WHIP KRAFT SALAD DRESSING QT **98¢**

BLACKBERRY JELLY GRIFFIN 18 OZ JAR **79¢**

CATSUP DEL MONTE 32 OZ BOTTLE **79¢**

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WESSON OIL 24 OZ. **89¢**

WESSON OIL 24 OZ. **89¢**

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Card of Thanks

WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR THANKS to all who have made contributions to the Merkel Cemetery Association in memory of our son Bill. Many gave through the bank and we did not know until we saw your names in The Merkel Mail. May God's richest blessings be yours to enjoy.
The Buster Horton Family
20-1tc

Help Wanted

COOKS, waitresses and dishwashers needed. All shifts. Call 928-4969 or 928-4923. 47-tfc

Services

CUSTOM COMBINING Cutting and baling. Call Noodle, 736-6128 after 5 p.m. 14-8to

For Sale

HOUSE FOR SALE-512 Rose. Come by and see! 19-3tc
FOR SALE: Merkel, near school, 3 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath, carpet. Appointment only. Call 928-5085. 18-tfc
60,000 PAPERBACKS half price or trade. Kingston Bookstore, North 2nd, east of Grape, Abilene, Monday-Saturday, 9:30-6. 15-tfc
FOR SALE: 1969 electric caddy golf cart, 1511 Heath, 928-4803. 20-1tc
FOR SALE: Bound puppets, 362-9322, Trent after 5 p.m. 20-1tc

Wanted

WANTED TO BUY--Windmill, standing or on the ground. Call 928-5712. 14-tfc/nc

LAND FOR SALE? CALL Collect-Bill Largent, Farm and Ranch Mgr. at Frances McClure Inc., Realtors, 3157 South 27th, Abilene, 698-3211, Night 698-2375. 46-tfc

For Rent

FOR RENT-Lots for Trailer homes, 928-5204. 16-tfc

Garage Sale

GARAGE SALE-Sofa chair, lots of clothes and misc. Monday, July 12th at the Baptist Parsonage in Trent, 20-1tc
GARAGE SALE-212 Oak Street Clothes and misc. items, Thursday and Friday, July 8th and 9th. 20-1tp
GARAGE SALE, 812 Oak, Misc. items, Friday and Saturday only. 20-1tp

Miscellaneous

FOR MONUMENTS and CEMETERY CURBING M.A. (Sarg) Nostr 1404 Herring Dr. Merkel, Texas Phone 928-5565

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

MERKEL VFW POST 5683 MONTHLY REG. MEETING 8:30 P.M.

SECOND THURSDAY POST & LADIES AUXILIARY Y'ALL COME NOW!

MASONIC MEETING Stated meeting of Merkel Lodge No. 719 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**

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The time between your breathless "yes" and the hushed moment of "I do" is a busy time of planning the many details which combined together, become YOUR WEDDING. How perfectly those details fit harmoniously together is up to you... and professionals, like ourselves, who stand ready to assist you with experienced, professional guidance and a willingness to serve and to care that yours is the loveliest wedding of all. Ours is a specialized bridal flower service we offer, and it is dedicated to YOU!

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Account numbers are mailed

In a continuing program to convert to complete electronic banking the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Merkel has been busy this week mailing individual account numbers to their customers. Enclosed with the account number is a letter by President Don Hensley. He writes that the new checking account number is the first step by the bank in providing the customer with the most up to date and efficient banking service available.

The bank is asking its customers to use their individual numbers on all checks and deposits to ensure the proper posting through the new electronic data processing equipment. The personal identification card is an F & M Bank convenience and it can easily be carried at all times for reference. Hensley says "This move to computer bookkeeping is indicative of Farmers and Merchants National's belief that it should provide more and better services where and when they are needed. However, since our bank has grown through a tradition of personal service and friendliness, you may be assured you will always receive the same 'old-fashioned' personal attention."

