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HARRICA REFERENCE PARTICAL Between you



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ARREPRERERERERERERERERERERERERE

and me By SARAH ECKOLS

Readers, at this Christmas time, I would like to extend to each of you a happy holiday greeting. This is a very special time of year when for most of us our complete families are together the one and only time of the year. It is a time when we forget all the greviences of the past and let our love for one another come through. It is a time for sharing.

.Christmas is also a time when we review the past good times and think of and miss loved ones who are no longer with us. It is a time when too, we think of and miss those whom we love, yet from whom we are separated by distance.

Christmas is a time when most of us adults think of our childhood with fond memories of the "Christmases past," when we anxiously awaited Santa's visit and the presents we would receive from him, aunts and uncles, grandma and grandpa, and friends. Some of us hold dear to our hearts a Christmas when we got our very first bicycle or that special favorite doll. In each of our lives there are many "first Christmases." There is the first Christmas we were going steady, the first Christmas we were engaged, the first Christmas we were married, the first Christmas after the baby was born and we got to play Santa, or the first Christmas without a loved

This is a first Christmas for me in many ways. The happiest of these is my first Christmas as editor of The Merkel Mail. It is also a sad first Christmas for me in some ways like, I am sure it is for some of you. For some there is a first Christmas alone. That must be the saddest kind of first Christmas. Take a moment now to think of those whom you might know for whom this might be a Christmas alone; perhaps an elderly person without a family, or a person who must spend the holidays in a hospital or a rest home. and make a special effort to remember these people

Now that I have grown up, I no longer wish for gifts under my tree on Christmas morning. I just wish for happiness for myself and those I love. It is my sincere wish that you and your loved ones have a very happy holiday and a prosperous new year.

Let me remind each of you that the highways will be crowded with holiday travelers and that drinking and driving don't mix. An estimated 100 Texans will lose their lives over the Christmas and New Year holidays. I hope one of these isn't you.

I began to think just the other day, that no Christmas is complete without the famous poem by Clement C. Moore, "A Visit f.om St. Nicholas,"

I then began to try to find the old poem that most of us have heard at least a thousand times. I, like most of you can remember the first several lines. I searched through my book of quotations and called friends to see if they might have a copy. Finally I found one. Now I feel that the Christmas edition of The Merkel Mail will be

A Visit From St. Nicholas

By CLEMENT C. MOORE

.'This the night before Christmas, when all through le house

Not breature was stirring, not even a mouse; he tockings were hung by the chimney with care, in los that St. Nicholas soon would be there; The cidren were nestled all snug in their beds While sions of sugar-plums danced in their heads; And mema in her kerchief, and I in my cap,

Had ju settled our brains for a long winter nap-When our the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprant ron. my bed to see what was the matter. Away to window I flew like a flash, Tore open e shutters and threw up the sash. he moon, the breast of the new-fallen snow, e a lust of midday to objects below; en what try wondering eyes should appear

But a miniate sleigh and eight tiny reindeer, With a little 4 driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a mient it must be St. Nick. More rapid the eagles his coursers they came, And he whistle and shouted, and called them by name: "Now, Dasherinow, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! on, spid! on, Donder and Blitzen! To the top of the orch, to the top of the wall! Now; dash away, ash away, dash away all!" As dry leaves thabefore the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky, So up to the house op the coursers they flew, with the sleigh full f toys-and St. Nicholas too. And then in a twinking I heard on the roof The prancing and paying of each little hoof. As I drew in my hear and was truning around, Down the chimney it. Nicholas came with a bound. He was dressed all n fur from his head to his foot, And his clothes wer, all tarnished with ashes and

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack. His eyes how they twinkled! his dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry; His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow. The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.

He had a broad face and a little round belly That shook, when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly. He was chubby and plump,-a right jolly old elf, And I laughed, when I saw him, in spite of myself. A wink of his eye and a twist of his head Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings; then truned with a jerk, And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle; But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

nesday, December 31. attempt to emphasize the through midnight Sunday, January 4, 1976. problem of hazardous driving and create a driver con-Speir said the DPS will be sciousness that will make our working with local law enhighways and streets safer forcement agencies to mount to use," he said. as strong an enforcement ef-

As all Christiandom pauses atChristmas And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings time 1975 to celebrate the birth of the of great joy, which shall be to all people. Saviour, it is especially fitting that we For unto you is born this day in the Merkel area be thankful for the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ blessings which have been ours during the the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye We think it appropriate that we all take shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling time to re-read again the beautiful story clothes, lying in a manger. of the birth of Christ as told by Saint

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told then concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the Shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and

pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying

and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Jesus, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

YULE MESSAGES MINISTERS

into us and knock us down, and we get up happily saying "Merry Christmas!" But let these same events happen to us; when we give let us any other time of the year, give as unto Him. and we get up angrily talking about lawsuits. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). May we also be the same loving persons throughout the entire year that Jesus would have us be. And may we live our lives in preparation for that beautiful moment when He will come unexpectedly to take His children to live with

tiful Star of Bethlehem shining afar thru shadows dim, unto the place where Jesus lay oh. Beautiful Star of rest. for the redeemed, the good and blest, yonder in glory brighter and brighter He will

We have a more sure word first, that no prophecy is of

moved by the Holy Ghost. May the Lord bless each of you in the holiday and bring you close unto Him and keep

Rev. W. G. Richardson

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

I enjoy literature very much, and one of my favorite stories for this time of the year is A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. It is the story of a despised, miserly man named Scrooge, Scrooge is a grouch who always complains and even has hard feelings toward his employees who want to be with their families on Christmas Day. And even though there was no energy shortage during the time this story was written, Scrooge only allowed his clerk one small piece of coal. to heat his office.

The turning point in Scrooge's life comes, however, when he is visited by four ghosts. These ghosts represent his old partner in business, Marley, and also the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present, and the Ghost of Christmas to Come. These spirits take Scrooge into the past, homes of the present, and finally into the future where he hears the reactions of people when they learn of his death. He is appaled that no one mourned over his death. Every person's reaction to his death is either happiness or indifference.

Scrooge immediately changes his life. He becomes a happy man who shares what he has with others. He begins to love others and to be loved by them.

The beautiful part of this story is that Scrooge was

FROM AREA

was allowed to take a deep

look at himself as others saw

him, and he was then given

You and I will not have

that second chance. The

Scriptures teach that Jesus

will someday come like "a

thief in the night" (II Peter

3:10), and that "no one knows

the day or hour, except the Father." (Mark 13:32). We

should all live our lives in

constant preparation for that

time of the year. It's a time

of loving, sharing, laughing,

and giving. It's the time of

year that someone can bend

the fender on our car, or run

Christmas is a beautiful

the time to change.

Years ago on the Judian hills one night sat a group of shepherds discussing prophecies of the scripture about the Saviour that was to be born and suddenly a multitude of angels began to sing and shout the Saviour is born in the city of David and they arose and went down to the city of Bethlehem to see this thing that had happened and to carry gifts to the Mother and the babe. They left all of their possessions to go worship the Saviour of the world, who had come to give himself for the sins of the world to die on the cross, to be burried and arise again. This was the greatest gift that was ever given to men. Since he gave so great gift

Another scene that we see as we read the Bible is the three wise men Gaper, Melchior and Belthazar were looking for the star of Bethlehem. In my mind I can hear them sing as Mr. Adgar Pace began to write the song Beaugiving a light for those who long have gone; and guiding the wise men on their way when the crown is won, for Jesus is now that Star divine

shine. Peter said. 2 Peter 1:19-21.

of prophecy; where unto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth, in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day Star arise in your hearts. Knowing this private interpertation, for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but Holy men of God spoke as they were

Larry Gill, Minister Merkel Church of Christ

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday Bible Study 9:45 A. M.

Worship 10:30 A. M. and 6:00 P. M. Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 P. M.

(EDITOR'S NOTE)-This is a condensed version of an article which appeared in the December 1950 edition of "News of Faith and Truth," a monthly publication published in Gainsville by John Curtis.

Angels attended the birth of Jesus Christ, and they served as messengers to carry the announcement that the Lord had come. Since that time, millions upon millions of birth announcements have

gone out in various waysby ship, by courier afoot, by messengers on horseback and in wheeled vehicles, by train, by mail, by plane, by telegram, by radio, but no other birth has ever been announced of such glorious significance and none has ever had such radiant messengers as those that brought the news of the birth of the Saviour.

If you think it strange that shepherds were fearful upon the appearance of an angel, just put yourself in their place. Human flesh is never easy in the presence of divine glory.

Indeed, it was good news that the angels brought that day, the Saviour, for whom Is rael had so long looked. How sad that the chosen people of God were so tragically unprepared to receive the Saviour and appreciated His coming.

It was certainly not the picture that men had envisioned, the picture of the Saviour coming to the world to be found wrapped in swaddling clothes and, lying in a manger. No doubt they had pictured Him many times as a prince coming astride a prancing war horse. They had pictured Him going through the land strewing natural benefits whereever He went. But they had never pictured Him in this humble condi-

There is something about the divine revelation of Jesus that natural minds cannot comprehend. Even when men have found Him and enthusiastically proclaimed their discovery to the world, there are always those who wonder if these things really be true. We have in the shepherds story and the world's attitude toward it a miniature of what has been going on in the world for almost 2,000 years. Millions have discovered Jesus Christ as the Saviour of their souls and have gone out to tell others about it. Still there are millions who doubt, who

wonder if it actually be true. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11

Merkel Native Comes **Back Here To Live**

One of Merkel's newcomers isn't new at all. She's a hometown girl who

grew up and graduated from high school in Merkel, has been away since 1960, and through a series of events has wound up here once more. Merkel folks knew her as

Kay Teaff back then; now she's Mrs. Cecil Todd, wife of Tye Elementary School's new principal. The Todds had been living

in Kentucky, Mr. Todd's home state, until he accepted the job with Tye Elementary. Kay described how the decision to move back to Mer-

kel came about. "We had been coming home to visit my parents (the Nim Teaffs) twice a year. Cecil really liked it here-especially the people. Everytime anyone would mention

"Then in October we came here for a week to be here while my father was having

Texas, he would tell about

how much he likes its

major surgery. While we were here, we heard about the vacancy left by Gene Stuckey's death. We had discussed the possibility of moving back here, and so when Cecil found out about

the opening, he applied for it . . . and he got it." The Todds have a five-



KAY TEAFF TODD . . . Back home again

who will start kindergarten

here in January. Kay, who graduated from Hardin Simmons University, has been teaching along with her husband most of the time since they marited. Her baccalaureate degree is in psychology and chemistry; she has done graduate work toward a master's degree in

While living here she plans

Pump Station Blaze Covers

One Abilene and two Merkel fire trucks went to the scene of a blaze at Magnolia pump station which was reported at about 4 a.m. on Monday, December 15.

director of the Texas De-

partment of Public Safety, to-

day warned that traffic ac-

cidents during the Christmas

and New Year periods may

claim almost 100 lives in

The state's top lawman said

48 of the deaths are likely

during the Christmas period

which runs from 6 p.m. Wed-

nesday, December 24,

through midnight Sunday, De-

An estimated 46 deaths will

occur in the New Year period

which runs from 6 p.m. Wed-

cember 28.

fort as possible.

past year.

into his own city.

and lineage of David,)

she should be delivered.

wife, being great with child.

no room for them in the inn.

watch over their flock by night.

