

The Merkel Mail

Thursday, January 4, 1979...Merkel, Texas

15 Cents



Staff photographer Glenn Richards captured this icy scene that shows one of the pleasant side effects of an ice storm. The storm was blamed as the cause of six major accidents here Saturday night, with one fatality.

God's art

Sugerman says things going well

In a telephone interview Thursday, Cliff Sugerman of the International Furniture Corporation said he and his corporation had received many calls from interested real estate and contracting concerns about his startling announcement last week to build a 150,000 to 200,000 square foot factory in Merkel.

Sugerman said, "We have had offers left and right of people that want to sell property, people that want jobs, and contractors interested in getting some of our construction business."

Sugerman has been in contact with the Merkel Chamber of Commerce and is looking for tracts of land in the 300 to 500 acre range.

He said the reason he decided to make his intentions public was that the alternative was to have his real estate specialists go "Door to door" making offers. That way, word would get around soon enough. By going the route we are, we can now judge the reaction as well as the excitement of Merkel.

Sugerman said that Merkel was a logical choice for his corporation's efforts because of labor, transportation, low cost real estate and planning is right. Sugerman said, "we have six financial advisors in the International Furniture Corporation here and they studied the economic feasibilities of locating in Merkel and they told me it would work. That's what they get paid to do and I listen to them."

Sugerman said real estate representatives will be in Merkel within the next two weeks to be talking to people that have land available for sale. They are also looking at commercial property as well.

Sugerman said that as far as he knew, public reaction in Merkel was favorable so far and said he was sure that there would be some people that would not back his corporation's efforts.

According to Ann Clark and Mary White who operate Clark's Sign of the Times, people have been dropping by their store to find out more about International Furniture and to leave business cards for future reference.

Mail examines industrial attractiveness of Merkel (First of three parts)

International Furniture's recent announcement of plans to locate warehouse and assembly facilities in Merkel did not come as a surprise to everyone. For those who work in the area of transportation and industrial development it was just a matter of time before Merkel was "discovered". In order to explain why International Furniture and others have, and will, discover communities like Merkel, we are

preparing a series of articles entitled, Why Merkel? to be published over the next few weeks.

The first article discusses factors, such as transportation, land and building, considered by industries seeking new sites for their plants and warehouses. Further articles will consider markets, labor force, taxes, community utilities and services. Much of the material included in these articles has been provided by Hoy A.

Richards, a specialist in the field of transportation and economic development.

Mr. Richards lectures in the Industrial Development Course offered each year at the University of Oklahoma, South Florida University and Texas A&M University. He has more than 20 years experience in transportation research at Texas A&M University.

LAND-BUILDINGS-TRANSPORTATION

A few years ago staff at the Texas Transportation Institute, a part of Texas A&M University, conducted a study of the importance of the Interstate Highway in the selection of industrial plant sites. Owners or managers of 284 firms, that had recently located along Interstate Highways in Texas, were interviewed as a part of this study. Results of that study suggests that Merkel, like other similar size cities located along these major highways, would soon become prime locations for new industries expanding out of the large metropolitan areas. When plant owners were asked what was the principal consideration in the selection of their site, 30 percent stated that it was the availability of land and buildings. Transportation, including truck and rail, was the major factors considered by another 15 percent. Just these two factors alone account for almost one-half of the principal reasons why a specific plant site was selected.

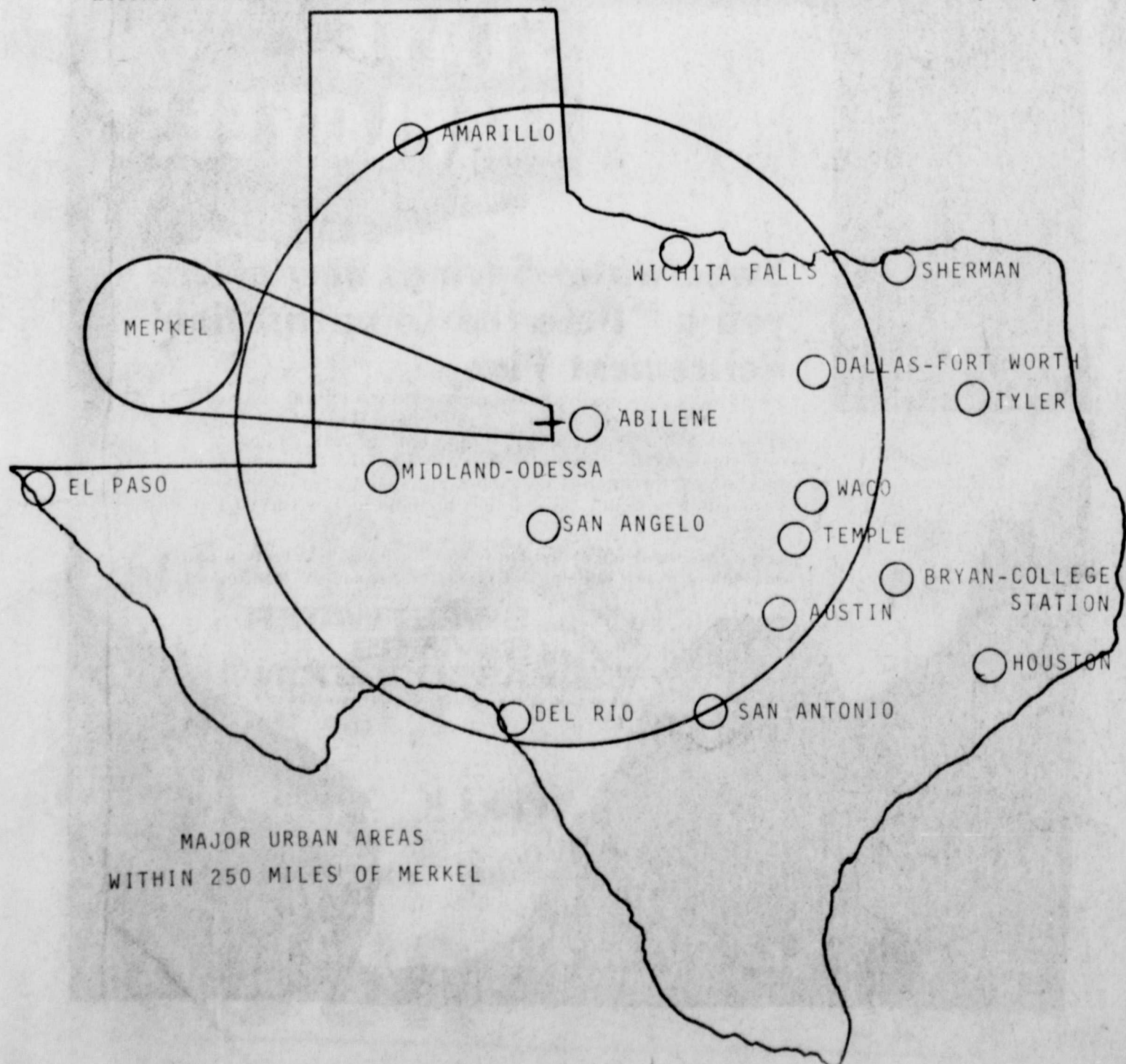
Why Merkel? Consider the fact that much of the land along the Interstate Highway is large metropolitan areas such as Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and Midland-Odessa has been developed. Much of this development is for traffic serving businesses such as motels, auto dealers, service stations, restaurants, shopping centers and fast food outlets. The increasing demand for