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Riding Club results

The Merkel Riding Club held its weekly play night Saturday at 8 p.m. at the arena. Results were: Western Pleasure (12 and under)-1. Dee Dee Masonheimer, 2. Sherri Williams, and 3. Brooks Boyd. (13-17)-1. Jan Melton, 2. Terri Tucker, 3. Vicki Campbell, 4. Ann Melton and 5. Penny Hatfield. (18 and over)-1. Benny Melton, 2. Barbara Whisenhunt, 3. Don Simpson, 4. Mike Callas and 5. Charles Hatfield. Barrels (12 and under)-1. Leslie Masonheimer, 2. Shannon Boyd, 3. Dee Dee Masonheimer, 4. Sherri Williams and 5. Candice Henslee. (13-17)-1. Ann Melton, 2. Vicki Campbell, 3. Penny Hatfield, 4. Jan Melton and 5. Kay Butman.

(18 and over)-1. Patricia Boyd, 2. Barbara Whisenhunt, 3. Walter Henslee, 4. Charles Hatfield and 5. Don Simpson. Flags (12 and under)-1. Shannon Boyd, 2. Dee Dee Masonheimer, 3. Sherri Williams, 4. Brooks Boyd and 5. Jamie Allred. (13-17)-1. Vicki Campbell, 2. Penny Hatfield, 3. Terri Tucker, 4. Ann Melton and 5. Jan Melton. (18 and over)-1. Charles Hatfield, 2. Patricia Boyd, 3. Mike Callas, 4. Barbara Whisenhunt and 5. Don Simpson. Poles (12 and under)-1. Shannon Boyd, 2. Leslie Masonheimer, 3. Sherri Williams, 4. Brooks Boyd and 5. Candice Henslee. (13-17)-1. Ann Melton, 2. Vicki Campbell, 3. Penny Hatfield, 4. Jan Melton and 5. Terri Tucker. (18 and over)-1. Barbara Whisenhunt, 2. Charles Hatfield, 3. Mike Callas, 4. Don Simpson and 5. Patricia Boyd. Boot race (5 and under)-1. Becky Tucker, 2. Tiffany Allday, 3. Laura Callas, 4. Jamie Masonheimer and 5. Amy Callas. Tie Down Roping-1. Walter Henslee and 2. Mike Callas. Ribbon Roping-1. Walter Henslee and Candice Henslee. Head and Heel-1. Walter Henslee and Mike Callas. The monthly pot luck supper will be Thursday, July 15 at 7:30 at the R. E. A. building. All members are urged to attend. There will be an important business meeting.

Senior Citizens The Senior Citizens met Monday night for the regular singing. A large crowd was present and singing was enjoyed by all. Tuesday July 13, will be the monthly luncheon date. "The Younger Generation Quartet," will be present to bring the entertainment and everyone is urged to come by 11:15 a.m.

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The Merkel Mail

PUBLISHERS STATEMENT Established in 1889

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Brooks reunion

On July 3rd and 4th the Brooks reunion was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Casady of Merkel. A barbecue supper Saturday night was in the Casady back yard with about 30 people present. Sunday lunch was held in the Lions Club building with 51 relatives and friends attending. The bicentennial theme was carried out. A display table held old family pictures, relics, keepsakes etc. Prizes were given to the oldest person, youngest, and family driving the farthest distance. Mrs. Johnsons from New Bransfels was the oldest at 84 years. Kimberly Dickerson, 4 1/2 months, was the youngest--also her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Dickerson traveled the farthest distance from Des Moines, Iowa. American flags were given each family present.

Relatives were present from Austin, Houston, New Braunfels, McLean, Brownfield, Shamrock, Abilene, Trent, Waco, Amarillo. Out of state visitors were from Des Moines, Iowa and Salem, Missouri. It was a really wonderful reunion and will be remembered a long time. Several were dressed bicentennial, from coon skin caps, Uncle Sam hats, and derby hats to Martha Washington dress to roarin' 20's saloon type dress. Snap shots were taken that I'm sure will be enjoyed for a long time. All left saying they would be back first Sunday in July, 1977.



