

School Board approves cafeteria renovation

The Merkel School Board approved renovation of the Merkel Cafeteria at its regular meeting Tuesday night at Merkel High School. The Board elected to build

THE MAIL



By Carl Dingler

Did you get the impression from watching the Republican convention that the wrong person got nominated? President Ford certainly wasn't the most popular one at the zany TV spectacle. It would have to be Ronald Reagan. And, wasn't it a smooth move by Ford to let Reagan forces battle over the rule on naming a vice-president while slipping rule 18 in without little fanfare. Now rule 18 was what beat Reagan. That was the one where the delegates had to vote their primary orders. It was evident that many of them would have changed their minds at the convention had rule 18 not been passed. Oh, well, enough of reruns. On with the Cowboys and it appears we'll get to see a real live game Saturday when the Cowboys and Pittsburgh battle. So far, it has been reruns.

While on the subject of TV, have you ever experienced TV withdrawal?

Well, it happened at our house over the weekend. Our TV went out Friday. There was sound but no picture. Well, Friday wasn't too bad. Karen, my wife, got to listen to her soaps before going to work, and the lack of a picture didn't bother her too much as she was busy baking a cake.

Meanwhile, your's truly went to Cross Plains to the football scrimmage and then returned to the office and processed film. So, didn't even know there was a TV problem until Saturday.

Well, Saturday wasn't too bad. Now, if you have ever attempted to quit smoking or gone on a diet you will begin to get the picture.

While, I have always been able to take up slack time reading, and not having a TV to grow up with, the lack of a TV proved nothing more than a "minor" irritation.

But, for Karen who has never known anything else and who doesn't like to read particularly, it was a major catastrophe.

All the symptoms were there. Withdrawal, irritation, not knowing what to do with her hands, the restlessness. She washed the dog, watered the yard, took a nap, played cards, cooked, played more cards, stared at the TV, said a nasty word, glared at the blank TV, played some more cards, glared at me.

Fortunately, she likes rodeos and we went to the Junior Rodeo finals. They were great.

In fact, she almost wouldn't leave the rodeo grounds to return home. She knew that cold blank stare would be smiling back at her and there would be no late night movie or scratchy commercial to soothe her badly bent nerves.

It was not until Sunday night that she again was faced with the problem of "what to do" itis. The papers had been read, dinner dishes had been done and the old card games exhausted.

Karen suggested that maybe Gibson's was still open and that "maybe" I could find the injured tube, "if I really tried." Well, this was about 9 p.m. Sunday night and I thought I had better make an attempt before she applied a karate chop to me and the furniture.

Not being mechanically inclined, I simply jiggled a few tubes and wires and returned the back of the TV to its place. Lo and behold the picture came on.

You should have seen the dancing and whooping for joy. It was pure "heaven" when that first light came on and hit her eyes. Her torment was over. She had been saved. So with her nerves soothed and things right with the world, she quickly fell back into form, ignoring the blaring TV while reading a magazine.

So, if you think you can't get hooked on TV and that your life doesn't revolve around a life of TV watching, try leaving it off for a night or a weekend.

It will amaze you to see how quickly everyone goes to pieces for lack of something to do.

Want to see how your tax money is being spent? Well here's an example as pointed out by the National Taxpayers Union.

In St. Louis, Missouri, federal bureaucrats set to work in 1955 to build low-cost housing. With \$36 million of taxpayers' money they built a huge, ugly city for the poor—one of the few developments actually intended as a ghetto. In Pruitt-Igou, as it was named, as many as 10,000 families lived in government-subsidized misery for almost 15 years. Finally, the quality of life at Pruitt-Igou deteriorated so much that housing officials decided to blow up the building. So, in August of 1973, Pruitt-Igou came crashing down. No one missed it.

Between 1945 and 1971, the government erected a total of 200,687 new housing units for a total cost of \$12 billion. At this price each unit cost about \$60,000—more than twice as much as the cost of the average house constructed by private enterprise during the same period.

But HUD didn't just build overpriced houses. It also tore down houses. In fact, it destroyed more than 800,000 housing units—337,357 more than it built....

The solution for HUD's housing failures was to build more expensive low-cost housing. The reasoning is that more expensive housing will attract a better class of "poor" who wouldn't tear up houses and make them undesirable to live in. In this way, HUD will save itself the embarrassment of having to build their projects. On this theory, the Taino Towers—luxury high-rise ghetto—was built in East Harlem. Each apartment in the towers cost about \$120,000 and includes access to a heated pool, sauna, underground parking, and other luxuries one might expect from a \$120,000 apartment.

an office and storeroom for Supervisor Mrs. Elizabeth Willson, to paint the cafeteria and to provide new curtains for the 10 windows.

Too, the Board elected to take bids on providing a freezer for the cafeteria.

Part of these expenses are included in the proposed budget which will be considered at a public hearing set Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Merkel High School.

The Board also approved payment of \$109,176.56 in bills for July, leaving a bank balance of \$68,924.68 and \$209,028.76 in certificates of deposit with one month to go before the start of the new school year.

Two aides and three teachers also were hired and a partition in the Middle School Library was approved for a teacher work area.

Too, Superintendent Travis Davis presented the Board with drawings and recommendations of 19 needed classrooms to cover the growth for the next 3 to 5 years.

The budget was not discussed specifically at Tuesday's meeting other than the item concerning the cafeteria and setting the date for the public hearing.

A revised budget proposal is expected to be prepared by Davis for Monday's meeting incorporating the need for additional teachers due to the increased enrollment.

Davis reported there are 88 more students attending schools in the district this year. There were 31 registering for kindergarten at Tye Elementary with two first grade classes of 19 each, 26 in the second, 18 in the third and fourth grades and 19 in the fifth grade.

At Merkel Elementary there were 48 kindergarten students registering and 55 in the first grade.

Second through fourth has an average 21 to 25 students, Davis said, with 39 in the fifth, 83 in the sixth, 81 sophomores, 72 juniors and 54 seniors for 281. Overall there are 951 students enrolled in the Merkel system.

Davis said the increased enrollment will mean three to four more teachers will be needed and a couple of aides.

He also pointed out that the trend of so many younger students points out that some young families are moving into the district from somewhere.

Mrs. Willson reported the need for an office and a freezer.

She explained the commodity system to the School Board and how this creates an added need for the school to have its own freezer available. Also, the problem created by lack of adequate readily available space at the cafeteria.

Currently the School system has a 7 x 12 area crammed full at the Merkel Locker plant and pays \$60 a month rent.

After much discussion about the outlay of \$7,000 bid for the proposed freezer to renovate the 8 x 21 room presently being used for storage and office by Mrs. Willson in the cafeteria, the board passed the motion by Bobby Tolliver that an office and storage space be built and that bids be sought on a freezer with the lowest satisfactory bid being accepted.

It passed. Then, the Board approved the expenses of at least \$258 for furniture for the office and to purchase new window shades at \$35 to \$50 each and to paint the cafeteria.

Also, in the proposed budget is \$2,500 for the purchase of 100 chairs and to assist with painting and other renovation expenses.

Davis requested approval to wall up 18 feet on the east end of the Middle School library to be used as a teacher workroom. Expense was estimated at \$300. It passed.

Moving to the planning of future growth, Davis went over plans for expansion at each school, as requested by the School Board at a meeting last month.

A cluster design was presented at Merkel Middle School with four classrooms requested on the south side and as many as 10 could be built under the plan. Merkel Elementary School would have eight classrooms with four needed by next year, filling to capacity upon completion.

The fifth grade would be moved back to the Middle School and the two kindergarten classes would be moved from a possible location at the Catholic Church back to the Elementary building.

The new classrooms would be on the north side of the elementary building.

Tye would have five new classrooms on the north side and there would be a new science building to incorporate all the present home-making, business and science rooms and labs. This would create six additional classrooms in the High School and get the classes out of the off campus houses, presently being used.

Of course, Davis noted that the plans are neither a recommendation nor a proposal but was simply to conform with the request by the Board to give his views of what is needed.

He also asked the Board to consider other possibilities since they will be considering the additional of so many classrooms and additions at such a high cost.

One possibility he offered was the building of a new complex. The Board elected to put off further talk on this subject until after the budget has been completed.

Too, the Board took no action on a request for \$1,500 to purchase 9-inch letters to identify each school in the district. At present Merkel Middle School is identified

See Freezer, Page 2

Monday's Workshop on the school budget was both heartening and frustrating for the School Board.

It was heartening when School Superintendent Travis Davis presented a revised budget which was \$33,786 less than the one previously discussed with the Board. Davis and Accountant Jim Lawless had each item listed in the 13-page report for the workshop with funds divided into cost per school.

The new system presented a problem at times because there was nothing to compare it with. Such items were not listed separately in last year's budget estimate.

However, with the projected revenue a conservative \$1,523,312 and the budget proposal at \$1,519,152.04, Davis estimated a surplus of \$4,160.

The original increase earlier this month was estimated at \$7,517.73 which was reduced to \$7,517.73 and further reduced to \$5,119.18 for Monday's workshop.

All the principals and department heads were present to answer questions and to tell the Board of their requirements for the year.

However, after going through the 13 pages of figures, the Board then got the bad news. It is going to have to allow for additional teachers, classrooms and furniture and other expenses—all of which will drive the budget back to, or

over, the original request.

There had been a reduction in teacher and aide requests of \$31,000. However, at the end of the meeting Davis pointed out that because of the increased enrollment one or two kindergarten teachers, an aide and possibly an instructor in the Merkel Middle School will have to be hired, increasing the cost by \$35,000.

"Of course when you start talking of adding teachers and another classroom, you are talking of furniture and all the supplies to go with it," Davis pointed out.

Thus, he and his staff were to revise the budget for Tuesday's meeting. A possible public hearing was tentatively set for Monday night at the High School on the budget.

There were 31 registering at Tye Elementary School and 48 at Merkel kindergarten classes Monday. Davis and the principals estimate this will increase after Labor Day.

Too, the Middle School was busy juggling schedules of teachers and students to accommodate the increased student load with the addition of the Tye sixth grade.

Davis said there were 924 students enrolled Monday which is an increase of 61 over last year's 863 enrollment.

Too, Davis pointed out that the School may have to rent the Catholic Church next to the cafeteria to house two



WHAT NOW?—Lorena Pack has that look of abandonment and bewilderment as she stands in a corner waiting for her mother to finish registering sister Mandy in the first grade at Merkel Elementary Monday. Lorena watches as another young girl enters with briefcase in hand and wonders if

she's really ready for all this. Lorena didn't really want to start to kindergarten and from all the activity surrounding her, she was almost certain she didn't want all this grownup hassle infringing on her 5-year-old world. (She'll be 5 Saturday.)

Budget workshop reveals real needs

kindergarten classes. First day enrollment was down in the high school from 267 to 258.

However, last year there were 475 in middle and elementary school (all budget and figures were combined last year for these two schools. They have been separated this year.) and Merkel Elementary has 236 and the Middle School 276 after opening day for a total of 512.

Tye Elementary is up from 135 to 154.

Classrooms were of concern at every school, the Board learned and the concern for future growth as well as taking care of the present crisis was discussed with Board members.

However, the Athletic Department and Lunchroom situation also presented areas of decision for the Board.

Supervisor Mrs. Elizabeth Willson told the board that \$958 more is needed than the requested \$78,095.58.

Too, this didn't include \$7,000 which is estimated cost of putting a freezer in the cafeteria.

It is estimated that the school is spending \$2,600 a year in salary to send someone daily to the Merkel Locker Plant to get supplies.

Mrs. Willson requested 100 more chairs, \$500 for new window shades, an office, more storeroom space, desk, filing cabinet and table and

\$500 for miscellaneous items such as drying towels.

There was \$2,500 in the budget for furniture. It was noted that the school recently bought \$429.99 flatware so the students would have enough plates. They had 171 plates to serve 400 people daily.

Mrs. Willson said that 417 were served Monday during opening day and that had they not had the extra plates, "we would have had to take their food away before they finished eating in order to have enough plates to serve everyone."

Coach Jerry McLeod said that 30 more helmets are needed (at \$40 each). He also noted that a storage area is needed for equipment and track hurdles, football sleds, etc. They are having to be left outside and are being ruined by the weather and misuse, he noted.

Too, the concession stand "is being held up by a light pole" which brought laughter from a Board member who questioned the stability of the lightpoles.

But, it was principal Lee Presswood who got to the heart of the matter in noting that Coach McLeod is under a large handicap because the Board didn't act on hiring a fourth coach.

He noted the lack of a fourth coach puts Merkel and Coach McLeod at a disadvantage in Class AA and further handicaps the freshmen.

There are not enough

coaches to work with the freshmen students and Coach McLeod said he has had to do a selling job on the freshmen to get them to the workouts because they thought they would be scrimmaging against the varsity.

