

School Board Accepts Addition Bid

The Merkel School Board held its regular meeting January 25th. After the meeting was called to order, the Board reviewed the bids for construction on the addition of five classrooms to the elementary school building.

Bids were as follows: Hawkins and Westbrook of Abilene, \$151,720 with 200 calendar days; C. B. Oates Construction Company of Abilene, \$142,360 with 180 calendar days; DLS Contractors of Abilene, \$140,447 with 118 calendar days; Haney and Sivley Construction of Abilene, \$144,870 with 160

calendar days; Rose Construction Company of Abilene, \$139,900 with 180 calendar days; Rose and Son, Inc. of Abilene, \$143,400 with 180 calendar days; and Rondel Construction Company of Midland, \$137,822 with 150 calendar days.

Following discussion of the bids, the Board voted to accept Rondel Construction Company of Midland low bid of \$137,822.00.

A bond issue was not needed to finance the project for the addition which will house kindergarten and first grade students. The Board next approved

payment of bills and was given a financial report for period ending December 1976.

Total bank balance was listed (9-1-76) as \$6,181.64; certificates of deposit, \$104,656.07; savings account, \$1,550.24; total real receipts \$660,497.12; and real expenditures of \$550,450.79.

The Board approved the financial report and went on to approve the purchase of a new bus for Merkel and also the purchase of a refrigerator for the Tye Elementary Cafeteria.

The policy board from Texas Association of School Boards was

shown to the Board. All members intend to go through the entire book a section at a time. This will be done until the entire project is finished and voted on to adopt Board policies.

Next the Board voted to hire Mrs. Terry Utley, a certified kindergarten and elementary teacher. Mrs. Utley is the wife of Dennis Utley, algebra teacher.

Last on the agenda, Superintendent Travis Davis presented his report to the Board and asked that a retirement procedure be set up for the end of the year.

News and Thoughts

By Martha Sue

Justice



Earlier this year the public was told that the cost of living would continue to rise excluding grocery items which should stay fairly stable. However, due to killing freezes in Florida, Texas and other states, many fruits and vegetable prices will reach new highs by this summer. Drought in the western states is also going to be a factor in continuous rises. The point to all this is—if you have a place for a garden—make plans to have one—because due to one of the worst winters in United States history, a garden with fresh vegetables will be a true treasure to you this year.

We seem to have a true, blue, fisherman in our midst—Fred Starbuck. Wife, Naomi told me the other day that one night she and Fred were supposedly watching TV together. About midway through the program she asked Fred something concerning the program they were watching. His answer—I wonder if the fish were biting today! I always sympathize with women that are ignored due to football, fishing, or hunting and of course vice versa, but—I will have to admit that I wonder if the fish are biting every day too!

It seems that we have quite a lot of controversy over Smithers Smackers and of course whether Mychele Hammond ran over a cow. At this point I will not explain either—if you don't read everything, including the ads and all of classified—I promise—you will miss a great deal!

Bill and Karen Harris are to be congratulated on their wedding anniversary this week!

Out To Lunch on page 2—is a repeat—however, I have a feeling many of you missed it. Read it—and then reach out! There are so many people that are in need.

The best way to forget your own troubles—is to help someone else with theirs.

Mary Collins and Mona Faye Bartlett will certainly be missed after their retirement. We all hope they will stay in circulation around town!

This fish story comes from Fred Starbuck. One Sunday two men were out fishing and after quite a few hours had gone by one of them said to the other, "Do you know that we haven't even had a bite yet? I'm beginning to wonder if it's because we are out here fishing instead of being in church." The other replied, "No, I really don't think so. I couldn't have gone to church today anyway—because my wife is sick!"

I was sorry to hear today that Marie Cunningham will enter the hospital Thursday morning for surgery. Due to her hospital stay—the Dairy Bar will be closed at least Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of this week.

A belated Happy Birthday goes to our TV Cable man, Mitchell Atkinson, who was 22 last week.

This true story comes from Rev. Russell McAnally: I have a cow that was due to have a calf—When I went out to check on her on the back side of the field and was up fairly close—I saw one baby calf. It was dead. I looked a little closer and saw another calf which was also dead. It was evident that both belonged to this mother and were born the same hour—however,—they were not twins! They were not twins, because—there was still another calf and it was alive! My cow did something quite unusual—she had triplets!

Robbie Hicks, Elementary school teacher, is to be highly commended for her patience and excellent coaching abilities with the 7th and 8th grade girls basketball teams. Robbie believes in playing in a sportsman-like conduct—and teaches her girls to play in exactly that manner!

Mona Faye Bartlett honored with reception

Mona Faye Bartlett, retiring Merkel Schools Tax Assessor Collector, was honored with an informal reception at City Hall Friday afternoon.

The City Hall crew was responsible for such a warm, relaxed and fun type atmosphere. They served punch and coffee with a wide assortment of delicious snacks.

More than 150 friends greeted Mona Faye and talked of her work

Girl Scout Cookie Sale

The 1977 Girl Scout Cookie Sale February 4-19 begins in West Texas Girl Scout Council on Friday at 4 p.m. Each Scout will be on her mark all set to go.

The 1977 Cookie Sale has these things in common with last years sale:

There are the same five varieties: peanut butter patties (choc. covered), thin mints, shortbread, sandwich creme, and peanut butter sandwich. The price is the same: \$1.25 per box. The sale is held annually to build and maintain Council properties and to provide year round troop use of Camp Booth Oaks; to build troop treasuries for troop program activities and international opportunities for girls and adults.

John and Jayne Lanford Take Top Honors

John Lanford and wife, Jayne, of Merkel took top honors in the sheep competition at the Fort Worth Livestock Show Sunday. The Lanfords showed the champion ewe as well as the reserve ram with their Rambouillets.

The team also showed the fourth place ram lamb; first, third and

fourth in yearling rams; first, second, fifth and sixth in yearling ewes, and second and fourth in the pair of sheep judging.

The Lanfords also showed Rambouillet sheep of Lanford's father, Scott Lanford of Blanket.

John Lanford is the manager for the Federal Land Bank of Roby at the Abilene branch office.



Pat Castille

Pat Castille of Castille Hardware grins happily in announcing they are finally back in their original location at 214 Edwards.

Diane Patterson Dies in plane crash

Two Greenville women were among the four persons killed in the crash of a twin-engine private aircraft about 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, January 12 at the Pampa airport in the Texas Panhandle.

Diane Patterson Morgan, 36, wife of Colonial Bank President Bill F. Morgan of 617 Mink Drive, and Barbara June Hoover Devers, 37, wife of Gene Paul Devers of 107 Oak Glen Drive, were killed in the crash which also claimed the lives of the pilot, Glen Ray Howell, 37, of Arlington, and his daughter Jaymie, 14.

The plane, which was owned by the Devers, left Greenville Majors Field about 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Roy Smith, manager of Perry Lefors Field in Pampa, said Howell had made two previous attempts to land but radioed that he could not see the runway lights because of dense fog which blanketed the area.

Smith said all runway lights and the airport beacon were on and the Howell's final transmission indicated he saw the lights and was again going to try and land.

Authorities said the plane plowed into the frozen ground nose first about three-quarters of a mile from the runway sometime after radio contact was lost.

Minutes after radio contact was lost, Smith said he began checking other airports in the area to see if Howell had landed elsewhere. A search was begun after he determined the plane was still missing.

Members of the Civil Air Patrol from Amarillo found the wreckage about 2:40 a.m. Thursday, January 13. A CAP official said one reason they had difficulty in locating the plane on the barren ranchland was because the emergency beeper on the plane was not operating.

The wreckage was about 100 yards from a county dirt road and was visible from the road.

Three of the victims were thrown from the airplane and the young girl was trapped inside. There was no fire involved in the crash.

Reports from the scene indicated that the ground was frozen so hard that the plane made no impression on the ground.

The victims reportedly were en route to Pampa to visit Mrs. Devers brother, B. L. Hoover, Jr., of Pampa.

Funeral services for Diane Morgan, 36, who died in the airplane crash were held at 4 p.m. Friday, January 14 in the Sorrells and Sons Chapel.

Dr. David Uhl and Rev. Charles Tittsworth officiated. Burial was in Memorial Memorial Park. Pallbearers were J. B. McNatt, Tom Dillehay, Jerry Wisdom, C. L. McCaw, Palmer James and Wayne Murley.

Mrs. Morgan was born August 11, 1940, in Merkel, the daughter of Byron and Irene Patterson. She was married to Bill Morgan in September, 1958.

She was a member of Grace United Presbyterian Church. She was also a member of the Greenville Entertainment Series, Greenville Symphony Festival, Oak Creek Women's Golf Association and served as secretary of Aesthetics Club.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Patterson of Greenville; a son, Michael Byron Morgan; a daughter, Diana Morgan; a sister, Mrs. James Graham of Sherman and other relatives. Her grandparents were the late A. B. Pattersons, M. E. (Bud) Perry and Nannie Toombs.

Residential Development Requests Water

The City Council of Merkel met in regular session January 28th with Honorable Mayor Lou David Allen presiding.

Those present at the meeting were: Mayor Pro-Tem, Darrell Farmer, councilmen, Pete Morgan, Kent Satterwhite and Jerry Byrd. Also present was City Secretary, J. A. Sadler.

Visitors recognized were Mr. Paul Washburn from Abilene and Mr. Israel from Merkel.

