

# The Merkel Mail

Thursday, March 7, 1985...Merkel, Texas

Our 97th Year



I took an informal poll in my backyard Tuesday morning to check with local experts on whether or not spring was here. The daffodils said yes, the apple tree said yes but the wise old mesquite says not yet. [Staff photo]



Members of the Merkel Garden Club honored Arbor Day by planting trees at Heritage Hall and Starr Nursing Home last Thursday. Staff photo

## One April 6th race is contested

It looks like there will only be one contested race when the April 6th school and city elections roll around. School board candidate Dale

Hammond withdrew from the race last week leaving Lee Yaddow alone for a spot on the board and Bill Sloan and Robert Harris, both of Merkel, vying for the other spot.

Three incumbents on the Merkel City Council were also unchallenged Tuesday, a little more than 24 hours before the deadline to file at close of business Wednesday.

## City has low bidder on new city park, will award bid Monday

George Lee Construction of Abilene was the low bidder on works for a second city park here. The Northside park is being constructed with joint funds from the Texas department of Parks & Wildlife and from the Community Development Block Grant here. Lee Construction's bid of \$15,465.42 was the lowest of seven bids on the program and is slightly

out of the funding (about \$131,000) the city has to spend on the project. Merkel city manager J. A. Sadler and Billy Jacobs will work with the contractor to bring the project in within the budget. The Northside city park's birth came from a master plan that was created for the city two years ago during the initial stages of the current Community Development

Block Grant, administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Billy Jacobs, an engineer on the project, said his office would retabulate the bids and present it before council at their next session, March 11th. The bids were opened at 1 p.m. Monday at the Merkel Emergency Medical Service Building.

## Chamber sets annual banquet

The Merkel Chamber of Commerce will hold their annual banquet March 21 at Heritage Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the banquet are \$5 each and will include a barbecue

meal with all the trimmings. Proceeds raised from the event will be used for paving around Heritage Hall for additional paved parking spaces. Local musicians and singers will

provide the entertainment and a citizen of the year and a woman of the year will be named. Tickets for the event will be available at several locations in town next week and at the door.

## Wheat deadline is April 15th

Farming is a risky business. With narrow profit margins, managers are continuously concerned with risk management strategies for countering price and production adversity.

"Although soil moisture conditions over most of Texas are currently favorable for the '85 crop season, there are other production risks that farmers must face," says Dr. Ashley Lovell of Stephenville, economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System.

approaching. The deadline is March 1 in South Texas, March 31 for far western, central and eastern areas, and April 15 for the plains and parts of north central Texas.

"Assuming drought won't be a problem this year, farmers still may have to do with crop damage from excessive rain, hail, wind, hurricanes, tornadoes, lightning, insect infestations, plant diseases, flooding, wildlife, and fire," says Lovell. While certain management strategies may counter some of these risks, they are all insurable under Federal or multi-peril crop insurance, the economist points out. On the other hand, insurance cannot be purchased to cover losses from poor farming practices, theft or low commodity prices. "Thus, multiple-peril crop insurance is an alternative strategy for managing yield or production shortfalls," explains Lovell. "This strategy should be evaluated by producers who may wish to pay the subsidized-premium to shift the risk of a crop failure to another entity." Farmers who bought crop insurance last year will have their insurance contract automatically renewed for the same crops in 1985 unless the policies were cancelled or terminated, says Lovell. However, deadlines for first-time crop insurance customers are rapidly

Farmers deciding to purchase multi-peril crop insurance can choose among three levels of yield coverage (50, 65 or 75 percent) and three levels of price coverage (60, 70 or 90 percent of a projected market price). "Evaluating multi-peril crop insurance is a challenging process," says Lovell. Completing a whole farm production and financial plan requires consideration of the marketing, financial and production characteristics and intentions for the business.

proceeds raised by ticket sales will be used for additional paved parking spaces around Heritage Hall. Tickets will be available early next week. Upcoming events planned by the Chamber also include an Easter Egg Hunt the day before Easter and Fun Day, set July 4th at the City Park.

