

THE MERKEL MAIL

Golden Cavalcade
June 3 to 9

IN THE FRIENDLY TOWN

VOL. 67, NO. 12

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1956

CAVALCADE TO OPEN SUNDAY

OLDEST MERCANTILE FIRM IN MERKEL IS THE WEST COMPANY

The oldest mercantile establishment in Merkel, and probably in Taylor County, is West Company Hardware Store. It had its beginning in Nov. 3, 1889 when its founder, G. F. West came to Merkel from Dallas County and purchased a business from Mr. Kennan. The first location of the business was on North First Street about where Ed's Cafe is now located. After a few years the wooden building in which the business was housed was moved to the

present location of the company. In 1901 the wooden building was replaced with the brick building now occupied by the firm.

E. C. West joined the firm with his father in 1901. In 1912 James H. West and John R. West became members and in 1924 Paul W. West also came into the business.

After the death of G. F. West in 1935, the four sons carried on the business. F. C. West had charge of the Hardware Department, James H. West the Auto Supply Department, John R. West the Implement Department and Paul W. West the Grocery Department.

James H. West died in 1948 and his interest was purchased by the other brothers in 1950.

H. C. West retired Jan. 2, 1953, selling his interest to John R. West.

Paul W. West, on account of ill health, was forced to retire Jan. 1, 1955 and his interest was also purchased by John R. West, who now became sole owner of the business.

The firm started out selling hardware, Groceries and farm implements. Later Auto Supplies and feed and seed were added.

One of the first Farmall Tractors to be sold in Texas was sold by them in 1924. They were influential and active in changing farm power from mules to gasoline engines.

With the death and retirement of members of the firm the lines handled were reduced until now operations are confined to the sale of hardware and affiliated lines, but you still hear their customers say, if you can't find it anywhere else you will find it at West Company's.

CHURCHES SEEK AN ATTENDANCE OF 2,000

Merkel observes her 50th anniversary as an incorporated town the week of June 3 to 9, and nothing has been left undone.

Business men, professional people and others have contributed to start this Golden Cavalcade off with a Golden spoon.

The first activity of the week, scheduled at individual churches, will be an all-out attempt to get 2,000 people in Sunday school Sunday, June 3.

This is the first such attempt on a city-wide basis, and with the cooperation of everyone, it is entirely possible that the goal will be reached.

Special days are set for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, with various observances, and everyone in Merkel will be wearing costumes depicting the olden days.

This edition of the Merkel Mail has been dedicated to the old-timers who have made this the best country in West Texas to live in.

The first show of the Cavalcade pageant is set for Thursday night at the football stadium. Bill Woods and his workers have spent many hours writing and directing the pageant, and those who have seen a preview say it will be well worth anyone's time to go and see it.

Another feature of the Cavalcade will be the shaving contest, and the day that most men have long awaited — the one when they can shave off their beards.

It pays to raise a beard. Like the ones seen around Merkel. It is all for fun and in the spirit of celebrating the 50th year

of Merkel's Incorporation, but it will also pay off for some of the sharecropping-beardcroppers.

A number of electric shavers will be awarded as prizes in the various contests. Earle Watts, Chairman of Brothers of the Brush Day on Thursday, June 7th announces that the "Brother" who sells the most memberships in that august group will be presented with one of the razors at a pre-pageant show at the Merkel Football Field that night at 7:30 p.m. Shavers will also be given at that time for the "Best" beard and the most unusual or comical one.

Bobby Tom Hodge, the chairman of Merchant's Day, Friday, June 8th also announces a "Shaving Contest" at 7:30 on his day — also at the Football Field. Representatives of the shaver firm will come on from Dallas to put on this show and there will be two shavers given for the two fastest contestants to get rid of their beards.

The lovely young ladies who are the Queen's attendants will help them and add glamour to the contest. Of course, there is a chance that that will be a distracting note to the gentlemen, but is one of the obstacles that they will have to overcome.

LADIES DAY AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Open house will be held for the Ladies of Merkel and surrounding communities and all guests on Wednesday, June 5 from 9:00 to 12:00 o'clock. Antiques will be

on display and coffee served. Come in and bring your friends.

In the afternoon a Style Show of authentic dresses of early days will be held at 3:00 p.m. by "Sisters of the Swish."

Come help celebrate Merkel's Golden Anniversary.

First, second and third prizes will be given for the most authentic costume, and refreshments will be served following the style show. No admission charge.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our many friends for the acts of kindness shown during the illness and death of our dear one, Mrs. S. H. Horton. We especially want to express our gratitude to those who brought in food, to those who sent floral offerings and those whose kind words greatly aided us during our bereavement.

The Children of
S. H. HORTON.



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
OUR
GOLDEN JUBILEE

There are those of us who were born here . . . and still live here . . . who take pride in this . . . out town . . . and devote every day in service one to another . . . in a never ending prayer that this will be a better because we have lived here as part of the passing scene.

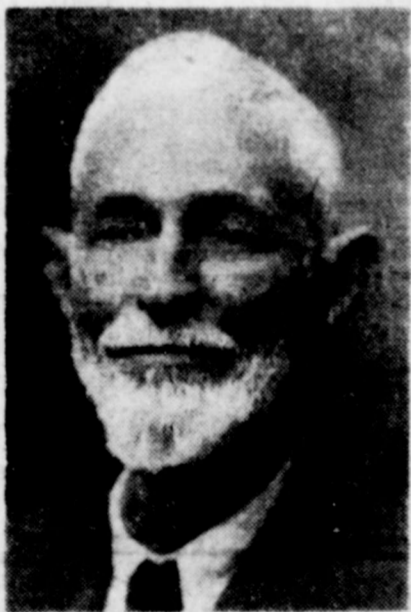
BILL'S GARDEN SHOP
FLORIST AND NURSERY



WE'RE NOT 50 YEARS OLD...

but our experience in the drug business makes old-timers have confidence in us. That's why we salute the pioneers of Merkel, and extend them a cordial welcome to

MAC'S CITY DRUG
FRED C. McCUE



G. F. WEST
Founder in 1889

FOR MORE THAN
67 YEARS

the most reliable hardware name in this area as been

WEST COMPANY

From the days of the early Pioneer when the old-timers used to crowd around the pot bellied stove and cracker barrel, the West Company has been a faithful servant to the people of Merkel and vicinity. From a meager beginning back in 1889, the West Company has kept abreast of the times until it is now one of the largest and best stocked hardware stores in this area. We salute the old timers . . . they had faith in us . . . and our faith in the future will not be broken.



JOHN R. WEST
Present Owner

WEST COMPANY



Pioneer Days

1906 - 1956
50 YEARS
OF
PROGRESS

THE PAST 50 YEARS
HAS BEEN A STORY OF
PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT
FOR MERKEL AND TAYLOR COUNTY.
THE FUTURE WILL MOST
CERTAINLY BRING CONTINUING
PROGRESS AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT.

BULLOCK HARDWARE

Early Day Will Printed In Merkel Mail Owned By Former Merkel Resident

The following early-day will, more than 100 years old is the property of J. A. Bell, formerly of Merkel, now of Dallas.

The will was written by a relative of the Bells, Mrs. M. B. Bell, his mother, and Bernie Bell, live in Merkel now.

WRITTEN BY PHILLIP W. TAYLOR OF SHELBY COUNTY, KENTUCKY, AS A PART OF HIS WILL, JAN. 29, 1812

The following reproduction is a part of the will of Phillip W. Taylor of Shelby County, which was written by Mr. Taylor and a part of his will on January 29, 1812, and which was printed a short time afterward. The copy was made from the original printed just as it appears now after having been preserved in the family for practically one hundred years.

Mrs. J. E. Taylor and Mrs. M. E. Watson of Abilene are great-grand children of the writer of this "advice to my children" as are also Mr. Smith of Ovalo and John Bell of Merkel. Kress Watson here is a great-great-grand son of Phillip W. Taylor and Zachary Taylor, famed in history, was a nephew of the writer. My Dear Children:

I feel it a duty I owe to God and to you, after all my instructions in life to leave you some written instructions, that you can look upon when you can see my face no more. Hoping these lines may more feelingly affect your hearts, than my personal instructions in life. And first of all, my children, I counsel you to seek after, and never rest until you have obtained an interest in the Redeemer. Do not put off religion for old age — look around and see how very few instances you know of, have ever heard of an old man or woman getting religion. There are some instances it is true, but I have known very few. Remember that God promises to be fond of them who seek Him in their youth. Religion qualifies the man or woman for great enjoyment here, and eternally hereafter. Remember it is religion that must give sweetest pleasures while we live — it is religion that must supply solid comfort when we die, and after death its joys shall be lasting as eternity. My advice to you chil-

dren, should your mother outlive me, is to love, honor and obey her in all things. This God hath commanded you, and therefore I have the best authority to enforce this duty upon you. Strive to make her happy in old age, that she may have cause to bless God for having her children.

Should you feel desposed to marry as most young people do, remember, this is a business not to be done today and undone tomorrow it is a business of life, and therefore requires serious reflection. Let me beseech you my childrn, never disgrace yourself by marrying one of a bad family or fame. In getting a wife or husband do the best that you can, as you are the person to reap the advantages arising therefrom. Let the person of your choice be of good honest, parentage; industrious and naturally of a good temper. Never marry for beauty. Remember that beauty will very soon fade away. Never join yourself to one that scoffs at religion; you may be certain that such a one will make your miserable; or those who will not honor the Creator will hardly comply with their duty to the Creator. I need hardly warn you against marrying for money, as you are poor yourselves; I feel no great fear of any of you being engaged in this evil (I say evil) because it often proves to be so. Follow the example of those of your neighbors that are most in repute as honest, civil citizens. Be sure to conduct yourselves in all your deportment so as to be respected. Remember it is the honest, upright character that is most respected in the world. Be very punctual in paying all of your just debts. Should it be your misfortune to settle in a poor neighborhood of lazy people, never content yourself with living only as well as your neighbors, but strive to excel them, and live as well as your circumstances will admit. Never visit much, but when you do visit, let it be such families as are respected. Take the caution of a parent that loves you, my children — never speak evil of your neighbor to any one. Talking evil one of another, seldom fails to do much harm. Remember that old saying, tale-bearing, is being a pack-



BACK IN 1905 — The J. D. Boring nursery and orchard was a show place of Merkel, and here is Will Boring standing in the plum trees.

first, I warn you to beware of two sorts of men in the world. The first of these is the affecting, mild, soft spoken flatterer; the later the vulgar, the profane swearer and liar. Both of these characters, no matter how rich they may be, will become dangerous for you to make your associates, or to become very familiar with. And in order to guard you, my children, against the evils you may incur by accompanying with such characters, let me advise you to be intimate with none until you become very well acquainted with them. Be assured of this that it will seldom fail to injure you, by becoming too familiar with a stranger. Give yourselves time, by considering and understanding the advice given you in these lines by one who cares feelingly for you. The base liar and profane swearer, openly shows himself who he is — you know him at once to be no gentleman. As a liar you cannot trust him, and as a swearer, you dare not associate with him. The soft spoken flatterer will deceive you, and will draw you into difficulties that may prove very hurtful both to your character and property, therefore my advice to you is to let your particular associates be such persons as you well know and are of good moral characters. But here you must remember that you must remember that you must be of a good character yourself, or such persons as I have recommended for your associates will not keep your company.

But after all in my instructions if you slight or disrespect the Scriptures I have little hope you will pay attention to me; but bless the Lord I hope better things, my children. Therefore, I am encouraged once more to advise you to frequently look into and follow the instructions given you in the great Book of God. For twenty three years last part of my life, I have strove to adhere to the advice given in that book, and I have always found that there was no circumstance, however difficult it might be, if I looked to God and followed the directions of his word, I was always delivered; and by your so doing you will live comfortable in life, die a happy death, and be eternally happy hereafter. But should you be unfortunate as to turn a deaf ear to the instructions given and live according to the common practices of men of the world. (I mean that are worldly minded), you will live without peace, die

See EARLY Page 7



TO OUR
PIONEERS . . .

Those
Who
Settled
This
Country

Back in the 1890's, the Pioneers were flocking to a railroad station called Merkel. It was this courage from the covered wagon days that made Merkel the town it is today. We salute all old-timers on Merkel's

GOLDEN JUBILEE
LEMENS
BUTANE AND APPLIANCE



FRONTIER DAYS

THERE WAS NO PHONE
LIKE THIS 50 YEARS AGO . . .

The "new fangled telephone" . . . the instrument that talked . . . created quite a bit of talk in Merkel when the wires were strung to only a few dozen customers. They had to shout into the mouthpiece to be heard. There was no "instant" talking into the phone, like the one above, for there were none except the "crank" type.

The automobile was only a dream in early days when the telephone was started . . . skeptics proclaimed that man would never fly. There were no radios, television sets or nylon clothes.

Down through the years the telephone and Merkel have been partners in progress.

Keeping pace with each others growth, we have been constantly on the job and have spared no expense during recent years in order to continually improve and expand our service to Merkel residents.

Never satisfied, Merkel Telephone is always planning ahead to improve the service to the people of this area.

The local system has more than doubled in the past decade and is growing every day. Every phone added and every improvement make your service more valuable . . . for you can talk with more people and the telephone can run more errands for you.

Merkel Telephone will keep growing and keep pace with Merkel in years ahead.

MERKEL TELEPHONE CO., INC

TOMMY ODU M, Manager

THE TELEPHONE IS GREATER THAN ITS COST



**LET'S SMOKE A
PEACE PIPE . . .**

AND CALL IN OUR
FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,
AND THE PIONEERS OF
OLD TO TELL THEM HOW
WE REJOICE IN THE
CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INCORPORATION OF MERKEL
AS THE THRIVING CITY IN
WEST TEXAS.

BURTON - LINGO CO.

**CELEBRATION
DAYS**

JUNE 7, 8, 9

**DURING THE
GOLDEN CAVALCADE**

Our congratulations to the
City of Merkel on its 50 years
of progress since the
incorporation of the town in
1906. We feel that the
progress will continue during
the next half-century.