First on the agenda was to hear a request by Mr. Israel. Mr. Israel requested that the Council assist

him in his attempt to recover some guns that were taken from his home in a burglary several months back. The Council noted that said guns were being held by the Sherriffs Office, but assured Mr. Israel that the city would assist him in having the guns returned.

Councilmen next heard a proposal by Mr. Paul Washburn. Mr. Washburn presented a proposal in regards to the purchase of water for a residential development west of Tye on Interstate 20. Mr. Washburn was

advised to meet with the City Attorney, representatives of the Council and the City to prepare a contract. The contract would then be presented to the Council at its next regular meeting for consideration at that time.

The Council was advised that Mrs. Melton was contacting several people to serve as election judge for the upcoming City Election. The election will be held the 1st Tuesday in April to elect a mayor and two councilmen.

Button to head March

The Mothers March of Dimes will be on the move beginning Monday at 6 p.m. Barbara Button is heading the March here in Merkel while the Merkel Jaycees will be on hand to help with transportation needs.

Anyone wishing to help with this worthy March should call Barbara at 928-5926 or meet at her home, 405 Marion, Monday night at 6 p.m.

Volunteers are needed and will be deeply appreciated!

Lubbock Christian College, located on the high plains of West Texas, is a private liberal arts college that is the academic home for some 1,200 students representing 38 states and 19 foreign countries.

S.U.N. Water Supply Held Annual Meeting

The S. U. N. Water Supply held their annual meeting last Tuesday, January 25, at the Lions Club Building. There were 40 members who registered.

Vincent Barnett presided. The meeting was called to order and Joe McDuff gave the invocation. Barnett introduced the directors, Mrs. Tom Fox, their bookkeeper, and Don Newhouse, office manager of Farmer's Home Administration in Taylor County. Mr. Newhouse then took charge of the meeting and proceeded with the election of new officers. All directors were re-elected by acclamation.

Mr. Newhouse commended the Board of Directors for the work they have done during the past several years in getting the S. U. N. Water System in operation. He said the S. U. N. Water System has approximately 133 miles of water line and 330 paying members. He stated that the growth of the system was good and that he felt S. U. N. Water System would continue to grow.

Immediately following the general meeting, the Board of Directors met to elect officers. Joe McDuff was elected president, Cramer Reynolds was elected vice-president and Leon Kelso was elected secretary. Mrs. Tom Fox was retained as bookkeeper. Vincent Barnett, who has been the president of S. U. N. Water System since its beginning, offered his resignation effective January 31st. As of February 1st, Mr. Barnett will be working for S. U. N. as a meter reader. Upon the resignation of Mr. Barnett, the Board appointed Joe Henry to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors.



Nancy Leigh White

She was just too beautiful to resist—Her picture had to be taken. Nancy is the daughter of Lillie V. White.

Hensley presented appreciation certificate

Don W. Hensley of Merkel was presented a certificate of appreciation for his fund raising project of the Merkel Art Show Benefit for the Lung Association of Texas, Big Country area at that organization's annual meeting on Saturday, January 15 in San Angelo.

Ted W. Hogan of Crane, Area Chairman, presided at the meeting. Officers for next year were elected. Wes Pittman, San Angelo is the incoming chairman with Gail Smith, Odessa as chairman-elect; Mrs. Doyle Condra, vice chairman; and Maudie Rains, B. S. N., Midland, secretary. Chosen to serve as members at large on the executive committee were Mrs. E. L. Martin, McCamey; Dr. Leon Eldredge, Jr., and Dr. Charley H. Shannon, both of San Angelo. Outgoing chairman Ted Hogan was elected for a three year term as representative to the state board. New council members are Keith Dial of Odessa and Lloyd McKee of Colorado City.

Awards were presented to council members for projects involving fund raising and community health education. An expanded program for the coming year was presented and the council voted to recommend this program to the state Board of Directors. Dr. Kenneth L. Lewis, San Angelo philatelist, presented the history of the U. S. and foreign Christmas seals as the program. Dr. Lewis later donated a collection of seals to the Big Country

area. Lewis, who started collecting stamps when he was 10 years old shared with the group many stamps dating back prior to the 1920s.

Today 76 countries issue the Christmas seal in campaigns to fight tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases. Lewis noted. Most use the Cross of Lorraine symbol (the double barred cross) which is the registered trade mark of the American Lung Association.

Out To Lunch

By Martha Sue Justice

About three years ago after checking into a hospital in one of our more beautiful cities in south Texas, my husband and I seated ourselves in the waiting room until assigned my room. I remember glancing at the clock it was 11:30 a.m.

Directly across from us was a woman I would guess to be in her late 40's. She was sitting upright on a couch and seemed to be in a great deal of pain. Her husband was at the desk asking when someone would be there with a wheelchair to take her to emergency surgery and not getting much satisfaction.

Meanwhile between 11:30 and 12:30 orderlies, nurses aides, LVN's, RN's and volunteers were continuously walking by laughing, talking, munching on potato

chips, merrily taking their lunch hours.

By the time a wheelchair was brought in at 12:30 this woman was laying on the couch in evident shock and extreme pain unable to even sit up. A stretcher was sent for and she was bodily lifted onto it and finally taken to surgery. On the way out the desk clerk apologized and said that during the lunch period it was hard to get anything done.

Ballinger Wins Over Merkel

Merkel lost its first game of the second half of the district play to give all the teams that tied for the first at least one loss. Merkel, Stamford, and Coahoma all have one loss while Colorado City has two losses. Wylie has won its first two games without a loss and leads the second round of play with a 2-0 mark.

Ballinger came out and got the lead on the Badgers and kept that lead until the third quarter when the Badgers took the lead 38-35. The fourth quarter both teams exchanged the lead until Ballinger finally put the game away at the foul line.

Brad Pursley lead all scorers with 25 points and had 6 rebounds with 2 steals; Keith Wolf pulled down 12 rebounds had 4 blocked shots and scored 2 points; Donny Riggan had 13 points, 5 steals, 3 assists, and 2 rebounds; David Pfister had 6 points, 7 rebounds, and 2 assists with a steal; Mike Sims had 2 points and 5 rebounds with 1 assist and steal; Grant Murrell had 2 rebounds and Ricky Howes had one. The Badgers shot 40% from the field and only 55% from the foul line.

Score by Quarters

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Merkel	10	15	13
Ballinger	12	17	6

8th Grade Girls Take Consolation

The 8th grade girls basketball team won the consolation trophy at the Wylie 8th grade tournament this past weekend. The first game, the girls played against Wylie. Our opponents came out in front with a score of 22-18. Those scoring for us were: Kay Amerine-4; Sheri Williams-2; and Norma Frazier-12. The 8th grade girls second game was against Mann Junior High in Abilene. The girls play a very good game and never let the other team get ahead in the game. Merkel won 48-35. The scorers were: Kay Amerine-19; Sheri Williams-4;

and Norma Frazier-25. By winning the game, Merkel won the consolation trophy. Monday night Wylie won 20-13. The girls played a good defensive game. Those scoring were: Kay Amerine-7; Charlotte Watts-2; Norma Frazier-4.

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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

SENIOR CITIZENS SCHEDULE EVENTS

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

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 LUCKY LEAF 22 OZ. CHERRY PIE FILLING 89¢
 DEL MONTE CRUSHED 20 oz. PINEAPPLE 55¢
 PRIMA SALSA 15 1/2 oz. SPAGHETTI SAUCE 59¢
 GLADIOLA 5 LB. BAG FLOUR 79¢

MARIGOLD 2% HOMO GAL MILK \$1.45 REG. HOMO GAL \$1.55 PLUS DEP.
 BLUE BONNETT 1 LB. OLEO 49¢
 WESSON OIL 24 OZ. 89¢
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BETTY CROCKER 23 OZ. BROWNIE MIX 89¢

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NEED HELP-Call Outreach 928-7859 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

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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

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WANTED-OLD U. S. PAPER MONEY with name of the bank on the front of the note, also U. S. unused stamp collections, old coins, and antique beer steins. John Culver, 107 West Wall, Midland, Texas 79701, Telephone 915-684-5342, Bank References, 50-1tc

WANT TO BUY 10-15 acres with city water in Merkel area. Call collect, Mrs. W. D. Sparks, 692-2033, 48-4tc

WANTED: Clean, woven rags. Bring by The Merkel Mail at 917 North 2nd, No knit or Terry cloth please, 26-tfc/nc

WANTED: Clean, woven rags. Bring by The Merkel Mail at 917 North 2nd, No knit or Terry cloth please, 26-tfc/nc

PERSONALS

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Miscellaneous

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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.
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Cadillac
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SWEETWATER, TEXAS

Public Notice

ESTATE OF JAMES W. UTZ DECEASED
No. 12,800
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS.
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JAMES W. UTZ, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JAMES W. UTZ, DECEASED were issued on January 24, 1977, in Cause No. 12,800, pending in the County Court of Taylor County, Texas, to: ELEANOR J. UTZ

The residence of such Executor is Taylor County, Texas. The post office address is: c/o WALTER P. MORTON, JR. ATTORNEY

POST OFFICE BOX 5702 ABILENE, TEXAS 79605

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 28th day of January, 1977.
WALTER P. MORTON, JR.
Attorney for the Estate
50-1tc

PUBLIC NOTICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Electrification Administration
APPENDIX A

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Taylor electric Cooperative, Inc. has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Electrification Administration that it will comply fully with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Agriculture issued thereunder, to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program and the operation of its facilities. Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the ground of race, color or national origin in its policies and practices relating to applications for service or any other policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants including rates, conditions and extension of service, use of any of its facilities, attendance at and participation in any meetings of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operations of this organization.

