

Trapsing around in shorts has been pretty pleasant this week, but oh! we hear there is a cold wave coming.

Of course, if Billie, Bob and Watie hadn't been able to take over, there wouldn't be any paper, and Billie is about laid up too, so if this issue gets out it will be purely accidental, through no fault of our own.

That's enough about our ailments, for we know a lot of people who have a lot worse things wrong with them than we do.

It's time to look ahead to 1956, for 1955 is about gone. And things don't look so bad around here.

Then, too, the drought may be broken in 1956, and if that happens the farmers will be happy. The housing situation seems to be improving, and it looks like the market for housing will be good in the area.

Contractors for the highway 80 project are moving into Merkel, and this construction should keep things pretty busy around here for many months.

The chamber of commerce will start the year off with a big banquet at which Agriculture Commissioner John White will be the principal speaker.

The chamber of commerce banquet should set the city off to a rousing start, get business men together and all working toward a bigger and better Merkel.

Competition in business is keen nowadays, and although Merkel merchants may have as good or better prices on merchandise than they do elsewhere, it does little good if the buyer knows nothing of it.

We have hesitated for several months to make any change in our subscription rates, in the hope that the newspaper market and other newspaper costs would become stable.

We feel that Merkel needs a newspaper, and we are reluctantly increasing our paper rate to \$3 a year, January 1, 1956, within the trade area, and \$4 per year elsewhere.

In addition cutbacks on shipments are 17 percent and although the price is up, you cannot order newsprint and expect delivery within a reasonable time.

If you care to save on your paper, send in your \$2 before January 1, and you will receive credit for one year. It will be election year, and that always produces a lot of things, but mostly promises.



Peace and Prosperity for the Coming Year

May the promise of a New Year bring to you and your loved ones joy and happiness, with the added blessings of goodwill among mankind and of peace among nations throughout the entire world!

MERKEL MAIL

Sam Butman, Pioneer, Has 94th Birthday

The annual celebration of Mr. Sam Butman Sr.'s birthday, Dec. 23rd, was held in the Old Butman ranch house. Mr. Butman was 93 years young and he seemed in good spirits all day for his party.

A motion was moved and seconded this "the traditional Butman party would be held each year on the second Sunday in December on the Old Butman ranch house.

The guests began to arrive about 10:00 a.m. and by the time each had greeted Mr. Butman in a nice sort of way and had said "Hi" to each other it was time for a bountiful meal which is one of the main features of these wonderful occasions.

That afternoon Mrs. Joe Swinney was in charge of the program. Mr. Sam Butman Jr. led in prayer. Miss Lottie Butman led the group in singing Christmas carols with Mrs. Kenneth Ray at the piano.

Mrs. Tom Russom read a beautiful poem "Grandmother" in honor of Grandmother Butman. Mrs. Joe Swinney read two poems "Let Us Be Silent" and "The Nicest Gift."

Becky Raye played a piano solo "Star of The East." The program was adjourned so the group could enjoy conversations and relaxation.

Grandpa Butman's gifts were handed him by grandchildren and great-grandchildren, from a beautiful lighted Christmas tree. The day was closed by making movies of Mr. Butman as good-byes were said out in front of the Butman Ranch house.

There were fifty-nine people present for this wonderful party.

IS MERKEL LARGE ENOUGH TO SUPPORT A MOVIE THEATRE?

Is Merkel large enough to support a movie theatre? Yes! Definitely so but for the past two years, one would never think so by the way business has looked at the local show.

Today, news leaked out that the management of the local theatre is planning to discontinue operation of the "Queen Theatre" early in February. Merkel will be without a show for the first time in many many years.

The answer? We don't know, but most of the problem could be solved by your attendance at the good, wholesome movies which the management has booked in the past, and which they will continue to book as long as possible.

We do know one thing. If and when we should happen to lose our local theatre, then we will have problems with a capital "P". Several months ago, Valley Milles had the same problem that faces the citizens of Merkel today.

Merchants of Leonard, Texas (Fannin County) a little town of less than one half the population of Merkel report a decline in sales of \$5,000.00 the first four months after the show was forced to close. They too pooled resources and reopened the local "Theatre."

The Answer? We don't know. It is difficult to understand the reasoning of the person who drives several miles, pays higher admission and spends his money in a business house owned by a man who will never trade in our city.

We must provide local entertainment. When no local entertainment is available, people will invariably go where there is. That means driving 20, 30, 40, or even 60 miles to find recreation that we all must have, and when you have cars streaming out of town night after night, you are going to have accidents.

Surely Merkel is large enough to support one theatre. We feel that it is up to us, as citizens, to show our appreciation of this fine business establishment by attending the show often and regular.

Merkel has always taken pride in supporting any business or organization which was good for the town, and we feel sure the citizens will answer the plea, and that a theatre will continue to operate and thrive in fair City.

E. C. Ray's Hold Christmas Party

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Ray was delighted to have all their children home for a wonderful Christmas Day celebration. The beautiful Christmas tree was surrounded by gifts which were handed out that morning.

Services Held For J. A. Kuykendall

James Able Kuykendall, 67, a resident of Merkel since 1941, died at 3:10 a.m. Sunday in Sadler Clinic Hospital here.

Funeral was held at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday in Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. S. E. Tullock, pastor of the Merkel Baptist Church, officiating.

The body was taken to Roysce City for burial. Graveside rites were held there at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday.

E. R. Clark attended the funeral of his brother, Clyde C. Clark, in Dallas Tuesday.

FAMILY OF 5 KILLED IN HOLIDAY CRASH

Five members of a family on a Christmas trip were killed instantly Friday at a grade crossing at View in a fiery car-train crash.

Killed were Mr. and Mrs. Elda Adron Starr of Levelland and their three children, Roberta, 8, Everett Lynn, 7, and Chloe Ann 5.

The family was en route to Jacksboro to visit their parents and grandparents for Christmas. A telegram was found in the wreckage which read:

"To Roberta, Lynn and Chloe Ann Starr, 114 Wilson, Levelland, Tex. Christmas Eve is almost here, and with my sleigh and eight reindeer, I'll start out over the snow and ice, to bring you something really nice, to your grandmother's at Jacksboro, Tex. Santa Claus."

The tragedy brought to seven the number of persons who have been killed at the View railroad crossing this year. Two Abilene truckers were killed on the morning of Oct. 30. They were Oscar James Key, 26, and Elton Roberts, 38, both of 941 S. Treadaway Blvd.

The family was first identified by the father's driver's license found in the litter of personal belongings strewn about half a mile along the tracks. He was a 36-year-old water well driller in Levelland. His wife was 32.

The fast northbound Santa Fe freight hit the 1955 Oldsmobile in the center on the right side. The car was in the center of the tracks at the time of the impact, investigating officers said.

Fe officials said the red blinking lights were in operation, as well as the bells at the crossing. Santa Fe officials said the train had just blown its whistle seconds before the crash.

Starr and his family were en route to Baird from San Angelo to visit his sister, Mrs. R. C. Corn. They were to go to Jacksboro from Baird.

Starr's body and parts of the body of his son were found about 100 yards from the crash scene. Parts of Mrs. Starr's body and bodies of the two daughters were strewn along the track and in the wreckage of the car. Parts of the son's body were also in the car some three-quarters of a mile from the grade crossing with U.S. Highway 277, about seven miles southwest of Abilene.

Bodies of two of the children were burned beyond recognition, and the mother and son were also badly burned.

The train engine was burned and damaged by the car. Extent of damage was not known. A Santa Fe spokesman from the railways headquarters in Galveston telephoned Abilene Friday to express regrets of the tragedy.

Highway Patrolman Jack Shields was the first officer on the scene just minutes after the wreck occurred. Lt. Homer C. Bailey and Sgt. C. A. Cockerell Jr. were continuing the investigation Friday night along with Shields and Patrolman D. R. Womack.

Leroy Arnold of the sheriff's department and the Abilene Fire Department also worked at the wreck.

Both the witnesses and Santa good tome.

HOSPITAL NOTES

The following have been admitted to Sadler Hospital-Clinic during the week: Brenda Mashburn, Merkel Mrs. David Tarpley, Merkel Mrs. Wesley Gregory, Merkel Mrs. L. R. Brazzil, Abilene H. C. Reid, Merkel A. H. Murphy, Merkel L. M. Coward, Merkel Julia Wood, Merkel Larry Joyce, Merkel Donna Scott, Merkel Mrs. John Boyd, Wilcox, Ariz. J. E. Massey, Merkel Buddy Derrington, Merkel Dorothy Davis, Merkel L. E. Baxter Baby, Tye Mrs. Esther Corbin, Trent Tommy Largent, Merkel Mrs. Onis Graham, Trent Ella Neeb, Tye Hilda Hutcheson, Trent Robert James, Merkel Walter Ray Reynolds, Merkel, surgery

Mrs. Wayne McLean, Trent, surgery The following babies were born at the Sadler Clinic Hospital: Debra Lou Fincher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Fincher, Abilene, 6 pounds, 4 ounces, born December 14.

Reymundo Garcia, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Garcia, Merkel, 7 pounds, 1 ounce, born December 14.

E. A. Conley Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Conley, Rule, 7 pounds, 9 ounces, born December 21.

Edwards Martinez, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Martinez, Tye, 8 pounds, 3 ounces, born December 24.

DAVID REIDENBACH IS STATIONED IN LONDON LONDON, England (FHTNC)—Serving with the headquarters of Commander in Chief for Naval Forces in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean at London England, is David G. Reidenbach, a yeoman second class, USN, of Route 3, Merkel, Tex.

REA Worker Badly Hurt In Highline Accident

Buddy Derrington, about 34, was in critical condition in the Sadler Clinic here Thursday night after coming into contact with a high voltage REA line near Merkel where he was working.

