

BADGERS WIN 8-A TITLE

Trent Gorillas Win District Championship

The Trent Gorillas wrapped up the District 15-B boys basketball championship at Trent Monday night, trimming Highland, 50-41, to sweep two straight in the playoffs.

Score by quarters: Highland: 5-8-25-41 Trent: 15-29-42-50

BULLETIN!

Those who have filed for the city election in April are: Mayor H. C. West, re-election Joe Cypert, alderman Earl Hughes, alderman W. W. Toombs, unexpired term of Alderman Norman Hodge.

BULLETIN!

The foundation for the new Trent telephone building which will house the new dial system was started Thursday. This will complete the \$35,000 expansion and improvement program in Trent, stated Tommy Odum, and will give Trent a complete dial system.

First Chamber Of Commerce Officers



DAVID GAMBLE ... president



HORACE BONEY ... vice president



HERMAN CARSON ... treasurer

MASONIC CELEBRATION The Merkel Masonic Lodge is planning its annual George Washington birthday celebration to be held Friday night, Feb. 25.

Trent Will Use Oak Creek In Near Future

Trent will be drinking Sweetwater's Oak Creek Lake water in the next 30 to 40 days.

Trustees of Trent Independent School District let contracts for purchase of three and a half miles of four-inch pipe and for laying it from the Honolulu Oil Refinery already connected with Sweetwater mains with a six-inch main.

The contracts are expected to entail expenditure of about \$21,000 by the Trent Independent School District.

The water laid down in Trent will cost the district 50 cents per 1,000 gallons, according to W. B. Williams, superintendent of the schools. Of the amount 25 cents goes to the City of Sweetwater and 25 cents to the Honolulu Refinery, which pipes the Trent water through its own recently constructed six-inch line.

The TISD will sell water to the City of Trent, which furnishes about 75 private families. The rate to them has not been decided upon, but was expected to be about \$2 to \$2.50 minimum for gallonage somewhat above that charged the school.

BADGER SCHEDULE Friday, Feb. 18, Haskell here.

20 percent Discount On All Groceries Tues., Wednesday

Groceries at 20 per cent off regular prices will be offered Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 22 and 23.

This includes \$5,000 stock of the West Company Grocery. The sale will be held at 104 Edwards Street, the location of the West Grocery.

The sale will be open each day from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. All items will be sold for cash and carry. Stocks naturally are limited and the early buyers will be able to select everything they want, saving 20 cents on every dollar spent. The more one buys the more one saves.

This closeout will give everyone an opportunity to stock up on grocery items.

PLAY-OFF GAMES

The Badgers will play Cross Plains the first game of the regional play-off at 8 p. m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the Abilene High School. Tickets for students are 25 cents if bought at the Merkel School; otherwise student tickets will cost 50c, announced Supt. Mack Fisher.

The winner Tuesday night will go to Lubbock for the regional finals Saturday, Feb. 26.

Merkel Smashes Throckmorton Friday 71-54



DISTRICT 8-A CHAMPIONS — The Merkel Badgers. Members of the team from left to right are: BACK ROW — Coach Tommy Ellis, Billy Gilbert, Gail O'Brien, Jackie Russell and Kermit Rutledge. MIDDLE ROW — George English, Carl McKeever and Philip Pursley. FRONT ROW — Terry O'Brien, Bill Horton, Gene Hargrove and Robert McLeod.

Coach Tommy Ellis' Badgers smashed the Throckmorton Greyhounds Friday night here 71-54 to win the District 8-A basketball championship, their second straight championship. They have lost no games thus far in the district conference, having won 11.

Robert McLeod was high point man with 26. Philip Pursley second with 19. Bill Horton 14. Terry O'Brien 7. Kermit Rutledge 5.

The Badger girls bowed to Throckmorton girls 37-55. Janie Owens led with 35 points and Joyce Watson got 2. The other players were Marilyn Kelso, Imogene Dye, Jane Harris, Lois Campbell, Darlene Horton, Mary Harris, Sue McLean.

James Thomas was substitute coach for the regular coach, Mrs. Thelma Fry.

The game between the Badgers and the Greyhounds was a colorful affair, filled with tense excitement and nervous anticipation. The crowd began gathering early and by the time the main feature started, 8:30 p. m., the gym was packed and many persons were standing.

It was estimated by Principal Edwin Read that there were about 700 persons present, a record for the Badger gym. Harless Wade, sports writer, and Bob Gulley, photographer, of the Reporter-News were there to follow the game and take pictures.

Sheriff Ed Powell was among the spectators.

Though the Greyhounds fought valiantly, as time passed the fine championship class of the Badgers revealed itself and there was no question as to who would win.

In the first few seconds of play Throckmorton made a goal and Robert McLeod quickly followed with one. A minute later the Greyhounds made a free throw and a goal.

The Badgers retaliated with a

blast of two goals by Terry O'Brien and one by Philip Pursley. Throckmorton made two free throws and Philip made two also, making the score 10-7 in favor of Merkel.

With two and a half minutes left to play Throckmorton got two goals, forging ahead, 11-10. Then Robert socked in a goal and Philip did the same. Throckmorton made two free throws which Philip topped with two of his own and the quarter ended, Badgers leading 16-13.

In a few seconds Robert gathered two free throws, Throckmorton two goals, followed by Bill Horton getting a goal, score 20-17. Greyhounds made a goal, getting within one point of Merkel, 19-20.

Terry dropped in a free throw and Robert a beautiful fade-away hook shot to make Merkel 23 points. Throckmorton got good and made two goals, tying the score.

Robert shot a good goal, edging ahead; then Throckmorton again tied the score 25-25. That was the last time that Throckmorton did that with about two minutes left of the half.

Then Bill steadied in two goals and Throckmorton one. With one minute left to play Philip snapped in a goal and so did Robert as the half ended 33-27.

The Greyhounds, with underdog tenacity, tried hard. In a few seconds they made a goal but Robert retaliated with another. Throckmorton was good again, and again Bill snapped in another.

Throckmorton made two free throws and a goal but the Badgers came back strong with Robert shooting a goal and Terry a free throw with half the quarter still remaining, the score 40-35.

Billy Mae Gilbert came in for Bill Horton. Robert made a free throw and Throckmorton gained a goal. Again Robert dropped a free throw and Throckmorton

another goal with the score 42-39. Bill came in for Billy Mac as Robert eased two free throws. Then the Greyhounds came back with two free throws also.

Two and a half minutes left in the quarter. Robert made a goal, so did Kermit Rutledge. Throckmorton scored and Robert retaliated with two goals in the last minute of play and as the second ticked off Throckmorton struggled with three good free throws and made the score at the end 52-46.

