

# Merry Christmas

## The Rankin News 10c

SERVING THE INTERESTS OF RANKIN AND UPTON COUNTY

XXXIII—NUMBER 50

RANKIN (79778), UPTON COUNTY, TEXAS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1969

Assessor tells of new regulations—

### New method revealed for purchasing 1970 vehicle tags

in Teacher  
d for seminar



**ROY JOHNSON**  
Johnson, science teacher at Rankin High School, has been accepted as one of thirty participants from the western part of the state to attend a seminar on "Genetics" by the National Association of Biology Teachers and the National Science Foundation. The seminar is to be held at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma, January 5, 6 and 7, 1970.

Tax Assessor-Collector H. E. "Gene" Eckols this week announced that a new procedure will go into effect the latter part of December that will radically effect the manner in which one is to go about securing their 1970 vehicle license plates.

Beginning December 29, 1969, the Texas Highway Department, Motor Vehicle Division in Austin will begin mailing to Texas vehicle owners a "License Plate Renewal Application." This application will come directly to the vehicle owner.

"Don't throw it away," cautions Eckols.

This application will be the only "papers" needed to register a vehicle next year. Owners should take the application to Eckol's office, either at the courthouse in Rankin or the sub-station in McCamey. They may then purchase their 1970 tags.

The new plates will go on sale February 1, 1970.

"Again we want to emphasize the importance of keeping this application that you will get from Austin," Eckols said. "It will be of prime importance when you get ready to register your car or truck in 1970."

Vehicle owners who have the "personalized" plates for which they pay an added fee, can also expect to get a notification in the same manner, according to the tax assessor.

All systems are "go" for Santa --

### It's Christmas time in Rankin

There's no doubt about it. Santa will go into orbit in Rankin before the sun comes up tomorrow.

The spirit of Christmas has taken a firm grip on one and all. Home and business decorations are in profusion in all parts of town—so much so that one recent newcomer to Rankin posed the question: "does everyone always go in for Christmas in such a big way in Rankin I've never seen so many pretty home decorations in a town this small."

Yes, Mam, the spirit of Christmas glows brightly in Rankin every Christmas, perhaps a little brighter this year — perhaps it just seems that way.

The News published the biggest batch of Santa letters ever. We believe we got them all printed—and, as usual, the youngsters had their moments of reflective wisdom.

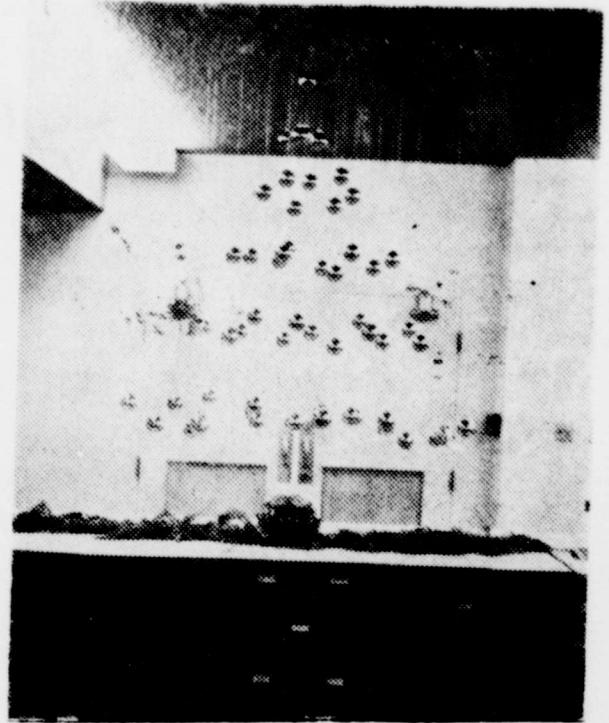
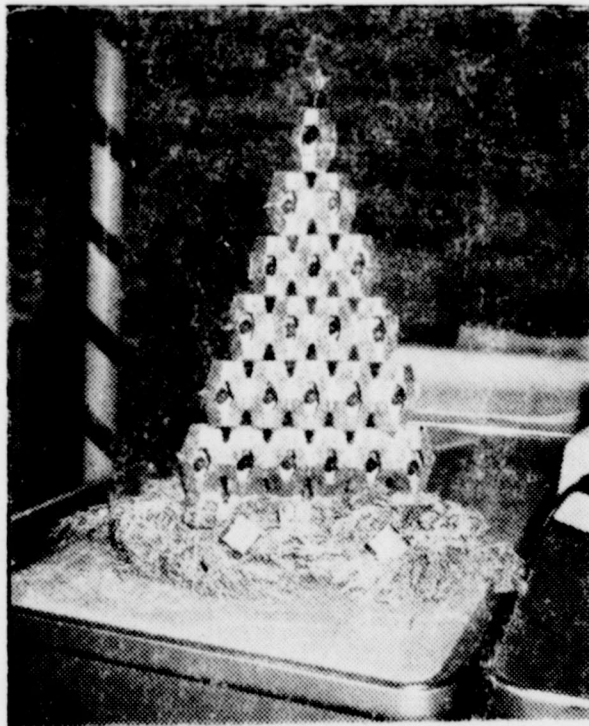
All letters are printed as nearly as possible in the wording and spelling used by the young writers since that's the kind Santa reads best.

One little chap reminded Santa to remember the "orfuns" and another had a few words to the ole boy about his efforts from last year when he said: "Thank you for the camera that you gave me last year. You gave me the rong kind of felim." (Better shape

up there, Santa Claus). Still another listed his desires and then put it on a sort of charge account when he said: "I'll try to be better next year."

And there were the usual requests for guns—in fact, one boy listed enough firearms—the real kind—for a small arsenal. Several wanted "dynamite shacks" and one reminded Santa to bring him "a time bom".

And some are truthful to the extent that Santa might find it a bit hard to match their candor. A little girl admitted that she had been "sort of good" and then put the question: "How have you been?"



### Christmas decorations need not be a big item in Yule budget

Christmas decorations are where you find them—provided you have the imagination and artistic ability to whip them up out of materials at hand.

When the girls at the office of Tax Assessor - Collector H. E. "Gene" Eckols found that no funds were provided in the county budget for Yule decorations, they got out their idea books and come up with a whole room full of make-your-own creations.

Pictured above are two of their Christmas "trees". The one on the left is made from egg cartons with each egg cradle being cut out and a tiny bell inserted. The tree measures about 20 inches tall.

The other tree is a suspended variety, made from gold pointed glass balls, hung from the ceiling on almost invisible wires, in the outline of the traditional tree.

Other decorations were made (Continued to Back Page)

### Eldorado tournament -- Rankin take another consolation win

The second week-end in a Rankin High School basketball Team found their skill cold in their opening game and lost, only their touch and win the first of their games, taking consolation bracket.

before last, they dropped to Ozona in the McCamey tournament, then defeated

Grandfalls and McCamey for the consolation prize.

This past week-end, in Eldorado, the competition was from bigger schools but the results were much the same. Rankin dropped their opener to Eldorado by 46-41, came charging back to defeat Mason 57-46 and trounced a Del Rio entry 57-48 in the finals. Susie Lacy led the local squad

in scoring in all three games; rapping the board for 25 points in the Eldorado cause, 22 points against Mason and a whopping 35 in the Del Rio game. She was awarded an individual trophy for scoring the most free throws in the tournament when she put in 40 out of 52.

Janie Barrett was the leading (Continued to Back Page)



## Schulze-Parsley Wedding Held in Midland Church

Mrs. Reba Schulze, 1807 Bates, Midland, announces the marriage of her daughter, Reba Vonelle Schulze, to Otis Wayne Parsley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Luther E. Parsley, 501 East New Jersey, Midland, on the evening of November 29 at 8:00 p.m. in Bellview Baptist Church. The Rev. Mr. Elbert L. Smithen, Jr., pastor of the church, officiated at the double ring ceremony. Organist was Mrs. Tugh Dickson.

