

The Merkel Mail

Taylor County's
Only
Legal Weekly
Newspaper

15c
Per Copy

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Between you and me

By SARAH ECKOLS

As summer gets into full swing let us take a few moments to think about safety. Many of us will be taking in swimming and boating, camping, and traveling over the next several weeks. An accident which would have been avoided by observing a few safety precautions can mar forever what should be pleasant memories. For your family's safety, your friends safety and your own safety observe the rules of the out-of-doors, the water and the highway and make this summer a time of fun and excitement the safe way.

A few weeks ago in this column I asked readers about cats. One lady called me last week to let me know that she also has a cat with seven toes on its front feet and only the normal five on its rear feet. This cat also happens to be a mother cat with four new kittens. Sure enough, the kittens all have the same type of feet as their mother. The father, a siamese, has four normal feet. According to Mrs. Bobby Pittin of McCawley, her children read that a cat with more toes than usual represents good luck.

"Imagine living in a country where 131 million citizens are the subjects of private dossiers delving into their livelihoods, family life and frequently their manner of living. Imagine living in a country where 54 national agencies have over 750 data banks containing extensive information on almost all of its adult citizens. Imagine living in a country where a universal numerical identifier may one day follow a citizen from crib to grave - recording for posterity any purported sins committed along that path. That country is not Russia, but the United States, where privacy is now under unprecedented assault." This statement is quoted from the March 31, 1974 edition of The Sunday Oklahoman. The full page article is entitled "Information Explosion." It further states how insurance companies, credit bureaus and medical information bureaus contain files on practically every American, containing personal information on your neighborhood, your salary, what your neighbors and friends think of you, the way you live, the state of your marriage and even your drinking, smoking and sexual proclivities. It is a little frightening to think about, but do we really have any privacy anymore. Are we destined to become a society where each of us is a number in a computer which knows practically our every move and our every thought? I sincerely hope not, but I also fear so. It might be of interest to you to read the booklet "The Computers Are Coming" by David F. Webber.

And then there's the ERA or the Equal Rights Amendment. Like most women I want equal opportunity and to be treated like a person, but I personally like and enjoy being a woman. I will be very reluctant to give up the pedestal to be equal to a man. Why should we settle for being equal when we have always been better?

2-Year-Old Rescued On I-20 By Truckers

A two-year old boy was almost hit Friday morning on Interstate Highway 20 near Trent. The child narrowly escaped injury when an 18 wheeler truck came close to hitting him as he played on the asphalt in the eastbound lane at the 260 marker near the Sylvester exit. The trucker, thanks to his quick reaction, stopped and picked the child up and took him to the side of the road where eventually two other trucks stopped.

The incident occurred at approximately 9 a.m. Friday morning. The first trucker radioed for help on his CB radio, the truckers on I-20 relayed the message which

was picked up by a Merkel woman who in turn relayed the message to local authorities. Chief of Police Leroy Austerman of Merkel notified the highway patrol.

Highway patrolman Joe White of Sweetwater arrived on the scene at approximately 9:25 a.m. to find that the child had begun walking toward a house about a half a mile from the interstate highway. The trucker had followed the child and taken him to the house to see if he lived there. By the time the officer reached the house the baby had been taken into the house and the occupant or occupants inside would not respond to either the officer's knocking or voice. After some minutes a woman did answer the officer and said that she would keep "a closer watch on the boy in the future."

We Goofed!

Last week we ran a story about the Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program. We mistakenly gave the ages 16-18. Those eligible for the program are ages 6-18.

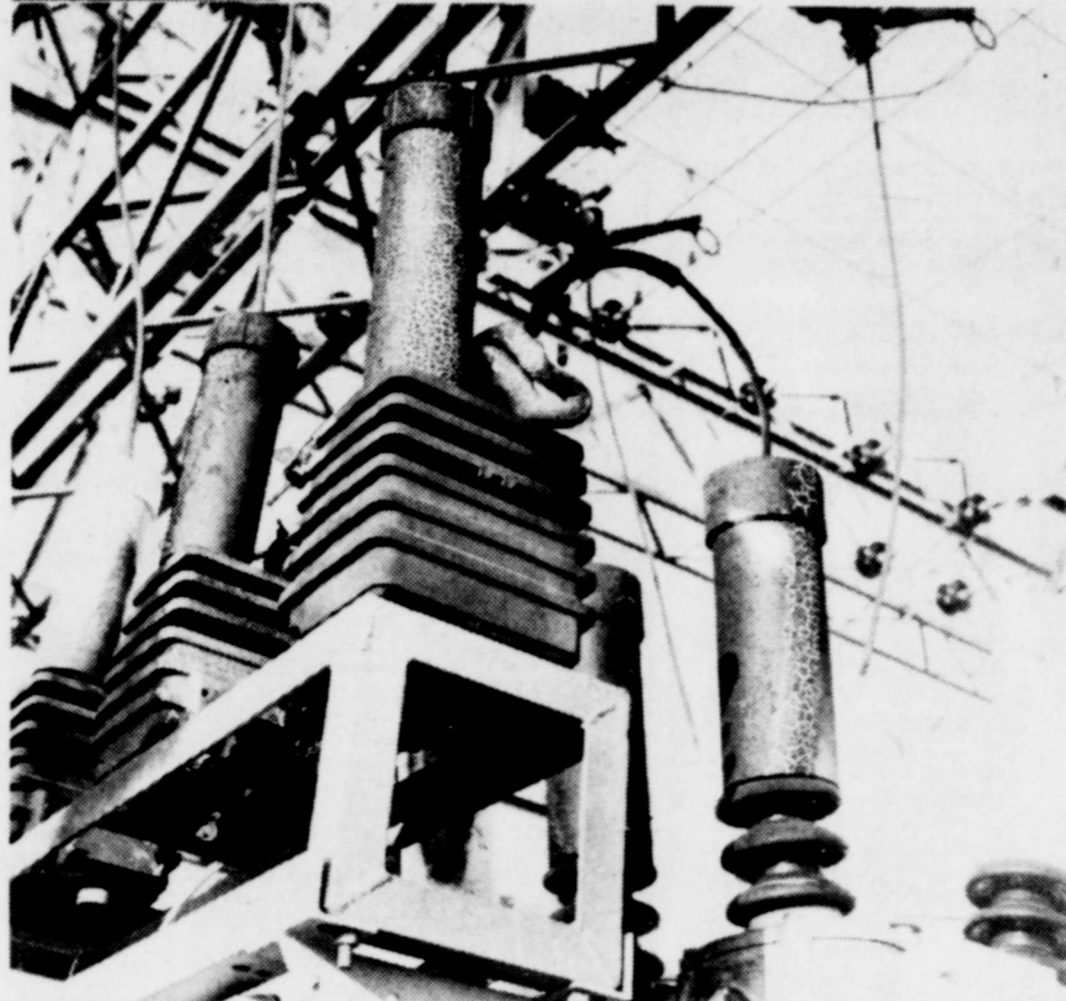
The program will be conducted at Abilene State Park during the week of June 23-28 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. except on Monday when participants are asked to be at the pool at 8:00 a.m.

Sponsors for the program are the South Taylor County Lions Club, Jim Ned School, Abilene State Park, Merkel Civil Defense and Taylor County Chapter of American Red Cross.

Transportation will be provided. For further information contact Benny Melton at the Merkel Chamber of Commerce.

Those Who Have Been Visiting in Merkel

Mrs. Joe Holmes (Mildred) of Dallas spent the week end in the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Browning. Also in the Browning home was their son, Billy Ray of Tuscola.



SNEAKY SNAKE - For those of you who were awakened Tuesday morning to find that your clocks were an hour behind, you may be interested to know that a snake cooked his own goose causing the short. Workmen repaired the damage caused by the snakes' fall onto a hot wire leaving Merkel residents without electricity from 2:21 a.m. to 3:16 a.m. Tuesday morning. Apparently the snake had climbed to reach a bird's nest. Fried snake anyone?



LAKE EXTENSION - The golf course at the Country Club of Merkel will soon sport water hazards on four holes. There will soon be new greens and sand traps as the course takes on a new look.

\$75,000 Goes Into Country Club Improvements

What was once destined to become a landfill may turn out to be the swankiest country club in Phoenix are now working in improvements in and around the club that hopefully will make it a luxurious spot to build a home, relax at the pool, and play a round of golf.

Merkel Gets \$1,015 In Third Round of Tax Rebates

Merkel received a net payment of \$1,015 as Comptroller Bob Bullock sent checks worth \$28.8 million Friday to more than 800 towns and cities in third round of monthly city sales tax rebates. Bullock converted the city sales tax payments to a monthly system in April to get away from the old quarterly rebate system which had been in use since the start of the city sales tax and which forced cities to wait 60 to 90 days for their money.

Little League Popcorn Sale Saturday

The Merkel League will have their annual Popcorn sale and drive this Saturday, June 21 from 9:00 to 12:00. The Little League will be dressed in their uniforms and the T-shirts will be in their T-Shirts. The popcorn will be a \$1.50 a box. The popcorn is the best yet.

Robbins in Phoenix to Merkel to look into buying a motel, which he did. He and his

Merkel Gets \$1,015 In Third Round of Tax Rebates

of-the-quarter tax payments made by merchants following the April 30 deadline for reporting taxes they collected from the public in January, February and March. Bullock converted the city sales tax payments to a monthly system in April to get away from the old quarterly rebate system which had been in use since the start of the city sales tax and which forced cities to wait 60 to 90 days for their money.

Every city which has adopted the one percent local tax received payments this month regardless of the size of the rebate. Payments in the first and second month of each three-month cycle are not made on rebates of less than \$500.

TV Cable Soon To Be Reality In Merkel

The Merkel City Council met Friday morning in a called meeting. The agenda concerned the proposed TV cable system that has been on the horizon of Merkelites

Local Boy Bowls 'Em Over At State Toumey

Darryl Harris, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Harris of Merkel has bowled 'em over at the American Junior Bowling Congress in El Paso.

