

The Merkel Mail

Thursday, January 10, 1985 ... Merkel, Texas

Our 96th Year



Good news to start
off the year...more

by Cloy A. Richards

We had some good news this week from the State Comptroller's office saying that Merkel is 44 per cent ahead of tax rebates in the first reporting period of 1985.

Some of you may wonder why I seem to harp on sales tax rebates and the reason is that is the only government measure of economy here. So we are off to a good start right... maybe.

The same news release said 15 to 20 percent of the increase is due to the additional items now taxable in Texas. OK, that's half of it. That leaves a 20 to 25 percent increase they can't explain.

What that means is that more people spent money here in November of 1984 than did in November of 1983 (that's the sales month January tax rebates are paid).

It's one good piece of news to start off 1985, and we have a few more.

There is a letter to the Editor this week from Esther Wheeler. She is one of the people responsible for placing Emergency Response Units at the homes of people in need. The unit is a direct line of communication to a hospital and Mrs. Wheeler's letter said the unit saved the life of a Merkel woman last week. That's good news. We have been following that story since before the first unit was placed here.

This is both good and bad news. World Book, you know, the encyclopedia people, gave away two sets of their books here to a couple of local families.

Amy and Barry Coleman were selected to receive the books through Merkel Middle School and the Windham Family was presented the books through First Baptist Church here. The local World Book rep is Barbara Graham.

The reason all of this was

If 84 was good for you,
make it 2 in a row

by Russell McAnally

The Christmas tree has been taken down and placed by the boxes with the lights and other decorations. The tree was dismantled and, piece by piece, boxed to be put in the attic until next Christmas. This morning, I reread all of the Christmas cards and many of the little notes that came with them. I like the little note inserts best of all. It is fun looking at the signed names and seeing the visions of past memories surrounded with each one. It brought a warm glow of fellowship with so many people. The 98 Christmas cards have now been stored along with the addresses of each one to be used for mailing cards next year. I couldn't keep from thinking- How come we only got 98 Christmas cards when I know we mailed out over 100 cards? Ha. Ha.

As I sat in the after-glow of all these associations, I became lost in the thought concerning the Gift of the New Year which has been given to everyone of us who are alive. The year 1984 is gone forever. We may not have regret-

mentioned is because I had some photos of the awards, but ruined the negatives in processing.

It's a kind gesture, another bright spot to report for 1985.

The news on Tuesday from Geneva was encouraging as the US and Soviets agreed to negotiate arms control.

It's a start, and another piece of optimism of the year.

In other bright news, the city has recently put up quite a few needed stop and yield signs.

Speaking of the city, a caption in last week's paper about paving was wrong and I apologize. The caption said the paving was being done by Nobles Construction. Not so, it is West Texas Construction of Abilene.

I had a lengthy chat with MISD superintendent Bill Everett Tuesday and he has optimism for the coming year for MISD. He expressed his opinions about a wide range of topics related to education here in 1985.

MISD is a \$4 million plus operation and is trying to educate 1,450 students.

Resident artist Dale Hammond can now really be called resident artist as he started moving some drawing equipment into the office Tuesday evening. He said he needed a corner and we gave him one.

We haven't had a key made yet. If it takes us as long to get the key made as it did him to move in those first few boxes, it may be spring before he gets started... of 1986.

Merkel has a new business, the Gourmet Shack, opened on North 1st recently.

It is a full-service restaurant. We wish them success here.

ted its passing and may not have even said a "good-bye." For a little while, we will still be dealing with the past year as we remember all of the things we intended to do or started to do and never finished. Some of the things that came out wrong- whether intentional or accidental, we need not fret, that is the negative approach. It is next year- not last year, that needs our attention.

I will still wonder, however, if I will mess up the New Year as I did the past one? I must put that behind me as that is no way to start the New Year. There must be good and positive thoughts. Beside all of that- last year was a good year and I may have made a few mistakes, but, really- I did a fairly good job of taking care of my responsibilities. Now, if I can just do that good a job this year! That may sound a little egotistical, but I really made that last statement so I could say to myself, and to you, Think good of yourself- give yourself a chance.

Please See Page 2

Everett says he's optimistic about 1985; has no real gripes with HB 72

Editor's Note: This is an interview with MISD superintendent Bill Everett.

MISD has a \$4 million budget, has about 100 teachers and about 1,450 students.

MISD has been forced to re-group after the failure of a bond election in October.

by Cloy A. Richards

MISD superintendent Bill Everett is optimistic about 1985 at MISD and, unlike many administrators you hear these days, relatively happy with HB 72.

Everett said the funding changes brought on by the new Education Reform Bill has helped MISD and said funds should be even higher next year. As far as dollars in from the state he said "I feel like we will be taken care of. We are getting our fair share, and maybe someone else's share."

Locally, MISD is looking into using some local funds to make additions to Merkel Elementary in the near future. He said surplus funds would have to be used.

Everett said about one third of MISD teachers will be eligible for the bonus pay created by the Legislature. The district will pay the bonus in a lump sum during the summer. Teachers will also be

getting a \$115 per month raise for the 1985-86 school year, funded by the state.

Also in August, MISD will be getting an additional \$60 per student and will be getting four times the amount of funds received in the past for free and reduced price lunches.

Transportation funding has also been increased by the state, about 5 per cent.

The only negative thing he had to say from a financial standpoint about HB 72 was that some funds must be spent on specific categories.

He said, concerning the controversial 5 day unexcused absences and the hour limitation on extracurricular activities have placed hardships on the stock show people but said the district can live with the rules. He said no students at MISD found themselves in trouble over the five day rule the first semester (completed last week).

Things to come in 1985

When asked about the New Year, Everett first mentioned that MISD will have about 20 students that will qualify for the A Team and will earn letterman's awards for scholastic achievement.

As far as facilities needs, MISD

is currently looking into costs to add six classrooms and restrooms at Merkel Elementary; to cover the existing slab at Merkel Elementary with a metal building for use during inclement weather, to tear down and rebuild concession stands and restrooms at Badger Stadium.

He said additions would also have to be made at Merkel Middle and Tye Elementary, but Merkel Elementary was the most pressing need. He said six classrooms will be needed at Merkel Middle School and said "there's no telling what we will need at Tye until the B-1 and all of its people are here and settled."

Everett ruled out the possibility of another bond vote in the near future by saying the votes aren't there. He added "It's tragic, but we will piece-mill things together until the explosion hits and we will go from there."

He added "We are going to keep doing the best we can with what we have in educating our children. I would match our kids with a lot of folks education wise. We have a good school, good teachers and very good administrators. We have been emphasizing education here for a few years."

He reported about 90 per cent

collections on 1983 school tax and collections on 1984 taxes, which are current school taxes, are 29 per cent collected.

Enrollment stood at 1424 Monday and has been growing slightly through the year. Peak enrollment here was 1,431.