Mrs. Kenneth W. Trim, Jr. was matron of honor. She was dressed in a floor-length dress of blue brocaded satin and carried a nosegay of matching blue carnations. The groom was attended by his brother-in-law, Mr. Eugene Carlton.

Candles were lighted by Miss Darla Stemper, niece of the groom, and Gary Cutbirth, cousin of the bride. Ushers were Joe Rains Kozimor, James H. Hamilton, Stanley Jack Kozimor, and Ken Hamilton.

The bride, given in marriage by her brother, Max Gregory Schulze, wore a floor-length gown of white satin with a full train outlined in white lace and accented at the top of the train with a white satin bow. Her veil of tiered illusion was shoulder length and she carried a white orchid

with cascading white carnations. A reception was held in the fellowship hall of the church. Guests were registered by Miss Mary Thomas. Mrs. Ruth Thomas and Miss Jamie Ilfrey presided at the bride's table. Mrs. Marjorie L. Mathews presided at the coffee table. In the center of the table was an arrangement of blue, white, and green cressantheams. The three-tiered wedding cake was decorated with blue flower pedals and was topped by blue satin wedding bells.

Out of town guests included Mrs. Elizabeth Rains, Mrs. Clois Hamilton, Ken Hamilton and James Hamilton of Rankin; Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Baker and Mr. and Mrs. Max McKenney of Brownwood; Mrs. Suzanne Coan, Dublin; Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Word and



MRS. OTIS WAYNE PARSLEY  
the former Vonelle Schulze

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Gibson of San Angelo; Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Cutbirth and Gary Cutbirth of Abilene; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gibson and Mr. and Mrs. Bobby

Scott, Mark Scott and Lori Scott of Odessa; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kozimor, Stanley Jack Kozimor, and Joe Rains Kozimor of Farmington, New Mexico.

The Rankin (Tex.) News  
Thursday, Dec. 25, 1969

## High School Class Favorites Picked by Student Body

Recently the Rankin High student body selected honor students for the 1969-70 school. They are as follows:

Janice Braden, Miss RHS; ry Bennett, Mr. RHS

Senior Class Favorites: Susie Lacy; Boy, Steve P

Junior Class Favorites: Diane Day; Boy, Bob Parha

Sophomore Class Favorites: Girl, Marilyn Workman; Tony Daniel

Freshman Class Favorites: Nita Page; Boy, Steve Mc

den.



# ATTENTION Vehicle Owners:

There Have Been Changes Made in the Method of  
Securing Your Vehicle License Plates

Shortly after December 29, 1969, you will receive by mail a "License Plate Renewal Application" from the Texas Highway Department, Motor Vehicle Division, Austin, Texas.

## Do Not Throw This Away

After February 1, 1970, bring this application to my office in the Courthouse in Rankin or the Sub-Station in McCamey, and we will sell you your 1970 License Plates.

This Application is all the "papers" you will need in order to purchase your tags.

WATCH FOR IT IN THE MAIL  
BE SURE TO KEEP IT UNTIL YOU ARE READY  
TO REGISTER YOUR VEHICLE

# H. E. "Gene" Eckols

Tax Assessor-Collector  
Upton County, Texas

### THIS EMBLEM

means a great deal  
to you and your  
insurance . . .



- ★ Wider choice in policy placement
- ★ Best possible rate and price
- ★ Prompt and Personal service

As your Independent Agent, we can "personalize" your insurance needs and see that you buy only what you need. It makes for savings to you and satisfied customers for us. See us for ALL your insurance.

**DUNN LOWERY  
INSURANCE AGENCY**

Phone 693-2402

### THE RANKIN NEWS

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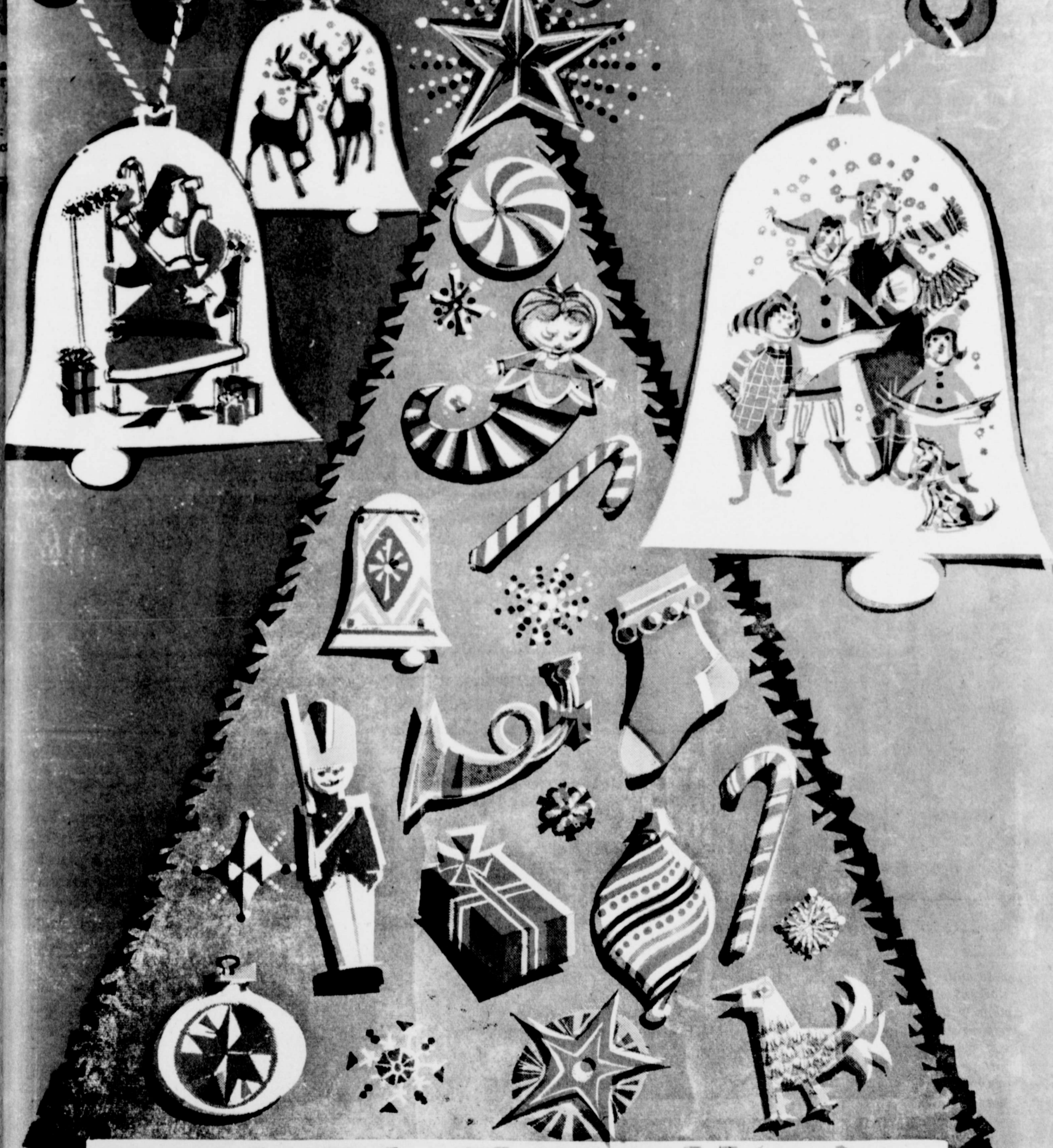
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Member 1969  
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



# Christmas Greetings



The Rankin News



# THE SCOOP by Scoop

J. B. Hutchens, Jr., Editor

### A Santa Letter—

Dear Santa,

Sir, I feel that there's something going on your business that you should know about.

I'm not making any accusations for I know you are busy and probably have to use computers just to get your work done, but somebody goofed.