Luke in the King James Bible.

Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And it came to pass in those days, that

(And this taxing was first made when

And all went to be taxed, every one

and Joseph also went up from Galilee,

out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which was called

Bethlehem, (because he was of the house

To be taxed with Mary his espoused

And so it was, that, while they were

And she brought forth her firstborn son,

And there were in the same country

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came

upon them, and the glory of the Lord

shone round about them; and they were

100 Expected To Die

In Texas Over Holidays

shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping

and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and

laid him in a manger; because there was

there, the days were accomplished that

there went out a decree from Cesar

Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

The pump, motor and bleeder valve for the entire line were on fire, and the blaze covered 15 acres of grass before it was extinguished, said Merkel Fire

the manpower and resources

that we have in the depart-

ment, and will be concentrat-

ing on such hazardous vio-

iations as drinking while driving and speeding," he

is also needed if accidents

are to be prevented during the

holiday, and pointed out that

DPS will be working with local

police and the news media in

a public education effort

called "Operation Motor-

"Through this program we

Chief Waymon Adcock. The pump station is the property of Mobile Oil Company. Workmen were called from Sweetwatertocut the pressure off.

Four Merkelandthree Abilene firemen were at the predawn scene for one and a half to two hours. From Merkel were Robert Harris, second assistant chief, Billy Lucas, Pat Pallarez and Iky Garrett.

Tye Received **Environmental Grant For \$3,852**

Congressman Cmar Burleson He said public cooperation announces the approval of a \$3,852 grant to the City of Tye by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The funds will assis with Step 1 of the preparation of facilities plans and related elements for a new outfall and lift station to transmit

Tye's wastewater to the City of Abilene interceptor. The current eligible cost for this phase of the project is \$5,137.

MERRY CHRISTMAS Year-old daughter, Tasha, See NATIVE, Pg. 4

I Shane Smith want a Red Rider, b-b gun, a box of pencils a batman alarm clock and a Doctor Steel and a real foot ball and my brother Todd wants a nurf foot ball a big dump truck, some guns and a G. I. Joe, and my little sister Kriste wants a baby doll, a trycycle and a monkey and some dishes and a rockin

> Thank you Your friends Shane-Todd Kriste Smith

Dear Santa Clause

My name is Chad Pack and I am 7 yrs old. Please bring me a Big Wheel, a train, a race car with number 88 on it, a filisbee, the Lone Ranger & Silver. If you don't have what I want just bring me what you want.

My sister is Jill and she's 4 yrs old and she wants a Baby Crissy, & a baby buggy & a filsbee & some jewlery.

Thank you for being nice & Thank you for the presents you brought us last year. Your friend Chad Pack

Dear Santa

My name is Kyle Doan. Please bring me a walkie talkie, putt-putt, Evel Knievel, play saw, boxing gloves, fire truck and a hot cycle.

My mommie is writing this letter for me because I'm not old enough to know how to write.

I like you Santa.

I'll leave you some cake and cookies on the table. How do you get down the chimney? Are you magic? Merry Christmas! Kyle Doan

How are you? I hope I get a lot of presents this year. I want Steve austin for Christmas and a racecar and a game that is called speed buggy and a five speed and a real camcera.

Sincerely, Joe Biera

Dear Santa.

I want a new bike and a spin wellder and a minybike. Sincerely Robby

Dear Santa,

How are you doing? It is going to be fun this year when you come to see me and bring the presents. I'll have some cookies and milk I'll tell you what I want. I want a real TV.

Sincerely, Dusti Whisenhunt

How are you? I hop you bring me lots of

I want a bike for Christmas and a walkeithtalkies. Sincerely Spencer

Dear Santa,

Lets thank Jesus for le ng us have somebody that gi es us all the things that we want. Santa Claus is the nicest man. in the world. He is very nice to give us toys. I love. You are very nice. How are you doing? I love you. Keep well.

I love you, Tracy Townsend

Dear Santa,

I ant you to bring me a 3 speed bike and a raceing car too and a fire set.

Sincerely, Ramiro, T. Aldrete

You are very nice to make your rounds each year. I would like to have karotee set and some boots. men Sincerily,



'Tis the season to be jolly . . . have a merry Christmas! THE FAMILY OF CARRIKER

000000 Merry Christmas



Here's hoping you'll find gifts galore under your tree this Christmas ... along with every blessing of the

Higginbotham Bartlett Co. PAT WILLIAMS & FAMILY & IKEY GARRETT

Dear Santa Dear Santa Clause.

I want some cowboy boots size 12 1/2 - Also, someblue jeans - cowboy hat - I want a doll that walks, some dishes. I have been a good girl - I'll leave you some hot chocolate when you come see

> Love. Angie Cannon

Dear Santa Clause; I want a putt-putt train and a gun and I want a guitar -

I've been a good boy. Love, Scott Cannon Age - 2

Please bring me a police hat - a police gun, a police car and a Raggedy Andy, I've been a good boy.

Love. Stephen Schultz Age - 4

Dear Sante Claus I have been a very good boy this year, I want some walky talkys and a ambulace and a truck and traler that comes off. i'll make a list and my mother will give it to you. I know it's a short letter by.

Your friend, Michael Reddin

Dear Santa Claus, I would like to have very

much, a Evel Kenevel soot and and a doon buggy and a Evel Kenvel Travil van Sincerely

Sean Woodard

Dear Santa Claus, I want a record player and some records to, and I want a doll that cry's and say's mama, and a baby bed with her, and I want a belt that say's Melisa on the belt, and a highchair with my doll I have been pretty good this year, this is the first time

I have wrote you

Sincerely

Missy Jones

Dear Santa Claus I have been good, And want some toys and cloths and a cowboy hat and. With a brown cowboy shirt. Your friend Brian Ford

Dear Santa Claus, I want a pair of walkie

talkeis for christmas. I also want a big jim motercross for chistmas. I want a base ball.

I want a set multiplication flash cards. Sincerely David Glasscock

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Wishing you Christmas cheer!

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MASONIC MEETING

Stated meeting of Merkel Lodge No. 710 on 2nd Saturday and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Vistors welcome.

Members urged to attend. BILLY D. DOAN, W.M. ROY MASHBURN, Sec'y

NOW OPEN - Randy's Fabrics in Abilene. 1120 Butternut. Good Furniture fabrics at great prices. Upholstery Available. 18-tfc

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JOHN TOWER



The Cruelest Tax

WASHINGTON-The most cruel tax you have to pay isn't even called a tax by the politicians who have foisted it upon you.

I can't imagine a more oppressive tax than the hidden tax of inflation, which is ravaging the real income of all

Inflation is a regressive tax which hurts the poor more than the rich, and the middle class worst of all. It is an insidious tax that demeans the value of work, encourages profligacy and waste, and erodes the productive resources of society.

Inflation, moreover, is a tax which no voter has ever approved, which escalates capriciously, and which is all but impossible to limit.

The tax of inflation has been rising rapidly in recent years. Consumer prices rose by 12 per cent in 1974, on top of an 8.8 per cent increase in 1973. Most Americans perceive the symptoms of inflation-

ever increasing price levels-not its causes. This is dangerous. To try to cure inflation by removing its symptoms with such measures as wage and price controls is as futile as trying to cure measles by removing the spots. Inflation is the result of expanding the supply of money

in an economy at a faster rate than the production of goods and services is increasing. If there is more money chasing fewer goods, price levels go up. Excessive federal deficits are the primary cause of in-

flation. Every dollar that the federal government spends over what it takes in leads indirectly to an increase in the money supply of about \$2.50. This is how it works:

(1) When the federal government runs a deficit, it issues IOUs-Treasury bills-and sells them to investors in order to make up the deficit.

(2) The more the federal government borrows, the more it drives down the price of its own Treasury bills and the price of all other debt instruments such as bonds issued by cities and states and private corporations. This is the same as increasing interest rates. (3) In order to keep interest rates from going too high,

the Federal Reserve buys Treasury bills to slow the decline of security prices. In effect, one agency of the federal government issues new money to pay for the debts of the other agencies. (4) The money the Federal Reserve uses to buy the

Treasury bills supplies reserves to commercial banks, which use the reserves to provide loans to businesses and con-(5) Since banks are able to loan out about \$2.50 for every dollar they hold in reserves, and each loan leads to

a dollar-for-dollar increase in the money supply, each dollar the Federal Reserve spends to buy Treasury bills ultimately results in a \$2.50 increase in the money supply. Deficit spending is the result of lax fiscal policy by the government. It stems from the cowardly reluctance of

spendthrift politicians to tell the voters the true cost of the programs they are proposing. There is no easy way to repeal the tax of inflation. Halting inflation would involve giving up those governmental programs being funded by this hidden tax, and this would offend many powerful special interest groups. But

inflation must be halted or it will destroy our economy. The first step to ending the tax of inflation is to recognize that it is a tax-that there is not, after all, any such thing as a free lunch or a harmless budget deficit.

"Back in the East, they're

Merkel has changed since

she moved away, she be-

lieves, in that "There seems

to be a renewal here now.

It might be part of some-

thing that's happening all over

the country--people are going

back to small towns and to

Fort Hood and on the basket-

ball team there. I was going

to Hardin Simmons, and after

and HSU we were introduced.

game between Fort Hood

"Then we started dating,

She recalled a fast-paced

"On Thursday I graduated

from college. Cn Saturday we

got married. And on Monday

we both started teaching jobs

and he'd drive up here from

Fort Hood weekends." she

five days during 1964.

at the school in Olton!"

Notice To

She recounted how she and

"He was in the Army at

more clannish -- not so open,

she observed.

rural areas."

grinned.

her husband met.

to go back to teaching, she

But her greatest interest is in art. Before long, she'll have a showing of her work in Merkel, she promised.

Her painting, which includes oils and watercolors of landscapes, wildlife and still life, has won her numerous high awards including third place in the state in the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs competition and "Best of Show" honors

in three different shows. She hopes to open an art gallery, art supply and frame store in Merkel someday, she

Although often homesick for Merkel while in Kentucky, she admitted that she'll miss the magnificent scenery that comes with the four distinct. dramatic seasons that she used as the basis for many of her paintings.

But she has other reasons for being glad to be back in Texas. Like her husband, she prefers the people here.