His condition was described as critical by clinic attendants.

Derrington and a crew of Taylor Electric Cooperative Inc. employees were working on the REA lines about three or four miles southwest of Merkel when he came in contact with a live wire.

Lester Dorton, manager of the cooperative, said Derrington was climbing a pole when the wire, brushed aside by his safety hat, struck his neck, sending 7,200 volts of electricity into his body. The voltage came out both his hands and one foot, Dorton said.

Sammy Scroggins, another member of the crew, was on the ground at the time and called by radio to Horace Childers who was about three-quarters of a mile distant. Childers rushed to the scene and climbed the pole to administer artificial respiration to the stricken man.

Derrington was carried to Sadler Clinic by a Starbuck Funeral Home ambulance.

He is married and has a family. Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Brown from Clyde, Texas spent Christmas day with Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Eager and Clydene.

C. A. Farley Joins York, Neb. College

C. A. Farley, who has been principal of the Merkel Elementary Schools for the past 13 years, has announced that he is resigning his position June 1, 1956 to become the registrar of York College at York, Nebraska.

York College is a new college of the Church of Christ and will open next September for the first time.

In addition to serving as registrar, Farley will be Assistant Professor of Education.

Mrs. Farley will serve as librarian of the college and supervise a boys' dormitory.

Balmorhea Team Stays In Merkel

Burl McCoy and Roy O'Rear, the boy and girls, basketball coaches at Balmorhea High School ("B" Class) are scheduled to play Trent, Hawley, and Noodle this week.

The Balmorhea team will play Trent Thursday night at Trent, Hawley Friday night at Hawley, and Noodle Saturday night at Noodle.

The girls team stands with 8 wins and 1 loss. The boys team stands 4 and 4. These are just practice games for all teams concerned.

TEACHERS ENTERTAINED AT BENSON HOME

Mrs. Carroll Benson was hostess for a Christmas tea with guest, the lady faculty members of the Merkel Public Schools. The entertaining rooms were decorated with spruce, pine cones and poinsettias. Ann Benson presided in the dining room. Twenty-five guests called.

Pioneer Church New Years Singing

This Saturday night, December 31, we are having our New Year's Eve singing at Pioneer Church. This will be our 4th annual singing. If you enjoy good singing, don't miss being with us. Beginning at 7:30 p.m. You will hear good singers from many towns and communities. You will hear the President of the High Plains Singing Convention. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 12:00. Drive out and meet your friends and have a yeoman second class, USN, of Route 3, Merkel, Tex.

(Published in the Merkel Mail, Dec. 16, 23, 30, 1955, & Jan. 6, 1956)

THE STATE OF TEXAS
To any Sheriff or any Constable within the State of Texas — GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to cause to be published once each week for four consecutive weeks, the first publication to be at least twenty-eight days before the return day thereof, in a newspaper printed in Taylor County Texas, the accompanying citation, of which the herein below following is a true copy.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO, J. H. Phillips and wife, if married, whose name is unknown; A. C. Walker and wife, if married, whose name is unknown; and S. V. Isenhour and wife, if married, whose name is unknown, Defendants, Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable 42nd District Court 42nd Judicial District of Taylor County at the Courthouse thereof, in Abilene, Texas, by filing a written answer at or before 10 A.M. of the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, same being the 23rd day of January A.D. 1956, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 7th day of December A.D. 1955, in this cause, numbered 21,008-A on the docket of said court and styled J. A. Jennings & wife, Lora Jennings, Plaintiffs, Vs. J. H. Phillips and wife, if married, whose name is unknown; A. C. Walker and wife, if married, whose name is unknown; and S. V. Isenhour and wife, if married, whose name is unknown; if living, and if dead, the legal representatives of each of said named Defendants and the unknown heirs of each of said named defendants, the legal representatives of the unknown heirs of each of said named Defendants; if the unknown heirs of said names Defendants are dead, the unknown heirs of the unknown heirs of Defendants.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Suit in trespass to try Title to establish the ownership of the following described property, situated in Taylor County, Texas: All of Lot No. 3 in and to Block No. 131 of the City of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

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

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

Issued and given under by hand and seal of said court at Abilene, Texas, this the 7th day of December A.D. 1955.

(SEAL)
Attest: R. H. Ross, Clerk,
42nd District Court
Taylor County, Texas
By C. Bower, Deputy.

NO. 5423
ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the stockholders of Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Merkel, Texas, will be held at the office of said Bank on Tuesday the 10th day of January 1956, at 7:30 o'clock P.M., for the election of Directors and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Booth Warren, President

A brand new service for Texas dairymen has been announced by Extension Dairy Hurdman R. E. Burleson and A. M. Meekman. They call it "Herd Sire Analysis." Local county agents have the details. It is offered as an aid to help take some of the guess out of herd sire selections.

LEGAL VERBIAGE
SOMETIMES JUSTIFIED

Many persons feel that the "whereases", "aforesaid", and other legal verbiage is used by the lawyer for the purpose of confounding the layman.

Nothing could be further from the truth. In drafting legal documents, the lawyer attempts to draft them in such a way as to exclude all ambiguities. In the last analysis, a legal document means what some court at some future time shall declare that it means. As a consequence, it is the lawyer's duty to his client to attempt to draft the instrument in such a way that it can mean only one thing.

Most any paragraph of non-legal language contains numerous ambiguities. When a lawyer refers to the "deed aforesaid," he is attempting to make it clear beyond question that the deed he is referring to is the deed mentioned in a prior portion of the instrument. Likewise, when he prefaces a legal document with a long list of "whereases," he is simply reciting pertinent facts for the benefit of the court to show the facts of the situation that lead to the execution of the instrument.

The difficulty with drafting a document in layman's language is that to the trained analyst such language is susceptible of several meanings, and consequently is likely to lead to litigation. It is the draftman's purpose to avoid litigation which is usually expensive for the client.

Another reason why lawyers use legal language is historical in nature. Thus most deeds declare that the grantor "by these presents does grant, sell, and convey" the land in question to the grantee. Each of the words recited have a technical meaning. The words together have frequently been construed by the courts and consequently the lawyer knows in using them that their meaning is settled, and that they will operate to properly transfer the title. He would be inviting litigation for his client, if instead of using those words, he devised new language to express the same purpose. He could only say, "While I think the language that I have used will accomplish the purpose, I cannot be sure of it."

As a consequence, the lawyer, in the interest of his client, naturally uses the time-tested language instead of experimenting with new language.

Stith HD Club Has Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party of the Stith Home Demonstration Club was held on Tuesday night before Christmas at the Community Center in Merkel.

All the eighteen club members and families were present. Visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Gene Frazier and family, Mrs. Fred Baker Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Walters, who have recently moved to Haskell.

A short program was presented after the supper, then Santa appeared and talked to each boy and girl and handed gifts to all present. Games were directed and enjoyed by everyone. This is the third year for the gala affair and is the high light of the year to our club.

Billy V. Moser Gets Promotion

Billy V. Moser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy N. Moser of Merkel, Texas, and husband of the former Miss Fay Gleghorn of Houston, has been promoted to boilerman third class, USN, while serving aboard the radar picket destroyer: USS Kenneth D. Bailey, with the Atlantic Fleet.

NOODLE NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Owens of Fort Worth have returned home after spending the Christmas holidays with their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Pack.

Jack Caldwell from Chicago, Ill. and Harvey Caldwell and family from Seagraves visited in the Bill Caldwell home during Christmas. Jack is Bill's youngest brother and Harvey is Bill's nephew. Also visiting the Caldwells were Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Wood and son, Daniel, and Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Clement and sons, Mauprice and Jacky, all of Snyder.

Mr. and Mrs. Forest Warren and children from Louisiana visited the Forest Warren Srs. and Chester Lucas, Christmas Day.

Mr. and Mrs. George Cooper spent a few days in Rotan with her brother, R. M. Whisenbunt, and family.

Rev. and Mrs. Fred Leveritt and two daughters have moved to Fort Worth. Rev. Leveritt preached his last sermon Christmas night at the Baptist Church.

Ruby Caldwell is spending the week in Snyder with her sister, Mrs. Daryl Wood, and family.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Shouse and family from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Henager from Abilene visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dock Eoff, during the Christmas week-end.

Miss Sara Wheeler from Alpine is home for the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Wheeler.

Spending Christmas Day with Mr. and Mrs. Doc Calloway were:

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tarpley of Alabama, Mr. and Mrs. Garvis Tarpley and children of Big Spring, and Mr. and Mrs. Dois Melton and Freta from Snyder.

PERSONALS

Mrs. W. A. McAndless are visiting her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Boswell and son, Billy Mike, in Abilene for the holidays.

Rev. and Mrs. M. E. Randolph, Charlotte and Sandra, of Abilene were holiday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hook and Jeannie.

Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Derrington from Midland, Texas, were visitors of their cousins, Buddy Derrington, who is a patient in the Sadler Clinic.

Mr. and Mrs. Elvie L. Climmer and family from Fort Stockton, spent the Christmas holidays with her mother, Mrs. Josie Shanks.

Mrs. Josie Shanks accompanied by Mrs. Edna Horton attended a Christmas reunion with her sister-in-law, Mrs. John Robbins.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Smith and Mrs. Bud Grant of Rochester are visiting Mrs. L. E. Baxter and son, Gary, who is in the Sadler Clinic.

Mrs. Fannie Jones from Tulsa, Texas and Miss Irene Swann from Roswell, New Mexico are visiting their mother, Mrs. J. S. Swann, who is in the Sadler Clinic.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Null and children from Plain View, Texas and Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Clyde Horton and son from Abilene were visitors of their mother, Mrs. Edna Horton, over the Christmas weekend.

Mrs. Darice Stephens from Mid-

land, Texas, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Dollie Jones, for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Derrington from Levelland, Texas, were visitors of their nephew, who is a patient at the Sadler Clinic.

