



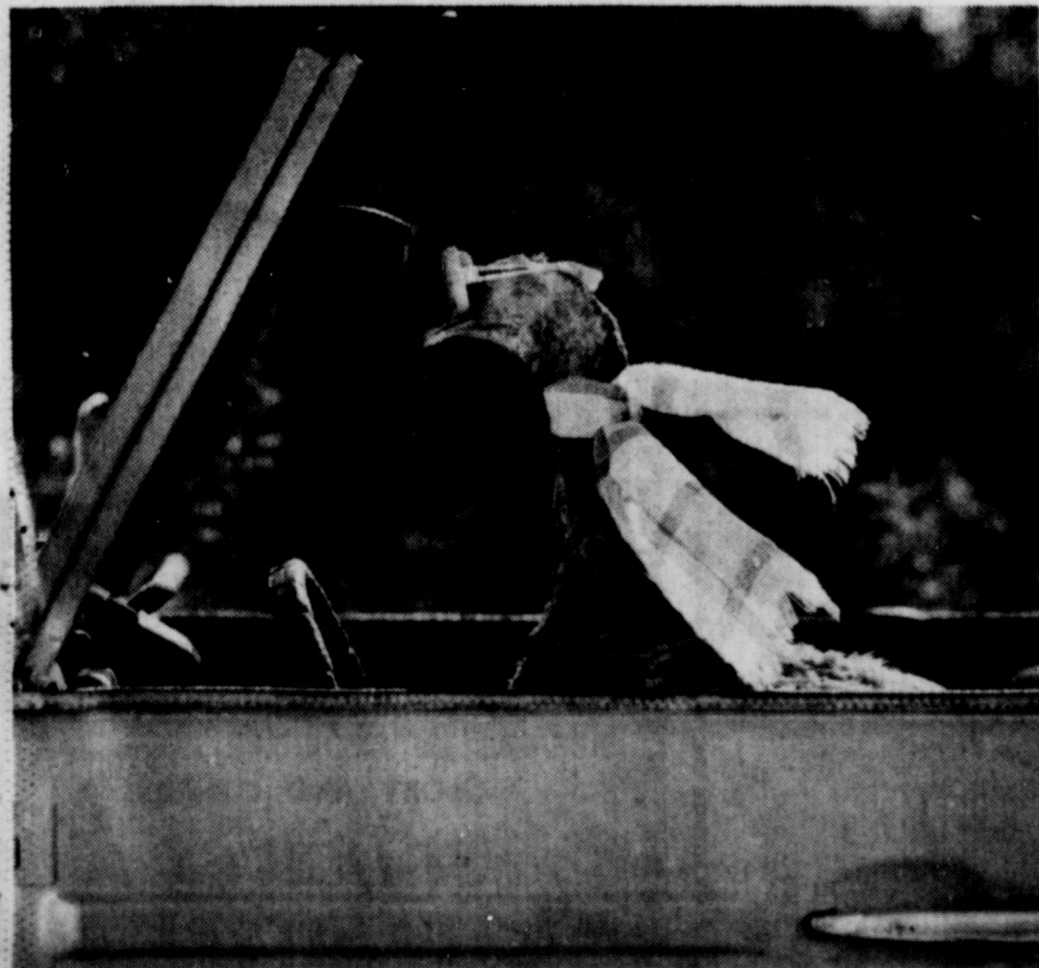
HOWDY, SANTA--The senior citizens at Starr Nursing Home were all aglow with the Christmas spirit Monday afternoon when the Ladies of the WSCS invited Santa Claus for a party. Proving that Santa has universal appeal for all ages, the senior citizens didn't pass up the opportunity to hug Santa's neck or shake his hand and get a piece of candy prior to the caroling and gift giving.

Livestock Show set January 8 in Merkel

The Merkel Livestock Show has been set for January 8. At a meeting December 7, the show was set for noon, January 8 with Payton Scott of Rising Star, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Scott of Merkel, the judge. All animals are to be in pens by 10 a.m. Entry deadline is January 5 and may be submitted to Chester Collinsworth or Benny Melton at the Chamber of Commerce office. Named superintendent of each class are George English and Jack Moore

for swine; T. J. Neill and Tommy Swinney for lambs; and R. Lee Brown and Eddie Glenn Sandusky for beef cattle. Serving on the donation collection committee are for Merkel, Leon Harris, Kathy Swinney, Lloyd Gilmore, F. T. Bartlett and Dave Gamble; for Abilene, R. Lee Brown and George English; for Trent, T. J. Neill; for Tye, Jack Moore. Melton said he anticipates FFA and 4-H clubs to have possibly 125 head of stock on hand for the show.

Watch out for speeding turkeys



Anyone you know?

Jaycees need more toys, food items for needy

THE MAIL

By Carl Dingler



Have you ever wondered what a speeding turkey looked like? No, not suggesting that every erratic driver look in his or her mirror.

Now, it is common knowledge that Merkel residents are familiar with what happens when speeding or breaking the law on the Interstate. And, it is certainly true that Merkel has become widely "popular" among other residents of the state and nation, so there is no need to expound on this subject further.

But, figured everyone would like to see what a speeding turkey really looks like.

This particular turkey appears ready to handle any situation on the highways and streets. Especially, if a safe driver comes along or interferes with his sense of "justice." You know, like beating you to the only parking spot for blocks--watch out here he, or she, roars.

And, this turkey appears capable of zooming in and out of traffic with one hand on the wheel and the other discussing the "horrible" drivers on his CB with the other hand. Disregard a safe rate of speed or conditions, it's full speed ahead.

But, lack of courtesy or a lack of "driving friendly" is not the turkey's only claim to "king of the road." He, or she, also can't read.

You know, simple words like STOP, NO LEFT TURN or YIELD.

He thinks that Stop-shaped sign means everyone else is supposed to let him through and those "No" signs mean it's okay to go ahead if he hurries with the foot on the gas.

As for those yield shaped signs, that means full speed ahead also and is similar to the stop signs in design and meaning. The yellow line down the middle of the road is a guideline for him to follow.

Then, there's the times he decides the world is going too fast and he decides to slow down. But did you notice this turkey always slows down when the rest of the traffic is going at a normal pace, almost causing a 15-car pileup.

The turkey is especially adept at thoroughly confusing the issue at merging areas on interstates when he comes to a complete stop or pokes along at 20 mph against traffic that is doing at least the speed limit. Then, when everything is really about to break, he roars off, leaving everyone else to fend for themselves, if not in a ditch already.

Now, the turkey comes in all ages, sexes and sizes. There's no limit to the possibilities.

Therefore, be on the lookout for all turkeys and ensure an enjoyable holiday. Thus, you'll be around to get even by having turkey for Christmas.

Was going to send Santa my Christmas list such as a new red wagon for Sheriff Benny Melton, a Ouija board for the School Board, a multi-million dollar sports complex for the students which would include hot and cold running soft drinks, crying towels for the City Council to pass out at random, 10,000 new residents for the businessmen and service oriented professionals in Merkel, new, larger coveralls and music lessons for Martha Sue Justice, the elimination of personal taxes for every individual in favor of a sales tax to make taxes more equal for all.

Too, was going to ask for more favorable weather and more equal prices for every farmer and rancher. They've been good Santa--good and tired of getting smaller prices for their goods while paying inflated prices for everything they use. And, haven't we all.

Oh, yes, a new alarm clock for Mayor Lou David Allen so he can make those 7 a.m. meetings of the City Council and a new shoulder to replace the soggy ones worn by City Coordinator J. A. Sadler.

And, Santa, let every school bus run safely and be breakdown free for the next year. Yes, and a district championship in every sport for the coaches and athletes.

Yep, these were some of the things was going to request in my annual letter to Santa. But, know I would miss someone and so will just ask that everyone remain well and happy throughout the year and that their lives are filled with great thoughts and contentment and that their pantries never suffer from want. And, Santa may everyone be truly thankful for the many blessings they have. Know, we have many, many to be thankful for over the past year and in our lifetime.

Time for the weekly stolen quote or joke. Some people age gracefully. Others attempt to learn the new dances.

A husband playing golf with his wife was overheard saying: "You'll drive me out of my mind, dear." Said she: "That, darling, would merely be a putt."

"For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life." Galatians 6:8.