> All Types Building Remodeling Work

Albert Gregory 928-5474 Jerry Goode 928-4890

Bidders The City of Merkel will receive sealed bids until 1 p.m. January 12, 1976, on the sale of the following de-

scribed property: Lots 1 and 2, Block 7-E; lots 11, 12 and 13, Block 20-A; Lots 9 and 10, Block 20-D all in the College addition to the City of Merkel, Taylor County, Texas. Minimum bid of \$200 is

required per each lot with purchaser assuming all legal costs of transaction. Lou David Allen

Merkel

40-7tc

Mayor of the City of

SHOP WAY



O CHRISTMAS TREE, HOW LOVELY ARE YOUR BRANCHES"--This year for the first time, Christmas trees grown in East Texas will be on the market. This year's crop of nearly 3,000 trees was planted five years ago and carefully pruned and shaped to make attractive Christmas trees, according to Agriculture Commissioner John C. White.

Texas Taxe\$

By BOB BULLOCK, State Comptroller

1ST

DOSI

Mrs

A store that pays its taxes? would want to spend their tax money that comes out of pocket.

their pockets. usually assume that we're display the green permit is dealing with an honest, doing just that. taxpaying outfit and that's good. But in talking about the sales tax, there is one sure doesn't have a permit for one

That's the green sales tax

all retail merchants to have and that means he isn't filing The law says that the green permit--a 4-by-9 inch card-must be conspicuously displayed in the retailer's place of business. Most stores post it near the cash register along with other licenses and certificates.

I would think that even without a legal requirement It's punishable by a fine of to do so most retailers would be proud to display the operation. permit as a badge of honor as

Austin-You like to do a tax-collecting, taxpaying business with a reputable business.

I don't think Texans

I think most Texans would money-especially so-called answer "yes" to both sales tax money-with a questions, especially when merchant they knew way we're talking about the sales putting the sales tax in his

You can bet your boots. As paying customers we all that a merchant who can't

> How do you know? Because the merchant

way the customer can tell at a of two reasons-and both are bad. Perhaps the merchant has permit which the law requires never applied for a permit.

returns with the state. We

find a lot of these. In some

cases the retailer isn't

collecting the tax, but in more cases than not he is collecting the money and putting it in his pocket People operating without a permit are playing with fire.

\$ 500 for every single day of

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ANY SHERIFF OR ANY CONSTABLE WITHN THE STATE OF TEXAS---Greet-

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

CITATION

BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: H L. Smith, Roy E. Smith, Jewel Condron Blacksher, Lila Pearl Livergood, J. W. Blacksher, U. B. Blacksher, G. L. Blacksher, Mrs. D. Sloan, A. J. Bartrug, C. D. Sloan, A. J. Bartrug, C. R. Blevins, Margaret C. Buchwald, W. L. Byrd, B. G. Cheney, O. P. Coffin, Ray Coffin, David Cole, A J. Coleman, G. H. Coleman, J. E. Cudney, Nora Douglas, J. T. Eslick, P. C. Hefner, Betty Heyworth, H. C. Kuntz, W. W. Line, J. J. McKeon, Henry McNutt, Mrs. Albert B. Martin, G. T. Meador, J.E. Meador, Thomas D. Metcalf, J. P. Monday, C. Moore, J. A. Ransom, V. E. Pruitt, Joe Roesli, Royalty Shareholders, Inc., D. T. Scott, Thomas & Corby, J. C. White and the unknown heirs-atlaw, devisees, legal representatives, successors and assigns of each of said named individual Defendant who are

deceased if any are de-ceased, DEFENDANTS, Greeting: YOU ARE HEREBY COM-MANDED to appear before the Honorable 42nd. District Court, Judge Don Lane, of Taylor County at the Courthouse thereof, in Abilene, Texas, by filing a written

answer at or before 10 o'clock

A. M. on the first Monday

next after the expiration of forty-two days from the late of the issuance of this itation, same being the 26th. day of January, A. D 1976, to Plaintiff's Petiti filed in said court, on ty 8 day of December, A. 192, in this cause, ambred, 34996-A on the ockst of said court and styd:

Nordan Oil and Corporation, Plaintiff

H. L. Smith, | al, Defendants A brief strment of the nature of is suit is

follows, to v: Suit by oner of oil and gas leas covering the hereafer described propert for the appointment of Receiver to give oil andas leases covering themineral interest of the Diendants, whose wherebouts are unknown. The Efendants own 3.51%

of the minerals in and to the following described progrty: Nothwest one-fourth (N11/4) of Section 233 and t re Southeast one-fourth (S:1/4) of Section 234, Bock 64, H & TC Ry.

C. Lands, Taylor County, Texas. as s more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in

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

be returned unserved. The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the man; dates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my? hand and seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this the 8 day of December, A. D. 1975.

ATTEST: Irene

Crawford, Clerk 42nd. District Court Taylor County, Texas 43-4tc



MEMBER TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Merkel Mail PUBLISHERS STATEMENT

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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing of

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 fo the publisher. SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$4.75 Per Year Taylor and adjoin-

\$1.25 minimum for the first four lines. Excess of 4 lines will be charged at the rate of 8 cents per word.



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677-4349 366 Chestnut

THE WANT AD







Decoration Winners At Merkel Primary - Jr High

IST. PLACE, FRIMARY BUILDING-Ten-year-old Keith Watts poses with Frosty the Snowman who is peering out of the window of the best-decorated door in the primary building. Mrs. Danny Malone's fourth grade class won first prize for their work on the door.

2ND PLACE, FRIMARY BUILDING - Winning second place 1ST PLACE, ELEMENTARY BUILDING-Original drawings is Mrs. Peel's first grade class with handiwork by all by students of eighth grade homeroom teacher Mrs. Judy students in the class being mounted on the door. Each Butler of Santa and the Nativity scene were a part of the

pieces.

the door stating, "We're Santa's workers. We read, write building for the best-decorated door. Here class member and do our math."

We hope the blessings of the

season abide with you and

CARSON'S

SUPERMARKET

yours. Merry Christmas!

Let us strive for

lasting friend-

ship with our

fellow men, now

and after Christmas.

V. F. W. POST 5683

LADIES AUXILARY

Here's an old-fashioned greeting

CASTILLE HARDWARE

from all of us to all our friends!

Merry Christmas!

Reader Recipes Shared

Send your favorite recipes to The Merkel Mail, P. O. Box 428, Merkel, 79536. Or drop them by the newspaper office. Many readers would enjoy your sharing them for our weekly recipe column.

QUICK CHILI For a change of pace after all the holiday turkey and ham, you might want to consider a pot of chili on one of these cold winter days. Mrs. W. T. Sadler has provided us with her recipe for

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Ry. inty,

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this

an easy version of it. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in sauce pan. Add one-half cup onion and garlic, saute, and add one ; and of ground meat. Brown. Then add 1 1/4 cups tomatoes, 2 tablespoons cheli powder, and salt. Cook

MRS. W. T. SADLER

plezA Ann Eooth recom-





Hangly our holiday stockinfor Santa, and wising you the best Chritmas ever!

DNEY ISURANCE AGUCY BONEY BENNY

mends pizza for a delicious winter evening meal. Here's her recipe.

She noted that the pizza can be made ahead of time and frozen, a procedure which she has used herself often when making the recipe in quantity

for parties and entertaining. PIZZA CRUST 1 envelope yeast 1 1/2 c. warm water

2 Tbs. oil 1 tsp. sugar Work fast. 1 tsp. salt 11. When white and very 3 1/2 c. flour

Knead. Let rise once.

Grease two 13" pans. Chill dough before rolling. Rollout dough into pans. On each of the two pizzas spread one 7-ounce can of tomato sauce. Sprinkle on some minced onions, minced garlic and Italian seasoning, and lightly Bake on oven's lowest shelf

at 450 F. until lightly brown on the bottom (about 15-20 minutes).

salt.

This is the stage where the pizza can be removed from

TOPPING ngredients)

Pepperoni slices vell drained

Cut-up onions Sliced raw mushrooms Sliced black clives Red pepper flakes

Top pizza with mozarella cheese and Parmesan cheese. Bake at 425 F. until cheese is bubbly (6-8 minutes). -- MRS. ANN BOOTH

BUTTERMINT CANDY "A real melt-in-your mouth type candy," said the

contributor of this recipe, again Mrs. Booth. 1. Butter cold marble slab or large platter.

2. Have near: shears or knife, butter, 1 t. vanilla. 3. Grease sides of 3 Qt. saucepan (or 2 Qt.)

4. Put in pan: 2 cups sugar, 1 stick (1/2 c.) butter or margarine, 1/2 cup water. 5. Stir till begins to boil.

Remove spoon. 6. Wash down sides of pan with pastry brush or paper towel dipped repeatedly in

7. Cover and allow to boil on high a couple of minutes.



will be filled with laughter, joy and good will this glad Holiday season-

We hope your home and heart MERKEL FISHER FINA STATIONS MERKEL AUTO PARTS

(Steps 3, 6 and 7 are to pre- twist into a long rope 1/2 vent crystals of sugargetting inch thick. Snip into 1/2" into the candy)

8. Uncover. Using thermometer if possible, cook sugar. Cool. Store in closed rapidly without stirring to 260 F. or soft crack.

9. Pour immediately, without scraping pan, onto marble mints. Sometimes this takes or platter. Pour vanilla on 10. Start folding over

edges. Butter hands and while candy is hot pull like taffy.

hard to pull, quickly pull and



By David and Eunice Bigelow

It was the winter of 1800 when the White House was the pan and flozen. If you ready for occupancy, Abigail want to freeze several at Adams had the honor and task of being the first First tween the pizzas and put them Lady. History reveals that in all together in a big plastic the bumpy ride from Philbag, seal and freeze. Just adelphia to Washington more add topping and bake when you than half of her china tea sertake them out of the freezer. vice had been broken en route. Mrs. Adams had to replace it in time for the offi-Use any or all of these cial reception or face social disaster. Why not celebrate the Bicentennial year with a Lightly cooked hamburger, formal or informal tea party in your own home? Invite friends and neighbors over and serve Bigelow's Constant Comment, an adaptation of a colonial recipe blending fine tea with orange rind and

sweet spices.



12. Dust well with powdered

jar till grain sets up and

candy changes from chewy to

melt-in-the-mouth smooth

four days and sometimes it

happens before it is all cut.

Make only on a dry day.

-- MRS. ANN BOOTH

The holy spirit of Christmas reaches out with our good wishes.

CLAUDE

ESSIE WARREN



Imagine the joy the shepherds felt, on hearing the glad tidings! We wish that joy to you and yours. SEYMORE

INSURANCE CO.

MACK, IDA, STACY & TED



coming year. May He fill your heart with joy. WILSON JEWLERS

WOODY & FRANCES



met in the Big Country Inn LOOK

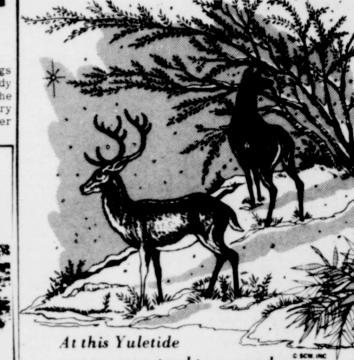
Mr. and Mrs. Val Garcia announce the birth of a son, Christopher Shay. The baby was born December 16 and weighed 7 pounds and 9 1/2

Maternal grandparentsare Mrs. Peggy Chamberlain and James Ranne both of Brown-

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Garcia also of Brownwood.

The T. E. L. Sunday School dining room for their regular of the First Baptist Church Christmas luncheon, After a meal of turkey and all the trimmings, Lucy Ford gavea. Christmas story. Those present were: Dent Gibson; Paralee Gibson, Jewell Criswell, Bessie Clack, Hob Robertson, Fannie Keith, Sylvia Thomas, Callie Newsom, Annie Walker, Irl Walker, Blanche Teaff, Jewell Dunagin, Lucy Ford, Ruth Baze, Ruby Jinkens, Essie Warren, Vivian Winter, Ina Hunter, Maggie Renfro and Dewey

> Young peas can be cooked in their pods and eaten pod and all (as the Chinese eat snow



season, we extend to you and yours, our thanks for your patronage, and very best wishes.

> OWNERS, MANAGEMENT & PERSONELL OF

THE COUNTRY CLUB OF MERKEL



May He Whose birth we celebrate at this joyful season, bless you with every happiness now & always!

> BUTMAN UNITED METHODIST CAMP

THE JAMES P. WOOTENS

But Wink



During this wonderful season of the year, we welcome the opportunity to extend our very best wishes to you . . . along with a big "Thank you" for your patronage.

BUDDY, MARY,

irenan; due ects.

court

trict ylor

Gourmet Goodies To Make And Give

presents particularly suited to someone's tastes, there's nothing like food for thoughtfulness. Very seasonable for the holidays are these homemade goodies invented by epicures that are almost as much fun to create as to consume.

Sheldon Landwehr, columnist, critic and world traveler renowned for his candid restaurant reviews suggests two of his most popular gifts:

Orange Cognac Fruit Treats 1 cup (8 ounces Leroux Cognac With Orange

> liqueur) 1 pound mixed dried fruit (apples, pears, peaches, apricots)

1 package (10 ounces)

semi-sweet chocolate bits Assorted decorations (sprinkles, dragees, non-pareils)

Cognac With Orange 1 min- to say Happy Holidays. ute. Pour into a shallow dish; add dried fruit and marinate at room temperature, turning occasionally about 24 hours. Drain and place on a dry platter. Melt chocolate in double boiler. With tongs dip each piece of fruit into melted until ready to package.

Jamaica Rumcrock 2 1/2 cups drained canned fruit (pitted

dark sweet cherries. sliced cling peaches, pineapple chunks, mandarin oranges) 2 cups dried fruit

apricot halves. small figs, peaches. pitted dates) 1/4 cup whole blanched

(pitted prunes.

1 pound (2 1/4 cups) superfine sugar 1 1/2 cups Myers's

almonds

Jamaica Rum In a 1 1/2 quart crock layer fruit, almonds and sugar. Add Myers's Jamaica Rum gradually, gently stirring to dissolve sugar. Rum should cover fruit. Cover crock and weight lid to keep fruit under rum, adding more rum if necessary to cover fruit, and let stand 4 to 7 days. Stir to distribute

You might also like to try these perennial favorites. Seven Crown Brownies

1/4 pound butter 2 ounces (2 squares) Bakers unsweetened



TASTY TREATS-Dried fruits, soaked in Cognac With In a double boiler heat Orange liqueur and dipped in chocolate, make a tasty way

1 cup sugar 1/2 cup sifted flour

1/2 teaspoon vanilla 1 to 1 1/2 jiggers 7 Crown whiskey

2/3 cup chopped walnuts

Over very low heat melt chocolate coating evenly, together butter and choco-Decorate as desired. Place late, stirring constantly. on waxed paper or house. Cool. In a mixing bowl beat hold foil and refrigerate eggs until foamy, gradually adding sugar, beating well after each addition. Blend in cooled chocolate mixture. Stir in flour, in two or three additions and mixing well each time. Add vanilla, then whiskey and beat. Stir in nuts. Turn into greased 8 x 9 x 2-inch pan. Bake in preheated 3250 F. oven about 25 minutes, or until baked and shrinks slightly from edge of pan. While warm, cut into squares. Cool in refrigerator about 30 minutes. Remove from pan and store. Makes 18 or

Kumquats a la Canadienne

2 cans (11 ounces each) whole kumquats, drained (syrup

24 squares.

reserved) 1/4 cup sugar 1/2 cup reserved kumquat

syrup 1/2 cup Harwood Canadian whiskey 10 cardamom seeds,

3 orange slices, seeds removed

In two attractive 12kumquat syrup, whiskey, as a gift.

cardamon seeds and orange slices. Bring to full boil. Remove orange slices and place in jars with kumquats. Pour hot syrup mixture over fruit, adding more whiskey if necessary, to cover fruit. Cook with a tight lid; store in refrigerator up to 2 months. Serve as a condiment with meats or over ice

cream as a dessert. Chicken Liver Pate au Cardin

3 ounces butter, divided 1/2 small onion, finely chopped

clove garlic, crushed 8 ounces chicken livers, halved

2 tablespoons Jacques Cardin brandy 1 teaspoon prepared French mustard

1/8 teaspoon (or less) mixed ground spices Salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

In a small saute pan melt 1 ounce of the butter. Add onion and garlic and cook, stirring often, until soft. Add chicken livers and cook gently about 5 minutes. Remove from pan and pour brandy into pan. Rinse pan to deglaze and add to livers with remaining 2 ounces softened butter. Add mustard and mixed spices. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Either put through blender, press through a sieve or pound until smooth in a mortar. Turn into earthounce jars place kumquats enware dish, cover with foil dividing about equally. In and chill. Store in refrigerasaucepan over medium tor several days for flavors heat mix together sugar, to blend. Serve or package

New Brucellosis Ruling Miss Clemmer To Explained to Cattlemen Wed Robert Wheeler

AUSTIN-Texas Animal Health Commission has been officially notified that as of January 1 Federal indemnity payments will no longer be paid to raisers whose cattle are condemned as brucellosis reactors, according to Dr. H. Q. Sibley, executive director.

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) took the action after Commission Board members voted this fall not to adopt a more stringent program which would have brought the state into compliance with Federal regulations.

"Indemnity payments have amounted to around \$2 million annually in Texas," Dr. Sibley said. In addition, the Commission also will lose funds for 54 state brucellosis testers on a \$662,200 annual contract with APHIS.

There is some confusion on indemnity payments, Dr. Erston Cox, area APHIS veterinarian said. "All animals identified as reactors that are branded and tagged through December 31 will still be covered under the present program," he explained.

If you really want to please your favorite golfer, gift him with a good set of clubs as well, such as those with the popular shaft-in hosel feature found in Royal Golf irons. Investing in quality equipment to help a golfer play a better game is a good way to make your thoughtful Christmas gift last for years.



wishes for

a cheerful

CHRISTMAS

CONLEY'S

E.A. & RONNY

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*3495

*4395 **•**

13495

*3395

32695

BARBER SHOP

GREAT SELECTION

74 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX Air and power, cruise control, tilt wheel, elec. windows, tape player,

Rally II wheels, radial tires, 19,000 miles. Black color with black winyl top - Burgundy interior. Real NICE

75 BUICK LE SABRE4-door sedae. Air and power, 24,000 miles, local owner. Real nice, light

74 CATALINA Sedan, air, power, tilt wheel, cruise, stereo tape player, Bronze with white top, Real

74 PONTIAC GRAND VILLE 4 dr. This one has all the goodies, white with white viny! top.

73 PONTIAC CATALINA4 door sedan. Air and power, radial tires, 36,000 miles. Beautiful blue color. Real nice. AMIY

12895 75 CHEVY IMPALA 4-door Sedan air and power, radial tires, white, \$3995 blue vinyl top. Real nice, only

74 GMC % ton. V-8. 4 speed, air, power, beige 73 PONTIAC CATALINA 4-door hardtop. Air and power, 33,000 miles. Silver with black

viny! top. Real nice. ONLY 73 PONTIAC VENTURA 2-door. VI. as tomatic, air and power, yellow color with black viny

73 OLDS 88 4-door Sedan air and power, AM-FM Stereo. Bronze color, beige vinyl top. Nice, only \$2795

We have Several other nice cars, SO COME SEE US. 'We Sell 'Em-We Lease 'Em'

Palmer Pontiac & GMC ABILEME 673-1182

Under proposed Federal regulations, Texas cattle mer Jr. of Route 3 Merkel. could be quarantined, have announced the engage-'These quarantine ment of their daughter Teresa Gwendell, to Kobert Wayne regulations have not been Wheeler, son of Mr. and Mrs. placed against Texas yet, and

Card Of Thanks

serious." WE WOULD LIKE to thank Cattle groups opposing all our friends and neighbors the Federal program have for being so kind and sympaproposed more extensive thetic during Truett's illness research for an improved and at the time of his death. The family of Truett Jones vaccine and less stringent rules that do not increase

costs of production. GRATED S

To stretch a meal, add grated potatoes and leftover vegetables, such as peas and baked beans, along with liquid from canned vegetables to a can of pea soup.

there is a possibility they will

not be," Dr. Sibley said.

"But the consequences are



CHRISTMAS! A friendly greeting to our many loyal customers!

TOYOTA

ABILENE, TEXAS

A. D. Stevens of Abilene. The couple will be mariied January 6, at the Merkel Church of Christ at 7:30 in the evening.

The bride elect is a graduate of Divide High School at Nolan and is presently a student at Abilene Christian College. The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Clyde High School and spent four years with the United States Army stationed in Germany. He is presently employed as a carpenter.

SCHEDULE EVENTS 1st Monday of Month Singilla 2nd Tuesday Noon Covered Dish Luncheon

SENIOR CITIZENS

Game Nights **Every Thursday** & 4th Monday 4th Thur. Game Night Reserved for Talented Amateurs.

ENE MFG

DOORS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC JAN. 6TH THRU 9TH

> THIS GRAND EVENT WILL **OPEN EACH MORNING** AT 9 AM TILL 5PM

OVER \$50.000 IN

MERCHANDISE OVERUNS

WILL BE OFFERED

We Proudly Present "America Is"

7:40a.m. 12:40p.m.

10:40a.m.

and 2:40p.m. 4:40p.m.



