

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Taylor County's
Only Legal
Weekly
Newspaper



15¢

BIBLE VERSE
The message you have heard
from the very beginning is
this: we must love one
another.
1 John 3:11

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1976

VOL 87, NO. 45

Lone Star Gas files for rate increase in area

Subscription Rate Increase

Due to increasing mailing costs effective January 1, 1977 The Merkel Mail subscription rates will be in-

creased to \$6.50 for Taylor and adjoining counties and \$6.25 for outside Taylor and adjoining counties.

Lone Star Gas Company's local Service Representative, Bill Harris, recently, filed an application for a rate increase to provide the company an 8 per cent rate of return.

Harris said Lone Star's distribution system serving Merkel earned a 5.29 per cent rate of return in 1975, fair value rate base, and that \$11,493 is required to correct the utility's revenue deficiency. He explained that Lone Star has experienced increased costs of operation due to the current inflation, and unrecovered costs of purchased gas which substantially eroded utility earnings.

In June of last year, the Railroad Commission authorized Lone Star to recover 85 per cent of its increase in the average cost of gas (above a base of 72 cents) from residential and commercial deliveries at the city gate. During the 14 months ended August, 1976, Lone Star had unrecovered gas costs of \$14.2 million for gas delivered at the city gate for residential and commercial customers.

"These costs result from the rapidly rising gas prices during the last few years. For example, our average cost of gas climbed from 18 cents per thousand cubic feet in 1971 to \$1.03 in June of this year, a 472 per cent increase. Utility earnings declined from \$23.3 million in 1971 to \$13.1 million in 1975, or 44 per cent," Harris said. The company's application would raise the average residential customer's bill about \$1.14 per month, based on 8 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) consumption.

THE MAIL



By Carl Dingler

It's that time again. Time to make all those New Year's resolutions which I know I can keep--for a day or two, anyway.

Now, I'm the world's worst at willpower and because of this reason any resolutions made at this time are transitory in nature.

Have you ever done that? Like for instance the year I vowed to loose weight. It worked well until lunch when we were still eating all those Christmas leftovers. Got off to a great start that year.

Then, the year I vowed I'd never smoke again, using January 1 as the incentive for a new beginning. That did last three days until my wife and friends couldn't put up with my snarling disposition any longer and someone at work suggested they would even spring for the tobacco if it would help my disposition.

Of course, there was the time I vowed to be a good boy (yes, my resolutions go way back). Did pretty well until my sister borrowed my favorite stickhorse and used it, of all things, for a broom.

Oh, there were such times when I made those staunch vows to write that long planned novel, learn a foreign language, go on a 6-month vacation to South America, successfully predict Super Bowl and World Series champions, get out of debt, be more organized with my income, and do more chores around the house.

Now, those were all good intentions but somehow they got lost along the way--along about five minutes after I wrote them down and moved my thoughts to "more important things" such as the football game on tv.

Too, I'm the world's worst about vowing to do better and greater things during the coming year for mankind. Somehow my get up and go falls back into the same old rut.

This year it's going to be different. For instance:

I vow to help more around the house--on any day, in July when it snows.

I vow to let my wife choose the tv programs--except anytime there's a sporting event or a western or a 1934 movie (that must have been a vintage year because we see so many of them).

I vow to walk to work to get some exercise and save on fuel--anytime the temperature reaches 110 degrees at 7 in the morning.

I vow to lose 25 pounds--as soon as pills completely replace food.

I vow not to put my mouth in motion before engaging the gears in my brain--unless my gears are stripped.

I vow never to ride my wife's stickhorse--unless it snows in July and I have to sweep the floors.

I vow not to ride my motorcycle through mud puddles--unless I have to walk to work on those 110-degree mornings.

I vow not to get upset when the cardiac Cowboys do something stupid--unless they lose.

I vow to take my wife out once a week for dinner--out to the kitchen, that is.

Finally, I vow to buy my wife a new TR6 if I should break one of these resolutions.

Ah, now that this chore is out of the way, can settle down with a big plate of blackeyed peas and enjoy the Dallas Cowboys all the way to the Super Bowl--that is if they don't cause the blood pressure to rise too much as they go about playing just good enough to win those cliffhangers.

Have a great New Year.

Bits of wisdom to start the New Year:
Dale Carnegie said "You can make more friends in two months by becoming really interested in other people, than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you."

Mark Twain: "The man with a new idea is a crank until the idea succeeds."
Anonymous: "It's strange how much you've got to know before you realize how little you know."
Calvin Coolidge: "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'Press On' has solved, and always will solve, the problems of the human race."



FOOD FOR NEEDY--Part of the food and toys collected by the Merkel Jaycees for the needy families. The food and toys were distributed Tuesday and Wednesday by the Jaycees who plan to make this one of their annual projects. There were more than 24 families helped by the Jaycees in their effort to make Christmas a happier one.

Livestock deadline

January 5 is the deadline to enter the Merkel Livestock Show.

Entries should be sent to Chester Collinsworth or Benny Melton at the Merkel Chamber of Commerce.

The Livestock Show is January 5 at noon.

Payton Scott of Rising Star is the judge. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Scott of Merkel.

Superintendent of each class is George English and Jack Moore for swine; T. J. Neill and Tommy Swinney for lambs; and R. Lee Brown and Eddie Sandusky for beef cattle.

School menu

MONDAY

Chicken fried steak
Cream gravy
Whipped potatoes
Green beans
Hot rolls
Pear halves

TUESDAY

Burritos
Pinto beans
Spanish rice
Peath cobbler

WEDNESDAY

Beef and cheese pizza
Buttered mixed vegetables
Lettuce wedge
Choice of dressing
Lime jello with applesauce

Merkel continues growth pattern during 1976

1976 was another growth year for Merkel with the additional opening of several new businesses to complement Merkel's continued growth.

It also has seen the planning for several new additions for housing.

School enrollment continued to climb with more than 90 new students enrolled and the approval of additional classroom space at Tye and the approval of a new addition to the Merkel Elementary School.

Mesel's football team under new coach Jerry McLeod also had an outstanding year in its first in District 6-A, winning seven games and losing three and finishing third in district.

1976 was a good year for the farmers, although rain and early November freeze plagued to come along at wrong time and hurt some food crops of grain and cotton were reported.

In the way of progress the SUN water supply system was officially opened sparking new interest in building along FM126 north of Merkel. Too, plans were started to get a water supply system for the area south of Merkel.

The Merkel Country Club continued to improve facilities, completing remodeling plans and starting construction on tennis courts and its townhouse project.

Merkel's Chamber of Commerce also had an active year, sponsoring several civic projects and helping push for the formation of a Merkel Higher Education Authority in order to keep Cisco Junior College and higher education in Merkel.

City officials, meanwhile, continue improvements on the water system and received approval of an \$81,300 grant to go with the \$30,400 grant approved last year, in order to complete water and sewer lines in needed areas.

All in all, the Bicentennial year proved productive for the entire community as it continues to prepare for the anticipated growth of Merkel and the area.

Here's a month by month look at the highlights of 1976.

JANUARY

Plans being made to attend State Farmers Union Convention in Fort Worth.

