

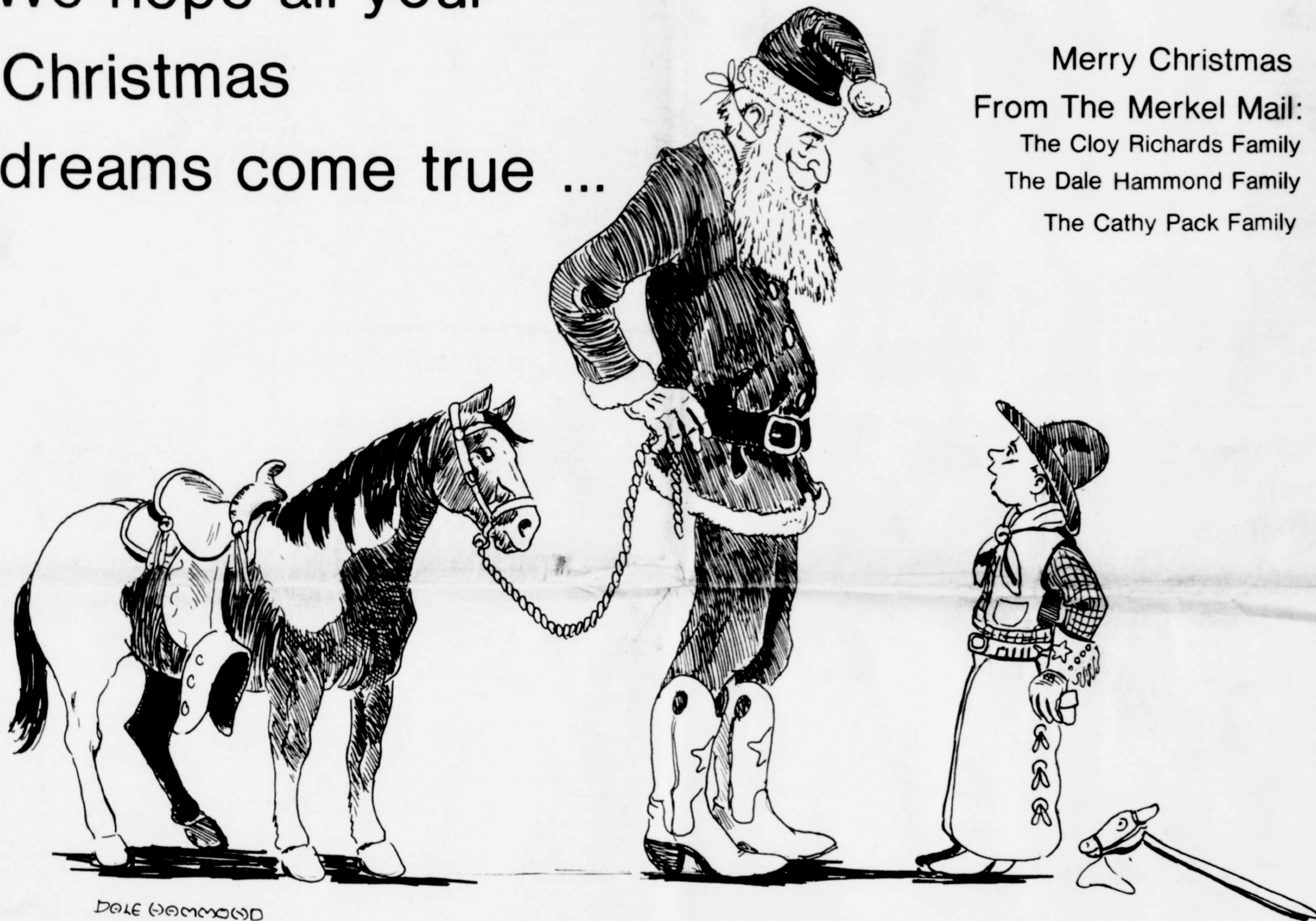
The Merkel Mail

Thursday, December 19, 1985 ... Merkel, Texas

Our 97th Year

We hope all your
Christmas
dreams come true ...

Merry Christmas
From The Merkel Mail:
The Cloy Richards Family
The Dale Hammond Family
The Cathy Pack Family



Tragedy hits home, tax suits, Christmas lights ... more

by Cloy A. Richards

Events of the world really hit home when a Merkelite is involved.

A former Merkel High student, John Millett, was killed last week in an airline crash that also took the lives of 250 soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division.

The chartered plane was bringing the soldiers home after a six month peace-keeping tour in the Middle East.

John's father was Justice of the Peace here for several years and is a medal of honor winner. His parents now make their home in California.

We'd like to pass our congratulations to Lucretia Wade who was named to the All District band playing the alto clarinet. Those competitions were held in Haskell Dec. 14th and included musicians from Clas A to 5A schools.

We left a name off an honor roll list we printed last week.

Stephanie Bunch was left off the 1st grade All A list and we didn't want to leave her out.

If you don't think the folks in the advertising agencies in America don't know what they are doing, read the letters to Santa this week.

These children know not only what kind of toy they want, they know the name of the company that makes them in a lot of cases.

I get a kick out of reading the letters each year. Oh, but to be in the 1st grade with visions of Santa...

This is our Christmas Edition (if you haven't guessed that by now) and Dale, in my opinion, has come up with another gem for **The Mail's** Christmas card.

His down-to-earth portrayal of Christmas dreams, is, in my opinion, a great effort.

It looks like Merkel will come out pretty well in sales tax rebates this year.

Although we did not get a check this month, which is highly unusual, the city should end up th year ahead of the 1984 pace.

We were still within .5 percent of rebates last year, even without a check this month and the annual totals should prove higher than

1984. A lot of Texas cities can't say that.

The reason the city did not get a check this month is that the State Comptroller's Office will only issue checks higher than \$500 for state sales tax rebates.

Annual figures should be released by the State Comptroller in mid-January.

Careul readers of the **Abilene Reporter News** have noticed in the past week that the City is having a few of it's past due tax cases filed in District Court.

The firm of McCreary-Hewitt of Austin handles the cases.

If the weather is right, the slab for the Freshman Addition at Merkel High was to be poured today.

Most of the construction is being performed by MISD maintenance personnel.

If you have any doubt to their abilities, go by the first grade addition to Merkel Elementary.

It will be interesting to watch the new building go up between now and September.

In case some of you were

considering the logic of closing school last week, when the weather was semi-bad, consider this.

By not running busses when streets and highways are iced over, or have patches of ice, MISD puts no students at risk. Since school attendance is now only "monitored" by the state twice a year, it doesn't "cost" MISD so much per student not in class, as the former method of average daily attendance did. Also, by opening the school to students who do not ride busses, the school day will not have to be added at a later date.

As if you didn't suspect all of that already.

I didn't see the Tuesday night Christmas program at Merkel Elementary, but Monday's performance was good.

I consider myself somewhat of a semi-expert on Christmas shows here because I have had a child in elementary school here for eight Christmas shows.

I can't wait until we have some Christmas lights in town next year.

I do catch myself humming

Christmas tunes after poking my my head out the door and hearing music from Starbuck's but it would be nice to see some decorations in town for all to see.

The Chamber's Christmas Fair

City Christmas schedule

The City of Merkel will be operating under a special holiday schedule next week.

City Hall will be closed Dec. 24th and 25th for the Christmas holidays.

Trash pick up schedules will also change.

Monday runs will be made on

put us on the way to having Christmas lights next year, and that would be nice.

Last week, when mentioning people that put forth extra effort for the Christmas Fair, I left out Dana Dunagin.

schedule but no trash pick-ups will be made Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Runs normally made on Tuesday and Wednesday will be made Thursday and Thursday and Friday's run will be made Friday, Dec. 27th.

The city landfill will also be closed Dec. 24th and 25th.

Chamber Fair raises \$800

The Merkel Chamber of Commerce's first Christmas Fair seems to have come off quite well as the effort raised about \$800 according to event organizer Ann Payne. The money will be used for Christmas lights here.

The event was held last Saturday at Heritage Hall and a half a day Sunday.

The Chamber raised money for lights by taking donations, selling photos of children with Santa and profits from sale of popcorn and refreshments.

Twenty-seven businesses or individuals had booths of various items for sale.

Please see Page 2

Chamber thanks contributors

From Page 1

Many local clubs and organizations donated labor to the event and numerous Merkel businesses also made contributions.

Plans are to build a lighted cross on the city water tower and then a string light Christmas tree downtown.

The Chamber wanted to publicly thank the following business and individuals who made contributions to the event: Mamie

Steck, Skeet's Restaurant, Wylie Shamrock, City of Merkel, Coca Cola, Country, Etc., Big Country Inn, Sally Tittle, Kim Mashburn, Sherry Vinson, Pat Byrd, Suzanne Lovelace, Cathy Rack, Kay Bloodworth, Laura Cochran, Gail Ross, Mike Anderson-Abilene Candy Company, Merkel Drug, Taylor Electric Cooperative, Iris Amerine, Annette Melton, Fanelle Boney, Consolidated Plumbing,

Mid-Tex Resources, Merkel VFW, Danny Higgins, Gerald Rutledge, Dunagin Transport, Skaggs Alpha Beta, Ben Franklin, The Merkel Mail, Lone Star Gas, Braggs, 4R Tack, Xi Nu Eta, Faye Ueckert, F&M National Bank, Marilyn Tittle Bookkeeping.

