

The Merkel Mail

Taylor County's
Only
Legal Weekly
Newspaper

10¢
PER COPY

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Up The Canyon

By TOM
RUSSOM

Well, the weather is just like spring time here in the Canyon. Nights just cool enough to sleep good and days where you can still wear straw hats and shirt sleeves, and to think, it is almost Christmas!

Joe Earl Lassiter of Merkel said to me last Sunday, "I can tell it is still dry down in the Canyon after reading Up the Canyon news."

You know, we have some of the boys who say it is "just a little dry on top," but I am one who says "it is pretty doggone dry pretty deep." And also I'm one of the "boys" who has \$700 worth of seed wheat in the dry ground, and that's a lot of money.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Blair of Fort Worth were here last weekend to visit Mrs. Blair's sister, Mrs. B. H. Riney. Mr. and Mrs. Riney's son, Paul, of Lamesa was also here. They attended the Riney's 55th Anniversary. Tom Blair who has been a hand on the mail train out of Fort Worth west is retiring after 44 years of service, with 300,000 miles of rail "put behind." Tom is a former resident of Mulberry Canyon and a longtime reader of the Merkel Mail.

Allan King is still in the Hendrick Hospital in Abilene.

Mrs. Joe Swinney who was a patient in St. Ann Hospital in Abilene some time ago, returned this week after another spell with her heart.

Dinner guests in the home of Mrs. Everett Sunday were the Rev. and Mrs. Newton Daniel of Merkel, Mrs. Mary Click, Mable McRee, Dr. and Mrs. Howard, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Russom. The Rev. Charles Williams, pastor of Pioneer Church, was unable to preach Sunday morning due to a severe cold.

Mrs. E. L. Moore had surgery last week and is in Hendrick Hospital in Abilene.

TRENT HIGH GRAD BANQUET SPEAKER

Leroy Shafer, a graduate student in Texas A&M University and a graduate of Trent High School, was guest speaker for the joint banquet of the Future Homemakers and Future Farmers of Trent High School Friday, Dec. 16.

In speaking to the more than

No Bookmobile December 24

The Bookmobile will not make its routine call at Merkel December 24, Christmas Eve, will resume its regular schedule January 7. Books due December 24 may be returned January 7, or may be dropped in the book drop at the back of the Abilene Public Library any time," said Miss Thelma Andrews, head librarian.

Begin the New Year with a good reading program, which will add up to much information and pleasure throughout the year.

Season's best wishes from the Bookmobile staff and the Abilene Public Library staff.

TRENT LIVESTOCK SHOW SET DEC. 31

The 14th Annual Trent Community 4-H and FFA Livestock Show will be held Saturday, Dec. 31, in the FFA Show Barn at the Trent Community Center.

The show will begin with the judging of poultry at 8 a.m.

Dr. Edwin DuBose of the agriculture department of Abilene Christian College will judge the livestock and T. C. Blankship, vocational agriculture teacher at Hamlin, will judge poultry and rabbits.

According to Albert Mayberry, vocational agriculture teacher, entries to date include four heifers and three Sears Foundation bulls in beef cattle; eight sheep; 135 head of swine; 30 capons, including singles and pens; 17 pens of broilers and 20 rabbits.

Farmer's Tax Guide Available

DALLAS — Texas farmers can now get the 1967 edition of the Farmer's Tax Guide, according to Ellis Campbell Jr., District Director of Internal Revenue for northern Texas.

The booklet may be obtained free of charge by stopping in or writing the nearest Internal Revenue Service office or your county agricultural agent.

Written in non-technical language, it contains easy to understand sections such as records a farmer should keep and important Federal tax dates to remember. One of the most important and informative features is a sample of a completed tax return with detailed explanations of entries made on it.

Throughout the booklet numerous examples are used to illustrate how farming transactions are treated for Federal tax purposes.

Primarily written to help farmers prepare their 1966 tax returns, the "Farmer's Tax Guide" also serves as a useful tax reference throughout the year.

125 members, parents and other guests Shafer urged students to "decide now where you are going."

"If you plan to go to college," he said, "begin now to pick your school and what you are going to study. If you plan to go into the military service, decide now the branch of service you want."

Shafer also stressed the importance of patriotism and religion "in their lives."

Glenna Riggan FHA president, and Eddie Mitchell, FFA president headed the banquet plans.

Miss Betty Reddin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Reddin was announced FFA sweetheart and Eddie Mitchell, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Mitchell, FFA romeo.

Supervisors of the two organizations are Mrs. Betty Foster, homemaker teacher, and Albert Mayberry, vocational agriculture teacher.

District and area talent competition winners of 1965 presented entertainment, a combo composed of Elton Payne, Charles Talbott, Larry Steadham and Pat Carrier.

"The number of entries for this show has already exceeded the total of any previous one," said Maberry.

John Hamner will serve as superintendent; M. (Red) Shafer, beef cattle; Mark Williamson, swine; H. H. McLeod and Frank Brnovak, poultry, and Othell O'Kelley, rabbits.

Junior superintendent of the show will be Eddie Mitchell, FFA president, and Glenn Bryan will serve as secretary.

Merchants contributing to the Trent show are:

Optimist Club, Raymond D. Shurgart Gulf Station, Barnett Barber Shop, A Friend, Fred Starbuck, Max Mellinger, Ben Franklin Store, Merkel Drug, and E. A. Conley.

Also Wilson Jewelry, Crawford's Men's Wear, Carson Super Market, Adcock Cleaners, Mack's Cleaners, Wilson Food Store, Boone Service Station, Oak Street Service Station, Gulf Oil Distributor and Merkel Locker Plant.

Also Bullock Hardware Co., Merkel Mail, Palmer Motor Co., Mansfield Feed Store, White Auto Higgins Shop, W. B. Thomas Service Station, Henry - Owen Ford, Irven Thompson, Bobby DuBose Texaco Station, Fisher Wholesale Gas and Oil, Max Murrell Chevrolet, Eric Anderson, Veterans of Foreign Wars, West Texas Utilities Co., F & M National Bank and Dr. W. T. Sadler.

Also Dr. Donald W. Warren, Dale and Fannie Carver (Shamrock Cafe), Maurice Johnson, (Ninth Street Grocery), Mina Winter Butane, H. W. Lemens, Inc., and Wylie Truck Stop.

Mrs. W. D. Gamble Club Speaker

The King Ranch was program topic for the recent meeting of the Fortnightly Study Club, presented by Mrs. W. D. Gamble.

Mrs. Gamble presented a study of Richard King and the beginning of the King Ranch. She traced the King Ranch from its early establishment up to the present time.

Hosting the Study Club meeting was Mrs. W. R. Cypert, with the following members attending:

Mmes. Johnny Cox, Mack Davis, Don Dudley, Bryan Dungan, David Gamble, Ben R. Hicks, J. Lynn Knight, H. B. Robertson, Andy Shouse, John Boyd and president, Comer Haynes.

The next scheduled meeting for the Study Club will be Jan. 7, 1967.

Jr. Homemakers Elect Officers

The Junior Homemakers of the Merkel 4-H Club held their first meeting Dec. 6 and a cooking meeting Dec. 13.

Officers elected at the Dec. 13 meeting were Mary Beth Boyd, president, Connie Ragan, vice president, Cle Juan Douglas, secretary, and Mary Jo Reddin, reporter.

Members attending both December meetings were Mary Beth Boyd, Cle Juan Douglas, Connie Ragan and Mary Jo Reddin.

Adult leaders attending were Mrs. Seth Ragan and Mrs. Donald

Goodfellows Store Is Open; Drive Exceeds Last Year's



WE WISH YOU MERRY CHRISTMAS — Say the three Miss Merry Christmas winners in the Merkel Christmas Parade, held Saturday, Dec. 10. Winners are, from left, Nancy Evans, first; Alyce Whisenhunt, third, and Becky Gladden, second. (Staff Photo)

STUDENTS URGED TO CHOOSE GOALS

P. E. (Pete) Shotwell, guest speaker for the Merkel High School Football Banquet Saturday, Dec. 17, urged students to "decide on goals early in life."

"You need goals, objectives," said Shotwell, "and even though it takes courage to set goals, decide on them soon and stick with them."

Speaking to the approximately 135 guests attending the banquet, Shotwell encouraged young people to "do some thinking on your own. Demand evidence, and make up your own mind."