The freshmen are so much smaller than the varsity members, it was noted, and therefore a separate schedule and workouts are needed.

Presswood said it is not fair to the freshmen to have them standing around and not learning anything or getting to play any games. And, he said it isn't fair to the program.

He said the school will attempt to have a freshman football schedule but that again it isn't fair to Coach McLeod for him to have to coach the freshmen at a game on Thursday night when he should be getting ready for Friday's varsity contest.

The other two varsity coaches will be busy with junior varsity schedules.

Board member Don Hart said that the hiring of a fourth coach had been discussed but that a priority of No. 2 was put on it. He said he understood that hiring a principal for the Merkel Elementary School was first, the coach second and a choir teacher third and that when the principal's job was eliminated, this automatically eliminated the other two.

The Athletic budget does

See Workshop, Page 2

Trent school calendar

August 16-First Day of School
September 6-Labor Day
September 24-First Six Weeks
October 24-TSTA
November 9-1st Quarter-60 Days
November 25-26-Thanksgiving
December 20-31-Christmas
January 6-Third Six Weeks
February 17-2nd Quarter-60 Days
February 18-Workday
March 21-25-Spring Break
April 7-Fifth Six Weeks
April 8-11-Easter
April 11-Workday
May 24-Graduation



OFFENSIVE TEAM--Set to see plenty of football action this year for Trent High School are left to right: right end

Kenny Nance, Sr., Center Ethel Gage, Jr., Left end Rocky Bryan, Sr., Quarterback Robert Freeman, Soph., Right halfback James Mayes, Jr., and Left halfback Allen Morse, Sr.

workshop enlightening

Continued from Page 1
include additional travel funds for the volleyball team to play a 10-week schedule. Coach McLeod said it isn't fair to the volleyball team for them to play no games and then compete for district only. This way they will play at least one game a week before going to district.

As to maintenance and operations of the school, it was pointed out that the proposed budget would allow the school to get by, unless something unforeseen happened.

For instance, only two of the roofs are now under warranty; the heating system in the Middle School isn't working properly and the home-making classroom needs repairs made.

The proposed income was based on \$54 million in taxable property projected with 93 per cent collections.

Mayor earns masters degree

Lou David Allen, Mayor of Merkel, received the master of business administration degree in general business from Abilene Christian University during summer commencement exercises August 13.

Allen is a 1958 graduate of Merkel High School.

Bass Club to meet

The Merkel Bass Club will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday at 7 a.m.

The newly formed club will meet at Merkel Restaurant. Virgil Jones is president of the Merkel Bass Club.

FREEZER

Continued from Page 1

as Merkel Elementary School but this sign is to be moved to the Elementary building. Other schools do not have lettering for identification.

However, the Board felt the money could be better spent at this time and failed to act on the suggestion.

Nancy Palmer and Donna Dunn were hired as reading teachers under Title I. They are already on the job. Nancy Palmer will make \$8,620 and Donna Dunn \$9,670.

Lee Ann Tarpley was hired as an aide at Tye and Patti Greer was hired as a Merkel Kindergarten teacher. Rebecca Herrera also was hired as an aide at Tye.

However, Davis said the projected taxable property will probably reach \$56 million. Too, for each student enrolled the school will get \$209 for average daily attendance. This is an increase of \$8.05 per student over last year.

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Trent gains scrimmage edge

Trent High's football team battled Paint Rock on even terms Friday night in their

Homecoming Nominees being Sought

Nominations are being accepted for Mr. X and Coming Home Queen for the Merkel High School Homecoming September 11.

All entries should be mailed to The Merkel Mail, P. O. Box 425, Merkel, Texas 79536. Entry deadline is August 30.

Any graduate of Merkel High School is eligible for the honor, including 1976 graduates. There is no age limit. Nominees will be screened by the Homecoming Committee, headed by Bob Hammond and Gary Hicks and the man and woman ex-Merkel High student will be honored at halftime of the September 11 football game between Merkel and Jim Ned High School.

Each class at Merkel High will nominate candidates for Homecoming Queen with the winner being presented at halftime also.

Homecoming festivities include registration starting at 8 a.m. the Parade at 2:30 p.m., a pep rally at 3 p.m., the football game at 7:30 p.m. and a business meeting at 10 p.m. in the High School cafeteria.

Anyone desiring more information on homecoming activities may contact Hammond at 928-5858 or Hicks at 928-5803.

City Council meets

The Merkel City Council will hold its regular meeting Thursday at 7 a.m. at the City Hall.

On the agenda is closing of an alley next to DuBose Texaco as requested by Bill Smith of Abilene, who plans to build a Dairy Queen on the site.

Also, a report on the paving progress will be discussed and the possibility of a special meeting for letting of a contract on water lines will be discussed.

The city has been given approval of its \$80,400 request for HUD funds to build water lines. City Coordinator J. A.

Sadler said an engineer will be hired and bids taken. A special meeting may have to be called, Sadler said, to meet with interested engineering firms, wanting to do the Merkel job.

Fellowship supper

The all church fellowship supper at First Baptist Church is set September 1 at 7 p.m.

It will be at the church Fellowship Hall. The covered dish event will be to recognize new members.

SENIOR CITIZENS SCHEDULE EVENTS

1st Monday of Month Singing
2nd Tuesday Noon Covered Dish Game Nights
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The Light Touch

By Pat Castille

When a woman driver gets lost, she's dumb. When a man does it, he's taking the scenic route.

WE SELL TROPICAL FISH

Our friend says he'll trade all the pictures he took on vacation for one clear snapshot of the burglars who took his silverware while he was away.

TACK FOR HORSES

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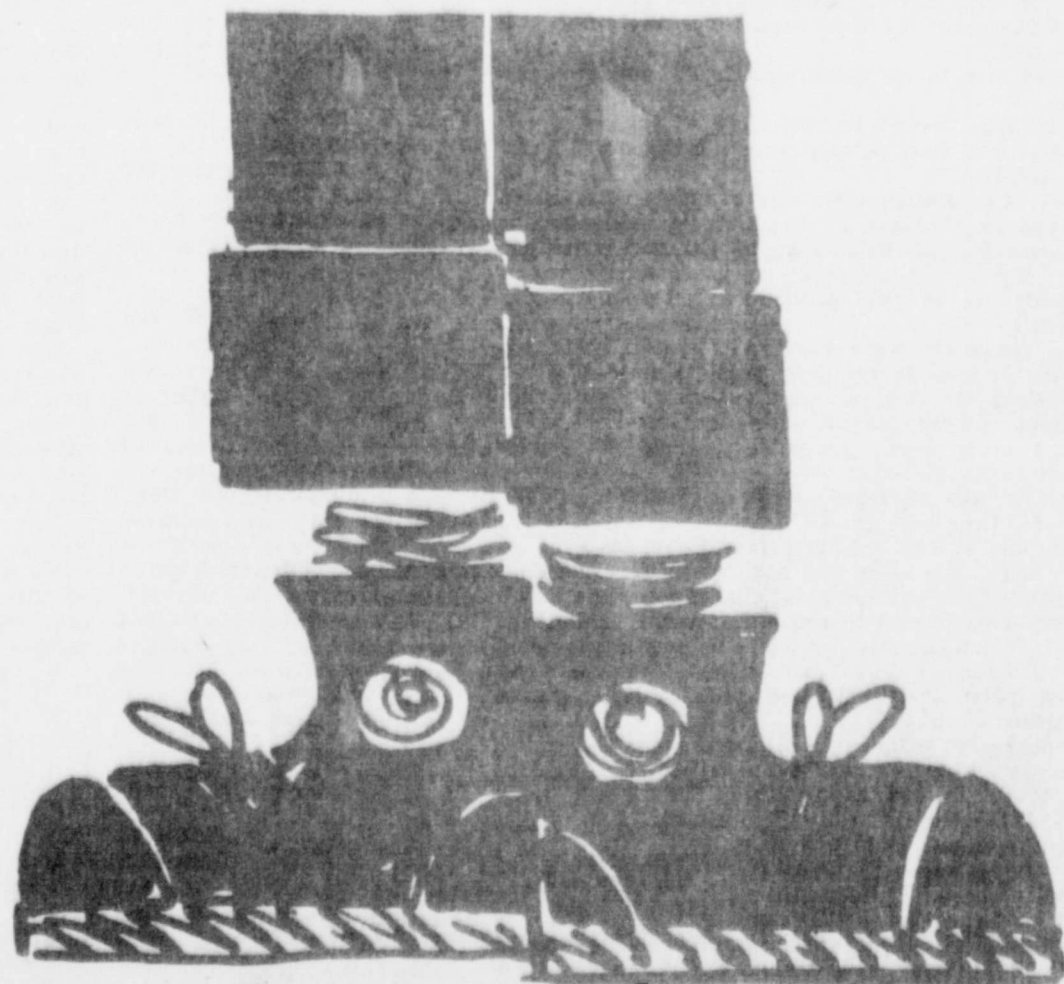
The time between your breathless "yes" and the hushed moment of "I do" is a busy time of planning the many details which combined together, become YOUR WEDDING. How perfectly those details fit harmoniously together is up to you... and professionals, like ourselves, who stand ready to assist you with experienced, professional guidance and a willingness to serve and to care that yours is the loveliest wedding of all.

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Card of Thanks

WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS THE Appreciation we feel toward all the people of Merkel. The love and concern shown during the illness and death of our dear mother, helped so much to ease the pain. Thank you and may God bless you. The daughters and family of Mrs. E. P. (Dillie) Farmer 27-1tc

Wanted

WANTED: Clean, woven rags. Bring by The Merkel Mail at 917 North 2nd. No knit or terry cloth please. 26-1tc

LAND FOR SALE? CALL Collect-Bill Largent, Farm and Ranch Mer. at Frances McClure Inc., Realtors. 3157 South 27th, Abilene. 698-3211, Night 698-2375. 46-1tc

Miscellaneous

MERKEL VFW POST 5683 MONTHLY REG. MEETING 8:30 P.M. SECOND THURSDAY POST & LADIES AUXILIARY Y'ALL COME NOW!

MASONIC MEETING Stated meeting of Merkel Lodge No. 710 on 2nd Saturday and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Visitors welcome. Members urged to attend. **WILEY NOAH, W.M. ROY MASHBURN, Sec'y**

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FOR SALE-1969, 12 x 65 mobile home. 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, partially carpeted. For information call 928-4856. 27-1tc

FOR SALE-12 foot case combine or will trade for swather. Also riding lawn mower. 928-5204. 27-1tc

FOR SALE-One used Conn Clarinet. 928-5666 after 5 p.m. Larry White. 27-1tc

BACK TO SCHOOL Transportation-1974 Honda 360, Windshield, back rest, luggage rack, 2 helmets. Call John Lucky, 928-5149 for information. 27-1tc

PLANT SALE-108 Orange from Thursday til noon Friday. Pot plants, hanging baskets. Also full size gas range and vinyl chair. 27-1tp

FOR SALE-Women's dresses, skirts, blouses, pants, sweaters and coat in sizes 10 and 12. Call Ann Doan, 928-5717 Thursday and Friday. Very reasonable prices. 27-1tp

FOR SALE-Clean 1973 Vega. Nights call 928-5836. 27-1tc

FOR SALE-1967 Falcon. Call during day, 928-5921. 27-1tc

FOR SALE-2 bedroom, dining room, kitchen. Stucco. Priced to sell. Located 410 Orange Street. Contact Cyrus Pee, 928-5613. 27-1tc

For Sale

60,000 PAPERBACKS half price or trade. KINGSTON Bookstore, North 2nd, east of Grape, Abilene, Monday-Saturday, 9:30-6. 15-1tc

FOR SALE: Mobile Home, 14x52, \$750.00 equity, \$104 monthly payments, 5 years left on note, 928-5571 or contact Jerry McLeod. Would consider equal value for down payment (tractor, pick-up, or etc.). 25-1tc

FOR SALE-2 bedroom frame house with picture window in Trent. Directly across street from First Baptist Church. \$7,000. Call 817-297-1130. 25-1tc

FOR SALE-1972 Suzuki 185. Call Roland Pack at 928-5235. 26-2tc

FOR SALE: 1969, 12 x 65 mobile home. 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, partially carpeted. For information call 928-4856. 27-1tc

FOR SALE-12 foot case combine or will trade for swather. Also riding lawn mower. 928-5204. 27-1tc

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FOR SALE-2 bedroom, dining room, kitchen. Stucco. Priced to sell. Located 410 Orange Street. Contact Cyrus Pee, 928-5613. 27-1tc