Everett said he didn't expect too many changes in HB 72 too soon but said most changes, if made, would not take effect until calendar year 1986.

He said he didn't believe the state could afford to test veteran teachers and administrators because of the costs to research and print as many tests as would be necessary to effectively evaluate a person's expertise in a narrow field and said there may be some changes in the eligibility criteria for career ladder.

He also added our athletic program is continuing to improve. We have just hired an assistant football coach, Luke Taylor of Clyde High. Yes we are improving athletics, but you don't play ball all your life, he added.

All in all, Everett was optimistic for the year.

The only problems facing him are too many kids for too few chairs and the total responsibility for 1,450 students 7 hours per day.

an attempt to make this stock show the best ever. All the members wanted to encourage people to attend and see their projects they have been working with all year.

Annual Trent FFA stock show set Saturday

The annual Trent FFA Stock Show will be held Saturday at the Trent FFA Ag Barn. Judging will begin at 10 a.m. with the sheep. This will be followed by

the cattle and swine judging. Judging this year's show will be Rocky King of Midkiff. Following the judging of the animals, lunch will be served at the Trent school

catereria sponsored by the FFA and FFA clubs.

The Trent FFA wanted to pass along its appreciation for all of the hard work people have donated in

THE MERKEL MAIL

Hope you make your year good

Look to the new year with faith, hope and courage. There are plenty of reasons to look forward to a good New Year instead of looking back at all the bad of faults, failures and problems. First, if last year was a bad year, surely this year will be better. If last year was a good year, why not make it two in a row? You might just be "on a roll" as they say.

Second, believe you can do what needs to be done. Third, don't fret as much if some things have to be left undone. Fourth, do something new and surprise a lot of people. Fifth, don't make so many resolutions, they are hard to keep, but make a lot of good decisions. Six Seven Eight Nine and Ten I left for you to fill in as I do not want to do it all for

you and make it too easy for you this year. Most of all, Be Real Good to Yourself! If you are good to yourself you will be in a good position to help others. If you are good to yourself you will not need to give so many "Pity Parties" and be disappointed when no one shows up to suffer with you. I hope you have exactly as good a year as you make it.

Stenholm is co-author of bill requiring a balanced budget

Cong. Charles W. Stenholm (D-Stamford) has introduced legislation that would require the nation's government to operate under a balanced budget.

The proposal, which would become the 27th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, was filed by Stenholm on the opening day of the 99th Congress. Stenholm, who is co-sponsoring the bill with Cong. Larry Craig (R-Idaho), said the proposal is vital to the nation's future.

"The tremendous deficit spending habit that our government has is one of the most, if not the most, serious problem facing our country in 1985 and beyond," the Stamford Democrat said. "If we do not learn to live within our means as a government, our grandchildren will pay dearly."

The proposed amendment will not allow Congress to pass a budget in which outlays exceed receipts, unless three-fifths of the total membership of both the House and the Senate vote specifically to do so. The President would also be required to submit a balanced budget to Congress.

Presently there is no effective deficit-spending barrier. Tax-and-spend issues are decided by a simple majority vote. Potentially unpopular votes, such as tax increases, are sometimes incorporated into votes on essential legislation, rather than being voted on individually.

More than 80 members of Congress have already signed on a

as co-sponsors to the joint resolution, which is being called the Craig-Stenholm Bill after its originators. Stenholm is the leading Democrat on this proposal.

If approved by Congress, the legislation would then be presented to the states. In order to amend the Constitution, 38 states must ratify the proposed amendment.

The Craig-Stenholm proposal is substantially the same as the Balanced Budget-Limitation Amendment presented in the 98th Congress. That bill gained momentum

under Stenholm's and Craig's leadership in the final days of the 98th Congress. Stenholm expects the revised joint resolution to be designated H.J. Res. 27, which the Congressman requested because, if approved, the legislation would become the 27th Amendment.

At least two dozen national organizations, such as the National Tax Limitation Committee, the National Taxpayers Union and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, have indicated early and strong support for the Resolution.

Emergency Response system, paramedics save woman here

Dear Editor:

On the night of Jan. 1 at about 10:55 p.m., my telephone rang and it was the Trauma Center at Hendrick Medical Center telling me that Mabel Harris' Lifeline Emergency Response System had made a call to their answering machine and that she was not answering her phone. Since I am the first responder listed with them for her, they immediately called me. I dressed quickly, called the Paramedics for Merkel and went to her home. The paramedics were there almost as soon as I was. We notified Dr. Tran that she (Mabel) was having difficulty

breathing and was en-route to Hendrick Medical Center. At 11:53 p.m. we were in the Trauma Center. She had never regained consciousness even with oxygen and orders of medication from the doctor.

The doctor on duty at Hendrick told us that without oxygen she would have been dead in another 10 minutes.

We are grateful for her Lifeline Response System, the people who answered her call so quickly and the efficient work of the Paramedics in Merkel.

Sincerely,
Ester Wheeler
Theda Wheeler



Drunk drivers don't discriminate.

