

**BIBLE VERSE**  
Take up God's armour;  
then you will be able to  
stand your ground when  
things are at their worst, to  
complete every task and  
still to stand.  
Ephesians 6:13

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## Proud Boy Scouts

Left to right, back to front: Kelley Wolf-15, Calvin Wolf-Scout Master, John Townsend-14, Willy Townsend-13, Kyle Wolf-12

## News and Thoughts

By Martha Sue Justice

Mr. Philip R. Deason came by The Merkel Mail with an official invitation to the Inauguration of Jimmy Carter. His comments were: "I will go if I can get my helicopter ready in time! I'm supposed to go by Plains, Georgia to pick up Billy and a load of peanuts. However, I won't let Billy load up my helicopter with a bunch of beer!"

I noticed L. C. Whisenhunt was plowing his garden spot all day last Friday. I guess it is about time (sometime last January or early February) to get those potatoes and English peas planted. Check L. C.'s garden in the late spring-it is always beautiful.

Benny Melton received another Christmas gift-this time a late one, but really Benny-An Apron?

Whenever you are out at Pug's and Leo's for a hamburger and Connie Harris is doing the cooking---order your hamburgers with everything---including the meat! You guessed it---Connie served two hamburgers with everything last week to a couple except---Ooops---she forgot the main ingredient.

This note in from Leon McGaughy in Fresno, California: Would like to send best regards to all my old friends; the Wilsons, Carsons, Dave Gamble, Shorty Fox, Dr. Sadler, Sam Jones, Pinky Cypert, Waymon Adcock, etc. Leon was born in Merkel, lived here for 35 years and was the projectionist at the old Queen Theater for many years.

We are happy to hear that Mrs. Bill Button is now home from the hospital and recuperating very well.

Dennis Orsborn was reported to have celebrated his birthday Saturday by relaxing at home reading The Outline of History by H. G. Wells and eating a TV Dinner---Sorry Charlie!---I just don't believe that one!

I was glad to hear Monday that Jim Oliver is back home at 411 Cherry and anxious to see all of his old friends. Welcome home Jim.

In an effort to get a fishing report from a local fisherman I called D. A. Bishop and was informed that he hasn't seen a cork bobble in at least three months.

Does anyone out there have any fishing news or just a great big fish story? If you do---call me. I would love to hear it!

## Local Scouts Save Burning House

Four Boy Scouts and Scoutmaster from Troop 118 here in Merkel, spotted a fire at the James Lewis residence at 411 Thornton Saturday. Noticing high and very gusty winds they knew that quick action was the only course to follow.

The house was going fast and also the grass had begun to burn and was spreading to a nearby house. With all this in mind, they began fighting the fire with containers of

water in 20 degree weather and brought the fire under control.

The Boy Scouts that bravely fought the fire and actually arrived on the scene before the occupants knew their house was burning were: Kelley Wolf, John Townsend, Townsend, Willie Townsend, Kyle Wolf and Scout Master, Calvin Wolf. These Scouts proved to themselves Saturday and everyone else what the Boy Scouts really are.



## Home Saved By Scouts

The James Lewis house at 411 Thornton which was almost destroyed by fire Saturday.

## Subscription Rate Increase

Due to increasing mailing costs effective January 1, 1977 The Merkel Mail subscription rates will be increased to \$5.50 for Taylor and adjoining counties and \$6.25 for outside Taylor and adjoining counties.

## Tri-City Project Coming to an End

The Tri-City Baseball Project is coming to an end as a money raising project. This group has been functioning for the past three years with the purpose of obtaining baseball fields for the area teenage boys and for the Miss Softball program. This objective has now been met. The fields are not complete, but debt-free land has been provided for the leagues use and some field improvement.

The land was paid for through the combined efforts of the project and the City of Merkel. All of those who have worked to obtain the land are very grateful to the City of Merkel for their help in paying off the debt on the land.

Originally the project had planned to complete construction on three baseball fields, however it has been determined by the officers that construction would be handled better through the individual leagues.

There has been \$873.75 received through donations and \$1,781.15 raised through money raising efforts of the Tri-City

**Benny Melton**  
says thanks

I would like to thank all those who helped make the Merkel stock show a success. Those who donated their time and their money were greatly appreciated.  
Benny Melton

Project. Expenses, which include money paid on the land, equipment for the fields and money given to the leagues, have been \$2,637.39. This leaves a present bank account total of \$17.61.

There is still considerable money out from the recent popcorn sale. The popcorn has been paid for and all unopened popcorn returned therefore all money and popcorn which is out is profit. Those people who have this money and popcorn are asked to please turn it in soon. Call Melba Glasscock, 928-4883. Also anyone wanting to buy popcorn may call her or Jocille Brady at 928-5705.

The bank account will be kept open until all money has been collected and disbursed to the leagues.

J. C. Carson has served as president of the Tri-City Baseball Project and Mrs. John Brady as secretary-treasurer. They wish to thank those who have made donations and helped in the efforts of the project.

There is still much work to be done and money needed for the fields. Everyone is urged to continue their support of the baseball project for our youth. They need and deserve our support.

There will be a meeting of the project to finalize their plans and help get the leagues started for the baseball season. This meeting is tentatively set for February 21st.

## Merkel Sororities Work Rehab 77

Several members of the three chapters of Beta Sigma Phi here in Merkel as well as Abilene chapters braved the snow and icy weather to help man the telephones Saturday night for the West Texas Rehabilitation Center Telephone.

Volunteers from Merkel

were as follows: From Lambda Beta; Sarah Lucas, Robbie Hicks, Betty Allday, Minyon Seymore, Glenda Teaff, Judy Elliott, Mary Hill, Gloria Henslee, Betty Coker, Barbara Welch and Linda Leddy. From Xi Nu Chi; Connie Harris, Charlotte Starbuck, Mamie Steck

and Louise DuBose. From alpha Nu Nu; Peggy Vanderwerker, Ann Leach and Anita Raymer.

All the Lambda Beta bunch were totally enthused with Leroy Jordans super bowl ring. Others were later able to have their pictures taken with different celebrities.

Connie Harris and Ann Leach had the opportunity to have lengthy conversations with Pedro Gonzales Gonzales.

All in all everyone seemed to have a wonderful time even though the trip over and back was somewhat hazardous.



One child out of many that enjoyed the icy coated ground along with a day's holiday from school Monday.

## Cox car hit by first engine

Contrary to last week's article concerning the way the car-train wreck happened, witnesses have since stated that the Cox car was hit by the first engine of the Texas Pacific train headed for Abilene. After hitting the car

and knocking it sideways, the other passing train cars continuously hit the Cox car until it was knocked away from the tracks.



**LOOK WHO'S HERE!**

Mr. and Mrs. Morris B. Smith Jr. are proud to announce the birth of a daughter.

Born December 21st in Haris Memorial Hospital in Fort Worth, Mackenzie Renee weighed 5 pounds 15 ounces. She has a sister, Mandy, age 5.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Curtis McAninch and paternal grandmother is Mrs. Morns Smith all of Merkel.

Mr. Eddie Jay, representative of Darrell Knight Associates Inc., Certified Public Accountants in Abilene, presented the audit report to the Board for fiscal year ending August 31, 1976. Mr. Jay followed with a report on the Consolidated application Fund for the Project from July, 1973 through June 30, 1976. He said the Board had stayed very close to their budget and were in a good sound position at this time. Both reports were approved by the Board.

The Board agreed and voted to amend the budget to pay for the doors

installed at the Middle School and elementary. Renovation of the building in Tye was discussed and reported to be progressing as planned. A routine method was set up to review local policies. Travis Davis said that even though most policies are State Laws, the Board would be able to add local policies to enhance such laws. Meeting was adjourned after Davis brought the Board up to date on projects which consisted of the completion of painting the cafeteria and new basketball goal installation. Mention was also

noted as to the rash of water leaks caused by the continuous cold weather.

## Xi Nu Chi News

Xi Nu Chi chapter of Beta Sigma Phi held their regular meeting in the home of Pat Neff Tuesday January 4th.

The program Fine Arts: Canvas and Clay was presented by captain Pat Neff and Kathy Leverich, co-captain. Pat is attending Hardin Simmons and is a senior student, getting her degree and is an all level art education major, gave illustrations of paintings and some of her own work was displayed, revealing her personal interest in different kinds of art.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served by hostess Pat Neff.

Members present were: Louise DuBose, Jocille Brady, Elizabeth Eager, Kathy Leverich, Mamie Steck, Charolette Starbuck, Bobby Mansfield, Connie Harris, Opal Garner, and Pat Neff.

Members will assist the West Texas Rehab Telethon for the fund raising drive at Abilene Civic Center Saturday January 8th.

## 4-H Club news

The Merkel 4-H Club met Tuesday January 4 with President Tonya Moore calling the meeting to order.

Vicki Reddin was elected secretary and the members were reminded of the various stock shows this month.

The County Food show will be held February 15 at the A. C. U. Student Center. The Merkel club is responsible for decorating for this event. Any 4-H member who would like to enter this year's Gourmet cooking theme is urged to do so.

Also the county demonstrations are April 21, and the district competition will be May 7th in San Angelo.