land to be placed in this type business use has driven up the price of the remaining land to the point where it is now quoted in dollars per square foot rather than dollars per acre. Also, as the metropolitan area expands land along the Interstate is subdivided into relatively small tracts for sale to additional traffic servicing businesses.

Industry producing goods such as furniture, clothing and food products require relative large buildings, many employees and considerable land for building construction and employee parking. As land and buildings become more costly in the large metropolitan areas owners of furniture, clothing, and food products plants and warehouses seek and discover communities like Merkel. In general these industries prefer their plant at a site on an Interstate Highway 10-30 minutes from a large metropolitan area where needed goods and services, not available in the smaller community, can be obtained. They desire relatively large tracts of land with highway frontage and rail service to the site. Available buildings are always desirable however, many choose to build their own facilities to suit their special requirements.

Merkel has land to offer. Land to the east and west of the city, which has both Interstate Highway and railroad service. Land that is within 20-30 minutes from the metropolitan area of Abilene and yet not as expensive. Although, there are buildings in Merkel that could be used as offices and retail outlets, other buildings would have to be constructed for assembly plants and warehouse use. Cost of construction in Merkel would probably be less than in the large metropolitan areas.

Continued on Page 2



Ice storm causes one death

The ice-storm that began painting it's post card like scenery around Merkel Saturday, caused the death of a Lampasas woman as her car collided with a tractor trailer rig on I-20 Saturday night. Vickie Lynne Bear died at approximately 8 p.m. Saturday as she was traveling east bound on the iced over highway. Her car began skidding and went into the semi. Another car slammed into the wreckage of the two vehicles. The truck driver and the driver of the other car were not hurt.

Merkel Police reported six wrecks Saturday night that were determined major. Approximate-

ly 14 fender benders were reported by local officials.

The icy conditions forced slow driving, and at times, no driving on Interstate 20 between Big Spring and Dallas on Saturday. Portions of the Interstate were temporarily blocked by wrecked vehicles.

The Big Country Inn reported being full for three days as many motorists stayed in Merkel and decided not to risk any more driving. Merkel streets were covered with snow and ice Sunday and Monday and at press time Tuesday.

Why Merkel? ...continued

FACT A: For the 30 percent of the plant and warehouse owners who consider land and buildings as a major factor in the selection of a site Merkel will score high.

The Texas A&M study also found that another 5 percent of the 284 plant and warehouse owners considered transportation to be the principal factor in selecting a site for their business. Although truck service was the most important mode of transportation for shipping goods from their plant, most plant owners preferred rail for the inbound movement of their raw materials. This points to the importance of both rail and truck service in the site selection. Why Merkel? Interstate Highway 20 not only links Merkel with the 41,000 mile National Interstate Highway System but also places a large portion of the population of Texas only hours away from a distribution point in Merkel. Most shippers consider a 200-300 mile distance to be ideal for truck transportation. At these distances same-day service can be provided. Within this highway mileage range of Merkel is Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Amarillo, Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, Wichita Falls, Waco, Temple, Denton, Sherman, College Station-Bryan, Tyler and other population centers. Also within the range, just 250 miles to the south, is Del Rio, an export-import gateway for international trade with Mexico. Although Houston, El Paso, Oklahoma City, Denver, and Shreveport are outside the range, over night truck service to these major metropolitan areas from a Merkel plant site is feasible. You only have to drive Interstate 20 to Abilene to become aware of the large number of Truck Lines that operate through Merkel. Although there are a limited number permitted to serve Merkel directly, with expanding economic activity other Truck Lines will discover Merkel. Plant and warehouse owners also have an option to use their own trucks, or contract for truck service. In fact, the A&M study found that almost two-thirds of the goods shipped from plants, included in the survey, were moved by private truck.

Railroads also move goods within the 200-300 mile range, however these goods are usually low value bulk commodities with time in transit not being a critical factor. In general, railroads are more efficient, and therefore their service less expensive for movement of goods at distances greater than 200-300 miles. Trailer-on-flat-car or "piggy back" service as well as new marketing techniques developed by the railroad industry provide truck competitive service for both inbound and outbound movements. Merkel has only one railroad servicing the community. However, this Class I railroad is a part of the Missouri Pacific Lines, a railroad that is one of the most progressive and financially secure in the nation.

This rail line provides direct service to the west with connections to the Pacific Coastal area. To the east, Merkel is connected by the MP rail line to Dallas-Fort Worth, Little Rock, St. Louis and Chicago. Most Texas Gulf Ports, including the Port of Houston, are served directly by the MP. Not only does the MP provide this direct rail service but also connects Merkel with the more than 200,000 miles of railroad serving this nation.

FACT B: For the 15 percent of the plant and warehouse owners who consider transportation as a primary factor in the selection of a location for their facilities, Merkel should receive a high score.

It seems reasonable to assume that it was just a matter of time before Merkel was discovered by industries seeking to take advantage of land, buildings and transportation factors that are available in Merkel. Since these factors account for almost 50 percent of the primary considerations in site selection, it is not surprising that there is interest being shown by firms such as International Furniture. Even if this firm eventually does not choose Merkel, the announcement of its interest will make others even more aware of Merkel and will lead to additional discoveries.

Next week we will discuss market potential and labor supply as we continue to explain Why Merkel.

Merkel getting 60 federal apartments

Annette Clark, Executive Director of Housing Authority for the City of Merkel has received word from the Farm and Home Authorities that half of the 60 apartment Government subsidized housing that they have requested have been approved.

The housing will be for persons 62 and over and persons who are handicapped and make less than \$1000 dollars a year. The rent for the apartments is based on the family's income. The rent is basically 1/3 of the renters monthly income, but there are other stipulations and certain amounts of utilities are paid.

The housing authorities have three or four different lots on option now East of Taylor Street. Further action cannot be taken until an

Appraiser from the Farm and Home Authorities gives the final O.K. so that bids can be accepted from local contractors. Mrs. Clark said that if everything goes right, the apartments may be finished by the summer or early fall. At present, there are other subsidized housing in Merkel, including 24 units of low rent housing at Brickhaven and 20 subsidized houses where families pay 25 percent of the rent and the government picks up the rest.

"If the other thirty units are not O.K. then the community will be out the community building that is planned to go along with the 60 unit project, if given the go-ahead signal," said Mrs. Clark. Anyone that thinks they would be eligible for this housing and are interested in further information, should talk to Mrs. Clark.



Cowboy coach Tom Landry, surrounded by frozen fans, looks concerned during Saturday's playoff in Dallas. The Cowboys, by beating Atlanta, are in the NFC finals against Los Angeles. If Dallas and Houston both win this week-end, it sets up a shootout in Miami with an All Texas Super Bowl. (Staff photo by Melanie Richards)

Merkel 4-H, FFA hold stock show

The Merkel 4H and FFA chapters held their annual livestock show last Saturday, despite icy weather and Michelle Brown, Buster Brown and Taresia English didn't seem to mind at all.

They came away big winners as Michelle showed the grand champion market lamb, Buster showed the reserve champion steer and Taresia won the Taylor Electric Award for best showmanship and sportsmanship.

Walter Elmore, a FFA sophomore, showed the reserve champion heifer and Jan Melton showed the reserve market lamb.

Cindy Boone showed the grand champion hog in the 230 pound crossbreed and Billy Ray Riley

showed the reserve 200 pound Hampshire barrow.

Other winners and runner ups (in order) were given to Maury Moore, light hogs, Todd Robertson, Billy Ray Riley, Kelly Knight and Maury Moore in medium weight hogs. In the crossbred lambs division, Jan Melton, Melody Pape and Jay Gibson took awards. In fine wool lambs, it was Jay Gibson and Shannon Boyd; in medium wool lambs, it was Michelle Brown and Jan Melton. Southdown honors went to Michelle Brown and Sheila Swinney.

Mark Bunch took all of the awards in the Broiler division and David Wilkerson, Larry Land and Jay Campbell took awards in the rabbit division.



Too Tall Jones and Charlie Waters unstack after the doomsday defense smothered Falcon running back Bubba Bean. (Staff photo by Melanie Richards)

Bids going out for Blair water

Rural dwellers south of Merkel will be getting water lines soon thanks to the efforts of the Blair Water Supply Co-Op.

At their regular monthly business meeting last Thursday, the board of directors set Jan. 11th as the date the bids for construction of the water line will go out. The meeting gets underway at 7 p.m. in the Taylor Electric Co-Op Building. The Blair Water project is being funded by a federal grant of \$396,000 and a loan for the same amount. The loan will be paid off through collection of water bills.

More than 210 applications for water service has been accepted by the Blair group and the group will take applications up until Jan. 11th. Persons interested in being served by the line need to contact J.D. Sandusky or any of the

Blair Water Supply board members. The project was started in September of 1976.

and bids for the construction of the line will be opened at the regular business meeting in

February. That meeting is set for Feb. 15th at 7 p.m. in the Taylor Electric Co-Op building.

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ESLIC



Dunn dies at 53

John Gwynn Dunn, 53, of Phoenix and formerly of Merkel, died at 3 p.m. Thursday of a heart attack. Services are pending in Phoenix.

Mr. Dunn attended Merkel schools and graduated from a Phoenix high school. He was in the insurance business.

Survivors include his wife, a daughter, two sons, his mother, Mabel Russell Dunn of Phoenix and formerly of Merkel, a twin brother, Selma Glynn of Phoenix, two aunts, Mrs. John Warlick of 2902 Simmons and Mrs. Leo Harris of Merkel, two uncles, James Russell of Rt. 1 and S.G. Russell of Merkel, and a grandson.

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BOX 75¢

BACON GOOCH BLUE RIBBON LB \$1 43

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TOP ROUND STEAK LB \$1 99

END CUT ROUND STEAK LB \$1 89

ARM OR ENGLISH ROAST LB \$1 53

CHUCK ROAST LB \$1 49

15¢ OFF FRESH START DETERGENT 21 OZ \$1 19

IVORY HAND SOAP 4 BAR PKG 69¢

GLADE SOLID AIR FRESHENER 6 OZ 41¢

TERI TOWELS BIG ROLL 65¢

10¢ OFF JOY DISHWASHING DETERGENT GIANT 79¢

15¢ OFF FAB DETERGENT GIANT \$1 29

FROZEN FOODS

GREEN GIANT 6 EAR Corn On The Cob 69¢

MRS. SMITH 2-10 IN. PIE CRUST 69¢

BANQUET CREAM PIES 65¢

FRESH PRODUCE

RUSSETT POTATOES LB 25¢

WAXED RUTABAGAS LB 15¢

TEXAS GREEN CABBAGE LB 13¢

CALIFORNIA GREEN ONIONS BUNCH 25¢

FRESH LETTUCE HEAD 49¢

WOLF 300 CHILI WITH BEANS 69¢

COMET LONG GRAIN RICE 28 OZ 69¢

VAN CAMP 8 OZ PORK & BEANS 25¢

HUNTS WHOLE TOMATOES 300 41¢

LUNCH MEAT PREM 12 OZ \$1 19

NESTLES STRAWBERRY QUICK 1 LB \$1 09

NOTEBOOK PAPER 200 CT 69¢

JELLO 6 OZ 2/ 85¢

DEL MONTE MIXED VEGETABLES 303 33¢

HUNTS SPINACH 300 33¢

CHEF BOYARDEE 15 OZ SPAGHETTI w/ MEAT BALLS 53¢

LIBBYS SLOPPY JOE 15 1/4 OZ 89¢

DEL MONTE CUT GREEN BEANS 303 2/ 69¢

LIBBYS LIMA BEANS 16 OZ 49¢

PUNCH HAWAIIAN 46 OZ 69¢

PRINGLES POTATO CHIPS 2 PK 89¢

FLOUR GLADIOLA 5 LB 79¢

PRESTON MILK GAL. HOMO \$1.79 GAL. LOWFAT \$1.69

PRESTON MILK 1/2 GAL. HOMO .99¢ 1/2 GAL. LOWFAT .93¢

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Mr. McLean of Merkel displays a five pound turnip that grew in his fall garden. He also came up with some unusually large carrots. (Staff photo by Glenn Richards)

Legal notice

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
 TO: Thomas F. Dupin and wife, Anna F. Dupin, if living, and if such Defendants be deceased, or either of them, their respective heirs, devisees, executors and administrators, Defendants, Greeting:
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable 42nd District Court of Taylor County at the Courthouse thereof, in Abilene, Texas, by filing a written answer at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, same being the 5th day of February A.D. 1979, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 19th day of December A.D. 1978, in this cause, numbered 3,062-A on the docket of said court and styled Leslie C. Strange, Individually and As Trustee, Plaintiff, vs. Thomas F. Dupin, and wife, Anna F. Dupin, if living, and if such Defendants be Deceased, or either of them, their respective

heirs, devisees, executors, and administrators, Defendants.
 A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit:
 Trespass to try title on the following described property:
 Lot 10, Block 21, Section 8, E L M W O O D WEST ADDITION to the City of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
 as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.
 If this citation is not served within ninety days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.
 The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to the requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.
 Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Abilene, Texas, this 8th day of December A.D. 1978.
 Attest: Irene Crawford Clerk,
 42nd District Court,
 Taylor County, Texas.
 By Carolyn Feten, Deputy.
 46-3tc

Harris, Wolf married last weekend

Jammie Janette Harris of Cisco and Robert Keith Wolf of Merkel were married Saturday in Bethel Baptist Church with Stephen Wheeler officiating.
 The bride was given in marriage by her father. Parents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. James

Harris Jr. The bridegroom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Calvin C. Wolf of Merkel.

Matron of honor was Kathy Abbott of Abilene. Bridesmaid was Kathy Finley. Stacy Abbott of Abilene was flower girl.

Kyle Wolf of Merkel, brother of the bridegroom, and Lota Harris, sister of the bride, were candlelighters.

Best man was Bob Briggs of Cisco. Groomsman was Kelley Wolf of Merkel, brother of the bridegroom.

Serving as ushers were Harvey Harris, brother of the bride, and Ronnie Webb of Cisco.

The bride's parents hosted the reception at the church. Parents of the bridegroom hosted the rehearsal dinner at the Ramada Inn.

The bride is a graduate of Eastland High School and attends Cisco Junior College. She is employed by J.C. Penny Co. of Cisco.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Merkel High School and attends Cisco Junior College. He is employed by Clark's Electric of Cisco.

After a wedding trip to Austin, the couple will live in Cisco.

Cemetery donations

The Merkel Cemetery donations are as follows:
 Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Tucker
 Margaret Newby in memory of Mona Faye Bartlett
 Mrs. W.O. Steen
 H.H. Toombs Estate
 Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Hughes in memory of loved ones
 J. Peace
 Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Gardner
 Past Matrons and Past Patrons Club in memory of Winnie Cypert
 Mrs. Christine Collie
 The "42" Club in memory of Winnie Cypert
 Merle Grove
 Jim W. and Virginia Machlan in memory of Quilla and Mollie Harper
 Mrs. Geo. R. Elliott in memory of Winnie Cypert
 Mrs. R.F. Wilburn
 Roberta Williams
 Mrs. Tom Blakemore
 Mae Thaxton Family in memory of Gaines Fisher and Les Thaxton
 Mr. and Mrs. T.E. Meeks
 Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Fulton in memory of E.H. and Bertie Patterson
 Horton L. Wellman
 Mr. and Mrs. N.D. Bicknell
 Emory C. Hughes Estate
 Mr. and Mrs. Marcus P. Winn in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Palmer
 Bennie Anderson
 Bobbe N. Frazier
 Mrs. Gandy Petree
 Mr. and Mrs. Joe Holloway
 Mr. and Mrs. Price Mitchell in memory of Bruno Ueckert
 Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Sandusky in memory of Bill Morgan
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Setser
 Mr. and Mrs. John Rister in memory of friends and loved ones
 Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Scott
 Mrs. Doris Black VanCleve in memory of a caring father, Forest Black
 Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Hill
 J.W. Tiner Estate
 Mrs. Wade Darsey
 Simmons Tarpley Calloway Estate
 Mrs. Zedic L. Johnson and Glunn Johnson Family in memory of Zedic Johnson
 Mr. and Mrs. K.H. Hinch
 Grimes, Wilma and Charlie Seago
 Mr. and Mrs. C.V. Perkins
 Mary and Opal Derstine

Legal notice

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
 TO: Larry Kroft, Respondent:
GREETINGS:
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable 326th District Court, Taylor County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Abilene, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the petition of Robert T. Burton, Attorney for, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 23rd day of January, 1978, against Larry Kroft, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 533-C on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Interest of Angela Denise Wagner, a Child", the nature of which suit said child was born the 9 day of September,

1969, in Abilene, Texas.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

If this citation is not served within ninety days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issue and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this 27th day of October, 1978.

Irene Crawford Clerk,
 326th District Court,
 Taylor County, Texas.
 By Faye Lyons, Deputy.

43-4tc

MERKEL BATTERS BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	SCHOOL	PLACE	TEAMS	TIME
Nov. 21	Jim Neff	There	B-A&B, G-A&B	4:00
Nov. 27	A.C.H.S.	There	B-8&9, G-8	5:00
Nov. 28	Jim Neff	Here	B-A&B, G-A&B	4:00
Nov. 30	Anson Tournament	Here	B-A, G-A	4:00
Dec. 4	Sweetwater	Here	B-8, G-8	5:00
Dec. 5	Clyde	There	B-A&B, G-A&B	5:00
Dec. 7	Merkel Tournament	Here	B-A, G-A	4:00
Dec. 11	Winters	Here	B-7&8, G-7&8	4:00
Dec. 12	Winters	Here	B-A&B, G-A&B	5:00
Dec. 14	Abilene	There	G-A&B	6:15
Dec. 15	Ballinger	There	B-A&B, G-A&B	5:00
Dec. 21	A.C.H.S. Tournament	Here	B-A, G-A	4:00
Dec. 29	Clyde	Here	B-A, G-A&B	5:00
Jan. 2	Stamford	Here	B-A&B, G-A	5:00
Jan. 4	Stamford	There	B-7&8, G-7&8	5:00
Jan. 5	Coahoma	There	B-A, G-A&B	5:00
Jan. 8	Stamford	There	B-7&8, G-7&8	5:00
Jan. 9	C. City	Here	B-A&B, G-A&B	4:00
Jan. 11	Wylie	There	B-7&8, G-7&8	5:00
Jan. 12	Wylie	There	B-A&B, G-A&B	4:00
Jan. 13	Anson	Here	B-7&8, G-7&8	4:00
Jan. 16	Anson	There	B-A, G-A	6:30
Jan. 18	Coahoma Tournament	There	B-7, G-7	4:00
Jan. 19	Winters	There	B-8, G-8	4:00
Jan. 22	A.C.H.S.	There	B-A&B, G-A&B	5:00
Jan. 23	Ballinger	Here	B-8&9, G-8&9	5:00
Jan. 25	Stamford	Here	B-8&9, G-8	5:00
Jan. 26	Winters	Here	B-A, G-A	5:00
Jan. 29	Stamford	There	B-8&9, G-8	5:00
Jan. 29	Sweetwater	There	B-A, G-A&B	4:30
Jan. 30	Coahoma	There	B-9	5:00
Feb. 1	Sweetwater	Here	B-7&8, G-7&8	4:00
Feb. 2	Coahoma	Here	B-A, G-A&B	4:00
Feb. 5	Sweetwater Tournament	Here	B-8&9	5:00
Feb. 6	C. City	Here	B-A&B, G-A&B	4:00
Feb. 9	Wylie	There	B-7&8, G-7&8	5:00
Feb. 12	Wylie	Here	B-A&B, G-A&B	5:00
Feb. 13	Anson	Here	B-A&B, G-A&B	6:30
Feb. 13	Anson	Here	B-7&8, G-7&8	6:30
Feb. 16	Winters	Here	G-A&B	6:30
Feb. 16	Ballinger	There	G-A&B	6:30

8th grade girls

win consolation

The Merkel 8th grade girls' basketball team came home Dec. 16th with a Consolation Trophy. The tournament was held at Lawn. The girls were beaten by Wylie the first game but came back to rally the last two games. The second game (in the tournament) was against Winters. Merkel won 2-10. Windi Whisenhunt scored 8 points for the high point. The last game was against Clyde which the 8th girls won 5-12. Tonya Bicknell

scored 6 points for high point girl. The girls are doing very well this year and we hope that they continue the good job.

On Dec. 4, Sweetwater 8th grade girls played against Merkel at Merkel. Merkel beat Sweetwater with the score of 31-21. High point was Windi Whisenhunt.

The 8th grade girls are 5 wins and 2 losses for the season. The next game will be Jan. 8 in Merkel against Stamford.

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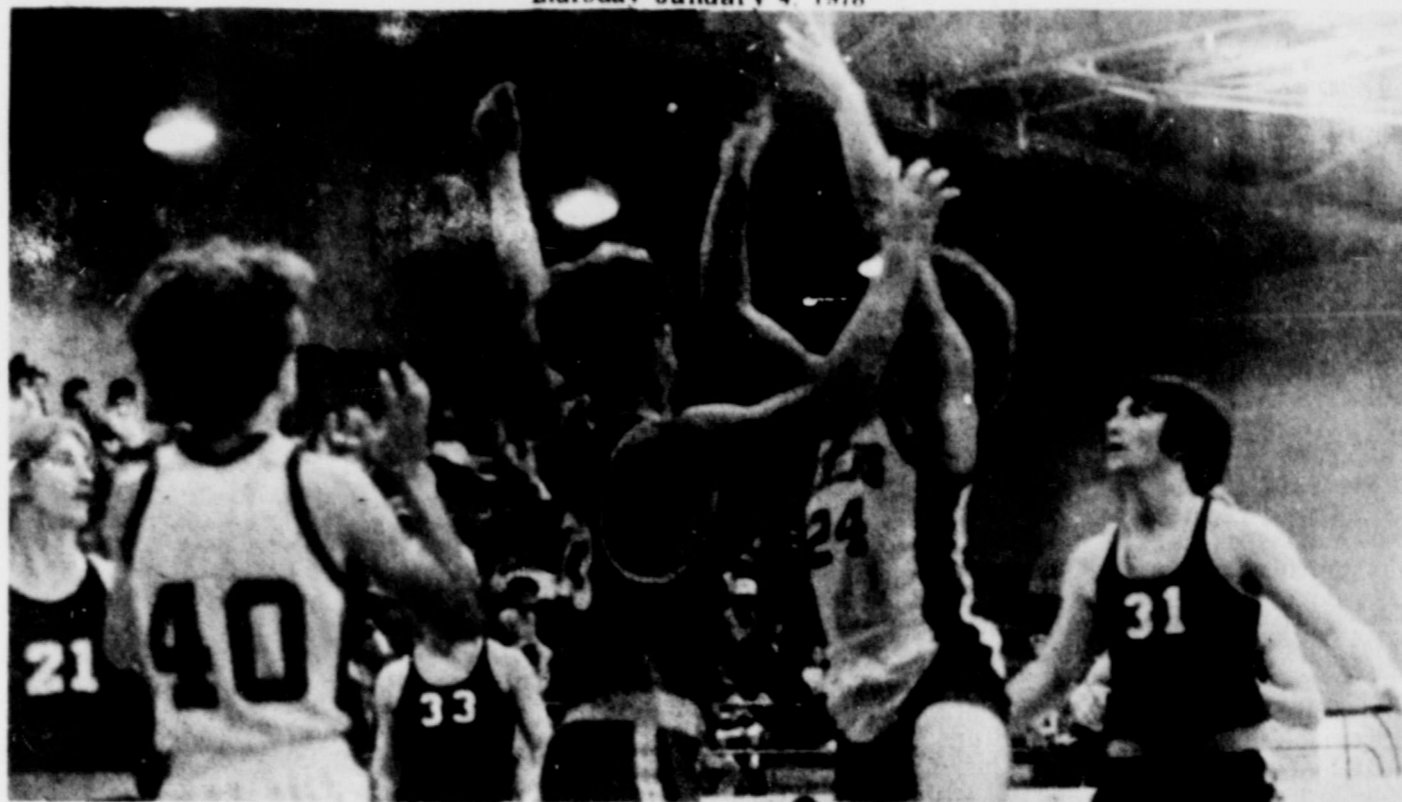
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FRENCH HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL 1978-79					
	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TEAMS	TIME
Sat.	Nov. 4	Jayton	There	Girls (HS&JH)	6:30
Thurs.	Nov. 9	Ira	There	Girls (HS&JH)	6:00
Sat.	Nov. 11	Jayton	Here	Girls (HS&JH)	6:30
Tues.	Nov. 14	Ira	Here	Girls (HS&JH)	6:00
Sat.	Nov. 18	Abilene High	There	Girls (HS)	6:30
Tues.	Nov. 21	McCaulley	Here	Girls (HS)	7:00
Tues.	Nov. 28	Hobbs	There	Boys & Girls	7:00
Thurs.-Sat.	Nov. 30-Dec. 2	TRENT TOURNAMENT		Boys & Girls	
Tues.	Dec. 5	Westbrook	There	Boys & Girls	6:30
Fri.	Dec. 8	Westbrook	Here	Boys & Girls	6:30
Tues.	Dec. 12	Hobbs	Here	Boys & Girls	6:30
Thurs.-Sat.	Dec. 14-16	ROSCOE TOURNAMENT		Boys & Girls	
Tues.	Dec. 19	Abilene High	Here	Girls (HS)	6:30
Thurs.-Sat.	Dec. 28-30	HAWLEY TOURNAMENT		Boys & Girls	
Tues.	Jan. 2	OPEN			
Fri.	Jan. 5	OPEN			
Tues.	Jan. 9	Bronte	Here	Boys & Girls	6:30
Fri.	Jan. 12	Robert Lee	There	Boys & Girls	6:30
Tues.	Jan. 16	OPEN			
Fri.	Jan. 19	Divide	Here	Boys & Girls	6:30
Tues.	Jan. 23	Backwell	There	Boys & Girls	6:30
Fri.	Jan. 26	Bronte	There	Boys & Girls	6:30
Tues.	Jan. 30	Robert Lee	Here	Boys & Girls	6:30
Fri.	Feb. 2	OPEN			
Tues.	Feb. 6	Divide	There	Boys & Girls	6:30
Fri.	Feb. 9	Backwell	Here	Boys & Girls	6:30



Taresia English shows off the Taylor Electric Award she earned at the Merkel Livestock Show here Saturday. (Staff photo by Suzy Rister)



6' 1" forward Ken Wells puts one up against Clyde. The Badgers lost the game here Friday night. The game was also the unveiling of a 'refurbished gym' as maintenance folks tastefully spread some Badger purple around. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)

Girls win, now 16-1

The Merkel girls, despite poor shooting from the floor, beat Clyde last Friday night here in Merkel to up their pre-district record to 16-1. The team was without the help of two seniors: Amy McCoy and Cindy Smith both missed the Clyde game. Going into the fourth quarter, the game was tied 28 all. During the final quarter, the Merkel girls outscored Clyde 10-4 giving them a 38-32 win. "Our shooting averages were down, probably due to the lack of practice during the holidays," said Coach Pat Penick. Miss Penick also said that Jackie Casey did very well coming off the bench. Gina Farmer was the leading scorer with 11 points and Norma Frazier was right behind with 8.

"What Is Love?"

It's silence when your words would hurt. It's patience when your neighbor is curt. It's deafness when the scandal flows. It's thoughtfulness for another's woes. It's promptness when stern duty calls. It's courage when misfortune falls.

HEAR "THE PRIME OF LIFE" WEEKDAYS AT 7:50 a.m. CN KBGG RADIO

MERKEL CHURCH OF CHRIST

818 ASH
Larry Gill, Minister
John McKeel, Youth Minister

SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:45 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Why in the world is International Furniture interested? Read on...

by Cloy A. Richards

There is probably not a person in town that didn't hear about the offer the Chairman of the Board for the International Furniture Corporation made in an exclusive Merkel Mail and KTXS television interview.

Cliff Sugerman offered to buy all commercial property in town and announced plans for a factory here that will employ 200 people and a housing addition.

During my interview with Mr. Sugerman, the obvious question is why came up and Mr. Sugerman explained why Merkel.

Merkel has all of the raw materials that a town needs for a large growth period, except one... a large investor. It seems that International Furniture may be that investor. Merkel has access to the Interstate, is between two towns (Sweetwater and Abilene) that are outgrowing themselves and expanding our way each month. Merkel is served by an A line for rail shipments and there is a large labor force to draw on. Land is available at reasonable prices for investment purposes and the commercial area of town could use some upgrading.

Those are a few of the reasons that Merkel must look good to investors.

If the International Furniture Corporation does construct an assembly and ware house facility for their wrought iron products that employs approximately 200 people, they would become the largest taxpayers, employers in Merkel.

If International Furniture builds a housing addition complete with tennis courts and a swimming facility and houses in the \$30-40,000 price range, they would probably become the largest landlords and residential taxpayers in town.

If International Furniture is able to buy existing store fronts in Merkel and restore them

in a western motif and acquire specialty shops, business in downtown Merkel will take a surge.

Sugerman seems sincere in his efforts and his ideas he can justify. From the outside looking in, Merkel must look like the type of place that is ready and waiting for the right idea.

It may seem ridiculous to some. Just like 75 years ago folks along the Outer Bank region in North Carolina were considering having Orville and Wilbur Wright committed for trying to fly.

He just may pull it off.



Cindy Boone wins the jump against a Clyde player. The Badgers, now 15-1, won 38-32. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)

Mail Bag

Christmas and the New Year day passed off quietly and pleasantly and with the usual cheer and good will predominating. It is to the credit of the town that there was no rowdiness of any kind. The days were kept holy, and the festivities were in keeping with the spirit of the times.

We are loath to part with the old year. The ties of friendship formed, the new friends and pleasant associations, and above all the loyalty and cheerful words hallowed the memory of 1908 and we are conscious of our seeming inability to arise to the demands which these things have imposed upon us. However, if a proper sense of appreciation for these blessings and our utmost endeavor to give our patrons "value received" can accomplish this result, then we are assured of your continued favors. The Mail greets you, therefore, with many good wishes.

Two horses for sale. One-half cash, balance fall time. See me at the Star Store.

Merkel could be made the best and prettiest town in the west and the means to accomplish this end would be insignificant when compared to the good that would accrue to business interests. A little effort expended in clearing the town of trash would go far toward accomplishing this result, and to say that the town needs a thorough cleaning is putting it very mildly. Let every citizen make a resolution to clean up around his premises this year. Will you do it?

How people lose their money. By concealing it about the person; by stowing it away in mugs and jars; by sewing it up in skirts and ticks; by tucking it under couches and carpets, in cupboards and bureau drawers, these are the ways in which people lose their money and sometimes their lives.

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We Are Overstocked On Used Cars SAVE 100's of Dollars by Buying Now Before Inventory

MAX MURRELL CHEVROLET

This is the age Of the half read page, And the quick hash And the mad dash. The bright night With the nerves tight. The place hop And the brief stop. The lamp tan In a short span. The brain strain And the heart pain. And the cat naps Till the spring snaps And the fun's done!

---Copied---

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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STRIKE ?

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A TEACHER WHO DIDN'T WANT AN INCREASE IN PAY; A CARPENTER WHO DIDN'T ASK FOR UNION WAGES;

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THE MERKEL MAIL

Thursday January 4, 1978

Trent News

Taylor, retired

merchant, dies at 71

Franklin Cecil Taylor, 71, retired merchant of Trent, died at his Trent residence Friday night at 10:30 as the result of a gunshot wound. Justice of the Peace Silas Clark ruled the shooting to be apparently self-inflicted.

Services were held at 3 p.m. Sunday at the First Baptist Church of Trent with the Rev. Jim Lawless officiating. Burial was in Trent Cemetery, directed by Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born April 21, 1907, in Jones County, he moved to Trent in 1935 and was mayor of Trent in the late 1950's. He was a longtime deacon of the Baptist Church and had operated a grocery store from 1955-1965.

He operated a filling station from 1965 until he retired in 1975.

He married Ora Hail on Aug. 5, 1934, in Merkel. She preceded him in death on Sept. 22, 1970. He remarried Flor-

ence Shellnut, Sept. 1971 and she preceded him in death in October 1971. He then married Heatley in January 1974.

Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Mrs. Weldon Beasley of Trent; a grandson, Greg Beasley; a grand daughter, Cindy Beasley, both of Trent; two step sons, James Clay Thomas and Earl Wayne Thomas, both of San Angelo; five step daughters, Sue Langlitz of San Antonio, Nadine Speck of Mid-

land, Delores Fullen and Yvonne Shellnut both of Fort Worth, and Doris Ann Shellnut of Hurst; two brothers, Bert of Weatherford and Merle Taylor of Fort Worth; three sisters, Ovella Darnell of Mineral Wells, Atta Cain of Weatherford and Gladys Wharton of Slate.

Pallbearers were Jimmy Russell, Bill Powers, Yeats Sipe, Lewis Tiner, O.J. Boyd, J.C. Davis, O'Dell Freeman and Clovis McElmurry.

Cooper dies

at 93

Margaret Adeline Cooper, 93, of Trent died at 1:30 a.m. Sunday in West Texas Medical Center after a lengthy illness. Services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the First Baptist Church in Trent.

The Revs. Jim Lawless, pastor of the First Baptist, and Baptist minister Riley Fugitt of Clyde, officiated. Burial was in Trent Cemetery, directed by Starbuck Funeral Home.

She was born Aug. 29, 1885, in Benton, Ark., and married William M. Cooper in February 1906 in Comanche County. The couple moved to Trent in December 1924. Mr. Cooper died on Dec. 2, 1936. She was active in Baptist church work.

Survivors include six sons, Emory of Fort Worth, P.A. and Hasting both of Odessa, Woodrow of Colorado City, James of Lubbock, and Billy of Las Vegas, Nev.; two daughters, Thelma Driggers of Clyde, and Delephine Watson of Trent; 41 grandchildren; 61 great grandchildren; and five great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by four sons and two daughters.

Grandsons served as pallbearers.

Tri-Region health association moving

Over the past four months the Tri-Region HSA has been soliciting comments for amending the 1978-83 Health Systems Plan (HSP). Twelve task forces have been active in revising the Cardiovascular, Natality and Infant Mortality, Cancer, and Mental Health sections of the Plan. All other sections, such as Diabetes, Nutrition, Venereal Diseases, have been distributed to speciality, professional, and-or volunteer organizations throughout the region seeking input to further refine and sophisticate the HSP.

A SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to take this media to express publicly our thanks to all our friends who have stood by us in our time of need these past few months. We feel so humble yet so proud that we have so many friends who have visited the hospital, sent cards, gifts, and extended their prayers to us. All of this has been a constant reminder of how true our friends have really been.

Most especially we want to thank each individual who furnished equipment, fuel, money or labor to strip our Cotton, gin it, and plow our fields. It makes us proud to rear our children, and be a part of, a community where people are so concerned about one another.

May God Bless you each and everyone

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Trent, Texas



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<p>APPLES</p> <p>4 FOR \$1.00</p>	<p>TACO ROLLS</p> <p>4 FOR \$1.00</p>
<p>FRITO PIES</p> <p>65¢ EACH</p>	<p>BAR B Q BRISKET SANDWICH</p> <p>99¢ EACH</p>

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WONDAR LOTION 6 OZ BOT 89¢

KING DASH BOX \$2 39

FROZEN FOODS WHOLESUN ORANGE JUICE 12 OZ CAN 69¢

I.G. DAIRY FRESH HOMO MILK GAL JUG \$1 89

GIANT CHEER BOX \$1 33

V.I.P. 4 EARS PKG CORN ON COB 79¢

I.G. DAIRY FRESH LOW FAT MILK GAL JUG \$1 79

COMET RICE 28 OZ BOX 59¢

GOLDEN DEL. APPLES LB 39¢

LIQUID VEL ROT 69¢

V.I.P. SPEARS 10 OZ BROCCOLI 2 PKG 73¢

FOREMOST BUTTER MILK 1/2 GAL CRTN 93¢

V.I.P. PEANUT BUTTER 18 OZ JAR 79¢

BELL PEPPERS EA 19¢

TEXAS RUBY RED GRAPEFRUIT LB 19¢

FRESH CUCUMBERS EA 19¢

ARIZONA PURPLE TOP TURNIPS LB 25¢

RUSSET SPUDS 10 LB BAG 98¢

VEL VEETA CHEESE LB \$1 23

CRYSTAL CLEAR CASCADE FAMILY SIZE \$1 83

DEL MONTE FRESH CUCUMBER 15 OZ 49¢

CRISCO 49¢

CREAMY 3 LB CAN \$1 79

PINATA TORTILLA CHIPS 9 OZ PKG \$1 09

SWIFT 5 OZ VIENNA SAUSAGE 2 FOR 73¢

PARKAY OLEO 49¢

QUARTERS LB 49¢

CATTLEMEN 18 OZ JAR BAR-B-Q-SAUCE 69¢

COKE COLA 12 OZ CAN 6 PACK \$1 29

CHOICE BEEF RIB STEAK TENDER LEAN POUND \$2 29

SHOP AND SAVE 200 CT KLEENEX BOX 59¢

CARMEL COVERED CRACKER JACKS 4 1/2 OZ BOX 2 FOR 59¢

RANCH STYLE BEANS 300 CAN 2 FOR 59¢

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