

The Merkel Mail

Thursday, August 7, 1980...Merkel, Texas

15 cents



Rain!

We finally got what we have been waiting, and waiting for Monday morning, an inch of rain. Actual amounts varied from 1.4 to 1.7 inches in the area. This cotton field East of town did not seem to mind a bit. (Staff photo)

Firemen battle blaze south of town for three days, fire destroys pasture land near Butman

The Merkel Volunteer Fire Department battled their second large grassfire in eight days and this one, was finally put out by the "Good Lord" according to Merkel Volunteer Fire Department Chief Waymon Adcock.

Chief Adcock told the Mail Monday morning a three inch rain fell on the fire sight, 18 miles southwest of Merkel near FM 126 in the Butman Community.

The Fire Department got the call around 1 p.m. Thursday and firemen heading to the scene decided to call for help before they arrived at the fire site because of the heavy cloud of smoke seen at the area.

Fire Departments, as well as volunteers from Merkel, Abilene, Hamby, Winters, Nolan, Tye, Trent, Ecce, Wingate, View, Ballinger and Tuscola responded.

Merkel firemen arrived at the scene at 1:20 Friday

and fought the fire until midnight, and according to Chief Adcock, thought they had the fire out.

Firemen were called back to the scene Friday afternoon at 3 p.m. and remained there, in shifts, until 7:30 a.m. Monday.

Chief Adcock told the Mail, "Without the bulldozers that helped cut firebreaks and roads, we would have never been able to contain the fire as quickly as we did. The terrain was hilly and rocky, and we just could not have gotten water on the fire if we had not been able to get in close."

The Chief said he wanted to thank Dyess Air Force Base, Taylor County and Watts and Dickerson for their use of maintainers and bulldozers.

The chief also said Monday's rain would stop the grass fire problem until the sun and wind dry out the vegetation.

Local law enforcement patrol were also at the scene keeping roads clear for fire vehicles.

Girls place second in tourney

The Merkel-Trent Girls won second place in the division I, ages 8-10, United Girls Softball Association Regional Tournament in Hobbs, N.M.

In the first game of the tournament, Merkel-Trent beat Lovington, N.M. 16-4 with Angie Moreno doing the pitching with relief help from Krista Toombs. April DuPont, Krista Toombs, Angie Moreno, Mindy Stewart, Amber Whisenhunt, Jamie Heyen, Twilla Williams, Pam Neff, Mandy Pack and Michelle Barnett led the hitting with base hits.

Graham, the East Texas Champions downed Merkel 15-3 in the second game. Leading hitter was Krista Toombs.

Merkel-Trent then downed Lovington 19-13 to eliminate them by double elimination. Angie Moreno was the winning pitcher. April DuPont, Krista Toombs, Carolyn Lally, Angie Moreno, and Amber Whisenhunt led the hitting.

In the Championship game, Graham outscored Merkel-Trent 33-7. Leading hitters were Krista Toombs, Angie Moreno, Amber Whisenhunt and Amy Stuckey.

Krista Toombs, Angie Moreno, April DuPont and Carolyn Lally were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Merkel-Trent was awarded the Sportsmanship Trophy. This award was voted by the teams participating and umpires.

Members of the team are Mindy Stewart, Carolyn Lally, April DuPont, Krista Toombs, Angie Moreno, Amber Whisenhunt, Amy Stuckey, Pam Neff, Michelle Barnett, Jamie Heyen, Mandy Pack and Twilla Williams. The manager was Christie Barnett. Coaches were Bill Whisenhunt and Duke Pack.

The West Texas Championship trophy and sportsmanship trophy are being displayed at the Farmers and Merchants National Bank.

The members of the team, manager, coaches, and all the people associated with the Merkel-Trent Softball Association would like to thank the following people for their donations and support to sponsor their trip to Hobbs: Donnie Doan, Merkel Vet. Clinic, Phillip and Kathy Doan, Greg Fisher, Carson Supermarket, Taylor Electric, JoAnn Mashburn, Jacky Reynolds, Pug and Leo's, Orren Higgins, Harold Walker, Lemen's Butane, Merkel Restaurant, Dale Shugart, Big Country Inn, Max Murrell Chev., El Tye O Trailer Sales, Tye Concrete, Elmo Moore, Taylor Telephone, Anonymous donors (paid for girls and coaches rooms).

What do you know? It rained!

That strange, wet stuff finally fell Monday morning as most of the Merkel-Trent area reported 1.3 to 1.8 inches of rain.

After a dry spell, with no appreciable rain fall since late June, area crops quickly soaked up the moisture and the rain put out a grass fire that approximately 100 men spent 3 days fighting in the Butman area.

Lake Sweetwater's watershed received three inches of rain and that will help temporarily ease the low water table for that lake. Trent is currently under mandatory water-rationing because it gets water from Sweetwater.

Taylor County ASCS director Donald Saverance told the Mail "The rain will help to green up some scorched pastureland and will not hurt the cotton or

small grain crops.

Saverance added some area stock tanks that were dry or beginning to dry up gained runoff, but said most area tanks are still low on water.

According to ASCS records, this portion of the county is about five inches short of its annual rainfall average but added, if more rain does not come soon, most of the benefits of Monday's shower will be eradicated by heat and wind.

The National Weather Service in Abilene had predicted a 25 to 40 per cent chance of late afternoon or early evening thundershowers for Thursday (today) and hope hurricane Allen would also force in warm, moist gulf air to create rain early next week.

Monday's shower ranged from 1.3 inches to Noodle, 1.6 inches in town, to 2.9 inches in the mountain area South of town.

New band director sets August 11 meeting, interested students to attend

Newly hired Merkel Band Director Randy Tierce has set a meeting for any students between the eighth and twelfth grades interested in band for 7 p.m. Aug. 11 at the Merkel High Band Hall.

Tierce said he has made many changes since taking over the post of band director and said a Flag Corp will be formed, and asked eighth grade female students through twelfth graders to also attend the meeting.

Tierce told the Mail Monday the Flag Corp will have unfurl flags that were custom-made for the Merkel High Band. Tierce also said the band hall was set to be carpeted, have soundproofing added as well as new paint.

He also said he had purchased a new percussion

set, marching instruments, new hats for the band, and a new drum majors's uniform.