The program on Grooming and showmanship for stock shows was given by Buster Brown and Vernon Presswood who told about the grooming of steers. DeDe Metts who told about sheep and Tonya Moore who told about the showing of pigs.

## Veterans Questionnaires

More than half of the 1.2 million annual income questionnaires mailed with veterans Administration pension checks November 1 have been returned, Jack Coker, VA Regional Director, said today. The remaining 500,000 should have been received by the VA before January 1, if pension benefits are to be continued.

The questionnaires are required each year to determine continued eligibility for VA pensions, which are based on financial need. More than 2.7 million veterans and survivors are on the VA pension rolls. Those who failed to return the questionnaire by January 1, will, in lieu of receiving their January check on February 1, receive a letter from the VA explaining why their pension payments have been suspended.

Pensions are paid to veterans and widows of veterans with non-service-connected disabilities.

Amount of the monthly stipend is based on the annual income of the recipient, according to law.

Annual income limitations also govern amounts of dependency and indemnity compensation payments to certain parents of veterans who died of service-connected causes.

Pensioners 72 years of age or older, who have been on the VA rolls for two successive years, are exempt from filing the annual questionnaire. These persons are required to report income changes as they occur, Coker explained.

Some beneficiaries who are exempt from filing will receive questionnaires because of cost-of-living increases in annuities, Coker added.

Complete information on the VA pension program is available from any VA office, veterans county service officer, or veterans organization service officer.

## Help Your Children Get Better Grades

You might help your child do a bit better in school—if you helped him or her a little less.

Education experts say parents should not do their child's homework or the youngster will not learn the subject. Parents should, however, provide the proper setting and material for doing homework: the right light, a quiet place, and pens, pencils, papers, and reference books.



THE RIGHT INSTRUMENTS can help your child get the most from school instruction.

Another useful tool is a Student Math Kit. It makes a great gift and features a calculator that follows the natural math process, and is designed especially for the needs of junior and senior high school students. It also includes a special, comprehensive 80-page how-to book, a strong carrying case with orange "racing stripes" and an A-C adapter. A similar kit is also from Texas Instruments, the company that invented the integrated circuit. It has, in addition to the easy-to-use calculator, a 200-page book for high school students and older, and it comes in a sturdy vinyl denim carrying case. The calculators free the students' minds so they can better comprehend the mathematical concepts.

You can also help your child in school in these ways:

DO see that he is in good health. Learning demands the best that's in him.

DON'T manage his allowance for him. Taking charge of it himself will help him understand finance and math.

DO help him see that our modern civilization is built on math.

DON'T let him fear to deal in big numbers. He'll need them in his world of the future.

A single veteran attending school full time under the GI Bill may qualify for monthly assistance payments of \$292, the Veterans Administration reports.

# School Board Approves Audit

**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.

RAY PACK HAS ANNOUNCED THE PURCHASE OF THE

## BIG COUNTRY CLUB

IN ABILENE

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

## Veterans and Ladies Auxiliary meet

The World War I veterans and Ladies Auxiliary of barracks 2248 will meet Saturday January 15th for their first meeting in 1977. Every member come and help us get a good start for the new year.

A pot luck lunch will be served at 12 noon. All Auxiliary members bring a covered dish.

Karl Bonneaux Barracks commander and Jewell Criswell Auxiliary President especially urge all new members to come and get acquainted.

Venetian Blind Repair, Custom Picture Framing, Disposable Vacuum Bags, Shampooer And Waxer Rental are all available at Starbuck Furniture

## THIS WEEKS SPECIALS

ALSO CHECK OUR UNADVERTISED SPECIALS

<b>A &amp; W ROOT BEER</b> DIET OR REG. Reg. \$1.49 12 OZ. CT. of 6 <b>\$1.19</b>	<b>GOOCH JUMBO FRANKS</b> 1 LB. <b>79c</b>	<b>COCA COLA OR SEVEN UP</b> 64 OZ. <b>79c</b> NO DEPOSIT
<b>PORK CHOPS</b> LB. <b>89c</b> 10 LB. BOX <b>\$8.50</b>	<b>GOOCH HOT LINKS</b> <b>89c LB.</b>	<b>GRIFFIN BAR B Q SAUCE</b> 18 OZ. <b>69c</b>
<b>CAL RIPE SLICED PEACHES</b> #2 1/2 CAN <b>49c</b>	<b>CORNET DELTA BATH TISSUE</b> 4 ROLL <b>75c</b>	<b>RUSSETS</b> 10 LB. BAG <b>79c</b>
<b>BIC RAZORS</b> 3 TO PKG. <b>49c</b>	<b>HI-C DRINKS</b> ASST. FLAVORS <b>49c</b>	<b>EGGS MED. OR LARGE DOZ.</b> <b>89c</b>
<b>COMET CLEANSER</b> 14 OZ. CAN <b>29c</b>	<b>SWIFTS PREMIUM PREM</b> 12 OZ. CAN REG. \$1.29 <b>\$1.09</b>	<b>VAN CAMP PORK &amp; BEANS</b> #300 CAN <b>29c</b>
<b>SUGAR</b> 5 LB. <b>98c</b>	<b>GLADIOLA FLOUR</b> 2 LB. BAG <b>35c</b>	<b>DASH FAMILY SIZE</b> <b>\$4.89</b>
<b>FILLER PAPER</b> 100 CT. REG. 89c <b>59c</b>	<b>MAZOLA OLEO</b> 1 LB. <b>69c</b>	<b>NEW STAR KIST CHUNK TUNA</b> PACKED IN SPRING WATER 6 1/2 OZ. <b>69c</b>

Hours:  
MON - SAT 7:00 - 8:30  
SUN. 8:00 - 8:30

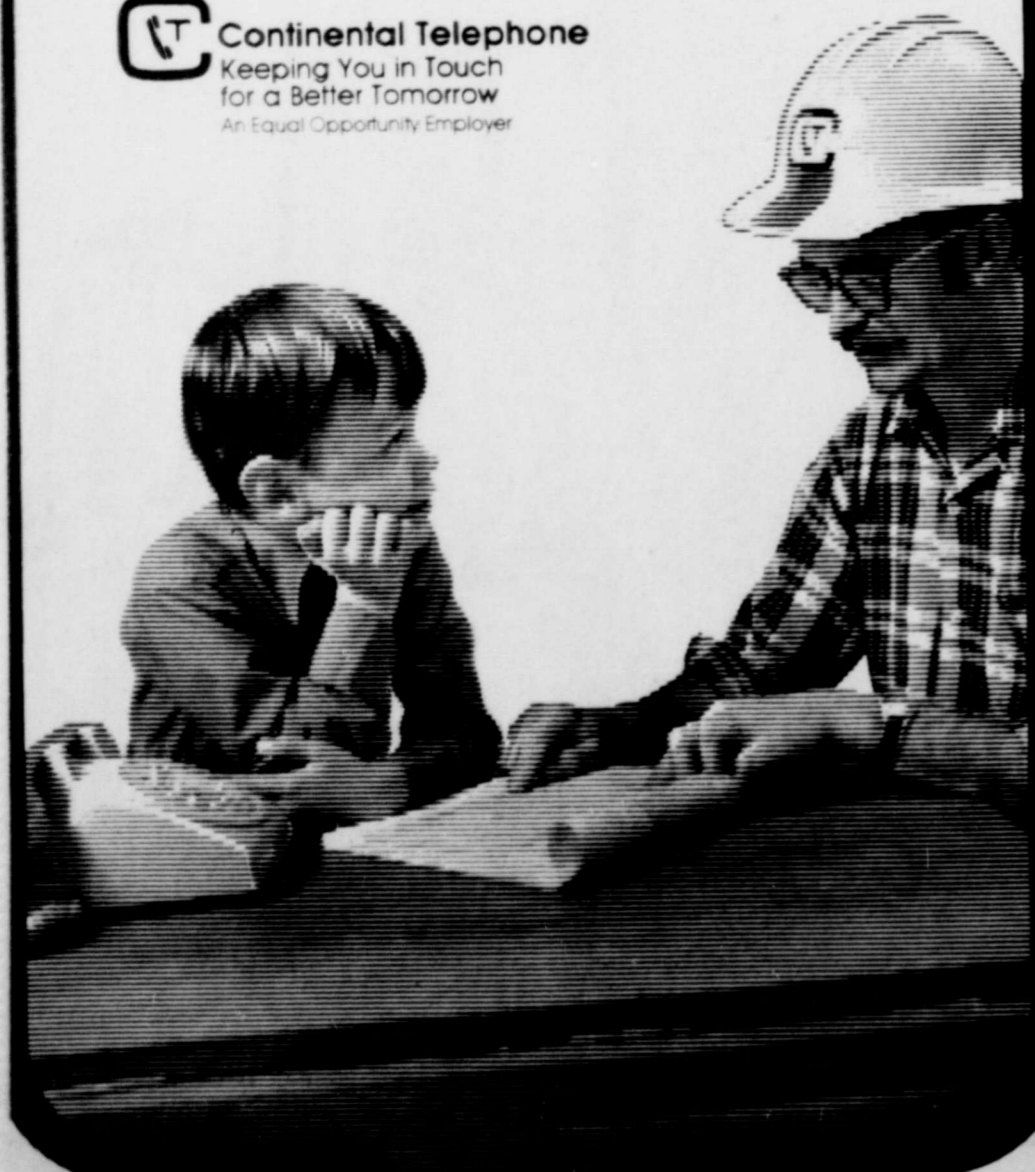
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We Accept Food Stamps

## how to teach your child to use the phone in an emergency

Telephone employees like John Birchen, Installer, remind you to be ready if an emergency happens. Teach your children how to use the phone...write down police, fire, doctor and other emergency numbers in the front of your directory...post them by each phone in your home. And, remember, even pre-schoolers can be taught to pick up the phone and dial "Operator." Your child is never alone if trouble does strike. Operators only a fingertip away are ready to help in most any emergency.

**Continental Telephone**  
Keeping You in Touch for a Better Tomorrow  
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## RENT OUR RINSE N VAC

Get carpets professionally clean.

New RINSE N VAC operates on the steam principle to get your carpets professionally clean. Portable and easy to operate—we'll show you how. RINSE N VAC is the powerhouse that cleans, rinses and vacuums out dirt and residues. RINSE N VAC cleans carpets cleaner, keeps them cleaner longer.



**Ben Franklin**

201 KENT MERKEL

**Check These JANUARY FOOD SPECIALS!**

THURS.-FRI.-SAT. JAN. 13-14-15th

**CRACKERS** 1 LB. BOX **49¢**  
**PEANUT BUTTER** 16 OZ. **89¢**

HOT BAR-B-QUE BEANS  
PIMENTO CHEESE

**CRISCO** 3 LB. CAN **\$1<sup>53</sup>**

**BACON** HORMEL LB. **\$1<sup>29</sup>**

**SAUSAGE** HORMEL 12 OZ. PKG. **89¢**

**BOLOGNA** MARKET SLICED LB. **98¢**

**BEEF SHORT RIBS** LB. **49¢**

**CHUCK ROAST** LB. **79¢**

**SAUSAGE** HORMEL LITTLE SIZZLERS PKG. **89¢**

MARYLAND CLUB **COFFEE** 2 LB. CAN **\$4.98**

**PINESOL** 15 OZ. **89¢**

TEXIZE **SPRAY & WASH** 22 OZ. **98¢**

**PALMOLIVE** KING SIZE LIQUID **98¢**

**CLOROX** GAL. **79¢**

**TIDE** GT. SIZE **\$1.29**

**FROZEN FOOD** KRINKLE CUT **POTATOES** 5 LB. BAG **\$1.09**

BIRDSEYE **COOL WHIP** 9 OZ. CRTN. **79¢**

APPLE-PEACH-BLACKBERRY-CHERRY **COBBLER** **\$1.49**

**PRODUCE**

**BANANAS** LB. **19¢**

TEXAS **ORANGES** 5 LB. BAG **69¢**

**AVOCADOS** EACH **19¢**

EAST TEXAS **YAMS** LB. **25¢**

RUSSET **POTATOES** 10 LB. BAG **69¢**

LIPTON **INSTANT TEA** 3 OZ. JAR **\$1.39**

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

HERSHEYS **DAINTIES** 12 OZ. PKG. **69¢**

KRAFT 7 OZ. **Marshmallow Cream** **49¢**

KIMBELL 7 OZ. **Shoestring Potatoes** **49¢**

**GATORADE** 28 OZ. **29¢**

BEST MAID **Sweet PICKLES** 22 OZ. **79¢**

CHICKEN OF THE SEA **TUNA** FLAT CAN **55¢**

"3" MINUTE **POPCORN** 10 OZ. **29¢**

**SHELLIE BEANS** STOKELY 303 CAN **29¢**

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

**TAMALES** GEBHARDTS 300 CAN **39¢**

**WHOLE POTATOES** HUNTS 300 CAN **29¢**

**CORN** DEL MONTE FAMILY STYLE 303 CAN **29¢**

**APPLESAUCE** LUCKY LEAF 16 OZ. 2/ **69¢**

**GRAPE JELLY** GRIFFIN 2 LB. JAR **89¢**

**MIRACLE WHIP** QT. **89¢**

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

**MILK** MARIGOLD 2% HOMO GAL **\$1<sup>45</sup>** REG. HOMO GAL **\$1<sup>55</sup>** PLUS DEP.

**CATSUP** DEL MONTE 32 OZ. **79¢**

**VIVA TOWELS** BEST MAID 28 OZ. BIG ROLL **55¢**

**APPLE BUTTER** **69¢**

**HOMINY** VAN CAMP WHITE OR YELLOW 15 OZ. **19¢**

**DR. PEPPER** LIMIT 6 PLUS DEP. 32 OZ. BOTTLE **19¢**

USDA APPROVED TO REDEEM FOOD STAMPS DELIVERIES DAILY AT 10:00 A.M.



REFRIGERATED AIR 1033 N. SECOND  
Where Customers Send Their Friends  
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PARKING LOT IN REAR  
**Double Premiums**  
**On WEDNESDAY ON**  
**Purchase of \$7.50**  
**OR MORE IN MERCHANDISE**

**Save Valuable**  
**Cash Register Tapes**  
**For Premiums**

# PUT IT IN THE WANT ADS FOR RESULTS!

**FREE PUPPIES, LARGE MIXED BREED, 1/2 MONTH OLD, free kittens, 5 months old, 736-6133 after 6 and weekends.**  
47-1tp

## FOR SALE

**FOR SALE-1970 V. W. window van with 3 seats-1,000 miles on new motor. Less than 100 miles on new rear end. C. V. joints guaranteed 6-months or 6,000 miles by V. W. house-60,000 miles and like new inside. 1965 long wide automatic and air Chevrolet pick-up, 928-5324 after 4:00.**  
44-tfc

**FORT WORTH RODEO TICKETS FOR SALE** until Friday, rodeo is February 5th. Contact Benny Melton.  
47-1tc

## GARAGE SALE

**3 FAMILY GARAGE SALE-Thursday and Friday, full size pool table, new evening gown (size 9), clothes, 2 guitars with amplifiers, lots of misc.**  
301 Kent.  
47-1tp

## HELP WANTED

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY \$500 MONTHLY Clipping items from your newspaper. Experience unnecessary. For details send 30¢ and stamped addressed envelope to O. Johnson, P.O. Drawer F, Mont Belvieu, Texas 77580**  
44-tfc

## SERVICES

**FOR FINE Furniture upholstery fabrics at better prices visit Randy's Fabrics, 1120 Butternut, Abilene. Professional upholstery available.**  
26-tfc  
**NEED HELP-Call Outreach 928-5859 or come by The Youth Center at 1028 North First between 9 and 11 a.m.**  
26-tfc  
**NOW IS THE TIME to have your Central Air-Conditioning installed. Any type of refrigeration repair work done. Call Gene Amerine, Merkel, 928-4876.**  
46-tfc

## Public Notice

The Board of Trustees of the Merkel Independent School District, Merkel, Texas will receive sealed bids until 7:00 p.m. January 25, 1977, in the auditorium, Merkel, Texas. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend; bids will be opened and read aloud. All bids must be in accordance with plans, specifications and contract documents as prepared by Welch and Hampton, Architects, Sweetwater, Texas. Combined proposals will be received for the general construction, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning and electrical work.

The successful bidder will be required to enter into a contract with the Merkel Independent School District and furnish a Performance Bond and Payment Bond in the amount equal to 100 percent of the contract amount. Specifications and Plans may be seen at the office of the Superintendent of the Merkel Independent School District, located at the corner of 3rd and Ash Streets, Merkel, Texas. The bidder acknowledges the right of the Merkel School Board to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities in any bid received and to reject a bid if the bidder failed to furnish any required bid security.

**TOOMBS REAL ESTATE FREDDY TOOMBS (BROKER)**  
106 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 PLOTS FOR SALE-for trailer and buildings in all sections of town.  
**WE NEED ALL KINDS OF LISTINGS HOUSES, FARMS & RANCHES**

**CARPET CLEANERS DEEP SOIL EXTRACTION FREE ESTIMATES 692-7576 (ABILENE)**  
**WE PAY 150% OVER FACE VALUE FOR ALL SILVER COINS. \$2.50 FOR \$1.00 SILVER (We pay 25¢ for silver dimes) PRATTS COIN & STAMP SHOP 2155 S. St. Abilene, Texas**

## FOR RENT

**FOR RENT-2 bedroom furnished mobile home. Call 928-5635 at night. \$ 80 per month.**  
47-2tp

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

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

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

**WE BOTH LOOSE "IF YOU DON'T CALL ME" ROADS DRIVES LEVELING TERRACING Harold Watts MATERIAL HAULED ANYWHERE 928-5769**

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

## REAL ESTATE

**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

**LISTINGS NEEDED in Merkel; land or homes. McAden Real Estate, 672-3804.**  
47-tfc

**FOR SALE-210 acres southwest of Kerrville in hill country. Hunters cabin, 3 blinds, 2 lakes. Excellent hunting area. Call Glenn Lewis, 298-5241.**  
47-1tp