CJC offers eight courses. Mrs. Ruth Cox is artist-of-the-month.

Judge Millet announces resignation in March. Merkel Home Furnishing Center to open in February. Rural water line under construction near Merkel.

Glene's sells factory outlet. Manufacturing plant to build panelized homes in Merkel.

Abilene Savings under construction.

Greenhouse to grow commercial tomatoes.

FEBRUARY

Coach Jerry McLeod named to head athletic department at Merkel High.

Mrs. Bernice Bagby is artist-of-the-month.

Robert Harris named fireman-of-the-year.

Betty Allday, Lambda Beta Sweetheart-Queen of Hearts. Don Hensley re-elected president of Merkel Chamber of Commerce.

Lee Presswood named principal at Merkel High. F & M Bank promotes Smith, names Jones VP.

Farmers Union members to Washington, D. C.

MARCH

Shannonside Apartments ready for renting. Betty Toombs is artist-of-the-month.

Alpha Nu Nu Art Fair to feature area artists.

Pastor John Curtis resigns after 43 years.

Tri-City Miss Softball of America re-organizes for '76.

Two-dollar bill issue not an April fool (to appear in April).

MAY

Mr. and Mrs. Mack Fisher honored on Mack Fisher Day. Whisenhunt sworn in, Cage coach hired.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hicks is artist-of-the-month.

Taylor Electric receives Safety Award.

Yearbook dedicated to Mack Fisher. Mike Magee, Netta Stephan receive Outstanding Students Award of Senior Class.

46 receive diplomas at Merkel High School. 5 graduated from Trent.

Emma's Clothes Closet. Noteburning ceremonies marked at First Baptist.

Ronnie Whisenhunt Eagle rank in scouting.

Carl Dingler new editor, introduced.

Incumbents retain seats on Council-School Board sees new blood.

Pat Neff is artist-of-the-month.

Riding Club begins new season.

Smith family receives first Family Service Award.

School Board declares Whisenhunt's seat vacant.

Taylor Electric's 35th meeting.

Deborah White named Miss Merkel.

Danny DuBose and Netta Stephan presented the first Gene Stuckey Award.

Bob Reed and Debi Wells top Trent students.

Netta Stephan and Wayne Webb presented Citizenship Award.

JUNE

Dion Wilkerson and Brad Wade were honored as the top boy and girl students of the Merkel Junioe High graduating class.

Mrs. Jack Hogan is artist-of-the-month.

Coward new track coach. Architects hired to make survey of school building.

New business grows huge tomatoes.

Abilene Savings officially opens.

JULY

W. R. (Pinky) Cypert receives retirement dinner.

Mrs. Ann Doan is artist-of-the-month.

Housing development for Merkel revealed.

Surprise retirement party honors Mary Outlaw.

Tye sixth grade moving to Merkel.

New SUN water system dedicated.

Toombs heads group on ad valorum tax issue.

AUGUST

Fisher resolution signed. Initial School budget \$87,517.73 higher.

Brad Wade Eagle scout. Trent accepts construction bid for new gym and remodeling.

Steve Bland in junior rodeo national finals.

Junior rodeo opens Thursday.

Individualized paving program approved by City Council.

Mrs. Frankie Smith is artist-of-the-month.

Steve Bland wins title of World's Champion Cowboy in the American Junior Rodeo Association.

CJC offers courses. School Board approves cafeteria renovation.

SEPTEMBER

Welcome Exes to Merkel High Homecoming festivities.

Water rates reclassified, equality of payment cited.

Harold Bails is new owner of Ninth Street Grocery.

School budget approved with no tax increase.

Church leased for kindergarten.

Coming Home Queen June Gregory, Mr. X George English.

Thames to have opponent. Miss Judy Diltz named Homecoming Queen.

Construction issue hot School Board topic. Trent Homecoming starts Friday.

Taylor Telephone holds annual meeting.

Ex honored (Trent)--Anna Bell Siegal Bright. Homecoming honorees (Trent)--Seniors Kenny Nance and Joyce Chateruwart, Band Sweetheart (Trent)--Shirley Brenem.

School approves freezer purchase, buys three lots.

Gold Star Girl--Kathryn Irvin of Noodle.

Group seeks water for area south of Merkel.

OCTOBER

VFW District 8 meeting attracts 300 to Merkel.

School Board hires architect to plan elementary addition. Tye to get two renovated classrooms.

Pug and Leo's has grand opening.

Tye costs approved, cafeteria to get roof.

First cotton--Kenny Hogan harvested the first cotton in Merkel when he turned in the first bale September 4.

City gets \$81,300 grant for water project.

Blair Water District formed.

5-Classroom addition approved for Elementary School.

Radio Station sold to Killen businessmen.

Education board sought to save college program.

NOVEMBER

Educational Authority formed to keep higher education in Merkel.

Dale Shugart, Tom Lush domino champs.

Gorillas clinch district title. Witherral zone opponent.

City meets with Attorney General over new educational authority.

Thames, Wade easy victors in city.

Council names seven to new education board.

Melton heads college authority, Cisco offered 2-year pact.

PFO gets funds for playground equipment.

DECEMBER

School Board to appeal Governor's tax evaluation.

Medical group honors Dr. Sadler.

Merkel Art Association sponsors arts, crafts benefit.

Montgomery to lead Farmers Union.

Beula Jones Eason named Noodle Homecoming Queen.

Lambda Beta, Todd Yaddow first in Christmas parade.

Tom Carson heads first Merkel Jaycees.

Smith, Shaw, Biera first team All-District.

Blair Water District adopts by laws with 162 members.

Abilene firm gets HUD contract. City employees get Christmas bonus.

Bid opening set on new elementary building.

STOP -- every youngster needs your help

The youngster was only 7. She had been away from her schoolmates for two weeks and had lots of news to discuss.

She had had a wonderful Christmas, filled with many good things to eat

and many wonderful new dolls and toys to play with.

She was dressed in her new dress she had gotten from her grandmother. She was especially in a hurry to show off her new dress to her favorite

friend and to exchange all the talk they had missed over the holidays.

She had gotten up a little earlier on this first day back at school and had been excited--too excited to eat breakfast. She certainly didn't want to miss the schoolbus. She barely said goodbye to her mother and her daddy had already left for work.

Yes, she was excited and had many wonderful things on her mind. She rushed from the bus. She didn't see the car that had failed to stop for the flashing lights of the bus, indicating that children were boarding or unloading. It was too late.

In that second of a parent's hurrying to get their youngster unloaded and get on the way to work or other pressing chores, everyone's life was changed.

Gone is the happy giggling youngster pattering with her dolls. A household is faced with heartbreak and pain of what might have been. Every little thing around the house serves as a reminder of happier times. The house is filled

with what "if" and "if only." Oh, if there had been a little more time that morning to hug the youngster and tell her how much she was loved. Of how much she meant to everyone. It's too late now.

And, the parent who failed to heed the state law concerning stopping for the bus, there is nightmares.

"If only I had stopped. What if it had been one of my children?" go racing over and over in the mind.

The family routine also becomes one of sorrow as the two families strive to pick up the pieces and start living for the living once again.

No, this hasn't happened in Merkel. And, hopefully it will never happen. But, it could very easily.