In introducing Shotwell, Mrs. Don Dudley, member of the Merkel High School faculty, informed the audience that Shotwell was one of the first five individuals to be installed in the Coaches' Association's Hall of Honor. "Last week sports information directors

PANEL OF EXPERTS TO DISCUSS COTTON

DALLAS (Special) — The 1967 Beltwide Cotton Production-Mechanization Conference will be held in Dallas Jan. 12-13.

The effects of harvesting and ginning and other production factors on quality of cottonseed for planting will be closely examined by a panel of experts during the first afternoon session.

Discussions on new develop-

RECENT VISITORS

Visiting recently in the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Thaxton of Merkel were Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Garrison and children of Bakersville, California.

of the Lone Star Conference recommended P. E. Shotwell for the NAIA Hall of Fame," said Mrs. Dudley.

The banquet, hosted by the Merkel Cheerleaders, carried out the Oriental Garden theme with a "Chopstick" Program, beginning with Chopstick Melodies.

Participants on the program were Coach Bill Tate, Robert Crawford, Cathy Derrington, Royce Aikin, Coach Bob Eyerly and superintendent of schools, Mack Fisher.

Entertainment was furnished by Royce Aikin, student at McMurry College, who presented folk type singing and accompanying himself on the guitar.

Gifts were presented to Merkel High School coaches, to the cheerleaders and their sponsor, Mrs. Don Dudley.

ments to control plant growth and fruiting and the use of soil and tissue tests are also scheduled for the first afternoon session.

Dr. Thomas H. Garner, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Clemson University, Clemson, S. D., will make a progress report on work underway to evaluate the mechanical damage to cottonseed during harvesting.

Session chairman, James Hand III, of Rollig Fork, Miss., stressed that the conference is open to anyone interested in cotton and that no registration fee is involved. The conference is sponsored by the National Cotton Council.

CONTRIBUTIONS NOW NEARING \$750 GOAL

Tuesday Dec. 20, Merkel's 1966 Goodfellow workers made "last minute" preparations for the Wednesday 1 p.m. opening of the Goodfellow Store at North 2nd and Kent streets. The store will also be open from 1 until 5 p.m. Thursday (today).

Workers in the 1966 Goodfellow Drive are Truman Belcher and Mrs. W. R. Cypert co-chairmen; Mrs. Mary Mosier, clothing; Ray Wilson, Rev. Newton Daniel, Onis Crawford, and Johnny Hammond, gifts; Ray Woodard, Mary Johnson, Richard Walker, D. A. Bishop, Dale White and Marnie Patterson, toys, with Bill Wood as adult supervisor; Vincent Barnett and Mrs. Betty Whisenhunt, clothing collection, and Mrs. Darrell Farmer, dolls.

"A special thank you goes to all these workers who have done so much to make this drive the best we have ever had," said Belcher. "There have been so many who have taken a part in this year's drive, it would be impossible to name them all, but we do take this means to thank them."

Donations to the Goodfellows this year exceeds donations for 2007 year that the Goodfellows have been operating in Merkel, according to Belcher.

As of press time \$733.00 had been contributed to the drive — only dollars short of the set goal.

"Donations may still be mailed

or taken to the Chamber of Commerce, or to the Farmers and Merchants National Bank," said Rev. Daniel, member of the Gift Committee.

CASH DONATIONS	
Previously donated	\$369.50
Goodfellow Jars	91.93
The John Bradys	5.00
Rev. and Mrs. John Curtis	5.00
M. R. Hall	5.00
Taylor Electric Cooperative	25.00
Crawford's	5.00
Beta Sigma Phi	7.50
J. L. Fisher Wholesale Gas and Oil	25.00
Paulene Hester	5.00
Buster Horton	5.00
Mrs. J. A. Horton	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. Mack Fisher	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Mack Seymour and Stacey Sue	10.00
Woodmen Circle	10.00
Ted and Hazel Pargament	10.00
Methodist Key S.S. Class	10.00
Methodist Comrade S.S. Class	25.00
C. F. Curb	10.00
Mrs. Jennings Winter	2.50
Miss Connie Pogue	1.00
Mr. Willard Pogue	1.00
Ben Rich	1.00
Tom Toombs	3.00
Carson's Super Market	25.00
R. Y. Buchanan	7.50
F & M Bank Employees	19.00
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Breaux	5.00
Roy Buchanan	5.00
Christine Collins	20.00
Bal Byron	5.00
TOTAL	\$733.53
GOAL	\$750.00



DEPICTING THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS — Mrs. W. L. Brown is shown with her arrangement entered in the Merkel Garden Club Flower Show held Saturday, Dec. 10, in the Farmers and Merchants National Bank. Said the judges, "not only do you have a beautiful flower arrangement, but it depicts the true meaning of Christmas." (Staff Photo)

MERRY CHRISTMAS



**JOY
TO
YOU!**

May the
bells of
Christmas
ring a mes-
sage of good
cheer!

CRAWFORD'S MEN'S WEAR
ONIS, TINA, JIMMY, ROBERT & MIGNON



All the best wishes to our good friends.

JOHNSON'S NINTH ST. GROCERY



to all our
friends, from

DUBOSE TEXACO



Christmas blessings
to you and yours!

WILSON JEWELRY

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR AN ACT CREATING THE MERKEL HOSPITAL DISTRICT OVER A PORTION OF TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS TO THE RESIDENTS OF TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS, AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that after due publication hereof the undersigned intend to apply to the Texas Legislature at its regular session in 1967 for the passage of an act authorizing the creation of a Hospital District over a portion of Taylor County, Texas, under the authority granted by Article IX, Section 9, of the Texas Constitution, the general purposes and nature of such Act being expressed as follows:

"AN ACT authorizing creation of the MERKEL HOSPITAL DISTRICT; providing for an election within the area of the proposed hospital district and making certain findings in connection therewith; providing for the operation and financing of said district, including the procedures it is to follow; providing a severability clause; and declaring an emergency."

DATED this the 14th day of December, 1966.

- Maxwell Murrell
- W. W. Toombs
- John R. West
- Ben R. Hicks
- Meyer Mellinger
- J. W. Hammond
- M. H. Ely
- W. D. Gamble
- Mark M. Williamson
- Glenn Teaff
- W. H. Carson
- Johnny Cox
- J. L. Hensley
- Sylvan Mellinger
- Waymon Adcock
- Fred F. Starbuck
- Mrs. W. H. Bullock
- H. J. Carson
- Wm. N. Wood

41 41c

Legal Notice

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 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: Virginia J. Flowers, Defendant, Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable Court of Domestic Relations of Taylor County at the Courthouse thereof, in Abilene, Texas, by filing a written answer at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, same being the 16th day of January A.D. 1967, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 9th day of March A.D. 1966 in this cause, numbered 2,646 on the docket of said court and styled W. D. Flowers, Plaintiff, vs. Virginia J. Flowers, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: Plaintiff and defendant were married December 1958, and became permanently separated on Oct. 29, 1962. Plaintiff sues for divorce on grounds of harsh and cruel treatment as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

If this citation is not served within ninety days after the date

**Services Held
For T. B. Jeffrey**

Funeral services for Thomas B. Jeffrey, 40, were held Friday, Dec. 15 in Starbuck Chapel with burial in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Jeffrey, a former resident of Taylor County, died Wednesday in a North Kansas City, Mo. hospital.

Surviving are his wife; a son, John Thomas of the home; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Jeffrey Sr., of Sweetwater; a brother, Hugh Jeffrey Jr. of Oregon.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower was born in Denison, Texas.

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 the 30th day of November A.D. 1966.

(Seal)
Attest: R. H. ROSS Clerk,
Domestic Relations Court
Taylor County, Texas
By Irene Crawford, Deputy.
40 41c

HI!



WISHING YOU HAPPY HOLIDAYS

CLYDE'S GARAGE



May your hearts be
joyful throughout
the holiday season!

MERKEL DRUG CO.



EVERY GOOD WISH FOR
YOU AND YOURS

BOONE SERVICE STATION



WE WISH YOU THE SEASON'S JOYS!

**MERKEL RESTAURANT
and MOTEL**



MAY THE SPECIAL
JOYS OF CHRISTMAS BE YOURS!

JOHNNY COX

BOOKKEEPING, INCOME TAX, NOTARY



BRINGING
YOU WARM
HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

MACK'S CLEANERS



'TIS THE
SEASON TO BE JOYFUL!

