

# The Merkel Mail

Thursday, July 16th, 1987 . . . Merkel, Texas

Our 99th Year



Video's & Moore in Tye held their grand opening ceremonies Saturday. Shown from left are store's owners Rita & Shawn Don Niel & Violet Law of the Tye Chamber of Commerce, and the Moore, with their son Monty. Staff photo



Tri-City baseball league champs this year with an undefeated season were the Lumberjacks. Team members include Front row from left) Roger Steele, David Dotson, Stephen Jacobs, Devin Ely, George Hamilton, [second row from left] Michael Blue, John Walsh, Steven Bauer, Kyle Doan, Sean Leamon & Johnny Wells. Not shown in Michael Craig. They were coached by Earl Blue [left] and Jack Walsh. Complimentary photo

## Lumberjacks are Tri-City champs

The Tri-City Baseball league champs, the Lumberjacks, sponsored by the F & M National Bank, will be playing in the All-Star Tournament July 27th in Colorado City. The team added David Thomas, Randy Toombs and Stevie Bierra.

Other teams included The Padres sponsored by Our Mother of

Mercy Catholic Church and coached by James Boyd and Billy Bob Toombs; The Drillers, sponsored by Gerald Rutledge and Manuel's Bulldozer coached by Juean Bierra and Frank Rodriguez; and the Evaders, sponsored by Andy Hart-CPA and coached by Bill Whisenhunt and Robert Walker. The league wanted to thank

League President Freddie Toombs and Connie Mac Seymore and Lendon Bauer.

They will be hosting a bake sale Saturday at the Ben Franklin Store to raise money for their All-Star trip. Anyone wanting to make donations or place orders may call Donna Bryan at 928-5835 or Jean Blue at 1-698-0344.

## Classes for four year olds, letters, recipes, new Trent boss, special session . . . more

by Cloy A. Richards

Anyone interested in their child attending a four year old class at Merkel or Tye Elementary during the 1987-88 school year should contact the Merkel Elementary School office or the Superintendent's office before August 1st.

This class will be for students of limited English proficiency from households that would qualify as economically disadvantaged under the free and reduced lunch program guidelines.

To enter, a student must be four years old on or before September 1st.

About 25 local residents are finding out just how serious the city is in enforcing the local weed ordinance as they receive registered letters this week.

The city weed ordinance says it is illegal to allow weeds or brush to grow in excess of 12 inches and it is also illegal to have trash or debris on a lot that would endanger the health, safety or well-being of the community.

So far, the city has only inspected the Northwest area of town and found about 25 lots to be in violation.

The letters those landowners will be receiving gives them a little time to have the lots cleaned or the city will cause the lots to be cleaned and bill the property owner for the service.

There are a couple of places in the Northwest part of town the overgrown lots are just flat dangerous from a traffic point of view. Weeds are so high on some corner lots you can't safely pull on to the next street.

Letters affecting the Northeast area of town will be mailed out in the next couple of weeks.

The Merkel Chamber of Commerce has decided to extend the deadline for recipes for their cookbook until the end of the month.

So far, recipes have been received from the President, the Governor, as well as local legislators Charles Stenholm and Steve Carraker. The "locally famous" Chamber fajita recipe will also be included

in the book, as well as the recipes for picca de gallo and guacomole.

You may turn in your recipes at the Chamber office on Edwards Street at Marilyn Tittle's Book-keeping Service or at The Mail office.

I met Trent's new superintendent Monday and he seems like quite a nice guy.

He seems to be very excited about his first superintendent's job and likes what he has seen so far in Trent.

He said the community has accepted him and his family well and is looking forward to the start of school.

Trent also has a new business manager, football and basketball coach and all they currently are looking for is a math teacher to complete their personnel for the 1987-88 school year.

The news flying from Austin during the past couple of weeks has been scary, to say the least.

The Texas Legislature and Governor are currently trying to

Please see Page 2

## City accepts bids on home projects, extends sanitation

The Merkel City Council met Monday night and awarded bids on homes that qualify for a state funded home remodeling program.

Councilmen also discussed letters that will be mailed this week for people who own lots in violation of the city weed ordinance.

Domingo Castillo was awarded bids on five homes and Gregory & Goode Construction was awarded one bid. In about two months, council will be accepting bids on six more homes to be remodeled under the program.