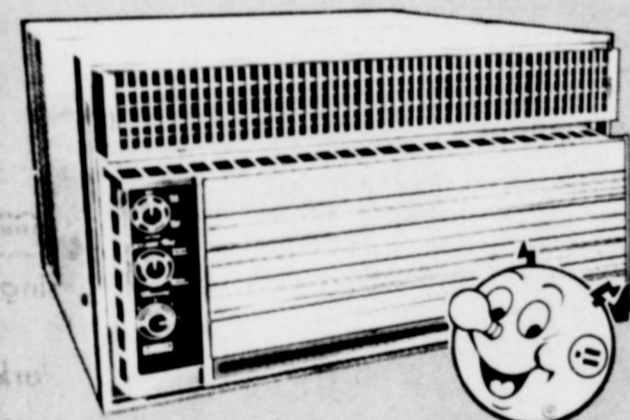
SINGERS DUE--The Younger Generation Quartet will perform Monday, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the regular Victory Baptist Church gospel singing. The church is located at 307 El Paso.

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Final rites held for Lucy Ford

Funeral services were held Sunday for Lucy Ford, 86, longtime Merkel resident who died Friday at Hendrick Memorial Hospital in Abilene after a short illness.

Services were at First Baptist Church in Merkel. The Rev. Kenneth Jones officiated and burial was in South Cemetery, directed by Star-

buck Funeral Home.

Born May 3, 1890, at Dalton, Georgia, she moved with her parents to Whiteright and to Jones County in 1900. She married Walter A. Ford December 24, 1913, at Stuth. He died June 16, 1934. She was a member of the Baptist Church and a Sunday school teacher for more than 60 years. Mrs. Ford was a member of the Merkel Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. R. T. (Groene) Blair of Lawton, Oklahoma, and Mrs. Alvin (Mattie Lou) Wozencraft of Merkel; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. A son, Roy, died in 1965. Grandsons served as pallbearers.

Coker, Hulse are wed

Joyce Coker and Dexter Hulse exchanged marriage vows Tuesday, June 29, 1976 in Abilene.

Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bailey of Merkel and Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Stautzenberger of Trent. The couple will live at 404 Ash in Merkel.

Tittle captures Mystery Store prize

Wanda Tittle became the latest Mystery Store winner when her name was drawn Tuesday morning at L & W Snack Bar.

She will receive a steak dinner for two. She is the seventh individual to win top prize in the 10-week Mystery Store campaign under way by Merkel businesses.

This week's Mystery Store is Ann's Flowers and the gift is a hanging basket and plant valued at \$15.

The word to find throughout the Merkel Mail this week is "Ann's Flowers" and it has been inserted throughout the paper at least 10 times.

To enter the contest find the word "Ann's Flowers" and circle at least 10 of them and then turn the newspaper with your name, address and telephone number in at this week's Mystery Store, Ann's Flowers before 5 p.m. Saturday.

Or, a contestant may enter by printing your name, ad-

dress and telephone number on an 8 1/2 by 11 plain piece of paper and print the name "ANN'S FLOWERS" 10 times using all capital letters.

No purchase is necessary to enter and you do not have to be present at the drawing to win.

Everyone is eligible for the prize excluding employees of the participating stores and the staff of The Merkel Mail.

At the end of the 10 weeks a special drawing will be held from all those who have entered and The Merkel Mail will award 10 additional prizes of \$10 gift certificates.

A contestant may enter as often as he or she wishes.

Participating businesses are L & W Snack Bar, Ann's Flowers, Wilson's Grocery, Western Auto, Castille's Hardware, Bragg's Department Store, Emma's Clothes Closet, Adcock's Circle A, Western Wear, Crawford's and Starbuck's Furniture Store.

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Perfect sewings for the jean scene. Choose extra wide prewashed and scuffy denim in jean-maker blues and assorted Fall colorations. Machine wash cotton in 60 in. widths.

IMITATION FUR PILE 349 YD.
For versatility and good looks. It's polyester and acrylic fake fur in knitted seal and wildman styles for making jackets and hats as well as spreads, pillows, throws and more. Solid colors 54 60 in. wide.

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Sewing classes to begin

Sewing classes will begin on July 13 at the Ben Franklin store in Merkel. Planned for the first lesson is zippers. The other classes are scheduled for July 20th and July 27th. Classes will begin at 2:00 p.m. Whatever is requested at the first class July 13 will be taught the second and third classes. For more information and reservations come by or call the Ben Franklin Store, 328-4933.

Burleson at dedication

Congressman Omar Burleson will be in Merkel Monday to dedicate the opening of the SUN Water Supply project. The dedication will be at 9 a.m. at Pump Station No. 3 on the north end of Mrs. Wilber Criswell's home on North 126. It was reported last week that water already has been turned on at 106 meters serving the area and that more are due to be added daily.

Guys, Dolls tourney set

Wanda Hendricks, tournament chairman, has a "Guys and Dolls" tournament planned for the monthly play day supper and business meeting Tuesday, July 13. The tournament, to be played on the point system, will

precede the supper and business meeting. Tee off time will be around 5 or 5:30 p.m. at the convenience of the players. Jo Ann Smith, president, urges everyone to come out and play and attend the supper and business meeting. Election of officers for the new year will be held and plans finalized for the upcoming "Ladies Partnership Tournament" scheduled for Saturday, July 24.

Sayles house nominated

Congressman Omar Burleson announces that the Henry Sayles House in Abilene has been nominated by the Texas Historical Commission at Austin for implementation under the National Historic Preservation Act. It has accordingly been entered in the National Register of Historic places.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. This action makes such property eligible to be considered for Federal grants-in-aid for historic preservation through State programs.

Tri-City girls set benefit

The Tri-City Miss Softball of America will present All-Stars their trophies at a benefit Monday night at the Merkel High School auditorium. The league is holding a benefit show featuring Ray Pack and Halbreed. The benefit starts at 7:30 p.m. Student tickets are \$1 and adult tickets are \$1.50. A family ticket may be purchased in advance for \$4.50.

Pamela Gant, Lt.

Simpson exchange vows

Pamela J. Gant of Abilene, granddaughter of Mrs. Sallie Gant of Merkel, was married Saturday to Lt. Larry L. Simpson of Ranger.

The couple were married at 7 p.m. in the Aldersgate United Methodist Church of Abilene.

Pamela is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Billy G. Gant of Abilene and the grooms parents are Mr. and Mrs. Wayne E. Simpson of Ranger. Grandmother of the bridegroom is Mrs. T. E. Simpson of Gordon.

The couple were united in

marriage by the Rev. David Hamblin of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, assisted by Dr. Howard Hollowell of Abilene.

Organist was Mrs. Linda Rehm and soloist was Steve Harter.

She was given in marriage by her father Dr. Gant.

Maid of honor was Debbie Gant, sister of the bride from Abilene and bridesmaids were Mrs. Jonathan Van Gundy of San Antonio, Mrs. Thomas Lindell of Camp Pendleton, California and Miss Suzanne Williams of Galveston.

Best man was Larry Butler of Del Rio and groomsmen were David Waik of Houston, Bobby Dempsey of Ranger and Dennis Kennedy of Graham.

Ushers were Richard Boone of Abilene, Stanley Goatcher of College Station and William Edmiston of Bryan.

Reception hosts were Dr. and Mrs. Billy Gant at the Officers Open Mess at Dress Air Force Base.

After a wedding trip to San Antonio the couple will be at home in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Rehearsal dinner was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Simpson at the Officers Open Mess, Dress Air Force Base.

