

FU Legislative Day Will Be February 18

Over 100 farmers, ranchers and their wives will take on the role of "citizen lobbyists" as they assemble in Austin, Tuesday, February 18, to participate in the Texas Farmers Union Legislative Day activities.

The Farmers Union members will be petitioning their representatives in Austin on matters of great importance to rural areas and agricultural production in the state. Emphasis will be placed on informing urban members of the Legislature with problems faced by rural citizens.

Among the key issues to be discussed by the farm organization members will be the creation of a state Public Utility Commission, rapidly increasing utility rates and marginal service are critical issues affecting many

parts of rural Texas. Members will be lobbying for a constitutional amendment which would permit lands being used for the production of food, fiber and livestock to be taxed at its productive value. Many farmers and ranchers are being forced out of business by high property taxes they are paying due to the high market value of land created by speculation and its location relative to other land uses.

Other issues which the "farm lobbyists" will be discussing include an increased appropriation for the Senior Texans Employment Program.

Farmers Union Meeting Thursday

The Farmers Union will meet Thursday, February 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the REA Building.

The meeting will be held to discuss the Austin Drive in the Washington Fly In and the Barbecue which will be held in February. Date will be announced later.

Mrs. Harrist, Blackwell, Buried

Mrs. Opal Etta Harrist, 62, of Blackwell, died at 2:45 p.m. Thursday in Holiday Retirement Center here after a brief illness. Services were at 3 p.m. Friday in Blackwell Baptist Church.

The Rev. Harold Ely, pastor, officiated. Burial was in Blackwell Cemetery, directed by McCoy Funeral Home of Sweetwater.

Born May 18, 1912, in Wichita County she married Vernon Harrist on March 12, 1950, in Sweetwater. Mrs. Harrist was a 57-year Blackwell resident and a Baptist.

Survivors are her husband; four daughters, Mrs. L. G. Smith of Midland, Mrs. Derrill Farmer and Mrs. Wayne Adcock, both of Merkel, and Mrs. Billy Neeley of Snyder; four sons, Carl Shaffer and A. D. Shaffer, both of Blackwell, Roy Shaffer of Snyder and Avon Shaffer of Houston; two sisters, Mrs. Iva Rotan of Midland and Mrs. Johnny Blair of Monahans; one brother, Lloyd Bissell of Altus, Okla.; 19 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Stith Resident Jim Burns Dies

Jim Burns, 96, of Stith, died at noon Friday in Happy Haven Nursing Home. Services were at 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the Stith Baptist Church.

The Rev. A. S. Watson, pastor, officiated, assisted by the Rev. James Williams, pastor, of Prairie View Baptist Church in Anson. Burial was in Stith Cemetery, directed by Elliott Hamil Funeral Home.

Born March 3, 1878, in Athens, Tenn., he came to Texas as a boy and settled in Waco. He married Nackie Saffel in Waco Feb. 16, 1905. They moved to the Stith Community that year, where Mr. Burns was a farmer. He also was a caretaker for the Stith Cemetery for many years.

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Mrs. Mamie Harden of Merkel and Mrs. F. J. McDonald of Stith; three sons, Sam of 942 Mulberry, J. T. of 617 Woodlawn and Henry of Pocatello, Idaho; three brothers, Charlie, Sam and Sep, all of Tennessee; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A daughter, Johnnie Burns preceded him in death in 1950 and a granddaughter, Pat Stephenson preceded him in death in 1974.



THE JUDGE AND HIS LADY - Fire Chief Waymon Adcock is shown presenting a gavel to retired JP Roy Buchanan at Monday night's Firemen's Banquet as Mrs. Buchanan looks on. Also pictured, at right, is the present JP Lewis Millett (Staff photo)

Von Breaux Serving As Page In Austin

Von Breaux, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Breaux of Round Rock, Texas is one of three Round Rock Middle School students who are getting an on-the-spot look at Texas history and state government.

Taking the school semester off at Round Rock to work at the State Capitol as pages are Von Breaux and Lori McDonald, 14, while 14-year old John Neal serves as an "administrative aide."

"What an experience! We are learning so much more about Texas government and actual operations than we ever could in history class. We have the opportunity to meet senators and see them in action on the floor," said Senate Page Von Breaux, son of the Eddie Breauxs. Von is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Breaux of Merkel.

Von is an "A" Honor Student. He likes all sports and participates in all except basketball.

He has found politics very interesting work, but has not made any plans as to his future as yet. His job as a page is separate and apart from school. He has to maintain a high A average in order to be dismissed for the semester at school.

The age limit for a page is 12 to 15 years and the day of a page begins at 8 a.m., but they don't get into action until 10 a.m. when the Senate session begins.

In the two weeks the present Senate has been in session, the pages got to meet Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and viewed Gov. Dolph Briscoe's inauguration.

As part of their study tasks they are required to learn names and office locations of all the senators.

"We are all becoming aware of the importance that formality plays in any Senate session. One day there was only one senator (the Senate session had been put at ease), and they had to go through the entire adjournment procedure," Von said. The majority of the pages live in the Austin area. Round Rock is about thirteen miles from Austin.

Out of 1,000 applicants, only 30 were hired. Three came from Round Rock. Interested page candidates must fill out an application with Mrs. Lolly Garcia and must have approval of their school counselors to be out of school for the full term. The Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate does the final hiring. Male pages must wear a coat and tie at all times while girls are permitted to wear dresses or pants, no jeans.

Exam Schedule

SECOND QUARTER FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 13, 1975

Period	Hour
2	9:00-10:20
4	10:30-11:50

-Lunch-

3	12:30-1:50
5	2:00-3:20

Friday, February 14, 1975

1	9:00-10:20
6	10:30-11:50

-Lunch-

Bus will run on regular schedule. Lunch will be served at regular time (12:00 Noon) each day.

The reading room and gym will be open for those students who need a place to remain until the buses run on Friday. There will be no school Monday, February 17 because this will be a teacher workday.

Fire Department Honors Roy Buchanan, Lucas

The Merkel Fire Department took the occasion of their Annual Banquet to honor Roy Buchanan and other law enforcement officers for their help and cooperation through the years to the department. Judge Buchanan and members of the Highway Patrol and the Merkel City Council were honored guests at the Monday evening event held in the Masonic Lodge Hall.

Fire Chief Waymon Adcock introduced the present Justice of the Peace, Lewis Millett. He told the firemen and their guests that he and his wife had pulled into Merkel sometime back and stopped at a local grocery store to get ice. He said that he had backed his car up and was loading bags of ice when a fellow with a hat on came strolling down the street and told him that if he didn't move the car he would get a ticket. After leaving the store, Millett said he told his wife that he would like to have the job that man has. "Now I have it," he joked. He continued the good natured ribbing of the retired JP by saying that "he would like to thank Roy for retiring so he could have a job." Buchanan was Justice of the Peace for 16 years.

Also receiving special honor was assistant Fire Chief Billy Lucas. Lucas was presented a plaque from the Womens Auxiliary of the Fire Department honoring him as the outstanding fireman of the year. Lucas has been a member of the department since he was a junior in high school.

Chief Adcock gave a brief review of Judge Buchanan's career. He said that everyone did not know the fine job the Judge had done. "Many

people would have had to spend the night in jail if it had not been for the Judge's dedication to the job. He would get up at all hours of the night to hold court and let the traveler pay his fine and continue his trip," he said.

And he has always given just a little extra, "he continued. Adcock concluded his remarks saying that the persons, including the newspapers, who had criticized Roy just didn't know the job he was doing. Also given special recognition was Judge Buchanan's wife.

Adcock praised the fine cooperation the department had received from the DPS. He introduced Sgt. C.A. Cockrell of the DPS. Sgt. Cockrell paid tribute to Judge Buchanan saying that he had been a policeman's judge. "Most judges think their jobs are from 8 to 5. This wasn't the case with Poy Buchanan. He understood that the people and the patrolmen needed a judge and was always there," the Sgt. said. Sgt. Cockrell also praised the Merkel Fire Department, saying that they were the "most cooperative" of any group he had ever worked with.

Assistant Fire Chiefs Robert Harris and Billy Lucas welcomed the members and guests to the banquet. Secretary-Treasurer Walter Harris expressed the Fire Departments appreciation to the wives of the firemen. He said that, like a policeman, behind every fireman was a good wife that was understanding when the fireman had to leave at all hours of the night to fight fires. He also paid tribute to the Highway Patrol for their cooperation.

There is 37 members in the Fire Department.

Tye Elementary Ends Cage Play

The Tye Elementary School basketball teams ended their season on a good note with the girls winning the Butterfield Basketball Tournament and the boys taking second. The 6th grade boys won over Hamby Tuesday night 28-4 and lost in the finals to Butterfield 37-15 Thursday night. The girls beat Hamby 14-11 and then beat Butterfield in the finals 19-18. Scoring totals for the boys in the tournament were Billy Morgan-13, Ricky Matheson-14, James Turner-4, Cary Metts-2, Larry Hagle-10, others playing were Johnny Brazel, Randy Martinez, David Sims, and Allen Boyle. The boys season record ended at 3-7.

Mashburn Fund Established

There has been \$185.00 collected for the Jo Ann Mashburn Fund which has started at the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

Jo Ann had brain surgery at 7:30 Tuesday morning in Houston. She is doing fine. Donations may be brought in or mailed in to the Farmers and Merchants National Bank, Merkel.

Badgers Finish District Undefeated

The Badger Boys topped District 8-A, Friday, Feb. 7, in the Badger Gym defeating the Wylie Bulldogs, 84-52, for their 28th victory. Now the "Undefeated Badgers" will compete with Knox City, Feb. 25 in Bi-District play-offs at 7:30 p.m. in the McMurry College Gym. And a battle it will be, for both teams are just about par, with one exception - the Badgers have already defeated Knox City once in the Hardin Simmons Tournament, but only by 6 points in a very close game.

Back to the Badgers and the Bulldogs, well it seems the Badgers had an accident or some might call it an act of skill, when David Copeland shot the ball from about half court, with just one second left till half-time, and the ball actually went through the net with astonished fans watching. But unfortunately the referees - saying the buzzard had already rang before the ball was in the air!

To wind things up the scorers for the Badgers were Morgan 21pts., Riggan 14pts., Sims 10 pts., Dye 10 pts., Hart 8 pts., Hutchings 7 pts., Copeland 4 pts., Howes 4pts., Tucker 4 pts., and Watts 2 pts. Scoring for Wylie were Ricky McMillan 16 pts., Nelson 4 pts., Strickland 6pts., Kelley 6 pts., Fanning 5 pts., and Beal 5 pts.

The Badger Boys will be playing in a few warm-up games starting with Wall, Friday, 7:30 in Bronte, then Early, Tuesday, Feb. 18 7:30 in the Badger gym and then Breckenridge, February 20, Thursday - site not known yet. Badgers Girls Last Game Merkel vs. Wylie

The Badger Varsity girls played their last game Friday in the Badger gym and was defeated 49-29 by the Wylie

Badgers Finish District Undefeated

This was a sad occasion for most of the girls and the Seniors who will not be back next year were Nancy Fudge, forward and guard, Tonya Crenshaw, guard, Gayle Ware, guard; Wanda Braune, guard; and Jerry Stephan forward. The girls will be missed next year but we're sure they'll do a good job in volleyball and track the rest of this year.

The girls played a very good game and some might say their best! But they couldn't seem to come out on top.

High pointer for the Badgers was Netta Stephan 12 pts., and high pointer for the Bulldogs was Ginger Thorn-ton 30 pts. The Badgers made 33% of their shots attempted while the Bulldogs made 55%.

The "Undefeated Badgers" won their 27th game over the Baird Bears, Tuesday night, Feb. 4, in the Badger Gym. The Badgers started out from the very beginning to show the Bears just who was "Boss," winning 51-28 by half-time. The game continued smoothly with the Badgers on top all the way and by the end of the fourth quarter they were winning by quite

a streak, 71-42. Tot totals things up they defeated the Bears 97-57.

Scoring for the Badgers was Buddy Morgan 19 pts., Donald Dye 16 pts., Jackie Sims 14 pts., David Copeland 12 pts., Derrill Riggan 10 pts., Paul Tucker 8 pts., Doug Hutchings 6 pts., Andy Hart 6 pts., Billy Watts 4 pts., and Randall Howes 2 pts. Leading the score for the Bears were Jennings 16 pts., Henley 12 pts., and Ringhoffer 9 pts.

Well it seems the Badger Girls just couldn't get it all together or either the Bears had it together just a little bit better than the Badgers. Baird put a tight squeeze on our forwards and at half-time the Bears were ahead 26-8. The Badgers seemed to adjust a little better to the pressure and by the end of the game had scored 22 more points to bring the final score of the game, Baird 46, Merkel 30. The Badgers made 38% of total shots attempted and Baird made 57%.

High pointer for Merkel was Netta Stephan 10 pts., and leading Baird was Nicholson 15 pts.



HAULING LUMBER - This is a picture taken at the old Burton-Lingo Lumber Yard when lumber was hauled in a horse wagon. Driver of the team is unknown. (Photo courtesy of Mona Fay Bartlett).



THIS 'OLE LUMBER YARD - Pictured above is the old Burton-Lingo Lumber Yard building. It is now used for storage by the present owners. The north side of the building is being torn down. (Staff Photo)

Burton-Lingo Once Dominated Lumber Business

By JODY WEST

The old Burton-Lingo lumber yard on First and Lamar is partially being torn down as some of you have noticed. To some the building is a land mark and a memory of Merkel in the older days, but then to some, it's just another old building!

Willard Burton and E. H. Lingo, friends in Missouri, came to Texas and organized Burton-Lingo Lumber Co. in 1886. Willard Burton settled in Fort Worth and became President of the company, with headquarters located in Fort Worth. Mr. Lingo settled in Denison. There were 31 lumber yards in this Texas Organization at one time.

The Merkel Yard was opened soon after the rail-

road came through Merkel, more than a decade before the turn of the century. Mr. J. B. Barnes was the first manager of the Merkel yard.

