

The Merkel Mail

Thursday, October 8, 1981... Merkel, Texas-Merkel's 100th year

15 cents



A man that held local law enforcement officers at bay for six hours at the Big Country Inn Friday morning is led away by Taylor County SWAT team members. The man (in light shirt

and glasses) is being held for mental observation and was booked for reckless conduct. Three weapons were confiscated from his hotel room. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)

737 bales ginned so far here

The three local gins have already processed 737 bales of cotton as of Tuesday morning.

Trent Gin has already ginned 432 bales and ginned their first bale on Sept. 21st. That cotton belonged to E.A. Elam of Abilene.

They had about 250 bales on the yard Tuesday.

Merkel Gin has ginned 290 bales and were caught up Tuesday. Their first bale was ginned Sept. 29 and the cotton belonged to Joe McDuff.

Sith Gin has processed 15 bales and had seven bales on the yard. Their first bale was also ginned Sept. 29 and that cotton belonged to George McDonald.

Firemen, SWAT, Astros, harvest, fund, tourney, Sadat, Jones...more

By Cloy A. Richards

The Merkel Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting firemen and officials from the West Texas region here this weekend at their 86th semi-annual meeting.

Included on the agenda are races, demonstrations and meetings.

The Mail joins Merkel in welcoming the dedicated volunteers from the area.

I didn't know Taylor County has a SWAT team. I sure found out at the Big Country Inn Thursday evening.

Merkel, Tye, County and DPS troopers participated in a six hour standoff as a man kept lawmen at bay with a gun.

See Page One for a related story.

The Astros have made the playoffs for the second straight year, and did so by having the best second season record in baseball.

Sure would love to see a Texas team take the World Series. It would be a first and with the Astros' pitching staff, it's not far fetched.

It's cotton harvest time again, and much like the wheat farmer, local cotton growers are looking at a pretty good crop and a real bad price.

What else is new?

A fund has been started to defray medical expenses for Douglas Tucker, stepson of Merkel Police Chief Jerry Cowin.

Tucker was injured when a chemical tank

spilled ammonia.

Donations are being accepted in his name at the Farmers and Merchants National Bank.

Congratulations are in order to Helen Jones and Jo Ann Gardner for winning their flights in the Merkel Ladies Golf Association Match Play tournament.

The ladies will be hosting a members only couples tournament here Saturday and an awards banquet Saturday night.

Entry fee is \$10 per team and the deadline for entries is Friday.

Anwar Sadat's death Tuesday by assassination was a tragic event and certainly will delay a decision in the sale of AWACS radar planes to Saudi Arabia or at least should.

The situation in the Middle East is now unstable to say the least. Sadat had always been interested in American proposals to create a lasting peace in that region.

He had also been the most stable leader of the Arabian nations.

U.S. Air Force General David C. Jones, certainly took his career in his own hands in front of the Senate Armed Service Committee when he openly disagreed with President Reagan's proposal to house the MX warhead system in existing silos, after they are reinforced.

It's reassuring to see a man speak his mind, regardless of what his boss thinks, especially when you are talking about primary defense of our country.

Man keeps area officers at bay 6 hours at Big Country Inn

A six hour standoff between local law enforcement authorities and a man with a gun ended at 2:15 a.m. here Friday morning as Taylor County Deputy Chip Moody talked the man out of a Big Country Inn room.

The man had held his son inside the room and had threatened to shoot anyone who came near the room during the standoff.

Two weapons, including a .357 magnum and a deer rifle were recovered from the room, as well as \$10,000 in cash.

The incident started about 8 p.m. when the man and his wife had a family argument. The man left the room and went to his car, took out a couple of weapons and threatened his wife and daughter.

The man's 12 year old son reportedly stayed in the room on his own and was not threatened.

Members of the Merkel and Tye Police Department, the Department of Public Safety and a full compliment of Taylor County Sheriff's Deputies staked out the hotel and kept a close vigil on the room, until Moody talked the man out shortly after 2 p.m.

Taylor County SWAT team members were also called, and were involved in the arrest.

The man was booked into Taylor County Jail under wreckless conduct charges and was later transferred to a mental hospital for 14 days of psychiatric evaluations.

No shots or injuries were reported during the incident.

Badgers lose a close one, 6-0

Two straight penalties totaling 45 yards and an uncovered receiver in the Badger end zone spelled doom for the Badgers here last Friday as Winters took a 6-0 victory in front of a large homecoming crowd.

Winters and Merkel both had trouble offensively throughout the game, as the teams punted 16 times.

With seven minutes left in the game, Winters put together two first downs, got a 30 yard pass interference call and a 15 yard unsportsmanlike conduct call that moved the ball to the Badger 13. Winters then gained four yards on a run and then flipped a nine yard touchdown pass to an uncovered split end.

The Badgers threatened early in the game as they got to the Winters 24 but a fumble killed that drive.

Badger Coach Eddie Lang told the Mail Monday, "The game was there to win, we just did not take advantage of our opportunities."

Lang said, "those penalties and then a mental mistake on pass coverage killed us. The Badgers

are getting better, we are improving each week."

Lang praised the play of Lorne Sloan, Greg Arnwine, Tony McInroe and Roy Johnson on offense and Russell Lucas, Tim Brady, Tony McInroe and Brian Gary on Defense.

Also last week, the Merkel 7th grade team came out the only winner in Thursday night action as they defeated Winters 28-6.

The 8th grade lost 18-12 and the Junior Varsity lost a close one, 13-12.

This week, the seventh grade take on Hamlin at 6, the 8th grade play at 6 and the Junior Varsity play at 7:30. At halftimes, Merkel fifth and sixth grade teams will play flag football. The fifth grade will play at 4:30 and the sixth graders will play at 6:30 and 7:30.

This week, the Badgers travel to Hamlin. It will be Hamlin's Homecoming and as an added incentive for the Pie Pipers, they cannot afford another loss if they plan to stay alive in the district 8 AA race.

Hamlin is a large, fast team led by quarterback Brad Lakey.



Badger running back Russel Lucas turns the corner against Winters here Friday. The Badgers lost a close one, 6-0 as Winters turned two fourth

quarter penalties into a touchdown. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)

Fire Department needs funds for truck

Rural residents of Merkel and Trent are being encouraged to donate funds needed to increase the Merkel Volunteer Fire Department's ability to deal with rural fires, according to Chief Waymon Adcock.

The department has secured a loan for \$7,000 to pay for a 2,000 gallon rural fire fighting vehicle. The current rural fire truck carries only 200 gallons of water.

So far, \$225 has been donated to the fund and the Farmers and Merchants National Bank has pledged to match \$1,000 in donations.

The truck will increase the department's efficiency by more than 1,000 per cent when it comes to dealing with a rural fire. The only way to get water to a fire at a remote area is to have the water on board.

Donations may be sent to the Merkel City Hall or Chief Adcock at Circle A Western Wear.

300 firemen expected for Saturday meeting

About 300 firemen are expected for the 86th semi-annual meeting of the Mid West Texas Firemen and Fire Marshal's Association here Saturday.

The firemen will be treated to a full day of events, hosted by the Merkel Volunteer Fire Department.

Activities will get started at 10 a.m. at the Fire Station. The day will be highlighted with a

demonstration on how to use a chemical foam to extinguish car fires and team races at 4 p.m.

The races will be held on North Second and Edwards. The public is invited to watch the men's and women's pumper, six person and person team races.

A bar-b-cue will be held at the school cafeteria and a firemen's ball will be held at the Club building at 8 Saturday night.

Merkel High, Middle school band concert set

The Merkel High and Middle School Bands will be performing in a free "March Music" concert at Merkel's City Park, October 16th at 6 p.m. The Middle School Band will play famous marches, followed by the High School Band.

There will be no admission charged and those attending are asked to bring lawn chairs.

The Merkel High Band Boosters will be selling barbecue sandwiches, coffee and soft drinks.

The public is cordially invited.

Tucker-Valdez still in hospital

Douglas Tucker and Javier Valdez remained at Hendrick Medical Center Monday from injuries received when a fertilizer tank overturned here last week.

The men were injured when a Merkel Farm Supply Tank overturned and released anhydrous ammonia. The men were overcome with toxic

fumes.

A relief fund has been established at the Farmers and Merchants National Bank to help with the expenses for Douglas Tucker. He is the stepson of Merkel Police Chief Jerry Cowin.

Donations are now being accepted for that fund.

Newsbriefs

Thursday October 8, 1981

french fries, choc. peanut cluster.

es, \$25.00; Mr. and Mrs. Louie Herring, \$100.00.

Shiloh

donors named

The Shiloh Cemetery was blessed with more donations. They are: Mr. M.L. Rutledge, \$10.00; Blanch and Dorothy Rutledge, \$20.00; Howard Mae Grayson Kennedy, \$25.00; Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Smith, \$10.00; Elmer and Bobbie Star Grayson, Helien, \$50.00; Hattie Tompson, \$100.00; Mr. and Mrs. James Pomroy, \$50.00; Odell Pomroy in memory of his grandmother, \$30; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carter, \$25.00; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jam-

Bowens

announce birth

Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Bowen, III, wish to announce the birth of a new daughter, Amanda Lynn, was born Oct. 3rd, at 12:27. She weighed 8 lbs. 2 1/2 ozs. and was 20 inches long.

Proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Griffin of Tye Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Bowen, Jr. of Merkel, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Gary of Azle, Texas. Parents are known as Hoss and Kim.

Library aides collecting labels

Merkel Middle School Library Aides are sponsoring a Campbell Soup Label program this year. The labels will be redeemed for audio-visual equipment and reference books for the library.

The aides will collect your labels if you will call 928-5521 and leave your name and address. Labels included are: Campbell Condensed Soups, Campbell's Chunky soups, Campbell's soup for one soups, Franco-American pro-

ducts, Swanson canned products, V9 cocktail vegetable juice, Campbell's beans products and Campbell's tomato juice. Labels from any size cans are useful. We are looking forward to your support, so far we have collected a thousand labels.

Singing set

There will be a Gospel singing at the Assembly of God Church on North 2nd and Runnels, Friday night October 16.

The singing starts at 7 o'clock. Everyone is welcome.

Wheeler's announce marriage

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wheeler announce the marriage of their granddaughter, Lonnie Graham, to Chuck Keils, of Abilene, on Wednesday, September 30th. The couple is at home at 1237 Anson Avenue, Abilene.

A shower honoring the newlyweds will be held Monday night, October 12th from 7 til 9 at the home of Barbara Graham, 1108 N. 5th, Merkel. Friends and family are invited.

Trent council will meet

The Parent Advisory Council will hold a meeting concerning the Trent Title I Program on Monday, October 12, 1981 at 9:00 p.m. in the High School. All interested persons are urged to attend.

Williams-Floyd wedding held

Brenda Williams, daughter of Bro. & Sis. Dean Williams, pastor of First Assembly of God Church in Merkel, became the bride of Tony Floyd, son of Mrs. Jeraldine Floyd, of Abilene, September 4, 1981. There will be a shower for the couple Oct. 8, 1981 at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Audrey Denman, 402 Nolan, Merkel. All friends and family of the bride and groom are invited.

Children's musical cast set

The Children's Christmas Musical rehearsals will begin, Monday, October 12, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lion's Club Building. The cast for the musical include: John Aguinaga, Jamie Beasley, Matthew Davis, Dusty McLeod, Chance Ferguson, Angie Aguinaga, Robert Turner, Julie Koflanovich, Richa Hill, Maxie Lang, Staci Ferguson, Jamie Heyen, Me-

lissa Harris, Krista Elliott, Amy Stuckey, and Randy Graham.

Production dates are set for December 10, 11 & 12.

School menu

Thursday October 8: beef tacos, cheese, pinto beans, lettuce, tomato, taco shells, and purple plum cobbler.

Friday October 9: Hamburgers, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onion, tater tots, and fresh orange wedge.

Monday October 12: Smoked Sausage, pinto beans, fried okra, corn bread, apricots.

Tuesday, October 13: meat loaf, green beans, corn, angel biscuit, and pears.

Wednesday, Oct. 14: Grilled cheese sand., veg. soup, slice bread, choc. cake.

Thursday October 15: fish, macaroni and cheese, blackeye peas, cornmeal twist, purple plum cobbler.

Friday October 16: Hamburgers, lettuce, tomato, pickle, onion,

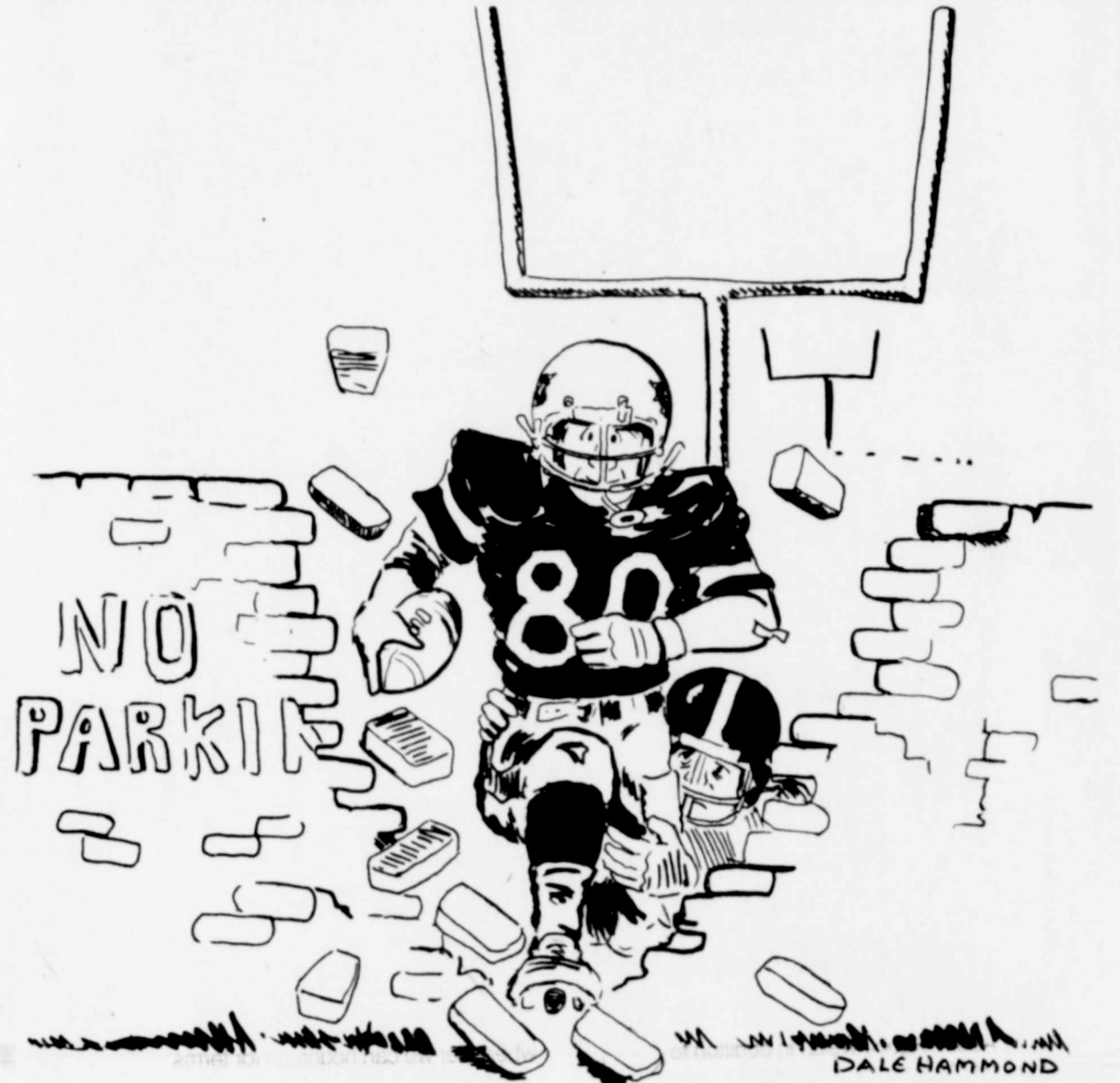


MERKEL HIGH SCHOOL

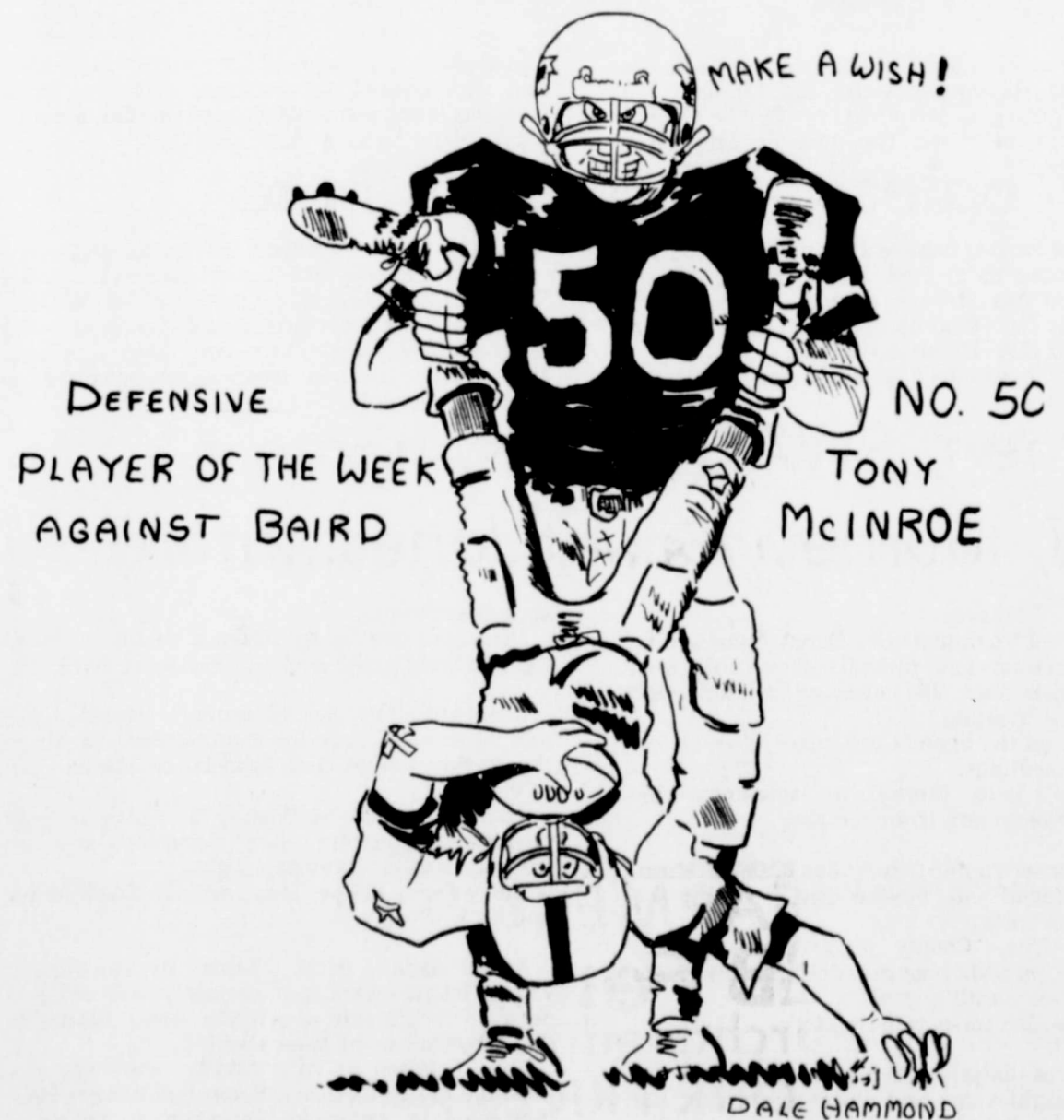
The following merchants are Badger believers

- Merkel Drug
- Merkel Auto Parts
- Merkel Pipe & Supply
- Merkel Country Club
- Ninth Street Grocery
- Whisenhunt Feed & Grain
- Parryann Beauty Nook
- Carson's
- Boney Insurance
- F & M Bank
- VFW
- American Testing

- Wylie Truck Terminal
- Circle A Western Wear
- Taylor Electric
- Pug & Leo's
- Bishop Shell
- Ben Franklin
- Merkel Brick & Lumber
- Hi-Val
- C & B Fertilizer
- The Hair Shoppe
- Palmer Pontiac
- Warren Dozier-DVM
- Tommy's Place



NUMBER 80 - KEVIN FARMER - OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK AGAINST BAIRD BEARS



DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK AGAINST BAIRD TONY McINROE

FLY
LOWEST FARE
CHAPARRAL AIRLINES
NON-STOP
To Dallas-Love
Dallas/Ft. Worth
Houston-Hobby
and Austin
Connections
World-Wide
Now With 52
Flights Daily.
Call your Travel Agent
or
677-3337

CALICO
CORNER
COMING
SOON!