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

**PRESTIGE HOMES & PROPERTIES 317 N. Willis Suite 20 Abilene 673-6444**

**ADORABLE 3 bedroom home, paneled den, range, dishwasher, good water well. If your favorite color is "red," you must call for an appointment.**  
136 acres on FM 707 north of Tye, live creek, 2 tanks, Abilene telephone; ideal for development.  
EASTLAND Co.--160 acres, nice 3 bedroom brick home, mammoth spring-fed lake, 46 1/2 acre peanut allotment.  
Morris Harper... 698-9689  
Billy & Pat Neff... 928-5623  
Shannon Teal... 692-0787  
Pauline Butman, GRI... 692-2222  
REALTORS  
Equal Housing Opportunity

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

**BOB'S SHARPENING SERVICE 701 S 2nd chain, circle and hand saws, scissors, pinking shears, etc. 928-5595**

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

**FOR YOUR WELDING NEEDS CALL JOHN LUCKEY 928-5149 MERKEL**

**WATER WELL DRILLING TEST HOLES WATER WELLS & PUMP SERVICE A.C. BLAKENEY 915-529-3210**

**Pre-Paid Funeral Plans Funeral Service Insurance Life Insurance STARBUCK FUNERAL HOME 928-4711**



**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... anytime. He can give you that good feeling of security... 24 hours a day!**

**24 HOUR AGENT R. LEE BROWN Texas FB MERKEL ABILENE 928-4885**

**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**

## Fat can boost beef feeding

Research conducted by Texas Agricultural Experiment Station scientists indicates that including protected lipids (tallow or fat) in the diet of steers and heifers has the potential of reducing feeding time and increasing feed efficiency. The research was carried out at the Texas A & M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Overton by Dr. Myron McCartor, beef cattle nutritionist; Richard Rhodes, graduate student; and Dr. R. D. Randel, reproductive physiologist. The research project involved 60 heifers and 42 steers, all Brahman X Hereford F1 crosses. The concept of protecting certain nutrients from ruminal fermentation so they are released in other parts of the digestive system offers for the first time the opportunity to utilize various parts of the ruminant digestive system more efficiently. Interest in feeding protected lipids has been increased by the development of an economical commercial process for encapsulating tallow in plant proteins. Previous research at other locations has shown that protecting the fat content of the diet until it reaches the true stomach and intestines in ruminant animals keeps the fat from being broken down and absorbed in different forms. The new method of encapsulating the fat also allows the use of polyunsaturated oils in the diet which in turn remain polyunsaturated when they are absorbed and deposited in the animal's body. According to McCartor, heifers receiving a diet containing protected tallow required 12 per cent less total feed and 36.6 per cent less concentrates per unit of gain than the control groups. Treated heifers tended to gain faster and more efficiently than controls but not significantly so. Feeding protected tallow increased fat deposition in the heifers and significantly increased intramuscular fat. Even though the condition score and weight per day of age at puberty were significantly increased by feeding the protected tallow to heifers, significantly fewer treated animals reached puberty during the trial period. Steers in the project were grazed on wheat-oat-ryegrass winter pasture prior to the feeding trial. Six of the steers were slaughtered when they came off winter pasture and the remaining steers were placed on feeding trials for 57 days. Although the diets of both the control and treated groups were calculated to produce essentially equal energy values for the feed-stuffs used, rate of gain was increased and feed conversion was improved by feeding the protected tallow. Based on these and other data, it appears that protected lipids have the potential of reducing the feeding time required to produce equivalent quality beef and do the job more efficiently. Comparing carcasses of steers fed 57 days with carcasses of steers slaughtered directly from winter pasture, McCartor indicated that feeding increased yield, subcutaneous fat, marbling, yield grade and USDA quality grade. Feeding also tended to reduce the amount of yellow color in the carcass fat.

**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**

**FOR BEST RESULTS AT LOWEST COST USE MERKEL MAIL 'Quick Action' Classified Ads JUST TELEPHONE MERKEL 928-5712**

**DOWNING & BAGGETT REAL ESTATE For Sale Small house in Merkel Good for Retirees or a potential rent house Priced under \$5,000.00 House in TRENT, 4 bedrooms, large family area, horse stalls Priced in the \$20,000's Abilene 928-9056 or Trent Mark Williamson 862-2531**

**CRAFTHOUSE 502 Kent 928-4883 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Just arrived new shipments of the new breathing plant pots, plants, and cactus, macrame jute and beads. Acrylic paints-62 colors to choose from, ceramic paints, artists brushes. All kinds of raffetems, including beads, sequins, moving eyes, wooden plaques of all kinds for sale painting and decoupage. Plaster, finished and unfinished.**

**\$200 CASH DIRECT FROM FACTORY ON ALL ASTRE SEDANS AND STATION WAGONS. GET THE 60,000 MILE ENGINE WARRANTY.**

**PRICES START AT \$3395 SELECT FROM STOCK OR PLACE YOUR ORDER.**

General Motors best CB Reg. \$199.95 save \$50 now \$149.95.

- 1973 PLYMOUTH Station Wagon, Air and power. Only... \$1795
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- 1974 CHEVROLET NOVA Hatchback Coupe, air, power... \$2295
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- 76 BONNEVILLE BROUGHAM - 4-dr. hard-top, pretty red with red vinyl roof, 60-40 seats, super loaded! A beauty... ????
- 1975-CHEVROLET 1/2 ton Pickup, 6 cyl., std., radio and heater, long wide bed, Light green, 16,000 miles only... \$2995

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

**MEMBER TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION 1977**

## The Merkel Mail

**PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT Established in 1889. Published weekly at 916 N. Second St., Merkel, Texas Entered at the Post Office at Merkel, Texas, 79536 as second class mail.**

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of the newspaper will be corrected, gladly, upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$5.50 Per Year Taylor and adjoining counties, \$6.25 Per Year outside of Taylor and adjoining counties.**

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

**STEVE LANHAM, Publisher Martha Sue Justice, Editor Mychele Hammond, Advertising Sales Manager**

**For Classified Rates: \$1.50 minimum for the first four lines (18 words). Excess of 4 lines will be charged at the rate of 8 cents per word. TERMS: 25 cents discount if bill paid prior to first insertion. Card of Thanks \$3 for the first 50 words, 6 cents per word for each additional word. TERMS: Cash in advance unless account is established. NOTICE of typographical or other errors must be given before the second insertion or claims for refunds or extensions will not be recognized.**

## SERVICE

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

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# Merkel Stock Show Results

## Merkel Stock Show Contributors

The following individuals and businesses made contributions to the Merkel Stock Show: Raymon Milligan, Ken Law, Rister Superette, Elmore Trucking, J. H. Strain and Son, Taylor Telephone, Lone Star Gas, Dr. Don Warren, Palmer Motor, Kent Satterwhite, Duane Shugart, Murrell Chevrolet Company, Big Country Inn, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Hunter, Wylie Truck Stop, Farmers Coop Gin, Joe Higgins, DuBose Texaco, Irl Walker Station, and

Clyde Wurst, Also Ricky Elliott Station, Hicks Auto, Crawfords, Brags, Merkel Drug, Cy-pert Income service, Mer-kel Locker Plant, Hender-son Grain, Billy Bob Toombs, Sy Higgins, Wright Dishman Shell, Billy Tarpley, Frank Mer-ritt, Cramer Rey-nolds, Lavern Moore, Merkel Restaurant, McAlister Standard, Leon Scott, Home State Bank, Leroy riney, Alvin Wozen-craft, Gordon Pursley, and Carl Hobbs.

Also Ted McAninch, Cal McAninch, Robert Malone, Lottie Everett, Wayne Mills, Cal-Tex Feed Yards, A. C. Windham, Western Auto, Ben Frank-lin, Emma's Clothes Closet, Barnett Barber, Waldo Cox, Fred Heady, Wilson Food, Higgin-botham-Bartlett, Starbuck Furniture, Castille Hard-ware, Carson Supermar-ket, Irvin Thompson, West Texas Utilities, Farmers and Merchants Bank, and Mansfield Feed.

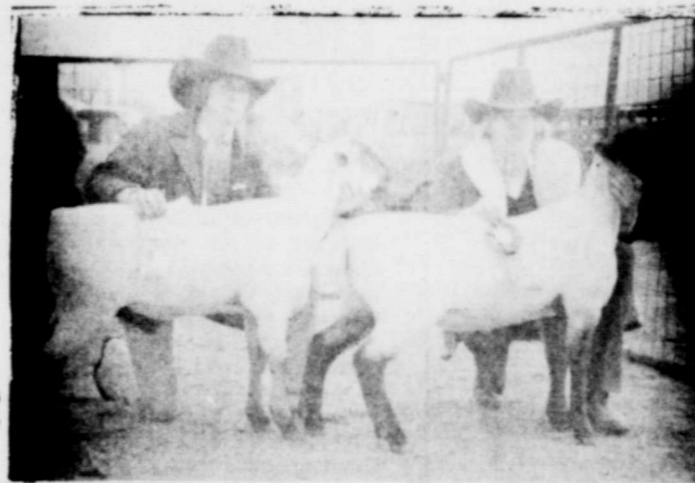
Also Mack Seymore In-surance, S and T Tire Company, Toombs Realty, E. A. Conley, Wilson Jew-elry, Ninth Street Gro-cery, Ann's Flowers, A. L. Moore, Merkel Auto Parts, H. W. Lemens, Jerry Merritt, J. L. Land, and Dr. W. T. Sadler.