The state-funded program pays for the remodeling of homes for people who meet certain income guidelines. The homes are remodeled to make them more energy efficient. The city is still accepting applications for homes to be remodeled in the future, although there are enough applicants for the 26 homes that are funded.

In other action, council learned

that 25 certified letters will be mailed this week to people who own property in violation of the city's weed ordinance. That ordinance states it is unlawful to have weeds and small brush in excess of 12 inches on a lot or to have trash or debris that would endanger health, safety or the well-being of the community.

The letter gives the property owner a period of time to clean up the lot or the city will have the lot cleaned up and charge the expenses to the property owner.

Letters mailed out this week take in the Northwest area of town from Kent Street West and Old 80 North.

The next batch of letters will be mailed out taking in the area from Kent Street East and North from Old 80.

Councilmen also approved an extension on the city's sanitation service. The city trash pick-up will be extended two miles North of town along FM 126. People who

want their trash picked up may contact City Hall for service.

Connie Ybarra of Merkel was appointed to the Merkel Housing Authority during the meeting.

Council also heard the monthly police report.

City police worked a total of 63 cases including seven thefts, three cases of burglary and two cases of burglary of a motor vehicle.

Police also investigated two cases of telephone harassment, worked four traffic accidents, and investigated a case of criminal mischief and disorderly conduct.

Police also investigated two cases of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, issued 29 traffic citations, made seven arrests and answered three dog calls.

Merkel Police Chief Bob Jones presented the report to council members.

Council's next session will be held at the Merkel Emergency Medical Service building July 27th.

## Don Gibson takes over as new Trent ISD superintendent

Saying the Trent school system "sold itself", Don Gibson has accepted the TISD superintendent's position.

Don is 42 years old and comes to Trent from the Dawson ISD in Welch. This is his first superintendent's position. While at Dawson (located between Lamesa & Brownfield) he was principal for the elementary school and had been offered the high school job there.

He was born and raised in Welch and is a 1966 graduate of Texas Tech. His first teaching and coaching job was in Brownfield where he stayed until entering the farming profession in 1971. The school administration bug bit him in 1982 and he left the farming business to continue his education at East Texas State where he received his master's degree in school administration in 1985.

Mr. Gibson told *The Mail* "Trent is an outstanding school system and my job is to find areas that need improving and improve them. By improving the school system it will make the community proud of the school."

He added "I love to talk and visit, and part of a superintendent's job is public relations. Keeping the community informed and letting the community feel they are a part of the system also plays a major part of my job."

He is an avid sports fan and feels that is one way a community can rally around the school system. "Being an ex-player and coach, I have seen how a successful team, band, or individual can bring out the community support and that's what I am here for. The teachers and students I have met are an outstanding group and I am looking forward to working with them."

Mr. Gibson has moved his family, wife Debbie and three daughters to Trent. He has twin daughters Denise and Renee who are 15 and Janet is 13.

Trent also has a new football coach, Doug Gore. Gore has been selected to coach the East Squad in this weekend's All-Star 6 Man game. He comes to Trent from Rochester. Ed Donahue was hired as assistant football and basketball coach.

Robert LaBerg is the new business manager at Trent. He worked in banking in Dallas and this is his first position with a school district. Gibson told *The Mail* the district was getting ready for the start of school as they were busy painting and doing pre-

liminary work on the 1987-88 school budget. He said "Most of what we are doing now is very preliminary because we still don't have any idea what our funding

will be until the Special Session of the Texas Legislature has been completed." He is currently in Austin attending a seminar on community schools.

by W. E. DuLaney

## Local Masons have new sign; will meet tonight at 7:30

The Merkel Masonic Lodge on Edwards Street has a new sign. It states the lodge was chartered in 1891. Texas Masons are celebrating 150 years of Masonry in Texas and the Merkel Masonic Lodge # 710 would like to share this sesquicentennial moment with you.

**The Alamo**— The most famous battle of the Texas Revolution came about in San Antonio at a little mission called The Alamo. On March 6th, 1836, 187 men under the command of William Barrett Tavis were defeated by several thousand Mexican soldiers under the command of Ge. Santa Anna.

Americans and Texans alike were so enraged by that massacre and like the United States Flag and the Statue of Liberty, the Alamo became a symbol of Courage and Freedom. On July 4th, 1976, the Grand Lodge of Texas placed a bronze marker at

the Alamo, honoring the Masons who died there: James Bowie, David Crockett, James Bonham, Almaron Dickerson, William Barrett Travis and other unidentified Masons who gave their lives in the Battle of the Alamo.