Tierce said he will introduce the band members to new tunes such as theme songs from Dallas, Star Trek and the Muppet Show.

He also said he urged all Merkel 8-12th grade students who are interested in band to attend the meeting, whether the student has had any band experience or not. He said the meeting was an organizational meeting and it will give prospective band members and he a chance to meet each other.

Tierce said it was very important that prospective band members be present at the meeting so private lessons, sectionals, and marching and playing practices can be set up.

Pat the firemen on the back

by Cloy A. Richards

The Merkel and Tye Volunteer Fire Departments have recently been active, very active.

The two departments have fought two major grass fires that damaged about 3,000 acres of land in the past two weeks. They have also kept the fires from damaging any homes or causing injuries, and have worked around the clock until the fires were out.

You can't ask for more than that. Their efforts are to be commended.

The turkey struck again.

Rushing to get two news stories into last week's paper, I inadvertently switched the headlines on last week's school story with the story of the fire near US 27.

A dumb mistake on my part, and I offer apologies to those confused by the blunder.

Did you ever notice how hard it is to breathe with a foot in the mouth or how hard crow is to swallow?

A man came into the office Monday morning and said "Darndest rainiest country I have ever been in". Sounded strange but so did the pitter-patter on the roof early Monday, exclaimed with loud cracks of thunder.

You can safely say this rain did not hurt anyone and about ten more like it would not do any damage at all. The rain dances worked last week and with a little luck, a few more stanzas of your favorite rain dance, may well work again this week.

Congratulations are in order to the Merkel-Trent United Girls Softball Division 1 team that took second place in this weekend's Regional tournament in Hobbs, N.M.

MISD taxpayers over 65 get tax break, board hires two coaches

MISD board members made a move Monday night that will virtually eliminate any school tax for persons holding an over 65 exemption from school taxes.

The board took no action on a resolution that would have taxed the bonded indebtedness for persons regardless of exemptions held.

What all of that means is persons holding the over 65, \$10,000 exemption, as well as the \$5,000 homestead exemption will not have to pay school taxes. Tax Assessor-Collector Vicki Thomas estimated about 80 per cent of persons over 65 in the school district would not pay any tax in 1980-81.

The move will cost the district \$10,000 in lost revenues from last year's tax revenues.

The board also filled two coaching positions at Merkel High and decided to hire a full time

bookkeeper at the tax office.

Mary Clark was hired to be girls basketball coach as well as handling other girls sports and Luke Reynolds was hired as an assistant boys coach.

The board decided to hire the tax office assistant after hearing a report from Mrs. Thomas. Mrs. Thomas state the work-load in the tax office was just too much for one person to handle and said the office is behind in it's work.

The board will hold their meeting tonight, and it is a scheduled personnel hearing that will be held in executive session.

The board will also hold a budget workshop Aug. 12 to discuss the 1980-81 school budget.

A public tax rate hearing is set for Aug. 19 from 7 to 8 p.m., followed by the regular monthly meeting of the board that same night.

Money available to beat the heat

The Community Action Program on 720 Pine has received funding for the Heat Assistance Program. This program is designed to help low income and elderly households who experience an emergency due to the heat. The program is two-fold, helping with electricity bills and fans.

In order to apply for help with an electric bill, the applicant must provide proof of income in writing for at least the last three months, a statement from their doctor stating it is hazardous to their health not to have air conditioning and the unpaid electric bill. Assistance is one month only up to \$100.00.

In order to apply for help with a fan, the applicant must not own any type of cooling device including

(but not limited to) evaporative cooling, refrigerated air, air conditioning and fans. The applicant must provide proof of their income in writing for the last three months. Before any fans are issued, an investigation is made of the home, to see if the household is eligible.

All applicants must qualify under the Community Services Administration poverty guidelines. All interested individuals may apply at 720 Pine Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or may call 673-5785.

Counties included: Taylor, Jones Haskell, Throckmorton, Shackelford, Knox, Kent, Fisher and Stonewall.

Hudson will speak at Trent church

J.B. Hudson of Roscoe, Texas will be featured in a series of bible Lessons at the Trent Church of Christ, August 10 through August 13th. The Sunday sermons will be at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. The week day time is 8 p.m.

Mr. Hudson was born in Waxahachie and is married to the former Bea Johnson. He has been located at Pecos, Cisco and Roscoe and other places during 35

years of preaching. His meeting work has taken him into a number of other states. On two occasions he has been selected to teach in the ACU Teachers Workshop.

The song service will be under the direction of George Snyder who is Associate minister of the Trent Church.

Ed Enzor of the ACU faculty is minister of the Trent Church.

Toombs is artist of month

Betty J. Toombs of Merkel will be honored as the Merkel Art Association's Artist of the Month at the Merkel Branch of United Savings Friday from 10:30 until 11:30 a.m.

Mrs. Toombs is a charter member of the Merkel Art Association and said she began painting six years ago. She said she started maybe by accident when a group of her friends needed one more art student before a teacher could be hired for a class so she volunteered.