MALONE IMPLEMENT



HENRY-OWENS FORD SALES

MERRY CHRISTMAS

CRISCO 3-Lb. Can **69¢**

FOREMOST WHIPPING CREAM
SOUR CREAM
HALF & HALF Ctn. **??¢**

BIG DIP Foremost 1/2 Gal. **49¢**

Ocean Spray
Cranberry Sauce 300 Size **19¢**
Pacific Gold Spiced

PEACHES No. 2 1/2 Can 2 for **45¢**
Del Monte Whole - 303 Can

Green Beans 2 for **49¢**

PEAS Del Monte 303 Can 2 for **39¢**

Pineapple Del Monte Can Crushed 2 for **35¢**

FLOUR Gold Medal 5-Lb. Bag **59¢**

Save on MEATS MARKET MADE SAUSAGE Lb. **49¢**

BACON Gooch Blue Ribbon Lb. **63¢**

TURKEYS Norbest 10-12 Lb. Lb. **39¢**

TURKEYS Swift's Butterball 10-12 Lb. Lb. **49¢**

RUMP ROAST Lb. **65¢**
HAMBURGER 3 Lbs. **\$1.00**

STEAK Round Lb. **83¢**

CHICKEN HENS AND HAMS

GIVE A FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM WILSON'S FOOD STORE FOR CHRISTMAS!

Special for Thursday, Friday, Saturday, December 22, 23, 24
Maxwell House

COFFEE 1-Lb. Can **69¢** 2-Lb. Can **\$1.38**

CANDY Chocolate Covered CHERRIES Box **39¢**

FOREMOST EGG NOG Qt. **49¢**

MANDARIAN - 11-OZ. CAN ORANGES 2 for **45¢**

PHILADELPHIA CREAM - 8-OZ. CHEESE Pkg. **29¢**

KRAFT'S MINIATURE - 10-OZ. PKG. MARSHMALLOWS Pkg. **19¢**

ALL SWEET
OLEO
2 for **49¢**

LIBBY'S
YAMS
Squat Can **29¢**

BAMA STRAWBERRY
PRESERVES
18-Oz. Glass **39¢**

PICK-OF-THE-CROP FROZEN FOODS

KEITH'S - PKG. OR 24 DINNER ROLLS Pkg. **29¢**

COLONIAL GERMAN CHOCOLATE CAKES Each **89¢**

Crisp FRUITS and VEGETABLES

CALIFORNIA NAVEL ORANGES Lb. **15¢**

DELICIOUS APPLES Lb. **15¢**

CRANBERRIES Lb. **33¢**

CELERY Stalk **15¢**

YELLOW ONIONS Lb. **9¢**

FRESH GREEN ONIONS 2 Bunches **15¢**

CLIP "N" SAVE!
SAVE 26¢
WITH THIS COUPON
Tide 59¢
CLIP "N" SAVE!
To determine expiration date add 7 days to date coupon was run in newspaper.

Wilson's FOOD STORE

"Where Customers Send Their Friends"
TWO DELIVERIES DAILY at 10:30 a. m. and 4:30 p. m.
Phone 928-5713



DOUBLE PREMIUMS ON WEDNESDAY ON PURCHASE OF \$2.50 OR MORE IN MERCHANDISE

SAVE VALUABLE CASH REGISTER TAPES FOR PREMIUMS

Big SAVINGS

on Things you need

WITH
MERKEL MAIL

WANT ADS

11.00 minimum for the first four lines. Excess of 4 lines will be charged at the rate of 5 cents per word. If no results obtained on the first insertion, we will run it free the second time.

Card of Thanks: \$1.50 for the first 50 words, 5c per word for each additional word.
TERMS: Cash in advance, unless an account is already established.

NOTICE of typographical or other errors must be given before the second insertion or claims for refunds or extension will not be recognized.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR MONUMENTS and CEMETERY CURBING
M. A. (Sarg) NOSTER
1404 Herring Dr.
Merkel, Texas
Phone 8-5565

MASONIC MEETING
Stated Meeting of Merkel Lodge No. 710 on 2nd Saturday and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Visitors welcome. Members urged to attend.

ROY MASHBURN, W. M.
DAN BUTLER, Sec'y.

NEED A NEW WELL DRILL? An old well cleaned out? Call Robert Higgins, 8-5968. Also sell and install Meyers Pumps 51-tfc

"WOULD YOU BELIEVE?" 20% Range Kubes as low as \$38.00 ton. Hog feeds as low as \$37.00 ton. All types of bulk feeds delivered to your barn or feeders. Seed wheat as low as \$2.80 bu. Supply limited. Prices subject to change without notice. Pied Piper Mills, Hamlin, Texas, Code 915, SPring 4-1684. 36 8tp

DEER HUNTING — 450 acres 14 miles southwest of Merkel on FM Road 126. Call Nubia 4167. Mrs. E. C. Roy. 36 4tc

REMEMBER — Tex Herring School of Auction begins Jan. 2, 1967, Call OW 2-1710 in Abilene. 41 fr4

TAKE soil away the Blue Lustre way from carpets and upholstery. Rent electric shampooer \$1. Bullock's Hardware. Phone 928-5310. 42 1tc

HELP WANTED — Boys and girls ages 2 to 6 years old to operate "Silly Factory." Reg. \$2.00 NOW ONLY 99c. See at Handicap Ind. Inc. 502 Butternut in Abilene. 42 1tc

FOR LEASE — Quarter section of land. For interview see P. F. West. Merkel, Rt. 2, c/o Lloyd West. 41 2tp

FOR RENT

FOR RENT — Unfurnished apartment. 2 bedroom, bath. 306 Locust. Phone 8-5713. Ray Wilson. 33 1tc

FOR RENT — Three bedroom home. Inquire at Edna's Beauty Shop. 928-5913. 30 1tc

FOR RENT — Unfurnished 3 bedroom house. Plumbed for washer, backyard fenced. 928-5236. 41 2tc

FOR RENT — Very clean 3 bedroom furnished or unfurnished house North 4th St. 928-5669. 41 2tc

The Merkel Mail

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT
Established 1889

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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of the newspaper will be corrected, gladly, upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

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Member of the Texas Press Association
and West Texas Press Association.

ELAINE BRUMBEAU Editor
DAVE BRUMBEAU Publisher

Social Security Pay Liberalized

Many people past age 62 could draw at least part of their Social Security benefits if they filed a claim for these benefits now, according to R. R. Tuley Jr., social security district manager in Abilene.

"Many people of retirement age believe that if they continue any work at all, no benefits are payable to them until they fully retire, but this is not correct under the liberalized retirement test," he said.

For example, a worker reaching 65 in 1966 who has always paid on the maximum amount creditable under social security would have a monthly benefit rate of \$135.90. The first \$1,500 of his 1966 and 1967 earnings would not count under the new retirement test; he would miss \$1.00 in benefits for each \$2.00 earned from \$1,500 to \$2,700, and dollar for dollar for earnings over \$2,700. So he could still earn up to \$3,730 in a year before no social security payments at all would be due.

If he had a wife 65 also entitled to benefits on his record he could earn \$4,546.80 before no benefits would be payable.

The present time might be the best time to visit the social security office to see if some social security benefits are payable, Tuley said.

MUSIC, PARTIES, DECORATIONS FILL CHRISTMAS SEASON

The "glow of Christmas can be seen in the Merkel area, with parties, banquets, and gay decorations, and Christmas music filling the downtown area.

FOR THE CHRISTMAS MUSIC in downtown Merkel, a special "thank you" goes to Fred Starbuck for the Carols that he sends out over the speaker system. An extra holiday mood has been felt by shoppers, workers and people passing through as they listen to the Carols. Thank you, Fred.

A CHRISTMAS TREE THEME in "pink" greeted guests who called at Mrs. Horace Boney's annual Christmas Coffee Tuesday, Dec. 20. A large tree flocked in pink brightened the living room while Mrs. Don Warren served coffee from a table with pink appointments. Also assisting Mrs. Boney was Mrs. Benny Boney of Merkel.

Out of town guests included Mrs. Howard Gardner, Hoyle Lemons, Clyde Sears and J. D. McGaha, all of Abilene, Mrs. Robert Montgomery, Sweetwater, Mrs. Don Wilson, Odessa, and Mrs. W. C. Wiggins of Carthage, Mo.

A CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Robert Hicks in their new home Sunday evening after church services. Special guests were the members of the First Methodist Church Choir. Decorations of green and gold blended with the new home colors, with the serving table covered in an olive green cloth and a centerpiece of gold roses and green candles.

THE FOOTBALL BANQUET.