**MERKEL
FARM MACHINERY**

**FIRST TRANSMISSION
LINES BUILT IN 1915**

Shortly after the turn of the century, when Merkel's first light plant was built and placed in operation, electric lights were new and looked upon as a luxury by most people. Few went to the expense to have their homes wired for electric lights, but continued to use the old kerosene lamps. Those "new fangled electric lamps" were not dependable and were too expensive. The electric iron was nice, but most women used the old flat iron, heated of a wood-burning stove. During those early days the majority of the people thought the electric light was just a fad, and would not last, just as they did the new horseless carriage that always scared the day-lights out of the best buggy horse in Taylor County. According to old-timers in Merkel, the first light plant was built by Hoff & Harris of Comanche. It was quite a venture, but was very modern for that day with its steam boiler, little steam engine and belt driven generator. Merkel citizens did not rush to have electric lights installed, and the plant had very little load on its distribution lines. The first plant was built on North First Street near the present location of Nolan Palmer's Service Station, and was operated by Hoff & Harris for a short time. The real pioneers in the light plant business in Merkel were John and Frank Hamm who purchased the plant from the original owners. Frank Hamm still resides in Merkel and his brother, John, lives in Abilene. Frank Hamm, now retired and still enjoying life at the age of 83, recalls some of the early day problems of operating a light plant in West Texas. Those problems were not solved until West Texas Utilities Predecessor Company built a transmission line from Abilene to Provide Merkel to 24-hour service. According to Hamm, the first plant was a losing venture from the day it started because the company had few customers and no power load. The Hamm brothers became interested in the light plant because of an electric automobile powered with storage batteries which had to be recharged at frequent intervals. He decided that if he owned the light plant he could charge his own batteries by using a small transformer to convert the alternating current to direct current. They purchased the plant from Hoff & Harris and the Hamm brothers were in the electric business. At that time, according to Mr. Hamm, the electric company had less than 30 customers in Merkel. The plant was started shortly before dusk and operated until bed-time. It was started again at about 5:00 a.m. and operated until day-light. Twenty-four hour service in those days was unheard of in a small community. The small load and short operating schedule made the plant a losing proposition, and could not continue to operate unless more load could be obtained. To provide more load, the brothers built a gin, and used an electric motor in place of the usual steam or oil engine. This provided additional load, but lasted only during the ginning season. To provide more load, they built a 40-ton ice plant and moved the light plant to the new location south of the T&P Tracks. Ice was another luxury that the citizens of Merkel knew nothing about. The new ice plant added more load to the plant, but there was no market for the ice. With only 30 light customers, and fewer ice customers, the plant could not continue to operate. The machinery had been purchased, sold the machinery and moved it out of town. Merkel's modern light and ice plant was a thing of the past.

See FIRST On Page 6

**Congratulations to
MERKEL
on Fifty Years
of Progress**

The progress of a community, company, or individual is a relative thing. The physical accomplishments in construction and growth are one measure. Another is the advance in social and economic life . . . and still another is the improvement in the conveniences and comforts of individual living.

Merkel can be justly proud of its "Fifty Years of Progress." We're proud of our part as your partner in that progress, and the part which dependable low-cost electric service in unlimited amounts has had in making that progress possible.

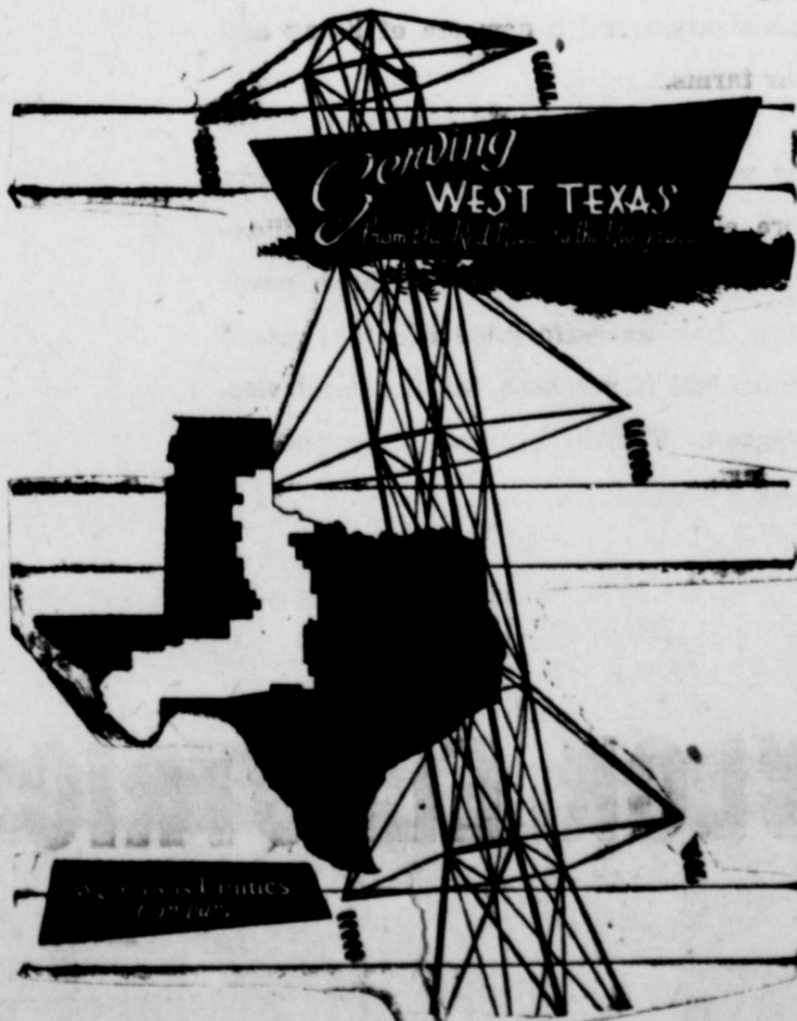
Taylor County was one of the original four counties served by West Texas Utilities. Merkel was also one of the first of seven towns served. From serving seven towns in four counties, the Company has grown with Merkel and West Texas until today it serves 167 town and communities in forty-nine counties.



The electric business is different from most other business. Our product — electric power — cannot be manufactured and stored for future use. We must have power plants, transmission and distribution systems with power to instantly deliver energy whenever and wherever you want it.

That's why we are working now — planning and building ahead — to provide the electric power necessary to spark the continued progress of Merkel and the area.

**West Texas Utilities
Company**





PIONEERS

OF THE EARLY DAYS

A HALF CENTURY AGO

RODE HORSEBACK AND

DROVE THEIR CATTLE

TO MARKET. WE ARE

PROUD OF THE PROGRESS

MADE DURING THE

PAST 50 YEARS. SO COME

AND CELEBRATE AT THE

GOLDEN CAVALCADE

**BONEY
INSURANCE AGENCY**

HORACE O. BONEY



WHITE CHURCH IN 1888 — Here's a view of the congregation of the White church in Mulberry Canyon made in 1888. The church was organized in 1881. Photo courtesy Mrs. M. R. Hail, Rt. 3, Merkel.

WHITE CHURCH ESTABLISHED IN 1879 BY CANYON RESIDENTS

In 1879, five families came from Tarrant and Johnson Counties and settled in what was later called the White Church Community of Mulberry Canyon.

They were three Tucker brothers: John, Jim, and Bruce, Mammy Brown and her family and her married son, Charlie Brown and family, whose wife, Nannie, was a sister of the Tuckers.

On arrival, they found three families already settled there who had come in 1878; the H. D. Clark family, the H. M. Norris family and the Jake Cyphers family. The Tom Trusdale family

came a little later.

H. D. Clark had come in 1876 and staked a claim. In February, 1878, he, his wife, the Rev. Norris and family started to the Canyon from Red River County.

They stopped at Stephenville, where the Clark's first child Lizzie, now Mrs. Brown, was born, coming on to the new home as soon as possible.

In 1880, Jim Tucker went back to Johnson County for his family.

Eithel Tucker was night watchman for the city of Merkel for several years before his death in August, 1946.

In 1880, the early settlers met in the half dug-out home of Rev. H. M. Norris, who was a Methodist minister and organized a Sunday School.

The following year they organized a Methodist Church, which also met in the home of Rev. Norris, until the school house was built, about one year later.

Then church was held in the school house, until the settlers were able to build a church building; some time about 1886. It was built by the settlers of every faith and no faith. They all did what they could, both financially and with labor.

The building was painted white and was called "White Church." All their religious and social life centered around the church. Each summer they had a

"Camp Meeting." They built a brush arbor and held services under it. The families came and camped near the church; so as to attend all the services. On Sundays, they all spread dinner together and had a day of worship and Christian Fellowship. SEE Next Page WHITE

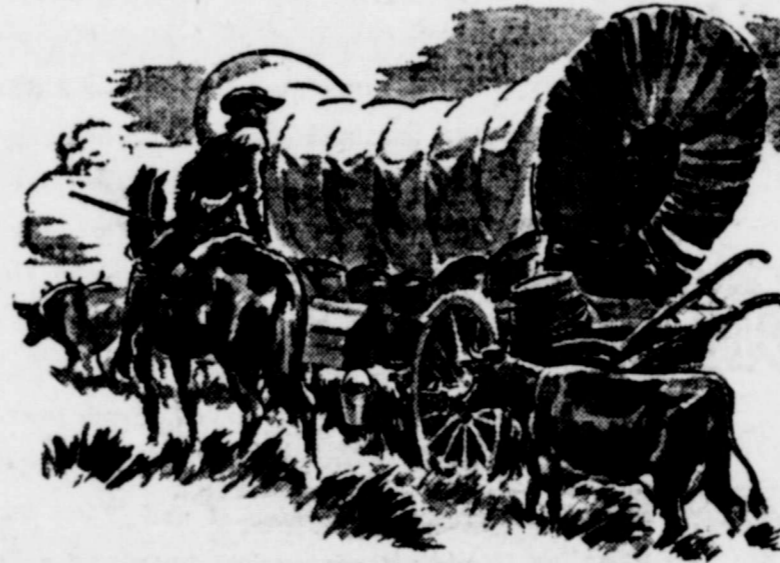


THERE WAS NOTHING SAFE...
in the **PIONEER DAYS**

BUT TODAY EVERYTHING IS SAFE A SIT CAN BE WITH PROPER INSURANCE. WE CALUTE THE PIONEERS OF MERKEL.

CYRUS PEE
GENERAL INSURANCE

We're Celebrating Too...



PIONEER DAYS



are
celebrating
days
in
MERKEL

We invite you to join with the citizens of Merkel in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the city. We salute the pioneers who founded this town.

Again we want to congratulate the pioneers of this area.

Serving the rural residents of Taylor, Jones, Nolan, Shackelford, Callahan, Coleman and Runnels counties.

**TAYLOR TELEPHONE
COOPERATIVE, Inc.**
JOHN HARDESTY, Manager

This year millions of farm people across the nation are celebrating a birthday. They are marking the anniversary of the coming of the electric age to rural America. Twenty years ago, President Roosevelt issued an executive order creating the Rural Electrification Administration and a new era of living and working on our farms.

It is hard for many of us to remember what farm life was before electricity came. There are millions of youngsters on the farms today who have never experienced the dark uncomfortable life that would have been theirs had it not been for the rural electrification program. Electricity has given them a more promising future.

The twenty years since the creation of REA have been years of remarkable progress of which this nation can be justly proud. But as we celebrate we must look ahead. The job of rural electrification has really just begun. Many farm families are still without electricity. New lines must be built and the old lines heaved up. New sources of power must be found to meet the expanding rural uses of electricity.

As in the past this locally-owned and operated rural electric system will meet the challenges of the future as they have those of the past twenty years.

And... we offer our congratulations to Merkel upon its achievements in the past and extend best wishes for all success in the future.

**TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
INC.**

"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"



**LET'S
ALL GET TOGETHER**

and salute the pioneers of a half-century ago with a big pow-wow in Merkel during the Golden Cavalcade.

B & D GARAGE



POSTOFFICE IN MERKEL — When this picture was taken, it shows the postoffice employees . . . At left to right are Victor Harris, brother of Mrs. Harry Bullock, R. L. Adcock, brother of O. J. Adcock, F. A. Sanders, Price Bankhead, brother of Mrs. Adcock, and his son, Hollis, and O. J. Adcock. In the foreground, the young fellow reading the mail is Stanley King, still a mail carrier, H. C. Williams, postmaster, and his daughter, Elva Williams, now Mrs. Ellis Warren, Knox City.



TO THE PIONEERS

. . . of yesterday
our congratulations for
the half-century of dedication
you have given this area.

BADGER CHEVROLET CO.



We're beating the drums for the Golden Jubilee of Merkel. It is an honor to be a part of a progressive city in its celebration of 50 years of progress.

WILSON JEWELRY

WHITE CHURCH

CONT'D From Page 4

Some of the early preachers were, Revs. Norris, Strickland, Eason, Hyser, Elder, Baker, Hyder and Tom Davis.

White Church Cemetery was established and many of the early settlers and their families are buried there.

The first White Church School was a one-room building just south of the cemetery. Some of the early teachers were G. W. Wadford, John Clack, Mr. Lowe, and Miss Hattie Summers.

Other early settlers who did much to build the White Church Community were the Boyds, Stricklands, Elachs, Charlie Hutchens, G. W. Wilsin, Andy Hunter, Joe Watkins, Demere, Coats, Clinton, Biggs, Curtis, Snow, Wadford, Clack, West, Farmer, Costephens, Riggins, Pannell Highes and many others; all working together and helping each other.

The settlers who came in, 1878, 1879, and 1880 brought their cows and chickens with them, thus they had meat, milk and eggs. They brought their first groceries from Ft. Worth. They

were later able to buy at Abilene and Merkel, after the railroad came through.

They also brought hogs and turned them loose on the mountains, where they had springs for water and acorns for feed. The hogs were community property and everyone killed hogs in the winter for meat and lard.

Some of the early doctors to serve the White Church Community were Dr. Martin of Nubia, Dr. Richardson, Dr. King, and Dr. Joe Warnick. Later, Dr. Jim Alexander.

The last charter member of White Church to die was H. D. Clark of Merkel.

So, to the White Church Community and all of those who lived and served in the White Church Community as "Pilgrims" here, who were seeking a city, whose builder and maker is God. "Pilgrims" who would say to those who carry on in the words of the Master: "He who would be greatest among you, let him be servant to all."

Mrs. Dee Grimes and Mrs. Cyrus Pee were in Dallas the first part of the week attending the advance Fall market.

T. G. Bragg Came Here 40 Years Ago

T. G. Bragg, early day merchant, is the founder of Bragg's Dry Goods Store in Merkel.

He came here from Hissboro, Texas, and bought in with Woodruff Brothers, later purchased that store, and became partner with Dee Grimes, who managed the store for 34 years.

The store is now 40 years old and is now managed by Mrs. Dee Grimes. Other employees are Mrs. Cyrus Pee, Mrs. Florence Perry, Dan Ray, Wanda Bradley and Errol Rutledge.

Mr. Bragg is retired. Mr. and Mrs. Bragg came here 40 years ago and have been active in the mercantile business all of their lives, even before coming to Merkel.

ATTEND THE JUBILEE June 7-9



**1906-1956
MERKEL'S
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

We join thousands of others in complimenting Merkel on a half-century of progress and development, achieved only through hard work and full cooperation of its citizens.

Celebrate the Golden Cavalcade

**PERRY
ONOCO STATION**



GOLDEN CAVALCADE

JUNE 3 - 9



**WHAT WOULD
GRANDPA
SAY NOW . . .**

PERHAPS YOUR MEMORY OF THE POT-BELLIED STOVE AND THE OPEN CRACKER BARREL IN THE STORE YOUR DAD USED TO TAKE YOU TO WHEN THE 20TH CENTURY WAS YOUNG, IS DIM. BUT THE MEMORY OF THE FRIENDLINESS AND COURTESY THAT WAS PART AND PARCEL OF IT ALL WILL CERTAINLY NEVER FADE FROM MIND.

FABULOUS CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THEN. THE MIRACLES OF THE 20TH CENTURY HAVE PILED ONE ON ANOTHER. THE OLD POT-BELLIED STOVE HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH MYRIADS OF COMFORTS FOR THE CUSTOMER'S CONVENIENCE. FACTORY WRAPPED PACKAGES BRING US CRACKERS THAT ARE VERY FRESH AND CRISP. FROZEN FOODS AND FRESH VEGETABLES ARE ALWAYS ON HAND. BUT ONE THING HAS NOT CHANGED. IT IS THE OLD-FASHIONED FRIENDLINESS AND COURTESY YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND HERE.

Carson Grocery & Mkt



When the Indians Stomped...

it was back in the early days a half-century ago when Merkel was just incorporated into a city. The Indians might have taken your scalp to a cleaning, in modern days, you get your best cleaning at

MACK'S CLEANERS



the land of the buffalo . . . has developed into a land of ranches and farms during the past 50 years. We greet the pioneers of yester year.

WOOZY'S CAFE



J. D. BORING HOME — South of the new school in Merkel 51 years ago is shown the J. D. Boring home. Will and Vernon Boring are shown in the yard.



STORM OVER MERKEL — Here is an early-day day scene of Merkel's business district as a storm cloud approached. The photo was brought in by Mrs. McConnell.

FIRST From Page 3

Once the plant was gone and the customers had to resort to their old kerosene lamps, there was a demand for another light plant. The Merkel Electric Company was formed; a new plant was built north of the tracks near the Planters Gin; with W. E. Britain as manager.

More houses were wired; additional customers added; and there was a move for 24-hour service so that street lights would burn all night, and merchants could illuminate their store windows.

In 1915 a fire disabled the power plant, and Merkel was again without electric lights. It would be some time before new equipment could be acquired and the light plant rebuilt, and Merkel citizens were depending on electricity for lights.

The Abilene Electric Company, which later was organized into the West Texas Utilities Company, came to the rescue. Why not build a line from Abilene to Merkel and provide electric energy from the Abilene plant?

Construction crews started work immediately, and in a short time Merkel had electric lights again. This was the first transmission line to be built in West Texas, and was the start of WTU's present network of transmission lines now serving 167 cities and towns in 49 West Texas counties.

Following the completion of the line and the restoration of electric service in Merkel, West Texas Utilities Company purchased the properties of the Merkel Electric Company, and has been supplying Merkel with low cost, dependable electric service for more than forty years.

MEDICINE CABINET O.K.?

When's the last time you inspected the family medicine chest? If you take a minute to take a look, you will probably find half-empty medicine bottles that should have been thrown out months ago, rusty razor blades and other miscellaneous items that have been long forgotten. For safety's sake, clean it out and, at the same time, make sure you have stocked the basic necessities that are needed to protect your family — iodine and first aid bandages, eye drops, aspirin, smelling salts and salve for treating household burns.

Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Bowen were weekend guests in the home of their son, Bill Bowen in Fort Worth.



THE COVERED WAGON

DAYS ARE GONE

IT IS TOO BAD OUR FOREFATHERS DIDN'T KNOW OF THE PROGRESS THAT WAS TO FOLLOW THE NEXT 50 YEARS AFTER THEY SETTLED THIS AREA. COSDEN OIL PRODUCTS ARE AN EXAMPLE OF THE PROGRESS MADE DURING THE HALF CENTURY. OUR FOREFATHERS WOULD HAVE REJOICED, IF THEY COULD HAVE ENJOYED COSDEN.

COSDEN STATION

HIGHWAY 80 WEST

Attend Merkel's

GOLDEN CAVALCADE

JUNE 7-8-9 1956



WE SALUTE THE PIONEERS WHO CAME TO MERKEL OF YEARS AGO TO SETTLE ON THE PRAIRIE - AND LATER DEVELOP A THRIVING CITY. IT WAS THOSE PIONEERS WHO GAVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A PART OF THIS AREA.

STARBUCK COMPANY



OUR CONGRATULATIONS

to the pioneers of Merkel on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the city. We, too, are pioneer barbers in this area, and we honor those who established this town in the beginning.

BOB McDONALD'S BARBER SHOP



We are proud to be a part of the growth and development of Merkel . . . this year we salute the pioneers who were here 50 years ago when Merkel was incorporated.

ADCOCK CLEANERS

WAYMON ADCOCK



EVERYONE CAN'T BE A CHIEF

that's why it takes as many braves to make up a tribe. So we are proud to be a "brave" in the development of Merkel, and we salute the pioneers who "chiefed" this area into a city.

DELUXE LAUNDRY



KEEP THE HOME FIRES

BURNING . . .

Merkel is 50 years old. we were proud the kettle has been kept boiling during the many years.

NOOK CAFE



WTU DISTRICT MANAGER

Supervising the operations of the WTU's office in Merkel is Harold D. Austin of Abilene, District Manager. Merkel is one of 33 towns and communities served by the company under his supervision, and are operated in a division known as District AB. A veteran of 35 years of service in the electric industry, Mr. Austin has served as district manager since 1934. From 1942 until 1945, he was on leave of absence from West Texas Utilities Company while serving as an officer in the U. S. Army. He returned to his position in Abilene in 1945 following his release with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel Infantry Reserve Corps. While Mr. Austin was serving with the Armed Forces in World War II, T. J. McCarty of Abilene served as district manager.

Hutson Has Taken Mail Since 1st Issue

John S. Hutson, who celebrated his 100th birthday on April 1, has been a subscriber to the Merkel Mail since it was established 66 years ago, and he is one of the true pioneers of this area.

Mr. Hutson was born April 1, 1856 at Muphesboro, Arkansas, the son of Jack and Margaret Hutson, farmers. He has one child, Mrs. Effie Hutson Moore, 3612 Travis Ave., Fort Worth.

He married Othelia Caldwell in 1886 in Lamar county, and moved to Taylor county in 1889, settling one and one-half miles southeast of Merkel.

Mr. Hutson recalls that in the early days, they brought all of their household goods, farm implements, cattle and horses in a box car. They built their home near Merkel soon after arriving. At that time the Texas and Pacific Railroad had not yet been completed.

Mr. Hutson purchased the first surrey from Ed S. Hughes of Abilene for \$100.

He recalls that the first cotton raised on his place sold for 8 cents a pound.

In 1929 Mr. Hutson moved to Merkel and built a house at 606 Yucca St., where he lived until 1944 when he moved to Fort Worth where he has resided with his daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Moore.

"I am in good health and had the privilege of celebrating my 100th birthday April 1," Mr. Hutson said.

EARLY From Page 2

miserable and be forever lost.

But the best of all is to take the advice David gave to his son Solomon, (that if he would serve the Lord the Lord would bless them, that if he would seek the Lord the Lord would be fond of him), but remember that he also told him that if he forsook the Lord the Lord would forsake him. And great use: That if God would forsake us, where should we go to find a friend? Therefore, you would do well to mind the old proverb, that when you have now a moments reflection may be of proven a friend, hold him fast, and be you well assured God is your best friend, therefore hold him fast. Never let him go, but cleave to him; lean upon him and he will support you under all your difficulties in life. He will bear you up in the struggle of death, and receive you into the Kingdom of Heaven.

UP TO DATE

The "war paint" arsenal of the average white collar girl at date time is a pretty awesome thing, but all of the items in it really fill a useful purpose and guarantee her that always "freshened-up" look that's so important to the career girl. Check these: Rouge, powder, lipstick, eye drops, mascara and a good hair brush all help to hide the fact that she's just put in seven or eight rough hours over a balky typewriter.

EARL HUGHES MANAGER OF WTU'S OFFICE IN MERKEL SINCE 1944



EARL HUGHES

During the four decades that West Texas Utilities Company has been serving Merkel, there has been a change in the local management only nine times. Earl Hughes, local manager, assumed his present duties in 1944, and is one of Merkel's leading civic workers.

In 1915, when WTU purchased the properties from the Merkel Electric Company, W. A. McSpadden was made local manager. He was in the employ of the local company at the time of the purchase, and was retired by WTU. Mrs. McSpadden succeeded him as manager.

Julian McDaniel, now employed by WTU in the Property Department in Abilene, was the third local manager, and served from 1920 until 1921, when he was succeeded by Ira L. Huss. Mr. Huss is now employed by the Company in Menard in the Service Department.

The late Mat Dillingham was manager of the Merkel office from 1927 until 1932. He was serving as a WTU district manager in McCreary at the time of his death in 1950. Dillingham was succeeded by Olin Lusby who was manager in Merkel from 1932 until 1935. Lusby is now living in Big Lake where he operates an insurance agency.

The seventh manager in Merkel was the late R. T. Gray who served as manager from 1935 until 1943 when he was transferred to Winters as manager. John Owen, now employed by WTU in Abilene in the Property Department, served as manager in 1943 and 1944 and was succeeded by Earl Hughes.

The present local manager was born near Merkel and attended the public schools at Blair. He worked in the County Tax Collector's Office in Abilene for 19 years before he joined West Texas Utilities Company in 1938 as an assistant local manager in the Stamford District Office, and was transferred to Merkel in 1944.

During the 12 years he has resided in Merkel, Mr. Hughes has been one of the city's leading civic workers serving as a member of the City Council, a director of the Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Merkel Lions Club, and an active worker in the First Methodist Church.

Mrs. Hughes is the former La-

moyan Baker and was married to Mr. Hughes in 1921. They are the parents of a son and two daughters.

Earl Hughes, Jr., is a salesman for the West Texas Utilities Company in Munday. He has two children; Jennie is 7; Rickey is 2.

Joe Hughes, now Mrs. R. T. Spott lives in Willoughby, Ohio, and her husband are the parents of three children; Sherry is 10; Dickie is 8; and David Earl is 5.

The other daughter, Jane, is now Mrs. Brandon Wade and lives in Lindsborg, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Wade are the parents of one daughter, Cindy, age 2.

Working in the Merkel office, under the supervision of Mr. Hughes, are Lela Hudson, bookkeeper; Ruth Tipton, cashier-bookkeeper; and Vernon Mansfield and Glenn Teaff in the Service Department. John Mansfield, a veteran of many years of service in eMerkel, retired from active service several years, due to ill health.

UP TO PAR

The young country club set seems determined to be relaxed and comfortable, even if the girls don't always make the lowest golf scores. The latest is to carry sun-tan lotions, eye drops, insect repellent and first aid bandages in with spare balls and tees to make sure that when they hit the 19th hole, they will look up to par as they were when they approached the first tee.



THE STAGE

ARRIVES IN MERKEL . . .

. . . 50 YEARS AGO

Scenes of the early days will be recalled during Merkel's GOLDEN CAVALCADE, and many old timers can recall stage coach days.

We're not that old, but we pause to salute the early settlers who braved the prairies and the Indians to build Merkel into the town it is today.

WHITE AUTO STORE

PAUL WOODS, JR., Owner

CELEBRATION DAYS

ARE GOLDEN CAVALCADE DAYS IN MERKEL

1906

1956

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN WITH US IN COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MERKEL AS AN INCORPORATED TOWN. WE HAVE BEEN HERE 36 HAPPY YEARS AND WE CHERISH AMONG OUR FRIENDS THOSE OLD-TIMERS WHO ARE STILL HERE, AND WHO HAVE HAD AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF MERKEL.

Come In and Join In the Golden Cavalcade

MELLINGER'S

WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR... **8th**
ANNIVERSARY
 WITH BIG SAVINGS FOR YOU!



Put your home in the Comfort Zone!



with Economical **ARCTIC CIRCLE AIR COOLERS**

Arctic Circle air cooling keeps homes cool and comfortably fresh. And what's more, Arctic Circle air coolers are easy on the budget. Just a surprisingly small investment can provide summer-long comfort for you and your family.



- 1800 CFM - - - \$69.95
- 3000 CFM - - - \$99.95
- 4000 CFM - - - \$119.95
- 4500 CFM - - - \$139.95

ALL UNITS PRICED WITH WATER PUMPS

CHROME DINNETTES

- 5-Piece SWT - - - \$49.95
- 7-Piece SWT - - - \$87.50

WESTINGHOUSE
TELEVISION

4-Pc. **Living Room Suits \$109⁵⁰**

21 INCH TABLE MODEL

\$144.50

Plus Tax

COFFEE **Tables**

Mahogany Finish With Glass **\$9⁹⁵**

IRONING PAD & COVER --- \$1.95

QUILTED MATTRESS PROTECTOR ---- \$3.95

HOOVER **Vac Cleaner \$49⁹⁵**

UNFINISHED DESK - - - - \$19.95

MHG. FINISH DESK & CHAIR - \$49.50

JAMES LEE

WOOL CARPET

Includes Pad and Installation

Sq. Yd. **\$9⁸⁰**

STARBUCK COMPANY

MERKEL, TEXAS

9 X 12 Congolium RUGS \$4⁹⁵

WALL CANVAS ----- yd. 12¹/₂c

JOHNSON'S - 5 lb. Can TRAFFIC WAX ----- \$2.50

WALLPAPER PASTE ----- lb. 25c

JOHNSON'S - LIQUID WAX BEAUTIFLOR 1/2 Gal. \$1.79

Wallpaper ROOM LOTS \$2⁹⁵

STEEL **Lawn Chairs ea. \$3⁹⁵**

STEEL FOLDING CHAIRS --- \$4.95 STEEL VEN. BLINDS ----- \$2.95

Utility Paint Gal. \$2⁹⁵

DUTCH BOY **House Paint Gal. \$4⁹⁵**

POWDERENE - 98c SAMPSON FOLDING TABLES - - \$5.95

GLAMORENE - 98c HIGH BACK TV ROCKERS \$44.50

LAMPS

Pin Ups \$2⁹⁵

LIGHTS

Desk \$3⁹⁵

LAMPS

Floor \$9⁹⁵

LAMPS

Table \$6⁹⁵

LAMPS

CLOTHES HAMPERS

\$1.50 - \$2.50 - \$3.50

Scoop

THE MERKEL MAIL

25c Copy

IN THE FRIENDLY TOWN

VOL. 67, NO. 12

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1956

WELCOME TO MERKEL

This issue of the Merkel Mail dedicated to the pioneers and settlers of this area. It is not as much as it is very...

The entire edition refers to the old timers, and it is our hope that they will receive full satisfaction from the Golden Cavalcade celebration in Merkel during next week.

It was through the cooperation of the progressive merchants and business people of Merkel that such an edition is made possible. In future years it will serve as a historical reference for those who save the papers. Many of the pictures which were submitted to us were not the type that our engravers could get a good reproduction of...

The section with the Abilene ads in it was developed more than a month ago in order that Abilene firms could show their appreciation for its closest neighbor, Merkel, as Merkel did when Abilene had its Diamond Jubilee.

Our boy, Robert, who has been studying how to publish a paper at the University of Oklahoma for the past few years, like anyone in school, arrives after the work is done. But the next few issues of the Mail will be produced and edited by him, while we try to find something to stop our legs from getting any worse than they are now when we have to wear shorts all the time. Of course, Robert should get plenty of foot-work around here, for in the none-to-distant future, he'll be our war correspondent, as he enters the army for a 21-month hitch. Watie, naturally, will be here to help us with the paper, and to do our "leg" work for us.

I went to a meeting of Cycloneers, as I often refer to them, the other night, and heard a lot of things about tornadoes and how to get rid of them, or at least dodge them. I didn't tell my story about using a tornado for fishing, for some of the most ardent fishermen in these parts might have some doubt. But believing that someone in this area might have had the same experience, I am going to mention the time I was fishing on a tank in East Texas, and it was supposed to be a good fishing place. The skies kept getting cloudier, and everything got right still. Pretty soon we saw a small "funnel" heading toward the tank, and about the same time it got in the middle, it was really wound up, and up, and up in the sky the water went out of the tank. Noting that the tank was nearly depleted of water, I snatched a bunch of bushel baskets from a nearby spot, and put them on the bank. As the tornado dissipated, there was a big deluge of water, soaking me, all my fishing tackle, and everything else nearby. When the storm had subsided, we looked in the baskets and they were full of fish! Boy, it took a small truck to haul them away. But that's the way things go in Texas.

Iry Baptists Begin Revival

An old-fashioned revival will begin June 10 at the Calvary Baptist church with the Rev. C. I. Rodgers, of Arlington, Texas, noted preacher, filling the pulpit.

Services will begin each night at 8 p.m. There will be gospel singing and fellowship.

Edna Horton visited her mother, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Nutt of Plainview, Texas, last week-end.

Watchers Get Lowdown On Storm Alerts

A group of Merkel and vicinity Severe Weather Watchers got the lowdown on last week's tornado alerts when 22 separate tornadoes were sighted in and around Abilene.

The meeting was called by Mayor Fred Starbuck, who is chiefly responsible for the organization of the Merkel storm watchers.

This area is the only one in the U. S. where such a warning system has been set up to work to save lives and property from tornado damage.

Several members of the West Texas Weather Warning Service from Abilene met at the Taylor Electric Cooperative, Inc., to discuss their experiences in following the tornadoes last Sunday.

Starbuck is Merkel's Civil Defense Director, and Earle Watts, Taylor Electric official, is head of the filer center which operates through the Merkel Telephone Co. and short-wave radio to Starbuck's headquarters, which in turn relays the information on tornadoes to the Abilene center where it is put on radio, TV and other information services.

All of the weather observers have telephones, and when they note severe weather they phone in to the filer center. This extends from White Flats to Noodle to Ty.

Boyce Sims, radio coordinator for WTWWS, R. E. Farmer and E. L. Dillon, map plotters, Highway Patrol chief dispatcher Maurice Cole, Weather Bureau Meteorologist C. E. Sitchler and Lew Holle, weather warning and civil defense director, explained how the setup operated during the "wet run" Sunday night, and how important the reports from observation posts are to the service.

Holle also showed a film on Atomic Survival. The precautions shown in that are very similar to those needed in a "take cover" tornado alert, he explained.

Teen-Age Loop To Open Season Friday Night

A teen-age league has been organized with Sweetwater Reds and Blues, Albany, Hamlin, Rotan and Merkel.

The Merkel opens the season Friday night, June 1, playing the Sweetwater Reds in Merkel.

Other scheduled games are: June 5 - Merkel at Hamlin June 8 - Merkel at Albany June 12 - Rotan at Merkel June 15 - Merkel at Sweetwater Blues.

June 19 - Merkel at Sweetwater Reds June 22 - Hamlin at Merkel June 26 - Albany at Merkel June 29 - Merkel at Rotan July 3 - Sweetwater Blues at Merkel.

July 6 - Sweetwater Reds at Merkel July 10 - Merkel at Hamlin July 13 - Merkel at Albany July 17 - Rotan at Merkel July 20 - Merkel at Sweetwater Blues.

The league is called the Double Mountain Teen Age League. Don Loyd is temporarily in charge of the Merkel team. Thursday night will be the last tryout night for any boys between ages under 18 before August 1 who want to join the team.

A. D. Fulton Not Seriously Hurt

Marshal A. D. Fulton whose car was involved in a traffic accident last Wednesday has been released from the hospital and is able to be up and around.

Fulton suffered an injury to his shoulder and bruises in the accident.



WHEN TWO CARS CRASH - Here is the result when two automobiles crash. The top car was driven by City Marshal A. D. Fulton whose car collided with one in which Mrs. A. F. Wheeler and her son, John, 13, were driving westward on U. S. 80 near the Cemetery last Wednesday. Fulton is still suffering from injuries.

Wiley Caffey Seeks Re-Election As Dist. Atty.

Wiley Caffey, present District Attorney, 42nd District Court, has authorized the Merkel Mail to announce his candidacy for District Attorney of the 42nd District.

Caffey's candidacy is subject to action of the Democratic primary July 28.

His statement follows: To the voters of Taylor, County:

"I am a candidate for re-election to the office of District Attorney, 42nd Judicial District, composed of Taylor, Callahan and Shackelford counties. I base my candidacy on the record of public service which I have made in this community, consisting of two years as public school principal and teacher, seven years private practice of law, three years as City Attorney of the City of Abilene, five years as County Judge of Taylor county, and six years as District Attorney.

"I am married and have a daughter in high school, a daughter in junior high and a son in grade school. "With the growth of population in this District and especially in the City of Abilene, the duties of the office of District Attorney have greatly increased; I am now very busy with the duties of office leaving me little time to see the voters personally. I therefore ask my friends and supporters to be diligent in their efforts on my behalf. Also, I take this opportunity to thank the people for their support and cooperation through the years, and I earnestly solicit the vote and influence of every citizen in the District."



WILEY CAFFEY

H-P, Bankers Win Opener In Little Loop

The Hodge-Palmer defending Little League champions won their opening game Tuesday night with a 9-2 triumph over the Starpats on the 2-hit pitching of Johnny Swinney.

Swinney struck out 12, and Danny Doan hit two homers to pace the winners. David Scott collected both hits off Swinney for the Starpats.

In the other game, the Bankers swamped the Kilowats, 15-2, in a 5-inning game. Heatley collected three hits to pace the Bankers in batting, and Larry Lucus collected two hits for the Kilowats.

The line score: Hodge-Palmer 213 003-9 8 3 Starpats 002 000-2 2 2 Swinney and Louis Pack, Higgins, Wilks and Scott.

Bankers 191 4-15 11 1 Kilowats 000 2-2 3 7 Mike Mansfield and Heatley, Larry Lucus, W. Hester and Denton.

Bryan Bradbury Sunday Speaker

Bryan Bradbury, Abilene lawyer will be the principal speaker Sunday, June 3, at five o'clock for the Merkel Community service. The churches of the community are cooperating in a joint meeting on the football field, everyone is invited. Mr. Bradbury is a Sunday School of the Fellowship Class in the South side Baptist Church in Abilene, and is a very popular speaker all over West Texas. His subject for the Merkel service will be Christianity Meets the Challenge of Modern Day Problems."

This is the Kick-off of the week long festivities in celebration of the granting of the charter in 1906. Every day of the week will be packed with activity, that will be planned to include everyone in the community and all those who are interested in the Merkel Story.

Transportation for elderly people will be furnished Ladies Day, Wednesday, and Homecoming Day, Saturday, June 9, is was announced.

Persons desiring transportation should call Mrs. Chester Collinsworth.

Politics Will Spice Up Day For Jubilee

An old-fashioned celebration, and a day or two of old-fashioned politics will be mixed together during the Merkel Golden Cavalcade, but none of the orators will bother the people who go to the stadium to see the pageant which will depict the history of Merkel for the past 50 years.

A man who would have had top billing on the program, President Eisenhower, only last week made a trip to Texas, and he turned down an invitation from the Jubilee to return next week to participate in the Golden Cavalcade.

Mr. Eisenhower wired the Golden Cavalcade headquarters that he would like very much to attend, but that pressing business would make it impossible for him to do so. However, the president extended congratulations to the people of Merkel and vicinity on reaching the 50th anniversary.

Thrice-gubernatorial candidate Ralph Yarborough, who has carried many votes in this area, will again return to the Community for a talk, and he is slated to arrive Saturday afternoon. Yarborough is again a candidate for governor. He speaks at 7 p.m.

Ralph Yarborough, candidate for governor, confirmed Monday that he will visit Merkel Saturday June 9. Also included in his plans is a visit to five other West Texas cities. His one day tour of this will end with a six o'clock dinner in Merkel and a seven o'clock speaking engagement on the football field.

Earl Lassiter, talked to Yarborough Tuesday in Midland and completed the final arrangements for the speaking engagement in Merkel. A committee is working on details of the dinner that is planned to be served in the community center.

Possibility of getting Yarborough and W. Lee "Poppy" O'Daniel on the same platform for some kind of a debate fizzled when O'Daniel's tour decided they'd campaign in this area Friday. As things stand now the O'Daniel fire truck and ballyhoo which carried the former flour salesman into the governor's chair and then elevated him to U. S. Senator will be in Merkel Friday, enroute from Sweetwater to Abilene.

An invitation was sent Senator Estes Kefauver, of Tennessee, whose coon-skin cap campaigning for president has created plenty of excitement over the nation, and he tentatively accepted, but that was about as far as Jubilee headquarters had heard earlier this week.

Congressman candidate Dan Kralis and most of the county officials will be on hand some time during the week. Kralis said he would come to Merkel, probably Friday or Saturday.

June 5 Dedicated To Agriculture

Tuesday June 5 is Agriculture day in Merkel. The special days committee is planning for the activities of this day have contacted Dr. E. P. Longnecker of the Texas Research Foundation to come to Merkel and conduct a tour of the new research farm on the Hollis McCoy farm just south of town. Dr. Longnecker will arrive in Abilene by plane and spend the entire day in Merkel and on the conducted tour planned by the committee. This tour will include stops at several of the soil conservation projects, the FFA and 4-H projects and some of the Blue Panic Grass fields that are near town.

Dr. Longnecker will speak at the Lion's Club at twelve thirty and will explain the work of the research farm and of the Foundation.

Uncle Benny Wheeler Is 90 Years Old-



UNCLE BEN WHEELER

Wheeler Reunion Set This Week

The Wheeler family reunion will be held at the Community Center Saturday and Sunday, and more than 100 Wheeler descendants are expected to attend, as well as friends of the family.

Oldest of the Wheelers is Uncle Bennie Wheeler, 90, who came to this country in 1900 as a farmer near Noodle. He is the grandfather of Mrs. E. B. Wallace of Merkel.

Saturday night there will be entertainment, and Sunday noon there will be a big basket dinner at the Center. All friends of the family are welcome to attend.

S. H. Horton, Merkel, Died Rites Saturday

Funeral for Samuel Harvey Horton, 76, retired farmer, who died Thursday night at his residence in Merkel was held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel.

Officiating was the Rev. B. F. Stewart, Baptist minister of Merkel, and the Rev. W. G. Richardson of Winters. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Born Sept. 26, 1879, in Alabama, Mr. Horton moved to Hopkins County in 1896 where he married the former Elizabeth Ann Scruggs on Feb. 5, 1901.

They moved to Merkel in 1905, returned to Hopkins County in 1910, then moved back to the Merkel area in 1919. Mr. Horton farmed until ill health forced his retirement about two years ago. Mrs. Horton died March 31, 1956.

Survivors include three sons, Morris of Big Spring Fred of Trent and Melvin of Merkel; five daughters, Mrs. Carl Doan of Merkel, Mrs. T. M. Corbin of Seagoville, Mrs. F. M. Cooper of Ozona, Mrs. Bill Stutts of Merkel and Mrs. M. D. Brewer of Dallas; 25 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; two brothers, R. G. Horton of Atlanta, Tex., and F. H. Horton of Merkel; and one sister, Mrs. N. O. Junell of Idaho, Okla.

Pony League Tryouts This Friday, Saturday

Tryout for the Pony League will be held Friday and Saturday afternoon at 5:30 p.m. at the high school field, it was announced today.

The league managers are Connie Mack Seymore, Finis Bartlett, Don Estes and John Hamner. Assistants are Cullen Tittle, T. J. Neill, and N. J. Minatra. Auction for the players will be held at Boney Insurance Agency July 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Youth Parade Set Monday; Everyone Set

A gigantic parade will be the feature of Youth Day on Monday, June 4, according to Don Estes, Chairman of the event for Merkel's Golden Cavalcade.

All boys and girls who plan to participate in the parade should go by the Jubilee Headquarters by noon, June 3, to secure complete information.

The parade will form in front of the elementary school at 3:00 p.m. and will march through the business section of town and return to the school.

Ribbons will be awarded to first and second place winners in each of the following divisions of the parade: Best dressed horse; biggest dog; smallest dog; most unusual pet; funniest dressed clown; best decorated doll buggy; best dressed pioneer boy; best dressed pioneer girl; best decorated bicycle; best decorated tricycle; best dressed Indian; best appearing group or organization.

After the parade has been completed there will be a bicycle race and baton twirling contest at the football stadium. Age groups in the bicycle race for boys will be 6-8 year olds, 9-11 year olds, and 12-14 year olds. There will be three divisions in the baton twirling contest, 8-10 year old girls, 11-13 year olds, and 14-16 year olds.

Application blanks for the baton twirling and bicycle race should be secured at the Jubilee Headquarters by Saturday, June 2nd.

The ribbon awards will be presented Thursday night, June 7, at 7:30 at the football stadium.

Another parade will be held Saturday, June 9, on a much larger scale. Persons desiring to enter the parade with a float, band, truck etc. should notify Jubilee headquarters.

The Queens are still running strong, and the winners will be announced this weekend.

Persons should buy their tickets to the Cavalcade, directed by Bill Woods, local florist, from the queen candidate, or call Jubilee headquarters.

Antiques Wanted For Ladies Day

Ladies - rake in the attic, search the cellar, or in your living room display, and get out your antiques and heirlooms. Let your friends visit your Community Center June 6, "Ladies Day" and see the relics of yesterday, brand them, label, and give history. For Ladies Day and Pioneer Day these will make an appropriate setting:

Old coffee grinders, teapots, old glassware, 50 and 75 years old. Iron kettles, coverlets, clocks, watches, knitting, cedar churns, butter mold, chairs, rockers, and tables.

Old letters, coins, books, pictures, high-top shoes, old fashioned dresses, quilts, linens, and your "beloved doll of 1900."

Old kerosene lamps, jugs, pitchers and bowls, hall racks, bread trays, pressing irons, and iron, cedar buckets, and grandmother's spinning wheel.

The committee - Mrs. John Hughes, Mrs. Lige Gamble, Mrs. Mossie Hatfield, Miss Christine Collins, Mrs. McReynolds will arrange, keep and guard the displays at the center and for the one or two days they will be locked and kept safe, then you may have each article after the day June 6. Bring your articles and help the Ladies of "Our Community" put on a display for the "Old-Time" Merkel Cavalcade, June 5 to 9.

Bring Tuesday or Wednesday, June 5 or 6. Display your families heirlooms!

Dale Doan of Washington, D. C. and mother, Mrs. Carl Doan and children, visited the latter's daughter, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Alderman and family of Texas City.

F. & M. BANK FOUNDED IN 1904 TO SERVE AREA

From a meager beginning in 1904, the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Merkel has completed 52 years of progress for the benefits of Merkel and its trade territory.

The bank is two years older than the incorporation of the City of Merkel, for which the Golden Jubilee celebration June 3 through 9 is being held.

The bank opened for business December 1, 1904.

The articles of association bear the date of Nov. 14, 1904, and named as directors J. T. Warren, G. F. West, Ed S. Hughes, Thos. Johnson and Henry James. The charter was dated Nov. 18, 1904.

The initial capital was \$25,000. The officers were: J. T. Warren, president; G. F. West, vice president; Henry James, vice president; and Thos. Johnson, cashier.

On Dec. 13, 1904, J. T. Howard was employed as bookkeeper and on Jan. 10, 1905, was made assistant cashier.

The earliest statement of the condition of the bank is dated Jan. 11, 1905, and reflects deposits of \$38,403.72 and loans of \$15,068.55.

On Oct. 1, 1919, the deposits stood at \$576,496. The loans were \$226,973.

On Dec. 3, 1919, the deposits reached \$1,067,273.31 and loans of \$360,706.47.

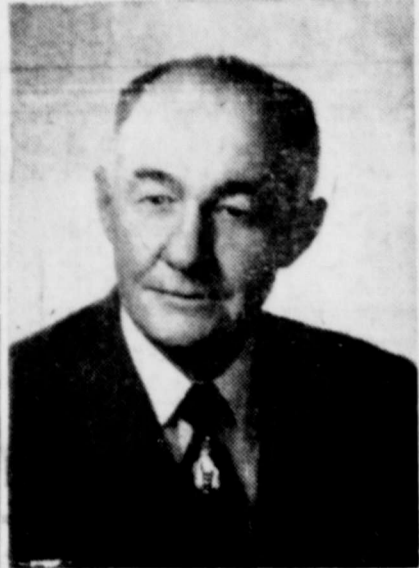
The deposits jumped to \$2,166,056.49 on Dec. 30, 1944, to \$3,050,212.06 on Dec. 31, 1946, and \$4,122,536.64 on Dec. 1, 1950.

Thos. Johnson sold his interest in the bank in 1919 to L. R. Thompson of Missouri, who was made active vice president, Sept. 12, 1919. Mr. Johnson resigned Dec. 1, 1919, and Mr. Thompson took his place as cashier.

Booth Warren, son of J. T. Warren, became associated with the bank as bookkeeper in 1917. On Jan. 13, 1920, he became assistant cashier and was made a director of the bank.

L. P. Thompson resigned Dec. 10, 1925, and Booth Warren succeeded him as cashier. When the elder Warren passed away on Friday, Sept. 6, 1940, he was succeeded by his son, Booth Warren, on Jan. 14, 1941.

The value of the stock has jumped during the 50 years. On Jan. 13, 1920, the capital stock was increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000 by declaration of a 100 per cent stock dividend.



BOOTH WARREN

BANKER PRESIDENT—Booth Warren, whose father J. T. Warren, was the first president of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Merkel, is now president as the bank nears its 52nd year in Merkel. Warren became associated with the bank in 1917 as a bookkeeper and on January 13, 1920, he was made assistant cashier and director. In 1925 he became cashier, and when the elder Warren died in Sept. 6, 1940, Booth Warren became president.

At the present time the Capital stock is \$100,000, the surplus is \$100,000 and undivided profits \$50,000.

The bank has always been in its present building. It used to be a two-story building but was later remodeled to its present appearance about 1915.

Present board of directors consists of H. C. West, Merkel; Wm. T. Sadler, Sadler Clinic and Hospital; W. S. J. Brown, Noodle Hereford Ranch; Dr. Don W. Warren and Booth Warren.

The officers and employees are Booth Warren, president; H. C.

West, vice president; W. S. J. Brown vice president; Geo. T. Moore cashier; Miss Mary Collins, assistant cashier; Miss Mildred Hamm, assistant cashier; Miss Betty Jane Tittle, teller; Mrs. Aileen Knight, Mrs. Mattie L. Wozencraft, Mrs. Gladys Breaux, Mrs. Floy Regan, bookkeepers and Will Means, janitor.

MERKEL GARDEN CLUB HAS YARD PARTY

Members of the Merkel Garden Club closed their fiscal year with a delightful back yard party in the Jack Miller home, on Thursday evening of last week. Mr. and Mrs. W. S. J. Brown were co-hosts, assisted by members of the social committee. Yard flowers were used in profusion and Japanese lanterns lighted the picturesque scene.

A relaxed program of "Do It Yourself" included cooking hot dogs, roasting marshmallows, and other summer delicacies. Mrs. A. B. Allen read an original story "A Wedding In My Garden."

Those present were Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Sadler, Hessrs. and Mesdames Clyde Bartlett, B. H. Jones, A. H. McElmurry, Dale Litton, A. B. Allen, Charlie Sherrill, John Shannon, Bobby Tom Hodge, Nathan Wood, W. S. J. Brown and Jack Miller. Mesdames D. H. Vaughn, Lu Petty, Carroll Benson, Jack Wallace, Lucy Ford, Alma Collins, Herbert Patterson, John Hughes, Dee Grimes, Misses Nora Foster and Christine Collins.



Music store owned by E. D. Coats (left). The customer is Mrs. Cross.

Mr. Coats and family came to the White Church Community of Mulberry Canyon from Dallas County in 1890.

After the death of his first wife, he was married to Alice Tucker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Tucker, early day settlers of White Church Community.

Mr. Coats and family moved to Merkel in 1898 and he lived in Merkel until his death in 1927. He had the music store from

Rev. Charlie Cluck of Abilene delivered two messages at the Live Oak Baptist Church last Sunday.

Mrs. Ollie Skidmore of Goiaen, Texas visited her friends, Mr. and Mrs. Liege Harris for the weekend.



THE CHIEFS ARE GONE

but they shall return during the re-enactment of Merkel's 50 years of progress. Those early pioneers who battled the Indians draw praise from us today.

MERKEL COOP STATION
PREMIER PRODUCTS

YOU AND YOUR BANKER CAN MAKE A GREAT TEAM... YOUR PROGRESS IS HIS BUSINESS . . .



This bank was chartered Nov. 18, 1904 and opened on Dec. 15, 1904, as the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Merkel, with a capital of \$25,000. It now has a capital surplus and undivided profits of 250,000.00.

Its first president was J. T. Warren, a prominent merchant, and its vice president was G. F. West, another successful merchant, and the cashier was Thos. Johnson, who managed the bank.

DIRECTORS

- Booth Warren, President
- H. C. West
- Donald W. Warren, M. D.
- W. T. Sadler, M. D.
- W. S. J. Brown

Your hometown bank today renders such a great and growing variety of services that it has come to mean a lot of things to a lot of people. But to all it means one thing in common . . .

To folks all over town, and in every walk of life, it's the open door to OPPORTUNITY.

Look around at the faces in the lobby, any business day. You'll see reminders of the many kinds of people your banker helps to keep going and growing.

THE FARMER — Today he's scientist, manufacturer, businessman — all in one. More than ever, the banker is his working partner, providing much of the cash and counsel he needs to modernize, mechanize . . . to step up production while cutting unit costs.

THE BUSINESSMAN — In a period of rising opportunity and rapid change, he finds his banker ready with loans, with get ahead suggestions, with improved and expanded facilities to meet and anticipate his needs.

THE FAMILY — More and more housewives, and youngsters brighten the bank . . . practicing regular thrift, getting advice, opening checking accounts. Meanwhile they're brightening home with new refrigerators, washing machines, TV sets and new cars — all financed at the bank.

THE COMMUNITY — "Banker's Hours" run far into the night, as your banker serves on fund drives and finance committees . . . advises on city and county problems . . . joins in the teamwork that seeks new industries, new jobs — NEW OPPORTUNITIES that will enable Merkel young folks to build a secure and happy future at home.

While you're busy watching cotton or a small grain crop, a family or a business growing, your banker is proudly watching YOU grow. YOUR PROGRESS IS HIS BUSINESS.

"The Old Reliable"

FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK
MERKEL, TEXAS

HIGGINS BLACKSMITH

RETURN TO
MERRKEL
DURING
THE
GOLDEN
CAVALCADE

For 50 years Merkel has been growing . . . during those 50 years Merkel has become the leading farming and ranching area . . . we salute those pioneers who came here at the turn of the century to develop this area, so that we in business today, could have an opportunity to grow and prosper in future years.





HOW TO BE A BETTER COOK ... and save money too!

BY *Mary Blake*
Home Service Director, Carnation Company



48 FEATURED IN LIFE

SUNNY ISLE RICE PUDDING
(Makes 6 servings)

1 1/2 cups (large can) undiluted Carnation Evaporated Milk
1 cup water
2 eggs
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon nutmeg
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
2 cups cooked Uncle Ben's "Converted" Rice
1/2 cup shredded coconut

Beat Carnation, water, eggs, sugar and flavorings until smooth. Pour over cooked Uncle Ben's Rice mixed with 1/4 cup coconut, in 2-quart casserole. Place in pan of water. Bake in moderate oven (350°F) 30 minutes. Stir lightly. Continue baking 30 minutes. Top with remaining coconut during last 5-7 minutes of baking. Cool before serving.



FRED STARBUCK



MRS. FRED STARBUCK

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY — Celebrating their anniversary in Merkel along with the Golden Cavalcade are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Starbuck, operators of Starbuck Company

and Starbuck Funeral Home. They are observing their eighth anniversary in Merkel. Starbuck also serves as mayor of Merkel.

Adcock Will Show Off New Cleaning Plant

Waymon Adcock, of Adcock Cleaners, announced today that the public will be invited to an "open house" Saturday, June 9, during the Golden Cavalcade in order that new machinery and the drive-in feature could be shown.

The cleaners have been busy this week remodeling the interior, and changing machinery to the push-button type with the 2-bath Mycel process with radio conductivity control panel.

Only in 1954 Adcock's added steam presses, steam iron, drying tumblers, pressure filters, electric sewing machine, steam spot-ting gun, and steam pull irons, and then changed to the Mycel system by adding another washer and pressure filter.

The present cleaners was first organized in 1914 by Eteyl Church, who purchased the business from Emmitt and Ennis a scrub brush on scrub boards, using white gasoline or soap and water, and then hung on the line to dry and press with an 18 pound and 24 pound hot iron.

The iron was cleaned with cheese and soap. The gas line was filtered by allowing to settle then pour off clean top.

The first steam press was bought by Church in 1915. Part of the old press is still in use.

Some of the owners are not known until G. W. Blake became owner. O. J. Adcock bought the business from Blake in November, 1937.

The location at that time was at 940 N. Second. In 1938 the cleaners moved to Laney building on Edwards street, and in 1939 moved to the present location.

(Published in The Merkel Mail June 1, 8, 15, 22, 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: Iva Cassie Jones, 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. on the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of issuance of this citation, same being the 2nd day of July A.D. 1956, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 18th day of May A. D. 1956, in this cause, numbered 21,363-A on the docket of said court and styled E. B. Jones, Plaintiff, vs. Iva Cassie Jones, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Plaintiff and defendant were married in San Saba County, Texas, on or about January 6, 1944, and separated on or about December 20, 1947. There were no children born of this union and no property accumulated. Plaintiff sues for divorce on ground of abandonment, 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 seal of said court at Abilene, Texas, this 18th day of May A. D. 1956.

(SEAL)
Attest: R. H. ROSS, Clerk
42nd District Court, Taylor County, Texas.
By IRENE CRAWFORD, Deputy.

CRACKER BARREL BUYS

Sunshine **CRACKERS**
1 lb. box — 25c

Cheddar **CHEESE**
12-oz. Wedge — 59c

American **SARDINES**
Flat Can — 10c

Diamond **PICKLES**
Sour or Dill
22-oz. Jar — 25c

Sun Spun **GREEN BEANS**
303 Can — 2 for 35c

Our Value PEARS
No. 2 1/2 Can - 35c

Charmin TISSUE
4 Roll Pkg. - 33c

TIDE
Box -- 29c

KLEENEX
400 Size - Colored
23c

Picnic time **Coffee Sale**

INSTANT **MAXWELL HOUSE**
6-oz. JAR
\$1.59

NOW IN MERKEL

C. B. READY-MIX CONCRETE

Delivered For Your Home, Business, Drive-Way
Flooring or Commercial Jobs

C. B. READY-MIX
Phone 172

Behind Old Theater on North Second
on Cemetery Road

TELEGAGS *by* **WOOTZIE**

NOW WILLIE - IF A DONKEY'S HEAD POINTS DIRECTLY NORTH - WHERE WILL ITS TAIL POINT?

TO THE GROUND.

THE POINT IS THAT

MERKEL RADIO & ELECTRIC

HAVE MADE TO OFFER YOU IN SERVICE SQUARE DEALING AND CERTAINTY OF BEING PLEASED!