Garage Sale

3 FAMILY YARD SALE IN Trent (Linda Walker) across railroad, 2nd plant house. Thursday, Friday, Saturday August 26, 27 and 28. Maternity clothes, furniture, baby clothes, men's work and dress clothes. All sizes ladies and girl's clothing, books and misc. 9 til 6. 27-1tc

GARAGE SALE: 6 family garage sale, Thursday and Friday, August 26-27, 813 Yuuca. 27-1tp

GARAGE SALE-407 Marion, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Clothes, household items, etc. 27-1tp

GARAGE SALE: Thursday and Friday, 3 a.m., 512 Locust. Furniture, Lady's bicycle, men, women and children's clothing. Lots of misc. 27-1tp

For Rent

MOBILE HOME For rent, 928-4895. 27-1tc

TOOMBS REAL ESTATE FREDDY TOOMBS (BROKER)

706 EDWARDS
PH. 928-5921
RES. 928-5696
RES. 928-5508
ABILENE 672-6727

40 ACRES FOR SALE Noodle area on paved road. Will divide for veterans. HIGHWAY FRONTAGE, on I-20. For commercial use! For sale. BRICK, 3-bedroom, 1 3/4 baths. vacant lots for SALE for trailer and buildings in all sections of town. 2 BEDROOM, large den and living room, central air and heat, new carpet. 2 BEDROOM HOUSE Central heat, completely redecorated. **WE NEED ALL KINDS OF LISTINGS HOUSES, FARMS & RANCHES**

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: William George Williams, Respondent;
GREETINGS:
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable Domestic Relations 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 Velma Jean Williams, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 24 day of June, 1976, against William George Williams, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 12,038-DR on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Matter of The Marriage of Velma Jean Williams and William George Williams," the nature of which suit is:

NOTICE

No. 12,461

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ARTHUR PAUL KENNEDY, DECEASED
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS
"NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS" HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ARTHUR PAUL KENNEDY, DECEASED

"NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR"

Notice is hereby given that on June 1, 1976, Letters of Administration as Administrator upon the Estate of Arthur Paul Kennedy, Deceased, were issued to Malcolm Schulz, who resides in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, and whose post office address is PO Box 889 (309 Hickory Street) Abilene, Texas, 79604, by the Honorable Probate Court of Taylor County, Texas, in Cause No. 12,461, pending upon the Probate Docket of said Court, Cause No. 12,461, pending upon the Probate Docket of said Court.

All persons having claims against said Estate being administered are hereby required to present the same within the time prescribed by law.

August 18, 1976.

Malcolm Schulz, Attorney
PO Box 889 Abilene, Texas, 79604 27-1tc

PUBLIC NOTICE

request of Petitioner to the Court to grant a divorce of Petitioner and Respondent. The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property which will be binding on you. The Court has authority in

NOTICE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: The Unknown Natural Father, Respondent;
GREETINGS:
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable Domestic Relations 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 Christian Homes of Abilene, Inc., Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 11th day of August, 1976, against Janice M. Fox natural mother and the unknown natural father, Respondents, and said suit being numbered 12,196-DR on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Interest of Baby Girl Fox, a Child," the nature of which suit is a request to Terminate Parent-Child Relationship. Said child was born the 5th day of August, 1976, in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas.

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

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, Taylor County, Texas, this 11th day of August, 1976.

(Seal) Irene Crawford Clerk, Domestic Relations Court, Taylor County, Texas. By Sandra Harris, Deputy. 27-1tc

This suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption. 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, Taylor County, Texas, this 13th day of August, 1976.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: George Davis, III, Respondent;
GREETINGS:
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable Domestic Relations 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 Alice Faye Epperson, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 9th day of August, 1976, against George Davis, III, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 12, 186-DR on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Interest of Michael Davis, a Child," the nature of which suit is a request to terminate parent-child relationship. Said child was born the 4th day of February, 1969, in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas.

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

If this citation is not served within ninety days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this 13th day of August, 1976.

(Seal) Irene Crawford Clerk, Domestic Relations Court, Taylor County, Texas. By Elise Mitchell, Deputy. 26-4tc

mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, this 16th day of August, 1976.

(Seal) Irene Crawford Clerk, Domestic Relations Court, Taylor County, Texas. By Sandra Harris, Deputy. 27-1tc

Notice

The Merkel Independent School District will receive sealed bids until 5 p.m. Wednesday, September 15, 1976 on Lot 12, Block 15-OT in Tye, Texas as required by the laws of the state of Texas.

Anyone interested in submitting a bid may contact Merkel School Superintendent Travis Davis, Merkel High School, Merkel, Texas, 79536.

The Merkel Independent School District reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

26-3tc

Notice

The Merkel Independent School District will receive sealed bids until 5 p.m. Wednesday, September 15, 1976 on a 48-passenger school bus, 1965 chevrolet, License Number 119-813, in Merkel, Texas as required by the laws of the state of Texas.

The bus can be seen at the Merkel Independent School District bus transportation building.

Anyone interested in submitting a bid may contact Merkel School Superintendent Travis Davis, Merkel High School, Merkel, Texas, 79536.

The Merkel Independent School District reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Laugh All The Way To The Bank

Raise worms for Big Profits in spare time. Send \$3.00 for our booklet. TEXAS WORM ASSN. P. O. Box 2847 Longview, Texas 75601

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CALL JOHN LUCKEY 928-5149 MERKEL

FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS

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BONEY INSURANCE AGENCY Phone 8-5151

WE PAY 150% OVER FACE VALUE FOR ALL SILVER COINS.

(\$2.50 FOR \$1.00 SILVER) (We pay 25c for silver dimes) PRATTS COIN & STAMP SHOP 2155 S. 1st. Abilene, Texas

BOB'S GARAGE

ALL AMERICAN PLUS FOREIGN CAR TUNE UP SPECIAL NOW TILL SEPT. 30th

8 cylinder \$29.95 6 cylinder \$25.95 4 cylinder \$21.95

INCLUDES NEW POINTS AND CONDENSER AND CHOICE OF AC OR CHAMPION PLUGS SET POINTS, TIMING & CARB any additional parts will be extra air smog pump \$3 extra

BOB THORMAN OWNER/MECHANIC 902 N 1st

MEMBER TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Merkel Mail

PUBLISHERS STATEMENT Established in 1889

Published weekly at 916 N. Second St., Merkel, Texas Entered at the Post Office at Merkel, Texas, 79536 as second class mail.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of the newspaper will be corrected, gladly, upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$4.75 Per Year Merkel and adjoining counties. \$5.50 Per Year outside of Taylor and adjoining counties.

Member of the Texas Press Association and West Texas Press Association. STEVE LANHAM, Publisher Carl Dingler, Editor Martha Sue Justice, Advertising Sales Manager

For Classified Rates: \$1.50 minimum for the first four lines (18 words). Excess of 4 lines will be charged at the rate of 8 cents per word. TERMS: 25 cents discount if bill paid prior to first insertion. Card of Thanks \$3 for the first 50 words, 6 cents per word for each additional word. TERMS: Cash in advance unless account is established.

NOTICE of typographical or other errors must be given before the second insertion or claims for refunds or extensions will not be recognized.



Built in 1907 on Bettis Heights for northside elementary pupils



Built in 1915 for all grades

Merkel Schools, locations

Cemetery Donations

The following have made donations to the Merkel Cemetery Association.

Tom Carson, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Carson, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Carson in memory of Homer Finch

Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Musser
Mrs. Ella Neeb in memory of Juanita and Linda Perkins
J. D. McFarland
Mrs. S. A. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Patterson

Lido Dowdy
Gertrude Dowdy
Darene Bingham in memory of "Curly" Martin
Mrs. Terrell Mashburn
Margaret Goode
Mr. and Mrs. C. C. McFall
Lillie Mayhall
Lee Colletta May
Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Castles
Ollie L. Fowler
Sam M. and Ruth L. Martin
Bill Largent in memory of Nim Teaf, Bill Horton and Lucy Ford

Detta Mae Mitchell
Magna B. Martin
Mrs. D. P. Moore
Gladys Newton
Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Lofland Jr.

Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Sadler in memory of Homer Finch
Mrs. John Oliver in memory of Harrison Malone
B. P. Middleton

R. J. and Essie Compton
Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Sadler in memory of Doc Vaughn
Mr. and Mrs. Weldon McAninch in memory of Doc Vaughn

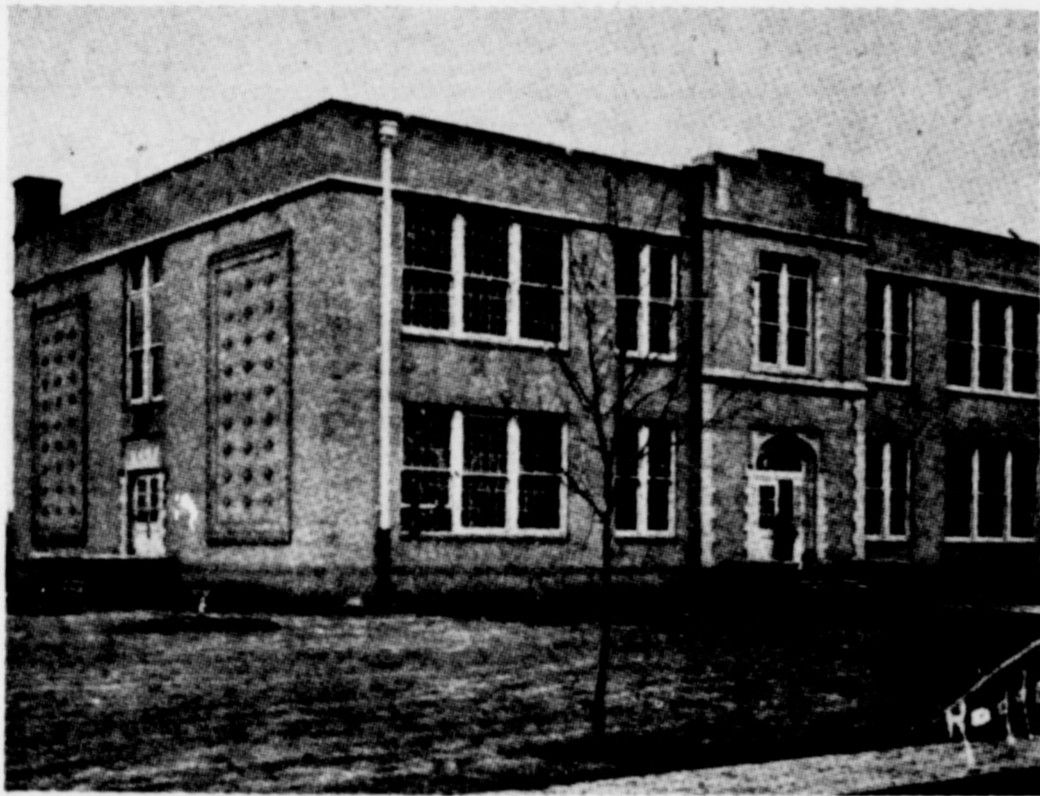
Mr. and Mrs. Ferral Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Mitchell in memory of Doc Vaughn

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pee in memory of Doc Vaughn
Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Pee
Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Cypert in memory of Homer Finch and Doc Vaughn

Mrs. W. P. Hood
J. E. and Louise Boaz in memory of Mildred Collinsworth

Christine Christopher McPherson in memory of the Christopher Family

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Lakovich
Willard Paine



Merkel High School built in 1925



Public school, college built in 1887

When and where were Merkel's schools located?

The first school was taught in Merkel in 1883. It was taught in the boxcar home of J. L. Vaughn. Mrs. A. M. Thornton was the teacher. The pupils were four Thornton children and three Vaughn children.

In 1884 school was held in the dining room of Philam Cox. His house was located at the corner of Kant and North 2nd, where Higginbotham-Bartlett lumber yard is now located. It was only used while his house was being finished.

In 1885 the first school building was built on the corner of Runnels and North 2nd street. This building was used until 1896 at this location. It was then moved to south side. This building was about 20 by 40 with stage across back, made by the people of the community.

In 1886 the school was divided and another school was started on corner of South 1st and Oak. This building was first a livery stable, then a feed store before it was converted into a school. In preparation for higher learning for boys and girls an association was organized and chartered, known as the Western-Normal and Commercial Association, which was taught in this same building. The college was later called the Merkel Normal and Commercial College.

In 1887 a two story frame building was built on five acres of land owned by the school, which was located where present Middle school is located. This building housed all the public school pupils and college students. However, the college lasted only about four years. The building from Runnels and North 2nd was moved over to take care of the overflow of pupils.

In 1902 Merkel's first brick school building was built on this five acre location. All pupils attended this one school building. In 1907 a new brick building was built on north side on Bettis Heights, which housed the elementary pupils that lived on north side. It was located where the Bassett Manufacturing Company now stands. It was used until 1915.

In 1915 a new three story brick building was built on the south side at the same five acre location. This building housed all grades from 1915 until 1924, when a new high school was built. The elementary grades were taught in this building until 1951.

In 1924 a high school was built at south 3rd and Ash street, and for the first time the high school was completely separate from elementary school. This is the present high school building although it has been added to two different times. In 1949 a Primary building was constructed on South 5th street. In 1950 an Elementary building was built on South 3rd on the original 5 acres of land.

Dairy situation

The remainder of 1976 appears bright for Texas dairymen, according to an economist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. He lists these reasons--continued tight supply-demand situation, slower rise in feed prices, favorable milk-feed price relationships, large supply of replacement stock on dairy farms, increased value of dairy cows, slower rise in production costs, and general improvement in the overall economy. Milk production per cow is up this year, milk prices remain favorable, and the milk-feed ratio continues to drop.

Soil Conservation director named

The Middle Clear Fork Soil Conservation District 3 held a Director's Election on August 14, 1976 at 6:00 p.m. at Bulman Community Center in Mulberry Canyon.

R. E. Clemmer was re-elected to a five year term as director of Zone 3 of the Middle Clear Fork Conservation Board. Mr. Joe Wilson,

County Extension Agent, Taylor County, was in charge of the meeting. A. D. Scott was the election chairman with Mary Russom as secretary. Henry Stoneham, District Conservationist, showed a film about the work of the local conservation board.

Prior to the election there was a Pot-Luck supper enjoyed by 24 in attendance.

Firemen plan hall of fame

The State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas has announced that they are launching a \$2 million campaign to raise money to build an Archives and Hall of Fame in the State of Texas.

The Campaign Chairmen are a Veteran Fireman, Chief Bloddy Rucker, of Killean, The State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association is celebrating its 100 years of service this year in Texas. In 1896, a beautiful monument was unveiled on the State Capital grounds in Austin, in honor of the Volunteer Firemen who died in the line of duty.

The Board of Directors of the Association, in a recent meeting at College Station, decided that the time has come to preserve many of the outstanding pieces of equipment and documents. The men of the firefighting force of Texas should be honored with a Hall of Fame, plus a living library of the training of firefighters and fire protection.

The site of the Archives is to be determined by the site committee. Contributions are

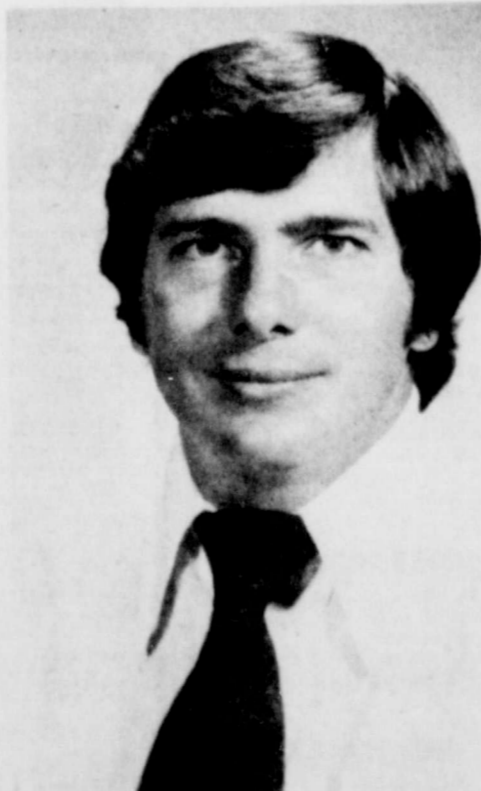
being sought from Business, Industry, Foundations, as well as individuals. There are 16 Divisions of the Association in Texas involving more than 800 fire departments. All gifts are tax deductible.

Headquarters of the Association is located at 1212 Guadalupe in Austin.

Cotton prices

Cotton prices took a sharp plunge recently, dropping about 20 cents per pound after reaching high levels earlier. However, supply, demand and crop prospects should take hold soon to steady market conditions, believes an economist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. The 10.7 million bale crop projected by the USDA on August 12 would fall 600,000 bales short of the expected demand. U.S. cotton growers have contracted 47 per cent of their crop, with 22 per cent of the Texas crop under contract. If prices fall to move back up to early July levels, much cotton will be put on loan.

EARL RICH OF MERKEL EXTENDS HIS INVITATION TO COME BY AND SEE HIM FOR YOUR NEW & USED CARS & TRUCKS AT



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WE WILL BE CLOSED THE REST OF THE WEEK DUE TO ILLNESS THE DAIRY BAR

MAX MURRELL CHEVROLET

76 MALIBU CLASSIC Buckskin seats silver and burgundy

75 NOVA HATCHBACK Auto. V8 Blue on Blue

75 MONTE CARLO LAND. Loaded. Black on black

75 FORD ELITE COUPE Gold and Drk. Brown

74 GRAND PRIX Burgundy on Burgundy

74 CHEV. BELLAIRE 4 Dr. auto. White on white

74 MUSTANG 6 cyl. std. air. Gold buckskin

73 CHEV. CAPRICE COUPE White and white vinyl top

THREE-73 Impala, 4 Dr. sedan to choose from

72 PONTIAC VENTURA sedan V8, Auto. power and air. Green on green

STATION WAGONS

74 CAPRICE ESTATE 9 passenger station wagon, loaded. White and buckskin

73 BUICK ESTATE, 9 passenger station wagon, Gold on gold

Several other used cars and also have several nice used pickups to choose from.

Good luck Badgers. May this season be your best!

Drive The Money Saving Miles To MAX CHEVROLET MURRELL

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A POT OF SAVINGS FOR U

- 74 CHEV NOVA Hatchback Coupe, air, power, bronze, and beige vinyl top. Nice..... \$2495
- 1972 98 OLDS-4 DR. This one has all the goodies. Blue with black vinyl top. Real clean..... \$2495
- 73 PONTIAC CATALINA 4-door Sedan, air and power, white blue vinyl top. Nice, only..... \$1995
- NEW 75 PONTIAC ASTRE Hatchback, 2 barrel, 140 engine, factory air FAC, radio, body side molding, tinted glass, delux wheel covers, W W tires. Under dealer cost..... \$3597
- 1973-Pontiac Catalina, 4 dr. sedan, air, power, above average miles. Local one owner. Real clean, only..... \$1995
- 72 CHEV CAPRICE 4 door, Air and Power, White color, blue vinyl top. Nice Only..... \$2195
- 1974 Ford Maverick, 4 door sedan, 6 cyl., auto., power steering, factory air, light blue color. Real Nice, Only..... \$2995
- 1971 Pontiac Catalina Brougham, air and power, beige color, beige vinyl top, nice one owner car. Only..... \$1595
- 1972 Impala, 4 Dr. hard top. Air and power, Bronze color. Only..... \$3695
- 1974 Mercury Montego Braughm MX, 4 Dr. Sedan. Air and power, Brown color, brown vinyl top. Real Nice, Only..... \$1895
- 1973 CAPRI, V6-Air, 4 speed, Bronze color. Real nice..... \$29 95
- 1974 Pontiac Bonneville, 2 Dr. hardtop, air and power, stereo tape player, tilt wheel, cruise control, rally 2 wheels, 29,000 miles. Black color with white vinyl top. Nice one owner. Only..... \$2895

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BEN FRANKLIN END OF SUMMER CLEARANCE SALE

GARDEN HOSE HANGERS

Hold 50-ft. of hose. Made of durable plastic. Attached with 4 screws on inside of outside wall. Will not rust.

ALUMINUM LAWN EDGING

Rust proof 4 in. x 40 ft. corrugated for extra durability.

PLASTIC LAWN EDGING

4 in. high x 30 ft. Dark green only.

ORTHO WEED-B-GON

Kills weeds, roots and all, yet does not harm desirable lawn grasses. 1 pt. covers up to 5300 sq. ft.



ORTHO SEVIN GARDEN DUST

Insecticide for general garden use and for vegetables, tomatoes, strawberries, etc.

ORTHO ROSE AND FLORAL SPRAY

Convenient easy to use aerosol combining insecticides and a fungicide. Prevents black spots and powdery mildew. 17 oz.

ORTHO TOMATO AND VEGETABLE FOODS

16 oz. bottle 20-10-5 formula feeds plants 3-4 months. Time released action.

ORTHO GENERAL PURPOSE PLANT FOOD

16 oz. bottle 12-6-6 time released formula feeds 3-4 months.

GOLDEN VIGORO LAWN FOOD

20 lb. bag feeds 5000 sq. ft. Locally formulated for soil and weather conditions.

GOLDEN VIGORO WEED AND FEED

20 lb. bag treats 5000 sq. ft. Clears out ugly dandelions and other broad leaf weeds. Greens for months.

STRUCTO 24-INCH BRAZIER

27 1/2 in. high, 24 1/2 in. wide, 28 in. deep, 380 sq. in. cooking grid. 4 position positive grid adjustment, removable tripod legs.



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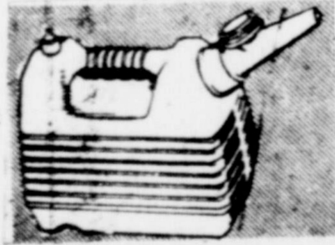
Made of high impact plastic. For car, boat, home, patio.

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16 1/2 x 10 3/4 x 10 in. size. Woodgrain hard board lid, coated fiber with staxel inside lining. White metal top rim and handles. Striped design.

JERRY CAN

3 gal. capacity. Reversible pour spout and vent. High impact plastic.



DOUBLE BAR-B-Q HIBACHI

Cast iron with two adjustable grills.

HEDGE SHEARS

Austempered 8-in. blade, rust veto finish, cutlery sharpened cutting edge, natural furniture finished handles. Hang up hole in blade for storage. 21-in. length.

INTERIOR LATEX

Home Crest Flat Wall Paint, Turquoise, Surf Green.

LOPPING SHEARS

Trim-easy lopping shears. Light weight steel handles with bright baked enamel finish. Vinyl hand grips. Hardened and tempered blades. 22-in. overall size.

PRESSURE COOKER

Mirror Matic

16 qt. size
8 qt. size

BAKE n' BROYL

Indoor-Outdoor electric bar-b-que grill. Cooks faster than the ordinary without the smoke or mess.

CHAISE LOUNGE CHAIRS

25 x 74 in. size, 7 position adjustment, 6-16 webs, waterfall arms, multi color.



HEDGE TRIMMERS

12-in. Double insulated. Ideal for light dirty work. Patented "cup grip" handle. High impact housing. Double reduction gears. 115 volt, 2.6 amp motor, 2500 strokes per minute.

LAWNMOWERS

20-in. Valcan lawn mower. 3.0 H. P., 6-in. wheels. Easy spin recoil starter, low profile steel deck. Side discharge. Adjustable cutting height.

BEN FRANKLIN

201 KENT MERKEL



Letters to the editor

Fire help needed

Dear Citizens of Merkel, In recent months, we have had very few fires in the City of Merkel and surrounding areas. We have been most fortunate. We think that everyone of the Merkel Volunteer Firemen should be commended for "Jobs Well Done" with the fires we have had this year.

However, we would like to say to you, the Citizens of Merkel, some of you, unknowingly, hinder the firemen. When the whistle blows, the dispatchers are extremely busy, getting the firemen into the station and giving directions to the site of the fire. They haven't the time to tell anyone other than the firemen, where the location of the fire is. The phones and radios need to be clear for the dispatchers on duty to notify firemen that may be at the far edge of town, out of range of hearing the whistles, so that they may also give assistance. Some citizens may be calling at this time asking such questions as: "Where's the fire? How bad? Whose home? Now which street is that on?"

Even after the firemen have been dispatched, activity must still go on. The most trivial of fires can turn into a big disaster in a few seconds. The firemen depend on someone being at the radio when they call for help.

Also, people are a curious lot. They follow the fire trucks to the fire, run over hoses or worse yet, stop their vehicle on the hose that's putting out the fire with water, and pull the vehicles too close to the fire trucks. All of these things really hinder the firemen.

Recently we have been having several calls requesting a fire truck be sent to places out of the city limits (mostly 5 to 10 miles out of Merkel). When the fire trucks arrive at the scene reported no fire. Never has been a fire. The firemen will call in to verify the location, drive several miles around in and near the location reported, still no fire. Falsely reporting a fire is against the law, besides endangering many lives, and being most costly. Anything at any time can happen to these volunteer firemen when they answer a call. The list of dangers are almost as many when they answer a false fire call as when answering the real thing. They take the same risk going and coming back to the station.