Charlie Hale wrote a letter to Santa Claus and has already got a golf cart. I, too, wrote you a letter and I only asked for a putter that would keep me from three-putting any more golf greens.

I not only have yet to get that putter, my letter was returned unopened — six-cents postage due.

But maybe next year?

And, if you were the one who sent me the Sox, thanks. I think I ought to tell you, though. I wear a size 12—

not 8½; but it's the thought that counts isn't it.

One other thing — has ole Charlie really been that good a boy?

Yours ever,  
Scoop

### A Winner—

For a long time now Dub Day has been saying that Rankin is a wonderful pecan country. I guess winning all those 1st places in Monahans just about sews up his contentions in that department.

And what do you think about Skinny Taylor winning \$50 in the deal? Or had you heard about it?

Naturally, Skinny being the unassuming fellow he is, it's made very little difference in his attitude. Oh, I've heard that he's bought a rooster, starting wearing overalls, smoking a corn cob pipe, getting up before daylight and is thinking of writing a column on pecan growing, but aside from that he's just a natural as can be.

A little sidelight on the pecan deal. Dub spent about a week before the contest running about the county gathering up his prize entries for the contest. He had graded, weighed and culled them and had them up in his office awaiting the date to send them in.

And — you guessed it— somebody came along and

(Continued to Next Page)



## Merry Christmas

It's here again... the season to be jolly... the season of warm enjoyment shared with friends and loved ones. And a wonderful time for us to express our thanks for your loyalty and consideration. Merry Christmas!

Dunn Lowery Insurance Agency

### MERRY Christmas TO ALL!



Carolers sing the joys of Christmas... and may those joys be yours. Your generous support and trust is really appreciated. Many, many thanks!

Mary Pierce

TROY LAUNDRY SUB-STATION

## Merry Christmas to All!



Like the sparkling beauty of a snowy landscape, hearts are filled with peace and good will. Over the mountains, through the woods or wherever you'll be at Christmas, we wish you a merry one and sincere "Thanks" for your continued support.

TOMMY AND ALENE WORKMAN



coop --  
 (from Preceding pg.)  
 bigger part of them.  
 they wern't choosy.  
 ok a big handful

out of each variety.  
 No telling what prizes  
 we'd have won had some-  
 one not got a hankering for  
 pecans at the wrong time.  
 In still another outcrop-

ping of the pecan bit, Walt  
 Poage, upon hearing about  
 Skinny and his \$50 dollars  
 for winning said, "Good  
 gosh! Are we going to se-  
 lect a pecan queen?"  
 If we did, Taylor would  
 probably win that one too.  
 He'll do about anything to  
 win \$50 bucks.

**It's Christmas—**

This is our final issue of  
 1969—there will be no paper  
 next week.

It's the sincere hope of  
 me and my family that  
 yours will be a truly happy  
 Christmas season. Take it  
 easy at the table, don't  
 break up the kid's toys too  
 quick, be careful of what  
 you digest New Years eve  
 and we'll see you all next  
 year.

**The Rankin (Tex.) News—  
 Thursday, Dec. 25, 1969**

**LETTERS TO SANTA**

Dear Santa,  
 I have been a good boy.  
 I want a drum, power car,  
 and any thing else you want  
 to bring me. I don't have a  
 chimney so you will have  
 to come in the door.

Love  
 Denny

Donbor I love Rudolph  
 and Santa. Donbor and I  
 love you.

Rudolph and I will play  
 to golf and I will play with  
 poor Rudolph. I love you  
 Rudolph.

sign Jeff

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a bike for Christ-  
 mas and a doll And also  
 Bisbee. I hope you have a  
 good Christmas.

Your friend,  
 Victoria Abalos

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a car, football, and  
 a ball.

Your friend,  
 Rabbie Reams

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a doll for Christ-  
 mas and a bicycle to. Merry  
 Christmas.

Love,  
 Theresa Stroud

Dear Santa Claus,

I would like to have a doll  
 that cries mama and a Bar-  
 bie clothes and a Barbie.  
 have a veary nice Christ-  
 mas

Love,  
 Susie Taylor

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a Swingy doll, a  
 Kenner stove, dishes, tab-  
 le set, Baffy doll, Baby  
 pusher. And their will be  
 some cookies and milk on  
 the table.

Love,  
 Debra Story

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a doll thot does  
 every thing like a baby.

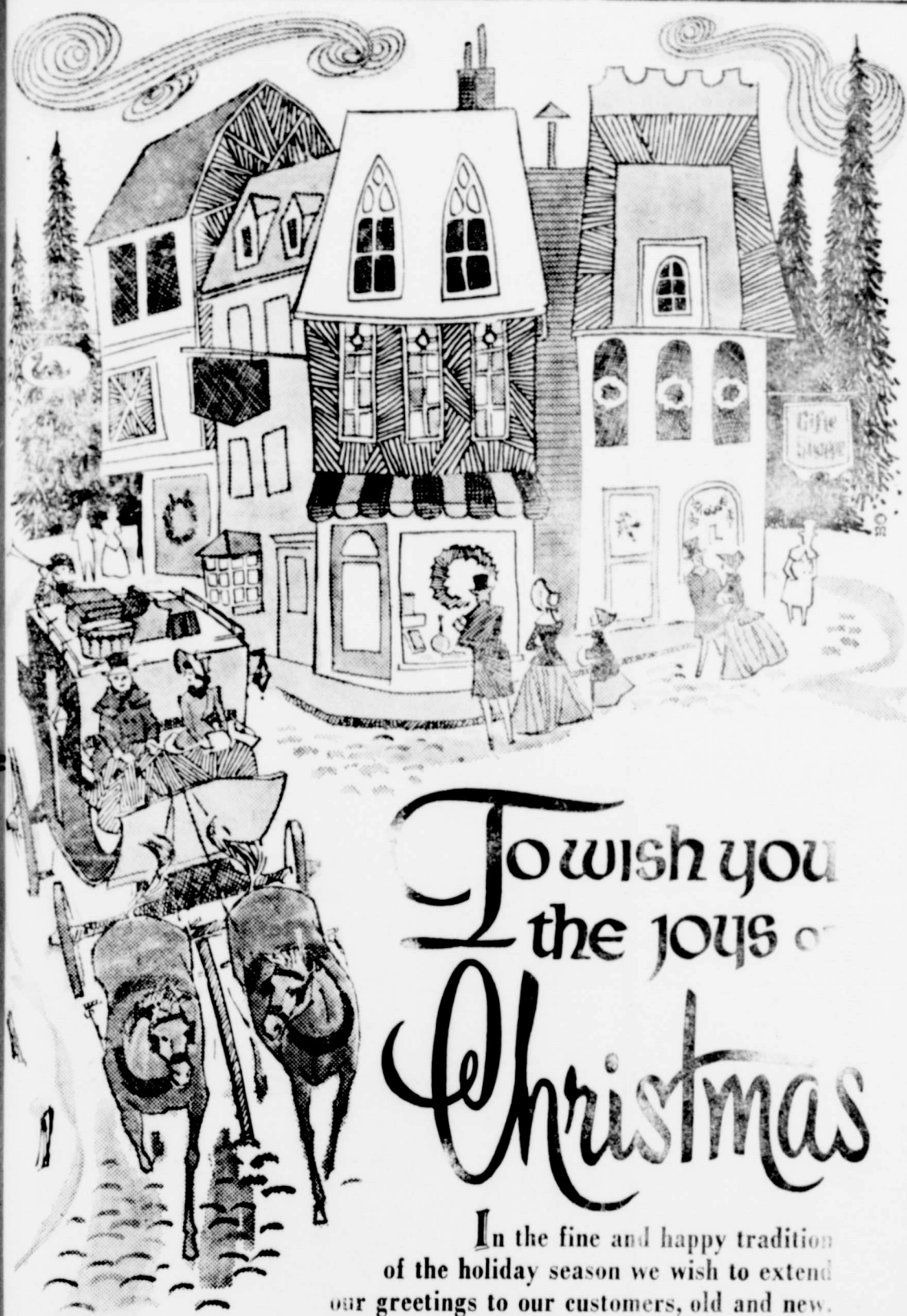
I want a red robe and  
 houseshoes. I want a stro-  
 ler for my doll with two  
 Deals. I want some black  
 boots. I want some stretch  
 pants and shirt to go with  
 it. I want Crisy. I want  
 dishes.

