

Taylor County's  
Only Legal  
Weekly  
Newspaper

# The Merkel Mail

15¢  
PER COPY

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1977

VOL. 88 NO. 1

## Merkel Without Gas Thursday

Merkelites were shocked Thursday when gas service stopped at approximately 11 a.m.

Because Merkel is supplied by two lines, one from Abilene and the other from Sweetwater, an unusual problem arose. The problem was—the line out of Abilene was down due to repairs when the Sweetwater line ruptured. When this happened, all

gas to Merkel was cut off. Castille Hardware, the local office for Lone Star Gas representative Bill Harris, was swamped with calls.

Immediately after finding out that no one in town had gas, Bill Harris called the Lone Star office in Abilene. Pat Castille said, "It was amazing how fast things started popping

around here. In an hour the extra crews were over here to start the procedure for restoring service." Two member crews came from Abilene, Sweetwater and Stamford.

The first thing the crews had to do was turn off all meters before the line could be repressurized. By 4 p.m., with hard and steady work, the men had

all meters turned off. Pat Castille said, "it was one of the most coordinated groups I've ever seen. They knew exactly what to do and how to do it quickly."

A Lone Star representative said that a plan for this type of situation had been worked out previously in case of tornadoes and other types of disasters.

Most Merkel residents had their gas service restored by late Thursday evening. The out of town crew checked out of the local office Friday afternoon at 5:30. Almost all residents and business had service by this time—however, Bill Harris worked Saturday to finish up on residents who had not been at home the previous day.



Pictured from left to right, are: Mrs. Bert Chapman, Mrs. J. T. (Jake) McMillon, Mrs. Joe McDuff and Mrs. Felton Saverance.

## Goals development selected as key school district target for Trent

The establishment of a set of educational goals for the Trent Public Schools has been designed by the Board of Education as a major target for the Board and school staff during the Spring semester.

A District Goals Development Committee will begin work early in the year to draft a listing of preliminary educational goals. These goals will be presented to the patrons of the district and to senior students at Trent High

School for evaluation in terms of their relative importance and the perception of how well the present programs of the school district are meeting the needs indicated. Following this period of community evaluation, a final draft of "Goals for Public Education in Trent" will be presented to the Board of Education for review and formal adoption. These goals will then form the basis for an in depth examination of the school program to determine how well students are prog-

ressing toward the goals and which areas of the program may require attention. This program of self-evaluation will be conducted by the school staff during the 1977-78 school year. Results of this two phased program of community and staff assessment will be incorporated into a district Master Plan which will serve as a focal point for planning over a five-year period.

This program of goals development, evaluation,

and plan-making will be undertaken in accordance with standards adopted by the State Commission on School Accreditation in 1974, which called for a greater and more intensive development of educationally accountable programs based upon responsible local control.

Roy Neff will chair the Goals Development Committee of the Trent Public Schools which includes among its members: Bruce Thomas, Betty Kindard, Vera Sharp, Betty Freeman, Rosemary Bland, Kenny Nance and Glynn Dunn.



Firemen of the Year, pictured from left to right Donny Cloyd and Jerry Horton.

## Annual Firemen Banquet Held Monday Night

The Merkel Volunteer Fire Department held their annual Firemen's Banquet Monday, February 14 at the Lions Club Building.

Otis Wiley, investigator for the District Attorney office and former Merkel resident was guest speaker. He spoke on his belief in God had gotten him where he is today.

Honored as Firemen of the Year was shared by Donnie Cloyd and Jerry Horton. Cloyd has been in the fire department 3 years and Horton, 11 years and is president of the fire department.

Years of service was announced with Waymon Adcock 35, Rex Martin 29, A. L. Chancey 24, Roy

Buchanan 20, Robert Harris 16, Billy Lucas 14, Henry Brady and Jerry Horton both 11, Pat Palarez 8, Roy Schultz 5 and Ikey Garrett 4.

Serving 3 years are Donnie Cloyd, Leroy Austerman, Jackie Cannon, Ben Cox, Richard Hernandez. For 2 years service Bob Reynolds, Ray King, Jack Martin, Joe Swinney. In the department for 1 year are Paul Crouse, Donald Martin, Bart Whisenhunt, Mitchell Atkinson and Ray Delacruz.

Guest included Mr. and Mrs. Joe McDuff, Mayor and Mrs. Lou David Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Morgan, Mrs. Fannell Boney,

Mrs. Leona Wiley and Mr. and Mrs. Otis Wiley.

## CAP to Help Winterize

Mrs. Leon Harris, local Community Action Program representative, has announced that CAP is putting into action a program that will help local families that fit within the poverty guidelines. Families that are within these guidelines will be allowed to get help in winterizing if they own their home.

Mrs. Harris also said that poverty guideline families should contact her if the need help in starting a garden this year. Seeds in particular will be available.

Anyone that needs help and can qualify should contact Mrs. Harris at 928-5204 or 928-5859.

### NOTICE

to all Chamber members

Benny Melton, manager of the Merkel Chamber of Commerce, has asked that all chamber members turn in their ballots for directors. The deadline for casting ballots is Monday, morning, February 28th.

Bonus Bucks deadline

Benny Melton reported that approximately \$30 of bonus bucks are still out. Deadline for these is March 9th.



By Martha Sue

Justice

Things were really popping around Merkel this past Thursday. Along with a small grass fire behind the Merkel Mail office and gas being off all over town—it was almost too much for one day. I think it would be a fair guess to say that local Lone Star Gas representative, Bill Harris, is glad the crisis is over.

Brother N. S. Daniels is home after a lengthy stay in the hospital. The last report was that he is recuperating very well.

I talked to Annette Clark today to see if she had heard any news and if she had pulled any dumb stunts lately. Her reply—I pull about three every day—but I'm sure not going to tell you about it—So I would appreciate it if someone would keep an eye on her and then when you catch her in one of her dumb stunts—Call me immediately!

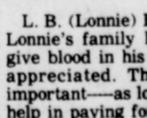
News Flash!—Annette Melton cleaned house this past weekend and would like to notify all friends, relatives and neighbors to come over to visit just as soon as possible—that is—before Benny, Jan and Ann tear it up again!

I heard this week that one of the ladies in Lambda Beta Sorority, (She wouldn't let me use her name) has a husband that always prepares supper for her and the family on sorority meeting nights.—I just wonder if all the other husbands do the same—How about it girls?

Fred and Leta Heady seem to be in good spirits this week after a short vacation. A little bird told me that they also had another reason for being so happy! If I'm not mistaken—a big bird is going to be calling at their home!

An early congratulations to Jo Wheelless and Bob Hooks who plan to be married sometime this coming weekend.

L. B. (Lonnie) Hester is now in Hendrick Hospital. Lonnie's family has asked that anyone wishing to give blood in his name to the blood bank would be appreciated. The type of blood donated is not important—as long as it is in Lonnie's name, it will help in paying for his expenses.



Justice

**MOC Students in action**



**Garth Doan**

Garth Doan, a junior in Merkel High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn Doan. Garth is 17 years old and works part time for Bassett Manufacturing. His current job at Bassett consists of helping construct houses and also clean up work. Working at Bassett five days a week, Monday through Friday and going to school in the afternoons, keeps Garth really jumping, but he really enjoys his work. Garth has played football for five years while attending the Merkel Schools. This is Garth's first year in the MOC program, and he says he definitely intends to participate in the program next year.



**Retha Parker**

Retha Parker, a senior in Merkel High School, is the daughter of Mrs. E. A. Mattingley. Retha's husband's name is Steve. This is Retha's first year in MOC and she thoroughly enjoys employment at Taylor Electric Cooperative. She is directly under the supervision of Don Hart and Margaret McAninch. Currently, Retha is operating Key Punch and doing general office work five days a week, part time. Retha, age 18, is a member of the National Honor Society, has participated in UIL events, served as assistant editor of the annual staff, and was a member of the band two years. She has also received medals in Home Economics, Speech and Mathematics.

**School Board Election Deadline March 2nd**

March 2nd is the last day to file as a candidate for a place on the Merkel School Board. It is also the last day to register and be qualified to vote in the school election. Anyone desiring to become a candidate must be a qualified voter, have lived in the state for at least 1 year and have lived in the Merkel Independent School District for at least 6 months. There are 3 vacancies to be filled this year. One 2 year term and two 3 year terms. Places up for election are presently held by Jacky Reynolds, Dink Whisenhunt and Leroy Teaff. To date Barbara Fowler, Leroy Teaff and Dink Whisenhunt have filed for a place on the ballot. The election will be held Saturday, April 2, 1977. Poling places are set for the Merkel High School gym and the Tye Elementary Cafeteria.

**Sick Pay exclusion changed**

The tax benefit allowing an individual to exclude a certain amount of sick pay from tax each year has been virtually eliminated and replaced with a much narrower provision. The tax benefit allowing an individual to exclude a certain amount of sick pay from tax each year has been virtually eliminated and replaced with a much narrower provision. The tax benefit allowing an individual to exclude a certain amount of sick pay from tax each year has been virtually eliminated and replaced with a much narrower provision.

The new change in the law, retroactive to January 1, 1976, does away with the up to \$100 a week sick pay which, under certain conditions, an employee could exclude from taxation. Taxpayers can find additional information in Publication 522, "Tax Information on Disability Payments" and by checking the instructions in their tax packages.

Now, an exclusion is only allowed for persons under age 65 who retire with a permanent disability, such an individual can exclude from taxation up to \$5,200 a year of disability income. The \$5,200 maximum exclusion is reduced once income reaches \$15,000 and phases out when income reaches \$20,200.



**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.

**Reddy's helpful tips for your HOME LAUNDRY**



Wash and dry a full load, but never overload... it is essential for each item to move freely for proper cleaning and drying.

Choose the correct cycle for washing modern materials. Perhaps hot water isn't needed, and only a gentle drying temperature.

Too much detergent can clog machine and always measure, don't guess!

Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for your type equipment.

Mixing brands of detergents can cause graying of clothes.



Many manufacturers of permanent press garments recommend machine washing and machine drying for best results. Following instructions on the garment tag can help preserve the life of your clothing and give you wrinkle-free clothes without need for ironing. A big savings!

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**Valentine Dance for Sweethearts**

Lambda Beta Members of Beta Sigma Phi attended the Valentine Dance Saturday, February 12th at the Abilene Civic Center. Sweethearts selected by each of the 17 chapters comprising the Beta Sigma Phi City Council were presented. Judy Elliott, Lambda Beta Sweetheart was presented. The music for the dance was provided by Southern Comfort, a four-piece band from San Angelo. Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Click were special guests and were presented a check from the benefit of the Tasting Tea held in memory of the Click's daughter Donea. Bill Askew, drama teacher at Lincoln Junior high was emcee for the evening.

**Riding Club News**

The Merkel Riding Club held their first meeting of 1977, February 17th. The purpose of the meeting was to elect new officers. Reporter-Elvalois Hatfield, Arena Directors-Don Simpson and Oscar Vaughn, Trail Boss-Benny Carroll, Head of Horse Show-Barbara Whisenhunt and L. J. Grey.

New officers are as follows: President-Walter Whisenhunt, Vice President-M. L. Dokey, Secretary-Nan Campbell.

**Emmett**

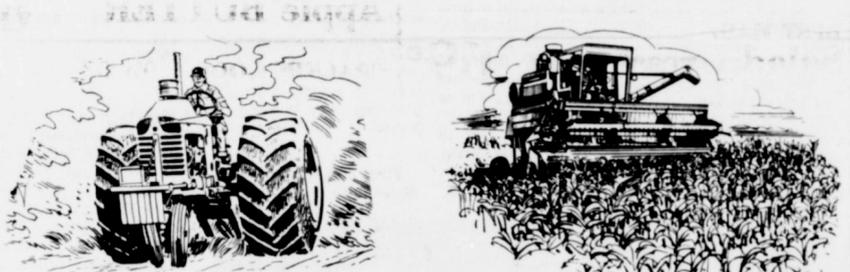
**Womack Dies**

Emmett Womack, 74, of Noodle died at 9:45 p.m. Sunday at his home of an apparent heart attack. Services were at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, February 17th at the Noodle Baptist Church.

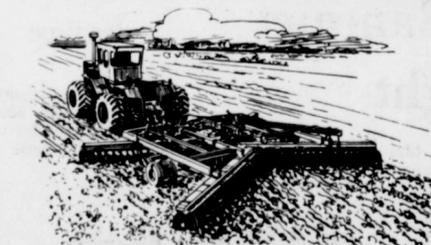
Q-May the child of a totally and permanently service-connected disabled veteran receive on-the-job training or enroll in a correspondence course?  
A-Apprenticeship or on-the-job training is available to children; however, only spouses, widows or widowers may take correspondence courses.

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HORMEL  
**FRANKS** 12 OZ 79¢

**Chuck Roast** LB 89¢

**Club Steak** LB \$1.39

BEEF  
**SHORT Ribs** LB 53¢

HORMEL  
**SAUSAGE** 12 OZ 89¢

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

NABISCO  
**CRACKERS** 1 LB BOX 49¢

BEST MAID  
**Salad Dressing** QT 69¢

HERSHEYS  
**Chocolate Syrup** 16 OZ 49¢

DEL MONTE  
**TUNA** FLAT CAN 55¢

BEST MAID  
DILL OR Hamburger DILL  
**PICKLES** 16 OZ 49¢

BEST MAID 28 OZ  
**Apple BUTTER** 69¢

CRACKIN' GOOD 9 1/2 OZ  
**Marshmallow Pies** 49¢

CARNATION  
**DRY MILK** 8 QT \$1.89

## KOUNTRY FRESH BREAD

1 1/2 LB  
LOAF 39¢

## BOUNTY TOWELS

BIG  
ROLL 49¢

## VEL BEAUTY BAR

EA 29¢

## IVORY LIQUID

22 OZ 79¢

## Gloss & Toss

TRIAL  
SIZE 10¢

## TIDE

GT  
SIZE \$1.29

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MEXICAN -SALTILLO-  
QUESO-ENCHILADA  
**Dinners** 59¢

HANDY PAK  
CRINKLE CUT 5 LB BAG  
**Potatoes** \$1.09

KEITH  
**Cut Corn** 1 1/2 LB  
**Green Peas** 59¢

## PRODUCE

TEMPLE  
**Oranges** LB 25¢

**Strawberries** PT 49¢

**Lettuce** EA 29¢

**Green Onions** 2/25¢

RUSSET  
**Potatoes** 10 LB BAG 89¢

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

**Green Beans** DEL MONTE CUT 303 CAN 29¢

**PEACHES** THRIFTY MAID NO 2 1/2 CAN 49¢

**Sauerkraut** STOKELY 17 OZ 29¢

**Sloppy Joes** MORTON HOUSE 15 OZ 69¢

**CATSUP** HUNTS 14 OZ 35¢

**Pork & Beans** CAMPBELL 300 CAN 2/49¢

**Mandarin Oranges** DEL MONTE 11 OZ 39¢

**FLOUR** GOLD MEDAL 5 LB BAG 79¢

MARIGOLD  
**MILK** 2% HOMO GAL \$1.45 REG HOMO GAL \$1.55 PLUS DEP

KRAFT  
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DUNCAN HINES  
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**Cake Mix** 59¢

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BETTY CROCKER  
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## The Merkel Mail

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46-tfc  
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## 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. R.C.Y. MASHBURN, Sec'y**

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## CARD OF THANKS

WE WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY to thank each one of you for the many acts of kindness and Christian love in our sorrow in the loss of our loved one. Thanks for the beautiful flowers and thanks to Brother Kenneth for the comforting scriptures he read from God's Holy Word. Thanks to the dear women who prepared the delicious meal, and most of all your prayers. May God bless each one, is our prayer always.

Mrs. Homer Campbell and Family  
 Mr. and Mrs. Odell Anderson  
 Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Anderson  
 1-1tp

WE WISH TO THANK Everyone who extended comforting words and help in our recent loss. For your calls, beautiful floral offerings, visits, contributions to the cemetery fund and the Rehabilitation Center, and your prayers, our sincere gratitude.  
 The A. C. Bland Family  
 1-1tc

THE FAMILY OF J. H. ROBERTS wishes to express their thanks for the many kind deeds, the flowers, food, visits and prayers during the loss of our loved one. We are deeply grateful to all.

Otis Foster Family  
 Fern West Family  
 Roy Roberts and Family  
 Troy Roberts and Family  
 Glenn Howard and Family  
 1-1tp

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FOR SALE-2 bedroom home. Call 928-5723.  
 1-1tp

ROSES, 99 cents EACH, Hardy Sub-Zero Azaleas, 99 cents each, Flowering Dogwoods, 99 cents each, Grape Vines, 99 cents each, Peach Trees, 99 cents each and many more. Send for 1977 Spring Growers Surplus Catalog listing Berry Plants (Strawberries, Blueberries, etc.) Cannas, Chrysanthemums, Baby Evergreens, Ferns, Foliage Plants, Fruit and Nut Trees, Geraniums, Gladiolus, Ground Covers, Ivies, Pansies, Shade and Flowering Trees and Shrubs, Vegetable Plants and Supplies. Send \$1.00 (\$1.00 refundable with first order) for catalog to: McBride Greenhouses and Nursery, Route 2, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130.  
 52-3tc

FOR SALE-Conn Cornet, gold, excellent condition. Can be seen at 1107 South First.  
 51-4tp

FOR SALE-1965 Chevrolet pick-up. Long, wide, V-8, automatic and air, 928-5324 after 4 p.m.  
 51-tfc

62 STREAMLINE, TRAVEL Trailer, for sale, 21 foot, self contained. Phone 928-4807, Ernest Teaff, Route 1, Merkel.  
 1-1tp

FOR SALE-Shallow well, water pump motor and small tank. Call 928-4984.  
 1-1tp

FOR SALE-1969 Ford Pickup - 1/2 Ton, Flatbed, 360 engine, standard transmission. 1406 S. 11th, or call 928-5630 after 6 p.m.  
 1-1tp

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 Small house in Merkel. Good for Retirees or a potential rent house. Priced under \$5,000.00.

House in TREAT, 4 bedrooms, large family area, horse stalls. Priced in the \$20,000's. Call Downing & Baggett Real Estate, Abilene, 698-9056.

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DELIGHTFULLY decorated 3 bedroom home, paneled den, mirrored wall in master bedroom, patio, grill, water well. Cash, equity or new loan. 7.97 ACRES east of Elm-dale and south of I-20. SPEEDWASH - 16 washers, 6 dryers, fully equipped, steel building, 75 x 150 lot. Own the only one in town!  
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 Billy & Pat Neff... 928-5623  
 Shannon Teal... 692-0787  
 Pauline Butman, GRI... 692-2222  
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## Mulberry Canyon 4-H News

Mulberry Canyon 4-H Club met Monday, February 14 at their club house.

President Dee Deemasonheimer called the meeting to order.

Cindy Hutchings led the 4-H pledge and prayer.

Sheila Swinney led the American Pledge.

Secretary Sherri Williams gave the roll call and read the minutes.

Jo Anna Talent gave a report on the Rifle Club meeting.

Sherrie Dunn gave a report on the Taylor County 4-H Food Show.

Stock Show results were given by Leslie and Dee Deemasonheimer, also Tommy and Sheila Swinney.

Sherrie Dunn introduced her guest, Robert Boyd who gave the program on demonstrations.

Robert is a former 4-H'er, he won first in State Competition with his demonstration his last year in 4-H. He will be our demonstration project leader.

Our next meeting will be March 14 with guest speaker, Mr. Bill Button of West Texas Utilities. He will give a program on "Safety with Electricity."

We have one new member, Angie Greer.

## Merkel Garden Club News

The Merkel Garden Club met February 17th for a luncheon in the Methodist Fellowship Hall.

After lunch Mrs. Raymond Ferguson presided at the business meeting.

Mrs. Aaron Sudderth brought an interesting program on "Thoughts Turned Toward Spring." Several of the members brought spring arrangements.

Members present were: Mesdames Tom Allday, Oda Clark, Mary Click, Albert Criswell, Lottie Everett, Raymond Ferguson, Ora Griggs, Allen King, E. J. Patterson, G. R. Peachey, Tom Russom, John Shannon, Charlie Sherrill, Arron Sudderth, Jarrett Williams and Morris Smith.

## License Sticker Sale

Taylor County Tax Assessor Collector, Richard Petree and staff will be in Merkel at Max Murrell Chevrolet February 26th and March 12th issuing license stickers. Both of these days fall on Saturdays-so don't forget or put off buying your stickers before the deadline April 1st.

**CARPET CLEANERS**  
 Deep soil extraction, Steam Process. Free Estimates, Reasonable Rates. Pete Ybarra  
**692-7576 (ABILENE)**



**Why are you taking my picture?**

This is what Misti Hatley seems to be saying as her picture was taken! Misti is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hatley of Trent. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Swinney. Paternal grandparent is Mrs. Linnie Hatley of Merkel.

**Maxine Mansfield Dies**

Mrs. J. L. (Maxine) Mansfield, 64, 1025 North 18th died at 7:15 a.m. Monday, February 21st at her home of natural causes. Services were at 3 p.m. Wednesday, February 23rd in Elliott-Hamil Chapel of Faith.

The Rev. Oscar Fanning pastor of the Wiley Baptist Church officiated, assisted by Bill Austin, pastor at University Baptist. Burial was in Elmwood Memorial Cemetery.

Born Maxine Benson December 9, 1912 in Hamlin, she was graduated from Hamlin High School in 1930 and entered Hendrick School of Nurs-

ing in 1932. She was employed as nurse at Hendrick until retirement in 1966. Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Mansfield were married October 11, 1945, in Abilene. She was a member of University Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband; a brother, Carroll Benson of Merkel; a nephew, Bob Benson of Colorado City; and a niece, Ann Scott of Austin.

Pallbearers were Bob Benson, Arthur E. Hall, Ray Trammell, Bill Scott, Buster Farr, James Farr, J. T. Watts and Arthur E. Hall.

**Joseph Roberst Dies**

Joseph Henry Roberts, 94, of Merkel died at 10:40 a.m. Thursday, February 17th at Starr Nursing Home following a short illness. Services were at 3 p.m. February 18th at Starbuck Chapel.

The Rev. Russell McAnally, pastor of the United Methodist Church, and Larry Gill of the Church of Christ officiated. Burial was at Rose Hill Cemetery directed by Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born November 15, 1882, in Wise County, Roberts moved to Oklahoma as a child. He married Lillie Mae Cochran in 1908 in Grannett, Oklahoma. Mrs. Roberts died in 1916. Mr. Roberts then moved to Chico in 1917 where he was a grocery merchant and married Dona Bell Adams in 1928. They moved to the Merkel area in 1938 and Mrs. Roberts died in 1949.

Mr. Roberts was employed as an instrument repairman for the White Music Company in Abilene and retired in 1949. He was a member of the Methodist church.

Survivors include two sons, Roy Roberts of Arlington and Troy Roberts of Dallas; two daughters, Ruby Foster of Merkel and Mrs. Fern West of Arlington; a nephew, Glenn Howard of Artesia, New Mexico; nine grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

**Girl Scout Week starts March 6th**

Girl Scouts are celebrating their 65th anniversary on March 12, 1977. It all began with Juliette Low who had helped Sir Robert Baden-Powell and his wife, Lady Baden-Powell with the beginnings of Girl Scouting in England, returned to her home in Savannah, Georgia, bringing with her the new program for girls of the United States. The first troop was formed on March 12, 1912 with eighteen girls.

Girl Scout Week this year will be observed 6-12. Traditionally there are seven Service Days, each emphasizing a particular activity:

Girl Scout Day is on Sunday, renewing the Promise: "On my honor I will try to serve God-my country and mankind, and to live by the Girl Scout Law." Homemaking Day is Monday; Citizenship Day is Tuesday; Health and Safety Day is Wednesday; International Friendship Day is Thursday; Arts Day is Friday; and Out-of-Doors Day is Saturday.

In honor of the 50th

anniversary of the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund Girl Scouts this year will put especial emphasis on International Friendship Day of the Girl Scout Week. Juliette Low felt that the worldwide family circle of friendship with girls is important to young people who want a world of friends. In observance of this Golden Anniversary, an opportunity has been provided for all Girl Scout members to know about the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund that each troop might contribute to the World Association of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides by giving to the fund.

Girl Scouts give to the JLWF Fund ANYTIME, at troop meetings or special occasions such as Juliette Low's October 31 Birthday, Thinking Day, February 22, or Girl Scout Week, International Friendship Day.

Contributions are made by girls who give a penny donation for "each year of age," "each centimeter around their waist," "each button on their clothing," each "kilo-

gram of weight" or by any other system.

Girls know WHY they give: to share friendships with "sisters" in other cultures; to help support the four world centers where Guides and Scouts can get to know each other; to help Scouts in other lands who need trainers and equipment; and to help girls who travel a cross national borders.

A 1977 goal for the West Texas Girl Scout Council is to have each troop contribute to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund. One hundred percent troop participation will make our Council eligible to apply for the special Juliette Low 50th Anniversary Recognition medal in commemoration of Council efforts to extend opportunities for international understanding to their membership. The Franklin Mint is casting the bronze medals showing Juliette Low's head on the obverse side and the World Friendship logo on the reverse.

**WWI vets**

The World War I Veterans and Ladies Auxiliary met February 19th at the R. E. A. building for a covered dish luncheon.

Plans were made for the District meeting of the 17th District which will meet March 19th at the R. E. A. building in Merkel.

There were 19 present which are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Albert Criswell, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Baze, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Kidd, Mr. and Mrs. Dent Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Bonneaux, Mr. Slim Reynolds, Mrs. Dewie Flemming, Mrs. Ruth Cox, Mrs. Trula Cox, Mrs. Vallie McLaurin, Mrs. Madge Crane and Mrs. Ora Griggs.

**Starr Nursing Home News**

Mrs. Harrison has improved and is again up in her wheel chair part time. Thanks to Dr. Sadler and to the staff for their good care for her.

We miss Mr. Henry Roberts very much. He went so fast with a heart attack we can't hardly realize he is gone. He was so appreciative of every little thing that we did for him. The care was good the food was good and he had nothing but praise for the home and when he went off for a few hours he was anxious to get "back home." He was such a darling man and we know that God welcomed him home although he let him stay here for 94 years. We express our sympathy to his family.

Joyce Minnich, Director of Nurses, entered Hendrick Hospital Thursday afternoon, had minor surgery Friday and came home Saturday and was back on the job Monday. Glad it wasn't serious.

Thanks to the family of Henry Roberts for the nice clothes they gave the home. Someone can get use out of them and will appreciate them.

Services at the Nursing Home Sunday morning were by the Church of Christ group and were enjoyed by all, but there will be one vacancy next Sunday. Eddie Whisenhunt was up to the singing in his wheel chair. We knew he was seriously ill but he was able to be up sometimes and Sunday morning was one of the times.

A group of members from the Church of God Prophecy of Tye filled their appointment Sunday afternoon. The singing was good and everyone helped them sing. One man came and brought his guitar which helped a lot as there was no pianist. We appreciated the visitors attending.

Corra Shugart our night medication nurse is feeling better and we hope she can still continue to improve but she has lost no time off the job which we appreciated as I say we have a real good staff at this time.

Brenda Roberts, Administrator has just completed a six month medication Nurse course from Cisco College.

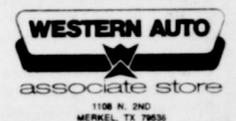
We have a new kitchen employee, Martha Jean Dunn of Trent. We think she is really good and very interested in her job. We hope she will be happy with us. We wish to thank her for all the nice quilt scraps, she gave the home to make lap robes.

Thank you Larry Gill for the nursing home schedule you left on my door Sunday night. I needed it to know who is supposed to hold services so I can check and we can get the residents out to church in time if we have services.

**Quick Quiz!**

Q. Are there more lamp bulbs in your car or in your home?

A. Surprisingly, there are more bulbs in the typical American car than in the average home. Another surprising fact is that at least one, and sometimes as many as 10, individual products used in virtually every domestic and passenger vehicle that comes off Detroit's production line are made by one company, Wagner. It's a corporation that has achieved world-wide recognition as a major manufacturer and marketer of a wide range of high-quality automotive products designed to help the driver stop safely, see and be seen more clearly. Interestingly, this 80-year-old firm was once known by several names - Wagner-Lockheed, Tung-Sol, and Wagner-Tung-Sol. Now it is known by one name, Wagner. Which makes it a lot easier.



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**IRS will compute tax**

Taxpayers can elect to have the Internal Revenue Service compute their income tax on either the short Form 1040A or long Form 1040 if they have an adjusted gross income of \$20,000 or less. Persons filing Form 1040 must also take the standard deduction to qualify for the computation.

Another requirement, according to the IRS, is that the taxpayer's income must be solely from wages, salary, tips, dividends, interest, pensions and annuities.

To take advantage of IRS computing the tax, the

taxpayer need only compute certain portions of his or her tax return, attach all W-2 forms, sign the return, and mail it by April 15 to the address listed in the tax instruction booklet.

The tax will be determined from the proper tax table and the taxpayer will either receive a refund for any overpayment or be notified of the amount of any tax due.

Exact details of which portions of the return must be completed in order to have IRS compute the tax appear in the tax package instructions mailed earlier to each taxpayer.

**Obtain Proof of Crop Ownership With Grain Warehouse Receipt**

AUSTIN—All Texas grain farmers are urged to obtain official grain warehouse receipts for their stored crop, according to Agriculture Commissioner John C. White.

"Farmers who receive nothing more than weight tickets as proof of deposit of their grain should exchange them for official receipts as soon as possible to ensure maximum protection under the law," White said.

In the event of a grain warehouse failure, a weight ticket holder could easily be inviting lengthy legal

haggling before taking possession of his grain, since scale tickets in themselves do not necessarily constitute legal proof of ownership.

On the other hand, White stated, warehouse receipts, obtained upon request from any grain warehouse, provide clearcut proof of ownership as legal negotiable instruments.

According to the Texas Department of Agriculture officials, warehouse receipts would have priority in any case of forced closure or bankruptcy.

**Community Service grant**

WASHINGTON, D. C. Congressman Omar Burleson announces the approval of a \$37,298 Community Service Administration grant to the Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Incorporated. The grant is effective March 1, 1977, and will run for twelve months.

The areas served are communities within 17 counties including Knox, Haskell, Jones, Fisher, Kent, Stonewall, Taylor, Nolan, Floyd, Crosby, Garza and Scurry.

The funds will be used for a program that will assist in establishing or expanding business and services operated by local individuals and groups; encouraging the location of outside industry for the communities; and promoting tourism projects and the development of natural resources.

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SOFT COLORS, BEAUTIFUL FEMININE STYLES SIZES 12½, 14½, and 16½

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| <b>TOMATOES FRESH</b><br>2 LBS \$1.00                      | <b>BOLOGNA GOOCH</b><br>1 LB \$1.00                            | <b>CORN DOGS READY TO COOK</b><br>6 FOR \$1.00                          |
| <b>ITALIAN BEANS DEL MONTE NO 300</b><br>3 FOR \$1.00      | <b>LIBBY SWEET PEAS</b><br>17 OZ<br>3 FOR \$1.00               | <b>TOAST EMS</b><br>10½ OZ BOX<br>2 FOR \$1.00                          |
| <b>CRYSTAL WHITE LIQUID FOR DISHES</b><br>48 OZ \$1.00     | <b>AUSTEX CHILI WITH BEANS</b><br>15 OZ CAN<br>2 FOR \$1.00    | <b>JELLO INSTANT PUDDING MIX VANILLA OR CHOC. 4½ OZ</b><br>4 FOR \$1.00 |
| <b>REFRIED BEANS GILBERTS</b><br>15 OZ CAN<br>3 FOR \$1.00 | <b>DR PEPPER DIET OR REG</b>                                   | <b>HUNTS STEWED TOMATOES NO 300</b><br>2 FOR \$1.00                     |
| <b>TABBY TENDER BITS</b><br>6 OZ CAN<br>5 FOR \$1.00       | <b>PEPSI DIET OR REG</b><br>32 OZ<br>4 FOR \$1.00 PLUS DEPOSIT | <b>KOOL AID</b><br>10 PKGS. \$1.00                                      |
| <b>COMET CLEANSER</b><br>4 FOR \$1.00                      | <b>CARNATION INSTANT BREAKFAST</b><br>\$1.00                   | <b>SHASTA DRINKS</b><br>7 FOR \$1.00                                    |
| <b>HLC DRINKS</b><br>46 OZ CAN<br>2 FOR \$1.00             | <b>GLADIOLA CORN BREAD MIX</b><br>6 OZ PACKAGE<br>5 FOR \$1.00 | <b>DEL MONTE TOMATO SAUCE</b><br>8 OZ<br>5 FOR \$1.00                   |

**TENDER VITTLES**  
6 OZ BOX  
3 FOR \$1.00

**NINTH STREET GROCERY**

MON - FRI 7:00 - 8:30  
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**WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS**



New addition architect, Don Hampton.

## Bearty Pageant Date Set

Lambda Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi will sponsor this year's Miss Merkel Beauty Pageant. It will be held April 16th in the Merkel Auditorium. Local and area businesses who would like to sponsor a girl should contact Pat Castille, 928-5310 or 846-4431.

There will be five divisions for the girls. The first division will be Preschool, girls three years of age through five who have not started Kindergarten. The

second division will be Kindergarten through second grade. The third division will be third grade through fifth grade. The fourth division will be sixth grade through eighth grade. The fifth division will be ninth through twelfth grade. The winner of the fifth division (ninth through 12th grade) will be crowned Miss Merkel. For more information and to register, contact Milly Bright 928-5680 after four o'clock.

## Garden Potential Great in 77

Home vegetable gardens could pay off handsomely in 1977 due to current vegetable market conditions, says a horticulturist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

"Weather calamities in Florida and California and less than ideal conditions in South Texas will cause a sharp increase in the price of both fresh and processed fruits and vegetables this spring," points out Sam Cotner. "This means that home gardeners may be able to realize a substantial savings this year by growing many of their own groceries."

So Cotner encourages homeowners and others interested in starting a vegetable garden to start planning now.

"The key to a productive garden is to start planning early," he emphasizes.

"This means deciding on what to plant, getting the proper variety of seeds or

plants, and preparing the soil. Determining what type of fertilizer to use and how much is also important."

Determining this information early will be a big help at planting time, notes Cotner. The Extension Service has numerous publications available on various phases of gardening that will provide answers to many questions. Copies can be obtained from any county Extension office. County agents can also advise gardeners on the proper varieties of crops for that particular area; proper varieties are a critical factor for a successful garden.

As far as proper fertilization is concerned, it's wise to have the soil tested to determine exactly the amount and type of fertilizer needed, notes the horticulturist. Information on soil testing is also available from any county Extension office.

"Arm yourself with information and do some reading so that you'll be all geared up when planting time rolls around," emphasizes Cotner. "It can get you on the path to a successful and profitable garden in 1977."

## Medicaid Written Testimony

Many representatives from the public sector, including a number of welfare recipients, were unable to offer oral testimony to the Medicaid Task Force subcommittees recently because of distances between their homes and the hearing sites.

Testimony can still be submitted in writing by sending it to Mr. John Frannea, Medicaid Task Force, Department of Public Welfare, John H. Reagan Building, Austin, Texas 78701.

Persons submitting written testimony need not be concerned about any particular task force's area of interest. All written testimony will be screened by Frannea and submitted to the appropriate task force. Written testimony should be submitted by March 1.

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The beginning of construction for addition to Merkel Elementary.



Merkel School Board signing contract for the construction of the new addition to the Merkel Elementary. Pictured from left to right: Superintendent Travis Davis, Dink Whisenhunt, Leroy Teaff, Jackie Reynolds, James Boyd, Don Hart, and seated, Charles Jacobs.

# Renovation has begun in Middle School

The Board tabled the approval of the minutes of the last meeting, pending the cost of insurance for the school bus.

Payment of the bills was approved and the financial report was also approved.

The Board acknowledged receipt of a thank you note from the Merkel 4-H Club for the use of

school facilities and also a letter from Mrs. Mona Faye Bartlett, which was in appreciation to the Board.

Next on the agenda the Board discussed various phases of the construction and renovation projects. There was some concern expressed regarding the entrance and tie on to the

sewer and electrical lines. Also discussed was the need for bids on the plumbing work, they had received one bid as of Monday night.

The over-all personnel roster of the Merkel Independent School District was discussed at length in closed session.

Last on the agenda

Superintendent of Merkel Independent School District, Travis Davis gave his report to the Board. He reported that a new clock was installed at Tye School. He stated the clock replaces the old one for which parts could not be purchased.

The basketball game at

Snyder was discussed. There was also discussion on carrying two extra buses for students to attend the game.

It has been determined that Merkel received the bid on the bleachers at Rose Field House. The Board exchanged ideas on how to get them moved to Merkel.

Superintendent Davis also reported that renovation of one room in the Merkel Middle School has been completed. Included in this renovation was new paint, a new tile floor was laid, a suspended drop ceiling and new lights. The lights were furnished by the Merkel PTO.

## Xi Nu Chi News

Xi Nu Chi held their regular meeting in the home of Val Patterson February 15th.

The meeting was called to order by President Louise DuBose. The program, Practical Arts: for fun and Money was presented by captain Opal Garner and co-captain Val Patterson.

Louise DuBose reported on the new Community Action Program in Merkel, meals on wheels, and expressed a need for

volunteers to deliver for the program.

A nominating committee was appointed to elect officers for the coming year, Mamie Steck chairman with Charollette Starbuck and Connie Ybarra.

Refreshments were served by the hostess. Members present were as follows: Connie Ybarra, Kathy Leverich, Mamie Steck, Connie Harris, Opal Garner, Elizabeth Eager, Jocille Brady, Louise DuBose and Val Patterson.

## Charitable Contributions must be substantiated

All charitable contributions of property must be substantiated to be claiming a deduction, the Internal Revenue Service said.

Any deduction claimed for property donated to an organization must be verified through a statement to the IRS listing the dates and amounts of each contribution, the type of property donated, and the method of determining the property's value.

If used furniture, clothing or other property, for example, is donated, it may be claimed as a deductible contribution to the extent of its fair market value. Fair market value is the price at which the property

would change hands between a willing buyer and seller.

For each piece of property valued over \$200, the original cost or other basis in the property, fair market value, appreciation, conditions of the gift and a copy of the gift's appraisal must also be included in the tax return. This required information must accompany the tax return, according to the IRS.

Two free IRS pamphlets, Publication 561, "Valuation of Donated Property," and Publication 526, "Income Tax Deduction for Contributions," discuss contributions and can be obtained from most IRS offices.

## Brownie News

Brownie Troop Number 107 did real good this year on their cookie sale. The troop sold 43 1/2 cases of cookies. We had seven girls who sold 48 boxes or more, qualifying each of them for a cookie

patch. The girls are Angela Cannon, Angela Ortega, Kelly McRae, Kristy Elliott, Melissa Harris, Twila Williams and Angie Moreno. Angie Moreno sold the most with 51 boxes.

## Lambda Beta news

Lambda Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi held their regular meeting in the home of Mary Hill, Tuesday, February 15th. The meeting was called to order by President Betty Allday. Roll call was answered to the question "What are our responsibilities regarding our government or economy?" Captain Glenda Teaff and Co-Captain Barbara Welch presented the program Government - Economy with a guest speaker, Roberta Waters from the County Home Economist Agency gave a talk on our government's economy.

Beauty Pageant plans were discussed. It will be held April 16th in the

## SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

- FRIDAY**  
Hamburgers  
Lettuce, Tomatoes  
Onions and Pickles  
French fries with catsup  
Buns  
Orange freeze
- MONDAY**  
No School
- TUESDAY**  
Spaghetti with ground beef and cheese  
English peas with pimentos and onions  
Hot rolls  
Fruit float
- WEDNESDAY**  
Fried fish with tartar sauce  
Cole slaw  
Potatoes au gratin  
Hot rolls  
Chilled peaches with whipped topping
- THURSDAY**  
Beef and cheese pizza  
Buttered mixed vegetables  
Lettuce wedges with choice of dressing  
Chocolate cake with white frost icing

Q-I am attending school full time and receiving VA educational benefits that include an additional amount for my spouse and three children under age 18. I have a daughter, 19, attending college. Am I entitled to additional benefits for this child?

A-Additional educational benefits are payable for a child over age 18 while a veteran is in training half time or better, and the child remains in school and unmarried until age 23.

Q-My husband is a World War II veteran who added the total disability income rider to his National service Life Insurance policy. He has been totally disabled for about five years and has since received \$100 each month. How will that affect the face value of his basic policy?

A-It will have no effect. Benefits received under the disability rider will not decrease the face value of the NSLI policy.

**Mr. Merchant:**  
**Are You Being Bothered By Customers?**  
**You Can Stop This Annoyance ...**  
**Just Don't Advertise**  
**The Merkel Mail**

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**BIG BIG SAVINGS FINE QUALITY CLOTHING AND SHOES FOR THE FAMILY**

**JARMAN DRESS SHOES \$21<sup>99</sup>**      **100% POLYESTER DOBLEKNIT \$1<sup>00</sup> YD**

**8" LACE WORK SHOES \$23<sup>99</sup>**      **KING SIZE VALUE \$50<sup>00</sup> BEDSPREAD \$35<sup>00</sup>**

**8" STEEL TOE SHOES \$27<sup>99</sup>**      **TWIN SIZE VALUE \$19<sup>99</sup> BEDSPREAD \$12<sup>99</sup>**

**WORK OXFORD \$17<sup>99</sup>**      **HAND TOWELS SALE REG \$2<sup>49</sup> \$1<sup>19</sup>**

**TRACK SHOES \$3<sup>99</sup>**      **WASH CLOTHS REG \$1<sup>39</sup> 59<sup>c</sup>**

**JOGGING SHOES \$8<sup>99</sup>**      **EXQUISITE PURR PANTI \$2<sup>29</sup>**

**NYLON WINDBREAKER \$3<sup>99</sup>**      **TEXSHEEN BRIEFS \$1<sup>40</sup> PR**

**MENS SUITS \$55<sup>00</sup>**      **BLOUSES 1/2 PRICE**

**MENS DRESS SHIRTS \$9<sup>99</sup>**      **EASY STREET SHOES \$13<sup>99</sup>**

**MENS JEANS \$10<sup>99</sup>**      **DOUBLEKNIT PANTS \$10<sup>99</sup>**

**POCKET T SHIRT \$2<sup>99</sup>**      **DOUBLEKNIT PANTS \$10<sup>99</sup>**

**DANCE TO THE LIVE SOUNDS OF COUNTRY BREEZE**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26th**  
**AT THE MERKEL COUNTRY CLUB**  
**9:00 TILL 1:00**  
**ADMISSION \$1 PER PERSON**  
**COME IN EARLY AND ENJOY OUR STEAK SPECIAL FOR \$4<sup>99</sup>**  
**FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL 928-5514 OR 672-3942**

**ACTUAL USE REPORT** (7)

GENERAL REVENUE SHARING PROVIDES FEDERAL FUNDS DIRECTLY TO LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS. YOUR GOVERNMENT MUST PUBLISH THIS REPORT ADVISING YOU HOW THESE FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED OR OBLIGATED DURING THE YEAR FROM JULY 1, 1976, THRU DECEMBER 31, 1976. THIS IS TO INFORM YOU OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITIES AND TO ENCOURAGE YOUR PARTICIPATION IN DECISIONS ON HOW FUTURE FUNDS SHOULD BE SPENT. NOTE: ANY COMPLAINTS OF DISCRIMINATION IN THE USE OF THESE FUNDS MAY BE SENT TO THE OFFICE OF REVENUE SHARING, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20528.

| ACTUAL EXPENDITURES (Include Obligations) |             | THE GOVERNMENT OF MERKEL CITY |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|
| (A) CATEGORIES                            | (B) CAPITAL | (C) OPERATING / MAINTENANCE   |
| 1. PUBLIC SAFETY                          | \$          | \$                            |
| 2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION               | \$          | \$                            |
| 3. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION                  | \$          | \$                            |
| 4. HEALTH                                 | \$          | \$                            |
| 5. RECREATION                             | \$          | \$                            |
| 6. LIBRARIES                              | \$          | \$                            |
| 7. SOCIAL SERVICES FOR AGED OR POOR       | \$          | \$ 250.                       |
| 8. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION               | \$          | \$                            |
| 9. MULTIPURPOSE AND GENERAL GOVT          | \$ 13,000.  | \$ 37.                        |
| 10. EDUCATION                             | \$          | \$                            |
| 11. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT                    | \$          | \$                            |
| 12. HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT       | \$          | \$                            |
| 13. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT                  | \$          | \$                            |
| 14. OTHER (Specify)                       | \$          | \$                            |
| Computer Programming                      | \$ 800.     | \$                            |
|   | \$ 1,800.   | \$ 367.                       |

THE GOVERNMENT OF MERKEL CITY has received General Revenue Sharing payments totaling \$ 15,298 during the period from July 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976.

ACCOUNT NO. 44 2 221 003  
MERKEL CITY  
MAYOR  
MERKEL TEXAS 79536

(D) TRUST FUND REPORT (refer to instruction D)  
1. Balance as of June 30, 1976 \$ 8,794  
2. Revenue Sharing Funds received from July 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976 \$ 15,298  
3. Interest Received or Credited July 1, 1976 thru December 31, 1976 \$  
4. Funds Released from Obligations (if ANY) \$  
5. Sum of lines 1, 2, 3, 4 \$ 24,092  
6. Funds Returned to ORS (if ANY) \$  
7. Total Funds Available \$ 24,092  
8. Total Amount Expended (Sum of line 15, column B and column C) \$ 14,087  
9. Balance as of December 31, 1976 \$ 10,005

(E) CERTIFICATION: I certify that I am the Chief Executive Officer and have signed the information herein reported herein. I certify that this report has not been used in violation of either the priority expenditure requirements (Section 103) or the matching funds prohibition (Section 104) of the Act.  
Lou David Ellison - Mayor 2-16-77

**CRAWFORDS**  
PHO 928-5612 135 EDWARDS  
MASTERCHARGE LAY-A-WAY



VALENTINE KING & QUEEN AT STARR NURSING HOME Ruth Smith and E. A. Rutledge.

### Services Held for A. C. Bland

A. C. Bland Jr., 56, of Merkel and retired Abilene fireman, died at 8:30 a.m. Monday in Hendrick Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness. Services were at 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 15th, at Elliott-Hamil Chapel of Memories.

The Rev. Kenneth Jones, pastor of Merkel First Baptist Church officiated, assisted by the Rev. Jackie Reynolds, a Baptist minister. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery in Merkel.

Born August 27, 1920, in Merkel, he married Roberta Roe October 20, 1945, in Abilene. They lived in Abilene until moving to Merkel in 1966. He retired from the Abilene fire Department in 1970 after 29 years service.

Mr. Bland began working as a fireman in Abilene June 16, 1941, and retired as a shift forman at Station 7, 4317 North 10th. Fire Chief D. C. Musick said of Mr. Bland, "No matter how hot the fire, Lt. Bland would stay with it. He was a good man to have at your back."

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Mrs. Mike (Dianne) Davis of Waco and Mrs. Joe (Donna) Gilbert of Midland; a son, Mark Allen of the home; a grandson, Todd Davis of Waco; and a

granddaughter, Stephani Gilbert of Midland. Pallbearers were Howard Hill, Dub Vinson, Cramer Reynolds, James McBride, Billy Mims, Jim Haggard, Charles S. Godard and George Alsup.

Members of the Abilene Fire Department were honorary pallbearers.

The family requests memorials be made in the form of contributions to the West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

### Funeral held for Eddie Whisenhunt

Eddie Lee Whisenhunt, 74, of Merkel died at 7:40 a.m. Monday at Starr Nursing Home after a lengthy illness. Services were at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Lynward Harrison, a retired Methodist minister, officiated. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Born July 5, 1902, Mr. Whisenhunt lived most of his life in Mulberry Canyon where he was a farmer and rancher. He married Elsie Johnson in 1936 in Whiteface. Mrs. Whisenhunt died in 1948.

Survivors include several nieces and nephews. Nephews served as pallbearers.

### Lonnie Hester Funeral held

Lonnie Bailey Hester, 88, of Route 3 Merkel died at 7:30 a.m. Friday, February 18th at Hendrick Memorial Hospital. Services were at 11 a.m. Monday at the Elliott-Hamil Chapel of Faith in Abilene.

The Rev. Lynward Harrison officiated, assisted by the Rev. Raymond Elmore and the Rev. Ralph Odom, all Methodist ministers. Burial was in Elmwood Memorial Park.

Born September 4, 1888, in Lincoln County, he moved to Williamson County at age nine. He married Laura E. Hammonds December 12, 1909, in Rochester. They moved to Taylor County from Haskell County in 1942. He was a farmer and rancher and was a member of the Methodist church.

Survivors include his wife; two sons, Marvin of San Angelo and Lennol of Lubbock; three daughters, Bertha Hester of 849 Green, Naomi Hester of Merkel and Lucille Christmas of Pueblo, Colorado; a brother, Lewis of Rochester; two sisters, Carry Morris of Altus, Oklahoma, and Irma Russell of Haskell; eight grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Grandsons served as pallbearers.

## Visits and Visitors

Mr. & Mrs. Klauser to visit Whites

Mr. and Mrs. Klauser of California stopped in Merkel for a Merkel Mail to carry to Mr. and Mrs. Hi White.

Hi and Ann White have retired in West Palm Beach, Florida. The Whites were former owners of The Merkel Mail during the 40's and early 50's.

### Hewitt visitors

Larry and Patty Hewitt of Orange, Texas, son and daughter-in-law of the T. L. Hewitt's visited in their home over the week-end.

Hammond visitors

Visiting in the home of Bob and Mychele Hammond this past week were, Mychele's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Reed and sister, Lana. The Reeds and Lana are from Floydada, Texas.

### Riney visitors

Visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Riney this past week-end were, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Reynolds of Higgins, Texas and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hummel and children from Hobbs, New Mexico.

Reynolds attend funeral

Mrs. O. J. Reynolds and Bob attended the funeral of Mr. Jack Boland of May, Texas on February 15th. The funeral services were held at Higgin botham Funeral Home Chapel in Rising Star.

Burial was in Wolf Valley Cemetery in Brown County. Mr. Boland was an uncle of Mrs. Reynolds. Mrs. Reynolds spent part of week before last with her sister, Mrs. Lola Mae Haile who is in a Temple hospital. Mrs. Haile is a terminal cancer patient.

## Loan Sharking to be legalized?

"Finance companies are trying to pass a bill that will legalize loan sharking in Texas and clog the courts," said Senator Bill Patman of Ganado recently. "Loan company lobbyists have publicly called for raises in present interest rate limits to enable them to charge Texas borrowers as much as 25 percent more than the extra-high rates they are already gouging them with, the charges on a 37-month loan of \$1,000 would increase from \$339.17 to \$425.50 under the loan company proposal."

"Only \$165.87 can be charged for the same loan under the constitutional 10 percent limit, but in 1967 the Legislature authorized the \$339.17 finance companies now charge. Under the 1960 amendment to the Texas constitution, the limit of 10 percent only applies where the Legislature does not legalize higher rates. The Legislature is now unlimited by the constitution as to the interest rates it may authorize."

"Without new legislation, the loan sharking penalty for deliberately charging such outrageous interest (\$425.50) would be \$851.00, plus reasonable attorneys' fees fixed by the court. The loan company bill will not only

permit the lenders to escape the penalty of \$851.00 and the attorneys' fees but will enable the finance companies to go to Texas courts to enforce such unconscionable contracts," said Senator Patman. "Our already overcrowded court dockets will swell from lawsuits brought by loan companies to enforce the higher rates. The administration of justice will suffer throughout Texas."

"It is particularly inappropriate for loan companies to be seeking higher rates at this time. Their own borrowing costs have been sharply reduced in recent months, the prime rate has gone down from 12 percent in July of 1974 to 6.78 percent in October

1976 (latest month for which figures are available)—a decline of 43.5 percent. Yet these powerful special interests have served notice they intend to pressure legislators for a sharp increase in interest rates imposed upon Texas families," Senator Patman said.

"The battle against high interest rates will be more severe this coming Session than any in recent years. Unless people throughout our state get in touch with their legislators and other public officials, the loan industry will prevail. I urge the people of Texas to react strongly and contact immediately their senators and representatives, asking their opposition to the loan company bill."

AS DEMONSTRATED AT THE WEST TEXAS FAIR THE ORIGINAL NO-STICK COOKWARE BY T-FAL

**COLOR**  
100% PURE P.T.F.E. (INSIDE)  
WITH NO CHEMICAL PRIMERS, ADHESIVES OR BONDING AGENTS GENERALLY USED IN OTHER BRANDS OF COOKWARE

AVAILABLE AT  
**CASTILLE HARDWARE & GIFTS**  
214 EDWARDS PHO 928-5310

The bagpipe is not originally Scottish, but Persian.

**WESTERN AUTO**  
associate store  
1108 N. 2ND  
MERKEL, TX 76636

## Fiber Fashion Review Set for March 12

Fashion minded homemakers from across the Southwest will compete for a host of prizes and trophies during the National Fibers Fashion Review in Fort Worth on March 12, according to Jean VandeLune, coordinator for the fashion show and associate director, Natural Fibers and Food Protein Commission.

The J. C. Penney Company is providing the prizes for the winning entries. Tom Morgan, the company's regional public relations manager, says the two third place contestants will each receive \$50 gift certificates. Second place finishers will get \$75 certificates, while the two division winners will receive \$100 gift certificates. Winners also will receive trophies, and the Grand Award winner will be presented with a lovely piece of engraved silver-plate. Mementoes will be

given to 10 honorable mention contestants. The style show is held as a part of the Southwest Farm Show and Championship Tractor Pull, March 11, 12 and 13. It is co-sponsored by The Progressive Farmer magazine, who will present trophies to the winners, those eligible to enter are members of Young Homemakers of Texas and Oklahoma; wives of Young Farmers; wives of Southwest Tractor Pulling Clubs; and wives of members of the International Flying Farmers Association.

Garmets must be made out of part natural fibers — 50 per cent cotton and wool, and 10 per cent mohair, VandeLune pointed out. The style show is free and open to everyone and will begin at 4 p.m., Saturday, March 12, in the Tarrant County Convention Center.

**MERKEL COUNTRY CLUB**  
WEEKLY SPECIALS

Monday - Deep Fried Trout ..... \$2.95  
Wednesday - New York Steaks ..... \$5.75  
Friday - Fried Shrimp ..... \$3.25

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

**YOU CANT BEAT OUR ALA CARTE MENU FOR QUALITY, QUANTITY & PRICE**

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| CHICKEN FRIED STEAK     | \$2.55 |
| FRIED CHICKEN           | \$2.30 |
| OYSTERS                 | \$2.40 |
| SHRIMP                  | \$2.50 |
| CATFISH                 | \$2.50 |
| NEW YORK STEAK          | \$3.00 |
| STEAK FINGERS           | \$2.50 |
| HAM STEAK               | \$2.60 |
| LIVER & ONIONS OR BACON | \$2.50 |
| BAR-B-QUE BEEF          | \$1.98 |

**L & W SNACK BAR AND RECREATION CENTER**  
1035 N. 2nd Street (IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN MERKEL)  
928-5484

**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 25c EACH OR 5 FOR \$1.00

**THE MERKEL MAIL**

**OUR CLOSET IS FULL OF GREAT CLOTHES FOR SPRING**

FOR TEENS—JUST ARRIVED - BIB OVERALLS, WINDOW PANE JEANS, BIB SHORTS, A BIG ASSORTMENT OF SPRING TOPS, JUMPSUITS IN DENIM AND LINEN-LOOK FABRIC, AND GAUCHO OVERALLS!

|   |   |
|---|---|
| SUMMER PAJAMAS REG \$8 <sup>99</sup>                  | NOW \$6 <sup>99</sup>                       |
| LADIES TANK TOPS BY SHELLMASTER REG \$6 <sup>50</sup> | NOW \$3 <sup>00</sup>                       |
| BIG ASSORTMENT OF SCARF HATS                          | FROM \$3 <sup>00</sup> TO \$4 <sup>00</sup> |

LARGE SELECTION OF SPRING & SUMMER JEWELRY

**EMMAS CLOTHES CLOSET**  
131 KENT MERKEL

**DANCE**  
JOANIE DODSON  
& THE KOUNTRY KINGS

**MERKEL VFW**  
FRIDAY, FEB. 25th  
8:00 TO 12:00

MEMBERS AND GUESTS WELCOME

**Whites has it! AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TEXANS!**

Want to be your own boss? Own your own business! Each dot on the map indicates a city where WHITES is seeking a franchise to open and operate another WHITES AUTO STORE! Over 147 Texas towns to choose from, plus other prime locations in neighboring states. Could you be the one we're looking for?

WHITES is a complete home and automotive center with 650 modern stores in 17 states, including Texas, and plans rapid expansion in the South.

We'll put you on the road to success and lifetime security. Whites does not charge franchise fees or overrides on sales. Investment of \$30,000 and up is required, depending on the size store you select.

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ON THE MOVE IN TEXAS AND OTHER SOUTHERN STATES!

**BEST NEWS**  
in Today's Paper

**LOWER PRICES**  
on these  
**FOODS**



PRICES GOOD  
THURSDAY  
FRI & SAT  
FEB 24-25-26th

CRICKET  
LIGHTERS  
REG \$1.49 ONLY **89c**

CAPSULES  
CONTAC

10 CT  
PKG **\$1.29**

MARYLAND CLUB  
**COFFEE**  
LB CAN **\$1.98**

WITH \*10¢ IN TRADE OR MORE  
EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

**FROZEN FOODS**

WHOLE SUN  
**ORANGE JUICE** 12 OZ CAN **45c**

WELCH  
**DONUTS** PKG **53c**  
PATIO MEXICAN  
**DINNER** PKG **53c**

HERSHEY'S  
DARK  
CHOCOLATE  
**CHIPS** 12 OZ BAG **63c**

**MIRACLE WHIP** SALAD DRESSING PT **59c**

HUNTS  
2 1/2 CAN  
**PEACHES** 2 FOR **99c**  
CREAMY  
3 LB CAN **\$1.39**  
1 LIMIT

GLADIOLA 2 LIMIT  
5 LB BAG **55c**  
DUNCAN HINES  
ASST. BOX **59c**

DEL MONTE  
32OZ JAR **79c**

FRESH  
LETTUCE  
LB. **25c**



CALIFORNIA  
3 LB BAG  
**TANGERINES** **59c**

FRESH  
**TOMATOES** LB **49c**

TEXAS RUBY RED  
**GRAPEFRUIT** LB **19c**

GOLDEN DELICIOUS  
**APPLES** LB **29c**

RUSSET  
**SPUDS** 10 LB BAG **89c**

BORDEN  
**ICE CREAM**  
1/2 GALLON  
CARTON **\$1.09**

BORDEN  
**LOWFAT MILK**  
2 1/2 GALLON  
CARTONS **\$1.63**

DEL MONTE 40 OZ  
**Prune JUICE** JAR **73c**

DEL MONTE 303  
FRENCH  
STYLE **BEANS** 2 FOR **59c**

DEL MONTE 303  
**SPINACH** 2 FOR **53c**

OUR DARLING 303 C S  
**Golden CORN** 2 FOR **49c**

HUNTS 46 OZ  
**Tomato JUICE** CAN **49c**

RANCH STYLE 300  
**BEANS** 2 FOR **53c**

CHOICE BEEF  
**CHUCK ROAST**

EXTRA TASTY  
EXTRA TENDER  
EXTRA GOOD

MARKET "HOT" - LEAN  
**BAR-B-Q BEEF** BONELESS LB **\$1.89**  
LEAN LB **73c**

ARMOUR STAR ALL MEAT FRANKS  
**HOT DOGS** 12 OZ **49c**

ARMOUR STAR  
**BACON** POUND PKG **\$1.29**

ARMOUR STAR  
**HAM** COOKED BONELESS 3 LB CAN **\$5.39**

CHOICE BEEF  
**STEAK** ROUND LB **\$1.59**

FRESH  
**BEEF LIVER** CHOICE LB **65c**

GOOCH GERMAN  
STYLE **SAUSAGE** PKG **93c**

TEA BAGS  
**LIPTON**  
FAMILY 24 CT **\$1.19**

BORDEN  
**YOGURT**  
ASST 1/2 PT **29c**

BORDEN  
**BUTTER MILK**  
1/2 GALLON  
CARTON **83c**

MEADOLAKE  
**OLEO**  
SOFT LB **45c**

**SHOP AND SAVE**

SKINNERS 12 OZ  
**Egg Noodles** BAG **39c**

CARNATION  
**Coffeemate** 22 OZ JAR **\$1.59**

SODAPOP - 12 OZ  
**SHASTA TOWELS**  
DIET OR REG

6 FOR **89c**

HI-DRY  
**DASH** LAUNDRY DETERGENT CONCENTRATE  
FAMILY SIZE BOX **\$4.29**

GIANT SIZE  
**OXYDOL** BOX **\$1.15**

REGULAR SIZE  
**DAWN** BOTTLE **43c**

DISHWASHER  
**CASCADE** GIANT SIZE BOX **89c**

KEEBLER  
TOWNHOUSE  
**CRACKERS** LB BOX **79c**

NABISCO  
**DIP CHIPS** BOX **59c**

GRIFFIN  
PEACH OR APRICOT  
**PRESERVES** 18 OZ GLASS **69c**

LIBBYS  
VIENNA  
**SAUSAGE** 5 OZ CAN 2 FOR **69c**

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