A good question or questions to ask yourself before you pick up the phone to call the Fire Station or before you follow the fire truck is this: *Would I want anyone hindering the firemen in any way if it was my home burning!!! Or, would I want the fire trucks sent out falsely and my loved one or loved ones to be trapped in a fire because I had called and sent them out of town falsely!!!*

We hope that we haven't hurt anyone's feelings or made anyone angry. We feel that citizens are unaware of some of these things and should be alerted to the facts

City blasted

Dear Editor, We moved last month and we wish to let the Merkel people know just how bad the city employees are. No one told them to turn off our water or gas, but they did and it cost us two hundred dollars. I don't know which one is in the wrong but both are the blame. The gas was turned on and burned up the hot water heater and then we had to pay for it. If the city would set up and look around at the people who ride around in city cars and waste gas and time when they are supposed to be working, Merkel wouldn't have to be in the big fuss it is in now. The water man is too lazy to get out and read a meter so he just sticks whatever he wants on your bill. I hope everyone in Merkel gets out and finds out what is going on in their city.

Square dance club to meet

The Levis and Lace Square Dancing Club will have their monthly dance Saturday. The dance will be held at the Merkel Lions Club Building on South 1st at 8 p.m. Jack Mason of Sweetwater will be the caller. All square dancers are invited to attend.

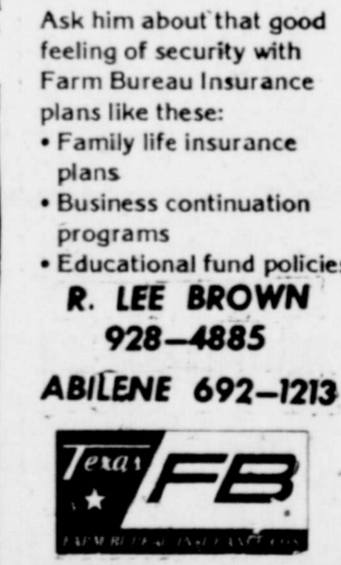
Sherry Aldridge
Box 362
Welch, Texas 79377
Phone 806-489-7497

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THURSDAY-SATURDAY
NOON
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'Reddy's helpful tips for your Home Laundry

PLAN AHEAD
Sort clothes according to type of fabric, color-fastness, degree of soil and garment construction. You'll save both hot water and electricity by doing similar items together. Accumulate a full load before running your washer.

BE SELECTIVE
Choose the cycle that is precisely appropriate for the clothes you are washing. Is a "hot" temperature setting really necessary? Except for heavily soiled items, most loads will come clean in either a cold or warm wash. Look into cold wash detergents.

Use the least amount of detergent that will get your clothes clean — most loads require only an ounce or less! Overloading causes extra strain and wear on your equipment; check the manufacturer's recommendations for load weight. Balance your load by alternating small and large items.

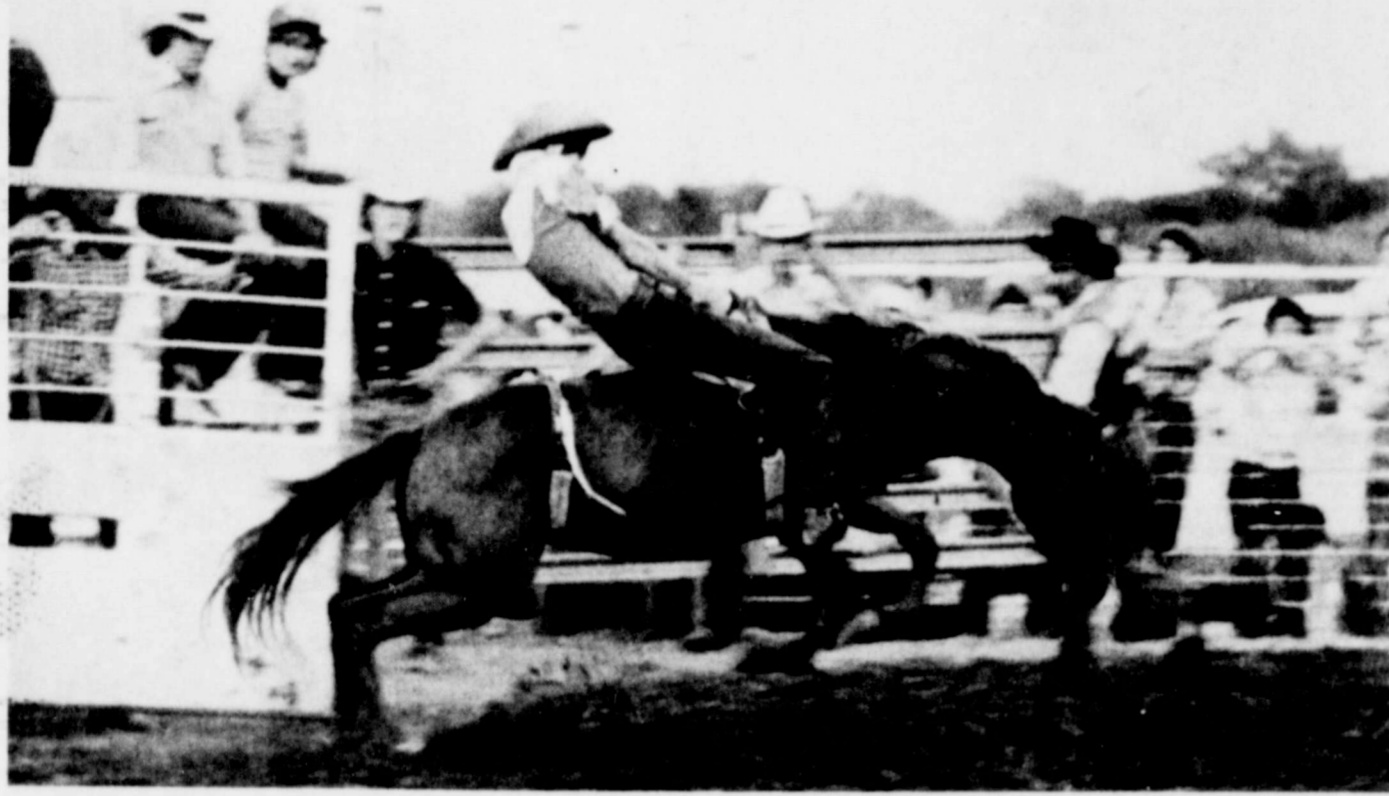
FOR SAFETY SAKE
Be sure control is "off" before reaching into your washer. If one is necessary, use only a heavy duty extension cord. Be sure your washer is grounded. Keep dry cleaning agents, color remover and Fibra-Clear out of your washer. It's a good idea not to wash clothes containing cleaning fluids in your washer.

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| GENERAL REVENUE SHARING | | | ACTUAL USE REPORT | |
|--|----|--|--|-------------|
| | | | (A) CATEGORIES | (B) CAPITAL |
| 1. PUBLIC SAFETY | \$ | | 1. PUBLIC SAFETY | \$ |
| 2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION | \$ | | 2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION | \$ |
| 3. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION | \$ | | 3. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION | \$ |
| 4. HEALTH | \$ | | 4. HEALTH | \$ |
| 5. RECREATION | \$ | | 5. RECREATION | \$ |
| 6. LIBRARIES | \$ | | 6. LIBRARIES | \$ |
| 7. SOCIAL SERVICES FOR AGED OR POOR | \$ | | 7. SOCIAL SERVICES FOR AGED OR POOR | \$ |
| 8. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION | \$ | | 8. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION | \$ |
| 9. EDUCATION AND GENERAL GOVT. | \$ | | 9. EDUCATION AND GENERAL GOVT. | \$ |
| 10. EDUCATION | \$ | | 10. EDUCATION | \$ |
| 11. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT | \$ | | 11. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT | \$ |
| 12. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | \$ | | 12. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | \$ |
| 13. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | \$ | | 13. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | \$ |
| 14. OTHER (Specify) | \$ | | 14. OTHER (Specify) | \$ |
| EQUIPMENT \$1613.00 | | | EQUIPMENT \$1613.00 | |
| TOTALS \$1613.00 | | | TOTALS \$1613.00 | |
| NONDISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN MET | | | | |
| (I) CERTIFICATION: I certify that I am the Chief Executive Officer and have not been used in violation of the provisions of the Equal Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended, in the awarding of contracts. | | | | |
| City of Merkel, Texas Date: 8-24-76 Billie M. Hamper Mayor | | | | |
| THE GOVERNMENT OF TARRANT COUNTY | | | TRENT TOWN | |
| Has received General Revenue Sharing payments totaling \$ 1,178 | | | during the period from July 1, 1975 thru June 30, 1976 | |
| ACCOUNT NO. 44 2 221 004 | | | TRENT TOWN | |
| | | | MAYOR | |
| | | | BOX 72 | |
| | | | TRENT TEXAS 79561 | |
| (D) TRUST FUND REPORT (refer to instruction D) | | | | |
| 1. Balance as of June 30, 1975 | | | | |
| 2. Revenue Sharing Funds Received from July 1, 1975 thru June 30, 1976 | | | | |
| 3. Interest Received or Credited (July 1, 1975 thru June 30, 1976) | | | | |
| 4. Funds Released from Obligations (if ANY) | | | | |
| 5. Sum of items 1, 2, 3, & 4 | | | | |
| 6. Funds Returned to ORS (if ANY) | | | | |
| 7. Total Funds Available | | | | |
| 8. Total Amount Expended (Sum of items 15, column B and column C) | | | | |
| 9. Balance as of June 30, 1976 | | | | |
| 10. Balance as of June 30, 1975 | | | | |
| 11. Balance as of June 30, 1976 | | | | |
| IF THE NEWS MEDIA HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT A COMPLETE COPY OF THIS REPORT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN A LOCAL NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION HAVE A COPY OF THIS REPORT AND RECORDS DOCUMENTING THE CONTENTS. THEY ARE OPEN FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY AT City Hall | | | | |



HANGS ON--Jimmy Adams of Trent hangs on as he opened the final night of the Merkel Junior Rodeo Saturday. A good

crowd turned out for some of the top competition to be found at any junior rodeo as all ages, boys and girls battled for top prizes.

Hart attends Coop meeting

Don Hart of Taylor Electric Cooperative was among 1,000 Texas rural electric leaders and women gathered in San Antonio last week for the Association of Texas Electric Cooperatives' 36th meeting. The meeting theme--"It's a New Ball Game"--referring to new problems facing rural electric cooperatives wasn't news to the delegates, but the speeches, reports, and other discussions drove the ball home. Highlights of the sessions included a debate between Jon Newton and Walter Wendlandt, candidates for the Texas Railroad Commission this year, and another debate--on the deregulation of natural gas prices--by Congressman Robert Eckhardt of Houston and Robert Krueger of New Braunfels, leaders of opposing sides of the issue. The meeting also featured Texas Public Utility Commissioner Alan R. Erwin, State Representative John Wilson of LaGrange, and Frank Youngblood, former director of the Texas Railroad Commission's Gas Utilities Division, in addition to a number of rural electric leaders. Concerning fuel prices, consumer unrest, regulation, and other problems for the rural electric, TEC General Manager J. R. Cobb said that 1975 was just a prologue to the coming years. He warned co-op leaders to always provide members with the best service possible, adding: "Even if your power costs are very high, there's no excuse for bad service. It could be the final straw for some already-veered cooperative member-consumers."

Utility Commissioner Erwin continued on the theme saying, "There are two teams, and my fellow commissioners and our staff are the umpires. And right now, the other team is looking pretty powerful. They are composed of the elements of our economy which are combining to make our jobs, at times at least, less than pleasant. They have the price of natural gas at first base, inflation at second, and misinformation at third. Sometimes I get the impression that the federal and state bureaucracies are pitching." A panel made up of Representative Wilson; Youngblood, formerly of the Texas Railroad Commission; Bud Hatfield, a member of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative at Giddings; and Tom Hutchison, general manager of Pedernales Electric Cooperative and newly elected president of the TEC organization, discussed the major problems facing rural electric. Wilson said persistent work by rural people would greatly influence legislators but few make any effort. Youngblood said that not only are fuel prices going to continue to rise, but natural gas reserves are running out faster than most people realize. And Hatfield said co-ops would have fewer problems with their members simply by doing a better job of educating them about problems facing rural electric. The question of natural gas deregulation was not settled by the debate between Congressmen Eckhardt and Krueger, as the sides were very evenly matched. On the "pro" deregulation side, Krueger said the increased revenue to gas producers brought about by deregulation would allow them to tap gas sources currently too expensive to develop. He also

said that Texas has not been as severely affected by the recession as the rest of the nation because its higher gas prices have kept industries and businesses running and people employed. Eckhardt said that deregulation would have a wrenching effect on the nation's economy. The congressman attributed at least 30 percent of inflation to fuel prices. In discussing the Texas Railroad Commission, Democrat Newton and Republican Wendlandt agreed that the current Commission has been less than responsible to the consumers of the state. Newton said he would like to see business without government interference, "but it is time to realize that when utilities are granted monopolies of service areas and a consumer can't shop around for his energy supply, then government must insure adequate power at a reasonable price." He added that the TRC is going to have to start monitoring all new gas contracts and the reserves to back them up "to make sure there is no selling out of the rear gate like Oscar Wyatt (of Coastal States-LoVaca Gas) did." Wendlandt said that because of the actions, reactions, and lack of actions of "three very powerful men, some people in Texas are staggering under the load of high utility rates that have increased up to 300 percent

in just a few years." He also accused the present commissioners of protecting the interests of LoVaca and Coastal States rather than the public's, and vowed to make decisions based on conscience and facts rather than "political buddying" if elected. **Cull low producers** Cattlemen can take the first step to increasing their beef herd productivity by detecting and culling low-producing cows, contends a beef cattle specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Cows that do not wean a calf every 12 months should be culled. Also, slow breeding cows should be removed as summer calves wean at much lighter weights than calves born at other times of the year. Bulls should be removed by August 20 and cows should be palpated for pregnancy 40-60 days later. Bulls should be returned to the herd by December to get summer and fall calving cows bred for next year.