The brides' gown was designed by her mother with an angel peau underskirt and silk organza overlay. The



Mrs. Larry Simpson

bodice was reembroidered imported Alencon lace with seed pearls and long full sleeves.

The silk organza skirt formed the cathedral length train which was edged with Alencon lace. Her veil was held by a pearl Juliet cap.

She carried a cascade of white cattleya and phalaenopsis orchids accented with greens and white roses. She carried the

handkerchief her mother carried on her wedding day.

The bride is a graduate of Cooper High School and Texas Woman's University and is employed by Comanche County Memorial Hospital in Lawton, Oklahoma.

The bridegroom graduated from Ranger High School and Texas A & M University and is presently in the Army and stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

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Doctor Rongers' Column
By EDWARD W. RONGERS CHIROPRACTOR
YOUR SPINE
Have you ever considered how important a role your spine plays in the normal functioning of your body? You may have thought about the importance of your heart,



lungs, stomach or kidneys and others, but their ability to work properly depends on the health of your spine. This may be difficult to understand at first, since you may have always thought of the spine as a flexible bone that gives support to the body. That flexible bone is actually 26 pieces of bone called vertebrae which are separated from each other by 23 cartilage discs. These vertebrae and the discs they sit on are held together by about 1000 ligaments. The spine, now composed of vertebrae, discs and held together by ligaments, is about 28 inches long in the average male and 25 inches long in the average female. In both male and female the spine serves as an attachment point for 24 ribs, one skull, a set of upper and lower extremities and some 400 muscles attached to the spine by tendons.

The 26 vertebrae are arranged in such a way that a canal is formed which protects the spinal cord that lies within it. This spinal cord gives off 31 pairs of spinal nerves through small openings that lie adjacent to the discs between each vertebrae. These spinal nerves, which eventually branch out into smaller nerves, will reach every organ, tissue and cell in your body.

Therefore, in order for your heart, lungs, stomach, kidneys or any other part of your body to function normally, it must first receive impulses or messages from the brain. The heart needs to know how fast to beat, the lungs need to know at what rate to take in oxygen and release carbon dioxide, the stomach needs to know when to secrete digestive juices, you wouldn't want this to happen on an empty stomach, and the kidneys need to know what ingredients to filter from the blood.

The way these various organs, tissues and cells get their orders on how to function normally is through the spinal cord and spinal nerves that connect these structures to the brain. Abnormal functioning of the body's parts can occur if there is an interruption of these impulses or messages to and from the brain and the organs, tissues or cells. One of the most common causes for this interruption of impulses between brain and body parts is when one of those 23 discs happens to slide from its normal position between the vertebrae. When the disc "slips out," it presses against the adjacent spinal nerve causing a disruption of the nerve impulses and also an irritation and inflammation of the spinal nerve itself. This interruption of nerve impulses to and from the brain and the structures of the body is reflected in the many ailments, aches and pains and diseases that are so common to us today.

Perhaps now you can understand a little better why it is so important to have a healthy spine if you expect the rest of your body to function at its best.