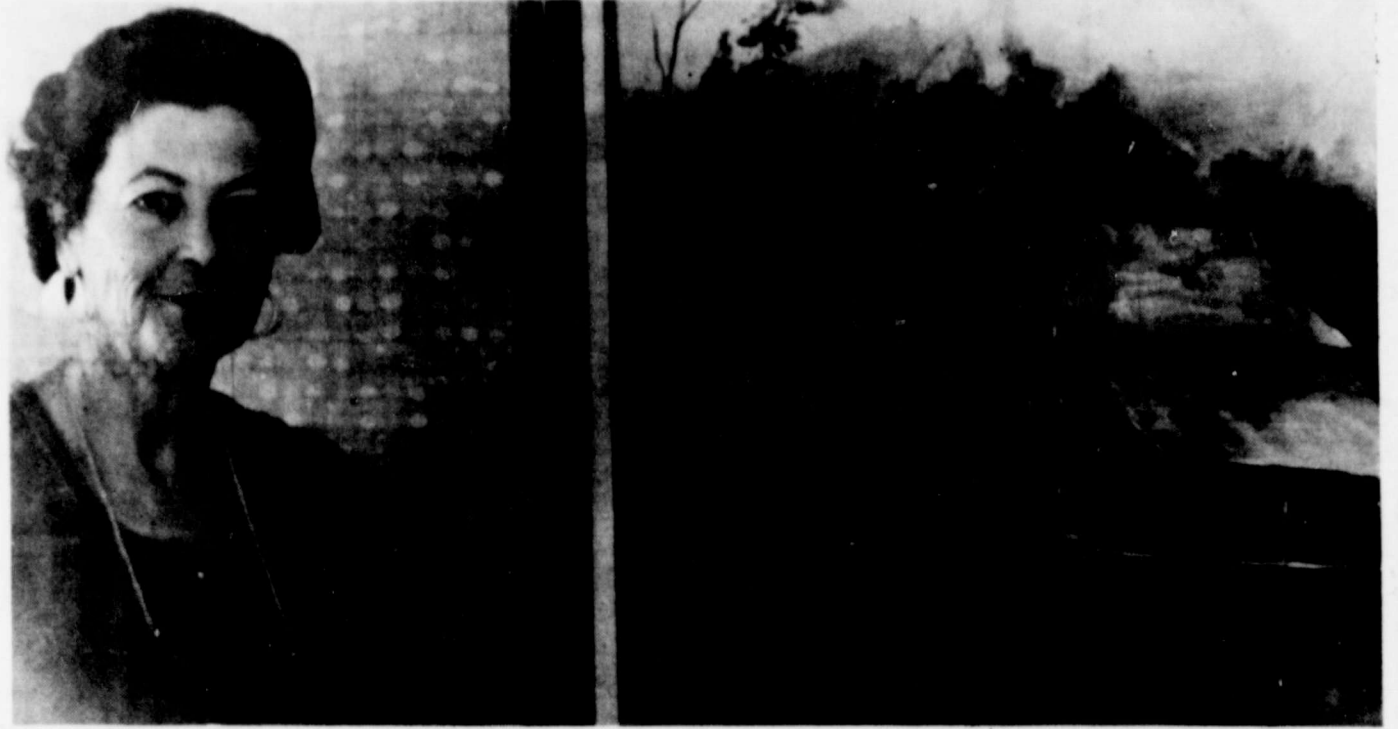
She told the Mail Monday she prefers to paint landscapes and she'd like to start painting portraits.

She is currently an art student of Beva Bennett of Abilene and has taken lessons from Talmadge Minter, Mrs. James Campbell Shaw, Ruth Adams, Pat Garrett and Harold Scott.

She has sold some of her paintings and said she was especially thrilled when one of her paintings was purchased by another artist.

Mrs. Toombs is married to life long Merkelite Stanley Toombs and they have an 18 year son, Jeff.

The public is invited to meet Mrs. Toombs and view her work Friday at the Merkel Branch of United Savings.



Tye writer appeals for more local support, volunteers for fire department

By Harold Boyd

Checking over my notes for this weeks column our biggest topic is the large range fires that consumed several thousand acres of valuable grass lands, wild life and endangered some homes. At this time of this writing, the Merkel Volunteer Fire Department is still on the scene. Tye unit is back home. No one can control mans carelessness, but we can do our part in assisting our neighbors when in need. A great deal of thanks of appreciation is due several business that donated water trucks, bulldozers, drinks, food and to the host of volunteers that came from far and wide to help in any manner they could. To those who stood by in protecting other communities while the ones close by went to aid their neighbors. To all, a deep gratitude of thanks, if the time comes that we may help you, let us come. You can assure yourself there will be more of these destructive fires as long as it stays dry.

Are you interested in joining a group of ladies who gain new knowledge of arts, food preparation? Well the newly formed Extension Homemakers Club, chapter the "Blue Bonnets" will meet this Tuesday, August 12th, 7 p.m. at the Home of Cordelia Nease. Betty Adams will show you how to make silk flowers. If you are interested, and want to join, they will welcome any and all newcomers.

Visiting with our chief of Police, he has indicated, he has been getting calls at the city hall, but after city hours who do you call? For faster service, contact the Taylor County Sheriffs Office at 677-8518, they know where Joe is and can get him in a second or so. All you have to do is state your reason etc, and they will respond to your call. Should Joe be out, they will send their unit or whatever assistance that you require. Put this number near your phone, 677-8518, Taylor County Sheriff Department. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, your calls will be answered.

Let me tell you a true story... one that can happen to us here in Tye. About 2 years ago a small community southwest of Tye had a house fire, they had no equipment to fight it, thus they lost the house and its furnishes. Not long after that, they had another house fire and lost it. They had to wait several minutes to get help to put out the remainder of what was left. These people banded together and worked hard in building from the ground up to what they presently have.

The community doesn't have the homes that we have by count, nor the business, school or churches that we here in Tye have, but they did what most people do. They formed a department that anyone could be proud of and are continually are growing in membership, training, and gaining equipment.

Cemetery donors

Merkel Cemetery Assoc.:

Regular Donations- Avis and Joe Nagy and Virginia Sandusky in memory of Bill and Mary Neill and Johnny Gunn, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Howard in memory of Joe Seymore, Ford Smith Jr., Mr. and Mrs. David Gamble in memory of Joe Seymore, Mrs. Geo. T. Moore in memory of Joe Seymore, Mr. and Mrs. Grif Barnett in memory of Leon Scott and Joe Seymore, Mrs. A.H. Murphree in memory of Joe Seymore, Sallie Gant in memory of Joe Seymore, Dr. and Mrs. W.T. Sadler in memory of Joe Seymore, Mrs. Kenneth Pee in memory of Joe Seymore, Virgie Mae Campbell in memory of Joe Seymore, Mrs. Flossie Martin in memory of Joe Seymore, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Morgan in memory of Joe Seymore, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Morgan in memory of Joe Seymore, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Martin in memory of Joe Seymore, D.J. Richie in memory of Joe Seymore, Lawrence Byrum, Victor Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Orsborn in memory of Joe Seymore, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Boone in memory of Joe Seymore, Mrs. Olan Schlueter, Comer and Lucy Haynes and Neil Teaff in memory of Floy Hicks.