## City park close, so is Chamber fete

by Cloy A. Richards

It won't be too long before work begins on a new city park here. Bids were opened Monday afternoon, and although the low bid was slightly over the budget, the bid was within "horse trading" range of the budget approved for the park. The park, on the city's Northside (not far southwest of Circle A Western Wear), is being financed by grants from the Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The HUD funds are from the Community Development Block Grant, which will be gone if the President and his Budget Director, have their way. Many people have questioned the need for a second city park. This park will be designed and equipped for play by children, picnic areas for all and a few trees here and there to provide shade during those hot summer days. Merkel will need two city parks within the next few years and this park, the way it is being funded

will meet those later needs a few years sooner. There's nothing like being ahead of the game. The federal and state money would have been spent somewhere if we had not received the grant, so I look at the park as a very beneficial project, and you can't beat the cost. The Merkel Chamber of Commerce will be holding its annual banquet March 21 at Heritage Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$5 each and a barbecue dinner with all the trimmings will be served. Entertainment will be provided by local musicians and a Citizen of the Year and a Woman of the Year will be honored. Proceeds raised by ticket sales will be used for additional paved parking spaces around Heritage Hall. Tickets will be available early next week. Upcoming events planned by the Chamber also include an Easter Egg Hunt the day before Easter and Fun Day, set July 4th at the City Park.

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower made the national news Monday with his statements on the steps of the U. S. Capitol concerning the farm credit issue. Hightower is an eloquent spokesman for Texas farmers and his political future in this state is pretty bright...now. We have seen a lot of Texas politicians shine, and then fall from grace, because of a slip of the tongue, mind or morals. MISD school board candidate Dale Hammond was withdrawn from the race because of the state nepotism law. Dale told me Sunday he had been advised, if he was elected, the wife of a relative of his may lose her teaching job because of the law. Dale wanted me to let people know of his decision to withdraw.

(Please See Page 2)

(Please See Page 3)

## Bad phones... we are 97

(From Page One)

I'd like to apologize to about 20 people who called **The Mail** office Monday before 2:30.

The phone line transmission was horrible and many people simply hung up.

Another tidal wave to smooch over trying to get another edition out.

Speaking of **The Mail**, we will start our 97th year here this week.

The first edition was published March 8th (planned for March 1st) 1888 by Mary Jane Cox, a man with a strange name.

I have recently read through some of the earlier editions I recently retrieved from a closet in my dad's home.

Merkel has had a lot of ups and downs over the years, we seem to be on an upswing now.

There have been land booms, oil booms, retail trade booms, agriculture booms and corresponding busts in our history, and somehow, enough retail business has survived to allow us to do the same.

When things have been financially dark here during our tenure with the paper, the thing that has helped to keep me motivated is that this is the oldest business in town, it has gone through 96 years of whatever West Texas can throw and we have survived. After all, it's the oldest business in town and I'd hate to be the one to be responsible for making it the oldest former business in town.

The Merkel Badger Booster Club will meet Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the high school.

All members are urged to attend.

The sunny weather this weekend got people out of the house in droves as mowers, edgers, garden tillers and small tractors got a workout.

It was easy to spot people who worked outside this weekend around town Monday. They all had their first case of a slight sun-burn.

Local fruit trees seem to think the frost date is behind as many are setting leaves, and some even bloom.

Will it freeze again. Don't bet your garden seeds on it.

Billie Walters of Merkel says she quite frequently receives phone calls from elderly people needing some temporary help around their homes.

She said she'd like to start a column in the paper of volunteer needs. She asks those that need or can help provide special services, can call her at 928-5156 and ask for her.

MISD Superintendent Bill Everett told me Tuesday MISD administrators "were tickled" with the low number of students who were declared academically ineligible for the spring semester.

The new Education Law requires students to be passing all classes to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Merkel had less than 9 per cent of all High School students fail a class, a figure Everett says speaks well for MISD.

He said he had heard of some schools with only two or three track team members remaining because of bad grades and said the area percentages reflected a failure rate of up to 40 per cent.

The new law is being attacked by parents from across the state, as the full House Bill 72 is now in force.

Parents who did not understand how far reaching the House Bill was are now screaming for changes, louder than the initial furor this past summer when the Legislature passed the bill.

So far, it hasn't really affected the spring sports, band and other activities here.

**The Mail** would like to extend its condolences to Clifford Smith and his wife, who lost their six week old son Monday.

Smith was basketball coach here until last year.

Services for the infant were held in Levelland Tuesday.



The first practical typewriter was built in 1808 by an Italian, Pellegrine Turri, to help a blind friend correspond with him.



Neon tubes were shown for the first time at the Paris Motor Show in 1910. Its main drawback was that it only came in red.

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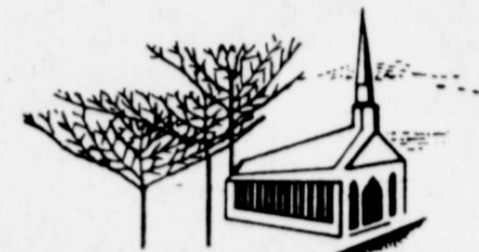
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"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"

## MANMADE

A man made this beautiful little waterfall and improved his part of a little stream that ran by his house.

Another man on another stream threw trash in the water and let weeds grow up around it so that the beauty of the creek was obscured.

Man fashions many things out of that which God has created. Beauty or ugliness can result from our decisions as to what we will do with divine raw materials. Dedication to God and the desire to emulate Him usually makes the difference in what we do with what God has provided.

Let God find you in His church.

EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH  
THE CHURCH IN EVERYONE

The Church is God's appointed agency in this world for spreading the knowledge of His love for man and of His demand for man to respond to that love by loving his neighbor. Without this grounding in the love of God, no government or society or way of life will long persevere and the freedoms which we hold so dear will inevitably perish. Therefore, even from a selfish point of view, one should support the Church for the sake of the welfare of himself and his family. Beyond that, however, every person should uphold and participate in the Church because it tells the truth about man's life, death and destiny; the truth which alone will set him free to live as a child of God.

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928-5120 506 Runnels
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928-5024 818 Ash
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928-5351 301 Locust
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928-5333 S. 3rd & Locust
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Rudy Fambrough, Pastor
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Economist says farmer should take a long, hard look at wheat insurance (From Page One)

For effective whole farm planning, accounting and budgeting functions must be integrated. The accounting system and enterprise production budgets are expected to provide data for establishing cash flow requirements as well as estimating the timing and amount of cash available month by month. Additionally, the balance sheet depicts the financial condition of the business and provides liquidity indicators, including the current ratio and amount of working capital and solvency measures, such as the leverage ratio.

"Accounting and budgeting data must then be integrated with yield and price risk data along with multi-peril crop insurance premiums. The objective of this analysis is to select a yield protection strategy that will assure the business survival and maximize growth in net worth," notes Lovell.

Survivability and growth in net worth have been used to measure payoff from various crop insurance options, based on the analyses of several representatives Texas Panhandle cotton and wheat farms. Results suggest that businesses with high debt (and higher leverage ratios will benefit from purchasing higher levels of protection relative to similar businesses that have less debt (and thus lower leverage ratios).

Lovell advises farmers to work through enterprise budgets and cash flow projections using several yield and price assumptions to determine the risk of unfavorable yields. He also suggests working with a lender in the whole farm planning session to get his suggestions for yield and price risk strategies.

Local ASCS offices have additional information on certifying yields, insurance yields and names of insurance agents.

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**Shrimp Night** All you can eat Fried Shrimp, Shrimp Creole & Boiled Shrimp after 5 pm

**\$9.50**

Regular Buffet \$5.50

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For Sale: 8 acres of land in Merkel City. Also, 1610 grain silo. Will trade drill for livestock. Call 928-5204  
96-TFC

Registered border collies for sale. Two females. \$100. 928-5194.  
98-TFC

+ Storm shelters  
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2-18tp

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1-4tc

FOR CUSTOM FARM SPRAYING CALL CHIP MERONEY 915-823-2919.  
101-4tp

1974 Chevrolet Impala, very clean, V-8, 928-5284 or 928-5773.  
103-1tp

FOR SALE: 79 Dodge Trans Van, low miles, 21,000, auto, power brakes, cruise control, am-fm stereo, central heat, roof top air conditioning, stove, refrig. makes into king size bed, nice 7,800. John Allison, 401 Runnels, Merkel, 928-5787.  
103-1tp