Your friend  
 Shelly Edge



**To**  
 all our  
 customers,  
 best  
 wishes for  
 a Merry  
 Christmas.  
 We thank  
 you warmly!

**HURST BARBECUE**



To wish you  
 the joys of  
**Christmas**

In the fine and happy tradition  
 of the holiday season we wish to extend  
 our greetings to our customers, old and new.  
 May you enjoy the festivities and delights of  
 this special time as your families gather in joyous  
 celebration. Thank you for your loyal trust and support.  
 Your warm friendship makes us feel very proud. Merry Christmas.

**BOGGS GROCERY**

Ray, Sug and Staff

**Greetings**

*Happiness,  
 kindness,  
 and tidings  
 of good will  
 are what  
 we wish you  
 on this  
 holy and happy  
 holiday. We send  
 you our best through  
 this little message to show our appreciation.*

**RANKIN  
 INSURANCE AGENCY**



## LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa Claus,

I won't a Swingie and a Chrissie, an Suzie Homemaker Mixer, an a Suzie Homemaker Vacumn cleaner, an a record playre an a Barbie car. Please do not forget the poor people across the sea. Let them have a Mary Christmas.

Your friend,  
Ronda Shankle

Dear Santa,

I want a Dancareena, and my brother wants Hotwheels and Kim wants a Dancareena too.

Me and Kim want a hands down game also too. And my brother also wants a truck with horese I do not know what my mother. But my father wants a knife.

Your friend,  
Karrie Ratliff

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a nurse kit, and a Easy Bake Oven, a Tippy Toes, a Dancerina, a Big wheel.

Your friend,  
Rhonda Bagley

Dear Santa

I finally know what I want this year. I guess I want a dart board this year. My brother wants a game I think, but I'm not sure.

We just hope we get what we want.

Dee

Dear Santa,

He's got some deers. I have a tree. I want a busy box Bring little brother some drums.

Kimmy

Dear Santa,

I hope you can make it this year. But to make sure you get me what I want for Christmas I'm going to write a letter. I want a Swingy doll she is very pretty and what ever you want to get me. Have a nice Christmas.

Your friend  
Cindy

Dear Santa,

I want you to bring me a organ and a doll for Christmas Eve. And my brothers a car hotwheels camera case. And my mother a dishwasher and a dishdrier and my daddy a

truck.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Your Friend,  
Dianna Pina

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a Barbie doll with clothes. And for my brothers some cars and clothes. And something for my little sister a little doll.

Your Love,  
Dorothy Deanda

Dear Santa,

I want a watch please for Christmas and a hope you get a present too. My sister wants a cinderella watch, too.

Love  
Wayne

Dear Santa,

How are you feeling? I am feeling fine. I would like a doll, a dairy, a purse, a batton, a Bible, a dress, and a T. V. My sister wants a purse, a batton, and a typewriter. My little sister wants a walking doll. My brother wants Hot Wheels.

Love,  
Karen O'Dell



**A MERRY CHRISTMAS**

In the happy spirit of the holiday cheer that abounds, may we offer sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas to all our friends.

**HIGHWAY GROCERY**  
Mr. and Mrs. Archie McDonald & Employees

## To Our Friends and Customers:


At the close of this, another business year for us, we wish to take this means of expressing our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to each of you for the very fine support you have given us through your patronage.

It has been a pleasure to serve customers such as you and we look forward to the year ahead with expectations of serving you, not only as customers, but as friends as well.

TO EACH AND EVERYONE  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
AND A HAPPY, PROSPEROUS  
**NEW YEAR**

# Red Bluff Lumber Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Covill  
and Staff



**CHRISTMAS CHEER**

may we join with Santa in wishing you good cheer!  
It's been a joy to serve you and we sincerely thank you for the opportunity.

**GOSSETT ENCO SERVICE**



## LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa,  
I wish I could have a pooltable and a set, and battling a watch. And a B.

friend,  
W.

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good girl. Dancerna, Swingy, house. friend, Smith

Dear Santa Claus,

I wish I could have Crissy. I also want a white blouse. Do you think you could bring me a red bicycle to.

How is Dasher and Dancer, Prancer, Vixen and Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. I hope they are all well to go on that long trip.

Your friend,  
Susan

Dear Santa,

I have been sort of good. How have you been?

We wish you a Merry Christmas

We would like to extend our warmest holiday greetings to our friends. Thank you, Merry Christmas.

Rancher's Wool & Mohair Assn.

May you have the Peace, Hope and Love which is Christmas

The H. Wheelers

## The Rankin (Tex.) News—Thursday, Dec. 25, 1969

I want Dancerena doll and a I. D. bracelet. Your friend, Vickie Autery

### SCHOOL MENU BREAKFAST

January 5-9

MONDAY

Hot Biscuits, Sausage, Honey, Orange Juice

TUESDAY

Cinnamon Toast, Cereal Apple Sauce

WEDNESDAY

Pancakes, Syrup, Sausage, Apple Wedge

THURSDAY

Oatmeal, Rice, Doughnuts, Grape Juice

FRIDAY

Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Jelly, Buttered Toast, Grape Fruit

Milk and butter served with each meal.

LUNCH

January 5-9

MONDAY

Tossed Salad, Steak Fingers, Cream Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Hot Rolls Apple Sauce or Peaches

TUESDAY

Harvard Beets, Meat Loaf, Pork and Beans, Corn on the Cob, Hot Rolls, Chocolate Pudding

WEDNESDAY

Vegetable Soup, Crackers, Tuna and Pimento Cheese Sandwiches, Peanut Butter Cookies

THURSDAY

Cherry Peppers, Enchiladas, Pinto Beans, Spanish Rice, Crackers, Corn Bread, Canned Fruit

FRIDAY

Gelatine Salad, Potato Chips, Hamburgers, Chocolate Chip Cookies

Fresh Milk and Butter served with each meal.



## JANUARY BASKETBALL SCHEDULE FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS

Jan. 2, Big Lake, there, Boys A and B game

Jan. 5, Coahoma here, 5:30, Boys A and B, Girls A game

Jan. 2, Imperial here at 6:00 p.m., Boys A and B

Jan. 8-10, Grandfalls tournament, Girls A team

Jan. 8-10, Bik Lake Tournament, Boys A team

Jan. 13, Ozona, here, 6:30

Girls A and B game

Jan. 13, Imperial there 6:30, Boys A and B game

Jan. 15\* Iraan there, A teams, boys and girls

Jan. 16-17, Ozona Tournament, Boys A team

Jan. 20, Sanderson, here, Boys A, Girls A teams.

Jan. 25, Ozona, here 6:00 Boys A and B

Jan. 27, Iraan\* here A teams, Boys and Girls

Jan. 30, Sanderson\* there A teams, Boys and Girls

\* district games

Best Wishes for the CHRISTMAS SEASON

Thanks to the support of friends old and new, everyday business is a special pleasure. Best wishes for the holiday season.

MARY LOU'S DRUG

Greetings

may this Christmas holiday bring you a bounty of blessings and happiness, including our very best wishes for a peaceful Yuletide... have the most wonderful Christmas ever!

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. "Gene" Eckols



## LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa Claus,

I would like to have a doll that is called Miss Beasley. My sister wants a tape recorder and I wish you would bring my baby sister the doll Baby catch a ball.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Love,  
Sylvia Peterson

Dear Santa,

May I have a electric shooting gallery.

Thank you for the camera that you gave me last

year. You gave me the rong kind of felim.