There are daily infractions of people disregarding stopped schoolbuses with blinking lights around the schools and on the routes.

And, with the disregard for the courtesy and safety involved, it could be just a matter of time until some anxious parents receive one of those dreaded telephone calls, informing that a part of their life has ended.

Bus drivers are authorized to take license numbers and file on violators of this law. However, the driver of the vehicle must be identified for the law to be enforced.

Two major spots Merkel bus drivers report are at the Plaster Shop and at the Merkel Elementary School. There is no place for the busses to pull off the street to unload at the Elementary School.

The situation of people disregarding the law is reported to be "pretty bad" by school officials.

So, parents take an extra minute of your time to insure a lifetime for the youngsters. Some parent may do as much for your youngster someday.



RING in a NEW YEAR

It's the friends we have who make our New Year happy! Hope yours will be that special too.

CIRCLE A WESTERN HOUSE

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Month Singing
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Game Nights
Every Thursday
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4th Thur. Game
Night Reserved for
Talented Amateurs.



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

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 to all of you

**THE FARMERS AND
MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK**



A RAINBOW YEAR

Painting our wishes for you in glowing colors. May good fortune enrich your New Year.

**STARBUCK
FURNITURE**



NEW YEAR GREETINGS!

Wishing our many friends a harmonious and spirited New Year.

**J. L. FISHER FINA STATIONS
AND
MERKEL AUTO PARTS**

Ray Graduates

Michael Ray received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Education from Tarleton State University at the winter commencement exercise December 19.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ray of Route 3, Merkel.

Merkel on TV show

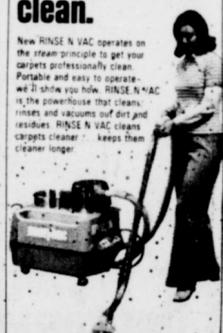
A phone call from Mrs. Charles Bright of Humble, Texas reports that the City of Merkel was featured on a program called "The Eyes of Texas" on December 17.

The program is sponsored by Houston Power and Light Company of Houston.

Being a former Merkelite, Mr. S. Bright, formerly Kay Lynn Bagby, was thrilled to see her home town featured.

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Ben Franklin
201 KENT
MERKEL

NEW YEAR PRAYER

We give thanks and pray for peace and happiness for our friends and all mankind.



CRAWFORD'S
DELPHINE, MARY SUE,
LATINA, & ONIS

Good Luck



We're chiming in with happy holiday wishes for you. May this New Year bring lots of fun and laughter!

**SYBLE'S
BEAUTY
NOOK**

Looking forward to new worlds of happiness as the New Year arrives.



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

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WED., THUR., FRI., DEC. 29, 30, 31

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LIMIT 6

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THE MERKEL MAIL
Thursday, December 30, 1976 PAGE 3

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IN PAN

SHORTENING
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SNOWDRIFT

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SHANK END LB. \$1.09
BUTT END LB. \$1.29

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LB.

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SAUSAGE

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HOG JOWLS

LB.

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69¢

DILL PICKLES

48 OZ.

89¢

WOLF CHILI

19 oz.

89¢

RANCH STYLE BEANS

300 CAN

29¢

HORMEL TAMALES

300 CAN

39¢

AMERICAN BEAUTY INSTANT POTATOES

16 OZ.

59¢

KIMBELL Blackeyed PEAS

1 LB PKG

39¢

CRACKIN' GOOD CRACKERS

1 LB. BOX

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46 OZ

45¢

PEACHES

VAL VITA NO. 2 1/2 CAN

49¢

BLACKEYED PEAS

LIBBY'S WITH SNAPS 300 CAN

29¢

BLACKEYED PEAS

TARPLEY WITH SNAPS 15 oz.

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PETER PAN 28 oz

\$1.39

JELLEY

GRIFFIN

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WAFFERS

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2/ 65¢

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- 1970 VOLKSWAGON SQUAREBACK Station-wagon. Air conditioner, radio, 4 speed, luggage rack. Only. **\$895**
- 1972 CHEVY CAPRICE 4 dr., air cond., power. **\$1995**
- 1974 CHEVROLET NOVA Hatchback Coupe, air, power. **\$2295**
- 1973 PONTIAC CATALINA 4 dr. sedan, air cond., power. **\$1995**
- 76 BONNEVILLE BROUGHAM - 4-dr. hard-top, pretty red with red vinyl roof, 60-40 seats, super loaded! A beauty. **????**
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MEMBER 1975 ASSOCIATION**

The Merkel Mail

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NOTICE of typographical or other errors must be given before the second insertion or claims for refunds or extensions will not be recognized.

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FOR RENT-3 bedroom, 2 bath. Call Putman in Tye at 692-9319. 45-1tp

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ONE 11 x 14 COLOR FAMILY PORTRAIT mounted on a deco-plaque \$6.95. To be taken January 15 or 16. Contact Lambda Beta member of Combe Castille's by January 7. 43-3tc

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STARTING DECEMBER 19th a representative of the Higginbotham Fur Company will be in Merkel at the Shamrock Truck Stop from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. to buy furs every Sunday. 44-3tp

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DISHMAN'S SHELL
211 KENT
928-5222
MECHANIC ON DUTY

Miscellaneous

**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.
**WILEY NOAH, W.M.
ROY MASHBURN, Sec'y**

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

CARD OF THANKS

WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS how much we thank you and appreciate each one of you for your expression of love and concern during the passing of our loved one. We are grateful for your prayers, visits, flowers, cards and food.
We cherish your love and friendship.
Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Bland and Family
Mr. and Mrs. V. W. Apple and Family
45-1tp

PP PRESTIGE HOMES & PROPERTIES

317 N. Willis Suite 20
Abilene 673-6444

HAPPY NEW YEAR
Unique 3 bedroom home in SW Merkel, paneled den, range, dis washer, gas grill, patio, good water well. 7.97 acres east of Elmdale, fenced, electricity. Adjacent 0.89 acre 1-20 access frontage available.
MECHANICS--garage and wrecking yard west of Abilene. good local and transient business.
RANCH with nice home listing needed for out of state buyer.
Shannon Teal...692-0787
Morris Harper...698-9689
Pauline Butman,
GR.692-2222

REALTORS
MERKEL BRANCH OFFICE
Billy and Pat Neff, 928-5623
Equal Housing Opportunity

WATER LINES

DUG AND LAID CALL
776-2181 OR 993-4232
AFTER 5 P.M.
776-2535

TYPEWRITERS

ADDING MACHINES SALES SERVICE RENTALS
PHONE 928-5374
211 ASH
MERKEL
JERRI'S
TYPEWRITER SERVICE

TOOMBS REAL ESTATE

FREDDY TOOMBS (BROKER)
716 EDWARDS
PH. 928-5921
RES. 928-5696
RES. 928-5508
ABILENE 672-6727
40 ACRES FOR SALE Noodle area on paved road. Will divide for veterans.

HIGHWAY FRONTAGE

on I-20. For commercial use! For sale.

2 BEDROOM HOUSE

Fenced yard, paneled kitchen, completely re-decorated.

VACANT LOTS FOR SALE

for trailer and buildings in all sections of town.