Antlerless Hunt Still Widespread

AUSTIN (Special) — Sixty Texas counties still are open for antlerless deer harvesting subject, of course, to the number of permits still held by land owners who issue them direct to hunters. Taylor is one of the counties listed.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department listed the counties as a service to both ranchers and sportsmen to augment the effort to remove a deer surplus that could develop into a herd crisis, unless more favorable range conditions develop soon.

The Department stressed the superior edible qualities of antlerless deer for hunters desiring to add variety to larder stocks.

TAX MAN SAM SEZ:

Now is the time to get your 1967 edition of "Your Federal Income Tax." This 160-page booklet on Federal income taxes is now available at Internal Revenue offices throughout Texas. You can save many times the 50c cost by carefully checking your tax problems in the simple, easily understood explanations.

HOUSE PAINTING
Carpenter Repairs
Tape and Bedding
Sign Painting
See **LEE WARD**
Phone 928-6864

There's Still ---

GIFTS GALORE

FOR LAST MINUTE SHOPPERS
Watches — Watch Bands — Rings
Diamonds — Billfolds — Costume Jewelry
and Many, Many More!

AT
WILSON JEWELER
IN MERKEL

We Have

MOVED

TO

308 RUNNELS

ALLISON

PLUMBING

PHONE 928-5787

CARD OF THANKS

WE WISH TO express our thanks to our friends for their visits and many other thoughtful deeds during the illness and death of W. J. Derstine.

Mrs. W. J. Derstine
Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Derstine
and Children
Mary Derstine

CARD OF THANKS

I have been recipient of so many gestures of friendship and love in 1966, and I am deeply grateful. May our Father deeply bless each of you this Christmas, and in the New Year.

Margaret Foster.

May 20-21, 1927, marked the first solo flight across the Atlantic by Charles A. Lindbergh.

To Our FRIENDS and NEIGHBORS

Sincere thanks for your patronage during the past year. We hope we may serve you as well in the New Year. Merry Christmas!

TAYLOR COUNTY FARM BUREAU
VEARL SMITH, Agent

Berlin Christmas Carolers



West Berlin's best wishes to its friends throughout the world for the Christmas and New Year Season will be conveyed by carols sung by the famous Schoenberger Boys' Choir. Picture shows them under the 10-ton Freedom Bell, modeled after the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia and installed in Berlin in 1950 as a gift from 17 million Americans. It peals each noon from the tower of West Berlin's City Hall. The Boys' Choir, founded in 1947 by Gerhard Hellwig, who is still its conductor, has some 90 members who begin at age 8-10 to receive two years of training before joining the active Choir. Its different groups have sung in more than 1,000 performances of the Berlin Opera and made over 70 concert tours in Germany and abroad as young Ambassadors of Goodwill.

SAY **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

WITH A GE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE FROM **PALMER MOTOR CO.**

GE TELEVISIONS
EARLY AMERICAN STYLING
COLOR TV

25" picture tube, hide and see doors, completely Automatic tuning.
Reg. \$795.00 NOW ONLY \$649.00 Exch.

CONTEMPORARY STYLING
WALNUT VENEER COLOR TV

25" picture tube, Meter Guide Tuning Meter, Magic Memory Reference Control, Completely automatic tuning.
Reg. \$695.00 - NOW ONLY \$565.00 Exch.

NEW GE PORTABLE COLOR TV's
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LITTLE BADGER TRACKS

By MES REPORTERS

Do you know what time it is? Christmas, of course! The seventh and eighth grade classes know just how to celebrate it — by having parties. The seventh grade party was held in the old gym Tuesday night, and the eighth grade party in the school cafeteria Wednesday night. Both parties featured games, refreshments, and exchanging gifts. The seventh grade had a special attraction — the breaking of two candy-filled pinatas.

The good cooks of Mrs. Winters' room were rewarded with a total of \$14.71 from the candy sale held last Thursday. Part of the money was given to the United Fund.

Mrs. Shouse's seventh grade

room had a successful sidewalk sale last Friday which netted \$20.84 for the United Fund and room expenses.

The pupils of Merkel Elementary School are proud to have met their United Fund goal.

Pupils of Mr. Bratcher's fifth grade decorated their Christmas tree last week. They are learning poems, songs and Christmas carols.

Mrs. Orsborn's sixth grade class will have two plays on December 21. The first one will be "Christmas Tablecloth," and the other will be "Candle in the Window." A number of carols will be sung. Everybody's looking forward to the holidays.

Monday afternoon Christmas-decorated doors in the elementary building were judged. They were all so attractive that the judges had a difficult time deciding but the three considered best were Mrs. Shouse's, Mrs. Winter's, and Mr. Davis'.

We wish you all a merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

BADGER TALES

By DEBI CORDER



Last Thursday night the juniors had their class Christmas party at the school cafeteria. Games were played and everyone had a fairly good time.

Steve Doan, Terry Wade, Benson Pack, Randy Doan have started a combo group, which seems to be progressing very well. They performed at their freshman class party Monday night.

The Sophomore Class Party was also held Monday night at the Community Center. Some of the class members went to the Rest Home and sang Christmas Carols and took gifts. Mr. Rodgers, one of the freshman sponsors, gave a sermon from a Sears and Roebuck catalog.

The seniors celebrated Monday night at the Taylor Electric Cooperative building.

Well, what's this? Vickie Doan has contact lenses and is getting her braces removed in February.

Every student who is attending Merkel High is at present time, or should be, bubbling over with happiness. Holidays are here again. (Whopeeceeeeee!)

The only part to dread is the coming back afterwards and taking six weeks and mid term tests.

Last Saturday night the annual Football Banquet was held. The Starlite Inn was the center of this gala event. "Oriental Gardens" was the theme. The main speaker was Mr. P. E. Shotwell, along with Robert Crawford, the Chinese (or was it Japanese?) boy. All the girls looked very pretty as usual. The boys looked "better than usual." Gifts were presented to the coaches, cheerleaders, and Mrs. Pat Dudley. The cheerleaders and Mrs. Dudley, their sponsor, were in charge of the banquet.

Sunday afternoon the great Merkel Badger Band performed for the community, everyone was invited with admission free. Christmas songs were played and a large crowd attended.

Doan Children Visit Parents

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Doan of Merkel entertained approximately thirty guests at Sunday dinner, Dec. 18.

Among the guests were all of their children and families, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Doan of Mojave, Calif.; Mrs. H. P. Alderman, Texas City; Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Doan and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Doan, all of Lubbock; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Doan, Snyder, Mrs. Warren Shaw, Abilene, and Mr. and Mrs. Durwood Doan of Merkel.

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

HIGH SCHOOL

Jan. 3 — open
Jan. 5, 6, 7 — Trent Tournament, A girls, A boys
The following are district games for both A boys and girls, at 7:00
Jan. 10 — Roscoe, there
Jan. 13 — Aspermont, there
Jan. 17 — Rotan, here
Jan. 20 — Jim Ned, there
Jan. 24 — Wylie, here
Jan. 27 — Roscoe, here
Jan. 31 — Aspermont, here
Feb. 3 — Rotan, there
Feb. 7 — Jim Ned, here
Feb. 10 — Wylie, there

ELEMENTARY

Jan. 5-7 — Anson Tournament, boys and girls A
Jan. 9 — Jim Ned at Merkel, boys A and B and girls A
Jan. 16 — Merkel at Wylie, boys A and B and girls A
Jan. 23 — Merkel at Baird, boys A and B and girls A
Jan. 26-28 — Jim Ned Tournament, boys and girls A
Jan. 30 — Merkel at Jim Ned, boys A and B and girls A

John H. Rister Dies at Age 72

John H. Rister, 72, of Tye died Wednesday, Dec. 14 in Hendrick Memorial Hospital in Abilene.

Funeral services were held Saturday in Tye Baptist Church with the Rev. E. V. Brooks, pastor, and the Rev. Temple Lewis of Abilene officiating. Burial was in Tye Cemetery.

Born Aug. 13, 1894 in Gatesville, he moved to Tye in 1902 from Coryell County. He retired from farming in 1959. He was a veteran of World War I and member of the Tye Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife: two sons, Johnny W. of Midland and Curtis C. of Guantanamo Naval Base, Cuba; five sisters, Mrs. Lula Rister, Abilene, Mrs. Georgia Faye Higgins, Mrs. Una Mae Hayes, Mrs. Ethylene Hewitt, all of Merkel, and Mrs. Effie Bigham of Bradshaw; three brothers, Ossie of Tye, Lee and Sam of Abilene; five grandchildren.

The first postage stamps were issued in 1847.

SOIL SCIENTIST AND SOIL SURVEY

Why is a soil survey so important? What happens when a soil scientist makes a soil survey? Lonnie Watson, soil scientist with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Abilene says: Without knowing your soils, it would be like going down town to purchase a coat for a person that you have never see before. The same incident happens when you try to manage your soils and don't know the types. That is why a soil survey is so important. It also suggests to the farmer and rancher the type of management to take on different types of soils. For example, some soils must be drained before they can be used for crops; others must be irrigated. Sloping soils need to be protected from erosion when clean-tilled crops are grown.

When a soil scientist goes into a farmer's or rancher's field, he digs numerous holes and examines

the different layers of soils, recording the different characteristics. These characteristics are: The size of soil particles, arrangement of soil particles, colors of soils, and the acidity or alkalinity in each layer. They measure the slope or gradient of the soil. Watson has been working southwest of Tye on the Teaff Brothers' farms. He plans to work in the vicinity of the Stephen's farm in the near future.

The swastika became the national flag of Germany in 1935.



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928-5612 **MEN'S WEAR** **EDWARDS**
MERKEL



Stith News
By MRS. FRITZ HALE

Merry Christmas to all.

Mrs. Paul Bradley, Mrs. Curtis Clyburn, Mrs. Roy Mashburn, and Mrs. Vernon Hudson attended the HD Club Christmas party in Anson Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Berry bought Mrs. Pick Payne's house here and they moved last week. Those helping them move were Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bradle, F. J. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Perry, Mrs. Bud Lilly, Mrs. Edith Leach and Dick.

Mrs. Robert Wayne Berry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bradley, had surgery in a San Antonio hospital Tuesday. She is doing fine.

Mrs. Bob Garner passed away in Hendrick Memorial Hospital Thursday morning. She was Fritz Hale's niece.

Jana Farmer of Merkel spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Perry. Jana attended service at the Stith Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Benthall attended the service Sunday at the Stith Baptist Church.

The Rev. and Mrs. James Williams and children were dinner guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bradley.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Clyburn attended the band concert in Merkel Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Blondy Hanson and Caro'yn are back home. Mrs. Hanson spent several days in

Hendrick Memorial Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Berry and Mr. Lee Stanley and Mr. and Mrs. Bud Lilly visited Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Berry Sunday.

Services Held For I. A. Bleeker

Funeral services for Isaac A. Bleeker, 78, were held Saturday, Dec. 17 in the Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Newton Daniel, pastor of the Methodist Church officiating. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Bleeker, a resident of Merkel for the past few years, died Wednesday in an Abilene hospital following a short illness.

Survivors include one brother, Bock Bleeker of Bloomington, Calif.; one sister, Emma Williams of Baird; several nieces and nephews.

ACC's President Out of Hospital

ABILENE — President Don H. Morris of Abilene Christian College was released Dec. 14 from Hendrick Memorial Hospital where he had been recuperating from a stroke suffered Nov. 17.

The president has made excellent progress, and he is expected to experience a complete recovery from the stroke. However, it will be some time after the first of the year before President Morris will be able to resume any duties in his ACC office.

On July 18, 1938, Douglas Corrigan landed in Dublin on his "wrong - way" flight.

Wedding Plans

HEADRICK-HAMMOND

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Headrick, Dallas, announce the engagement of Mr. Headrick's sister, Barbara Lynn, to David Bruce Hammond, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hammond of Merkel.

Miss Headrick graduated from Merkel High School in 1965. She was a member of FTA, and reporter for FHA.

The bride - elect is a sophomore nursing major at Cameron College, Lawton, Okla. She is a member of the Pre-Med Club and the Student Nurses Association.

Mr. Hammond is a 1965 graduate of Merkel High School where he was an active member of the band, track, and FTA.

He is presently attending McMurry College, Abilene, where he is a sophomore physics major and a member of the McMurry College Band.

Hammond is also a GMSN of the 8-96 (M) Surface Division of the United States Naval Reserve. No date has been set for the wedding.

GAITHERS TO OBSERVE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On Dec. 24 Mr. and Mrs. Forest Y. Gaither of Merkel will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with their family at the family home on Locust Street.

The Gaithers were married in Sweetwater on Dec. 24, 1916, and have lived in Merkel. They have two daughters and five grandchildren. The two daughters, their husbands and children will join the Gaithers for the family party on the 24th.

The daughters are Mrs. E. D. (Dora) McGehee of La Marque, Texas, and Mrs. James H. Garner (Becky) of Wimberley, Texas. The grandchildren are David, Trezlyn and Sandra McGehee, and Rebecca and Alexandria Garner. Mr. Gaither was born and raised in Taylor County. Mrs. Gaither came to Merkel from Oklahoma.

NOODLE NEWS

By SIMMONS CALLAWAY

Little Collye Dan Tarpley, Snyder, spent Friday night and Saturday with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dock Callaway while his mother and sister - in - law, Mrs. Garvis Tarpley, and Mrs. Mike Tarpley went to Camp Polk Army Base to bring Pvt. Mike home to spend a 15 day leave.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Justice, Merkel, spent Sunday with their son, Vessie and wife, celebrating Vessie's and his mother's birthdays.

Mrs. Elso Maxwell, Anson, spent the weekend with her son, Billy and family.

Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Putman, Anson route, visited Mr. and Mrs. Dock Callaway Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wheeler went to Cross Plains Sunday to the 50th Anniversary celebration of their daughter - in - law, Mrs. Andy Wheeler.

Cotton is about all out and ginned, but while it was being pulled and stripped the ginners hardly had a "breather" or relaxing for a few minutes, day and night.



to our many friends!

B & D Garage

Saint David is the patron saint of Wales.

PUBLIC NOTICE

HANDICAP INDUSTRIES, INC. is Closing Their Store At 502 Butternut in Abilene.

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LADIES STRETCH GLOVES Reg. 6.95 now \$1.95

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REG. \$24.95 EACH BAR STOOLS \$7.95
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THROW PILLOWS only 49¢

3 PIECE, REG. \$2.59 OVENWARE SET NOW 98¢

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ALL GAMES IN THE HOUSE 89¢ to \$1.99 Now 49¢

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REG. 5.00 now 1.49 BABY GIFT SET Safe Toys for Baby

BORG REG. \$7.95 to \$12.95 BATHROOM SCALES NOW \$5.25

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

HANDICAP INDUSTRIES, INC.
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Thornton's

of Abilene



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MONOGRAMMED BLOUSES

roll sleeve 5.00 long sleeve 6.00

The personal touch in gift giving adds so much. Three initials, 1/2" high is provided at no extra charge on Perma-Iron blouses from Lady Arrow! Choose blue, pink, yellow, and beige. Sizes 30-38.

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Merry Christmas

Our heartiest greetings to you and yours!

MEAD'S BAKERY
"Mead's Fine Bread"



EDD'S CAFE

Editorial

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

A LOOK at the high annual toll of human lives and disabling injuries from traffic accidents in our state could lend substance to the idea that we live in a jungle... that we must kill or be killed! CERTAINLY Christmas cannot subscribe to this idea, for man's spiritual enlightenment determines his concern for those in the world about him. The only possible Christian attitude in driving then must be:

"I Am My Brothers' Keeper"

BUT WHAT about the attitude of those who feel we live in a jungle? The instinct for self-preservation is inherent in all of us, but this does not mean in our present - day civilized society. We must kill or be killed. A better interpretation of this law of nature would be: "I am my brother's keeper, especially since there are so many times when he is mine."

WHEN a driver takes his place behind the wheel, in a very real sense, he invokes this verse from Deuteronomy, fifth book of the Old Testament:

"I have set before thee life and death; therefore choose life."
THE COMMANDMENT: "Thou

shalt not kill" applies as much to the man or woman driving a car as it does on every other occasion throughout the day and night. It applies perhaps in greater degree, since so many people drive cars and because the average person overlooks the fact that an automobile can be a deadly weapon.

THE TEXAS Safety Association asks your help in reaching the minds and hearts and souls of men with this message for the Christmas season: Life is not to be thrown away on our streets and highways; it is still sacred and precious as the Lord intended it to be.

Traffic safety is a moral responsibility."
— Texas Safety Association, Inc.

Dub Derstine Dies at Age 54

Services for W. J. (Dub) Derstine, 54, were held Friday, Dec. 16 in the Grace Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. Floyd Kinser, pastor, and the Rev. Newton Daniel, pastor of First Methodist Church, officiating. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Derstine, a lifelong resident of Merkel, died Thursday in an Abilene hospital, following an illness of four weeks.

Born May 16, 1912 in Taylor County, he married Opal Vick Jan. 14, 1933, in Anson. He had been in the trucking business all of his adult life and for the past few years was the freight agent for Merchants Fast Motor Lines of Merkel.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and a member of the Downtown Bible Class in Merkel.

Survivors include his wife; one son, Sam Derstine of Lubbock; two grandchildren; one sister, Miss Mary Derstine of Austin.



Hope your Christmas is merry!

LEMEN'S BUTANE



Here's hoping your Yule is filled with joy!

HICK'S AUTO SUPPLY



BONEY & BENNY

BEST WISHES TO ALL!

Sincere holiday greetings to you, our good friends and patrons.



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Wishing you every joy!

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Your Dry Cleaner Is Your Clothes Best Friend
Clothing Dry Cleaned lasts longer and looks new longer.



WISHING YOU CHEER!

IRVEN THOMPSON



let every heart rejoice and be glad!

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We wish you every blessing!

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THE VERY BEST OF EVERYTHING TO EVERYONE!

BARNETT BARBER SHOP



CHEERY GREETINGS TO ALL!

WYLIE TRUCK TERMINAL



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GIANT TOP JOB BOT. 49c

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GREEN BEANS 2 for 43c

DEL MONTE 303
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DEL MONTE 303
W. K. CORN 2 for 39c

DEL MONTE 303
FRUIT COCKTAIL 2 for 39c

DEL MONTE SLICED OR CRUSHED
PINEAPPLE 1 1/2 can 2 for 49c

DEL MONTE
MANDARIN
ORANGES can 25c

REYNOLDS
FOIL WRAP
2 25-FT. ROLLS 49c

HERSHEY'S
DAINTIES
SEMI-SWEET OR SWEET 2 6-OZ. PKGS. 35c

Miracle Whip QT. JAR 49c

SNOWDRIFT 3-LB. CAN 63c

COFFEE MARYLAND CLUB (1 Limit) POUND CAN 69c

HIPOLITE MARSHMALLOW CREAM 2 FOR 35c

HOLSUM STUFFED
OLIVES 7-Oz. Jar 49c

KNUER'S 14-OZ. O. F.
PICKLES Bot. 25c

KLEENEX 60 COUNT
NAPKINS Box 10c

150 COUNT
KLEENEX Box 15c

GLADIOLA
MEAL 5-Lb. Bag 35c

GLADIOLA
CAKE MIX 2 for 59c

GOLDEN
CHIQUITA
BANANAS Lb. 12c



RANGER
TURKEY
10-14 LB. HENS 39c LB.

HAMS DECKER'S WHOLE or HALF LB. 59c

STEAK CHOICE BEEF T-BONE LB. 85c

BACON DECKERS POUND 59c

PICNIC ARMOUR STAR BONELESS 3-LB. CAN 2.29

Frozen Foods

JOHNSTON'S ASSORTED
FRUIT PIES each 59c

GENESEE 10-OZ.
STRAWBERRIES 2 for 49c

MEAD'S FROZEN
HOT ROLLS 24 in pkg. 25c

GENESEE 10-OZ.
BROCCOLI SPEARS or
LIMA BEANS 2 for 35c

FRESH
CELERY Lb. 10c

CALIF. NAVEL
ORANGES Lb. 12c

RUBY RED
GRAPEFRUIT each 5c

FRESH
CORN on COB 3 for 25c

WASHINGTON RED
DELICIOUS APPLES Lb. 19c

RUSSET
SPUDS 20-Lb. Bag 79c

GOOCH OLD VIRGINIA
SAUSAGE 2-Lb. Bag \$1.19

WISCONSIN
CHEESE Lb. 65c

CHOICE BEEF
ROAST ARM - ENGLISH or RUMP Lb. 69c



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Wise Men Found Birth Worth More Than Gold

EDITOR'S NOTE — The following article was prepared by the Rev. W. D. Tanner, pastor of Merkel's First Baptist Church. We are indeed grateful to him for his time and effort.

By W. D. TANNER
Pastor, First Baptist Church

"They Presented Unto Him Gifts." — Matthew 2:11.

The sweetest story ever told is found in John 3:16, 17 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."

It was on that night, when His son was born that the Heavenly Host sang above the Judean hills, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Thus the Christmas story became alive in the hearts of men. However, the true meaning of this story can only be brought to life in the hearts of men as they accept God's gift to them by receiving His son as their personal Savior. There can be no joy nor peace unless Christ lives in us.

God in giving to us His son to be our Savior gave us the spirit of Christmas. His giving planted in our hearts the desire to give. Without giving there could be no Christmas.

As soon as the Wise Men from the east saw His Star over Bethlehem, they began their journey to bring unto Him gifts and to worship Him.

God in expression of His love for man, gave His most precious gift, His Son, to redeem man from his sins, and give to man eternal life. The Wise Man in order to express their love and appreciation presented unto His Son their gifts.

The gifts they brought were representative of the most precious and desired gifts of God. He had given them His best and they brought unto Him their best.

The gold they brought represented whatever was most costly and precious in their lives. It represented their mental facilities to be dedicated and given unto Him. It represented their physical facilities to be given and dedicated unto Him. It represented the best of all they had. They adored Him. Their every thought was concern for Him. Their attitude was changed. They no longer looked for the Messiah. They had found Him. When they found Him, they went out and told the world that they had found the Savior of the world. The one who would set the captive free and establish His kingdom in the hearts of men everywhere. They had found the gold of God for their lives. They brought their gold unto Him. They laid it at His feet. They had seen Jesus. He had changed the

course of their lives. They did not return unto Herod the King of the then known world. They sought another direction as they returned home they spread the news, the gift of God now lived among men and would forever do so.

The gift of frankincense represented their gift unto God of whatever is most fragrant and beautiful in worship. The Law of God said, "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me." This gift meant that they would never worship any other God but Jehovah. Nothing should ever be allowed to take us away from the worship of God.

The Sabbath was a Holy Day. Holy unto God. A day set aside by God as a day of meditation,

consecration and rest. Today our worship should include meditation upon the word of God. Our consecration should be upon the message of God through His messenger. Our fellowship should be with God and among His people spreading the Joy and Peace wrought to us through His Son. Then today we can give unto God

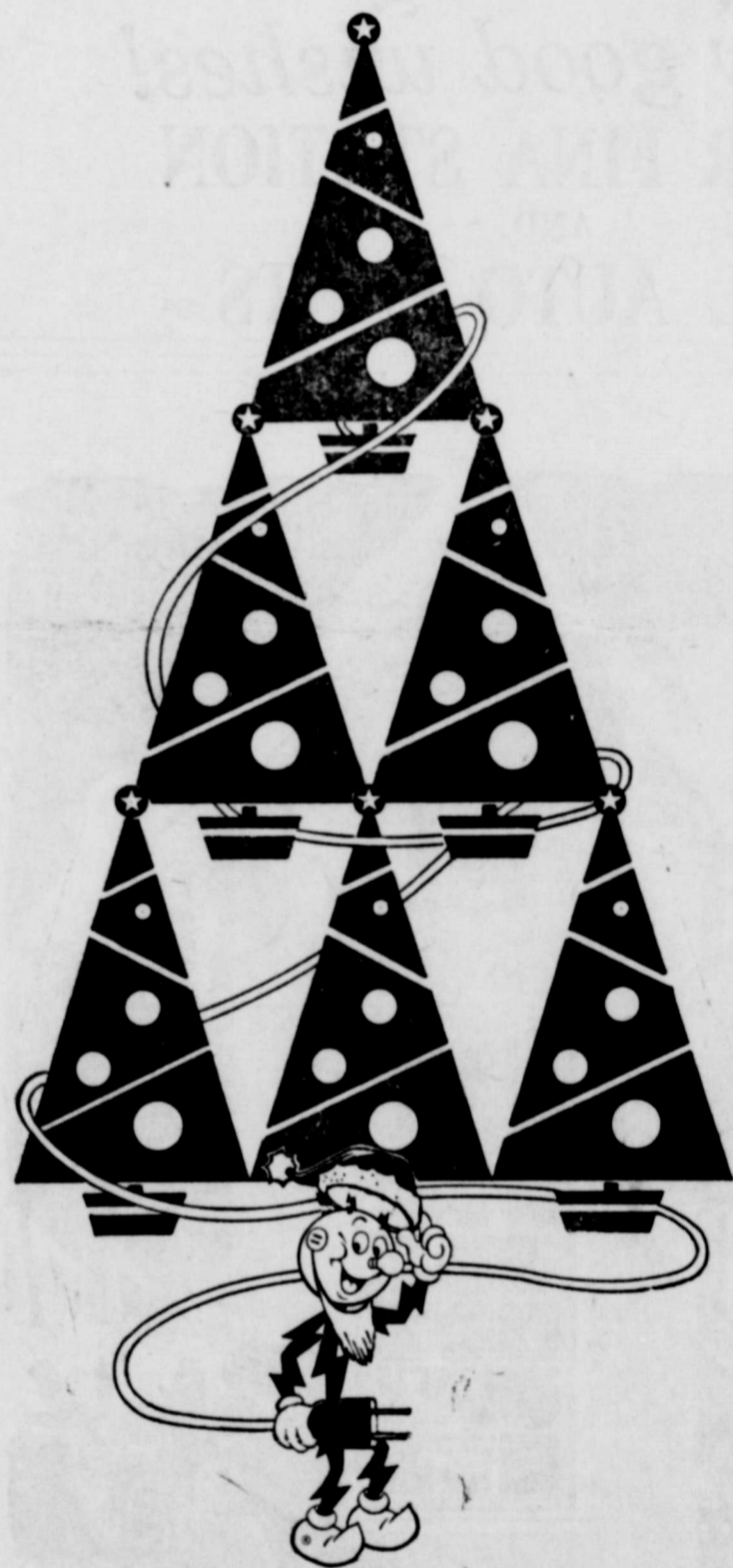
our devoted worship. We should never rob Him nor ourselves of this gift.

anointing of Christ. It represented the aroma of suffering and

The gift of myrrh was for the See WISE MEN, Page 2B

THE MERKEL MAIL

Page One DECEMBER 22, 1966 Section B



Merry Christmas

Best Wishes for a Bright and Wonderful Christmas... from Reddy and all of us at West Texas Utilities Company. Have Better Living throughout the New Year... Electrically!



West Texas Utilities Company

an investor owned company



OLD-FASHIONED Greetings

Sleigh bells jingle, voices ring out, hearts are filled with Yuletide cheer—

We hope your Christmas will be as merry as all the Yules of yesteryear!

THE OLD RELIABLE
FARMERS AND MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK
MERKEL, TEXAS
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORP.



May the peace of Christmas
abide in your heart.

CYRUS PEE INSURANCE

WISE MEN FOUND

(Continued from Page 1-B)
service. The Apostle Paul has given unto us the secret of this gift to be presented to God, note Romans 12, verse one and two: "I beseech you therefore bretheren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Paul's ideal of anointing Christ with the most precious anointment of all was giving ourselves in service unto God. To find His will for our lives and dedicating ourselves to His kingdom. The wise men brought unto Jesus this gift which symbolized unto God that from hence forth their entire lives would be spent in His service.

Let me encourage you at this

Christmas season to give the gold, the best of your life unto God. Use your influence for His cause. Bring your attitude into the realm of the spiritual things of life. Place your entire life into the right relationship with God. Bring unto Him the fragrant aroma of unselfish motives in your worship. Lift your voices into singing His praises. Join with fellowmen in God's House in love and fellowship, prayer and dedication, humility and contrition. Forsake not this assembly together in worship on the Sabbath Day. Give unto Him the myrrh of life in sacrificial service and render unto Him due devotion. Your gifts in this manner will be the most pleasing gifts you can present unto Him. All other gifts are mere dividends of His abundant grace He has showered us with. What we have, we should give to Him who gave His all to us.

May you know the real joy of Christmas this year. May His peace reign in your heart. If you should have life for a season next year, may prosperity come your way in the spiritual things of life.

MERRY XMAS

The use of Xmas for Christmas originated in the early Christian Church, reports World Book Encyclopedia. In Greek, X is the first letter of Christ's name. It often was used as a holy symbol.

NO PIE

The Blue Laws of Massachusetts Bay Colony and New Haven Colony once forbade the baking of mince pie, says World Book Encyclopedia.



May your holiday
season be filled
with every happiness.

HOME STATE BANK
OF TRENT
MEMBER F.D.I.C.

GREETINGS

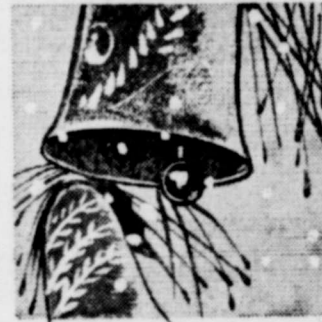


May the blessings of this
Christmas abound for you
and yours! The sincere wish
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OLD-FASHIONED GREETINGS TO OUR
MANY FRIENDS FROM THE STAFF AT

THE MERKEL MAIL

CHICK, CARL, BOB, D. A., PEGGY, TOM, MARY (Russon)

FRITZ HALE, SIMMONS CALLAWAY

DAVE, ELAINE & JAN

HOW DID IT BEGIN? MANY STORIES TOLD

The lights of the Christmas tree, most beautiful when reflected in the eyes of a child, will bring peace and joy to millions of homes again this season, as they have for centuries.

But how did it begin? Why do we connect trees and lights with the birth of the Babe whom Christians consider the Messiah?

There are several stories about the origin of the Christmas tree. People in Scandinavia once worshipped trees, and, explains World Book Encyclopedia, they made evergreen trees part of Christian festivals when they became Christians.

One legend tells how the first Christmas tree was shown in a miracle to the English missionary Winfrid (later called Boniface). More than 1,200 years ago, while traveling in what is now northern Germany, Winfrid found a group of heathens at an oak tree, about to sacrifice a child to the god Thor.

Winfrid stopped the sacrifice and cut down the "blood oak." As the oak fell, according to the legend, a young fir tree appeared. Winfrid said the fir was the tree of life, representing Christ.

The Germans probably were the first to decorate Christmas trees. They used stars, angels, toys, gilded nuts, and candies wrapped in bright paper, and later added tinsel and lighter candles. Scandinavians at one time trimmed their trees with little flags. Now they also use cookies, apples and gilded nuts.

In the United States and Can-

represent the glory and beauty of the stars above Bethlehem on the night of Christ's birth.

In the United States and Canada, many churches hold candle-light services on Christmas Eve. People in Ireland, World Book says, leave a candle burning in the window. In the Netherlands, on the eve of Epiphany, young men carry the Christmas star — actually a lantern containing lighted candles — as they stroll through the streets singing hymns and carols.

No matters what the origin, the tree ablaze with lights is something we remember from our earliest childhood . . . and something the very youngest children will begin to learn this Christmas.

CHRISTMAS TOO MERRY

Christmas celebrations once were so rowdy that the Puritans in England in the early 1640's legally forbade the observance of Christmas, reports World Book Encyclopedia.

For
COLDS
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 Abide
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Our Best Wishes
 for A Happy Holiday!

HIGGINBOTHAM - BARTLETT CO.

MRS. NUGENT NAMED SEAL CHAIRMAN

AUSTIN—"You can't be around a hospital, as I was for a year, and not be shockingly aware of how much work there is left to be done in many health fields. Tuberculosis is certainly one of those."

Luci Johnson Nugent, Mrs. Patrick Nugent, made the statement today, as she was announced as Christmas Seal Chairman for

Youth by Dr. Daniel E. Jenkins of Houston's Baylor University College of Medicine. Dr. Jenkins is president of the Texas Tuberculosis Association.

In accepting the appointment, Mrs. Nugent said, "I am interested in anything which will better people's health — not just tuberculosis. But anything this

tuberculosis. But in accepting this chairmanship, I do so because it seems to me that tuberculosis control has 'come of age' about the

time I am becoming of age.

"About one - sixth of the people in Texas are carrying the TB germs in their bodies — one - sixth of the men, women and children. From that group will come the TB patients of tomorrow. I'd sure like to see Texas have a

generation of children who are free of TB infection.

"For the first time in history we have the tools necessary to rid ourselves of tuberculosis. We haven't completely used those tools. I hope young people of today pick up where the older ones have left

off and really work at this business of TB control and eradication."

Mrs. Nugent is a student at The University of Texas. She previously studied for a year at the Georgetown School of Nursing in Washington, D.C.

JOHNNY COX
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Happiness At Christmas

The following is an excerpt from a speech prepared and given by Mrs. Dee Grimes for the Merkel Garden Club program. The definition of happiness and Christmas seemed most appropriate for this time of year.

"It is an easy thing to do when we talk about 'Happiness at Christmas,' for we can see this thing called happiness wherever we may look — at a tinsel star, snow-clad hills, or Santa himself; at a stuffed turkey, a sleepy child, or a warm crackling fire;

"We can feel happiness in the first cold tingle of air; we can feel it in our closer walk with brotherhood, where quarrels are forgotten, wrongs righted, and a smile has lighted every face.

"We can hear happiness in the greetings exchanged along the streets; in the chatter of school children making their 'big plans,' in the noisy preparation for Christmas dinner. Best of all, we feel, is the happiness shared through a beautiful program."

Thank you, Mrs. Grimes, for a "happy" definition of Happiness at Christmas.

GREEN CHRISTMAS

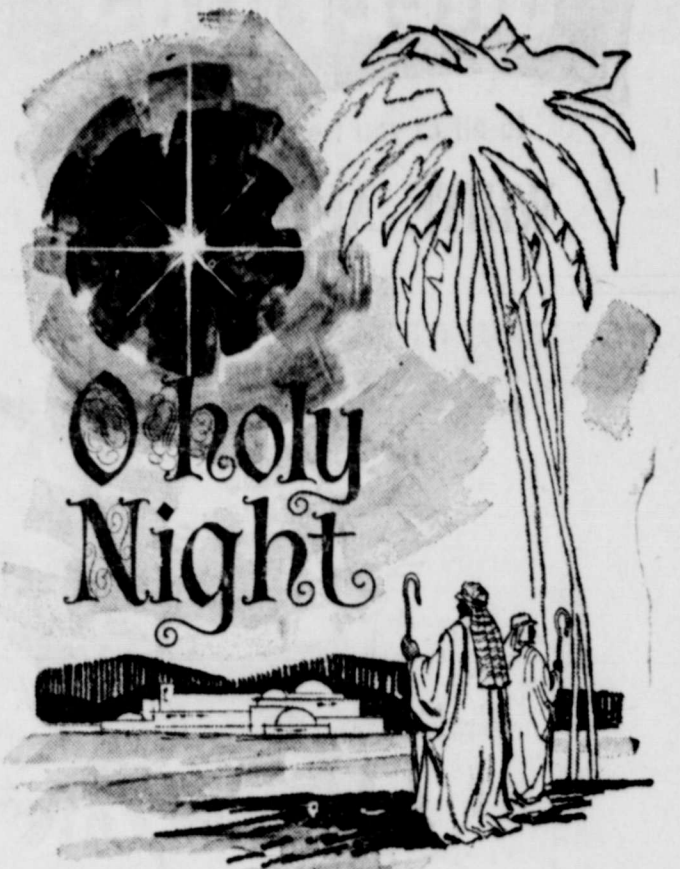
Some stores in the United States and Canada depend on Christmas shopper for a fifth of the sales they make during the entire year, reports World Book Encyclopedia.

Lightning damages or destroys an average of about \$18,000,000 worth of property each year.



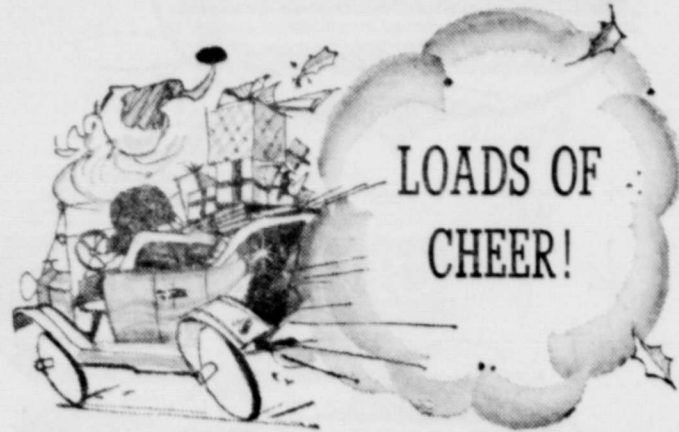
LET THE GLAD TIDINGS RING OUT!

HARDY GROCERY



We hope that the Christmas Season will bring blessings to you and your loved ones, and peace to men everywhere!

BULLOCK HARDWARE



We hope Santa is generous to everyone!

LOIS DAIRYLAND



Hi there! Hope your holidays are the merriest!

OAK STREET SERVICE STATION

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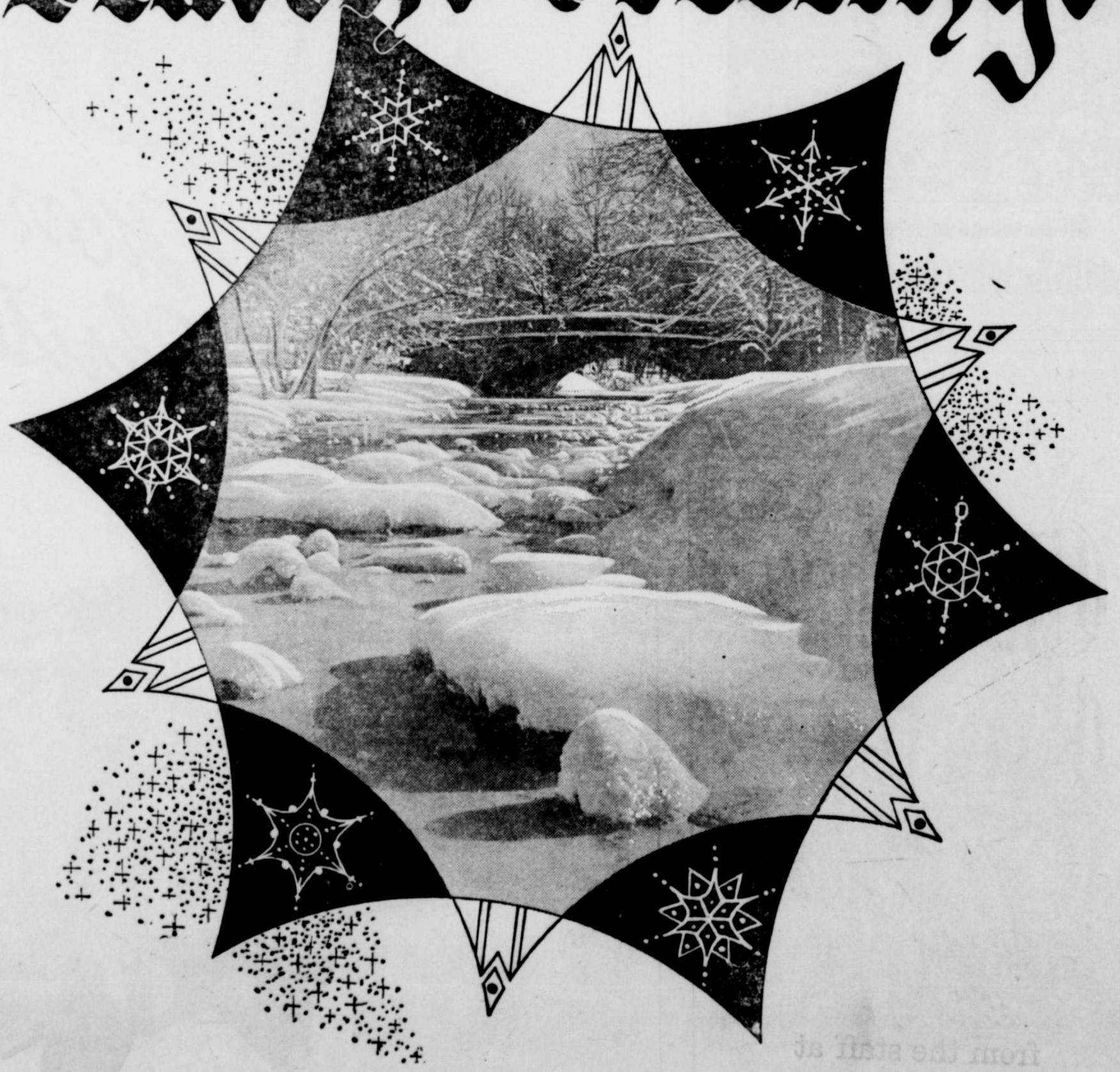
good times!
good cheer-
at Christmas!



WISHING FOR ALL OUR FRIENDS
THE VERY BEST OF HOLIDAYS.

MELLINGER'S

Season's Greetings



From all the folks at
TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE