

Taylor County's
Only Legal
Weekly
Newspaper

The Merkel Mail

15¢

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1976

VOL. 86 NO. 48

Rural Water Line Under Construction Near Merkel

Construction is under way in the \$540,000 water line project that will soon furnish a water supply to the rural residents from just west of Abilene to just north of Trent. The system will initially supply water for over 249

families with over 100 miles of pipeline.

"Local people in Merkel, Trent and Noodle and especially Vincent Barnett and Joe McDuff did an outstanding job for their community in going through red tape and the requirements to get this water system in. The work actually began over 4 years ago," said Don Newhouse, Taylor County Supervisor for Farmers Home Administration in an interview earlier this week.

Vincent Barnett is president of the SUN Water Supply Corporation which has gone through the F.H.A. to secure the loan and a grant of \$280,000 to make the dream of a rural water supply a reality. SUN stands for Sixth Unionridge and Noodle. Joe McDuff is secretary-treasurer of the cooperation, which will be buying water from Abilene just as the city of Merkel has been doing. Construction began early last week and is expected to be concluded in November of this year according to Newhouse.

Burglars Apprehended

On January 16, at approximately 9 a.m. Benito Lopez apprehended burglars at the Standard Truck Stop in Merkel. Lopez had heard a noise coming from the rest room at the station and when he investigated found suspects attempting to break open a coin operated machine.

Officers were summoned and captured 5 black male suspects. Their ages ranged from approximately 35 years to juveniles. In their car officers found tools, drugs and marijuana valued at an undetermined amount. The suspects are presently awaiting trial on a class A misdemeanor in Taylor County Jail it was reported.

Between you



and me

By SARAH ECKOLS

WOW!! What else can be said about the Cowboys. Pittsburgh may have won the Super Bowl, but Tom Landry, we still love you, with a team of mostly rookies, second place isn't bad at all. That is second place in the nation, but always first place in Texas.

This week and I had the privilege of being among sorority ladies answering phones at the Rehab '76 telethon which was telecast over many area stations Saturday, January 17. It was a "mad house" of rushing people with stars coming and going, the band playing loudly and some 50 or more ladies answering phones.

I will hold most memorable of this evening among the stars one lady in particular, Minnie Pearl, star of the Grand Old Opry and more recently of Hee Haw. Minnie Pearl was the type of person I can imagine inviting me into her kitchen for coffee and sharing with me the wisdom and witticisms of her life.

On one occasion, she answered the phone next to mine which was being monitored by Pam Bishop. Following several answers from Minnie such as, "You're so sweet, it's so kind of you to say so. Do you watch Hee Haw? That's very nice of you," the famed queen of country comedy gave a look that seemed to say, "How many ways can I say 'You're so sweet' and make it sound sincere?" or "Oh, no, another long winded fan."

When Miss Pearl had finished her conversation on the phone, she turned to those of us who weren't busy at the time and told us of another call she had had some years ago.

"I answered the phone and on the other end was an old lady. She said that she was 94 years old. Well I began with 'well you're so sweet' and she answered, 'You poor old thing, you can't sing neither.' Well, I was so startled, I just looked at the phone."

With this statement, Miss Pearl demonstrated her reaction to the old lady's evaluation of her singing.

"Well, Minnie, I have always heard that complete honesty belongs to the innocence of youth and the privilege of old age.

Minnie Pearl is also a Sarah in real life. When I introduced myself to her we compared the spelling of our name and found that we both use the old spelling with the H on the end. For the remainder of the evening she made a point to call me by name and be very friendly.

At one point she came through the telephone room and shouted, "Lock all the doors, I've lost a husband."

There was excellent representation from the Merkel chapters of Beta Sigma Phi among those answering the phones. Though the phones were not nearly as busy as we would have liked, it was a very rewarding and worthwhile evening.

Most of us left the civic center with several autographs. Ken Curtis, Arte Johnson, Rex Allen, Jr. and Bill Mack made the scene to talk with us and sign autographs. Some ladies who were better planners than I thought ahead to take along cameras and shoot snapshots of their favorite stars.

The most popular among the stars appearing seemed to be Doug and Julie or Bill Hayes and Susan Seaforth Hayes of soap opera fame. I just barely got a glimpse of Doug as he was being rushed out the door to catch his plane back to television land. Seems like even some stars have to work on Sunday.

The latest report from the tri-city baseball association is that all seven lots have been sold and construction is underway at the new site recently purchased. J. C. Carson reported that it looks hopeful that the site will be ready for play in time for the 1976 season. Carson also commended Joe McDuff for his efforts in the project.

Gilene's Sells Factory Outlet

What was formerly Factory Outlet next door to Gilene Manufacturing Company on Kent Street now has an independent owner.

Gilene's last week sold the business to Emma Shuggart, who is now calling the clothing store Emma's Clothes Closet.

Remodeling on the store is to begin this week. Mrs. Shuggart said, with carpeting to be installed and a thorough interior renovation planned. The work should be completed in about a month, she added.

While the store went as Factory Outlet carried only clothing made at Gilene's, it will now carry junior and misses sizes from other manufacturers as well as continuing to stock Gilene merchandise, Mrs. Shuggart said.

The old stock was cleared out in a close-out sale last week in order to make way for the new lines.



READ-A-THON WINNERS-From left to right are Paul Kannel, district winner, Maria Moreno, Sirinton Parsan, Ann Wooten, Stacy Seymore and Todd Robertson; (front row) Kristi Alves and Michelle Brown who participated in the Read-a-thon for MS. These sixth grade students of Mrs. Don Hart were outstanding in district competition both in number of books read as well as amount of money donated to the MS fund.

Kannel Awarded First Place In Read-A-Thon

Paul Kannel, Merkel Junior High sixth grader, was

Check With Firemen Before Burning Lots

Merkel Volunteer Fire-Department Chief Waymon Adcock said that anyone who needs to burn off a vacant lot should first contact the fire department.

The firemen will then set a time when they can be standing by as a precaution. If winds are not too high and if other conditions are favorable at the set time, persons may go ahead and set the lot on fire; otherwise another time will be set.

Adcock said that failure to check with the department before setting a fire has caused unnecessary alarm and trouble in the past.

awarded first place in the District Multiple Sclerosis Read-A-Thon. He was presented a one hundred dollar bond by the Multiple Sclerosis officials. Paul read 100 books during the Read-A-Thon.

Paul and Ann Wooten, another Merkel Junior High sixth grader, appeared on television programs while accepting their awards. Ann won fourth place on the District level and received a \$10.00 gift certificate.

Other sixth graders from Merkel Junior High who placed in the district contest were: Michelle Brown, 8th place; Todd Robertson, 12th place; Maria Moreno, 15th place; Kristi Alves, 21st place; Stacy Seymore, 22nd place; Sirinton Parsan, 23rd place.

These students received gift certificates from the Multiple Sclerosis officials. Thirteen area schools participated in the contest.

3 Beta Sigma Phi Chapters Of Merkel Help With Phones At Rehab 76

Rehab '76, the sixth annual telethon to benefit the West Texas Rehabilitation Center, Ken (Festus) Curtis, Helen O'Connell, Arte Johnson, Connie Smith, Minnie Pearl, Rex Allen Jr., Johnny Gimble, Arthur Duncan, Pedro Gonzales Gonzales, and Bill and Susan Seaforth Hayes of "Days of Our Lives" fame.

Lions To Host Chili Supper

The Merkel Lions Club will host their annual chili supper January 30 from 4:30 until 7:30 p.m. at the Merkel School cafeteria. Tickets will be \$1 for students and \$1.50 for adults.

Included in the meal will be chili, crackers and a choice of tea or coffee. Desserts will be available for 25¢ and will be homemade items furnished by wives of Lions Club members.

Lion Don Hart is in charge of this year's chili supper and proceeds will go toward Lions Club activities such as their sight saving project.

Tickets are on sale from any Lions Club member.

Manufacturing Plant To Build Panelized Homes In Merkel

A manufacturing plant that builds prefabricated, or "panelized," housing is in store for Merkel.

Bassett Manufacturing Company will be located here on the north access road directly to the west of Winkerson Manufacturing. Last week, a "sales model" of

the panelized houses was nearing completion. A manufacturing plant to encompass 6500 square feet and to employ 24 people at first will follow at the location.

Bassett, of Abilene, said that when in full operation the company will be able to erect a house in eight hours. About six men will be hired

for erection crews, in addition to the two dozen to work in the plant.