Alfalfa hay for sale: \$5.75 per bale delivered. Call 928-4337.  
90-TFC

For Sale: Guitar with case (Dan Mitchell's) see at 204 Ash or call 928-5075. Still new.  
103-1tp

FOR SALE: 2500 watt power plant, honda, Bill Williams, 8-5078.  
103-1tc

**Misc**  
Now taking applications for all departments in person. Start in Home Highway 80  
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96-TFC

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101-4tp

Need your house cleaned? Dependable and experienced. Contact Jan 928-5834 or 301 Rose.  
102-2tp

Grooming in Merkel on Saturdays. Call 928-4474 after 6 p.m. for appointment.  
92-TFC

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33-TFC

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101-1tc

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102-3tp

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86-TFC

KID'S KORNER DAY CARE CENTER 2nd & Oak. Open Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Call 928-4381.  
66-1tc

Does someone you love have a drinking problem? Is it affecting your life? If so, AL-ANNON FAMILY groups can help. A Merkel group is meeting weekly in the mornings. Call 928-4844 or 928-5067.  
49-TFC

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103-4tp

Storm cellars, 3 sizes available. Not pre-cast. We pour on your site. Also have metal shelters. Call 928-5295.  
103-2tp

LOST: Palimino Shetland Pony. Call 928-5570 or 928-5305.



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89-TFC

2 bedroom mobil home, 1 1/2 bath, washer, dryer, couple, one child, no bills paid, 7 miles N.E. Merkel, 692-8666 after 5:00 928-5677.  
101-TFC

Furnished apartment for rent: partially furnished mobil home for rent. Reasonable rates call 928-5635 at night.  
102-4tc

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom, house, partially furnished, real nice, 2 miles out of town, call 928-5189.  
103-1tp

FOR LEASE: 980 acres grazing land with 3 bedroom home 17 miles SW of Merkel, 692-2222, 695-2341.  
103-4tp

Apartments for rent: 2 bedroom, refrigerator & stove. Upstairs \$250 per month with \$150 deposit. Downstairs with dishwasher \$275 per month with \$150 deposit. 6 month lease required. Call 928-5194.  
58-TFC

1, 2 or 3 bedroom mobile home for rent in Merkel. 928-4973.  
277FC

**Card of Thanks**  
I would like to thank all our friends and relatives who were so kind to us during our sorrow. Thank you for all the food and prayers, you shared with us. Our dad would have been so proud to know all the friends he had. Also thanks to all the people who participated in the singing at the church. Bless you all from the bottom of our hearts.  
From his sons,  
Andrew and Gilbert Rivera,  
Daughter and Grand daughter, Suzie and Cassandra Moreno  
103-1tnc

DATED the 25 day of February, 1985.  
Denise Hallford  
Executrix  
Quanah Parker  
Attorney for the Estate  
103-1tc

NOTICE OF CREDITORS  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Bernice Lillian Arrant, Deceased, were issued on February 25, 1985, in Docket No. 16,575, pending in the County Court of Taylor County, Texas, to: Lois Bernice Oxford.  
The residence of the Independent Executor is in Taylor County, Texas, the post office address is: c/o Walter P. Morton Jr., P.O. Box 3636, Abilene, Texas, 79604.  
All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
DATED this 28 day of February, 1985.  
By Walter P. Morton Attorney for the Estate  
103-1tc-32

**Garage Sales**

YARD SALE: 4 families girls clothes, teenage boy clothes, bed spreads household misc. books. 402 Kent, Thursday and Friday.  
103-1tp

3 Family Garage Sale Children's clothes for boys and girls, also men's and women's clothing. #7 Pioneer Circle, Thursday & Friday only.  
103-1tc

GARAGE SALE: 105 Runnels, Fri. and Sat. electrical supplies, pot plants, hangers, ceramics, few tools, pipe, misc.  
103-1tp

FOR SALE: 1 acre, 3 miles North of Merkel, off FM 126, \$500 down, no mobile homes, 928-4431.  
103-1tc

"Half a truth is a whole lie." Yiddish Proverb

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JULIAN JOSEPH WADE\* JR. DECEASED  
Notice is hereby given that original Letter Testamentary for the Estate of Julian Joseph Wade, Jr. were issued on February 25, 1985, in Cause No. 16,321, pending in the County Court of Taylor County, Texas, to: Denise Hallford.  
The residence of such Executrix is Abilene, Taylor County, Texas. The post office address is: c/o Quanah Parker, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 1456, Abilene, Texas 79604.  
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and manner prescribed by law.

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# Some of us are a lot like a little boy on a bale of hay

by Russell McAnally

A funny little thing happened last week and I want to share it with you. I know I said my article last week would probably be my last, but when I get an urge to write, and if the editor of the Merkel Mail has an urge to print, there might be a few more.

There was this man in the field bailing hay and two of his small grandchildren came with their mother and grandmother to watch the operation. It was not long before both boys, with a little help, was on top of one of the five foot tall round bales of hay. The three year old slid to the ground but the five year old stayed on top as the grandfather drove the large tractor up to the bale of hay to load it. We all watched to see what the boy would do and was surprised he decided to ride the bale of hay.

The grandfather, just for fun, raised the bale of hay as high as it would go. The boy looked a little frightened as he looked down from his ten foot perch. The grandfather set the lift at that height and came to visit with us for a while. After a little while, I heard the grandmother whisper to the grandfather that the boy wanted down. The grandson was brought down to the ground and he had no desire to get up there again.

While driving the two hundred miles home, I kept thinking about the boy on the bale of hay. One minute he was up in the air and thrilled as he looked down on all that was below him. It was also more fun to him because we were cheering him on. A few minutes later he wanted no more of it. What had happened? I had not been home more than an hour or so when I had a visit from a beautiful young lady in her first

year of college. Last summer the eyes of that young lady sparkled as she talked of her plans of going to the college where she had been accepted. I was caught up in her excitement. Last week she was talking about her being very tired of school. I said to her, "Are you ready to get down off your bale of hay?" She didn't understand until I told her the story of the boy on the bale of hay. She said that was also her problem.

I see so many people who start out with such enthusiasm and vigor but soon see their job or work as tiring monotony. Young people get married and live in a fantasy world, but are soon ready to get down off the bale of hay. Any work, job, marriage or life that is built only on the excitement of the moment will soon come to an end. This can happen also to one's religious life. My wife tells me that it always

takes twice as long to do a job as I think it will. I tell her that if I really knew or thought about how long it would take I never would start it. The secret to the whole thing is to see the start of a job with excitement and after you get started on the job, be able to keep in mind the finished product.

## Recent cemetery donors

The Merkel Cemetery donations are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hogan in memory of Ralph Garrett; H.E. Jeffrey; Evelyn Stribling; Ina Hunter; Mrs. Paul West; V.H. Horton; Johnny Blair in memory of J.K. Blair; Ben F. and Madge Stanfield in memory of John Rister; Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Farmer; James and Ester Foster; Mr. and Mrs. E.K. Sovelle Jr. in memory of John Rister; Roy Baccus; Lewis Pence and Randal Stevens; Mrs. Winnie W. Cort; Lola M. Touchstone; Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Sadler in memory of Ethel Brown.

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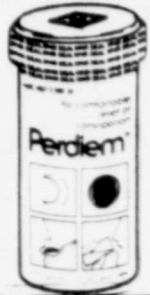