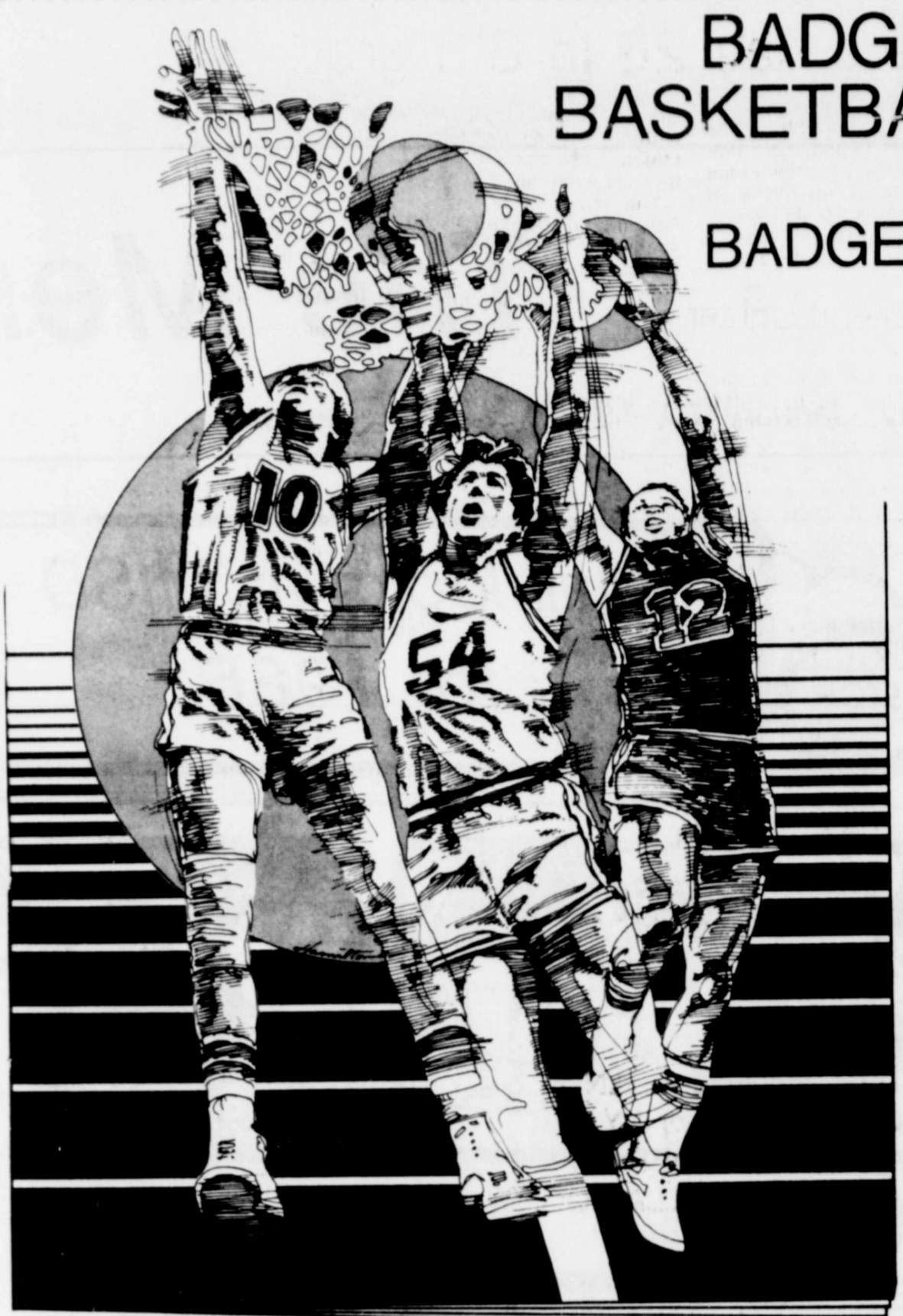
Last year in Texas 200 kids were killed in alcohol-related auto crashes. And this figure keeps rising. People continue to drink and drive. They continue to kill. But like other significant social problems, this one can be solved if everyone helps out.

When you're out with friends, decide who will drive, and that person won't drink. Also, if you are with a drunk friend, don't let him get behind the wheel.

Drunk driving isn't someone else's problem. It's yours as well.

This message brought to you by friends of the Houston Chapter of MADD - The Travelers Insurance Companies, James Blue Paint Company, Hunt Regency West Houston, Sheraton Town & Country Hotel and Hermann Hospital.

BADGER BASKETBALL GO BADGERS!



This week's schedule

VARSITY BOYS & GIRLS
JAN 11 VS GRAHAM
HERE AT 6:30
JAN 15 COMANCHE THERE AT 6:30
JAN 10 9TH GRADE
BOYS & GIRLS IN ASPERMONT
JAN. 12TH 8TH GRADE BOYS & GIRLS AT EULA TOURNAMENT
JAN 10-11-12 7TH GRADE BOYS & GIRLS BAIRD TOURNAY
JAN 14 9TH GRADE
BOYS VS ABILENE
JV HERE AT 6

Starbuck Furniture 201 Edwards 928-4711	Taylor Electric 1610 N 1st 928-4715
Palmer Pontiac & GMC 1208 N 1st 928-5113	Rae-Rac 1107 N 2nd 928-5031
Carson's Supermarket 217 Edwards 928-5231	D & T Automotive 924 N 1st 928-4954
Merkel Drug 121 Edwards 928-5012	Merkel Brick & Lumber 102 Lamar 928-5014
Hi-Val Farm & Home Supply 604 Kent 928-5632	Braggs Department Store 213 Edwards 928-5811
Wylie Truck Terminal & Shamrock I-20 E 928-5584	Farmers & Merchants National Bank 111 Edwards 928-4728
Taylor Telephone I-20 928-4733	P & L Auto Parts 135 Edwards 928-4738

Jowers has 26 in 8th grade win

The Merkel boys 8th grade basketball team upped their season record to 5-2 as they came from behind to defeat Wylie at Wylie Monday night 50-46. Kenneth Jowers led all scorers in the game with 26 points. James

Glaze also got into double figures with 13. Freddy Gonzales had 6, Martin Landeros and Chad Strange each had 2. The boys play at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Eula Tournament and will host the Merkel Junior Classic the following Saturday.

The coach told the Mail "I was really proud of our effort. We came back from 14 points down, made some clutch free throws. We shot 70 percent from the free throw line and it sure makes a big difference in close games."

Hall's have daughter

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hall of Hamlin are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Jessica LeAnn, Dec. 16, 1984. She weighed 9 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Joe Glaze of Rt. 3 Merkel and paternal grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Don Hall of Rt. 1 Hamlin.

Masons hold meeting

Merkel Masonic Lodge 710 met Saturday night and had a covered dish supper and a program by Mrs. John Wheeler on the Lifeline Emergency Response System. After the program, a question and answer session was held, the Lodge purchased one of the response units to be placed in the Tye-Merkel-Trent area at no cost to the people in need of the unit.

SUPER-SAT ELECTRONICS JANUARY SALE!

OUR 10' 3 PIECE FIBERGLASS DISH WITH ACTUATOR (to turn dish) AND TSR 1500 RECEIVER ONLY \$2,660. PRICE INCLUDES 100 ft. OF WIRE AND INSTALLATION. CALL ANYTIME AT 862-6397. PRICES GOOD THROUGH JANUARY. ALL DISHES HAVE A 10 YEAR GUARANTEE WITH ONE YEAR ON ELECTRONICS

Singing set in Abilene Sunday

The Second Sunday 16th and Victoria at 2 singing will be held in p.m. Abilene at the Free Methodist Church at N. Everyone is invited.

AEROBIC EXERCISE CLASS
JAN 14 - MAR 21ST
MON & THURS
5:45-6:45
METHODIST CHURCH GYM
 '20
DEBBIE DOAN
 928-4516 OR 928-5811

928-5896
 Friday & Sat 10-10 til
January Sale at Country, Etc.
 Christmas & Other Gift Items
 5th & Haynes Merkel, Texas

Dr. Pepper

\$1.99

16 oz 6 PACK

LUNCH MEATS

6 OZ. PKG. **69¢**

ROYAL RAISIN CAKES, CREAM FILLED SNACK CAKES

OATMEAL COOKIES, OATMEAL KRUNCH KAKES DEVILS FOOD CAKES & APPLE CAKES

10 CT. PKG. **79¢**



Fast Hot SAUSAGE & BISCUITS

CT. PKG. REG. \$1.29 **2 99¢**

BORDEN'S HOMO MILK

\$2.69 GAL. CTR.