Special Donations on Equipment- Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Leamon, S.P. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Guita Jr., Mary Collins et al, Mrs. D.S. Richardson, Joe West Warren, Elaine Tettleton, Mrs. Maurice S. Cox, Mrs. N.S. Dainel Estate, James F. Irvin, Mr. and Mrs. P.E. Allen, Nora M. Hendrix, Elizabeth S. DeWolf, Mr. and Mrs. Grover V. Gant, Suzy Bird, Mr. and Mrs. H.M. Thornton, Mrs. L.D. Bagley, Tracy Campbell, D.L. Kinsey, Grace and Ann Tipton, Billy R. Reynolds, Nina Sherrill, Melva J. Petroff, Etta D. Martin, Ima Higgins, Robt. F. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Mitchell, Margaret Newby, Mrs. Agnes P. King, Alma and Oliver Rister, Mr. and Mrs. John Edwards, C.A. and Lena Gardner, G.Jane Smith, Winnie W. Coit, Murphy Dye, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Teaff, Wylie C. Baze, Mrs. L.D. Irvin, Virgie Mae Campbell, Truett Patterson, Ruby Moore Lawrence, C.E. and Doris Farmer, Ruth L. Martin, Mrs. Ina Hunter, Polly Amason, Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Reagan, Val Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Moore, Mr. and Mrs. B.A. Houghton, Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Merritt, Louise Winter, Mr. and Mrs. Lendon A. Coats, Mr. and Mrs. Cadmus Brown, Vera U. Ely.

Riding club bake sale set

The Merkel Riding Club will have a bake sale Sat. Aug. 9 near Carson's Supermarket and it will start at 9:00 a.m.

Whats this bringing to? Here in Tye we have some 28 businesses, some 250 homes and a volunteer fire department that is on its knees. At this time we have 3 trucks; if you want to call them that. These trucks aren't really equipped to handle anything due to worn out pumps, tanks that leak and little in the line of equipment to protect the firefighters. Now after helping our neighbors, we are at the sum of 2 trucks, and really not in the best shape to do much. In the last 11 days, we answered 8 calls, 4 to 6 responding. At the meetings we have some 8 to 12 people who attend, these people are to be commended for their interest, and half of these are women. Well, readers, those of us who take time to attend, repair the equipment we are at the point haven't got much to work with. We lack young people who can help. For these people to help, they must be trained, learn the function of the equipment and how it is to be operated, but must be part of the department. Be there when we train, have our meetings where as they can put their input into the meetings and grow into a self supporting department and serve it proper function. At the rate we are going, when ones home etc. does catch afire, by the time help gets there, we may not only lose your home, but maybe several others. This is due to the homes being close together and the way winds whip around. Fire Doesn't have any mind, it goes where it wants to when not controlled. In viewing over past columns, I have mentioned this need and we haven't had any response in gaining members or building equipment needed to protect you. Think it over, get involved and help.

Think it over, appreciate you and thanks for reading the Mail.

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AUGUST 6-11**

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Merkel Restaurant
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Farm values have skyrocketed in recent years. If something happened to you, would your family have to sell part of the farm to help pay estate taxes and take care of any outstanding bills or loans? Are you aware of the opportunities—and the complex changes—affecting farmers under the Tax Reform Act of 1976?

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The First Baptist Church ladies include (Left to right, bottom row) Linda Beddingfield, Sandy Laird, Judy Roysden, Kathryn Rister, Donna Casper,

Sherry Ferguson and Kay McDonald, (Top row) Jennifer Smith, Joy Jones, Debra Carey, Nancy Click, Sara Prasarn and Gwen Riney. (Staff photo)



The F&M Bank Ladies include (bottom row left to right) Carol Bewley, Dee Goldsmith, Loyce Baker,

Jackie Casey, Melinda Dye. (top row, left to right) Reinetta Hensley, Linda Cravens, Jeanette Pursley, Carla Gohlke and Christie Barnett. (Staff photo)

Softball craze strikes local ladies

The recent softball craze in Merkel is well represented by local women.

Six teams, consisting of 12 to 15 players each, play two games per week in the league's first year.

The league grew out of ideas by J.C. Carson, the John Brady's, and Mrs. Glasscock as well as a handful of local folks and now has 75 participants.

The middle of park of the 3 field complex was dedicated as J.C. Carson park last Thursday night in ceremonies attended by a large crowd.

The Merkel-Trent league has games scheduled on Monday and Tuesday nights through Aug. 25th and

all six teams play each night with games starting at 7,8, and 9 p.m.

The Merkel-Trent Women's League director is Jennifer Smith and Janet Vinson serves as scorekeeper for both women's and men's leagues.

Umpires this year include Ray Pack, Kack Ferguson, Jack Riney, Mack Seymore, Ronnie Holmes, Bill Whisenhunt, Steve Shugart and John Hamner.

Concessions are available at each game and you won't be surprised to see just about everyone you know at the games, they have drawn large crowds since late July.

Tejanitos win

The Merkel Tejanitos launched an 18-hit attack in downing the Abilene Aguilas 23-14 last Sunday here at home.

With the score knotted at 12-12 at the end of the sixth inning, Merkel scored eleven runs in the last two innings to put the game out of reach. Daniel Moreno hit his 11th and 12th home runs along with a double driving in seven

runs. Frank Rodriguez hit three doubles and drove in five runs. Ace Moreno and Juan Ybarra also hit home runs. David Stout pitched his first game allowing 11 hits and striking out 14 men. Chavo Martinez had two home runs and two doubles with seven runs batted in for Abilene.

Merkel will play the Abilene Cachorros in Abilene Sunday, Aug. 10.

Legal notices

In obedience to an order of the Board of Equalization, regularly convened and sitting, notice is hereby given that said Board of Equalization will be in session at its regular meeting place in the City Hall, 107 Lamar, Merkel, Texas between the hours of 8 and 9 P.M. on the 18th of August 1980 for the purpose of determining, fixing, and equalizing of the value of any and all taxable

property situated in the City of Merkel, Texas, for the year 1980 and any and all persons interested or having business with said Board are hereby notified to be present.

24-2tc

The Merkel Independent School District will hold a budget hearing for Fiscal year 1980 at the Merkel High School, Portable Classroom no. 1, on August 19, 1980, at 7:00 P.M.

24-1tc

Letter to the Editor...

Dear Cloy,

As everyone knows by now, Merkel's First Annual Fun Day was truly a successful event. Without the many days of hard work and determination of Benny Melton and J.A. Sadler, this event would have never have happened.