Mrs. Oralie Hines of Coolidge, Arizona, and Mr. Austin Sandusky of Bront, Texas, are visiting their mother, Mrs. J. S. Swann, who is in the Sadler Clinic.

Mr. J. J. Russell from Wichita Falls spent Christmas with his mother, Mrs. J. J. Russell Sr., and

sisters, Mrs. James West and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hughes.

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Horton from Abilene accompanied by Mrs. Shirley D. Newman and son, Michael, were dinner guests of Mrs. Hugh Campbell, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Goodwin from Sul Ross College are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Newby and family.

Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Reeves and daughters, Kay and Pam, from Snyder are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bunk Tipton and

family and Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Martin.

Mrs. Craig Humphreys is visiting her daughter at San Pablo, California during the Christmas holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman English and daughters, Patsy Ann and Mary Jo, from Big Spring were guests in the home of Mrs. Norma Bond over the weekend.

Mrs. R. A. McClain of Buffalo Gap visited her aunt, Mrs. Tom King and family, during the holidays.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Not satisfied with the old? Here's your chance to improve on it! Head full of hopes? Here's your chance to start making them come true!

Yes, the New Year is a good time for all of us to set our sights on the future, and to go to work to reach those goals. We at the bank are pledged to serve you better than before, to make the bank your financial partner in every way we can — to help you reach you goals as quickly and easily as possible. So here's every good wish for a happy and prosperous 1956 for you!

THE OLD RELIABLE

Farmers and Merchants National Bank
Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation



Chevrolet's
taught dynamite
good manners!

With its frisky "Turbo-Fire V8," this Chevrolet is pure dynamite, all right. But it's beautifully mannered, too—quiet, well-behaved, instantly obedient to your slightest signal!

Nudge the accelerator and you're aware of the split-second chain reaction of your toe to the "Turbo-Fire"! There's your dynamite—with horsepower ranging up to a high of 205. The car is built for its power, too—with a low, low center of gravity, well distributed weight and wide-apart rear springs. There's your stability, and safer handling! All doors have safety latches—and instrument panel padding and seat belts, with or without shoulder harness, are available at extra cost. Directional signals are standard. Come in and try a new Chevrolet!

THE HOT ONE'S EVEN HOTTER



BE WISE...

WINTERIZE

...YOUR CAR NOW!

USE COSDEN PRODUCTS

WASHING — GREASING
WE HAVE BATTERY QUICK-CHARGE
HIGHWAY 80 WEST

COSDEN STATION

BADGER CHEVROLET COMPANY



AUNT JEMIMA
FLOUR - - - - - 10 pound bag - - - - - 79c

INSTANT DRY
PET MILK - - - 12 Qt. package - - - - 79c

CRUSTENE
SHORTENING - - - 3 pound carton - - - - - 65c

APPLE JILL
APPLE JUICE - - - 22 oz. bottle - 2 for - - - - 49c

● **FRUITS & VEGETABLES** ●

IDAHO RUSSET POTATOES - - - - - 10-pound bag 45c

TEXAS ORANGES - - - - - 5 pound bag 35c

CARROTS - - - - - Cello Bag - - - - - 12c

YELLOW ONIONS - - - - - pound 7c

HARD & GREEN CABBAGE - - - - - pound 5c

Sun Spun PEACH PRESER VES, 12 oz. glass, 2 for 35c

Kuner's TOMATOES - 303 can - - - - - 2 for 35c

Kimbell's WAFFLE SYRUP - 12-oz. bottle - - - 19c

TIDE - - - - - giant box 69c

Libby's	Comstock
PINEAPPLE JUICE	PIE APPLES
Tall Can	No. 2 Can
10c	29c

● **MEATS** ●

Chuck	Dressed
ROAST	FRYERS
lb. 39c	lb. 45c

SLICED
Bacon Lb. - - - **35c**

Beef	No. 1
RIBS	SALT PORK
lb. 19c	lb. 33c

For That New Year Dinner

Dry
BLACK EYE PEAS
 1 pound bag
 19c

Diamond BLACK EYE PEAS
 (with bacon)
 300 can
 3 for - 25c

Libby's SWEET PICKLES
 15-oz. Jar
 25c

● **FROZEN FOODS** ●

SOUTHERN QUEEN - BROWN AND SERVE
FRIED CHICKEN pkg. \$1.49

SOUTHERN QUEEN - BROWN AND SERVE
FISH - - - - - pkg. \$1.29

DONALD DUCK
ORANGE JUICE - - can 21c

DONALD DUCK
PEACHES - - - - - pkg. 25c

Wilson's	Sun Spun
MOR	CATSUP
can - 39c	12-oz. bottle 15c

WOLF BRAND
TAMALES - - - - - can 25c

ASHLEY'S - BORDER STYLE
BEANS - - - 303 can - 2 for 35c

KIMBELL'S
SPAGHETTI - 303 can - - - - 2 for 25c

OUR VALUE
PORK & BEANS 303 can - 3 for 25c

SUN SPUN
HOMINY - 303 can - - - - - 3 for 25c

DIAMOND
CORN - 303 can - - - - - 2 for 25c

TIP TOP
SPINACH - 303 can - - - - - 3 for 25c

WE GIVE PREMIUM COUPONS

Wilson's Food Store

FORMERLY CAMP BELL GRO. & MKT.

NEKT DOOR TO POST OFFICE PHONE 173

WE DELIVER

UP THE CANYON

By TOM RUSSOM
 This has been a fine Christmas for everyone, but a quiet one. There has been lots of sons and daughters come back to the Canyon to see Dad and Mom, and to spend Christmas with them.

With that 90 degree weather we had, made it fine for being outside. Since Christmas is over we turn our thoughts toward a new year with faith to do greater things in the year to come. The dry weather will be one problem we will have, and the changing farm program, as well as a number of other things that may be in store.

Bell Masarange and family of Hale Center spent Christmas in the Canyon with relatives. Bill said the land was plowing fine on the plains.

Joe Swinney, stock farmer in the Canyon, has bought a hundred four-year old ewes from F. E. Modgling of Bronte.

The ewes are lambing now. Mrs. Bill Cole of Abilene who owns her father's estate, better known as the G. H. Johnson place, has a big fencing job going. The place will be fenced for goats. Horace Miles has a long time lease on the place. L. A. Dudley of Merkel is overseeing the fencing job.

Rev. and Mrs. Phillips and grandson, Roger, were visitors in the Canyon this week. Rev. Phillips was the first pastor of Pioneer Church. He is pastor at Wofforth.

If you enjoy good singing and want to hear some real good singing, make plans to be at Pioneer Church this Saturday night, beginning at 7:30 p.m. You will hear a number of visiting singers from other towns and communities. Larence Deavers, President of the High Plains Singing Convention will be on the program. Larence lives in Snyder. Others on the program will be the Taylor Quartet from Coleman, The Borland Quartet from Roscoe, and the Nolan Quartet from Nolan.

Drive out and enjoy the singing with us.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewel McLean and Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Patterson spent Christmas in Ft. Worth with their children.

The first American newspaper outside Boston was the American Weekly Mercury, founded in Philadelphia December 22, 1719, by Andrew Bradford.

(Published in the Merkel Mail, Dec. 16, 23, 30, 1955, & Jan. 6, 1956)

THE STATE OF TEXAS
 To any Sheriff or any Constable within the State of Texas -

GREETING:
 You are hereby commanded to cause to be published once each week for four consecutive weeks, the first publication to be at least twenty-eight days before the return day thereof, in a newspaper printed in Taylor County, Texas, the accompanying citation, of which the herein below following is a true copy.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
 THE STATE OF TEXAS
 TO: Tolbert Arledge, Defendant, Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable 42nd District Court of Taylor County at the Courthouse thereof, in Abilene, Texas, by filing a written answer at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation same being the 22nd day of January A. D. 1956, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 26th day of November A.D. 1955, in this cause, numbered 20,980-A on the docket of said court and styled Patsy Arledge, Plaintiff, vs. Tolbert Arledge, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is at follows, to-wit: Plaintiff & Defendant were married on or about 1950 and lived together until on or about September, 1953.

Plaintiff shows there is no community property to be adjudicated and that there are 2 children, names of Gerry Hayes and Billy Don Arledge.

Plaintiff sues for Divorce on grounds of cruel treatment and prays that she have custody of two children and defendant pay child support as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

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

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

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Abilene, Texas, this 8th day of December A.D. 1955.

(SEAL)
 Attest: R. H. Ross, Clerk,
 42nd District Court,
 Taylor County, Texas.
 By Clayrene Long, Deputy.

GAS-TOONS

By "LEON"



"Our gas is SO GOOD that our competitors even use it."

Our service is SO GOOD that they keep coming BACK!

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 PREMIER PRODUCTS
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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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Get Those Shoes Fixed Up Now. Expert Workmanship.

Buck's Shoe Repair

Higgins Blacksmith and Welding Shop
 Acetylene and Electric Welding
 Completely Equipped
 Come to Us With Your Machinery Troubles
 Phone 91 MERKEL

INCOME TAX PAYERS

If your books are closed for 1955 and you need my services in making your Tax Return, I have plenty of Forms and can make return now and mail after January 1st. Avoid the rush. Farmers will make their Social Security-Self Employment returns when filing tax return. If you Farmers do not have Social Security numbers, I have information cards to get same. Come early.

R. O. ANDERSON

TALK INCREASES FOR DANIEL TO MAKE RACE

Sentiment to persuade U. S. Sen. Price Daniel to run for governor next summer is growing.

Senator Daniel has been in Austin and other cities over the state the past month holding subcommittee hearings on narcotics traffic. On the side he has talked with many local political leaders. Reports were that some spokesmen for both liberal and conservative factions hoped that by supporting Daniel they could avoid a repetition of the 1954 gubernatorial slugfest.