BORDEN'S DRUMSTICKS ON ICE CREAM SANDWICHES

\$1.19 6 PACK



COOKED FOOD SPECIAL AS FEATURED ON TV



HOT LINKS

ALLSUP'S QUALITY **2 99¢** FOR

ALLSUP'S CONVENIENCE STORES

PRICES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 10-12, 1985

OPEN 24 HOURS EVERYDAY
 ICE- MILK- BREAD- SOFT DRINKS- CHIPS & DIPS- SELF SERVE GAS- COOKED FOODS- MONEY ORDERS- GROCERIES WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

That Drunk Mexican Ray & that crazy Irishman Fred have finally (after 8 years)

1508 N. 1st

opened **The Gourmet Shack**

928-4083

★ WE FEATURE A BUFFETERIA DAILY

★ 11:30 am til 9 pm ★ 12 foot Salad Bar Variety of Vegetables, Potatoes and Meats ★

DONT TAKE ONE ITEM TRY EM ALL

\$3.95 plus tax

5 pm til 9 pm

More meats are added **\$5.95** plus tax

SUNDAY 11:30 til 9

7 Meats and a variety of Vegetables & Potatoes

\$5.95 plus tax

Whatever you do, you must try our mesquite smoked Brisket of Beef and German Sausage

★ The Gormet Shack will also feature Rainbow Trout & Shrimp ★

TOP SIRLOIN STEAK FOR 2

Choice of potato & salad bar \$11

14 oz NEW YORK CUT

SIRLOIN STRIP \$9.25

1 lb T-Bone Steak

\$9.00

Breakfast 3 eggs, Bacon or Sausage, Hash Browns, Biscuits and Gravy

\$1.99 plus tax

We will be happy to prepare a gourmet dinner for 5 to 15 courses upon request

BY RESERVATION ONLY

PRIVATE DINING ROOM available for groups of up to 60 people.

Hours: 6 am til 10 pm

7 DAYS A WEEK

THE GOURMET SHACK

I.V. Garrett services held Friday

I. V. Garrett Jr., 59, of 857 Shelton in Abilene, died at 2:35 p.m. last Tuesday at the Methodist Hospital in Houston.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Friday at Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home, 542 Hickory.

The Rev. Wilson G. Estes and the Rev. Frank Estes, both of Bethel Temple Christian Center, and the Rev. H. S. Earp, officiated. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery here.

Born Aug. 11, 1925 in Stith, he was reared in the Merkel area. A Seabee during World War II, he married Betty Horton Dec. 25, 1946 in Abilene.

He moved to Abilene from Merkel in February, 1953. He was employed by GCO Drilling Co for 10 years. He had been employed

by L. H. Moore for 14 years. He is survived by his wife; a son, Ikey Vernon of Merkel; three daughters, I. Vernell "Joe" Howard of Grangerland, I. Verlene Garrett and Ivalene V. "Frank" Estes, both of Abilene; three sisters, Mrs. Bob (Jo) Riney and Mrs. T. J. (Una) Neill, both of Merkel and Joy Morgan of New Braunfels; a brother, Ralph M of San Angelo; nine grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Pallbearers were A. L. Dunn, M. L. Dokey, John George, John George, Simmie Allred, Bonnie J. Williamson, Floyd Stubbs. Honorary pallbearers were Gerald Bluhm, Clay Sullivan, Don Reeves, Loyd Hooper, Orville Lenhardt and Edward "Sonny" Goode.



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SOUTHERN STYLE FISH DINNER
GET ONE FREE
 YOUR CHOICE OF
 BAKED POTATO OR FRIES
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 PLUS 2 HOT PUFFS
COUPON GOOD THRU SATURDAY JAN 12

Cora Reeves laid to rest here Friday

Cora F. Reeves, 85, of Merkel, died at 12:30 a.m. Friday at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene after a lengthy illness. Services were held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the First United Methodist Church here.

The Rev. Ray L. Moore of Lorenzo and the Rev. John Wagner, pastor, officiated. Burial followed at the Mullin Cemetery in

Mullin, directed by the Starbuck Funeral Home of Merkel.

Born Dec. 1, 1899 in Kerr County, she married Matthew Stephenson Wallace Nov. 1, 1923 in Mullin. He died June 19, 1953. She later married George Reeves Nov. 11, 1957. He died Jan 16, 1976. She moved here in 1976 from Comanche. She was a member of the Merkel Methodist Church and the

Merkel Art Club. She is survived by two sons, William Wallace of Lusby, Md. and Harmon Gerald Wallace of Arlington; two brothers, John Weston of Wichita Falls and Joe Weston Newby; two sisters, Merle Burdette of Goldwithe and Lorene Harrison of Merkel; five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Xi Nu Chi holds monthly meeting

Xi Nu Eta held its monthly meeting Dec. 6 in the home of Marilyn Tittle of Merkel. Members exchanged Secret Sister gifts and had a cookie and recipe swap.

The programs were on self defense and the perception of beauty. The guest speaker was Dusty Portie, a law enforcement officer at Dyess Air Force Base.

The semi-annual drawing for the mini-badge was won by Cathy Pack.

The next social will be Jan. 19 at the home of Jana Nelson of View. The members and their husbands will enjoy a Taco-Bender.

Their next meeting will also be

Jan. 19 at the home of Carol Portie, 1910 Glendale in Abilene.

Members present included Jana

Nelson, Kathy Dacy, Carol Portie, Dee McCollum, Carol Norman, Marilyn Tittle and Cathy Pack.

Art group holds meeting

The Merkel Art Association met Jan 7 at Taylor Telephone at 7 p.m.

Vice president Pat Byrd presided over a short business meeting.

Barbara Lee of Abilene gave a demonstration of Calligraphy. It was interesting and enjoyable for

the association. Attending were Pat Neff, Betty Toombs, Ruth Buster, Pat Byrd, Ethel Pee, Marie Beard, Elizabeth Hicks, Mrs. Jones (Pat's sister) and Ruth Hogan.

JANUARY CLEARANCE
BLOUSES
PANTS
PANT SUITS
CHILDRENS CLOTHES
BRAGGS
928-5811 — 213 EDWARDS

T J & T TIRE COMPANY, INC.
 120 EAST OF MERKEL 928-4395
REMINGTON "BLEM SALE"
 P 225-75B-15 **\$36⁹⁸**
(Replaces H-578-15)
 P 215-75B-15 **\$35⁹⁸**
(Replaces G78-15)
 P195-75B-14 **\$34⁹⁸**
(Replaces (d-E78-14)
 TUBE INCLUDED IF NEEDED
 MOUNTED
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 NEW VALUE STEMS
 WHITE SIDEWALL
 FULL WARRANTY
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 2 PLY POLYESTER
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D & T AUTOMOTIVE & TIRE SERVICE
 ALL TYPES OF AUTO REPAIR ENGINE REBUILDING
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 924 NORTH FIRST MERKEL 928-4954
 Dewayne Roysden 928-4012
 Tom Williamson HOME 928-4042
 (ALL WORK GUARANTEED)

Clean Up Sale!