City employees and our Volunteer Fire Department also contributed by sprucing up the park.

All of our musicians and entertainers kept everyone's attention with an excellent variety of music. Thanks again to all of you, especially, entertainment coordinator, Ray Pack.

Cloy Richards of the Merkel Mail is to be heartily thanked for the excellent write ups and advertising, not to even mention the furnishing of tickets and all of our supplies to make posters. The generosity and cooperation of the Merkel Mail will not be forgotten.

The merchants of Merkel and surrounding area are to be congratulated on their complete cooperation in selling tickets and contributing a large assortment of nice prizes for our drawings.

People throughout this area either participated or enjoyed the days fun, in spite of the sun.

Relaxation and old time type visiting was prevalent all day. New found friendships and cooperations were established between Tye, Trent, Merkel, and surrounding towns.

Many people have asked, "Will Fun Day take place again next year?" - You bet it will! This event will become

bigger and better each year! We will however, still need the help of our top ticket sellers, Johnny Starbuck, Chris Cutler, and Evelyn Martin. Thanks to everyone for making this one of the finest days to ever hit Merkel.

Sincerely,
Martha Sue Justice

Senior Citizens set monthly birthday party

The monthly covered dish luncheon for the Merkel Senior Citizens will be held in the Senior Citizens Building Aug. 12.

All Senior Citizens are

encouraged to attend and bring a covered dish. If anyone present had a birthday in August, you will be honored by sitting at the birthday table.

INFLATION FIGHTING SPECIALS FROM...

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- FRIED CHICKEN QUARTERS \$1.19
- 1/4 LB. HAM SANDWICH \$1.49
- POCHITO69¢
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- TACO ROLLS69
- CORN DOGS59
- GERMAN SAUSAGE79
- HOT OR MILD LINKS79
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- BBQ BRISKET SANDWICH \$1.49
- BBQ SPARE RIBS LB. \$3.99
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Continental Telephone of Texas



Trent News

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Thursday, August 7, 1980

Trent Band begins work Aug. 11

The Trent High School Band will begin their 1980-81 school Aug. 11 at ten a.m. for summer

band practice. The Trent Band director said she'd like for students to come ready to play.

Visitors

Visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Dillard of Noodle this past week were Mrs. Elmer Huff and her granddaughters Susan and Kim of Harrison,

Ark. Also visiting recently were Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Mayes of Houston and son Richard of Nova Scotia and their daughter of Arlington

Conservation bill

In June, a bill extending the Great Plains Conservation Program (GPCP) from December 31, 1981, to September 30, 1991, became law.

The new legislation, Public Law 96-263, will increase GPCP funding from \$300 million to \$660 million and will raise the yearly cost-share limitation from \$25 million to \$50 million.

"This is a positive step to insure that farmers ranchers throughout the Great Plains will have added incentive to apply conservation measures on their land," Ken Cash, District Conservationist, U.S. Department of Agriculture at Abilene said.

Under the GPCP, landowners can speed up soil and water conservation work by signing agreements for 3 to 10 years. The contracts guarantee cost-sharing by the government to apply and maintain conservation measures. Contracts have been written for about half of the land eligible in the 10 states.

The Soil Conservation Service has administered GPCP since the program began in 1956. Through the program, working together with conservation districts, SCS has given technical and financial assistance to 55,000 Great Plains farmers and ranchers in treating critically eroded farmland and making appropriate land use changes.

"165 landowners have taken advantage of the program in the Middle Clear Fork Soil and Water Conservation District," Cash said.

Over the next 10 years, SCS and districts hope to help even more Great Plains farmers and ranchers plan for and install the most effective conservation practices on their land.

"The hazardous climate and easily eroded soil in the 10 Great Plains States require lasting protection of soil and water resources," Cash said. "The drought of the 1970's, and summer of 1980, is a reminder that we must adequately protect the Plains from wind and water erosion to reduce the likelihood of another disastrous Dust Bowl."

"Despite a good record of success for work done under the GPCP, much work remains in order to combat serious droughts and persistent erosion problems," Cash concluded.

Try these chicken recipes

ZINGY BARBECUED CHICKEN

1 broiler-fryer chicken, cut in parts

1/2 cup grapefruit juice
1/2 cup apple cider vinegar

1/2 cup cooking oil
1/4 Cup chopped onion
1 egg

1/2 teaspoon celery salt
1/2 teaspoon powdered ginger
1/8 teaspoon pepper

Into blender container, place all ingredients except chicken; blend 30 seconds. In a 11 saucepan, pour sauce mixture and heat about 5 minutes, until slightly thick. Remove from heat; dip chicken in sauce one piece at a time, turning to coat thoroughly. Place chicken on grill, skin side up, about 8-inches from heat. Grill about 1 hour or until fork can be inserted in chicken with ease, turning and brushing with sauce every 15 minutes. Watch chicken carefully since egg may cause chicken to become too brown.

(Note: Chicken may also be cooked in oven at 350 F. for about an hour.) Makes 4 servings

GOLDEN BARBECUED CHICKEN

1 broiler-fryer chicken, quartered

1 teaspoon coriander
2 tablespoons cooking oil

2 tablespoons flour
1/4 cup finely chopped onion

1 teaspoon bottled browning sauce
1/2 cup chicken broth
1/2 cup lemon juice

3 tablespoons peach jam
1/4 cup prepared mustard
1/2 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon pepper
Sprinkle chicken with coriander. In frypan, place oil and heat over medium temperature.

Add flour, stirring until smooth. Add onion and cook until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in browning sauce then slowly add broth and lemon juice, stirring until smooth and slightly thickened, about 2 minutes. Stir in peach jam, then mustard; continue cooking about 10 minutes. Baste chicken thoroughly with sauce and place on grill, skin side up, about 8-inches from heat. Grill about 1 hour or until fork can be inserted with ease, turning and basting with sauce every 15 minutes. Before serving, sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. Makes 4 servings.

SPEAKING OF SOAPS

This week marked the premiere of NBC's latest entry on the soap opera scene, "Texas". Like everything else associated with the Long Star state, this daytime serial got off to a rousing and eye-catching start. Fans of Beverlee McKinsey will welcome the highlighting of the Iris character into a more prominent format. Just this week Iris has met a former lover face to face after 25 years. References to an affair in the south of France has already whet the appetite of the viewer to hear more about the Iris that no one has ever talked about before.