Hill Reports Taylor Bond Sales

Samuel S. Hill, County Chairman for the Savings Bonds Program in Taylor county, reported sales of Series E and H United States Savings Bonds in the amount of \$98,292 for April 1975. Sales for the first four months of the year totaled \$419,440 which represents 33% of their assigned dollar goal.

Sales in Texas during the month amounted to \$20,376,490 while sales for the four-month period totaled \$82,368,654 with 35% of the yearly sales goal of \$234.3 million achieved.

Ascencio NCO Academy Graduate

Army Specialist Five Wilfrido Y. Ascencio, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Ascencio, 108 Haynes St., Merkel, graduated recently from the 8th Infantry Division Noncommissioned Officer Academy near Baumholder, Germany. Spec. Ascencio received training in leadership responsibilities, map reading and military teaching methods. He is assigned to the 8th Infantry Division in Bad Kreuznach.

Learn-To-Swim Deadline Today

Today at 5 p.m. is the deadline for registration in the Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program to be held at the Abilene State Park during the week of June 23-28. Entry blanks are to be turned into the Chamber of Commerce office in Merkel.

Approximately 200 youths, aged 6-18 who are residents of South Taylor County and the Merkel-Trent area are expected to participate. Classes are scheduled for Beginners, Advanced Beginners, Intermediates, Swimmers and Life Saving. However, the all-volunteer program will be given

Marton Found Dead On Pace Ranch

Vernon W. (Bobby) Marton, 64, of Mulberry Canyon, a rancher, was found dead June 11 in his pickup truck on the Pace Ranch, southeast of Sweetwater Lake. A ruling on Marton's death is pending from Sweetwater Justice of the Peace Tom Green. There was no apparent evidence of foul play, officials said.

Services for Marton were at 1 p.m. Friday at Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was in Mt. Zion Cemetery, north of Ranger.

Born Oct. 21, 1910, in View, Mr. Marton was a lifelong resident of the Merkel area. He married Dolly Thelma Stuard. She died in 1968. Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Verna Mae Morton of Amarillo and Mrs. Marie Morton of Clyde; and two grandchildren.

concerned the proposed TV cable system that has been on the horizon of Merkelites

Local Boy Bowls 'Em Over At State Toumey

Darryl, a junior bowler went along with several other bowlers from the area who went by bus and car to the West Texas town to bowl in El Paso's Freeway Lanes.

Taking second place in the singles division as a B Junior, young Harris bowled a 675 for his three games to get on the winners board. Harris also placed in the all events division with an 1814. Final results of the tournament will not be announced for two weeks pending finals in other divisions. Those qualifying will pick up trophies and patches lauding their skill in the 10 pin game. No cash prizes are awarded.

Mrs. William A. Harris will be attending the Women's State Bowling Tournament in Irving in a couple of weeks.

Doan, James On McMurry Dean's List

Gaylon Booth Doan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Doan of 1003 Yucca, has been named to the Spring, 1975, Dean's List at McMurry College in Abilene. He received a B.S. degree in Physical Education from McMurry. Doan is also a 1969 graduate of Merkel High School.

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Sister of Local Men Died

Mrs. Zady Blair, 70, died in Guymon, Okla., June 5. Services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday in Guymon with burial in the Licens Memorial Park in Guymon. Mrs. Blair moved to Guymon from Roaring Springs, Texas. Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Rita Reeves of Little Rock, Ark., Mrs. Aldene Cadil of Guymon; two sisters, Mrs. Eliza Kingery of Roaring Springs, Mrs. Bill Smelser of Big Spring; three brothers, Zack Dye of Abilene, Ruben and Robert of Merkel.

for some time now. The dream is no longer on the horizon, but is a reality at last.

The original franchise for the cable was issued to Mathis and Shelton. Due to some changes, however, the owners asked for a change. The company is to be Merkel TV Cable Co., Inc. It is owned by Dale Mathis of Colorado City and Glen Scott of Del Rio. Both men were present at the council meeting in which the Merkel City Council okayed the change of the name of the franchise. The original franchise was issued September 20, 1971.

Some workers are in Merkel now and equipment should be coming into town in the next few days. The site for the building has been named and the details of pole rental with WTU have been worked out in agreement.

The time element involved in gaining actual construction of TV cable in Merkel was lengthened some also by a 19 month hold up with the FCC over a dispute of whether the company was to receive transmission from San Angelo which is closer, but for which new lines and poles would be necessary or from Dallas for which lines and poles run directly in our path.

According to Mr. Mathis and Mr. Scott, the estimate, initial cost of hook up for the cable will be in the vicinity of \$19.50 with a monthly fee of approximately \$7.50 plus \$1.50 for each additional outlet. The exact figures will be announced in the near future.

This is a bit of progress. Merkelites have been anxiously awaiting and the actual happening is right at hand.

Youth Choir To Present Musical Here

The Sherwood Baptist Youth Choir of Odessa, Texas, under the direction of Mike Bedford, minister of music, will present the musical "Share" Saturday evening, 7:00 p.m. in the First Baptist Church, Merkel.