GENERIC	HOT COCOA MIX	12 BAGS	\$1.18
CAMPBELL MAN HANDLER	VEGETABLE BEEF SOUP	10 1/2 OZ	59¢
KELLOGS	SPECIAL K	18 OZ	\$2.67
NABISCO	HONEY MADE GRAHAMS	16 OZ	\$1.63
	JELLO GELATIN	3 OZ	4/\$1
DEL MONTE	SWEET PICKLES	12 OZ	\$1.56
HOMEMADE	SOUP STARTER	7.1 OZ	\$1.44
LIPTON	TEA BAGS FAMILY SIZE	24 BAGS	\$1.83
	TIDE DETERGENT	7 OZ	2/\$1
GENERIC	FACIAL TISSUE	175 CT	2/\$1
	BOUNTY TOWELS	ROLL	99¢
	REYNOLDS WRAP	75 SQ FT	\$1.79
GENERIC	TALL KITCHEN BAGS	30 CT	\$1.29
DELI	BURRITOS		2/\$1
	GAS N GRUB NO 3	TRENT	

WE ACCEPT FOOD COUPONS & FOOD STAMPS WE GIVE S & H GREEN STAMPS



Drunk driving is illegal . . . and sometimes fatal.

In Texas more than 1,000 people have died because of alcohol-related auto crashes. That's intolerable. Drinking and driving don't mix. No matter how many cold showers or how much coffee or fresh air. Nothing will sober you up—except time.

When you're out with friends, decide who will drive, and that person won't drink. Also, if you are with a drunk friend, don't let him get behind the wheel.

Drunk driving isn't someone else's problem. It's yours as well.

This message brought to you by friends of the Houston Chapter of MADD - The Travelers Insurance Companies, James Blue Paint Company, Hartz Agency West Houston, Sheraton Town & Country Hotel and Hermann Hospital.

Public Utility Commission of Texas



Consumer Update

Last winter many of us were taken by surprise by the bitterly cold weather that swept through the state in December — much earlier than expected. As we again approach the coldest months of the year, Texans are reminded of the importance of weatherizing their homes.

A weatherized house is more comfortable, and it saves money by reducing utility bills — both summer and winter. To help Texans better control their energy costs, the Energy Efficiency Division of the Public Utility Commission offers a number of suggestions for no cost/low cost actions that can maintain comfort while reducing energy use.

Keeping the drapes or window shades closed on the north side of the house is an example of a simple action that can save energy. Drapes and shades on the east and south sides of the house should be opened in the morning to collect as much as possible of the sun's heat. Later in the day, when the sun is in the west, it is best to close the drapes on the east and south and open those on the west side.

It is also a good idea to close off unoccupied rooms in the house, if possible. Heating unoccupied rooms adds unnecessarily to your utility bills. If your house has central heating, you can close off the vents in the unoccupied rooms.

Keeping your furnace operating as efficiently as possible also is very important in holding down your energy costs. Proper maintenance is the first consideration in keeping it operating properly. During the heating season, you should change the filter every 3 to 4 weeks.

If your home has movable glass doors, or windows that are not properly caulked or weatherstripped, you should cover them with sheets of plastic to keep out drafts.

If you have a fireplace that is not in use, you should make certain that the damper is tightly closed. If there is an ash trap, see that it too is sealed as tightly as possible.

If you build a fire in your fireplace, it is best to build a small one. A large roaring fire may look cozy, but it actually wastes heat. Remember, a fireplace is not an efficient way to heat a house. In most fireplaces, the draft created by the fire draws room air up the chimney along with the burning gases, causing a net loss of heat in the house.

One of the best ways to keep utility bills under con-

trol in cold weather is to keep the thermostat turned down as much as possible. You can turn your thermostat down without being uncomfortable if you are dressed for the cooler temperature.

For example, you will be warmer in an absorbent fabric such as cotton or wool — especially if you make use of the "layering" technique. Multiple layers of lightweight, loose clothing will keep you warmer than one heavy layer of clothing. Remember also that thick-soled shoes are warmer than those with thin soles.

Almost 90 percent of the body's heat loss is from the head, so if any part of your body is cold, put on a hat or a scarf.

If there is considerable traffic into and out of the house, you should make sure that the door is not kept open any longer than necessary. A door left open even for a short time allows a surprising amount of heat to escape from the house.

These no-cost measures can help immediately. But, in the long term, your home will be easier to heat (and cheaper to cool in the summer) if it is adequately weatherized.

If you can feel drafts in your home, it is worthwhile to plug up the leaks. This will involve a low-cost investment in caulking and weatherstripping materials, and gaskets to reduce air infiltration around light switches and wall outlets. All of the necessary materials to do the job can be purchased at your local hardware store or home improvement center.

You may wish to purchase interior caulk, to be applied inside the dwelling, so that you won't have to work outside in cold weather. But if you decide to buy exterior caulk, remember that only silicone can be applied at temperatures less than 40°F. The other kinds of caulk will not adhere at cold temperatures.

You may also decide to add insulation in your attic. This is a more costly action, and you should see your local utility representative for specific information on the most cost-effective level for your climate zone.

These are examples of some of the actions you can take to control your utility bills during the cold weather ahead. If you would like more specific information on caulking, weatherstripping, and insulation, contact the Energy Efficiency Division of the Public Utility Com-

mission. Public Utility Commission of Texas Energy Efficiency Division 7800 Shoal Creek Boulevard Austin, Texas 78757

Low-income households may be eligible for energy assistance

(512) 458-0301

AUSTIN—Some low-income Texas households may be eligible for help in paying their heating bills this winter through the Home Energy Assistance Program, according to Texas Department of Human Resources Commissioner Marlin Johnston.

Commissioner Johnston said the one-time payment is available to many low-income households which this month received food stamps, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Supplemental Security Income, or needs-tested Veterans Administration benefits.

Potentially eligible veterans are those who receive payments under Section 415, 521, 541, or 542 of Title 38 of the U.S. Code or under Section 306 of the Veterans and Survivors Pension Improvement Act of 1978.

Eligibility is limited by gross income. For instance, aid is available for a one-person household having less than a \$371.49 gross income per month. The gross income limit is \$608.49 for a two-person household, \$835.49 for a three-person household, \$1,030.49 for four persons, \$1,216.49 for five, and \$1,422.49 for six.

Eligible households must be subject to energy cost increases—because of higher bills or rent due to rising utility costs.

Households in privately owned or rented housing are eligible if the cost of utilities is included in the rent payment or if the household pays a portion of its home energy costs.

Johnston said application forms are mailed automatically to households receiving food stamps, AFDC, and SSI. Households receiving needs-tested veterans benefits must request an application from DHR in January.