WE NEED ALL KINDS OF LISTINGS, HOUSES, FARMS & RANCHES

Cemetery donations

The following have made donations to the Merkel Cemetery Association's special Christmas Memorials.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hartley in memory of Mel Peterson Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Gardner Minnie A. Howard in memory of Family and Friends Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Jeffrey Mr. and Mrs. Tom Allday in memory of Tommy H. Allday

Mrs. Mildred Park Roberts in memory of Mrs. Dora Dyess Park
Nina Sherrill
Ola Pearl Tucker in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Casey and B. J. Hatchell Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Howell in memory of Nancy Vesek

Mrs. N. H. Eoff in memory of N. H. Eoff and other members of the Eoff family
Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. James in memory of Wm. J. James and Mary Annie James
Mrs. L. J. Renfro and Edwin in memory of L. J. Renfro and Gerald Renfro David and Gailie Anderson Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Stevens in memory of C. F. and Annie Stevens

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. W. Sledge in memory of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. (Bill) Sledge
Mr. and Mrs. Baylort Amason in memory of Joe Amason
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Chaney Mr. and W. H. Learmor in memory of Wm. G. Storey Powell W. and Nell Hughes Miller in memory of our parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Miller and Mr. and Mrs. John S. Hughes
Mr. and Mrs. Riggs Shepperd in memory of Gerry Ann Shepperd

Mrs. Dee P. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Baker Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Hammond in memory of Riley, Montie, Jack, Bob, Glenn and Gwin Wausenhunt
Leno L. Swafford in memory of LaVerna G. Buford R. A. McCollum
Mrs. W. B. Mitchell, Permanent Cont. Membership Nig Herron
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Orsborn
Vera and Clifford Rhoden Mrs. madlyn Addison Hinkle in memory of my father and mother and brothers, Mr. and Mrs. Pat Addison, H. E. and Chubby Mrs. Robert (Ima) Higgins in memory of Mrs. S. Elizabeth Elliott
Era Jenkins in memory of Claudi Jenkins
Mrs. D. H. Thomas in memory of D. H. Thomas, Patsy Nell Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Windham, Ted and Howard Windham
Mrs. M. H. Ely in memory of Matt Ely and Sheyrl Ely
Mrs. Andrew Baker Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eager
Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Howard in memory of Mr. E. R. Clack
Mrs. Grady Petree
Mrs. Ruby Hinson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Perry
Irene Cross in memory of Ira Cross
Goldie Malone in memory of Bob Malone
Irene Strawn in memory of Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Steen
Fonda Bicknell, Shirley

Sullivan and Ora Brown in memory of J. C. Brown
Marie Briggs in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Jowers and Benson Jowers
Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Meek Dr. and Mrs. Jarrett Williams
Mrs. Ted Windham in memory of Ted Windham and Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Windham Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Benningfield
Bud and Ethel Winter in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Winter and Mr. and Mrs. N. L. McLeod
Mrs. Zedic Johnson in memory of Zedic Johnson Clark Mundy in memory of O. J. Adcock
Shirley Joy Walker in memory of "My beloved Mother and Father" Myrtle D. and John F. Walker
Mr. and Mrs. C. W. McCall in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Blair
Luna W. Johnson in memory of Irvin ones
Irene Irvin in memory of Hollis Irvin
Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Eller Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Richie in memory of "Our Fathers and Daughter" Linda Kay Ritchie, Whit Ritchie and L. E. Riney
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Reid Glenda Rutherford in loving memory of "My precious Mother" Altha Belle Reynolds

Mrs. W. R. Dunning John G. Dunn John and Eula West in memory of Henry West Paul and Maudie Douglas in memory of loved ones Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Riddle in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Golladay
Dixie H. Middleton Mrs. W. T. Cox
Garrie B. Latimer in memory of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. McLean
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Richards in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Richards
Mr. and Mrs. Bertram H. Mayes
Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Fulton in memory of E. H. and Artie Patterson
Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Horton in memory of Tommy Warren and Bill Horton
Ethel Hicks and Sons in memory of Mrs. Andy Brown
Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Dixon Karolyn Sue Davis in memory of my Father, C. D. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sandusky in memory of Bill Horton Eleine Tietleton in memory of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Goode
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Baccus in memory of Danny Roy Baccus
Mary Eula Sears
Jacqueline E. Lininger
Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Seymour

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Baccus in memory of Danny Roy Baccus
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Jacqueline E. Lininger
Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Seymour

New tax law

affects estate planning

The new tax legislation that has just become law will have a big effect on farm and ranch families, contends Tom Prater, an economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Most of the legislation is effective after December 31, 1976, although gifts are effective as of September 8, and trusts as of April 30.

"One item in the legislation that will affect the estate planning and management of Texas farm and ranch families will be the 'current use base' for establishing the value of farm and ranch lands," says Prater. "This will reduce the valuation below the fair market value approach which is now used."

However, there are qualification considerations for using the "current use" value:
--25 per cent or more of the adjusted value of the gross estate consists of real and personal farm and ranch property and passes to a qualified heir (member of family).
--25 per cent or more of the adjusted value of the gross estate consists of such real property.

"Such properties use for which five of the past eight years before the descendant's death was qualified and was used in business in which the descendant or a member of the descendant's family materially participated."
"The new tax law will also increase the exemption level as far as estate taxes are concerned," points out Prater. "A unified tax table would include estate taxes and gifts."

The economist cites these examples of estate taxes. Starting in 1977, there will be a tax credit of \$30,000 for any estate having a death-

\$34,000 in 1978; \$38,000 in 1979; \$42,500 in 1980; and \$47,000 in 1981 and thereafter. Comparing this to the exemption equivalent would mean \$120,667 in 1977; \$134,000 in 1978; \$147,333 in 1979; \$161,563 in 1980; and \$175,625 in 1981 per individual.

"Another important feature is the privilege of paying estate taxes over 15 years at 4 per cent interest if 65 per cent of the adjusted tax estate qualifies as a farm, ranch or closely held business. The federal government will have a first lien on property during this period of tax payment," explains Prater.

The recapture of estate taxes is also affected by the new legislation. If a farm or ranch is sold out of a family within 10 years, estate taxes on the total fair market value can be recaptured. If the property is held 10 to 15 years, the taxes can be partially recaptured.

State of Texas inheritance laws remain the same.
"All of these plus other changes brought on by the new tax legislation make it important for managers and owners of farms and ranches to review and revise estate plans so that all management opportunities are realized," emphasizes Prater.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF WALTER C. HOFHEINZ, DECEASED
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF WALTER C. HOFHEINZ were issued on the 22 day of December, 1976, in Cause No. 12762, pending in the County Court of Taylor County, Texas, to:
Mrs. Louise Allen Stucky
C/O Randall C. Jackson
Suite 210, Bank of Commerce Building
Abilene, Texas
All persons having claims against this Estate which are currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED this 22 day of December, 1976.
JACKSON & JACKSON
Attorneys at Law
Attorneys at Law
Suite 210, Bank of Commerce Building
Abilene, Texas 79605
By Randall C. Jackson
Attorney for the Estate
45-1tc

"HAVE TRUCK, WILL TRAVEL"

S. K. TRUCKING COMPANY

**COMPLETE SEPTIC TANK SERVICE
SPECIALIZE IN PUMPING SEPTIC TANKS, MUD TRAPS, & SAND TRAPS**

CHARLES SCOTT, OWNER

BOX 247
TYE, TEXAS 79563
CALL COLLECT 915-692-0078

Final rites held for Mrs. Boyd

Funeral services were held Saturday for Mrs. Fenton Boyd, 88, of Merkel at Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel. Mrs. Boyd died Thursday at Hendrick Memorial Hospital in Abilene following a 3-week illness.

The Rev. Bob Whitlock officiated, assisted by the Rev. S. Daniel. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Born February 24, 1888, in Merkel, she married Fenton Boyd September 22,

1907, in Trent. Mr. Boyd died June 2, 1966. She lived in the Merkel-Trent area all her life. She was a member of the Methodist church.

Survivors include two sons, John of Trent and Wayne of Wilcox, Arizona; a daughter, Mrs. G. W. Hughes of Merkel; 12 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

A daughter died in 1949.

Water District continues enrollment

The Blair Water District plans to continue with the \$100 initial deposit.

President of the district, J. D. Sandusky, said that upon preliminary examination of the maps of the district the engineers advised "us to continue the \$100 sign up until January 10."

Sandusky said that would enable the water district to possibly fill a few of the blank spots where membership is light.

"The more members we have for the designing of the line, the better the system for all involved, now and in the future," he said.

As of December 21 there are 172 membership with a goal of 250 set.

Those living in the area

may sign up for the water and meters from Sandusky or one of the Board of Directors.

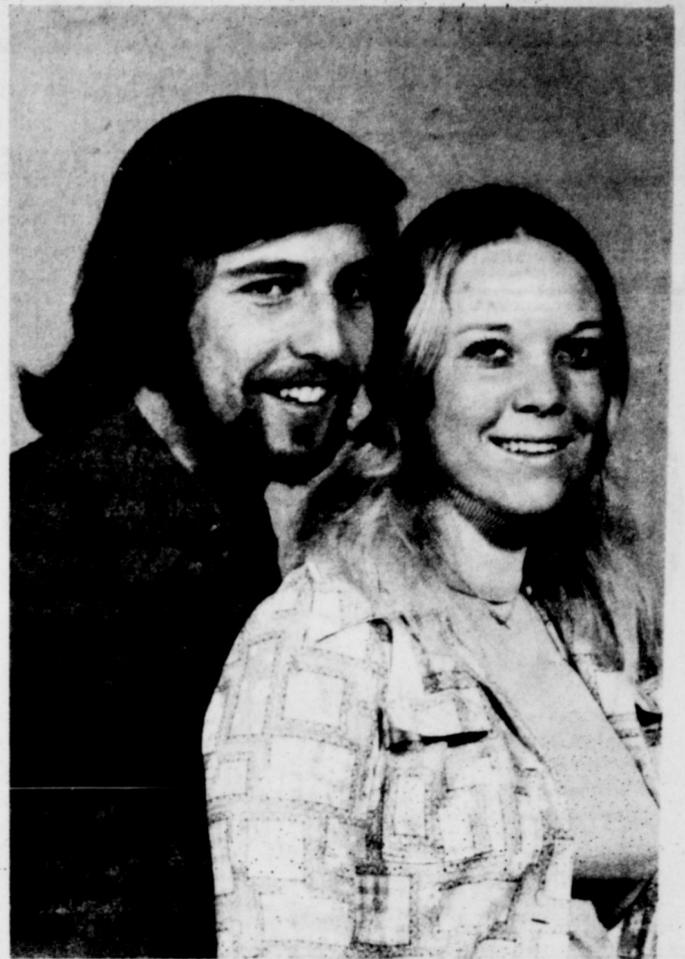
Veterans Meet

The members of Merkel-Trent Barracks 2248 of the Veterans of World War I and the Ladies Auxiliary met at the Taylor Electric Building December 18 for their regular meeting.

After a bountiful Christmas dinner and fellowship, carols were sung and gifts were exchanged from under a beautiful Christmas tree.

Those attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Baze, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Criswell, Mr. and Mrs. Dent Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Harwell, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Kidd, Mr. and Mrs. Dee Poland, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Bonneau, G. N. Reynolds, Mrs. Faye Brown, Mrs. Maggie Renfro, Mrs. Irene Strawn and Mrs. Mary Mosier.

Also, Mrs. Dewey Fleming, Mrs. Ruth Cox, Mrs. Madge Crain, Mrs. Trula Cox, Mrs. Frances Harwell, Mrs. E. E. McLauren, Mrs. Lem Dudley, Mrs. Cora Reeves, Mrs. Ora Griggs, Mrs. Joe Hartley, Miss Mable McRee and guests Mrs. Mae Seago and Mrs. Grady Bishop.



Moore-Land engagement announced

Rhonda Moore and Jimmy Land have planned a January 29 wedding at Central Baptist Church of Aspermont.

The bride-elect, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie N. Moore, is a graduate of Aspermont High School and Abilene Commercial College.

The prospective bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James (Corky) Land of Merkel. A graduate of Merkel High School and a junior at McMurray College Land is employed by KWFA Radio Station in Merkel.

1977

Abacadabral Hoping the magic charm of the New Year brings you all good things!

HAVE A GREAT YEAR!
ALPHA NU NU



Soaring sky high with unlimited wishes for your success in the New Year!

Merkel VFW
Post 5683

FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS . . . SEYMORE INSURANCES

102 EDWARDS
928-5379
Auto, Property, General Liability, Crop, Health, Life, Disability, Tax-sheltered retirement, Educational plans
FARMERS UNION SERVICE POINT

BEST WISHES

May you "hit gold" in the New Year . . . enjoying prosperity and good luck!

1977
BENNETT TRACTOR CO.
MODERN DANUSER IMCO

CAL-TEX BUYERS OF CATTLE MILO AND HAY

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

CUSTOM CATTLE FEEDING

Happy New Year



Before the minutes tick away, we want to take the time to say, "Have a happy!"
STAR HARDWARE TRENT

Welcome



It's time to say, "Have a Happy 1977 . . . in every way."

KWFA RADIO

Happy New Year

Hoping the New Year will light your way through prosperous and healthy days. We cherish your continuing friendship.



DUBOSE TEXACO

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



BEST WISHES
Here's hoping this New Year balances out to be the best one yet! Enjoy it.
Barnett's Barber Shop

DANCE
FRIDAY, DEC. 31
FEATURING
ROANOKE
9:00 TO 1:00
THE MERKEL VFW
FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS

CRAWFORD'S PRE-INVENTORY
CLOSE OUT SALE
PRICES REDUCED
10% TO
50%
STARTS WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29
CRAWFORD'S
FINE QUALITY CLOTHING AND
SHOES FOR THE FAMILY
135 EDWARDS
PHONE 928-5612

A New Year is here!
Hoping this year will be filled with greater happiness for everyone, everywhere!

MERKEL DRUG CO.

Holiday Greetings

Bright hopes for a New Year abundant with peace, love and contentment.

LUSKEY'S INC.
Texas' Leading Western Stores

3112 N 1st Abilene

OUR SALE STILL CONTINUES

COME IN, BROWSE, AND CHECK OUT
THE BARGAINS.

We want to thank all our friends and customers for
your support and help during our first year in business.

EMMA'S CLOTHES CLOSET

131 KENT 928-5100

**GREETINGS
of the New
Year**

If our wishes
come true, your
New Year will be filled
to overflowing with
all the good things in life.

Higginbotham-Bartlett Co.

Pat, Linda, & Family, Ikey Garrett

**Wishing
you every
happiness
all through
the year.**

Ben Franklin Store

Chef's Special

By Andy Anderson

Merkel Country Club



Roast Peppered ribeye

Roast Peppered Rib Eye
This recipe is a great way
to feed that holiday company
you may have. This is one of
my personal favorites. I hope
you'll enjoy it too.

1-5-6 lb. boneless ribeye
roast.

1/2 cup coarse cracked
peppers

1/2 tsp. ground cardamon
1 Tbsp. tomato paste
1 Tsp. paprika
1/2 Tsp. garlic powder
1 cup soy sauce
3/4 cup vinegar

1. Trim excess fat from
meat; combine pepper and
cardamon; rub all over meat
and press in with heel of
palm.

2. Place meat in shallow
baking dish; combine tomato
paste, paprika and garlic
powder; gradually add soy
sauce, then vinegar.

3. Carefully pour mixture
over meat; marinate in re-
frigerator overnight. Baste
with marinade several times
during marinating.

Next Day

1. Remove meat from
marinade let stand at room
temperature for 1 hour.

2. Wrap meat in foil, place
in shallow pan; Roast in slow
oven (300 degrees) 2 hours
for medium rare. Open foil,
ladle out and save drippings.

3. Brown roast uncovered
at 350 degrees while making
your own favorite gravy.
Serve Roast au jus or with
thickened gravy. Yield 8-10
servings.

Thaxton visitors

Visiting in the home of
Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Thax-
ton recently were their son,
Johnny, his wife and grand-
daughter, Tanya, of Dumas;
another granddaughter, Mr.
and Mrs. Doug Mote and
children of Hurst; and grand-
daughter Mr. and Mrs. Mike
Sailors and children of
Greenvalley, Arizona.



The Farm
Bureau Insurance
"24-hour Agent"
is a SALESMAN
and MORE.

Regardless of what type of
Farm Bureau Insurance
policy, he's ready to help
you when you need him
most... any hour of the day
or night. You know that you
have that good feeling of
security with a Farm Bureau
Insurance policy. Now your
Farm Bureau Insurance
agent gives you one more
reason for security. Service,
all day and all night.

Call your Farm Bureau
Insurance agent... any-
time. He can give you that
good feeling of security
... 24 hours a day!



R. LEE BROWN
FB
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE CO. OF
MERKEL ABILENE
928-4885

Basketball schedule

December 27-29--Merkel boys vs. Anson in Hardin-
Simmons tournament, 9 a.m.
January 3--Jim Ned at Merkel 7, 8 boys and girls, 5:30 p.m.
Merkel 9 boys at Stamford, 7 p.m.
January 4--Ballinger at Merkel boys, girls, 5 p.m.
(District 6-AA game)
January 6-8--Merkel 8, 9 boys at Sweetwater r tournament
January 7--Merkel boys, girls at Stamford, 4 p.m.
(District 6-AA game)

**a New Year's
Resolution**

That we will continue, in every way we
can, to help make your year successful
and happy. Sincerest thanks.
Emma's Clothes Closet
Duane, Emma, & Family

**LOOKING
AHEAD**

May your New Year
be capped with joy
in every direction.
Thanks from us to you.

**WYLIE
TRUCK TERMINAL**

**HAPPY NEW
YEAR**

We welcome
this little feller
with open arms
and warm hearts.
As we get off to a
fresh start we wish
you a bountiful
New Year!

ARROW FORD - ABILENE

**SEASON'S
BEST**

As the old year draws
to a close, we take this
time to wish you and
yours a happy, healthy
1977! Thanks to all.

**Wilson
Jewelry**

**Herald
the
New Year**

with our
good wishes
resounding
for you!

BONEY AND BENNY

Good Luck

The New Year babe
brings new hopes,
new joys, and new
vigor to mankind.

**Cypert Tax
Service**

WELCOME

As the new
year comes
into your
home may it
bring all good
things to you
and your
family.

**MERKEL
Chamber of Commerce**

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

It's such a joy to
look forward to another
year of your friendship!
Hope it's great!

**TAYLOR
TELEPHONE CO-OP**

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

We celebrate the joy of living as
we exuberantly greet the New Year!
It's time too, to say thanks for
your support in the year just past.

**MAX MURRELL
CHEVROLET CO.**

RAY PACK HAS ANNOUNCED THE PURCHASE OF THE
BIG COUNTRY CLUB
IN ABILENE

With Season's Greetings

COMING JAN. 9 --
RECORDING STAR **Joe Stampley**
Coming January 27 **Johnny Paycheck**
OPEN 7 NIGHTS A WEEK WITH LIVE BAND
\$1 COVER CHARGE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ONLY
OPEN DAILY AT 3 P.M.

WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE EVERYONE OVER!

4106 N. 1st 672-0203

A Very Happy New Year

Ring in
the New Year
confident it
will tick off
many fruitful,
happy hours
for you.

**CARSON'S
SUPER MARKET**

The residents at the nursing home had one of the best Christmases they had had in a long time. Some got to go home for a visit or had relatives to visit them in the home.

Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Lye for candy sticks, angels made for candles, Mr. and Mrs. Winnie Dickson brought oranges and apples for the residents.

David Gamble brought a large box of chocolate candy for the staff. Thanks David it was real nice of you to remember the staff.

We appreciate the oranges, apples and candy that the Fedelis Matron Class of the First Baptist Church of Merkel brought.

The Noahs brought a sack of pecans for the staff. We appreciated them.

Thank you the Cypert family for the basket of fruit you brought the staff.

Thanks go out to Mary Vaughn for the banana nut cake and carrot cake she made for the residents.

We appreciated the box of canned fruit juice and canned fruit from the Mulberry Canyon 4-H Club.

On Christmas day the Pat Cypert family came and sang songs for the residents. It was a nice treat for not only residents but for the staff. The ladies from First Baptist Church brought fruit and cookies which were enjoyed by all.

On December 13 the Methodist women of the Methodist Church of Merkel had a party for the residents. Santa came and each one received a gift, they sang songs. It was a very nice party.

The Noodle Baptist ladies

brought lap robes and bibs and other gifts for the ones who didn't use bibs. They also brought a program which everyone enjoyed. Thank you all very much.

The Trent School children grades 1 thru 5 came and sang Christmas songs for the residents. It was enjoyed and the administrator Brenda Roberts invites them back again and wants to thank them for thinking of our senior citizens at this Christmas time.

The Merkel Church of Christ ladies brought jars of candy for every resident. Thank you for remembering them, thank you also for your time you give every Sunday morning, for this we are thankful and grateful.

We wish to thank the Merkel Jaycees for the two boxes of bread they gave the home at Christmas.