The Chamber also voted last week to contribute \$700 to additional paving around Heritage Hall.

Hortons will celebrate 50th anniversary Sunday

Buster and Madelon Horton of Merkel will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception Sunday at the Fellowship Hall of Merkel's First Baptist Church from 3-5 p.m.

Hosts for the event are the children of the couple and their children. They include Mr. & Mrs. Tom Womble of Houston, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Horton of Grand Prairie and Mrs. Bill Horton of Joshua.

The couple were married Dec. 21, 1935 in Abilene.

Mr. Horton was born March 2, 1911 here. Mrs. Horton was born Feb. 1, 1910 in Fort Worth. They met in 1934 and have farmed on a farm on Mulberry Creek. He is now a stock farmer and she retired in 1964 from the Abilene Public Schools.

They are members of Merkel's First Baptist Church.



Rainwater-Davis announce March wedding

Rhonda Lee Rainwater of Abilene and Larry Wayne Davis, also of Abilene, have announced their engagement.

The wedding is planned March 22nd at the Hamby Church of Christ.

Rhonda is the daughter of Kenneth & LaRue Rainwater of Harrold. Larry is the son of Billy and Kathy Davis of Abilene.

The bride elect was graduated from Harrold High in 1989 and Abilene Christian University in 1984. She is a teacher-volleyball coach at Merkel High.

The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Abilene Christian High School in 1974 and from Abilene Christian University in 1978. He received his master's from ACU in 1982 and is a teacher at Anson Elementary.

The couple will live in Abilene following their March wedding.



Walls presents service certificates

Service Certificates and Pins were awarded to 5 employees in the Merkel facility of Walls Industries, Inc., Tuesday, December 10, 1985. Presenting the awards were Wayne Palmer, Plant Manager, and Ron Istre, Vice President of Manufacturing.

Receiving their 5 years awards were Mary Vaughn, Mamie Steck, Heidi Pack, Linda Ingram and Dora Asencio.

In presenting the awards, Mr. Istre, said the contribution of all the people honored has been a major factor in making Walls the leading name in the apparel industry.

Walls Industries, Inc., Cleburne based apparel firm has eight locations in Texas employing over

1400 people. This year 84 employees were honored with service awards totaling 695 years of combined service to the Company.



Cotton supplies keep prices down

Record supplies of cotton worldwide combined with weak demand can mean only one thing to farmers, low prices.

Carryover from the 1985 crop is projected at a record 52 million bales, almost double the annual world carryover for the past four years, points out Dr. Carl Anderson, economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System. China is expected to account for about half of the carryover stocks.

With 1985 U.S. production estimated at about 13.9 million bales and a weak export demand, stocks in this country may more than double to some 9 million bales by next summer, Anderson notes.

"World cotton production is increasing faster than consumption, and therein lies the problem," says Anderson. "U.S. exports are suffering because the continued strong dollar makes foreign cotton a better buy. In fact, exports may fall far short of the 3.5 million bales from this

year's crop as estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in mid-November."

Where does that leave prices for U.S. farmers?

"Cotton prices should continue near the Commodity Credit Corp. loan level or loan redemption level," notes the economist. "Chances remain good that eligible producers will receive a maximum deficiency payment (target price minus loan rate) of 23.7 cents for 1985 cotton."



Editor's Note:

A former Merkel High student, John Millett, was one of 258 killed in an airplane crash last week when a chartered plane ferrying members of the 101st Airborne Division crashed in Greenland.

His father, a retired colonel and medal of honor winner, was Justice of the Peace here for several years.

We received the following poem, sent in without a name, as well as a drawing for a memorial from the people of Merkel.

Millett, along with 250 fellow members of the 101st "Screaming Eagles", was returning to Fort Campbell, Kentucky for Christmas leave when the plane crashed, killing all aboard.

Blessed are the peace makers, "For they shall be called the Children of God".

Oh, Child of God, you are now at rest.

Blow gently soft breeze, through the trees, where the children went to rest.

They served your country to keep the peace, you know. They did their best, with humble hearts on bended knee, we say, "Thank God", it was for me.

To the family's of the children of God, we gladly share your pain.

Believe with me, it was not in vain, some day, you'll meet again.

Love and Prayers from Merkel, Tx.

Paying Christmas charges

If you've piled up credit card debts to pay for Christmas expenses, now is the time to plan a first-of-the-year strategy for paying them off, says a family economics expert.

"Without a concerted effort to reduce credit use, consumers can easily find themselves still paying for big-ticket Christmas gifts the following December," cautions Nancy Granovsky, a specialist with the Texas A&M University Agricultural Extension Service.

If you take on \$800 in credit charges in December, and then charge more purchases on top of that original debt without ever paying it off, you'll owe \$945.27 by the end of the following December notes Granovsky.

Your original debt of \$800 will have grown by \$145.27 due to the 1.5 percent interest charged on the debt balance each month. That adds up to 18 percent interest per year, she adds.

The specialist points out that some credit card companies charge more than 18 percent interest per year and that you would also be paying interest on the other unpaid charges in addition to those levied against the \$800 debt.

"There are two ways to reduce your credit card debt load," says Granovsky. "You can charge less than you pay off each month, which will reduce your debt over time. Or you can simply stop using credit cards and make payments until the debt is eliminated."

Planning to use one of these strategies beginning in January can help you meet become

debt-free, she says.

Start by calculating your fixed expenses, such as rent or mortgage, utilities and car payments. Then figure your living expenses for food, clothing, and personal items. Subtract these two sets of expenses from your monthly income and you'll know how much money you have available for payments to reduce credit card debt, explains the specialist.

"It's most critical not to charge more purchases than you are paying off each month, otherwise you'll be unable to pay the debt off and it will actually rise because of interest charges," says the specialist.

She recommends leaving credit cards locked up at home to curb impulse buying that can ruin your debt repayment plans.

Planning how to reduce credit card debts and following through on your plan, can help you more effectively manage your money in the new year, advises Granovsky.

**CALL IN
YOUR
CLASSIFIEDS
928-5712**

Cain's 32 points lead Badgers to 69-61 win

The Merkel Badgers boys varsity team ran in to a strong shooting Cross Plains team, but came away with a 69-61 win, led by Matt Cain's 32 points.

The Badgers were up by five at the half and then by one going into the fourth quarter. The lead changed back and forth during the quarter, but scoring by Cain and strong play by Shayne Newberry led the Badgers. Newberry had 16 points, 12 in the first half.

Boys coach Skip Townsend told **The Mail** Tuesday "Newberry has been real consistent for us. He does everything well. And Matt Cain is really starting to play well."

In the JV game, Ramon Moreno had Merkel's best night of the year as he poured in 46 to lead the team to an easy 83-39 win. Moreno was 18 of 32 from the field and 10 of 11 from the free throw line. Moreno also played in the varsity game that night and Coach Townsend said he contributed to the Badger's effort late in the game.

Also in the JV game, Lynn Hays had 14 points, Douglas Taylor 9, Richard Eleby 8 and Justin Amerine had 6.

The weather last week forced the cancellation of the varsity tournament in Roby.

The boys and girls junior varsity teams traveled to Stamford Tuesday night and will face a strong field in the Eula Tournament Dec. 26-28. They then host Hawley here Dec. 30th with both the varsity and junior varsity boys and girls in action.

The Badgers travel to Wylie for their first district game Jan. 7th. Wylie has won the district title for the past two years and the Badgers have faced Wylie once this year, losing in double overtime.

Golf Association reaches agreement with new owner

Two recent meetings of the Merkel Golf Association have produced an agreement with that group and the new owner of the Merkel Country Club, Michael Vah.

Vah, a contractor at Dyess Air Force Base, took over financial control of the golf course and club facilities last week.

Vah met with about 35 members of the association last Monday night, and then again last Thursday.

The association will be loaning their course maintenance equipment to the new owner and members of the group that had paid through Nov. 30th were allowed to maintain their membership at the same fee (\$25) per month for the next year.

The agreement was reached by the association's board of director's and Vah, and then voted on by the membership.

Scott's will celebrate 50th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Scott will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary, Sunday Dec. 22, with a family noon buffet at Butman Methodist Camp followed by a reception from 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon.

Hosting the reception will be Mrs. A.E. Polk, Mrs. Scott's sister, and their children, Payton and Johnnie Scott, Barry and Monette Scott, Aleta and J.D. Alexander, David and Jean Scott, and their 13 grandchildren.