Also Curtis McAninch, Jacky Reynolds, Tommie Swinney, Billy D. Doan, Abilene Service Parts Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Neill, Joe Swinney, Mark Williamson, Planters Gin of Trent, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Moore, H. M. and Edith Beaird, Alvin Braune, C. L. McElmur-ray, April Duncan, Spud McLeod, Othell O'Kelly, J. D. Sandusky, Ed's Feed and Seed, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Gilmore, Dudley TV, Joe Dudley, Adcocks, Mrs. L. J. Gray, Boney In-surance Agency, and The Merkel Mail.



GLEN BRAUNE Showmanship Award

Don't Forget  
the Trent Stock  
Show Saturday



GLEN BRAUNE Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Lamb.

**HOGS-LIGHT WEIGHT DIVISION**  
Randy Holmes, Cindy Boone, Del Ray Higgins, Mike Jordan, Tim Watson, Tonya Moore, Rusty Watts, Teresia English, Richard Shultz, Brad Shugart, Cindy Boone, Lee Reddin, Scotty Elliott, Teresia English, Lee Reddin, Donnie Riggan, Brad Pursley, Cliff Smith, Mike Frazier, Cindy Boone, and David Clyburn.

**CROSS BRED DIVISION**  
Reserve Champion-Glenn Braune  
Glenn Braune, Cary Metts, Tommie Swinney, Dede Metts, Tommie Swinney, Shelia Swinney, and Shelia Swinney.

**SOUTH DOWN DIVISION**  
Tommie Swinney, Dede Metts, Shelia Swinney, Cary Metts, and Jacky Swinney.

**FINE WOOL DIVISION**  
Dede Metts.

**HEIFERS**  
Buster Brown, Buster Harris.

**CAPONS**  
Randy Harris and Randy Harris.

**steers - LIGHT WEIGHT DIVISION**  
Grant Sandusky, Carla Shelton, Maury Moore, and David Wharton.

**HEAVY WEIGHT DIVISION**  
Steers Reserve Cham-pion-Marissa Sandusky  
Marissa Sandusky, Terry Criner, Vernon Press-wood, Buster Brown, and Michelle Brown.

**MEDIUM WEIGHT DIVISION**

Tonya Moore, Todd Robertson, Teresia English, Randy Holmes, Johnny Jackson, Dwain English, Darrel Harris, Lee Reddin, Joe Speaks, John Biera, Rusty Watts, Ronnie Whisenhunt, Clifford Dye, Cliff Smith, Tonya Moore, and Teresia English.

**HEAVY WEIGHT DIVISION**

Glenn Braune, Randy Holmes, Darryl Harris, Grant Murrell, Dwain English, Maury Moore, Tommy Sloan, Grant Murrell, Bill Harris, Steve Tarpley, Maury Moore, Cindy Boone, Tommy Sloan, Lewis Goodman, Ted Holmes, Elizabeth Griffith, Steve Cochran, Todd Robertson, Todd Robertson, Sherry Frazier, Billy Nichols, Mark Copeland, Brad Pursley, and Todd Robertson.  
Reserve Champion-Randy Holmes

**LAMBS-MEDIUM WOOL DIVISION**

Glenn Braune, Bill Fisher, Cary Metts, Dede Metts, Donnie Miller, Tommie Swinney, Glenn Braune, Bill Fisher, Bill Fisher, Cary Metts, Farrell Bagby, Tommie Swinney, and Shelia Swinney.



GLEN BRAUNE Grand Champion Swine



The Caspian Sea is actually the world's largest lake, covering an area of over 343,000 square miles.



GRANT SANDUSKY  
Grand Champion Steer

**Junior High Basketball**

The 8th grade boys opened junior high District Basketball January 3 with Jim Ned scoring 61-Merkel 14.  
Sweetwater Tournament January 6, Sweetwater 57-19 Merkel  
January 7, Stamford 19-20 Merkel

January 8, Ballinger 28-22 Merkel  
Monday January 10 High Point was Bart Pursley scoring 7. In the Sweetwater game Bart Pursley was High Point scorer with 12 points. In the Stamford game Bart Pursley was High Point

scorer scoring 9 points and again he was High Point in the Ballinger game scoring 17.  
Season - 2-5 District - 0-1  
Wylie game was cancelled Monday January 10th there to be played at a later date. They are planning the rescheduling now.

**GROUP MENS KNIT PANTS \$9.98**  
**LEISURE JACKETS 1/2 PRICE**  
MIX OR MATCH

## JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE

EVERY ITEM MARKED DOWN FROM 10% - 70%

**LEVI'S BELLS**  
REGULAR DENIM  
**\$10.98**

BAILEY FELT HATS  
**\$10.00 OFF REG. PRICE**

ACME BOOTS  
INFANT & CHILDREN  
CLOSE OUT 1/2 PRICE

**LEVI'S JEANS**  
501 SHRINK TO FIT  
**JUST \$10.98**

**MENS WESTERN SHIRTS**  
ASST. SIZES & COLORS  
**\$4.00 OFF REG. PRICE**

**LADIES WESTERN SUITS, BLOUSES, PANTS**  
ARTHUR BYER, LEVIS, LEE  
**50% OFF**

**GROUP DENIM JEANS**  
SIZES 4 THRU 12  
REG. TO \$8.50  
JUST **\$4.98**

**RACK OF ASST. ITEMS**  
MEN'S - LADIES' - BOY'S  
BLOUSES - JACKETS - SHIRTS  
**\$5.00**

**BOYS LEISURE DOUBLEKNIT JACKETS** REG. \$22.00  
**NOW \$15.00**  
PANTS REG. \$15.00  
**\$9.98**

**"FRUIT OF THE LOOM"**  
"T" SHIRTS, UNDERWEAR  
ASST. SIZES  
**1/4 OFF**

# WESTERN HOUSE

ALL SALES FINAL NO LAY-A-WAY ON THIS SALE 924 N. 2nd MERKEL NO EXCHANGE OR REFUND CASH OR MASTERCARD ONLY

### Marifrances Childress Dies

Marifrances Anderson Childress, 63, of Merkel died at 5 p.m. Monday at West Texas Medical Center after a short illness. Catholic services were at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel.

Born October 15, 1913, in Alpine, she moved to Merkel in 1955 and lived there since. Survivors include her husband; a daughter, Lane.

### Funeral Held for Pittenger

Mrs. Martha Bird Pittenger, 82, 1500 Cantrell-Sansom Road, Fort Worth died on Friday December 31. Services were on Monday January 3 at 2 p.m. in the Gause-ware Memorial chapel in Fort Worth.

Dr. Gaston Foote officiated. Interment was in the Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth.

Born June 24, 1894 in Whittier, North Carolina, she married F. Paul Pittenger, September 18, 1938 in Abilene, Texas.

She was a teacher in Merkel High School a number of years. She also

taught in the Graham and Saginaw schools. Survivors include her husband; one sister, Mrs. Intha Bird Smith of Houston; and one brother, Spencer Bird of Fort Worth.

Three nephews: T. J. Bird, Jr., Merkel; George Smith, Vicksburg, Mississippi; James Bird, Denver, Colorado; three nieces: Dorothy Sue Bird Cross, Houston; Reba Smith Biles, Oklahoma City; and Suzy Bird, Dallas.

Pallbearers were her former students of the Saginaw school system.

### Last Rites held for Gary Morgan

Gary Morgan, 32, of 2301 Huckleberry in Abilene died at 9 a.m. Saturday after a long illness. Grave-side services were at 2 p.m. Sunday at Rose Hill cemetery in Merkel.

Born July 7, 1944, in Abilene, he had lived in this area all his life. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include his mother, Eloise Schmidt of 2301 Huckleberry; a brother, Charles of El Paso; and a sister, Carol Seals of 1402 Graham in Abilene.

### Firemans Auxiliary to meet

The Ladies Fire Auxiliary will hold a meeting Monday January 17th, 7:30 p.m., at the fire station.

### 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 Trent effective Feb. 15, 1977.

The rate schedule is expected to furnish a 6.77 percent increase in the Company's gross revenues in the City of Trent.

A Statement of Intent has been filed with the City of Trent

and is available for inspection at the Company's business office located at 155 Hickory St., Abilene and Trent City Hall

Lone Star Gas Company

### Cemetery donations

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stanford in memory of Horace Boney

Kent, Betty Lou and Kim Satterwhite in memory of Horace Boney

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Mitchell in memory of Horace Boney

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. (Dean) Higgins in memory of Horace Boney

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Pargament and Minnie Coats in memory of Horace Boney

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. R. Cypert in memory of Horace Boney

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Bob Toombs in memory of Horace Boney

Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Sadler in memory of Robert Harris and Horace Boney

Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Fox in memory of Mitchell Walker, J. D. Fox and Horace Boney

Mrs. E. R. Clack in memory of Horace Boney

Mrs. C. W. Seago in memory of Horace Boney

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. J. Brown in memory of Horace Boney

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Carter in memory of Kenneth Dale Carter

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sadler in memory of Louise Winter

Mrs. Clyde Sears Sr.

### Lambda Beta News

Lambda Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met Tuesday night December 21, 1976 at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall for their annual family Christmas party. A barbecue supper was enjoyed by all, followed by the singing of Christmas carols. Santa Claus made a visit and presented gifts to all.

Members and their families attending were: Jim and Betty Allday, Bill and Anne Booth, Rosey and Pat Castille, Junior and Annette Clark, Obie and Betty Coker, Ronny and Ann Doan, Ken and Bobbie Elliott, Ricky and Judy Elliott, Gary and Robbie Hicks, Richard and Mary Hill, Harold and Chera Hohertz, David and Lin da Leddy, Billy and Sarah Lucas, George and Terri Martin, Phil and Mynon Seymore, Larry and Glenda Teaff, Mike and Barbara Welch, and Lee and Ginny Yaddow.

Lambda Beta attended the orientation workshop for the West Texas Rehabilitation Center's annual telethon on Tuesday January 4, 1977. They are one of the seven-teen Beta Sigma Phi chapters who will be handling the telethons for the telethon on Saturday January 8. They held a short business meeting following the orientation program and discussed the progress on the portrait sale.

Those in attendance were: Betty Allday, Annette Clark, Judy Elliott, Gloria Henslee, Robbie Hicks, Mary Hill, Faye Jones, Linda Leddy, Sarah Lucas, Terri Martin, Mynon Seymore, Glenda Teaff, Barbara Welch and Ginny Yaddow.

### Cotton Continues to decline

Local cotton prices continued to decline during the week ending January 6; according to B. B. Manly in charge of the USDA Classing Office in Abilene. Prices fell 1 to 2 cents per pound last Monday, then steadily declined until no local markets existed in most areas by mid-week. Prices fell as much as 8 cents per pound. Offers ranged from 20 to 26 cents over CCC loan rates late in the week, where markets

still existed. Demand for cotton was very light and trading was inactive. Most available qualities of cotton now range in price from 49 to 59 cents per pound.

Grade 42 continued as the predominant grade classed at 33 per cent of the total classings. Other grade distributions included: grade 52 at 16 per cent, grade 32 at 15 per cent, grade 51 at 13 per cent, and grade 41 at 8 per cent.

Micronaire readings were 72 per cent within the 3.5 to 4.9 range. Twenty-six per cent was 3.4 or lower, and 2 per cent was 5.0 or higher.

Staple length was 45 per cent staple 31, 43 per cent staple 32, and 6 per cent staple 33.

A total 39,500 cotton samples were classed at the USDA Cotton Classing Office at Abilene during the week ending January 6, 1977. This brought the seasonal total to 429,000 samples classed; which compares to only 295,000 samples that had been classed by the same time the previous season.

### Port O'Connor Fishing

Fishing down in the Port O'Connor and Matagorda Bay area is holding fairly steady for this time of year with fish being caught from boats in the back bays on assorted baits and lures.

Wade fishing out from the wall at Port O'Connor has been almost impossible the past five weeks due to extremely low tides caused by continuous cold fronts and high winds.

Trout, drum, and a few reds are among the most popular eating fish being caught.

### Meat import legislation introduced

Independent Cattlemen's Association President T. A. Cunningham expressed gratitude to the high priority placed upon the introduction of meat import legislation yesterday by Congressman Jake Pickle of Austin. "On behalf of the ICA, I would like to express our thanks for the immediate introduction of legislation that alleviates some of the problems that face the livestock industry and consumers of this nation. The timely introduction of this legislation exemplifies the necessity of congressional action upon the problems facing the bankrupt cattle industry. This situation is destined to extenuate to the consumer when no further domestic meats are available."

The legislation introduced by Congressman Pickle would eliminate the pronounced inadequacies in the 1964 Meat Import Law. The present law allows for meat imports to increase as domestic production increases. Although there have been sharp increases in domestic production to meet the demands of our nation, increasingly enormous amounts of meat imports are allowed to enter the United States annually. The present law is estimated to allow 1.28 billion pounds to enter the U.S. in 1977. Congressman Pickle's legislation will reduce the amount to 750 million pounds and would in essence reverse the formula that sets the annual importation of beef provided for in the 1964 Meat Import Law.

"If the present law is not altered, cattle producing in the United States will be a non-existent profession and the American consumer will be faced with the dilemma of depending on the mercy of foreign nations for their meat as we do today for oil," Cunningham concluded.

### Final Tax Payment Due

Many people who do not have enough taxes withheld are required to pay their final installment of 1976 estimated Federal income tax no later than Monday, January 17. Also due the same day are amended estimates from those whose 1976 income changed substantially during the last quarter.

In that case the final 1976 installment is not required, the amended declaration is not required nor is an original January 17 declaration required.

Many taxpayers first met the requirements for filing a tax declaration during the last three months of 1976, according to the Internal Revenue Service. Taxpayers are generally required to file an estimate if they owe the IRS more than \$100 not covered by withholding. The estimates in this case are due January 17.

There is one exception to this rule, the IRS said, and that's when taxpayers file their returns and pay all taxes due by January 31.



Only one variety of mushroom is grown commercially in the U.S. It can range from dark brown to pure white. Differences are negligible, but the darker ones are firmer, better for skewering, less easily bruised and—some believe—more flavorful.

### Farm-facts

A Weekly Report Of Agri-Business News

Compiled From Sources Of The TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
John C. White, Commissioner

Oink, Oink... Wheat Acres Decline... Crop Reports On The Way.

Texas hog producers apparently see some dangers ahead in expanded pork production as they are planning to cut back on sow farrowings during the first half of this year.

The Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service notes that from now through May, Texas farmers intend to farrow 91,000 sows. This is two per cent less than the same period a year ago.

The December-February quarter is expected to show an increase of four per cent from a year ago, but the March-May quarter is expected to see a decline of nine per cent compared to a year ago.

Nationwide, by comparison, U.S. hog producers intend to farrow 6.1 million sows through May. This would be an increase of five per cent from a year ago.

As of Dec. 1, the inventory of all hogs and pigs in Texas was 850,000 head. This is nine per cent more than a year ago, but is ten per cent less than two years ago.

The number of market hogs totaled 731,000. This is 11 per cent more than a year ago. The breeding herd was 119,000 head. This is two per cent less than a year ago.

Across the nation, hog and pig numbers totaled 55,100,000. This is 11 per cent more than a year ago. The number kept for breeding, at 8,000,000, is five per cent more than a year ago.

The 1976 pig crop was 19 per cent higher than a year ago, which explains some of the reason for the drop in prices for hogs to producers.

### OPEN HOUSE

AT THE HOME OF THE HUGH BAKERS

1 MILE NORTH ON FM 126  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 16  
2:00 TO 4:00 P.M.  
NO GIFTS PLEASE.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 25th**

**9 99¢**

KING SIZE WALLET CREATIVE COLOR PORTRAITS FOR ONLY

Extra Charge for GROUPS WE USE KODAK PAPER

ASK About Our FREE 8x10 OFFER

**SHUGART COLOR PHOTOS**

**MERKEL DRUG CO.**

121 EDWARDS

## CRAWFORD'S JANUARY CLEARANCE

NEW LOW LOW PRICES ON FINE QUALITY CLOTHING

Party Hose 89¢

100% NYLON Tuxshoes Briefs \$1.40

Hooded Zipper Front Sweatshirt \$5.99

2 Pocket Short Sleeve Shirts 10% Off

LADIES Dresses Values to \$25.00 1/2 Price

Purses 1/2 Price

Slip on Work BOOT \$32.99

Cotton and Polyester COVERALL \$16.99

Ladies Coats 1/2 Price

Mens Doubleknit Suits Values to \$100.00 1/2 Price

Dual Control Electric Blanket Double Bed \$21.99

Twin Bedspread No Iron Washable VALUES TO \$21.00 \$12.99

SHIRTS Values to \$15.99 \$5.99

Girls Shoes \$3.99

Full Bed 100% Polyester Fiber Filled - Fitted Mattress Pad \$9.99

120" x 120" King Size Bedspread Quilted Washable No Iron VALUE \$60.00 \$35.00

Ladies Shoes Values to \$18.99 \$4.99

24 x 46 Scatter Rugs \$1.00

Western Shirt VALUES TO \$12.00 \$8.99

Safety Toe Work Boot \$27.99

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ALL SIZES

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**Perfect Sleeper Supreme**

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Free Delivery South West of the Plaza 427-2884

### High School Basketball

January 3rd thru January 8th

1-3-77 WINTERS 54 MERKEL 50

Chris Cox-14  
Ken Wells-12  
Josh Amerine-9  
Scott Cain-7  
Ted Holmes-4  
Dale Ray Higgins-2  
Mark Copeland-1

Quarter Scoring 1st 2nd 3rd 4th  
Merkel 8 16 12 14  
Winters 10 13 11 20

1-6-77 Sweetwater Tournament  
Sweetwater 39 Merkel 28

Chris Cox-18  
Ken Wells-6  
Josh Amerine-2  
Scott Cain-2

ALL TOURNAMENT-CHRIS COX

Quarter Scoring 1st 2nd 3rd 4th  
Merkel 4 8 10 6  
Sweetwater 4 13 10 12

1-7-77 MERKEL 58 STAMFORD 26

Chris Cox-25  
Ken Wells-15  
Josh Amerine-4  
Mark Copeland-2  
Ted Holmes-2  
Scott Cain-2  
Larry Martin-2  
Dale Ray Higgins-2  
Gary Arnold-2

Quarter Scoring 1st 2nd 3rd 4th  
Merkel 17 12 15 12  
Stamford 4 9 2 11

1-8-77 SNYDER 52 MERKEL 39

Chris Cox-15  
Ken Wells-11  
Larry Martin-5  
Ted Holmes-2  
Scott Cain-2  
Robert Fowler-2  
Josh Amerine-2

Quarter Scoring 1st 2nd 3rd 4th  
Merkel 12 5 11 12  
Snyder 16 16 14 6

### Junior Varsity

1-4-77 BALLINGER 61 MERKEL 42

Jay Boyd-14  
Billy Harris-11  
Randy Cox-8  
Terry Criner-3  
Mike Brady-2  
Kelly Wolf-2  
Mike Davis-2

Quarter Scoring 1st 2nd 3rd 4th  
Merkel 9 8 13 12  
Ballinger 12 17 15 17

1-6-77 STAMFORD 41 MERKEL 40

Randy Cox-13  
Ricky Howes-10  
Terry Criner-5  
Jay Boyd-4  
Kelly Wolf-4  
Mike Davis-2  
Mike Brady-1  
Billy Harris-1

Quarter Scoring 1st 2nd 3rd 4th  
Merkel 14 10 10 6  
Stamford 7 13 12 9

Veterans training under the GI Bill may qualify for tutorial help without charge to their basic entitlement, the Veterans Administration reports.

Entitlement for veterans training under the GI Bill has been extended to 45 months, the Veterans Administration reported.

Veterans retain eligibility for GI Bill benefits for 10 years after release from active duty, according to the Veterans Administration.

Have A Heart  
this Valentine's  
DAY

Send her our FTD  
LoveBundle  
Bouquet



Call or visit us today and order this fragrant, living message of love. A bundle of fresh flowers arranged with a big red heart and lovebirds. She'll love you even more for it.

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1025 N. 2nd  
928-4742

## Visits and Visitors

### Reynolds visitors

Christmas holiday visitors in the home of Mrs. O. J. Reynolds and Bob, were Mrs. Reynolds sister, Mrs. Lola Haile of Baird, her daughter and husband Mr. and Mrs. Garland Sisk of Odessa, also present were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haile and children and Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Monsey, all of Abilene. Mrs. O. J. Reynolds and Bob were also supper guests of the darrel

Watkins family of Lyde during the Christmas holidays.

### Mrs. Smith in

#### Ft. Worth

Mrs. Morris Smith recently returned from a trip to Fort Worth. She was there to welcome a new granddaughter Mackenzie Renee Smith.



Stuffed pork chops are a perfect cure for those post-Holiday cooking blues. Pork is plentiful in Texas markets with supplies now at their seasonal peak. The peanut stuffing also provides a protein boost to the tasty main dish, while an alternate stuffing contains both protein-rich pecans and plentiful Texas rice. Add the tangy taste of a Texas citrus fruit salad to enhance flavor and provide important vitamins.

## From the TAP Kitchen

Texas Department of Agriculture - John C. White, Commissioner

### PORK CHOP DELIGHT

1/2 cup uncooked rice  
3 cups cold water  
1 tsp. salt  
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley  
1/3 cup chopped pecans  
1 (1 3/8 oz.) package onion soup mix  
1 Tbsp. salad oil  
2 (1 1/2 inch) Texas loin pork chops

Combine the uncooked rice with 2 cups cold water and salt. Bring to a boil. Simmer until rice is tender. Add and mix chopped fresh parsley and chopped pecans. Set aside. In another pan bring to a boil 1 cup water and add the onion soup mix. Set aside. In 10 in. skillet, heat salad oil and brown the pork chops. Cut pockets on side of chops and allow to cool. Stuff with rice mixture and place in a 2- quart casserole. Pour onion soup mixture over chops and sprinkle with pepper. Cover and bake at 350 degrees F. for one hour or until pork chops are tender. Yield: 2 servings.

### PEANUT-STUFFED PORK CHOPS

6 pork rib chops, cut 1 1/2 inches thick  
2/3 cup coarsely crushed shredded wheat wafers  
1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese  
1/4 cup chopped peanuts  
1/2 tsp. garlic salt  
2 Tbsp. lard or drippings  
Salt

Make a pocket in each chop by cutting into the chop along the bone. Mix together shredded wafers, cheese, peanuts, and garlic salt. Fill pocket in each chop with 3 to 4 Tbsp. stuffing. Brown chops in lard or drippings and place in baking dish. Season lightly with salt. Cover and bake in moderate oven (350 degrees F.) for 30 minutes. Remove cover and bake 30 minutes longer or until done. Yield: 6 servings. (Note: Bite-sized cereal plus 3 Tbsp. melted butter can be substituted for shredded wheat wafers in the stuffing.)

## Books of Interest

Old and New

Anyone who enjoys good reading at an easy pace will certainly be entertained with *The Secret Hope* by Constance Robinson. The story evolves around Casandra Wyndam, a single independent woman, determined to make a success of her own business who accidentally becomes involved with her landlord.

Constance Robinson has written a very interesting book with religious undertones which is very refreshing. I believe everyone will enjoy *The Secret Hope*, soft back, Spire Books, Published by Pillar Books for Fleming H. Revell Company, Old Tapan, New Jersey. Copyright 1976.

A note about the author: Constance Robinson, known better to her friends as Koni, lives in Hobbs, New Mexico with her husband Jim and two sons, Robyn and Rhett. Both Constance and her husband Jim graduated from Abilene Christian College now known as Abilene Christian University. *The Secret Hope* is Mrs. Robinson's first published novel, but expects to have another one ready for publication sometime next fall.

If you would like to find out what happens to a few love starved and emotionally mixed up teenagers read *HELTER SKELTER* by Vincent Bugliosi with Curt Gentry. Even though this book has been out since 1974 and actually happened in 1969, it still is an unsolved problem that we face now and in the future with young people that are searching for answers and become lost in confusion. *HELTER SKELTER* is the true story of the Charles Manson murders. It is shockingly sadistic because it leaves out very little in details or testimony by the participants in the murders. Read it—and then draw your own conclusions as to how this type of thing can be stopped—because Charles Manson believes his "family will never be completely eliminated, but will continue to grow. Also Charles Manson is up for parole in the near future. *HELTER SKELTER* is not an easy book to read—but you will never forget it!

*HELTER SKELTER* is published by W. W. Norton and Company in the hard back edition.

Veterans and servicemen studying at a post-secondary level under the GI Bill may qualify for tutorial assistance, the Veterans Administration reports.

Thousands of veterans with discharge dates within the past 10 years may qualify for 45 months training entitlement under the GI Bill, the Veterans Administration reports.

Total training entitlement for GI Bill students has been extended to 45 months, the Veterans Administration reports.

Training under the GI Bill has been made more attractive with increased entitlement and allowances, the Veterans Administration reports.

## Stanford's Electronics

### TV REPAIR

FINISHED & UNFINISHED PLASTER

C.B. RADIOS AND SUPPLIES

123 KENT MERKEL 928-5762

PUBLISHER'S COPY  
Consolidated Report of Condition of Home State Bank  
of Trent, in the State of Texas, and Domestic Subsidiaries at the close of business on Dec 31, 1976.

BALANCE SHEET		ASSETS		Sch.	Item	Col.	Mill.	Thous.
1.	Cash and due from banks	C	7				223	1
2.	U.S. Treasury securities	B	1	E			150	2
3.	Obligations of other U.S. Government agencies and corporations	B	2	E			150	4
4.	Obligations of States and political subdivisions	B	3	E			150	5
5.	Other bonds, notes, and debentures	B	4	E			150	6
6.	Corporate stock						150	7
7.	Trading account securities						100	8
8.	Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	D	4				100	9
9.	a. Loans, Total (excluding unearned income)	A	10				375	10
	b. Less: Reserve for possible loan losses							11
	c. Loans, Net						375	12
10.	Direct lease financing						16	13
11.	Bank premises, furniture and fixtures, and other assets representing bank premises						10	14
12.	Real estate owned other than bank premises						10	15
13.	Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies						10	16
14.	Customers' liability to this bank on acceptances outstanding						2	17
15.	Other assets	G	7				1	18
16.	TOTAL ASSETS (sum of items 1 thru 15)						1,124	19
17.	Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	F	11	A			881	20
18.	Time and savings deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	F	11	B+C			100	21
19.	Deposits of United States Government	F	2	A+B+C			100	22
20.	Deposits of States and political subdivisions	F	3	A+B+C			73	23
21.	Deposits of foreign governments and official institutions	F	4	A+B+C			100	24
22.	Deposits of commercial banks	F	5+6	A+B+C			100	25
23.	Certified and officers' checks	F	7	A			100	26
24.	TOTAL DEPOSITS (sum of items 17 thru 23)						957	27
a.	Total demand deposits	F	8	A			100	28
b.	Total time and savings deposits	F	8	B+C			100	29
25.	Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	E	4				100	30
26.	Other liabilities for borrowed money						100	31
27.	Mortgage indebtedness						100	32
28.	Acceptances executed by or for account of this bank and outstanding						100	33
29.	Other liabilities	H	9				100	34
30.	TOTAL LIABILITIES (excluding subordinated notes and debentures)						950	35
31.	Subordinated notes and debentures						100	36
EQUITY CAPITAL								37
32.	Preferred stock a. No. shares outstanding					(Par value)	100	38
	b. Common stock a. No. shares authorized					(Par value)	250	39
	b. No. shares outstanding					(Par value)	250	40
34.	Surplus						100	41
35.	Undivided profits						100	42
36.	Reserve for contingencies and other capital reserves						100	43
37.	TOTAL EQUITY CAPITAL (sum of items 32 thru 36)						1,124	44
38.	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY CAPITAL (sum of items 30, 31, and 37)						1,124	45

MEMORANDA  
1. Average for 15 or 30 calendar days ending with call date:  
a. Cash and due from banks (corresponds to item 1 above) 223  
b. Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell (corresponds to item 8 above) 100  
c. Total loans (corresponds to item 9a above) 375  
d. Time deposits of \$100,000 or more (corresponds to Memoranda items 3a plus 3b below) none  
e. Total deposits (corresponds to item 24 above) 957  
f. Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase (corresponds to item 25 above) none  
g. Other liabilities for borrowed money (corresponds to item 26 above) none  
2. Steady letters of credit outstanding none  
3. Time deposits of \$100,000 or more none  
a. Time certificates of deposit in denominations of \$100,000 or more none  
b. Other time deposits in amounts of \$100,000 or more none

I, J. G. Wilks, President of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that this report of condition is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
Current-Attest: Betty J. ...  
State of TEXAS County of Taylor  
Shore to and subscribed before me this 13th day of January, 1977.  
My commission expires 1978

## CAL TEX BUYERS OF CATTLE MILO AND HAY

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

### CUSTOM CATTLE FEEDING

### 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.

Lone Star Gas Company

## SHUGART COUPON

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25th

MERKEL DRUG  
121 EDWARDS



9 WALLET SIZE  
COLOR PORTRAITS  
99¢

ASK About Our  
FREE  
8 x 10  
OFFER

Extra charge  
for  
GROUPS

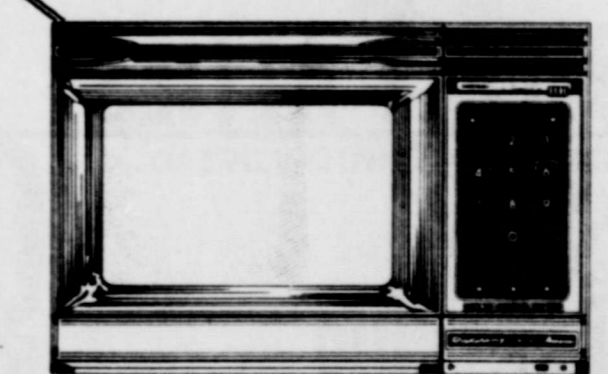
## WINTER BARGAINS

RACK OF BLOUSES \$2.00  
RACK MARKED NEW MERCHANDISE HAS BEEN ADDED! 1/2 PRICE  
RACK OF BLOUSES \$5.00  
RACK OF BLOUSES \$3.75  
A FEW STAGE 7 SUITS ARE LEFT. \$22.35  
STAGE 7 LONG SKIRTS REG. \$19.95 NOW \$10.00  
STAGE 7 DRESSES REG. \$17.50 NOW \$10.00

GIRLS PANTIES REG. 59¢ & 75¢ 2 FOR \$1.00  
NEW SPRING CLOTHES ARE ARRIVING DAILY.  
EMMA'S CLOTHES CLOSET  
131 KENT

# CONSERVE AND SAVE

with  
**Amana**  
ENERGY SAVER  
Appliances...



Radarrange  
MICROWAVE OVEN

65% watts of cooking power. Cooks almost everything gourmet perfect in 1/4 the usual time.

A Real Energy Saver! Cooks almost everything with 50% to 75% less electricity than a conventional electric range.

Cook delicious, nutritious family meals in minutes instead of hours!

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A Member of The Central and South West System

Remember REDDY Supplies the energy—but only YOU can use it wisely!

**MENU-WISE**  
**BUDGET WISE**

**FROZEN FOODS**

PATIO ASSORTED

**Mexican DINNER** EA. **55¢**

BIRDSEYE 10 OZ. **CAULIFLOWER** 2 FOR **69¢**

RICHS 9 OZ. **Whip TOPPING** TUB **49¢**

**YOUNG LEAN PORK ROASTS**



**FRESH PORK STEAK** POUND **89¢**

**FRESH LEAN POUND** **83¢**

**BACON SAUSAGE FRYERS**

HORMEL BLACK LABEL LB. **\$1.29**

**ROAST FRANKS**

HORMEL LITTLE SIZZLER PKG. **75¢**

**LIVER**

USDA CUT-UP GRADE 'A' WHOLE LB. **47¢**

**BEEF PATTIES**

CHOICE BEEF CHUCK LB. **75¢**

GOOCH BR PKG. **65¢**

FRESH BEEF LB. **69¢**

HORMEL BREADED LB. **89¢**

GRIFFIN SANDWICH SPREAD

**Salad Dressing** QUART JAR **59¢**

**LIQUID DAWN** GIANT BOTTLE **79¢**

**KING SIZE CHEER** BOX **\$1.89**

**CRISCO PINTO COFFEE OLEO**

NEENEX 2 ROLL PKG. **TOWELS** **69¢**

SUPER OR REGULAR **KOTEX** 12 CT. BOX **69¢**

INSTANT STARCH **Niagara** 24 OZ. BOX **53¢**

CLEANSER **COMET** 2 FOR **49¢**

**BEST FOOD BUYS**

**5 BIG DOLLAR DAYS**  
THURSDAY THRU TUESDAY  
JAN. 13 THRU 18  
A & W ROOT BEER  
6 PACK CAN **98¢**

IMPERIAL **SUGAR**  
5 LB. BAG **79¢**  
1 LIMIT  
WITH \$10 IN TRADE OR MORE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

GRIFFIN **BAR-BQ-SAUCE** 18 oz. BOT. **49¢**

SKINNERS THIN **SPAGHETTI** 24 OZ. BAG **63¢**

GLADIOLA **MIXES** PAN-CORN OR BISCUIT 6 OZ. 6 FOR **\$1.00**

HUNTS 300 **PEACHES** SLICED OR HALVES 2 FOR **69¢**

HUNTS 300 **Fruit Cocktail** 2 FOR **73¢**

HUNTS WHOLE 300 **TOMATOES** 2 FOR **73¢**

HUNTS 16 OZ. **Prima Salsa** JAR **55¢**

DEL MONTE 303 **Carrots** CAN 2 FOR **53¢**

DEL MONTE **BEETS** SLICED OR WHOLE 6 OZ. JAR **35¢**

OUR DARLING 303 **Golden CORN** CREAM STYLE 2 FOR **53¢**

RANCH STYLE 300 **Chili BEANS** 2 FOR **53¢**

BORDEN **ButterMILK** 1/2 GAL CRTN **83¢**

BORDEN 12 OZ. **COTTAGE CHEESE** LARGE OR REG. CURD **53¢**

KEEBLER **Crackers** LB. BOX **55¢**

**CREAMY** 3 LB CAN **\$1.39**

**CASSEROLE BEANS** 2 LB. BAG **35¢**

**YUBAN** LB. CAN **\$1.89**

**KRAFT WHIPPED** LB. TWIN **53¢**

**BAMA GRAPE OR PLUM JAM** 18 OZ. JAR **59¢**

**WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS SHOP AND SAVE**

**WE GIVE GIFT BOND STAMPS**

Double on Wednesday with \$5.00 or more

ARMOUR **TREET** 12 OZ. CAN **98¢**

DEL MONTE **CATSUP** 32 OZ. BOTTLE **83¢**

MORTON HOUSE **CHILI** PLAIN 15 OZ. CAN **59¢**

BORDEN 1/2 GAL **LOW FAT MILK** 2 CRTN. FOR **\$1.63**

BORDENS 1/2 GAL **ICE CREAM** EACH **\$1.09**

WASHINGTON **APPLES** RED DELICIOUS



TEXAS RUBY RED **GRAPEFRUIT** LB. **15¢**

CALIFORNIA **AVOCADOS** EA. **19¢**

CALIFORNIA S.K. **ORANGES** NAVEL LB. **19¢**

TEXAS **YAMS** LB. **25¢**

RUSSET **SPUDS** 10 LB. BAG **69¢**

**CARSON'S SUPER MARKET**  
MERKEL TEXAS  
FRESH VEGETABLES  
FREE DELIVERY MON WED FRI  
BEST MEATS IN TOWN