Merkel RADIO & ELECTRIC
Sales & Service

T.V. RADIOS APPLIANCES **360**

Alvin Wozencraft owner
MERKEL, TEXAS

Flour 25 Lb. Print Bag **\$1.79**

Shortening 3 Lb. Can **79¢**

Coffee Pound **89¢**

CAKE MIX Package **49¢**

SUN SPUN FRUIT COCKTAIL - 303 can - -- 2 for 45c

CARNATION INSTANT DRY MILK -- 8 qt. size ----- 65c

DEL MONTE CATSUP -- - - - 14-oz. bottle 19c

SUN SPUN APPLE SAUCE -- 303 can - - - 2 for 35c

DEL MONTE TOMATO JUICE --- 46-oz. Can 29c

ROSEDALE CORN - - - - - 303 can 17c

KIMBELL'S BLACKEYE PEAS - 300 Size Can - 2 for 25c

PRODUCE

Florida **ORANGES** - - - - lb. 11c

Idaho Russet **POTATOES** --- lb. 8c

KENTUCKY WONDER GREEN BEANS - - - - lb. 19c

Crisp **CUCUMBERS** - - - - lb. 17c

Yellow **SQUASH** - - - - - lb. 10c

MEATS

All Meat **BOLOGNA** - - - - lb. 39c

Sliced **BACON** - - - 2 lbs. for 69c

Chuck **ROAST** - - - - - lb. 37c

Meaty Pot **ROAST** - - - - lb. 45c

No. 1 **SALT PORK** - - - - - lb. 25c

WHITE SWAN GRAPEFRUIT JUICE
-oz. can 25c

WHITE SWAN TEA
1/4 Lb. 39c

Frozen Foods -

Stakely's **ORANGE JUICE**
-oz. Can 2 for 35c

Stakely's **LEMONADE**
-oz. Can 15c

Stakely's **STRAWBERRIES**
6-oz. pkg. 45c

Stakely's **CHICKEN POT PIE** each 25c

Stakely's **BREADED SHRIMP** pkg. 59c

Wilson's Food Store

FORMERLY CAMP BELL GRO. & MKT.

PHONE 173

NEXT DOOR TO POST OFFICE WE GIVE PREMIUM COUPONS

WE DELIVER

FIRST SERMON PREACHED IN MERKEL WAS IN OLD DEPOT

The following information on the Methodist church was taken from a booklet published in January, 1923, concerning 50 years in the church:

FIFTY YEARS OF METHODISM IN MERKEL

These fifty years of Methodism in Merkel has marked a heroic effort by spiritual men and women to minister to their own spiritual needs and to save our city from the ever encroaching evils. Great revivals have broken out, sweeping the community ideals to higher levels. By assistance of other churches the town has maintained a moral tone and temper worthy of praise. These fifty years has not marked a period of ease. The church never has that. But they have been happy years of service in Christ's name.

The first sermons ever preached in Merkel were preached in the old T.P. depot, by two local preachers (Rev. Norris and Rev. Strickland) who lived in Mulberry Canyon. Mr. J. L. Vaughn was the first railroad agent here and was a devout Christian and sponsored these services.

The Methodist Church was organized by Rev. R. F. Dunn in 1882, in the school building on

the north side of the railroad track, where the tabernacle now stands, with seven members. They were:

Mrs. Mary Story, Miss Mary Story, Mrs. Fennie D. Lamden, Mrs. Mattie Lowe, Mr. Asbury, Mrs. Asbury.

"Miss Mary Story" is our only surviving charter member (Mrs. C. E. Conner) while Mrs. G. W. Boyce is second in seniority, joining in 1884, and Mr. C. E. Conner is third, joining in 1885, and Mrs. H. C. Williams is fourth, joining in 1893.

Mr. Comer Clay was the secretary of the church in 1901 and his father, Mr. W. L. Clay, worked for the J. T. Warren Mercantile Co. The church records and roll of members were kept in this building which burned in October of that year and we thus lost much of our church history.

The pastors have been as follows, the month of appointment being in November of the year indicated.

- 1882 — R. F. Dunn
- 1883 — H. M. Glass
- 1884 — R. F. Dunn
- 1885 — J. W. Dickinson
- 1886 — M. L. Moody
- 1888 — A. K. Miller
- 1889 — J. H. Gambliss



No celebration regardless of time would be complete without mention of our Home Town boys who served their country. This group of service men of World War I, also served as escorts for the body of Lester Earl White, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. White of Merkel, who died of flu and pneumonia at Camp Bowie, Ft. Worth, Texas, December 20, 1917. Earl was the first of the Merkel boys to give his life for his country.

Several other pictured here later died or was killed in line of duty.

- 1891 — J. C. Carter
- 1892 — W. A. Gilliland
- 1894 — J. A. Hider
- 1896 — C. W. Irwin
- 1898 — Emmett Hightower
- 1899 — R. S. Reizer
- 1902 — R. B. Young
- 1903 — C. A. Evans
- 1904 — C. S. Fields
- 1906 — J. W. Dowlet
- 1907 — S. J. Vaughn
- 1909 — J. M. Sherman
- 1910 — A. M. Martin
- 1911 — R. A. Clements
- 1913 — Ed R. Wallace
- 1914 — W. P. Garvin
- 1916 — L. A. Humphries
- 1917 — C. S. Cameron
- 1918 — W. M. Murrell
- 1921 — C. W. Foot
- 1922 — M. C. Hays
- 1923 — T. J. Rea
- 1925 — W. R. McCarter
- 1927 — W. J. Mayhew
- 1928 — T. C. Willett
- 1930 — E. L. Yeats

It is to be noted that in this fifty year record only three

This picture was taken in front of the Merkel Hotel, then operated by mother Collins, who honored them with a luncheon at Christmas.

Reading left to right, front row: Pete White, Lloyd Sheppard Arthur Derrington, Shorty Holloway.

Back row: Z. T. Lamar, Bill O'Friend, George L. White, and Bill Sheppard. Others pictured are not known.

This picture is made possible through the aid of Luna White Johnston, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. White.

preachers received the appointment as pastor for the third year. Should not both church and pastor crave longer pastorates? In the fifty years the church has had thirty-three pastors, an average of about eighteen months to the pastor.

In the year 1891 under the pastorate of Rev. J. H. Chambliss, a frame church building forty feet by sixty feet was elected on the site of the present church property. In 1905, during the pastorate of Rev. C. C. Fields, the present brick church was built and in 1922 during the pastorate of Rev. C. W. Foot, the auditorium was enlarged and the Sunday school annex built.

From the beginning to 1895 all the pastors lived in Sweetwater, for Merkel was on the Sweetwater mission. Rev. Hider was the first of our pastors to live in Merkel. The first parsonage was built in 1900 under the pastorate of Rev. R. S. Reizer. It

stood where Miss Garcutte's home now stands. The present parsonage was built in 1910 during the pastorate of Rev. J. M. Sherman. Four members of our church have become ministers; P. G. Huffman, C. A. Biekley, E. D. Landreth and M. R. Pike. At present two of our members are local preachers: Roy Patterson and Paul Collins, and Miss Marcella Pinckley is a life service volunteer.

Any church should be proud to have spiritual power and spiritual atmosphere sufficient to send forth minister of the gospel of Christ.

Of the thirty-three pastors, at least ten have become presiding elders while only eight of the number are now in active ministers.

At present we have 476 members and not more than twenty-five live outside of the Merkel territory. What shall the next fifty years bring?

MRS. JACK MILLER ENTERTAINS CLASS

Members of the Gleaners Sunday School Class were entertained with a most enjoyable morning party Wednesday in the home of Mrs. Jack Miller. Mrs. John Shannon, Mrs. Leon Toombs and Mrs. Dee Grimes were co-hostesses with Mrs. Miller. Appointments were appropriate to the out door setting where the guests assembled on the terrace. Refreshments were served buffet-style and yard flowers added to the attractiveness of the scene.

Mrs. Tom Largent brought the devotional on "Faith, Hope and

Love in a Revolutionary World." A business meeting closed the program. Those present were Mesdames Homer Patterson, Lu Petty, W. S. J. Brown, Reese Hail, D. H. Vaughn, Marvin

Douglas, L. S. Tipton, A. H. Elmurray, Ross Ferrier, Tom gent, Winnie Cypert, Jack M er, John Shannon, Leon Toor Dee Grimes, Misses Lottie I man and Mabel McRee.

RELAX
Vacation by Air-Conditioned
GREYHOUND

- ✓ No Traffic Worries... No Wheel Fatigue
- ✓ Save With LOW Greyhound Fare
- ✓ Convenient Daily Schedules
- ✓ Service To All 48 States

plus U. S. Tax
Ask about Greyhound Tours!

Ft. Worth	\$
Houston	\$
Austin	\$
Lubbock	\$
El Paso	\$

GREYHOUND



REV. C. I. RODGERS
Evangelist of
Arlington, Tex.

REVIVAL

Calvary Baptist
GEO. H. EPPERSON,
Pastor

June 10-24, 1956

EVERY ONE
IS
INVITED

Enjoy a Big Bonus of
THRIFT with your **THRILLS!**

Take to the road in this one and you're spoiled for anything else! Just slip into this sleek beauty and sample the thrills behind the most modern high-compression, high-torque engine in the industry. It's the mighty Strato-Streak V-8 —and Pontiac is the only car that has it!

In the twinkling of a traffic light you take off like a silent jet, with response so exciting you can't help but head for the open road to try this spine-tingler at cruising speed. There you discover a toe-tip source of surging power.

* This is modern power! More than that, it's the most efficient power plant you can buy! Proof?—the Mobilgas Economy Run, where a Strato-Streak Pontiac delivered more miles per gallon than any other "eight" in any class!

And that's only a start, for Pontiac engineers tailored the new Strato-Flight Hydra-Matic* to utilize every last ounce of that power. The result is "go" as smooth as cream at any speed!

Come in and take a turn at the newest, greatest "go" on wheels. Why not this week?

*An extra-cost option.

See Pontiac's parade of exclusive new Spring Colors!



Can you see, steer, stop safely? . . . Check your car—check accidents!

The **PONTIAC Catalina**

GENERAL MOTORS MASTERPIECE—FAIRLY PRICED AND FAIRLY SOLD!

Palmer Motor Co.

WANTED

The Roughest, Toughest Beards in Town!



REWARD: SEE WHISKERS THAT TOOK MONTHS TO GROW COME OFF IN MINUTES AT THE WHISKER CONTEST!

Now you can see for yourself how quickly and easily the new Remington 60 De Luxe zips through those rough, tough Centennial beards at the whisker contest. You'll see beards that took months to grow disappear in minutes. After you have seen the amazing performance of the 60 De Luxe, come in and try one on your own beard.

Take it home and use it for 14 days free. If you are not convinced that it is the finest, fastest, smoothest electric shaver ever made the trial costs you nothing! Come in today!

\$8.50 TRADE-IN
for your old electric shaver
— any standard make!
**14-DAY
FREE HOME TRIAL**



ONLY
\$29.50
SEE
BEARD SHAVING
CONTEST
FRIDAY, JUNE 8th
Five Remington Razors to be
given as prizes.

MERKEL DRUG CO.

ON RIDGE H. D. MET MAY 18
 The Union Ridge Home Demonstration Club met May 18 in J. H. Clarks home for their 11th annual meeting. The president, Mrs. J. H. Clarks, presided. The meeting was opened by singing the T.H.D.A. Prayer and Roll call was answered. A "Name Two Things That Make a Good Club Meeting." Mrs. de Newton read the minutes.

Miss McRee gave the financial report. Council report was given by Mrs. Denzel Cox.
 The program was on killing and dressing chicken. Mrs. Pee and Mabel McRee gave a demonstration on how to kill and cut up chickens.
 The next meeting will be in the home of Mrs. Beauford Buntin June 1, 2:30 p.m. Club pals will be revealed.

Late Billy Russell Was Early Settler

The late Billy and Jo Anna Russell came to Merkel in 1889. They lived between Trent and Merkel in the same house which is standing now on the Lige Gamble farm.

They later moved to the east part of town. The old home there was moved to the S. G. Russell farm 1-2 miles northwest of town and James Russell lives there now. The house was moved in 1921. The Russells had four sons and five daughters.

The two children living are Charley of Merkel and Mrs. Alex Harris, (Kate Russell) who lives in Fresno, Calif.

Charley married Leta Calvert, the daughter of another pioneer Merkel family.

Another son, John, married Sarah Winter, who resides in Merkel. John had the first livery stable in Merkel.

They had three children, Mrs. Eunice West, Merkel, who graduated in 1917. J. J. Russell, Wichita Falls, graduated in 1922. Mrs. Nina Bell Hughes graduated in 1927. Two grandchildren: Gloria West graduated in 1954 and Gerald West in 1949.

One son, Selma Russell married Mary Elizabeth Compton. They had nine children, eight of which graduated from Merkel. Mrs. Lucille Nuually (Roswell) 1921 and salutatorian. Mrs. Mabel Dunn (Hobbs) 1922 valedictorian. Mrs. Sam Redwine, Abilene, 1926.

Mrs. Christine Shine, Brownwood, 1927.
 Mrs. Selma Lee Warlick, Abilene, 1929.
 Mrs. Pug Harris, Merkel 1936.
 Mr. James Russell, Merkel 1938.
 Mr. Ralph Russell, Merkel, 1939.
 Johnny Gordon Russell, son of the S. G. Russell Jr., graduated in 1954.
 Jerry Russell, who graduates this year will be the 15th Russell to walk down the aisle to receive his diploma.

J. R. Pee Was Methodists' Choir Leader

Nothing would be complete without some word concerning Methodist church music, which through the years has inspired and comforted.

J. R. Pee used to lead the choir before the first church building was erected and continued for some time afterwards. Miss Jannie Hayter (now Mrs. B. W. Hudgins) was organist.

For a while, Miss Laura Jennings was pianist, about 1910, (now Mrs. Wesley Edwards).

Brother C. E. Conner has been of valuable assistance at various periods of our church in leading the choir. He is a lover of music, and knows the value of a hymn.

George Losdon and Will Ayers were choir leaders in their day and Miss Monat Christopher (now Mrs. Thornton) was pianist and is often spoken of as one of our best. Miss Marie Grimes (now Mrs. John Morgan) did much solo work.

In 1914 Miss Eva Williams (now Mrs. E. Q. Warren) took charge of the choir and gave the first organized choir in the church. She often played the piano and did solo work also. Miss Bessie Touchstone was pianist and a very efficient one, and also Miss Fannie Burroughs. Mrs. R. A. Sadler also did solo work and T. A. Johnson was choir director for a time.
 Later Mrs. E. P. Beene was pianist. She was so much loved that her name is often heard among us yet. Robert Hicks was choir director during this time and also W. W. Woods and Fred C. Hughes.

Some of the recent pianists were: Miss Williamson, Miss Gay, Miss Nadine Tippet (now Mrs. Orion Tittle), Miss Dorris Pike and Miss Thelma McAninch. Our present pianist for Sunday School is Mrs. Juanita Dowell and for church, Mrs. Orpah Campbell, and Cyrus Pee is choir director. However good or faithful former musical leaders were, they could hardly exceed our present ones. They are faithful, agreeable and thoroughly Christian.

CONGRATULATIONS
 Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Campbell are the proud parents of a daughter born in Saint Ann Hospital in Abilene on May 24. The young lady weighed 7 pounds 10-12 ounces and has been named Lou Ann.

HODGES

Visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cook recently were her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Corder of Oxnard, California. Mr. and Mrs. Lanier Cook of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Austin and children of Snyder.

Mrs. Ralph Cook of Long Island, New York visited recently with Mr. and Mrs. Josh Cook.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pierce of Corpus Christi visited with Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sloan last week.

Mrs. I. B. Ray had as a guest last week her sister, Mrs. B. A. Ellisor of Houston, also her father, D. L. Bristow of Hamlin.

Mr. L. McCaleb has been on the sick list. He is better at this time.

Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Cox and Lora visited in Eastland last week with Mr. and Mrs. Harold Reese and family.

James H. Chaney

Chiropractor

PHONE 18

211 Oak St. — Merkel

TV SERVICE

We Service All Makes. Next Time
PHONE 193
 DUDLEY ELECTRIC

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
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 GEO. A. WEST, Owner

Change

Progress Requires It — Human Nature Resists It

By W. G. FOLLMER
 President, Texas & Pacific Railway

Change, like death and taxes, is something we cannot escape.

Its impact upon our lives is constant, relentless, and sometimes revolutionary.

Human life constantly is in motion. Ideas and ideals, attitudes and actions, aims and ambitions always are undergoing some form of change.

Change is a dynamic force which sometimes comes in small hesitant steps . . . and sometimes in giant strides.

But come it does, relentlessly and unceasingly, moving us onward and upward, or brushing us aside.

Good Change Leads

Change does not always produce good results. Sometimes the results are evil and destructive, as the pages of history and the events of our day so somberly attest. But the wholesome, constructive and progressive results produced by change far outweigh its evil counterparts.

Within the past half century we have witnessed sweeping changes in industry and agriculture . . . in commerce and finance.

Transportation Changes

As in other phases of our society, rapid and revolutionary changes have taken place in transportation. Fifty-eight million motor vehicles, 60,000 airplanes, 173,000 miles of pipelines have joined the railroads as important transporters of goods and people. These instruments of transportation were hardly more than a faint dream 50 years ago.

Rail Improvements

In the railroad industry itself, changes in motive power, in freight and passenger equipment, in terminal facilities and roadways, in communications and operations have been vast and varied . . . constructive and progressive.

These changes in our industry have not attracted unusual public attention, for they are not spectacular or romantic in character. Yet, they have involved capital expenditures of a billion dollars annually for the past ten years.

Progress Welcomed

Those of us on the Texas and Pacific recognize that change is constant and inevitable and we have moved forward with it, improving our physical properties and our operations so as to keep pace with the march of human events.

That is not only the prudent course of action; it is the practical, constructive and progressive thing to do. Adv.

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 WATER WELL drilling and surface pipe set. Higgins & Malone. Box 267, Merkel. Phone 26.

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 FOR RENT — Two furnished rooms, apartment for rent. 804 Oak. Phone 291-W. Mrs. Pick Allen.

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Lone Star Gas Company extends hearty Congratulations to Merkel, Texas on its Golden Anniversary of Achievement and Best Wishes to its progressive citizens.



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for what it costs to cook for **II YEAR** with a non-flame, artificial method, you can cook for more than **IV YEARS** with modern, flame fast GAS!
LONE STAR GAS COMPANY



THE FIDDLIN' SMITHS — Mr. and Mrs. Ford Smith, Sr., are not only pioneers of this area, but they play the real old-fashioned music. Here they are shown practicing at their home south of Merkel for the Golden Cavalcade booster trips on which they played. Both are talented musicians, and there's hardly an old time tune that the Smiths can't play.

FORD SMITH ONE OF PIONEER FARMERS IN MERKEL SECTOR

Ford Smith, Sr., who lives south of Merkel on a farm is one of the pioneer farmers in this area, and was the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. Smith who moved from Virginia to Pontotoc, Mississippi, before the Civil War.

In the year of 1851, the Samuel Smith, with the help of several Negro slaves, moved to Milan county, Texas, near Cameron, in covered wagons pulled by oxen, where they acquired a rather large farm or plantation, as they were known in those days.

They ran this plantation with the help of slaves until the Civil War, when Samuel W. Smith became a recruiting officer for the Southern army. The son that was old enough went to the front with Hoods Texas Brigade, and Ford Smith's father, Stephen S. Smith joined the army as soon as they would take him, as he was born in 1847. (A picture of Stephen

S. Smith and other Civil War soldiers can be seen on page 1) of the tabloid section of this issue of the Merkel Mail.

Following the Civil War, Ford Smith's father, Samuel, became interested in cattle and was one of the first to drive cattle up the Chisholm trail to Abilene, Kansas, before here were any railroads in Texas.

"In the spring of 1888," Ford Smith "my father and mother loaded their covered wagon. Mother drove the horses this time and father, with some hired help, drove 300 head of cattle. They settled Southeast of Abilene on what was called Barner ranch, which had been leased by dad previously."

That is where Ford Smith Sr. was born November 23, 1888.

In 1891 my dad traded for some land south of Merkel and at present I live on part of this land," Smith said. "My first re-

collection of any towns are as you know, Merkel and Abilene, the towns were new and small, and the country was new also. There was open range and there were some wild animals, including panther, deer and antilopes."

Fences were uncommon in that day. Roads in those days were fenced and called lanes and such things as gravel roads or paved streets were unknown. The first school in the neighborhood was a one room affair, and Smith believes that the first teacher was Miss Fannie McNiece, who later became Mrs. Henry Frazier.

"At least she was my first teacher," Ford recalls.

The name of the school was Rock Crossing and in spite of the early day, the school was good. Smith later attended school in Merkel.

The Gaudaluppe pasture which was stocked with Texas longhorn cattle when the Smiths first came here was sold in small tracts to farmers in about 1904.

This necessitated a larger school at a different place. The new school was named Mount Pleasant, District 50.

Smith had the pleasure of helping to develop this school into a three teacher, state-aided school. This school has since been consolidated with Merkel.

Smith recalls that in the early days, Merkel was a very small place, and Smith recalls that it is about as old as Abilene and the wagon wards and livery stable were very prominent places then.

Smith said he didn't remember the saloon days in Merkel, as there are others who could tell that story.

"I have always lived in the country," Smith said, "where the coyotes used to howl every night if they didn't howl, it was lone some. Prairie dogs were many and harmless, and rattlesnakes were numerous."

"As you know, you was supposed to keep you eyes peeled for the snakes."

"In those days the young fellows would ride broncos or calves or run horse races, and the one who had the best horse or horse and buggy was elated and though he should rank No. 1 with the girls."

"Do you old timers remember about the singing we had Sunday nights at the neighbors in those days?"

"Church was first held in the school house and under brush arbor. Later churches were built, SEE Next Page - SMITH

Dan Kralis

CANDIDATE FOR UNITED STATES

Congress

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
17th Congressional District-Democratic Ticket
PLATFORM



1. OIL AND GAS — 40% depletion allowance instead of 27½%. With the ever growing move by Eastern self-interest groups toward reducing the depletion allowance to 15 or even less, the whole economy of the 17th Congressional District is being placed in jeopardy. A large portion of our district's population depend directly and indirectly on some phase of the oil business. A reduction in the depletion allowance will cause drilling contractors to go bankrupt, throwing hundreds of families into debt and without livelihood. Risk money will vanish. Marginal oil operators will be forced to shut their wells down. Service companies will go broke. Independent geologists and engineers will be out of work. Landowners, farmers, and ranchers will be without money from lease rentals and bonuses. Landowners will not get their lands tested. It is a certainty that foreign oil imports will increase and the independent oil operator will be squeezed out of business.

The 17th Congressional District, composed of Taylor, Jones, Eastland, Stephens, Comanche, Palo Pinto, Erath, Nolan, Fisher, Hamilton, Callahan, and Shackelford counties, is the independent oil man's territory. Small fields and marginal production is the mainstay of our district's economy. Farmers and ranchers depend on oil royalties when there is no rain and when the market is low on crops and cattle. Merchants depend on the oil man's payroll, and the oil man in this district depends on the depletion allowance and control of foreign oil imports. Lowering the depletion allowance means only one thing to we, the people of the 17th Congressional District — a depression in the middle of abundance, with hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil laying untapped and unused while our foreign friends grow richer and richer on the oil brought into this country while we are growing poorer and poorer in our district.

It is axiomatic that with ever continuing depletion of domestic reserves, greater risks, higher exploration costs, we need more depletion allowance, not less. We need vigorous representation in Congress, someone who can represent the best interests of the people of the 17th Congressional District and who will not be pigeon-holed. I offer you that representation, and rest assured that the case of the people of the 17th Congressional District against self-interest groups and intellectual do nothings will be presented forcefully.

2. THE "RAW" DEAL THE FARMER AND RANCHER IS GETTING — A solid noncompromising solution must be forthcoming. As you know, when it takes two (true barter) \$50 cows to buy one \$60 suit (parity) something has got to give. The farmers and ranchers are sick and tired of conservation and all of the muddled plans and solutions offered them. As the agricultural economy goes, so goes our entire social order. A depletion allowance based on 100% parity can be worked out for the farmer and rancher. No fancy talk is necessary.

We are slaves of a democracy that is bent on giving the fruit and labor of our blood, tears, and sweat away freely to foreign friends. I say we better start giving ourselves some help first. I am looking to every farmer and rancher to vote for me at the July 28th primary. This is your battle. You can speak your piece and be confident in the fact that Dan Kralis is with you all the way. As an ex-rancher, I speak sympathetically. The farmer and rancher, the cog in the wheel that is being abused and mistreated. We are going to put a stop to this injects breath into the economy of the whole nation, is nonsense — You, the people of the 17th Congressional District, and I as your representative. We are going to give courage and hope to all the peoples of this land and bring back into our government the dynamic qualities of our founding fathers.

3. — STATES RIGHTS — The Harris Gas Bill. The constitutional issue is very much prevalent in the fight to remove unwarranted federal utility regulation of gas production. When the price of Texas products can be determined entirely by forces and self-interest groups outside of our state, it is only a short step to completely centralized government, the nationalization of the oil industry, collectivization of the rancher and farmer, and finally a total welfare state. We must have vehement and outspoken representation on this matter in you, the people of the 17th Congressional District, federal Congress. We must unashamedly keep our convictions. To regulation of gas production means that those of you with marginal gas lands and potential gas lands ARE NOT GOING to get your lands developed. It means that gasoline plants will not be developed. It means that we are ever nearer becoming a slave state when we will be told what we can do and what we cannot do at any given hour of the day.

This is supposed to be a government by the people and for the people, not a government ever increasing its own power and rendering the people voiceless and without resources. Every Congressional District in our country must awaken to the fact that we, to safeguard our individual liberties and freedom, must choose those who will represent we the people and bring the Federal Government back to we the people, by us and for us. I pledge this representation to every man, woman, and child of the 17th Congressional District.

4. ABOLISHMENT OF THE EVIL PROGRESSIVE INCOME TAX. We must have an all-out battle to do away with the progressive income tax. Provide for a flat rate tax income with a top limit of 22½%, plus a Federal Sales tax (housing, rent, and food exempt). The progressive income tax fulfills the prophecies of Karl Marx. Former Collector of Internal Revenue, T. Coleman Andrews, describes this income tax as "politically unsound." It is right out of the Communist Manifesto which declares that a "heavy and progressive income tax" is the first step in destroying a free and competitive economy system.

We the people were duped when this income tax law was passed. We were told that it would put the burden of taxes on the rich and relieve the poor. But the poor are getting poorer, and the rich are getting richer. A man with five million dollars when this law was passed had his five million. He could loan it out at 5% interest and make \$250,000 per year. The poor man got stuck. The more money the poor man made, the more he gave the government. During good years, the poor man gives practically everything he makes to the government. During lean years, the poor man doesn't get help from the government. The rich man, who had all his capital intact when this silly income tax law was passed, steps in and forecloses on the poor man in lean years. There are no real millionaires except those who were millionaires before this evil income tax law was passed, and they are getting richer and richer while the poor man has no opportunity to make and save money and enjoy some of the finer things of life.

Such a tax system is directly opposed to the first principles of the American form of government under the Constitution. I am a completely unlimited tax arbitrarily graduated to discriminate against the successful and against the forgotten man of the middle and low income groups who pay most of the government's bills. Have confidence in me. Believe me. I will have a good deal more to tell you about this before July 28th and I know each and everyone of you will want to do away with this unforgivable law that caught we the people with our guard down.

5. FOREIGN POLICY — THE GIVE-AWAY RACE. The "big bribe" to keep our foreign legends from going communist is one of the saddest situations in American history. The Senate Internal Security Committee found that it wasn't poverty and hunger that made Communists, but a thirst for power among demogogs and a deluded idealism among intellectuals. The Russians are not giving anything away. They are making loans and barter deals and getting a ruble's worth for every ruble they put out. There is something craven in the spectacle of our "rich" and powerful government which thinks it must scatter candy around the world lest it find itself alone and friendless. The facts seem to be that our largess bought us no friends and earned us more resentment than good will.

AMERICAN PRIVATE CAPITAL is willing and even eager to seek investment abroad and under private management it would produce results. You and I do not have to give the government money so it can throw it away for us. With our give-away program and lack of assurance that private investment would be secure against confiscation or nationalization in the name of socialist progress, private capital has a rough time. I do not deny that a shortage of capital is the great handicap to industrial development in the countries on our aid list, but why can't it be obtained on the same terms that America obtained funds that developed his country? Are we selling democratic capitalism or socialism? Let us stop this nonsense for once and for all.

Gather around me every woman, man, and child throughout this Congressional District and we will make the first step toward regaining our liberties and voicing the opinion of the man in the street, the bread earner, the employer, the employee, the farmer and the rancher. All of our interests in the 17th Congressional District are common and like interests.

I pledge myself before GOD to represent you uncompromisingly and defend our United States Constitution as a living document meeting the needs of a great growing, powerful, technologically advanced, self-governing republic. We cannot and will not allow the liberties and self government provided in this great document to be endangered by intellectual "do gooders" who would have us give our life's blood, our money, our freedom, and our way of life in exchange for a lifeless philosophy and socialist economy which only the bees and ants seem to enjoy.

NOTE: — My platform is presented at this early date in the tunity to form your own campaign groups in my behalf to campaign to give those of you who favor my stand an opportunity to carry the message to every man, woman and child in the district. This is not a political campaign. It is a crusade to bring us back our self-respect and strong representation in Congress by the people and for the people.

Write to me, call me, visit me, 306 Commerce Bldg., Abilene
Mailing Address - Box 1992, Abilene, Tex. - Phones 2-8996, 2-9621

Pioneer Days



WE'RE NOT
50 YEARS OLD

But FORD pioneered the automobile field and although we haven't been in business since Merkel was organized, we can depend upon our experience which is equivalent to more than 50 years of service.

We invite you to visit our showrooms during the Merkel Golden Cavalcade, and see just how much progress we've made in the year we have been here . . . for this is our first anniversary in Merkel.

JOHN MCKINZIE MOTORS

MAX MELLINGER, ONCE A \$3 A WEEK MAN, CELEBRATES HIS 36TH ANNIVERSARY IN MERKEL

Thirty-six years ago Max Mellinger strolled into Merkel to out a stock of dry goods he purchased, and he liked the so well that he's still here and celebrating his 36th anniversary along with the Golden Jubilee.

The Mellinger family have become stable citizens, and the parents, along with three boys, Isadore, Meyer and Sylvan, are all active in civic affairs of the town. Mellinger, an affable merchant who built a small store into one of the largest stocks in West Texas, was born in Czechoslovakia, where he spent his youth. He went to New York at the age of 14, and went to work at \$3 a week to start earning just enough money to pay his boat fare from New York to Houston. He continued on to Lubbock, Texas, where he met up with two older brothers who had preceded him to Texas.

SMITH From Page 6

but since have been abandoned, mostly as you know, to go to church in town.

"Speaking of early day farming, the fellows my age will remember when we walked and plowed with single row equipment and later we rode with two row equipment, horse drawn implements, and now we have the modern tractors of various makes and sizes.

"Truly it has been an era of progress for which I think we should be thankful."

Smith's father's family, which consisted of six children, have all died, except one sister, Minna A. Campbell and Ford Smith Sr. Ford was married to Ida May Ford October 17, 1909, and in 1959 they'll celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

The Smiths have five living children, Morris B. Smith, Ford Smith Jr., Mrs. Della Henslee, Mrs. Ruth Hogan and Jack L. Smith.

Smith concluded his interview with this statement:

"I have always been a farmer have seen quite a few hail and lots of sand storms. I'm glad I'm still living and see after my business."

Soon after arriving in Texas, Mellinger started right to work. His first business was peddling dry goods items out of a pack which was carried on his back. Of course his mode of travel was via foot until enough money could be saved to buy a pair of mules and a large covered wagon. "My mules were considered the finest and the meanest by everyone," says Mr. Mellinger.

Peddling in the Austin, Blanco, Johnson City, Junction, Menard, Rock Springs, and Sonora area continued until he was married in 1913, at which time he went into the dry goods business in Johnson City, Texas, possessing, possibly the only store in the entire country with plate glass show windows.

There he had as his customers his fine friends with whom he had done business while peddling.

Numbered among this group were the very fine parents of U. S. Senator, Lyndon B. Johnson. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mellinger can recall the many times Lyndon would come through the back door of the store to run errands for his mother and run and play in the store just like any other boy.

"I sold Lyndon his first pair of long trousers, and he still remembers it, too," Mellinger recalls.

It was in Johnson City that their first son, Isadore, was born. About three years later moved to Waelder, Texas, operated a business there briefly, and moved to Kennedy, Texas. In the meantime, a second son, Meyer, was born in Lubbock, Texas. It was during their residence in Kennedy that Sylvan was born.

It was on a week end in San Antonio, Texas, that Mellinger heard of Merkel for the first time in 1920; and at the same time learned that a location was available.

He lost no time getting to Merkel, and after looking over the town and seeing the friendliness of all the people, decided immediately that this is where he wanted to live. So that was the beginning of the present Max Mellinger Department Store which



MAX . . . 25 Years Ago



MRS. MELLINGER

had its beginning at the present location — 131-137 Edwards St. Since 1920 in a small building with a limited selection, Max Mellinger Department Store has grown such that it is one of the largest in all West Texas.

In 1933 a branch store was established in Livingston, Texas, and in 1936 another was opened in Clarendon, Texas. Both were operated until 1942, when the 3 Sons entered the Military Service. Isadore was in 4 years, serving as 1st Lt., Med. Adm. Corps.; Sylvan 3 1/2 years as Staff Sgt., Finance Department of the Air Corps; Meyer 3 years as Sgt. U. S. Army. The 3 boys each graduated from Merkel High School and attended Texas University.

Always interested in civic enterprises and functions, Max, a charter member of Merkel Lions Club, Merkel Chamber of Commerce, Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite Bodies, and the Shrine. The same for Isadore.

Sylvan belongs to the Chamber of Commerce, Masons, Scottish Rite, Shrine and is active in civic work. Meyer belongs to the Chamber of Commerce, and Lions and participates in activities for the betterment of Merkel.

"The 36 years spent in Merkel have been 36 happy years for all of us, and I can honestly say that the finest people on Earth live right here," says Mellinger.

Jimmy Russell was weekend guest of his parents and was accompanied by Miss Loretta Carter of Newoieo, Mo. and attended the graduation exercises of his brother, Jerry. Other guests were Miss Troy Roberts and Mr. and Mrs. Marion Hay of Cohoma, Texas.



Isadore, Meyer and Sylvan Then

BLUE BONNET H. D. CLUB MET MAY 22

The Blue Bonnet Home Demonstration Club held a called meeting, Tuesday, May 22 in the home of Mrs. Frank Brnovak.

After the business meeting, Mrs. Sam Butman Jr. gave a very good demonstration on the dressing and freezing of poultry for home use.

Refreshments were served to 11 members, 1 visitor, Mrs. A. D. Scott. The next regular meeting will be June 5 in the home of Mrs. Author Moore. The program will be on the backgrounds for the "Living Room." Roll call on "What I Plan To Do To Improve My Living Room."

Mr. and Mrs. Byron Carlisle of Venus, Texas were Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Foster.



JUNE 7-8-9

MERKEL'S GOLDEN CAVALCADE

We stop to pause at this time honor the pioneers who made it possible for us to develop this country into the ideal place to live. We hope the pioneers of yesteryear will come and visit us during the celebration of Merkel's 50th anniversary.

WILSON FOOD STORE
RAY WILSON



CONGRATULATIONS TO MERKEL ON ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY

FOR MANY YEARS WE HAVE PIONEERED THE WAY IN THE OIL AND GASOLINE BUSINESS IN MERKEL. IT HAS BEEN OUR PLEASURE TO SERVE GULF PRODUCTS TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS VICINITY OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS. WE TAKE TIME OUT TO SALUTE THE PIONEERS, AND WISH MERKEL A HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND SUCCESS TO THE

GOLDEN CAVALCADE

C. F. CURB — GULF DISTRIBUTOR

Join Us IN CELEBRATING MERKEL'S GOLDEN CAVALCADE



We are proud to be a part of a thriving community which has had so much history over the past 50 years. We urge you to attend Merkel's celebration.

BRAGG'S

NOODLE NEWS

Guests Sunday in the Dock Calaway home were the following: Mrs. Oneida Melton and daughter, Mrs. Vernell Clement, Norman and Derrell, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pryar from Odessa.

Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Dixon and boys went to church at Turby Sunday and Buffalo Gap for lunch.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sloan from Merkel spent Sunday evening with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Troy Sloan.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Eoff from Calif., are visiting his brother, Odell Eoff and family and Andrej Barbee and family.

Mr. and Mrs. George Cooper spent the week-end at Big Spring with Mr. and Mrs. Ted McAninch and two daughters.

Visiting in the Bill Caldwell home over the week-end were Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Clements and sons and Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Wood and David of Snyder.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jones and children spent the weekend at Hedley, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Ellis spent Sunday at Rockwood with Mr. and Mrs. Dave Ellis.

Vacation Bible Class is in progress at the Baptist Church. Final exercises will be Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Barney V. Cross and family of Anson and W. V. Cross of Noodle spent Sunday in Idalou, Texas with Mr. Cross's brother.

Jerry Gardner has undergone surgery on his eye in the Houston where he has been for a long while.

Mr. and Mrs. John Winters of Abilene visited his sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Cox, Sunday.

Eighth Grade Honor Winners

The ranking students in the three eighth grade classes were announced last week.

Mrs. D. W. Fathree's room: Highest ranking girl, Janice Windham, 96.5; highest ranking boy, Cornell Higgins, 90; greatest improvement, Sherry Ann Hobbs.

Mrs. Norman Winters and Mrs. Don Estes room: Highest ranking girl, Bitsy West, 95.5; highest ranking boy, Mike Farley, 95; greatest improvement, Patricia Johnson.

Leon Walker's room: Highest ranking girl, Mary McKeever, 96.06; highest ranking boy, Fernando Moreno, 91.17; greatest improvement, Raymond Shugart.

Miss May Warren had as guest Tuesday night Gertie Harris of Abilene. On Wednesday they visited a cousin in Sweetwater.

UP THE CANYON

By TOM RUSSOM

Everyone is still looking for that good rain that we are needing so badly.

There is quite a bit of feed and cotton up over the area. Pastures are good and livestock are doing fine. Stock tanks are full of water.

Sheep shearing is still in full swing up the Canyon, but will all be sheared out this week if the weather is suitable.

Some more oil leasing took place this week up the Canyon. The leases reported going at \$10.00 per acre, which is still good.

This Saturday night is the regular meeting date for the Community Club meeting. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be a box supper to raise money to carry on the work in the community.

Rev. John Ferguson, pastor of Pioneer Church, has returned to serve the church for another year. This is his third year at Pioneer Church.

School is out. Mulberry Canyon had about 50 pupils attending. In days past each of the three schools in the Canyon had more pupils than that.

Ford Butman was delegate to the Annual Methodist Conference in Big Springs, while there he visited his sister, Mrs. J. B. Sloan and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Toliver and son, Larry, is also house guest in this home of Mr. and Mrs. Nutt for the week.

Mrs. Elvie Clemmer and children of Ft. Stockton, Texas are visiting her mother, Mrs. Josie Shanks for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mitchell and son Kenneth, of Pampa, Texas, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Glenn, Nancy Jo, Michael and Nelda of Breckenridge, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Mehaffey and Gaye, of Abilene, Mr. and Mrs. A. Glenn, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Crookery, Karen and Bill of Big Spring, spent Sunday with their mother, Mrs. Minnie Glenn, also Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Stockridge.

R. B. Horton of Abilene visited with his mother, Mrs. Hugh Campbell, Friday.

Mary Collins visited over the weekend and Monday in Plainview with Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Collins and a part time in Lubbock with Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Collins, to attend 1956 graduation activities of Tech College. Her niece, Ann Collins, Plainview, Texas, was candidate for graduation and one of the honor's received by Miss Collins this year was that of being selected by the student body as Tech's "Woman of the Year."

THE WHEELER REUNION

WILL BE HELD

Saturday and Sunday

June 2 and 3

AT THE

COMMUNITY CENTER IN MERKEL

QUEEN THEATRE — PHONE 248

FRIDAY & SATURDAY — JUNE 1 - 2

DOUBLE FEATURE

"KING DINOSAUR"

"Monster From the Ocean Floor"

SUNDAY & MONDAY — JUNE 3 - 4

GUY MADISON — VIRGINIA LEITH

JOHN HODIAK — DEAN JAGGER

"On The Threshold of Space"

IN CINEMASCOPE AND COLOR



KIMBELLS FINE FOODS

- Kimbell's Midget SWEET PICKLES - - 2 pints 69c
- Kimbell's - 18-oz. PEANUT BUTTER - - - jar 39c
- Kimbell's - 24-oz. WAFFLE SYRUP - - - - jar 29c
- Kimbell's - 20-oz. RED PLUM JAM - - - glass 29c
- Kimbell's - 303 SPINACH - - - 2 cans 25c
- Kimbell's - 303 - WHOLE GREEN BEANS - - - 2 cans 35c
- Kimbell's - 303 GREEN LIMAS - - - - 2 cans 35c
- Kimbell's - No. 2 BLACKEYE PEAS - - 2 cans 29c
- Diamond Speckled LIMA BEANS - - 2 cans 19c
- Kimbell TUNA - Chunk - Light - - can 25c
- Diamond - 303 TOMATOES - - - - 2 cans 25c
- Kimbell's OLEO - - - - 2 lbs. 39c
- KIM DOG FOOD - - 2 cans 15c

Domino SUGAR -- 10 lbs. ---- **87c**

- Del Monte - 303 WHITE CORN - - - 2 for 33c
- Mission SWEET PEAS - - - 2 for 29c
- Austex - 300 CHILI BEANS - - - 2 cans 19c
- Austex - 300 Spaghetti & MEAT BALLS 2 cans 39c

Finest Quality **MEATS**

- Hormel - Dairy Brand BACON lb. 45c
- Choice Beef Chuck Roast lb. 39c
- Hormel All Meat FRANKS - - - lb. 39c
- Assorted LUNCH MEAT - - - lb. 49c
- Wilson - Cured HAM - half or whole -- lb. 53c
- Choice - Boneless ROLLED ROAST - - - lb. 39c
- Choice Beef ROUND STEAK - - - lb. 73c
- Hormel Pure Pork Sausage 2-lb. bag 89c
- Fresh Beef or Pork LIVER lb. 29c



JELLO
2
Boxes
13c

- MIRACLEWHIP Salad Dressing - Pt. 29c
- PEACHES Anytime 2 1/2 Can - 2 for 49c
- SHORTENING Kimbell's 3 Lb. Can 63c
- TEA with Big Glass - 1/4 lb. BRIGHT & EARLY 29c

OXYDOL Giant 59c

TIDE Giant 59c

CHEER Giant 59c

DASH Jumbo \$2.19

JOY Regular 29c

Sunshine Crackers lb. 23c
Sunshine Candy, cello 19c

BALLARD BISCUITS 2 Cans For 19c

Compare Taste... Compare Texture and you, too, will choose
GLADIOLA CAKE MIXES 2 for 49c

GLADIOLA FLOUR 10-lb. Bag 79c
RANCH STYLE COFFEE Lb. Can 79c

Hollywood Star SPECIAL! SAVE 41c REG. \$2.00 SIZE NOW ONLY \$1.59



213 EDWARDS ST. — PHONE 250 WE GIVE PREMIUMS

Carson Grocery & Market
Free Delivery Free Parking
ON \$3.00 OR MORE MON., WED. and FRI. at 4:00
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