Those who have not received an application and think their household may be eligible should contact a local DHR office.

Notable Savings To Check Out

GOOCH COUNTRY SAUSAGE \$1³⁹ LB
BACON \$1³⁹ LB
BOLOGNA \$1³⁹ LB

GRADE A LARGE EGGS 69¢
PARADE 15 OZ CAN CHILI BEANS 3 FOR \$1⁰⁰
2 LITERS SLICE 88¢



89¢



\$1¹⁹ 6 PACK

DELICIOUS APPLES 29¢ LB

CAL. NAVAL ORANGES 29¢ LB

MIXED NUTS 89¢ LB

CORNHUSKS FOR TAMALES 79¢ BAG

TOWN TALK 1 1/2 LB LOAF BREAD 69¢

Mrs. Baird's BUTTERED TOP WHEAT BREAD 89¢

SUGAR \$1⁵⁹ 5 LB BAG EA

CORN 49¢^{20ct} TORTILLAS

THE GRILL IS IN FOR HAMBURGERS



79¢



\$1³⁹

REG \$1⁷⁹

1/2 GALLON BORDEN ICE CREAM \$1⁷⁹

FRIED CHICKEN \$4⁹⁹ 10 PCS WITH HOT ROLLS

CUNNINGHAM'S QUICK STOP 928-5378 311 ASH

HERE'S THE BEEF!!

Texas Consumers Use Newspapers 1st For Shopping

Texas consumers name their local newspaper as the usual source of "Best Buy" shopping information, 10 times more than radio or television.

Information Sought By Consumers	PERCENT		
	Newspapers	Radio	TV
Where To Shop	57%	5%	9.3%
Cost Of Products	57.1%	3.4%	8.3%
Best Buy Info	58.6%	3.2%	7.0%

Texas consumers look to newspapers FIRST and MOST for news and advice about shopping. Newspaper ad information is decisive and always available for reading and study.

SOURCE: 1984 Consumer Data Service (CDS) Survey of Texas Consumers

(This newspaper is a member of the Texas Newspaper Advertising Bureau)

TEXAS NEWSPAPERS
For Your Best Shopping Info

Sales tax rebates up 44%

Merkel's sales tax rebates, which fell 12.9 per cent last year, are 44 per cent ahead of last January's rebates, but State Comptroller Bob Bullock said, in a press release, that a lot of that has to do with new taxable items.

The State Legislature approved an increased sales tax and also started taxing a lot of items that were left off the sales tax in the past.

Merkel's January check of \$4,027.81 is 44.51 per cent more than last January's rebate check of \$2,787.24.

Sales tax revenue checks are used by the general fund for the City of Merkel.

Tye is also way ahead after one month of rebates, 45.13 per cent ahead. They received a check for

\$754.13, compared to \$519.62 last January.

Tye's January check was for \$4,228.60, which is 19.59 per cent higher than last January's check.

According to the State Comptroller's Office, 997 Texas cities levy the one per cent local sales tax. The Comptroller said January checks represented taxes collected

in November and then reported to his office by Dec. 20. He also said the February checks would include December and that represents sales taxes paid during the peak of the Christmas shopping period. He also said early indications of retail sales statewide during the Christmas season was disappointing.

81 Study club meets

The 81 Study Club met Dec. 19 at the home of Cleo Reece and exchanged homemade gifts and the names of secret pals were revealed.

Attending were Maureen

Beard, Vernie Bryan, Evorie Dillard, Grace Holt, Goldia Malone, Cleo Reece, Doris Summers, Ann Talnet and Catherine Winn.

Their next meeting will be Jan. 14 at the home of Doris Summers. The theme will concern art.

Middle school honor roll released

The following is the honor roll for the third six weeks at Merkel Middle School.

6th Grade All A

Dennis Griffin, Daniel West, Phuong Thao Tran, Lois Campbell, Kenneth Fickle, Steven Starkey, Sean Leamon.

6th Grade A-B

April Griffith, Shawanda Warren, Jason Gallaway, Jayma Goldsmith, Betsy Hellums, Cara Kelso, Angie Leverich, Chris McCartney, Mike McFadden, Cristi Moore, Renae Paulsen, Troy Sims, Terry Spores, Brandon Boyd, Jana Daniell, Brandy Fenlon, Melanie Baker, Robert Beasley, Brandon Toombs, Crystal Arnold, Dennis Griffin.

7th Grade All A

Laura Baker, Dayna Bentley, Richard Bryan, Mi Hwa Chon, Lisa Donaldson, Susan Hammond, Jennifer Hatley, Stephen Jacobs, Melissa Messick, Sheri Miles, Laurinda Powell, Penny Smith.

7th Grade A-B

Robert Adams, Eric Ascencio, Steven Bauer, Michael Blue, Curtis Jackson, Genie Best, Suzie Brandon, Joe Jordan, Shannon Jones, Angela Carson, Amy Coleman, Robyn Dudley, Toby Dupont, Kyle Doan, Tricia Garrett, Lynn Gregory, David Miller, Jimmy Moore, Shawn Miller, Kevin Pilgrim, Christy Reynolds, Brandon Rice, Gay Lynn Robertson, Lu Amy Sloan, Randy Toombs, Chip Townsend, Billy Williams and Judy Williams.

8th Grade All A

Michelle Barnett, Walter Best, Dewayne Campbell, Anissa Jones, Julie Koflanovich, Chad Strange, Wade Toombs and Diem Tran.

8th Grade A-B

Mendy Bunselmeyer, David Biera, Melinda Baker, Dwayne Clark, Robert Davidson, Stephanie Ashorn, Michael Adkins, John Paul Dudley, Michelle Dudley,

Scott Graham, Gregg Hale, Caren Hendrix, Richa Hill, Kenneth Jowers, Maxie Lang, Jon-David Layher, Teresa Lucas, Phoebe

Mills, Melissa Morris, Pam Neff, Josh Reid, Kim Richards, Glyn Ann Rutledge, Robert Turner, Jeff Hobbs.

TO SUBSCRIBE CALL

928-5712

TAYLOR TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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

Any person who believes himself, or any specific class of individuals, to be subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Act and the Rules and Regulations issued thereunder may, by himself or a representative, file with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250, or the Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D. C. 20250, or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed not later than 90 days after the alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Rural Electrification Administration extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the Rules and Regulations.

7th grade boys

downed by Wylie

The Merkel 7th grade boys were defeated Wylie Monday night 39-28.

A slow start and a 15 percent free throw performance lead to their downfall.

Leading the way for Merkel was James Talent with 6, followed by Tommy White, Randy Toombs, Kyle Doan and Shannon Jones with 4, Stephen Jacobs with 3 and Chance Ferguson with 2.

Coker named to

All-Region band

Kevin Coker, a junior trumpet player for the Merkel High Band was named to the All-Region Band at Haskell Dec. 8.