Born in Eastland County, Mr. Scott moved to Whitharrell, Texas where he attended school. He moved to Mulberry Canyon in 1934. Mrs. Scott, formerly Mabel Butman, was born in Mulberry Canyon. She attended Butman School and graduated from Merkel High School. They met in April 1934 and were married Dec. 19, 1935 in Abilene by the Rev. Author Kendall. They are members of Pioneer Memorial Methodist Church.



Memorial service for Paul McCauley is Saturday

Paul Nathan McCauley, 14, of Merkel, died Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1985 at Children's Medical Center, Dallas, Texas. Memorial services will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21 at the Merkel High School Auditorium.

Paul was born Jan. 11, 1971 in Johnson, Kansas. The McCauley family moved to Merkel in Aug. 1977. As an infant, Paul contacted Spinal Meningitis and has been in

ill health intermittently. He had undergone several major operations. Paul attended Merkel Elementary School and Merkel Middle School, missing an extensive amount of school due to his illness and operations. September 9, Paul was transported to Children's Medical Center in Dallas by Care Flight Helicopter. He was admitted into intensive care and then underwent two major operations which left him in a coma for 3

months until his death.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman McCauley, a sister, Marlo of the home; four sisters, Miss Lana McCauley of Dallas, Texas, Mrs. Brenda Hammond of Springfield, Mo., Mrs. Merkel Farmers and Merchants Doris Deanda of Pampa, Tx., Mrs.

Loretta Mangham, Pampa, Tx. and one brother, Matthew McCauley of Ulysses.

The family kindly request no flowers be sent to the memorial service, but donations be made at the home of Mrs. Merkel Farmers and Merchants Doris Deanda of Pampa, Tx., Mrs. Bank in Paul's name.



DALE HAMMOND

James Beaver's services held in Trent

James Willie Beaver, Sr., 64, of Trent died Friday at his home. Services were held Friday at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Trent. Burial was at Trent Cemetery, directed by Curtis Starks Funeral Home of Abilene.

Born Feb. 12, 1921, in Calvert, he married Lenora Bell in Calvert. He lived in Trent for 45 years and attended Calvert schools. He

was a retired farmer.

Survivors include his wife of the home; two sons, Nathaniel Beaver of Abilene and Weldon Beaver of Athens; seven daughters, Dorothy Jackson of Russellville, Ark., Mary Patterson of Merkel, Lula White of Bakersfield, Calif., Nora Sims of Fort Worth, and Barbara Jiles, Thelma Beaver and Janie Brown, all of Abilene.

8th grade boys downed by Breck

Merkel's 8th grade boys fell to Breckenridge 37-23 Monday night. Shannon Rader was high point with 9 points, Kyle Doan scored 4 points, Randy Toombs 3 points,

Dusty McCloud, Mike Blue and Steven Jacobs had 2 points each. Brandon Rice had 1 point.

The next game will be Jan. 6th at Breckenridge for the boys. The girls will play here.

Freshmen girls dropped by Breck

The Merkel freshmen girls traveled to Breckenridge Monday night and were pounded by Breck 41-8.

Bena White has two points and did a good job on defense according to Coach Rhonda Rainwater. Melinda Baker scored two, Anissa Jones also had two with 5 rebounds. Norma Cuellar scored one and had four steals and nine rebounds. Kim Richards played well of the bench defensively and Pam Neff had four steals in the contest.

The next game for the girls will

be here Jan. 6th against Breckenridge.

Charlie Beaver's services held Friday

Charlie Lee Beaver, 26, of Trent died Friday at his home. Services were held at 11 a.m. Friday at First Baptist Church in Trent. Burial was held at the Trent Cemetery, directed by Curtis Starks Funeral Home of Abilene.

Born May 22, 1959, in Trent, he was employed by the City of Merkel. He attended Trent schools where he had been a member of

football and track teams.

Survivors include his mother, Lenora Beaver, of Trent; two brothers, Nathaniel Beaver of Abilene and Weldon Beaver of Athens; and seven sisters, Dorothy Jackson of Russellville, Ark., Mary Patterson of Merkel, Lula White of Bakersfield, Calif., Nora Sims of Fort Worth, and Barbara Jiles, Thelma Beaver and Janie Brown, all of Abilene.



Some Visitors Never Knock

...and they love the dark!

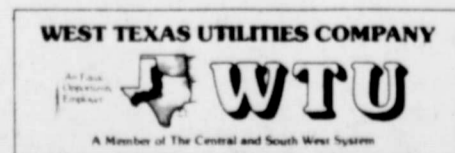
Discourage That Unexpected Visitor With a Guard-Lite from WTU.

With shorter days and longer nights this winter, help protect your home and property against theft and vandalism with a Guard-Lite from West Texas Utilities.

It's a proven fact that light helps prevent crime. And, a Guard-Lite will provide you with the reliable lighting you need this winter. Your Guard-Lite will automatically turn on at dusk

and off at dawn to help protect your home in the dark.

West Texas Utilities will supply normal installation, maintenance, bulb replacement and electricity for your Guard-Lite — all for a low monthly rental fee. Call your local WTU office for more information on how you can lease a Guard-Lite for your home today.



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PRICES EFFECTIVE DEC. 19-21, 1985
 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
ALLSUP'S
 CONVENIENCE STORES
 OPEN ALL DAY CHRISTMAS
 ICE-MILK-BREAD-FRESH PRODUCE-SNACKS-BROWN & SERVE ROLLS-CRISPS & BIPS-FILM & FLASH-HOT COOKED FOODS-SERVE SERVE SAS

DECKER GOLD SPICED BOLOGNA OR PAP LOAF LUNCHEON MEATS 8 OZ. PKG. 89¢	DECKER MEAT FRANKS 12 OZ. PKG. 99¢	BORDEN'S ICE CREAM SANDWICHES 6 CT. PKG. \$1.19
BORDEN'S WHIPPING CREAM 8 OZ. CTN. 59¢	BORDEN'S REAL BUTTER 1 LB. PKG. \$1.99	FRESH HOT CORN DOGS 2 FOR 89¢
MARGARINE QUARTERS TV SPECIAL KRAFT PARKAY 1 LB. PKGS. 2 \$1	KRAFT CHILLED ORANGE JUICE 1/2 GAL. BTL. \$1.89 TV SPECIAL	ALLSUP'S COFFEE MUG FILLED WITH HOT COFFEE ONLY REFILLED FOR ONLY 25¢ 99¢
SUREFINE COFFEE 1 LB \$1.79	POP SPECIAL PEPSI-REG. OR DIET PEPSI FREE-PEPSI LIGHT \$1.99	16 OZ

Warner's 50th anniversary celebration is Sunday

Dave and Selma Warner of Tye will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at a reception Dec. 22 at the Tye United Methodist Church.

The event will be hosted by the couple's children- Neil of San Jose, Eldon of Waco and Suzanne of Abilene from 2-4 p.m. Dec. 22. They ask that people attending not bring gifts for the couple.

Mr. Warner was born March 11, 1909 in Grapeland. He is a retired farmer. Mrs. Warner was born May 9, 1915 in Tye. The couple were married in Goree and have lived in Abilene and Tye. She is a secretary for Ritch Keeble, CLU.

They are members of the Tye United Methodist Church and have five grandchildren.



Lt. Herrera stationed at Altus AFB

Air Force 2nd Lt. Victor G. Herrera, son of retired Master Sgt. Arturo Q. and Rebecca G. Herrera of Tye, Texas, has arrived for duty with the 11th Air Refueling Squadron, Altus Air

Force Base, Okla. Herrera, a pilot, was previously assigned at Williams Air Force Base, Ariz. His wife, Irene, is the daughter of Athanasios G. and Elaine Argiris

of 13209 W. 75th Terrace, Lenexa, Kan. The lieutenant is a 1984 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Come, let us adore Him!

Once again, hearts are lifted in hope and joy, renewed by the message of Christmas. Let us be glad!