Christmas Greetings from Mr. & Mrs. John Curtis come straight from the heart. Every employee at KWFA appreciates your cheerful consideration during the busy holiday season and wish for you every happiness this Christmas. Not just a wish for Christmas, but for every day in the New Year from KWFA and the entire staff. These glad Tidings have been extended to you from:

> Mr. & Mrs. John Curtis, Mr. & Mrs. Finley Barnett, J.W. Brewer, Jimmy Land, Mac Sipe,

UQ

James Chaney, Manuel Hernandez, & Bill Miller, engineer

Notice

SOUR CREAM FUDGE (This recipe was incorrectly printed in last week's paper. Here is the correct version.)

4 cups sugar 1 cup sour cream 1/2 stick oleo

2/3 cup white corn syrup pinch of salt 1 Tbs. vanilla 1 cup nuts, broken in pieces

Cook to soft ball stage. Let stand 15 minutes. Then beat (electric mixer can be used) until loses gloss and gets milky-looking. Add nuts. Pour into pan; cut into squares.



Salisbury steak, which is bunless hamburger, comes from a Dr. J. H. Salisbury, who about 75 years ago recommended ground steak three times a day for a whole list of ailments.



May your holiday be bright with the glow of friendship!

NURSING HOME

STARR



15 minutes in hot water.

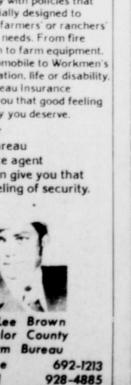


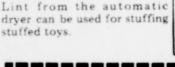


Farm Bureau Insurance provides that good feeling of security with policies that are especially designed to cover the farmers' or ranchers ndividual needs. From fire protection to farm equipment. from automobile to Workmen's Compensation, life or disability Farm Bureau Insurance can give you that good feeling of security you deserve. Call your

Farm Bureau Insurance agent ... he can give you that good feeling of security.

Taylor County Farm Abilene Merkel





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IC

Dear Santa Claus, I have been pretty good this year. I want a Barbe an Ken and a van for Christmas. May I have a big walking doll to and my sister wants two love briad. My two brothers wants a toys and a Jak in the-box. My dady wants a car and my mother wants a timex.

Love Melisa Massey

Dear Santa Caus, I have been preey good this year, I am going leav you a clold glass of milk this

THE CHRIST OF

CHRISTMAS

Five names were given Jesus Christ Long centuries before

He came down from His throne above To open Heaven's door. Isaiah calls Him

"wonderful." How well this prophet knew His person and the works of love That He on earth would do.

And next He calls Him "Counsellor," Ah, this He is indeed! "The Mighty God," yes, He

· alone Has conquered death and sin, And faith in His atoning blood Will Heaven for us win. "The Everlasting Father" --

May seem a little odd --But with the Father, Christ is one.

Redeemer, and true God. "The Prince of Peace," how true this is The angels knew it, too,

He brought a heavenly peace when He Was born for me and you.

May we remember these five names And never once forget The Saviour Who was thus

portrayed Is still among us yet. Marie C. Turk

Fighting Colds

When you're aspirin-sensi tive and you catch a cold, you've got enough miseries without adding an upset stomach or other unwanted side effects that can occur from pain relievers that contain aspirin.

shouldn't take aspirin, your asked her one day how she doctor may recommend Co-Tylenol cold formula tablets. They contain an effective non-aspirin pain reliever, plus an antihistamine and a decongestant, to provide relief of colds' distress without aspirin's side effects.

Since youngsters sometimes suffer toxic reactions to aspirin under certain conditions, it's generally safer to give them this non-aspirin cold formula too, in the special raspberry-flavored form designed for children. It reeves the miseries of childod colds, tastes goodald there are no worries abut side effects.

or a free copy of a botlet on aspirin-sensitivit enclose stamped, selfdd sed, legal size envekpe | Booklet 619, McNeil Labolories, Fort Washington, P19034.



Letters To Santa

live and a taprecarer and that's all. I hope you like the cookies this year. Love

Melody Fape,

Dear Santa claus

I have been pretter good this year. I would lick a doll for christmas. I will be happy Meer christmas and a happy now year!

My frends Santa claus from Tammie Swinney

Dear Santa Claus,

I have been pretty good this year. And I would like to have stuffed elephant, and a snoppy soaper, roller skates, barbie camper, and a Good time van. I've been studing math, spelling. I wish you could come to our class, Tuesday December 15, 1975.

I love you truly, Tamara Watson

Dear Santa Claus,

I have been good this year. I want a hores and a set of mulication and a pencil. I love you Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

> Love. Sandra

Dear Santa Claus, I wont a bike and a walkie talkie and a kite and a football and a ball and a coat and a boat and a recordplayer and a wagon and a snoopy and a cow boy hat and a drum?

Dear Santa I habe been a good girl Please bring me a sneezy

Bobby Biera

Kristen Kennedy

a sun shine family

doll and a baby thataway and

Grandma's

Eyes

3rd, hand-A little boy said to his play mate: "When I get older I want to wear spectacles just like Grand ma wears. She must have a special kind because she can see when folks are more than most people. She can see when folks are hungry or tired or sorry, and she can even see what'll

make them feel better." "She can see how to fix a lot of things to have fun with and she can see what a feller meant to do, even if he didn't do it right. She can see when a feller is about to cry and she can see what If you catch cold but to do to make him better, I could see so good, and she said it is the way she learned to look at things as she grew older."

"So when I get older I want a pair of spectacles just like Grand ma's so I can see good too."

Ashley Cooper in Charleston, South Carolina News. And in the Messenger, publication of Christ Episcopal Church, Greenville, South Carolina.

STATE CAPITAL Highlights ^~°Sidelights

AUSTIN — Texas political parties are gearing up for the 1976 presidential elections-and the state's first (and perhaps only) presidential preference primary

Republicans launched their primary plans several weeks ago, and organizations are forming to support candidacies of President Gerald Ford and former California Gov. Ronald Reagan.

Democrats met in Fort Worth last week to finalize delegate selection rules changes. They also approved a proposal to streamline their state conventions (making them double-header, two-day sessions, instead of oneday, 24-hour marathons).

U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen and Alabama Gov. George Wallace are moving out front among Democratic presidential candidates in the Texas primary May 1 with preliminary petitiongathering and organiza-

Liberal Democrats met in San Antonio Saturday to map their strategy to try to minimize the delegate strength of Bentsen and Wallace

Former U.S. Sen. Ralph Yarborough said he may become a candidate in the preference primary, although he will reach no firm decision before the end of the year. Former Georgia Gov.

Jimmy Carter is also making plans to enter the primary, as is former Oklahoma Sen. Fred Harris. Other candidates are undecided. **Metric Conversion**

Texas industry may be converting already to the metric system of measure- pay for staff operations durment, according to tes-

THE COUNTRY CLUB

CATFISH EVERY FRI. 6-9

ALL YOU CAN EAT \$2.50

CHILDREN OF ALL AGES A

INVITED TO COME SEE --

DUNN TEXACO

ANTIQUE & RELIC

Saturday Dec. 13th & 20th & Also

Christmas Eve Dec. 24th

BRING YOUR CAMERAS!!

DEALERS ARE WELCOME!

From 2 P.M. Until 4 P.M.

IF WEATHER PERMITS WE WILL HAVE

A FLEA MARKET DEC. 13th

SANTA CLAUSE

timony before a House sub-committee State agency spokesmen

discussed with the panel a possible overhaul of the state tax structure if the change from the English system of measurement (feet, yards, pounds and pints) is adopted.

The U.S. is the only major industrialized nation not using the metric system. Congress has been considering several bills which would convert to that system.

Some industry representatives said they feel the conversion ultimately is inevitable.

Race Opens

Chief Justice Charles Barrow, 54, of the San Antonio Fourth Court of Civil Appeals last week mounted a campaign for an upcoming State Supreme Court

Barrow so far is unopposed, but he said he will 'run like a scared coyote," expecting another candidate will emerge before filing deadline. The veteran of 13 years on the intermediate appellate court bench paid his filing fee as a Democratic candidate.

Lawmaker Pay 25th

Texas legislators are now squarely in the middle among those of 50 states when it comes to the payroll.

They rank 25th at \$600 a month, with \$30 per day living expense allowances during sessions. California legislators are

paid the most-\$21,120 a year plus a \$30 per day expense allowances, a leased auto and gasoline credit card and \$4,556 a month to ing annual sessions. New

Hampshire pays \$100 a year-with no expense ac-

Courts Speak

Texas Supreme Court refused to force trial of a suit by 12 alien children seeking to throw out a state law which requires them to pay tuition to attend Houston public schools.

The high court also rejected Alamo Heights and Edgewood (San Antonio) school districts' efforts to require their taxable property values to be equalized with those of other districts.

In both the Houston and San Antonio cases, the court refused to accept petitions for writs of mandamus.

In another case, the Supreme Court upheld Texas

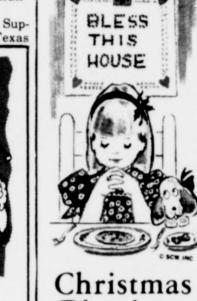
greetings

To all of our customers: best

wishes for a happy holiday.

May our friendships continue.

GLLENE'S



Blessings

JUSTICE OF

Woman's University rules requiring undergraduates under 23 to live in dor-

mitories. Reaching for a pistol in a belt is not assault with intent to murder, the Court of Criminal Appeals held in overturning a conviction and 25-year sentence of a

Lufkin man. A State Bar grievance committee has moved to suspend the law license of 229th District Judge O.P. Carrillo pending his appeal of an income tax fraud con-

AG Opinions

The Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System may enter student loan cancellation contracts where graduates become employed by certain state agencies, Atty. Gen. John Hill concluded.

In another recent opinion, Hill said public community and junior colleges are required to set aside from tuition charges for



To All ...

MAY YOU HAVE A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY

THE PEACE FAMILY

の存在は北京社会は北京の大学の北京は北京の北京の北京の北京の北京の大学の北京の

THE MERKEL MAIL Thursday, December 25, 1975 Page vocational-technical

courses only the six per cent designated in the Texas Education Code.

Short Snorts State colleges and universities asked approval of lower division

(freshman-sophomore) courses at 49 off-campus locations and 1,510 upperlevel or graduate courses at 177 locations. All but one of the state public senior institutions are requesting approval to conduct offcampus courses.

WATCH FOR ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

IN MARCH DAY TO BE ANNOUNCED

AT A LATER DATE

STEEL BUILDINGS GALVANIZED OR COLOR

Limited offer on this building with large double sliding doors included

46x100x12-\$7347.00 F. O. B. Houston

Prefabricated for easy erection. For more information call 512-451-0223 COLLECT and ask for Mr. Henry. GRT STEEL BUILDINGS

> 7701 N. Lamar Suite 121 Austin, Texas 78752



WASHERS APPLIANCE GIFTS for a grand. Christmas! REFRIGERATORS DISHWASHERS FREEZERS ELEVISIONS, MICRO-WAVE & Palmer Pontiac & GMC G.E.. APPLIANCES & TV'S

OF MERKEL ATTEND OUR GALA **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY** CHAMPAGNE & COUNTRY CLUB BREAKFAST BUFFET RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST CALL 928-5514 OR 928-5527 WE WILL BE BE HAPPY TO DELIVER YOUR TICKET \$15.00 A COUPLE DON'T FORGET CHICKEN EVERY TUES AND

RESERVATIONS NOT NECESSARY BUT DO HELP

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MERKEL, TEXAS 928-5113

Sanders Music Brightens Nursing Home

senior citizens The daughter of musicians, Ruby Sanders has been playing the piano since she was "that high."

Now 83 years old, she's still at it. A resident of Starr Nursing Home, she daily entertains the other folks there with her piano playing.

'They want the old songs -the old hymns. There are a few numbers that they make

the old hymns. "There are a few numbers that they make me play over and over," Mrs. Sanders said -- songs like "Amazing Grace" and "Sweet By and By."

Born near Irescott, Arkansas, the next to the eldest in a family of nine children, Mrs. Sanders has been in Texas since she was a young girl. The family was engaged in farm work around Snyder, Blevins and other places in the state.

Music played a big part in family life when she was a girl. Mrs. Sanders remembers her father saying, 'After ya'll help me get this bale of cotton, I'll buy you an organ."

And her father kept his promise. The children in the family were to learn to play so well that many of them, Mrs. Sanders included, spent many years as church organists. Mrs. Sanders spent 14 years playing at one

Mrs. Sanders' husband, Edd Sanders, who died about 10 years ago, did farm work for a number of years and spent 35 years as an employee of Fargo gin 12 miles north of Vernor

Mrs. Sanders has a daughter who lives in Mer-

of year to recall

friends old & new!

MARTHA SUE, SALINDA

& DONAN JUSTICE

LARRY



AT THE KEYBOARD-Ruby Sanders starts in on one of her musical sessions for nursing home residents.

sons, one in Seattle, Washington and the other in Hopkins. Minnesota. She has taken plane and auto trips to visit her distant children.

She has lived at Starr Nursing Home for four years. "When I came here to the nursing home I hadn't touched a plano for years and years. and remembered how to play only one song. I had to learn a lot of songs again. Now I

many dozen," she said. Mrs. Sanders' music is a cherished part of the day's ritual at the nursing home for

many of its residents. "They keep telling me I better never quit being able to play for them," she grinned. Her sessions last at least 30 minutes daily. I'll sit down at the piano in the morning and start playing a song, and here everybody comes!" she said.

Christmas Poinsettias Require Special Care

te Christmas plant, with its roots, resulting in loss of attractive green leaves and feeder roots and foliage. Frevide attractive colors for tive foil to enhance their your Christmas decor appearance. Be sure to check throughout the holiday if the drainage hole in the

Everett Janne, landscape horticulturist for the Texas ture cannot drain out, the Agricultural Extension Service, outlines several refits from poinsettias.

'The poinsettia will do best when placed in a sunny location and protected from sudden temperature changes due to drafts, heat vents or pening doors. Night 60 degrees F. A suddrop in temperature can ause complete loss of ' noted Janne.

"Proper watering will do uch to prolong the life of he poinsettia. The plant's vater requirements are relatively high due to its large eaf surfaces and the low umidity in homes and offices. The soil ball around the plant should not be allowed to become so dry that he leaves start to wilt." On the other hand, the orticulturist cautions

against keeping the soil satu-

ated with water as this cuts

The poinsettia is the favor- off the oxygen supply to the ight red bracts. And, with quently, poinsettias come in he proper care, it can pro- pots covered with an attracbottom of the pot is closed by the foil. If excess mois-

soil will remain waterlogged. "About three weeks after quirements which must be receiving the plant, fertilize fulfilled to receive full bene- it with a complete fertilizer," suggests Janne.



Sincerest best wishes to one & all!

> **BARNETTS** BARBER SHOP

MERRY

CHRISTMAS

Sno fooling...we

wish you the best!

LUCAS & HAYS

WELDING

SARAH, BILLY

RUSSELL & TERESA

KENNETH, VICKY,

TOMMY & LYNN

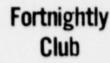


PALMER **PONTIAC & GMC**



Comin' down your chimney with loads of good wishes for the holiday season. We hope Santa brings you everything you've been hoping for!

HICKS AUTO SUPPLY BEN, GARY, WANDA, W.A., EARNEST & MARVIN



The Fortnightly Study Club met Tuesday, December 11, at 4 p.m. in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Comer Haynes. Mrs. Haynes was hostess for the annual Christmas party. Mr. Haynes greeted guests at the door.

The home was decorated in keeping with the Christmas season. A refreshment plate was served. Plate favors were in keeping with the Bicentennial theme as well as

Mrs. Wilson called the meeting to order then Mrs. Haynes, program chairman, introduced the program. Miss Jennifer Smith sang "Have Yourself a Merry Christmas" and "Star of the East." Mrs. John Cain gave "Christmas At Our House." Mrs. C. B. Knight presented "Christmas in the Old South." Mr. and Mrs. Buster Horton sang "Take My Yoke Upon You," then Mrs. Horton read "Miracle in the Wilderness," by Paul Gallico.

Those present for this program were the following guests: Mr. Comer Haynes. Mr. Buster Horton, Miss Jennifer Smith and Mrs. Bill Teaff. Members were: Miss Christine Collins and Mesdames John Cain, Johnny Cox, W. R. Cypert, S. C. Dixon, Don Dudley, Lem Dudley, Bryan Dunagin, Charles Eager, Mack Fisher, David Gamble, Con.er Haynes, Buster Horton, Carl Hughes, C. B. Knight, Andy Shouse, and Ray Wilson. Honorary members were: Mrs. S. D. Gamble and Mrs. Russell Mc-Anally.

Stella Cutler Died December 17

following a shortillness. Serdist Church.

Rev. N. S. Daniel and Rev. Russell McAnally officiated. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery. Stella Cutler, 70, a native Mrs. Mann was born in of Merkel, died at 6:50 p.m. Calahan County April 21, 1894 Wednesday in Hendrick Me- and moved to Merkel in the morial Hospital in Abilene early 1950's.

Survivors include a daughvices were at 2 p.m. Friday ter, Mrs. Billie Suber of in the Merkel United Metho- Merkel; a niece and two nep-

glow to

your life.

Mann

Mrs. Ora M. Mann, 81, died

at 6:30 p.m. Friday in West

Texas Medical Center, fol-

lowing a lengthy illness. Ser-

vices were at 2:30 p.m. Sun-

day in Starbuck Chapel. The

demonstrate his love.

Holiday party before you start

to drive anywhere, including

home.

drinker's body.

your Christmas shopping, the lose their lives in traffic crashes annually. Many could Texas Safety Association be saved if they wore proper suggests a couple of gifts for safety this Holiday safety harnesses.

Ordinary seat belts are unseason. One requires the suitable for very young chilgiver to exercise his willdren, because in a crash the power, the second gift to heavy-duty belts can do heavy The first gift would help damage to a child's fragile body. Child restraint systems insure that Holiday travelers are designed to more efreach the New Year safe, fectively distribute the forces sound, and still a good finanof collision around the body, cial risk for their Christlessening the chances of inmas creditors. That is to "give" yourself one hour for every drink you take at a

Child restraints are available at moderate cost from many automobile dealers and



Here's hoping your holiday tree is piled high with goodies!

DUNN TEXACO ANTIQUE & RELICS

JEAN & JOHN DUNN

Give A "Safety" Gift This Christmas Says TSA juvenile stores. They would most important gift a parent make an excellent gift for or grandparent could ever a youngster and might be the give, TSA says.



Yuletide greetings to one and all! May your holidays be prosperous and blessed with joy! ABILENE FARM SUPPLY HAROLD & MELBA NIXON



SOCI

c ed buck

Mrs

in

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Fat

Tic

South

the c

alrea

Fat

Fresh from us to you . . . greetings of the season. We hope the Yule holidays are happy in every way!

Hohhertz Dairy

The Harold & A.E. Hohhertz Families Abilene, Texas

May love light your way, and friends bring a

ED'S FEED & SEED

ED. ALWYNE & GLEN

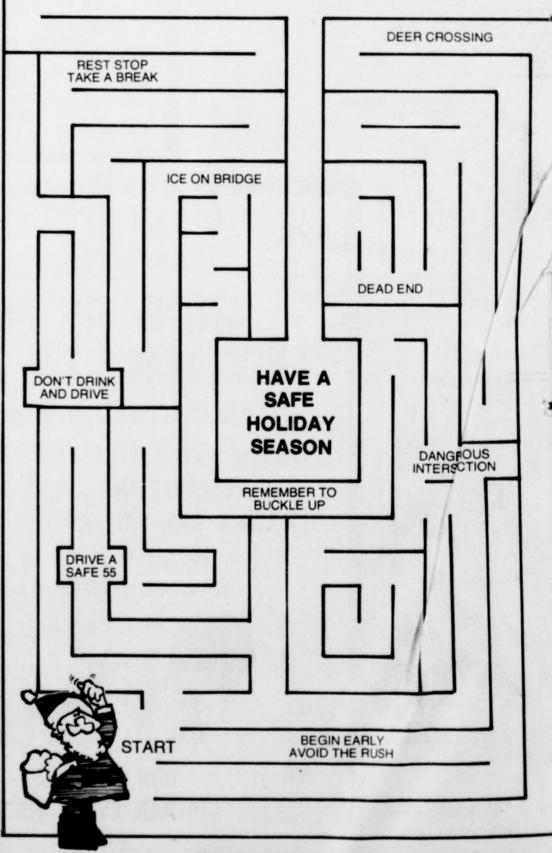
C SCW INC

Santa's bringing you our warmest wishes for a merry Christmas holiday, filled with good cheer. We thank you for your past patronage.

BRAGGS DEPARTMENT STORE MARY, ETHEL, FERN & FLORENCE

Santa's Traffic Safety Game

Santa and the Governor's Office of Traffic Safety want to help you through the maze of holiday traffic.

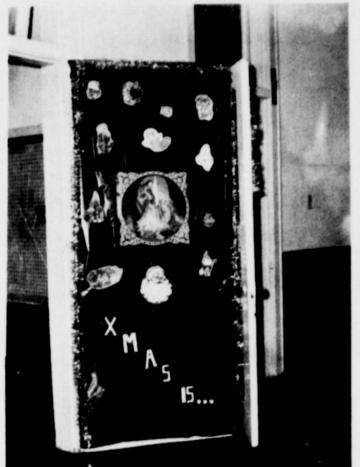




GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY







HIGH SCHOOL DOOR DECORATION WINNERS - Taking first place honors in the door decoration contest at Merkel High school is Mrs. Penick's room with "Love

Is." Second place quner is Mrs. Dudley's room with their Christmas tree door and thrid place was taken by Coach Aldridge's room with their Christmas Is."

The following donations to the Merkel Cemetery Association have been announced by director Fred Star-

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Chaney Mrs. E. R. Clack

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. J. Brown in memory of Sam Swann J. Pierce Horton J. L. Hester

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Martin in memory of Sam Swann Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lassiter Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Meeks Mrs. A. G. McDonald

Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Bishop in memory of Dewey Garmany, Ben Lich and Lum

Fat Stock Show Tickets For Sale

The Merkel Chamber of Commerce has tickets to the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show on sale at the chamber office. The price for the tickets is \$4.00 this year and these are reserved ckets. The date of these tickets is for Saturday night

Since this performance is already sold out the chamber only received 25 tickets. In memory of Margaret Fos-These will be sold on a first come basis. The tickets have to be returned earlier this ear so if you plan on going to the rodeo please buy your tickets as soon as possible.

Carson Super Mkt. in memory of Lum Gilbreath, Ben Rich and Dewey Garmany E. O. Carson estate

Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Pee in memory of Ben Rich Alice Glenn Merkel Art Assoc. in mem-

ory of Ben Rich. George and Laverne Buford in memory of Martha Jane Swafford

Tom and Geogio Allday in memory of Martha Jane Swafford Mr and Mrs. Babe Tarpley

in memory of Ben Rich Lila M. Touchstobe in memory of Dewey Garmany Friends and neighbors in

Brick Haven in memory of mrs. Cecil Stevens Altura Towers Mrs. C. B. Brown Mrs. Sallie Gant in memory

of Mrs. Eron Walton Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pee in memory of Eron Witon Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Toombs in memory of Eron Walton Mr. and Mrs. Freddy Toombs

in memory of Mrs. Eron Walton Mr. and Mrs. Billy Bob Toombs in memory of Mrs.

Ejon Walton Mr. and Mrs. Grover V. Gant Clark Mundy Joyce Keenan in memory of

Lum Gilbreath Mrs. Gertrude Pee estate Johnnie Wheeler Wickham

Mrs. Matt Ely in memory of Stella Cutler Dr. and Mrs. Jarett Williams

We sincerely wish our many customers and friends every blessing of the season.

RAYMOND

MILLIGAN TEXACO

Comptroller Bob Bullock said Thursday that state expenditures during the first quarter of the 1976 fiscal year, which began September 1, were \$1.75 billion, up 28 percent from the first quarter

of last year. "More than half the increase was in education costs," Bullock said, pointing out that state expenditures for education rose 29

percent. Revenues for the first quarter of fiscal 1975 were \$1.45 billion, he said, up 15 percent from the comparable quarter a year ago. The largest jump in revenues was in federal funding, up 29 percent over the previous fiscal

Bullock said tax collections were up 10 percent over the previous year. The 10 percent figure was probably low, he added, because the combination of Thanksgiving and the last weekend of No-





May your Christmas be filled with good will, abundance, and the tranquility of faith.

NORMA'S BEAUTY SALON LOIS STAUTZENBERGER NORMA BOND



It is with a great deal of sentiment and gratitude that we wish our friends the best!

H. W. LEMENS, INC.

10 N. FIRST

State Expenditures Up 28%-

vember caused many quarterly tax returns to be The information was con-

tained in Bullock's November

by his Office of Planning and Research. For the first time, the report included information on the crude oil financial statement, prepared

Merry Christmas!



We're never out of good wishes for you, our patrons, at this most joyous time! Happy holidays!

WYLIE TRUCK TERMINAL & RESTAURANT

HOLIDAY



in greetings, designed especially for our customers... may your Christmas be joyful!

> MAX MURRELL CHEVROLET CO.



May the true mean-

ing of the season

come alive in your

heart with joy! CRAWFORD'S

Delphine Watson, Edna Widle Kristi Nease Mignon Brown, Onis & Latina



Here's an old - fashioned greeting to our many fine patrons . . . we hope your Yule is joyous in every way! Best wishes from

THE MERKEL MAIL Thursday, December 25, 1975

According to legend, if a knight kept the point of his spear forward when he entered a strange land it was a declaration

Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Hammond

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hammond

NADINE, DOROTHAE,

JUNE, PHYLLIS,

MARY JO, ROSA, MAGGIE, WYNONA

JOY, HOLLIS, & MIKE

BEN FRANKLIN'S



the message of Christmas shines in men's hearts ... "Peace on earth, good will toward men!" Our sincere hope is that this holy season may find a world at peace.

MEMBERS, DIRECTORS & EMPLOYEES

TAYLOR ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE

Texas.

weekly public service feature from-

Health Resources has embarked on an enlarged program of bringing better health to babies, small children, new and expectant mothers through proper nu-

The Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program is operating in 24 locations within the state with improved nutrition and health as its goal. An additional five other local programs will be

implemented so: The WIC Program is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture. It is administered in Texas through Dr. Connie R. Yerwood's Maternal and Child Health Division in the Department of Health Re-

sources. For the current year, Texas is operating under a \$20.8 million budget with an authorized case load of 75,168 persons a month. Approximately 60 to 65 per cent of those receiving supplemental food are located in the Rio Grande Valley.

The goal of the program is to have healthier infants, mothers and children, and the nutritional aspects of health are being emphasized. Trained nutritionists counsel with all participants. Lack of physical and mental attainments of nutritionally deprived youngsters has drawn the increasing attention of public health officials in the past few years.

The WIC Program works hand in hand with approved clinics throughout the state. Pregnant and lactating women, infants and children under age five are eligible to participate in an authorized program if they live in a low income area served by an approved clinic, if they are receiving reduced-cost medical services and are determined by a competent professional on the staff to be at nutritional risk.

The supplemental foods include milk products, cheese. eggs, iron fortified cereals. vitamin C enriched fouit and vegetable juices and iron fortified infant formula. Changes in allowable foods changes apparently will be subject to state approval.

History of the year and a half old program indicates measureable nutritional and medical impact on partici-

A survey of Texasprojects indicated greatly improved blood values of participants. It was found that those in the program were taking greater advantage of health services both for mother andtheir offsprings. And, the frequency of missed appointments for clinic services had sharply dropped. A more in-depth clinical evaluation will be conducted in the future to further document the nutritional impact of the Texas program.

The program isn't designed to meet the total food requirements of those involved. It does, however, supplement normal diets with nutritious, body-building

Operation of the food program has been computerized by the Department of Health Resources, reports T. L. Johnson, administrator for the Program.

Through local projects, the

puter cards which they use to make purchases at approximately 600 participating grocery stores throughout

The grocers redeem the cards for the supplemental foods and return the cards to the Department, Monthly computer printouts are made on all the cards by the Department. The printouts not only show the total charges against the Program but also show the price paid for each item, such as a quart of milk. Each local project also receives a printout relating to its own participants.

"Say a project has 10 participating grocers." said Johnson. "They can check to see what each grocer charges for the different items. If one appears to be out of line on any charge for a particular item, the grocer can be notified."

The 24 Texas WIC programs and their sponsors include:

Austin - Travis County Health Department, Austin; Community Action Resource Services, Inc., Texarkana; Cameron County Health Department, San Eenito: Catholic Charities Family Services, Harlingen and Raymondville; C & Y Project, Driscoll Foundation Children's Hospital, Corpus Christi; C ¢ Y Project, UT Health Science Center, Dallas; Coastal Bend Migrant Council, Inc., Corpus Christi; Community Action Council of South Texas, Rio Grande City; Denison-Sherman-Grayson County Health Department,

Also, Galveston County Coordinated Community Clinics, LaMarque; Hidalgo County Health Department, Edinburg, Weslaco and Pharr; Laredo-Webb County Health Department, Laredo; Lubbock Well Baby Clinic, Lubbock; Montgomery County Health Department, Conroe; Southwest Migrant Association. San Antonio, UT Health Science Center, Houston; Community Council of Bee County, Beeville; Centro de Salud, Crystal City; City of Dallas Health Department.

Also, South Plains Health Provider Organization, Plainview, Crosbyton and Lubbock; Wichita Falls City-County Health Department, Wichita Falls; Waco-McLennan County Health Department, Waco; Walker County Health Department, Huntsville; and the Maverick County Child Health Care Center, Eagle Fass.

Approved for the Program are: Fort Worth City Health Department, Fort Worth: Houston Maternity and Infant Care Project, Houston; South Plains Community Action Association, Inc., Levelland; Centro De Salud Familiar La Fe, Inc., El Paso; and Fort Bend Office of Early Childhood Development, Rosenberg.

Texas Department of Agriculture home economists remind grocery shoppers that even though a boneless roast is more expensive per pound than a bone-in roast, it has no excess fat and no bones. thus yielding more servings.

o ourgiaries Keported III Merkel December 16

businesses and one burglary timate of damage to the place of an apartment took place on Tuesday. December 16 in Merkel, Police Chief Paul Crouse announced.

All are under investigation, he said last week.

A portable color television set worth about \$500 was stolen from Palmer Pontiac. 1208 North 1st., between dark Tuesday evening and daylight. There were no signs of forcible entry.

Cypert's Income Tax Service at 127 Kent had a stereo and two speakers stolen the same night. Burglars broke a window and a door to gain

There is nothing I can give you which you have not; but there is much that, while I cannot give you, you can take.

No Heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. TAKE HEAVEN

No peace lies in the future that is not hidden in this present instant. TAKE

The gloom of the world is but a shadow; behind it, yet within reach, is joy. TAKE

And so at this Christmas time, I greet you, with the prayer that for you, now and

prayer that for you, now

and forever, the day breaks and the shadows flee away. Fra Giovanni (1387-1455)

The English "vegetable marrow" is a squash to

riumoteu In South Korea

Paul D. Reed, son of Mr and Mrs. Robert F. Reed of Merkel has been promoted to sargeant in the United States of business has yet been Air Force. Paul, who is stationed in Korea, graduated The apartment of Charles from Merkel High School in Stine at the rear of the Mer-

Military life is not new to Paul, since he has traveled over the globe with his family. His father is a retired service man. Sgt. Reed will return from his tour of duty in August of 1976.

Crouse said. INSURANCE

made, he added.

entry, Crouse said. No es-

kel Hotel was burglarized that

Tuesday afternoon. The in-

truder apparently entered

through a window which was

discovered ajar. Nothing has

yet been found missing.

FOR YOUR How can I provide for my retirement and reduce my current taxes?

RANCH FARM

CROPS

For help with insurance questions and needs call

TEXAS FARM BUREAU INSURANCE COMPANIES

R. Lee Brown Abilene 692-1213

Taylor County Farm Bureau Merkel 928-4885

CAL TEX **BUYERS OF** CATTLE MILO AND HAY

> ROUTE 2 BOX 128 TRENT, TX. 915-862-2951

CUSTOM CATTLE FEEDING



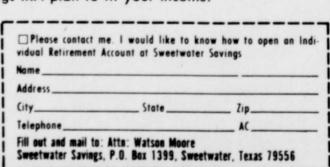
DO IT NOW!



December 31 is the last day to deduct \$1500 tax-free from your 1975 income!

If you are NOT enrolled in a retirement plan (other than Social Security), you have until December 31 to start your own Individual Retirement Account (IRA) at Sweetwater Savings . . . AND DEDUCT \$1500 TAX-FREE FROM YOUR 1975 INCOME!

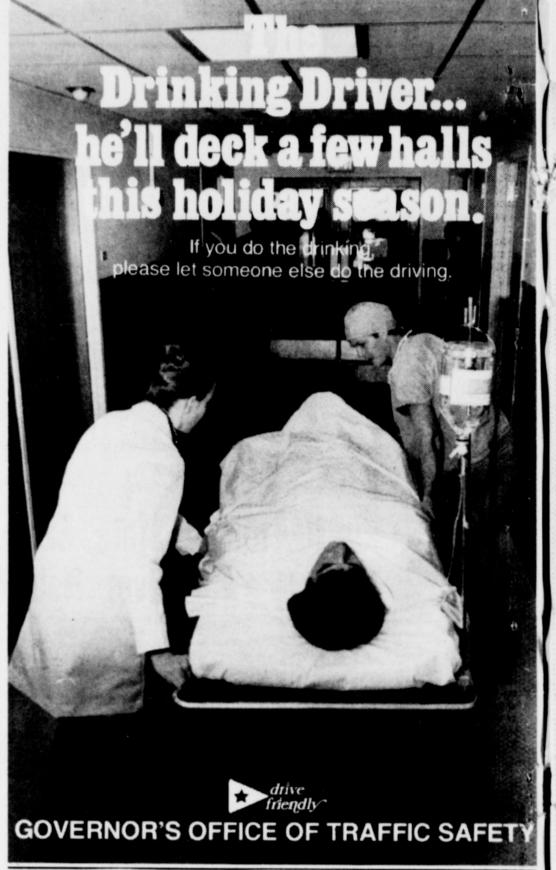
With a Sweetwater Savings IRA account, you can deposit up to \$1500 a year tax-free toward your retirement. A husband and wife, both working, can deposit up to \$3000 a year into a tax-free IRA account. At Sweetwater Savings your IRA account will earn up to 7.75% annually. So, why take less? Come in . . . we'll help you tailor a Sweetwater Savings IRA plan to fit your income.



7 3/4 % 6 YR. CERT.-S1000 MIN. 61/2 % 1 YR. CERT.-S1000 MIN.

71/2 % 4 YR. CERT.-51000 MIN. 53/4 % 90 DAY ACCT.-51000 MIN. 63/4 % 30 MO. CERT.-\$1000 MIN. 51/4 % NO PENALTY PASSBOOK

NEETWATER



Weekend buys are yours when you take advantage of our 60% discounted out-of-state long distance rates...Saturday (anytime) through Sunday 5 PM. Dialing the one-plus way places you at our sale. During-the-week bargains are also advertised... discounts of 35% for after 5 PM and 60% for after 11 PM out-of-state calls. You may enjoy these savings even though your area is not equipped for direct distance dialina.

end-of-theweek sale **save 60%** every weekend

Continental Telephone of Texas

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voetwater's First Package Store PACKAGE STORE SEAGRAM'S 7 \$21.95 **FULL GALLONS** SHIVAS REGAL SCOTCH \$24.45 1/2 GAL. \$9.15 CUTTY SARK QT. \$4.25 DON Q RUM LIGHT EARLY TIMES BICENTIAL BOTTLE LIMITED QUANTITIES \$14.95 DECANTER COME BY AND SEE OUR OTHER DECANTER BOTTLES ALL Of Your Favorite BEVERAGES

ON THE WEST END OF TOWN -

LAST STOPLIGHT

Christmas I want a new stocking I have to go Merry Christmas.

I want lots of toy for

Sincerely Lyle Baker

Dear Santa Claus. I have been a very good girl this year. For Chrismas I would like to have a box of flash card and a baby alive and a girls byecicle and a recordplayer and a tapeplayer and taperecorder and a long dress and a pair of shoes and a coloring book and colors and a pack of dvide cards and a race car for my brother. Addition and Subtraction and Multiplication flash cards hot cicle and baby that away doll and

a doll house. You friend Cindy Williams

Dear Santa Clause, I'v been pretty good in Mrs. Braune's class. We'v been working with multiplication. I'v been good in church school. I won't a gun in a catolog with solid brass trims. Eighteen wheeler with a trailar its a Kennworth that starts my first name.

Your friend, Ken Hogan

Dear Santa Claus, I have been pretty good this Mear, I want tracters that work on the roads like a grader a mixer a bulldoxer a dump truck a roller a crane. tool bench tools Richet Shave Racers the Army things the Police task Unit the Smoke Rilfer the Police patrol car year, the fire sware truck the fire trucks. I leave some cookies and a glass of milk and a newspaper to read you might want to take the newspaper

Your Best Buddy John Starbuck

Dear Santa Claus I have been pretty good this year. I am in the third grade. I want a ttt while rider, and gunbelt, and a racetrack. I am 8 years old. I like your cote and your bootes I hope you a happy merry Christmas Your friend

David Teaff

Dear Santa Clause, I want a ten speed racer for Chrismas and I want a set of walkie talkies and a race trak and a Evel Keneval moter cicle and a set of maltaction flash cards and a watch and a mine bike and a foot ball for Christmas and I have been pretty good this year.

Your friend Randy Davis

Dear Santa Claus, I have been pretty good this year, how are you. Thanks for the toys you gave me last year. I can not wait untill christmas. It's not long till christmas this year. It's been a long wait for christmas since last year. We made lot's of christmas deckorations at school. your friend.

Parker

Dear Santa Claus, I have been pretty good boy this year. I want a B B gun and Mighty Mo Dump truck and a train set and some multiplication cards. And pleas bring My sisters some toys too.

Your friend Darren Pack

Dear Santa Claus, I have been pretty good this

Kenneth

Victory Gospel Singers

Rev. and Mrs. W. G. Richardson

Wish everyone a

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

Dear Santa. How are you? I hope I get a lot of presents

this year. I hope you have a Merry Christmas, because I think christmas is the best time

ARRERGER REPRESENTATION OF SAULT REPRESENTATIONS OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

Ever time I get some toys from youthey last a long time. I am glad that you come each year on Christmas day.

My name is Kenny Sims. I an 8 year old How are you and Mrs. Santa and the elves and the reighnder. I hope you are not sick. This is a list of what I want for

Sincerely,

Jerry Davis

race car set Steve Astana set Tlask Bright. Sincerely,

I hope your not sick. And I hope you are well. How is Mrs. Santa and the deers? And the elves. I hope I get. Lots of presents Santa this year. Say hello to every. Body please Santa.

Kenny Sims

Cresencia Vasquez

Sincerly,

Dear Santa. What have you been doing Santa, I hope you are all right. I have been waiting for you. You have been good to all of us. We all hope you have a Merry Chirstmas Sincerely, Billy Hall

Dear Santa Claus, Your toys are the best toys



May the spirit of love that is the essence of Christmas permeate all

Peace on Earth **Good Will** Towards Men!

hearts, we pray. Noel!

FROM EVERYONE BEAUTY NOOK



good wishes

our friends! LAND, BECK CHAD, & JILL PACK



O ALL OUR FRIENDS Heartiest greetings of the season! It's always a pleasure to wish our friends the very best!

THE DAIRY BAR J.E., MARIE

FAMILY

you're wished the best of holiday seasons! Thank you for your patronage in the past.



JUAN'S GARAGE



During this most wonderful season of the year, we welcome the opportunity to extend our best wishes to all!

MY WIFE BILLIE & I WISH ALL OF YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Elemer Martin

STATE REPRESENATIVE DISTRICT 61

Sincerely

I want a Tonka Truck and a stamp set and a hat and a Magic marker and a play alagador and thats all. Thinks

Dear Santa.

How are you Santa Fine I hope? I want you to bring a lot of presents to me.

Cindy Toney

Sincerly,

Jason

Dear Santa.

Melisse Lavis

Hi, I hope you are doing fine. Santa I want a Baby a live and a Bless you baby teder love. May god bring you peace and love on Christmas

> Merry Christmas. Jackie Williams

Dear Santa, I love you. How is Mrs. Santa I wish you give me a toy at Christmas.

Dear Santa Claus, I have been pretty good this year. I would like a flash bright and a big stufft Snoopy dog and a basket ball goal. how are you doing?

Mum Prasarn

love, James Allday

Dear Santa Claus I have bean a good girl this year I some multipoation cards for school I want a pesent to give my teacher I want some cothes to waer I want a baby alive.

My friend,



Flowers ANN & VERNON WADE



THE MERKEL MAIL & PRINTING

STEVE, KAYE, SARAH, MARTHA SUE, ANN, BECKI, KAROLYN, DAVID, PEE WEE, PAUL & JANICE

WITH \$10 IN TRADE OR MORE **EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES** I.G. DAIRY FRESH **PILLSBURY** PINEAPPLE - GRAPE FRUIT Frozen Foods 460Z CAN **DELMONTE 303** GAL JUG T PACK NO DEPOSIT OCEAN SPRAY 303 REYNOLDS I.G. DAIRY FRESH **MORTONS DELMONTE 303 FRENCH** 2 FOR DELMONTE 303 CS 2 FOR ROLL **DELMONTE 303** WHIPPING INSTANT TEA OR SOUR DEL MONTE 110Z HALF & Mandarin ORANGES 2 FOR 69¢ SERVE 12 PACK ROLLS HALF PT 3 OZ BAMA Butter 180Z JAR MEADOLAKE **PRINGLES** TWIN **ASSORTED** PACK (6 LIMIT LIQUID DISHWASHER (1 LIMIT) COOKING OIL KING **JUMBO** 5 LB. BAG SIZE SIZE GRIFFIN **RIVERSIDE** PEACH OR APRICOT PRESERVES ORANGES Don't Take a Chance 70Z JAR 10 OZ JET OR MINATURES HENS MERKEL LOCKER SAUSAGE HONEYSUCKLE 10 TO 20 LBS LB. 69C 70Z JAR HORMEL WHOLE ONLY -20 LBS **DECKER** CHOICE BEEF CHUCK CHOICE BEEF FOOD GIFT BOND RIB. STAMPS BABY BEEF **STAMPS** ROLL Double on SHOP

Wednesday

AND