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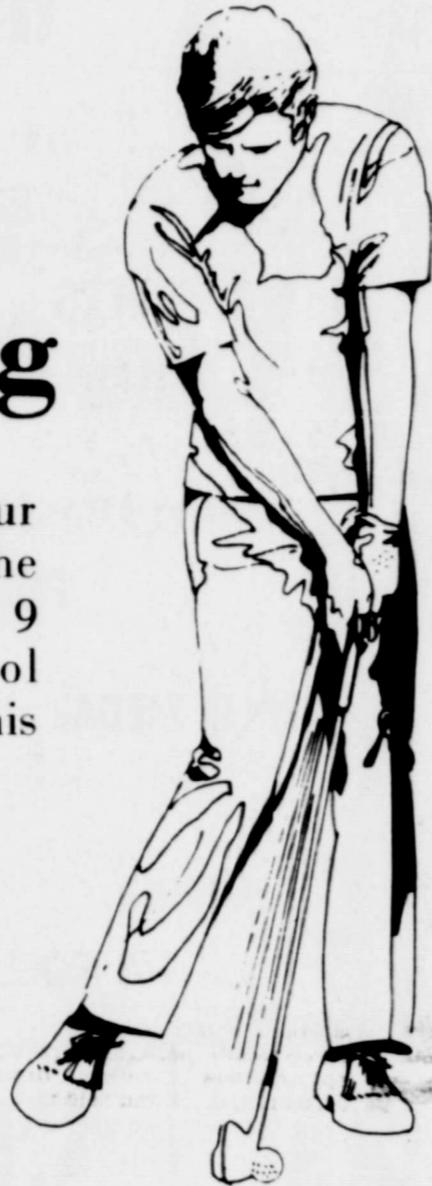
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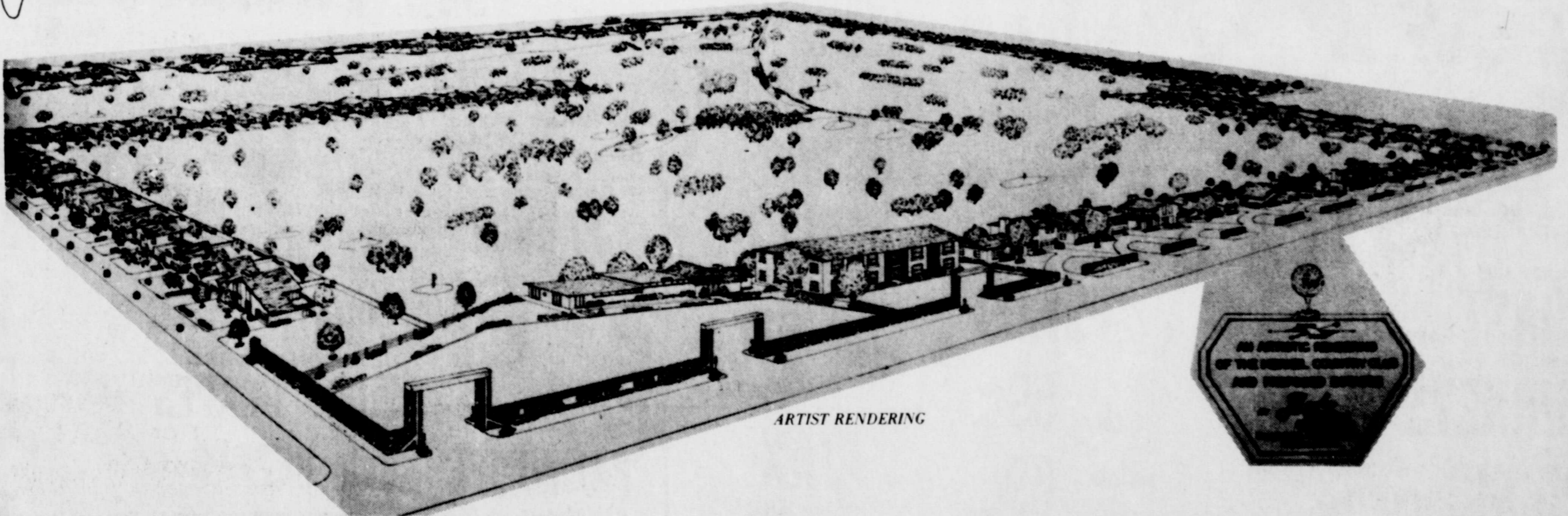
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43¢

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HORMEL BACON POUND \$1.59

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HORMEL BOLOGNA ALL MEAT LB 93¢

HORMEL BEEF PATTIES LB 89¢

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FRESH Bell PEPPER 39¢

FRESH CABBAGE LONG WHITE LB 10¢

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