One of the few who survived the massacre was Mrs. Almaron Dickerson (Suzanna), who had been advised by her husband to display her Masonic Apron over herself and their child during and after the battle. Santa Anna saw to her needs and even offered to adopt her child. She declined the offer saying she would "crawl and work her fingers to the bone to support the baby, but that she would rather see the child starve than give into the hands of the author of so much horror."

Merkel Masonic Lodge members will hold a floor practice at 7:30 tonight (Thursday).

## Sales tax rebates down

Merkel's latest sales tax rebate figures show the town is doing better than the county average, according to a news release from the State Comptroller's office.

The June rebates were \$2,000 lower than last June's, but Merkel is still 11.32 percent behind in payments this year, compared to 1986 figures.

Merkel's latest check was for \$6,084.02, compared to \$3,996.69 in June, 1986. So far this year, Merkel has received \$34,093.98 compared to \$38,444.55 through the same period last year.

Tye's rebates are down 15.05 percent. Tye's June, 1987 check was \$2,094.23, compared to \$4,470.50 through the same period last year. Tye has received \$30,693.53, compared to \$36,130.78 for the same period last year.

Trent did not receive a check this month and their rebates are running 4.74 off their 1986 pace.

Elsewhere in the county, Abilene's rebates are 13.71 per cent behind while Tuscola's are down 25.61 per cent. Impact is the only Taylor County community showing an improvement in rebates as they are 2.40 per cent ahead of their 1986 pace.

State Comptroller Bob Bullock sent checks total \$53.6 million in sales tax rebates to 1,039 cities that levy the one-percent city tax. Bullock said 1987 payments were down 6.5 per cent compared to payments made in the same period last year.

July checks represent taxes collected on sales made in May and reported to the Comptroller by June 20th.

## LIFE group will meet tonight

Merkel's LIFE organization will have a meeting tonight (Thursday) at 7 p.m. at the LIFE

Building on Kent Street here. Members and potential members are urged to attend.



## Smith-Pursley ceremony held in Brady June 20th

Miss Tonda Evon Smith of Rochelle and Phillip Bartley Pursley of Merkel were married June 20th at the Sunset Ridge Church of Christ in Brady.

Parents of the couple are Mr. & Mrs. Luther E. Smith of Rochelle and Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Pursley of Merkel.

Given in marriage by her parents, the bride chose a formal length gown of white crystal organza with beaded silk venise motifs, a high neckline, leg-mutton sleeves and a basque waist. The full skirt was enhanced by scattered appliques and the semi-cathedral length train featured a triple ruffled flounce. Her headpiece was a chantilly lace tiara with scattered seed pearls. She carried a cascade bouquet with white and peach roses, stephanotis and baby's breath.

Tamara Smith of Midland attended her sister as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Melanie Hart of Abilene, Deborah Nance of Brady and Suzanne Machen of Winters.

Brad Pursley of Dallas attended his brother as best man. Groomsmen were Britt Pursley of

Merkel, brother of the groom, Randy Martin of Abilene and James Petty of Abilene.

Roger Myers of Irving, Willie Marsh, Charlie Hart and James Turner, all of Abilene, seated the guests.

Cari Goble and Lauri Goble of Fort Worth were candlelighters.

The reception was held in the Church Fellowship Hall where the bride's table was centered with an arrangement of peach flowers flanked by white candles in silver candelabra. The four-tiered bridal confection featured peach colored live flowers. The chocolate groom's cake centered a table decorated with grapes.

Houseparty members were Heather Petty and Kasey Martin of Abilene, Kerri Ridout of Roswell, N.M., Jan Wiggington and Nan Crouch of Brady.

Out of town guests attended from Merkel, Abilene, Fort Worth, Midland, Austin, Dallas, Lubbock, Brownwood, Early, Bangs, Coleman, Ballinger, Baird and San Antonio.

The couple now live in Sweetwater, following a wedding trip to Jamaica.



Mrs. Bart Pursley

## Butman's hold annual reunion at Butman camp

Friends and descendants of early day pioneer family Sam Butman Sr. and Marge Vaughn Butman met at Butman Methodist Camp for their annual get together July 11.

Diversions of the day were swimming, visiting and picture taking.

After a blessing was delivered by Forrest Harlow of San Angelo, each family.