Love,  
Clay

Dear Santa,

I have been very good. And I want a doll, Hondaa 90, horse, Hot Rod to come home, pooltable, a purse, bulletinboard, printingpress a Barby doll, dynamite shack.

Love,  
Kim

Dear Santa Claus,

I wish you would bring me a bike for Christmas. and thank you for bringing every one a presents and will you bring me a beebie gun.

Mike Gidson

Dear Santa Claus,

How are you feeling this year? I hope you brind my babby brother a little play pony. My big brother wants a B. B. gun. Will you please bring me a operation game a great big organ.

Your friend,  
Rusty Lee

Dear Santa,

Please bring me a Easy Bake Oven, a Dancerina, and some barbies. and don't for get the poor people.

Would you get something for them.

Your friend,  
Kim Ratliff

Dear Santa Claus,

How are you? I am fine. I have been very good this year. I have been thinking

about my Christmas list and here's what I want for Christmas. A Barbie hostess set. Some new Barbie clothes. A talking Barbie. Holy Bible. A pretty doll. A Barbie hair fair.

Your friend,  
Donna Miller

Dear Santa,

I want a football a bike a deerrifle 4 10 gauge a 30-06 and a Honda minibike.

Your friend,  
Albert

Dear Santa,

I have been very good. I would like a Barby that talks and twist and turn and has bendable legs. I want some clothes to go with her. I want a doll house to.

Love,  
Christi Tankersley

Dear Santa,

send me a walkie talkie, and A Johnny Lightening, an a football suit. and Send the poor people something.

Your friend,  
Billy Ray

Dear Santa

For Christmas I want a drum, guitar, bubble bath, Hot Wheels, little cars, coloring books, and some big trucks.

Thank you From  
Rickie Kelley

Dear Santa Claus,

This is what I want for Christmas: A watch and a walkie talkie and Crissy and an I. D. bracelet.

Your friend,  
Paula Humphries

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a twentytwo. And some cowboy boots. For Christmas and dynamite shack. My sister wants a Dancerna.

Your friend,  
Tim

Dear Santa,

I want a Ken barby and a P. J. barby doll I wanta Dancerna and my birthstone ri want a bicycle to.

Your friend,  
Kathy



Here's an old-fashioned kind of Merry Christmas full of heart-felt wishes for you to share, in the good will of the season, with those you hold near and dear. And we also offer an old-fashioned "thank you" for the patronage and consideration you've shown us.

## JOHNSON'S

Charlie and Barbara Wheeler  
and Employees



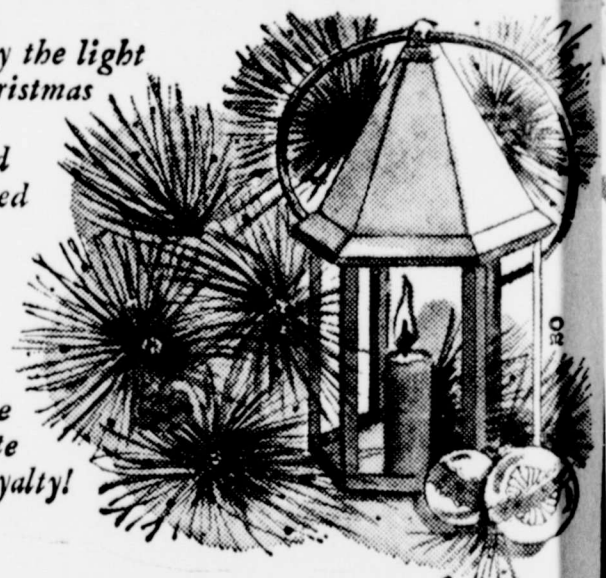
## Yuletide Greeting

With deep appreciation of your loyalty and good will, we're wishing you all the pleasures of a fine old-fashioned Yule. Be merry!

BUCKLAND  
INN

## CHRISTMAS CHEER

May the light of Christmas shine on you and your loved ones. May its bright warmth fill each day. We appreciate your loyalty!



William E. (Bill) Sherrill  
Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 1



The Rankin (Tex.) News—  
Thursday, Dec. 25, 1969

## LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa Claus,  
Santa Claus I want a witch and a foot ball and I will see you when it is Christmas.

Eddie Gonzales

Dear Santa Claus,  
I want Football shoes for Christmas. My Brother he wants a bike to. I have been good. My other Brother wants a go cart. My Mother and Daddy want a lamp.

Your frind  
Mark Sides

Dear Santa,  
I want some new clothes and a camera. I want some

new bell-bottoms also. My little sister want the doll dance-arina. I also want a doll to sit on my bed.

Love,  
Teresa

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a football set, a Johnny Lighting, a Walkie Talkie and football pants and pads.

Remember about the poor people.

Your friend,  
Rodney Johnson

Dear Santa Claus,

Please remember to bring the poor people something to. I want a G. I. Joe suit.

Santa you have a good Christmas. I will be in ber.  
Your friend,  
Charles Cowen

Dear Santa Claus,

How have you been? I have been fine. Would you bring me a moon wagon and a Miss Beasley doll?

If you can do.

And don't forget the people with out any homes.

Your friend,  
Gay Burns

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a B-B gun.  
I Been nice.  
Tony McKenzie

Dear Santa Claus

I have been a good girl. My mother is nice to us.

I want a doll and a bike for Christmas Santa Claus.

Love  
Beverly Merwin

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa I want a Dan-careena doll. And a hands down game also. My daddy wants a knife too. I want a monopoly game also. My dog wants a candy cane too. My grandmother wants a table cloth too. My mother wants some cups from Mrs. Poge.

Love  
Paige McMullan

Dear Santa,

Would you please bring me an Easy Bake Oven, a Miss Beasley, a Spirograph, and a bicycle seat. And remember to bring the poor people some toys.

Your friend,  
Kim Rose

Dear Santa,

I want a kambami, and a Chrims Record, and Hotwheels set.

I'd like a little pool table.

Your friend,  
Carl Feuge

Dear Santa Claus,

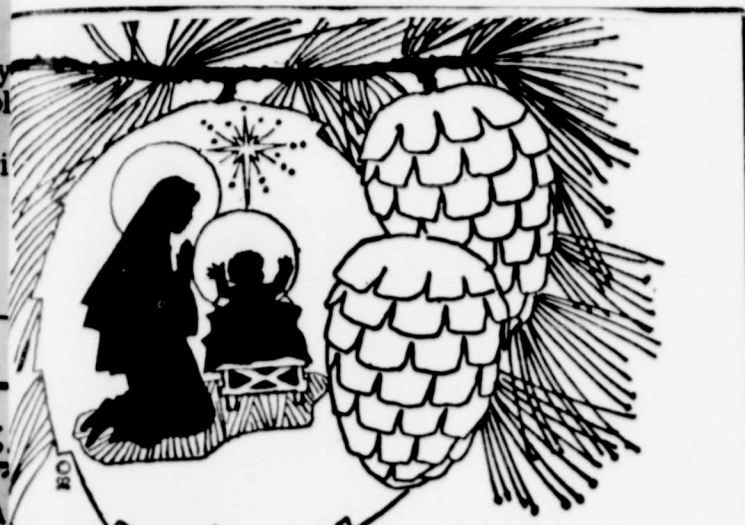
I want a minniebike and I want a johnny lighting 500 and and a cranetruck. and I'll trie to be a better boy next year.