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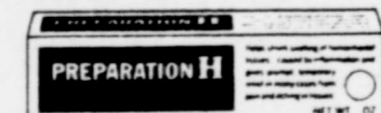
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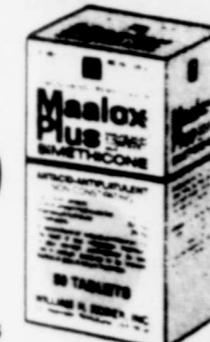
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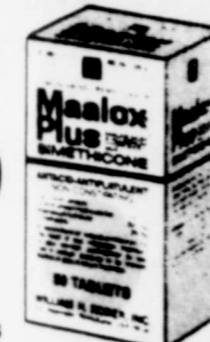
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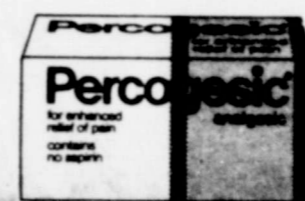
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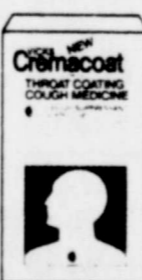
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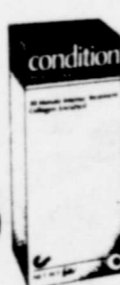


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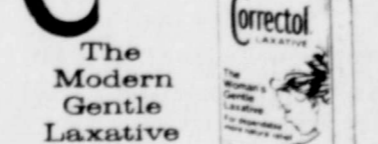
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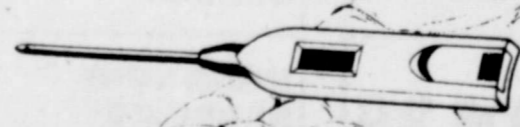
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**Starr sets annual recognition of volunteers March 27th**

Starr's Volunteer recognition will be March 27th at 10:30 a.m. at Heritage Hall. We will elect officers for 1985.

June Grable with R.S.V.P. in Abilene will speak on Volunteers, so if you aren't a member, you are invited to attend. We would like for you to join as we need you so much. If you've never been one, you have no idea how much good you can do by coming and helping. That is something for me to talk, but I'm sorry I haven't attended the activities at the nursing home, but when a body isn't strong enough, it's best to stay at home and you all think about who you would like to elect for Reporter, I've been the nursing home reporter for over 30 years and before that I reported for the Stephenville Tribune and you need some one new.

Our president Shirley McBride's mother is still ill, but we hope we hear good news soon.


We welcome this warm weather, some of the residents can get outside some.

Brenda's father, Wallace Doan, is in C.C.U. in Hendrick. We hope he will soon be home.

Everyone was so glad to see Larry Gill, who was down to go to the Church of Christ meetings they had in Abilene. He visited everyone at the nursing home. Everyone misses him for he could mix with everyone and they all loved he and Mary.

Pam Roberts, Brenda's daughter, is employed at Starr. She will be helping her mother in the office.

Bettie Phelps is much improved and the staff is so happy with her improvement. She is the mother of Mrs. J.P. Click.

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**Study Club holds meeting**

The eleventh meeting of the Eighty-One Study Club was called to order by President Betty Stautzenberger.

Club members met in the home of Mrs. Vernie Bryan, who also was the hostess.

Attending members were: Lorene Baird, Vernie Bryan, Evorie Dillard, Paula Forehand, Gracy Holt, Goldia Malone, Betty Stautzenberger, Doris Summers, and Ann Talent. Also one guest attended the meeting. She was Edith Fox.

After refreshments were served, a report was given by Vernie Bryan on Community Improvement.

The next meeting will be in the home of Mrs. Betty Stautzenberger and the theme will be on Health Care.

**Lambda Beta Beauty contest**

Lambda Beta members will be co-sponsors from now til March 22. If you would like to sponsor a girl, boy or both contact 928-5427. The sponsors fee will be \$10.00 per contestant.

The emcee's this year will be Bobby and Bonnie of Kean.

**Byrd's announce engagement**

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry D. Byrd have announced the engagement of their daughter, Jeri Suzanne to Richard Alan Lovelace, son of Mr. and Mrs. L.D. Lovelace Sr. The couple plans a May 4th wedding at Perini Ranch in Buffalo Gap, Texas.

Miss Byrd graduated from Merkel High School and is employed by Orthopedic Associates of Abilene. Her fiancé graduated from Cooper High School and is a Fire Fighter for the City of Abilene.

**Club holds Arbor Day activities**

The Merkel Garden Club met in the home of Becky Rogers Feb. 21 for an Arbor Day program.

The members decided to plant trees at Heritage Hall and Starr Nursing Home.

There was good attendance at both meetings.

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