4-H winners announced

Taylor County will be represented in State Competition for 4-H record books by 12 senior 4-H members. District 7 record book judging held in Sweetwater August 17 saw Taylor County come home with a large percentage of the ribbons. 31 record books were entered in both junior and senior divisions netting a return of 19 first place ribbons, 10 second place, 1 third place, and 1 participant ribbon. First, second, and third places were named in each category with the remainder of the entries receiving participant ribbons. Those receiving blue ribbons in the senior division are: Cindy Walker, Achievement; Cathy Holloway, Con-

sumer Education; Tonya Moore, Leadership; Traci Merkel, Bread; Lenez Graham, Foods and Nutrition; Elizabeth Asbury, Dairy Foods; Lisa Hughes, Gardening; Mark Willis, Petroleum Power; Cindy Boone, Swine; Randy Ford, National 4-H Conference; Tracy Dean, Achievement; and Maury Moore, Rabbit. These 4-H'ers will represent District 7 in competition on the state level to be held September 1-3. Red ribbons in the senior division were earned by Tommie Graham-Santa Fe; Terry Criner-Horse; Terry Ake-Agricultural; Matt Tarpley-Beef. David Hobbs received a participant ribbon. Juniors receiving blue ribbons were: Michelle Willis-Foods and Nutrition; Miles Willis-Swine; John Townsend-Petroleum Power; Willie Townsend-Commodity Marketing; Dannelle Walker-Home Environment; Kim McCarty-Dog Care; and Kevin Dean-Agriculture.

Red ribbons in the junior division were: Sherrie Dunn-Dairy Foods; Karen McCarty-Bicycle; Sheri Lynn Williams-Horse; Greg Hollingshead-Sheep; Kelly McCarty-Gardening; and Ricky Cowley-Beef. Kristie Conder received a white ribbon in clothing. **Xi Nu Chi** Xi Nu Chi held their beginning day brunch Saturday in the home of Mrs. George Starbuck. After a breakfast served by the social committee, new program books were handed out by Program Chairman Kathy Leverich, President Louise DuBose gave a preview on programs for the 1976-1977 calendar year. Theme "Follow the Rainbow Road" and the study guide will be "The Modern World." A review of summer socials was given by social chairman Charolette Starbuck. The Red Bud Chairman for the year will be Alameda Bullock. Members present were Mes. Kathy Leverich, Mamie Steck, Jocille Brady, Pat Neff, Louise DuBose, Val Patterson, Elizabeth Eager, Connie Harris, Charolette Starbuck and Opal Garner.

Members of the Merkel-Trent Barracks Veterans of World War I, 2248, and their Auxiliary met Saturday noon for their regular luncheon and business meeting at the R. E. A. Building. After a bountiful meal and good fellowship they met in separate rooms for business. Mrs. Albert Criswell, president called the ladies to order. Mrs. Dewey Fleming and Mrs. Mary Mosier presided at the altar. Mrs. Joe Hartley led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Ruth Cox gave the secretary-treasurer report. Mrs. Criswell appointed the following chairmen: Patriotic Instructor-Mrs. Maggie Renfro; Membership-Mrs. Raymond Ferguson; Hospital and Community Activity-Mrs. Earl Baze; Americanism-Mrs. Karl Bonneaux; Publicity-Mrs. Joe Hartley. The meeting was adjourned to meet again on the third Saturday in September. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Albert Criswell, Mr. and Mrs. Dee Poland, Mr. and Mrs. Dent Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Harwell, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hartley, Karl Bonneaux, Mr. Stevens, G. N. Reynolds, Mrs. Mary Mosier, Mrs. E. E. McLauren, Mrs. Faye Brown, Mrs. Trula Cox, Mrs. Ruth Cox, Mrs. Dewey Fleming, and Miss Mable McRee.

WWI meeting

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Man charged with assault

Three felony and misdemeanor charges were filed Monday against a Merkel man who allegedly kicked a Department of Public Safety trooper and kicked the windshield out of his patrol car. Thomas Jefferson Hassler, 32, was charged before Justice of the Peace Silas Clark with "aggravated assault on a peace officer" and with criminal mischief. Bond was set at \$5,000 in each of the felony charges. Hassler also was charged in Taylor County Court-at-Law with misdemeanor driving while intoxicated (DWI) as result of the 6:40 p.m. Saturday arrest on the IH-20 service road near Merkel by DPS Trooper Frantz Howard. Howard said he had handcuffed the suspect and a passenger, who had been arrested for being drunk in public, and had restrained both men in his patrol car when one of the men worked his feet loose and kicked out the vehicle's windshield. He said he was kicked several times as he pulled the man out of the car so he could not continue smashing the car's dash. Howard did not require medical attention. Damage to the patrol car was estimated at more than \$400.

Night courses being offered

Twenty-three courses will be offered this fall in Texas State Technical Institute's Continuing Education night class lineup. Two of the offerings are new. Registration for fall classes will be September 7 through 10 in Building 40 on the Rolling Plains Campus in Sweetwater. All classes organized with a minimum of 12 students will begin sessions at 7 p.m. the week of September 13. These Continuing Education classes have as their objective the upgrading of job skills, said James H. Williams, director of special projects. Persons completing the courses receive certificates and one Continuing Education Unit (CEU) for each 10 contact hours of training. Classes are held on the Rolling Plains Campus; tuition is 75 cents per clock hour. Two new courses this fall are home laundry appliance repair and federal and state tax reporting. This quarter's tentative schedule includes: Typing for Technology and Industry, 84 hours; Accounting I, 60 hours; Industrial Office Procedures I, 72 hours; Shorthand for Industry, 96 hours; Office Machines, 60 hours; Also Maintenance and Repair of Auto Engines, 80 hours; Automotive Tune-Up, 45 hours; Basic Auto Body, 40 hours; Used Car Reconditioning, 40 hours; Basic Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, 90 hours; Basic Electronic Controls for Air Conditioning, 60 hours; Home Laundry Appliance Repair, 90 hours; Also Basic Welding, 90 hours; Advanced Welding, 90 hours; OSHA Safety, 10 hours; Vocational Spanish, 40 hours; Blueprint Reading, 60 hours; Basic Electronics for Industry, 90 hours; Basic Television, 90 hours; Color Television, 90 hours; Also Medication Aid Course, 60 hours; Defensive Driving, eight hours; Federal and State Tax Reporting, 36 hours. Information is available by calling the Rolling Plains Campus at 235-8441, extensions 40 or 41.

Real Estate course set

The 5 1/2-day Real Estate Licensing Course 101 in basic real estate fundamentals will be offered by Texas State Technical Institute in Sweetwater beginning Monday. The course will be offered in cooperation with the American College of Real Estate.

Clark visitors

Recent out of town visitors in the home of Mrs. Houston Clark of 509 Yucca were: Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Tipton and Mike of Kansas City, Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon Coats of Dallas, Mrs. Bertie Coats of Abilene, Weldon Coats of Abilene, Mrs. Oleg Petroff and Tammy of Texarkana, Fred Jones of San Jose, California, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sullivan of Mississippi, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Clark and Kristi of Arlington, Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Clark of Girard, Kansas, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Jones of Lubbock, Brenda Moss of Stinett, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Clark of Abilene, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Latta, Chauncey and Melody of Lubbock and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hester of Abilene.

Affraid of strangers?

Affraid of strangers? That particular phobia is called, "Xenophobia."

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BAND PRACTICES--Merkel High School's band started daily workouts last week prior to the start of school and the first football game scheduled against Baird September 3.



ISSUED CHALLENGE--Merkel High School Student Council president Mike Henry issued a challenge to new teachers to wear these gift Merkel Badgers shirts the first day of

school. Trying on the shirts at an informal presentation last week are left to right: Dennis Utley, Tony Mauldin and Edgar Cowart.



ANXIOUS MOMENT--Bridget Vaughn is on the verge of a few tears as she is about to be separated from her mother after registration Monday at Merkel Elementary School. Mrs. Betty Coker takes Bridget's supplies and gets ready to direct

her to her class. She was one of 48 to be enrolled in kindergarten at the Merkel School. At the desk is Mrs. Linda Alexander. The indecision on whether to cry lasted only a few moments, however, as Bridget quickly became involved in kindergarten activities.

Merkel schools menu

Merkel Schools Cafeteria Supervisor Elizabeth Willson and her staff are getting into the routine of serving more than 400 lunches at Merkel and providing lunches for elementary students at Tye each day.

Leona McWilliams is her assistant and along with Willie Jones does the baking at Merkel. Bernice Bagby is cook, Elvera Berra is salad maker and assistants are Mrs. Lillian Walters and Mrs. Elsie Price.

At Tye, Mrs. Willma Robinson is manager and Mrs. Nancy Traweck is assistant. Mrs. Willson said the same menu will be served at both schools each day. However, a substitute may be made at either school, depending on the supply of a particular item available.

Milk is served with every meal, she points out and in addition the students will also receive orange juice on some menus.

The menu for Wednesday through September 3 includes:

- Orange jello with fruit
- Friday
 - Hamburgers
 - Lettuce, tomato, onion and pickle
 - French fries with catsup
 - Brownies and orange juice
- Monday
 - Spaghetti with ground beef and cheese
 - Green salad with choice of dressing
 - Butter whole kernel corn
 - Apple cheese crisps
 - Hot rolls
- Tuesday
 - Chickenfried steak with cream gravy
 - Potatoes au gratin
 - Englishpea salad
 - not rolls and fruited jello
- Wednesday
 - Tacos with taco sauce
 - Pinto beans
 - Spanish rice
 - Lettuce, tomato and cheese
 - No bake peanut butter cookie
- Thursday
 - Braised beef tips with brown gravy
 - Whipped potatoes
 - Seasoned blackeyed peas with snaps
 - Hot rolls
 - Apricot cobbler
- Friday
 - Sloppyjoe
 - Pickle relish
 - Sliced onion
 - French fries with catsup
 - Glazed cinnamon rolls
 - Orange juice

Final rites held for Farmer

Funeral services were held Sunday for Dillie Farmer, 72, of Merkel who died Friday at Happy Haven Nursing Home after a 3-month illness.

Services were at First United Methodist Church in Merkel with the Rev. Russell McAnally, pastor, officiating. He was assisted by the Rev.

N. S. Daniel, retired minister. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Born April 27, 1901, in Ruston, Louisiana, she moved to Texas, settling near Merkel, when she was 18. She married Ralph B. Coats in 1920 in Abilene. He preceded her in death. She later married E. P. Farmer in 1963 in Merkel.

She had lived in Merkel since then. She was a real estate saleslady in Abilene for many years. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Merkel.

Survivors include her husband; three daughters, Mrs. Fred T. (Hazel) Baker of 1342 Vine, Mrs. Clay (Helen) Garner of 1302 Meander and June McKinley of San Antonio; a brother, Buren Bryan of 866 Ross; and five grandchildren, Mrs. Bill (Jenny) Walter of Oak Harbor, Washington, Debbie Baker of Berger, Gayle and Bill Garner of Abilene and Rob McKinley of Houston.

Pre-school set

There will be a Wednesday School for ages 3-5 at the Merkel Church of Christ from 9 to 11:30 each Wednesday morning beginning September 15 thru November 17. Then again after holidays, January 15 thru April 27.

There will be no charge but enrollment is limited. For further information call Mrs. Lonnie (Janice) Mauldin, 928-5553 or Mrs. Charles (Bernice) Jacobs, 928-5176. Transportation provided if necessary.

Booster Club to meet

The Badger Booster Club will hold its first meeting of the football season Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Badger Fieldhouse at the Merkel High school.

Everyone interested is urged to attend. Discussion of election of officers and plans for the year will be on the agenda.

Former Merkel man dies

Services were held for Barny Douglass, 59, formerly of Merkel, in Roswell, New Mexico August 20.

He died August 18 in a Roswell hospital after a lengthy illness.

Graveside rites were held by members of Charles M. DeBremond Post 28 of the American Legion. Burial was at the South Park Cemetery.

He was born October 20,

Homemakers install officers

The Taylor County Young Homemakers met at the High School Homemaking Center Thursday for the first meeting of the year.

The newly installed officers are Mrs. George Martin, president; Mrs. Ricky Meeks, vice-president; Mrs. Jim Jacobs, secretary; Mrs. Richard Hill, treasurer; and Mrs. Gordon Stokes, reporter.

Christi Boone was named Little Sister of the Year. Little Sisters were presented gifts. Those present were Christi Boone, Mrs. Mary Boone, Neta Stephan, Jackie Harris Best, Mrs. Harris, and Rita Watts Moore.

A nominee for Area 4 Outstanding Young Homemaker Award was discussed. It was decided to have Secret Pals this year.

The group recognized Tonya Meek's hard work on the yearbook.

Reed earns volunteer prize

Junior Volunteer Gayle Reed, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Reed of Merkel, received the top award for serving over 800 hours in the Junior Volunteer program at Hendrick Memorial Hospital. The presentation of her bar, to be worn on her uniform, was made at the annual Junior Volunteer Awards Ceremony at the First Baptist Church Chapel.

Having the second highest number of hours was Jan Brumbeau who was awarded a pin for over 300 hours. Jan is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Brumbeau of Abilene.

Twenty-six other Junior Volunteers were also presented with awards. Caps, signifying 50 hours were awarded to Tammy Allred, Donna McGhghy, Mishelle

Couch, Angela Eppler, Nancy Ferris, Brenda Copsy, Kristi Floeck, Pam Flournoy, Renee Mathieson, Christene Miller, Tammy Miller, Connie Spicer and Virginia Welch.

Jana Fite received her first stripe which recognizes 100 hours of service.

Receiving caps and first and second stripes for 150 hours were Kim Heath, Cindy Johnson, Gina Roath, Theresa Gillespie, and Penni Young.

Awards were presented by Mrs. Betty Ray, Mrs. Barbara Hollingshead, Master of Ceremonies was Hendrick Vice-President

Joel Allison and the guest speaker was Steve Stroope, Youth Director, at First Baptist Church.

Miss Reed, age 17, is a junior at Merkel High School. She has been elected president of the Junior Volunteers for the 2nd time at Hendrick Memorial Hospital.

Miss Reed was a representative to the annual conference of all Junior Volunteers in Texas. She made a speech at the conference which was held at Fort Worth in July.

She plans to continue in the medical field.

Teacher reception

There will be a reception for all teachers in the Merkel School District Thursday. The reception will be at 8 p.m. at the Merkel Cafeteria.

Lunch program approved

The Merkel School Board elected to continue with the lower qualifications for free meals at the special meeting and workshop Monday night.

Superintendent Travis Davis presented the Board with an option of continuing with the present rate or increasing the income scale for free and reduced prices for lunches for students.

The Exhibit B income scale would have allowed more students to be eligible for free or reduced fees on lunches.

The Board was told by Cafeteria Supervisor Elizabeth Willson that there were 350 taking advantage of the free lunches or reduced lunch program daily last year. She noted that they serve around 400 daily.

While students are paying 55 cents for lunch and an extra milk costs 6 or 7 cents, those families meeting the income requirement can get free meals and two free milks or under the reduced plan the cost is 20 cents.

However, on the free meals, the School is paid 69.25 cents by the federal government and on the reduced plate they are reimbursed 59.25 cents.

Thus, the School is making more off the free and reduced lunches.

There is no reimbursement for adult meals served at the cafeteria.

Mrs. Willson said it is the goal of the program that in the future (she predicted five

years) that all lunches will be free.

To be eligible for the program, parents must complete a form supplied by the school showing their income. These are kept on file at the school.

Each student is given a letter and form for applying.

Children from families whose income is at or below levels shown on the scale are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. If income is greater than those

SCALE

| Family Size | Free Meals | Reduced-Price Meals |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 1 | \$0-2,940 | \$ 2,940- 5,730 |
| 2 | 0-3,860 | 3,860- 7,530 |
| 3 | 0-4,780 | 4,780- 9,320 |
| 4 | 0-5,700 | 5,700-11,110 |
| 5 | 0-6,550 | 6,550-12,770 |
| 6 | 0-7,390 | 7,390-14,410 |
| 7 | 0-8,160 | 8,160-15,910 |
| 8 | 0-8,920 | 8,920-17,390 |
| 9 | 0-9,610 | 9,610-18,740 |
| 10 | 0-10,300 | 10,300-20,090 |
| 11 | 0-10,990 | 10,990-21,430 |
| 12 | 0-11,680 | 11,680-22,770 |
| Each Additional Family Member | \$690 | \$1,340 |

shown, but due to unusually high medical bills, shelter costs in excess of 30 per cent of income, special education expenses due to the mental or physical condition of a child, or disaster or casualty losses, students may still be eligible.

The school children of parents or guardians who become unemployed are eligible for free or reduced-price meals and free milk during the period of unemployment, provided the loss of income causes the family income during the period of unemployment to be at or below the levels shown on the scale.

To apply at any time during the year for free meals and free milk or reduced-price meals make application and return it to the school.

Within 10 days of receiving the application, the school will determine the eligibility.

If you do not agree with the school's decision you have a right to a fair hearing.

This can be done by calling or writing Travis L. Davis, Superintendent.

In certain cases foster children are also eligible for these benefits.

After discussion on the merits of the program, the Board approved the motion by Bobby Tolliver that Exhibit A be passed.

Exhibit A was the lower income scale, the one in effect from last year.

Dunn graduates

A Trent student received his certificate August 19 when Texas State Technical Institute graduated a class of 114 in 10 skill development programs.

He is John G. Dunn, a graduate of the Building Construction Craftsman program.

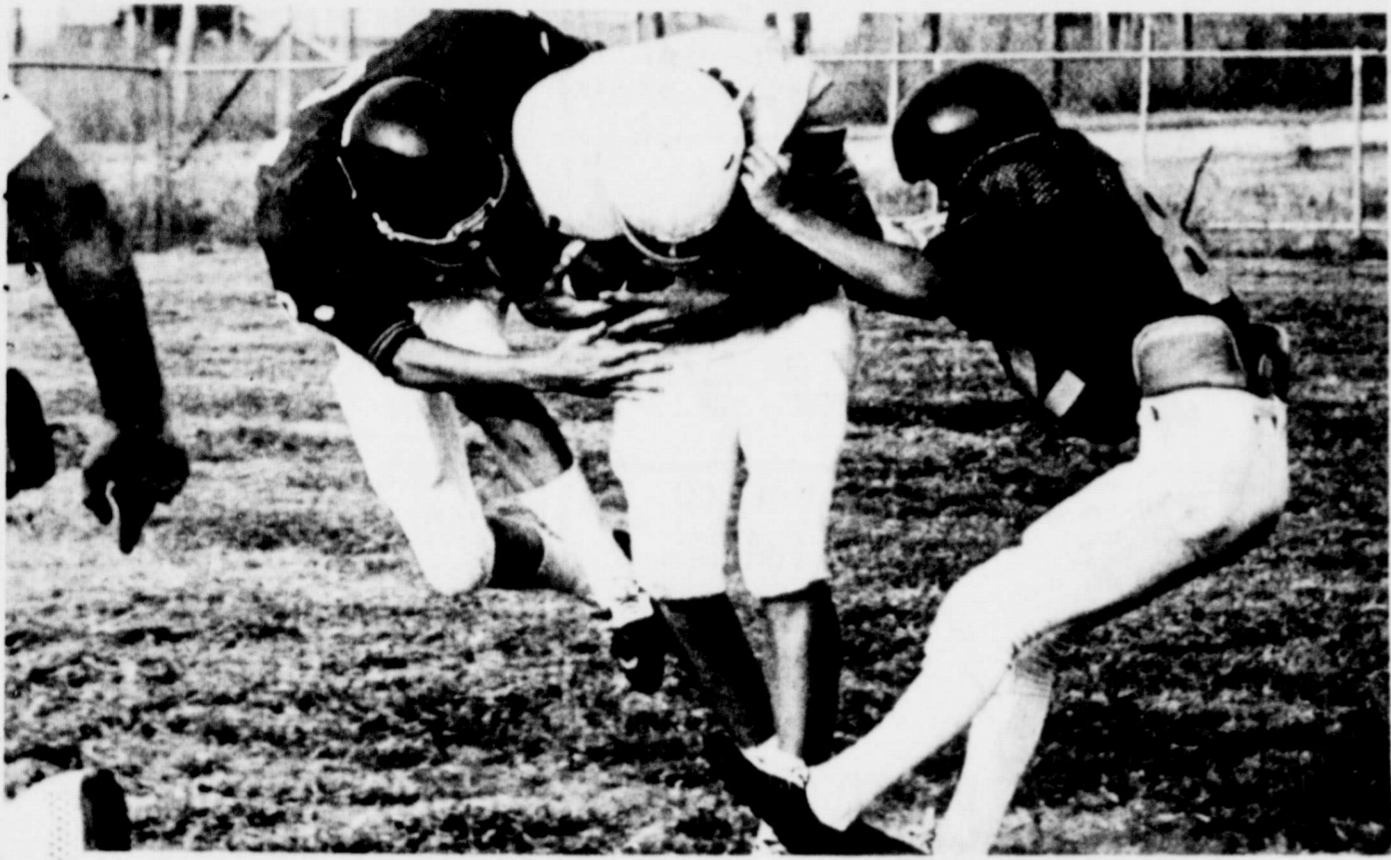
Adamo retires

Jesus Lopez Adamo, custodian for 10 years at First Baptist Church, has announced his retirement.

The 66-year-old custodian will retire officially September 1.



LIGHTNING STRIKES--Last Wednesday's shower brought .20 inch of rain in less than an hour and a bolt of lightning which split this tree north of the Merkel Fire Station. There were no injuries but it scared a lot of people with its loud noise. Hove Johnny Starbuck and John Constable inspect the damaged tree at 202 Lamar.



SCRIMMAGE--Merkel's defensive unit had a good workout against Cross Plains in their controlled scrimmage at Cross Plains High Friday. The first team defensive unit held its own, swarming the Cross Plains offensive team. However, neither of the first units were able to score. The second team Cross Plains offense did score twice on the second team defensive team of Merkel. Keith Austerman did get off a few good runs from his fullback position.

Badgers work on offense

Merkel High School's Badgers will be concentrating more on offense and the passing game this week as they prepare for the final scrimmage of the pre-season.

The Badgers go to Hamlin Friday for a 6 p.m. scrimmage which will be controlled to allow the coaching staffs of both schools to get in game-type drills. Hamlin lost to Colorado City, 1-0, in a scrimmage last week.

The Badgers looked good defensively against Cross Plains Friday in that controlled scrimmage but lacked the punch on offense.

Neither of the first units scored but the second team from Cross Plains managed to score twice against the Merkel second defensive unit. Coach Jerry McLeod said individually the Badgers were tough. "It is hard to point out anybody individually," he said.

They all were "real hitters," he added. Coach McLeod in looking at the film of the scrimmage said the Badgers were going as good defensively as "I've seen this early."

Too, he indicated that they allowed Cross Plains' first unit but 3 or 4 first downs, intercepted 3 passes and recovered two or three fumbles.

Coach McLeod said his impression of the scrimmage is that the Badgers are a lot further along defensively than offensively "which is to be expected."

The hitting also was impressive with the Badgers able to keep Cross Plains in check the entire scrimmage.

However, on offense, Coach McLeod admitted the team needs some polish.

"We had some nice drives but busted assignments and penalties hurt us," he said. "I feel like we outgained and outthrew them," he said.

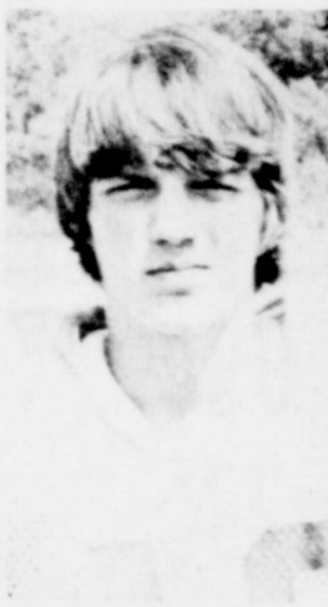
He admitted the team will have to improve offensively and learn their assignments.