Your friend,  
Billy McLaughlin

Dear Santa,

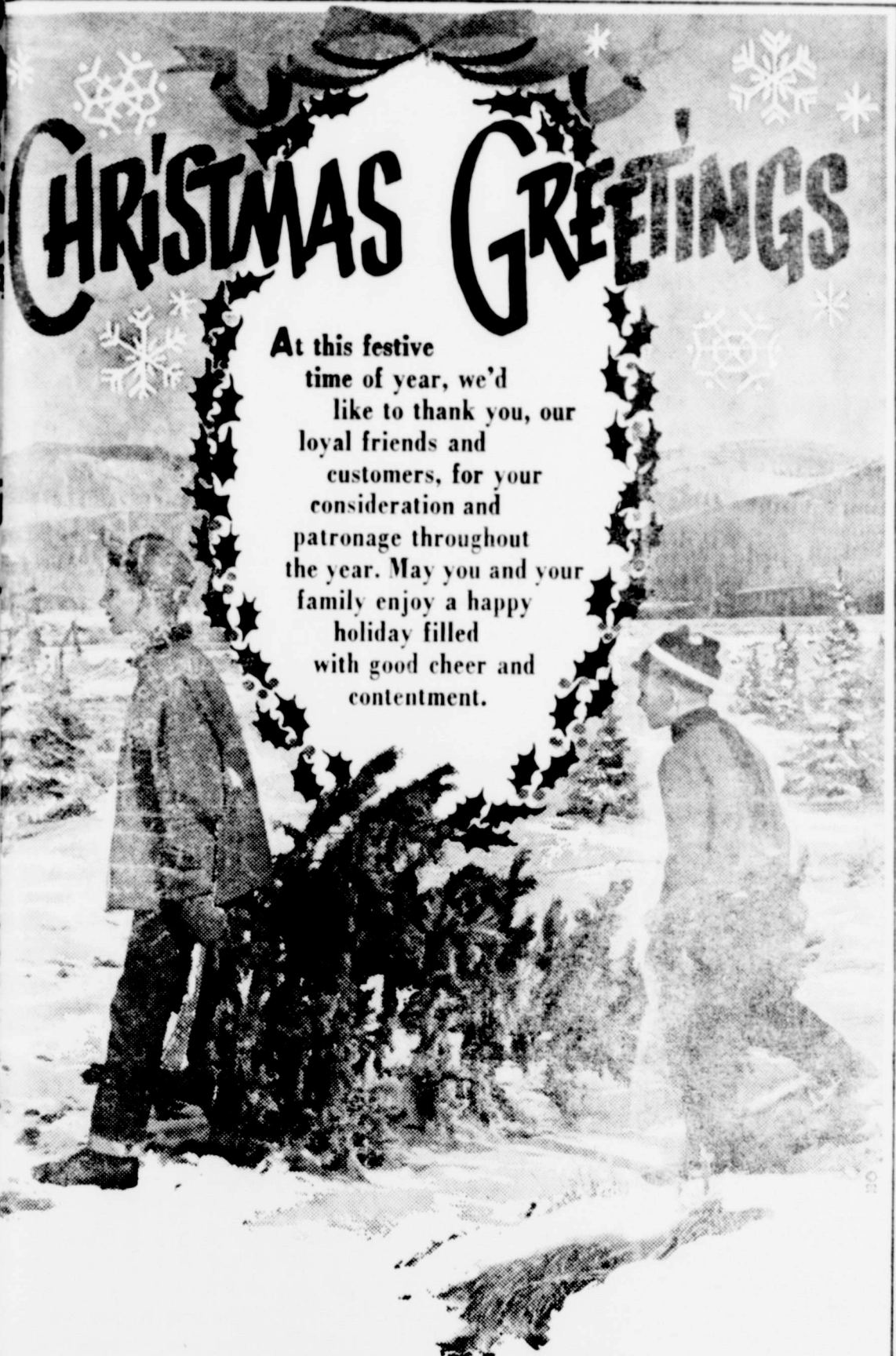
I would like to have a little doll with blond hair and brown eyes. My brother would like some little red cars and trucks. My sister does not know what she wants.

Love,  
Linda



May Christmas be  
radiant with the light of peace,  
joy and blessings for you and yours.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Porter Johnson



At this festive  
time of year, we'd  
like to thank you, our  
loyal friends and  
customers, for your  
consideration and  
patronage throughout  
the year. May you and your  
family enjoy a happy  
holiday filled  
with good cheer and  
contentment.

## Cashway Food Store

Mr. and Mrs. Dell Cooledege



## GREETINGS FOR Christmas

To you, sincere greetings and  
thanks . . . with every good wish that the  
joy and delight of the Yuletide will be yours.

NANCY K. DAUGHERTY  
County and District Clerk





# Christmas Greetings

Here's wishing you a merry old-fashioned Christmas. And to you, warm thanks for your confidence and trust! It has been a pleasure to serve you.

**HALE'S GARAGE**  
Charlie & Bess



## A Christmas Prayer

May the beautiful meaning of Christmas ... living through the ages to inspire men everywhere...continue to live in your own heart and mind. And may your Christmas be filled with joy.

John and Velma Menefee

## LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a hot wheel track. And a many Bike to. Will you bring a \$999. And a new bike with mag wheels on it and a little wheel on front and two hand brakes.

Your friend,  
Brent Collins

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a train, and an electric car, and a football game.

Your friend,  
Terry Hastings

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa please remember about the poor people. I want an walkie talkie and I want a Johnny Lightning. And please send some the poor people. I want a BB gun pistol.

Your friend,  
Cecil McKenzie

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a Hot wheel set, and Big wheels and a Seighbor saw, and a drill and a tyewriter.

Don't forget the poor people. Bring them coat and thaigs. Some people don't have coats.

Your friead,  
Sam Wilkes

Dear Santa,

I want a Easy Bake Oven And Baby catch ball. And please help poor people. They need food and cloths.

Your friend,  
Caye Whatley

Dear Santa Claus,

Dear Santa Claus I want a football set. I want a tiny toys. I want a shirt.

Your friend,  
Jimmy Richardson

Dear Santa,

I want a Dancerina. And Baby catch a ball. Oh please and I want Chrissie and Miss Beasley and Barbys kent.

Oh and remember our poor people.

Your friend,  
Socorro Chavez

Dear Santa Claus,

Santa please remember about The poor people. I want a Talking Barbie and clothes. We work and play at School. and my Teache name Mrs. WIMBERLEY

your friend,  
Mary Deanda

Dear Santa Claus,

Santa Claus bring me dolls. Santa I will be niceer than I have be.

I like you Santa Claus. Santa Claus bring my mother and father and my chirrenn some Fifts.

My friend  
Santa Claus  
Marilyn Pleagens

Dear Santa Claus,

Please come by my house. I want four things they are Crissy and Swingy, a Dancearinga and bring some toys for the orfuns.

Your friend,  
Stacy Lester

Dear Santa

I want a Johnning set for Christmas. My sister wants a tape er. Then next year some tinkler toys.

Love,  
Dwayne

## GREETINGS



Times change... but the warmth of the Christmas spirit lives on forever. Enduring, too, is the gratitude we feel for the privilege of serving our fine customers.

May your  
Holidays  
be happy

**ROY'S RESTAURANT**  
The Management & Staff



## GREETINGS

The beauty and spirit of the season brings to mind most wonderful gifts... friendship, loyalty and good will. We thank you for yours and wish you a Merry Christmas.

Judge and Mrs. Allen Moore



The Rankin (Tex.) News—  
Thursday, Dec. 25, 1969

## LETTERS TO SANTA

Dear Santa,

I am in the first grade and 6 years old. I have tried to be a good boy.

Please bring me a football, spirograph, talking Bozo, tie bar, gun and holster set and blocks.

You are a nice Santa. I thank you.

Love,  
Steven Midkiff  
Box 56, Midkiff, Texas

Dear Santa Claus;

Please send me a baby doll that says "kiss me goodnight." Send my little brother anything as he isn't particular. My mommie

wants some golf clubs. Get my daddy a new putter as he fell on his old one. Also, please send my nanie and pa-pa something real nice as I love them very much.

By the way, I live at the Golf Course and I'll be there so please leave my gifts.

Thanks a lot. I hope you don't get lost.

Love,  
Kim

Dear Santa,

I want a BB gun and a Time Bomb Game. I want a football.

Thank you,  
Jeff

Dear Santa,

I want a firetruck for Christmas. I also would like a cars and trucks. Guns and a cowboy and Indian set.