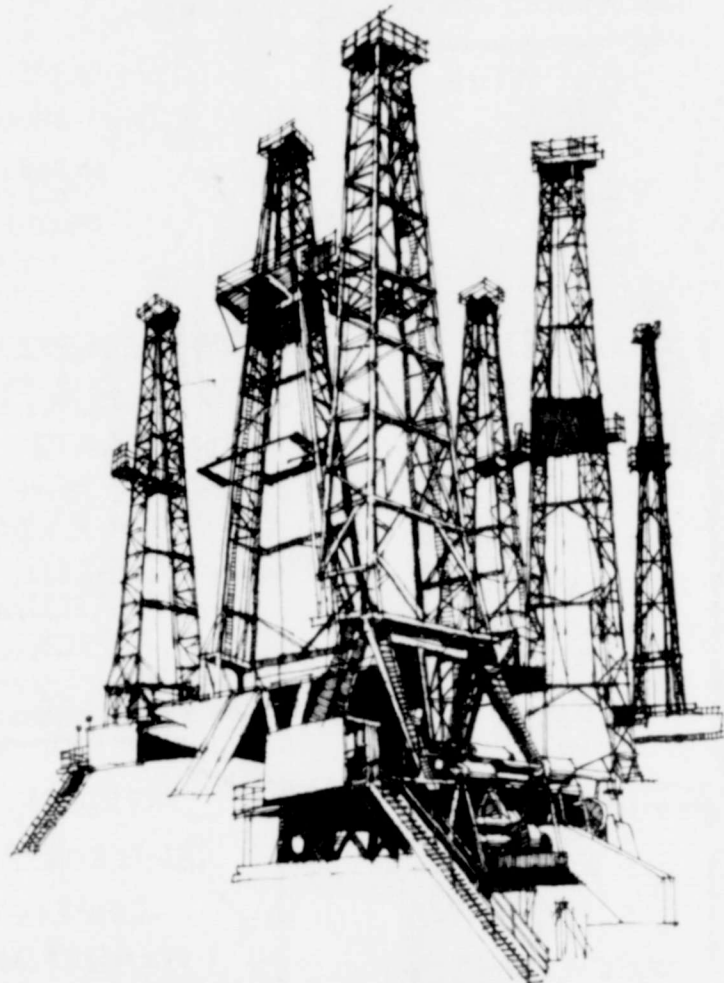
DODIE'S
KUT & KURL
118 EDWARDS
928-4815



Walter Harris was named Mr. X. and Nan Hogan Campbell was named Coming Home Queen by Merkel High Former Students at

Homecoming activities here last week. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)

Why gas is plentiful:



19,000 Wells

About 19,000 wells, in addition to pipeline agreements, now supply the natural gas we sell to you. Because of Lone Star's aggressive purchasing program, our supply position is strong. And we will contract for more gas

whenever we can negotiate for terms favorable to you. Our ability to deliver all the gas you need for your home is another reason to be glad you're served by the Lone Star system.

Gas. It's plentiful, efficient and right for the times.



Lone Star Gas Company

CALICO CORNER OPENING!

502 HAYNES

Fri. Oct. 16 5 until 8 pm

Sat. Oct. 17 8 am until 8 pm

ALL ARTICLES HAVE A COUNTRY FLAIR AND HAVE BEEN HAND-MADE WITH HEART AND HAND

DOOR PRIZES SATURDAY, OCT. 17

ATTENTION FARMERS & RANCHERS

CB Fertilizer

has recently purchased a new **BIG WHEEL APPLICATOR** OUR PRICES WILL BE VERY **COMPETITIVE** We would appreciate your business on your wheat, cotton or all fertilizer and spray needs. If you need soil samples, please call us

Glen Bicknell Home phone: 537-2802 Calvin Home Phone: 537-2404 Mobil Phone: 673-9895 Rt. 1 Box 49-A Office Phone: 537-9564 Cooley Merkel, Texas 79536 Mobil Phone: 673-9998

THE TRENT BEAUTY SHOP HAS A NEW OPERATOR KAY REYNOLDS
 KAY IS TRAINED IN ALL THE LATEST STYLES.
 Cuts, men's hairstyles, french braiding, finger waving, perms, blo-dry styles.
CALL FOR APPOINTMENTS 862-6331
MONDAY THOUGH SATURDAY

ENJOY PIZZA
 THE ALL ABILENE IS TALKING ABOUT

Great tasting pizza now at
 673-4964
 3100 N. First
 Abilene, Texas
 Delivering 5 P.M. To Closing Daily!

928-5671 **P & L** 921 N 2
AUTO PARTS
 (FORMERLY MERKEL AUTO PARTS)
 WE WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS OCT. 12
 OPEN 8 am until 5 pm Monday-Friday
 8 am until NOON Saturdays
 PECK & LIZ EAGER-OWNERS
 AFTER HOURS 928-5246

WE ARE ENJOYING A WHOLE LOT OF A GOOD THING

For many years now, most of us have taken a plentiful supply of electricity for granted. We've found more and more uses for electricity, because, as Reddy Kilowatt kept telling us:

- Electricity is Reliable
- Electricity is Clean
- Electricity is Efficient
- Electricity is Quiet
- Electricity is Flexible and
- Electricity is Low in Price

Electricity is still all of these things... even low in price compared to other goods and services. But there's no escaping the fact that costs of supplying it are constantly going up... and so is usage.

People in WTU territory are using more electricity than ever before (9,020 kilowatt-hours per residential customer in 1980, compared to 5,856 in 1970).

With the demand for its product steadily increasing, WTU can't stand still. It must grow, too.

The growth is carefully planned, with the customer's welfare foremost in mind. WTU is considering only the necessities. But to keep giving the kind of service you're used to, we're going to be involved in some costly updating of production, transmission and distribution facilities. And, of course, we must maintain a staff of people qualified to keep the system operating. You can depend on WTU to continue providing a reliable supply of electricity. But let's all realize what it takes to produce it, and use it wisely. It's too good to take for granted.

Reddy Supplies the Energy... But Only You Can Use It Wisely.

WEST TEXAS UTILITIES COMPANY
WTU
 A Member of The Central and South West System

PLUMBING SUPPLIES
 FISHING SUPPLIES
 FARM TANK FISH FOOD
 PAINT
ferti·lome
 SEEDS
H O M E
 ACCO FEEDS
S U P P L Y
 VET SUPPLIES
 WATER HOSES
F E R T I L I Z E R
 HARDWARE
 910 N. 1st
 928-5632

FOR SALE: Hay, lots of grain, call 928-5204. 20-TFC

PICK YOUR OWN tomatoes, 25 cents per pound, hot peppers, 50 cents per pound. Also have rabbits and guinea pigs for sale. Call 928-4448.

26-TFC
FOR SALE: Wayside Trailer, 14 x 60, 2 bedroom, 1978, washer and dryer, wet bars, central air. Also have a utility building, 12 x 20, carpenter tools, call 928-5148.

28-2tp
CADDO SEED FOR SALE: combined, cleaned or sacked and treated, call 928-5508 or 928-5815.

27-4tc
FOR SALE: Remington Model 700 ADL Cal. Rifle, Redfield 25-06, 6 power scope with Redfield mounts and rings. Tom Carson 928-5069, store 928-5231.

29-TFC
FOR SALE: Four FR-78-15 Radial tires, will still pass inspection, \$50.00. Call 928-4486 or come by 1108 S. 8th.

29-1tp
FOR SALE: Used 250 gallon propane tank, call 846-4337.

29-1tc
FOR SALE: Bob Seed Oats, first year from certified, 846-4445.

29-6tc
GARAGE SALES
GARAGE SALE: Sat. only 8 a.m. Children's clothes, bicycle, law mower, 611 Locust.

29-1tp
GARAGE SALE: Friday and Saturday, 508 Locust, 4 Families.

29-1tc
PORCH SALE: Saturday, 402 Kent. Clean selection of men's, women's and boys clothes, also tools, jewelry, scraps and a little bit of everything. Starts at 8 a.m.

29-1tp
AT THINGS IN GENERAL we're a lot like a big garage sale. Come in and browse at 122 Edwards, 2:00 - 5:00, Tuesday thru Saturday.

27-4tp
REAL ESTATE
LAND FOR SALE? Call Collect-Bill Largent, Farm and Ranch Mgr. at Frances McClure Inc. Realtors, 3157 South 27th Abilene 698-3211, Night 698-2375.

46-TFC
FOR SALE: 13 lots, Bettis Heights Addition, close to Country Club, call 736-6825.

28-1tc
FOR SALE: on 2 acres, Mobile home, also new portable building, 12 x 20 foot, wired insulated, paneled, 928-5356.

Lawn Properties, Inc. M/S

FOR SALE: 2 bedroom, LR-1 bath on corner lot, owner will carry; 3 bedroom-LR-1 bath on 2 lots. We need listings in Merkel and Trent areas. We buy equities. Call: 862-6329 Betty Stautzenberger.

Real Estate Investors
3146 S. 14th
Abilene, Texas 79605

FOR SALE: 3 bedroom, one bath, kitchen, dining, utility, refrigerated air, fenced, \$10,000 down, owner finance balance, Call 928-5381.

29-2tc
UNDER \$42,000! New all brick home, choice of colors, 2 car garage, energy efficient, large lot, great location. Practical Homes Realty, 673-8114 or 672-2448 or 692-4747.

29-TFC
FOR SALE: by owner 3 bedroom, brick home new carpet, new wall paper in kitchen and bath, built-in dish washer and stove, reasonable priced. Call 928-5456 or 928-5455 for appointment.

FOR RENT
SHANNONSIDE APARTMENTS-1, 2, & 3 bedroom apartments shag carpet, all electric, dish washer, garbage disposal, central cooling and heating. For more information call 928-5038.

8-TFC
FOR RENT: a lot for mobile home, Mountain View N.E. of Merkel. Call 928-5872.

29-1tc
HELP WANTED
HELP WANTED: now taking applications for all shifts for clerk. Apply in person at Allsup, see Sue, also need stocker.

18-TFC
NEED STOCK BOY ONLY. Apply in Person at Allsup, Ask for Sue.

26-TFC
NEEDED IMMEDIATELY
Cook, 3 days per week, day shift, Housekeeper five days per week. Apply in person, Starr Nursing Home.

26-TFC
HELP WANTED: one licensed or certified dietary supervisor, 20 hours per week, apply in person, Starr Nursing Home, Merkel.

25-TFC
CLERICAL full or part time opportunity working from home with mail. No experience required. Information send stamped, self-addressed envelope, A.J. Assoc., P.O. Box 29760-A Hollywood Ca. 90027.

MISC.

The Society of American Poets in order to stimulate membership is publishing a book of poems.

If you have written a poem (24 lines or less) and would like to have it considered for publication, send your poem with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Society of American Poets, P.O. Box 82542, Tampa, Florida 33682.

28-4tc
I WILL NOT be responsible for any debts made by anyone other than myself. The joint bank account is closed.
James Hackney
26-4tp

WE BUY JUNK CARS
Also do Auto repair, 928-5932.

27-3tp
REGISTERED baby-sitting in my home, Monday through Friday, 928-4412.

29-1tp
CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: Frank Lamar Harlow, Jr., 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 Brenda Sue Harlow, Mother, In Re: Johnston Christopher Harlow, A Child, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 3rd day of Sept. 1981 against Frank Lamar Harlow, Jr., Respondent, and said suit being numbered 4064-C on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Interest of Johnston Christopher Harlow, A Child", the nature of which suit is a request to Terminate Parent-Child Relationship. Said child was born the 22nd day of December, 1980, 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.

26-4tp
Irene Crawford, District Clerk, 326th District Court, Taylor County, Texas by Johnnie Wakefield, Deputy

26-4tc
CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: Jeff D. Harris, Defendant, 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 issuance of this citation, same being the 5th day of October A.D. 1981, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 22nd day of April A.D. 1981, in this cause numbered 37,086A on the docket of said court and styled The Citizens National Bank in Abilene, Plaintiff, vs. Jeff D. Harris, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows to-wit: Suit on Note, the balance thereon of \$5,676.91, as of March 2, 1981, plus interest thereon at the rate of 10 percent per annum from such date plus attorney's fees of not less than \$1,890.00. Plaintiff is the owner and holder of the note or notes which are the subject matter of this lawsuit 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 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 13th day of August A.D. 1981.
Attest: Irene Crawford, Clerk
42nd District Court
Taylor County, Texas
by Rilla Mahoney, Deputy.

The Classifieds

at Abilene, Texas, this 13th day of August A.D. 1981.

TO: Frederick Dennis Raffety, 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 Barbara Peiser, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 15th day of September, 1981, against Frederick Dennis Raffety, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 6183-C on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Interest of Christina Dawn Raffety and Lori Ann Raffety, children", the nature of which suit is a request to change the name of the minors, Christina Dawn Raffety and Lori Ann Raffety to Christina Dawn Peiser and Lori Ann Peiser. Said child Christina Dawn Raffety, was born the 26th day of December, 1966 in City of St. Louis, County of Independent City, State of Missouri. Said child Lori Ann Raffety was born January 27, 1969, in St. Louis, County of Independent City, Missouri.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child's interest which will be binding upon you.

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.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this 15th day of September, 1981.

Irene Crawford, District Clerk, 326th District Court, Taylor County, Texas. By Johnnie Woodard, Deputy.

29-1tc

29-1tc

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VFW REGULAR MEETING
Oct. 10
WE WILL DISCUSS DISTRICT MEETING IN BROWNWOOD MEMBERS DUES ARE DUE

Dirt Work GRADER LOADER BACKHOE 928-5534
DRIVES PADS SEPTICS DUMP-TRUCKS
Watts Dirt Construction
BISHOP SHELL STATION FULL SERVICE GENERAL REPAIR
OPEN FROM 7:00 til 6:00 MON. THRU SAT.
211 KENT 928-5222

FISHING EQUIPMENT GUN CLEANING KITS AND ACCESORIES
STANFORD'S HUNTING-FISHING LICENSES 123
928-5762 KENT

CAN HAUL DIRT, ROCK & GRAVEL
LEVEL & REPAIR DRIVEWAYS FREE ESTIMATES CALL ANYTIME
HAROLD WALKER
PHONE 928-5872 202 CHERRY

Roofing and Roof Repair All Types
Angel Lerma
928-5419

TOOMBS REAL ESTATE
Freddy Toombs (Broker)
116 Edwards
Ph. 928-5921 Res. 928-5696

LESTER HUMPHREY

TERMITE AND PEST CONTROL
1202 PINE 677-2413

Consolidated Plumbing
Office 928-5379
Licensed-Backsoe & Trenching-Old & New Work All Work Guaranteed
Greg Fisher Pat Warren
928-5627 928-5263

Circular Blades Hand Saws
Professional Saw & Tool Sharpening
122 South St. Box 332 Tye, Texas 79663
Phyllis & Harold Boyd
Carbide Work (915) 692-5184

KEN'S RADIO & TV
KEN KRAATZ - OWNER
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Melanie Richards Co-Publisher
Cathy Pack Business Manager
Carol Dillon Advertising Mgr.
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Subscription rates are \$7.50 per year inside Taylor County and \$8.25 elsewhere.
Member of the Texas Press Association
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78 MERCURY MARQUIS BROUGHAM 4 door, 41,500 miles, loaded, beautiful blue with white top, nice, only.	\$4295	77 AMC PACER D L WAGON automatic, power, air, mag wheels, red with wood grain, a buy.	\$3495
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Renee Aiken was crowned the 1981 Homecoming Queen by last year's Queen D.W. Best (back to camera). (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)

FFA spotlights Mashburn, Bland

We would like to thank Hi-Val and Acco Feed for holding a supper Monday night at Pug & Leo's for the FFA students.

This week's spotlight is on Mark Bland, son of Roberta Bland. Mark graduated last year from Merkel High. He is serving as State Vice President of the FFA. Mark is attending Texas Tech and majoring in Agriculture Economics.

This week we are also spotlighting members of the General Ag Mechanics Class.

Chris Mashburn, son of Jo Ann Mashburn, is a junior and enrolled in General Ag. Mechanics. He has participated in all major stock shows for the last two years. Chris won on the Greenhand Parliamentary Procedure team and Senior

Taylor Telephone elects officers

Taylor Telephone Cooperative, Inc. which operates 14 unattended dial telephone offices in nine surrounding counties held its 26th Annual Meeting of the Members at the High School Auditorium, Merkel, Texas, on September 29, 1981.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss matters affecting the business of the Cooperative and the election of three directors. The Board of Directors consists of nine members who serve a 3-year term.

A nominating committee made up of A.D. McCain, Charles Byers, Reo Jolly, Gene Gardner, Salty Barton, and Johnny Ussery met in August and submitted a list of six men to run for the three vacancies on the Board.

The directors are: Jack J. Farmer, President, Clyde; C.A. Fomby, Vice-President, Tuscola; Frank K. Antilley, Secretary, Wingate; J.L. Poor, Hawley; Thomas Hyde, Sweetwater; Sam West, Abilene; Arthur L. Moore, Merkel; A.D. Hill, Sylvester; and Lance Smith, Lawn.

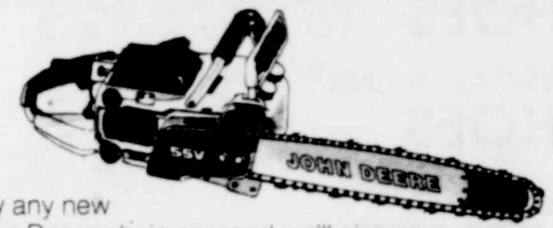
Taylor Telephone Cooperative, Inc. was formed in 1952 and now has approximately 4,300 main stations with modern telephone service throughout the Big Country.

Conducting team. Chris went to State FFA Convention and Livestock judging events. Last year he was Chapter Treasurer. This year he is Chapter President and Big Country District Vice President. Chris participated in the West Texas Stock Show and Plans on going to the Dallas State Fair Stock Show. His projects this year is 2 sows and 9 barrows.

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Buy a new John Deere Chain Saw and get everything you need to begin cutting firewood (except the gas) on us



Buy any new John Deere chain saw and we'll give you a woodcutter's kit at no extra cost. Valued at more than \$54, this kit contains everything you need to begin cutting firewood, except the gas. It includes a 2 1/2-gallon gas can, engine oil, bar and chain lube, felling wedge, a pair of cowhide gloves, and more. See us soon to take advantage of this limited-time offer.

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BUY 2 RECEIVE A 24 OZ. COKE FREE!
ALLSUP'S BURRITOS FOR **2\$1.19**

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Trent News

Trent takes Hermleigh 45-18

Trent scored three quick touchdowns at the end of the first half and then coasted to a 45-18 win over Hermleigh in their first district encounter at Hermleigh last Friday.

Hermleigh had held Trent scoreless until late in the second quarter when Jerry Walters blocked a punt and Greg Beasley scored one play later.

Trent then held Hermleigh a bad punt gave Trent the ball on the Hermleigh 12. Roger Brenem tossed a touchdown pass to Kevin Whitley.

Greg Beasley ended the game with three touchdowns, Richard Beaver had two touchdowns, Kevin Whitley caught a touchdown pass and Jerry Walters returned a kickoff for a 55 yard touchdown.

Trent's district record is now 1-0 and they will play Grady at 7 p.m. in Grady.

Trent's Junior High will be at home against Highland. Kickoff is 6 p.m.

LAY A WAY SALE

JOGGING VALUE SHOES TO '12" \$7.99

JARMAN DRESS SHOES VALUE TO '45.00 \$25.99

CASUAL MENS VALUE TO '30.00 SHOES \$7.99

NEW FALL DRESSES \$31.99 UP

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TEXSHEES BRIEFS SIZE 5-8 \$2.20

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OPEN: Monday-Saturday
BETTY LINDSEY
By appointment
Walk-ins welcomed!

AVACARE
928-4325
102 Edwards

135 KENT **BAR M MEATS** 928-4142
HOURS Monday thru Friday 10 - 6:00
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NEW VEGETABLE STICKS 2 LB BAG \$2.99
NEW APPLE STICKS 2 LB BAG \$2.99

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS
PRESTON MILK GAL. \$2.25
PRESTON MILK 1/2 GAL. \$1.20
BUTTERMILK 1/2 GAL. \$1.15



Home State Bank Announces All-Savers Certificate Savings

FIRST \$1,000 TO AN INDIVIDUAL IS TAX FREE \$2,000 JOINT COUPLE TAX FREE

WE WILL WORK WITH ANY INDIVIDUAL ON A CERTIFICATE DEPOSIT OR SAVINGS PLAN.

MEMBER FDIC



Myra's Grocery

Trent, Texas

GRAND OPENING

7:30 am until 7:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday
Closed on Sunday

PRICES GOOD SATURDAY OCTOBER 10 ONLY

FOLGERS 1 LB CAN LIMIT 1 **\$1.99**

TIDE KING SIZE **\$2.99**

GLADIOLA FLOUR 99¢
WITH \$10 OR MORE PURCHASE EXCLUDING CIGARETTES 5 LB BAG

PARKAY OLEO QUARTERS **69¢**

BATH TISSUE DELSEY 4 ROLL PACK **\$1.13**

CIGARETTES CARTON **\$6.39**

LAYS POTATO CHIPS

\$1.29

BUY 1 AT REGULAR PRICE-GET ANOTHER FREE

JOY LIQUID 48 OZ **\$2.49**

MRS. BAIRD'S 1 1/2 LB. LOAF **59¢**

CINNAMON ROLLS Mrs. Baird's Buy 1 GET 1 Free **99¢**

COKE PIBB TAB 12 OZ. CANS **\$1.59**

DEL MONTE 303 SLICED CAN PEACHES 59¢

LIBBYS CS OR WK 16 1/2 OZ. CORN 49¢

TOMATO PUREE BUFFALO 6/\$1

PRODUCE

POTATOES 10 LB. BAG \$1.59

TOMATOES LARGE CALIF. LB 59¢

BELL PEPPER LARGE CALIF. 6/\$1

CABBAGE COLORADO LB 15¢

BANANAS DOLE 3lbs/\$1

REGSITER BEFORE OCT. 17 FOR DRAWING FOR FREE GROCERIES THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT TRENT HOMECOMING



Larry Johnson is all smiles following being hit in the face by a cream pie at halftime of the Merkel-Winters game. J.C. Sims of Merkel had the honors of throwing the pie. The loser in a

Badger Booster Club membership drive receives the annual pie in the face. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)

Booster club meets, Seymore Yaddow named

The Merkel Booster Club met Monday night at 7:00 at the Taylor Electric Co-op. Boosters of the week were Connie Mack Seymore and Lee Yaddow.

Russell Lucas was voted offensive player of the week. Greg Arnwine and Roy Johnson were voted for defense players of the week.

We had about 30 members to turn out for the meeting. All was appreciated and we look

Calico Corner opening soon

The Calico Corner, an unique shop of handmade articles, will open Friday, Oct. 16, 1981, at 5 p.m. The location is 502 Haynes Street.

The three room house will be filled with cross stitch samplers, pillows, afghans, place mats, baskets, tait painting, folk art, wooden pieces, both finished and unfinished, punched tin, weathered pieces, toy bags, soaps, sachets, Christmas articles and goodies in the kitchen.

Four door prizes will be drawn Saturday, October 17, at 5 p.m. You do not have to be present for the drawing, just register Friday or Saturday.

All gifts have been made by Mrs. Jack Moore and Miss Nancy Moore, of Tye, Mrs. Jack Boone and Mrs. Helen Benson of Merkel.

Store hours will be Friday, October 16, 5 p.m. til 8 p.m. and Saturday, October 17th, 8 a.m. til 8 p.m.

Writer urges President to lead on

After listening to Paul Harvey a few days ago, I had an urge to speak my mind in public. Mr. Harvey was saying President Reagan had made many promises and had laid great plans. That as a result, unemployment was down, inflation was down, fuel charges were down and that everything was working out just as he had planned. Mr. Harvey failed to mention that fuel prices are still much higher and that the stock market has gone to pot. Farm prices are down about 25 percent. Surely Mr. Harvey is not saying this is the way our President had it all planned out!

Newspapers everywhere are saying the stock market has been going down because of business community no longer believes in the success of Reagan economics. It has been amusing to me to hear President Reagan making such an effort to convince us that the nation is in such terrible economic condition. Perhaps I am in the wrong place, but I do not see anyone hurting around here. The fall of the housing industry is not an indication of an ailing economy as much as it is the high interest rates. In spite of all of this, look around at all the new houses and apartments going up. The automobile industry is in sad condition, but will be straightened out when the American Auto makers start making the kind of cars the people want and stop making the kind of cars they want the people to have. There is an effort in that direction, but they are far behind.

I admire the president for trying to reduce government spending. There is also a need for lower taxes, but I certainly disagree with the reduction plan. It is tempting for a president to work to be a popular president and not necessarily work for the best interest of our country. Instead of reducing the taxes by 25 percent over the next three years, I would like to see the government collect the full amount of taxes from all of us and apply that same amount to our national debt. They are saying that through this tax reduction, the people will benefit to the tune of about \$750 billion.

If President Reagan could pay \$750 billion on our national debt and then balance the budget, it would be one of the greatest miracles in modern history and he should go down as the greatest president in history. Instead of this, the \$750 billion will be returned to the people and they will neither save it nor spend it wisely. Look for a minute at this friend of mine who looks forward to receive about \$300 in discount on the first-year tax reduction. He has decided to apply that amount as a down payment on a boat his family has been wanting for some time. This will help to raise inflation and my friend will be saddled with another \$100 a month payment. So, with the tax break, my friend will be worse off than before the tax reduction. All of us hear the President tell us to save this tax dollar, but all the people I know simply laugh at that suggestion.

When President Reagan was an actor, they could always change the ending of the movie to make it come out fine for the hero. It may not be that easy to work out a happy ending to his four

years as President. I will help the President all I can as a private citizen. All I ask from him is that he stop trying to fulfill all the unreasonable promises he made as a politician and work for the good of the Nation here and now. Mr. Harvey ended his statement by saying, "Lead on, Mr. President, and that is what I want him to do, but I think he should look back once in a while to see if the people are following."

Russell McAnally
Rt. 3 Box 156 M
Merkel

Developer bitten by rattler

Local real estate developer Jack Keenan was rushed to Hendrick Medical Center last week following a run-in with a rattlesnake. Keenan had gone

outside for a phone number and was struck three times by the rattler.

He was released from intensive care at Hendrick Medical Center Monday and remained in the hospital.

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SHIRLEY & RAY JOWERS

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PRICES GOOD SATURDAY ONLY OCTOBER 10
WE ARE NOW AUTHORIZED TO TAKE FOOD STAMPS

MRS BAIRD THIN SLICED 1 1/2 LB LOAF 59¢

12 OZ CAN COKE MR PIBB TAB 6 PACK \$1.79

AUNT JEMIMA 10 OZ TOASTER OR OVEN ORIGINAL WAFFLE 75¢

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HIGH LINER OCEAN PERCH FILLETS 12 OZ \$1.91

3 MINUTE OLD FASHIONED OATS 18 OZ 89¢

IMPERIAL DARK BROWN SUGAR 1 LB BOX 35¢

200 COUNT NOTEBOOK PAPER \$1.09

LITE FLUFF TEXAS STYLE OLD FASHIONED BISCUITS

12 OZ CAN 4 / \$1.00

TRY OUR DELICIOUS HOME COOKED FOOD FROM OUR

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BAR B Q

CHICKEN

FRIED PIES

BURRITOS

GERMAN SAUSAGE

Ninth Street Grocery & Mobil Gas

MRS. BAIRDS 1 1/2 LB 15' OFF LOAF 59¢

PREMIUM CRACKERS BOX 79¢

FUDGE BROWNIES PKG 79¢

HOLD MORE BUTANE D'JEEP LIGHTERS \$1.49

FOLGERS COFFEE \$1.98 WITH \$10.00 PURCHASE

ASST. HALLOWEEN BAG CANDY

OLD FASHIONED ROCK CRYSTALS CANDY 59¢

ASSORTED CAPS

ENVELOPES REG. 69¢

3 FOR \$1.00

HOT HOUSE TOMATOES LB 59¢

1207 South 9th

POTATOES 10 LB BAG \$1.59

GOOCH PKG FRANKS 98¢

SUNGLASSES \$5.00

POCKET KNIVES

1/3 OFF

ONE GROUP LADIES JEWELRY

1/3 OFF

TRIAL SIZE COMTREX TABLETS

TABLET OR LIQUID 59¢

LADIES TIMEX

WATCHES

1/3 OFF

COMB

FREE WITH

\$10.00 PURCHASE

12 OZ

GLOVES

\$1.29

\$12.00 DOZ.

MORE THAN ENOUGH LOW PRICES to FILL YOUR CART



PRICES GOOD
Thur., Fri., Sat.
October 8, 9, 10.
STORE HOURS
7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Mon.-Sat.
CLOSED ON
SUNDAY

JOHNSONS
BABY
SHAMPOO
11 OZ BOTTLE \$1.59
SAVE \$1.50

COFFEE
FOLGER
1 LB CAN \$1.79
1 LIMIT
WITH \$10.00 IN TRADE OR MORE
EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

PARKAY
MAXI CUP
OLEO
1 LB TUB **73¢**

STAYLEYS
SYRUP
24 OZ BOTTLE \$1.29

SHORTENING
JEWEL
42 OZ CAN \$1.29

OLD EL PASO
NACHIPS
9 OZ BOX **83¢**

COOKING OIL
WESSON
24 OZ BOTTLE \$1.19

TANG CANNISTER
ORANGE DRINK 27 OZ \$2.19

HUNTS 300
PEACHES 2 CANS **99¢**

BIG TATE INSTANT
POTATOES 16 OZ BOX **89¢**

LIBBYS 303 WHOLE
GREEN BEANS 2 FOR **93¢**

DEL MONTE 303
SWEET PEAS 2 FOR **89¢**

ARGO 303 C S
GOLDEN CORN 2 FOR **79¢**

LIBBYS 46 OZ
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12 OZ CAN
GATORADE 6 PACK \$1.99

PRICES PIMENTO
CHEESE
14 OZ CRTN \$1.59

JENOS ASST PIZZA \$1.19 PKG

MORTONS
HONEY BUNS 9 OZ **59¢**

VIP 10 OZ
MUSTARD GREENS 2 FOR **59¢**

MORTONS 8 OZ
POT PIES 2 FOR **73¢**

FROZEN FOODS
JENOS ASST PIZZA \$1.19 PKG

MORTONS
HONEY BUNS 9 OZ **59¢**

VIP 10 OZ
MUSTARD GREENS 2 FOR **59¢**

MORTONS 8 OZ
POT PIES 2 FOR **73¢**

CARNATION
COCOA MIX 12 PACK CRTN \$1.39

PEPSODENT
TOOTH PASTE
FAMILY SIZE **98¢**

SUNSHINE
SALTINE
CRACKERS
1 LB BOX **63¢**

CARNATION
COFFEE MATE 16 OZ JAR \$1.59

FLOUR GLADIOLA 5 LB BAG **83¢**

CATSUP HUNTS 32 OZ JUG **98¢**

BREAD MRS BAIRDS THIN SLICED 1 1/2 LB **59¢**

CHEESE VELVEETA 1 LB BOX **\$1.79**

How About a STEAK-OUT!

CHOICE BEEF FAMILY
STEAK
LB \$1.79

FOREMOST HOMO
MILK GAL JUG \$2.35
HORMEL VIENNA

SAUSAGE 5 OZ CAN
2 FOR **89¢**

FOREMOST LOW FAT
MILK GAL JUG \$2.25
BAMA STRAWBERRY

PRESERVES 16 OZ JAR **98¢**

FOREMOST BUTTER 1/2 GAL CRTN \$1.15
AUNT JEMIMA COMPLETE 3 MINUTE QUICK

PANCAKE OATS 18 OZ **79¢**

CHOICE BEEF
ROAST ARM LEAN LB \$1.89

CHOICE BEEF
CHUCK ROAST BLADE CUT LB \$1.69

GOOCH B R REG OR BEEF
FRANKS 12 OZ \$1.29

HORMEL B L
BACON POUND \$1.89

HORMEL LITTLE SIZZLER
SAUSAGE 12 OZ PKG \$1.29

GOOCH B R GERMAN STYLE
SAUSAGE 12 OZ PKG \$1.49

ARMOUR STAR BONELESS WHITE
TURKEY ROAST 2 LB BOX \$2.98

ITS NEW
22 OZ BOTTLE **89¢**



FABRIC SOFTNER
BOUNCE 40 CT BOX \$1.79

HI DRI
TISSUE 4 ROLL CRTN **79¢**

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LYSOL TOMATOES 12 OZ CAN \$1.59

HEFTY TRASH BAGS
LARGE 10 CT \$1.69

VINE RIPE
BANANAS LB **35¢**

FRESH
BELL PEPPER 2 FOR **39¢**

WASH DELICIOUS
RED APPLES LB **49¢**

WAXED
RUTABAGAS 25 LB **25¢**

FRESH GREEN
CABBAGE LB **15¢**

CHOICE BEEF TENDER LEAN
ROAST PIKES PEAK YOUR CHOICE ROUND RUMP LB \$1.99

PIONEER TRY OUR BROASTED CHICKEN PLANKS ALL WHITE BREAST
CORN BREAD MIX 16 OZ **43¢**

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
BEST MEATS IN TOWN



The Beer that made Milwaukee Famous



ERLANGER
Classic 1893
BEER



SCHLITZ MALT LIQUOR



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
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Years**

The Merkel Mail

Since 1889 We've Been a Part
of Merkel

Thank You

The Merkel Mail
— Your Newspaper —

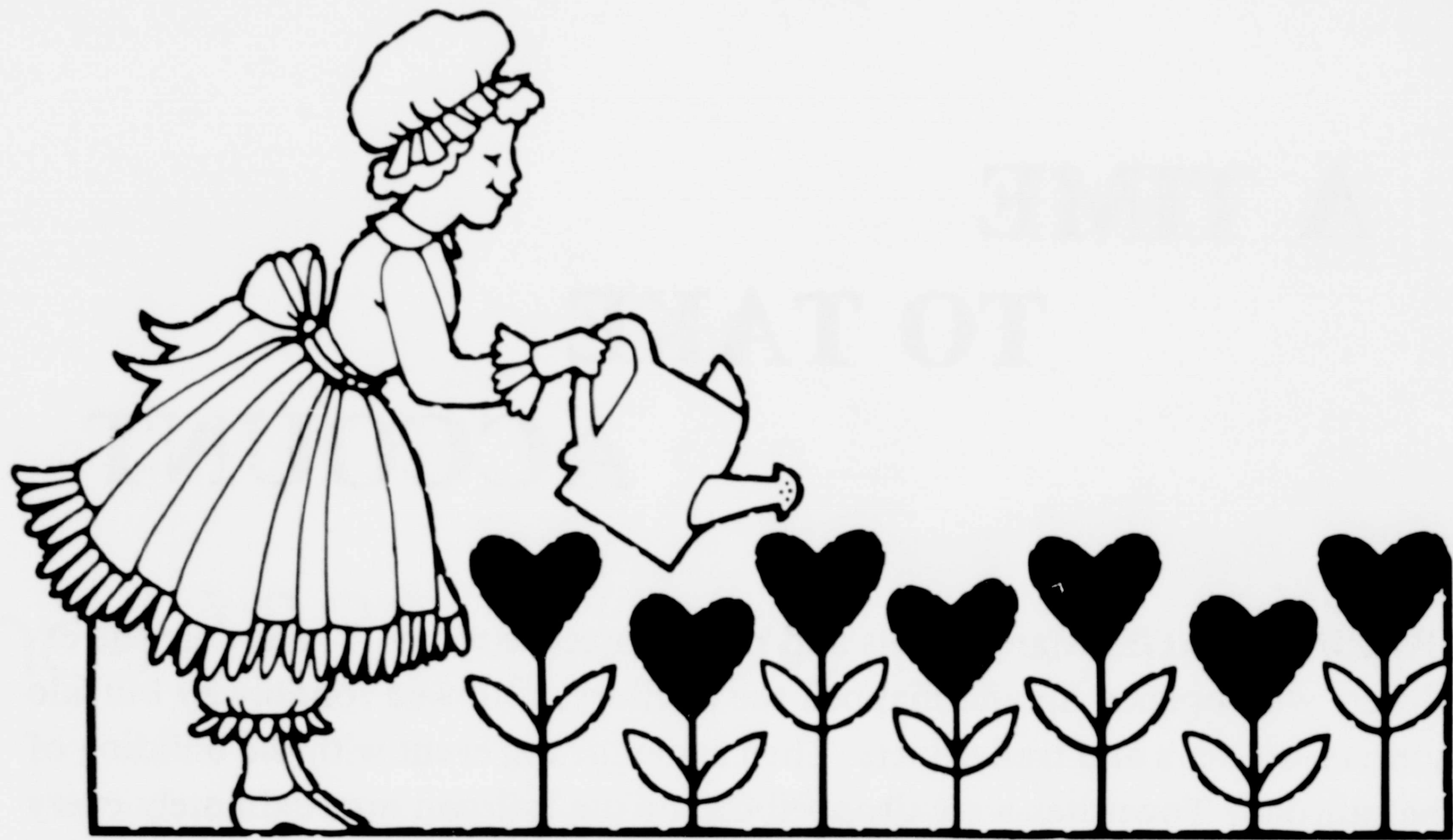
A TIME TO TAKE ACCOUNT

OUR HERITAGE: Many events and people precede today. There were the explorers who opened up and mapped the territory, followed roughly by buffalo hunters, soldiers and trail drivers. Then came the big event with the building of the railroad. Townsites were dropped off by the railroad approximately every 15 miles through this cross-tied belt of Texas. A hardy breed of pioneers came with the railroad. Pioneer men and women arrived to wrestle with the shinnery to scratch out a living by farming and ranching—all tied to the gasp for water. Not all townsites granted by the railroad survived. But they were an unusual people around Merkel who won their battles and left us our heritage of working, going to church and holding our heads high.

OUR LIFE TODAY: Water development, farm-to-market roads and rural electricity have taken much of the isolation and hardship from Central West Texas. Oil production and the influx of military from Dyess Air Force Base have contributed to make Merkel a viable and prosperous town.

OUR FUTURE: Steady growth and a better way of life are a goal that today's leaders here plan for and will obtain. Just the flow of new blood with our population growth will create new opportunities for all. The future is bright.

100 Years And Still Growing



Congratulations Merkel

FARMERS

And

MERCHANTS

NATIONAL BANK

111 EDWARDS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CITY
AND ITS PEOPLE

Compiled by
The Fortnightly Study Club
of
Merkel
1981

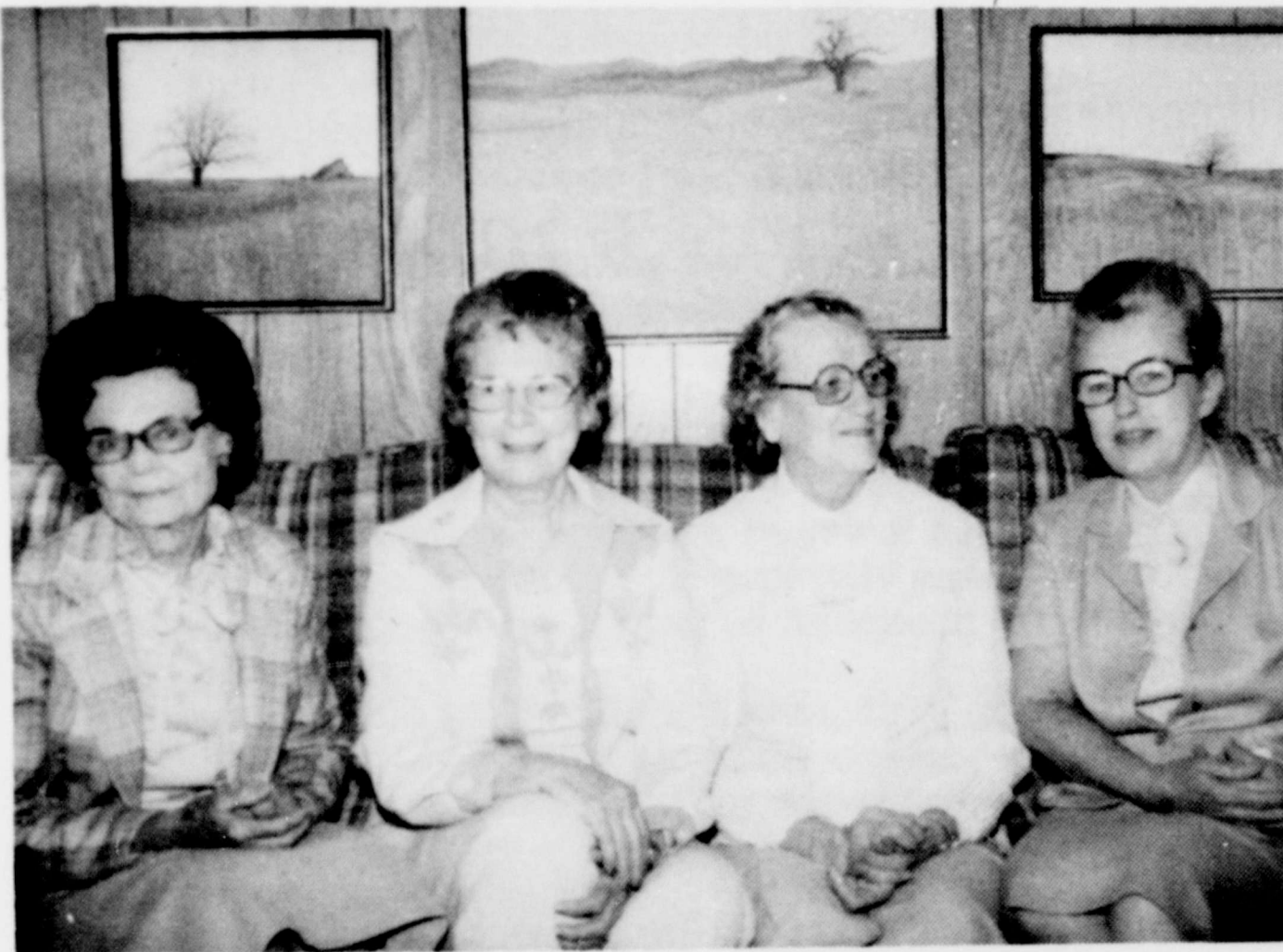
FORWORD

In response to the request of the Merkel Chamber of Commerce, this "Glimpse of Merkel" has been compiled.

To cover 100 years of history of a people and a city in a few brief pages is an impossible task; therefore, an effort has been made to give only an overview of the history of the city and its people. The cooperation and assistance of the many people, who have shared in research and gathering information to make this publication possible, is gratefully acknowledged. Although an effort has been made to include, in this brief history, some of the families and community leaders who shared the growth of Merkel, the compilers are aware that many citizens of yesterday and today are not included and hope that at some future date someone will compile a more comprehensive history.

The members of the Fortnightly Study Club appreciate the opportunity to have had this experience in gathering and preserving these brief facts, and hope that the reader will enjoy this "glimpse" at Merkel and feel a deep sense of pride and appreciation of the heritage left by those who have helped to develop this country, the Merkel Area.

--The Fortnightly Study Club Editing Committee:
Anna Belle Shouse
Bess Dixon
Lucy Tracy Haynes
Avis Deavers



EDITING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Comer (Lucy) Haynes, Mrs. Andy (Anna Belle) Shouse, president, Miss Avis Deavers, Mrs. S.C. (Bess) Dixon.

The Fortnightly Study Club was organized in 1934 and became a member of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs in that same year. Surviving charter members in our area are Mrs. S.D. Gamble and Mrs. W.T. Sadler, of Merkel, and S tell Ledger Giles of Abilene.

The purpose of the Club was to be social, literary and altruistic; it's stated goal, "The enrichment of life through a better adjustment of human relations". The motto adopted was, "When Love and Skill Work Together, Expect a Masterpiece." Club participation in projects through the years has included CARE, Girl's Town, Boy's Ranch, scholarships, Musical Penny, The Latin American Fund, Penny Art, M.D. Anderson Hospital, the Merkel Library, Merkel City Park, beautification, and other community improvement projects.

Current members of the club are: Grace Lee Brown, Mary

Collins, Lola Cox, Mildred Starbuck, Avis Deavers, Bess Dixon, Pat Dudley, Liz Eager, Linnie Fisher, Paralee Gibson, Mildred Hamm, Ruby Hammond, Lucy Haynes, Madelon Horton, Alice King, Aileen Knight, Alwyne Sandusky, Anna Belle Shouse, Louise Sudderth, Clara Walla, Maurine White, Lucille Wilson, Catherine Rister, Ida Mae Seymore, Edna Hill, Oilene Elmore, Dianna Bugg, Elsie McAnally, Mrs. Lynwood Harrison, and Mrs. S.D. Gamble.



Top Row, Left to Right: Mrs. Mack (Linnie) Fisher, Mrs. C.M. Brown (Grace Lee), Miss Mildred Hamm, Mrs. Charles (Liz) Eager, Mrs. David (Dianna) Bugg, Mrs. Allen D. (Alice) King, Mrs. C.M. (Ida Mae) Seymore, Mrs. Comer (Lucy) Haynes, Miss Maurine White, Mrs. Charlie (Aileen) Knight, Mrs. S.C. (Bess) Dixon, Middle Row: Mrs. Bill (Fredalyn) Everett, Mrs. Edd (Alwyne) Sandusky, Miss Avis Deavers, Mrs. Andy (Anna Belle) Shouse, Bottom Row: Mrs. Alf (Clara B.) Walla, Miss Mary Collins, Mrs. Dent (Paralee) Gibson, Mrs. Ray (Lucille) Wilson, Mrs. Orvel (Edna) Hill.



CLUB OFFICERS

Mrs. Allen D. (Alice) King, Historian, Mrs. Charlie (Aileen) Knight, treasurer, Miss Mildred Hamm, Corresponding Secretary, Miss Mary Collins, Recording Secretary, Mrs. Andy (Anna Belle) Shouse, President, Mrs. Ray (Lucille) Wilson, Vice President, Miss Avis Deavers, Reporter, Mrs. S.C. (Bess) Dixon, Federation Counselor.

- 1881 S.M. Merkel lived in the village which took his name
- 1882 First post office established
- 1882 First Church Organized by Rev. R.F. Dunn (Methodist)
- 1884 First public school created as Merkel Common School District Number 11
- 1885 First public school building built on corner of Runnels

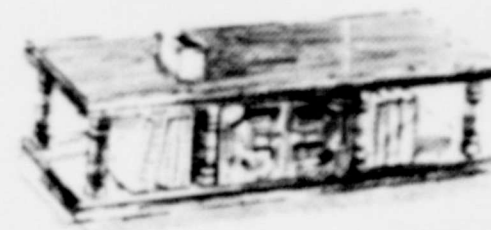
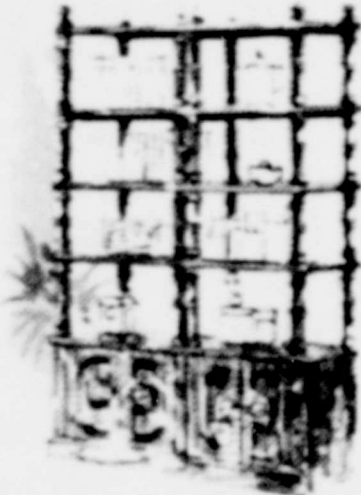
Commemorating Merkel's Centennial

STARBUCK CO.

A SERVICE COMPANY

Funeral Home

Furniture Store



DEPENDABLE IN MERKEL SINCE

1948

201 Kent

**HAPPY
CENTENNIAL
MERKEL**

928-4933



Ben Franklin Store

and N. Second Streets with donations of cash, lumber, hardware, and labor

1886 First train wreck near Merkel on Texas and Pacific Railroad. It carried 15 Convicts bound for the State pen.

1889, July--Western Normal and Commercial College chartered

1889 G.F. West bought store from a Mr. Kennan to begin West Co. Hardware Store

1890, Mar. 20--First issue of Merkel Mail edited by M.J. Cox

1890 First lumber company opened by J.S. Barnes

1890 C.M. Largent arrived to open grocery store

1893 First gin built in Merkel by a Mr. Blanchard

1900 John P. Hamm bought first car in Merkel--a Pope Toledo Steam Car

1900 Wheeler family--John and Bennie--arrived (John Wheeler was father of Alva, former teacher and wife of R.A. McCollum, a former Superintendent)

1900 C.M. Largent bought 6 sections of land north of Merkel and founded the Largent Ranch

-- First Bank in Merkel opened by Steffen and Lowden and operated by George Berry

1904 Farmers and Merchants National Bank opened with T.J. Warren as president

1904 First ice plant built by J.C. Hamm

1904 Opera House built of native mountain rock by O.C. Shepherd

1905 First Merkel brass band organized (Instruments ordered from Sears Roebuck)

1905 Merkel Bottling Plant operating

1905 J.D. Berry operated a nursery in Merkel

1906 First steam laundry opened by Clark and Simmons

1906 Skating rink operated by Berry and Craig

1909 O.J. Adcock was mail carrier in Mulberry Canyon

1910 Largent bought first Hereford cows

1915 First light plant built by Hoff and Harris

1915 Light plant owned by John and Frank Hamm, who sold it to West Texas Utilities

1916 T.G. Bragg from Hillsboro bought interest in Woodruff Bros. Store (Forerunner of Bragg Department Store)

1920 Max Millenger opened dry goods store

1923 John Shannon opened first swimming pool in dirt tank

1926 Noodle Dome Oil Field opened--first oil well in area

1928 First cement swimming pool opened by John Shannon

1940 Taylor Electric Co-Operative organized

1956 Merkel Country Club opened on a Sunday in May. 1300 attended the formal opening.

THE FOUNDING AND GROWTH OF MERKEL

The exact date Merkel became a center of activity seems not to be known, but it's beginning is generally associated with the coming of the railroad which reached Abilene in 1881 and was in Merkel soon after.

The people came to the Merkel area, first drifting into the area as hunters, then settling along the creeks and waterways; some came for land, some came for adventure, some came for health reasons. Whatever the reason, most of those coming seeking homes and a better way of life stayed to see the little community grow. Churches, schools, farms, ranches, and other businesses were a part of the little village of Merkel, a shipping point on the Texas and Pacific Railroad, more than twenty years before it became an incorporated city on June 26, 1906.

In it's first city election, G.W. Johnson was elected mayor and S.F. Harris was elected city secretary. The citizens of the little city soon recognized a need for a fire station and the first one built was a city hall and fire station combination located on North First and Kent Streets. The present city hall also housed the fire station until 1968 when a new fire station was built at North Second and Nolan Streets and the old building was remodeled into the present city hall.

Merkel has had only seventeen mayors in it's seventy-five years as an incorporated city. Henry West served as mayor for eleven terms at four different intervals and many others served two, three and four terms. The following men have served as mayors: W.W. Wheeler, G.W. Mims, W.T. Potter, J.J. Stallings, N.D. Cobb, J.P. Sharp, W.M. Elliott, A.J. Cannon, Fred Starbuck, Earl Hughes, Horace O. Boney, Johnny Cox, Horace Hargrove, Leon Walker, Lou David Allen and Kent Satterwhite, the present mayor. Present councilmen are: Ted

Smith, Jerry Bird, Pete Morgan, Don Dudley and Larry Beasley.

Merkel has enjoyed a steady economic growth as well as a population growth. In 1881, approximately twenty-five people were in the little village to join with the farmers and ranchers of the surrounding country to welcome the Texas and Pacific Railroad. Today the current population is 3512 in the city surrounded by many homes within a two to five mile radius and a housing project adjacent on its east boundry.

The farming and ranching, in the Merkel area, has been a principal factor in it's economy as the town has developed to meet it's everchanging needs. The first plank store in Merkel was built by a Mrs. Rollins, a widow, who used the front part of the building for a grocery store and the back part was the residence for her family, including a daughter, Pearl, who married first a Mr. Hollingsworth (parents of Sanderfer) and second, Arch Harris.

The Vaughan Family and the Butman families have long been associated with Merkel. Mr. Vaughan was the first railroad agent and the telegraph operator and one of his daughters married Sam Butman, Sr., a rancher south of town.

George F. West moved to Merkel in 1889 after a brief stop in Abilene--a town of not many more people than Merkel--purchasing a business located on North First Street and established West Company Hardware Store, a business which spanned about sixty years of service.

In November, 1904, when the Farmers and Merchants National Bank was organized with J.T. Warren as president, G.F. West and Henry James were vice presidents and Thomas Johnson was cashier. Booth Warren succeeded his father as president of the bank and it continued operations under the directions of Warren and his associates until May 1974, when Don Hensley, present president, and associates bought the bank interest.

Other early businesses, in Merkel, were Laney Meat Market, Sharp Grocery, J.T. Dennis Dry Goods and Brown Dry Goods. Merkel had an ice house in 1906 and electricity came in 1915. John and Frank Hamm were owners of the electric plant when it was sold to West Texas Utilities. Merkel has had a number of drug stores. Dr. Rusk operated an early day drug store and was one of the doctors in the city, and Dr. Knox Pittard, Sr., later of Anson, was an early day doctor, who operated a drug store, also. S.D. Gamble owned and operated the Merkel Drug Store for many years and the store is now owned and operated by his son, David.

The W.W. Campbells operated a grocery store in Merkel and later Mrs. Campbell and son Tracy, operated the M System grocery for a number of years. Later her daughter, Lucille, and her husband, Ray Wilson, owned and operated Wilson Grocery, until they retired and closed the store.

Ace Shepherd and his wife, the former Opal Harkrider, operated a furniture store and funeral home in Merkel until they sold their business to Fred and Naomi Starbuck. The business is now operated by their son, George Starbuck.

C.M. Largent, who came to Merkel in 1900, left the grocery business to become a major rancher and gained world fame with his herford show cattle from about 1915 to about the 1950's.

In the Fall, 1926, the economy of the area was strengthened by the oil industry, when the first oil well of the area was brought in on the Joe Winter place in Southwest Jones County and the city caught the overflow of people and business from the Noodle Dome Oil Boom and millions of dollars flowed into the area. After the boom days were over, the city settled back into a steady growth and in 1941 the Taylor Electric Co-operative, Inc., was organized to provide electricity to the rural sections with offices for the seven-county operations in Merkel. The late Johnny Cox was the first manager and Don Hart presently is manager. A locker plant was built in the early days of the Taylor Co-op as a part of the business. It was later sold by the stockholders and is now an independent business owned by Ernest Newsom.

Although telephones had been in use in the city and in some rural areas for years, the Taylor Telephone Co-operative, Inc., was organized in 1951 with offices in Merkel to bring more rural areas in closer contact with their neighbors. Murry Toombs, deceased, was the first manager and Derrell Farmer is the present manager.



**Happy
100th
Birthday
Merkel**



from



Wilson Jewelry

141 Edwards

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Merkel
on Your
100th
Anniversary**

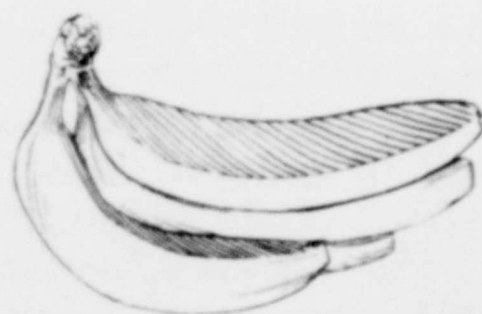
SERVING MERKEL IN ITS

100th YEAR

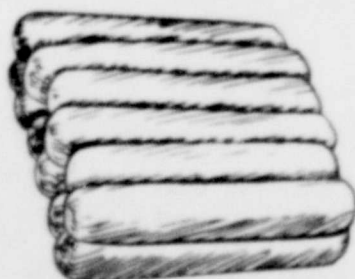
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**Happy
Centennial
Merkel**



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Bookeeping

Notary Public

The Carson Grocery and Market, currently a leading grocery store, has been owned by four generations of the Carson Family with Howard, Herman, and Tommie Carson as the present owners and managers. Other grocery stores now operating in Merkel and its near area are: Skinny's Convenience Store No. 27; Allsup's Convenience Store just east of the city; Ninth Street Grocery, managed by Harold Bails; and the Handy Food Store, managed by Eugene Dye.

Bragg Dry Goods Store, first established as Woodruff Brothers, then Woodruff-Bragg, and later Bragg Department Store, owner T.G. Bragg, is presently owned by Mrs. Dee Grimes, daughter of Mrs. T.G. Bragg. The store has been in operation for over seventy-five years. Other businesses now operating in Merkel include: Adcock Cleaners and Circle A Western House, both owned and operated by Waymon and Johnnie Adcock; Ben Franklin Store, owned and operated by J.W. Hammond and his son, Bob; Boney Insurance Agency, established by the late W.O. Boney, later operated by his son, Horace, and now operated by Mrs. Horace Boney and son-in-law Benny Melton; Cyrus Pee Real Estate; Hammond Insurance Agency, formerly Cyrus Pee Insurance Agency, now owned and operated by Mychele Hammond; and Farmers Union Insurance Co., managed by Connie Mack Seymore. The Wilson family have been associated with the jewelry repair business in Merkel for many years and Woodrow and Frances Wilson own and operate Wilson Jewelry, a gift and jewelry shop. Bullock Hardware Store was operated by the Bullock family for many years and was sold by the late Mrs. Bullock a few years ago and became known as Castille Hardware and Gifts, until closed in April, 1981. Other businesses include: two laundries, radio and T.V. repair, a C B Pro Shop, a Savings and Loan office, and Merkel Upholstery Center, owned and operated by Gaston Thomas and David Stout.

Merkel has long had one or more flower shops including those operated by the late Mrs. Woodrum and by Bill Woods, now of Abilene. The only shop now in operation is Ann's Flowers, owned and operated by Vernon and Ann Wade.

Two motels presently in Merkel, the Big Country Inn and Restaurant, owned and operated by Walter and Nita Harris, and Shelton Inn and Restaurant with Norman Shelton as manager, provide modern accommodations to visitors to the city. The Country Club, owned and operated by John Schreck, also has a dining room, and Olivia Flores owns and operates Spanish Restaurant. The Dairy Queen, Dairy Bar, Tessie's Snack Bar, and a couple of snack bars near the high school serve quick foods, operated by Marie Cunningham and Nina Osborn.

The Palmer Motor Co., owned and operated by Nolan Palmer, and Max Murrell Chevrolet Co., owned and managed by Max Murrell, have both served the Merkel area for a number of years. H.W. Lemens, Inc. and Dubose Butane and Texaco Station, Bobby Dubose owner and manager, serve the area homes and the farms. Service stations include Dubose Texaco, Farrington Bros. Fina, Bishop's Shell Station, Merkel Fina, Allsup's, Stuckey's and three garages serve the local citizenry and motorist.

The Walls Industry opened their plant in 1977 and now operate a clothing manufacturing plant and a retail outlet store in North Merkel on I-20. Wall's Industry plant, in Merkel, managed by Wayne Palmer, is one of 8 plants. The local plant employs 100 people, considered as one of the best work forces in the Industries, according to Mr. Palmer, who says, "We are very pleased to be in Merkel."

Nucorp Supply Co., Inc. is a relatively new industry, some three miles east of the city, which has a growing business. With the renewed activity in oil drilling and production in the area, new businesses have developed. Some of these included Interstate Pipe and Supply, Jim Townsend Welding, Boyd Oil Field Equipment and Supply, Mid-Tex Resources, Ace Pipe and Supply, E-Tex, Inc., Brown Owl Oil Co., Getty Oil Company, and some oil leasing companies.

Merkel has had a lumber company operating since 1904 when J.S. Barnes first opened a lumber business. He later sold to Burton Lingo, which operated a business for some sixty years. At the present time, two lumber companies are in Merkel: Higginbotham-Bartlett Co., managed by Pat Williams, and Merkel Brick and Lumber, owned and operated by Virgil and Angie Hunt.

About 1926, Dr. Robert I. Grimes opened a hospital in Merkel and was later joined by Dr. W.T. Sadler. Dr. Sadler later built a

29 bed hospital which he operated until the 1960's when the hospital was closed, but he continued his practice. Others doctors now practicing in Merkel are Dr. Don Warren and Dr. Thuy O. Tran. Two dentists have offices in Merkel: Dr. Larry A. Irvin and Dr. Don W. Roberts. Dr. Warren Dozier opened the Merkel Veterinary Clinic on FM-126 in North Merkel in 1980.

A number of professional offices are in Merkel. Roger A. Beaird, CPA, and Allen-Cypert Tax Service both have offices in the city. Joe Patterson became the first licensed plumber in Merkel and still operates Patterson Bros. Plumbers. Other plumbers include Greg Fisher and Pat Warren Plumbing, John Allison, and Stewart Bishop. Gregory and Goode Builders, Haney & Sivley Construction Co., and U-3 Inc., all have headquarters in Merkel. The Gene Amerine Heating and Air Conditioning, R & R Window Mfg., and Merkel Electric Co. are relatively new building-related businesses. There are a number of individuals who do some contract building and electrical work.

At one time there were several barber shops in Merkel which served both men and women. Today there is only one barber shop, owned and operated part-time by Vincent Barnett with Hildton Suber as a barber, but there are some ten or more beauty shops, some of which also have barbers.

Hicks Auto Parts, long a wholesale-retail store, is still a major business in town. Merkel Auto Parts is a more recent store. Four businesses are aimed primarily toward serving the farmers and ranchers of the area. These include: Ed's Feed and Seed, owned and operated by Ed Sandusky; Hi-Val Farm and Home Supply, owned and operated by Milton and Ann Payne (also sells some hardware); and Jack South Grain Elevators, owned and managed by Jack South. South, who came in 1957 as operator of Patterson Grain Co., is completing his 25th year in the grain business in Merkel and has increased grain storage to 100,000 bushels, added three elevators and related equipment, and a 75-ton Fairbanks-Morse electronic truck scale.

Once known as the city of windmills, Merkel now gets its water supply from the Abilene water supply, but many of the windmills have been replaced with electric pumps and people still use wells. Windmills are still used in the area, however, many of the farmers and ranchers depend upon wells for their major source of water supply. Higgins and Sons Drilling Co. is the only water well drilling company now listed for Merkel and is owned by Robert Higgins.

Once a city of many cotton gins, Merkel now has only one gin. Farmers Co-op Gin managed by Joe C. Higgins. The Co-op Gin was first formed in 1933 by a group of farmers who felt that all of their cotton seed plus a fee was too high a price to pay for having five-cents-a-pound cotton ginned. The first manager of the gin was Hurley Toombs, one of the members of the first Board of Directors. Dave Hendricks and H.H. Anderson were other gin managers. The first Board of Directors of the gin consisted of ten local farmers including Holland Teaff, who for many years was secretary, Arch Teaff, Gene Reese, Aaron Horton, J.H. Mathews, and Comer Haynes and Lee Tipton, the only two surviving members of the first board.

The Merkel Chamber of Commerce was organized November 15, 1955. It's first manager was Onis Crawford, later owner of Crawford's Store. The first Board of Directors were: Dr. Brady Cox, Dr. Don Warren, Dr. W.T. Sadler, David Gamble, Herman Carson, Booth Warren, Horace Boney, Earl Hughes, and Lester Dorton.

One of the first projects of the Chamber of Commerce was the sponsorship of the celebration of Merkel's 75th year and it's 50th year as an incorporated city highlighted by the production of the CAVALCADE OF MERKEL by local talent. This year, the Chamber is again sponsoring a celebration--the centennial of the founding of Merkel and it's 75th year as an incorporated city.

The Chamber of Commerce has been active in the promotion of Merkel and has worked toward bringing industries and businesses into the city. It has initiated and supported many projects and improvements in the city including the annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet and recognition of outstanding citizens. The Chamber has supported the Merkel Library, as well as many other phases of activities.

Benny Melton, the present manager of the Chamber of Commerce, says that there are 120 current members. The present Board of Directors are: Derrell Farmer, Bobby Dubose, Bob Hammond, Ann Wade, Wayne Palmer, Bill Everett, Don

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HICKS AUTO SUPPLY

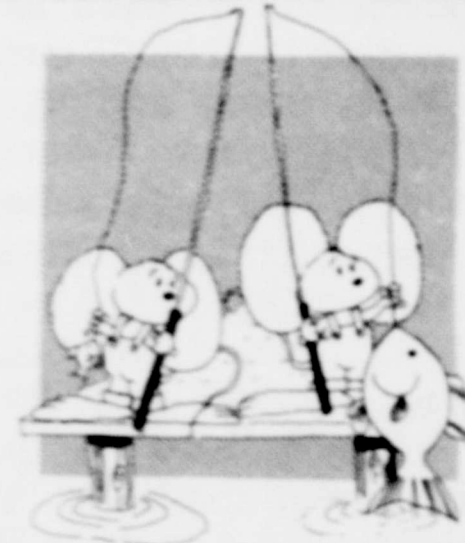


Happy 100th Birthday
Merkel

We Are Proud
To Be Serving You



138 EDWARDS



Congratulations
On Your Anniversary
Merkel

We Are Proud To Be A
Part Of This Community

STANFORD ELECTRONICS

123 Kent

928-5762

Hensley, and J.A. Sadler, who is the present City coordinator.

Yes, Merkel has had a continuous growth in population and in business, but farming and ranching still continues to be the basic economic factor for the city and its area. The city has often felt the crunch of growth from the surrounding area—the 1926 oil boom, when housing was a major problem of the area, the Camp Barkley days, the Tye Air Force Base, and now Dyess Air Force Base have played a part in the growth and development of the city. And the city continues to grow.

CHURCH GROWTH

The early settlers of Merkel were men and women of Christian character and felt the need of religious worship to enrich their lives spiritually and to encourage them as they went about their daily tasks. The churches have grown steadily through the years from a meager beginning of seven members of the first church to a great increase in August, 1915, when a two-weeks community-wide revival was held in a tent located where the Higgins shop is now. Three hundred twenty-five were converted.

The first sermons ever preached in Merkel were preached in the T&P depot. Mr. J.L. Vaughan, the first railroad agent, was a devout Christian and sponsored these services.

The Methodist Church was organized by Rev. R.F. Dunn in 1882 in the school building on the north side of the railroad track, where the Assembly of God now stands. There were seven members, namely: Mrs. Mary Story (who became Mrs. C.E. Conner), Mrs. Fennie D. Lamden, Mr. R.I. Lowe, Mrs. Mattie Lowe, Mr. Asbury and Mrs. Ashbury. Mrs. G.W. Boyce joined in 1884, Mr. C.E. Conner in 1885, and Mrs. H.G. Williams in 1893, the last three named and Mrs. C.E. Conner were active in 1932, fifty years later.

Among the pastors, who have served the United Methodist Church of Merkel, are: Cloy Lyles, who was the pastor when the church celebrated its 75th anniversary; Hugh Hunt, who served during the remodeling of the church building; Alvis Cooley; Russell McNalley; and E.L. Yeats. The present pastor, Rev. Ray Elmore and his wife, Olien, came to serve the church in May, 1980.

The Grace Presbyterian Church was organized as Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1886, by Rev. A.A. Baker, who became its first pastor. The first church consisted of eleven members, five of whom were members of Rev. Baker's family and the others were the family of D.C. Hucheson. The congregation met in the school house or the Baptist Church at first, but soon built a church at South Second and Ash Streets. The present building, at 201 Oak Street, was built in 1915-16. It is brick veneer with a partial basement. The Rev. Hubert E. Bullock was pastor from 1914-1918 during the construction of the church building. Rev. R.A. Walker was a much loved pastor for many years. Some of the other ministers were: Fred Rogers, Doc Neel, Dr. Billy F. Smith, C.J. McClendon and John Mikow.

Reverend G.W. Scarborough, then living on a farm on the Clear Fork, organized the First Baptist Church in Merkel in 1885 with a membership of nine: G.W. Scarborough, his wife, a son, and a daughter; G.M. Dunning and wife; O.Y. Ginn and wife, and T.B. Story.

The members met in the home of G.X. Ginn (later known as the M.P. Duckett home) located on North Kent Street, when they called the Rev. Mr. Ginn to pastor the church. They met in the one-room school building for services each third Sunday and business meetings were held the preceding Saturday night. Later they build a tabernacle on the place where the Assembly of God now stands.

The first Baptist church building was built in 1893 where Mrs. George Smith now lives, and the parsonage was across the street to the south. The Sunday School was organized in 1893 with Judge W.W. Wheeler as the first superintendent. Rev. G.W. Smith, the third pastor of the church, was one of the early West Texans who went to New York to get Dr. Simmons to help finance a school in the area, resulting in the founding of the present Hardin-Simmons University.

The three-story building on Locust Street, was completed in 1920, when Rev. Ira L. Parrack was pastor and the present church building was completed and the first service held on Sunday, May 5, 1974 when Rev. Kenneth Jones was pastor. Some of the other pastors were: S.H. Blair, G.W. Smith, C.R.

Hairfield, W.G. Coperton, William M. Fulton, J.W. Saffle, L.B. Owens, Rev. Mr. Jacobs, Rev. Mr. Gaddy, E.E. Dawson, C.R. Joiner, Jones Weathers, Cooper Waters, Levi Price, Same E. Tullock, C.G. Sewell, and Bill Tanner. The present pastor is David F. Bugg.

The first congregation of the Church of Christ in Merkel met in 1903 in the photography studio of W.A. Barnhill on North First Street. The charter members included: Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Barnhill, Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Graves, A.H. and Willie Bigham, A.M. Thornton, Jack Coggins, Inez Sharp, S. Allen, Rufus Adcock, and Velma Clark. These members built the first building in 1904 at North Third and Runnels Streets. J.P. Sharp was the first song leader and George Cypert became full time preacher from 1909 to 1929.

In the early 1950's the old building was torn down and a new building was constructed at the corner of Ash and Stewart Streets. The new building was dedicated October 11, 1953, while Roy Gulley was their preacher. In the summer of 1979, a family center was completed for the use of the congregation under the leadership of Larry Gill, present pastor.

The Calvary Baptist Church was organized in 1931, meeting in a store building in downtown. Rev. Ernest Dowell was the first pastor. Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Massey and Madie Smith (now Mrs. E.H. Hendricks) were some of the charter members. Mrs. Hendricks is the only surviving charter member today. In 1932, the church built a tabernacle building. In 1954, with Rev. R.N. Powers as pastor, the present building at 506 Runnels was built. Rev. Joe Davis is the present pastor.

The Assembly of God Church was organized in 1945. The group, under the pastorate of Rev. H.F. Earp, bought the old tabernacle site, tore down the tabernacle and built their present building at North Second and Runnels Street. A few of the charter members are still active in the church. Rev. Dean Williams is the present pastor.

Father Henry Knufer of Abilene established a chapel at Merkel in 1919. The chapel was under the direction of the Palatine Fathers, a group from Ireland, until about 1970. Saint Francis Catholic Church was their headquarters in Abilene. In 1971, the Merkel chapel was transferred to the Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Abilene. A local Parish Council was established and the local congregation began to oversee local church affairs. Recently, the directorship of the Merkel Church has been transferred to Holy Family Catholic Church of Sweetwater.

The new church building was dedicated in 1968, and a Hall was completed in 1972. The church has not had a resident priest, but priests come from other churches to conduct services regularly and for special services. The deed to the church property is kept in Rome.

The Nazarene Church is no longer active in Merkel, but had an active congregation in the 1930's to 1950's. Gideon and Bertha Crow, both ministers, were pastors at one time. He preached on Sunday mornings and she preached on Sunday nights. The building at the corner of South Third and Ash Streets was sold to the First Baptist Church and used for a time as a mission primarily for the Latin Americans in the area. In 1974 or 1975 the building was sold to the Russell McAnallys, who moved it to the site on the south edge of town and have made it into a home.

SCHOOLS GROW WITH THE CITY

As settlers came into the country, schools, and churches were organized. School teachers usually lived with one of the farm families during the school year renting a room for "light house keeping" or boarding. Mrs. Tracy, mother of Mrs. Lucy Tracy Haynes and Mrs. Nell Tracy Teaff, often provided room and board for teachers, as did her mother, Mrs. Barnes. The school was centrally located as students came from all directions, perhaps walking as far as two miles one way. Most of the schools started as one-teacher schools and as population increased, larger buildings were built; in some instances, there were three and four rooms, adding teachers accordingly. The furnishings were first boards for seats, then double desks and later single desks for the students, a teacher's table or maybe a desk, and a large pot bellied stove. In later years, a large warming jacket surrounded the stove.

There was no janitorial service provided. The teachers were responsible for "wood, water and coal" and maintaining the

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cleaning of the school. Sometimes the chores were delegated to the more trustworthy students.

According to Mrs. H.C. Reid, author of "History of the Merkel School", the first classes were held in a box car which also served as a post office, a church, a telegraph station, and a railway station. Mrs. A.M. Thornton taught the first classes for the four Thornton and the three Vaughn Children. As the town grew, so did the school enrollment and the classes were moved into larger rooms until in 1887 a building was built on county donated land.

According to the records in the county court house in Abilene, in 1896-97 school term Merkel had a September balance of \$58.68, received \$49.68 on county school land note, \$10 from Trent school for seats, and enough from State Funds to make a total of \$1394.68 to operate the school. They paid J.A. Lumow \$8.95 for taking the census and bought \$2.75 in supplies from J.W. Brown and paid \$4.40 to Flint and Company for blackboard. W.W. Clay was later paid \$8.90 to take another census and Boss Bros. \$2 for supplies. The teachers salaries for the year were: B.W. Hudgins (November and December) total- \$1137.30; Britiance Yarnell (December) \$80.00; H.C. Williams (December)- \$100.00; The total amount paid out for the school year was \$1344.30. During the year, six children transferred from Salt Branch and one from Castle Peak. In 1897-98 term there were 178 children in the Merkel School District and B.W. Hudgins was still the teacher. The year closed with a deficit of \$30.42.

The number of teachers, who have taught in the Merkel Schools, prohibits listing all of them; however, a few who have taught for several years are R.A. Burgess, R.A. McColum, and Mack Fisher, all superintendents; Mrs. Lynn Sublett, Briggs Irvin, and Edwin Reed, principals; a Mrs. Scarborough, Julia Martin, Alzada Pogue, Elsie Sharp Nash, Mamie Ellis, Lucy Tracy Haynes, Nell Tracy Teaff, Ellen McReynolds, Eleta Foster Osborne, Anna Belle Shouse, Hazel Coates Pargament, Mrs. W.T. Sadler, Evelyn Reed and Ouida Campbell Reid.

Merkel became an independent school district, one of the first--if not the first--in Taylor County, and the enrollment gradually increased. According to Bill Everett, currently the superintendent of the Merkel schools, the school budget for 1980-81 is \$2,060,000 with a little over 50 percent of the funds going into salaries. Today Merkel Independent School District employs five administrators, 66 classroom teachers (including coaches and special education teachers), office personnel and auxiliary personnel to bring a total of 120. The total enrollment in the Spring of 1981 is 1100 students.

A separate educational facility with headquarters in Merkel is the Taylor-Callahan Education Co-Operative which is headed by Leon Walker, who instigated the first program of special education in the Merkel schools and later developed the program for the co-operative. The program began in the Merkel schools in 1968 when Leon Walker secured permission from Mack Fisher, superintendent, to initiate a program of special education in Merkel and Mrs. Max Murrell was hired as special education teacher. In 1969 the Texas Legislature mandated that each school provide a program to help handicapped children, and, with a program already begun, the co-operative program was approved in 1973 and Merkel Schools became the fiscal agent of the twenty-two special education educators who made up the co-operative program. The budget for that year was about \$175,000. Now the fiscal agent for the Taylor-Callahan Co-Operative is the Region 14 Service Center, headquartered in Abilene, and the budget is \$535,900 with fifty persons employed to provide special education teachers, including speech therapist and educational diagnostician and materials and supplies to the schools in the co-operative. Approximately \$91,589 of this budget for 1980-81 is transferred to the Merkel Schools budget toward salary costs for their special education work.

The Merkel Independent School District now comprises a large area and has absorbed all or part of many of the early day schools through consolidation. It would be improper to not discuss some of these schools because they have contributed to the growth of the city and the city schools.

Some of the schools south of Merkel, most of them in the Mulberry Canyon, were Butman, White Church, Nubia, IXL, Castle Peak, Blair, Mt. Pleasant, and Cross Roads, and those north of Merkel were Noodle-Horn, Union Ridge, Warren, Salt Branch, Stith and Mulberry Flats.

Blair was one of the largest schools south of town, having had

four teachers at one time. The forerunners of that school were Center Point (SW of Blair) and Possom Trott (NW of Blair) where Myrtle Reeves, an Aunt of Mrs. Irl Walker, once taught. Among the Blair teachers were Elsie Nash, Lucil Russell, a Mr. Rogers, Thelma McAnich Earthman, a Mrs. McKinsie, Clyde Deavers, Mamie and Vera Walker, a Mr. Grant, Nina Belle Russell Hughes, a Miss Lain, and Elleta Foster.

Some of the students were the McLean, Blackburn, Clinton, Bell, Reeves, Melton, Horton, Hughes, Meeks, Osborne, Moore, McCandless, Johnson, Windham, Campbell, and Doan Children.

IXL was named for a ranch brand but no one seems to recall which ranch used that brand. The Casey ranch is part of the present Rhodes Ranch, and Mr. Casey gave five acres of land to build a three room school building when the old Nubia School consolidated with IXL. The location of the school was on the southern part of the ranch.

Early teachers at Nubia were D and Jessie Sutphen. Some of the IXL teachers were Maggie Wheeler, Gertrude Dowdy, Ethel McCloud, Hattie Randolph, Alva McLean, C.S. Harris, Ruth McCartney, Nina Belle Russell and Mrs. Sam McLeod. Family names of some of the students who have attended IXL were Cogburn, Blair, Bush, Henslee, Hughes, Horton, Martin, Perry, Riney, Neill, Richey, Seymore and Toombs.

Castle Peak was named for the mountain peak of the same name. The forerunner of this school was Rock Crossing on a low water crossing about two miles east of the Castle Peak school. Lowe Barnett was the teacher there in 1910. Mr. Emenuel S. Sandusky donated a three acre plot of ground on a high knoll just north of Mulberry Creek in 1913, in response to a letter from Mr. Tom Bledsoe, who was then County Judge-Superintendent of Taylor County. A one room school was built and used until 1929 when a new two room school was built. It was used until Castle Peak, along with most rural schools in the area, consolidated with Merkel.

The first teacher at Castle Peak was Miss Leola Coates. Some others teaching the one-teacher school were Taylor Davis, B. Hudgins, Tinnie Brown, Inez Sharp, Oralie Sandusky and Hettie McClennahan. The first teachers of the two-roomed school were Miss Gussie Bledsoe and Alwyne Harris. Some other teachers that followed were Molenia and Novis J. Whitaker, Illene Riley, Vera Walker and Sybil Meadows.

Some of the family names of students were Baccus, Barnes, Co., Hughes, Stapelton, Moore, Malone, Patterson, Sandusky, Adams, Hannah, Fulton, Jones, Peterson and Richey.

White Church was a school in the west side of Mulberry Canyon. The school was first located by the White Church Cemetery. It was a log cabin building used as both school and church until a new building was built. The school was later moved about two miles east because that location had a good water well. The first teacher was Henry Beall. Other early day teachers were L. Sutphen, Miss Pearl Smith, Owen T. Jennings, a Mr. Buchanan and C.H. Woodford. Some of the family names of students who attended White Church were Demere, Morris, Ruppel, Cotter, Ferris, Brown, Snow, Coates, Cordell, Blackburn, Farmer, Weston, Riggs, Reed and King, Tye and Tucker.

The Cross Roads School was located far southeast of Merkel where the Johnny Teaff home now is. The Teaff family name is associated with this school throughout its history. A Mr. and Mrs. Smith were longtime teachers and other teachers included Lola Lasseter, and Abbie Ferguson, who were teachers in 1910 and 1912.

Mt Pleasant school was located southeast of Merkel on the Ford Smith, Sr. home place. The Jack Hogan's now own the property. The Smith name has figured prominently in the Mt Pleasant Community. Mr. Ford Smith, Sr. and his wife were much in demand as country and western musicians. He played the fiddle and she the guitar. Some of the teachers were D. Hogan, Mae White, Ada Brown, a Miss Little, Pauline Pinckley Collins, Alene Lefland Humphreys, C.S. Harris, Bell Satterwhite, Anna Belle Bailey Shouse, Grace Cody, Thelma Deavers Vestal, Ethel Reece, and Evelyn Robertson Slinger. Families in the community besides the Smiths were Humphrey, West, Nolte, and Click.

Butman has been one of the oldest schools in the canyon. It was named for the Sam Butman Ranch family. Mr. Bob Ensminger was a carpenter with four children and Mr. Sam Butman, with several children in the area, told Mr. Ensminger, "If you will build a school house, I will furnish the lumber". The

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first teacher was a Mr. Pendleton. Others were a Mr. Jordon, Mattie Randolph, Minnie Ferguson Odell, a Mr. Hunter, Dota Garoute, C. Deavenport, Victoria Warlick, Bama Richburg, Joe Bickley, Elna Hale, Novis Whitaker, Laura Wallace, a Mrs. Hill, Jessie and Paka Rhodden, Jessie later married Clesby Patterson.

Some family names of students were Butman, Turner, Hogan, Ensminger, McPeak, Perkins, Thornton, Moore, Hodges, Anderson, Riggans, Bailey, Cordell, and Newby.

Salt Branch school was northeast of Merkel on the Salt Branch Creek. On the land where the school was located for years a church was located nearby, called Salt Branch Church. A number of the teachers were J.A. Hendrix, Tinnie Pope, S.W. Taylor, a Miss Lomax, Miss Phillips, J.R. and Mary Green, Lorena Frazier, Johnny Hinds, Arthur Teaff, a Mr. McGinnis, Martha Brooks, Pauline Pinckley Collins, Pearl Elliot, Madelon Williams Horton, Wilma Garrett Robertson, Alice Bigham and Nora Foster.

Family names of some of the students were Robertson, Petty, Higgins, Harris, Hester, Foster, Payne, Pinckley, and Taylor.

The Warren School was located on the northwest corner of the Brooks Patterson place north of Merkel on the old Stith Road on land donated by C.P. Warren, hence the name Warren. A few of the teachers were Tom McGeehee, (later the Taylor County Superintendent of Instruction), Ruth Pinckley, James Harris, Mrs. Hobson Robinson, Nora Foster and Olive Teaff White.

The names of some of the students were Chancey, McCormick, Foster, Jones, Higgins, Dyess, Baker, Smith, Sherrill, and Hartley. Joe Hartley, who gave this information, came to his family farm as a boy with his folks in 1906. He went to Warren, finished Merkel High School, attended Wayland College and Harvard University. He served a few years in the Navy and otherwise has lived at the same place all of his life.

The Union Ridge school was northwest of Merkel. Mr. Calvin Joe Douglas, Sr., gave the land for the school around 1900. Some forerunners of the school were the Pee school, Hebron and Sears schools, which were in the general area. Some teachers were G.W. Williams, J.R. Pee, Lella Dubose, J.L. McRee, Georgia Moore, Daisy Hogan, Verna Hogan, Gladys Greenway, Gladys Christopher, Anna Belle Bailey Shouse, Gladys Middleton, Fannie Lee Rogers.

Some family members of students were Barnett, Douglas, Clark, L. Harris, A. Harris, Harwell, Pannell, McCree, Carey, Biggs, Dean, Sublett.

The Noodle-Horn school was ten miles north of Merkel, in Jones County. The school was first known as Cross Roads but generally called Noodle, getting its name from the post office in the community of the same name. Tradition has it the community was named for the nearby creek called Noodle. This creek was named by some cowboys who were looking for water and finding the creek dry, remarked, "It's as dry as a noodle." The post office was discontinued in 1924. The first school was built by settlers in 1891. A four room school was built in 1905. The last school was made up of Noodle, Horn, and parts of Compere and later part of Truby and was called Noodle-Horn. The new building was built in 1929 and the high school was accredited, with a gym, agriculture building and lunchroom. When it disbanded, parts of the district went to Anson, Hawley, Trent and Merkel.

Some of the teachers were Lillie Jane Harris, Mrs. Clemmie Bristow, Lillie Kirk, Pearl Meeks, Mr. and Mrs. Rattan, Charlie White, Clyde Deavers, Mr. and Mrs. Dodds, Ed Womack, Faytine Howell, Cecil White, Vera and Brooksie Justice, Lucille Jones, Lucille Harris, Finus T. Bell, Clara Cammack, Odell Sloan Cox, Edwin and Evelyn Reed, Mary Kate Campbell.

Some family names of students at the Noodle School were Burfiend, Carter, Irvin, Hale Benningfield, Bicknell, Huber, Mays, Mattingly, Barbee, Touchstone, Hogan, Miller, Sloan, Spurgien, Cooper, Sosbee, Sharp, Thompson, Ely, Payne, Cook, Griffith, Justice, Bryon, Daniel, Satterwhite, Reece, Best, Chancey, Cox, Roundtree, Martin, Winter, and Eason.

In the old Horn district were the Hatfield, the Horn, the Newsome, the Huber, the Daniel (Juanita Daniel Zachery's family) and the Carr families.

Stith School was located about eight or ten miles far northeast of Merkel in Jones County where there was at one time a thriving village. The first teacher of the school was a Mr. A.W. Hampton. Some of the other teachers were Ruth McCartney,

Leland Martin, Lee Caffman, Blanch McMinn Teaff, Lena Stephenson Dunigan, and her brother B.A. Stephenson, May Collins, Clyde Deavers, Dalton Coffee, Elleta Foster Osborn, Miss Stegner, Mr. and Mrs. Leden Clifton, Miss Fuller, Thelma Jones (Mrs. Truett), and Olive Teaff White.

Some of the family names of students who attended Stith School were Cannon, Bradley, Cook, Ford, Dunigan, McDonald, Peterson, Munday, Jones, Mashburn, Hobbs, Tarpley, Horton, Kelso, Redding, Sherrill, Church, Butler, West, Browning, Wilson, Berry, Vantress, McCormick, Dishman, Little, Bird, Patton, Baker, and Patterson.

From 178 pupils and three teachers in 1896-97 to 1100 students and 120 faculty and staff plus consultant services from the Co-Operative, the schools have kept step with the growth of the city. Patrons can look forward to continued growth, according to Superintendent Everett, who anticipates some fifty or so students to be added next year and increasing enrollments in each future year.

THE PEOPLE

In the early 1880's, a covered wagon was brought by W.J. ("Uncle Bill") and Mary Judson Chambless Sheppard to the Kilmurry farm south of town. For several years, they lived in a two-story house on the farm land which is known today as the Sheppard Addition. Soon they moved into town, where Mr. Sheppard operated a small grocery store. Still later, they moved to the last house on the north end of Edwards Street, where he farmed the land, which now houses Brickhaven. There were seven Sheppard children, all of whom are deceased. Pearl (Mrs. Frank Hamm) and Elma (Mrs. Frank McFarland) were life-time residents of Merkel.

Another long-time resident, who chose this time for bringing his family from Pennsylvania, was J.P. Hamm, father of Frank Pierce Hamm, who was ten years old at the time. At that time, the town consisted of the depot, a general store, and a few scattered houses. The Hamms became involved in the lumber and carpenter business. In his later years, J.P. Hamm, a fine cabinet maker, built, for himself, the house on South Third Street, known as the Joe Lassiter house. Frank Hamm later purchased a cotton gin, which he operated until his retirement. He was one of the last independent ginners of Taylor County. He and his wife, Pearl Elizabeth Sheppard Hamm, were the parents of seven children: Sie of Ft. Worth, Ruby (Mrs. Guy P. Darsey) of Austin, Evelyn (Mrs. Byers Petty) of Abilene, Beth (Mrs. John Hill) of Grand Prairie, and Mildren, Bill and Ted all of Merkel. Mildred and Bill now live in the modern brick home at 202 Oak, built by Frank Hamm in 1937. Mr. Hamm died in 1957.



This is a work day for a sick neighbor in Mulberry Canyon in 1895.

Among the first settlers to come to the Merkel area, was Paul Raymond Demere, born in 1845 on St. Simons Island, off the coast of Georgia. After the Civil War, his family moved to White Springs, Florida, and then on to Texas, and finally to Mulberry Canyon, in the late 1870's. In 1875 he married Lena Webb, whose grandfather was the first Dallas preacher. The Demeres had five sons and two daughters. Nonie May, the older daughter, married Oliver Walker Reed in 1904. They reared five sons and two daughters in Mulberry Canyon, where he was a stockfarmer until his death in 1942. Their older daughter, Alice Lena, attended John Tarleton and taught school at Weaver Springs before marrying Allen D. King, who had come to Mulberry Canyon from Bloomfield, New Jersey, and bought a ranch there

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in 1929. Their four children are: Ida Mae, married to Connie Mack Seymore, who is with Seymore Insurance Agency; Hugh B. King, who lives with his wife, the former Patsy Sue Cornett and four children a few miles out from Mulberry Canyon; Alice Sue, married to Tim H. Fagan of Houston; and Allen D. King, of Central City, Nebraska, who is married to the former Kathy Richardson of Honolulu, Hawaii. Both Mrs. King and Mrs. Seymore are members of the Fortnightly Study Club. Mrs. King is also president of the Merkel Garden Club, and Mrs. Seymore is a teacher in the Merkel schools.

Adding to the steady flow of people into our area, was W.W. Russell, who brought his wife, Jo Anna (Warnick) here in 1880. Nine children were born to this couple, all of whom are deceased. Surviving grandchildren living here at this time are: Mrs. Raymond Ferguson, Mrs. Nina Belle Hughes, S.G. Russell, Mrs. Leo Harris, and Jimmy Russell. Seventeen grandchildren and great grandchildren have graduated from Merkel High School since 1917.

It was on his return trip from Sanadia, Spain, that Sam Butman, Sr. promised the Lord that if he would let him get home safely, he would never go out to sea again. He fulfilled that promise by making immediate plans to go to Texas. He rode the train as far as it went to Baird, Texas. There he found a job as sheep herder for a Mr. Hill. One day, a man, Dock Brown, came along in a buggy, and offered to buy the sheep. He could not sell them, because they were not his. The man pulled a box from under the seat and revealed a box full of big bills. Young Sam decided that money could be made by raising sheep, so he borrowed money to start a herd. His first trip back to Maine, to see his family, was when he got a free ride with his wool that he was taking to the New York market. His family didn't believe that he had made that much money and thought it was just another Texas Tale, until he gave them proof. He sent his first cattle to the Chicago market, and Andy Hunter got a free ride up there with the cattle. He moved to Mulberry Canyon in June 1883 with 200 ewes and 30 lambs.

Sam Butman married Madge Vaughn, daughter of John L. Vaughan, the first depot agent, who had come here from Greensburg and Portersville, Pa. They lived in a box car on the track during the early days, while the railroad was being built through Merkel and on to El Paso between 1881 and 1883. In 1884, when the Butman's were married, they bought the house that Daniel Vickers had built in 1876. They built their new ranch home in 1895.

Mrs. Butman's family, the Vaughans, built their house later known as the Ash house located next door to Dr. Gardner's office on Oak Street, near the railroad. The six older Butman children, were born in that house. The thirteen children born to this union were: Abbie Sloan, Will John Vaughan, Sam, Jr., Louis, Theodore, Lottie Everett, Margie Ray, Ford, Gladys Swinney, Mary Russom, Ben, and an infant daughter.



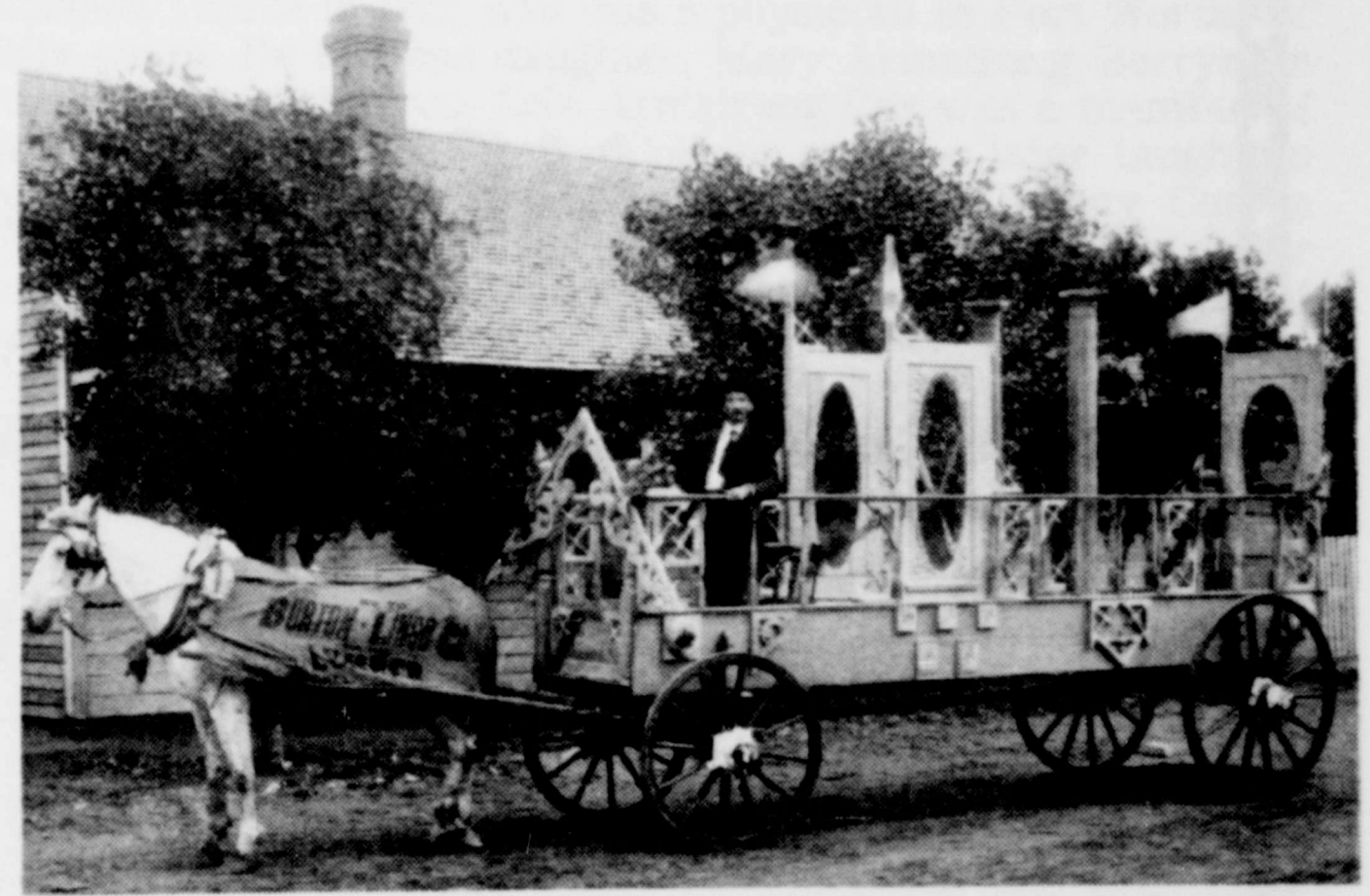
B.B. Reynolds on his horse-drawn cultivator in 1910.

It took a second train trip from Minden, Louisiana, before J.S. and Sarah Barnes could be satisfied to leave their comfortable home on the family farm near Minden for a desolate looking farm a few miles east of Merkel. Through much hard work, they were able to move into town. By the year 1885, Mr. Barnes had established the J.S. Barnes Lumber Company, bringing his lumber from Ft. Worth by wagon. After a few years, he sold his

business to Burton-Lingo and became first manager of Burton-Lingo Lumber Co. He built a two-story house on the corner of South Third and Orange Streets. Mrs. Barnes "kept boarders", and was known for her jolly ways and good cooking, as well as for her generous gifts of food for the needy. There were ten Barnes children, four of whom lived in Merkel all their lives: Pearl (Mrs. E.M. McDonald), Bess (Mrs. T.G. Bragg), Eff (Mrs. Fred Guitar), and Kate (Mrs. John Childress).



This is the Tracy Ranch in 1895.



J.S. Barnes, manager of Burton-Lingo, ready for an early day parade in 1905. The man standing to the right is J.A. Woodard.

Another early-day settler followed a trail for seventeen miles west of Merkel, where he acquired land that became known as the Tracy Ranch. This young college student from Independence, Iowa, soon learned what it meant to drive his cattle miles from home to find grass. R.E. Tracy lived the life of a bachelor until 1905, when a neighborly friend took him to a "play party", where he was introduced to Pearl Barnes, whom he married in the Barnes home in Merkel. They spent eight years on the ranch and then moved to Merkel in order to send their children to school. Mr. Tracy continued to manage the ranch, as well as to work for Burton-Lingo Lumber. When J.S. Barnes, his father-in-law, decided to move to his farm, R.E. Tracy became manager of the yard, a position he was holding at the time of his death in 1910. Mr. Tracy built the family home in east Merkel on S. 3rd, now owned by D.B. Bowen.

When C.P. Warren, an investor, moved to Abilene from Arkansas in 1885, he brought his wife and five children, all of whom lived to have a marked influence on this part of the state: Mattie (Mrs. George Paxton), who taught school in Merkel for several years; Cora (Mrs. Eugene Wood); Eppie (Mrs. Lee Scarborough); Euna (Mrs. Ernie Andrews); and John Thomas, who helped his father found the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Merkel, in the year 1904. J.T. Warren was president of the bank until his death in 1940. At that time, Booth Warren, his only son, took over his father's interest in the bank,

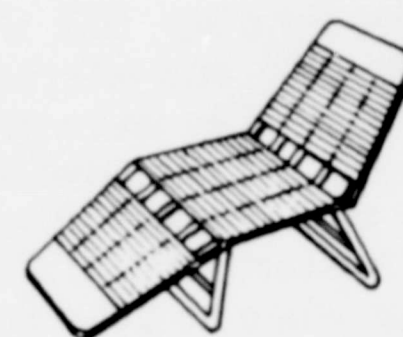
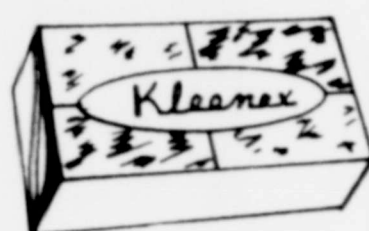
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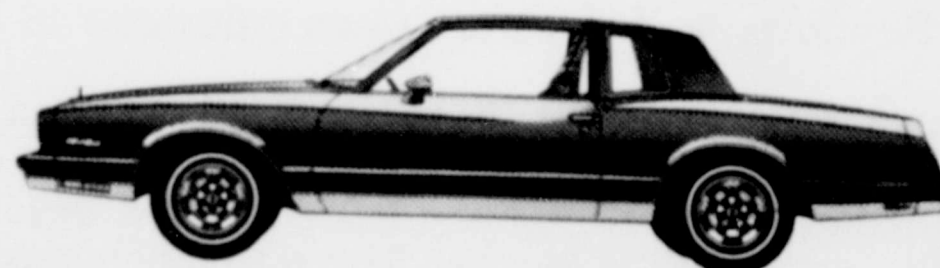


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INTERSTATE 20

as well as his extensive ranching interests, and he continued to do so until his death in 1974. J.T. and Mary Lee Warren were the parents of four children: Winnie (Mrs. Henry Coit of Dallas); Ruth (who died at infancy); Parker Booth; and Louise (Mrs. Kirby Beckett of Dallas), now deceased. Booth and Zoe West Warren were the parents of two sons: Dr. Donald W. Warren of Merkel and Jerry Thomas Warren, who is senior vice president of Citizens National Bank in Abilene. Dr. Don Warren and Patricia Ganter Warren have three sons and three grandchildren. One son, Mike, is continuing the family banking tradition as assistant-cashier in the Merkel bank today. Jerry and Sue Grimes Warren have two daughters and one grandson.



In the new building, Sept., 1959, stands Booth Warren in front of the portrait of John Thomas Warren.

The name of John S. Hughes has been associated with Merkel for many years. He married Cora Simpson in 1896. Their sons were: Carl, father of Mary Lou (Mrs. Paxton Hayes), Carl W. (of Big Spring) and Carlene (Mrs. Calvin Hagood of Arlington), and Earl, father of Earl Hughes, Jr. (of Abilene), Joy (Mrs. Richard Spatz of Ohio) and Jane (Mrs. Brandion Wade). Carl, now deceased, is survived by all three children and his wife, the former Nina Belle Russell. Earl, also deceased, was married to Lamoyan Baker of Abilene. She now lives in Merkel.

Another old-time name was that of James Monroe Dunagin, who came to Stith in 1900, by way of Buffalo Gap. For many years, the Dunagin family operated the Stith Gin. He married Josephine Crouson, who became a charter member of the Stith Methodist Church. The Dunagin children were: Bryan (member of the Merkel School Board for many years), Bill, Ruby, Pearl, Elmo, Bessie, Lee and Fred.

Dr. Marvin Armstrong, a native of Bell County, moved to Merkel September 17, 1905, with his wife, Ida, her father, Capt. Wm. H. Hawkins, and two children, Frank and Lola. He had taught school long enough to earn enough money to attend Tulane University, where he graduated as valedictorian in 1892.



Dr. Armstrong had the first X-Ray in Merkel and he was surgeon for the T and P Railroad here for thirty five years. He remained an active physician for sixty years, until his death in 1952. Mrs. Armstrong took care of sick relatives and friends, and served Merkel in a cultural way. Dr. W. Frank Armstrong finished Tulane in 1922, and was a physician in Fort Worth for fifty years. He had one daughter, Mary Armstrong Berryman and four grandchildren. Lola Armstrong Cox was a member of the first faculty of McMurry College and she later taught in Merkel for twenty-three years. Her husband, Johnny Cox, a graduate of Simmons College, was a stock farmer, the organizer and first manager of Taylor Electric Co-op, and mayor of Merkel for several years.



In 1905, the J.S. Swanns moved to Merkel from their ranch 10 miles north of Merkel. Mr. Swann was interested in the First State Bank, when it opened some years later. "Mammy" Swann was a familiar figure, as she would drive her surrey, decorated with starched homemade bonnets, which she sold to benefit her missionary friend, Blanche Rose Walker, in China. Their eight children graduated from high school and most of them finished college. Sam, the oldest son, married Agnes Powell, a Merkel school teacher, who died in 1966. Sam Swann died in 1975.

In the year 1900, J.P. Sharp bought Largent Mercantile Co. which was located on Front Street, where the bus station used to be. The Sharps had five boys and three girls, one of whom still lives in Merkel, Elsie Nash, a retired school teacher.

Around the turn of the century, C.M. Largent was making big news for Merkel, as well as for the entire state of Texas. He attended Abilene's first fair, held out at Lytle Lake. There he saw some cattle belonging to William Cranston, a Missouri rancher. Part of the Cranston herd had come from Scotland. Mr.

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Largent bought several of the Cranston bulls, thus beginning his famous Hereford herd. His sons, Tom, Willie Jo, and Charlie grew up on the ranch in the Largent tradition, and their families played important parts in the growth of Merkel. Willie Jo married Clara Saffle; Tom married Velma Sutphen.

The Sears name was prominent in the ranching circle, Alec, Clyde, Bud, and John, all kinsmen, had a great part in bringing both cattle and families to our area. Bill Brown, son-in-law of John Sears, carried on the family tradition for years, his wife, Lilly Pratt (deceased) and Johnnye Sears Snyder played important roles in both business and social activities in Merkel.

The death of Christine Collins, in 1976, brought to an end of the colorful life of the Collins family: Bertie, Mable, Christine, Twyman, and John, who held on to the ranching interests begun on their land north of Merkel by their parents.

J. Ben Campbell moved his wife and two little girls, Mary Kate and Ouida, to a farm near Merkel in April 1907. Mr. Campbell farmed, sold produce and helped carry the mail. Ouida, then a baby, became a long-time Merkel teacher, and married H.C. Reid, whose family came here about the same time as did hers. The W. Clyde Reids decided to make Merkel their home, after having tried Mulberry Canyon in 1883 and several other locations. The H.C. Reids built a new home a few years ago on Yucca Street.

Among the names that came into prominence during the next few years were: Black, Touchstone, Sutphen, Adams, Saffle, Riney, Lowry, Hudgins, Childress, Teaff, Lassiter, Holmes, Comegy, Hunt, Reed, Provine, Gaither, Calvert, Holloway, Victor Harris, L.S. Haynes, Bullock, G.W. Cypert, Tipton, Jacobs, Williams, McMaster, Howard, Berry, Cranford, and Coats.

J.R. Pee came from Mississippi in 1887, and purchased 160 acres of land North West of Merkel where he became a cotton farmer. He helped to organize the school at Union Ridge and was instrumental in organizing the Methodist church where he was Sunday School Superintendent for more than twenty years. J.R. and Eula had five children: Eddie, Anna, Mason, Kenneth and Cyrus, of which two still survive. Cyrus said that in the early days, they used to hear the antelope play and run across the front porch at night.

Andrew Baker was born in Merkel in 1898. He was a grandson of A.A. Baker, founder of the Presbyterian Church. He married the former Letha Brookerson in 1927, daughter of Fred and Gertrude Brookerson, who came to Buffalo Gap in 1876 when the county lay half in Bexar and half in Travis County. The Bakers have three children: Douglas, Hugh and Ann Cutler, all of Merkel.

George Francis West moved from Dallas to Merkel and opened a Hardware and Grocery Store in 1889. At that time, he was a widower with a small child, Henry Clay West. He married Ida Wiman in 1891. They had three sons, James Hogg, John Robert and Paul Wiman, and one girl, Zoe.

The boys were all associated with the father in the expanded business. Mr. West was the bookkeeper, one of the organizers and vice president of The Farmers and Merchants National Bank, and a cotton buyer. Henry was manager of the hardware department. James (Jim) had auto supplies. John had implements, which included International Harvester Tractors. Paul managed the grocery department. Zoe had a financial interest in the store.

Mr. West died in 1935. Jim retired and died in 1947. The auto supplies were closed out. Henry, former mayor of Merkel, retired. Paul retired in early 1955. The grocery department was sold to Carsons. John retained and operated the hardware store until October 1971, when he sold the stock, which was moved to Midland.

Henry C. West married Grace Sheppard. They had 4 boys, Weston, George, Jack and Dick, and one girl, Melba, who is married to Sidney Foy of Baird. Weston and Jack are deceased. George lives in Midland. Dick is a UPI correspondent in Washington, D.C.

James H. West married Eugenia Rister. They had a boy, James H. Jr., and a girl, Marizoe. Both are deceased. When his wife died, he married Eunice Russell. They had 2 children, Gerald and Gloria. Gerald is deceased. Gloria lives in Abilene.

John R. West married Eula Johnson. They have a daughter, Gay, living in Fort Lee, New Jersey.

Paul W. West married Vera Richie.

Zoe married Booth Warren, who was president of Farmers

and Merchants National Bank, until it sold in May 1974. They have 2 sons, Dr. Don W. Warren and Jerry T. Warren, now a vice president of Citizens National Bank in Abilene. A grandson, Mike, is a teller in the Merkel bank that his great grandfathers organized.

When he retired from teaching early-day schools, J.G. Calvert brought his family to a home in east Merkel, in the year 1900. Mrs. Calvert was a general favorite with the neighborhood children, who would often sit on the back porch steps and listen to her tales of Civil War days. For years, Lizzie, the oldest daughter, clerked in Harkrider's Dry Goods Store. Leta married the colorful C.K. Russell, and Eva married John Morgan, a promising business man. Still another daughter, Mona (Mrs. Bob Martin), was the mother of a well-remembered teacher, Julia Martin. Anna Lou Ferguson, daughter of the C.K. Russells, and her husband, R.M. Ferguson, live in north Merkel, where their beautiful yard is a spot of pride for Merkel boosters. Their sister, Mary Jo Knox, lives in Dallas.

The Hicks family began with Col. A.F. Hicks, the son of Henry and Catherine Hicks of Cornwall, England, who came to America during the "Great Gold Fever". They moved to Texas in 1870, and soon became involved in the cattle business. Col. Hicks would buy a cow for \$2.00 and drive it to California, where it sold for \$20.00. A son, Henry Robert, married Minnie Belle Starkey in 1889 and came to Merkel. He taught school. Later he was engaged in the hardware business. Their children were Robert, Mary Lee, Jewell, and Vestal. Robert married Eva Walters. After the Depression, he began gradually establishing his own Hicks Auto Supply, which eventually used eight trucks for business. At his death in 1960, his son, Ben.R., became owner and manager. In 1974, Ben's son, Gary, became the third generation to be associated with the firm. Gary and his wife, Robbie, a Merkel teacher, have one son, Bradley Scott. Ben and Elizabeth Hicks also have a daughter, Beth Simpson, who now lives in Houston.

Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Sheppard moved to Taylor County in 1891, settling on a farm three miles south of Merkel. Their children were Olga, Leo, Lloyd, and Ima. Olga married Samuel David (Lige) Gamble, who established the Merkel Drug. Their children are David, now owner and manager of Merkel Drug Co., and Alma (Sis), of San Antonio. David and Bessie Gamble are the parents of Bronwyn and Karlen. Karlen and her husband, A.R. Hardy, have three children, Scott, Shayla and Joshua Mashburn.

The ushering in of the 1900's meant more farmers, ranchers, teachers, doctors, builders, businessmen, and people in general. Some of the ones remembered as contributing to this period of growth are these family names: Holloway, Victor Harris, Bullock, Cransford, McMasters, G.W. Cypert, Reeves, Black, Touchstone, Sutphen, Adams, Saffle, Lowry, Hudgins, Robertson, Hunt, Comegy, Berry, Reed, Provine, Hibbits, Dye, Howard, Jackson, Rickie, Gamble, Derstine, C. Warren, Durham, White, Tucker, Dennis, Finch, Higgins, Tiner, Ash, Dudley, Martin, and Turner.

One of the largest Merkel-area clans is that of the Farmers, descendants of Eddie and Susie Farmer, who came to Taylor County from Tennessee in 1901. Their children were named Adrain, Murray, Whit, Bill, Alton, Ira, H.E., and Lewis. Their grandchildren were named Eddie, Edward, Travis, Derrell, Fred, Blanche, M.H., Paul E., Fredia, J.H., Billy Don, Lena Faye, Ruby, Shirley, Patricia, Dale, and Jana. Blanche is married to Lawrence Hewitt, son of long-time residents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hewitt. Derrell is manager of Taylor Telephone Cooperative.

In the late 1900's, our little town had much to talk about. Dr. Joe Warnick made history by performing the first appendectomy, in the old Alsobrook Hotel. He was praised in the Medical Journal for saving a Mexican's life by amputating both legs. A scourge of Yellow Fever, which took the lives of several children, kept doctors busy, as well as the women who were not afraid to nurse them. Families began to talk about new names heard around the vicinity such as: Bloxom, Tucker, Vickers, Merritt, Provine, Calvert, White, Alsobrook, Hunter, Roper, and Kinney. Farmers began bringing their cotton bales up to Main Street, where they were sold to the highest bidder. For more than thirty years, cotton wagons were a familiar sight on this busy street. Named as some of the buyers throughout the years were: F.T. Hogan, G.M. Sharp, E.M. McDonald, G.F. West, Grover Hale, "Hutch" Hutchinson, and F. Bland.

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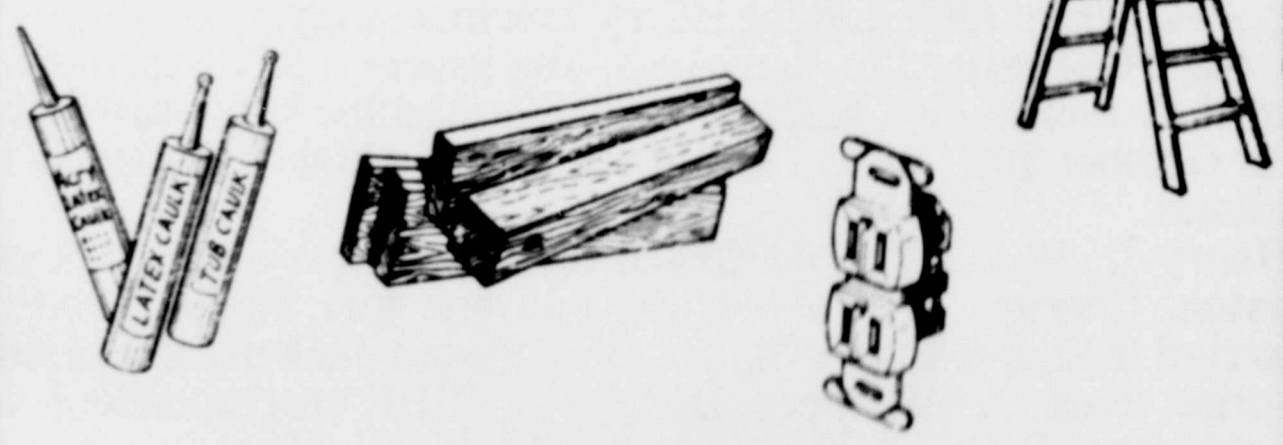
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D.G. Ash, who helped build the T&P Railroad and later hauled freight from Abilene, settled at Merkel in the 1880's. He built one of the first Merkel houses. Two of his children now live in Merkel: Mrs. Bessie Perry, whose three daughters graduated from Merkel High School, and Mrs. Dent Gibson, who lives with her husband on the farm Dent's father settled on in about 1883. The Gibson children are L.B. Gibson, high school principal at Albany, David (deceased), Denta Marie Lindsey, of Oklahoma, and Jerry Gibson (married to the former Peggy Bond.)

The busy 1900's brought in Fred Guitar, manager of the Guitar Gin and the Guitar Cotton Mill, with the help of his brother, Jim. Fred and Effie Barnes Guitar were the parents of Lucille Eddins (of Lubbock), and Fred Guitar, Jr. (of Roswell). Fred Guitar, Jr. is married to Rose, daughter of Jim and Belle Black. The parents are buried in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Beginning with 1903, John Childress served Merkel and Trent as T&P agent, until his retirement in the 1960's. He found his wife, Kate, while boarding with her mother, in 1905. Their's was the fourth wedding held in the J.S. Barnes' home. Mrs. C.B. Knight is their daughter.

Josiah Nimrod Teaff, known as "Little Nim", came to Merkel in 1903, from Troy, in Bell County, to establish himself as a stock farmer two miles west of Merkel. Teaff drove his initial herd of livestock through Buffalo Gap. He had a bachelor brother, Ed Teaff, who later joined him. These two Teaffs were cousins to "Big Nim" Teaff, of the Tye Community, and J.W. (Uncle Billy) Teaff, who settled in the Salt Branch Community. J.N. Teaff and Henrietta Jones Teaff were parents of 12 children, five of whom reached adulthood: Dollie (Mrs. General Jones), Mary (Mrs. Thomas Bearden), Dovie (Mrs. Bascom Stevens), Ruby (Mrs. James Mayfield), and Ova (Mrs. Earl Lassiter). J.W. Teaff and Dora Jones Teaff were parents of 3 sons and 4 daughters, one of whom still lives on the home place, Selena Teaff. The other children were Holland, Nim, Willie, Olive, Ocie, and Winnie Murl, all deceased. "Big Nim" Teaff was the grandfather of Glenn Teaff, married to Lonnell McElmurray, who is manager of W.T.U. of Merkel.

About a year after the Teaffs came to Merkel, T.R. (Uncle Dick) Lassiter and his wife, Susan Agnes, decided so much rain near their home in Red River County was going to "sink the pine trees". Consequently, they loaded their household goods, farm tools, and livestock into a box car and came to a farm about 3 miles southeast of Merkel. Their children were: Ida (mother of Mrs. Doyle Lemons), Agnes, Gaylon, Mae, and Earl (father of Joe Earl Lassiter). Thomas Earl Lassiter, married to Ova Teaff, was an active Democratic Party leader, and founder of Lassiter Employment Service. In 1957, Joe Lassiter (married to Ruth Ellwood, of Sinton) left the State Comptroller's Department in Austin to assist his father in Merkel. In 1969, Joe was named by the Chamber of Commerce, as Outstanding Citizen of the Year. Today, Joe and Ruth operate their business in Abilene, the Lassiter Employment Service, but continue to live in Merkel and to serve the community in many ways. They are parents of Jo Ann (Mrs. Rodney Robertson), and JaNell (Mrs. Tim Beasley). Joe's sister is Rosemary, Mrs. Morris R. Roberts, of San Antonio.

After a couple or so trips through a broad area west of the Brazos River in search of land, Benjamin J.B. Dyess bought land about one mile north of Merkel and in 1905 moved with his wife, Mollie, and five of his daughters, two step children and two orphan boys, he had given a home, to the farm. The daughters were Roxye and Ella, his children by a former marriage, and Myrtle, Ava and Leta. Ben Dyess, a native of Georgia, had joined the Confederate cause as a member of Henry County, Ala., home guard when quite young and joined the Alabama Infantry later and was wounded in battle during the War Between the States. He came "west" seeking a more healthful climate. He died in 1910 and his wife, Mollie, continued to live on the farm and later in Merkel until her death in 1926. Roxye married Garfield Holland at Merkel and later moved to Oklahoma, then California, where they both taught in the schools there; Ella, also a teacher, married E.J. Medford and lived in Oklahoma, Texas and California; Myrtle married John Simmons at Merkel and moved to Sherman, Texas; Ava married first, Leonard Morrison and second, a Mr. Daniel and lives in Sweetwater; Leta married, first, George Patterson, of Merkel, and second, Claude Kelley and lives in Fort Worth. Three older daughters of Ben Dyess were: Eugenia (Mrs. Henry Biles), Theodocia (Mrs. H.A. Deavers) and Dora (Mrs. Herbert

Park). They were already married and remained in Ellis County, and his only son, Benjamin C., was teaching in East Texas and later initiated and chaired the psychology department (which was named in his honor) at Oklahoma A&M College, now Oklahoma University in Stillwater.

Another Dyess family moving to the area about 1906-1908 and to Merkel about 1917 or 1918 was the Siscero and Mary Jane (Price) Dyess family. Their children included William, John, Albert (m. Ella Story), Jennie (m. Ed Story, brother of Ella), (The Storys were the children of Ed M. and Julia Harper Story, who also came to the Merkel area). Other Dyess children were Alfred (m. Carrie Story, sister of Ed and Ella), Eliza (m. Charlie Suber), Margaret (m. William Barnes) and Amy (m. Volney Callihan). Mr. Dyess died in 1933 and she died in 1940.

Henry Andrew Deavers and his wife, Theodocia Dyess, bought land in Southwest Jones County in 1906, but did not move from Ellis County, Texas, to the Merkel area until 1920, when they decided to seek a more healthful place to live. Preceding them to Merkel in 1919 were two sons, Clyde, who worked in the Merkel Post Office, and Milton, who had only recently returned all of whom attended the Merkel Schools, were Carey, Eulala (m. Thomas J. Womack and lives in Odessa), Thelma (m. Tom (m. Thomas J. Womack and lives in Odessa), Thelma (m. Tom Vestal and lives in Plainview), and Avis, who lives in Merkel. Mr. Deavers died in Merkel in 1954 and Mrs. Deavers died in 1968.

Lecil White, oldest son of Joseph J. White and Carrie Lillian White, was born near Stephenville, and moved by train with his family to Taylor County in 1907, settling near Blair, where the family farmed until J.J. White retired in the mid 1920's. Other children of the White family were Earl, George, Pete, and Luna (Mrs. A.R. Johnston) of Santo, the only surviving child.

In 1912, Lecil White married Ora Bland, youngest daughter of the John William Carrol Blands. The Lecil White family lived first in the Blair community and later farmed just south of Merkel. In 1933, they moved into Merkel and he became one of the leading building contractors in Merkel, building the new funeral home in the 1940's and many of the homes in the area, first building the homes in the Herring addition.

Always interested in the growth of the city, he served two terms on the city council and was prominent in the paving of city streets project and in many other improvements. He often served on the tax equalization board of the Merkel Independent Schools. Mr. White died in 1960 and Mrs. White died in 1979. The Whites had three children, Clara B. who married Alf Walla (vocational buildings and trades teacher in Merkel), Maurine, a former engineering clerk for Bell Telephone Company in Abilene; and Billy Joe (also a builder), now deceased, who married Peggy Green who is now employed by the Post Office.

John William Carrol and Locky Tennessee (Craddox) Bland moved to Merkel from Coryell County in 1889 in covered wagons. Also coming at the same time was the Diltz family, William L. Diltz and his wife, Nannie Rebecca E. Nowlin. The Bland family included Robert Lafayette, Joseph Merritt, Roscoe, Vera Ecta (Mrs. R.R. Clark), Ora (Mrs. J. Lecil White) James Alva, and Arthur Cleveland. The Diltz family included W.L., Phillip, Eula (Mrs. R.L. Bland) and others.

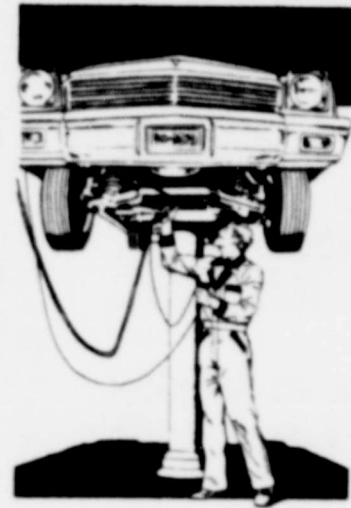
The White-Bland-Diltz families intermarried and they and their descendants have continued to contribute to the development of Merkel--down to the sixth generation. Descendants of these families still living in the area are R.L. Bland, Jr., president and general manager of Cal-Tex Feedlot at Trent; Oscar Bland, retired farmer, and his daughter, Billie (Mrs. Robert) James; Pam Walla (Mrs. Randy Carson), a teacher in Merkel Schools; Diane White (Mrs. David) Seymore, a beauty operator; Richard A. White, an oil well driller; Tommy Diltz, employed by H.W. Lemen, Inc.; Mickey Diltz Winter, and others.

William Winfred Campbell moved his family to Merkel in 1920 or 21. He was married to Kate Elizabeth Strother in Louisiana, and they had three children when they moved to Merkel. The children are Myrna Irene, wife of J.G. McFarland of Friona, Texas, Floyd Tracy, married to Orpha Patterson of Merkel and living in Bedford, Virginia, and Madge Lucile, wife of Ray Wilson, Merkel and living in Merkel.

Mr. Campbell went into the grocery business with W.W. Wood for a short time, then into business for himself. His health was bad and in 1926 he moved his family to the plains area and tried to farm. In 1928, he purchased a grocery store in Portales, New

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Mexico, and he and Mrs. Campbell operated it for one year. Then in 1929, the family returned to Merkel and again went into the grocery business. Mrs. Campbell operated the business as Mr. Campbell's health continued bad. He died in 1931. Mrs. Campbell and Tracy continued in the grocery business, an M-System store across the street east of Starbuck Furniture, until Tracy decided to move the store to Lamesa in 1936. Mrs. Campbell and Ray Wilson bought McDonald's Grocery and Market, which became Wilson and Cypert, and then Wilson's Food Store. Mrs. Campbell died in a car-train wreck in 1944. Ray closed out the store in January 1969, after 42 years.

Elijah Lindo (Babe) Wilson came from Roby in 1920 to buy the F.H. Dennis Jewelry Store. He and his wife, Elizabeth Griffin of Roby, were parents of nine children; Marvin (deceased), Ethel (married to Cyrus Pee), Tom (who assisted his father in the early store), Stella (married to W.E. Hale), Harold (of Sweetwater), Edna (widow of E.L. McLeod), Woodrow (married to Frances English of Haskell), Ray (married to Lucille Campbell), and Wilbur (of Stamford). Mr. Wilson died in 1945. His wife died in 1963.

T.L. Grimes operated a drugstore during World War I, where his son Dee worked. Another son, Dr. Robert Grimes, practiced medicine in Merkel for many years, after having served in World War I. Dr. Grimes and his wife, Harriet, were parents of two children: Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. Charles Eager), and Robert, Jr. (deceased). Dee Grimes married Mary Reed, daughter of T.G. Bragg. He became a partner in the Bragg Department Store. After the death of Mr. and Mrs. Bragg, and after the death of Dee, his wife bought the interests of the other two children, Wallace Bragg (of Chillicothe) and Iva Bragg Marr (Mrs. Paul Marr of Stephenville). Mrs. Dee Grimes is now owner and manager of Braggs.

Albert R. Booth brought his family from Arkansas in search of better health. For a number of years, his grocery store was a thriving place, located on North Third. His wife, Willie Lee, was recognized as one of the best Bible Scholars of Merkel. Their children were: Mary Cleo (Mrs. W.T. Sadler), Helen (Mrs. Bob Mayfield) both deceased, Louise (Mrs. J.E. Boaz), and Ann (Mrs. Franklin Mashburn) of Big Spring.

Dr. W.T. Sadler came to Merkel with the Oil Boom, at the urgent request of Dr. Grimes. After the death of Dr. Grimes, Dr. Sadler built the Sadler Clinic, located in south Merkel. He was given the first Distinguished Citizen's Award by the Merkel Chamber of Commerce. Among his services to Merkel were: director of F and M National Bank, member of American and Taylor-Jones Medical Associations, and promoter of youth activities. He married Mary Cleo Booth, a high school English teacher and promoter of cultural interests through out the years. Their one daughter is Sandra (Mrs. Bill Haynes of Abilene). Their two grandchildren are: William Comer Haynes, M.D. of Galveston, where he is a resident at the University of Texas Medical Branch, and Melinda (Mrs. John Davis, of Austin, where her husband is a second year student at the Law School of Austin.) The Sadlers reared and educated their niece, Sue Mayfield, who came to them after the death of her father, Bob Mayfield. The Sadlers are members of the First Baptist Church.

The Andy Shouses came to Merkel in 1939, when he was to become manager of the Guitar Gin, at which time there were seven gins in Merkel. His wife, Anna Belle, became a teacher in Merkel for twenty-five years. Their one son, Robert, a dentist, lives in Dallas with his wife, Mamie and three sons, Scott, Mathew, and Joey. Andy later had his own office, where he sold Real Estate and insurance and made income taxes.

Andy, the son of William Elonzo and Susan Ann Shouse, moved to a farm north of Merkel in 1902. Anna Belle was the daughter of a pioneer Methodist minister.

William E. and Susan had six children: Clarence, Clyde, of Abilene, Paralee McCormick, Etta McWilliams, and Juanita Payne of Mesquite.

Dr. Chester B. Gardner came to Merkel in October, 1925 from Bicknell, Indiana, after buying the medical practice and residence from Dr. George L. Miller. He batched with Dr. Miller until his family arrived in December.

His first office was over Dennis' General Store until he built his office on South First and Oak Street in 1929, where he remained until his retirement in June 1977 at age 85.

He came up the hard way, working in harvest fields, with bridge building crews, cutting meat, fitting shoes, and playing

black jack to get money to go to college.

When he was ten years old, he and his mother were traveling from Washington State to Hastings, Neb., when a snow slide or avalanche covered the train, where they remained without any outside communication until they were rescued three days later.

Dr. Gardner served on the State Board of Medical Examiners from 1951 to 1963. His subject was Jurisprudence.

Dr. Gardner and his wife, Pearl, had two daughters, Billie Rickamore of Florida, and Becky Rogers of Merkel and Washington State.

Finus T. Hogan, born in Simpsonville, Texas, in 1887, was the son of Thomas E. and Elizabeth Darden Hogan, whose parents had come from Ireland and Germany. Finus married Maude Riney in Nubia in 1940. Five of their children live in Merkel today; Jack, Tom, June, Mrs. Robert Campbell and Mrs. Morris Smith. Mr. Hogan was a stock farmer and cattle buyer.

Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Haynes bought land five miles southeast of Merkel in 1914, but it was 1917 before they moved from Anson, with two of their sons, Bill and Comer. After a few years, the parents moved into town, leaving Comer on the farm. W.W. Haynes became a car dealer in Merkel and Abilene, while Comer remained on the farm. He moved into town to be near school for his sons, Bill and Jack, but he has remained a stockfarmer.

E.L. and Beulah Palmer first settled in Mulberry Canyon, later they moved to Noodle. Their children were: Earl, Nolan, Opal, Leslie, and Eddie. Earl and Nolan now live in Merkel, where Nolan is a car dealer. Nolan married Ann Dubose.

Mr. and Mrs. J.V. Collins moved from Lamesa to Merkel in the year 1929, bringing three of their children; Elmo, Mary and Paul. After selling his grocery store, Mr. Collins became agent for Conoco Oil Company, with Elmo as partner. During his years in Merkel, Mr. Collins served as president of the Merkel School Board, teacher of the Methodist Men's Bible Class, and chairman of the Board of Stewards. Mary, the only member of the family living here now, retired from the F and M National Bank in January, 1977, as vice president and executive secretary.

The Jack Souths have lived in Merkel long enough for their three children to grow up in the Merkel Public Schools. Judy (Mrs. Roy Brown) has five children; Tommy (married to the former Linda Doan) has three children and lives in Anson; Janice (Mrs. Mike Hicks) is office manager for the South Grain Elevators, established by Mr. South soon after he came to Merkel. Mrs. South is the former Billie Baldwin.

J.W. and Ruby Sessions Hammond came to Merkel in 1941 from Wells and Arp Texas, buying the Ben Franklin Store from Doyle Nutt. They operated this store until 1975, when they built the modern new store at 201 Kent Street. An impressive opening was held on November 22, 1975, during which time the Merkel Time Capsule was buried in front of the store. Important letters, articles, and pictures were sealed in the fiberglass capsule, which will remain buried for one hundred years. A large Merkel crowd, as well as several distinguished notables, attended the ceremony. Assisting were the Hammond children: Johnny Wayne (of Merkel), Sessions (of Hawley), David (of Richardson), and Bob (of Merkel).



In 1954, the Hammond Store employed (from left to right): Mrs. J.W. Hammond, Mrs. Alf Walla (Clara B. White), Bessie Bryant, Mrs. Henry Howard (Nadine Clack), Becky Gaither, Betty Jennings, Nedra Swafford.

Among the "newcomers" of Merkel are Mr. and Mrs. Don Hart, who came in 1971, bringing their two children, Andy (now an accountant in Tulia) and Lesa (now a junior at Angelo State University). Since Mr. Hart became manager of Taylor Electric, he has also been active in the American Red Cross, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Merkel School Board. He was recognized as the "Citizen of the Year" by the Chamber of Commerce, a "Distinguished Individual Supporter" of Texas 4-H Youth, and an "Honorary Future Farmer of America". Mrs. Hart teaches school in Sweetwater.

The spring of 1963 brought the Murrells to Merkel from Hamlin. Max, who bought the old Badger Chevrolet Company on Kent Street, and Jane, who became involved with our public schools. Max, a graduate of West Point, had been a partner with his father in the Carl Murrell Chevrolet Company of Hamlin. In 1965, Max Murrell built the modern dealership on I-20. The organization has grown from 6 to 20 employees. Max and Jane Murrell are a vital part of our rapidly expanding community. They have one daughter, Kathryn (Mrs. Johnny Frazier of Bryan) and Grant (a junior in West Texas State University in Canyon).

The year 1978 saw Dr. Thuy Dinh Tran set up practice in family medicine in the Warren building. He and his wife, Ly Tran, have four children: Trung, Diem, Phuong, and Trinh. Dr. Tran graduated from Saigon Medical School in 1965, and his wife graduated from Saigon Law School in 1973.

Merkel owes much of its recent progress to Don W. Hensley, president of Farmers and Merchants National Bank. Mr. Hensley came to Merkel in 1974 with his wife, Charlene, and his three sons, Mike, Scott, and Todd. In these few years, his chief achievements have been these: organizer of the Merkel Industrial Foundation, president of the Merkel Chamber of Commerce, president of the Merkel Lions Club, member of the Taylor County Welfare Board, and promoter of civic undertakings in general. A graduate of Washington University, Mr. Hensley holds a graduate degree in banking and finance from Southern Methodist University.

Our constant growth during the last forty years has added a steady flow of families to our midst: Cox, Cypert, Eager, Knight, Sudderth, Walla, Richards, Rister, Seymore, Benson, Read, Hardesty, Fisher, Jones, Everett, Elmore, Justice, Bartlett, McReynolds, Davis, Starbuck, Bratcher, Bugg, Stuckey, Quance, Peterman, and many other who are arriving every week.

Joining a group of walkers about Merkel for a day brought to mind stories of other early-day families. Almost every house passed sent out memories all its own.

In one of these houses, on Oak street, lives Betty Tittle, who is an institution in her own right. She and her mother represent the Tittle Family of yester-year. Her father, Rufe Tittle, extensive farmer and road commissioner for many years, and her brothers, all of whom attended the Merkel schools.

Val Patterson (Mrs. Homer Patterson) and Mrs. Claude Dye (daughter of Brooks Patterson, deceased) are part of the large clan begun by J.A. Patterson in the year 1888. When high water kept him from settling in Arkansas, he brought his wife and children to a farm four miles west of Abilene. Eventually, these Pattersons moved nearer to Merkel: Jim, Homer, Brooks, Herbert, Emmett, Mrs. R.L. Newman, and Mrs. Barbara McCoy.

The old Frank Sears house on the north side could tell many stories of Frank and Molly Sears and their children: Arthur, Alex, Clyde, Bud, Della Campbell, Odie Matthews, Mossie Hatfield, Pet Touchstone, and Eula Sears. Mary Eula Sears, an Abilene artist, and Boog Sears Eyssen (Mrs. W.H. Eyssen) are frequent visitors in Merkel. Their mother "Miss Amy" Sears (Mrs. Alex Sears) lived in Merkel for years. Her father, Mr. Estes, often attended her at various gatherings.

The tall, white, columned house at 412 Locust was built by the Costephens family, who contributed much to our history. Living there today are the S.C. Dixons. Mr. Dixon retired as office manager for the J.H. Strain and Sons Construction Co.

Buster and Madelon Horton bought the tall house next door, when they felt they should be near school for their three children: Bill, Jim and Mary Jane. Soon the farm called them back home, where they built a new, beautiful home. Madelon is retired from the Abilene schools. Buster, son of the Aaron Hortons, serves on the Taylor Electric Board.

Passing the home of the Joe Cyperts brought to mind two valuable family names: "Uncle Bunk" Tipton and G.W. Cypert. Grandfather Tipton owned many acres of farm land and he produced some of our biggest farmers: Charlie, Lee, "Little Bunk" and Edgar. For years the Rev. Cypert was pastor of the Merkel Church of Christ. Quite often, in his first years, he was obliged to take some of his pay in "butter and eggs." A few years ago, Joe retired as road commissioner. He and his wife, Maurine, are known today for their many services to Merkel.



The Reynolds Family, (left to right standing): Voneta Reynolds Vancil, Effie Reynolds Brandion, Jassie Reynolds Dunlap, B.B. Bartie Reynolds, Andreia Reynolds Martin, May Reynolds Cargile; (sitting left to right): Lucy Ann Reynolds Blackburn (mother), Claude Brandion (son of Effie), Inez Hendrix Reynolds and Mina Reynolds. Mina Reynolds Riffel of Col. is the only living person in the picture of about 75 years ago.



Lucie Ann Reynolds Blackburn came to Merkel in 1892 to bring her family after her husband, William E. Reynolds, was killed in a runaway wagon. Her brother, Geo Ricky was a pioneer of Mulberry Canyon, actually Nubia.

To the Fortnightly Study Club, we express our appreciation for their work in research, compiling and editing this Centennial Book.

A Special Thanks to Cloy Richards and the Merkel Mail Staff for typesetting and layout of this book.

COMPLIMENTS
Mrs. Baird's Bakery

With the return of George and Charlotte Starbuck, as partners in the funeral home, Fred and Mildred Starbuck have found more time for special interests: the Eastern Star, the Merkel Cemetery Association, and the Methodist Church. Mildred is associated with Allen-Cypert Tax Service.

Mrs. Ophelia Peterson, mother of Lewis Peterson of Merkel and Calvin Peterson of Orange, knows the history of Merkel "from beginning to end". Her husband, Lonzo, died after a lifetime spent in Merkel. Her grandchildren are Donna Casper and Judy Pape, who owns the Beauty Shack.

The house owned by the city manager, J.A. Sadler, and his wife, Yvonne, bears an accommodating air. Mr. Sadler says he must be an old timer, for his great grandmother was born in Stith.

For years, the Irl Walkers lived on the highway where people stopped for both gas and directions. Irl (now deceased) and Annie have been among the most influential contributors to the Senior Citizens. Mrs. Walker belonged to the Reeves family, members of Lawman Reeves' family.

Florence Berry, daughter of Joe Holmes (deceased), has left behind in her house many years of history. The Holmes place reminds us of Florence, whose mother died when she was six years old. She helped her father rear the two younger brothers. For a number of years, she worked at Bragg's. Florence has recently moved to Mammoth, Arizona, to be near her daughter, Jessie Margaret, as well as to enjoy the grandchildren.

Near by, the Sid Coats house, reflected truly rich history. Living are Minnie Coats, with her sister and brother-in-law, Hazel and Ted Pargament.

Merkel walkers like to pass the Sandusky house, where Edd and Alwyne represent two of our older families: the E.S. (Judge) Sandusky family and the P.F. Harris family. During the Civil War, back in Kentucky, an officer gave the name "Judge" to a little boy for taking care of his lame horse. That little boy grew to become the head of the Sandusky Clan. P.F. Harris married a teacher in the little White Church at Hodges. Belonging to the third generation are Glenn and Barbara, who live on their ranch north of Merkel. Barbara teaches in Merkel. Their children, Grant and Malissa, are students in Hardin-Simmons.

Seeing Don Riney, watering his lawn, was a reminder of the deep roots here of his and Syble's families: the Roy Riney family and the Lige Harris clan. Many of their children and grandchildren live only a few miles apart. Don is retired; Syble still maintains her beauty nook.

The name Carson has been associated with Merkel for four generations. Like their father and grandfather, Herman and Howard are grocers, and their super market serves hundreds of families each week. Connie and Esther have many interests, including both store and grandchildren. Esther's family, the Farris, were long-time farmers.

The Boney house, across the street from the Meltons, sent out reminders of the energetic W.O. Boney, who dealt in real estate and insurance. His wife made history by driving her fast trotting horse over the streets of Merkel. At his death, his son Horace took over Boney Insurance. After the son's death, his wife, Fannelle and her son-in-law, Benny Melton, have "carried on". Fannelle also is a bookkeeper in City Hall, where her daughter, Annette Melton, is City Secretary.

As the trail led by several homes owned by Toombs' families, no one could remember just when there was not a "Toombs". Living in Merkel today are Mrs. Will Toombs, Mrs. Kenneth Pee, Mrs. Willie B. Toombs, Stanley, Billy Bob, and Freddie.

The last site discussed on this walk was the one where the A.L. Hogue lived: A.L., Emma, Morris, John, Mildred, and Lois (now a Sweetwater artist, Lois Hogue Shaw). Mr. Hogue was a partner in the Hogue-Hamilton Grocery Store.

Walking another mile on this pilgrimage over Merkel was tempting, but time gave out. There will come another day.

As our readers can see, we believe in our Merkel people, one of whom is the Rev. Russell McAnally, known to us all as "quite a philosopher." Since he and his wife, Elsie, have a good view of Merkel from their "house by the side of the road", (Rows End), we asked him to tell, in a few words, just what it's like to be living in Merkel in 1981. Here is what he said:

"When I was asked to do a part of this booklet, I was told that I could qualify as an Old Timer, because I had been in Merkel over ten years. That is what I like about Merkel, they take you in and make you feel right at home. I do, however, deny being an old timer. When I hear an older person talking about the

"good old days", I call him an Old Timer, because that is about all he ever talks about. I hope I am never an old timer in that sense, because there are too many things going on now, and too many exciting things just ready to happen to someone today, here and now.

Merkel wouldn't be Merkel if it weren't for Mulberry Canyon. It seems that about ninety percent of the people I know stand a little taller and say, 'I came from Mulberry Canyon'. This made such an impression on me that it seemed necessary to establish my own 'Come from' situation. A grandson visited from the Texas plains and insisted on climbing a mountain. When we came home, a neighbor asked me where we had been, and I said, 'I came from Mulberry Canyon'. So, today when people ask me where I came from, I tell them, 'Mulberry Canyon'.

Wouldn't Merkel be a beautiful place to live if all our homes were cared for with all the pride and love of the Douglas home of 1011 Oak Street? It makes you go home and vow to do something about your own place. Living in Merkel is somewhat different now with the passing of such as Earl Hughes, Mae Seago, and many others. The remembrance of these makes Merkel a better place to live.

As I drove down Oak Street, the other day, I saw that Stanley Toombs was erecting a beautiful yard fence. The question came up as to how high a yard fence should be, and it was decided that it should be high enough so people could not see what was happening in the back yard, but low enough so they could see out. I do believe Merkel tries to out-do people of nearby towns. My guess is that Merkel has more friendly people, and more pot holes in their streets than any other town.

Our Interstate 20 makes traveling a pleasure. It is too easy to get to Abilene, and sometimes we forget that we should have 'bought it at home'. There are many benefits in buying at home. Without it, there would be no Merkel. Where else but in Merkel would a big friendly fellow in a local lumber yard put his arm around your shoulders and hold you up while he whispers the high price to you? It is worth the little extra, if there is any, to be spared having to give a financial statement with two witnesses to get a check cashed. The reason for not getting a check cashed in Abilene would be because they did not know you, but in Merkel the only reason for not getting a check cashed would be because they did know you.

For a long time I thought there was a big office building in Merkel. I called in homes or over the telephone asking for the man of the house and was told real often that he was at the 'Office'. It took some time to discover that the 'Office' was the local domino hall. That gives the men something to do while the women go to a quilting, attend their local study clubs or other organizations. The young people go to Abilene because there is nothing for them to do in Merkel. The young people very seldom meet the young people in Abilene, because the Abilene young people are in Ft. Worth or Dallas, because there is nothing for them to do in Abilene.

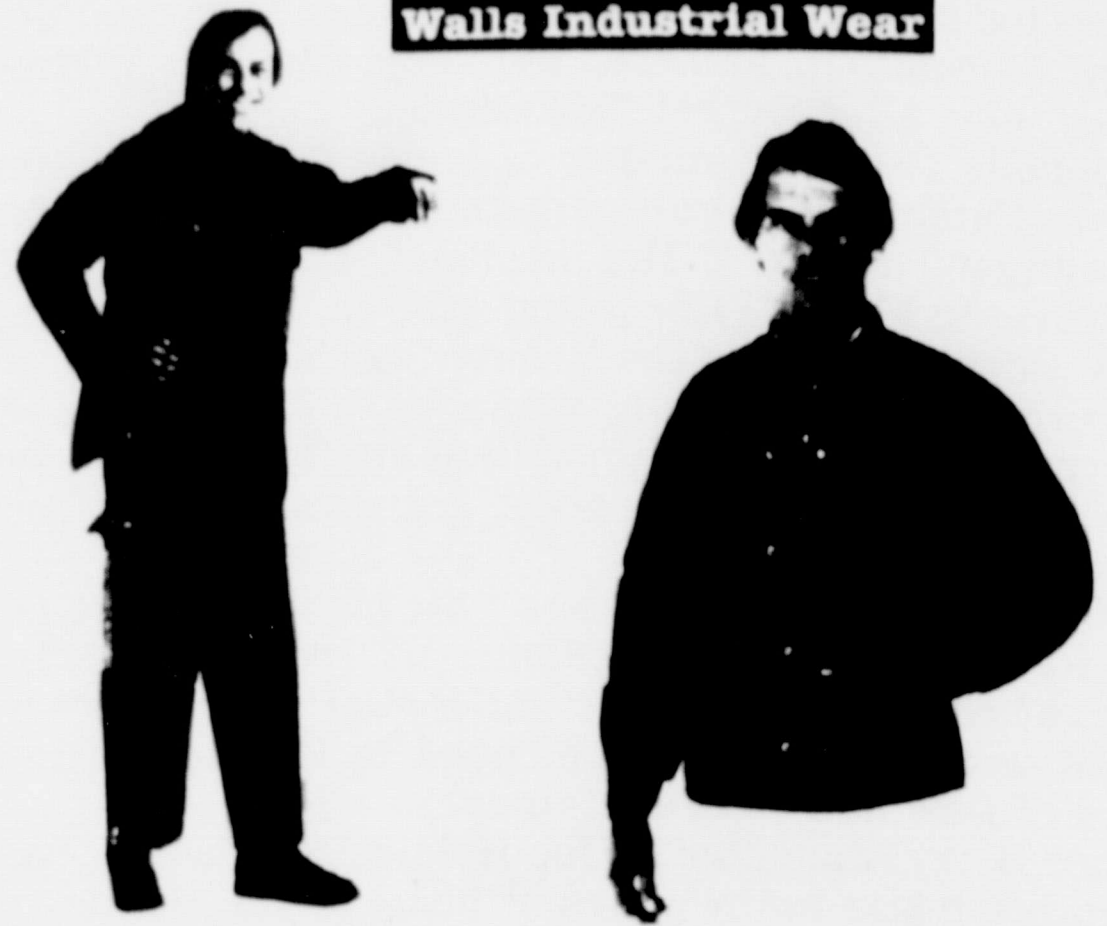
When you get off Interstate and drive our own farm to market roads and see the beautiful country side, and are greeted by every passing automobile occupant with a smile, a wave of the hand or nod of the head, you know they are more than just houses, they are homes.

There are very few big news items around Merkel. It is the little things that become a very important part of our life; the trouble with the big news happenings is that you have to find out about them by yourself the hard way, but with all the little happenings, you don't have to worry about them because someone will report them to you in detail if you have time to listen. There was one important news item the other day. A lady called me to inquire about a mother cat that she suspected was supposed to live at our house. She said this cat brought three kittens to her house last year. I thought she was complaining, but she informed me that she kept one of the kittens and gave the other two away. Her kitten had been run over and she, and her neighbors, wanted another kitten from this mother cat. She said, "That mother cat's kittens have personality". I thought people of the area would like to know that even the cats in Merkel have personality.

And so life in Merkel goes on in the same exciting way, and we love it. Some day, when our present young people are the old timers, they too will understand the good things Merkel has to offer."

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