Bassett did not disclose the expected price range of the houses to be built by the company, but said the price would be substantially lower than for houses built totally at the construction site. The largest house currently in plans to be made here will be 1,020 square feet, two other models will be 836 and 704 square feet.

The plant, the first of its sort in this area, will house plumbing and electrical jigs, framing tables, material storage and storing components.

The company, based in Odessa, has built motels and other structures in the past. Bassett said last week that the sales model would be completed shortly, with construction on the manufacturing plant to begin in the near future. Bassett said he hopes the business operation will eventually employ from fifty to sixty people.

Reysden Resigns From Post As Judge

Robert Roysden announced January 8, that he will resign from the position of Merkel municipal court judge effective February 1.

After graduating from the police academy in December, Roysden took a job with the City of Abilene as an airport security guard. Provisions of a charter of the City of Abilene which prohibit employment by two municipalities at the same time for a person prompted

Roysden's resignation. He had held the post for about a year.

Applications are now being taken for a replacement for Roysden. Only requirement, according to city coordinator J. A. Sadler is that applicants be Merkel residents.

City council will consider applications and hopes to appoint a new judge at its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. January 26.

Police Report

Each member of Merkel's three-man police force put in some 24-hour-days last week as incidents ranging from car theft to missing juveniles arose, according to Police Chief Paul Crouse.

John Cain of 814 Avondale reported a 1974 automobile stolen Saturday, January 10. A juvenile was arrested and the car returned to its owner.

Police made an arrest for public intoxication on Sunday, January 11.

As of Friday of last week, at least 11 tires had been destroyed in tire slashings at various Merkel homes and businesses.

Also last week, five people from out-of-town were arrested for burglary of a coin-operated machine at the Standard service station here.

Police went to the scene of a family disturbance last Thursday, January 15.

A case of assault was also investigated. Victim was an older man.

And on Friday, two juveniles and one 18-year-old youth were reported missing. Crouse said Friday that he knew their whereabouts and would be able to return them to their parents.



NEARING COMPLETION-The Bassett MFG. Co.'s "sales model" home was nearing completion late last week when this picture was taken. The modular home company is located in Industrial Park on I-20.



ANOTHER BUSINESS UNDER WAY-The new branch office of Abilene Savings which is being built in Merkel on Edwards Street across from Carson's Super Market is headed for a June completion date, said John Baker, superintendent at the site. A total of 120 working days have been allotted for the construction. Contractors are Rose and Son Construction, Inc., of Abilene. A mobile unit of the savings association visits Merkel twice weekly at the present time.

9c 5c 5c 9c 9c

Bob's Sharpening Service Open At 701 S. 2ND

Bob Bockman, a long time area resident, has opened Bob's Sharpening Shop in his home at 701 South 2nd, here in Merkel. Though he has been working on the shop since last summer, it was completed and ready for business on January 1.

Iodine— Essential For Good Health

Iodine is an essential mineral, but "a little bit goes a long way," Mrs. Sally Coble, a foods and nutrition specialist, says.

"Lack of iodine causes goiter, an enlargement of the thyroid gland on the front and sides of the neck. But recent studies indicate some people with high levels of urinary iodine, reflecting a high iodine intake, also have evidence of goiter," the specialist said.

Mrs. Coble is with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System.

"Traditionally, iodized salt and seafood have been the major sources of dietary iodine in the American diet. But today's new technology in food processing may be making more iodine available in foods.

"For example, milk and bread made with iodated dough conditioners now contribute a significant amount of iodine in the diet," she explained.

Search Underway For Texas' Rural Hero

The search is underway for Texas' rural hero of 1975. The Rural Heroism Award, sponsored by the Texas Farm and Ranch Safety Council, is presented annually to some deserving person who has performed an act of exceptional bravery during a time of crisis, according to Ben Bullard, Council vice president and assistant safety director of the Texas Farm Bureau.

All entries must be submitted by February 21, to the Rural Heroism Award Committee, Texas Farm and Ranch Safety Council, P. O. Box 489, Waco, 76703, according to Bullard.

The heroic act or deed must have occurred within Texas during 1975 and should be related to farming or ranching operations.

Nominations should include a written account of the incident and the names of all persons involved. Newspaper clippings and pictures should also accompany the nominations if available.

The award will be presented March 22, 1976, at the annual meeting of the Texas Safety Association at the Sheraton-Dallas Hotel in Dallas.

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REVERSABLE WOVEN SCATTER RUG \$1.66

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FINE CLOTHING AND SHOES FOR THE FAMILY



AUSTIN — School superintendents and board presidents have been invited to a statewide hearing here, January 26, on Atty. Gen. John Hill's recent opinion outlawing many student fees.

The State Board of Education has upheld Texas Education Commissioner M.L. Brockette's order for local districts to stop collection of the fees immediately.

Brockette on October 10 instructed districts to abide by Hill's October 1 opinion. The Hill ruling applied to such fees as those charged for workbooks, driver education and uniform rental for band members.

If it stands, the opinion will require local districts to dig up \$22 million more this school year to replace the lost fees, according to a Texas Education Agency study.

State Board of Education Chairman Joe Kelly Butler named a special committee headed by E.R. Gregg of Jacksonville to study the issue.

Butler said he hopes the panel will have an interim report in time for the board's February 14 meeting.

Allowable Set
Texas Railroad Commission set the February oil allowable—for the 47th straight month—at 100 percent. There was one exception—the East Texas field, held to 86 percent.

Meanwhile, oilmen expressed concern the federal government may be maneuvering to take over the oil industry. They said they will outline views on proposed Federal Energy Administration rules at a meeting of the Commission next month.

February nominations by buyers totaled more than 3.9 million barrels a day, 18,123 down from January.

Economy Studied
A new Joint Advisory Committee on Government Operations will study governmental reorganization and try to come up with ideas to curtail creation of new agencies.

One proposal is to require that all legislation proposing new agencies be accompanied with an authoritative note spelling out the function and program to be performed.

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Briscoe Asks CPB Committees To Help Make Texas "No. 1"

Gov. Dolph Briscoe has challenged County Program Building Committees in each Texas county to move ahead vigorously in 1976 toward the state's goal of making Texas No. 1 in agricultural income.

In a letter to County Program Building Committee chairmen, the Governor stated: "As our Nation begins its Bicentennial observance, Texans can look back on a proud heritage of accomplishments. No industry has contributed more to the pride we have in our heritage than agriculture. Progress resulting from the dedicated efforts of our citizens in the past indicates that we can move forward with confidence into Century III."

In 1973, Briscoe declared that one of the highest objectives of his administration was to make Texas No. 1 among the states of the Na-

tion in agricultural income. "It is my conviction that Texans have the resources, the energy, and the managerial ability to achieve first place in both gross and net income from agricultural production. Achievement of this goal has important economic and humanitarian implications for our State, Nation and the World," the Governor said.

Continuing, Briscoe pointed out that based on current income trends, Texas producers will need to earn \$9.1 billion in annual cash receipts to become No. 1 by 1980. This would have an impact of more than \$30 billion on the State's economy, the Governor emphasized.

Established trends indicate that barring droughts or other disasters, the goal of making Texas No. 1 is within our reach, Briscoe said. Agricultural income in

Texas increased from \$2.68 billion in 1966 to \$5.8 billion in 1974. When all receipts are in for 1975, Texas farmers and ranchers are expected to market products totaling nearly \$6 billion.

"There is, of course, no advantage in being No. 1 in gross income unless our producers are also No. 1 in profitability. Our concern for sound agricultural policy and for successful marketing systems must be in accord with our productive capacity," Briscoe noted.

He stressed that cooperation and coordination among all segments of the State's agricultural industry are essential to success.

"I consider the County Program Building Committee in each county best represents the leadership, experience, and knowledge required to establish challenging but obtainable goals re-

quired for success. It is my hope that you County Program Building Committee--including each of the economically important commodity committees--will give this goal priority consideration in 1976," the Governor said. "I am certain that the staff of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and all other professional agricultural agency representatives will respond to any requests made by County Program Building Committee chairmen. Together, we can achieve this goal which has so great a potential," Briscoe concluded.

The Extension Service, under the leadership of Dr. John E. Hutchison, director, has joined in the intensive effort to help Texas reach its important goal. "On our part, No. 1 is an effort to promote development of full potential of the State's agricultural industry. County Program Building Committees can establish priority programs for reaching this goal," said Hutchison.

Obituaries

Services Held Monday For Ted Windom

Hosea (Ted) Windham, 65, of Trent died at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in Simmons Memorial Hospital in Sweetwater after a lengthy illness. Services were at 2:30 p.m. Monday January 19 at Trent United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Tommy Beck, pastor of Plainview United Methodist Church, and the Rev. Bob Whitlock, pastor, officiated. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery in Merkel directed by Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born May 19, 1910, in Quitman, he moved to Merkel when he was 1. He lived in the Merkel-Trent area most of his life.

He married Fern Evans December 11, 1938, in Merkel. Mr. Windham was a stock farmer and a pumper for Howard Purdue Company of Breckenridge and for McDonald Well Service in Abilene. He was a member of Merkel Masonic Lodge and Trent Methodist Church, where he was on the board of trustees.

Survivors include his wife; three brothers, A. C. of Merkel, M. L. of Abilene and Norman of El Paso, and three sisters, Thelma Thomas and Mrs. A. L. Moore, both of Merkel, and Mrs. Jasper Hobbs of Grand Prairie.

Former Trent Resident Died In Abilene

Mrs. W. O. Steen, 68, 1001 Green Street and formerly of Trent died at 1:25 p.m. Thursday in Hendrick Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness. Services were at 2 p.m. Saturday in Trent Baptist Church.

The Rev. Wayne Oglesby, pastor, and the Rev. Charles Whittle, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Abilene officiated. Burial was in Garden of Memories, directed by Starbuck Funeral Home of Merkel.

Born Lucy Jane Halbrooks June 27, 1907, in Trent, she married W. O. Steen in September 1927 in Trent.

Mrs. Steen lived in Sweetwater from 1951 until 1953, when she and her husband moved to Abilene. She was a member of Trent Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, a son, Weldon of 2440 Madison; three brothers, Lonnie Halbrooks of Trent, J. C. Halbrooks of Midland and E. F. Halbrooks of Loop; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A son, William Sherrill, and a daughter Tilda Lou Rudgeway, preceded her in death.

Pallbearers were C. C. Young, Tommy Scott, Booth West, W. R. Scott, Duane Shuggart and Clay Kinnard.

Services Held For Mrs. Alsobrook

Meddie Alsobrook, 82, of Santa Anna, California, died at 5:30 a.m. Wednesday in Santa Anna. Graveside services were at 2 p.m. Friday at Rose Hill Cemetery, directed by Starbuck Funeral Home.

Larry Gill, associate minister of the Merkel Church of Christ officiated. Born September 12, 1893, in London, Texas, she married Barney Alsobrook January 4, 1912, in Sweetwater. The couple lived in Abilene during the 1920's and 1930's and in Midland during the 1940's.

Her husband died in 1946. Survivors include three sons, Jerry of Los Angeles, California; J. W. of Houston and Barney L. of Libya; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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2nd Tuesday Noon
Covered Dish
Luncheon
Game Nights
Every Thursday
& 4th Monday
4th Thur. Game
Night Re: d for
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HOT BAR-B-QUE
POTATO SALAD BEANS
PIMENTO CHEESE

SUGAR

WITH \$10 PURCHASE
EXCLUDING CIGARETTES

PURE CANE

5 LB. BAG LIMIT ONE

89¢

FRANKS

ARMOUR
12 OZ
PKG

89¢

SAUSAGE

GOOCH'S GERMAN STYLE
12 OZ. PKG

98¢

CHUCK ROAST

HEAVY
BEEF
LB.

89¢

LOIN STEAK

HEAVY BEEF
LB.

\$1.69

T BONE STEAK

LB.

\$1.69

BACON

ARMOUR

12oz PKG.

\$1.29

CRACKERS

NABISCO

1 LB. BOX

55¢

TUNA

DEL MONTE

CAN

49¢

PUREX

1/2gal.

45¢

JOY

LIQUID

22OZ BOTTLE

79¢

CASCADE

35OZ BOX

89¢

BREEZE

GIANT SIZE

\$1.29

FROZEN FOODS

SLICED 10 OZ. CRTN

Strawberries 3 FOR \$1.00

BIRDS EYE

COOL WHIP 4 1/2 OZ CRT 39¢

KEITH MIXED VEGETABLES

CUT CORN 59¢

PEAS 20 OZ. PKG

PRODUCE

RED ROME APPLES LB. 29¢

RUBY RED Grapefruit 5 LB BAG 69¢

TEXAS ORANGES 5 LB BAG 69¢

TEXASGREEN CABBAGE LB. 10¢

RUSSETT POTATOES 10 LB. BAG 98¢

CONTADINA 8OZ CAN
TOMATO SAUCE 2 FOR 29¢

PET SKIM MILK TALL CAN 29¢

AMERICAN BEAUTY
ELBO-RONIE 10oz. PKG 29¢

LUNCHEON MEAT
PREM 12 OZ. CAN 89¢

COFFEEMATE 11 OZ. JAR 89¢

INSTANT LIPTON
TEA 3OZ JAR \$1.39

FRENCH'S COUNTRY STYLE
INSTANT POTATOES 16OZ. PKG. 89¢

MR. GOOD 40 OZ JAR
PEANUT BUTTER \$1.79

GRIFFIN JELLY
BLACKBERRY 18OZ JAR 69¢

SHORTENING

SWIFT JEWEL
3LBCAN

\$1.19

PEACHES

VAL VITA
NO 2 1/2 CAN

49¢

COCTAIL

DEL MONTE
3O3 CAN

39¢

CORN

DEL MONTE
WHOLE KERNEL 12 OZ. CAN

29¢

KRAUT

DEL MONTE
3O3 CAN

29¢

TOMATO JUICE

HUNTS
300 CAN 2 FOR

39¢

BEEF STEW

DINTY MOORE
24 OZ CAN

89¢

GRAPEFRUIT JUICE

TEXSUN PINK
6-12OZ CANS

79¢

FLOUR

GOLD MEDAL
5 LB BAG

89¢

MILK

MARIGOLD
2% HOMO
GAL

\$1.49

REG. HOMO
GAL PLUS DEP.
\$1.59

OLEO

KRAFT
PARKAY

LB. 49¢

CATSUP

32 OZ.
HUNTS BOTTLE

79¢

CAKE MIX

DUNCAN HINES
BOX

59¢

YOGART

8OZ CRTN 3 FOR

\$1.00

1/2 PRICE SALE
ALMONDS REG 79¢ PKG-BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
WALNUTS REG 79¢ PKG-BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
PICKLES KITCHEN STYLE REG 55¢ PINT-BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

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On WEDNESDAY ON
Purchase of \$2.50
OR MORE IN MERCHANDISE
Save Valuable
Cash Register Tapes
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PHONE 928-5713

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Miscellaneous

FOR MONUMENTS and CEMETERY CURBING M.A. (Sarg) Noster
1404 Herring Dr.
Merkel, Texas
Phone 928-5565

Help Wanted

SEAMSTRESSES-Now hiring experienced sewing machine operators for new Wilkerson Co. plant. Positions will be filled immediately. Wage Scale-\$2.25 to \$2.40 per hour. Call Logan Cravens or Steve Hamilton at 677-2606.
34-tfc

Garage Sale

GARAGE SALE-Saturday and Sunday, 702 South 8th.
48-1tp

GARAGE SALE Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 1524 Sunset. Hidabed couch-\$35.00, coffee table-\$35.00, 10-speed bike-\$20.00.
43-1tp

All Types Building & Remodeling Work

Albert Gregory
928-5474
Jerry Goode
928-4890

Buy Your Prepaid Funeral Plan Direct From The Funeral Home and Save

STARBUCK FUNERAL HOME

MERKEL VFW POST 5683 MONTHLY REG. MEETING 8:30 P.M.

TRAINES: If you can sew, you can earn \$2.25 per hour as a sewing machine operator. Call Logan Cravens or Steve Hamilton at 677-2606.
34-tfc

Garage Sale Saturday, 807 Locust.
48-1tp

For Sale

REGISTERED Commercial Shorthorn bulls ready for service. 928-4885. R. Lee Brown.
48-4tc

SEAT COVER CENTER

Seat Covers
Truck Cushions
Door Panels
Arm Rests
Headliners
1056 BUTTERNUT
677-1349
ABILENE

SECOND THURSDAY POST & LADIES AUXILIARY Y'ALL COME NOW!

MASONIC MEETING

Stated meeting of Merkel Lodge No. 713 on 2nd Saturday and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Visitors welcome. Members urged to attend.

BILLY D. DOAN, W.M.
ROY MASHBURN, Sec'y

HELP WANTED-Dishwasher at Shamrock Cafe, \$2.30 an hour. Fred Crenshaw 928-6768.
46-tfc

NURSES AID 6 til 2 five days a week. Apply in person at Star Nursing Home.
42-tfc

1975 Chevy Pick-Up Standard shift, air, radio, heater, heavy duty springs, radiator, bumper, 350 engine, 8 cylinder, 7000 miles. 928-4864.
43-1tp

FOR SALE--Five room house--5th. and Edwards. Large rooms. 928-5350.
47-2tc

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MASONIC MEETING

Stated meeting of Merkel Lodge No. 713 on 2nd Saturday and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Visitors welcome. Members urged to attend.

BILLY D. DOAN, W.M.
ROY MASHBURN, Sec'y

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PUBLISHERS STATEMENT
Established in 1899

Published weekly at 916 N. Second St., Merkel, Texas

Entered at the Post Office at Merkel, Texas, 79536 as second class Mail.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing 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 of the publisher.

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

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

STEVE LANHAM.....Publisher
Sarah Eckols.....Editor
Martha Sue Justice.....Advertising Sales Manager

For Classified Rates:
\$1.25 minimum for the first four lines. Excess of 4 lines will be charged at the rate of 8 cents per word.
Cards of Thanks \$2.50 for the first 50 words, 6 cents per word for each additional word. TERMS: Cash in advance unless account is already established. NOTICE of typographical or other errors must be given before the second insertion of claims for refunds or extensions will not be recognized.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

THE STATE OF TEXAS

To any Sheriff or any Constable within the State of Texas-Greetings:

You are hereby commanded to cause to be published one time in a newspaper printed in Taylor County, Texas, the accompanying citation, of which the herein below following is a true copy.

child relationship and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this 16th day of January, 1976.

CITATION

BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: Unknown Natural Father Respondent, (s) Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable Domestic Relations Court of Taylor County, Texas at the Courthouse in said County, in Abilene, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A. M. of the Monday next after the expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the petition of the Buela Wynne Love, Supervisor, Taylor County Child Welfare Unit, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 31st day of December, 1975, against Margaret Gongora a Natural Mother and unknown natural Father Respondent (s), and said suit being numbered 11,400-DR on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In the Interest of Tara Ann Gongora a Child" the nature of which suit is a request to Terminate Parent Child Relationship.

Said Tara Ann Gongora was born the 4th day of December, 1975, in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the Child's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-

(SEAL) Attest: Irene Crawford
District Clerk
Domestic Relations Court in Taylor County, Texas.
By Diana Howard
Deputy
48-1tc

NOTICE

There will be a tri-city baseball meeting Monday evening, January 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Big Country Inn Restaurant in Merkel. This is an urgent meeting and all interested persons are asked to please attend.

Garden Club News

The Merkel Garden Club met January 15, for an afternoon meeting at the home of Mrs. Leota Sherrill. Mrs. John Shannon was the co-hostess.

Following the short business session, Mrs. Louise Sudderth presented the program, "Using taste when landscaping." Mrs. Olga Peachy gave an article on gardening in general and prize flowers.

Refreshments were served to two guests, Mrs. Morris Smith and Mrs. Kenneth Pee; and members present, Mesdames Tom Allday, Oda Clark, Albert Criswell, Lotie Everett, R. M. Ferguson, Lucy Ford, Tom Fox, S. D. Gamble, Odis Griffin, Ora Griggs, Dee Grimes, E. J. Patterson, G. R. Peachy, Tom Ransom, W. T. Sadler, John Shannon, Charlie Sherrill and Aaron Sudderth.

NOTICE

The City of Merkel, Texas will construct a new 6" water main of some 4000' from Sunset Street north on West Street to tie in at north Second Street.

Construction will be during the year 1976. Said construction will be financed through a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Environmental Assessment and Impact Statement is on file at City Hall, 107 Lamar Street, Merkel, Texas.

Any and all interested parties are invited to review same and render any comments between January 14, 1976 and February 5, 1976.

Lou David Allen
Mayor

HD News

The 5th Home Demonstration Club met Thursday January 1 for the first meeting of the year at the 5th Community Center. Mrs. Paul Bradley gave the devotion, Mrs. Roy Mashburn led the recreation. Roll call was answered with "An Interesting Spot in Texas I have Visited." Program was on "Our American Heritage." Names were drawn for prizes for the next 3 months. The hostess gift went to Mrs. Roy Mashburn. The next meeting will be Wednesday January 28th, with Mrs. Odie Richardson as hostess.

LOOK WHO'S HERE!

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Don McWilliams announce the birth of a son, Matthew Tod, born January 6, in Conroe. The baby weighed 6 pounds 14 ounces.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bryant Kirkland of Port Neches and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Chester McWilliams of Merkel.

Mr. and Mrs. McWilliams have one other son, Jeremy.

News Of Senior Citizens

Senior citizens will have the regular meeting, 4th Thursday night January 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Talented amateurs will be present to bring a program.

Merkel Visitors

Mrs. Ray Orsborn attended the funeral Monday, January 12, of her aunt Mrs. Tom Blair in Fort Worth. Also attending were Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Parker, Mrs. Dewey Hutchins and Mary Jo Clark all of Odessa.

TEXAS ARBOR DAY--- Texas Arbor Day is January 16 and all Texans are encouraged to plant a tree to preserve the environment, says a landscape horticulturist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Trees provide lumber and shade, act as barriers to reduce noise levels, and serve as giant air cleaners to filter out dust. Trees should be planted that are suited to the particular area. Trees are usually in prime condition for transplanting at this time of the year, and the chances for success are greatest since roots can become established before top growth occurs.



It's that time of year again--the cold season. During cold weather, great numbers of Texans will suffer the consequences of a cold, flu, or respiratory infection even though trying to avoid or prevent infection.

Since the chances are good to have a bout with the "cold bug" this year, it might behoove each of us to know more about what a cold is and what to do with it when you have it, say officials of the Texas Department of Health Resources.

What is a cold? The common cold is a name given to any of a number of short-lived infections of the nose and throat. All of them are highly contagious. They have similar symptoms. Sometimes they are called by other names, which simply tell you what part of the upper respiratory tract is particularly affected: rhinitis, affecting the nose; pharyngitis, the throat; or laryngitis, the voice box.

is in full bloom--eyes teary, nose running, voice husky, breathing obstructed, and your senses of taste and smell dulled. You may feel lethargic and achy. It's common to have a moderate headache, especially at the beginning. (But a severe one may be a sign of some complication.) You may also have some fever, although that's unusual in adults.

Once the cold has fully developed, it usually continues at its peak for several days. Then there is a gradual letting up. An uncomplicated cold commonly lasts from seven to fourteen days.

Can a cold be dangerous? In itself, no. But it can open the door to other illnesses. And it's hard to know when the door has opened, because all the viruses that cause the common cold have not yet been identified. It's very difficult to say where the simple, unperilous cold leaves off and complications, which may be dangerous, begin.

Other --non-cold--viruses may complicate matters by getting in their locks when you are already felled by a cold. Or bacteria--many of which live in your body harmlessly during times of good health--may grow strong when your defenses are down. Or sometimes your body is allergic to the cold virus or the activated bacteria.

Then the severity of the cold symptoms increases, and the inflammation and mucous discharge may spread to other parts of your respiratory system. For some people, these complications may be dangerous.

Can you cure a cold? No, you can't. There is no drug known today that can cure the common cold. Antibiotics, the "wonder drugs," are effective against bacteria, against ordinary respiratory viruses. Doctors may prescribe these drugs for the complications--the secondary, bacterial infections--but not for the cold itself.

What can you do if you get a cold? Dr. M. S. Dickerson, chief of the Department of Health Resources Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, says to go home and go to bed. For one thing he said, the cold is highly contagious, and this may prevent others from being infected. Drinking a lot of fluid and staying warm is recommended. If you have fever and it persists, Dr. Dickerson advises you to contact your family physician.

How do you catch a cold? Though a virus causes your cold, a number of conditions seem to increase your susceptibility (science does not yet know why or how.) People appear to catch colds mainly indoors. They get more of them during the colder months. Fatigue, chilling, and poor physical condition seem to give the virus a better foothold. If possible, you should try to avoid persons who have colds in order to keep from getting one yourself.

What's the course of a cold? From one to three days after the virus takes hold in your body, the symptoms appear. (But other people can catch your cold even before your symptoms appear--one reason why colds are hard to prevent.) The first hint is usually scratchiness in the throat. Within a few hours, your nose gets stuffy and you have vague feelings of discomfort and illness. Usually you start sneezing, too.

Within 48 hours, your cold

Updating Hem Lengths For Today's Fashion

Fashionable shirts and dresses are hanging unworn in many closets--simply because they're too short for today's style.

But many of these can be "recycled" at little expense to become useful and enjoyable additions to a wearable wardrobe. Mrs. Becky Culp, area clothing specialist, suggests:

Aliens Reminded To Register Before January 31

Immigration officials are well pleased with the response of aliens in this area to address report requirements.

Mr. Joe F. Staley of the Immigration and Naturalization Service stated that although the program has been underway only a few weeks, the number reporting thus far is well ahead of the number reporting during the same period last year.

Aliens have until the end of January to submit their address reports to the Government. Forms for the purpose may be obtained at any Post Office or any office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

All aliens, with few exceptions, are required to report. Those excused from this requirement include diplomats and persons accredited to certain international organizations.

The parent or legal guardian must submit a report for an alien child under fourteen years of age.

She's with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. The Texas A&M University System.

"Spend a few minutes visualizing possibilities of the too-short clothes. Would the hem allowance add enough needed length? If so, check to see if the old hemline would show. If it does, consider whether or not you'd like to use camouflage at still look as though they were planned as part of an original garment.

"Once the hem allowance is successfully let down, the through ways the hem edge could be finished. Is it to be added a facing, bind the raw edge, or turn under a narrow width and topstitch?" she said.

She suggested some other possibilities if letting down the hem allowance does not provide enough needed length.

--Is the garment design a fabric design suitable for adding a contrasting ruffle band at the hemline?

"To avoid looking 'tacked on,' contrasting fabric trim added at the hemline often also needs to be positioned higher on the garment--for example, jackets, belts, cuffs, trousers or applique."

--For straight or gathered skirts, cut without A-line seams, one or more pieces of fabric bands or trim inserted above the hemline work.

--Dresses without waistline seams can be successfully lengthened by adding fabric inserts at the waistline for a mock belted or as a midriff to be either belted or unbelted.

--Long and closed vest tunics or overblouses, excellent lengthening accessories. Adding a yoke of lightweight fabric to the underneath section of the dress easily lengthens hemline.



OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY graduate counseling students reviewing their course curriculum with Wayne W. Miller, Oklahoma State Tech director, are: (from left) Cindy Wade, Merkel, Texas and Vikki Mericle, Wellington, Kansas. A total of 14 OSU students will spend the spring semester on Tech's Okmulgee campus studying and gaining first-hand experience in rehabilitative counseling in the Okmulgee Rehabilitative Center and the Vocational-Rehabilitative Facility. The students were guests at a reception where they were welcomed by their instructors and Tech staff.

Cindy Wade Takes Part In Rehab Counseling Classes In OSU Program

Cindy Wade of Merkel is among fourteen Oklahoma State University graduate students who recently began spring semester rehabilitative counseling classes on Okmulgee campus. This is the 17th straight spring semester session held at Tech for the OSU program.

The students will participate in all phases of rehabilitative counseling under the guidance of Clayton A. Morgan, coordinator of OSU's Rehabilitation Counselor Training Program; and Hubert G. Byrd, manager of the Okmulgee Rehabilitative Center.

Counseling students, candidates for rehabilitative counseling masters degrees, enrolled in the OSU program are: Branden Arterbury, Ok-

mulgee; Calvin Mendenhall, Muskogee; Janet Blackwell, Seminole; Mike Johnson, Shawnee; Hal Proske and Becky Logsdon, both of Tulsa, and Brian Hillman, Bartlesville.

Other students enrolled are: Jim Bagby, Claremore; Kirk Collins, Duncan; Tisch Hicks, Randy Jones, Len Keathley, Andy Lawton; Vikki Mericle, Wellington, Kansas, and Cindy Wade, Merkel, Texas. Class sessions will be held in the Okmulgee Rehabilitative Center and the Vocational - Rehabilitative Facility, both operated by the Oklahoma Rehabilitative Service and located on the Tech campus.

Rehabilitative Center staff members assisting with the OSU counseling program are: Wally Duran, chief, physical

therapy; Gayle Mangless, nurses supervisor; Jerry Burkitt, physical therapist; Mary Hill, speech clinician, and Lahoma Goldsmith, facility coordinator and social services supervisor.

Evaluation Facility staff members participating in the counseling program are: Buck Collier, supervisor; Ken Bridgman, Arland Price and Ken Hodge, facility counselors.

A reception welcoming the OSU students was held during the first day of activities so students could meet their instructors and Tech staff.

Area Man Named To A&M Extensive Service

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service has named a new livestock specialist for its District 7.

He is Dr. Delmer I. Davis, who has joined the staff of the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at San Angelo.

Davis has been at Fort Stockton since 1972 in the same capacity for Extension District 6. He succeeds here Dr. Thomas L. Woodward, now on the staff of the A&M Center at Dallas.

In his new assignment, announced by Extension Service Director John E. Hutchison, Davis will mainly help county Extension agents plan and implement their numerous information and education programs for ranchers, farmers and other groups as well as agribusinessmen.

Mrs. Davis, the former Cynthia Johnson of Fort Worth, has been teaching English in Fort Stockton public schools. They are parents of a daughter, 6-year-old April Danielle, and of a son, 2-year-old Tim.

Davis earned the doctoral degree in animal science in 1969 at the University of Tennessee, and the Bachelor's degree at Abilene Christian College.

He worked in meat quality research at Tennessee, and later at California State University in Fresno. He taught beef science and basic animal nutrition and conducted research in both meats and beef feedlot nutrition.

Dr. Davis, born in California but reared near Abilene, is a member of the American Society of Animal Science and the American Society of Range Management.

Doctor Rongers' Health Column

By EDWARD W. RONGERS
CHIROPRACTOR



Headache is the number one complaint of human beings. About 24 million people a year are driven to physicians suffering from this disabling and distressing condition. Seven of ten adults use pain-killers for headaches at least once a month. These chronic headache sufferers spend 300 million dollars each year for remedies that give only temporary relief.

When you have a headache, it's not your brain that is hurting. Your brain has no feeling; it can be cut, probed burned and frozen without hurting. The areas in the head which have feeling and are pain-sensitive are the membranes and blood vessels that cover the brain. When these blood vessels swell and press on sensitive nerves or when muscles in the head and neck go into spasm and squeeze off circulation in the blood vessels, then headaches will occur.

Depending upon their origin, headaches can be classified as either organic or functional.

An organic headache is due to actual disease of the brain or its membrane coverings or some other part of the cranial area, such as tumor, skull fracture, hemorrhage, abscess or inflammation of the brain. About one out of every one hundred headache victims could fall into the organic headache classification.

Functional headaches are by far the most common. They may be due to eyestrain, infection and irritation of sinuses, and irritation of the scalp muscles, over-indulgence in food and alcohol and many other conditions. One of the most frequent cause of headaches is the misalignment of one or more

of the cervical or neck vertebrae. These small bones in the neck region, when displaced by unusual stress, can affect the function of nerve fibers passing between them from the spinal cord, thereby producing pain in the cranial or head region.

All of chronic cases, tension and migraine headaches account for about 90 percent and the tension, or nervous type is far more common, accounting for an estimated seven of ten headaches. Tension headaches are most often brought on as a reaction against psychological pressures. When people get anxious they "set" scalp and neck muscles and develop a headache. People who work at jobs that demand a fixed position of the head often set the muscles of their neck, jaw and scalp in pain-causing postures.

Migraine headaches affect only about 5 percent of the U. S. population and involves at least twice as many women as men. Preceding a migraine attack, a majority of patients experience visual distur-

bances, such as blind spots, zigzag lines, and flashes of colored lights.

The headache is most commonly on one side of the head, although both sides can be involved at the same time. It may be a throbbing type which comes and goes two or three times a week to two or three times a day. Almost all patients complain of vomiting during a migraine attack and some break out in a cold sweat.

The causes of migraine headaches are still uncertain.

Personality and stress may be factors. The typical migraine victim seems to be a perfectionist, compulsive, ambitious and given to suppressing hostility.

Allergies and glandular imbalances are also factors. The most likely cause seems to be a sudden dilation or expansion of the blood vessel going to the head. Specifically, the pain of migraine headaches is caused when the nerves within the walls of the arteries are stretched as the blood vessel becomes dilated or expanded.

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Dudley Star In Southwestern U Production

Mark Dudley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Dudley of Merkel and a student at Southwestern University is among students in the cast of "Ride! Ride!" which will begin a tour of Texas cities February 8.

The Mask and Wig Players of Southwestern University will begin their tour with a performance of the English musical, "Ride! Ride!" by Alan Thornhill in Corpus Christi at the First Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m.

The American premiere of the English musical was staged in the Alma Thomas Theater at Southwestern University October 24-25 with Dr. Angus Springer, chairman of the theater department and sponsor of the Mask and Wig Players, directing. Attending the premiere were the playwright, Alan Thornhill of London, England, and the internationally-known director, Peter Cooke of London and New York. Dr. Springer is currently on sabbatical in England working and doing research at the Westminster Theatre in London.

"Ride! Ride!" is based on an incident in the life of John Wesley, but it is not a sanctimonious "pious play." The true story is that of young Martha Thompson who ran away from home in Preston in Lancashire to work for the charlatan "Doctor" Crankshaw in London. Crankshaw has designs on the girl, which makes his wife insanely jealous. With the connivance of Dr. Hobart, a priest of the Church of England, who hates Wesley because he preaches in the streets to the "low classes," Mrs. Crankshaw has Martha committed to Bedlam (the infamous London asylum). Wesley learns of the situation, forces a death-bed confession from Hobart, has Martha released, but her

on the back of his horse and takes her back home. Hence the title, "Ride! Ride!"

The production staff for the musical includes Clayton Black, senior from Abilene and Georgetown, scene designer and technical director; Debbie Latimer, senior, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. G. M. Latimer, Austin, costume designer and wardrobe mistress; Ken Sheppard of the music faculty, choral director; and Mary Lou Tittle, pianist, senior, daughter of Mrs. Ivy Jewel Tittle of Granger.

Mrs. Velma Rutledge Honored On Birthday

The children of Mrs. Velma Rutledge honored her with a birthday party Saturday, January 17, in the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Donna and David Riney. Other children attending were Larry and Linda Beasley and Earl and Ann Rutledge. Joining the party later were Boyd and Billie Moore and Delisa, also Mr. and Mrs. Ward Berryman.

Services Held For Former Merkel Man

James Stout, 77, of Stockton, California, formerly of Merkel, died at 1 a.m. Saturday in Stockton after a lengthy illness. Services were at 4 p.m. Sunday in Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel.



REDDY'S REFRIGERATOR SAVINGS TIPS



- ★ Don't open refrigerator door unnecessarily. Plan your trips to the refrigerator while cooking. Make sure the children maintain a closed-door policy.
- ★ Buy the size that fits your needs. An over-large refrigerator or freezer wastes space as well as electricity.
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Form 649 (Rev.)—(12-74)

PUBLISHER'S COPY

Consolidated Report of Condition of "Home State Bank" of Trent, in the State of Texas and Domestic Subsidiaries at the close of business on December 31, 1975.

	DOLLARS		Cts.
ASSETS			
1. Cash and due from banks (including \$ 100,000.00 unposted debits)	100,000	00	00
2. (a) U.S. Treasury securities	180,000	00	00
(b) Obligations of Federal Financing Bank			
3. Obligations of other U.S. Government agencies and corporations			
4. Obligations of States and political subdivisions	4	220	00
5. Other securities (including \$ 3,750.00 corporate stocks)	3,750	00	00
6. Trading account securities			
7. Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	300,000	00	00
8. Other loans	339	131	97
9. Bank premises, furniture and fixtures, and other assets representing bank premium	4	473	50
10. Real estate owned other than bank premises			
11. Investments in subsidiaries not consolidated			
12. Customer's liability to this bank on acceptances outstanding		150	35
13. Other assets (item 6 of "Other Assets") (including \$ direct lease financing)			
14. TOTAL ASSETS	1,131	951	66
LIABILITIES			
15. Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	860	753	75
16. Time and savings deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations			
17. Deposits of United States Government			
18. Deposits of States and political subdivisions	98	411	59
19. Deposits of foreign governments and official institutions			
20. Deposits of commercial banks			
21. Certified and officers' checks, etc.			
22. TOTAL DEPOSITS	959	165	34
(a) Total demand deposits			
(b) Total time and savings deposits			
23. Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase			
24. Other liabilities for borrowed money			
25. Mortgage indebtedness			
26. Acceptances executed by or for account of this bank and outstanding		3	359
27. Other liabilities			
28. TOTAL LIABILITIES	962	524	52
29. MINORITY INTEREST IN CONSOLIDATED SUBSIDIARIES			
RESERVES ON LOANS AND SECURITIES			
30. Reserve for bad debt losses on loans (net up pursuant to Internal Revenue Service rulings)			
31. Other reserves on loans			
32. Reserves on securities			
33. TOTAL RESERVES ON LOANS AND SECURITIES			
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS			
34. Capital notes and debentures (specify interest rate and maturity of each issue outstanding)			
35. Equity capital, total	169	427	14
36. Preferred stock-total par value (No. shares outstanding)			
37. Common stock-total par value (No. shares authorized 250) (No. shares outstanding 250)	25	000	00
38. Surplus	100	000	00
39. Undivided profits	44	427	14
40. Reserve for contingencies and other capital reserves			
41. TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	169	427	14
42. TOTAL LIABILITIES, RESERVES, AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	1,131	951	66
MEMORANDA			
1. Average of total deposits for the 15 calendar days ending with call date	947	910	53
2. Average of total loans for the 15 calendar days ending with call date	631	855	86
3. Unearned discount on installment loans included in total capital accounts	4	505	35
4. Standby letters of credit			

I, J G Wilke, President, of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that this report of condition is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Correct—Attest:

[Signatures] Directors

State of Texas, County of Taylor, in the City of Trent, Texas, on the 17th day of January, 1976.

BETTY FREEMAN, My commission expires June 1, 1977.

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MR. AND MRS. ARNOLD ARMSTRONG
... celebrate 50th anniversary

Armstrongs Celebrate Golden Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Armstrong of Trent were honored on their golden anniversary December 24, 1975. Hosting the celebration in the Armstrong home were their four children, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sanders of Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Armstrong of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Mr. and Mrs. Ancel Armstrong of Manhattan Kansas and Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Armstrong of Nallhut, Oklahoma.

Also attending the celebration were the Armstrong's fourteen grandchildren and one great grandson, Tommy Joe, David, Stephen, Cynthia, Timothy, Theresa, Patrice, Malinda, Monica, Christie, Bobby, Becky, Bruce and Aaron.

JP Post To Be Open

Persons interested in applying to fill the vacancy to be left by Merkel Justice of the Peace Lewis L. Millett should do so through the Taylor County Commission. Millett announced two weeks ago that he would leave the post, with his term unexpired, in March at the latest.

Jack Martin New Driver

Jack Martin last week took over duties as driver for the Merkel Volunteer Fire Department, replacing former driver David Seymore who left the post to take up full-time farming operations south of Merkel.

Miss Peachy Named To Dean's List

Wichita State University has announced its Deans' Honor Roll for the fall semester of 1975-76.

Both Colleen Peachy, daughter of George R. Peachey, 112 Oak Street, Merkel, Fairmount College of Liberal Arts, has been included in this list of outstanding students.

To be included on the fall semester honor roll of one of the seven academic colleges within the university or of the Division of Continuing Education, a student must have earned at least a 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 system for fall semester work, and must have been enrolled in at least 12 credit hours.

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It was back in 1927 when Ollie Fox went into business in Merkel working on cars. He has been in business here for 49 years without a break, longer than any other merchant.

"Pierce-Arrows, Stutz Bearcats, I worked on them all," he recalled.

"Why I wrecked 200 Model Ts," he remembered. For a number of years he ran a wrecking yard in conjunction with his repair business.

Fox, 74, has to this day car parts for sale that he has had since 1929. Model T starters, starter switches, generators and tail lights are heaped among the equipment covering tables in his big, drafty repair shop at 122 Edwards.

Many people are taken aback when they learn that Fox is 74 years old.

"Why just this week I was talking to a fellow and he asked me, 'How old are you? Fifty? Fifty-five?'"

"He couldn't believe it when I told him."

"Stay busy... stay working" is his advice to people who want to keep young.

Fox was born in Oklahoma. His family moved from there to Clay County where they lived briefly, then settled near Floydada, where he grew up. Raised on a farm, he was one of 10 children.

"I wore out three saddle horses when I was a young boy," he said.

He was asked what the family raised on the farm.

"We kept guineas until one night Dad went out and shot them all with a shotgun. Have you ever heard guineas? Twelve of them are worse than listening to a fire alarm all night long."

He recounted the history of Fox Repair Shop.

"I had learned to work on cars when I was 18, 19 in Floydada when I worked for H. O. Pope. Then in 1927 I moved to Merkel and bought out the Riddle Shop. The number of people here then wasn't too different from what it is now--it was around 2300, then, I think, I ran a wrecking yard for eleven and a half years along with the repair shop when I was in the Bell building. Then I moved over to the Lowe building for eight and a half years.

"There was a gas pump that came with the place over there. I sold what was left in it, but I wouldn't let them fill it up again for me. I lost more money giving people credit from that one gas pump than you would ever believe."

He has been in business at his present location for 18 years. These days he's working on cars a lot less and on other things a lot more.

than in the past.

"I only do small jobs on cars now--valves and tune-ups. I don't even do brake work any more. I can't take the squatting down!"

Lawnmower repair has become a specialty of his in recent years.

"I could make one of them from scratch if I had to," he declared.

Spring, summer and fall lawnmower repair is a good business, he said.

"I had nine lawnmowers brought to me in one morning last summer," he said.

People come to him for antique car parts, too.

"The other day I sold a fellow a rebuilt Model A carburetor for him to put on his tractor," he said.

He deals these days in "mainly used but some new" equipment.

He's had some close calls with his work. One was when a battery that he was rebuilding exploded in his face. Temporarily blinded, he felt his way to an oil can he knew was on a bench nearby.

"I squirted oil in my eyes because it neutralizes acid. Then I felt my way to the barber and he washed my eyes out with Murine."

Mr. and Mrs. Fox live at

1210 South 10th., in a house they bought 28 years ago.

"Before we finally bought a house of our own we had lived in half the houses in Merkel," he said. Prior to living in their current home they owned a place next to First Baptist Church, of which the Foxes are members, which had to be moved when the church expanded.

"We had bought the house for \$1,990, and spent \$2,600 fixing it up. Then we sold it for \$4,500 cash when it had to be moved," he said.

The Foxes are looking forward to the yearly family reunion, to be in Frith, Oklahoma this year.

Fox is famous throughout the clan for his affectionate greetings, and the womenfolk at the reunions all warn each other when he approaches, saying "Line up for kissing, everybody--The Kissing Fox is here."

His wife, the former Edith Thompson of Noodle, works across the street from Ollie at the fountain of Merkel Drug Store.

The couple has a daughter who lives in Lubbock.

A son, J. D. Fox, was killed about nine years ago.

Merkel residents and businessmen were plagued last week by a rash of tire slashings.

Suffering the greatest damage as of last Friday was the construction site of Abilene Savings and Loan Association. The John Deere tractor used in construction there had three tires slashed Monday night, four slashed on Wednesday night, and another slashed on Thursday night. Merkel Chief of Police Paul Crouse said Friday that only cost of damage from the first incident Monday had been calculated. Repairing the three tires from that night's vandalism cost \$133.33, he reported.

John Baker, superintendent at the savings association construction site, said that probably the greatest loss would be from time that workers were unable to proceed with their duties because of the tractor's being inoperative until the tires could be fixed.

Also, a number of vehicles, undetermined as of last week, had tires slashed at Palmer Pontiac and GMC at 1208 North First.

Five private residences reported incidences of tire slashings on cars on their premises to the police last week.

Crouse said Friday that two or more juveniles were under suspicion in the cases.

"If anybody observes anything like this, contact the police department immediately," Crouse said.

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IN QUOTES

WHY NOT LEGALIZE CRIME AND THEN TAX IT OUT OF BUSINESS

--WILL ROGERS

ANIMAL AG CONFAB-- Five production short courses on beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, swine, and pastures and forages will highlight the 1976 Texas Animal Agriculture Conference at Texas A&M University April 8-10.

Why An Increase In School Taxes

This reduction by the state made it necessary for each school district to pay into the state general fund additional money to take care of the increased salaries. This one item forces the Merkel Independent School District to increase the amount withheld by the state from \$82,833 to \$146,036--an increase of \$63,203. This increase could have been decreased if the governor and the legislative body had seen fit to have increased taxes on a state level rather than on a local district level.

2. Increased transportation costs. Due to inflated prices for gasoline, oil, repairs, and school buses, the expenses far exceed the money to be received from the state. This item represents an increase of approximately \$27,531 for the current school year.

3. The attorney general's opinion relating to costs pertaining to driver education programs, band costs, student workbooks, fees, etc. will represent an additional cost of several thousands of dollars for the district.

4. Plant maintenance costs will increase from approximately \$98,601 to \$131,204--an increase of \$32,603.

There are other increased costs that must be assumed by the local district, however, the four causes mentioned above will show the trend in why school taxes had to be increased this year.

The subject of taxes is usually a distasteful subject for most of us. Sometimes it is difficult for us to understand increases--especially large and sudden increases. For a quarter of a century, the Merkel School Board has tried to maintain a reserve balance to serve as a buffer against sudden increases. Now, due to runaway inflation prices for educational costs, many types of school expenses have increased from 100% to 300% in a short period of time; the reserve held as a buffer against tax increases has gradually decreased year by year.

The tax paying citizen of the Merkel Independent School District are concerned about the increases in school taxes. This is a concern expressed locally as well as on a state-wide basis. The school board and the school administrators feel that our citizens are entitled to an explanation of why an increase in school taxes.

There are many reasons for the increase in taxes. It would be difficult to list all of the causes; however, it is easy to pin point some of the major causes including one which we are all familiar with--inflation. Other specific causes include:

1. The state legislature increased salaries and at the same time decreased percentage-wise the state's part of the cost from 80% to 70%.

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The Light Touch

BY PAT CASTILLE

Citizen to poll taker: "When I have an opinion, you'll see it on my bumper sticker."

.....

In your search for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, better stop and pick up some of the silver along the way.

.....

Laugh and the world laughs with you. Weep and you look a mess.

.....

When a teenage driver honks, the one thing you can be certain it means is that he has a horn.

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If you want your kid to follow in your footsteps, you've probably forgotten a few you took.

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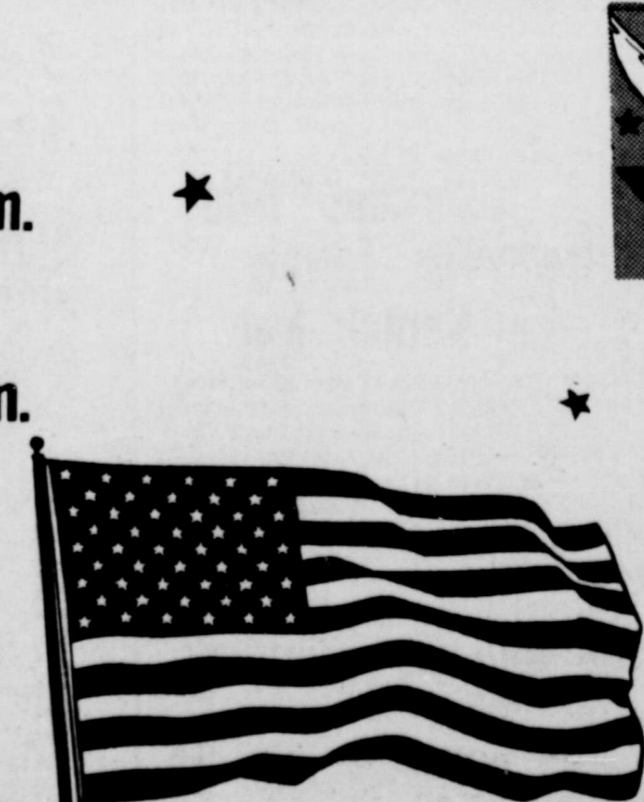
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Children To Be Reared By State Or By Parents? Legislation Before Congress Now! Miss Fincher Named To Dean's List At Texas Tech

AN EDITORIAL
By SALAH ECKOLS

"Spare the rod and spoil the child." Do you recognize this cliché? I will remember hearing my mother say it when I was a child. Do you know the origin of the phrase? Most of us don't. However, I did some research and found the following:

"He that sparath his rod hateth his son."
"He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him."

The first quote is from the

King James version of the Bible Proverbs 13:24. The second is from the revised standard version of the same book, chapter and verse.

It is taught through out the Bible that children are to be disciplined and taught by their parents. The Bible also teaches that children are to obey and respect their parents. The fifth of the ten commandments, Exodus 20:12 states "Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God has given thee."

Child and Family Service Act of 1975. Were this bill to pass, the rearing of children and the family unity would be relinquished to the state as it is in totalitarian societies where the state governs practically every move of the citizens.

Again in the new testament obedience of children is stressed in Colossians 3:20, "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."

BEFORE THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES is presently a bill known as The

parent would object, the authority of the home would De Facto, be transferred to these advocates."

The Charter of Children's Rights of the National Council of Civil Liberties is becoming part of the Child Development Act. Following are four (4) of the several items proposed in this Charter. Congressional Record - Page 44138:

1. "All children have the right to protection from and compensation for the consequences of any inadequacies in their home backgrounds."
2. "Children have the right to protection from any excessive claims made on them by their parents or authority."

"If, in the judgement of those who are in charge of such a program, the State by way of the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare parents are not doing a good job the advocate (A specialist appointed by the government) would enter the home and direct the education, even within the home. And if

"The intent of this bill is for the government to be responsible. . . for the nutritional interests of your child, and for all psychological interests of your child." What is at issue is whether the parents shall continue to have the right to form the character of the children or whether the State with all its power and magnitude, shall be given the decisive tools and techniques for forming the young lives of the children of this country."

"As a matter of the child's right, the Government shall exert control over the family because we have recognized that the child is not the care of the parents but the care of the State. We recognize, further, that not parental, but communal forms of upbringing have an unquestionable superiority over all other forms. Furthermore there is serious question that maybe we cannot trust the family to prepare young children in this country for this new kind of work which is emerging."

According to Sen. Bartlett's office, this legislation is now before the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. Hearings are scheduled for February, 1976. A staff member of the senator's office recommended writing directly to the committee to express any opinion concerning the bill. The Chairman of the committee is also the author of the bill, Senator Walter Mondale of Minnesota.

The ranking minority member of the committee is Robert F. Stafford. The address for the committee is: Committee on Labor and Public Welfare-Suite 4230-Dirksen Office Building-Washington

Debbie Fincher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayman Hicks of Merkel, was named to the Dean's Honor List at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

Debbie's average was 3.65 for the fall semester. A graduate of Merkel High School, she is a junior majoring in special education with a minor in physical education.

Some people believe that rubbing a sty nine times with a golden wedding ring will cure it.

Elementary Honor Roll

Mr. Cain, principal of Merkel Elementary, has announced the Honor Roll for the third six weeks.

First Grade
A-Anna Dela Cruz, Abby Irvin, Tina Jaramillo, Debbie Pack, Bridget Pallarez, Brent Pierce, Fondale Watson and Michelle Woodard.
A-B-Mark Aldridge, Tracy Bicknell, Eddie Biera, Mike Ellis, DeAnn Stevens, Christy Stokes, Dawn Vanderwerker, Ronny Vasquez, Travis Watson, Sandy Webb and Jay Williams.

Second Grade
A-Cammie Bright, Kevin Coker, Lorie Kimbrell, Gayle Landeros, Kelly Kinney and Regina Stuckey.
A-B-Monica Atkinson, Sue Cunningham, Dean Franklin, Chris Horton, Amy Irvin, Darren Lancaster, Randy Pallarez, Devin Sanford, Lucetia Wade, Ronald Waldon and Todd Yaddow.

Third Grade
A-Jerry Davis, Tim Jacobs and Cindy Toney.
A-B-Randy Davis, Billy Holt, Cody Johnson, Missy Jones, Ronnie Mann, Darren Pack, Shane Smith, Cresencia

Vasquez, Tamara Watson and Jenny Wilde.

Fourth Grade
A-Angie Allen, Scott Alves, Russell Lucas, Billy McKeenan, Kimberly Fack and Cindy Sims.
A-B-Lori Aldridge, Bonnie Anderson, Steven Davis, Joan Fariello, Jay Gibson, Trayla Gregory, Tommy Hays, Brenda Hohertz, Judy Jenkins, Brenda Kinder, Guy McGee, Scotty Niemann, Denise Pack, Charlotte Toney, Keith Watts and John Ybarra.

Fifth Grade
A-Rosie Biera, Tammye Cloyd and Linda Holmes.
A-B-Tina Bicknell, Tonja Bicknell, Tim Brady, Greg Dickinson, Angela Dunlap, Eddy Harris, Karen Jackson, Sharon Jackson, Diana Landeros, Kim McCasland, Eddie Martin, Pam Massey, Jeff Scott, Windi Whisenant, Roy Johnson and Tammy Townsend.

Sixth Grade
A-Rene Aiken, Nancy Click, Mary Fariello, Janice Jacobs, Stacy Seymore, Yvonne Swinney and Ann Yvonne Swinney and Ann

Wooten.

A-B-Kristi Alves, Loyce Baker, Brad Elliott, Paul Kannel, Sharry Luckey, Maria Mareno, Sirintorn Parsarn, David Wilkerson and Debbie Williams.

Seventh Grade
A-Sheila Adair, Mark Bland, Christi Brady, Judy Castille, Norma Frazier, Todd Gregory, Bart Pursley, and Delisa Roysden.
A-B-Lisa Allen, Manual Biera, Vickie Campbell, Carla Corbin, Tammy Davis, Cindy Doan, Becky Dunlap, Walter Elmore, Kim Gary, Linda Graves, Kelly Knight, Sherry Lorraine, Alane McGee, Randy Martin, Randy Martinez, Ann Melton, Louise Sellers, Ronald Stone and Linda Wilson.

Eighth Grade
A-Sherry Ascencio, Shannon Bagby, Wendy Hogan, Sharon Isom, Chirre Kraatz, Kim Mashburn, Susan Peachey, Diana Saldana, Lisa Shugart, Brad Wade and Don Wilkerson.
A-B-Josh Amerine, Becky Carter, Mark Copeland, Chris Cox, Robert Cunningham, Jeannessa Cypert, Taresia English, Brian Fariello, Robert Fowler, Elizabeth Griffith, Victor Herrera, Jodie Jenkins, Carmen Lerma, Lisa Cwen, Karen Pack, Marissa Sandusky, Tomi Santee, John Townsend, Lynn Wade, Becky Watts and Cynthia White.

Many Seek Rental Housing In Merkel

About ten families per week check with the Chamber of Commerce office in search of rental housing in Merkel, chamber manager, Benny Melton said.

Often the seekers are people who have found work in Merkel and want to live here, Melton said. Frequently they are forced to find housing in Abilene and commute to work, he added.

Melton urged anyone with rental housing to offer to contact him at the chamber office, 1022 North First, 928-5151.

1200 Feet Of Water Main Torn Up

Heavy equipment at work during telephone cable tore up 1200 feet of the city's water main Wednesday afternoon, January 14.

The incident occurred two miles south of Merkel on FM 126S. Water supply to a number of south Merkel residents was cut off by the occurrence from 4 p.m. Wednesday until 1 a.m. Thursday.

Seven City of Merkel employees and local contractor D. A. Bishop worked for seven hours to repair the damages by 1 a.m. Cost to the city \$1,840.15.

Contractors' equipment which had caused the damages were Caterpillars contracted by Continental Telephone Company said city coordinator J. A. Sadler. He said that a bill would be sent asking cost of damages.

Fort Worth Rodeo Tickets For Sale

Chamber of Commerce president Benny Melton said he has six tickets to the Fort Worth rodeo remaining for sale at the chamber office at 1022 North First.

The rodeo will be February 7. Tickets are \$4 each.

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73 PONTIAC VENTURA 2 door, V-8, automatic, air and power, yellow color with black vinyl top. Only.....	\$2695
67 PONTIAC G.T.O. 2 dr. H. T. automatic, air and power. ONLY.....	\$495
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ORANGE DRINK GAL JUG **93¢**
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I G DAIRY FRESH
HOMO 2 MILK
GAL JUG PLASTIC **\$1.43** NO DEPOSIT
I.G. DAIRY FRESH
HOMO MILK
GAL JUG PLASTIC **\$1.53** NO DEPOSIT

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SPRAY
PAM 9OZ CAN **79¢**
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89¢
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79¢
39¢
59¢

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STEAK BABY BEEF SIRLOIN OR CLUB LB. **\$1.39**
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SAUSAGE HORMEL LITTLE SIZZLER PKG **89¢**
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