Robbie Herrington

Dear Santa,

I would like a jewelry box, watch, Swinzy and some pretty clothes.

Love  
Punkin

Dear Santa

I am five years old

For Christmas I want a boys robe, a train, a rifle and a cowboy hat.

Your friend  
Eric Sims

Dear Santa,

I am 9 years old. I am in the 4th grade.

I am trying to be good and help my parents.

Please bring me a stuffed animal, Crissy doll, a disc, view master and slides and some games.

Thank you.  
Love,

Janice Midkiff  
Box 56, Midkiff, Texas

Dear Santa,

I think this Christmas is going to be a white one. I hope you will bring me something to go in my bedroom. And a watch, bubble bath. Thank you Santa.

Your friend,  
Karen Warren

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a sleeping bag, race track, football, football set, electric football set game, and a time bom.

Love,  
Peter Sobotik

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a bicycle, a candy machine and Tippy Toes. I hope you have a nice Christmas.

Love,  
Sue Ann Latzel

Dear Santa,

I am 4 years old. Please bring me a talking Bugs Bunny, small TV, blocks, gun and holster set, binoculars.

Thank you.

Love,  
Quad Midkiff  
Box 56  
Midkiff, Texas



It's time once more to greet friends old and new with sincere thanks for the many joys of serving you. Here's to happiness in the New Year.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

McKENZIE MOTOR CO, RANKIN AUTO PARTS  
McKENZIE TEXACO

## The Gift of Light Makes Christmas Bright



We in WTU land  
are glad to  
help brighten  
your holidays.  
Merry Christmas!

West Texas Utilities  
Company

Equal  
Opportunity  
Employer

an investor  
owned company



May every joy and blessing of this holy season come to you and your loved ones, bringing peace and happiness . . . making hearts and spirits bright. Merry Christmas!

ELIZABETH L. RAINS  
County Treasurer



# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



RANKIN,  
TEXAS

## THE FIRST STATE BANK

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# LETTERS To The Editor

Following was received from a Rankin G. I. in Vietnam. For real he explains in his will be unsigned. However he is well qualified, an astute observer and that he is there, we merits publication.

night crawling under the barbed wire on our perimeter. He was carrying three satchel charges, apparently to be used to blow up aircraft on our flight line. A civilian KP at an aviation company in Chu Lai put a satchel charge behind a rack of mess trays. When a tray was pulled out the charge exploded.

you will find an article from the "Pacific Stripes" (Sunday, 7 commenting on how in as that at My Lai open. This is the first ever seen in print any honest and factual account of the Vietnam War.

claim to be an expert war or well versed on strategy, but I have been am seven months and do everything in this clip-ue. In fact, the story played down the amount of the infantryman in must cope with. This ited only to rifle com-ther. Even aviation units are not immune to acedness of Vietnamese

etnamese civilian my employs was killed at

I mention these things to further illustrate that no Vietnamese can be trusted; to show why many soldiers return home thoroughly disgusted with Viet Nam and everything and everyone connected with it; to show why GI's resent risking their lives to protect someone that may be shooting at them tomorrow.

It isn't hard to see that I am biased, but the facts are here! How you use these facts is up to you. I ask only that you read the story and decide for yourself whether or not to reprint it. Since enlisted men under the rank of sargeant are no longer authorized to publicly comment on the war I ask that you do not use my name in print.

Sincerely,  
(signed . . . .)

(Following are highlights from the above mentioned article.)

## HOW COULD A MASSACRE HAPPEN?

To try to understand the alleged massacre . . . it is necessary also to understand the atmosphere of a war which has led many U. S. fighting men to feel they are as much at war against Vietnam as for it.

While the communiques speak of battles involving companies and battalions . . . each GI carries with him the certain knowledge that in any village there may be men, women, and even children who are also the enemy, awaiting the time and place to attack him.

Brutality, and indifference to human life, are commonplace in Vietnam. Even the disfigurement of dead GI's is common.

In Vietnam the killing of civilians was a practice established by the Viet Cong as a major part of the war long before the first U.S. ground troops were committed in March 1965.

By official count, more than 20,000 civilians had been murdered by that time in enemy executions aimed at so thoroughly terrorizing the countryside that none would resist. The total now is more than 3,000 killed by the enemy in Hue when they held a part of that city for 2½ weeks. At Hue, the victims were predominately civilians of all ages. Many were killed simply by tying their hands behind their backs shoving them into a trench and burying them alive.

It was into this conflict that the American troops were plunged. They had been told to kill the Viet Cong who were bad and woe the peasant who only aided the enemy because he had no choice. Given a chance, the official line went, Vietnam wanted to be free and democratic just like America.

But the GIs found a war of sundered families, and divided allegiances to any regime, either Viet Cong or Siagon.

The infantry came to know that the farmer, who might be a friend by day, could become a guerrilla by night who killed just as sure-

ly and just as ruthlessly as the enemy's professional troops . . .

In short, the GIs felt—and still do—there were few they could trust.

There is no front in Vietnam, no rear, no safety. To the GI of a rifle company everyone outside the perimeter can be suspected of plotting to kill him. In Vietnam the word civilian does not describe noncombatants. It describes dress more certainly than occupation.

In Vietnam the GI has plenty of reason for his distrust and fear:

Item: An elderly woman noted for her ready smile and broken betel nut-stained teeth, was caught smuggling out a detailed map of the defenses of an American base where she worked as a laundrywoman.

Item: U. S. Marines found begging children to whom they had been giving food were stealing grenades that were tossed back at the Leathernecks during the night.

Item: One Green Beret commander found his desk booby-trapped by one of the Vietnamese working for him . . .

Item: After one night attack by a large enemy force, Americans sweeping the perimeter found the

body of the camp's barber, still clutching a rifle . . .

Item: A U. S. truck was blown up . . . GIs from another truck quickly traced out the electrical wires to the detonator and found a young girl still holding the handle. They shot her.

The Pentagon says that today's soldiers are the most sophisticated in history. But more than being able to operate intricate electronic equipment and the like, the GIs in Vietnam also could see at first hand the corruption, the indifference of Vietnamese soldiers to winning the war, contrast between the poverty in the countryside and the comparative wealth of the cities and the way Vietnamese merchants, bar girls and even children selling black market American soft drinks gouged them. Added to this were the deaths and maiming of friends. Cynicism mixed with anger rapidly replaced the early idealism among combat troops.

No spark sets off a fire unless it falls into combustible material. The sparks that ignite American GIs are snipers, mines and booby traps. The major cause of casualties in Vietnam are mines and booby traps. Snipers also are a

(Continued to Back Page)

## ARE INVITED TO ATTEND ALL SERVICES OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

REV. JESS TANKERSLEY, PASTOR

essed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which ing to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of rough faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last I Peter 1:3-5



DO YOUR BANKING WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR PERSONAL WELFARE

## For that Carefree Feeling . . .

of having your money problems solved and to face the New Year in high hopes, investigate the advantages of banking at a "full service" bank.

We make loans that can ease your financial strain and we offer you our years of experience in helping our customers plan a sound financial future.

Come in today and let us assist you off to a good start in 1970.



The First State Bank

RANKIN, TEXAS

Member FDIC



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

## LUTHERAN CHURCH SERVICES

EACH SUNDAY

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service: 11 a.m.  
Elizabeth & 8th Sts.

## NOW AVAILABLE

### Farmers & Ranchers DISABILITY INCOME PLAN

- ★ PROVIDES monthly income during disability resulting from both sickness and accident.
- ★ ISSUED to ages 25 to 60.
- ★ BROAD benefits and reasonable rates.

—FULL INFORMATION AT—

## RANKIN INSURANCE AGENCY

812 Main — Rankin

WE MAKE

## RUBBER STAMPS

RIGHT HERE IN OUR SHOP—NO DELAY  
Orders Filled in One Hour When Necessary

OVER 40 TYPE SELECTIONS

and we sell 'em just a little bit under the going price

## THE RANKIN NEWS

MAIL ORDERS ACCEPTED





# LETTERS To The Editor

(Continued from Preceding pg.)

major factor. The three are all the more hated because each is hidden and after the damage is done, there usually is no chance for the American infantrymen to even the score because no enemy can be found.

Often intelligence will pinpoint a village as the source of the mine and booby trap makers and snipers. Repeated sweeps through the hamlet turn up little or nothing except more casualties. And hatred builds up for the villagers who know the snipers and know where the hidden traps are but don't tell. Then one day something snaps in one or more men. The frustration and fear drives them across the line of civilized conduct that in combat zones is a hazy mark at best.

There are indications that these things might have been at work on the men who are accused of massacre in My Lai last year.

They certainly were on a group of American Marines I accompanied into a village south of Da Nang in 1965. A half squad, out of a regimental size force, went on a brief rampage killing a group hiding in a civilian air raid shelter.

The battalion was due to rotate home in four weeks. In the previous month, 15 per cent of the battalion had been killed or wounded by snipers and booby traps. None of the Marines had seen a Viet Cong soldier during the time.

After the reports of the incident were published in the United States, Maj. Gen. Lewis Walt, then U.S. Marine commander in Viet-

nam, issued a public statement saying the killings "grieve me deeply. And I express my deep sympathy to the loved ones of such innocent victims as I do the loved ones of the Marines who have given their lives.

The U. S. Command's position has been from the beginning that civilians are not to be harmed.

## Mrs. Buie is hostess for Sorority meeting

Omicron Tau Chapter of Beta Sigma phi met recently at the home of Mrs. Ron Buie. Fifteen members were present.

Mrs. Rusty Ratliff, president, presided at the business meeting in which committee reports were given by chairmen.

Social chairman, Mrs. Bob Keller, reported the success of the November social. Also the members discussed plans for the annual Christmas dance, which was held December 13 at the Yates Hotel.

The members voted to subscribe to magazines for the Rankin Hospital as their November service project. They also voted as a December service to bring a gift to the next meeting to be sent to the Abilene State School for retarded children.

The cultural program for the evening, "Personality and Relationship", was given by Mrs. Tommy Wilkes, in which all members participated by answering a quiz on their personality.

After the closing ritual the hostess served refreshments. Mrs. Ann Kelley won the door prize.

But the ease for the sanctity of civilian life is weakened by the knowledge that there are South Vietnamese assassination teams—sometimes led by Americans—operating in the countryside killing enemy officials, as opposed to soldiers, often in their beds at home, Viet Cong style. And GIs who have searched out a village after American bombers have done their work cannot help but be a bit cynical about orders not to molest civilians.

A senior officer in the legal field was asked after a series of murder trials earlier this year what he thought had motivated the Americans involved, all found guilty.

He said nearly all the cases he had handled involved villagers in Viet Cong held areas. When the pressure of fear or hate or some combination of these factors hit the men hard enough, they broke down with a sort of combat fatigue that ended with slayings.

"If these men never had come to Vietnam, they probably would have lived out their lives as useful citizens and with a police record no more serious than a speeding ticket or two," the officer said.

In some cases the same men have had to stand trial for killing civilians have helped support Vietnamese orphanages or become involved in unofficial relief operations for families made refugees by the war.

"In war, everything is realer than real. The capacity for great violence rises to the surface, but so does the capacity for great compassion," an Army doctor said. "Remember, part of the brutalizing men undergo is necessary to their psychological survival. You can't look war in the face with the kind of emotional response we use in the States. You would go mad."

## CLASSIFIED ADS



**CLASSIFIED AD RATES for the Rankin News: 4-cents per word per issue. Minimum charge of 75c per ad when paid in cash; 1-35 minimum charge on all ads put on charge account unless advertiser has active account with The News.**

**COSTOM FITTED bras and girdles at Vernell's Yarn Shop. Emma Lou Thomas will be in the shop to fit you each Monday 3 to 5 p.m. Ask about free bra. (a-12-27)**

**CALL RUBY TAYLOR at 693-2879 for Luzier Cosmetics for people who are allergic to perfume in other make-up, for oily, normal or dry skin — try Hypo Allergenic — unscented for problem skin. For the teenager, new shades that give that natural look. For a lovelier you, try Luzier. It's guaranteed. (b-12-25)**

**MATRESSES: New or rebuilt. Made by Western Mattress, 2430 W. 8th, Odessa. They are guaranteed. For a convenient home appointment, call Turner Motel, 693-2274.**

**THE CASTLE GAP-Horse Head Crossing Group of Alcoholics Anonymous serving Crane, Rankin, Iraan, Sheffield, Bakersfield, Girvin and McCamey will start regular meetings right after the first of January 1970 in McCamey. For information, write to A.A., Box 1004, McCamey, Texas 79752, Attn: secretary. Telephone 652-8865, Area Code 915, McCamey, Texas.**

**PLACE your order for these at the News office: Personal Name Tapes, sew or iron on, 50 for \$1.50; Personal Imprinted Stationery, box of 125 sheets, 50 envelopes, \$2.50; Postcards, 100 for \$1.50; Name and Address in plastic on key chain or luggage, 6 for \$1.50.**

**FOR SALE: 808 Kilborn, three bedroom house and extra corner lot with old building. Write: John S. Wimberley, Star Route, Midkiff, Texas 79755.**

**WHEELER'S FLORAL, day and night, phone 652-3275, 904 Burleson St., McCamey. Delivery service. Custom framing.**

**IN STOCK: 31-gallon metal trash cans with lids. JOHNSON'S.**

### World Renowned Reader Sister Fatima

**READER & ADVISOR — NOW SEE HER IN PERSON — SHE WILL GIVE YOU LUCKY DAYS, HANDS, CHARMS**

She has helped thousands all over the world with their problems and she can and WILL HELP YOU.

**Full Life Reading Half Price with this Ad Special This Week Only**

from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Se Habla Espanol  
Corner of Burleson & Upland Dr., McCamey. Watch for sign: "Reader & Advisor" on house.

The Rankin (Tex.)  
Thursday, Dec. 25,

## Basketball --

(Continued from Page 1)

rebounder for Rankin the first game when he led 18. Kittle Sue Gossett forwards in rebounding.

For the Mason game Jackson had 18 rebounds while Gossett in that department (10) wards.

In the final game, Jackson gain led in rebounding captured the ball 19 times the forwards, it was a good sett with 17 recoveries.

Coach Bill Butler said was highly pleased with efforts of the reserve squad in the Mason game, the take over in the second when guard Jo Brown sprained ankle and several others went to the bench on injuries.

This gives the A Team record of 8 wins, 4 losses marks the conclusion of activities until January.

The Red Devils have been in action since their season finish in Imperial.

## decorations -

(Continued from Page 1)

from christmas cards and greenery, including some apples picked up by a Oklahoma.

The office employees claim that all their ideas are original but they do challenge one to do a bigger decoration any cheaper.

And that's what they should do.

**HOUSING AUTHORITY of Rankin has one low-rent two bedroom unit available for rent. J. B. Hutchens or Tracy**

**LAST MINUTE gift suggestions. Mary Kay has men's gifts too. Call Patsy Kelley 2272. Gifts wrapped and immediate delivery.**

**FOR A NEW YEAR'S resolution how about making you stop in at least once at Mary Lou's Drug. hat of coffee, chat with a friend and enjoy a few minutes of relaxation. It won't be hard resolution to keep.**

**FREE: Cute puppies, parrots, man Sheppard and Collies. 693-2246 or come by 1111 born.**

**LAMINATING PAPER at Rankin News Office. Put the important documents in plastic. No tools needed except scissors.**

**POSTER MATERIALS — everything you'll need — color markers, inks, tempera brushes, stencils, rulers, etc. The Rankin News**

# END-OF-YEAR OFFICE SUPPLY NEEDS IN STOCK AT THE RANKIN NEWS