The Badgers came off the ball good but the mental errors were evident.

Friday's scrimmage will be the final tuneup before the season opens for the Badgers September 3 against Baird.



DOLIN MORRIS
... Soph., Linebacker



CLIFF DYE
... Jr., Guard



JAY BOYD
... Soph., End



RUSTY WATTS
... Soph., Guard



CRAIG HUTCHINGS
... Soph., Cornerback



MIKE DAVIS
... Jr., Tackle



Voter registration drive under way

Secretary of State Mark White has announced that his office is conducting a massive, statewide voter registration drive for this fall's Presidential election.

A pilot registration drive was conducted last spring, White said, and it added around 400,000 new voters to the rolls in Texas.

"Last spring's experience convinced us we need to enlarge our registration efforts," White said. "The new Texas registration law makes it easier than ever before to vote in Texas, and we are trying to make sure every citizen is aware of that fact."

Under the new registration law, Texans need only fill out a registration postcard and mail it, White said, adding that the registration deadline for the November 2 election is October 1.

Registration applications are available through county tax assessors or by calling a toll-free number in White's Austin office, he said. The

number, which is open during business hours, is 1-800-292-9602.

"Applications will also be on display in food stores around the state," White said. "We hope to literally put voter registration at the fingertips of most Texans before the registration deadline."

White noted that only 20

Fire group to rescue

Connie Harris, president of the Merkel Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and Waymon Adcock, fire chief, will head a drive in Merkel to get everyone registered to vote for the November election.

The Merkel Volunteer Fire Department has been requested by Secretary of State Mark White to head the campaign to seek increased voter participation.

Telephone volunteers will begin contacting each house-

per cent of voting-age Texans went to the polls in 1974, which was an "off year" involving no national elections. In the last Presidential election, White said, 43 per cent of voting-age Texans cast ballots.

"Clearly there is room for improvement, and we hope our drive will help," White said. "We hope every Texan will register and vote."

hold to secure voter registrations.

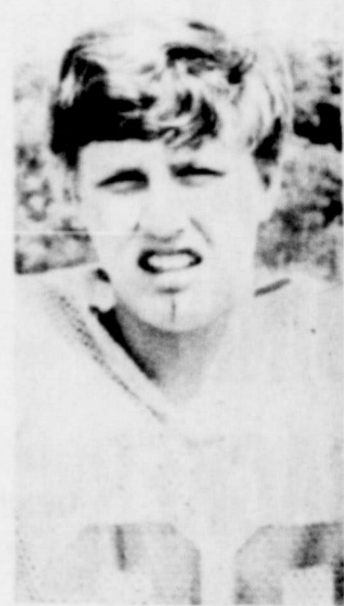
Girl Scout News

We need a brownie leader for first and third grade girls. Sandra Stevens from Tyne will be leader again this year for second grade girls. Anyone interested can contact Melba Glasscock, 928-5883.

Also we need a junior leader for girls from the fourth thru sixth grade. There will be a cadette troop here this year. Leader will be Melba Glasscock. This

includes girls from 7th-9th grades. Girls interested should call Melba Glasscock. We plan to tie on senior girls to the cadette troop if girls interested prefer try to car pool them to Abilene to a senior troop. This would involve girls from 10th to 12th grades.

Anyone with questions on any girl scout news may contact Mrs. Glasscock.



MAURY MOORE
... Soph., Guard



RUDY BIERA
... Jr., Fullback

ALL METAL CARPORT
10' x 20' \$300
20' x 20' \$525

ALL METAL BARN
20' x 40' x 12' sidewalls
2 sliding doors plus foundation
\$3500

JOHN LUCKEY 928-5149

BACK TO SCHOOL SAVINGS AT CRAWFORD'S

- NEW FALL COLORS
- CALCUTTA GAUZE \$1.79 YD
 - 100% POLYESTER INTERLOCK \$1.99 YD
 - 100% COTTON PRINT 79c YD
 - 100% POLYESTER DOUBLEKNIT \$1.59 YD
- SAVE ON THESE COAT SPECIALS

- HORSEHIDE LEATHER \$85 VALUE \$59.99
- 32" DOWN FILLED NYLON COAT \$52.99
- FULLY LINED VINYL COAT \$16.99
- SPORT COAT VALUES TO \$55 \$29.99
- TRACK SHOES \$3.99
- JARMAN DRESS SHOES VALUES TO \$27.99 \$13.99
- LADIES SHOES 1/2 PRICE

Crawford's

Fine Quality Clothing For The Family
135 EDWARDS 30 DAY CHARGE
MASTERCHARGE PHO 928-5612

Tri-City plans popcorn sale

Work on the first project of the Tri-City Baseball Project was discussed at last Thursday's meeting. The project is to pay off the note on the land for the ball park. We need \$1,518 for this project.

Mrs. Don Glasscock was asked to take charge of ordering and distributing popcorn which will be sold to raise part of the needed funds.

The popcorn will be the same as sold previously by the Merkel Little League. Boys and girls of the Tri-City Leagues will be asked to help. Anyone wishing to order popcorn in advance may call 928-4883. Delivery will be made when the popcorn arrives.

Tri-City Project will be Tuesday at 7:30 at the Big Country Restaurant.

Reynolds visitors

Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Watkins and children of Clyde, were Sunday dinner guests of Mrs. O. J. Reynolds and Bob, Bonnie Sisk of Odessa visited the Reynolds weekend before last.



Roast the seeds of squash and pumpkin for an enjoyable nibble.

Certificate Number (for Official use only) Election Precinct #

VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Mail or deliver to Tax Assessor-Collector of county of residence after completing every blank. Effective on 30th day after delivery to Tax Assessor-Collector.

TYPE OR PRINT IN INK

Application Number (for Official use only)

Last Name: _____ Social Security No.: _____ SEX (M/F): _____

First Name (do not use husband's first name): _____ Birth Date: _____

Middle Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Maiden surname if married woman: _____ Birth Date: _____

PERMANENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS: _____

Street & apt. # or route # or location (not P.O. Box): _____

City: _____ State: _____ or Foreign Country: _____

MAILING ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE: _____

Street or P.O. Box: _____

City: _____

State: _____

I certify that the applicant is a citizen of the United States, has met all legal requirements, and holds legal residence in this country. I understand that the giving of false information to procure the registration of a voter is a felony.

SIGNATURE OF VOTER/AGENT: _____

Agents must be a registered voter and must be only (Circle one applicable): _____

Husband-Wife-Mother-Father-Son-Daughter

INSTANT VOTER Registration---To register to vote in Texas, clip this registration form, fill it out and mail it to the tax assessor of Taylor County at Taylor County Courthouse, Abilene, Texas 79604, October 1 is the deadline for registering to vote in the November 2 Presidential election.

LOAD UP it ALL Costs LESS at CARSON'S

PRICES GOOD THURSDAY FRI & SAT AUG. 26-27-28

IMPERIAL **SUGAR**

5 LB BAG **83¢**

WITH \$10 IN TRADE OR MORE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

Mazola Corn Oil **OLEO**
LB PKG **55¢**

PRELL LIQUID SHAMPOO

7 OZ BOT **99¢**

NABISCO Vanilla Waters

12 OZ BOX **55¢**

KRAFT-SLICED Swiss Cheese 8 OZ PKG **69¢**

PIONEER BISCUIT MIX 2 LB CAN **83¢**

GRIFFIN GRAPE JELLY 18 OZ JAR **59¢**

KRAFT BAR-BQ-SAUCE 18 OZ BOT **59¢**

KRAFT MACARONI Cheese DINNER 14 OZ BOX **53¢**

SUNSHINE HI-HO CRACKER LB BOX **69¢**

BORDEN CREMORA 11 OZ JAR **79¢**

LIPTON TEA BAGS FAMILY SIZE 24 CTN BOX **99¢**

BORDEN Butter MILK 1/2 GAL CRTN **79¢**

BORDEN Dr. PEPPER OR PEPSI 6 PACK **98¢**

BORDEN ICE CREAM 1/2 GAL CRTN **\$1.09**

CHOICE BEEF

JAMES PANTY HOSE
ALL SIZES ONLY **1/2 PRICE**

CHICKEN OF THE SEA TUNA 59¢
FLAT CAN

BORDEN LOW FAT MILK 1/2 GAL CRTN
2 FOR \$1.59

NEW BRAUNFELS DOUBLE KNITS OR GINGHAMS PRINTS 1/2 YDS PKG **\$1.99**

Frozen Foods LEMONADE
WHOLE SUN 6 OZ CAN 2 FOR **33¢**

MORTON TV DINNERS EA **53¢**
FLEISHMAN TWIN PACK EGG Beaters EA **89¢**

COFFEE FLOUR CATSUP KOOLAID

GIANT GAIN HOME LAUNDRY DASH 20 LB BOX **\$6.29**

SNOWDRIFT 3 LB CAN **99¢** (1 LIMIT)

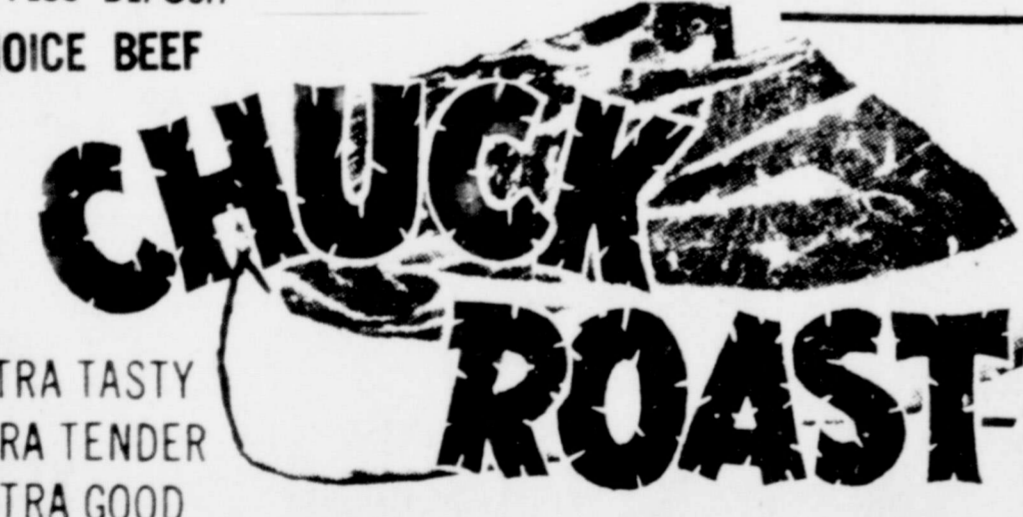
HI-DRY TOWELS JUMBO ROLL **39¢**
M-J-B POUND CAN **\$1.59**

GOLD MEDAL 5 LB BAG **75¢**
HUNTS 32 OZ BOT. **73¢**

SWEETEN 2 QT PKG 3 FOR **98¢**
LIQUID VEL

THOMPSON SEEDLESS WHITE GRAPES CALIFORNIA POUND **39¢**

FRESH PLUMS **39¢**
FRESH CELLO CARROTS 2 FOR **29¢**
FRESH BELL PEPPER EACH **10¢**
FRESH CELERY LB. **15¢**
RUSSET SPUDS 10 LB BAG **79¢**



EXTRA TASTY EXTRA TENDER EXTRA GOOD
ARMOUR STAR HOT DOGS BEEF OR REG
FRANKS 12 OZ PKG **79¢**

ARMOUR STAR BACON LB **\$1.59**

FRESH FROZEN CATFISH LB **\$1.98**

CHOICE BEEF STEAK CLUB LB **\$1.49**

DECKER PICNIC SLICED 79¢ LB **69¢**

HORMEL BREADED BEEF FINGER PKG **79¢**

GOOCH B.R. SAUSAGE GERMAN STYLE PKG **98¢**

LIBBY 303 PEARS 2 FOR **79¢**

TRI-VALLEY 303 PEACHES 2 FOR **59¢**

WELCH 46 OZ CAN WELCHADE CAN **49¢**

LIBBY 303 CUT Green BEANS 2 FOR **49¢**

NATURES BEST 300 Pork & Beans 2 FOR **49¢**

JOAN of ARC 303 C.S. White CORN 2 FOR **59¢**

LIBBY IN BUTTER 12 OZ Sweet PEAS 2 FOR **63¢**

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS SHOP AND SAVE
WE GIVE GIFT BOND STAMPS
Double on Wednesday with \$5.00 or more

CARSON'S SUPER MARKET
MERKEL, TEXAS
FRESH VEGETABLES
FREE DELIVERY MON WED FRI
BEST MEATS IN TOWN