Robert Harris isn't doing so good at this writing. We hate to see him have to suffer so much. He is such a nice resident. He gave all the employees gifts for Christmas. It was appreciated. We do love him and we wish he could get better. Brenda Roberts, administrator is spending Christmas in North Carolina. She and her family left here Saturday eve week. She needed a good rest as she hasn't had a vacation since we went to Hawaii last January. Of course I had retired but where help is needed I'm always available. Joyce Minnich, her mother who is Director of Nurses, is taking care of the nursing home while Brenda is away.

We appreciate the ones who came and carried their people out for Christmas. It means so much to them.

I do believe Mrs. Winnie Cypert had the most visitors of any one during the holidays. Her children Pat and Pinky and families were here of course, but Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Cypert of San Angelo, Mr. and Mrs. George Swanke of San Angelo, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Swanke and daughter of San Antonio, Mrs. John Angle and daughter of Abilene, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Alves and family of Haskell, Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson and sons of Haskell, Mrs. Cheryl Baird and son of Eagle Pass were also here and others I'm sure we did not see.

Thank you Pinky Cypert for the nice box of candy you brought the staff.

The remodeling is almost over. It has been a big task and a lot of noise but it has been worth it. There is still lots to be done but it will be done in time but it looks real nice and I'm real proud of the way it has been improved even if I'm not the owner any longer. I work

once in a while and enjoy it but I like being Mrs. J. H. Wimberly. I do have a nice husband and I will work when I'm needed real bad and they can catch me at home. But when the weather gets warmer I think we will be traveling in that new Midas Motor Home.

We wish to thank the entire staff for exchanging days so the others might be off to be at home with their loved ones at Christmas.

We appreciate the R. E. A. for letting us have the Christmas party this year for the staff.

Mrs. Ruth Smith was admitted to Hendrick Hospital but was able to come back to the home after a two-day stay.

Want to tell you we miss Granny Bresendine from our home. As you know she passed away but Granny was something special to every one who knew her. She was here

about 8 years or longer. I attended her funeral at Clyde. The funeral Director passed the nicest compliment on a nursing home that can be passed on to a home. She was 94 and she was the most beautiful corpse I ever saw. He said the reason she looked so young and beautiful was because she had had such good care, no pressure sores any place. He guessed her age at 70. He said she had received the best of care. We appreciated that from an undertaker.

Come by and visit the home and see the people who live here and see how happy some of them are and see the improvements they have made. Be sure and come when Open House Day arrives.

The Calvary Baptist Intermediate class came and sang carols in the recreation room and passed out gifts. Thank you Missie Spurgin, Midland for the box of candy

brought to the staff. She visited her Mother during Christmas.

Thank you Sheryl Sanford for the nice Christmas cookies you made and brought the home. She is the nice young lady who used to hire a baby sitter once a week to take her time to come and do the fingernails for the ladies. That was a few years ago. She has two children now but she has never forgotten the nursing home.

We have had lots of visitors during Christmas that were unable to think of and no space to write and lots of gifts that we didn't get down but please excuse us this time, maybe everything will be more settled next year and we will be better organized. We do appreciate what everyone has done for the home but we can't get every item down. Thanks a lot to all of you. May you have a very good New Year.



Time to send cheery New Year wishes and a very special "Hi" to all our devoted patrons.

Due to many requests, we shall be open on Sundays from 1:00 to whenever. Come on in and try our cafeteria style lunches Monday through Friday, and our suppers Monday through Saturday. We'll serve you just about anything you would like from hamburgers to chateaus and from honey buns to crepe souffle; if you will give us a little notice. Try one of our sizzling steaks.

L & W Snack Bar

PUBLIC NOTICE

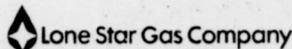
Lone Star Gas Company, in accordance with Section 43(a) of Article 1446c V.A.T.C.S. hereby gives notice of the Company's intent to implement a new schedule of rates for natural gas service to be charged to the residential and commercial consumers in the

City of Merkel, Texas, effective January 26, 1977.

The rate schedule is expected to furnish a 7.08 percent increase in the Company's gross revenues in the City of Merkel.

A Statement of Intent has been filed with the City of Merkel.

and is available for inspection at the Company's business office located at 1289 N. 2nd, Abilene or Merkel City Hall.



Merkel girls defeat Eula, boys lose

Merkel High girls won and the boys lost in their contest at Eula Tuesday night.

The girls defeated Eula girls, 49-41. Coach Pat Benick's crew broke a 7-7 first quarter deadlock to outscore Eula 18-8 the second quarter and 10-8 the third period. Eula held an 18-14 edge the final period.

Gayle Teaff scored 22.

Kandi Ascencio 5, Cindy Boone 18 and Annemarie Rankin 4 for the Merkel girls. Coach Tom Maudin's boys lost, 66-54.

Merkel gained a 16-12 first quarter lead but the game was tied 33-33 at halftime. Eula outscored the Badgers 13-10 and 20-11 the final two quarters for the verdict.

Brad Pursley scored 17.

Donny Riggan 10, Grant Murrell 8, Mike Sims 6, Keith Wolf 10 and Craig Hutchings 3 for Merkel.

The boys are entered in the Hardin-Simmons University tournament through Wednesday while the girls don't return to action until January 4 against Ballinger.

Hawley tourney

Trent High School's girls and boys basketball teams will return to action Thursday.

The two teams will compete in the Hawley tournament.

Art Association

The Merkel Art Association met December 15 in the home of Mrs. Ben R. Hicks for a December meeting and Christmas party.

Mrs. Pat Neff, president held a short business meeting. A report was made on the benefit Art Show that was held at the Country Club December 4th.

Mrs. Ruth Hogan gave a review of our year's work. In doing so she honored the 1975-76 president Mrs. Ford Smith Jr. and presented her a gift from the club.

Mrs. Ronny Doan, vice-president, spoke as a representative of the new officers and gave a preview of the program for the year.

Stanford's Electronics

TV REPAIR

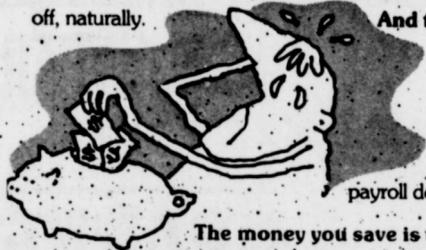
FINISHED & UNFINISHED PLASTER

C.B. RADIOS AND SUPPLIES

123 KENT MERKEL 928-5762

Can You Really Retire On An IRA Savings Account?

You'd better believe it. Anything you do right now to set some cash aside on a regular basis, is bound to pay off for you down the line. The more you set aside, the better it pays off, naturally.



And the more painless it is to save, the more saving you're likely to do. Right?

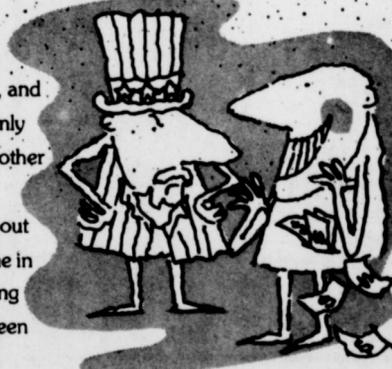
The IRA Account to Abilene Savings is about as painless as saving can get... because you never see the money. It can be handled by payroll deduction, if your company sets it up that way.

The money you save is tax deferrable, up

to \$1,500 or 15% of your income, whichever is less.

So, if you earn, say, \$20,000 during the year, and set aside \$1,500 on the IRA Account, you'll only pay income tax on \$18,500 — less whatever other deductions you can come up with.

There are other things you should know about IRA but it's not at all complicated. Please come in now, to get started. As it is, even if you're saving money, you're saving money that's already been taxed. So, time isn't all that's wasting.



Ask Us About New Increased \$250 Benefits For Your Spouse



Abilene Savings
We'll Help You Find A Way

P.O. Box 444/301 Edwards Avenue/Merkel, Texas 79536/(915) 928-4702
Member Southwestern Group Financial, Inc. Member FSLIC

OPEN NEW YEARS DAY
8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

YEAR END SPECIALS

COUNTY FAIR BREAD 1/2 LB LOAF 39c	Salt Joul For Those Blackeyes 1# BAG 49c	FRESH TOMATOES 49c LB
BAILES DOG FOOD 25# MEAL \$3.69 25# CHUNK \$4.49 50# CHUNK \$7.98	SLICED SLAB BACON LB 79c	PLASTIC TUMBLERS FOR NEW YEAR PARTIES 9 OZ & 14 OZ SIZE 59c PKG
OUR DARLING CREAM STYLE CORN 303 CAN 3 FOR 99c	Coca Cola Seven Up 32 OZ SIZE 25c PLUS DEPOSIT	Seven Up Coca Cola 64 OZ 79c NO DEPOSIT
BLACKEYE PEAS DRIED 1 LB. 49c	PORK CHOPS 98c LB 10# box \$8.90	New Years Eve Party Needs Party Snack Cheese Cheese Dips Dips Olives Bag Candy Mixed Nuts Snack Crackers Chips
HAMBURGER HELPER 79c	GOOCH FRANKS 12 OZ PKG 69c	GOOCH BOLOGNA 6 OZ PKG 49c
CINCH Corn Bread Mix 15 OZ BOX 39c	COUNTY FAIR HOTDOG & HAMBURGER BUNS 8 COUNT 39c	PUREX LIQUID BLEACH 1/2 GAL 59c COMET CLEANER 14 OZ CAN 29c

Hours
Mon.-Sat. 7:00-9:00
Sun. 8:00-9:00

NINTH STREET GROCERY

We Accept
Food Stamps



PRICES GOOD
WED/DOUBLE STAMP)
THURSDAY & FRIDAY
DEC. 29-30-31st
WE WILL CLOSE SAT. JAN. 1st

MAXWELL HOUSE
COFFEE
LB. CAN \$1.79
1 LIMIT
WITH \$10 IN TRADE OR MORE
EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES
Bring Us Your Coupons For Less

LOOSE LEAF
FILLER PAPER 200 CT PKG **79¢**

EASY SPRAYER BOTTLE
SPRAY & WASH \$1.19

MEADOWLAKE
OLEO
SOFT LB. **43¢**

BORDEN 1/2 GAL. CRTN
HI-PROTEIN MILK 2 FOR \$1.63

BORDEN GANDYS FOREMOST
WHIPPING OR SOUR **CREAM** 1/2 PINT **33¢**
HALF & HALF PINT EACH

HUNT 300
PEARS HALVES 2 FOR **73¢**

HI-C ASST.
DRINKS 46 oz. CAN **45¢**

HUNT
TOMATO Juice 46 OZ. CAN **49¢**

HUNT 8 OZ.
Tomato SAUCE 2 FOR **35¢**

DEL MONTE 303 CUT
Green BEANS 2 FOR **53¢**

LIBBY 303-C.S.-W.K.
Golden Corn 2 FOR **59¢**

VAN CAMP NO 2
PORK & BEANS 2 FOR **79¢**

GRIFFIN 300 FRESH
Blackeye Peas 2 FOR **45¢**

LIBBYS 5 OZ
Vienna SAUSAGE 2 FOR **63¢**

CINCH MIXES 15 OZ.
CORNBREAD BOX **33¢**

PRINGLES
POTATO CHIPS TWIN PACK **73¢**

LIPTON MAKE A BETTER
BURGER ASST. BOX **43¢**

DIAMOND
FOIL WRAP 25 FT. ROLL **29¢**

BORDENS EAGLE BRAND
MILK 14 OZ. CAN **63¢**

KRAFT
SPAGHETTI WITH MEAT SAUCE BOX **69¢**

PRESTO-POP
POPCORN IN PAN EACH **39¢**

SODA POP
SEVEN-UP 32 OZ. BOTTLE 6 PACK **\$1.29** PLUS DEPOSIT

BORDENS
Butter MILK 1/2 GAL. CRTN. **83¢**

FLOUR CHILI SNOWDRIFT CATSUP

BORDEN GANDY FOREMOST
EGG NOG QT. **69¢**

GOLD MEDAL 5 LB. BAG **69¢**

WOLF NO 2 CAN **79¢**

3 LB CAN **\$1.23**

HUNTS 32 OZ **79¢**

FROZEN FOODS
MORTON JELLEY OR GLAZED
DONUTS BOX **63¢**
PATIO DINNERS
MEXICAN EA. **55¢**
RICHS WHIP
TOPPING 9 OZ. TUB **49¢**

HEINZ WORCESTERSHIRE
SAUCE 10 OZ. BOT. **49¢**

RALSTON
CHEX CEREAL BOX **59¢**

DELTA JUMBO ROLL
TOWELS **49¢**

GRIFFIN
STRAWBERRY PRESERVES 18 oz. GLASS **69¢**

TENDER, TASTY, MEATY
FRYERS FOR THRIFTY BUYERS



GOOCH BR
STEAKFINGERS PKG. **89¢**

WHOLE ONLY LB. **47¢**
CUT-UP LB. 57¢

NEW YEARS TREAT
FRESH **SALT JOWL** LB. **29¢**
CASSEROLE **BLACKEYE PEAS** DRY LB. **39¢**

GRAPEFRUIT TEXAS RUBY RED Juicy Pound **19¢**

DECKER 12 OZ. PKG. **FRANKS** **65¢**

FAMILY **DASH** BOX **\$4.19**

CALIFORNIA **AVOCADOS** LARGE EACH **29¢**

DECKER **BACON** **\$1.09**

KING **GAIN** **\$1.89**

WASHINGTON **PEARS** LB. **29¢**

CHOICE BEEF **ROAST** LB. **79¢**

LIQUID **VEL** GT. **63¢**

FRESH **CABBAGE** LB. **12¢**

CHOICE BEEF **SHORT RIBS** LB. **49¢**

WASHINGTON DELICIOUS **RED APPLES** LB. **33¢**

FRESH **BEEF LIVER** LB. **69¢**

RUSSET **SPUDS** 10 LB. BAG **69¢**

DECKER 2 LB SACK **SAUSAGE** **\$1.59**

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS SHOP AND SAVE
WE GIVE GIFT BOND STAMPS
Double on Wednesday with \$5.00 or more

CARSON'S SUPER MARKET
MERKEL TEXAS
FRESH VEGETABLES