Once upon a time there was a man who was a fool, and he stayed that way. He would never listen to advice. He would never study to gain information, either secular or sacred. He had a hard head and every day it grew harder, a cruel heart and every day it grew more mean, a weak soul and as the days passed he did nothing to give it spiritual food and strength. He cursed God, found fault with people, carried a chip on his shoulder, and never sang a song of joy or thanksgiving. He found every day more miserable than the last, and blamed everybody and everything but himself. And one day he died, unloved, unlovely and unloved--a destiny that never found itself, a life lived foolishly, a life wasted.

Yes, "Once upon a time..." Every life begins just that way--"Once upon a time"--and an unknown number of tomorrows stretch ahead--to what? To the flesh, its will, desire and pleasures? Or to the Spirit of God. Yes, it is a direct and personal question that you and you alone can answer. How will you answer?

More toys and canned items are needed by the Merkel Jaycees for their project to help needy families have a happier Christmas. "We really need used toys," Carson said. He noted that the Jaycees have received several requests for help. Carson also said any of the students can help by donating a toy or a can of food. He said the businessmen have responded with donations toward providing canned hams for the food baskets. Too, he said a milk company, a cookie company and a bread company have indicated they will help with goods.

Christmas Cantata set Sunday

The First Baptist Church of Merkel will present its Sanctuary Choir singing "Christ is Born" Sunday at 7 p.m. The choir will be directed by Roy Davis, with Mrs. Davis serving as organist and Mrs. Comer Haynes as pianist.

Solo parts will be presented by Mrs. Curtis Rister, Mrs. David Williams, Mrs. Herman Carson and Mrs. Don Riney.

The pastor will serve as narrator reading the story of Christ's birth from the Holy Scriptures.

"Christ is Born" is a cantata written by John W. Peterson, who is one of the best known writers of present day Christmas music.

The choir has been using music written by Peterson for the past six years. The presentation of the Christmas Cantata has become a very important part of the First Baptist Church program of worship, and they want to share it with the community.

Preparations have been under way for three months for this musical program and the choir members are looking forward to the performance. There are 40 participating in the choir program.

The nursery will be open for those who need a place to leave their children, and the First Baptist Church welcomes joyfully all the visitors who wish to attend this worship service.

Merkel Mail deadline

The Merkel Mail will observe holiday schedules the final two weeks of December.

Regular deadline will be observed for next week's edition. Advertisement and news deadline is noon Tuesday.

However, for the week of December 23, deadline will be moved up to Monday, December 20 at noon. Any news

items may be turned in anytime during the week of December 13-17 but must be in the Merkel Mail office by noon December 20.

Deadline for the December 30 issue will be Monday, December 27, at noon. Here's wishing each of you a very merry holiday season.



67th ANNIVERSARY--Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Payne of Trent will celebrate their 67 years of marriage Sunday at their home and invite all their friends to drop in anytime Sunday to visit with them. The couple was married in 1909 in Anson and have lived in Trent 30 years. He is 86 she is 84. The Paynes have three children, Mrs. Clifford Talbot of Abilene and Mrs. George Byrom and R. O. Payne of Trent; 11 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and a great-great grandchild. This picture was taken on the Payne's 60th wedding anniversary seven years ago.

Blair WD adopts bylaws

Members of the Blair Water Improvement District Monday night adopted their bylaws and signed up 38 more prospective members to add

to the already-certified total of 124. The 38 new applicants will be certified at a meeting at 7 p.m. January 10 at the

Taylor Electric Co-op Building, according to BWID president J. D. Sandusky. Representatives of the Farmers Home Administra-

tion and the Abilene engineering firms of Yates and Decker were at the meeting to answer questions.

The meeting January 10 also will include adoption of a feasibility study and application for a loan to lay a water line. The application must go through the West Central Texas Council of Governments executive committee to state and federal agencies. Sandusky said he thought the district would try to buy water from Abilene.

Monday was the last time homeowners in the district could join for a deposit of \$100. The deposit now is \$200 plus a meter fee.

The district is bounded by IH 20 on the north, FM 707 on the east and FM 89 on the south. The western boundary is a line from I-20 to Nolan, taking in part of Nolan County.

Other officers include Lloyd Gilmore, vice-president, and Opal Garner, secretary.

The first movie that actually told a story was "The Great Train Robbery," made in 1903.

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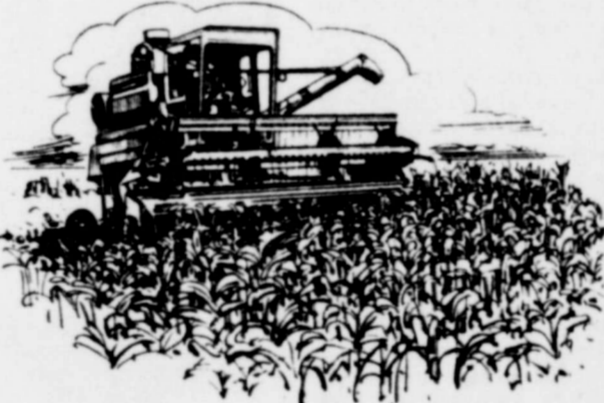
PLEASE COME

ADDRESS: SECOND & RUNNELS

DECEMBER 19, 1976

7:00 P.M.

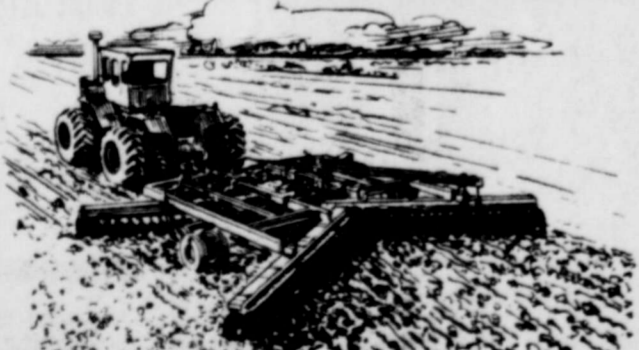
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CARTOON EXHIBIT--Roger Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Moore of Merkel and political cartoonist for the Austin Citizen, had a retrospective showing of favorite political cartoons in Austin recently. An Austin resident for five years, Moore is a publisher's representative and has illustrated two books and his cartoons have appeared in Texas Outlook, Austin Magazine and many Texas newspapers. Moore's cartoon originals are owned by such notables as Governor Dolph Briscoe, Attorney General John Hill, former Speaker of the House Price Daniel Jr. and other state and local figures.

Dallas Cowboys 1976 Schedule

Cowboys 11-3

Date	Opponent	Kickoff	Time
September 12	Philadelphia	1 p.m.	27-7
September 19	at New Orleans	1 p.m.	24-6
September 26	Baltimore	3 p.m.	30-27
October 3	at Seattle	3 p.m.	28-13
October 10	at New York Giants	noon	21-14
October 17	at St. Louis	3 p.m.	17-21
October 24	Chicago	1 p.m.	31-21
October 31	at Washington	3 p.m.	20-7
November 7	New York Giants	1 p.m.	9-3
November 21	at Atlanta	noon	10-17
November 25	St. Louis	2:30 p.m.	19-11
December 5	at Philadelphia	noon	26-7
December 12	Washington	3 p.m.	14-27

THE SCHEDULE

Saturday	Sunday
NFC Divisional Playoff Washington at Minnesota, noon	AFC Divisional Playoff Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
AFC Divisional Playoff New England at Oakland, 3 p.m.	NFC Divisional Playoff Los Angeles at Dallas, 4:30 p.m.

Merkel woman on Petree staff

Richard Petree, Taylor County Tax Assessor-Collector Elect announced his staff appointments for his term beginning January 1, 1977.

Serving as Chief Deputy will be Marie Kidwell, a 28 year veteran of the office. She will

assist Petree in supervising all areas of the office. Serving as Manager of Property Taxes will be Glenda Rutherford. She has also worked in the office many years in the transferring of property and mapping.

Assisting her will be a long-time Merkel resident, Opal Garner. Mrs. Garner who lives at Route 2, Merkel, has been employed by the tax office for nearly 20 years. Handling voter registration will be Nancy Saunders, a former resident of the Nolan community.

Directing the motor vehicle division will be Diedra Schmidt. She has worked in the department for seven years.

Deer for dinner?

A Texas A & M University study shows that deer hunters can bring home quality meat by following certain guidelines. Female deer were found to have a less "gamey" taste but their meat became more flavorful with aging. Juiciness of deer meat was enhanced by aging the deer before skinning it. Aging the carcass also increased tenderness. Since doe meat is superior to that of the buck, hunters might consider obtaining doe permits where they have been issued to landowners by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, suggests a wildlife specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

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Final rites held for Rust

Services were Saturday at the Anson Church of Christ for Charles Rust, 63, who died Thursday.

The longtime Jones County resident, farmer and businessman had been ill for a year. Curtis Ramey of Fort Worth officiated, assisted by Tommy South, minister. Burial was in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Born July 31, 1913, in Ranger, he moved with his family to Abilene in 1917 and grew up there. He moved to the Truby Community in 1931 and married Lois Aston September 3, 1938, in Anson. They moved to the site of their present home, eight and a half miles northeast of Anson in 1950.

He farmed and was area insurance adjuster for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, a post he had held for 16 years. Mr. Rust was a veteran of World War II, serving part of that time in the South Pacific Theater. He was

a member of the Merkel Masonic Lodge and Order of the Eastern Star, Anson Lions Club and the Anson Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife; two brothers, John E. of Fritch and C. B. of Clyde; and a sister, Mrs. Noel Bowen of Abilene.

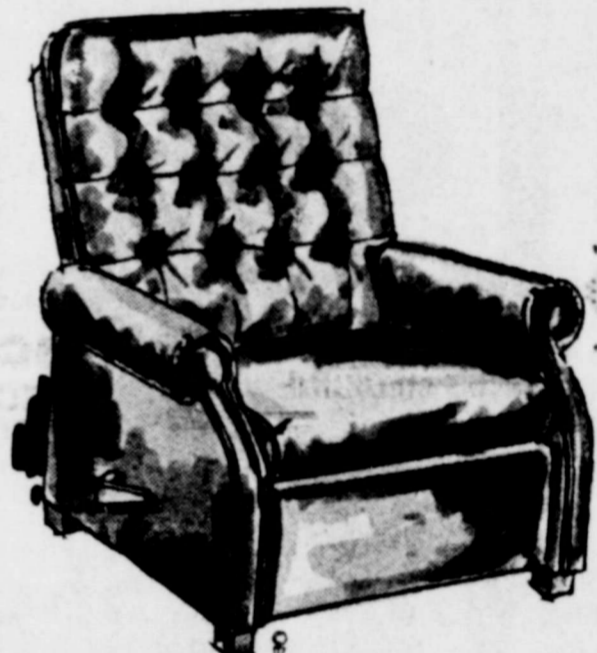
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Members urged to attend.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: The Unknown Natural Father, Respondent;

GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COM-MANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable Domestic Relations Court, Taylor County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Abilene, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the petition of Christian Homes of Abilene, Inc., Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 1st day of December, 1976, against Deborah Lyn Hance, natural mother and the unknown natural father. Respondents, and said suit being numbered 12,602-DK on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Interest of Baby Girl Hance, a Child," the nature of which suit is a request to Terminate Parent-Child Relationship. Said child was born the 30th day of November, 1976, 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 bring about the termination of the parent-child relationship and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

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

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and make due return as the law directs. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, this 1st day of December, 1976.

(Seal) Irene Crawford
Clerk,
Domestic Relations Court,
Taylor County,
Texas.
By Sandra Harris
Deputy.
43-1t

**TEXAS PRESS
MEMBER 1975 ASSOCIATION**

The Merkel Mail

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STEVE LANHAM.....Publisher
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Taylor

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of a certain ORDER of SALE issued out of the Honorable 42nd District Court of Taylor County, of the 8th day of November 1976, by The District Clerk of said Taylor County for the sum of Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighty & No/100.....Dollars and costs of suit, under a Order of Sale, in favor of Allen Hodges in a certain cause in said Court, No. 35,199-A and styled Allen Hodges vs. Walter A. Shed et, al, placed in my hands for service, I Jack Landrum as Sheriff of Taylor County, Texas, did, on the 29th day of November 1976, levy on certain Real Estate, situated in Taylor County, Texas, described as follows, to-wit: The West 70 feet of Lot 6 and West 70 feet of the South Half of Lot 5, Block "P" Hughes Subdivision of Lot 4, Block 207, original town of

Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, as levied upon as the property of Walter A. Shed and that on the first Tuesday in January 1977, the same being the 4th day of said month at the Court House, of Taylor County, in the City of Abilene, Texas, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., by virtue of said levy and said Order of Sale, I will sell said above described Real Estate at public vendue, for each, to the highest bidder, as the property of said Walter A. Shed.

And in compliance with said I give this notice by publication, in the English language, once a week for three consecutive weeks immediately preceding said day of sale, in the Merkel Mail, a newspaper published in Taylor County, Texas.

Witness my hand, this 29th day of November 1976.

By R. P. Blackley, Deputy
Jack Landrum
Sheriff Taylor County
Texas.
42-3tc

Nolan County sets 4-H show

The Nolan County 4-H Horse Club is sponsoring an open halter horse show Saturday, at the Nolan County Coliseum in Sweetwater. Registration at 9 a.m. show at 10. Age groups are 13 and

under, 14 thru 17, 18 and over. There will be first place trophies in each event with High Point Awards in each age group, ribbons second thru tenth place, \$1 per event. Event classes are: Halter Classes, Showmanship, Horsemanship, Western

Pleasure, Reining, Trail Class, Simon Says Class, Barrels, Poles and Flags. Following the show there will be Jackpots in Barrels, Poles and Flags. There will be a concession and the public is invited to attend.



MERRY CHRISTMAS--The office staff of Merkel City Hall took time off recently to pose for this picture and to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

From left to right, City Coordinator J. A. Sadler, Mrs. Annette Melton, Mrs. Fannelle Boney and Robert Harris.

Cemetery donations

The following have made donations to the Merkel Cemetery Association, Special Christmas Memorials.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. J. Brown in memory of Mr.

4-H party

The Taylor County 4-H Club will hold its annual county wide Christmas party Friday night at 7:00 at the West Texas Fair in the Display Building.

4-H Council will be sponsoring the event and directing activities for all the Younger 4-Hers. The Christmas story and carols will complete the evening. These will be under the direction of Rev. Jonathan D. Male.

Booth Warren Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Harris in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lige Harris and Mrs. Ollie Skidmore

Mr. and Mrs. Joe McDuff in memory of J. H. Clark Sam T. Redwine in memory of Doris Russell Redwine

Mr. and Mrs. Bennie W. Anderson in memory of Joe Anderson

Beulah Benson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Wimberly

Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Ely in memory of W. U. and Mary Beene, and F. E. and Bessylea Church

The Carsons in memory of L. E. Riney

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Warren in memory of Tommy Warren and Bill Horton

Mrs. Walter Frazier in memory of "My Husband and Friends."

Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Toombs in memory of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Toombs

Clark Mundy in memory of Booth Warren

Mrs. Craig Humphrey in memory of Craig Humphrey

Mrs. Wade Ensminger in memory of Wade Ensminger Jr. and Wade Ensminger Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Bob Toombs in memory of Willie B. Toombs, Will Toombs, Robert N. Campbell and Matie Lou Campbell

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Toombs

in memory of F. R. Demere A. C. Terry in memory of Mrs. A. C. Terry

Pauline Johnson in memory of The G. W. Johnson Family

Mr. and Mrs. Earl S. Cross in memory of Bill Harvell, Tom Harvell, and Ira Cross.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe E. Lassiter in memory of Earl and Ova Lassiter

Clarence J. and Lucile Melton in memory of Mrs. Mary E. "Mom" Melton and "Brother" Don Melton.

Lemma Foster in memory of Homer C. Foster.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Thomas in memory of Mrs. J. A. Milliken

Oliver Webb in memory of Naomi Webb

Mrs. Lola Stockbridge in memory of Bill Stockbridge

Mrs. Dewell McLean in memory of Dewell and Hollis McLean

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Campbell in memory of Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Campbell and Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Hogan Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. George Swank in memory of the Cyperts and Darbys.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Murphy in memory of Gerald Cox and Geraldene McKee

Mr. and Mrs. Milton R. McDonald in memory of John B. and Mary Florence Bell

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis H. Tucker in memory of Vernie L. Merritt

Ellice Lightsey in memory of John A. Lightsey

Mrs. Eula M. Murdock in memory of J. R. Murdock

Geneva Leverett in honor of Bill and Willie Mae Derington and Alvin Derington

Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Howard in memory of loved ones

Mrs. Clara P. Cooper in honor of loved ones

Thelma D. Vestal in memory of the "H. A. Deavers Family."

Mrs. H. H. Spears in

memory of H. H. Spears Mr. and Mrs. Price Floyd in memory of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Floyd, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Click Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Cordill

Mrs. Jeff Anderson in memory of Jeff Anderson and L. H. Utley

H. E. and Estelle B. Spears in memory of "our loved ones"

Mrs. Mary Alice Mahan in memory of Mrs. Aurora Johnson

Mrs. Gillis Cox in memory of the "W. B. Alsbrook Family"

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Guitart Jr. "in loving memory of our parents"

Mr. and Mrs. Forest Harper in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Garrett

Ola Garrett in memory of the J. M. Garrett Family

Lt. Col. and Mrs. L. G. Shafer in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Seth Hamilton

Florence B. Gravelle in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Baze, Mrs. Beulah Callahan and Paul Brewer

Mrs. Chas. R. Williams in memory of Chas. R. Williams

Frank and Gladys Breaux in memory of "all our friends"

Mrs. H. B. Finch in memory of Homer B. Finch

Mrs. Ira Moore in memory of "Loved Ones"

The Newsom Family in memory of Callie Newsom

Mrs. May Belle Teaff in memory of Mrs. Kay Perry

Mr. and Mrs. Forrest G. Smith in memory of Ruth Owens

A. F. Harris Jr. in memory of Ruth Owens

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Foster

Mrs. Owen Ellis in memory of Owen Ellis

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HORMEL
BACON LB. \$1.29

HORMEL
PORK CHOPS CENTER CUT \$1.19
LB. END CUT 98¢

HORMEL
LITTLE SIZZLERS 12 OZ. 89¢

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HORMEL
HAMBURGER LB. 59¢

HORMEL
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FLAT CAN

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COCONUT 45¢
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KIMBELL
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RED DEL.
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Shoestring Potatoes 29¢
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INSTANT TEA 3 OZ. \$1.39

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GREEN BEANS DEL MONTE 303 CAN 29¢

PEAS DEL MONTE 303 CAN 2/ 69¢

TOMATO SAUCE CONTADINA 8 OZ. CAN 2/ 29¢

SALAD CHERRIES 10 OZ. 59¢

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MAYONNAISE KRAFT QT. \$1.09

WESSON OIL 48 OZ. \$1.89

RO-TEL TOMATOES WITH GREEN CHILIS 10 OZ. 29¢

FLOUR GOLD MEDAL 5 LB. BAG 79¢

MILK MARIGOLD 2% HOMO GAL \$1.45 REG. HOMO GAL \$1.55 PLUS DEP.

ANGEL FOOD
CAKE MIX DUNCAN HINES 89¢

FRUIT COCKTAIL DEL MONTE 303 CAN 43¢

BISCUITS KOUNTRY FRESH 2/ 25¢

WHIPPING CREAM
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HALF & HALF FOREMOST CRTN. 33¢

EGGNOG FOREMOST QT. 69¢

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Garden decorations

The yard or garden can provide inexpensive but elegant decorations for Christmas, suggests a landscape horticulturist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Branches, fruits and leaves of many plants can add variety and color to any holiday decor. Yaupon, deciduous holly, pyracantha and pine branches can be used for wreaths while pinecones, lotus pods, cattails and cockleburrs can be spray painted for added attraction. Leaves of Magnolia, pittosporum and loquat are attractive either green or dried.

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Abilene firm submits low bid, audit report accepted

City employees receive Christmas bonus

Clouse Construction of Abilene had the low bid for the \$30,400 water and sewer project for Merkel under the HUD program and the city's books are becoming more up to date. Too, Christmas bonuses were approved for all.

The market value of all agricultural products sold by the 1,001 farms in Taylor County in 1974 amounted to \$43,082,000, according to a preliminary report of the 1974 Census of Agriculture released recently by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Production expenses on these farms totaled \$43,196,000 in 1974.

Farm product sales released

The market value of all agricultural products sold by the 1,001 farms in Taylor County in 1974 amounted to \$43,082,000, according to a preliminary report of the 1974 Census of Agriculture released recently by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. Production expenses on these farms totaled \$43,196,000 in 1974.

The figures are for farms qualifying under the definition first used for the 1959 Census of Agriculture: A farm includes all agricultural operations conducted at any time during the census year under the control of an individual management, provided that sales of agricultural products amounted to, or normally would amount to, at least \$250 for places of less than 10 acres or \$50 for places of 10 acres or more.

Figures for farms with sales of \$2,500 or more are shown for 1974 and 1969. These farms accounted for \$42,767,000 of all agricultural products sold in 1974 and \$33,380,000 in 1969. There were 636 of these farms in 1974 compared with 647 in 1969. The average size decreased from 784 to 719 acres during the five years. The value per acre increased from \$133 to \$210 raising the

average value per farm from \$104,103 to \$150,764.

The market value of livestock and their products on farms of \$2,500 or more of sales was \$38,919,000 in 1974; poultry and their products, \$77,000; and crop sales, including nursery products, hay and forest products, \$3,772,000.

Farms reporting less than \$1,000 in sales numbered 98 in 1974. The value of agricultural products sold on these farms totaled \$25,000.

Holiday holly

The holiday season would not be complete without a touch of holly. Hollies are found over much of Texas and are available at nurseries for homeowners who want to add these attractive plants to their landscapes. The bright red fruiting plants are compact and durable and make excellent hedges. They provide food for almost 20 species of birds. And their branches make colorful additions to holiday decorations. Now is the time to plant hollies, preferably the balled-and-burlapped type.

alternates; Clouse was next and their bid was \$21,352.15 base and \$24,074.20 alternate. Buck Welding of Roby bid \$25,468.00 base and \$35,109.32 alternate and the final bid was from Ed Hartman Construction of Santa Anna of \$27,499.51 base and \$26,811.83 alternate.

The base bid was for the installation of PVC 6-inch pipe and the alternate bid was for the installation of Asbestos Cement pipe.

City Coordinator J. A. Sadler pointed out the AC pipe would possibly help the city's fire insurance rates whereas the PVC pipe would not.

The City Council elected to go with the base bid plus alternate and accepted the low bid by Clouse of \$24,074.20.

Engineering fee is \$2,600 and the railroad is charging a \$150 right-of-way fee to allow the city to lay the line under the railroad tracks.

This leaves a balance of \$3,576. The funds have to be spent on this one project as approved by HUD. It cannot be saved or spent on another area. Thus, the Council can add more valves and fire hydrants. There is the possibility that a water line can be extended to the Tri-City park and a water hydrant installed. Sadler said he is checking with HUD officials to see if this could be done.

After the meeting Sadler and Mayor Lou David Allen said they were especially happy with the bids received and the fact that it allowed extra funds to add important extras to the project. Work is to start within 30 days.

After approving the bid, the Council approved an easement agreement with the Railroad for the \$150 fee; approved the Community Development Block Grant resolution for the next year concerning housing.

The city has received approval for \$81,300 in funds to complete the water and sewer project but must continue to comply with HUD regulations until the funds are issued. Too, to meet these requirements a letter to the HUD housing plan was read and put into the minutes. It concerned the housing assistance plan.

The Council also approved the payment of bills for November and approved the payment to Jerry Hill of \$1,267.50 for the completion of the 1975 audit. Hill charged \$15 per hour for 55 hours on the audit and \$7.50 per hour on the bookkeeping part of the audit. He reported 59 hours involved with bookkeeping. Thus \$825 for audit and \$442.50 for the bookkeeping.

All City employees were given a Christmas bonus. The Council approved \$75 Christmas bonus go to all full-time employees (there are 15) and \$50 to all parttime employees (there are 5).

The Council also agreed to hold its next meeting Monday at 7 a.m. instead of December 24, the regular date.

The audit covered the fiscal year from May 1, 1974 through April 30, 1975. It moves the Council a step closer toward an up-to-date audit and bookkeeping system since Sadler became City Coordinator.

Hill, CPA from Hamlin, said he hoped to have the present year's audit completed by January--thus, bringing the city up to the present.

He pointed out that due to past procedures it took him many extra hours attempting to get the city records in order.

He also noted that some of his recommendations have already been instituted by Sadler and he made some other suggestions that would reduce his cost--primarily for bookkeeping which the city office can do.

Hill went over the comprehensive report with the Council and pointed out only a couple of changes in transferring funds to conform with bookkeeping procedures.

He noted that in 1969 land was sold for \$444.40 in order to collect taxes and were credited to a deferred credit account. The Council approved moving the funds into the general fund, as it

has already been done in reality. Then, there was the write off of \$300 which went into a revenue sharing fund but which was not changed to expenses. This was done.

Hill recommended the city use an official form for cash disbursement from the petty cash fund. This would act as a form of control, he noted. He also suggested that refunds of consumer deposits be paid by check only. Sadler noted this is now being done and that a separate account has been set up for deposits.

Hill asked that all material and supplies of an inventory nature be charged to inventory accounts when purchased. And, that perpetual inventory records should be maintained to support the inventory account.

Hill next recommended the subsidiary accounts receivable ledger be reconciled with the general ledger account at the monthly accounting ending date. It was noted that this can be done much easier now that the city is using the computer service for billing.

Hill said that in the past uncollectable accounts receivable were written off the books with no mention of the authorization for such write off in the minutes of the Council meetings.

"I recommend that the write off of uncollectable accounts be approved by the City Council and that such approval be recorded in the minutes in detail. Also, an adjustment made to the accounts receivable accounts should be approved by someone designated by the Council," Hill said.

The Council agreed saying this should be done once a year before the close of each year's books.

Hill noted there is no ledger maintained which identifies the property, plant and equipment owned by the city.

He said all pieces of equipment should be marked or tagged with an identifying number and such identifying numbers should be recorded in the plant ledger on an item basis. Too, he noted that all disposition of those items should be controlled and authorized by the City Council.

Fines collected by the City judge were not deposited in the bank on the next banking day in most cases, Hill said. At times the funds were held for a month. He recommended fines and all monies collected be deposited as soon as possible.

Sadler noted the situation with the fines has been corrected and that all monies are being deposited daily.

Too, during this audit, Hill pointed out receipts were not issued for monies received by the ambulance fund.

He recommended that pre-numbered receipts be issued for all receipts of the ambulance fund and for all other monies received with exception of the receipts for the water and sewer revenue if they are supported otherwise.

He said the use of pre-numbered receipts book is important to the proper internal control.

Sadler said this situation has been corrected and is being done at the present time.

Finally, he recommended a voucher journal be set up in the city's books. All invoices should be recorded in the voucher journal in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. At this time, the vouchers are recorded in the cash disbursement journal when they are paid.

Hill said this would save the city money as the city would be doing the bookkeeping chore he has to perform before he can do the audit.

The Council agreed this could be done.

The Council approved the acceptance of the audit report and the payment of Hill.

There were \$16,443.64 in November bills approved for payment and the bank balance shows \$5,987.01 in general fund; \$2,115.31 in water and sewer; \$1,634.07 in ambulance; \$109.39 in library; \$810 in meter deposits; \$10,004.49 in revenue sharing; and \$21,188.40 in interest and sinking fund and \$20,000 in certificate of deposit.

Purser earns degree

Kenneth Wayne Purser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Purser, Merkel, received a Master of Science degree in Animal Nutrition from Texas

A & M University in College Station, Texas December 11. Purser is to continue school at A & M, working toward a P.H.D.

Purser is married to the former Terry Sue Wozencraft, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Wozencraft, Merkel.

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Bid opening on elementary building set Jan. 25

Merkel's School Board set a date for bid opening for construction of the new elementary building and suspended two Middle School students during its 5-hour meeting at Merkel High School Monday night.

The Board also approved the purchase of a new typewriter for the tax office; gave A-1 Air Conditioning of Abilene the bid to provide heating and cooling for the new addition at Tye Elementary, approved payment of bills for November; okayed necessary procedures for payment of two buses; and named a textbook committee.

The Auditor did not have the 1975-76 audit ready and this item on the agenda was dropped. Also no action was taken on review and changes to the bus routes and employment, dismissal and, or review of personnel.

A guideline for fees for using school facilities by non-school organizations was discussed but tabled. Superintendent Travis Davis presented a proposal for a standard fee schedule but after discussion the Board decided to table any action until further study could be made.

Also, no action was taken on a request by the Tye PTO to hold bingo games once a month at Tye. It was determined by the Board that more information was needed as to legality of bingo games before considering the request.

The Board opened at 7:13 p. m. and immediately went into executive session to discuss a situation involving two Middle School students.

After an hour and 45 minutes the Board reconvened in public and passed separate motions on each student that they be suspended for the rest of the school quarter for habitual truancy.

One of the students and his parents was not present for the meeting. The Board then turned to the business of bids concerning the heating and air conditioning of the Tye Elementary.

The Board had given Principal Cecil Todd and Davis authority to get the bids and build the two classrooms by remodeling the bus barn at Tye at an earlier meeting.

It was estimated that \$10,000 would be needed for the renovation and that students would be used as much as possible as part of their yearly project.

Too, at a recent meeting Davis and Todd recommended the heating and air conditioning firm of A-1 Air Conditioning of Abilene. No public mention of the bid received were felt necessary at that meeting.

Being on the agenda again Monday night, Board President Charles Jacobs was asked about it. His reply: "Some question about it, so we decided to take another look at it."

Davis said, "We decided on A-1, but ran into some problems so decided to go this way."

Gene Amerine of Merkel later in the discussion said that he had objected to the first bids going to an Abilene firm "because I was \$17 within the low bid."

Gene Amerine explained his new bid first. He bid \$2,673 and deducted \$200 which would go on salaries for student helpers in installing the units, bringing his bid to \$2,473.

However, Davis and Todd had recommended two horizontal gas furnaces. Amerine, in his bid, specified electrical units to be used. He told the Board he would not recommend horizontal gas units be put in the building because of the heavy wood construction of the attic of the Tye bus barn. And, he said "that system is almost obsolete."

In fact, after discussion, Amerine said he would not bid on the project if it was to install the horizontal gas system.

Ron McMillian of Abilene Sheetmetal said his bid was as specified for two horizontal gas units in the attic. He said he has had no problems with such units when they are properly installed. And, he said "there is a lower operating cost with gas vs. electric."

He is the Lennox dealer and when asked why his bid was \$2,000 higher than the other two, McMillian replied that the firm's reputation and quality workmanship is expensive and he was bidding what the firm felt was an honest price. His bid was \$4,437.

Royal Duncan of A-1 then told the Board his company

has a good guarantee on its equipment and good service. He also said he sees no problem with the gas system in the ceiling. A-1 bid \$2,975.

President Jacobs then turned to Todd and asked, "Any reason for a gas furnace, Cecil?"

Todd explained that in looking over the situation, and admitting he is no engineer, he felt two gas furnaces would do the best job. He also pointed out that he had received several estimates on work for a unit in his home (not in conjunction with the seeking of bids on the Tye project he said), thus he is aware of the different aspects involved in drawing up specifications.

Board member Leroy Teaff made the motion to give the bid to A-1 Air Conditioning of Abilene. Vice-President Don Hart seconded the motion expressing his belief that "I feel A-1 had it first."

Member James Boyd said, "I consider the action a month ago as standing action. Action already has been taken."

The Board approved the motion and moved on to the next item of business.

Bill Adams, president of the Tye PTO, thanked the Board for the \$500 to help with playground equipment at Tye. He said the 160 present at last month's Tye PTO meeting all favored monthly bingo as a fund raising project.

He outlined a plan of selling tickets at the door and then letting them have cards inside. He said merchandise prizes would be given for 10 games. It would be held Saturday night, once a month.

He also noted a couple of other projects planned by the PTO is putting gravel on the parking lot and to add lighting in the outside area.

Question of the legal aspects was raised by the Board but Adams contended bingo is being played at various places in Abilene through the method of ticket selling.

However, he said he would check with the District Attorney and bring the proposal before the Board at another time.

Jim Lawless then gave the financial report which was approved. The November receipts total \$153,235.30 and current expenditures were \$158,061.82.

Book balance shows a total of \$121,746.84 as of November 30. There is \$104,656.07 in certificates of

deposit and \$484.29 in savings account.

Architect Don Hampton then told the Board his firm is ready to set a bid date on the new elementary building. Hampton said they could start taking bids the first of the year.

Thus, the Board set January 25 at 7 p. m. as the bid opening deadline. The bids will be opened and read in the Library at Merkel High School.

School Board meetings dates in January also were changed from the first and third Monday nights at 7 to January 10 and January 25, at 7 p. m.

Davis told the Board that money is available at 6 per cent to provide the \$21,064 to pay for the two new buses. It was a routine action, Davis said, and the Board approved the signing of the note which will be paid off in five equal installments.

The Board also approved the use of the homemaking facilities by a 4-H group preparing for county competition. The facilities will be used for six meetings.

Davis then informed the Board that he will be in Austin Wednesday for a meeting concerning the tax situation with the Governor's Board. It was noted that feed lots and part of the vehicle assessments will be deducted from the tax proposal as presented by the school district by the Governor's office.

However, Jacobs noted it appears dim for reductions in other areas of the proposal as requested.

Under Superintendent's report Davis said the Christmas holidays would begin at 1:35 p. m. Friday; the freezer is installed in the cafeteria and is being tested; doors are being installed in the Merkel Elementary and Middle School; the glass backboards for the basketball goals have arrived and will be installed over the holidays; the interior of the cafeteria and the hallway in the High School will be painted during vacation; there is a water leak at Tye Elementary which escapes detection; there is still time to get the old bus in the bus auction sale; attendance continues at a steady pace; a check with the Fire Marshal confirmed that the new addition at Tye does have to have two exits; the Fire Marshal also is writing a report on the conditions at the Merkel facilities and Davis alerted the Board to "a lot of work we will have to do here."

Hart told the Board that the report on the conditions of the light poles at the football field has been completed and there are three bad ones which present a possible hazard. Hart was delegated to check into the cost of having the three poles removed.

Final item on the 17-item agenda was a typewriter for the tax office. Davis said the old one doesn't work and will cost \$100 to \$150 to repair. An amendment to the budget was deemed necessary.

Boyd made the motion to buy a typewriter. It passed and the Board ended business officially at 11:59.


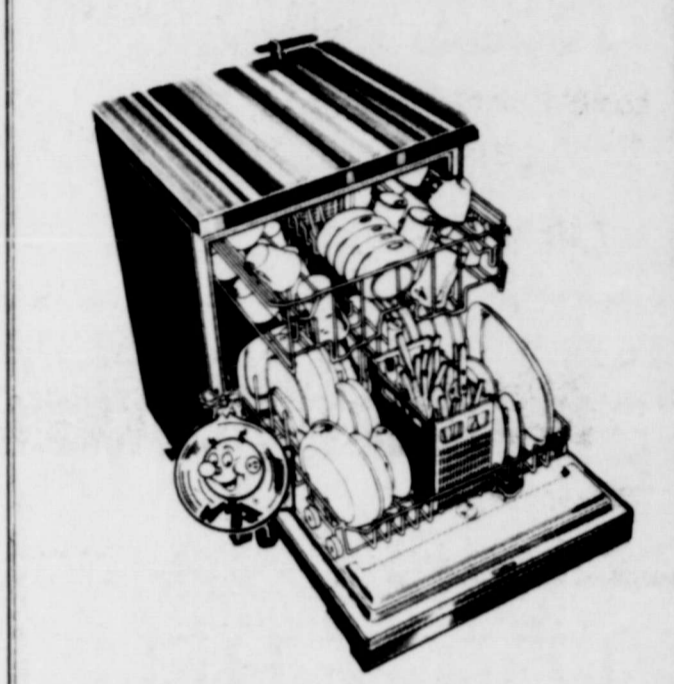
Quarterly Financial Report
Merkel Independent School District
For Period Ending 11-30-76

Beginning Balances - 9-1-76	
107 General Operating Fund	\$ 171,241.24
127 Transportation Fund	5,507.18
167 Special Education Fund	-0-
217 Title I Fund	-0-
236 Consolidated Application Fund	1,545.64
517 Interest and Sinking Fund	17,275.01
717 Cafeteria Fund	328.83
727 Athletics Fund	-0-
Total Beginning Balances	\$ 195,897.90
Total Revenues 9-1-76 thru 11-30-76	
107 General Operating Fund	\$ 243,672.03
127 Transportation Fund	17,035.00
167 Special Education Fund	111,467.67
217 Title I Fund	5,932.00
236 Consolidated Application Fund	167.21
517 Interest and Sinking Fund	16,816.78
717 Cafeteria Fund	22,841.06
727 Athletics Fund	12,740.19
Total Revenues for Period	\$ 430,671.94
Total Funds Available	\$ 626,569.84
Total Expenditures 9-1-76 thru 11-30-76	
107 General Operating Fund	\$ 227,229.56
127 Transportation Fund	13,000.90
167 Special Education Fund	92,483.92
217 Title I Fund	9,706.86
236 Consolidated Application Fund	245.61
517 Interest and Sinking Fund	3,099.25
717 Cafeteria Fund	35,077.31
727 Athletics Fund	18,839.23
Total Expenditures for Period	\$ 349,682.64
Fund Balances Before Transfers	
107 General Operating Fund	\$ 187,683.71
127 Transportation Fund	9,541.28
167 Special Education Fund	18,983.75
217 Title I Fund	(3,774.86)
236 Consolidated Application Fund	1,467.24
517 Interest and Sinking Fund	30,992.54
717 Cafeteria Fund	(11,907.42)
727 Athletics Fund	(6,099.04)
Total Fund Balances - 11-30-76	\$ 226,887.20
Fund Transfers	
Fund 107 to Fund 727	\$ (7,000.00)
Fund 107 to Fund 717	(10,000.00)
Fund 107 to Fund 217	(9,000.00)
Fund 217 from 107	9,000.00
Fund 717 from 107	10,000.00
Fund 727 from 107	7,000.00
Fund 727 from Booster Club	470.00
Expend by 727 for Booster Club	(470.00)
Total	\$ 226,887.20
Fund Balances - 11-30-76	
107 General Operating Fund	\$ 161,683.71*
127 Transportation Fund	9,541.28
167 Special Education Fund	18,983.75
217 Title I Fund	5,225.14
236 Consolidated Application Fund	1,467.24
517 Interest and Sinking Fund	30,992.54
717 Cafeteria Fund	(1,907.42)
727 Athletics Fund	900.96
Total Fund Balances - 11-30-76	\$ 226,887.20
*General Operating Fund - Cash	56,543.35
General Operating Fund - Cert. of Dep.	104,656.07
Savings Account	484.29
Total	\$ 161,683.71

... (Continued from previous page) ...

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- ★ Clean the filter screen often. A clogged filter can reduce the efficiency of your dishwasher.

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HONOR ROLL

The following students have made all "A's" for the first quarter:

SENIORS
John Biera, David Booth, Cathy Crouse, Mike Henry, Dana James, Robert Mathewson, Kristi Nease, Retha Parker, Annette Parmelly, Becky Rister, Doug Roysden, Rhondia Toney and Suzanne Warner.

JUNIORS
Randy Cox and Linda Williams.

SOPHOMORES
Gay Pflester and Cindy Smith.

FRESHMEN
Janessa Cypert
Rosie Biera of the Sixth grade made the "A" honor roll at Merkel Middle School. Making the "A-B" honor roll for the Sixth grade were Eddy Harris and Jackie Owen. Alan Glick of the Seventh grade also made the "A-B" honor roll at Merkel Middle School. These names were accidently omitted from last week's Middle School honor roll.

TSTI honor roll

Students from Merkel and Trent have been named to fall quarter honor rolls on the Rolling Plains Campus of Texas State Technical Institute.

Those named to the President's Honor Roll have achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Those on the Vice President's Honor Roll maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or better.

Named to the President's Honor Roll were Tina Hamner of Trent, technical office training, and Donald Whisenhunt of Merkel, radio and television servicing.

Named to the Vice-President's Honor Roll were James L. Beasley of Mer-

Top boy, girl

Merkel Middle School has named the boy and girl of the month for November.

By grades they are: Cindy Sims and Russell Lucas for fifth grad; Rosie Biera and Eddy Harris for sixth grade; Ann Wooten and Alan Glick for seventh grade; and Marsha Green and Dale Rankin for eighth grade.

School holiday schedule

Merkel and Trent students will get two weeks vacation for the Christmas holidays. School will let out December 17 and will resume Monday, January 3.

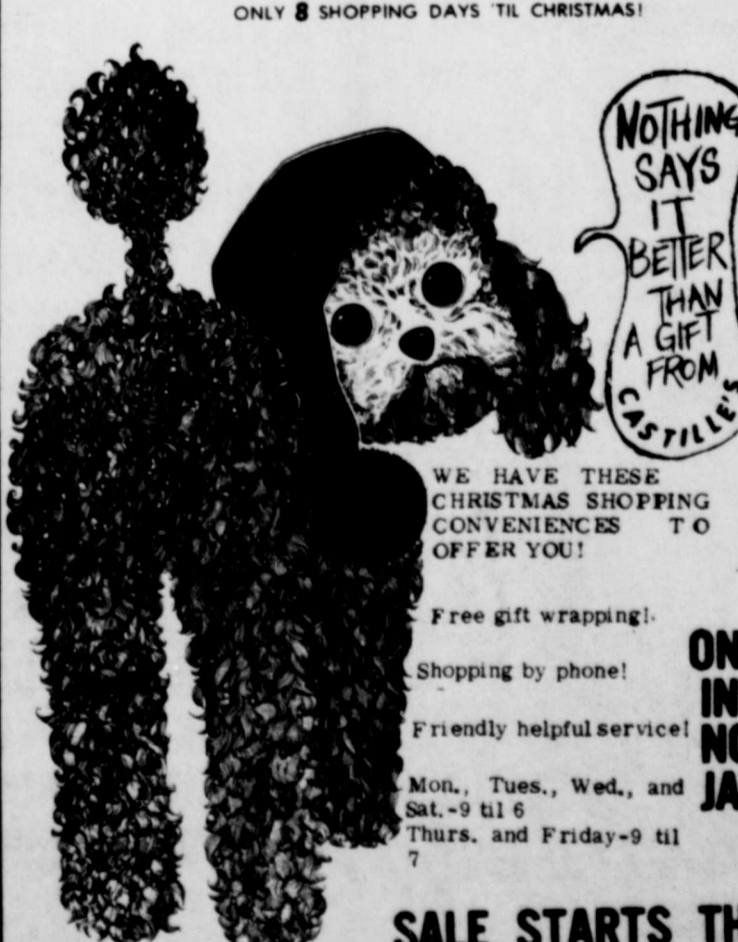
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Debbie Pack talks to Santa Claus

Civic Ballet this weekend

The Abilene Civic Ballet will give its annual Christmas Ballet Saturday and Sunday in the Abilene Civic Center. This year the A C B offers The Steadfast Tin Soldier,

an original ballet based on Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairy tale and choreographed by Ellen Rutherford, director of the A C B.

The story deals with the Christmas promise--the triumph of life over death by means of love. This triumph is celebrated by the love of the Tin Soldier for his Ballerina Doll and reinforced by the growing strength of the White Fairy.

The title role will be danced by Marc Dudley, former Merkel resident now of Austin, with Julia Siewert of Abilene portraying the ballerina doll that the soldier loves, Nancy Gore of Albany will dance the part of the White Fairy, while Anson Thomas of Lubbock and Mrs. Rutherford will dance the evil goblins. The total cast of 40 will include the entire company of the Abilene Civic Ballet.

Tickets are on sale at Abilene Civic Center Ticket Office, 1100 North 6th, at Abilene Ballet Center, 1205 Butternut, and in Merkel from Pat Dudley, 928-5642. Prices are \$3 for adults and \$2 for students-children. In groups of 10 or more, prices are \$1.50 and \$1, respectively.

Chef's Special

By Andy Anderson
Merkel Country Club



Salmon Pie Pirok (Russia)

Salmon Pie Pirok (Russia) Today's recipe although Russian in origin is used more by the people of northernmost Alaska. If you like salmon this is a great way to try it.

- 1 2 crust pie pastry
- 1 1/2 cup cooked rice
- 2 1 pound cans of salmon
- 2 medium onions, minced
- 1 Tbsp. butter

- 2 hard boiled eggs, finely chopped
- 2 stalks of celery, finely chopped (optional)

1. Line nine (9) inch pie pan with pie crust.
2. Place half the rice on crust; add salmon, season to taste.
3. Cook onions in butter.
4. Distribute onions, eggs and celery over salmon; add remaining rice.
5. Cover with second pie crust and perforate to allow steam to escape.
6. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.
7. Serve with your favorite cheese sauce.

Church sets play

The First Assembly of God Church of Merkel will have a three act play Sunday night. The play, open to the public, starts at 7 p.m.

First Assembly of God Church is located at Second and Rumlens.

Ex Nu Chi

Xi Nu Chi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met Tuesday in the home of Opal Garner. The meeting was called to order

by President Louise DuBose. Committee Reports were given. Kathy reported for Charlotte Starbuck, chairman of the Social Committee. "Everyone enjoyed the Christmas party and final score Arkansas 29, Texas University 12."

Following the business meeting Kathy Leverich program chairman, introduced the program on, "Fine Arts; Canvas and Clay, and Val Patterson gave an interesting program "Tribute to Music," song by Schubert and read the Club Collect.

Members present were: Bobby Mansfield, Val Patterson, Mamie Steck, Kathy Leverich, Connie Harris, Elizabeth Eager, Louise DuBose, Jocille Brady and Opal Garner.

Lambda Beta news

Lambda Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi held their regular meeting in the home of Barbara Welch, Tuesday, December 7th.

The program "Speech" was presented by Captain, Chera Hohertz, and Co-Captain Sarah Lucas.

The business meeting was called to order by President Betty Allday. Correspondence was read. The chapter has been invited to participate in Rehan 77. The chapter voted to participate. Committee reports were given. Mary Hill, Special Committee Chairman for December, reported that Lambda Beta's float had won first place in

the Christmas Parade. A special thank you was extended to all who helped and participated in the parade. Ginny Yaddow will be coordinator for the Family Portrait Sale. Coupons will be sold by members until January 7th. The pictures will be taken January 15 or 16 at the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. One 11 x 14 Color Family Portrait mounted on a Deco-Plaques will be sold for \$6.95. Prizes will be given for the top three members who sell the most coupons.

Christmas carols will be sung and December birthday gifts will be given at the Starr Nursing Home at 1:30, Saturday, December 11th. The Family Christmas Party will be held at the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, December 21st.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served by hostess, Barbara Welch. Members present were as follows: Betty Allday, Anne Booth, Milly Bright, Pat Castille, Annette Clark, Ann Loan, Bobbie Elliott, Judy Elliott, Gloria Henslee, Robbie Hicks, Mary Hill, Chera Hohertz, Faye Jones, Linda Leddy, Sarah Lucas, Terri Martin, Minyon Seymore, Glenda Teaff, Barbara Welch, and Ginny Yaddow.

Christmas Party at Starr Nursing Home was held by Lambda Beta Chapter and children who met at the Starr Nursing Home, December 11th for their monthly party. Refreshments were served and December birthday gifts were passed out. Christmas carols were sung followed by visiting and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mock wedding 'takes'

The Home and Family living class at Merkel High School held their annual mock wedding and reception Friday morning.

The wedding took place in the high school auditorium. Guests were fellow classmates of the HFL students. The preacher-Garland Childers; the groom-Scotty Elliott; the bride-Becky Watts; best man-Jerry

Butman; maid of honor-Sherry Collins; groomsmen-Ferrell Bagby, Tommy Davis, Glen Arnold, and Dwan English; bridesmaids-Cindy Hagar, Cindy Byrd, Paula Williams, and Sherry West; the groom's parents were Clifford Dye and Saadia Harris; the bride's parents were David Hendricks and Kathy Deason. Ushers included Greg Treadwell, Ferrell Bagby, Tommy Davis, Glen Arnold, and Dwan English. The wedding was sponsored by Mary Grimes, homemaking teacher.

HERO news

The HERO Club headed for the hills on Wednesday to chop down the Christmas tree for the High School hallway. On Thursday they decorated the tree as an annual project.

Members of the group are: Cherie Aiken, Suzette Santee, Carolyn Ross, Sherry Collins, Crystie Gardner, Kristi Nease, Mike Henry, Doug Roysden, Dana James, Becky Rister, Deborah White, Saadia Harris, Judy Diltz, Kathy Deason, Teresa Griffith and sponsor Mrs. Mary Grimes.

Millett assigned

Army Private John M. Millett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis L. Millett, Route 3, Merkel, recently was assigned as an infantryman in the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.



Mrs. Cathy Sparks

Holloway, Sparks exchange vows

Catherine Sue Holloway, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Truman L. Holloway, became

the bride of William David Sparks in a ceremony read Saturday in Tye Baptist Church.

The Rev. Leonard Payne officiated. The bride was given in marriage by her father.

WWI Auxiliary

The veterans of World War I and Ladies Auxiliary are planning a big Christmas party and final score Arkansas 29, Texas University 12."

Following the business meeting Kathy Leverich program chairman, introduced the program on, "Fine Arts; Canvas and Clay, and Val Patterson gave an interesting program "Tribute to Music," song by Schubert and read the Club Collect.

Members present were: Bobby Mansfield, Val Patterson, Mamie Steck, Kathy Leverich, Connie Harris, Elizabeth Eager, Louise DuBose, Jocille Brady and Opal Garner.

Merkel residents, Mr. and Mrs. Choc Jones.

TEL Class news

The T. E. L. Class of First Baptist Church had their Christmas Luncheon at Pug and Leo's with turkey and all the trimmings. Brother Kenneth Jones, pastor, gave a short Christmas story.

Those present to enjoy the luncheon and fellowship were Brother and Mrs. Jones, Dent and Paralee Gibson, Hattie Rogers, Estelle Humphrey, Hob Robertson, Bessie Clark, Vivian Winter, Ora Griggs, Ruby Jinks, Dewey Fleming, Ina Hunter, Maggie Renfro, Ruth Baze, Jewel Criswell, Fannie Keith and Bessie Perry.

Sparks is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William David Sparks Sr. of Tye.

Mrs. Buster Tarpley was her sister's matron of honor and, Tammy Martin was maid of honor.

Best man was David Kratz, of Tye and groomsmen were Gwen Tipton of Abilene, Jess Sparks of Tye, brother of the bridegroom, and Rusty Holloway, the bride's brother seated guests.

The couple will live at Tye. The bride is attending Merkel High School. A graduate of Merkel High School, the bridegroom is a student at Hardin Simmons University. He is employed by Safari Oil Company, Abilene.

The bridegroom's parents were hosts for the rehearsal dinner at their home.

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Badgers win easily

Merkel High School's boys easily coasted past Abilene team, 56-50, in non-district basketball Friday night in Abilene. The victory gives Coach Tony Mauldin's charges six wins against two losses. Merkel led 26-16 at halftime and was never in trouble.

Coach Mauldin's crew was to go against tough Colorado City in the opening District 6-AA contest Tuesday night before entering the Aspermont tournament Thursday through Saturday.

David Pfister led Merkel scoring with 17 points and had 7 rebounds. Donny Roggan had 13 points and 4

rebounds; Brad Pursley scored 9 and had a rebound; Grant Murrell scored 5 points and led rebounding with 9; Mike Sims and Keith Wolf each scored four points; Craig Hutchins two; Garth Doan, Randy Cox one each. Wolf had one rebound and Doan four.

For the game the Badgers hit 44 per cent of their field goals.

The Badgers are to meet Aspermont Thursday in the first round of the Aspermont tournament. Game time is 7 p.m.

After the tournament, the Badgers end Pre-Christmas action at Eula Tuesday night.



COTTON GALORE--The Merkel Cotton Gin Co-op is smothered with work this week as the cotton harvest is in full swing. It was delayed when it snowed last month,

causing many farmers to have to wait to strip their cotton from the fields after it had dried enough to get equipment onto the land.

L & W SNACK BAR

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It looks like December 9th has come and gone and from the comments and of what little I saw we had a very successful combination victory and Christmas party for the Badgers and our patrons. It would not have been possible if it weren't for the help we received from four very lovely and hardworking girls who donated their time and efforts. My gratitude and thanks which is very little by comparison with the work they did is given to Debbie Glasscock, Karen Pack, Suzy Hewitt, and Jodie Jinks. I would also like to thank Swift and Company for giving us a break on beef that was used. We served in the neighborhood of 200 people give or take a few.

Now, as you all know I don't carry tales, exaggerate, or indulge in gossiping, but I would like to say that I made several pecan pies and so far I have not talked to anyone with the exception of one person to find out if the pecan pies were good. I was asked early in the evening who it was that the pecan pies ran out the door with. They weren't sure whether Bobby Toliver was carrying the pie or the pie was carrying Bobby Toliver!

I would like to personally comment on the young people that attended our party. If children are going to act up-the one place that they usually do so is at a recreation center such as the L & W Snack Bar, however I am pleased to say they were on their best behavior. We did not have any trouble of any kind and the young people were even their own judges during the pool tournament. In my opinion they are a great bunch and were very considerate of everyone during the festivities. We are proud of the young people that patronize us and would like to say THANK YOU!

With any luck we are hoping that we will be able to do this again next year. Many thanks to all of you who showed up. I hope that you enjoyed yourselves as much as we enjoyed doing this. May we again wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fred Heady

Girls 1-1 in District 6-AA

Merkel High's girls basketball team is 1-1 in District 6-AA action after first week of district.

They lost the opening district game to Coahoma, 43-24, and then bounced back to defeat Winters, 51-34.

Against Coahoma, Merkel fell behind 7-1 after the first quarter but outscored Coahoma 13-12 the second quarter. However, the second half saw Merkel trail 13-4 and 11-6 the final two periods.

Gayle Teaff scored 16, Gay Pfister 2, Annemarie Rankin 6 for Merkel.

Merkel also lost the junior varsity battle, 43-26.

Winters meanwhile, defeated Colorado City, 60-55.

in its first district game. Wylie stopped Stamford, 69-35.

Against Winters, the charges of Coach Pat Pennick ran to a 12-6 first quarter edge and then held on for a 21-20 halftime edge before running away with the second half, 13-5 and 17-9.

Teaff scored 29 points to lead the Merkel attack, Kandi Ascencio add 9, Pfister 2 and Boone 11.

Merkel also won the junior varsity contest, 48-32.

The girls were to play at Colorado City Tuesday night before meeting Aspermont Thursday at 9 p.m. in first round of the Aspermont tournament. They end pre-holiday action Tuesday at Eula.

Basketball schedule

- DECEMBER 16--Merkel 8 boys, girls at Rotan, 5 p.m. Wylie at Merkel 9 boys, 5 p.m.
- DECEMBER 16--Merkel High boys, girls vs. Aspermont, 7 and 8:45 p.m. in Aspermont tournament.
- DECEMBER 16-18--Merkel 7 boys, girls in Buffalo Gap tournament.
- DECEMBER 21--Merkel High boys, girls at Eula, 6:30 p.m.
- DECEMBER 27-29--Merkel High boys at Hardin-Simmons tournament.

Trent girls capture second meet

Trent High School's girls basketball team captured their second straight tournament championship last weekend, winning the Hermleigh championship.

The girls started off the week with a 56-30 loss to Hawley as Robbie Freeman scored 17.

Moving to the Hermleigh tournament the girls beat Hermleigh, 48-28, with Freeman scoring 20; beat Paint Creek, 75-44 with Freeman getting a whopping 58; and in the finals dumped Hobbs, 64-49 with Terri Hamner

scoring 27 and Freeman 25. Pam Evans was named an all-tournament guard and Freeman was named most valuable player of the tournament.

Meanwhile, the boys continued their losing ways. As Coach Bobby Campbell pointed out the boys have not found the right combination yet, losing six times by less than 5 points.

Against Hawley the boys lost 51-27 with Rocky Bryan scoring 16.

Hermleigh won 41-38 in first round of the Hermleigh

tournament with Bryan leading scoring with 21. The Goyllas were eliminated Friday night, falling to Paint Creek, 55-32 with Bryan scoring 26.

Bryan was named all-

tournament. Trent was to play Hawley Tuesday at Trent for its final game before the holidays. They return to action December 30 through January 1 at the Hawley tournament.

Tri-City meet Monday

The Tri-City Baseball Project has set a meeting for Monday night.

The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Merkel Restaurant.

Purpose of the meeting is the lay out of the baseball diamonds.

7, 8th grades win

Merkel's Seventh and Eighth grade basketball teams won games last week.

The Seventh grade beat Stamford, 33-8 and the Eighth grade won 21-12.

Bart Pursley scored 8 and

Randy Martin 5 for the eighth graders.

The eighth grade team goes to Rotan Thursday while the Seventh graders play in the Buffalo Gap tourney starting Thursday.

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