Daniel has said he will not announce his intentions until after Jan. 1.

More Super-Roads

A four-lane highway connecting all population centers should be Texas' aim, says Gov. Allan Shivers.

Addressing a meeting of the Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association in Austin Shivers praised the farm-to-market highways. But, he said, "our trunkline system has not fared too well."

At least 3,000 more miles of heavy-traffic roads are needed, Shivers stated. He added that "such construction would pay for itself with increased gasoline tax revenues. But people seem more willing to pay more expensive toll road fees than state taxes."

North-South Throughfare

A super-highway from the Red River to the Rio Grande by 1960

is the target of the Texas Highway Department.

Originally completion of the 512-mile project was scheduled for 1975. However, faster acquisition of right-of-way than was expected has made this advanced date possible, reports State Highway Engineer DeWitt C. Greer.

Following the route of the present U. S. Highway 81, the new giant road will cost an estimated \$275,000,000.

Where to Put Pupils

Despite mammoth construction outlays, Texas' public schools still are fighting a losing battle with enrollment figures, says the Texas Education Agency.

If buildings and pupils continue to be added at the present pace, the state will be short 24,000 classrooms by 1960, TEA estimates. This despite the fact that during the past six years Texas spent \$432,000,000 on school buildings — or far more than any other southern state.

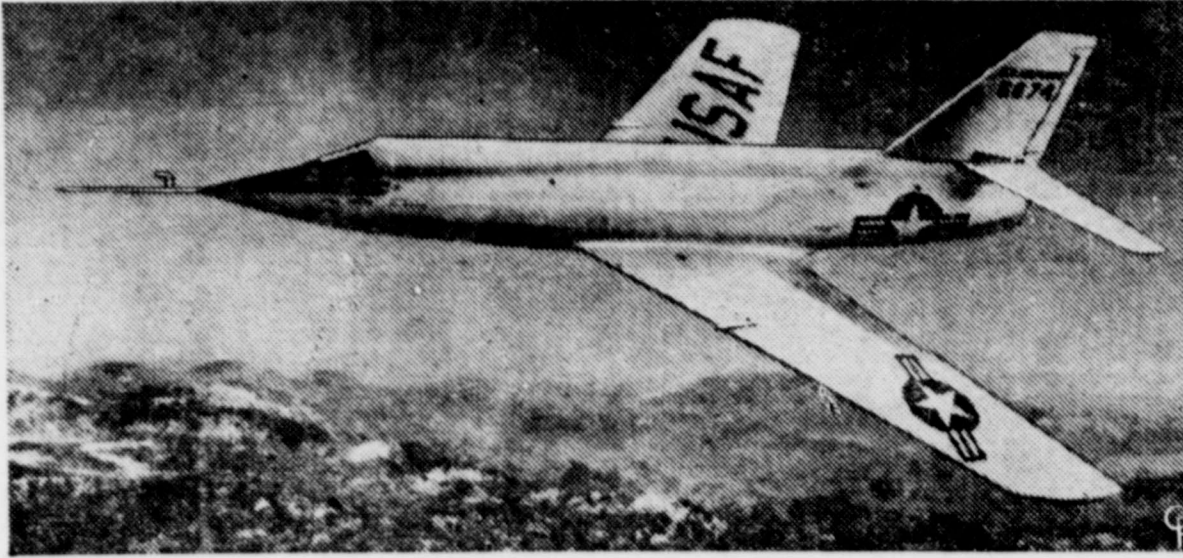
Population shifts, both within and to the state, as well as the rising birth rate, cause the dilemma, says TEA.

Building Advisors Named

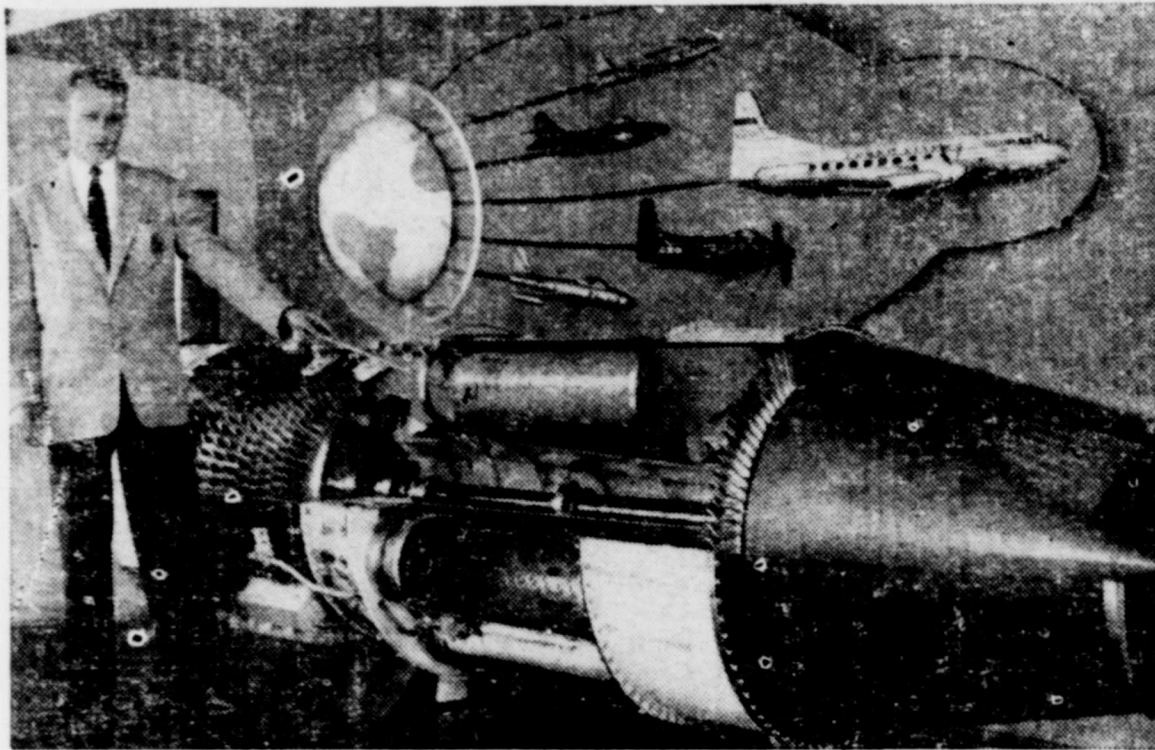
Five men have been appointed to help plan a new State Courts Building.

Named to the Supreme Court Building Advisory Board, by Governor Shivers, are former Supreme Court Judge A. J. Folley of Amarillo; former congressman

NEW SUPERSONIC PLANE TO PROBE 'HEAT BARRIER'



THE FIRST AIRCRAFT designed and built to investigate heat and speed problems encountered well beyond the speed of sound, the new Bell X-2 is shown in flight over Edwards Air Force Base, California. To be used solely as a flying research laboratory, the X-2 has a rocket engine capable of developing as much power as a modern Navy cruiser. It is declared to be an advanced version of the X-1A which blew up in the bomb bay of the mother B-29 over the Mojave Desert in California.



A cutaway jet airplane engine is one of the demonstrations at the General Motors Parade of Progress. Here a lecturer explains how a jet operates. The unit is built so that its working parts can be seen in action.

Ed Gossett of Dallas; former Governor Dan Moody; J. Neils Thompson of Austin; and Virgil T. Seaberry Sr. of Eastland.

Duval Decision Stands

Hope is apparently ended for any change in the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeals nullifying 1954 Duval County indictments. The court refused to reverse its ruling that the grand jury which returned the indictments was improperly constituted.

Meanwhile a new Duval grand jury completed its term after returning 198 indictments, 88 of them citing persons involved in the original group. Ten were a gainst South Texas Political Boss George Parr.

Parr Case Before Court

The Texas State Supreme Court will review a case to decide if and when George Parr is to be tried on a civil recovery suit. State action seeks to regain \$500,000 in county funds Parr allegedly used to buy a ranch.

A conflicting suit by pro-Parr forces contends the money was a loan and seeks trial in Laredo Trial in Cotulla or Alice is sought by the state.

Acreeage Cut Protested

Disgruntled West Texas farmers took a verbal swipe at the State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

In making 1956 cotton acreage allotments the committee allowed a slight gain for Central and East Texas counties, but left West Texas seven per cent short.

At the Texas Farm Bureau convention the losers pushed through a resolution calling for reduction in the committee's distribution powers.

WELCOME THE NEW YEAR WITH OPEN HOUSE

Open house on New Year's afternoon is a traditional way to welcome the New Year in many homes. Even a large crowd is easy to manage if thorough planning is done ahead of time. Appropriate hours might be from three to five in the afternoon.

Here are some suggestions for planning open house:

Keep the menu simple enough to manage easily and plan well ahead of time. Shop for groceries and supplies a day or so before the party, and prepare some of the food ahead of time.

A beautifully set table adds to the festive atmosphere. The decoration may be floral, or it may carry out a New Year's theme. Flowers, linen, china and food must harmonize to make an attractive table. Arrange the table the morning of the party or as far ahead of times as possible. Refreshments for a large group are served from the dining table in buffet or tea-table style.

Friends of the hostess may assist in serving. One or two friends may pour the beverage. Two others can keep the table replenished with food, dishes, and napkins. Others may take the soiled dishes from guests when they have finished. Guests are served the beverage; they help themselves to the other refreshments.

This menu is good for New Year's Day Open House.

Savory Cheese Sandwiches
Graham Crackers
Date Cookies
Cheese Dainties
Cocoanut Cookies
Saited Nuts — Spiced Tea
Details for planning a large party foods are given in MP-121 — "Food and Fun with Friends." You can get a copy from my office.