In the final session Throckmorton made only 8 points 4 of them free throws, while the Badgers piled up 18 points. As the first four minutes jumped along Bill, Philip, then Bill, then Robert with 2 free throws scored Philip out ran the opposition for a 2-point lay-up shot and Kermit with a free throw sky-rocketed the score to 63-46.

When Throckmorton made a goal Philip followed. The Greyhounds made three free throws good. Bill smacked in a goal in the last minute and a half left to play and Terry's free throw was good.

Throckmorton was fighting desperately. They dropped in a free throw and then with a clear field Philip easily dropped a goal to make the Badgers 70 and Throckmorton made another goal as the game ended.

CEMETERY FUND

Below are those who recently donated to the Cemetery Maintenance Fund. Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund may leave contributions at the Farmers and Merchants National Bank. The donors are:

- Dowdy & Toombs \$15.00 Mrs. O. R. Dye, San Angelo \$10.00 Manlie Ellis, Abilene \$5.00 Mrs. Wm. Elliott \$5.00

Merkel 20 Years Ago

TAKEN FROM THE 1934 FILES OF THE MERKEL MAIL

DOUBLE BILL HERE

Prior to the Trent-Merkel basketball game on the local gym floor Friday night of this week, which marks the close of the season, the Eagle Band from Abilene High School will play a concert beginning at 7:30 p. m.

PLANS UNDER WAY

Plans for further beautification and improvement of the strip of ground along the railroad right-of-way, which was taken over last year, were advanced at a meeting of the local highway beautification committee, of which Mrs. R. A. Burgess is chairman, at a meeting held Sunday afternoon in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Bragg.

VISITOR SUCUMBS

Robert W. Terrell, 69, of Xenia, Ohio, died suddenly from a heart attack Friday morning of last week at the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. R. I. Grimes, with whom he and his wife had been visiting since Saturday of the previous week.

MRS. M. A. YOUNG DIES

Mrs. Mary A. Young, long-time resident of Merkel, died last Friday at the home of Mrs. T. J. R. Swafford, where she had resided for the past few months. Her maiden name was Mary Ann Coleman.

LIONS ARE INTERESTED

Boy Scouting, rural rehabilitation plans and highway beautification each came in for a share

of discussion at the regular luncheon of the Lions Club held Tuesday at the American Cafe.

HOWELL PLAYERS HERE

The Ray Howell Players opened a three-day engagement here Thursday under the auspices of the Merkel Fire Department. It is announced that the bill will include five big time vaudeville acts each night, with feature orchestra.

FUN GALORE PROMISED

The cast of the Negro minstrel at the Methodist Church Tuesday night will include: Eteyl Church, Charles Jones, Phil Gates, Delmar Compton, Alvin Bird, Bertie Lou Pee, Thelma McAninch, Mrs. Charles Russell, Mrs. Homer Patterson, Jack Frost; quartet - Cyrus Pee, Mack Buzbee, Will Wood and Pete Rutledge.

RECORD BIRTHS

Born to: Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Levech Feb. 15 a girl; Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Dye Feb. 16 a girl; Mr. and Mrs. Orion Tittle Feb. 17 a girl; Mr. and Mrs. Weldon B. Lollar Feb. 17 a boy; Mr. and Mrs. Miller E. King Feb. 19 a girl; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Freeman Feb. 20 a boy.

DURHAM IN CHARGE

Appointment of Tom Durham, a former publisher of The Mail, as assistant to the county administrator, in charge of the Merkel office, was announced Tuesday by County Administrator Doyle T. Brooks, who spent the day here in connection with relief affairs

This Happened in Merkel Forty Years Ago

TAKEN FROM THE 1914 FILES OF THE MERKEL MAIL

Mr. and Mrs. Otho Williams and little daughters, Le Nora and Helen, accompanied by Misses Annie Smith, Eva Williams and J. C. Mason, motored to Mt. Pleasant today afternoon.

About 30 Merkelites spent 24 hours in El Paso and Juarez. Two hours with Jess Willard convinced W. E. Adams that he (Jess) was going to beat the "Loll" out of Johnson while many of the Merkelites spent the Sabbath in witnessing a Mexican on bitten, half starved-to-death fight a bull.

Among this crowd were W. A. and son Edwin, W. E. W. J. Douglass, T. J. Coghill Hill, Clarence Eoff and Barbee, both of Noodle,

Judge W. W. Wheeler, J. D. Jones Sam Brandon. Mr. Scott endeavored to locate a Baptist church and the best he could do was to get a seat in the bull fighting arena.

Sunday afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Mershon and two children, Otto and Yowell, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Rush Buford, drove to Sweetwater. They went to Nolan and spent the night with Mrs. McKee, grandmother of Mr. Buford.

C. L. McNeese, who was injured last Friday by a runaway team, is in an almost helpless condition.

Thos. Largent of Route 1 is the proud owner of a new Maxwell touring car purchased last week. The sale was made through T. L. Grimes.

AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION



TOP ROW, left to right—Vicki Jane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Reid; Deborah Sue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Seymour; Shelia Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Smith. SECOND ROW — Randall Dean, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Smith; Lee Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Holloway; Betty June, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Harrison.

**NEWS ABOUT TOWN**

Visitors Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. James A. McWilliams were Cpl. and Mrs. Derwood McWilliams of Ft. Hood, Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood McWilliams of Abilene, Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Grant and Mrs. E. R. Thompson of Big Spring.

Mrs. Earl Baze returned home last Friday from a weeks visit in Ft. Worth. She was accompanied by Mrs. Baze's brother, W. C. Baze of Idalou, her nephew, Leonard Boden and Mr. Baze's nephew, Dale Ward, both of Ft. Worth. The visitors remained over the weekend.

Willie Joe Winter of near Seattle, Wash., who is in the Army, visited for two weeks with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Winter.

Mrs. Faye Johnson of Big Spring visited Mrs. Ada Mae Johnson and Miss Delia Kuykendall Saturday night and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Walton visited in Anson Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Allen Adams.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Webb and family of Lubbock spent Sunday with his father, W. W. Webb.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McFarland and children of Abilene spent the weekend with his mother, Mrs. Elma McFarland.

Visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Sledge Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Forgas and son of Big Spring, Mr. and Mrs. J. W.

Sledge and Mr. and Mrs. I. T. Sledge and son of Odessa.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Elliott of Stamford visited their sister-in-law Mrs. W. M. Elliott, Sunday. Other visitors on Saturday were her nephew and wife, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Shelton, of Seminole.

Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Dickerson spent a few days in Seminole visiting her sister, Mrs. Joe Dickerson and husband, recently.

Colonel Wallace was home from the University of Texas over the weekend visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Wallace.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Gentry and Patricia spent the weekend in Ft. Worth with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Doc Hodges.

Mrs. Ollie Fox and children were in Ft. Worth over the weekend visiting her brother, H. C. Thompson and family.

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. McCormick and grandson, Jimmy Stevens, of Abilene visited Sunday with her brother, Andy Shouse, and family.

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Bragewitz of Temple visited Sunday with her sister, Mrs. M. L. Walters, and husband.

Mrs. Alex Gamburger and children of Abilene visited Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Dokey.

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Davis and family were in Abilene Sunday visiting friends.

Mrs. J. A. Stockton, Mrs. Carra Lee McElroy and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Marr of Stephenville were Sunday visitors in the T. G. Bragg home.

Charley Higgins visited his family in San Antonio last weekend. Mrs. Higgins is leaving soon for a months' visit in Hollywood, Calif., with her brother, Bob Allen.

**Breathless Drama And Intrigue Pack Show at Queen**

All the necessary action ingredients for breathless adventure drama are present in super-abundance in Columbia Pictures' "Fire Over Africa," which opens Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Queen Theatre. Starring Maureen O'Hara and Macdonald Carey, the film includes a colorful, even exotic, locale, a fast-moving and suspenseful story, a beautiful heroine and a rugged and resourceful hero.

Flame-haired Miss O'Hara, a newcomer to Tangle, plunges into the bubbling cauldron of intrigue and danger as an American secret agent.

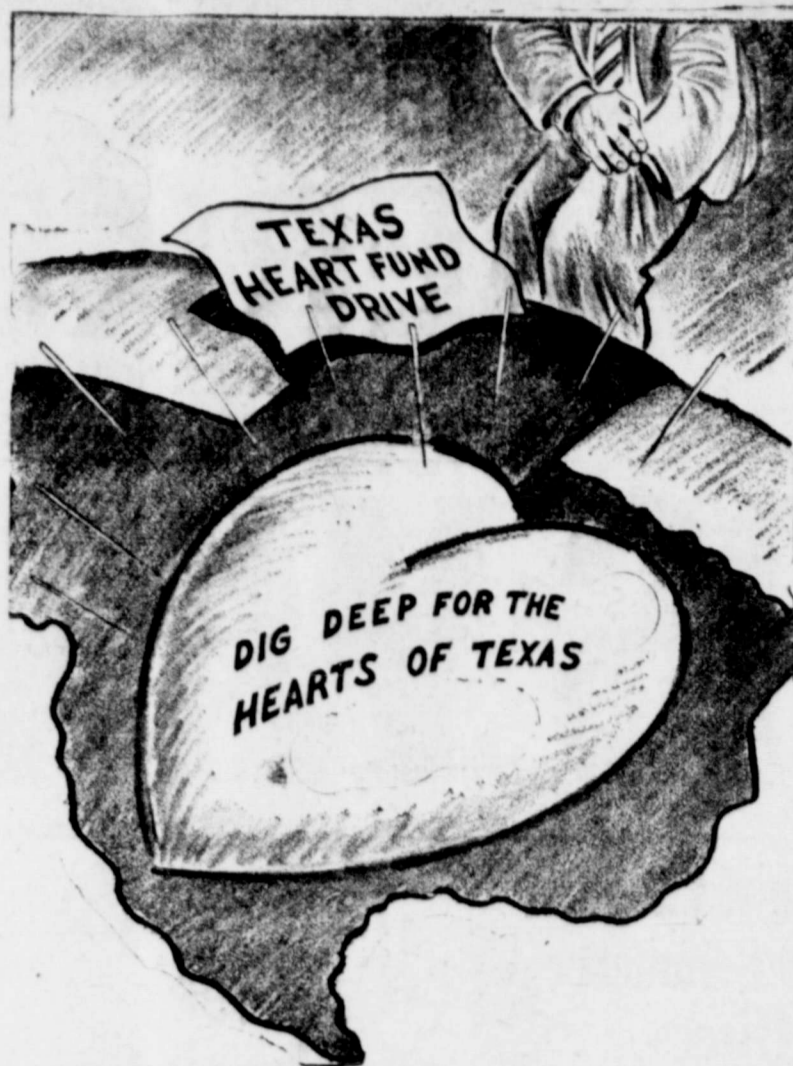
**SGT. GREGORY IN GERMANY**

Sgt. Joe D. Gregory is in Germany where he has been stationed for the past seven months. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Gregory of Colorado City and formerly lived in Merkel. His wife is the former June Rose Laney of Merkel, who now resides with her parents in Pecos.

**IS IMPROVING**

Mr. and Mrs. Emmitt Webb of Austin visited over the weekend with her sister, Mrs. Lorinda Campbell. Mrs. Campbell is improving after having blood transfusions.

Trouble comes to all men, but those who are looking for it will get more than their share.



**BILL PIKE WILL ENTER VET HOSPITAL AT MEMPHIS, TENN.**

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pike and daughter left Monday for Memphis, Tenn., where he will enter the Veterans Hospital. His right leg injured during World War II,

needs immediate attention. Mr. and Mrs. Pike had recently opened the cafe next to the Greyhound Station.

People who talk all the time not only waste a lot of words, but fail to make a good impression.

**Feb. 22 — A DATE TO REMEMBER**

This is the day we honor "The Father of our Nation," George Washington.

Our first president lived a life of



service to his country, based on noble ideals and great visions. He led our forefathers in establishing the precepts of

freedom and in making freedom a

reality. As we honor his birthday,

let us all remember that it is our

responsibility today to preserve and

uphold those freedoms.

**THE OLD RELIABLE**

**Farmers and Merchants National Bank**

MERKEL, TEXAS

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

SELL IT THROUGH A MERKEL MAIL WANT AD

For That

**Quality DRY CLEANING**

Let us refresh or renew your suit or dress with our fine dry cleaning. INQUIRE HERE ABOUT YOUR RUGS AND CARPET CLEANING PHONE 27

**MACK'S CLEANERS**



**HAIR GLAMOUR**

No Head too difficult

Hair Cutting and Styling

4-Way Hair Shaping

**NORMA'S BEAUTY SHOP**

PHONE 19

**Tomahawk, Bullets Don't Scare Her In Play at Queen**

The Territory of Montana in the early 1880's when landstealers, hired killers and renegade Indians fought over clods of earth as though they were nuggets of gold, forms the setting for "Cattle Queen of Montana," which shows at the Queen Theater Sunday and Monday.

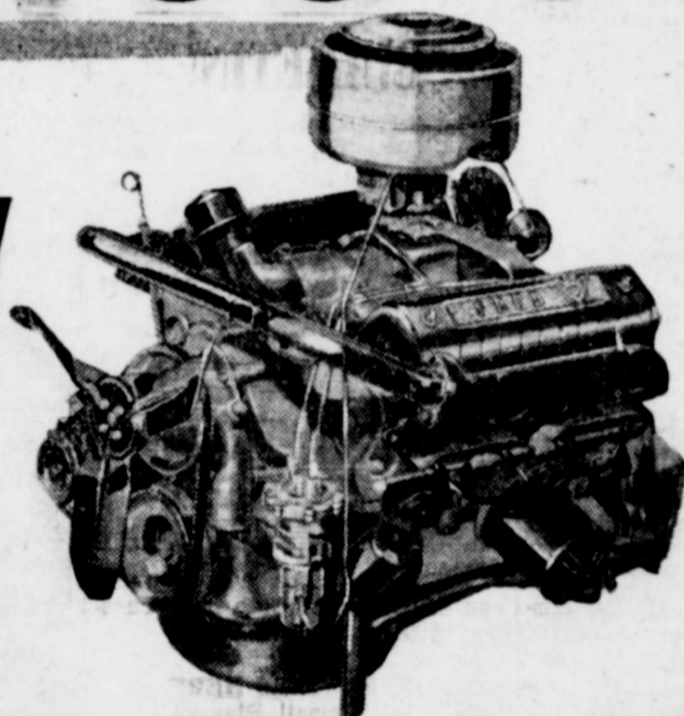
It co-stars Barbara Stanwyck and Ronald Reagan with roles quite different from any in which they have heretofore appeared. Most surprising of all is Barbara Stanwyck's convincing portrayal of the flame-haired Sierra Nevada Jones, who refuses to let either tomahawks or bullets drive her from the land for which her father has sacrificed his life.

**PECAN NOTE**

February and early March is the best time to cut pecan budwood and graftwood for propagation work. Vigorous shoots from last season's growth make the most desirable budwood. — A. & M.

**Get a proved V-8**

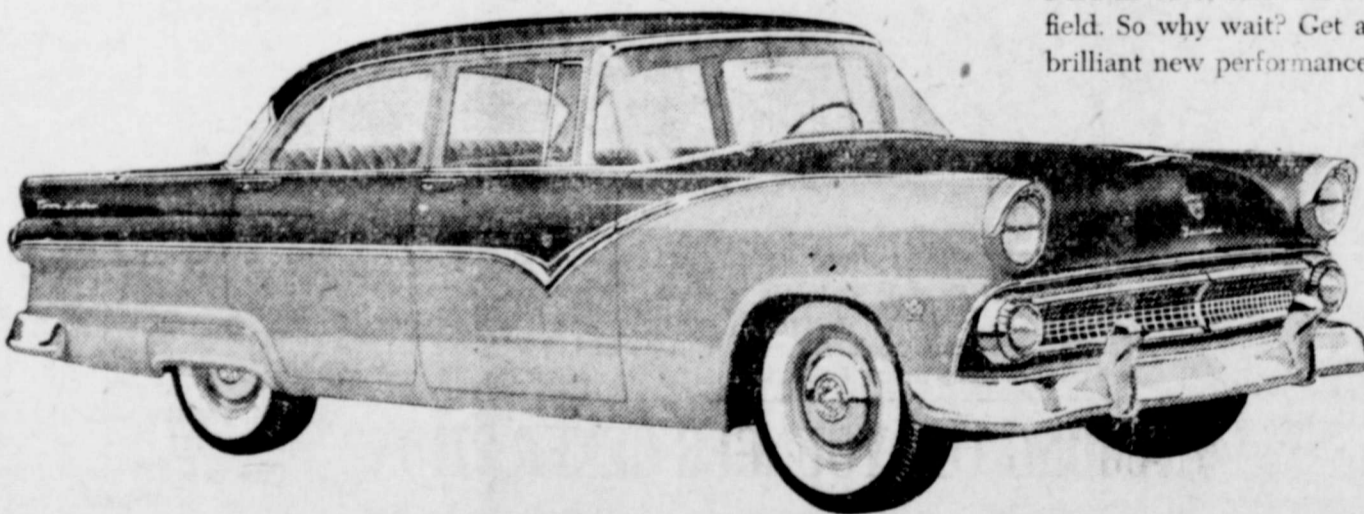
**NOW**



**...a FORD V-8**

Built by the world's greatest builder of V-8's

Ford has built more V-8's than all other manufacturers combined . . . over 14,000,000! This tremendous V-8 experience has enabled Ford in '55 to turn out in quantity the finest V-8's in the low-price field. So why wait? Get a proved Ford V-8 . . . and start enjoying brilliant new performance, and new-car dependability now!



**Enjoy Ford's new**

**Trigger-Torque Power**

For '55, Ford offers two advanced V-8's: the brilliant-performing new Y-block V-8 and the even more powerful Y-block Special V-8. Both of these mighty engines deliver Trigger-Torque power, which means you get the power you want when you want it, throughout the entire driving range of your car. With new Trigger-Torque Power you can have split-second starts . . . faster passing ability for a greater feeling of security . . . the topnotch response at all speeds that makes driving a true delight. And with Ford's high-compression, low-friction

design and deep-block construction, you can enjoy smooth performance and long engine life.

**Relax in the smooth comfort**

**of new Angle-Poised Ride**

Ball-Joint Front Suspension, which Ford introduced in its field last year, has proved itself over billions of miles to be one of the greatest contributions ever made to easier riding and handling. And now, for '55 it is still better. Springs are set at an angle so they absorb road shock from the front as well as straight up.

This provides delicate responsiveness to cushion tiny bumps as well as husky "muscle" to flatten the big bumps.

**Take your pick from 16**

**brilliant new Ford Models**

This year, you get Thunderbird-inspired styling in any Ford model you choose. You'll find there's a variety of exciting new single and two-tone body colors with charmingly color-keyed Luxury Lounge Interiors.

**Come in for a Trigger-Torque Test Drive!**

**PAUL HONEYCUTT MOTORS**

GREAT TV, FORD THEATRE, KRBC-TV 8:30 P. M. THURSDAY

**BEAUTIFUL! Dutch Oven Efficiency!**



**3**

times as much INSULATION — by actual weight — as any ordinary oven. Keeps heat in!

**MAYTAG Dutch Oven Gas Range**

Dutch Oven Efficiency means finest cooking every time. Maytag Dutch Oven is so efficient you can even cook part of time with gas off! Entire oven . . . top, bottom, sides, door . . . so thickly insulated heat can't escape! Heat is used in cooking . . . your kitchen stays cooler.

\$70 or more allowance for your old range on a Maytag.

**These wonderful features, too!**

- Roomy oven
- Eye-level controls
- Table-Serve Broiler
- Dutch Cooker Well
- So easy to clean

See it today!

**Mina Winter Butane Gas Co.**



By PRICE DANIEL, U. S. Senator

If the Texas viewpoint is not expressed sufficiently in Washington in 1955, it will be the fault of our own citizens and native sons. They hold the highest places in government today.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower a native of Denison, heads the executive branch of the government.

In the Congress, Speaker Sam Rayburn of Bonham holds top place in the House of Representatives, and Lyndon Johnson of

**I FINANCE**

Will loan money to build, remodel, enlarge your house, repair a room, garage or any other kind of improvements. Also will buy vendor's lien note.

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**Higgins Blacksmith  
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Acetylene and Electric Welding  
Completely Equipped  
Come to Us With Your  
Machinery Troubles  
Phone 91 MERKEL  
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**For Gas and Electrical Appliances  
and Butane Gasoline**

**PHONE 169  
H. W. LEMENS**

AT THE POST OFFICE BUILDING



**BEHIND THE NEWS....**

FIRES! Accidents! Robberies! Windstorms! Disasters are constantly in the news. Behind these headlines are thousands of financially stricken property owners.

Will you be a headline next? Never can tell. Better call on us for complete insurance protection NOW

**Boney Insurance Agency**

143 EDWARDS  
Consult Your Insurance Agent as  
You Do Your Doctor or Lawyer

Office, 21 -:- PHONES -:- Resident, 21

Johnson City is majority leader of the Senate.

We have not been able to find another period in American history when one state furnished all three of these top officials.

**Real Texas Co-operation**  
Although the President and the two Congressional leaders are of opposite political parties, they have been good friends for many years. There will be occasional political differences from time to time, but on the big issues you can look for real bipartisan co-operation between these Texans for the best interests of our country.

**Popular in Both Parties**  
An unusual thing about each of these three Texans is his popularity in the opposing political camp. Despite the normal political sniping, it is doubtful if any Republican President has enjoyed higher personal popularity among members of the Democratic Party.

**One Senator recently expressed it this way:** "My column to weekly newspapers is read more than anything else I write, because these papers stay in the home all week. They do not vanish with the turn of a dial and are not thrown away until all members of the family have read each issue. In their local communities weekly newspapers are still the best news and advertising mediums in America."

We hope you will enjoy this and future issues of our column from Washington.

**Cotton Allotments**  
The 1955 cotton acreage allotments are working severe hardships in many sections of the State. Over 18,000 Texas farms have been allotted less than 5 acres. Cotton State Senators have been demanding more administrative relief for hardship cases.

We have introduced bills to redistribute estimated unplanted acreage to care for hardship cases, especially on family-size farms and indrout areas. Something must be done if we are to prevent further discouragement to farm families and further exodus of young people from agricultural pursuits.

Most people here think Red China is bluffing and not ready for a contest with the United States. At least the Communists seem to respect us more when we are firm, and perhaps that is the best way to an ultimate honorable peace.

**MRS. L. A. DUDLEY'S  
BROTHER DIES SUNDAY  
IN SAN ANGELO**

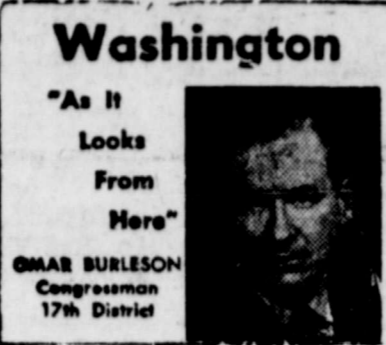
Drew K. Fuller, 56, died in a San Angelo hospital Sunday afternoon. Mr. Fuller was a dispatcher for the Yellow Cab Company in Abilene. He was the brother of Mrs. L. A. Dudley.

**FLOYD GREENS ATTEND  
MERCHANDISE SHOW  
IN WICHITA FALLS**

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Green were in Wichita Falls over the weekend attending the White Auto Stores spring merchandise show.

**HAPPY SNAPPY**

**LAUNDRY — HELP YOURSELF**  
We have drier. We pick up and deliver. We do wet wash and rough dry.



OMAR BURLESON  
Congressman  
17th District

According to post office officials it requires 18 separate operations and the work of 19 postal employees to assure the delivery of an ordinary three-cent letter.

The first 12 employees are responsible for collecting the mail, transporting it to main post offices, unloading and handling, arranging letters according to size for the next operation; then sorting and finally after more handling of mail bags, delivery to a

railroad mail car, airline, or motor truck for further transportation.

Since 1932 the cost of all the equipment and operation has doubled. In some cases it has increased even more. The revenue received has remained approximately the same.

The question of changing the cotton allotment law, so as to allow the family-size farmer a better opportunity to earn a living, is receiving serious consideration in Congress.

There is also the strongest possible effort being made to correct some of the inequalities brought about by the administration of the law for this year.

Diplomats are looking more closely at Austria as a spot where Russia may cause real trouble to take the heat off China. A series of arrests and kidnappings have tightened the tension in Austria after a considerable period of fair-

ly good behavior on the part of the Russians.

**The effort to weaken the Field Services of Soil Conservation continues. Proposals have been made whereby this service would be broken down on a state level. No definite decision has been made, but it is the opinion of those of us who have interested ourselves in soil conservation work for many years that a weakening of field services will have a tendency to destroy its real purpose.**

All veterans who may want copies of their discharges or other service documents will be interested to know that beginning the first of February there is a charge for furnishing these documents. The cost will be determined by the time it takes people in the Records Section to spend in searching for the documents.

Carlos Castillo Armas, President of Guatemala, led the revolution which threw the Communists out of power and freed his country. In making his decision to lead the revolution, he said, "I decided that it would be better to live a short time on my feet than a long time on my knees."

Probably it would be well for all of us to remember his words.

**Livestock Report**

**CATTLE POPULATION NP!**  
The announcement by the Department of Agriculture that the cattle population had climbed to 95,433,000 head on United States farms and ranches on Jan. 1 was not unexpected at Fort Worth. This is 646,000 more than a year ago.

Livestock men at the market had suspected this was the case as shipments of cows and heifers had declined in the past 90 days at all markets. Fort Worth is at the cross roads between the Eastern third of Texas, a section of the country that has had tremendous gains in cattle population in recent years, and the Western two-thirds of the state most of which has seen drouth decimate cattle and sheep numbers.

Here are the figures released Monday by USDA officials from Washington:  
Current cattle population is estimated at 95,433,000; a year ago it was 94,787,000; in 1953 it was 93,637,000. The average 1944-1953 was 82,917,000.

Currently estimates of cows, two-year-old or over for milk are 24,468,000 head; against 24,674,000 a year ago. A decline of 206,000 head and this decline was very evident at Fort Worth because of the heavy "marginal" or unprofitable milkers that went to market as raw milk prices sagged. In 1953 the dairy herd was 24,094,000; and the 1944-1953 average was 25,135,000 head.

**CATTLE FULLY STEADY**  
All classes of cattle and calves drew strong to steady prices Monday at Fort Worth.

**SHEEP DECLINE**  
The USDA report released Monday shows the sheep population of the nation again lower. Numbers on farms and ranches Jan. 1 were estimated at 30,931,000, a decline of 287,000 below the estimate a year ago of 31,218,000 head. The 1953 figure was 31,861,000 and the average 1944-1953 was 36,685,000.

Further reduction in Texas flocks in the Western part of Texas has been obvious at Fort Worth in the past season, and failure to get grainfield grazing in some sections of Central West Texas counties lowered numbers compared with a year ago. However, a steady increase in flocks in Central and East Texas has shaved some of the loss.

**OIL NEWS**

Five miles north of Merkel just across the line from Taylor County Allison and Prestridge and Rhea and Reynolds of Abilene staked No. 1 Ernest F. Smith as a 4,800-foot rotary project.

Elm Oil Co., of Abilene No. 1 Robert James will be a new project 10 miles northwest of Merkel in the Noodle Middle Strawn Field.

There is no age limit for payment of Social Security taxes, nor for getting Social Security credit for wages and self-employment income.

Farm operators with a gross income of at least \$800 can claim Social Security credits for 1955 and later years, regardless of whether they had a net profit or not.

Checked your Social Security record lately? Ask your Social Security office for post card. No. 7004.

**TRENT RAISES \$278**

Trent has raised \$278.02 for the March of Dimes, according to an announcement by Mayor W. B. Williams.

The sums were received through personal solicitation, a chili supper, and basketball games, one recently between Negro boys from Sweetwater and Trent white players.

**MODERN  
BEAUTY  
SHOP**

It's the cut that makes the hair pretty, so why not a Four-Way Cut today?

SHOP CARE... IS PROFESSIONAL CARE...

-Mrs. Dent Gibson  
Bessie Perry,  
Operators

Phone 201 for appointments  
In rear of Merkel Drug

**FREE  
20**

**CHICKENS,**

With

**EACH 50 Lb.**

**Paymaster**

**Starter Feed**

FOR FRIDAY — FEB. 18

**TOOMBS & MOORE**

Your PAYMASTER Dealer

**MORE IMPELLING THAN EVER**



**BROTHERHOOD WEEK  
February 20-27**

Sponsored by The National Conference of Christians and Jews

**I'D NEVER HAVE TO RECORD ANOTHER WAR**



**BROTHERHOOD WEEK  
February 20-27**

Sponsored by The National Conference of Christians and Jews

Glamourize your home with

**WALLPAPER**

**NEW STOCK  
NEW DESIGNS**

**BIG DISCOUNT**

Have on hand a few patterns of our old stock which are offered at a big discount.

COME IN NOW WHILE STOCKS ARE LARGE

**BURTON-LINGO CO.**







THE MERKEL MAIL

Published Every Friday Morning BY WHITE, Editor and Publisher. Entered at the postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as Second-Class Mail. TELEPHONE No. 61

SUBSCRIPTION RATES Taylor and Jones Counties \$2.00 In Abilene, per year \$2.50 Elsewhere \$3.00 Advertising Rates On Application.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may occur in the columns of THE MERKEL MAIL, will be gladly corrected upon being called to the attention of the editor.

The publisher is not responsible for copy omissions, typographical errors or any other unintentional errors that may occur other than to correct in the next issue after it is brought to our attention. All advertising orders are accepted on this basis only.

EDITORIALS

MERKEL C. OF C. The Merkel Chamber of Commerce

LAUNDRY Wet Wash Rough Dry Pick Up And Delivery

We offer you the best of service and the highest quality work. We will appreciate your business.

PHONE 231

GEO. A. WEST, Owner

Deluxe Laundry

merce is now on a permanent basis.

This was not an accident. It took thought, it took determination and it took direction to bring it about. The temporary officers did lots of hard work to accomplish this undertaking.

This temporary group met as often as necessary to make progress. They outlined what the aim of the Chamber of Commerce should be at the start. They mapped out the campaign for a firm economic basis for the permanent organization. After that they went out and actually did the long and arduous work of getting members and their dues.

This all took thought. It took time. It took "stick-to-iveness." They did well. These men were: David Gamble, George Rowland, Nolan Palmer, Herman Carson, Horace Boney, Sam Swann, Tommy Odum, Lester Dorton and Booth Warren.

To these names should be added that of Anna Marie Hewitt, who



"Na-Churs"

Liquid Fertilizer

Seed treating, also applied to leaves by spraying. The easy, low-cost way to give seeds a better start. Increases yields, effective, simple to apply.

For full information and written money-back guarantee see

L. L. Murray

Local Dealer

gave freely and unstintingly of her time and energy in working out the details that were necessary in planning the Chamber of Commerce.

The membership has now chosen its nine directors for the permanent organization. These men have a large task ahead of them to see that the Chamber of Commerce gets off in the right direction. They are capable of this.

The new officers were selected: President, David Gamble; vice president, Horace Boney, and Herman Carson, treasurer. These men have been with the organization from its beginning and know what problems they have to meet. They are well-seasoned workers. Now it is up to the membership as a whole to get behind the directors and help build this permanent Chamber of Commerce into a going group. It is not a one-man job, it is not a two-man job. It is the job of the whole community.

The Chamber of Commerce will help the town to grow, it will help the area to be a better place in which to live... if all of us get behind the group.

\$935,000 LOAN

That was a surprising message about the Taylor Electric Coop getting a loan of \$935,000 from the Rural Electrification Administration in Washington, D. C. The money will be used for system improvements and extension of service to new customers, estimated at 360.

Three new sub-stations will be put in to take care of increased demand for electric power.

The money will be spent over a period of five years.

What does this mean? First of all it indicates that Manager Lester Dorton and his directors have been doing a good job, a job that is satisfactory to Washington as well as the local folks.

It also means that the Taylor Electric Coop is trying to keep up with the demands of its area. More farmers are demanding more elec-

THAT'S A FACT MIDDLEMEN! STUDENTS AT THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY ARE CALLED "MIDDLEMEN" BECAUSE TRADITION HAS IT THAT IN THE BRITISH NAVY OF 200 YEARS AGO OFFICERS IN TRAINING WERE ASSIGNED QUARTERS IN AMMOSHOIPS!

LONG LIVED! THE GIANT TURTLES OF THE GALAPAGOS HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO LIVE FROM 150 TO 200 YEARS! THEY HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO REACH A WEIGHT OF 1000 POUNDS!

OAK TREES, ACORNS -- AND YOUR FUTURE! OAK TREES FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW -- THE LITTLE ACORNS IN THIS ARE THE BETTER -- THAN EVER U.S. SAVINGS BONDS YOU BUY REGULARLY AND THE OAK TREE -- THAT'S THE SECURITY THAT THESE BONDS OFFER! START YOUR PROGRAM RIGHT NOW!

State Capitol NEWS BY VERN SANFORD Texas Press Association Investigation of veterans' land sales is spreading. Twenty new witnesses were called in for testimony by the House investigating committee the past week. All were former employees of the General Land Office.

SEE US FOR RADIO and TV SERVICE Badger Chevrolet COSDEN PRODUCTS Wholesale and Retail GASOLINE - OIL GREASE A. T. LEMENS

MEMORIALS OF ENDURING BEAUTY HORDOSTLE SAM L. DRYDEN Your Monument Dealer For 42 Years 853 Walnut St. P. O. Box 372 Phone 4-4176 Abilene, Texas

Two Local Girls On Honor Roll at McMurry College

Two local girls are on the McMurry College honor roll for the fall semester. They are Carolyn and Marolyn Teaff. They are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Teaff, Jr.

Carolyn was among the 13 who made a perfect three-point average. Both girls are economic majors with a minor in government.

ANDY SHOUSE -Real Estate- 115 KENT ST.

ITCH NO MORE. IN 15 MINUTES. IF NOT PLEASED, YOUR 40c BACK at any drug store. Use easy-to apply ITCH-ME-NOT to allay the itch of eczema, athlete's foot, ringworm, poison ivy, insect bites. Feel the relief in 15 minutes or your money back at Merkel Drug Co.

EVERY DAY PRICES ON GASOLINE GALLON Regular 22.9c Ethel 24.9c MERKEL CO-OP STATION

You have to see it to believe it!

FRIGIDAIRE "Imperial-70" Electric Range with THINKING TOP Here's real speed in bringing food up to cooking temperature. And real convenience in maintaining required temperatures without watching. 2 big Even-Heat Ovens make meal-making quicker, easier. See all the wonderful new features of the Frigidaire "Imperial-70" Electric Range today!

Model RV-70 Only \$494.95 TRADE-INS... BUDGET TERMS

West Texas Utilities Company

Illustration of a car with two men. One man is sitting in the car, the other is standing next to it. A speech bubble says: "But, Hassim, why use a flying carpet when an OK Used Car is so much smoother in performance?"

You'll fly high with no fear of a letdown in your OK Used Car. This dependable performer is warranted in writing! The red OK Tag identifies a thoroughly inspected and scientifically reconditioned automobile. Count on high-level performance teamed with a rock-bottom price whenever you see the OK Tag!

BADGER CHEVROLET COMPANY See our listings below

LOOK AT THESE USED CAR BARGAINS

954 CHEVROLET 4-DOOR SEDAN Heater, Seat Covers, 15,000 miles. \$1,245 1953 CHEVROLET 4-DOOR SEDAN Locally owned. \$895

BADGER CHEVROLET CO.

**Emma L. McAninch Succumbs Friday At Age of 71**

Mrs. Emma Louise McAninch, 71, Merkel area resident since 1883, died at 11 a. m. last Friday. Funeral was held at 2 p. m. Saturday in the Methodist Church. Rev. Aubrey White and Rev. Sam Tullock officiated. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery under direction of Starbuck Funeral Home. Pallbearers were Kenneth Pee, Joe Cypert, Sam Mashburn, W. J. Derstine, Wilmer Criswell, and O. B. Wade. Mrs. McAninch was born May 6, 1883, in Milam County. She moved to Merkel when she was five months old and had lived in this area since then. She was married to W. T. McAninch on March 9, 1904. She was a member of the Merkel Methodist Church and had been a church member for more than 65 years. Survivors are her husband; four sons, R. C., Weldon, Cal and Ted McAninch; six daughters, Mrs. J. M. Taylor of Quitman, Mrs. Ray Earthman of Lombard, Ill., Miss Minta McAninch of Raton, N. M., Mrs. Clark Davidson of Standish, Mich., Mrs. E. E. Sliter of Dallas and Mrs. Edwards Clappitt of Fort Worth; three sisters, Mrs. Charlie Kniffen of Clyde, Mrs. Frank Cauble of Hamlin and Mrs. I. V. Davis of Abilene, and 12 grandchildren.

tion, West Texas Oil and Gas Association, and Woodmen of the World. He had been a member of the Church of Christ over 30 years. He was married Oct. 2, 1900, in Trent to Doda Viola Smith. Survivors are his wife; three sons, Glen, Ranger and Clark, all of Trent; a daughter, Mrs. Royce Dowdy of Merkel; two sisters, Mrs. Effie Rollo of Winnie, and Mrs. A. A. Qualline of Conroe; five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

**Fred Groene, 75, Succumbs After Long Illness**

Fred Groene, 75, resident of Taylor County since 1890, died Monday at 6:15 p. m. at his home here. He had been ill several months. Funeral services were held at 4 p. m. Tuesday at the Starbuck Funeral Home chapel with Rev. J. W. Safells, retired Merkel minister, officiating. Burial was in Rose Hill cemetery. Mr. Groene was born March 24, 1880, at New Haven, Mo., and came to Merkel in 1903. Survivors include the widow; one son, George Groene of Orizaba, Mexico; one sister, Mrs. Martha Parker of Abilene; four brothers, Theo and John Groene of California and Oscar and Louis of Abilene and two granddaughters, Mrs. Dorothy Graden of Abilene and Mrs. Ann Salis of Mexico City, Mo.

**John C. Hamner Dies at Trent At Age of 74**

John Calvin Hamner, 74, of Trent, died at 9:30 p. m. Thursday of last week at his home. Funeral was held at 4 p. m. Saturday in the Trent Church of Christ. Officiating was Ebb Randal of Muleshoe, Bill Haynes of Roscoe and James Burns of Trent. Burial was in Trent Cemetery under direction of Starbuck Funeral Home. Mr. Hamner was born Oct. 6, 1880, in Lee County and lived in Trent more than 70 years. He was a retired lumberman and had farming and livestock interests in Jones and Taylor Counties. Mr. Hamner was a member of the American Hereford Associa-

**Barbara I. Warren Is Laid to Rest Wed. Afternoon**

Funeral was held Wednesday at 3 p. m. from the Presbyterian Church for Barbara Irene Warren, resident of Merkel since 1912, who died here Tuesday. Officiating were Rev. H. G. Markley of Baird, assisted by Lay Minister Ed Jay of Abilene. Burial at Rose Hill Cemetery was directed by Starbuck Funeral Home. Miss Warren was a member of the Presbyterian Church since she was 14. She resided in Jones County from 1905 until coming here. She is survived by four brothers: T. A. Warren of Waco, W. B. Warren of Anson, E. Q. and H. M. Warren, both of Knox City; and one sister, Jonnie Warren of Merkel.



**-LOOK-**  
SWIFT JEWEL

**SHORTENING**  
3LB. CAN..... **59¢**

**MIRACLE WHIP** SALAD DRESSING **29¢**  
PINT

SUNSHINE HI HO's..... lb. **32¢**  
SUNSHINE CANDIES --- cello **10¢**  
LUCK LEAF PIE FILLING CHERRY No. 2 can **39¢**

PY-O MY NO BAKE ICE BOX PIES Each ----- **33¢**  
NABISCO PREMIUM CRACKERS ---- lb. **23¢**

**Peaches** HUNT'S No. 2 1/2 **25¢**  
**Coffee** WHITE SWAN Pound ----- **83¢**  
**Flour** AUNT JEMIMA 10 LB. SACK **73¢**  
**Sugar** DOMINO 10 LB. BAG **69¢**



- CHOICE HEAVY BEEF ROUND STEAK** ----- lb. **69¢**  
**CHOICE HEAVY BEEF CHUCK ROAST** ----- lb. **39¢**  
**CHOICE HEAVY BEEF SHORT RIBS** ----- lb. **19¢**  
**DENISON FRYERS** ----- lb. **49¢**  
**MIDWEST OR CORN KING BACON** ----- lb. **45¢**  
**FRESH PORK ROAST** ----- lb. **39¢**  
**CENTER CUT PORK CHOPS** ----- lb. **59¢**  
**FRESH BEEF LIVER** ----- lb. **32¢**

Store Hours  
Week Day 7:00 to 6:30  
Saturdays 7:00 to 9:30

**EVERY DAY LOW PRICES PLUS WEEKEND SPECIALS**

THURSDAY FRI. & SAT. FEBRUARY 17-18-19

- ARMOUR'S CHOPPED BEEF** --- 12 OZ. CAN **29¢**  
**HORMEL CHILI** --- No. 2 CAN **35¢**  
**HUNT'S COUNTRY STYLE PICKLES** --- No. 2 1/2 JAR **23¢**  
**OUR DARLING** --- 303 **CORN** --- GOLDEN **2 for 33¢**  
**MISSION** --- 303 **PEAS** --- SWEET **2 for 33¢**  
**KIMBELL'S FRESH** --- 303 **BLACKEYE PEAS** ----- **2 for 25¢**  
**HUNTS** --- 300 **TOMATO JUICE** ----- **2 for 19¢**  
**HUNTS** --- 300 **CORN** --- WHOLE KERNEL **2 for 29¢**  
**CHURCH'S** --- 24 OZ. **GRAPE JUICE** ---- BOTTLE **29¢**  
**EL FOOD** --- 24 OZ. **GRAPE JELLY** ----- jar **29¢**  
**MY-T-FINE Instant PUDDINGS** ----- **3 for 25¢**  
**MOTHER'S PREMIUM OATS** ----- LARGE BOX **47¢**  
**CHOCOLATE COVERED CHERRIES** ----- lb. **49¢**
- CHARMIN TISSUE** 4 ROLL PACKAGE **33¢**
- PILLSBURY BISCUITS** 3 cans **25¢** | **PARKAY OLEO** Lb. **25¢**



- CALIFORNIA SUNKIST ORANGES** ----- lb. **13¢**  
**FRESH EATMORE CRANBERRIES** -- lb. **15¢**  
**WINESAP RED APPLES** ----- lb. **19¢**  
**FRESH CARROTS** ----- cello **10¢**  
**FRESH AVOCADOS** ---- each **15¢**  
**RED GRAPES** ----- lb. **23¢**  
**IDAHO MESH SPUDS** ----- 10 lbs. **43¢**

**PET MILK**  
2 TALL CANS  
**19¢**

Redeem Your Lever Bros. COUPONS HERE

**BLUE RINSO** With Coupon BOX **15¢**  
**LIQUID LUX** With Coupon CAN **25¢**  
**3 BATH** with coupon **LIFEBUOY** --- **25¢**

We Reserve the right to Limit Quantities and to refuse to sell to dealers.

**Carson Grocery & Market**  
**Free Delivery Free Parking**  
213 EDWARDS ST. --- PHONE 250  
ON \$3.00 OR MORE MON., WED. and FRI. at 4:00  
CROSS STREET WE GIVE PREMIUMS

**QUEEN THEATRE**

**MOVIES ARE BETTER THAN EVER!**

Box Office Opens 6:45 Show Starts 7:00

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 - 19

**DOUBLE FEATURE**  
**ROBERT FRANCIS --- DIANNE FOSTER**  
**"THE BAMBOO PRISON"**

Second BIG FEATURE  
**"BLACK FURY"**  
Filmed in Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp in WARNER COLOR  
Also Color Cartoon

SUNDAY, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 - 21

She fought to hold what was hers --- in a land where no holds were barred  
**BARBARA STANWYCK --- RONALD REAGAN**  
**"CATTLE QUEEN OF MONTANA"**  
with **GENE EVANS --- LANCE FULLER**  
with Color by **TECHNICOLOR**  
Also Color Cartoon and Latest World News  
Features Sunday 2:30 - 4:20 --- Monday 7:10 - 9:00

TUES., WED., THURS., FEBRUARY 22 - 23 - 24

A Lady from nowhere and a no-good Guy --- in Tangier --- City of Strange Pleasures and Sudden Death!  
**MAUREEN O'HARA --- MacDONALD CAREY**  
**"FIRE OVER AFRICA"**  
Color by **TECHNICOLOR**  
Also Color Cartoon and Pete Smith Comedy  
FEATURES 7:10 - 9:05

Coming Attractions During February

**"THE CAINE MUTINY"**  
**"ON THE WATERFRONT"**

Both Nominated For The Academy Award as The Best Picture During 1954.

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