"Texas" also has plenty of eye appeal. Location scenes shot in Houston promise to give the viewer sights and sounds that differ starkly from the sometimes sterile atmosphere of a closed set. Rather than detract from the story, the scenic glimpses add a touch of authenticity that helps carry along this generic drama. Although not the first to break the long standing tradition, "Texas" has clearly put to rest the idea that soap operas had to derive their settings from mythical towns like Oakdale, or Springfield. Like "Ryan's Hope," "Texas" capitalizes on the ethnic and cultural aspects of a unique setting.

In case you missed the premiere week, here's a brief rundown on the main characters: Josephine Nichols plays Kate Marshall, the matriarch of the Marshall clan; Barbara Rucker plays her daughter-in-law, Ginny Marshall; Philip Clark plays Ryan O'Connor, a mysterious man with ties to the Middle East; Chandler Hill Harben plays Max Dekker, a man with a hearty respect for the land and a proud member of the Dekker clan; and Carla Borelli plays Reena Cook, wife of Kevin Cook (Lee Patterson) an affluent Texas born and bred woman. There are many more characters and situations to describe. Look for more information in the coming weeks in Speaking of Soaps. Meanwhile, keep reading the previews and recaps in this column for the latest scoop on what's been happening and what will happen on all afternoon dramas including daytime TV's newest addition, "Texas."

BY MARY ANN COOPER



Recap 8/4 -- 8/8
Preview 8/11 -- 8/15

TEXAS -- After being thwarted in her attempt to leave town, Iris comes face to face with former lover Alex Wheeler after 25 years. The Marshall ranch is in danger of foreclosure when a sheik dies leaving Mike Marshall holding the financial bag. Bart is interested in Courtney as a business and social partner but she only has eyes for Kevin. Clipper hires Paige

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First Baptist Church
301 Locust, Merkel

to sing at the Top of the World Club. The sheik has been murdered.

THIS WEEK: Clipper pieces together the events of the sheik's murder. Bart is not happy about Courtney's crush.

ANOTHER WORLD -- Jerry learns that Blaine was out with another guy and confronts Buzz. Buzz denies this but implies that Blaine is seeing somebody else. Jerry confronts Blaine and leaves her. Everyone turns against Blaine except for Margo, Jerry's mother. The publicity from the article written by Cecile for Brava unnerves Kit to the point where she administers the wrong medication to one of her patients and is dismissed.

THIS WEEK: Cecile has eyes for Jamie again but are her motives pure? Rachel begins to feel threatened by Miranda.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES -- Leslie agrees to marry Chris but there is no date set. Julie is shot by Lee's hit man and it is uncertain that she will live. Liz proposes to Neil and he asks her to wait until after the election. Todd has a wild party and the police are called in. Liz intercedes and talks the sheriff into letting them go. Joshua is disturbed by Jessie's behavior and leaves the party before she sees him.

THIS WEEK: Doug blames himself for Julie's condition. Chris pressures Leslie.

THE DOCTORS -- Terrorists have taken over the hospital and one patient dies because of improper treatment. The ransom demand is set at five million dollars. It is denied. A patient requiring surgery develops complications and Matt insists he'll operate without Warner's consent. Warner makes eyes at Missy.

THIS WEEK: Tempers flare and rash actions are taken. Missy is terrified.

GENERAL HOSPITAL -- Laura and Luke try to forget the danger they are in by having some light moments in a department

store. Alan traps Monica into going to a fundraising dinner with him. Laura and Luke awake to find the dead body of the store night watchman. Laura and Luke board a bus unaware that Hutch has followed them.

THIS WEEK: Alan celebrates. Laura and Luke flee once more.

EDGE OF NIGHT -- Jody falls for Miles and begins to show her interest. Kelly confides his Rome nightmare to Jody. Frankie is dead set on murdering a confused Draper if he doesn't tell him where the money is. Logan learns that the real Kirk has been dead ten years.

THIS WEEK: The carousel provides the setting for a dramatic climax. Debra and Calvin come to the rescue.

SEARCH FOR TOMORROW -- Sissy struggles with the fact that she is pregnant and plans her future. Jim continues to dig. Kathy avoids David.

THE GUIDING LIGHT -- Rita is feeling insecure.

Holly still carries a torch for Ed. Eve is beginning to wonder about Ross.

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS -- Kay is not so blind to Derek's ways now that she's found Doug. Paul is having problems within his new lifestyle.

AS THE WORLD TURNS -- Brad and Dee find it difficult to be in each other's company due to the affection they share. There may be a new tug of war over Teddy.

ONE LIFE TO LIVE -- Mario's crazy behavior raises everyone's suspicions about his true identity. Edwina is getting tired of putting up with his insults. Pat is living it up in Paris. Dorian tries to steal Sam's thunder at Sam's birthday celebration. Karen and Larry are showing the strain of Karen's covering up for Mario.

THIS WEEK: Asa goes out of his way to woo a vulnerable Sam. Mario makes another grave error.

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'Making Christianity Real'
MONDAY 8 P M
'Persuading Men'
TUESDAY 8 P M
'Parable of the Sower'
WEDNESDAY 8 P M
'Never Man Spake Like This Man'
Song service will be under the direction of George Snyder

ALL MY CHILDREN -- Billy Clyde is bent on revenge and breaks out of prison. Cliff barely pulls Palmer through surgery but his fate is uncertain. Nina feels guilty about her argument with her father prior to his suicide attempt. Benny tires to get Estelle to make a commitment to him.

THIS WEEK: Cliff can't get through to Nina. Daisy lends a hand.

RYAN'S HOPE -- Michael is uneasy about Amy's arrival in town and her job as Jack's babysitter. Kim and Seneca try to get pregnant much to Rae's displeasure. Faith is drawn to Frank while Jill comforts Ken. Dan and Rose believe that Joe may still be alive.

THIS WEEK: Jack overcomes his distaste for female detectives. Amy behaves strangely.

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SUN VALLEY OLEO	LB	39¢

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Goat-sheep association sets meeting

Taylor County Sheep and Goat Raisers Association annual meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 8th at 10 a. m. at the Old Settlers Grounds in Buffalo Gap. Frank Brnovak, Chairman of the group said that all producers in the area are encouraged to attend the educational program and barbeque.

Brnovak stated, that the program will include Bill Sims, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association Executive Secretary, Robert Kensing, Extension Economist, Dale Wade, Extension Wildlife Specialist and George Alshwede, Extension Sheep and Goat Specialist.

Sims will discuss the activities of the state organization while Kensing will give the outlook for

sheep and goat prices in the future. The outlook for wool and mohair will also be discussed as well as numbers of animals in the U.S. and imports effecting the markets.

Wade will discuss new predator control methods and bring the group up to date on trying to get Toxic collars and the chemical 1080 approved for use in controlling predators.

Alshwede will discuss the basic management practice to help producers maximize profits.

The Taylor County Sheep and Goat Raisers Association has been organized over 25 years and has been instrumental in promoting the industry.



The Consumer Alert
by Mark White
Attorney General

AUSTIN—Anyone scanning the newspaper recently has noticed that many stores are currently conducting sales on their household appliances. If you are in the market for an appliance you may wonder exactly how to go about selecting a new appliance. If you're like most Texas consumers, you may never even have thought about it. You're likely to make a hurried decision in such cases if a major item like a kitchen stove or a refrigerator goes out.

existing space. And then, perhaps you're on a tight budget and must consider price first.

After you've analyzed your needs, you will be better able to select the style, features, size, energy requirements, and price that should be considered in making a buying decision.

Our Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division attorneys say you then should gather manufacturers' pamphlets, read ads, visit the library or talk with several knowledgeable sales persons about the type of product you're considering.

After such study, you will be able to eliminate all but a few brands. At this point, you should do some comparison shopping at several stores to see features demonstrated, to read warranties, to compare prices.

Our lawyers urge you to ask yourself the following questions before making that final decision, in order to save yourself possible consumer problems afterwards:

Two Merkelites awarded SFA scholarships

NACOGDOCHES—2 students from Merkel are among those who have been awarded special scholarships at Stephen F. Austin State University for the coming school year.

They are Mary J. Sherrard daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Johnson and a graduate of Merkel High School,

she is transferring from Tarleton St. College and Timothy J. Watson son of Mrs. Janet L. Boden, and a graduate of Merkel High School and transferring from West

tern Texas College.

Registration for the fall semester at the university is scheduled Aug. 28-29. Classes begin Sept. 2.

Bagby, Barnes wed here Saturday

Shannon Lynette Bagby and Bobby Barnes were united in marriage Saturday, July 19, 1980, at the First Baptist Church of Merkel with the Reverend A.R. Washburn of Iowa Park, the bride's uncle, officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O.J. Bagby, Mr. and Mrs. Doyal Barnes are the bridegroom's parents.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Mrs. Eldon Kay Ary of Mexia was her sisters matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Mrs. Jim (Carrie) Hellums, niece of the bride, Lisa Owen, Mary Roeder of Bangs, and Suzanne Byrd.

Tammy Dean, the groom's niece, was flower girl, and Tory Dean, the groom's nephew, was ringbearer, both of Albany. Candelighters were Jon Bright of Mexia and Barton Bagby of Munich, Germany, both are nephews of the bride.

Royce Smith was best man. Groomsmen were Monty Tittle, Mark Kiser of Roby, Danny Groves of

Hobbs, N.M., and Robert Whitehead. Ushers were Arthur Bagby of Munich, Germany, Ferrell Bagby, both brothers of the bride, and Chris Cox.

The groom's brother Almer Barnes was soloist singing the Lords Prayer and The Twelfth of Never with Mrs. Roy Davis playing the organ.

Mrs. Brooks (Jody) Dean of Albany, the groom's sister, registered guests.

The bride's parents hosted the reception at the church fellowship hall. Serving at the brides table were Edith Kennedy, the brides, sister, Mrs. Arthur Bagby of Munich, Germany, sister-in-law of the bride, Tammy Martin, and Mrs. Leroy Austermann. Mrs. Royce Smith and Mrs. Monty Tittle served at the groom's table. Parents of the bridegroom hosted the rehearsal dinner in their home.

After a wedding trip to South Fork, Colorado, the couple now live in Merkel.

A gift tea for the bride was hosted by Mrs. Stanley Toombs in her home on June 13.



Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Barnes

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ALL OTHER FABRICS

Newsbriefs

Graduate

Graduating store manager Sue Tomlinson received her diploma from Larry Watts, instructor for the Allsup's Store Manager training course. The eight day class is a requirement for new managers, preparing them for the responsibilities of operating an Allsup's store. According to Watts, "The course is demanding, teaching theory, policies and procedures, as well as practical application. It provides our customers with a professional who is better prepared to meet their needs." Sue, will return to her store at Rt. 1 Interstate 20 in Merkel to assume the duties of manager.

Guests

Guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. O.J. Bagby and attending the Bagby-Barnes wedding

during the month of July were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bagby and Barton of Munich, Germany; Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Ary, Jeff and Jon Bright of Mexia; Mrs. Louise Pickle and Her grandson Casey Smith of Sonora, California; Mrs. Lillian Lewis of Odessa; Rev. and Mrs. A.R. Washburn of Iowa Park; Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Campbell and Shawn of Iowa Park and Howard Cargill of Hale Center.

Reunion

The descendents of the late Mr. and Mrs. F.Z. Turner, pioneer settlers of Mulberry Canyon, will have their reunion Sunday August 10th at the Lion's Club Building. Relatives and Friends are welcome, a basket lunch will be served at noon.

Riding club

The Merkel Riding Club will meet Thurs.,

Aug. 7 at the REA Building at 8:00 and it will be the monthly business meeting and Pot Luck Supper. Prizes for the month of July will be given.

Reunion

The annual Doan family reunion is scheduled for Sunday at West Texas Utilities Lytle Shores building. Friends and relatives of the family are encouraged to attend.

Graduate

WACO—David Lynn Robertson of Merkel is a candidate for summer quarter graduation, Friday, Aug. 15, at Texas State Technical Institute-Waco Campus.

Robertson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Robertson of Rt. 1 He is a 1974 graduate of Merkel High School.

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Train needed Casey Jones at the throttle

A man well-stricken in years stirred his coffee moodily and, as older people are apt to do, spoke wistfully of bygone days.

"There was a time," he said, sighing, "when the train was the thing. Every kid wanted to be an engineer. Every kid knew the names of all the important passenger trains. A railroad man's watch was a status symbol."

He sipped at his coffee and tugged thoughtfully at an ear.

"Now," he said, "all the kids want to be astronauts. I'm not knocking that — it's understandable.

"But — and this may sound silly to you — space travel is so much less romantic than railroading. It's so much more technical and scientific and astronauts are so robot-like. Railroading was more earthy, more human.

"Train travel even had its slapstick side. These space vehicles don't have hotboxes. Any mechanical failure and it's no laughing matter — it's curtains. Funny things used to happen to men on train crews.

Like the time, back in the 19-teens, when a passenger train thundered through Merkel, west of Abilene,

with no one at the controls.

No one knew the train was running wild until the fireman got into position to take on water at the Merkel tank. And the train didn't stop.

The fireman hurried into the cab to tap the engineer on the shoulder and remind him of the oversight — and there was no engineer!

The fireman frantically braked the train to a stop and backed into the Merkel station. There, he spread the word that the engineer was missing.

Ross Ferrier had the only car in town capable of driving many miles back along the track to look for the engineer. So he and a couple of companions started a search.

Before they reached Tye, they met a handcar headed for Merkel, bearing the lost engineer, who was suffering from multiple bruises — but chiefly to his ego.

The engineer explained sheepishly that, just west of Tye, he had clambered out on the catwalk and felt his way along with a hand on the rail.

The locomotive he usually operated had a knob at the end of the rail. This one didn't.

So he walked right off the speeding train.

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Soaking recommended for lawns

COLLEGE STATION-- Current severe heat and dry conditions pose many problems for homeowners, and lawn care during times of stress is one of the most difficult to deal with.

Dr. Richard L. Duple, turfgrass specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University System, offers hope with some practical advice to help homeowners cope with lawns during the extreme weather conditions of this summer.

Where water is limited for lawn use, Duple suggests watering only when the lawn shows signs of stress, such as wilting or discoloration.

"When you can water, soak the lawn about 3 or 4 inches deep to encourage deep rooting, stronger plants. Ideally, lawns should be watered early in the morning to incorporate any dew which might be present and to reduce evaporative loss," he says.

When water is available, Duple recommends mowing at a height of 2 1/2 to 3 inches at 10 to 14 day intervals.

"If you cannot water the lawn, mowing at a height of 3 to 4 inches and only when the lawn becomes unsightly is the best practice. Mowing at this height will allow common St. Augustine and bermudagrass to mature and produce seed. The seedstalks can be shredded with a mower in late fall or winter to allow seed to revitalize the lawn next spring," he emphasizes.

The specialist also recommends little or no fertilizer during the summer months, and an active insect and disease control program to protect against further damage.

In South Texas, a particular pest during dry years

is the chinch bug. Chinch bug damage can be distinguished from drouth injury by the yellowish, irregular patterns of the infested areas.

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Joseph Seymore, 73

MERKEL- Joseph Weldon Seymore, 73, of Merkel, former school board member, died at 10:12 p.m. Monday, July 29, at Hendrick Medical Center after a sudden illness. Services were at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the United Methodist Church in Merkel.

The Rev. Ray Elmore, pastor, officiated. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery, directed by Starbuck Funeral Home.

Merkel school board. He married Dolly Toombs, March 30, 1927 in Abilene. She died Feb. 28, 1978.

Survivors include four sons, Connie Mack, David Paul, and Phillip Weldon, all of Merkel, and Riley Jack of Blue Grove; four daughters, Mrs. Melvin (Betty) Joe McCoy of Sweetwater, Mrs. Lloyd (BECKY) Nan Knipe of Snyder, Mrs. Allen (Mary) Harman of Lubbock and Mrs. Greg (Melba) Fisher of Merkel; a brother, Tom of Merkel; three sisters, Mrs. Tennessee McDonald of Los Angeles, Calif., Mrs. Pearl Toland of Stamford and Mrs. Birdie Woods of Abilene; 20 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

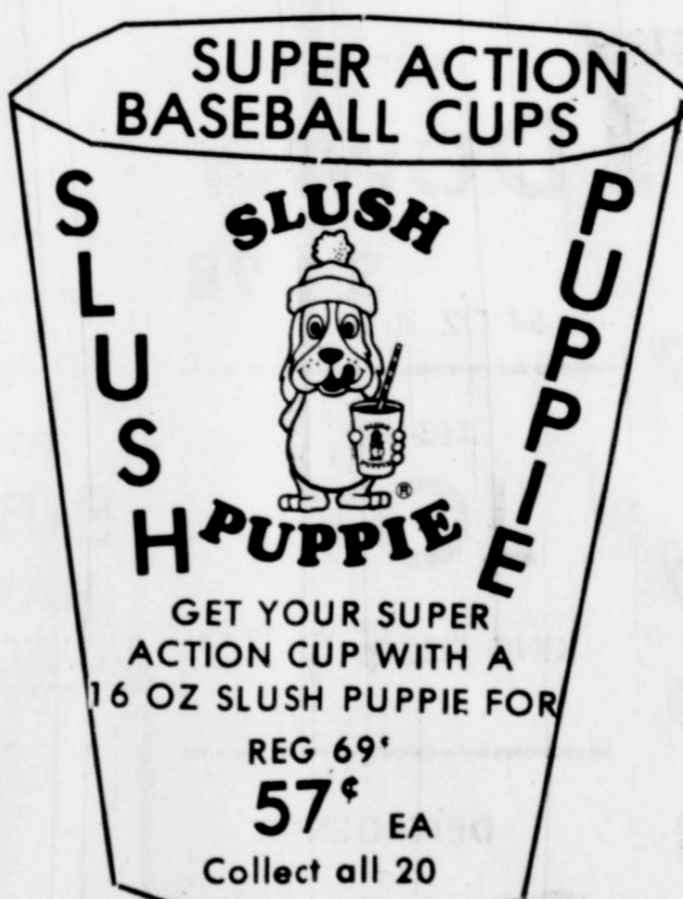
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