Mrs. Dixie Scott and son, Percy, and wife visited with Mrs. Scott's two daughters, Mrs. Miles of Grapevine and Mrs. Cunningham of Ft. Worth during the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. Jessie Warren of Seymour,

Texas, are the house guest of her sister, Mrs. Edna Horton, and brother, Mr. and Mrs. Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Author Moore.

Dianne and Donna Bland of Abilene are Christmas guests of



TO ALL OF YOU!

Thanks to all our good friends for your patronage during the past year. May luck and success be yours in the New Year to come!



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THIS WEEK'S PRIZE

\$1,000.00

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Sponsoring Merchants Prize \$400.00

If Entry Is Deposited With

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PUZZLES AND CLUE SHEETS ON SALE THURSDAY AT YOUR LOCAL NEWS STANDS

her grand-mother, Mrs. Pick Al- as, this week with their aunt and len. uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Grath Odum.

Clyde Wurst Jr. was home for the holidays. Dale Wurst went back to K.C. with Jr. to an air-line school. Jr. is attending Mesdames John Shannon, Mack TV Tech school. Fisher, Carroll Benson and Ann accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Rex Jeannie and Johnny Whisen- Reddell of Tuscola to the annual hunt are visiting in Stanton, Tex. Nativity program in Albany.

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Expensive Slip-up!

If someone is injured while on your premises, will you be financially able to pay for damages awarded against you? Will you be able to afford legal defense?

The answer is "yes", if you have Comprehensive Personal Liability Insurance. Ask this agency about it!

Boney Insurance Agency

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Old State Bank Bldg., Merkel
Consult Your Insurance Agent as
You Do Your Doctor or Lawyer

NOTICE

A contract will be let January 9, 1956 for the construction of three teacherages to be built at Trent. Bid sheets with plans and specifications may be had by contacting either of the lumber companies of Merkel, the Bowman Lumber of Abilene or the Austin Lumber Company of Sweetwater. The Trent School Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

For Further Information Contact

WRAY B. WILLIAMS
Trent, Texas Phone 22411

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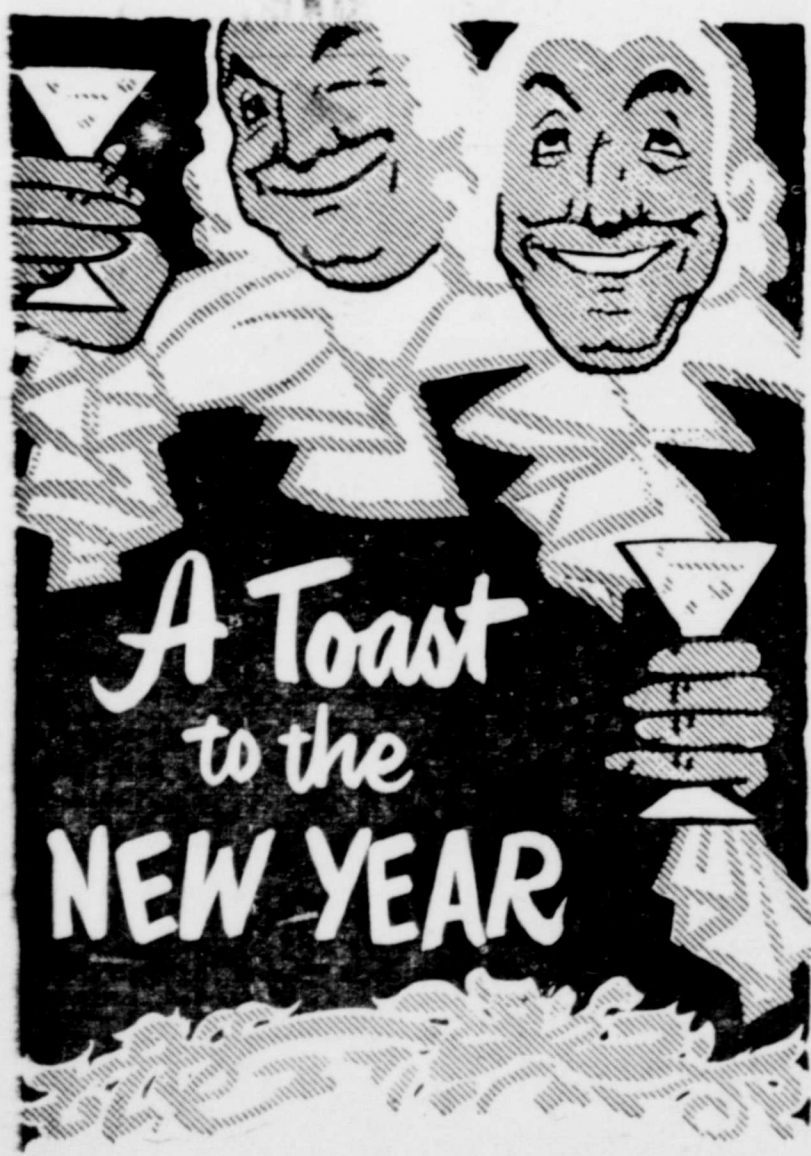
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The Dallas Morning News



We want to wish all of you lots of success and luck throughout the New Year! May the future hold for you added prosperity, health, and real happiness! Enjoy a Happy Holiday!

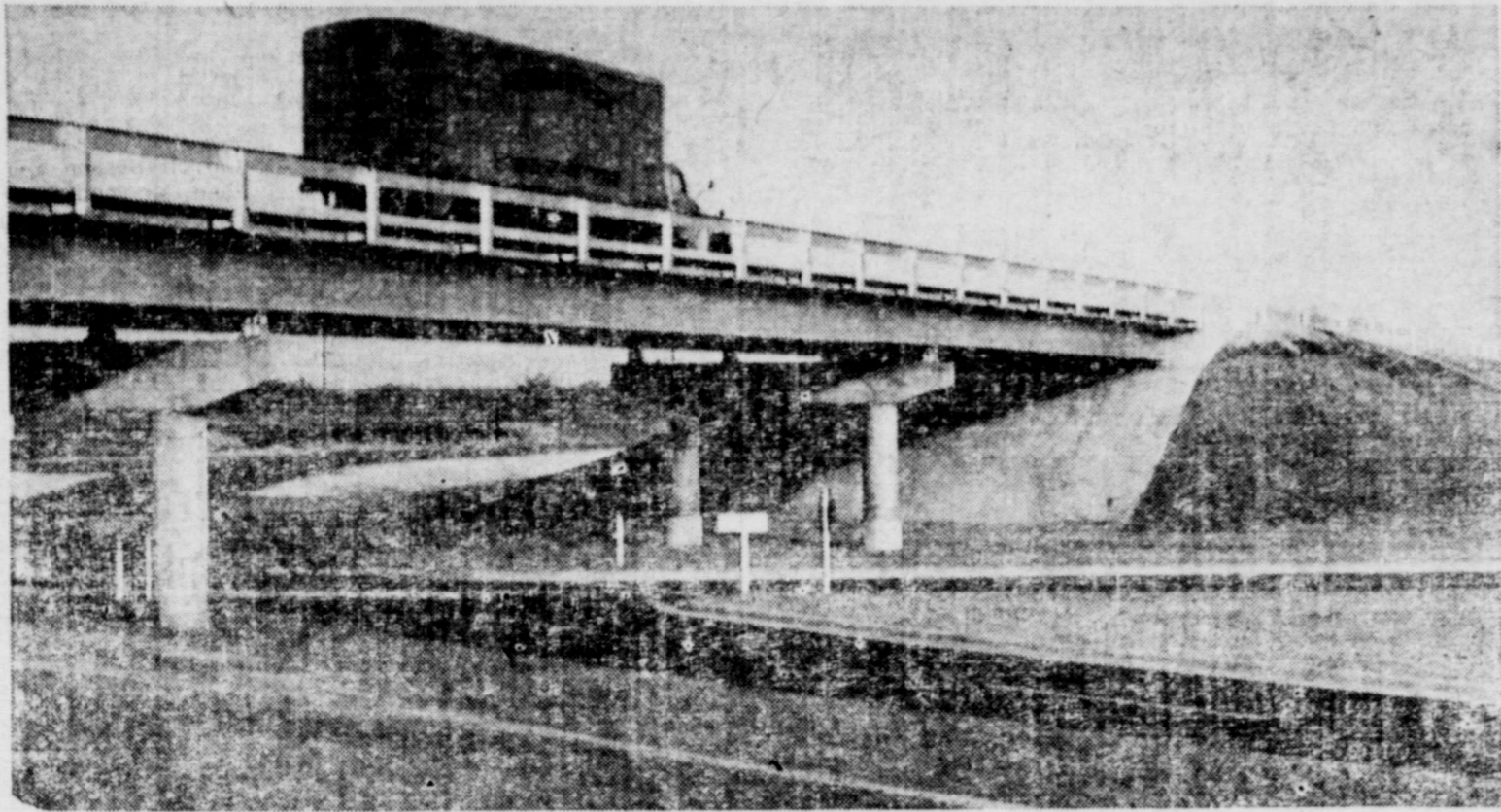
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SQUARE DEAL USED CARS · WE REPAIR AND MAKE
MERKEL, TEXAS **159**



U. S. 80 AFB ROAD MERGE — Traffic can flow smoothly off and on U. S. Highway 80 and the Abilene Air Force Base access road through this interchange. The base road was opened Wednesday. The photo was taken south of the overpass, looking northward. The eastbound truck is on the south half of U.S. 80 which overpasses the airbase road. Westbound U.S. 80 traffic can enter the base road underneath the overpass. Eastbound traffic turns from the base road just east of the overpass.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Clark had five of their children home for Christmas. Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Clark and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Clark and boys, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Jones and Melba from Clark and Randy, and Mrs. Charles West. Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Clark, who lives in Kansas was unable to be here.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Byrd had as guests over the weekend their children, Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Holway and children, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Jones and boys from Hamlin, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Tompson and boys from Merkel. The latter two attended the Christmas program at the Baptist church Sunday night.