Lottie Everett of Sears Nursing Home was the oldest family member attending and two week old Ronald Dale Decker III, grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Swinney was the youngest

Harlow, Jenefer & Bill, San Angelo; Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Paik & Randy, Midland; Mr. & Mrs. Mark Merrell, Mica & Megan, Colorado City; Mr. & Mrs. Luvern Jagow, Johnny & Troy, San Angelo; Pauline Butman of Abilene. From Merkel were Mr. & Mrs. Frank Brnovak, Gaylon Brnovak and son Matt; Mr. & Mrs. Billy Bob Neff, Pam & Danny Santee; Mr. & Mrs. Donnie Riggan & Sunny; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Swinney, Darla, Manie, Tammie & Ronald & Mary Russom.

Greatly missed were three family members who died during the year; Ben Butman, Mrs. Sam Butman, Jr. and Kenneth Ray.

Attending were Mr. & Mrs. Steve Butman & Aimee; Helen Butman, Abilene; Beth Butman Ramsey & Ashley & Wendy; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Duncan, Ft. Worth; Lottie Everett, Sears Home in Abilene; Joe Swinney, Merkel; Ronald Decker, Merkel; Mr. & Mrs. Forest

## New MISD facilities Ollie for president?

From Page 1

work out budget compromises to balance the state's budget and fund essential services. It looks like they will need an additional special session to work out the state's money woes.

Business managers and superintendents from Texas school districts are waiting on answers from Austin, before they begin final budget making decisions.

It ought to be really interesting in the next few weeks.

MISD will have new facilities when school opens in September. Classrooms have been added at Tye Elementary, and a reading lab has been constructed near the Junior High campus here.

Again, almost all of the work was performed by the school's maintenance department, at considerable savings to the taxpayers.

Ollie North for president they say?

Well, in my book, he'd be a lot better than George Bush or Jack Kemp, the only two unofficial Republican candidates... so far.

Although Ollie's patriotism is refreshing some of his methods of accomplishing his objectives seem questionable at best.

In the Reagan administration, where 100 presidential appointees or officials have been either indicted or investigated for some

sort of criminal investigation, North's acknowledged shredding of requested documents and lying to Congress (both by his own admission) seem to be accepted, and the American people have told all kinds of pollsters they like North and what he did in his role in the White House.

It's hard to not like a man like Lt. Col. North. He is a very dedicated Marine Officer. He does what he's told to do and does not question authority. That's every soldier's job and he does it well.

But Ollie North for President? Come on, be serious. Next thing you know they'll be asking Governor Bill Clements to be his running mate.

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## CAPITOL JOURNAL

STEVEN A. CARRIKER  
House of Representatives

While the Texas Legislature worked into the Fourth of July weekend, Gov. Clements spent a week or so in Taos, N.M. This latest absence marks the second year of critical special sessions in which Clements has headed for the mountain. As you will recall, candidate Clements promised his secret plan for balancing the state budget during the fall of 1986, but instead disappeared in silence to Taos. Now, as the Texas budget crisis deepens, Gov. Clements has once again taken off for regions well beyond the state line.

Gov. Clements privately put out the word to legislators last week that there was one and only one tax bill he would support to balance the state budget and keep our schools open: a tax on insurance premiums. The House, committed to an adequate state budget which will serve Texas citizens, voted for this unpopular tax measure because of Clements' pledge to accept the insurance tax. Now that the house has passed this legislation to the Senate, Clements has sworn that he never promised to sign anything.

The Senate is now working on the tax bill sent from the House. At the time this is written, it is too early to know the final action of the Senate. The House tax bill included an increase in the sales tax rate and an initial expansion of the sales tax base to include insurance. Insiders expect the Senate to revise the House bill, eliminating the insurance tax and broadening the sales tax to include professional services. The Senate action could result in a lower sales tax rate. The House's response to this Senate action is uncertain, as a broadened sales tax bill failed a test vote in the

Williams' celebrate 25th

The family of Lloyd & Patsy Williams request your presence as they celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.

A reception held in their honor will be Sunday at the Home State Bank Community Room in Trent from 2 until 4 p.m.

The event will be hosted by their children; Tad & Jan Williams, Billy & Lisa Williams and Debra Williams.

They ask that you do not bring gifts.