The All-Region Band Concert is set for Saturday, Jan. 19 at Wichita Falls High.

Other members of the honor band are from Colorado City, Wichita Falls, Olney, Eastland, Abilene High & Cooper, Abilene Christian, San Angelo, Jacksboro, Iowa Park, Burk Burnett, Snyder, Mineral Wells, Petrolia, Electra, Sweetwater, Wylie, Graham and Holiday.

HERE'S THE BEEF!!

Newspapers Deliver Readers Of All Incomes

Every category of Texan reads the newspaper, regardless of their income. And as income increases—so does the readership of Texas newspapers.

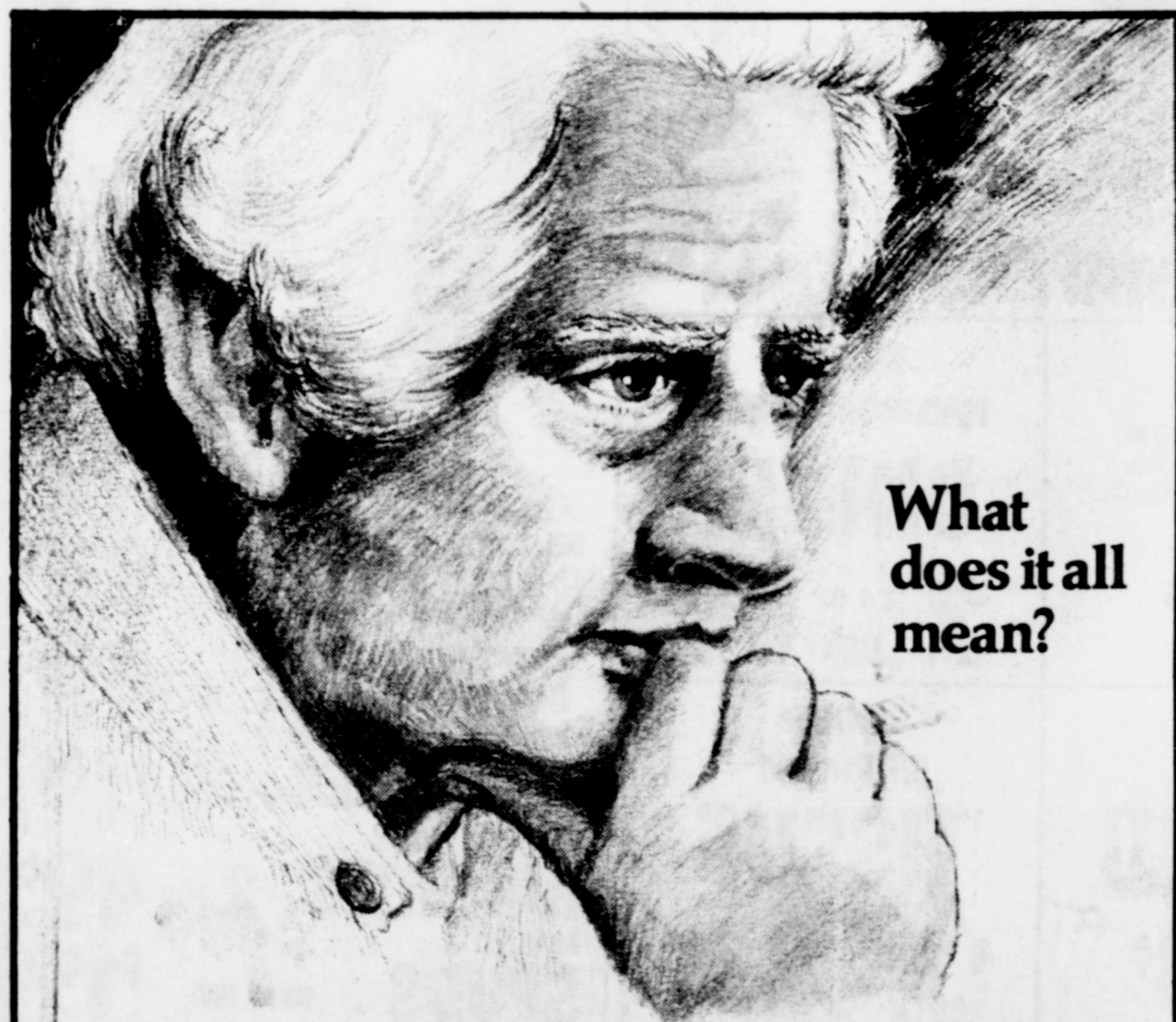
Income	Percent Reading
\$50,000-plus	74.5%
\$30-50,000	77.2%
\$20-30,000	70.9%
\$10-20,000	72.3%
Under \$10,000	63.9%

Newspapers reach Texas audiences of every income bracket.

SOURCE: 1984 Consumer Data Service (CDS) Survey of Texas Consumers

(This newspaper is a member of the Texas Newspaper Advertising Bureau)

TEXAS NEWSPAPERS
Read By One-And-All



What does it all mean?

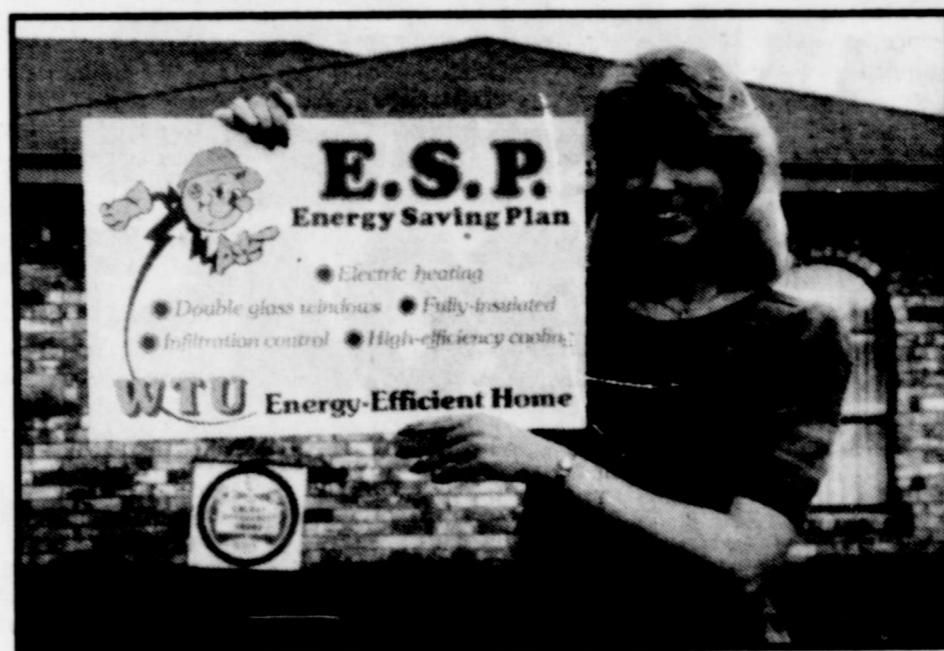
Ever wondered about the meaning of your life? Surely there is more than things—houses, cars, appliances, etc. Jesus says, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from God." (Matthew 4:4) Man is the

creation of God and he needs a right relationship to the Creator. Jesus Christ is The WAY. He says, "I am the Way." (John 14:6) His way is the way to eternal life.

FROM THE CARING FAMILY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

301 LOCUST STREET
MERKEL, TEXAS 79536
928-5351

When You're Looking For A New Home, Look For An E.S.P. Home...



It'll Save You Money!

SAVE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS on your electric bill over the life of your home by owning a WTU-Approved E. S. P. Home. Some homes on the market may seem energy efficient, but you can be confident an E. S. P. Home really is. WTU has carefully inspected and qualified each E. S. P. Home to meet energy efficiency requirements.

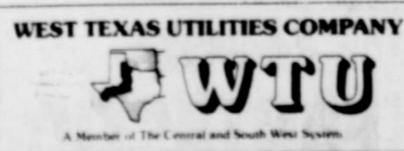
E. S. P. REQUIREMENTS include some of the most important energy saving features, such as:

- Ceiling insulation of R-30 and wall insulation of R-16.
- Storm windows or insulated glass.
- Weatherstripping and caulking around all doors and windows.

- Electric heat pump with a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of 8.0 or above.
- Air conditioning with a SEER of 8.5 or above.
- Air infiltration control.

COMPARE HOW MUCH YOU CAN SAVE with an E. S. P. Home over a one-year period:

An average 1800 square foot home will cost you approximately \$775 a year to heat and cool. An E. S. P. Home of 1800 square feet will cost approximately \$570 a year to heat and cool, which results in an annual savings on electricity of 26 percent or more. (Energy savings may vary according to the type of home, family size and individual energy usage habits.)



Electricity.
It's the Power of Choice.

For more information on the E. S. P. Program, call your local WTU office today. AN E. S. P. HOME CAN SAVE YOU MONEY ON FUTURE ENERGY BILLS.

Sure Cure for COST-rophobia



STOREWIDE LOW PRICES

PRICES GOOD THUR-FRI-SAT Jan 10, 11 & 12 STORE HOURS 7:30 AM - 6:30 PM MON thru SAT CLOSED SUNDAY

AIRWICK CARPET FRESH
14 OZ SIZE \$1.89

CREAMY CRISCO
3 LB CAN \$2.09 1 LIMIT
WITH '10 IN TRADE OR MORE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

PARKAY TOUCH OF BUTTER OLEO
QTS LB 69¢

CHUN KING FRIED RICE
6 OZ BOX EA 69¢

HERBAL SHAMPOO TEGRIN
LOTION 6 OZ SIZE \$1.49

HUNTS 300 PEACHES SLICED OR HALVES EA 63¢
TEXSUN GRAPEFRUIT JUICE 46 OZ EA 89¢
DEL MONTE WK 303 GOLDEN CORN 2 FOR 98¢
OLD EL PASO 10 OZ TOMATO & GREEN CHILIES 2 FOR 93¢
VEG ALL 303 MIXED VEGETABLES 2 FOR 89¢
DEL MONTE 300 TOMATO SAUCE 2 FOR 89¢
HUNTS PRIMA SALSA SPAGHETTI SAUCE 32 OZ 79¢
CAMPBELLS 300 PORK & BEANS 2 FOR 79¢

PARADE HOMO MILK
GAL JUG \$1.89 NO DEPOSIT JUG

FROZEN FOODS CITRUS HILL ORANGE JUICE 6 OZ CAN 2 FOR 89¢
MRS SMITH 9 IN PIE SHELLS PKG \$1.09
BIRDSEYE COOL WHIP 8 OZ 79¢
RICHES HOT ROLLS 24 CT BAG 89¢

BORDEN ICE CREAM
1/2 GAL \$1.79
ROUND CRTN

MARYLAND CLUB COFFEE
1 LB CAN \$2.29 1 LIMIT

PARADE LOW FAT MILK
GAL JUG \$1.83 1 1/2% NO DEPOSIT JUG

FARM FRESH FRESH EGGS
LARGE DOZEN 59¢

ASSORTED KINDS DR PEPPER
2 LITER BOTTLE 98¢

HORMEL SPAM
12 OZ CAN \$1.39

ARMOURS CORN BEEF HASH
15 OZ CAN 98¢

PARADE MILK
TALL CAN 2 FOR 89¢

INSTANT TEA LIPTON
3 OZ JAR \$1.98

HUNT CATSUP
32 OZ JUG 98¢

GOLD MEDAL FLOUR
5 LB BAG 93¢

CHOICE BEEF CHUCK ROAST
EXTRA TASTY EXTRA TENDER EXTRA GOOD

HEINZ 16 OZ HALVES KOSHER OR POLISH PICKLES 24 OZ \$1.19
KRAFT GRAPE JELLY 12 OZ 89¢
NABISCO 12 OZ BOX VANILLA WAFERS EA \$1.19

FRESH FLORIDA CORN
3 EARS 69¢

LOUIS RICK GROUND TURKEY
POUND ROLL \$1.05

BLADE CUT LEAN POUND \$1.55

KRAFT CHEESE
1/2 MOON 16 OZ PKG \$2.39

KRAFT MACARONI CHEESE DINNER
2 7.4 OZ BOX 89¢

ORANGES LB 49¢

CHOICE BEEF ARM ROAST

LEAN POUND \$1.79

CHOICE BEEF CHUCK ROAST

7- BONE LEAN LB \$1.65

ARMOUR STAR BACON

NO 1 LB \$1.89

ARMOUR STAR FRANKS

REG OR BEEF 12 OZ PKG \$1.15

ARMOUR STAR BOLOGNA

ALL MEAT OR BEEF 12 OZ \$1.19

BOOCH BK GERMAN STYLE SAUSAGE

12 OZ PKG \$1.49

FRESH BEEF LIVER

SLICED POUND 69¢

SKINNERS THIN SPAGHETTI
24 OZ PKG 98¢

BANNER BATHROOM TISSUE
4 ROLL CRTN 83¢

DEL MONTE BANANAS LB 33¢

TEXAS GOLDEN YAMS LB 49¢

WASH EX FCY DELICIOUS GOLDEN OR RED APPLES 3 LB BAG \$1.09

FRESH CELLO LB CARROTS 2 FOR 49¢

RUSSET SPUDS 10 LB BAG \$1.49

DETERGENT TIDE
QUANT BOX \$1.89

LIQUID IVORY
22 OZ SIZE \$1.09

CLEANER FANTASTIC
WITH SPRAYER 22 OZ SIZE 89¢

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