Any person who believes himself, or any specific class of individuals, to be subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Act and the Rules and Regulations issued thereunder may, by himself or a representative, file with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250, or the Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D. C. 20250, or this organization, or a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed not later than 180 days after the alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Rural Electrification Administration extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the Rules and Regulations.
50-1tc

NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INCORPORATE WITHOUT CHANGE OF NAME.

Rayburn L. Brazzeld/b/a Bandera Drilling Company, 30 Stonegate, Abilene, Texas, 79606, intends to incorporate. The corporate name will be Bandera Drilling Co., Inc., 30 Stonegate, Abilene, Texas, 79606.

Dated January 12th, 1977.
48-4tc

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The Merkel Mail

PUBLISHERS STATEMENT
Established in 1889

Published weekly at 916 N. Second St., Merkel, Texas
Entered at the Post Office at Merkel, Texas, 79536 as second class mail.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$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, Publis her
Martha Sue Justice, Editor
Mychele Hammond, Advertising Sales Manager

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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.

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CARROLL BUICK
Cadillac
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SWEETWATER, TEXAS



Standing left to right: Virgie Williams and Lillie White. Seated left to right: Lillie Williams Virgie's mother and Bena White, Lillie's mother.

Standing left to right: Mary Pallarez and Dolores Chavira. Seated left to right: Anita Adame, Mary's mother and Petra Moreno Dolores's mother.

To My Valentine!

FURNITURE WITH LOVE!

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\$99.95

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Mother - Daughter Teams

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"A-B" Joe Alvarez, Christine Alaby, Allan Isom, Danny Patterson, Kenny Dossier, Veronica Muhle, Mitzi Shelton and Candy Boswell.
- SECOND GRADE**
"A" Dusty Moore.
"A-B" Sandra Kotrlak, Kathy Corbin, Joe Miles and Teresa Alien.
- THIRD GRADE**
"A" Michael Keith and Kevin Mitchell.
"A-B" Kathy Mercer, Keith Watson and Mary Lou Barnes.
- FOURTH GRADE**
"A" Robert Brooks, Gregg Spurr and Bill Adams.
"A-B" Lias Cantu.
- FIFTH GRADE**
"A" none.
"A-B" Nancy Bunting and Kathy Mitchell.

Farmers Union To Meet

The regular monthly meeting of the Taylor County Farmers Union will be Tuesday, February 8, at the Taylor Electric Coop at 7 p.m. The Farmers Union State High Point Trophy will be on display.

Plans will be made for a 42 or 88 tournament.

More plans will be made for the Farmers Union National convention in San Antonio.

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NOTICE OF SALE

J. L. and Polly Fisher wish to announce that negotiations have been consummated with Jimmy and Kenneth Farrington of the Farrington, Service Inc. for the purchase of Fisher Service Centers and Fisher Wholesale Gas and Oil company, Merkel. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher will continue to own and operate Merkel Auto Parts, 921 North 2nd-hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

J. L. and Polly want to sincerely thank their many friends and customers for the loyal support and business for the past 19 years of their ownership and operation of these 2 businesses. They urge their customers to continue with Jimmy and Kenneth Farrington. They are most reputable businessmen and will definitely be an asset to this community and offer excellent service to their customers.

Chef's Special
By Andy Anderson
Merkel Country Club

Today's recipe is one given to me by a lady known to a lot of you, Nig, our waitress at the Country Club. It's her Special Pumpkin Cake and it's as good a cake as I've tasted here or abroad. Try it and I'm sure you'll like it.

Pumpkin Cake

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup cooking oil
- 4 eggs-add 1 at a time
- 1 number 2 can pumpkin
- 2 teaspoons soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 cups flour

Mix all ingredients, bake in tube pan approximately 1 hour at 350 degrees.

ICING

- 1 box powdered sugar
- 8 ounce cream cheese
- 1/2 stick oleo
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup pecans

Blend all ingredients until smooth, spread on cooled cake.

MERKEL COUNTRY CLUB WEEKLY SPECIALS

- Friday-Chicken Fried Steak \$2.25
- Monday-Shrimp \$3.25
- Wednesday-Spaghetti (all you can eat) \$3.00

REMEMBER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ENJOY OUR FINE FOOD!

Don't Forget the Children!

Merkel and Tye are satellite cities of Abilene. Experience has shown that they grow together. Many are predicting that Merkel will double in population by the year 2000. (Tye included) Look at Irving, Arlington, Mesquite, White City, and all the rest around Dallas and Fort Worth. Each one is now over the 100,000 mark.

Why do we play the 2nd class role with our school facilities? Don't we deserve the best that our collective money can provide for our children? Is the greatest goal we can have is to save a tax dollar? If this is a valid goal then we should close our schools and save them all!

Why can't we get school administrators and a school board with a great vision? We know all of them, we love all of them, but we are following a group who are ultra-conservative, who had rather save a tax dollar than provide proper buildings and equipment for the education of our children. We are now in a "get-by-hodge-podge" plan that will cost us money in the long run. We need a new High School now! The present one can take care of the expansion that is needed in Junior High, elementary and Kindergarten.

Our children deserve the very best that our money will provide! Let's scrap the present plan NOW! We can use our churches until the new High School can be built. We can build on the vacant land across from the Primary building thus being close enough to use the present Agricultural, Band Hall and Shop and even the Cafeteria for the present. The Auditorium has limited use and can still be used if necessary for the present.

We are not acquainted with all the area school systems, but Hamlin has a beautiful plan, so does Ballinger and Clyde as well as Colorado City. They all have refrigerated air-conditioning we understand Abilene now is 100 percent air conditioned. We have none except in the administration offices and in those areas in which each teacher has provided one AT HIS OR HER OWN EXPENSE. We have heard it said, "I made it all right when I was in school without air conditioning. Let them sweat it out, it won't hurt em." We citizens of Merkel seem to be content with third rate facilities for our children.

Our present school officials are all trustworthy, honorable men, they are doing what they believe is right with their present patch-work plan. However, somewhere along the line they seem to have forgotten what is the best way to provide better facilities for our teachers and students. Somewhere along the line **THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN THE CHILDREN! OUR CHILDREN!**

The business people in Merkel are waiting and watching for progress in this area and are in fact depending on it. What better way to attract more people to this area than with GOOD SCHOOLS, GOOD TEACHERS, and better facilities by which to teach the children.

The present plan being executed for our schools and our children DOES NOT REPRESENT PROGRESS nor will it save money-nor will it solve our problem-It's just a short sighted plan to save a few tax dollars next year. **CATCH THE VISION--Let's build a new High School in which we will all be proud to present our children.**

Better teachers are attracted to a progressive school system, so citizens of the Merkel-Tye School District, we must move now, we must organize to scrap the present plan-we must organize to bring progress to our SCHOOL & TOWN NOW! We must convince all thinking people of our district that we desperately need a progressive school system and plan. We are already 6 months late-in another 3 months we can not block the present short-sighted plan as it will be in the execution stage. **STAND UP AND BE COUNTED! GO TO YOUR SCHOOL BOARD OR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AND do something NOW. PLEASE--DON'T FORGET THE CHILDREN!**

Paid for by the Committee for Better Schools

GET RICH... SLOWLY

Getting rich isn't easy. In most cases, it's impossible. However, reaching a realistic financial goal is possible with careful planning and a regular savings program.

As an example, the savings timetable (right) shows how long it will take to reach various financial goals. The chart is based on: (1) regular savings deposit on the first of each month; (2) savings deposits of the same amount every month; (3) 5.25% passbook savings and daily compounding to produce a 5.39% annual yield.

If you want this amount:	In this many years:	Save this much each month:
\$1,000	1 year	\$81.00
	2 years	39.43
	3 years	25.60
\$2,000	1 year	\$161.98
	2 years	78.87
	3 years	51.19
\$5,000	1 year	\$404.94
	3 years	127.96
	5 years	72.72
\$10,000	3 years	\$255.92
	5 years	145.43
	10 years	62.23
\$20,000	5 years	\$290.86
	10 years	126.66
	15 years	72.89

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SWEETWATER SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

SWEETWATER ROTAN ROSCOE HAMLIN

7th Grade Girls Stomp Wylie

The last time the 7th grade girls played Wylie 7th graders, we lost by 2 points in an overtime. On Monday night our girls didn't let the same thing happen again. Merkel held Wylie to only 4 points, while Merkel scored 14 points.

The scorers were: Nancy Click-6, Roberta Duran-4, Loyce Baker-3 and Mary Fariello-1. The 7th grade girls are doing a very good job and this was shown Monday night.

9th Grade Basketball

Merkel 54 6 8 18 22
Stamford 29 8 5 4 12

Merkel 43 14 5 12 12
Anson 11 4 0 0 7

Chris Cox-27, Ken Wells-15, Dale Ray Higgins-4, Robert Fowler-2, Scott Cain-2, Ted Holmes-2 and Josh Amerine-2.

Chris Cox-23, Ken Wells-10, Gary Arnold-4, Scott Cain-2, Ted Holmes-2, Mark Copeland-1 and Josh Amerine-1.

Naman Calls For \$5 Per Bushel

The first signal of whether or not this (Carter) Administration will be good for farmers is the level to which Secretary of Agriculture Bergland increases the price of wheat," Jay Naman, the president of the Texas Farmers Union, said recently.