MHS classes of 1947-48 will reunite

The classes of 1947 and 1948 Merkel High School grads are planning their 40th class reunions for September 25th and 26th. Anyone attending school at that time are invited to attend. Addresses are needed for the following: Larry Bailey, Beverly Bramlett, Lillian Brandon, Orville Kemper, Janice Perry, Novice Smith, Meiba Cook, Gene Frazier, Vernon Greenly, Truman Harvell, Billy Harvell, Frances Perkins and Peggy Simpson. If you have information on any of these people please contact 926-5976 after 5.

House last week.

The big urban hospitals and high-dollar medical specialists are gearing up to cut the small hospitals and rural doctors out of any relief from high liability insurance costs. The sole approach being taken to the medical malpractice problem is an effort to limit damages in malpractice suits to \$1 million. Although this limit might be useful to some of the largest hospitals in the state, small rural hospitals and doctors are struggling just to obtain \$100,000 to \$500,000 of liability insurance coverage. Obviously, placing a damage cap at \$1,000,000 will be of no benefit to these health care providers. A more useful approach would be to give doctors and hospitals with clean records a good experience ratings a break on their rates, but the 7.5 per cent of Texas doctors who are responsible for 65 per cent of the malpractice claims want everybody else to help pay for their carelessness.

## GUESS WHAT SEXY LADY IS 40 TODAY?



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY K. J.

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|                   | <b>KRAFT ICE CREAM TOPPING</b>           | 20 OZ                          |               | <b>\$1.89</b>     |          |
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| DUNCAN HINES      | <b>BRAN &amp; HONEY MUFFIN MIX</b>       | 10.75 OZS                      |               | <b>\$1.39</b>     |          |
|                   | <b>PARADE BISCUITS</b>                   |                                |               | <b>5/\$1.00</b>   |          |
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**WELCH GRAPE JELLY** 18 OZ JAR 98¢  
 PARADE DILL QT **HAMBURGER PICKLES** 89¢

**PARADE PLAIN SUNSHINE CRACKERS** 1 LB BOX 83¢  
 CARNATION 12 OZ CAN **EVAP MILK** 2/93¢  
 LIBBYS 3 OZ CAN **POTTED MEAT** 3/69¢

**RED PLUMS**



**SANTA ROSA SWEET** 39¢ LB  
 FRESH **BROCCOLI** 39¢  
 WASHINGTON DELICIOUS **RED APPLES** 59¢ LB

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 GOLDEN **BANANAS** LB 33¢  
 RUSSET **SPUDS** 10 LB BAG \$1.79

**CHUCK STEAK** LEAN TENDER LB \$1.69  
 CHOICE BEEF **CHUCK ROAST** BONELESS LEAN \$1.59

**GANDYS BUTTER MILK** 1/2 GAL CRTN \$1.09

**GANDYS DAIRY GOLD HOMO MILK**  
 1 1/2% LOW FAT MILK GAL \$1.93  
 JUG

GOOCH B. R. **BRISKET** PACKER TRIM 7-9 LBS \$1.19  
 GOOCH B R **FRANKS** ALL MEAT 12 OZ PKG 99¢

**REYNOLDS 12 IN FOIL WRAP**  
 25 FT ROLL 63¢

**LIQUID DAWN DASH**  
 32 OZ JUG \$1.63  
**DETERGENT DASH**  
 42 OZ BOX \$1.59

GOOCH BR **SMOKED SAUSAGE** 12 OZ PKG \$1.29  
 PARADE **BACON** SUGAR CURED LB \$1.39

**FREEZER PACK 1**  
 5 LBS GROUND BEEF  
 5 LBS PORK CHOPS  
 5 LBS CHUCK ROAST  
 5 LBS FRYERS  
 TOTAL WEIGHT 20 LBS \$30.99

**FREEZER PACK 3**  
 5 LBS GROUND BEEF  
 5 LBS CHUCK ROAST  
 5 LBS CHUCK STEAK  
 5 12 OZ GERMAN SAUSAGE  
 TOTAL WEIGHT 19 LBS \$28.89

**FREEZER PACK 8**  
 5 LBS GROUND CHUCK  
 5 LBS CUBE STEAK  
 5 LBS CHUCK STEAK  
 5 LBS SIRLOIN STEAK  
 TOTAL WEIGHT 20 LBS \$42.99

**DOUBLE GIFT BOND STAMPS EACH WED'S WITH \$5.00 IN TRADE OR MORE**

**WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS CARSON'S SUPER MARKET**  
 Fresh Vegetables Best Meats in Town  
 Merkel, Texas  
 WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITY