

Drugs readily available to high school students

Related Interview, Stories Page 6

After the Parent Teacher's Organization's request to use the old Merkel High gym for a dance was rejected by the School Board at its last meeting, a poll was initiated by The Merkel Mail with the students.

We wanted to hear what they have to say on needs for entertainment and what they would like for Merkel. The results immediately took a different path.

The interviews not only pointed out a need for some modern form of recreation for Merkel High students, it brought to light a grave situation—one that has been whispered about but a situation no one wants to admit or face.

Drugs.

Yes, they are readily available to all young people at the High School and even in the Junior High.

First, lets set the stage with some background.

There were at least 10 students interviewed and the number was split between boys and girls. They were picked at random. There were some recent grads also interviewed. One student

was an admitted drug user. Several others also agreed to be interviewed.

They came from all types of families—from middle income to well to do and socially prominent. All were from Merkel and none from Tye or Noodle. All but one admitted to having tried marijuana at least once.

Some were from farm families and all had various religious affiliations. They ranged in ages from 16-18.

All were interviewed individually and all talked freely of their beliefs and needs. They were candid with their answers.

Taking the individual answers and compiling them, it came out basically the same:

All favor dancing and would like to have one in Merkel. All admitted that "75 to 85 per cent" of the high school students have tried at least marijuana and "50 per cent" use it.

The pot along with acid and speed are readily available at the High School and most admitted knowing of someone coming to class in the mornings or

afternoons smelling of marijuana or being drunk.

Nothing was done about it by a teacher, if it was even noticed.

All would like to see more after school activities for high school students.

They admitted that one of these problems is that there is nothing for them to do.

They also admitted that having a dance would not stop the drug situation but they felt it would reduce the problem.

Other forms of entertainment mentioned was a bowling alley and a recreation hall for high school students only. This would be run by the city and would provide a place to dance, a juke box, pinball machines and pool tables.

They would like to see the senior trip revised and feel they are being disciplined and discriminated against for what two or three people did in the past.

One of the long-standing "jokes" about town is that the youngsters have nothing to do but drive the "strip,"

park and drink a little beer and head for the bushes.

This usually brings a snicker or two from some elements of the community but nothing is taken too seriously about easing the problem.

After talking with the young men and women, it is evident their basic need for a parent or adult upon which to unload some of their daily pressure is lacking and they thus release these pressures through the use of drugs or by drinking—much as the adult population does when anxieties or problems become too heavy.

Another surprising answer from these students concerned gossip.

All were against all the Merkel gossip. It is a real turnoff. Everyone is too quick to jump to conclusions and to start rumors. As one aptly put it "everybody's business is nobody's business."

There are just too many hypocrites—knocking the teen-agers for their beliefs and actions while adults are doing the same thing or worse themselves.

The percentages given by the students

is their estimate and all apparently of the same belief about the widespread use of drugs. It was even admitted that sometimes students keep a bottle in their lockers and are on a daily high.

There was no admission that any hard drugs such as heroin or cocaine are in Merkel and it was believed that the majority of the drugs are coming from Abilene.

Merkel isn't the only town in the county or the nation facing the same situation—it is prevalent in other small communities—they felt.

As to naming pushers and sellers of the drugs—there was no namecalling by those interviewed although they admitted the chain extends through 40 to 50 people—with each one handling a certain amount of the drug.

As one put it, "there are no big pushers in Merkel. All have fulltime jobs and this is their parttime job—you know for grocery money."

The results of this interview has not been revealed to hurt the students, the churches, the schools or Merkel but to

recognize the situation does exist and that there is a need to listen and attempt to understand the young adults of the community and to help fill their needs—if possible.

This young generation is smarter and more is expected of it than in past generations. It is understandable they have just as much—if not more—pressure on them than the older generation had as teen-agers.

They have faced difficult times and have many more ahead of them unless the adults start listening instead of condemning them.

By admitting the problem exists and that teen-agers have valid suggestions, real needs and are a key part of the community with equal stature then solutions may be more readily forthcoming.

They need more than fourth order to turn to, they need some attention and guidance from adults of the community.

This is their feelings and it is their beliefs as they see the situation in their hometown.



GAME BALL--Austin Hill, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hill, holds the game football he received from the Merkel High School Badgers after Merkel's 19-12 victory over Winters, Austin, not too happy over holding the football had just been awakened from a nap. The football was signed by all members of the Badger football team and the game was dedicated to him. Hill is the ninth grade football coach and teaches civics and history at Merkel High. Austin broke his leg recently when he was running down the street. He has a cast not only around the leg but up around his body to his chest. He will have to wear it another three weeks, Mrs. Hill said.

5-Classroom addition approved for Elementary School

The Merkel Board of Education has agreed to accept the plans and costs to build a 5-classroom addition to the Merkel Elementary School.

The Board approved preliminary plans by the Welch and Hampton Architectural firm of Sweetwater at its regular meeting October 19 and to go ahead with plans to add five classrooms to the elementary school in order to help ease the congested situation.

Estimated cost by Architect Don Hampton of Sweetwater is \$123,966.75. Extra blueprint costs, electrical wiring and the laying of new sewer and water lines also were considered by the Board, bringing the estimate past the \$125,000 figure.

The Board hopes to finance the building with a \$60,000 6-year loan and by taking at least \$60,000 from the surplus of the present school funds.

No additional taxes are anticipated at this time by the Board to pay for the construction. The more than \$10,000 estimate to remodel the bus barn at Tye was approved at a recent meeting which would add two classrooms there. However, Superintendent Travis Davis estimated that most of the Tye project could be paid for out of existing budgeted items.

The Board was to see an example of Hampton's work Thursday night when they traveled to Clyde to tour the new school facilities there. They were to be Hampton's guests at dinner in Abilene. Hampton was present at Tuesday's meeting, presenting the plans for the five classrooms.

The new building would extend from the northwest door of the present elementary building. It would have three classrooms on the west side and a kindergarten room on the east side. The kindergarten room could be divided into two classrooms and would be large enough for 62 students.

After going over the plans thoroughly and discussing any possible changes the Board agreed to accept the preliminary plans and to proceed with the addition.

Also at the Board's request, Hampton presented the estimated cost of putting in parking areas around the elementary school.

He estimated that curb and gutter for 530 feet at \$1.75 per foot would cost \$927. And, for paving 1,866 yards at \$4.50 would total \$8,397 for a total paving cost of \$9,324.

This would include 23 parking spaces on the east side of the present elementary building and for 20 spaces on the west side.

However, it was pointed out the sur-

face would not be of the permanent type at this price and would be tracked into the classrooms in hot weather.

The price was not included with the building price and was used as a guideline of how much the Board could expect to pay for parking to help eliminate the congestion around the elementary school.

They took no action on the parking situation, electing to wait until they get the new construction under way.

The Board elected to wait until after they looked at the Clyde school before making any further recommendations for particular specifications and changes to the present preliminary drawings.

never nice or easy. Thus, it is with some reservations the articles admitting the widespread drug problem in Merkel.

This is not a situation to admit to behind closed doors and shrug and do nothing about because "it doesn't affect my child."

It does reach "your child" and every youngster in the community. It also reaches every adult either directly or indirectly.

Drugs are nothing to take lightly or with whispers. It is something that has to be attacked with full strength and with cooperation and zeal from everyone.

It is not only Merkel's future citizenship, it is the life of the youngsters that are at stake. Too, if it is as widespread as indicated then it amounts to big business—the wrong kind.

I have seen what drugs can do to a youngster and how it can ruin a promising future of a young man or woman. It is not a pleasant sight, it is something that crawls into one's memory and lurks forever.

One day there is the bright, intelligent, smiling face of a youngster capable of reaching any goal he so chooses in life. The next there is nothing but despair, aimless wondering and a life spent in search of that next fix or buck to buy one with.

Gone are any aspirations for a future, of any desire to work and become a meaningful citizen in the community. All that is left is a parasite and vegetable.

Therefore, it has become imperative that we start to listen to what the young men and women are saying and to stop hearing only what we want to hear.

It is time to stop condemning and to start rebuilding. In other words to start treating the young men and women as we would want to be treated.

No, this part of being in the newspaper business in a community as great as Merkel is not one of the fun times. Still, by admitting the problem exists and by allowing the teen-agers to have a voice, maybe the situation can be cope with before it becomes worse.

If one life is saved because of prompt action and a family is brought closer together than that is what newpapering and writing such unpleasant stories are all about.

THE MAIL



By Carl Dingler

There is a move under way to eliminate off campus education such as Merkel has in Cisco Junior College.

The move started by Grant Jones to get Cisco Junior College and its cheaper state fees out of Abilene to avoid competition with the three church schools may spread to all extensions of the college. The law involves only Taylor County at the present time.

Everyone should rise up against this move, Cisco Junior College should be supported in its efforts to bring economical education to Merkel and its citizens.

The project provides affordable education for the residents of Merkel—if they desire to take advantage of it. It saves on energy as it allows residents of the area to attend classes at home and it is convenient which allows those working to take advantage of the opportunity for self improvement. Majority of those attending classes could not afford the travel expense and would not have the time to travel to Cisco, Snyder or elsewhere to attend classes. Majority of them can't afford to pay the higher tuition charged by the three Abilene colleges.

Cisco Junior College is an asset to Merkel. And, like any good neighbor, we should get behind it and fight to keep it in the community. Write Jones, write your congressmen, write to the Chamber of Commerce. Let's eliminate this form of discrimination and promote the free enterprise system.

Let's expand our college, not destroy it—for the good of everyone in the community.

With elections coming up Tuesday, thought it would be interesting to see how the contested local election for Justice of The Peace is going.

In a man-on-the-street interview 20 people at random were asked who is running in the JP race and who they would vote for.

The results: Nine said they did not know who was running. One favored write-in candidate Buddy Carey and one favored write-in candidate Marie Cunningham. The other nine said they planned to vote for Democratic candidate Walter Thames who is filling out the unexpired term of Lewis Millett who resigned in March.

The Merkel Mail is endorsing none of the JP candidates, leaving the choice up to the voters.

There were 306 at Merkel High School taking the Swine flu shots Sunday. Hopefully, the rest of the vaccine will be available soon and the rest of Merkel will have the free shots available.

Boy, some of the craziest people were roaming the streets of Merkel Monday. If anyone happened to be passing through bet they thought they were in one of those weird California cities rather than in West Texas.

Pug Harris has to get the award for the "prettiest" what with her longjohns and shorts, etc.

It will be up to everyone else to come up with a better outfit before Crazy Days end Saturday night.

The Merkel Mail staff didn't do too bad either.

Reading or admitting something that is unpleasant is

Scouts start project for school

Cub Scout Pack 220 of Merkel has begun its Bicentennial Project. After receiving approval from the Merkel School, the Chisolm Trail Scout Council, and personal approval from the Manager of Consumer Promotions of the General Foods Corporation, the scouts have started collecting Post Cereal box tops.

In cooperation with the Merkel Middle and Elementary Schools, the scouts will collect, count, and package the tops for delivery. Then the final count and a catalog with the descriptions of numerous types of playground equipment and games will be presented to the school for their selections.

Each top, complete with the date, will count as points toward the purchase of the

items to be selected. The more tops received, the more or larger the items are that may be obtained.

Several local businesses have volunteered space for the scout collection boxes, these businesses are: Castille's Hardware, The Merkel Mail, Ben Franklins, Starbuck Furniture, Carson's Supermarket, Western Auto and Furniture Store and Ninth Street Grocery.

If there is anyone who would be interested in having a collection box in their business, please call Tere Nalley at 928-5702 or Billie Walters at 928-5156.

There will also be collection boxes at the Merkel Middle School, the Merkel Elementary School and the Cub Scout Hut.

Tuesday is election day

Tuesday will be election day all over the nation when a President along with other national, state and local officials will be elected for another term of office.

Election headquarters in Merkel will be at the Senior Citizens Building on North Edwards.

Also, voting places will be at the Tye Community Center, at the Trent City Hall, at Butman in Mulberry Canyon and at View Baptist Church.

The polls will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 7 p.m.

There would be a covered walk connecting the two buildings and the new building would have carpet and central heating and air conditioning. It would have 6,045 square feet at \$18 a square foot for \$108,810. The covered area would be 470 square feet at \$8 per square foot for \$3,920.

Hampton's fee would be \$8,736.75 and a contingency fee of \$2,500 would bring the total to \$123,966.75.

Davis said it will take \$450 to get the electricity run underground to the building and that it will take \$4,000 to \$4,500 to furnish the building. No cost was given for the 700 feet of sewer line required nor the water line.

Extra blueprints will cost \$200 to \$300 Hampton said. At least 30 sets will be required.

Hampton said the project, if approved promptly, could be completed in time for fall classes in August.

He said they could take bids by Jan-

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Ben Franklin
201 KENT
MERKEL



NEW OWNERS--Gaylon Christie, left, and Ted Connell, right of Killeen talk over the sale of Merkel Radio Station KWFA with manager John Curtis. With FCC approval the two Killeen businessmen will take over control of the Merkel station. They feel the Abilene, Merkel market is an excellent one and are looking forward to their new venture.

Final rites held for Elmer Herring

Services were held Saturday at the Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel for Elmer Herring, 68, of Merkel who

died Thursday at West Texas Medical Center after a lengthy illness.

The Rev. Russell McNally, pastor of the United Methodist Church of Merkel, officiated. He was assisted by the Rev. Lynward Harrison. Burial was in Eastland Memorial Cemetery in Eastland.

Born August 30, 1908, in Eastland County, he married Gladys Robertson February

1, 1932, in Walters, Oklahoma. They moved to Merkel in 1947. He worked for various independent oil field operators, retiring in 1973.

Survivors include his wife; two brothers, Elbert of Abilene and Sam of Eastland; four sisters, Mary Stuteville of Albany, Ora Haynes, Martha Cross and Modell Wallace, all of Eastland; and several nieces and nephews.

JP action

There were 92 cases filed in Justice of Peace court from October 18 through Monday.

Those pleading guilty and paying fines include:

OCTOBER 17--Charles Johnson, speeding, \$25; Carolyn Gunter, speeding, \$29.50.

OCTOBER 19--Juan Ocon, ran stop sign, \$12.50; Jackson Ellis, speeding, \$30.

OCTOBER 20--Jeffery Harris, speeding, \$23.50; Harvey McGraw, speeding, \$23; George Maynard, speeding, \$23.50.

OCTOBER 21--Aurora Chapa, no drivers license, \$17.50; Jo Hamilton, speeding, \$25; Linda Peterson, speeding, \$25; Clifford Shields, speeding, \$22.

OCTOBER 22--Pamela Burrell, speeding, \$17.50; Jane Banker, speeding, \$19; Wilton Fairchild, speeding, \$17.50.

OCTOBER 23--Sam Cooper, speeding, \$25.

OCTOBER 24--Bob Capps, expired certificate, \$17.50; Wayne Field, speeding, \$17.50; Donald Dillingham, speeding, \$26.50.

OCTOBER 25--James Davis, speeding, \$28.

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**Radio station sold
to Killeen businessmen**

Two Killeen businessmen have initiated an agreement to purchase Merkel Radio Station KWFA.

The two, Gaylon Christie and Ted Connell of Killeen, were in Merkel Thursday completing the transaction.

It won't be official, Christie said until the change of ownership is approved by the Federal Communication Commission in Washington, D. C.

Christie who now lives in Harker Heights (a suburb of Killeen) is from Holland, Texas (near Temple) and was in broadcasting 22 years before going into the real estate business in Killeen.

He has worked for KTON Belton, KXOL Fort Worth and KLEN Killeen. He went into the real estate business in 1965 and also owns a Honda motorcycle dealership there.

Connell is a former resident of Mulberry Canyon, leaving there in 1943 at the age of 17 when he joined the Army. Since then he has amassed various businesses. He currently owns an automobile agency in Killeen and has various other businesses in Killeen.

The two also are buying the radio station in Coppas Cove, a city near Killeen with 24,000 population.

They are purchasing the radio station from Harold Nichols of Oklahoma City and manager John Curtis who is retiring to Jackboro at age 66.

Christie said they plan to continue the country and western theme of the Merkel station and no definite changes have been anticipated yet.

Purchase price of the station was not given.

"We plan to make improvements as time allows," Christie said.

He also indicated they would probably add an FM station when the sale is approved.

KWFA is 1500 KC, 250 watts clear-channel station serving Merkel, Abilene and Sweetwater and also has a sales office in Abilene.

The station brochure claims coverage as far north as Seymour and Rule, as far west as Post, southwest to San Angelo and Big Spring, south to Brownwood, southeast to Comanche, east to Ranger and Thurber and northeast to Graham and Breckenridge.

**Jones named
to Baptist board**

The Rev. Kenneth F. Jones, pastor, First Baptist Church of Merkel has been elected to serve on a Texas Baptist board during the annual meeting of the 2.2 million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas in San Antonio.

4,400 Texas Baptist churches as well as the Convention's institutions, agencies and boards.

The Rev. Jones will sit on the 192-member Executive Board, comprised of laymen and ordained church leaders from across Texas, which conducts the business of the BGT between sessions.

The State Convention, meeting in San Antonio, launched "Good News Texas," described by convention leaders as "the most comprehensive, unique evangelistic thrust in Texas history."

Plans include a state-wide \$1 million mass media campaign to climatize the state in support of Good News Texas through ministries of

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1. Do not switch anything electrical on or off. Don't use the telephone in your own home. Do not strike a match. Do not do anything that might cause a spark.
2. Have everyone leave the house immediately, leaving doors open to help ventilate.

3. Go to a nearby telephone and call Lone Star Gas Company. Wait until we have found the source of the odor to determine whether it's safe for you to return to the house.

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THE MERKEL MAIL Thursday, October 28, 1976

KOUNTRY FRESH PAGE 3

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, notice is hereby given that Harold D. Nichols, licensee of class II broadcast station KWFA, Merkel, Texas has made an application for transfer of its license to operate station KWFA, on 1500 KHz. The officer, director, and sole owner is Harold D. Nichols. Members of the public who desire to bring to the Commission's attention facts concerning the operation of the station should write the FCC, Washington, D. C. 20554, immediately. Letters should set out in detail the specific facts which the writer wishes the Commission to consider in passing on the transfer application. A copy of the license transfer application and related material is available for public inspection at North 2nd and Baker between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Transfer to Gaylon Christie and Ted Connell of Killen, Texas the licensee and property of KWFA Radio Station by H. D. Nichols who is licensee at this time at the approval of the FCC, Washington, D. C. 36-4tc

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THANK ALL THE MERCHANTS for the ads in programs for District 8 Convention. We want to thank the Ladies Auxiliary for all the hard work. It could not have been done without them.

A special thanks to Fred and Leta Heady, Bobby Barnes, Fred Starbuck, Ann and Vernon Wade, Pug and Leo Harris, Rubin Duran, Curtis Moore, Johnny Whisenhunt, Jim Heinz, Tony Castillo, and special thanks to Ray Pack. Club Manager Post Commander 36-1tc

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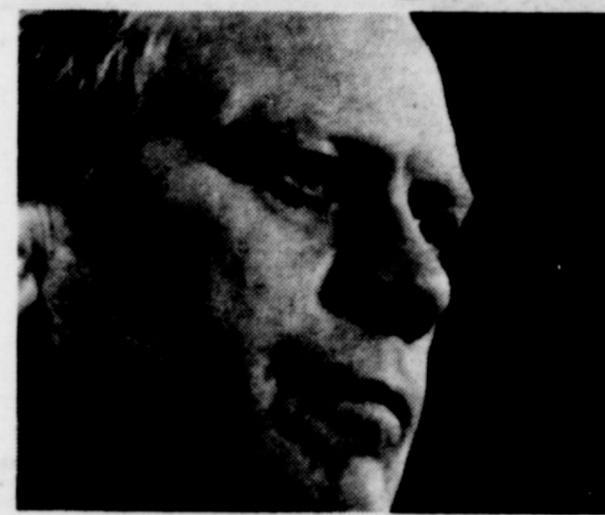
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He wants to keep prosperity surging.

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He took on the toughest job in the world—at the toughest time in our history.

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He asked for your prayers in one of our darkest hours.

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There is a critical decision to be made on November 2nd. It goes far beyond the question of which Presidential candidate can govern with integrity and honesty. We must determine which candidate has the ability and strength to lead our country out of economic chaos, and the vision to see that all Americans—not just the powerful and influential—have a better future.

During the past two years, the middle class has paid far too dear a price for a President lacking that ability.

Since Gerald Ford took office, the unemployment rate has risen 50%, from 5.5% or 5 million people, to 7.9% or 7-1/2 million jobless Americans.

Today's inflation rate of 6% is higher than it was at any time between the

Korean War and the inauguration of Richard Nixon.

The 1968 food dollar is now worth 57¢.

Mr. Ford's budget will account for the largest single deficit and more than 1/3 of the public debt incurred during our entire 200-year history.

Real GNP has actually declined during each of Gerald Ford's two years in office.

And who is most affected by these distressing statistics? Not the Washington establishment, or the economic elite courted by the Republicans. The burden falls on the person who can least afford it: the average American.

Jimmy Carter means to change all that. As President, he will make government responsive to your needs.

Tax Reform: "The average family in this country actually pays a higher proportion of their income in taxes than the average family that makes more than a million dollars a year. That's disgraceful. We need to move toward a truly progressive and simplified tax system, with reduced tax rates for the average American."

Economy: "We'll never have a balanced budget nor an end to the inflationary problems as long as we have 7-1/2 million people out of work. Employment needs to be the major thrust of the whole domestic policy of our government."

Efficiency in Government: "We now have in the

federal government the most bloated, confused, wasteful bureaucracy ever created. There's no way to get an answer out of Washington and no way to understand what's going on there. We need to reorganize completely the executive branch of government, making it fair, efficient, effective, and responsive to our people's needs."

Housing: "No government that cared about our neighborhoods would stack the tax deck against them. A landlord can let a building run down and make a good living on tax breaks. But when a home owner spends a little hard-earned money fixing up his home, the assessor raises his taxes. And the FHA no longer

cares about families getting started in their own homes. I intend to restore the FHA to the time when, for a down payment, a family could get a mortgage which the government would insure."

Health Care: "We need a nationwide health care delivery system which will make adequate health care a right for all people."

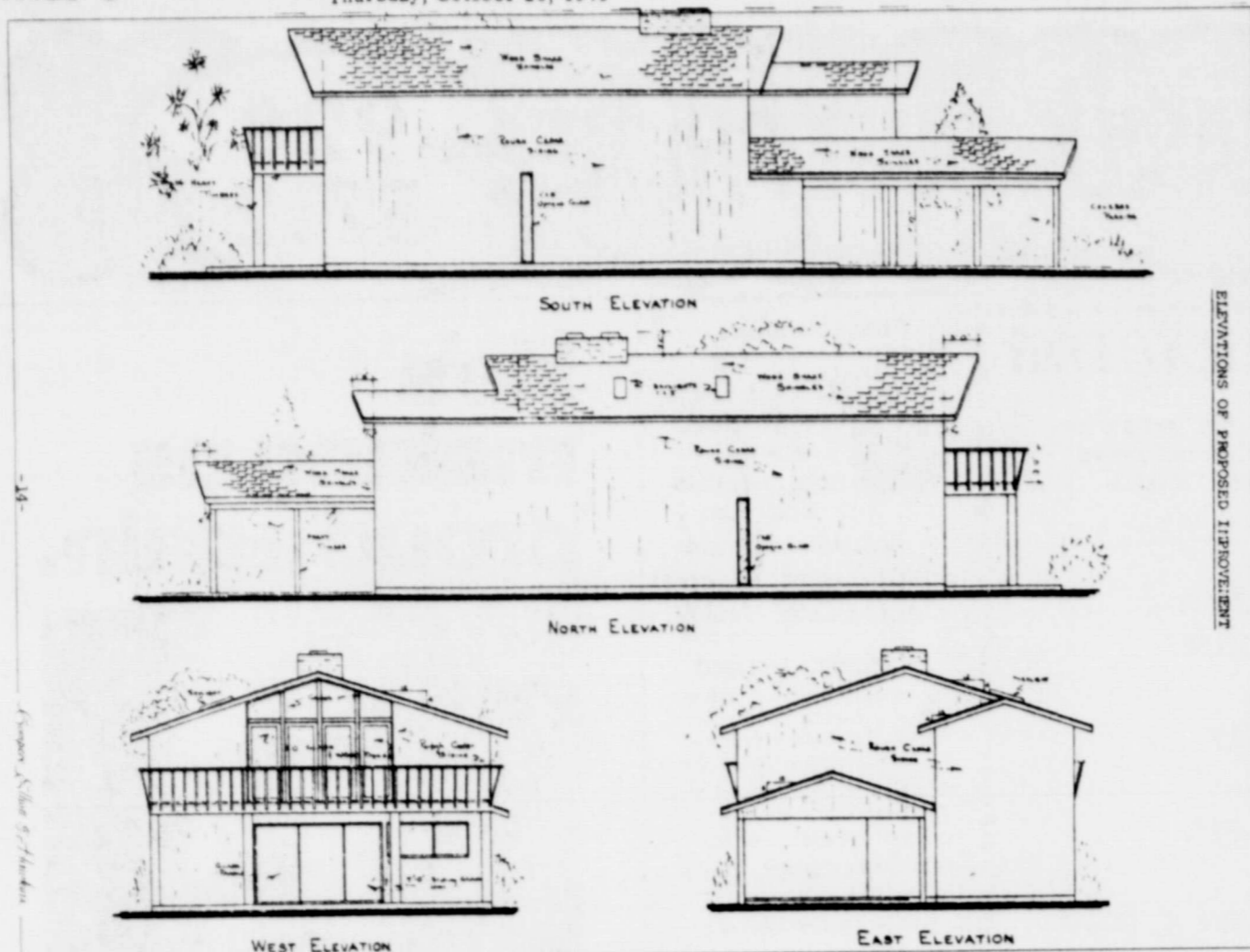
Jimmy Carter has the strength to take charge of our government. If you are tired of paying the high price of Republican ineffectiveness, you have only one choice on November 2nd, and that choice is for change.

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Townhouse, tennis court construction starts

Construction is to start this week on two tennis courts and six townhouses on property owned by Merkel Country Club, according to manager Virgil Robbins.

This construction will be north of the Country Club and west and south of the \$5,000 house being listed for sale on FM 126.

The townhouses, two-story structure, will be valued between \$58,000 and \$63,000. It has been valued at \$60,000 in a recently completed appraisal report by Compere, Elliott and Hawkins, Realtors, Appraisers and Consultants of Abilene.

The tennis courts will be directly behind the townhouses and north of the present swimming pool at the Country Club.

They will be recessed courts with one 10 feet below the ground and the other 8 feet below level.

Robbins said this new concept in tennis courts will also allow the area to be used for band concerts and community theater events or anything an arena is needed for. There also will be bleachers on both sides.

Robbins estimates it will take 120 to 140 days to complete construction.

In fact, Robbins said his company has changed from selling houses on the adjacent Country Club property to building townhouses.

"We have found that people are more interested in townhouses than they are regular houses," Robbins said. "Guess it is the fact they have no yards and little upkeep in this type of housing."

The townhouses are the same as homes only are built on smaller lots and are usually two story.

Robbins said at least 28 more townhouses are being planned around the present 9-hole golf course.

"This is just for the 9-hole course," Robbins said, "The bulk of the development will be on the back 9."

He said those on the south side would be in the \$35,000, \$37,500 range.

The first townhouses will have 2,085 square feet of living area with the exterior of rough cedar siding.

It will have a balcony to the upstairs bedroom overlooking the tennis courts and golf course. The bedroom has a his and hers bathroom and large walk-in closet on either side of the huge bedroom.

The living area will go across the front of the house with a sunken area and a fireplace in the middle. The ceiling will include a view of both the downstairs and upstairs.

There are two bedrooms upstairs and one downstairs. The house will have an open affect.

Robbins said he already has eight people wanting the six townhouses but that only two are for certain at this time.

PTO denied gym for School dance

The Parent Teachers Organization's request to use the Merkel High School gym for a Happy Days theme dance for students was rejected by the Board of Education at its regular meeting October 19.

The PTO requested use of the school facilities to provide an organized activity for the high school students.

PTO President Dale Hammond presented a well-prepared presentation at the School Board meeting.

Hammond told the Board that the PTO has earmarked most of its funds for the lower grades and that nothing much is done for the high school students.

He proposed the controlled dance at the old gym in order that the students could have something to do "besides drive up and down the streets and park."

Hammond said previous attempts to hold dances at the Lions Club Building have not worked because of outside elements and these factions could not be controlled on public property.

However, he felt that with the use of school property the situation could be corrected. The dance would have a Fonzie and 1950's theme after the popular TV program Happy Days.

Hammond said that 30 or 40 adults would be present at the dance and that once inside the dance there would not be any going in and out of the building.

He went over some of the other probable pitfalls but expressed confidence that the high school students are mature enough that they will not abuse the opportunity to have such a school dance. "They will accept the challenge and responsibility," he said.

The PTO sponsored dance would be for the high school students of Merkel only and no outsiders or college students would be permitted.

Hammond did admit the dance would be a money making project but this is secondary. "I'm here for the kids, I've heard case after case of kids in Merkel saying they just don't have nothing for us."

"I submit this to you and ask you to consider it. It is better for them to attend such a dance as this than for them to go to those dives in Abilene and cope with those bad elements in those places."

He told the Board, "I may be asking all of you to stick your necks out on this. But, I'm here to tell you I'm ready to stick my neck out for the kids."

It was estimated that possibly 200 would attend such a dance.

Board Vice-President Don Hart questioned the control of outside element at such an event and President Charles

Jacobs told Hammond, "We have to look seriously at our liability and what we will be responsible for and stuff like that."

Jacobs then wanted to know if the PTO was asking the School Board to sponsor the activity."

Hammond said that the PTO is just asking approval to use the gym.

Approval by organizations to use school facilities must be approved and reason for use of such facilities given. Private individuals may not use the facilities without special permission of the Board.

Much later after the PTO representative had left the meeting, the Board returned to the issue of the dance.

Jacobs said, "I feel like we are biting off too much to supervise and there are too many possible problems for the school to take on."

Hart said, "I'd like to give them a chance to see how it comes out."

"How will we be liable," Jacobs continued on the issue of a possible suit should something happen.

Hart, "They (the PTO) say they like to do it. We should think of the majority other than a few."

Secretary Jacky Reynolds then said, "I wonder. If they have to go to that much cautionary measures I just wonder. If they go to that length. Scared of a few rotten eggs."

Jacobs said, "They are sure putting a lot of pressure on the chaperons."

Member Leroy Teaff said, "They put in a lot of thinking on it (the PTO request). I just hate to see the school sponsor it."

Hart: "Their concern is to have something for the kids."

Jacobs: "Seems like they can go ahead to the civic center."

Hart attempted to point out that other organizations hold events on school facilities and the Board is just as responsible for anything that might happen. Too, he said the PTO sponsored carnival will be on school property next week and that there will be a lot more people there than at such a dance.

Hammond had requested the Board just consider the request at the meeting and they did not have to take immediate action. However, the Board decided to go ahead and decide the issue.

After the discussion had ended there was silence and no motion was forthcoming. It would have automatically been rejected or would have had to be brought up at a future meeting had no motion been made.

Superintendent Travis Davis suggested the Board table the matter until a future meeting if it was not going to take any action through a motion.

Finally, Reynolds said, "I'll move we reject it." Teaff seconded the motion.

Reynolds and Teaff voted in favor of rejecting the request.

Member James Boyd, who had not entered into the discussion, abstained from voting. Members Dnk Whisenhunt and Bobby Toliver were not present at the meeting.

Hart voted against the motion, favoring the PTO's request. Thus the issue passed 2-1. President Jacobs was not required to vote as he only votes to break a tie.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

MONDAY		Green beans	THURSDAY
Spaghetti with ground beef	Blackeyed peas with snaps	Celery sticks	Fried fish with tartar sauce
Green salad with choice of dressing	Sliced bread	Cranberry sauce	Buttered corn
Peaches with whipped topping	Chickenfried ham patties with cream gravy	Fruit salad	Cole slaw
TUESDAY		Hot rolls	Cornmeal twists
Whipped potatoes	Buttered English peas	Apricot cobbler	Lime jello with applesauce
WEDNESDAY		Turkey and dressing with giblet gravy	FRIDAY
Hot dogs with chili	Pickle relish, sliced onions	Peanut butter cookies	Orange juice

Blair WSD hires attorney Brooks

Maurice Brooks of Brooks, Jones and Gordon law firm of Abilene was hired Thursday night to handle legal aspects of forming the Blair Water District.

The Board of Directors hired Brooks Thursday night and is making application for a charter. Brooks also is attorney for the Farmers Union in Merkel.

J. D. Sandusky, president of the newly formed water district, said the Blair Water Supply District, Inc. can begin full operations toward getting a water supply for South of Merkel in Taylor County as soon as the charter is approved.

He estimated a week to two weeks to get the charter approval from the state.

Sandusky also said the membership has grown to 37 and is urging everyone in the area to sign up for the water service as soon as possible.

The fee is \$100 which includes the meter and installation. Once the BWSO applies for a loan the fee will increase to \$200 plus the cost of a meter and installation (total cost of \$325).

Too, the hiring of an engineer and the completion of a feasibility study cannot start until 100 homes are signed up, indicating they want the service.

He said anyone wanting to sign up at this special \$100 fee should see any of the directors for the application forms.

Directors are Frank Brnovak, R. E. Clemmer and Arthur Moore, Richard Scott of Trent, Weir Joiner of Tye and Pauline Butman of Abilene.

The district will serve an area from Tye west to south of Trent at the Taylor-Nolan county line and south of Interstate 20 to the Butman and Whitechurch communities.

Time to switch again

Sunday is that day again.

It is the day when everyone wonders what time it actually is.

It is the end of daylight savings time when everyone moves their clock back an hour. It officially starts at 2 a. m. Sunday when it will actually be 1 a. m.

So, to be on time for church Sunday before you go to bed Saturday night, move your clock back an hour.

'Blind' parents amuse teen-agers--user reveals

For more than two hours the youngster talked freely of his regular use of drugs and his convictions on school, church and his life in Merkel.

He talked in an intelligent, calm manner and expressed his individual feelings eagerly and expressed his beliefs in an honest and forthright manner.

He is a student at Merkel High School and readily admits being a user of drugs--mainly marijuana. But, he has tried acid once and said never again.

He admits to being an average student both before starting on drugs and now while using drugs. He believes in God and like other high school youngsters has been active in various school activities.

Here are some of the questions asked him and his answers and beliefs as a teen-ager who has looked at Merkel from both sides.

Q--Are drugs available at school?

A--Yes, but I buy most of mine outside of school.

Q--What percentage children have tried marijuana?

A--100 per cent.

Q--How many have tried other harder drugs?

A--At least 25 per cent.

Q--How many of them are on the harder drugs?

A--2 per cent.

Q--Do you believe that marijuana is harmful?

A--I do not believe it is harmful nor addictive but can slow down the memory process.

Q--What's wrong with Merkel in general as far as the teen-ager is concerned?

A--There is not any activity for the high schoolers at all. And, even a dance every once in a while would help.

Q--Is Merkel any different than any other small town as far as children on drugs?

A--No, it is not any different but I believe the people in this town could solve the problem if only they would open their eyes.

Q--Which category of children in school are most likely to get into trouble?

A--The stricter the parents the more trouble the children seem to get into.

Q--Do all of the pushers handle the hard stuff?

A--Only six out of 10 pushers have the hard stuff (Acid and speed).

Q--Do you think the schools, the parents or the churches care about what you think as a teen-ager?

A--No, because they never take time to listen.

Q--Have you ever noticed teen-agers going to class drunk or stoned?

A--Yes, numerous times. The other kids notice it but I don't think the teachers ever realize it.

Q--What age are the pushers?

A--They're all younger people. There aren't any adult

pushers. Merkel pushers are just little people in a huge network of organized crime which is not located in Merkel.

Q--If it was legalized would it be more widely used?

A--Yes.

Q--Are a lot of people blind to what their children are doing?

A--Yes. It is quite humorous to a lot of teen-agers because their parents think their children are above any wrong doing.

Q--What do you think is wrong with the laws concerning marijuana?

A--First of all, the drug laws are like all the rest of the laws. If you are from an average family or a poor family your parents are not outstanding citizens you are going to be fined and jailed. Whereas the rich and prominent children are let off with a small probation.

Q--Do you think the government and the laws cause children to be discouraged and disenchanted with the world as it is today?

A--Yes.

Q--Have you ever used acid or LSD?

A--Yes I have. I only tried it once and it will be the last time. Acid causes you to have flashbacks which can occur anytime day or night and you never know how it's going to affect you.

Q--Has a pusher ever harassed you--(about hard drugs)?

A--Yes. But, I have been determined to stay off of it even though they continue to harass me ever so often.

Q--What would happen if marijuana completely disappeared off the market?

A--I think I and a lot of other kids would be upset for a while and miss it but as time went on we'd forget all about it.

Q--Are there any Satanist or cult groups close by?

A--No. We have never even had any beginnings of such in Merkel. The closest I know of is in San Angelo and Lubbock.

Q--How many kids are interested in church?

A--It is alarming how few kids are interested. Most of the ones who usually go are forced to go. For instance: As far as I'm concerned the churches are overflowing with hypocrites. This is my example. I went to church one Sunday and the people in back of me started criticizing and condemning me for my long hair. When I noticed who they were I remembered seeing them the night before at a cafe totally intoxicated and I also remembered that one of the people was guilty of adultery several months back. I fail to understand why there are so many good Christians supposedly that feel they are in a position to condemn so quickly. After that I stopped going to church and lost some of my faith. But, I believed in God then and I still do.

The whole world, children and adults alike, are striving for peace and love. But, we are all going at such a fast

pace with so many, many problems. Pot and alcohol are just a crutch. The children of today feel that they have as much right to use a crutch as the adults do.

If the churches would be set up to deal more with man-to-man or man-to-God and stop quick judgment we could all live together a little bit better and help each other, no matter what the problem. As it stands now all those known to have drug problems, wear their hair long--we feel that the doors are closed to us. The churches and schools are living about 50 years behind time.

Q--How long have you been using drugs?

A--I started in eighth grade and have been using them ever since.

Q--Who started you on drugs?

A--Just another kid. He called me chicken and said I was afraid of it. But, I decided to go ahead and try it.

Q--What are you paying for marijuana?

A--About \$10 per lb.

Q--Are you smoking this during school now?

A--No, I am not. I have learned to be careful and not open in using it.

Q--Are you giving or selling it to others either at school or after school?

A--No, I do not. I only take care of myself.

Q--Do you know of any drug parties?

A--Yes, I have heard of them but have never participated.

Q--Have you ever heard if there was any sex involved at any of the drug parties?

A--Again yes but I have not seen them or been to them.

Q--Can anyone in Merkel buy drugs?

A--Yes. All you have to do is find the right person or send word around and someone will either contact you in person or by phone. It will take only a matter of minutes if they have it and longer if it is harder drugs because they will have to go to Abilene to get it.

Q--Are all the drugs coming from Abilene?

A--Yes, most of them are. A few come out of San Angelo and Austin.

Q--When you said young people were pushing what age group are you talking about?

A--I really meant that there are not any older adult pushers but would probably be classified as young adults. The kids help each other find it but it comes from young adults (21-23 years old). It's certainly no secret that it's available and we don't squeal on each other.

Q--Is there anything that will reduce or eliminate drug use by high schoolers?

A--Yes. School sponsored dances or any after school activity. Theaters, etc. Any place that the teen-ager can go and enjoy themselves.

In concluding the interview he said: "I want to thank you for what you're trying to do. The teen-agers need someone on their side and I hope this article will help. We need more people that care."

September school bill payment approved

Rodent demonstration

Among other action by the Board of Education at its regular meeting October 19 included payment of bills and a financial report for September.

The Board also approved Taylor-Callahan Co-op to change its accounting procedures, denied the use of the cafeteria to a private group, heard the Superintendent's report and held an executive session on personnel.

No official action was taken concerning the executive session and the Board did not mention the topic of discussion. There was speculation, however, that it concerned the smoking of marijuana by some members of the band while on a recent trip to Dallas.

Under Superintendent's report, Travis Davis reported that no bids had

been received on the Tye project yet. The Tye project includes remodeling the bus barn to provide two additional classrooms as approved by the Board at a recent meeting.

Davis said the boiler broke down October 18 and four tubes had to be replaced. He suggested that all the tubes should be replaced should it fail again.

Davis then requested funds to replace the windows in his office and the other administrative offices on the northeast side of the High School.

He said the area is cold from the wind blowing through the windows. Eight windows are involved, he said, Secretary Jacky Reynolds suggested Travis look into the cost of storm windows or getting

replacements and report back to the Board.

The sound system repairs have been completed in the auditorium, according to Davis.

Too, the Southern Association Evaluation meeting has been moved from November to December 3, Davis said.

And, the Superintendent was given approval to attend a November 1 meeting in Austin when Governor Dolph Briscoe will provide Merkel schools with the tax base for next year and will give his recommendations for all school districts next year.

Davis pointed out the information will be mailed to him November 2 If the Board did not want him to attend the meeting. It was noted that the meeting

would probably give all school districts a clearer picture of what to expect in the way of funds and is of special interest since Governor Briscoe will be there to present his plan.

The use of the cafeteria was denied a private group for a wedding reception. There was no motion for approval, thus it failed. The Board quoted the policy of not allowing rental of school facilities to private individuals.

Davis also recommended the policy on rentals be reviewed by the Board and new fee guidelines be passed. The Board approved a motion to upgrade the fee scale for use of the building.

When asked about walling up the stage area on the cafeteria, Davis told the Board that possibly in the future (next

year) he hoped they could do away with the stage and build a snack bar area there.

The Taylor-Callahan Co-op requested permission to make bookkeeping changes in the funds allotted in order to better balance their books. No additional funds were involved. It was approved.

The September financial report showed \$121,787.78 in the bank and \$104,656.07 in certificates of deposits and 30 cents in savings account.

Current first month expenditures totaled \$185,724.98 with receipts totaling \$295,447.21.

Effective control of a rat population will be demonstrated at the home of Homer Freeman Friday at 1 p.m. Freeman's farm is located 3 1/2 miles southwest of Merkel on FM 126.

Terry Cluck from the Texas Rodent and Predatory Animal Control Service will be in charge of the demonstration.

The public is invited to attend and participate in a discussion of the latest rodent control methods. The use of zinc phosphide as a poison will be emphasized.

Crazy Days in full fun-filled swing in Merkel



Horace Boney, Benny Melton and Onis Crawford



Fanelle Boney and Annette Melton



Ruth Riney and Waymon Adcock

Merkel's Crazy Days continue through Saturday with carnivals, parades and tournaments Friday and Saturday. Friday the Parent Teachers Organization sponsors its High School Halloween carnival at the old gym at the High School starting at 6 p.m. Saturday night the Fire Auxiliary haunted house and carnival takes place. Too, Saturday night is official trick or treat time. The L & W Snack Bar has a pool tournament set to start at 10 a.m. Saturday. Friday night the VICA Club will sponsor a domino tournament at the Lions Club. The Crazy Days parade gets under way at 3 p.m. All youngsters with bicycles are urged to decorate them and enter the parade. Also, all clubs and those with horses are urged to decorate in Halloween fashion and enter. Everyone entering the parade should meet at the east of Palmer Motors at 2:30 p.m. Prizes will go to the best decorated or craziest bike, float, car, horse and by class. Too, Merkel merchants will continue to offer prizes and discounts on special Crazy Days bargains through Saturday.



Pat Castille and Onis Crawford



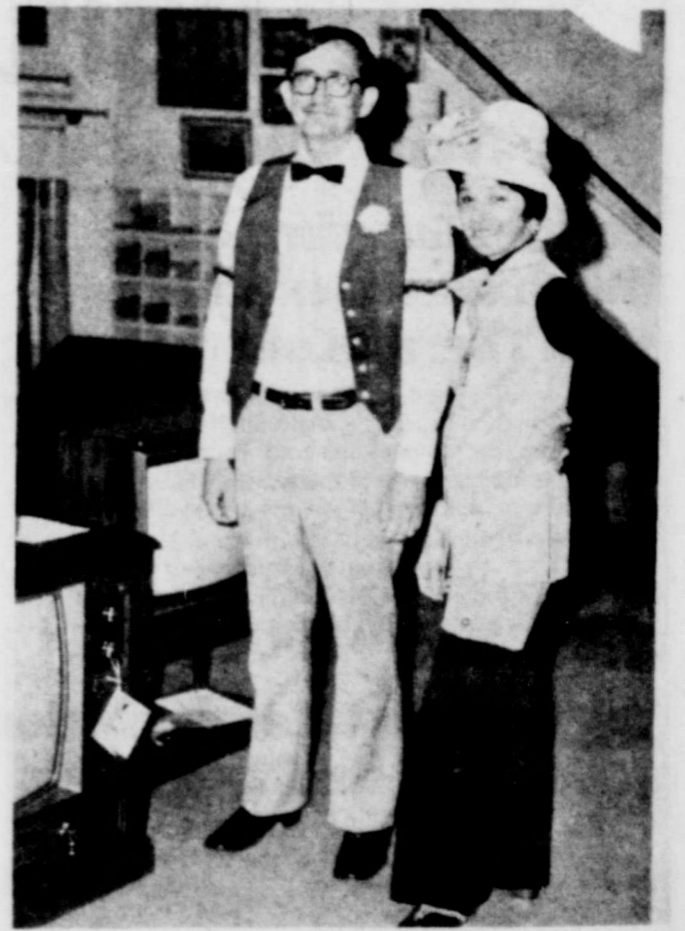
Della Hensley and Naomi Starbuck



Martha Sue Justice, Ann Doan, Mychelle Hammond and Lillian Puck



Polly Riney



George and Charlotte Starbuck



WITCHES BREW--Halloween brings together some strange sights as evidenced when "Hobo Franny" and a witch wandered in with two small ghosts to let everyone know they will be out Halloween night lurching in dark corners of Merkel. They also will be at the carnival sponsored by the Merkel Fire Department at North Fifth and West street (the street next to the Dairy Bar). Between giggles and moans they hissed that no one is brave enough to tour the

haunted house and taste of their witches brew and come out sane. Actually, the four are typical of what to expect Friday and Saturday night when young witches and goblins take to the streets trick and treating. Everyone should be especially careful to make it a happy, safe fun weekend. The four refused to give their real names so if you recognize them, walk right up and shake their hands, if you dare--know one of their husbands refused the offer over the dinner table after this picture was taken.

Garden Club

Merkel Garden Club met October 21 at the Big Country Inn with Mrs. Allan King and Mrs. Tom Russom as hostesses. Mrs. Raymond Ferguson presided over the business meeting. A very interesting program on Autumn was given by Mrs. Ada Clark on Golden glow of Autumn. Mrs. Clyde Bartlett read poems on Autumn one of which was her own. Present at the meeting were Mes. Raymond Ferguson, W. L. Brown, Tom Allday, Lottie Everett, E. J. Patterson, Aaron Sudderth, Otis Griffin, Tom Russom, Mary Click, Charlie Sherrill, Olga Peachy, W. T. Sadler, S. D. Gamble, Mack Fisher, Buck Morris, Allan King, Albert Criswell, Ada Clark, and 2 visitors Mrs. Cook of Big Spring and Mrs. Clyde Bartlett. An Autumn Invitation by Mona Faye Bartlett The sunrise is so brilliant, its beauty hurts your eyes, Have you seen autumn's ornate tones against the soft gray skies? Have you, on artist palette, seen colors we have here? Then you should come to Merkel at this time of the year. Have you heard the autumn night sounds? The whistle of a train, The soft and sleepy patter of a needed autumn rain; The night song of the mocking-bird as he trills off a lay? The turning of the old windmill? Then you should come our way. Have you seen cotton bolls this white? Have you seen leaves this gay? Have you sunsets this dazzling? And at the dusk of day, Have you seen trees in silhouette--or heard the night owl call? Then you should come to Merkel in the fall. Do you have trees or mountains? Have you a Castle Peak? Do you have post-oak blazing, and sumac that seem to shriek Their color? Have you the flag-tail deer? Then you should come in autumn, the best time of the year!



Dorothy Bishop and Johnny Hammond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Merkel 'Watergate'

Dear Editor,
The reason I write this letter is mainly to bring a few things out in the open and to question a few ways of our current Justice of the Peace Walter Thames.
First of all I would like to point out that when Mr. Thames, dated and I quote "The JP Action was incorrect," he was actually the man in the wrong. In his ad that appeared in the "Merkel Mail" he stated that Millett's average per case was \$26.65, the true and correct figure is \$24.21. He also stated his average cost was \$23.00, that figure should read \$27.20. There is quite a bit of difference isn't there? In short I say he overestimated Millett's and underestimated himself's.
For number two on the agenda. If Mr. Thames is an honest man and says he has not anything to hide, why all of a sudden are Public Records being erased and tampered with? After looking at the books at Abilene, I

can assure you the records there are clearly organized, not leaving out items or items being erased, I cannot say the same of the records of Mr. Thames. I can only say the opposite. If he's an honest man why does he repeatedly charge the victims of his court, for the same offense, different amounts of fines.
Now for number three. Why out of the clear blue has Mr. Thames' case load been dropped from 149 to 77? Why is it since October 4 more and more cases are being taken to Abilene from Mer-

kel. Is it because of the upcoming election? As for another thing, who is he accusing that paws through his public records? His files are open to the public aren't they? They should be unless he's covering up something. Is he hiding something? Weigh the facts and come to your own conclusion.
Thank you,
Melinda Scott
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Vansdale
Royce Edward Gaines
Bruce Pittman

Cub Scout news

The eight year old class car was built by David Glasscock and his mom. The boys racing in this car were: Donny Brady, Lyle Baker, David Glasscock, Darren Pack, Brian Ford, Parker Wilson, Chris Cutler and Stuart Farquhar. Den mother Melba Glasscock. They placed 3rd.
Reserve driver for this den was Johnny Starbuck.

The nine year old class car was built by Chris and Wayne Horton and their Dad and Granddad. The boys racing in this car were Clay Hammond, Randy Davis, Chris Horton, Todd Yaddow, Jay Williams, Wayne Johnson, Eddie Biera, Kerry Miller. Den mothers are Audra Horton and Darlene Williams.

They came in first in semi-finals and fourth in finals.
The ten year olds car was built by Ray Walters and his dad. The boys racing in this car were: Mike Myers, Randy Fallarez, Wayne Horton, Brad Nalley, Ray Walters, Russell Lucas, Jerry Miller, and Darrell Shipman. Den mother is Billie Walters.
This car came in first in the semi-finals and fourth in the finals.
The pack meeting was held October 25th. The next one will be in November.



LOOK WHO'S HERE!

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Reed of Justin are the parents of a daughter, Andrea Michelle Reed, born October 23 at 1:56 p.m. in Denton. She weighed 9 pounds, 4 ounces. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Reed of Merkel and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Driggers of East Bernard.

Bill and Martha Butler are the parents of a daughter, Rebekah Nell Butler, born October 6 in Dallas. She weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces. She is granddaughter of Mrs. Fred Ferry of Merkel.

Singing Thursday

The Senior Citizens will sponsor a sing Thursday. The sing starts at 7 p.m. and everyone wanting to participate is invited.



MERKEL ENTRIES--Members of the Merkel Cub Scout Den 3 entered in last Sunday's Pushmobile Derby in Abilene are left to right, Wayne Johnson, Chris Horton (sitting), Clay Hammond, Brad Wade, Den Chief, Joe Biera, Randy Davis and Mike Myers. The team was among more than 450 scouts entered in the 800-foot relay. They won the first heat but finished fourth in the first runoff. The Webelos also won first in their heat and finished fourth overall.

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FARMERS UNION SERVICE POINT

10-4 White Knight City police getting CB's

The Merkel City Council Friday morning approved the purchase of three CB units for the police department at its regular meeting.
The radio units for the three police cars are to cost \$90 each which includes antennas. It was not announced who would provide the units.
Chief Paul Crouse had requested the CB's at the last meeting but the matter wasn't taken up until this meeting when it was put on the agenda. City Coordinator J. A. Sadler told the Council that the police do need a backup communication system and the CB route is the cheapest method.
A base unit already is in operation at the fire station which is used by the Volunteer Fire Department.
The Council after discussing the purchase and emphasized that if the CB's are used right and not for personal use, then they would be worth the expense.
Mayor Lou David Allen again brought up the subject of uniforms for the Merkel police. He favors a more distinctive attire rather than the present informal shirt and pants uniform worn by the policemen.
No actual costs were discussed and it was pointed out that one of the problems about the city buying uniforms is that the big turnover in personnel that it would be hard to keep uniforms to fit the officers.
No action was taken on the uniform issue.
Mrs. Cook was present at the meeting requesting an adjustment on her sewer bill. She is from Haskell and owns the combination car wash and laundry mat in Merkel.

Under the recent rate change by the city her sewer bill increased from \$2 to \$9 and she contends she cannot operate in Merkel with this additional expense. She quoted sewer bills in Hawley, Haskell, Anson and Abilene as examples of the huge difference in this expense.
She was charged for 290,000 gallons of water at the two businesses last month. Both businesses are under one meter.
The city is charging 30 cents per 1,000 gallons of water used which it figures the city is paying to operate the sewer plant.
There is only one other large user of water in Merkel, according to the City Council, and that is the Locker Plant.
The Council postponed action on Mrs. Cook's request until a book on statewide utility rates can be obtained and studied to see how Merkel ranks.
Sadler told Mrs. Cook and the Council that several other cities use the same formula as Merkel is now using and the Mayor pointed out that the present method appears fair to everyone.
Mrs. Cook contends that she feels she is paying enough taxes and other expenses along with a \$200 water bill each month that she feels this should absorb some of the expense of the sewer rate.
Ken Martin then presented the preliminary plans for the 4,000 feet of 6-inch water line which will cost \$30,400 to install. It is part of a federal grant.
The line will run from Taylor Electric Co-op and Staff Nursing Home south across the railroad tracks south to new development on Avondale. It is the first phase of the city's HUD project to link the city water supply with new lines in needed areas.
Martin said his engineering firm has made application for railroad and highway permits in order to begin construction but no reply has been received yet. He said he hopes to have the final plans ready for approval at the next City Council meeting November 12. After the final approval of plans bids will be taken.
Mayor Allen then read a letter from Congressman Omar Burleson giving notice that Merkel will receive a requested \$81,300 Block Grant from HUD. This will go on installation of the rest of the water project.
There was no one present for the public hearing on the next HUD project request. The public hearings are required by HUD to make pre-application for new funds.
The public hearings will again be on the agenda at the next meeting. No guidelines have been made available yet on the use of funds to secure a third-year grant under this program.
However, under present guidelines the funds are approved primarily when used to improve lower income and minority areas of a city. HUD has been favoring projects involving paving, water and sewer improvements.
The Council then went into executive session to discuss several situations concerning personnel. No official action was taken after the executive session.

Merkel PTO meets
The Merkel PTO met October 19 in the school auditorium. It was announced that there were 207 total membership. The rooms with the largest percentage of membership was announced. In the Middle School the room winning was Mrs. Hart's 6th grade. In the Primary was Mrs. Seymore's 4th grade. A coke party was given to each of these rooms. Mrs. Cathy Harkey's Speech and Drama class gave the program.

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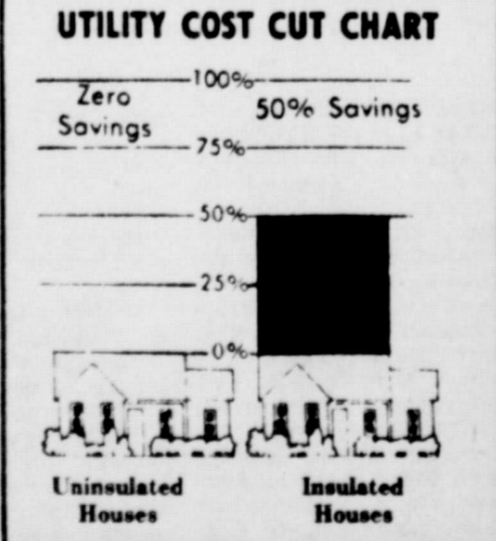
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THAT'S FAR ENOUGH--Ricky Howes (25) puts the stop to Stamford's Don Earl (20) as Merkel's Glenn Braune (72) rushes in to lead a hand. Earl is displaying his talent to keep

his feet. Earl displayed exceptional quickness to lead Stamford to the 14-0 victory in District 6-AA football action Friday in Stamford.

A LOOK AT MERKEL AND DISTRICT 6-AA

DISTRICT 6-AA SEASON STANDINGS				EIGHT GAME TOTALS				LEADING SCORERS				
W	L	T	Pts.	Opp.	No.	Yds.	Avg.	No.	Yds.	TD	EP	TP
Coahoma	5	1	105	61	Smith	115	455	3.9	Smith, Merkel	9	7	61
Colorado C	5	2	117	62	Doan	40	174	4.4	Chapman, Winters	8	0	48
Stamford	5	2	126	74	Howes	27	115	4.3	Tabor, Stamford	4	2	26
Merkel	5	3	99	79	Pursley	21	79	3.8	Earl, Stamford	3	7	25
Winters	2	5	84	99	Austerman	23	79	3.4	Moore, Winters	4	0	24
Wylie	1	6	1	50	Pfiester	76	63	3.4	Frazier, Coahoma	4	0	24
Ballinger	0	7	1	52	Totals	303	965	3.2	Phillips, Coahoma	4	0	24
					8 Opp.	346	1002	2.9	Medford, Stamford	3	5	23

Absentee voting ends Friday

Absentee voting in Tuesday's presidential election ends Friday at 5 p.m. Anyone planning to be out of town Tuesday may vote absentee in the office of Mrs. Chester Hutcheson, county clerk, at the Taylor County Courthouse in Abilene. Polls are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday.

Badgers stumble at Stamford, 14-0

Don Earl set the pattern for the night on the opening kickoff and Merkel went down 14-0 in District 6-AA football in Stamford Friday night. Earl scored the first Bulldogs touchdown and pulled the Stamford team together the second half to keep Stamford in the thick of the district race with its third straight victory.

The Badgers, playing an adequate first half, never found the defensive formula the second half and after getting behind couldn't generate the proper offense.

The loss leaves Merkel with a 5-3 season and 2-2 district record. The loss eliminated the Badgers from a chance at the district championship as Colorado City who was idle this week and Stamford are tied for the lead and Coahoma is third with one loss.

The Badgers will take the week off to prepare for their final home game against Wylie November 5.

The first half was equal with Merkel fumbling twice, once on the 1-yard line and Stamford having two drives halted with alert interceptions by John Biera and David Pursley.

However, the Bulldogs made no mistakes the second half and quickly put the game away on the running of Earl, a quick senior out of the backfield.

Larry Smith again was the leading runner for the Badgers with 69 yards on 14 carries. Roger Doan added 51 yards on 10 carries. Ricky Howes had 11 yards on 4 carries and quarterback David Pfiester ended with 8 yards on 8 carries.

For the night the Badgers had 139 yards rushing on 36 carries.

Pfiester had an off night passing with 7 completions on 18 attempts for 53 yards. Smith caught three passes for 10 yards with the three receptions coming on semi-screens at the end of the game as the Badgers attempted to score with time running out and a hard rush on Pfiester.

Doan had two receptions for 17 yards. Brad Pursley caught one for 13 and missed several others, having an off night. John Biera caught one key pass for 13 more yards.

Meanwhile, the Bulldogs had 194 yards rushing and 4 of 12 pass completions for 46 yards.

Earl finished with 123 yards on 29 carries, getting 96 yards on 19 carries the second half. Quarterback Bryan Tabor carried 10 times for 9 yards, using the pass to open up the leaking Badgers defense for long gains. He also scored the second touchdown. Bret Medford ran four times for 12 yards.

The closest the Badgers could get the second half to the goal was their 49 in six possessions. Besides the two touchdowns, the Bulldogs reached the Merkel 32 one other time.

Things started off wrong with Merkel losing the toss--something they have seldom done this year.

However, they managed to halt the Bulldogs and did move the ball well.

Earl opened the game with a kickoff return which was finally stopped at the Merkel 39. But three plays netted but one yard for the Bulldogs bringing on a 25-yard punt by Earl.

The Badgers moved the football smartly to the Stamford 31 where Howes fumbled after picking up four yards. The Bulldogs controlled the game for the next 11 plays before the Badgers held on a fourth and one situation at the Merkel 30.

With Smith and Doan carrying, the Badgers got to their 38 before the drive was stalled. Two incomplete passes by Pfiester brought on a 48-yard punt by Smith.

Taking over at their 22, the Bulldogs ran out the rest of the first quarter and advanced 22 yards out to their 44 before Biera ended the drive with his alert interception.

It was Merkel's turn to play ball control.

Thirteen plays later the Badgers were knocking at opportunity's door at the one. Doan caught a 20-yard pass and third down plays by Doan and a fourth down gain of 3 yards by Smith kept the drive going and put Merkel at the Stamford five with a first down.

Doan got two, Smith one and Pfiester handed the ball to Howes at the two who bulled to the one only to fumble with a Bulldog securing the loose ball.

From the one, the Bulldogs got to the Merkel 30 taking nine plays. Pursley halted the drive with an interception.

Three plays later Merkel was still against the hard Bulldog wall with their back at its 10 after a 15-yard penalty and a five yard loss. Merkel made its worst

	Merkel	Stamford
First Downs	13	14
Rushing	36-139	43-194
Passing	53	46
Passes Compl.	7-18	4-12
Intercepted by	2	0
Punts, Avg.	4-41.0	4-36.0
Penalties, Yds.	4-50	7-55
Fumbles Lost	2	0

That is all they needed as the aroused Bulldogs defense never let up with such an advantage.

After a 13-yard pass to Pursley, penalties and a hard Stamford pass rush forced a punt. However, the Badgers stopped the next Bulldogs drive also forcing a punt.

The Badgers again were forced to punt after having to do it twice due to a complicated penalty which saw a Pfiester pass intercepted. However, a penalty gave the ball back to Merkel. But, it was still fourth down and instead of having the wind to their backs on the punt the time had run out in the third period and the Badgers had to punt into the wind after exchanging ends of the field with Stamford. Smith still got off a 39-yard punt.

This time the Bulldogs moved 71 yards to score with Tabor running a sweep the final four yards at 7:55 of the final quarter. Earl carried six times and quarterback Tabor ran for 20 yards in the drive.

At the Merkel one, Earl scored but Stamford was charged with a 5-yard loss penalty.

On the next play Tabor was hit for a yard loss but Merkel was charged with a half-the-distance to the goal penalty and the Bulldogs still

had a first down from the four bringing on the touch-down.

This forced the Badgers and Coach Jerry McLeod into emergency measures--the pass.

But, first the Badgers put on their special play, lining the team up to the left side of the football and the center by himself. Smith got 24 yards off the play.

However from the Stamford 49 pass incomplections and losses due to the rush and the hurried screen passes pushed the Badgers back to the Merkel 49 where Smith punted 20 yards.

Merkel got two more opportunities and Pfiester hit Biera with a 13-yard completion and Smith with a 12-yarder but the rest of the passes fell incomplete or Pfiester was rushed so badly he was forced out of the pocket or was forced to run for little or no gain and the Bulldogs claimed the victory, their third straight in district and fifth in seven attempts this year.

After the week off and the final home game against Wylie November 5, the Badgers end their most successful year at Coahoma, November 12.

Score by quarters:

Merkel	0	0	0	0
Stamford	0	0	7	14

5 Don Earl, 5 run, 5:02, Earl kick extra point

5 Bryan Tabor, 4 run, 7:55, Earl kick extra point

Badger Tracks

Well the Badgers were defeated Friday night in the 8th game of the season. It was the Stamford Bulldogs over the Badgers 14-0. That puts us 2-2 in district action. No game is scheduled for this week.

Merkel Student Council is running for president of the District Student Council in Stephenville November 13. Members of the Council will be traveling there to participate in the election.

Hope everyone enjoyed the Drama's Dilemma Tuesday night. Thanks goes to Miss Harkey and everyone who participated for their hard work. Good Show!

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64 Oz. 7 Up 88c While Supply Lasts

Coca Cola 32 Oz. 28c Plus Deposit

Mr. Pibb 18c Plus Deposit

Puritan Vegetable Oil 32 Oz. \$1.38

Winner of Basketball Game Kerry Miller

NINTH STREET GROCERY

Specials Good Thurs., Fri. Fri., & Saturday

Trent in showdown with Hermleigh

It's showdown time at Trent Friday night. The Gorillas go for all the zone honors when they take the field at 7:30 p.m. against a tough Hermleigh.

True, both teams will still have one District 3-B, six-man opponent remaining after Friday's game, but this will determine the zone champion.

That is barring upsets the final week. Both Trent and Hermleigh are 3-0 in district and Hermleigh has a better season record, 6-1 to Trent's 5-2.

Hermleigh has a balanced team with six athletes sharing scoring honors. Too, Hermleigh has a tough defensive squad, allowing seven opponents but 20 points per game.

Coach Bobby Campbell's Trent charges also have averaged 35.7 on offense and has held seven opponents to 29.1.

Common non-district opponent has been Blackwell. Hermleigh lost 44-0-

it's lone loss of the year. Trent fell to Blackwell the next week, 42-24.

Common district opponents include Ira and McCaulley. Hermleigh beat Ira, 60-12 and McCaulley 56-18. Trent downed McCaulley, 58-40 and Ira, 39-18.

Trent beat Highland, 26-20 for its other district win while Hermleigh beat Hobbs, 34-8.

Tim Peterson, Tim Dacus, Joe Williamson, Carroll Burleson, Stan Warren and Joe Roemisch will be the players Trent will have to halt if it is going to advance to the zone playoffs.

After Friday's showdown Trent has to play Hobbs in Trent while Highland is at Hermleigh.

Peterson has scored 13 touchdowns this year for 78 points. Burleson has 8 TD's and an extra point for 49 points. Dacus has 36 points. Williamson has 39 points, including a field goal. Warren has 26 points and Roemisch has 16 points.

Countering this attack will be James

Mays with 19 touchdowns for 114 points and Herbert Beaver with 14 touchdowns and an extra point for 85 points.

Coach Charles Spieker has seven starters back and nine other lettermen to throw at the Gorillas.

Peterson has been all-district two years and has three varsity letters. Williamson also started both ways the past two years.

In last week's contest, Beaver scored four times and James Mays was held to only a touchdown--off of his previous four and five a game, as Trent beat Ira, 39-18, in Trent.

Beaver also ran for his first extra point of the year and Alan Morris kicked a two-point conversion. Jimmy Adams also scored his first touchdown of the year.

Scoring for Ira were Royce Corbell, Fred Kesner and R. D. Phillips.

Coach Campbell said last week's game was the type he likes. Trent jumped off to a 27-0 lead with Ira keying on Mays, turning Beaver loose to run rampant.

When they started on Beaver then Mays resumed his pillage.

Trent scored 13 the first quarter and 14 the second quarter and led Ira, 27-6 at halftime. The Gorillas added 12 more the third period and Ira got touchdowns the third and fourth period.

Coach Campbell played his reserves and experimented with people at different positions during the second half.

He praised the Trent defense also. It held Ira to but two completions and intercepted once.

Beaver scored on runs of 35, 43, 50 and 55 yards while Mays got a 30-yard TD run. Adams intercepted the pass and returned it 65 yards to score.

Coach Campbell said Hermleigh runs the same basic set as Trent and that they both like to play a game controlled contest.

DISTRICT 3-B (SIX-MAN) SEASON STANDINGS		
Team	W	L Pts Opts
Hermleigh	6	1 250 140
Trent	5	2 230 204
Highland	3	3 229 255
Hobbs	3	5 248 303
Ira	2	5 144 281
McCaulley	0	7 150 373

LEADING SCORERS			
Player	TD	EP	TP
Mays, Trent	19	0	114
Kesner, Highland	13	20	98
H Beaver, Trent	14	1	85
Peterson, Hermleigh	13	0	78
Kemp, McCaulley	11	0	66
Anderle, Hobbs	8	16	64
Martin, Hobbs	10	0	60
Corbell, Ira	9	5	59
Kesner, Ira	8	4	52
Burleson, Herm.	8	1	49

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS		
Trent 39, Ira 18, Hermleigh 56, McCaulley 18, Highland 32, Hobbs 30.		



City Band being organized

The organizing of a Merkel City Band is now under way in town for the Crazy Days parade Saturday. Several have already made plans to be a member of this group, however we still need a lot more participants. You do not have to be a musician to join. You may play any instrument you like from a scrub board to a clarinet.

Doan, Roger and Garth honored

Roger and Garth Doan received top honors for their performance against Stamford, according to Coach Jerry McLeod.

Roger was named defensive player of the week for his 11 tackles and Garth was named offensive player of the week for his blocking and downfield hustle.

Doan edged Glenn Braune for the defensive honors. Braune was in on 10 tackles and also played an outstanding game, according to Coach McLeod.

Roger is a 170-pound senior and Garth is a 162-pound junior.

McLeod said Garth has been playing real consistent football and really hustles all over the field.

McLeod also praised the defensive secondary for its consistent performance all year.

He pointed out the secondary was in on 38 or more tackles and did an

Domino tournament set

Employer Banquet. Anyone interested in playing, should sign up at Seymore Insurance. Donation will be \$3 per player and trophies go to first, second, and third place winners.

Regular double six domino rules will apply and it will be a double elimination tournament.

You must be eighteen years of age or older to enter. Deadline for entering is Thursday.

TEL Class news

The T. E. L. class of First Baptist Church met for their regular monthly social at the Merkel Restaurant. Jewel Dunagin and Ina Hunter were hostesses.

Bessie Perry president had charge of the meeting. Minutes and treasurers report was given by Secretary Bessie Clark.

The class voted to pack a box for patients at the Veterans Hospital.

Those present were Bessie Perry, Estelle Humphrey, Ruth Baze, Jewel Criswell, Fannie Keith, Maggie Renfro, Dewey Fleming, Ruby Jinkens, Jewel Dunagin, Mary Moser, Essie Warren, Bessie Clark and Paralee Gibson.

Ninth grade wins, All teams in action Thursday

"We finally found somebody the same size."

Del Ray Higgins scored on a 6-yard run in the first quarter to cap a 70-yard Merkel drive. Bobby Dickerson added the extra points.

The victory gives the freshmen a 1-3 season record. They go against Rotan Thursday at 6 p.m. in Badger Stadium for their last home game of the year.

They end the year at Wylie November 4.

Meanwhile, the other teams will be coming off a rest and return to action against Winters.

The Junior Varsity will be seeking its first victory at 7:30 p.m. in Badger Stadium

Volleyball team ends year

The Merkel High School volleyball team ends its regular season action Tuesday against Colorado City. The Badgers play at 5:30 p.m. at Merkel High.

The following members were present: Charolotte Starbuck, Mamie Steck, Kathy Leverich, Connie Ybarra, Joelle Brady, Louise DuBose, Elizabeth Eager, Opal Garner, Connie Harris, and I guest, Mrs. Pat Dudley.

Pork plentiful

There will be plenty of pork available for the dinner table the remainder of the year. Says a livestock marketing specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The pork supply has been boosted by increased farrowings, thus upping the number of hogs moving to market. Market barrows should bring \$32-\$37 per hundredweight for the remainder of the year provided other meat situations remain similar to last year. Some 17-18 per cent more hogs will be marketed during the last quarter of this year than a year ago.

VFW sponsors student contest

Merkel High School students, competing in the annual Voice of Democracy, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, have an opportunity to win thousands of dollars in college scholarships, and other awards, free trips to Washington, D. C., and national honors.

This year's three to five minute scripts, "What America Means to Me," will give 10th, 11th and 12th grade students an opportunity to express how they feel about our Country.

Scripts are to be recorded on standard reel type magnetic tape at 7 1/2" per second speed, using single track equipment. Local radio or TV station personnel will assist on the recording.

Student's speech should be natural, normal conversational style, with positive approach relating to one's views on America. The student's voice should be the only sound on tape with no background noises. The length of script may not be less than three minutes or more than five.

The National scholarships

Xi Nu Chi

The Xi Nu Chi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met in the Abilene Savings Building for their regular meeting October 19th. The meeting was called to order by President, Louise DuBose. Committee reports were given. An interesting program on communication: Language-Life-Style and language difference of Great Britain and America was presented by Mrs. Pat Dudley with Elizabeth Eager, captain.

OSHA exemption

As of October 1, farms, ranches and other enterprises defined as "agricultural operations" who have 10 or fewer employees at any one time are exempt from all requirements under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) for one year. The change resulted from amendments to the appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare; all OSHA operating funds for fiscal 1977 are in that bill. OSHA restrictions are designed to give some relief to small firms and small farms, says an agricultural safety engineer for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Voter Transportation

A courtesy car will be available free of charge to anyone needing transportation to and from the Senior Citizens Building so that he will be able to vote. This service will be available from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. when the polls close. Call Ada Williams at 928-5071 or if no answer call the Dairy Bar, 928-5378.

YOU WON'T BE GAMBLING
IF YOU VOTE

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MARIE CUNNINGHAM

AS YOUR
WRITE IN CANDIDATE
FOR
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
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I NEED YOUR VOTE

VOTE NOVEMBER 2

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ITEM	REG.	SPECIAL
THE PRO-SHOP		
DUCKSTER GOLF SHOES	\$37.00	\$18.50
HOT Z GOLF SHOES	\$20.00	\$13.25
PRO FINESSE GOLF SHOES	\$26.00	\$14.00
STYLIST GOLF SHOES	\$52.00	\$25.00
LADIES SANDPIPER GOLF & TENNIS DRESSES		1/2 PRICE
LADIES GOLF HATS		1/2 PRICE
FIRST FLIGHT IRONS	\$225.00	\$150.00

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VANILLA
WAFERS BOX **49¢**

NABISCO
CRACKERS LB. BOX **59¢**

I.G. DAIRY FRESH
Homo MILK GAL JUG **\$1.59**

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DEL MONTE
CATSUP 26 OZ. BOT. EA. **69¢**

BORDEN
CHEESE 1/2 MOON 9 OZ. **89¢**

CAKE MIX DUNCAN HINES DISPLAY ONLY BOX **59¢**
FLOUR GOLD MEDAL 5 LB. BAG **69¢**
COFFEE M-J-B LB CAN **\$1.59**
PARKAY OLEO SOFT POUND **53¢**

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FRYERS

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CUT UP LB. 53¢
LB. **45¢**



STEAK CHOICE BEEF SIRLOIN LB **\$1.39**

BACON DECKER QUALITY LB **\$1.29**

FRANKS DECKER QUALITY 12 OZ. PKG **69¢**

STEAK CHOICE BEEF CLUB LB **\$1.39**

ROAST CHOICE BEEF CHUCK LB **75¢**

PICNIC DECKER QUALITY SLICED LB. 69¢ WHOLE LB. **59¢**

SHORT RIBS FRESH BEEF LB **53¢**

BURRITOS 4 PKG. **79¢**

Frozen Foods

APPLE- WELCH
GRAPE GLAZED DONUTS 12 OZ. PKG. **59¢**

MORNING STAR BREAKFAST ASST PKG **89¢**

MRS. SMITH WITH PANS Pie SHELLS JUMBO 2 PACK EA. **63¢**

MORTONS MINI PIES 2 FOR **53¢**

BURLESON
HONEY 24 oz. **\$1.19**



COLORADO RED DELICIOUS
APPLES MIXED SIZES LB. **19¢**

D'ANJOU PEARS LB. **29¢**

CALIFORNIA SUNKIST ORANGES LB **19¢**

FRESH GREEN CABBAGE LB. **10¢**

YELLOW ONIONS LB. **10¢**

RUSSET SPUDS 10 LB. BAG **69¢**

SWIFT JEWEL 3 LB. CAN SHORTENING **89¢**

ASST. FLAVORS 3 FOR **29¢**

PEANUT BUTTER PETER PAN 12 OZ. JAR **63¢**

SPAGHETTI & MEAT KRAFT 20 OZ. **73¢**

ORANGE DRINK HI-C 46 OZ. **49¢**

TOMATO SAUCE CONTADINA 8 OZ. CAN 2 FOR **29¢**

Beans & Fixens HUNT BIG JOHN 16 OZ. **59¢**

CORN JOAN OF ARC GOLDEN 303 CAN 2 FOR **59¢**

PEACHES TRI-VALLEY 303 CAN 2 FOR **59¢**

Refried BEANS GEBHARTS 300 CAN 2 FOR **53¢**

Green BEANS LIBBYS FRENCH STYLE 303 CAN 2 FOR **59¢**

VICKS 44 COUGH SYRUP 3 OZ. BOT. **\$1.19**

MAXIM- 8 OZ. JAR FREEZE DRY INSTANT COFFEE **\$2.49**

GRIFFINS COCONUT 7 OZ. BAG EA. **47¢**

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KRAFT 24 OZ. BAG **\$1.19**

HERSHEYS DARK CHOCOLATE DAINITIES 6 OZ. BAG EA. **35¢**

3 MINUTE POPCORN 1/2 LB BAG **59¢**

2 FREE COKES WITH 4 Mr. PIBB 32 OZ 6 PACK PLUS DEPOSIT **98¢**

LOG CABIN SYRUP 24 OZ. JAR **\$1.09**

CRACKER JACKS REG. SIZE EA. **10¢**

DELSEY TISSUE 4 ROLL CRTN **73¢**

LIQUID IVORY KING EA. **93¢**

FAMILY SIZE CHEER BOX **\$3.89**

GIANT SIZE GAIN BOX **\$1.19**