In April of this year an invitation was extended to the youth choir, by our local high school, to present a concert in the high school auditorium to grades 9-12. They came and were so well received that some of the students requested that they be asked back to give the whole musical and only portions of it was presented at that time.

The musical is based on the book "Evangelism Explosion" and is written by Cam Florida. The public is invited.

Ward Family Held Reunion

The Lee Ward family reunion was held Saturday afternoon, June 14 and 15. Saturday was spent in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Stoutc Merkel with dinner in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wade and Stephanie in Abilene. Sunday was spent in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Ingram in Abilene.

Those attending the reunion were Mr. and Mrs. Durl Ward and Stacy of Beaumont; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ward, Gre and Tim of Irving; Mr. and Mrs. Rayford Ward of Christi of Eunice, Louisiana; Mr. and Mrs. Gary Jones of Terry of Bossier City, Louisiana; Mr. and Mrs. Gary Laypley, Heather and Adrian of Houston; Mr. and Mrs. Galt Church and Todd of Abilene; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hasty of Chad of Abilene; Mr. and Mrs. Homer Ward of Graham; Mr. and Mrs. Audie McElye of Snyder.

This was the fifth Lee Ward family reunion.



MR. AND MRS. CLARK HAMNER
... celebrate golden anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Hamner Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Hamner of Trent will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house in their home Sunday, June 22. The come and go affair will be from 2 to 5 p.m. and is hosted by their children, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Hamner of Lubbock; Mr. and Mrs. Billy W. Hamner of Trent; and Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Edwards of Lubbock. Also in the house-party will be the Hamner's

nine grandchildren. Era Smith became the bride of Clark Hamner June 20, 1925, in Trent. Mr. Hamner was born September 10, 1908, and his wife was born August 25, 1909. The two met in school in Trent and have lived most of their lives in Trent with the exception of a short time they spent in Fisher County. Mr. Hamner is a retired stock farmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamner have one great-grandchild. All friends and relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Clark Hamner are invited to attend this open house.

Jones County HD News

The Jones County Home Demonstration Council met June 11, 1975, at 1 p.m. at the Anson Lion's Club Building. The Chairman, Mrs. Ab Hunter, Jr. presided. There were seven clubs represented with 11 members and 21 visitors present.

The new Yearbooks were ready, club presidents took books for their members. It was voted to hold a rummage sale and bake sale at the Jones County Fair in August.

Mrs. Nocy Wilburn, County Agent, announced a meeting for the incoming committees June 30 at the agents office. Anyone who wants to order a THDA bumper sticker is to inform Mrs. Frank Carter so she can order them.

Bring your candidates for THDA chairman and state THDA delegate to July Council.

Installation of the new officers followed council. They are chairman, Mrs. Ab Hunter; vice-chairman, Mrs. Toff Herndon; secretary, Mrs. Garland Price; treasurer, Mrs. J. G. Heald.

Special Education

More than 53 million Americans now alive will develop cancer, reports the American Cancer Society. If their disease is diagnosed and treated early, the chances of cure will be good. Your contribution to the American Cancer Society supports not only research, but public education about safeguards such as early detection.

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Cemetery Donations

The following persons have made contributions to the Merkel Cemetery Assn.

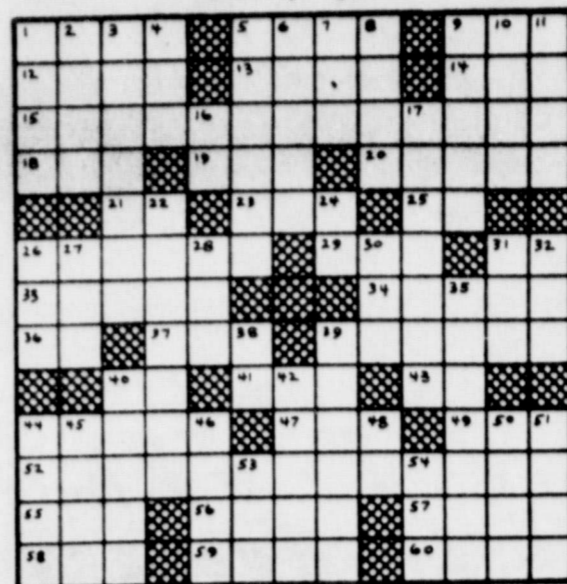
Mr. and Mrs. Truett Thompson
Bill Merritt
John A. O'Donnel Jr.
Warren C. Smith
Mrs. Robert (IMA) Higgins
Mrs. A. B. Gregory
Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Bicknell
Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Cump-ton
Mrs. Johnny Cox and Dr. W. Frank Armstrong
Mrs. W. T. Cox
Mrs. Dave Brumbeau
Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Russell in memory of Wm. Dale Burleson
Woodrow Rogers
Mrs. Olive Herron
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Cox
Mrs. Lena Smith
N. C. Forrester
L. L. Parsons
Mrs. Ruby Jinkens
Archie Farr
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hays
Suzy Bird in memory of Stacy Bird
W. R. Dunning
R. L. Earthman
Lillie Flickinger
Gladys Noel Ingram
Travis, Phyllis, and Dusty Farmer in memory of Mrs. Eva Blackburn and Betty Grimes Cleveland
Mrs. G. W. Green
Mrs. Trula Cox
Jessie S. Howerton in memory of Betty Cleveland
Mrs. Tom Largent in memory of Betty Cleveland
Elsie McDonald
Wm. and Mary Barry
H. L. Hammond
Mrs. Walter Frazier Gillis Cox
Ted and Hazel Pargament and Minnie Coats in memory of Dale Burleson
E. O. Ely

The Texas Egg Law is administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture. According to Agriculture Commissioner John C. White, enforcement assures purchasers that the eggs are labeled correctly and are of the quality stated on the package.

Crossword Puzzle

Answer, Page 5



- ACROSS**
- 1. Biblical priest
 - 5. Wander
 - 9. Flap
 - 12. Falsehoods
 - 13. Volcano
 - 14. Anger
 - 15. Worldly-wise people
 - 18. Collected information
 - 19. Top card
 - 20. Brilliance
 - 21. Direction
 - 23. Vase
 - 25. Him
 - 26. Last part
 - 29. Prefix: Over
 - 31. Pagoda
 - 33. Vestibule
 - 34. Restain
 - 36. Half an em
 - 37. Soak
 - 39. Overhangs
 - 40. Parent
 - 41. Mineral
 - 43. Suffix: plural
- DOWN**
- 1. Girl's name
 - 2. Jerusalem hill
 - 3. Recolor
 - 4. Tree
 - 5. Save
 - 6. Animal
 - 7. Blackbird
 - 8. Spice
 - 9. Name
 - 10. Space
 - 11. Utmost
 - 16. State: abbr.
 - 17. Attain
 - 22. Describe
 - 24. Direction
 - 26. Charge
 - 27. Hotel
 - 28. Lixivium
 - 30. For
 - 31. Norse god
 - 32. Roman bronze
 - 35. Hate
 - 38. Toward
 - 39. Messenger
 - 40. Lady
 - 42. Palm
 - 44. Regretted
 - 45. Preposition
 - 46. Weapons
 - 48. Above
 - 50. Solely
 - 51. Eras
 - 53. View
 - 54. Dip

USED CROSSTIES

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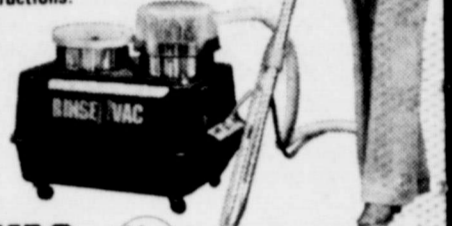
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- 74 CHEVY LUV Red color.....
- 2-74 CHEYENNES 454 engines, loaded, Your choice
- 74 FORD RANGER 1/2 ton, 360, extra nice.....
- 74 MONTE CARLO Brown with beige top.....
- 74 CUTLASS SUPREME Green and white, extra nice.....
- 74 GRAN TORINO, Automatic, power and air, vinyl top.....
- 74 VEGA WAGON ESTATE Automatic and air.....
- 74 NOVA 2-DOOR, Automatic, power and air, gold with white pin striping, luggage carrier, like new.....
- 2-73 MONTE CARLO'S to choose from. 1 white, 1 burgandy.....
- 73 BUICK CENTURY 6 passenger station wagon, Beige, like new.....
- 72 CHEVROLET IMPALA 4-door, Gold & white, like new.....
- 72 CAPRICE 4-door, Extra nice, low miles.....
- 69 CHEVROLET 3/4 ton, Cab and chassis, dual wheels.....

Everyday is Bargain Day at
Max Murrell Chevrolet

Merkel Country Club Ladies One Day Invitational

18 HOLES

Sat-June 21, 1975

LOW GROSS - LOW NET PER FLIGHT
PRIZES: PRO LINE GOLF BAG
GOLF ACCESSORIES PRO LINE GOLF SHOES

Club Pro: Bob Seanor

Coffee & Donuts 8:00 A. M.
Shot Gun Starts - 9:00 A. M.
CARTS \$4.00

MAIL OR PHONE ENTRIES TO:

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CUT OFF 3:00 P. M. JUNE 17

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WE COMPOUND INTEREST EACH DAY
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BACON

ARMOUR PAN SIZE 12 oz. \$1.19

FRANKS

ARMOUR 12oz. PKG. 73¢

BOLOGNA

MARKET SLICED LB. 89¢

CLUB STEAK

LB. \$1.49

HAMBURGER

FRESH GROUND LB. 59¢

BEEF RIBS

LB. 39¢

HI-C 46 OZ. ORANGE DRINK 59¢

MYCO FLAT CAN Smoked Oysters 49¢

HUNT'S #300 CAN Tomato Juice 2/35¢

DEL MONTE Tomato Juice 46 oz. 59¢

KRAFT DINNER 7 OZ. Macaroni & Cheese 2/69¢

DUNCAN HINES LAYER BOX CAKE MIX 69¢

SMUCKERS 18 OZ. APPLE JELLY 69¢

LIPTONS INSTANT TEA \$1.29

TEXSUN Orange Juice 46 oz. 45¢

ICE CREAM

GANDY'S HALF GAL. 99¢

YOGURT

GANDY'S ALL FLAVORS 4/ \$1.00

OLEO

KRAFT PARKAY 1 lb. 59¢

TOMATOES

DIAMOND 16 oz. 2/ 49¢

CRISCO OIL

24 oz. 89¢

PICKLES

BEST MAID SOUR OR DILL QT. JAR 59¢

FRUIT COCKTAIL

DEL-MONTE 300 CAN 2 FOR 85¢

CAR WAX

J-WAX CAN PASTE \$1.19

CAR WAX

J-WAX SPRINT NO-BUFF \$1.69

GOLD MEDAL FLOUR

79¢

5# LB. BAG

MARYLAND CLUB COFFEE

95¢

1 LB. CAN

SNOWDRIFT

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42 oz.

\$1.29

WITH \$7.50 PURCHASE EXCLUDING CIGARETTES

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SCOTT Paper Towels 59¢

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GIANT SIZE TIDE \$1.09

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STILLWELL APPLE-CHERRY-BLACKBERRY COBBLERS 2 LB. EACH \$1.19

MORTON 10 OZ. PKG. Jelly Doughnuts 89¢

KEITH ROLLS PKG. OF 24 49¢

FARM FRESH - FLAVOR-FULL PRODUCE

LETTUCE HEAD 25¢

CALIFORNIA LEMONS 2/15¢

CALIFORNIA CHERRIES LB. 69¢

CALIFORNIA Nectarines LB. 69¢

CALIFORNIA Green Cabbage LB. 12¢

CALIFORNIA Green Onions BUNCH EA. 15¢

MILK MARIGOLD 2% HOMO GAL. 1.33

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TEXSUN GRAPEFRUIT JUICE 46 oz. 49¢

FRESCA 12 oz. CANS 6/ 98¢

DEL MONTE CATSUP 14 oz. 35¢

DEL MONTE PINEAPPLE CRUSHED FLAT CAN 29¢

PRINGLES POTATO CHIPS TWIN PACK 89¢

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Farm-facts

A Weekly Report Of Agri-Business News
Compiled From Sources
Of The Texas Department of Agriculture
John C. White, Commissioner



Texas Taxes

By BOB BULLOCK
State Comptroller

One Thing In Common... Two Above Failing... Five More Approved... Sheep, Lamb Feeding Less Than Half.

Texas farmers—from the High Plains to the Rio Grande Valley—have one thing in common for the next several weeks. Harvest of the 1975 crops is underway.

But there is a contrast. While farmers in the northern part of the state get into wheat harvest, those in the southern sections are combining sorghum and getting ready to harvest cotton. Farmers on the High Plains are finishing planting of cotton for this season.

Delays have also been noted in harvests throughout the state due to rains. Wheat harvest is around the 20 per cent completion mark in the state.

IF YOU WENT TO SCHOOL many years ago, you'll recall that any grade you made below 70 was considered failing. Agriculture, based on that grading system, is just barely above failure in its recent parity ratio figure.

The latest parity figure is now a 72; that's three points above a month ago, but six points under a year ago at this time.

Of the 26 commodities listed by the Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, only three are above parity. They are oats, which is 13 cents per bushel above parity, mohair, at 21 cents above parity, and sheep, 70 cents above parity.

Calves and cotton continue to be glaring examples of disparity. The average calf price in Texas is set at 26 cents per pound; parity for calves is 67.10 cents per pound. Cotton price average in the state is 31.1 cents per pound. Parity for that commodity is 77.12 cents per pound.

Even hog prices—which have shown dramatic price rises in recent months—continue below parity. The average hog price in Texas is \$43.30; parity is set at \$47.50.

In other livestock prices, beef cattle averaged \$33.80 (that's up \$3.10 from a month ago); parity is \$54.90.

In crop prices, the wheat price average of around \$3 per bushel is more than \$1.50 under parity. Grain sorghum about a dollar under parity.

Egg prices at 52 cents per dozen are 23 cents under parity. Turkey prices at 35 cents per pound are a dime under parity.

FIVE MORE TEXAS COUNTIES have been approved for emergency livestock feed. They are Cameron, Duval, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg and Jim Wells counties. Emergency livestock feeding is needed by a number of eligible producers in those counties to relieve feed shortages caused by prolonged dry weather conditions.

SHEEP AND LAMB FEEDING in Texas is 58 per cent below a year ago as of June 1, but is up 57 per cent from a month ago.

Marketings during May totaled 33,000 head. Current intentions to market are: June, 22,000; July, 19,000; and August, 6,000. July and August intentions are incomplete at this time because additional lambs could still be placed on feed and marketed during these months.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION in Texas during April is up 25 per cent from a year ago, the Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service notes.

April slaughter of cattle totaled 398,000 head, which was 95,000 more than a year ago. The calf kill for April was 45,500 head, which is an increase of 35,800 head over a year ago.

Hog slaughter during the first four months of this year was down eight per cent from the previous year.

Austin—When was the last time you met someone who was licensed by the state to "scalp" football tickets?

If your answer is "never," don't feel left out. There never were more than 11 licensed "scalpers" in Texas—and what's left of them are about to become a thing of the past.

The \$250 scalpers license fee is one of several antique taxes to be repealed in a bill approved by the Legislature and now waiting for Gov. Dolph Briscoe's signature.

The measure was called the "omnibus tax reduction bill" but it will actually take only \$2.7 million worth of taxes off the books during the next two years because much of the bill is directed at such outdated and nonproductive taxes as the scalpers fee.

The Comptroller's Department supported the elimination of several of these old taxes because they produced so little money it cost more to administer them than we took in.

Another outdated tax which would be repealed by the bill is the oleomargarine tax—a tax which had never been collected since it was first passed more than 35 years ago.

At the time margarine was brand new to the world and was so much cheaper than real butter it threatened to drive butter out of the grocery store. The tax was aimed at vegetable oils used in margarine and produced outside of Texas as a means of raising the price to protect the homegrown Texas butter industry.

The bill now on the governor's desk would also abolish the sleeping car and dining car tax and something called the "express company" tax.

Express companies in the old law were defined as companies doing business by steam, rail or water, but this law was written in 1907 and what we have come to know as "common carriers"—railroad companies, freight lines and the like—aren't covered by it.

Take advantage of special features that may be on your washing machine. Be sure to use the "sus-saver" if you have one, that will allow you to re-use hot water for several loads.

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Another Fine Texas Recipe

MEAT-CHEESE STUFFED PEPPERS

- 1/2 red or green peppers, halved lengthwise
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 cup shredded Mozzarella cheese
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 2 tsp. snipped parsley
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup olive or vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup beef broth
- 1/2 cup tomato sauce
- 1 bay leaf
- Parsley sprigs

Bake peppers in jelly roll pan 10 minutes in 400-degree oven. Drain. Mix ground beef, Mozzarella, garlic, snipped parsley, pepper and 1 egg. Divide beef mixture evenly among pepper halves. Alternately dip bottoms of peppers into flour and 2 beaten eggs. Coat with flour. Fry peppers in 12-inch

GARLIC BUTTER

Cream 1/2 cup butter till fluffy. Beat 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder. Keep butter at room temperature for an hour. Serve as spread on hot Italian bread or dip for beef fondue. Yield: 1/2 cup. For additional recipes write Commissioner John C. White, Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Tex. 78711.

Although recent statistics show that not much more than half as much fresh fruit is consumed now as in 1940, apples still stand out as the most popular domestic fruit. The annual U.S. apple crop is about 150 million bushels—and that's not applesauce!

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

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STATE CAPITAL
Highlights
AND Sidelights
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TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

AUSTIN — A new program to boost the economy has identified more than 6,000 available jobs in its first month of operation.

Executive Director Jim Harwell of Texas Industrial Commission said the effort represented a 50 per cent increase over projections for the entire year.

Lists of new jobs, starting Monday, were posted on windows of local Texas Employment Commission offices.

Harwell indicated the "Texas First" program may result in identification of more than 15,000 jobs during the year — with an economic impact of more than \$1 billion annually.

Texas Education Agency, Texas Employment Commission, Texas Department of Community Affairs and the Governor's Division of Planning Coordination are participating with the Industrial Commission in the program.

Employees lacking skills are offered training through

the Texas Start-Up Training Program conducted by the Industrial Commission and through sponsors of manpower training projects.

More than 200 of the top 1,000 Texas industries responded favorably to a questionnaire on expansion needs.

AG Opinions
A commissioners court cannot legally purchase supplies from a farmers' cooperative in which a commissioner owns one or more shares, Atty. Gen. John L. Hill held.

In other recent opinions, Hill concluded:

The county court of Jefferson County has concurrent jurisdiction with county courts at law in probate, lunacy, juvenile and eminent domain matters.

Courts at law have exclusive jurisdiction in all other civil criminal matters.

The last known address of persons pardoned of crimes must be disclosed under the open records act.

Women Should Change SS Numbers

Women getting married should remember to tell the Social Security Administration about their new name, according to Glyn Hammons, Social Security District Manager in Abilene.

"In order to correct her Social Security card and keep her earnings record accurate and up-to-date, a bride should give us her new married name," Hammons said. "Then earnings she had both before and after her marriage can be correctly credited to the same record."

A woman's work and earnings in jobs covered by Social Security builds retirement, disability, survivors, and Medicare protection for herself and her family.

A new bride can call, write, or visit any Social Security Office to get her name changed on her record. "Or she can use a form available at any Post Office and many employers' personnel offices," Hammons said.

People who change their name because of divorce or for business or other reasons should also notify Social Security, Hammons noted.

The Abilene Social Security Office is at 142 S. Pioneer. The Phone number is 698-1360.

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Accent on Health
J.E. PEAVY, M.D., Director

There's a lot going for the individuals who can their own food. They save money, use up the bountiful produce from their home gardens and have tasty, nutritious food the year round.

But, says the State Health Department, home canning can be dangerous—even lethal—unless proven canning techniques are followed to the letter.

With an upswing in the amount of home canning and freezing done in Texas, State Health Department officials are concerned about the possibility of food contamination, especially botulism.

Botulism is caused by a deadly poison — a toxin — produced by a germ found abundantly in the soil. This germ is one of the spore-forming bacteria and is very resistant to normal heat and cold. It can grow without air, which makes it a sinister threat in home canning.

While the germ itself doesn't cause illness, the toxin it produces can be fatal to man. These bacteria are found nearly everywhere, and it's probably that nearly everyone has eaten them many times in their safe, inactive form on fresh food.

But, if these bacteria remain alive through the canning process and continue to live in an oxygen-free state—in a sealed airtight jar or can—they will manufacture the botulism toxin as a product of their metabolism.

That's why in canning it is so important to properly process food so that the food is cooked long enough and at a temperature high enough to kill the bacteria.

Three conditions are necessary for the botulism bacteria to grow. It must have an anaerobic environment (oxygen-free), have lots of moisture and low acid. It's easy to see how a sealed jar could provide such an atmosphere.

Luckily, despite all the home canning done in Texas and the United States, the number of reported botulism cases are few in number. How many people are made ill by improperly processed foods due to other germs is anybody's guess.

Twenty outbreaks of food-borne botulism, involving 30 cases, were reported to the federal Center for Disease Control during 1974. There were seven deaths. In addition, five cases of wound botulism — caused by the bacteria getting into a wound — were reported.

Texas had only one of those 24 food cases — caused by home-canned chow-chow. And, it had one case of wound botulism.

Of the 24 cases of food botulism, the contaminated product was known in 16 cases. Of these, 15 were due to home canned products and one to a commercially canned beef stew.

The 1974 data, reports the Center for Disease Control, represents the largest number of foodborne botulism outbreaks by state health departments since 1935. This increase, says the CDC, probably reflects an increase in home canning and emphasis on the need for educating home

canners in proper home canning methods.

Such information, says J. M. Doughty Jr., director of the State Health Department's Food and Drug Division, is readily available. It can be obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture, from Home Demonstration agents, from reliable cookbooks, and handbooks provided by manufacturers of canning equipment. Information also may be available at your local library.

Using the proper equipment and following recipes to the letter is extremely important. Sometimes it may be the proportions of sugar, vinegar or lemon juice which provide protection against the growth of harmful bacteria. Use jars and sealing rings designed for home canning, and follow the manufacturer's instructions on sealing the jars.

If you're in doubt about any foodstuffs which you've just opened, don't be foolhardy enough to taste it. With botulism, there may be no odd taste or odor. But tasting the product — or even taking a long whiff of it — could be your downfall if botulism is concerned. "If in doubt, throw it out!" is the recommendation of the State Health Department.

There's another strong point in favor of the home canner, says Doughty. Boiling the food for a sufficient length of time before eating will kill the toxin. "The toxin is easily destroyed by boiling," he said. All home canned products should be boiled vigorously for three minutes with thorough stirring before serving.

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GENERAL REVENUE SHARING PLANNED USE REPORT

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PLANNED EXPENDITURES		THE GOVERNMENT OF TRENT TOWN	
(A) CATEGORIES	(B) CAPITAL	(C) OPERATING / MAINTENANCE	ANTICIPATING A GENERAL REVENUE SHARING PAYMENT OF \$1,181
1 PUBLIC SAFETY	\$	\$	FOR THE SIXTH ENTITLEMENT PERIOD, JULY 1, 1975 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1976. PLANS TO SPEND THESE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSES SHOWN.
2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	\$	\$	TRENT TOWN MAYOR BOX 72 TRENT TEXAS 79561
3 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	\$	\$	ACCOUNT NO. 44 2 221 004 1094
4 HEALTH	\$ 1181.00	\$	
5 RECREATION	\$	\$	
6 LIBRARIES	\$	\$	
7 SOCIAL SERVICES FOR AGED OR POOR	\$	\$	
8 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	\$	\$	
9 MULTIPURPOSE AND GENERAL GOVT.	\$	\$	
10 EDUCATION	\$	\$	
11 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	\$	\$	
12 HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$	\$	
13 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$	\$	
14 OTHER (Specify)	\$	\$	
15 TOTALS	\$ 1181.00	\$	

(D) Submit proposals for funding consideration by **August 1, 1975**
to **Betty Freeman** A copy of this report, and supporting documents, are open for public scrutiny
at **City Hall, Trent, Texas 79561**
(E) ASSURANCES (Refer to instruction E) I assure the Secretary of the Treasury that the non-discrimination and other statutory requirements listed in Part E of the instructions accompanying this report will be complied with by this recipient government with respect to the entitlement funds reported hereon.
Billy W. Hamner Signature of Chief Executive Officer
B. W. Hamner, Mayor - June - -16 - 75
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