There is a difference in love at first sight and love at first sight and love at first opportunity.

Dairymen Meet At Texas A&M

For more than 20 years Texas dairymen and others interested in the dairy industry have been meeting in their annual short course at Texas A. & M. College. The 1955 short course will be held on December 1 and 2 in the Memorial Student Center. It is sponsored by the Department of Dairy Husbandry in cooperation with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service.

Speakers for the two-day course will come primarily from the Texas A. & M. College System but at least three features will be handled by dairymen, the chief veterinarian of the Texas Livestock Sanitary Commission and state manager of the American Dairy Association. The four dairymen are Earl Fuchs of Houston; David G. Gault of Manor; Bernard Kruppa of LaGrange and Homer C. Warren of Waco. The four from a panel and will discuss the "Feeding of Green Forage" a practice which is gaining favor in many dairy sections of the nation.

"Our Brucellosis Program" will be handled by Dr. J. B. Henderson of the Sanitary Commission while State ADA Manager S. E. von Rosenberg will discuss "ADA in Our Dairy Program."

Such problems as disease and sanitation in the dairy herd, feeding, management, breeding, calf raising, irrigation and forage production and labor savers in handling and labor savers in handling.

The breed associations will meet by groups the first afternoon of the course and in the evening the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association will hold its annual meeting.

Professor A. L. Darnell is chairman of the Short Course Committee and he extends a special invitation to every dairyman and to all others interested in getting the latest information on the problems up for discussion. "It's a practical program," he says, "and the average dairyman can take home a lot of ideas which should be valuable in his operations."

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We Service All Makes. Next Time
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DUDLEY ELECTRIC
WATER WELL drilling and surface pipe set. Higgins & Malone Box 267, Merkel, Phone 26.

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE — My home at 206 Oak Street. Three bedroom, 100x140 feet lot. Double garage, 20 ft. concrete drive, storage room. priced to sell. Call 21 — Horace O. Boney. 22-tfc.

FOR SALE — H-Farmall Tractor with good equipment, priced right; F-20 tractor with good equipment, real bargain; One 6-foot one way goes with F-20. Price Melton, route 4, near Blair. 39-4tp.

FOR SALE — 1 ticket to Cotton Bowl. Regular price, inquire at Merkel Mail. 44-1tp.

HOUSES FOR SALE — FHA loans, from \$9,000 to \$12,000. Bath and bath and one half. Easy terms, low down payments. Contact H. O. Boney, General Manager, Merkel Development Co. 42-tfs.

FOR SALE — Base type tub. Contact Mrs. M. M. Owen. 407 Ash Street. 42-1tp.

FOR RENT — 3-room furnished house. 167 Kent Street. Call Mrs. Mitchell at 227. 42-1tp.

FOR RENT: Five room modern house completely furnished, all utilities and conveniently located in Merkel. Phone 49-W or see, V. B. SIMPSON, REAL ESTATE 211 1-2 Cherry Street 42-tfc.

FOR RENT — Two-room furnished apartment. Private bath. 808 Trundy Street. Mrs. M. R. Hall. Phone 399-W 42-1tp.

HELP WANTED — Woman with car who wishes to earn \$50 to \$80 per week for 3 or 4 hours work a day. Write Post Office, Box 1215, Sweetwater, Texas, 42-1tc.

FOR RENT — Furnished three-room house and bath. Inquire at 714 N. 3rd Street. Jay Massey. 42-1tp.

Then there was the girl who worshiped the ground he walked on until she learned that he didn't own the property.

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NOTICE MASONS

Stated meeting of Merkel lodge No. 710, A.F. & A. M. Sat., Dec. 24, at 7:30 p.m. All members are urged to attend. Visiting brethren cordially invited.

J. R. Mashburn, W. M.
C. B. Rust, Secretary.

REPOSSESSED TV's, we have two Emerson Console 21-inch, only a few months old, take up the past due payments and pay the balance monthly. Badger Chevrolet. 40-tfc.

BUNDLE FEED hauling or any kind of light hauling. See Lewis Lucas, 612 Rose Street. 41-2tp.

FOR SALE — H-Farmall tractor with rent of a 160 acre farm 7 miles north of Trent. Gordon Howell. 41-3tp.

FOR SALE — 5-Disc International 1-way, with 10-inch spacers, good shape, 37 joints 1-inch black pipe, new, priced to sell. Carl Jackson, Route 1, Merkel, Texas, 6187. 40-tfc.

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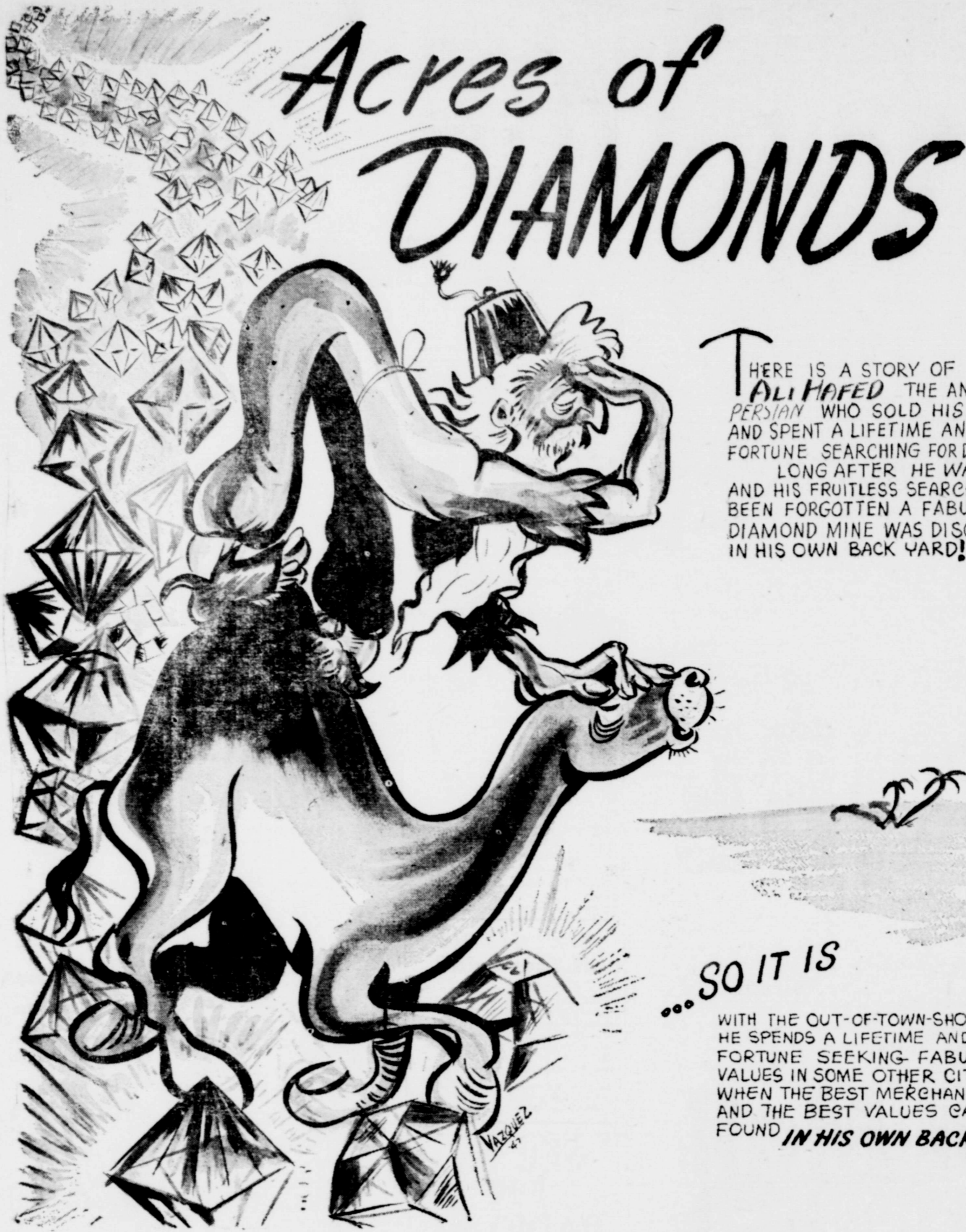
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...SO IT IS WITH THE OUT-OF-TOWN-SHOPPER ... HE SPENDS A LIFETIME AND A FORTUNE SEEKING FABULOUS VALUES IN SOME OTHER CITY WHEN THE BEST MERCHANDISE AND THE BEST VALUES CAN BE FOUND **IN HIS OWN BACKYARD**

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Industrial Parley Set For January

Tentative draft of the program for the third annual regional Industrial Development Conference sponsored by the West Texas Chamber of Commerce has been released by E. L. Buelow of San Angelo, chairman of the WTCC's Industrial Development Committee.

The one-day meeting will be conducted in Abilene on January 26, Buelow said.

Five addresses and one panel discussion will be presented during the morning. The afternoon period will include group discussions on all phases of industrial development in which participants will be split into two sections determined by population brackets.

According to the tentative program, addresses will include:

"The General Outlook" — a brief review of potentials of the regions as they are expected to influence future industrial development.

"Resources of the Southwest" — specific West Texas natural resources and where to get facts about them.

"Inherent Advantages of the

West Texas Region" — Factual comparative figures on plant construction costs, taxes, payrolls, utilities, and other expenses of manufacturing and distribution of products from our region.

"Subsidies, Boon or Mooring?" — A frank discussion of passing the hat to help attract industry.

The tentative program then calls for a panel to present first-person experience with developing local industry.

With a moderator for each section, group discussions will occupy the entire afternoon for those interested in discussing techniques and problems of industrial development in towns with more than 25,000 population and with less than 25,000 population. The two sections will be separate, but only the interwill determine which of the two est of the conference registrant

PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Lindsey of Stratford, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dent Gibson during the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. Cordelia Scherer of Dallas is spending the Holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Read and family.

Mrs. Mae Sears of Snyder has

been the guest of her mother, Mrs. J. G. Melton and other relatives the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Orvem, Kingsburg, California, spent the weekend with his brother, Mr. and Mrs. Marshal Orvem.

Mr. and Mrs. Newton Snodgrass and son of Odessa, Texas were guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Melton over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Palmer and son, Charles, are spending the Christmas holidays with their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Palmer and family, at Oilcenter, Texas.

The Bill Woods visited their families in Hamlin and Abilene over the Christmas holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Riney, and daughter of Midkiff spent Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Riney. Other visitors in the home were Mrs. Dewey Hutchins, sister of Mrs. Riney and niece, Mrs. Jo Clark and daughter of Odessa.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Fulton had their children home for the Christmas holidays, Mr. and Mrs. Arch Richardson and children from Houston, Texas, and Mr. and

Mrs. C. C. McGuire and girls from Eldorado, Kansas.

Mrs. O. W. Paine and Wilma spent Monday with Willard Paine and family at Monahans.

Loans Available For Conservation

Soil and water conservation loans are available to eligible farmers in Taylor county. Clarence Cymes, county Farmers Home Administration supervisor said this week.

The loans may be used to carry out measures for soil conservation, water development, conservation, and use, and drainage. This will include the construction and repair of terraces, dikes, ditches, ponds, and tanks, the establishment and improvement of permanent pastures, basic application of lime and fertilizer, tree planting, well drilling, and the purchase of pumps and other irrigation equipment.

The new loan program was made possible by legislation recently passed by the 83rd Congress, which greatly expanded the water facility loan program.

Soil and water conservation loans may be made from funds supplied by private lenders and insured by the Government or from funds appropriated by Congress. Loans from appropriated funds will be made only when funds are not available. Loans, either direct or insured, will only be made when the applicant is unable to obtain the credit he needs at reasonable rates and terms from other sources. The Farmers Home Administration is authorized to insure loans up to a total of \$25,000,000 each fiscal year. In addition, for fiscal 1955, the Congress appropriated \$11,500,000 for this type of assistance.

Applications for all loans, insured or direct, will be made at the county office of the Farmers Home Administration located at Abilene, Texas in the Agriculture Building.

The 3-member county committee of the Farmers Home Administration will certify the eligibility of applicants. Applications from veterans will receive preference in processing.



By Vern Sanford
Texas Press Association

Drew Pearson is drawing the wrath of Texans.

The tv news commentator's financial advice to "Put your trust in U. S. Trust" led many Texans to invest life savings in the U. S. Trust and Guaranty Co.

So says Garland Smith, chairman of the Texas Insurance Board, who along with Atty. Gen. John Ben Shepperd and Judge Charles O. Betts clamped the padlock on the firm's 14 Texas offices.

"I think Drew Pearson was responsible to a great extent . . . Mr. Pearson sitting in Washington, the Capitol at his back, telling people 'You can put your trust in U. S. Trust.' We've talked to these people. They think the U. S. Government was behind it — that it was safe," said Smith.

According to Judge Betts, the firms operations appear to have been "born in iniquity and sin and fraud, and would seem to have been conducted that way from the beginning."

A Texas legislator warned Pearson more than six months ago that there were questions about his extravagant claims. Pearson flew to Waco and talked to the head of U. S. Trust. He decided that everything was fine and continued his tv chant "You can put your trust in U. S. Trust."

Now his gesture of hiring a lawyer, to help salvage what is left of the firm's funds, doesn't alter the fact that Texans who took his advice and sank their savings in the firm stand to get back as little as 15c out of every dollar invested. Many of the depositors and policy holders are bitterly criticizing Pearson.

Today, something like 128,000 people are feeling the sting of personal losses because of easy faith. Not all of the criticism is directed at Pearson, but he is getting his share of the blame.

Even while court hearing was underway, the Senate's investigating committee went to work to gather facts surrounding the failure of U. S. Trust and Guaranty Co.

Meeting in the Senate's committee room, the investigators named State Auditor C. H. Cavness as its watchdog to make certain that records of the company, and all of its affiliates, are preserved. He also was asked to prepare a summary of expenditures of the company for 1954 and 1955. It was to include legal fees, public relations and advertising expenditures, with names of persons to whom they were paid.

Criticism was directed at the state insurance commissioners by Renne Allred, ousted last year as attorney for the liquidator-receiver of the commission. In a prepared statement he said there was evidence of the company's insolvency as far back as last year.

All American was shut down after the commission alleged it was insolvent to the tune of \$235,217. Ordered to show cause were U. S. Life Insurance Co. and South-

ern Medical and Hospital Services of Waco, both affiliates of U. S. Trust and Dallas Fire and Casualty Co. of Dallas, and American Atlas Life Insurance Co. of Dallas.

Show cause order for the four did not necessarily reflect on their solvency the commission said.

Land Suits Filed
Although piling beside the new excitement of far-flung insurance manipulations, the old veterans' land scandal, was back in the news.

Attorney General Shepperd filed six new suits, seeking recovery of \$548,824 paid out by the state to block land operators. Thirty-six such suits, asking for recoveries of \$3,500,000, are pending in court.

Big Business Year
Except for falling farm prices, Texas' economy is riding high at the end of 1955, with a bright outlook for 1956. Experts predict a leveling off after the big push upward from 1954, but foresee no sharp jolts.

Evidencing the general prosperity of 1955 were: A new high in crude oil production. An all-time high in non-agricultural employment. A billion-dollar year (forecast) for Texas construction. Booming retail sales, expected to run 10 per cent ahead of 1954. New car registrations running almost 50 per cent higher than last year. Recovery of the Valley citrus industry from the 1949 and 1951 freezes. Multi-million-dollar contract for a Texas aircraft plant.

In contrast, State Agriculture Commissioner John White warn-

ed farmers that the future was "grim." He advised them to keep production costs to a minimum and avoid further debts.

Five Honored by Jaycees
Texas Junior Chamber of Commerce has selected what it considers the five outstanding Texans of 1955.

They are: Dr. William Stewart McBirnie of San Antonio, under whose leadership the Trinity Baptist Church grew in six years from 94 to 2,000 members; William B. (Bill) Bellamy, executive administrator of employe and public relations of the Express Publishing Co. of San Antonio; Bill Allcorn of Brownwood, special prosecutor of veterans land cases for the attorney general's department; Dan Eddy of Dallas, public relations executive for the Salvation Army in Texas; and Jim Lindsey of Texarkana, youngest man ever elected speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

SHORT SNORTS: Paralytic polio this year struck six times more Texas children who were not vaccinated than those vaccinated . . . Texas highway fatalities for 1955 are expected to run four per cent above 1954 . . .

General Line of Insurance
CYRUS PEE

NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 27, 1955

Gas Service Bills Will Be Payable at
BBONEY INSURANCE AGENCY

Located in the Old State Bank Building

LONE STAR GAS COMPANY

James H. Chaney

Chiropractor

PHONE 18

211 Oak St. — Merkel



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After January 1, The Merkel Mail Will Be
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Trade Area.

YOU SAVE \$4.00

Or you may subscribe or renew your subscription for one year for \$2.00 in the trade area and save \$1.00 over the price after January 1. Continued increase in the price of newsprint forces this increase, but we will protect our present subscribers on a 3-year offer, if you act now. Newsprint prices will be increased accordingly after January 1.

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- Neckless Sets - \$19.95 now only -- \$2.95
- The CAMERA you didn't get WE HAVE IT!
- Leather Tooled HANDBAGS

Wide Variety of Selections

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the people of MERKEL for their business during the past year and to wish every one a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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LOOK LESS THAN YOUR BEST MACKS CLEANERS

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FREE PICKUP AND DELIVERY

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For the first
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Ever Your
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Southern Queen

BROWN and SERVE
FRIED CHICKEN

BREADED CHICKEN

Prepared From: Chicken,
Flour, Cracker Meal, Butter,
milk, Vegetable Oil,
Salt and Spices.

Has Southern Queen

BROWN 'N SERVE
FRIED CHICKEN

THE BUSY HOUSEWIFE CAN SERVE

DELICIOUS FRIED CHICKEN

IN JUST 6 MINUTES

ASK YOUR NEAREST GROCER

(Published in the Merkel Mail, Dec. 29, 1955, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 1956)

THE STATE OF TEXAS
To any Sheriff or any Constable within the State of Texas—
GREETING:

You are hereby commanded to cause to be published once each week for four consecutive weeks, the first publication to be at least twenty-eight days before the return day thereof, in a newspaper printed in Taylor County, Texas, the accompanying citation, of which the herein below following it a true copy.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS:

To Samuel David Blackwell, Defendant, Greeting:
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable 42nd District Court of Taylor County at the Courthouse thereof, in Abilene, Texas, by filing a written answer at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, same being the 5th day of February A.D. 1956, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 23rd day of December A.D. 1955, in this cause, numbered 21,053-A on the docket of said court and styled Willie E. Blackwell, Plaintiff, vs. Samuel David Blackwell, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Plaintiff and Defendant were married on or about 1950 and lived together until on or about 1952.

Plaintiff shows there is no community property to be adjudicated and no children born of said marriage.

Plaintiff sues for Divorce on grounds of Cruel Treatment, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

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

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

Issued and given under my hand and the said court at Abilene, Texas, this the 23rd day of December A.D. 1955.
(SEAL)

Attest: R. H. Ross Clerk,
Taylor County, Texas,
42nd District Court,
By Clayrene Long, Deputy.

Abilenians' Kin Dies In Arizona

T-Sgt. Robert Paul Rice, 42, resident of Tucson, Ariz., where he was serving with the Air Force, died at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, apparently of a heart attack.

He was the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Smith of 925 Beech St.

The funeral was at 2:00 p.m. Friday, December 23, at Elliott's Funeral Home with burial at Merkel.

Survivors include his wife; a step-daughter, Mrs. Gale Robbins of Indiana; one foster daughter, Claudia Rice of Tucson, Ariz.; one brother, Orvall of Corpus Christi; three sisters, Capt. Ella Mae Rice who is supervisor of an Army hospital at Fort Hood, Mrs. H. R. Gibson of Memphis, Tenn., and Mrs. William Webb of Melbourne, Fla.; his father, H. T. Rice of Edgar Springs, Mo.

Mrs. Rice was the former Ola Smith of Merkel. Sgt. Rice has also lived at Merkel.

Mrs. Rice has now moved to 1025 Jeanette Street, Abilene, Texas, since the death of T-Sgt. Rice.

Mrs. J. S. Pinckley received word that her brother, Sam Yancy, of Brantford, Ontario, died suddenly of a heart attack on December 20. Funeral services were held Friday at Brantford.

QUEEN

THEATRE — PHONE 248

LAST DAY FRIDAY

TENSEI TAUTI TREMENDOUS!



Paramount H Humphrey Fredric Bogart and March in William Wyler's Production of **THE DESPERATE HOURS**

Arthur Kennedy - Martha Scott - Dewey Martin - Gig Young - Mary Murphy

SATURDAY, DEC. 31 — ONE DAY ONLY DOUBLE FEATURE

"TWO GUN TEACHER"

"MAN CRAZY"

MID-NIGHT SHOW SAT. NITE. NEW YEAR EVE SUNDAY - MONDAY, JAN. 1 - 2



MY SISTER EILEEN

THAT JOYOUS NEW COMEDY!

starring **JANET LEIGH JACK LEMMON BETTY GARRETT**

in **TECHNICOLOR**

TUES. - WED. - THURS. — JAN. 3-4-5

Claudette Colbert — Barry Sullivan

"TEXAS LADY"

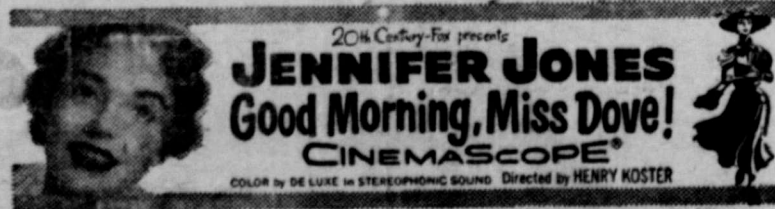
IN TECHNICOLOR

COMING ATTRACTIONS DURING JANUARY



THE VIEW FROM POMPEY'S HEAD

COLOR BY DE LUXE CINEMASCOPE



JENNIFER JONES Good Morning, Miss Dove!

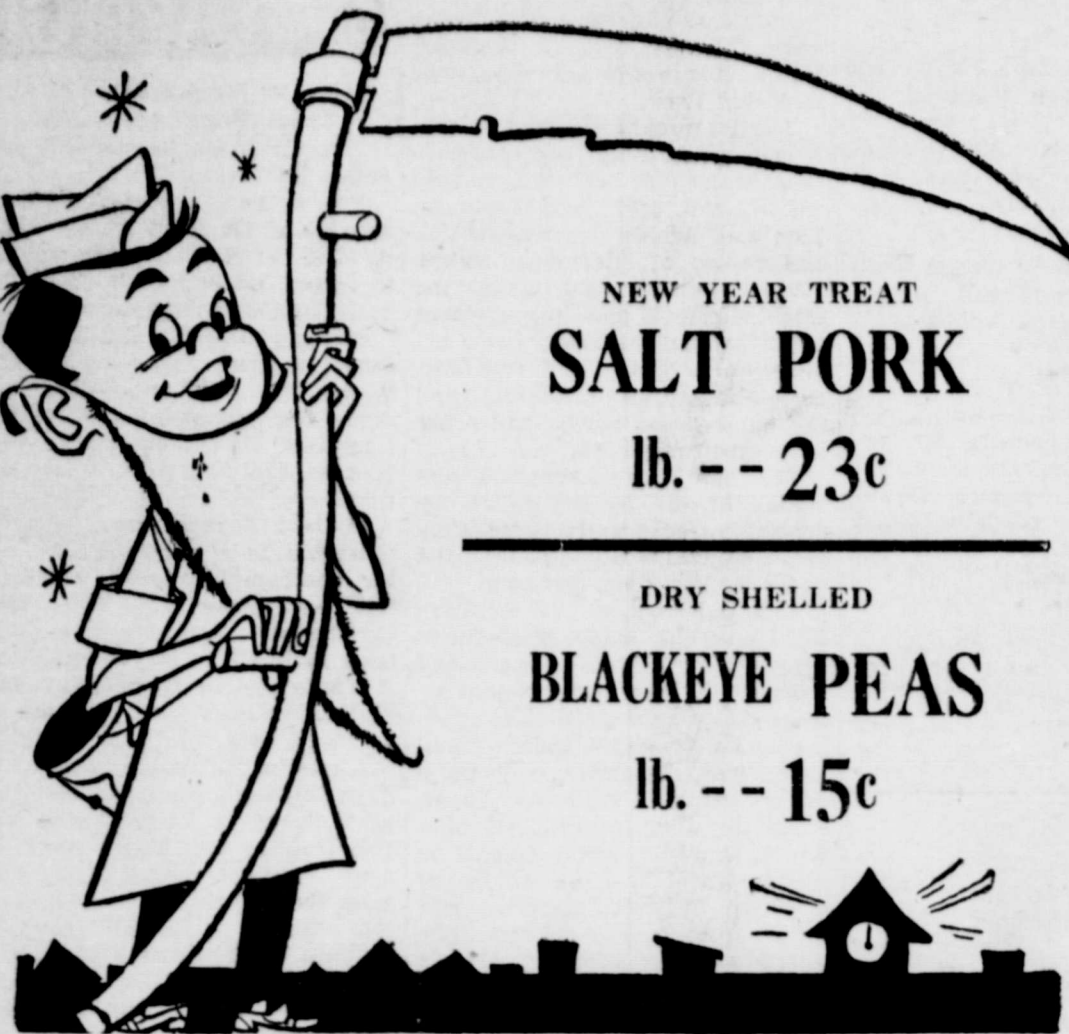
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JEANNE CRAIG - GEORGE HADLER - KITTY KALLER - BERT LAMB - MARIE VAN DOREN - KEITH ANDER - PAUL GILBERT

happy holidays!



NEW YEAR TREAT SALT PORK

lb. -- 23c

DRY SHELLLED BLACKEYE PEAS

lb. -- 15c

WE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY **SPECIALS** Thurs. - Fri. - Sat. December 29-30-31

- CORN** ---- Kounty Kist 12-oz. Can ... 2 for 25c
- TOMATOES** - Daimond 303 Can ... 2 for 25c
- SPAGHETTI** Kimbell's & Cheese ... 2 for 25c
- Blackeye PEAS** - Kimbell's No. 2 Can ... 25c
- TOMATO JUICE** Hunt's 46-oz. Can ... 2 for 29c
- FRUIT C. T.** - Stockton No. 2 1/2 Can ... 29c
- PEARS** ----- Heavy Syrup Gallon Can ... 99c

GOLDEN FLUFFO
3-Lb. Can
79c

COFFEE KLEENEX PEACHES

HIXSON'S
One Pound Can **69c**
400 Count Box **22c**
Anytime Freestone, 2 1/2 Can **25c**

DIXIE TUNA
2 Cans For
39c

KIMBELL'S Peanut Butter
18-Oz. Jar
43c

GOLD MEDAL FLOUR
25 Lb. Pillowcase Bag \$1.79
10 lb. sack -- 73c

PET BRAND
EVAPORATED MILK
2 CANS 23c
Instant NONFAT DRY MILK
Makes 4 Qts. 69c

WOLF CHILI
No. 2 Can
43c

KRAFT'S CHEESE WHIZ
Jar
33c

NABISCO RITZS
Pound Box
37c

BALLARD BISCUITS
2 Cans
19c

WILSON MOR
Can
33c

SHORTENING BAKERITE
3 Pound Can
67c

ZEE TISSUE
4 ROLL PACK
29c

Finest Quality MEATS

- CHOICE HEAVY BEEF**
- CHUCK Roast** Lb. **39c**
- CHOICE HEAVY BEEF**
- Club Steak** Lb. **49c**
- CHOICE HEAVY BEEF**
- SHORT RIBS** ---- lb. **19c**
- Fresh GROUND BEEF** ---- lb. 25c
- Gooch Country Style SAUSAGE** ---- 2 lbs. 69c
- Fresh Dressed FRYERS** ---- lb. 43c
- Lean Meaty HAM HOCKS** ---- pkgs. 19c
- CORN KING Bacon** ---- lb. **35c**

- Sunshine CRACKERS** ---- lb. 23c
- Sunshine CANDIES** ---- cello 10c
- Bleach PURE X** quart --- 15c

VEGETABLES

- FLORIDA ORANGES** -- lb. 5c
- Fresh LETTUCE** -- lb. 12c
- Fresh CRANBERRIES** lb. 19c
- Fresh CELERY** lb. 12c
- Red Delicious APPLES** lb. 15c
- Fresh K. Y. GREEN BEANS** lb. 19c
- Red No. 1 — Mesh Bag SPUDS** --- 10 lbs. 39c

GIANT TIDE --- box 63c
GIANT CHEER - box 63c

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