At Willard Burton's death, Willard Ferguson became President of the Company, and remained in that office until the last of Burton-Lingo yards were sold. Mr. Ferguson lived in Ft. Worth, but at one time, his people lived in Merkel (no relation to our friends, the Fergusons who live here now.) Willard Ferguson's brother, Raymond, attended school in Merkel and was drowned in a stock tank on the Senior Trip and Picnic for the "1921 Graduates" at "Blow Out," a legendary volcano in Mulberry Canyon. Old timers recall the sadness of this accident!

Clyde Bartlett was the last manager of Burton-Lingo Yard in Merkel, having been transferred from Matador in 1938 and remained manager until the yards were sold to National Building Centers, Inc., 1964. This was the longest period believed for the yard to have the same manager. His management included the latter part of the depression years, but also years of prosperity and building.

Merkel remembers the big well-kept building, always painted white, with the little Model house built on the roof. "Every little girl in town wanted that model house for a 'doll house,'" stated Mrs. Clyde Bartlett. Some well even recall the cistern in the South building, fed by long lines of rain gutters. Merkel

women often came to the yard with their jars for rainwater to wash their hair and to cook their pinto beans, long before Merkel got soft water from Abilene.

When the yards were sold, Willie B. Toombs bought the property, but for ten years, the old buildings were left intact, deteriorating with the weather and stealing the curiosity of the children who were not old enough to know all the details behind them.

Mrs. Clyde Bartlett talked with Willard Ferguson, Ft. Worth and Claude Wilson, Sweetwater for part of this information. These former Burton-Lingo men share with Mrs. Bartlett and with the Merkel people a nostalgia, to see the Burton-Lingo name disappearing from various places that the yards served so long!



8-A UNDEFEATED CHAMPS ... defeating Wylie 84-52

Donations to Rural Fire Fund

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Mrs. O. H. Griffin
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Mrs. Melvin Parker
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Police Report

By JIM BRUSSARD
Police Chief

In the last Police Report we stated that a windshield had been broken on a Post Office vehicle and the police had a suspect. This incident was cleared when an arrest was made on February 4. Arrangements were made for restitution on this incident. Also we stated there was a house burglary and the Police had fingerprints lifted at the scene that would lead to the arrest of the guilty party. This arrest was made on February 4. Subject's name can not be revealed as he is Juvenile.

On February 2, the Police responded to a family disturbance.
On February 3, the Police served a complaint on a subject for allowing the sewer to run from his residence to an open ditch instead of the main sewer line.

On February 3, the Police responded to an incident where a subject was hit by a dog. The dog was found and is pinned up.

On February 3, the Police arrested a subject for being drunk in public. Subject was placed in Taylor County Jail. Subject posted a \$30.00 bond on February 4. This because his fine when he failed to

appear before the City Judge on the drunk charge.

On February 4, the police made an arrest of one subject which cleared 4 thefts, one burglary, and one destruction of property.

On February 8, the Police responded to subject being hit by a dog. The dog was found and is pinned up.

On February 8, the Police responded to a complaint that a subject was sniffing paint. Subject was in his own home and found to be a Juvenile. The complaining party decided not to file a complaint when the police reached the scene. On February 9, a complaint was made to the Justice Of The Peace (Instead Of The Police) on a subject attempting to entice a minor into sniffing paint.

The Chief Of Police was contacted by one of the City Patrolman after the patrolman was contacted by radio and asked to come to the JP's office. When contacted by the patrolman, the Chief advised him that the subject in question was a Juvenile and had to be handled in a manner different than had been an adult. This same Juvenile was arrested by the Chief Of Police for sniffing paint last December.

For those who may not be aware, there are strict Juvenile Laws which prohibits a Police Officer from doing a lot of things. The Law is to the extent that the Police in Merkel are ordered in writing that any time a Juvenile is involved in any incident, The Chief Of Police will be the only one that will make the final determination on what action will be taken by the Police. In this case, the County Welfare Office & the Police are working on the incident.

In a previous Police Report it was mentioned about calling the Police when you have a complaint. If you call another agency, don't blame the Police for not taking the action you feel should have been taken. All complaints on incidents which happens within the City Limits should be called in to the Merkel Police. If you call anyone else, we will be called in anyway so save time.

Should anyone have any questions on why one party is fined more than another on a violation, or why one subject went to jail where another did not, or how the Chief Of Police determines what action he will take on a Juvenile incident, etc. Please contact the Chief of he will be glad to discuss these matters. Even though the police do not control what action a Judge might take on an incident, we can explain to you how it is derived at. I will meet with any group, or any individual, at any time and any place and will answer any questions you may have. Please give us this opportunity before you decide if we did right or wrong solely on information you may have received through gossip.

On February 9, the Police received a call on a subject that was wandering around as if he was drunk. It was later learned that this subject was a mental case. He was released to his family with plastic hand cuffs on for their protection while they attempted to get him committed to a hospital. This subject was later found wandering around the county with the cuffs still on. This was a result of his family failing to cut the cuffs off, not the Police.

Badger Tracks

By WANDA BRAUNE
The end of the second quarter comes to an end Thursday and Friday with exams. Only one more quarter and another summer vacation will begin. This year has gone so fast! This past Friday night ended the district play for basketball. The boys will now go on to play Knox City for the bi-district trophy in about two weeks. The girls ended the season in a game with Wylie. Although Wylie dominated the boards, the Badgerettes never gave up. It was a game that seniors Gale Ware, Janie Clark, Jerrie Stephan, Nancy Fudge, Tonya Crenshaw and Wanda Braune, will always remember. The Badgerettes worked hard over the past season and had a fine record. They would like to say "THANK YOU" to their coach, Pat Penick for her hard work, determination and most of all faith. Mrs. Dudley is going to Hawaii with her husband, Don, this week. She'll probably come back wearing a little grass skirt and doing the hula. Guess that's all for now.



VARSIY GIRLS - The 1975 Varsity Girls basketball team is front row, L to R, Celesta Cochran, Kathryn Murrell, Gale Ware, and Gayla Toliver. Second row, L to R, Wanda Braune, Melinda Bowen, Tonya Crenshaw, and Vicki Farmer. Third row, L to R, Jerrie Kay Smith, Netta Stephan, Jerrie Stephan and Nancy Fudge. (Staff photo by Jody West)

Mrs. Rutledge Has 81st Birthday Party

Mrs. E. A. (Bessie) Rutledge was honored with a party Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Starr Nursing Home, the occasion being her 81st birthday.

Hosts and hostesses were Mr. Rutledge, Gladys and Windourn Hardage of Farwell, Texas, Imogene, daughter of Mrs. Rutledge, and Felix Williams of Norwalk, California.

A beautiful birthday cake and ice cream was served to all the guests and friends at the home.

Felix Williams entertained by showing slides of scenery of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas and also family pictures and pictures taken at the home on previous occasions.

Mr. and Mrs. Rutledge have made Merkel their home the past 25 years.

Mrs. Gamble Gives Program For Fortnightly

Mrs. Don Hart and Mrs. John Cain were hostesses for the Fortnightly Study Club Tuesday, Feb. 11 in the home of Mrs. Don Hart.

Guests and members were welcomed and enjoyed refreshments and visiting until the business meeting was called. Coffee, punch, and cookies were served from a beautifully appointed table decorated in the Valentine motif.

Mrs. S. C. Dixon presided over a short business meeting. The program was introduced by Mrs. Carl Hughes and given by Mrs. David Gamble. She reviewed the book, "Games Christians Play" written by Judi Culbertson and Fatt Bard.

Members present were Mmes. S. C. Dixon, N.S. Daniels, Stanley Tombs, Lige Gamble, Carl Hughes, Charles Eager, Lem Dudley, Buster Horton, Mack Fisher, Johnny Hammond, Comer Haynes, Andy Shouse, Russell McAnally, Bryan Dunagin, Don Hart, John Cain, David Gamble, Ray Wilson and Miss Christine Collins.

Guests present were Mmes. Ben Hicks, Mrs. Cynthia Pankley, Raymond Ferguson, H. C. Reid, Paul Orsborn, Jack Hogan and Deil Gregory.

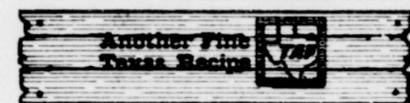
Construction To Be Done On Area Highway's

AUSTIN - Highway construction contracts let in January by the Texas Highway Commission include Abilene area work.

The work, supervised by District Engineer Roger C. Welsch, will be in Callahan, Haskell, Jones, Taylor and Shackelford Counties.

A contract was awarded to Pioneer Construction Company, Inc. Low bid was \$671,734.35.

The project, which will require an estimated 80 working days, will be under Highway Department Engineer C.W. Westbrook of Hamlin.



COPPER CARROT PENNIES

2 lbs. (4 cups) sliced carrots
1 medium green pepper
1 medium onion
1 10 1/2-ounce can tomato soup
1/2 cup salad oil
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup vinegar
1 tsp. prepared mustard
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
Salt and pepper to taste

Boil carrots in salted water until fork tender. Set aside to cool. Cut green pepper into 1/2-inch rings and slice onion crosswise. Layer vegetables alternately in dish. Combine and blend soup, salad oil, sugar, vinegar, prepared mustard, Worcestershire sauce and salt and pepper. Pour over vegetables and refrigerate. Yield: 10 servings.

For additional recipes write Commissioner John C. White, Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Tex. 78711.



Mrs. Grimes To Host Garden Club

The Merkel Garden Club will meet Thursday, Feb. 20, at 12 noon in the home of Mrs. Dee Grimes at 502 Locust. Hostesses will be Mrs. Dee Grimes and Mrs. Fred Gutar.

The program will be "Floral Telegraph Delivery" by Mrs. Vernon Wade of Ann's Flowers.

Mrs. Oda Clark is president.

SENIOR CITIZEN SCHEDULE EVENTS
1st Monday of Month singing
2nd Tuesday Noon Covered Dish Luncheon.
Game Nights Every Thurs. & 4th Monday
4th Thurs. GAME Night Reserved for Talented Amateur.

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1972 PONTIAC CATALINA 2 dr. hardtop, air and power, brown w/ gold vinyl top. NICE ONLY \$2495
1974 FORD Ranger 1/2 ton pickup, Camper special, air & power, Auxiliary gas tank, Red & white color. 16,000 miles, real nice only \$4395
1974 OLDS Delta 88 Royal, 4 door, hardtop, air and power, bronze color w/ beige color vinyl top. Real Nice ONLY \$4294
1972 PONTIAC SAFARI 9 passenger wagon, air & power. This one going for only \$2295
72 PONTIAC Catalina, 4 door sedan, air, power, white with black vinyl top. NICE \$1995
73 PONTIAC Grand Prix, air and power, tilt wheel, stereo tape player, honeycomb wheels, white w/ white vinyl top. New radial tires. A Steal at \$3995
1973 CHEVROLET El Camino Estate pick up. Air and power, Loaded, Burgandy Color w/ Beige vinyl top. Extra Nice. Low Mileage. ONLY \$3395
73 PONTIAC Catalina, 4 door sedan, Air and power. 19,000 One Owner Miles. Beige and white color. Extra nice. ONLY \$3495
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5 BIG DOLLAR SPECIALS DAY

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LOIN STEAK	LB.	1⁰⁹

DUNCAN HINES CAKE MIX BOX	69¢	MORTON HOUSE CHILI & BEANS 24 OZ. CAN	69¢
PRINGLES POTATO CHIPS 9 OZ. CTN.	89¢	WHITSON Chili Seasoning 5 OZ. CAN	29¢
DEL-MONTE Fruit Cocktail 303 CAN	39¢	VEG-ALL 303 CAN	29¢
DEL-MONTE Green Beans 303 CAN	2 FOR 59¢	GARRETT'S Grade A EGGS DOZ.	69¢
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200 COUNT **39¢**

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MORTON BOX
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CHOCOLATE CHIPS BAKER'S 12 OZ. PKG. 2 FOR **1⁰⁰**

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CATSUP HUNT'S 20 OZ. BOTTLE 2 FOR **1⁰⁰**

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TEA BAGS LIPTON 100 COUNT **1²⁹**

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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.
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WANTED - Mechanic, Good labor rates, good working conditions. Palmer Pontiac GMC. Ph. 928-5113. 33-tfc

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NEEDED - Part time help for elderly person. Call 928-5207. 51-1tp

For Sale

FOR SALE - Small Business. Low overhead. Good location. Call 928-5085 after 5 p.m. 51-tfc

FOR SALE - My home - 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 baths. Double garage, water well in back. Four Pecan and five peach trees. C.E. Ramby, 1526 Heath St., Merkel, Texas. 51-2tp

FOR SALE - Brown leather recliner, less than 1 year old. \$50.00. Mrs. Buddy Windham, 928-5278. 51-1tp

REPORT YOUR NEWS BY CALLING 928-5712

The Merkel Mail

PUBLISHERS STATEMENT
Established in 1889

Published weekly at 916 N Second St., Merkel, Texas
Entered at the Post Office at Merkel, Texas, 79536 as second class mail.

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$4.75 Per Year Taylor and adjoining counties, \$5.50 Per Year outside of Taylor and adjoining counties.

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

STEVE LANHAM and CECIL PLYLER Publishers
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For Classified Rates:
\$1.25 minimum for the first four lines. Excess of 4 lines will be charged at the rate of 45 cents per word.
Cards of Thanks \$2.50 for the first 50 words. 6 cents per word for each additional word. TERMS: Cash in advance unless account is already established. NOTICE of typographical or other errors must be given before the second insertion of claims for refunds or extensions will not be recognized.

IRS Gives Tax Return Tips

Married taxpayers filing either joint or separate tax returns this year should make sure that the social security numbers of both husband and wife appear on each return filed, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) said today.

Miss Softball News

A meeting of Miss Softball America was held Feb. 6th at the Asteroid Restaurant. We would like to thank those who were present, and the parents for taking such an active part in the program. There is still a great need for other workers.

At this meeting a board of directors was elected. This board consists of the following:
President, Miss Dorothy Torrence; Vice President, Mrs. Eva Davis; Secretary, Mrs. Robbie Carter; Treasurer, Mrs. Henry J. Guenther; Major Coordinator, Brenda Jackson; Minor Coordinator, Mrs. Gail Baker; Senior Coordinator, Mrs. Mary Grimes; Player Representative, Mr. Robert C. Donovan.

It was decided to call our division the Tri-City League of M.S.A.
Another meeting has been set for Feb. 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the Max Murrell Chevrolet Showroom. This will be an open meeting and the public is invited. Any who wish further information may get in touch with President Dorothy Torrence at 928-5637 or 928-5312 or any of the other board members.
Registration time for the girls will be set at a later date.

Arthur Fogle, Director's Representative in charge of the Abilene IRS office, said that the IRS computer system identifies returns according to social security numbers and an incorrect or missing number can cause a delay of weeks or months in getting a refund out to a taxpayer.

Additionally, he said, the number must be correct to ensure that the taxpayer will get full credit for his or her contributions under the social security and medicare programs. For this reason any name changes should be reported to the local Social Security Administration office.

One way for taxpayers to be sure their return is correctly numbered is to use the pre-addressed label on the tax package sent out by the IRS. Double check the numbers, Fogle said, and if there is a mistake it should be corrected on the label itself. "The pre-addressed labels help us keep the numbers straight," Fogle said, "and they speed the processing of the returns. At this point in the filing season a labeled return with the correct social security numbers can produce a refund for the taxpayer within five weeks. As April 15 approaches, the wait for the refund could be as long as twelve weeks. My advice is to file early and make sure the numbers are correct."

V.A. Tips For Veteran's Filing Returns

Here are tips from the Veterans Administration on federal income taxes for veterans filing returns.
In general, Texas VA officials noted, veterans benefits are exempt from federal income tax, and need not be reported as income.

This income tax exemption applies to dividends and proceeds from government life insurance policies, but federal estate tax does apply to insurance proceeds. Also, interest earned on government life insurance dividends left on deposit or credit with VA is considered income and must be reported on federal income tax returns, it was explained.

Among major tax exempt veterans benefits are compensation, pension, GI Bill and other educational assistance, including subsistence payments to vocational rehabilitation trainees.
Persons claiming unemployment insurance benefits as ex-servicemen or ex-Federal employees are also eligible for these extended benefits.

Also exempt are grants to service disabled veterans eligible for specially adapted homes and cars, and clothing allowances for veterans whose prosthetic devices tend to wear out or tear their clothing, VA officials advised.

LSG Sets Dividend

DALLAS - The board of directors of Lone Star Gas Company today declared a regular quarterly dividend of forty cents (40¢) per share of common stock, payable March 3, 1975, to shareholders of record February 13, 1975.

Missionette News

By SUSIE DAVIS

The Missionettes had a bake sale, Saturday the 8th. Several girls showed up to help sell the cupcakes, candy and other things. We had a drawing for a pink heart-shaped cake, which was won by Eva Davis of Merkel.

We wish to thank everyone that helped us with our sale by bringing things and buying them. That's all for now, Bye.

There were 13 at the Missionettes February 7. The group sang songs and planned a trip to Holiday on Ice Friday, Feb. 14.

Saturday the Missionettes had a bake sale in front of Carsons and earned \$24.00.

Riding Club To Have Supper

The Merkel Brush Stomper's will have a Pot Luck Supper Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Merkel Lions Club building at 6:30 p.m.

There will be a business meeting following the supper.

STATE CAPITAL Highlights AND Sidelights

By Lyndell Williams
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

AUSTIN, Tex.—Texas voters will decide April 22 in a statewide constitutional amendments election whether they want to increase retirement benefits for school teachers and state employees.

Both houses of the legislature have agreed on the proposal to lift the present six per cent ceiling on matching state contributions to the pension funds (replacing it with a 10 per cent limit).

If voters approve, retired teachers will get boosts in their benefits ranging from five to 18 per cent, and pensioned state employees will get an additional 12 per cent.

Cost of the teacher benefits' raise is estimated at about \$98 million and the state employees' pension improvements at \$21.8 million.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives also approved for the April 22 ballot a proposed constitutional change to raise legislators' pay from \$400 to \$600 a month and expense allowances from \$12 to \$30 a day for length of a lawmaking session.

Senators may balk at the pay raise proposal which has been advanced in more than half a dozen forms over the last 15 years, without convincing voters.

Gov. Dolph Briscoe said he will actively support the legislative pay raise proposition if the Senate goes along with submitting it on the April 22 ballot.

A quick recapitulation on emergency spending matters already before the legislature (or finally passed) indicates about \$310 million in outlays have been committed during the first month of the 64th lawmaking session.

And Governor Briscoe submitted \$672,000 more in recommended quickie appropriations late last week.

FLOOD AID VOTED

A legislative resolution will allow the state to spend money already appropriated to the governor as matching funds to aid victims of natural disasters.

Immediately, funds can be used to provide the state's 25 per cent share of aid to residents of flood-hit Anderson, Bell, Cooke, Denton, El Paso, Hopkins, McLennan, Parker, Williamson, Falls and Nacogdoches counties.

The federal government will match state dollars three to one. The federal disaster act of 1974 provides for financial aid up to \$5,000 per individual or family.

PAY RAISES SET

One hundred and twenty-five thousand state employees were assured a \$93 million pay raise effective February 1.

Governor Briscoe signed the legislation into law to provide the raises over a seven-months' period.

Most state employees in the low- to medium pay bracket will receive a 13 per cent raise, and most of those in the middle-to-top category will get a nine per cent increase. Additional raises are expected to be voted on a permanent basis after September 1.

LANDS LEASED

Leases of 88,506 acres of state land for oil and gas drilling brought the state \$4,199,099.

Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong termed results of the sale better than expected.

Submerged tract bids totaled \$2.26 million.

Highest bidder was Texas Oil and Gas Corp. — \$708,400 for 642 acres in Ward County.

The School Land Board leased 4,317 acres of uplands for more than \$1 million in bonus payments; 28,761 in Texas bays for \$901,664 and 925 acres in Texas rivers, creeks, lakes and bays for \$27,114.

trict employee's letter of resignation.

A dry portion of a justice precinct does not lose its status due to redistricting.

A person who owns enough stock to insure election to a bank board of directors is not eligible to serve as a member of the State Banking Board.

A state college has no authority to withhold faculty salary payments on grounds of neglect of duty such as tardiness in submitting grades.

Governmental bodies should reveal the educational background and work experiences of its employees.

COURTS SPEAK

Texas Supreme Court agreed to review a usury case in which a Dallas builder claimed he was charged 1,000 per cent interest on a six-day loan.

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals reversed a life sentence in a Brewster County murder case due to improper testimony allowed at the trial.

The Supreme Court nullified the adoption of a Gregg County child by the mother, finding no showing that the divorced father had failed to offer support for two years.

A prosecutor's critical comments on a Waco murder case defendant's refusal to testify in his own defense brought a new trial on order of the Court of Criminal Appeals.

APPOINTMENTS

Governor Briscoe named DeWitt Greer to another term on the State Highway Commission.

He also announced re-appointments of Mrs. H. E. Butt of Corpus Christi, Dr. Margaret Cigarroa of Laredo and Edwin Ray Van Zandt of Beaumont to the Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Lyn B. Van Dusen and Dean Rindy of Austin were named by the Senate subcommittee on consumer affairs to aid in an investigation of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

Governor Briscoe named Kenyon F. Clapp, longtime aide, as his executive assistant, succeeding Charles G. Purnell who resigned to return to Dallas law practice.

SHORT SNORTS

A proposed new shield law to protect newsmen against forced revelation of their information sources has been introduced by Rep. Joe Allen of Baytown.

A five-bill package seeks to upgrade standards for emergency medical services in Texas.

Comptroller Robert Bullock has requested a \$472,000 emergency appropriation, claiming his predecessor under-budgeted and overspent.

The Texas economy is continuing to resist the recession, according to a University of Texas Business Review article.

Texas Office of Minority Business Enterprise approved 10 minority business loans totalling \$865,000 last month.

Revenue from cigarette smoking for January was \$20.7 million, \$693,502 above January, 1974.

A House committee dumped a proposal to allow a statewide referendum on Daylight Saving Time.

Airman Ascencio Graduates

BILOXI, Miss - Airman First Class Mariasela Ascencio, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Ascencio of 108 Haynes St., Merkel, Tex., has graduated at Keesler AFB, Miss., from the U.S. Air Force administrative specialist course conducted by the Air Training Command.

The airman, now proficient in the preparation of Air Force correspondence and reports, is being assigned to Bergstrom AFB, Tex., for duty with a unit of the Strategic Air Command.

Airman Ascencio, a 1973 graduate of Merkel High School, attended Draughton's Business College, Abilene.

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ABILENE

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ROBERT HIGGINS
928-5998

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

For Sale - 1 Model A John Deere Tractor with drag type shredder. Tractor and shredder may be inspected at Trent ISD in Trent, Texas 79561. Bids will be received until 4 p.m. on Feb. 18, 1975. Additional information may be received by calling 915-862-3411 51-1tc

WE PAY 150% OVER FACE VALUE FOR ALL SILVER COINS.
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Marge Sheppard
Merkel 928-5340

Center Realtors 677-1811

FOR SALE - Calves, 7 to 14 days old. Healthy and started on bottle. Free delivery on 10 or more. Area code 214-223-5171 after 7 p.m. 20-52tc

LOTS FOR SALE in Western Heights and other locations in the city limits in Merkel Contact H. J. Carson or Nolan Palmer. 16-tfc

Card of Thanks

DURING OUR TIME of sorrow, we learned how much our friends really mean to us.

Thank you to those who sent food, flowers and prayers our way during the loss of our Mother, Dovie Freeman. Your expressions of sympathy will always be treasured.

Marvin Freeman
Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Hicks
Mr. and Mrs. Don Gardner
Mr. and Mrs. Elton Freeman 51-1tc

Card of Thanks

WORDS CANNOT express our thanks and gratitude for the prayers, food and help from neighbors and friends during our days and hours of grief.

The Oda Clark Family 51-1tc

Card of Thanks

WE WISH TO THANK all our friends and neighbors in our time of sorrow, in the loss of our Daddy, for every prayer, word of comfort, food and flowers.

God bless each of you who helped in any way is our prayer.

The Jim Burns Family 51-1tp

REPORT YOUR NEWS BY CALLING 928-5712

NEWSPAPERS GROWING WITH AMERICA



OLD AND NEW - Pictured here is the retiring and new directors of the Senior Citizens. Retiring directors are L. to R. Iri Walker, and Mrs. L. J. Renfro. (Not pictured was Hob Robertson). New directors are Mrs. Lena May Criswell, center, H. C. Reid and Bud McKeever. (Staff Photo)



BIRTHDAY HONOREES - February honorees at the Senior Citizens Tuesday Luncheon were L. to R. Odessa Butler, Ila Mae McLean, Mrs. E. R. Foster, Mae Hendrix, Ruby Sanders and Ruby Jinkens. (Staff photo)



LOOK WHO'S HERE!
Mr. and Mrs. James McKee announce the birth of a daughter, Jennifer Lynn, born at 10:20 a.m. Jan. 31, 1975. She weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Albert Reagan of Tye and J. E. Traweck of Pasadena. Paternal Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. A. L. McKee of Amarillo.

Senior Citizens Elect Directors

The Senior Citizens held their Tuesday luncheon this past Tuesday. New directors

were elected. They are H. C. Reid, Mrs. Lena May Criswell, and Bud McKeever, Re-

fring directors are Mrs. L. J. Renfro, Iri Walker, and Hob Robertson.

The program was given by Jennifer Smith, Youth director at the First Baptist Church and accompanying her was Mrs. Comer Haynes. She sang two songs, "Holy City" and "What A Day That Will Be".

Senior Citizens having birthdays in February were Odessa Butler, Ila Mae McLean, Mrs. E. R. Foster, Mae Hendrix, Ruby Sand-

ate at the Birthday Table which was fixed up with a Valentine theme and had their birthday cake on it.

There were 65 registering for the luncheon.

President for the Month of February is Christine Collins.

Mrs. Vanderwerker Attends 36-Hour Nursing Home Course

Peggy Vanderwerker, Activity Director from Merkel, representing Happy Haven Nursing Center of Abilene, attended the first session of a 36-hour study course for nursing home Activity Personnel held in Abilene this past weekend. The course of classroom study is sponsored jointly by the Texas Nursing Home Social and Rehabilitation Directors Council and the Texas Nursing Home Association. Classes are conducted by the Division of Extension, Distributive Education Department, University of Texas at Austin, under direction of Francis A. Flynn, Coordinator.

A total of six classes will complete the three session course on March 15, 1975. The course is being instructed by Ed Cole and Mrs. Juanita Cole of Abilene. Classes convene in the Parish House of the Episcopal Church of Heavenly Rest, Abilene.

During 1974 TNHA sponsored seminars throughout Texas attended by 4,443 persons aggregating 118,601 hours of study in the various aspects of Nursing Home operation which is closely regulated by state agencies and a stringent licensing procedure which requires continuing education on the basis of a minimum amount of 30 hours biennially to keep licenses validated.

Several Merkelites are in the Happy Haven Nursing Home. Mrs. Vanderwerker is married to Ray, who is a used

"Tax Information on Selling Your Home"

COLLEGE STATION - If you sold your home in 1974, chances are you made money. But income tax may be due on this profit unless certain provisions are met, reminds an economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the Texas Real Estate Research Center.

"Any gains resulting from sales or exchanges are taxable as gains from the sale of capital assets," points out Kenneth Graeber. "However, the homeowner who sells or exchanges his principal residence and replaces it within a specific time period postpones tax on any gain - providing that the cost of the new residence exceeds the adjusted sale price of the old residence."

The time period within which to qualify for tax postponement on a residence sale or exchange varies with the individual situation, points out the Texas A&M University System economist. "Generally speaking, the new residence may be acquired within one year before or after the sale of the old residence. If the taxpayer starts building a home within a year or after he sells the old residence, he has 18 months after the sale of the old house to occupy the new one. Spe-

cial provisions exist for taxpayers in the armed forces."

Graeber emphasizes that the tax on any gain that results from a residence sale is only postponed and not forgiven. Any gain not taxed in the year that you sell your old residence is subtracted from your cost basis of the new residence. This lower cost basis will be used to calculate the gain from any future disposition of the new residence.

The economist reminds citizens 65 or older who sell their residence that there are special tax law provisions. They may exclude all or part of the gain realized on one sale of a principal residence providing certain conditions are met.

Regarding all residence sales, gains are taxable but no deductions are permitted for losses, notes Graeber.

Additional information on residence sales can be obtained in the Internal Revenue Service Publication 523, "Tax Information on Selling Your Home."

Texas Youth Wins 4-H Marketing Trip

A Texas youth, who sold his 4-H livestock and garden produce for a profit, has been selected to attend the 24th 4-H Commodity Marketing Symposium in Chicago March 2-5.

Vance Fortenberry, 16, of Rt. 3, Box 72, Decatur, was among 25 winners selected to attend the symposium by the Cooperative Extension Service, which supervises 4-H work.

Young people from 39 states were eligible in the annual awards program sponsored by the Chicago Board of Trade, brings together 4-H'ers who have completed outstanding commodity marketing projects.

Fortenberry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Neal Fortenberry, is a high school sophomore and plans a career as a cattle rancher after attending college.

The Wise County youth said he enrolled in the commodity marketing program because he wanted to "better understand the economic and financial problems of the nation and the man who works for himself." He added:

"I think that especially the man who works for himself should study commodity marketing. I know it has really given me a better understanding of the way things work and helped me to better manage my own affairs."

The youth raises registered Shorthorn heifers, swine and dairy cattle. His father operates a dairy farm.

"The seven-year 4-H'er has learned to watch livestock prices closely as he markets his animals to assure a profit.

Fortenberry has also done well in the garden project, netting a profit of \$1302 in 1974 through the sale of produce.

Path Clear For Cattlemen

COLLEGE STATION - Relief from the present cattle situation can only come about through a reduction in cattle numbers of cattlemen, believes Dr. Ed Uvacek, livestock marketing specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

"Migration into the cattle business was fast and furious during the last few years due to several factors but particularly the high calf prices of 1972 and 1973," says the specialist with the Texas A&M University System.

"Many went into the business as weekend ranchers while others put everything they had into it. As a result cow numbers in the United States by mid-1974 had increased by 16 per cent over 1970 levels."

Now, with this oversupply of both cattle and cattlemen, a liquidation must occur.

Uvacek contends that the true cattlemen, whose major source of income is from the cattle business, is the one who has been hurt the most during the present crisis. He has no other place to turn for income and is forced to cut down on his cattle herds.

"Although the true cattlemen has been hard hit, the newly arrived cattlemen who came into the business full time is in really bad shape," says Uvacek. "The long-time cattlemen has experience in the business and knows how to get through such bad years, while high breeding herd costs, lack of experience and indebtedness usually mean the end of a newcomer's operation."

"The part-time rancher is probably the one who suffers least since he usually has other sources of income to fall back on," adds Uvacek.

Lambda Beta News

Lambda Beta held their first regular February monthly meeting at the Asteroid Restaurant on February 4, 1975, with Pat Neff acting as hostess. Roll call was answered by "telling about some speech you have made before people and how you thought you did?"

The business meeting was conducted by president Pat Castille with each committee chairman reporting.

Refreshments were served.

In attendance: Mmes: Jim Allday, Rosey Castille, J.H. Jr. Clark, Harold Hohertz, Craig Jones, Billy Lucas, Paul Moore, Billy Bob Neff, Mike Welch, Lee Yaddow, Ricky Elliott, Glen Bright and Bill Whisenunt.

WWI Veterans Meet Tuesday

The monthly meeting of the World War I Barrack 2448 and Lady Auxiliary will be held at the REA building Tuesday, Feb. 18, 1975.

A pot-luck supper will be held at 6:30 p.m.

All veterans and widows are urged to attend.

Janet Rodgers Student Teaching

Janet Farrell Rodgers, of Rt. 3, Box 121, Merkel, is fulfilling the student teaching requirements for teacher certification this semester at McMurry College in Abilene.

Jan, a senior Elementary Education major, is teaching at Alta Vista Elementary School.

Jan is a 1971 graduate of Wagner High School.

A Weekly Report Of Agri Business News

Farm-facts

Compiled From Sources
Of The Texas Department of Agriculture
John C. White, Commissioner

It's Not All Bad... Bah, Bah, Bah... Off-Farm Down, On-Farm Up? ... Grain Stocks Decline.

Not everything you hear or see about the livestock outlook is bad. There are some heartening signs. Take a look at the December meat production figures, for example, and look, too, at the cow slaughter picture.

Both in Texas and throughout the nation, production of red meats is increasing. In Texas, commercial production during December was up 38 per cent from a year ago, and 13 per cent higher than 1973. Nationwide, red meat production is seven per cent more than a year earlier. Beef production is up eight per cent. Cattle kill is up 13 per cent.

Cow slaughter-the beef industry factory-is also on the increase. Cow slaughter in 1974 totaled 7,600,000 head. It is projected that will increase at least a third more during 1975.

All of this means we are making progress in reduction of beef supplies. But until they decline even more, the livestock picture is not going to be bright.

Per capita consumption of beef continues to increase, too, but unfortunately, beef production is still ahead of consumption. It's estimated that we will produce about 125 pounds per capita of beef while consumption is projected at around 116 pounds per capita.

Beef is now perhaps the best food buy around; look around and you'll see that beef prices to the consumer finally are showing some relation to the price drops suffered by the producer for the past year or so.

WHILE almost every other category of livestock is showing increases, one part of the Texas animal agriculture industry-sheep and lambs-is showing a big decline. It's the lowest population for sheep and lambs in Texas since 1919.

As of Jan. 1, there were 2,688,000 head of sheep and lambs in Texas; this total is 13 per cent under the previous year. Way back in 1919, sheep and lamb population totaled 2,600,000 head.

And the inventory of goats and kids on Texas farms and ranches is now the smallest number on record. The inventory shows 1,150,000 head of goats and kids, which is a 15 per cent decrease from a year ago.

Nationwide, numbers of sheep and lambs as of Jan. 1 are down 11 per cent from 1974 and 18 per cent below two years ago.

OFF-FARM grain storage capacity in Texas as of Jan. 1 is down 33,000,000 bushels from a year ago, the Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service notes. Off-farm storage totaled 719,000,000 bushels.

By regions, West Texas capacity dropped from 445,000,000 to 416,000,000; North Texas capacity dropped from 167,000,000 to 154,000,000; and South Texas capacity increased from 140,000,000 to 149,000,000 bushels.

Meanwhile, farmers should consider locating storage now for grain crops in view of projections of increased acreage, especially for grain sorghum.

RICE stocks and corn are reported to be above amounts on hand compared to a year ago in Texas. Sorghum, wheat, barley and oats are below last year.

Grain sorghum stocks in Texas are down 41 per cent from a year ago; wheat is down 2,000,000 bushels from a year ago; oats are down 9,000,000 bushels; barley is 594,000 bushels below a year ago.

Nationwide, stocks of all grains except wheat were below a year earlier. Stocks of the four feed grains-corn, oats, barley and sorghum-are 22 per cent less than a year ago.

Corn is down 19 per cent; wheat is up 19 per cent; soybeans are down 14 per cent.

Jr. Badgers Tounce Bears

By COACH GEORGE MARTIN

Thank You to all the parents and people who have supported and backed the Jr. High this year, because without them it is not at all possible for us to have the type of program we have."

The Merkel Jr. Badgers ended a very good basketball season last Monday night by downing the Baird Bears 44-25. This was the 13th victory of the season for the Jr. Badgers while only losing 3 games. This win tied the Jr. Badgers with Baird and Wylie for the Jr. Conference crown.

Leading the Jr. Badgers in scoring was Mike Sims with 15 pts., Craig Hutchings 8 pts., Ricky Howes 7 pts., David Wharton 5 pts., Kelley Wolf 4 pts., Jay Boyd 3 pts., and Maury Moore 2 pts. Helping out were also Randy Holmes, Roger Reed, Roger Dye, and Mike Brady.

Outstanding performances were given by all team members during the course of the game.

"This was the last game of the season for the Jr. High and everyone involved with the program would like to say

Girl Scout News

By LOYCE BAKER

The Girl Scouts met Monday, February 3 at the Scout Hut. They practiced their skits for the Father-Daughter Valentine Banquet to be held this Saturday, February 8 at the School Cafeteria.

Those attending were Judy Glasscock, Janice Jacobs, Nancy Click, Rene Aiken, Loyce Baker and Stacy Seymore. Janice Jacobs served refreshments.

Take Your Family Out To EAT-ECONOMICALLY

We Have It All-
Hamburgers To Dinners To Go
Mexican Dinners
Chicken Fried Steak
BAR B-Q Plate
Steak Finger Plate
Deluxe Chicken Dinners
Family Packs Of Chicken to go
Corn Dogs- 5 For \$1.00
Hamburgers- 4 For \$1.18
The Dairy Bar Will Now Be
Open 7 DAYS A WEEK
8:30 A.M. - UNTIL
DAIRY BAR
Ph. 928-5378

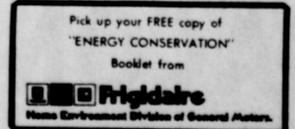
Reddy's helpful tips for your Electric Range



BAKING Plan your oven meals. A complete meal can be cooked in the oven as economically as one food item. Get foods into the oven as soon as it's preheated - or don't preheat at all.

BOILING When cooking vegetables, use a small amount of water. It takes less time to bring them to a boil. As soon as water reaches the boiling point, you can cut the setting back. When boiling water for coffee or tea, heat only as much as you need. Remember, too, that water comes to a boil quicker in a covered pan.

COOK AND FREEZE Prepare double recipes for meals like spaghetti, sauce, soups, and stews that take a long time to cook. Then freeze half for future use.



Remember, Reddy supplies the energy—but only you can use it wisely!

PAT BYRD IS

IS NOW WORKING AT

Modern Beauty Shop

She Invites Everyone to Come

By And See Her. To

VALENTINE DANCE

Friday, Feb. 14

MERKEL V.F.W.

For Members & Guests

HEARTY SAVINGS



in Best Loved Foods

5 BIG Dollar Days
FEBRUARY
13-14-15-17-18th
THURSDAY THRU TUESDAY

SINE OFF TABLETS
24 CT. **79¢**

CONTACT COLD CAPSULE
10 CT. PKG. **\$1.29**

TEA BAGS LIPTON
100 CT. BOX **\$1.59**

MCBETH LARGE

EGGS
DOZ. **69¢**

69¢
89¢

1.63
1.33



CRISCO
3 LB. CAN **\$1.79**



PEANUT BUTTER
18 OZ. JAR **89¢**

VELVEETA CHEESE

8 OZ. **43¢**



DUNCAN HINES DISPLAY ONLY
LAYER CAKE BOX **69¢**

KRAFT GRAPE JELLY

18 OZ. JAR **69¢**



PRINGLES TWIN PACK
9 OZ. **89¢**

DEL-MONTE CATSUP

20 OZ. 26 OZ. **63¢**



CRISCO COOKING OIL
38 OZ. JUG **\$1.69**

Red GRAPES
SWEET-JUICY

LB. **39¢**



FRESH LETTUCE LB. **23¢**
RED DELICIOUS APPLES LB. **29¢**
FRESH CABBAGE LB. **9¢**
YELLOW ONIONS LB. **10¢**
RUSSETS SPUDS 10 LB. BAG **73¢**

FROZEN FOODS

BIRDSEYE ORANGE
AWAKE 12 OZ. CAN **39¢**

LIBBYS
PEAS & CARROTS 20 OZ. **59¢**

MEADS
CORN DOGS 3 CT. BAG **43¢**

LIBBYS
Sliced SQUASH 10 OZ. PKG. 2 FOR **49¢**

CONTADINA 300
TOMATOES 2 FOR **63¢**

RANCH STYLE 300
BEANS 2 FOR **59¢**

DEL-MONTE 303 C.S.
White CORN 2 FOR **63¢**

GRIFFIN 300 WITH SNAPS
Blackeye PEAS 2 FOR **43¢**

RAIDER CUT 303
Green BEANS 2 FOR **49¢**

save 25¢

CARSON COUPON
SAVE 25¢
WITH THIS COUPON WHEN YOU BUY A 1 LB. CAN OF MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE AT CARSON 83¢
1 LB. CAN ONLY WITH COUPON
OFFER EXPIRES-MAR 1st

CLIP COUPON AND SAVE

WHITE HOUSE
APPLE JUICE QT. **53¢**

WAGNER
ORANGE JUICE QT. **35¢**

BAMA
APPLE BUTTER 28 OZ. JAR **79¢**

PARKAY SPAM FLOUR
HOMO 2 MILK

BAKERS ANGEL FLAKE
COCONUT 7 OZ. BAG **63¢**

32 OZ.
Dr. PEPPER 3 FOR **89¢**
PLUS DEPOSIT

OLEO SOFT LB. (2 LIMIT) **69¢**

HORMEL 12 OZ. (2 LIMIT) **89¢**

GLADIOLA 10 LB. BAG **1.63**

I.G. DAIRY FRESH GAL. JUG **1.33**
NO DEPOSIT

How About a STEAK-OUT!



CHOICE HEAVY BEEF
CLUB STEAK POUND **\$1.19**

BABY BEEF
SIRLOIN STEAK **\$1.09**

CHOICE HEAVY BEEF
SIRLOIN STEAK POUND **\$1.39**

WIENERS HORMEL ALL MEAT 12 OZ. **63¢**

HAM CURE 81 LEAN HORMEL BONELESS LB. **\$1.95**

BACON HORMEL POUND **\$1.19**

SHORT RIBS FRESH BEEF LB. **49¢**

BOLOGNA HORMEL ALL MEAT LB. **89¢**

I.G. DAIRY FRESH
HOMO MILK GAL. JUG **\$1.43**

I.G. DAIRY FRESH
Butter MILK 1/2 GAL. CRTN. **65¢**

KLEENEX 200 CT. BOX **43¢**

KIMBIES DAYTIME DIAPERS 30 CT. BOX **\$2.19**

REG. OR SUPPER
KOTEX LIQUID CHIFFON 12 CT. BOX **63¢**

GAIN KING SIZE 1 LIMIT **\$1.69**

DASH JUMBO BOX **\$2.73**

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS
SHOP AND SAVE

WE GIVE GIFT BOND STAMPS
Double on Wednesday with \$5.00 or more

CARSON'S SUPER MARKET
MERKEL, TEXAS
FREE DELIVERY MON-WED-FRI
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