Naman, addressing the Texas Farmers Union Convention during its final day in the Hilton Inn, said, "I say he should set the price of wheat at \$5 per bushel the first day he takes office. If he listens to the trade or the Wheat

Growers Association and sets it at \$3 or \$3.50, we're in trouble. Naman said "It's the last time around for the family farmer. His risks are too great; his investment is too large; his alternatives are too good for him to depend on a boom-or-bust, no-policy, future in agriculture."

Naman was critical of attempts to substitute "cost of production" for "parity." "If using the words 'cost of production' is simply another way of saying parity," he said, "maybe we can rationalize the new approach. The parity formula is built into the law. We know what is taken into consideration in computing parity. The mechanics of determining parity are well-established. If the same criteria can be applied to a so-called 'cost of production' formula, then we're okay. If not, then we are embarking on an unknown, and we are in deep trouble."

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Farm-facts

A Weekly Report Of Agri-Business News

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

A Corny Story . . . Cattle On Feed Decline . . . Not So Sweet.

Texas farmers apparently are going to continue to make corn a "cinderella crop" in this state.

A fantastic average per acre yield of 120 bushels per acre was recorded last year; this is 33 bushels more per acre than the national average.

Texas farmers this year intend to increase corn acreage to 2,000,000 acres; this would be up 21 per cent from a year ago.

Most of the corn in Texas is grown under irrigation on the High Plains. Individual yields of 150 bushels per acre and more are not uncommon.

And though Texas ranks 11th nationally in corn production, it produces more per acre than the traditional major midwest corn producing states. Acres in the state last year were at an all-time high, and this year will set another new record for corn.

In other major crops this year, Texas farmers intend to increase cotton acres 15 per cent compared to a year ago. Sorghum acres will be down 14 per cent from last year.

The Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service also notes that oat seedings are expected to be up 2 per cent, barley seeding will be down 27 per cent, soybean acres will be down 7 per cent, and rice acres are expected to decline 6 per cent.

The figures are prospective plantings for the state based on Jan. 1 expectations of the state's farmers.

CATTLE FEEDING in Texas is down 9 per cent from a year ago and is down 1 per cent from a month ago. As of Jan. 1, there were 1,710,000 cattle on feed. Steers accounted for 56 per cent of the total.

In the 23 states reporting on cattle on feed, a 3 per cent reduction was noted compared to a year ago.

In this state, feeders intend to market 950,000 cattle through March 31. This would be 14 per cent lower than marketed during the first quarter of 1976.

Nationwide, cattle feeders intend to market 4 per cent fewer numbers this quarter than compared to 1976.

NO SO SWEET. That's the conclusion of the latest report on Texas honey production. The product is still sweet, but the quantity was down in 1976.

Honey production totaled 9,400,000 pounds during 1976; this is 27 per cent below the 1975 production.

Colonies of bees in the state during 1976 were estimated at 200,000 compared to 208,000 during 1975.

The colonies averaged 47 pounds of honey per colony, which is a decrease of 15 pounds per colony from the previous year.

Total value of the honey and beeswax during 1976 is estimated at \$4,475,000 compared to \$6,151,000 in 1975.

Hearing to be held on Medicaid Program

A public hearing will be held in Abilene on Tuesday, February 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Abilene Civic Center for discussion of the state's Medicaid program with members of a statewide Task Force.

The 46-member study group, which includes a distinguished group of Texans from varying backgrounds, experiences and skills, was created at the request of the State Board of Public Welfare.

Jamie Clements of Temple, chairman of the State Welfare Board, has said that a dilemma of

grave proportions exists within Medicaid in that health care costs, like other costs, have more than doubled since 1974.

He said the task force will study the Medicaid program and make recommendations to the Welfare Board as to whether the program can continue to operate at the present elevated cost levels and also remain within the constraints of recently-lowered federal financial participation and Legislative intent to hold the line on State expenditures.

The Medicaid program makes the State Department of Public Welfare the largest provider of

health services in the state. The Department has budgeted \$734 million for medical services for the current fiscal year. The program is funded under a federal-state arrangement.

There are 680,000 Texans eligible for the Medicaid program. They represent the state's aged, blind and disabled who are needy and low-income, and some are children who are without the support of one parent, and who live under a predetermined level of income.

In evaluating the Medicaid program, the statewide study group has established six areas in which it is seeking to explore alternatives which would improve the program's present level of services.

The areas include: 1. nursing homes and in-home care; 2.

physicians; 3. hospitals, lab and x-rays; 4. pharmacies; 5. special medical services (EPSDT, dental, hearing, transportation, etc.) and 6. recipients (from the perspective of how recipients view Medicaid services).

During the week of February 7-11, study group members will listen to testimony from individual recipients or those representing recipients. These regional public hearings, including the February 8 hearing in Abilene for those in Region 4, will be held in designated cities throughout the state.

Persons interested in presenting testimony at the February 8 hearing in Abilene should contact Lou Crites, in advance at 915/698-3650 in order to schedule their presentation time for the hearing.



When you invite a visitor into your home, it's usually someone whom you know and like to be around.

But there's one visitor you seldom see and don't want even though you provide him with the run of your home and all the comforts which you enjoy. That visitor, says the Texas Department of Health Resources, is the rat.

Just as surely as if by invitation, you welcome the rat into your home by providing harborage and food—the two necessary ingredients for infestation of any premises. This may come as a surprise to most persons, since Texas and the United States have long prided themselves on being highly sanitized.

But, let's take a look at the problem to determine whether you may be guilty of encouraging rats.

A rat must have food to exist. If you have a cat, dog or other pet and overfeed it—leaving scraps around—the rat can survive quite well. Grain is another standard diet of rats and mice. What about that bird feeder? Is it constructed so that grain spills onto the ground or so placed that a rat can climb onto it? And how about your garbage can? Is the lid tight, or does it fit loosely? Do you always keep the lid on the can?

The answers to these questions may give you a clue as to why there are rats around.

Now, for the harborage requirement. Rats take up residence in sewers, in piles of junk and lumber, in heaps of boxes and leaves, in storage sheds, in the attic or under your house. Have you heard strange noises in your walls or attic? It could be rats scampering around.

With winter upon us, rats are more prone to seek shelter in the warmth of someone's home. You'd be surprised just how little space they need to squirm through a hole—around a water or gas pipe or ventilator duct—and get into your home. If the hole isn't big enough, they'll enlarge it with their sharp teeth. Then they'll head for your kitchen pantry.

In addition to health hazards from rats, which transmit many diseases, rats love to chew on things, including electric wires which produce short circuits and fires.

Texas participates in rat reduction programs, and many cities have rodent control activities through Model Cities Programs. Local health departments direct programs in other cities. The Public Health Education Division and General Sanitation Division of the Texas Department of Health Resources cooperate in offering help in insect and rodent control.

A rodent control school was just completed in Amarillo and may be

the forerunner of others in the state. And, the City of Brownsville, through its Health Department, has conducted an extensive rodent control program. These are but examples of the activities being conducted throughout Texas.

And you as an individual can take a big step in rat control by taking away harborage and food. Rats now share the dwelling places of 12 million Americans and bite 14,000 of them every year.

Rats have made sections of every major city their own, and now they've headed toward the suburbs.

One of the invaders is the Norway rat, also called the brown rat, house rat, barn rat, sewer rat and wharf rat. This species is highly destructive and prolific and accepts human beings as part of his environment. He also is aggressive. The Norway rat likes nothing better than to use the works of man for food, shelter and warmth.

Technology is partly to blame for the increase of this rat. Sewers are the rodent's haven and his highway. New products like the home garbage disposal are the nicest things that ever happened to him, pouring out a bountiful and well-balanced food supply. The high-protein content characterized by more affluent neighborhoods is particularly enticing.

At least 300 U.S. cities have critical rat problems today and almost as many communities need help. In many large cities, rat-infested buildings have increased sharply.

A Department of Health Resources rodent expert sums it all up: "We know we can go in and kill rats," he says. "But for an all-out effort, homeowners must take away the food and harborage."

Elmer Martin named chairman

Rep. Elmer Martin of Colorado City has been named vice chairman for the Environmental Affairs Committee by Speaker of the House Bill Clayton.

Martin, a third term representative, will also be asked to serve on the Agriculture and Livestock Committee.

He is one of 13 members on the Environmental Affairs Committee which will consider all matters pertaining to air and water pollution, state parks, preservation of wildlife, hunting, fishing and the regulation of Texas fish and oyster industries.

WE HAVE BEEN TO MARKET AND
NEW SPRING AND SUMMER STYLES
ARE IN STOCK AND COMING IN
DAILY

LADIES SHOES - SUITS
BLOUSES - PANTS
JUMPSUITS

SEE THEM AT

CRAWFORD'S

FINE QUALITY CLOTHING
AND SHOES FOR THE FAMILY

135 EDWARDS

PHONE 928-9612

Bag More Food Buys-Everyday-Here

DOG FOOD
BAILES
CHUNKY
50 LB. BAG \$7.98

SEASONED
GREEN BEANS
DEL MONTE #303
3 FOR \$1.00

SWEET PEAS
KOUNTY KIST #303
4 FOR \$1.00

TOMATO JUICE
DEL MONTE 46 OZ
59c

PORK & BEANS
VAN CAMP #300
2 FOR 65c

REFRIED BEANS
GEBHARDTS
#300
3 FOR \$1.00

SEED POTATOES
RED & WHITE
15c LB.

BAILES
DOG MEAL
25 LB. \$3.98

BACON
SLICED SLAB
89c LB.

TOMATOES
FRESH 59c LB.

GERMAN SAUSAGE
GOOCH
12 OZ. 89c

GOOCH JUMBO
FRANKS
1 LB. 79c

LETTUCE
39c HEAD

TOAST EMS
10 1/2 OZ. BOX
49c

GUM
WRIGLEY'S
PLENT-PAK
25c

POTATOES
RUSSET
10 LB. BAG
89c

TOMATO SAUCE
DEL MONTE 8 OZ.
5 FOR \$1.00

ITALIAN #303
GREEN BEANS
3 FOR \$1.00

CORNET DELTA
TISSUE
4 ROLL PKG.
73c

CRACKERS'
SUNSHINE OR NABISCO
1 LB. BOX
59c

DR PEPPER
PEPSI

DIET
DR PEPPER
& PEPSI
32 OZ.
4 FOR \$1.00
PLUS DEPOSIT

ONION SETS
WHITE & YELLOW
KITES
& KITE TWINE

NINTH STREET
GROCERY

WE ACCEPT
FOOD STAMPS

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

CASTILLE HARDWARE AND GIFTS

IS NOW OPEN AT THE
OLD LOCATION -
214 EDWARDS

STILL COLLECTING FOR T.V. CABLE AND

LONE STAR GAS

OPEN HOUSE

TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER

928-5310

AUCTION

Sunday, Feb. 6th 2p.m.

Fine furniture and appliances to be sold to the highest bidder. New and used living room suits, sofas, love seats, sleepers, bedroom suits, dinettes, tables, lamps, swivel rockers, refrigerators, freezers, ranges, antiques and many more items, too numerous to mention.

SELF FURNITURE & AUCTION

1/2 MILE SOUTH OF CITY LIMITS
ON SAN ANGELO HWY.

AUCTIONEER -- LEVI W. SELF
AUCTIONEER'S LICENSE # TXGS 77-0136

ABILENE, TEXAS

698-7165

DUNN'S FLEA MARKET

INTERSTATE 20

IN TRENT



MARKET WILL BE HELD INSIDE
"THIS OLD HOUSE"

FEBRUARY 5th & 6th
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
DEALERS WELCOME!
862-2022

HELP WANTED

The Directors of The Blair Water Supply Corporation asks the help of each and every member in the signing of members.

We ask that each member contact his neighbor to see if they will sign for a water meter. We as a Board may not know all your neighbors or how to contact them. Therefore we, the Board, again ask your help in making this the best system in Texas.

The deposit is \$100.00 per meter.

We will start the preliminary engineering study February 11, 1977.

Please contact your neighbor or landlord or give their names and addresses to the Board so that we may contact them.

Thank you for helping yourself.

The Board of Directors: J. D. Sandusky, president; Lloyd Gilmore, vice-president; Opal Garner, secretary-treasurer; R. E. Clemmer, Frank Brnovak, A. L. Moore, Merkel; W. R. Scott, Trent; Wier Joiner, Tye; Pauline Butman, Abilene.

Moore - Land Exchange Wedding Vows

Rhonda Dianne Moore and Jimmy L. Land of Merkel were married in a ceremony at Central Baptist Church in Aspermont Saturday.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie N. Moore and was given in marriage by her father.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Land of Merkel.

Bob Harris of Merkel performed the ceremony.

Mrs. John Adams was matron of honor. Angie Moore, sister of the bride, was maid of honor. Cynthia Porter of Abilene was bridesmaid.

Missy Moore, sister of the bride, was flower girl. Gary Lee Cooper of Hamlin was ring bearer.

Candlelighters were Tommy Sue Moore, sister of the bride, and Larry Land of Merkel, brother of the bridegroom.

Danny Higgins of Merkel was best man.

Groomsmen were Roger Ely of Tye and Scott Tarpley of San Angelo.

Corky Lee Land of Midland and Craig Land of Merkel, brothers of the bridegroom, were ushers.

The bride's parents hosted the reception at the fellowship hall.

The couple will live at 409 Manchester, Merkel, where the bridegroom is employed at KWFA Radio Station.

The bride is a graduate of Aspermont High School and Commercial College of Abilene.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Merkel High School and is a junior at McMurry College.

The bridegroom's parents hosted the rehearsal dinner at the fellowship hall.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

THURSDAY
Turkey and dressing with giblet gravy
Seasoned green beans
Celery sticks
Hot rolls
Jellied cranberry fruit salad

FRIDAY
Hamburgers
Lettuce and tomatoes
Pickles and onions
French fries with catsup
Buns
Sugar cookies
Orange juice

MONDAY
Beef and cheese pizza
Buttered mixed vegetables
Lettuce wedge with choice of dressing
Chilled apricot halves

TUESDAY
Barbeque sausage
Potatoes au gratin
Oven fried okra
Hot rolls
Chocolate no bake cookies

WEDNESDAY
Fried turkey steak in cream gravy
Buttered English peas
Whipped potatoes
Hot rolls
Whipped orange jello



Cox Car

Car Accident West of Merkel

A two car collision took place just west of Merkel on the access road near the turn-off to Interstate 20 around 4:30 Monday afternoon.

Matthew (Todd) Cox was in one of the pickups in collision and Frank and Ross Merritt were in the other. Frank Merritt was the driver while Ross was a passenger in the second vehicle.

All three men sustained injuries, but at last report were in satisfactory condition.

THE MERKEL MAIL
Thursday, February 3, 1977
PAGE 7

SPECIAL SALE
PRICES ON ALL
G.E. APPLIANCES
"WE NOW HAVE A
LARGE STOCK OF
G.E. APPLIANCES"
Dishwashers, Washers,
Dryers, Refrigerators,
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TRENT, TEXAS

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CUSTOM CATTLE FEEDING

Goodman HD News

The regular meeting of the Goodman Home Demonstration Club was held at the home of Mrs. Allen Agnew, January 28.

The meeting was called to order by President Mrs. Butler. Roll call was answered by everyone telling about a poor shopping purchase that they had made at one time or another. Mrs. Garland Price gave the council report. Each member turned in her recipes and adds for the cookbook. It was also discussed that the books would hopefully be off the press by the end of February.

The program "Check It Out in Labels" was brought by the county agent Mrs. Nancy Wilburn. She said it is hard to buy a product when there is no label on the can or package. She also

listed the many things that a person can learn from a label; the contents, the amount, the weight, and the date the product should be used by or taken off the shelf. There was a small booklet issued to each member listing helpful hints.

Members present were mesdames: Jennings Winter, Frank Carter, Carl Carey, Dan Butler, Dennis Butler, Garland Price, W. L. Massey, Cal McAninch, Alan Agnew and two visitors were mesdames G. R. Peachy and R. E. Wilburn.

The next meeting will be held February 11 at Mrs. Carl Bonneau's, Noodle.

All meetings are open to people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic levels, race, color, sex, religion, or national origin.

Cemetery donations

The following have made donations to the Merkel Cemetery Association.

Mr. and Mrs. Wim R. Cybert
Evelyn Boaz Scroggins in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Boaz
Lula Boaz Smith in memory of The Boaz Family
Mrs. D. S. Richardson in memory of my husband David
Pauline Johnson
Mrs. Jennings Winter in memory of loved ones
Joyce and A. C. Tinch in memory of Horace Boney
Mrs. Nina Belle Hughes
Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Murphree in memory of Jerry Cox
Mrs. Roy R. Largent
Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Wozencraft
Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Murphree in memory of Loved Ones
Willie Maserang in memory of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Russom, Tom Russom, Jess Russom, Gladys Swinney and Mrs. Raymond Russom
Mr. and Mrs. Buster Horton in memory of Horace Boney
Warren C. Smith in memory of

Booth Warren
Mrs. S. D. Gamble in memory of Horace Boney
Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Steele in memory of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Jinkens, Sr.
Celia Hester Estate
Mrs. Wilmer Criswell in memory of Horace Boney
A. P. and Gertrude Johnson
J. H. Doan
M. E. Mayfield
Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Denson in memory of C. D. Davis and Clarence Perry
Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Denson in memory of C. D. Davis and Clarence Perry
J. C. and L. M. Hand
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hogan
Mr. and Mrs. Ted McAninch
Mr. and Mrs. Deverl Teaff in memory of Horace Boney
Deverl and Bernell Teaff
Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Palmer
Mr. and Mrs. Wim R. Cybert in memory of Cecil Stevens, Jerry Cox and Marifrances Childress
Mary Mosier in memory of Horace Boney

Mrs. Lacy Speaks to Study Club

The Fortnightly Study Club met January 25 in the home of Mrs. David Gamble. Mrs. Andy Shouse introduced the speaker, Mrs. B. L. Lacy, retired professor of Hardin-Simmons University, who gave a delightful review of the Letters of John and Abigail Adams.

John Adams, born in 1735, earned two degrees at Harvard, taught school, became a lawyer, served as ambassador to France, was the first U. S. ambassador to the Court of St. James, was the first U. S. Vice-President, and then served one term as President. His wife Abigail, an educated woman at a time when education was unfashionable for ladies, spent most of the years of his public service at home managing their farm, and their correspondence was voluminous. Their letters reveal them as devoted friends as well as marriage partners.

Club guests were Mrs. B. L. Lacy

and Mrs. G. R. Peachy. Members present were Mrs. S. C. Dixon, Mrs. Don Dudley, Mrs. L. A. Dudley, Mrs. Charles Eager, Mrs. David Gamble, Miss Mildred ham, Mrs. J. W. Hammond, Mrs. Comer Haynes, Mrs. Buster Horton, Mrs. Carl Hughes, Mrs. C. B. Knight, Mrs. Ed Sandusky, Mrs. S. D. Gamble, Mrs. Andy Shouse, Mrs. Aaron Sudderth and Mrs. Ray Wilson.

Label On Return speeds up Refund

Taxpayers can receive their refunds faster by using the preaddressed peel-off label on their returns, the Internal Revenue Service said.

The label, which appears on the cover of the tax package mailed to taxpayers, lists name, address and social security number.

The IRS emphasized that if any information on the label is incorrect, the taxpayer should make corrections right on the label.

Married taxpayers filing a joint return should check to see that two social security numbers appear on the label. If only one social security number is shown, the other spouse's number should be entered on the appropriate line.

Change Should Be Reported

People getting supplemental security income (SSI) payments should promptly report changes in their other income and resources to social security, according to Glyn Hammons, social security district manager in Abilene.

"Increases or decreases in income may affect the amount of monthly SSI payments," Hammons said. "People getting SSI checks should report changes or expected changes in their wages, self-employment earnings, veterans pension payments, and other income."

BOOKS

BOOKS

BOOKS

COME IN & SEE ALL OF THE USED BOOKS WE NOW HAVE ON SALE.

HARLEQUIN ROMANCES, NURSE & DOCTOR NOVELS, A FEW WESTERNS & MYSTERIES.

ALMOST ALL BOOKS ARE 25¢ EACH OR 5 FOR \$1.00

THE MERKEL MAIL

RAY PACK HAS ANNOUNCED THE PURCHASE OF THE

BIG COUNTRY CLUB IN ABILENE

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

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Grand OPENING

JANUARY 31st THRU FEBRUARY 11th

CARPET SPECIALS

100% NYLON-SMOOTH SURFACE HI-DENSITY FOAM BACK	AVAILABLE IN TWEEDS & PATTERNS	COMPARE AT 7.99	4.99 4.99
PATIO GRASS	CARPET ONLY		6.99
HI-LO SCULPTURED	GOLD TWEED COMPARE AT 10.99	INSTALLED ON FOAM PAD	7.99
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HI-LOW SHAG	COMPARE AT 12.99	INSTALLED ON FOAM PAD	8.99
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HI-LOW SHAG	COMPARE AT 16.99	INSTALLED ON FOAM PAD	9.99

ACCESSORIES AND PICTURES OFF REGULAR PRICE

CUSH N' SOFT Toilet Seats OFF REGULAR PRICE

10% OFF REGULAR PRICE



CUSTOM DRAPERIES

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Bedspreads, Toss Pillows, Wall Covering, Vinyl Floor, Ceramic Tile and Parquet Wood Tile.

H & R HOME INTERIORS

2507 BUFFALO GAP RD.

JEFF HILL-OWNER
SHIRLEY DEAL-DECORATOR

PHONE 692-2216

VALENTINE Gift Sale

HIS AND HERS

CLOSE OUT LADIES PAUL NORTON, QUARTETT, AND TRIO PANT SUITS

25% OFF REG. PRICE

MEN'S BOOT CUT PANTS VALUES TO \$15.00 SPECIAL \$7.99
LEVI'S, WRANGLERS, LEES

NEW SHIPMENT OF BOYS WRANGLER SHIRTS \$9.98

FELT HATS 25% OFF REG. PRICE

BOOTS 20% OFF REG. PRICE

SNUFF CAN HOLDERS JUST \$2.95

BELTS "NAME PLATE"

WESTERN HOUSE

924 N. 2nd

Stith Home Demonstration Club Meets

What do you know about Label Logic, says Jones County Home Demonstration agent Mrs. Neece Wilburn. How many shoppers pay close attention to labels, pounds and ounces when shopping? You can save money on your grocery bill by buying store brand products, says Neece Wilburn.

The Stith Home Demonstration Club met January 26 in the home of Daisy Mashburn, with Margaret Dickerson being hostess.

Mrs. Vada Hudson called the meeting to order and presided for the business meeting. Devotional was led by Margaret Dickerson. Mrs. Mae Jones offered our prayer and Daisy Mashburn led a game about a 10 cent piece.

Roll call was answered with a

poor shopping purchase. Recipes and ads were turned in for the cookbook.

Our program was Check It Out In Labels given by Neece Wilburn. We had one new member and one visitor.

The club honored our outgoing president and oldest member with a gift. The honoree was Mrs. Mae Jones.

Refreshments were served to Vada Hudson, Louise Hudson, Mae Jones, Margaret Dickerson, Daisy Mashburn, Hazel Lay, Ruby Shipman and Neece Wilburn.

Our next meeting will be in the home of Louise Hudson February 9.

We invite all ladies regardless of race, creed or national origin.

Compere Home Demonstration Clubs meet

Compere Home Demonstration Club met Thursday, January 27 in the home of Mrs. Ab Hunter. Mrs. Hugh Taylor called the meeting to order and led the group in two quiz games. Mrs. Clarence Allen led in prayer.

Refreshments were served to club members Mesdames: Ab Hunter, Hugh Taylor, Clarence Allen, Dewey Ramsey, Ernest Spurgin, Don Adair, Clyde Mims, and Clyde Chaney. Refreshments were also served to the following visitors: Mrs. Kenneth Wilburn, Mrs. J. B. Wray and Mrs. Tommy Hunter and three children from Anson and Mrs. Wayne Johnson and children from Abilene.

Compere Club meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

The highlight of the meeting was a program on "Label Logic" given by the agent Mrs. Wilburn. Shoppers were told to look for many things in buying items for the home. Good tips for the shopper were given including, learn to read codes, always read the lists of ingredients, watch for good nutrition and spend money wisely.

Names were drawn for prizes. Mrs. Taylor received the hostess gift.

Eighth Annual Salute to Scouting

More than 6,000 Scouts from a six-state area are expected to attend the Eighth annual Salute to Scouting at Sea-Arama Marineworld during February. Camporee events and Pinewood Derby races are scheduled for February 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Overnight camping, competition in eighty camporee events, Pinewood Derby races for Cub Scouts, and a Sea-Arama Marineworld show and attractions will highlight the month-long Salute to Scouting. Reservations have already been received from patrols in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and various parts of Texas according to Dick Waterman, director of special events at the park.

John Waiger of the Sam Houston Council Boy Scouts of America will direct all camporee activities. Scouts will compete on a patrol level in eighty camporee events including: First Aid, Monkey Bridge, "A" Frame, Litter Relay, Log Haul, Log Roll, Log Walk, Ladder Making, Nail Driving, Sack Relay, Tent Peg Relay and Washer Toss. They will also compete in Map Reading, Rescue, Smell-O-Vision, Spin Casting, Age of Tree, Axmanship, Compass, and Judging Height or Distance. Broad Jump, Kim's Game, Knot Tying, Life Line Toss, Ring-O-Bell, Sack Races, Scout Law, Strike-A-Match, Texas Flag and Tug-O-War events are also scheduled.

Camporees will begin at 1:15 p.m. Each event is scheduled to last eight minutes and equipment necessary for each event will be furnished. Competition in each camporee is limited to eighty patrols. Awards will be given for Honor Patrol and Participating Patrol in addition to the first, second, and third place overall winners.

All prizes will be awarded at the Saturday evening campfire. The best campsite and best patrol flag will also be recognized.

Firewood, toilet facilities, water and twenty-four hour security will be provided by Sea-Arama Marineworld for patrols wishing to camp overnight.

All registered Boy Scouts, ages eleven through fourteen may participate in camporees on a patrol level with each patrol entering the events as a team. A minimum of four and maximum of eight scouts, including the patrol leader, may compete as a patrol. Senior scouts, ages fifteen or older, may not compete with a patrol in the events. They will assist in the judging along with scoutmasters and adult assistants. Each troop must have at least one adult leader at the camporee at all times.

"All Pinewood Derby and camporee events are optional," Waterman stressed. "Individual scouts are invited to visit Sea-Arama Marineworld during the month of February at a discount even if they do not wish to enter competition. A special rate of \$2.50 per scout in uniform will allow them to see the shows and attractions at Sea-Arama Marineworld as compared to the regular child's admission of \$3.75. They will also receive a free scout patch," he added.

The southern New Year's blackeyed peas are actually beans and are called "cow peas" in the north because they are fed to livestock. Marilyn Haggard, foods and nutrition specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A & M University System, points out.

10th Annual Meeting of Water, Inc.

U. S. Rep. Jack Hightower will be one of the featured speakers at the 10th Annual Membership Meeting of Water, Inc.

The meeting has been set for Saturday, February 19, in Lubbock with more than 300 Water, Inc. members and guests expected for the yearly gathering. Hightower will headline a program that addresses the unique water problems of the high Plains as Water, Inc. completes a decade of work toward meeting the area's future water needs.

Water, Inc. President J. W. Buchanan of Dumas said the non-profit organization has served the High Plains well during its 10-year life. "Through the efforts

of Water, Inc., residents of the High Plains are acutely aware of our problem and are better educated about water needs than most people in other sections of the state."

Water, Inc. is a non-profit organization which seeks alternative water resources for the High Plains area. The organization's public education efforts are supported by donations from more than 2,200 members.

Buchanan said of the annual meeting, "This is the one opportunity for all of our members to gather and show their support for the Water, Inc., cause. With the legislature in session and a

revision of the Texas Water Plan exhibit their solid support and likely, it is important for residents unity so that Austin can't help but of the High Plains to steadfastly look favorably upon our needs."

L & W SNACK BAR AND RECREATION CENTER

Dear Mychele,
Enclosed you will find my ad for this week. Please print same as usual. Also, enclosed you will find \$10 for a tank of gas for another ride in the country. I'm running short of beef. Please don't tell Bob until you get back. For some reason, he gets upset and a little narrow minded over your repair bills. Just call me and I'll come out and get the beef. Don't forget-hit a prime one.

Kansas City Cut or New York Steaks \$3.00, including salad and French fries.
Barbeque Beef Sandwiches 50 cents each or \$5.00 a dozen. Save a buck.
Special Hamburger-40 cents each or \$4.00 a dozen.
Fried Shrimp (oriental) \$2.50 including salad and French fries.
Chicken fried steak on Tuesday and Thursday-all you can eat-French fries, salad and dessert \$2.50. Eat it here or take it home.
Cattfish by the bucket with French fries and tartar sauce \$3.75.
Fried chicken-by the bucket \$3.75 with French fries.
The above items are also available by the plate, French fries and salad with the cattfish; and with the chicken, French fries, salad and country gravy at \$2.50 a plate. Eat it here or take it home. Dessert is also included.
Come in and try our rotisserie barbeque beef at \$2.50 a plate with French fries and salad and dessert or take home a pound, custom sliced and ready to eat for \$2.50. Barbeque sauce included, but served separately.

L & W SNACK BAR AND RECREATION CENTER

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1025 N. Second
(IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN MERKEL)



The catcher's mask was invented by F. W. Thayer of Harvard University and first used in baseball in 1876.

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SHOWER GIFTS
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The Convenience of TOTALCARD Statement Savings.
Abilene Savings' new TOTALCARD Statement Savings Account offers you added convenience and ease of savings. Now, all your savings account transactions can be consolidated into a single statement. This means no more worry about a misplaced passbook or the inconvenience of bringing it in for updating. Because every quarter you'll receive a consolidated statement on your account showing deposits, withdrawals, and the interest earned. And best of all, there's no monthly service charge for this added convenience.

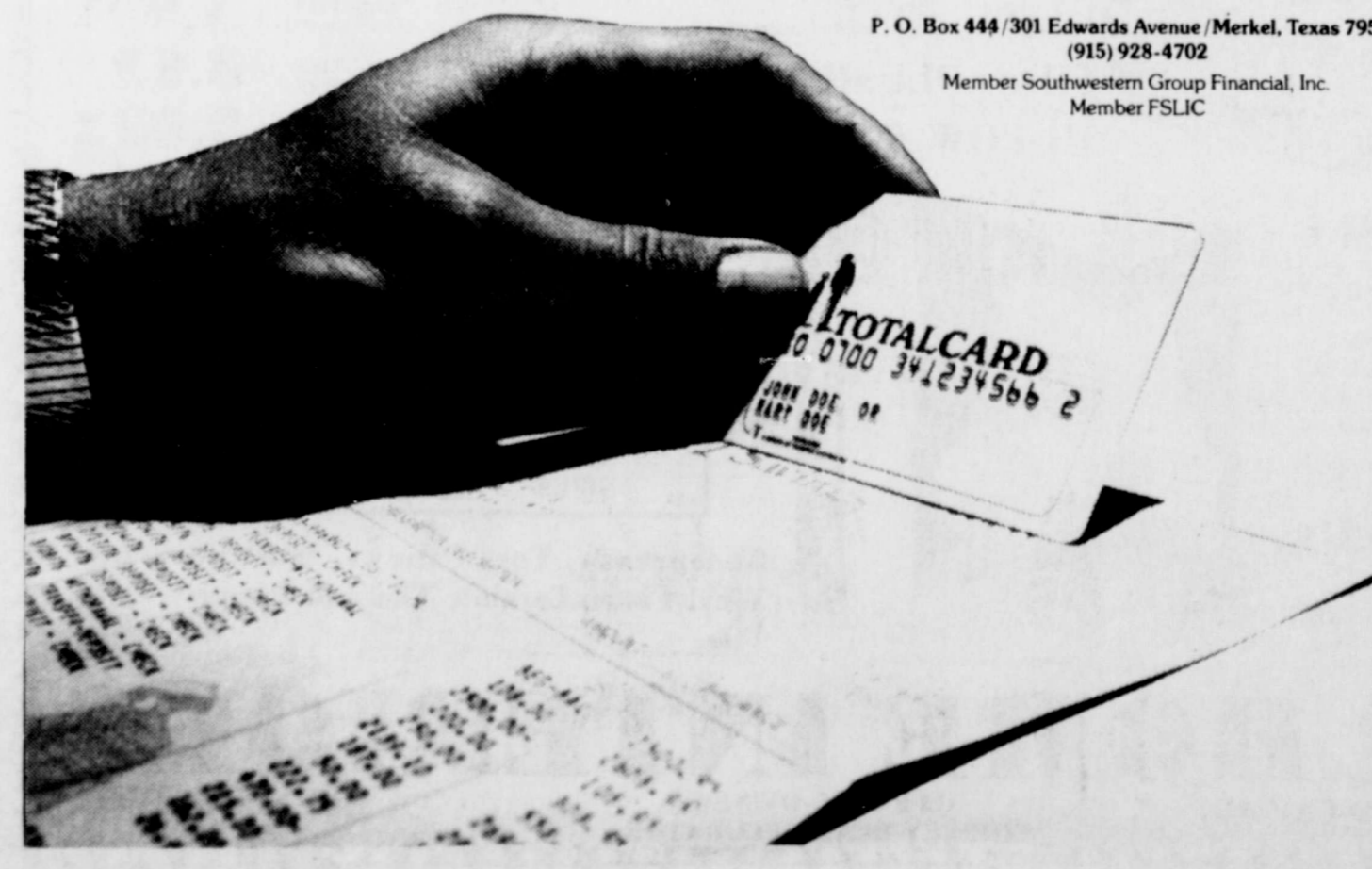
Day-to-day Interest and Insured Security.
A TOTALCARD Statement Savings Account earns maximum interest, compounded daily, from date of deposit to date of withdrawal, and is insured up to \$40,000 by the FSLIC. The convenience of Day-To-Day Statement Savings and insured safety are more reasons TOTALCARD Statement Savings is tomorrow's way of saving today.

Our TOTALCARD Savings Account Makes It Possible
When you make a transaction, all you have to do is show your TOTALCARD. Since it fits in your wallet or purse, it's much easier to carry than a passbook. And it's a personal identification card that only you can use. With each transaction you'll receive a receipt from us verifying the amount of the transaction and the new balance of your savings account.

We're the People Who Care About Helping You Find a Way.
Our new TOTALCARD Statement Savings Account is another innovative service from the people of Abilene Savings. And we'll continue to look for ways to make saving easier and more convenient. Come into our office nearest you and open your own convenient TOTALCARD Statement Savings Account.

Abilene Savings
We'll Help You Find A Way

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CHAPARRAL AIRLINES

New Schedule Effective Feb. 1, 1977

Cities	Fare	Flight	Leave	Arrive	Freq
FROM ABILENE	101	8:30a	7:30a	x7	
To Austin	\$32 109	11:15a	12:15p	x6	
	207	7:05p	8:05p	x6	

FROM AUSTIN	Fare	Flight	Leave	Arrive	Freq
To Abilene	\$32 102	7:50a	8:55a	x7	
	110	12:35p	1:40p	x6	
	208	8:20p	9:25p	x6	

To Houston (Hobby)	Fare	Flight	Leave	Arrive	Freq
	\$47 103	7:00a	8:40a	x7	
	107	11:35a	1:15p	x6	
	203	4:20p	6:00p	x8	

FROM HOUSTON (Hobby)	Fare	Flight	Leave	Arrive	Freq
To Abilene	\$47 104	9:10a	10:55a	x7	
	108	1:45p	3:30p	x6	
	204	6:20p	8:05p	x6	

To Lubbock	Fare	Flight	Leave	Arrive	Freq
	\$29 205	3:50p	4:40p	x6	
			Connections to El Paso Los Angeles		

FROM LUBBOCK	Fare	Flight	Leave	Arrive	Freq
To Abilene	\$29 206	6:00p	6:50p	x6	
			Connections from El Paso Los Angeles		

To Midland/Odessa	Fare	Flight	Leave	Arrive	Freq
	\$29 105	8:15a	10:05a	x7	
	201	2:00p	2:50p	x6	
			Connections to Denver El Paso Los Angeles		

FROM MIDLAND/ODESSA	Fare	Flight	Leave	Arrive	Freq
To Abilene	\$29 106	10:25a	11:15a	x7	
	202	3:10p	4:00p	x6	
			Connections from Denver El Paso Los Angeles		

X6-EXCEPT SAT. X7-EXCEPT SUNDAY

For Reservations or Information
Call Chaparral Airlines 677-3337 Out of Town...Call 1-800-582-4304
or Call Abilene Travel Service ... 698-3433
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SWEETHEART SPECIAL
EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT
UNTIL VALENTINE'S DAY

ALSO, TRY OUR PLATE LUNCHES - CHOICE OF MEATS,
TWO VEGETABLES, SALAD BAR, DESSERT, AND DRINK -
\$2.25

HAMBURGERS AND CORN DOGS FOR THE KIDS!

EVERY NIGHT THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL
AT PUG'S AND LEO'S

INTERSTATE 928-4720

**8 OZ. T-BONE STEAK,
SERVED WITH BAKED
POTATO OR FRENCH FRIES
AND SALAD BAR
\$2.99**

BEN*FRANKLIN® SIDEWALK SALE

BEN*FRANKLIN® FABRIC CLEARANCE SALE

ALL FABRICS

NEW SHIPMENT INVOLVED

25% OFF

FREE BUTTERICK PATTERN
WITH ANY \$10.00
FABRIC PURCHASE

**100% POLYESTER
DOUBLEKNIT**
SPECIAL PURCHASE
YOU BE THE JUDGE
49¢ YD.

MIDLAND®

Full Power CB Unit



• 23 Channels
• 4.0 Watts Transmitter **\$39.95**

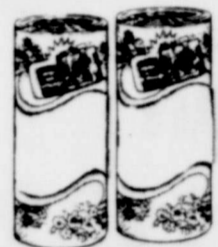
The quiet receiver with
automatic noise limiter. In-
cludes push-to-talk mike
and PA speaker circuit.

862-13

882-C

\$69.95

**BRAWNY OR
HOMECREST**



PAPER TOWELS

39¢ ROLL



Durable,
Time-Saving Plastic
HOUSEWARES

• 13 Oz. Round Basin
• 17 Oz. Dish Pan
• 8 Oz. Square Plaf.
• Round Laundry Basket
• 23 Oz. Round Wastebasket

Choice
\$1.00



4 Oz. Skeins
PERFECTA®
Knitting Worsted

Machine care Orlon Acrylic-Vir-
gin wool yarn is moth proof and
non-allergic. Choose from a wide
range of colors.

Just
77¢



25-INCH GLASS
TABLE LAMPS

"Cut Glass" Designs

13.99

Each
Elegant looking glass body
lamps in traditional "cut
glass" designs with 15-in.
vinyl boudle shades accent-
ed with coordinating color
trims. Jewel-like colors.



Youths' 10½-2
Boys' 2½-6
Men's 6½-11

BASKETBALL SHOES

Play-right low cut oxford style shoes with
sturdy, heavy duck upper and comfort cush-
ioned insole with molded arch support. Gen-
uine rubber suction sole for fast action.

Choice
\$1.97

FASHION

TOP OF THE MONTH!

Softly feminine

SEVERAL
STYLES
FROM WHICH
TO CHOOSE

YOUR
CHOICE

**1/2
PRICE**



Top off your holidays in soft interlock knit tunics.
Accented with delicate tone-on-tone print voile
sleeves, ribbon trim and self tie belt. In rich, warm
colors. Sizes S-M-L.

BEN*FRANKLIN®

UNFINISHED FURNITURE SALE

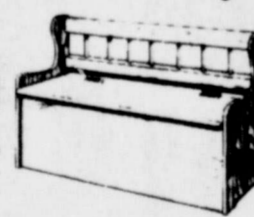
Ready to Paint! Stain! Antique!

Deacon's Bench with Storage

Now Only

\$32.99

Perfect for hall, den
or recreation room.
17x43x20 in. size
Ready to finish.



Nite Stand
\$18.99

The final touch to a
new bedroom outfit.
3 drawers for easy
reach. 15" x 14" x 26"

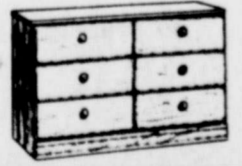


Big 6-Drawer Chest

15x30x26 in.

\$29.99

Well made chest holds
everything from games
to clothes. Helps keep
rooms neat. Sturdy pine.



\$35.99

ROCKING CHAIRS

Choose a Boston Rocker of selected Northern
hardwood, finished in hand buffed maple or a
Cricket Rocker with maple finish and reverse
cushions. Each is easily assembled.

Boston Rocker
28 in. high
22 in. width



ALBERTO VOS
HAIR SPRAY

9 oz.
net wt. 250 g.
Choice
\$1.00

ASS'T. STYLES
BIKINI BRIEFS



PR. \$1.00

VALUES TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST ON OUR SIDEWALK SALE

ODD LOTS OF MERCHANDISE AND CLOSE OUTS

ALL AT 25% TO 50% OFF

BEN*FRANKLIN®



201 KENT

Store Hours: Mon.-Sat. 8:00 A.M. - 6:30 P.M.



SALE GOOD FRI. & SAT. ONLY

It's GREAT to KNOW

ALL PRICES are LOW

It's CARSON'S policy to make EVERY price a LOW one and there's NOTHING like STOREWIDE LOW PRICES to give you MORE of the BEST foods for LESS. Come see! It's GREAT to shop where you KNOW ALL PRICES are LOW — and BIGGER SAVINGS are in every bag!



PRICES GOOD THURSDAY
FRI. & SAT.
FEB. 3-4-5th

TABLETS
BUFFERIN
60 CT BOX
\$1.09

COFFEE
FOLGERS
LB. CAN **\$1.98**
1 LIMIT
WITH \$10 IN TRADE OR MORE
EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

GANDYS
ICE CREAM
1/2 GAL CRTN **\$1.09**

NABISCO
RITZS
CRACKERS
12 oz. BOX **69¢**

FROZEN FOODS
PATIO 6 BEEF ENCHILADAS PKG. **63¢**
MORTON Cream PIES EACH **59¢**
MEADS FROZEN HOT ROLLS 24 PACK BAG **49¢**

ARMOUR
BEEF STEW 24 oz. CAN **83¢**
KRAFT BAR-B-Q SAUCE 18 OZ JAR **59¢**

NESTLE
COOKIE MIX
BAG **79¢**

I.G. DAIRY FRESH
BUTTER MILK 1/2 GAL CRTN **73¢**

I.G. DAIRY FRESH
HOMO MILK GAL. JUG **\$1.55**
NO DEPOSIT

I.G. DAIRY FRESH
HOMO 2 MILK GAL. JUG **\$1.45**
NO DEPOSIT

INSTANT TEA
LIPTON
3 OZ. JAR **\$1.29**
1 LIMIT

Fruit COCKTAIL 2 FOR **79¢**
OUR DARLING 303 -C.S.

CRISCO PINTO BEANS CASSEROLE BEANS 2 LB. BAG **35¢**
CAKE MIX FLOUR

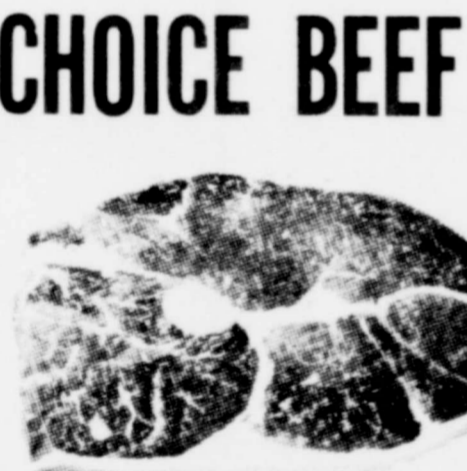
CREAMY **3 LB. CAN** **\$1.29**
(1 LIMIT)
DUNCAN HINES ASST. BOX **59¢**
GLADIOLA 5 LB BAG **69¢**

PILLSBURY
BISCUITS
4 CRTN PACK **49¢**

Golden CORN 2 FOR **49¢**
LIBBY'S 303 CUT

CARNATION INSTANT **BREAKFAST CRACKERS** BOX **79¢**
SUNSHINE **CRACKERS** LB. BOX **49¢**

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



Green BEANS 2 FOR **59¢**
DEL MONTE 303

WISHBONE 8 OZ. **French Dressing** **49¢**
TEXIZE WITH SPRAYER **Spray & Wash** 22 OZ. BOT. **\$1.39**

DELSEY **TISSUE** 4 ROLL PKG. **73¢**

CHOICE BEEF ROUND STEAK **\$1.69**
ROAST SHORT RIBS LB. **\$1.09**
CHOICE BEEF RUMP-ENGLISH OR ARM
HAM DINNER GOOCH BR BONELESS COOKED LB **\$1.00**
BACON SAUSAGE GOOCH BR GERMAN STYLE PKG. **\$1.98**
FRANKS DECKER 12 OZ. PKG. **\$1.19**
LIVER FRESH PORK LB. **93¢**
93¢
69¢
33¢

SAUERKRAUT 2 FOR **59¢**
VEG-ALL

BEST MAID 16 OZ. **PICKLES** **49¢**
DILL OR H.B. DILL
DETERGENT 7 LB. 3 OZ. **\$1.49**
LIQUID FABRIC SOFTNER

FRESH LETTUCE LB. **25¢**

BORDENS **CHEESE**
1/2 MOON 9 OZ. **89¢**

DEL MONTE **RAISINS**
15 OZ. BOX **89¢**

VICKS **NYQUIL**
6 oz. BOT. **\$1.49**

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

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS
CARSON'S SUPER MARKET
MERKEL TEXAS
FRESH VEGETABLES
FREE DELIVERY MON WED FRI
BEST MEATS IN TOWN

Beta Valent Sweet will be at the
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Stra A. Bis and I probl it— soupe Load every from!
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Don meeti Marcl