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12 MONTH MINI-JUMBO CD'S

*Substantial Penalty for Early Withdrawal
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\$25,000 MINIMUM DEPOSIT	9.50% ANNUAL RATE*
\$50,000 MINIMUM DEPOSIT	9.60% ANNUAL RATE*
\$75,000 MINIMUM DEPOSIT	9.75% ANNUAL RATE*

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River Oaks 3365 S. 14th Abilene (915) 673-5171			

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Prosperous New Year

I-20 T J & T TIRE CO., INC. 928-4395

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P & L Auto Parts
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-----TFC-----
§ P & L Auto Parts is

P & L Auto Parts is open from 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday - Friday and from 7:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday.
 Want A Fireplace ahead of its time? Try the IN-FURN-O at AMERINE MECHANICAL 502 Kent St. Merkel, Tx.
 141-TFC

Pecans for Sale: This year's in the shell \$1.00 per pound or shelled \$4.00 per pound. Call 928-5782 or come by 1403 Herring.
 138-71p

WOOD STOVES OF MERKEL
 -Fireplace inserts.
 -Free standing units.
 -Mobile Home Units.
 Wood burning stoves can heat your house for pennies with the NORDIC, made in America famous brand stove. See burning models on display at AMERINE MECHANICAL 502 Kent St. (FM 126) Merkel, Tx. Ph. 928-4876.
 141-TFC

For Sale: Get your first copy of Cabbage Patch Magazine at Crafthouse Ceramics, 105 Runnels, Good Stocking Stuffer.
 142-2tp

Portable Buildings by General Shelter of Texas 6x8 to 14x60, as low as \$325. Free Brochure. 915-928-4827, 1-9 p.m.
 Buffalo Energy.
 142-5tp

1974 Ford Courier, good transportation, standard trans., \$1,100. 1-537-2348.
 142-3tnc

For Sale: Chow puppies, full blood, no papers, \$50.00. Trent 862-6127.
 144-11p

Just Arrived, Student 501 Jeans, pre-washed, \$23.95. Circle A Western Wear.
 143-2tc

AKC Cocker Spaniel puppies \$125, born Nov. 20, lay away for Christmas, red female, white buff male and female.
 928-4189, 928-4175.
 144-11c

Shelled pecans, \$3 per pound, 928-5022.
 144-11c

Beautiful maple console 23" color tv, \$225, 12" black and white \$25, 6" Survell gas refrigerator \$25, sewing machine with cabinet \$50, air compressor \$20 (motor is bad).
 144-11c

For Sale: AKC registered 6 week old, black chow puppy. 692-9135.
 144-2tc.

For rent



Shannonside Apartments 1,2 & 3 bedroom apartments, all electric, central heat & cooling. For more information, call 928-5038.
 89-TFC

Lease with option to buy 1 year old brick home on 1 acre FM 1235, Central heat and air, 2 bedrooms, double garage, all build-ins, \$475 per month. Appraised at \$53,000. Hooker Realtors 677-9145.
 111-TFC

Mobile Home space for rent in Merkel, \$35 per month, Pat McAlister 846-4715 or 846-4696.
 139-4tc

For Rent: 3 bedroom house, stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer, ceiling fans, fenced yard \$300 month, \$150 deposit, 928-5194.
 134-TFC

For Rent: 2 bedroom rock house, stove, refrigerator, \$250 a month, \$150 deposit, 2 blocks from school. 928-5194.
 134-TFC

For Rent: 2 bedroom with woodburning stove, dishwasher, refrigerator washer-dryer, stove \$250 per month, \$150 deposit 928-5194.
 142-TFC

Classifieds

For Rent: 2 bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, central air and heat, stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, edge of town on 1 acre. \$375 per month, \$150 deposit. Call 928-5194.
 142-TFC

1, 2 or 3 bedroom mobil home for rent in Merkel 928-4973.
 27-TFC

Mobil Home for lease with option to buy, two bedroom, 1 bath, completely furnished, one bedroom has a king sized bed, before 5 call 692-0702 after 5 call 928-4034.
 107-TFC

Mobile Home Lots For Rent: 1st month free, west end of south 7th street, \$50 a month, Call 928-4973.
 138-TFC

For Rent: small 2 bedroom house, 1 mile from town, water furnished, call 928-5635 at night.
 142-TFC

MISC.

PROFESSION DOG GROOMING ALL BREEDS HAND FLUFF DRY HAND SCISSORING FREE POLISH BOWS AND COLOGNE Please Call Faye at 928-4474 after 1:00 for appointment.
 137-TFC

GRANNY'S PLAYHOUSE Licensed Child Care, Open 6 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at 207 Orange, 928-4904.
 133-13tp

Now accepting applications for waitresses, cooks and dishwashers. Apply in person at Wylie Shamrock Cafe.
 144-11c

Found 12-10-85. Long haired black female dog Found 12-12-85. Mixed breed male dog. Also found fuzzy brown mixed breed pup wearing brown nylon collar. Pointer, mixed breed spayed female dog, puppies and one male kitten available for adoption. Very Cheap. Some are free. Merkel Vet Clinic 928-5235.

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

Germania Insurance Company, for your insurance needs. Locally represented by Donna Carter, 928-5348.
 33-TFC

Cute Christmas Cuddlies FREE. Kittens and Puppies, both ready at 7 weeks for their new homes, call 928-5744 Quick.
 144-11p

Cakes, bread, pies, cookies by Mamie, Call 928-5581.
 144-11p

Electrical work, new or rewiring, ceiling fans, reasonable rates. Quality work, no job too small, Call anytime 928-5795.
 142-5tp

REAL ESTATE

Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchen, dining room and living room. Central heat and air, 4 ceiling fans, cook stove, side by side refrigerator washer and dryer, storm windows \$375 per month \$150 deposit. South edge of town on FM 1235. 928-5194.
 1 downstair apartment left with 2 bedrooms, 3 ceiling fans, central heat and air, 1 bath, refrigerator, stove and dishwasher, \$275 per month, \$150 deposit 928-5194.

Available soon, large 2 bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, 1 bath and utility room. Ceiling fans, storm windows, carpet, fenced yard \$335 per month \$150 deposit. 928-5194.
 128-TFC

House For Sale: 2 bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, house is ready to move into. New paint inside and out, price is right, call Cy Pee, Agent 928-5613.
 126-TFC

For Sale: "To settle estate", Duplex Apartment plus 3 car garage apt. 711 Yucca, See W.H. or H.J. Carson 928-5445 or 928-5231.
 132-TFC

Ideal Starter home, cute little 2 bedroom frame house, living room, bath remodeled kitchen with stove, big back yard, \$18,500 call 928-4426 after 3 p.m.
 132-TFC

Nice Doublewide mobile home for sale, cheap \$12,000.00 Must sell soon, Unoccupied at this time, needs little work and must be moved, 928-4902
 126-TFC

Small tract Southside of Merkel (21 lots) excellent for building site. Also, in Bettis Heights Addition, 150 X 150. Call Cy Pee, Agent 928-5613.
 129-TFC

Exceptional bargain, 4 bedroom, 2 bath, double wide with central air and heat, 3 city corner lots, privacy fence, well, storage sheds and garden. Assumable 928-5425
 138-TFC

2 or 3 bedroom stucco house on four acres 1 mile west of Trent on I-20. Low 30s, 862-6361.
 142-4tc

Mobile Home For Sale: good starter home, new carpeting, set up on lot, a tin shed and a wooden shed, porch, underpinned, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 window air conditioners. Call 928-5650, \$9,000.
 120-TFC

Over 2200 sq. ft. available on the edge of Country Club. Being completely redone and needs someone to steal it at this lowered price. Three b.d., 3 ba., formal living and dining—Call Debbie at 695-6105 or Dalzell Realtors 691-1300 for private showing and Beautiful redecorated homes in Trent. Nice fenced yards with large trees, low down payment, Driggers Agency, 862-6202.
 140-4tc

PER PRICE Call Dalzell Realtors 691-1300 and ask for Marion or Debbie or call 696-3431 or 695-6105. Dalzell Realtors, 3262 Chimney Rack, Abilene Texas 79606, 691-1300.
 137-4tc

CARD OF THANKS

I thank everyone for their prayers, visits, cards and food during my surgery and recuperation.
 144-11tc

Needed Immediately Nurse aides on 6 a.m.-2 p.m. shift and 2 p.m.-10 p.m. shift. Apply in person. Starr Nursing Home.
 142-TFC

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE THE STATE OF TEXAS County of Taylor NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That by virtue of a certain Writ of Execution issued out of the Honorable 191st District Court of Dallas County, of the 28th day of August, 1985, by Judgment of said 191st District Court of Dallas County for the sum of Forty Four Thousand Seven hundred and Twenty Three & 20/100 Dollars and costs of suit, under a Judgment, in favor of Pool Co. d/b/a

FOR SALE
 APARTMENTS 11 UNITS PLUS LAUNDRY AND MINI STORAGES.
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 EXCELLENT TAX SHELTER
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Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: JOE BASIL GRANATO ADDRESS UNKNOWN. 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 ELIZABETH BELLMAN GRANATON PERREZ, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 11th day of September, 1985 against JOE BASIL GRANATO. Respondent, and said suit being numbered 6086-C on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Interest of BAMBIE JEANETTE GRANATO, a Child" the nature of which suit is a request to terminate the parent-child relationship between JOE BASIL GRANATO and the child, and grant adoption of the child to NESTOR ARRANDA PEREZ, Jr. Petitioner request the child's name be changed to BAMBIE JEANETTE PEREZ. Said child was born the 9th day of April, 1985 in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas.

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

If this citation is not served within ninety days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved. The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this the 4th day of December, 1985. Rilla Mahoney, Clerk 326th District Court Taylor County, Texas By Patricia Henderson, Deputy (Seal) 143-88-4tc

Pool Well Service in a certain cause in said Court No 85-2017-J and styled Pool Company d/b/a Pool Well Servicing Co. vs. Martex Resources, Inc., placed in my hands for service, I, John W. Middleton as Sheriff of Taylor County, Texas, did, on the 6th day of December, 1985, levy on certain Real Estate, situated in Taylor County, Texas, described as follows, to-wit: All undivided interest Graham Brothers 3 miles West of Tuscola Sec. 39, Block 1 SP RR Survey 1817971 Working Interest, SALW SALE WILL BE HELD at 1:00 p.m., Sale will be for cash only, a cashiers check from a Taylor County Bank may be accepted and levied upon as the property of Martex Resources and that on the first Tuesday in January, 1986, the same being the 7th day of said

month and the Court House door of Taylor County, in the City of Abilene, Texas, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., by virtue of said levy and said Writ of Execution I will sell above described Real Estate at public vendue, for each, to the highest bidder, as the property of said Martex Resources.

And in compliance with law, I give this notice by publication, in the English Language, once a week for three consecutive weeks immediately preceding said day of sale, in the Merkel Mail, a newspaper published in Taylor County.

Witness my hand, this 6th day of December, 1985. John W. Middleton Sheriff, Taylor County, Texas By Eddie Swanson, Deputy. 143-87-3tc

Our Thanks to You May your Christmas tree be filled with garlands of love, bells of hope, tinsels of charity and wreaths of wonder. Happy Christmas.

HIGGINBOTHAM-BARTLETT

MERRY CHRISTMAS May your Christmas be filled with good will, abundance, and the tranquility of faith.

MERKEL BRICK & LUMBER

A Christmas greeting to all our good friends!

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 CLOSED FROM 12 - 1 FOR LUNCH
 SATURDAYS 8 UNTIL NOON
 928-5235 FOR APPOINTMENTS
 928-4176 FOR EMERGENCIES

Happy FEASTING to YOU and Merry SAVINGS too

SAVINGS too

PRICES GOOD THUR THRU
 Tues- 24th CHRISTMAS EVE
 5 BIG DAYS CLOSED
 DEC. 25th
 7:30 a.m. 6:30p.m
 MON THRU SAT
 CLOSED SUNDAY

REGISTER

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN NOTHING TO BUY "YOUR NAME ADDRESS" AND TELEPHONE ON TICKET TO WIN



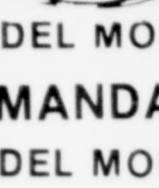
COMSTOCK 21 OZ CAN
CHERRY PIE FILLINGS \$1.39



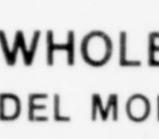
DEL MONTE CHUNK ONLY JUICE OR SUGAR 15 OZ
PINEAPPLE 63¢



PARADE 300
 CRANBERRY SAUCE 2 FOR
JELLY 79¢



DEL MONTE 11 OZ
 MANDARIN ORANGES 73¢



DEL MONTE 303 W. K.
 WHOLE GREEN BEANS 2 FOR
59¢



DEL MONTE 303
 GOLDEN CORN 2 FOR
89¢



PARADE 303
 SWEET PEAS 2 FOR
89¢



HUNTS
 PUMPKIN 2 FOR
79¢



TOMATO SAUCE 29 OZ CAN
59¢

VASILENE 10 OZ BOTTLE

INTENSIVE CARE ALL-AROUND
LOTION \$1.59



LIPTON INSTANT
TEA 3 OZ JAR \$1.98



WOLF CHILI
 19 OZ CAN
\$1.09

KRAFTS

MAYONNAISE
 QUART JAR **\$1.59**

DECORATED CAN FULL OF
POP CORN \$5.98
 2 GAL CAN
 WHILE THEY LAST

CREAMY



CRISCO
 3 LB CAN **\$1.98**
 1 LIMIT
 WITH \$1.50 IN TRADE OR MORE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

HAMS



WRIGHTS DRY CURE
 SMOKED HAMS HALF OR WHOLE **\$1.45 LB.**
 ARMOUR BASTED

TURKEYS 10-14 LB HENS **93¢ LB.**
 ARMOUR GOLDEN STAR

TURKEYS BUTTER BASTED **95¢ LB.**
 10-14 LB HENS
 ARMOUR STAR OR SUNDAY HOUSE

SMOKED TURKEYS **\$1.39 LB.**

SNOW HILL FROZEN CHICKEN 5-8 LBS
 BAKING HENS **89¢ LB.**
 GOOCH BR LEAN

BRISKET PACKER TRIM 7 LBS & UP **\$1.19 LB.**
 WRIGHTS

BACON SLICED SLAB BULK PACK **\$1.29 LB.**
 GOOCH BR

FRANKS ALL MEAT 12 OZ **99¢**

OWENS PURE PORK 1 LB BAG **\$1.83**

SAUSAGE 2 LB BAG **\$3.65**

HERSHEYS CHOCOLATE CHIPS
 12 OZ BAG **\$1.63**

JOHNSTON GRAHAM
 PIE CRUST 9" READY
89¢

PARADE SALTINE
 CRACKERS 1 LB BOX
49¢

MRS CUBBISON
 STUFFING SEASONED 3 KINDS 12 OZ BOX
\$1.23

SWANSON CHICKEN BROTH 2 300 CANS **89¢**

CHRISTMAS WRAP TAGS - BOWS DECOR BOXES **25% OFF**

DAIRYLAND HOMO MILK GAL JUG **\$1.93**

DAIRYLAND LOW FAT MILK GAL JUG **\$1.85**

FOREMOST EGG NOG QT **98¢**

FOREMOST SOUR CREAM 8 OZ CRTN **49¢**

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FOREMOST COTTAGE CHEESE 16 OZ CRTN **\$1.19**

COUNTRY CROCK SPREAD 3 LB TUB **\$1.79**

PILLSBURY 15 OZ BOX READY BAKE
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DETERGENT OXYDOL GIANT BOX **\$1.89**

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PARADE
 WHITE
SYRUP
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SOUP
 4 CT BOX
 2 BOXES **98¢**

PARADE
BROWN & SERVE ROLLS
 12 CT PKG
2 FOR 89¢

DINTY MOORE
BEEF STEW
 15 OZ
 CAN **89¢**

BIRDSEYE
COOL WHIP 8 OZ TUB **73¢**
 MRS. SMITH 9.5"
PIE SHELLS **\$1 09** PKG

COFFEE
FOLGERS
 1 LB
 CAN **\$2 29**
 LIMIT 1

PILLSBURY
COOKIES
 DAIRY CASE **\$1 69**
 ASST 20 OZ EACH

DEL MONTE
 SWEET
PICKLES
 2 OZ
 JAR **\$1 19**

GREEN GIANT
 BROCCOLI OR IN CHEESE 11 OZ PKG **\$1 09**
 CAULIFLOUR SAUCE
 MRS SMITH
 REG OR DUTCH
APPLE PIES 26 OZ **\$1 59**

PARADE
 ANGEL FLAKE
COCONUT
 14 OZ
 PKG **89¢**

PARADE
 1/2 MOON
CHEESE
 10 OZ
 PKG **\$1 19**

CHRISTMAS SNOWMAN - JAR - BOOTS
 CANDY'S HARD - CANES 1/3 OFF
 CHOC. CHERRIES

WHITE ROCK
GINGER ALE
 28 OZ
 BOTTLE **59¢**

DUNCAN HINES
CAKE MIX
 ASST 180Z BOX **79¢**

CARNATION
COFFEE
 MATE **\$1 79**
 16 OZ JAR

FRESHER
 Because You Get It
FASTER

OR
COCA COLA
 2 LITER
 BOTTLE **83¢**

PARADE
MARSHMALLOW
 JET OR MINIATURE
 10 OZ
 BAG **43¢**

CALIFORNIA
NAVLE ORANGES **39¢** LB
 WASHINGTON EXTRA FANCY
DELICIOUS APPLES **59¢** LB
 FRESH GREEN
BROCCOLI POUND **59¢**
 GOLDEN
BANANAS POUND **25¢**
 FRESH
CELERY JUMBO STALK **43¢**
 CALMERIA
WHITE GRAPES **69¢** LB
 FRESH
GREEN ONIONS 2 BN **43¢**
 TEXAS
GOLDEN YAMS LB **33¢**
 SPANISH SWEET
YELLOW ONIONS LB **19¢**
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POTATOES 10 LB BAG **\$1 19**

PARADE PURE
SUGAR
 5 LB
 BAG **\$1 43**

PARADE
CREAM CHEESE
 8 OZ
 PKG **83¢**

BRAWNY
TOWELS
 JUMBO
 ROLL **59¢**

REYNOLDS
FOIL WRAP
 18" 25 FT
 ROLL **\$1 09**

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 STAMPS
 EACH **WEDNESDAY**
 ON 5 OR MORE IN TRADE

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS
CARSON'S
 SUPER MARKET

More Santa letters

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a bike, a Cabbage Patch doll, and a jewelry box. I love you.
Love, Kenlea

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a transformer and a care bunch.
Love, Eliz

Dear Santa Claus,
I want army boots and cam-flouge socks.
Love, Randy

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a transformer, Knight Rider and a hot wheels.
Love, Travis

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a Knight Rider, hot wheels, voltron, red ropers, care bear. I love you.
Anthony

Mrs. Dozier's Room:
Dear Santa,
I want a bike, and I want a transformer. I bin a good boy. I want Optimis Prime.
Love, Mario Moreno

Dear Santa,
I want Optimis Prime transformer. How are you and Rudolph? Have you been good?
Love, Danny Alldredge

Dear Santa,
How are your elves? I'll leave you an apple. This is what I want for Christmas, Santa. I want a Get In Shape Girl, Cabbage Patch doll, and a bike, Bad.
Love, Marisela Martinez

Dear Santa Claus,
How are your reindeer? Have you had a busy year? I want a baby doll. I help Moma.
Love, Rosalinda Borrego

Dear Santa Claus,
How are your reindeer? Rudolph is good? I want a jam box. I help my mom clean the yard. Please bring my little brother a Santa Bear.
Love, Ronald Swegheimer

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a transformer, G.I. Joe and a bike and a b-b gun. I have been good. I have been washing dishes and making beds.
Love, Jeremy Hogan

Dear Santa Claus,
How is Dasher? I have been very good. I want some G.I. Joe and transformer. I'm good so I can get some toys.
Love, Cam Hendricks

Dear Santa,

I want Cabbage Patch twins with binkies and baby bunk beds. That is all.
Love, Rebekha Galvin

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph and the other reindeer? Are you fine? I am unicorn. "Gotcha" game. good. I want a bike.
Love, Adreane Holloway

Dear Santa Claus,
How are your elves? Have you had a busy year? Have you played with the toys? I have been good. I want a Christmas present. I love you.
Love, Stephanie Burns

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph? I want a baby Alive and alot of diapers and a Make it Bake it and some kaepaes (size ten), and a get in shape girl.
Love, Jeanette Landford

P.S. And a jam box
Dear Santa Claus,
How are your elves? How are you? I bet it's cold. I've been good girl. I believe in you. You are the best. I would like to have a Rainbow Brite.
Love, Jane Roberts

P.S. I love you and the other part is on the back. What do you look like?
Dear Santa,
Have you been good? If you have not, I will not leave some candy. I have been good. I want a bike.
Love, Jason Hudman

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph? Is it cold? I think it is cold. I think you are Good, Santa. Santa can you bring me some boots. I love you. I think you are good.
Love, Jeremy Tipton

Dear Santa Claus,
How are your reindeer? How is Dasher? How is Rudolph? How is all of your reindeer. I have been good. How is Santa? I want a jam box.
Love, Dustin Necessary

Dear Santa,
How are the other reindeer? Are you filling well? Will you bring me Omega Supreme?
Love, Blue

Dear Santa,
I want a Baby Brite, Cabbage Patch twins with bunk beds. How is Rudolph?
Love, Didi Young

Dear Santa,
I want these things: a Voltron that glows in the dark, and a Cabbage Patch baby that is bald, finger paint, unicorn bike (purple) Cabbage Patch paint set, stuffed Cabbage Patch game.
Love, Holly

Dear Santa,
I want a pair of socks, and a big weaving loom, a pack of peanuts, and some molitte coloa, and some clothes for Loyce. I love you.
Love, Jenny

Friend in need of Christmas time help

Dear Editor:
We have a friend who is in the need of some help. She doesn't get much Social Security, so therefore she can't afford furniture, clothes, etc. She has been living in Abilene, but finally, as of today, she will be moving to Merkel. We would like to have her the best Christmas she has ever had. If anyone has a dining room suit, bed, dresser, couch, table, chairs, anything to furnish a home, and you would like to help with this Christmas present, please call and we will be glad to pick it up or bring it by the Tim's Shell Station, 211 Kent.
Thank You,
Rachel Tims
928-4484, 928-4154

Ladies Auxillary holds Christmas

The Ladies Auxillary of World War I 2248 of Merkel, Trent, met December 10 for a Christmas covered dish luncheon at Pleasant Village room. Everyone enjoyed the chicken and dressing and all the trimmings.

There were 11 members present. They were: Mr. and Mrs. Dent Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Lydie, Maggie Renfro, Anna Lou Ferguson, Jewel Criswell, Ruth Cox, Mabel McRee, Lorene Beaird, Billye Hartley.

Merry Christmas

When we count our blessings at Christmas time we think of friends like you and wish you a beautiful holiday in a beautiful world!

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- ★ KL by Kagefield ★ Chloe
- ★ Le Jardin ★ Toujours Moi
- ★ Toujours Moi Magical musk
- ★ Sophia ★ Nuance ★ Jungle Gardenia
- ★ Aviance ★ Ambush ★ E'njoli
- ★ Babe ★ A Touch of Class
- ★ White Shoulders ★ Raffinee
- ★ Chantilly ★ Senchal ★ Halston
- ★ Ciara ★ My Sin ★ Gianni Versace
- ★ Miss Dior ★ Paulolova ★ Wind Song
- ★ Beret ★ Tabu ★ Scoundrel ★ Charlie
- ★ Interlude ★ Hope ★ Tatenana
- ★ Jordache ★ Cristalle ★ Joy
- ★ Cie ★ Anais Anais ★ Champagne
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Just Arrived

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- ★ Chaps ★ Pierre Cardin
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928-5012

Whisenhunts hold reunion

The children of the late Riley and Montie Whisenhunt met again Nov. 30 at the Butman Encampment for their annual reunion. It was hosted this year by Walter and Barbara and family. There were four of the five living children present. Clyan and family, of McKinney, was absent. Ten of the thirteen grandchildren, eighteen of the twenty six great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren were there.

Those present were: Walter, Barbara and their family, Jeff, Martha, Brina and Brant, Max, Cindy, Brett, Chad and Ashley Sipes, Bart, Tommye Niell and grandchildren, Quincy and Jessie Niell, Dink, Jan, Dusti, Windi and Royce Fowler, Hershel and Irene Hammond and family, Dale, Belle, Susie and Clay, Mrs. Gail Hall of Sunset, Tex., Keith, Holly, Kent and Travis Dosch of Orange, Tex., Bill, Kathryn, Amber and

Criswell Whisenhunt, Gary, Ann, Shane, Todd and Christi Smith, Roger, Alice, Kelly, Will and Bailee Carter, Friends and relatives were: Mrs. Lillian Mathews of Abilene, Willie, Jackie, Jeanie, Renli and Ryan Reynolds, Lloyd Shugart, Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Monroe of Sweetwater, Lora J.W. and Cliff of Midland, Mrs. Lillie Butman, Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Scott, and Nell Brunovak, Christi, Wade and George Gilchrist.

Fortnightly group holds meeting

Mrs. Billy Bob Neff was hostess for the Merkel G.F.W.C. Study Club Dec. 10, 1965. The club collect was read by Lucille Wilson and Alwyne Sandusky gave the Federation Counselors report. Burl, Jan, Amy and Michael McCoy sang several Christmas songs. Anna Bell Shouse played a prelude of Christmas Carols and Becky Rogers gave a reading, "Christ-

mas Us—", Nina Bell Hughes read "Christmas Lullaby". Pat Neff discussed the art of stained glass and showed some of her work in stained glass. The club members sang Christmas Carols and then played, "The Tree Game" (gift exchange). Members present were Mmes. Randy Carson, S.C. Dixon, R.M. Ferguson, Linnie Fisher, J.W.

Hammond, Comer Haynes, Orvel Hill, Buster Horton, Carl Hughes, James Jay, Allen King, C.B. Knight, Joe Lassiter, Henry Martin, Burl McCoy, Truett Patterson, Billy Bob Neff, Phillip Pursley, Curtis Rister, Perry Rogers, Ed Sandusky, Connie Mack Seymore, Andy Shouse, Howard Steger, Alf Walla, Ray Wilson, Dent Gibson, and Misses Mary Collins, Mildred Hamm, Maurine White.

4-H club has Christmas party

The Mulberry Canyon 4-H Club held their Christmas Party at Camp Butman, Dec. 14. There were 45 in attendance. We were especially happy to have Mary Russom in attendance.

We brought presents for the Goodfellows and brought food, presents and money for a needy family.

We would like to say Thank You to Butman Camp for the use of

their beautiful facility and decorations. Thanks to Pam Welborn for the good job with the games.

There were 3 girls entered in the County 4-H food show. Amy and Angie Welborn received a red ribbon and Ginger Massey received a blue ribbon in Snack and Desserts. Ginger advanced to San Angelo and brought home a red ribbon.

The Mulberry Canyon 4-H Club would like to take this opportunity to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and also Thank You for your support and backing in our 4-H Club.

Simpson completes basic, stationed at Shepard AFB

Airman James C. Simpson, son of Lois J. Simpson of 10777 124th Ave. N., Largo, Fla., and stepson of Dale P. Simpson Jr. of Rural Route 2, Trent, Texas, has been assigned to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, after completing Air Force basic training.

During the six weeks at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree in applied science through the Community College of the Air Force. The airman will now receive specialized instruction in the medical services field.

He is a 1965 graduate of Trent High School.

Christmas Joy Christmas Greetings

Glowing candles and stars that shine; Throughout each home, the scent of pine; Christmas music that fills the air; Bring warm wishes to loved ones everywhere.



Among our Christmas blessings, are memories most dear; The thoughts of happy times we've had throughout the year. And so, it's not surprising that as the old year ends . . . Our hearts are filled with gratitude, and happy thoughts of friends.

Wishing you and yours the joy of Christmas!

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Notice

Our Drive-In Facilities will close at 3:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE



HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!!!

Officers and Employees of Farmers & Merchants National Bank Merkel, Texas



May the blessings of Christmas abide with you

The message of Christmas is one of hope and joy. Let us rejoice in the newborn King. MILTON, ANN, GAIL, CARL & PEGGY

HI VAL FARM & HOME SUPPLY



"How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given . . . so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven." Let us rejoice in the gift of God to mankind . . . His Beloved Son.

MERRY AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS NEW YEAR FROM BIG COUNTRY CABLE

Letters to Santa

The following are letters from children at Merkel Elementary School to Santa Claus:

Donna Ray's Room:
Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want my buddy, car, skates, play machine gun, army dog.
Love, Scotty Rodriguez

Dear Santa,
I want a three wheeler, pocket knife, guitar, my buddy, bike, play machine gun, He Man.
Love, Ronny Gibson

Dear Santa,
Aneka wants Hug-a bunch, necklace, care bear, upsy baby.
Love Aneka Wood

Dear Santa,
I want T.V., and I want stereo, water gun, dump truck.
Love, Michael McMurry

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like Shy Violet and ponys and some tapes.
Love, Sara Boggs

Dear Santa,
I want a jam box and hug a bunch, TV, necklace, care bear, upsy baby.
Love, JaDa Woodall

Dear Santa,
I want a jam box, stereo and new pair of shoes.
Love, Brandy Rifenburg

Dear Santa,
I want a race car and a T.V. and a truck and a jambox and a motokintrol truck.
Love, Eric Stegemoller

Dear Santa,
I want a air gun and a jam box and I want a bike and a guitar.
Love, Justin Goldsmith

Dear Santa,
I want a teddy, Santa I want presents.
Love, Jason R. Amero

Dear Santa,
I want a water gun, guitar, pocket knife.
Love, Craig Mullins

Dear Santa,
I want a air gun and a trampoline.
Love, Matt Dearing

Dear Santa,
Erica Cano wants a hug-a-bunch care bear, baby skates, upsy baby, presents, skates, paper dolls.
Love, Amanda Love

Dear Santa,
I want a dog.
Love, Dustin Doan

Dear Santa,
I want a bike and I want a baby doll that skates, I want a pair of skates.
Love, Katie Webb

Dear Santa,
I want a bike, care bear, upsy baby, paper dolls.
I love you, Felicia Fenton

Mrs. West's Room:
Dear Santa,
How are Mrs. Claus and Rudolph doing? I want a b-b gun.
Love, Matthew Boswell

Dear Santa,
I want a 22 to go hunting with.
Love, Joe Mitchell

Dear Santa,
I love you Santa, Santa, How is deer? How is your wife? I want a transformer.
Love, Artie Rollins

Dear Santa,
I want a b-b gun and walkie talkie and a workshop.
Love, Cody Cox

Dear Santa,
I love you. What are you doing? Can I see Rudolph? Will you bring me a toy?
Love, Roberto

Dear Santa,
I love you.
Love, Amanda Drummond

Dear Santa,
I love you. How are you? No What? I want a He Man family and car.
Love, Eric Stegemoller

Dear Santa,
I love you. How are you? No What? I want a heart family and car.
Love, Misty Turner

Dear Santa,
I want a b-b gun, Mrs. Santa, I love you. How is Rudolph?
Love, Jason Necessary

Dear Santa,
I love you. How is Mrs. Claus doing? How do you make the toys? I want a transformer for Christmas.
Love, Jaycen

Dear Santa,
I want a doll, and I want a new bike, but this is what I want to see, You.
Love, Amanda Love

Dear Santa,
I want a ball and a doll. I've been a good girl this year.
Love, Tabitha Garrett

Dear Santa,
I want a doll.
Love, Christie Williams

Dear Santa,
I like dolls to play with. I want one.
Love, Stephanie Bunch

Dear Santa,
I want a doll.
Love Christine Baker

Dear Santa,
I want a doll. How is Rudolph? Merry Christmas.
Love, Sheri Ely

Dear Santa,
I love you. I want a doll for Christmas. Happy Christmas.
Love, Jeanne Jordan

Mrs. Choate's Room:
Dear Santa,
I want a Care Bear, Knight Rider, hot wheels and Care Bear cousin.
Love, Jason

Dear Santa,
I want a stunt con, and voltron.
Love, Francisco

Dear Santa,
I want a bike, hot wheels, and jack in the box.
Love, Coty Braddock

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a big block gold, and some red roper boots.
Love, Randy Joe Dudley

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a transformer.
Love, John

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a bike, a care bear, a Barbie, and a Hug-A-Bunch.
Love, Angela

Dear Santa Claus,
For Christmas I want a Hug-A-Bunch, pony, Barbie, Cabbage Patch, and a Care Bear.
Love, Leslie

Dear Santa,
I want a Cabbage Patch doll. I want a care bear and a Barbie.
Love, Imelda

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a Care Bear, a Cabbage Patch doll, and a Barbie.
Love, Taras

Dear Santa Claus,
I love you. I want a hug-a-bunch and Cabbage patch doll.
Love, Anisa

Please see next page



Christmas Joy

The wonder of the holiday brings comfort to one and all. May it last forever.

THE SANDUSKY'S
Ed's Feed & Seed



PEACE ON EARTH

THE CARSON FAMILY

Carson's



(From left) Ace Moreno, Rudy Castillio, 'B' Moreno, Chito Melendez

We'd like to thank all of our customers for their support throughtout the year. We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year

'B's Paint & Body Shop

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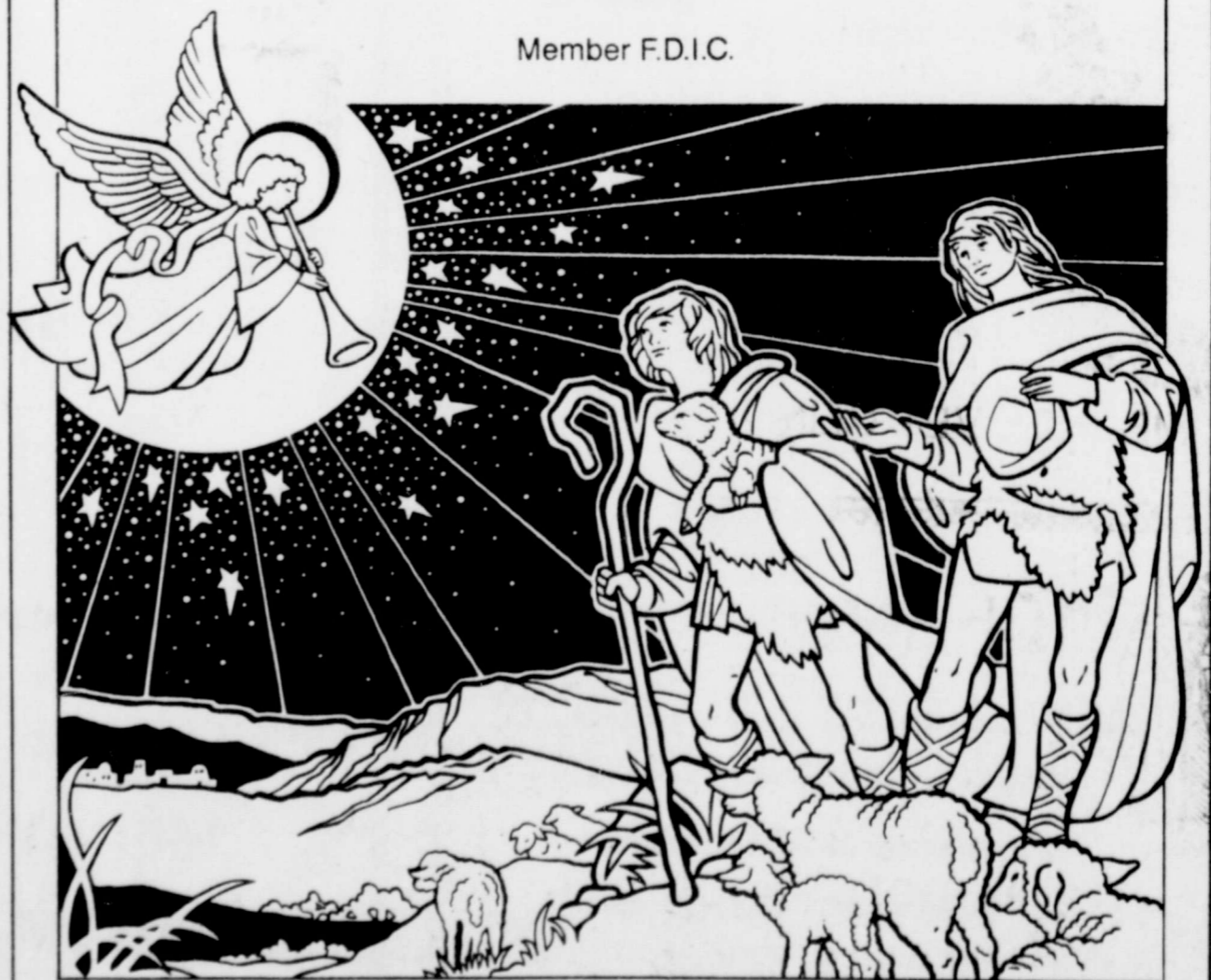
It's a lovely time to extend our sincere wishes of thanks and friendship. It has been a pleasure to serve you during the past year. May good health, love and prosperity be yours in 1986.

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS . . .

**Home State
Bank**

Trent

Member F.D.I.C.



FFA spotlights members

This weeks spotlights are: Tricia Garret, Tricia Newsom, Twila Williams, David Braddock, Keith Reagan and Eric Ascencio.

Tricia Garret is the daughter of Keith and June Neff. Tricia is enrolled in pre-vocational ag and is in the eighth grade. She is involved in athletics in Merkel Middle School where she plays volleyball and basketball along with running track. Her other hobbies include skating and swimming.

Tricia Newsom is next. Tricia is the daughter of Barbara and Mickey Newsom. She is in the eighth grade and plans on raising rabbits for her animal project. She enjoys basketball and track as well as band.

Twila Williams is the daughter of Darlene and J.W. Williams of Merkel. Twila is a sophomore and is enrolled in Vocational Ag II. She plans on raising show pigs along with playing basketball and volleyball.

David Braddock is the son of Pat and Carol Braddock of Nubia. David is in the eighth grade and plans on raising show pigs as a project. David's hobbies include bowling, working and being a athletic manager.

Keith Reagan is the son of Mary and Albert Reagan of Merkel. Keith is a sophomore and is enrolled in Vo. Ag. II. Keith plans on rabbits for his project this year. His hobbies include football, band and church.

Eric Ascencio is the son of Wilfrido and Guadalupe Ascencio of Merkel. Eric is in the eighth grade and has no project. His hobbies include music, concerts, football and Dungeons and Dragons.

The Merkel FFA Chapter spotlights Carl Lawrence, Shelly Green, Billy Lambert, Nicole Abernathy, Stephanie Pierce and Richard Bryan this week.

Carl Lawrence is the son of Lois Lawrence of Merkel. Carl is in the 8th grade and plans on rabbits for a project. His hobbies include models, trucks and girls.

Shelly Green is the daughter of Ken and Sue Green of Tye. Shelly is in the 8th grade and plans on having honors for academics this year. She enjoys skiing, dancing and tumbling.

Billy Lambert is the son of Toni and Joe Lambert of Merkel. Billy is waiting on a project and enjoys games, music and cruising.

Nicole Abernathy is the daughter of Steve and Sharon Harris of Tye. She is in the 8th grade and enjoys painting, skiing and gymnastics.

Stephanie Pierce is the son of Chuck and Sue Pierce of Tye. She is raising rabbits and collects unicorns and enjoys meeting people.

Richard Bryan is our last spotlight. Richard is the son of Glenn and Donna Bryan of Merkel. Her hobbies include 3

wheeling, skiing, riding horses. The fruit sold is in now. If anyone did not order any fruit, but would like some, it is available by contacting J.T. Naron or Billy Riley.

Xi Nu Chi Christmas party

A Christmas party for Xi Nu Chi was held at the Royal Inn with a meal to begin the festive evening. After that, attending members, along with their husbands, met at Nancy Johnson's home for dessert and to exchange gifts.

Members present were Phil and Minyon Seymore, Billy and Karen

Riley, Joe and Barbara Gardner, Dan and Anita Allen, Robert and Connie Harris, Ricky and Judy Elliott, Richard and Mary Hill, Eddie and Donna Lang, Glen and Donna Bryan, Gary and Peggy Valentine, Gary and Diana Parker, Robert and Nancy Johnson and Kenny and Nancy Duncan.

Xi Nu Chi sees demonstration

Beta Sigma Phi's Chapter Xi Nu Chi held its regular monthly meeting at the Pleasantville Center Dec. 10th.

The social committee had members bring sandwiches and dip, while the program committee consisting of Nancy Johnson, Karen Riley and Minyon Seymore illustrated the proper procedure for candy making.

Minyon made "Old Fashioned Fudge" and Nancy and Karen made "Delightful Divinity."

Minyon also demonstrated how to decorate a sweatshirt for the Christmas season. Christmas traditions were also shared by each member.

Members also decided to help needy children during the Christmas season.

Members present were Vicki Rodriguez, Barbara Gardner, Minyon Seymore, Connie Harris, Donna Lang, Karen Riley, Nancy Duncan, Nancy Johnson, Mary Hill and Judy Elliott.

Xi Nu Eta holds meeting

Xi Nu Eta, Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi held its monthly meeting Dec. 3 in the home of Dee McCollum in Abilene.

Members exchanged Secret Sister gifts. Members welcomed our

new member, Danna Dunagin. A Sigma Phi held for a Mini Badge with Cathy Pack winning it.

Our next meeting will be Jan. 6 in the home of Marilyn Tittle in Merkel.

Lambda Beta holds auction

Lambda Beta, Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, met December 3 in the home of Virginia Pirraglia. Members brought gifts to be presented to residents of the Abilene State School. The Chapter's annual auction was held, and there were a variety of baked goods and crafts sold.

Final plans were made for the Christmas party, which will be held on December 14. Santa Claus

has promised to stop by the Christmas party.

Members also agreed to work in the refreshment booth at the Christmas Fair on December 7th.

Those present for the meeting were Kay Bishop, Janet McKeehan, Rita Moore, Debbie Roberson, Debbie Sandusky, Pat Schuknecht, Barbara Graham, Beverly Helmer, Robin Robinson, Janet Rogers, and Virginia Pirraglia.

Trent Jr. High schedule

Trent's Junior High basketball schedule is as follows: Dec. 16 Roby Here B&G 6:00; Jan. 2-4 Blackwell Tournament; Jan. 6 Wingate There B&G 6:00; Jan. 13

Blackwell There B&G 6:00; Jan. 20 Open; Jan. 23-25 Roscoe Tournament; Jan. 27 Wingate Here B&G 6:00; Feb. 3 Roby There B&G 6:00; Feb. 10 Blackwell Here B&G 6:00.

Gorilla basketball slate

Trent's High School basketball schedule is as follows: Dec. 12-14 Highland Tournament B&G; Dec. 17 Hermliegh There B&G 6:30; Dec. 19-21 Novice Tournament B&G; Jan. 3 Roby There B&G 6:30; Jan. 7 Novice There B&G

6:30; Jan. 10 Open; Jan. 14 Robert Lee Here B&G 6:30; Jan. 18 Blackwell Here B&G 6:30; Jan. 21 Bronte There B&G 6:30; Jan. 24 Open; Jan. 28 Open; Jan. 31 Robert Lee There B&G 6:30; Feb. 4 Blackwell There B&G 6:30; Feb. 7 Bronte Here B&G 6:30.



Merry Christmas

May your stockings be filled with love and cheer as we thank you for another successful year!

Kay & Laura Independent American Savings

Best Wishes



Let the gift of happiness be with you and yours forever. Our sincere wishes for a very memorable Christmas full of friends...family.

Big Country Inn Ray & JoAnn



Christmas Joy

May your Christmas holiday be as sweet as can be! Our best wishes for a glorious day to you and your family...and very special thanks for your patronage.

Helen Benson

Country, Etc.

Greetings



Rolled up these warm wishes Packed 'em full of fun, For a Happy, Happy Christmas That's a really perfect one.

Thanks to you all.

TAYLOR TELEPHONE CO.

Yuletide Greetings

We've a sleighful of holiday wishes to all our good friends and neighbors. Be merry!

Cal-Tex Feed Yard



Merry Christmas

When stocking-filling time comes along, we hope yours is filled to brimming with lots of good times, good friends & good cheer!

MERKEL VET CLINIC



Christmas

Yuletide is the time to find peace and contentment...brotherhood and love. May yours be joyous.

Seymore Insurance



To faithful old friends, To cherished new friends, Our thanks and best wishes for a Merry,

MERRY CHRISTMAS

From all of us to all of you . . .

Max Murrell Chevrolet



HO HO!
it's Christmas

May the night before Christmas And all the year through Be happy and bright And enchanted for you!

Warm wishes and thanks to you and your dear ones.

MEMBERS, DIRECTORS, & EMPLOYEES OF TAYLOR ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE



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