

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Taylor County's  
Only Legal  
Weekly  
Newspaper

BIBLE VERSE  
When they saw the star, they  
rejoiced exceedingly with  
great joy. . . Then opening  
their treasures, they offered  
him gifts, gold and  
Frankincense and myrrh.  
Matthew 2:10-11



15¢

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## The true spirit of Christmas

As all Christendom pauses at Christmas time to celebrate the birth of the Saviour, it is especially fitting that we in the Merkel area be thankful for the blessing which have been ours during the past year.

We think it appropriate that we all take time to re-read again the beautiful story of the birth of Christ as told by Saint Luke in the King James Bible.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenus was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee,

out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which was called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David,)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

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

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

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

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

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

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the Shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

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

## THE MAIL

## Christmas messages from area ministers

By Carl Dingler



Merry Christmas and a very joyous holiday! All of the people here at The Merkel Mail wish to thank each of you personally for the many wonderful words of encouragement and for all the help and friendly assistance you have given us everyday of the year. Without your support and interest our job would have been much, much harder and the end product--your newspaper--would not have been as great. This has been a great Bicentennial year for us, in that we have known each of you and have done our best to present you with a truly representative newspaper. May the great relationship and friendship continue through each day of the new year. We are here to serve you and to bask in your joys and to comfort in your sorrows. So, from Publisher Steve Lanham and wife Kaye, Martha Sue Justice, Ann Doan, Lillian Pack, David Booth, Mychelle Hammond and myself and wife Karen, here's hoping old Santa provides you with more happiness and goodwill than you can possibly use in a lifetime. If so, share it with others as you have with us.

Here's a Christmas item we ran across and think it is worthy of note: The merry rejoicing at Christmas, celebrating the Birth of Christ, seeks to recapture the glory and wonder of the Nativity. People everywhere come together in warmth and goodwill, recalling the Source of the Spirit that binds them together.

Although Christmas is celebrated all over the world, it is not really known whether or not Jesus, as a boy, ever had a birthday party. Jews of His time did not celebrate birthdays. . . such observances were for kings and other important people, who lived in palaces. With or without birthday parties, Jesus had an enchanted childhood, so say the legends.

One such story says He made mud-pie birds one rainy day, and as He finished them, they flew away. For having bowed down to give its fruit to His Holy Mother, Jesus rewarded a palm tree by having a cutting of it planted in Paradise.

The Magic of Christmas is happily contagious, transforming the world in an atmosphere of brotherhood and anticipation. Its magic brings families together, inspires a spirit of generosity and giving, and fills the heart with a heady lightheartedness long remembered from one's childhood.

For it is in childhood that the magic of the Yuletide is felt most keenly. The air quivers with excitement and the promise of things to come. Pungent smells fill the house and little ones can hardly sleep, for listening to the furtive sounds of mom and dad tiptoeing and whispering and wrapping, far into the night.

An old French proverb says "Miracles happen only to those who believe in them." Surely, we can all believe! Surely we can reinforce our faith in miracles!

And, this taken from here and there:  
It isn't the money we get for the job  
That makes us happy and content,  
It's the joy we find in doing the thing  
That pays for the effort we've spent.  
It isn't the glory that follows the deed  
That counts for the utmost, my friend,  
It's the satisfaction we find in the act  
That pays the real dividend.  
It isn't the amount of material things  
That makes us rich, let me say  
It's the service we give to our fellowmen  
That pays the highest returns every day!

### The Star

Scientist and Astrologers are saying that there was a natural Star arrangement at the birth of Jesus that could account for the mysterious star the Wisemen followed. It was the combination of two or three stars in one position. They did also say, however, that the star could have been just like the Christmas story gives it. There is one thing I am sure about. It was God's Star. It is not difficult for me to believe in miracle stars after seeing the beautiful star here at the Methodist Church.

We have some windows in our church with glass that is a kind of milk white but is sort of crinkled and patterned. This window is like all other windows while it is light, but when it is dark there may not be another window in the world like it. This is not a large window and it is about one fourth way up the stairway leading to the balcony. I passed the window one night about two years ago and it was fairly dark in the church. When I looked out the window and saw the big star I was startled, and amazed, and truthfully I was a little frightened.

You can not see through this window in the daylight, but there it was now--a STAR that filled all the outside. It is not in the window--it simply fills all the outside view from that window. It is a colored star and gives the impression that it is a spiritual thing, and not the creation of man. I stood looking at the sight, bewildered, and confused. And then I thought--This is the Glory of God. The blinking of the eyes did not make it go away. Cautiously I started looking for an explanation. I went away and returned but it was still there. To make a long story--shorter--I looked for the explanation and this is what I found.

A parking lot light across the block at the far side of the Baptist Church grounds was reflecting through our church window. I do not know why a parking lot light makes a beautiful colored star as it shines through our window. All I know is--it is there and you can see it--that is if you look at the star through the window of the Methodist Church. No one else has a star like this one.

There is something strange about all this. The Baptists can not see the star unless they look through the Methodist window. But, on the other hand, the Methodist would not have a window with a star if the Baptist light was not shining into it. Wouldn't it be a terrible thing if the Methodist refused to let the Baptist look at the star through the Methodist window--and then the Baptist would cover up the light that shines to make the star--and then the Methodist wouldn't have a window with a star in it.

I am a little sad this Christmas because most of us will let the Wisemen follow the Star to the Christ--then all of a sudden we claim the Christ for our own little group. We should be in a battle FOR Christ--not in a dispute OVER Christ. Christmas represents CHRIST for all people--rich--poor--dirty--the haves--and the have nots. All people in Churches--and out of Churches are His Children.

Like the star in the window--The window can not make a star without the reflection of the light--but neither can the light make a star without the window. God gave us the Christ--but unless He shines in us--there is no light. We can not have light without

His love and salvation. Christ would have been born without a purpose unless we open our hearts and let Him come in.

The gift is also dependent upon the giver--There could not be a gift without the giver--The giver could know no fulfillment unless there is one to receive.

So, here at Christmas time--we send to you our love in the Spirit of the Christ, but it will be lost unless you receive what we offer.

Russell McAnally  
Pastor  
First United Methodist Church

### Tell It Like It Is

"Tell it like it is" has become almost a proverb in this modern society. Education, religion, and business, even politics, try to impress people with the need to adopt this basic idea--to make any message worth telling short enough to be remembered and long enough to include all important truths, broad enough to include everyone and challenging enough to restrict anyone; and directly to the point.

Such a message is the message of Christmas. Not the tinsel, lights, trees and presents to thrill the kids. Not the family reunions and home cooking that satisfies adults. And certainly not the emotional plays, nostalgic songs, and religious myths and traditions that at best only hint at the truth; but the stark reality of the Angelic proclamation of the birth of Jesus.

"And the angel said unto them, fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10-12)

The introduction, verse 10, prepared the hearers for the message. A message which was designed for their personal good and very deep well-being; for joy is much deeper than mere happiness. A universal message which would grow from a hillside arena to encompass the whole earth in coming centuries.

The heart of the message, verse 11, identified the person born to be the fulfillment of prophecy. Earlier proclaimed and promised, the message of the Savior's birth bore the unmistakable signature of God's accomplishment in prophetic fulfillment. His name, Jesus, means Savior, so the angel's words could not be forgotten. The mere calling of His name was a reminder. "Unto you is born a Savior. . ." from the very first, even as a babe, His earthly ministry was of the fore. The angel did not say the one born "will be" a savior, but that the "Savior is born." "Christ. . ." the one special promise of God of the Messiah at long last realized. And, wonder of wonders, He is "Christ the Lord. . ." The exclusive title applied only to Jehovah in the Old Testament, applied to Jesus, uniting through incarnation God and man in one person to accomplish total fulfillment of God's redemptive plan.

As Savior, Jesus was born to the cross of calvary bringing redemption from sin through His sacrificial death. As Christ, Jesus was born to the tomb, to carry to total defeat the power and bondage of sin and death. The sin-bearer of all those who open their hearts to Him.

As Lord, Jesus was born to resurrection, alive forevermore, establish-

ing His kingdom as eternal. First in the hearts and lives of His people and eventually, totally over Heaven and Earth.

Verse 12, then, concludes the message with both a direct and implied commission to the shepherds. Direct in the immediate location of the birth place so that they might meet Him personally. Implied in that they should share what they had both heard and seen so that those at every age who would personally submit to the King of Kings would partake of His eternal life and kingdom.

Yes, "Tell it like it is" the tinsel, lights, trees, santas, presents, parties, and gaiety are as much of a part of real

Christmas as an egg-laying rabbit is of a real Easter!

To you who decry the absence of Christ in Christmas, make sure that He, Jesus, is truly at the heart of your own personal Christmas. To you who know the Lord Jesus Christ and are repulsed by the extreme commercialism and emotionalism of the Christmas season, please reflect. This is the best they have or ever will have unless you share the real message of Christmas with them. Don't just tell them what is wrong! Tell them what or better, who, is right! Tell it Like It Is. . . and soon. . . and often. Have a real, joyful Christmas.

By Jim Lawless, Pastor  
First Baptist Church,  
Trent

### 'A Man Called Christ'

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village where He worked in a carpenter's shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was a traveling preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house.

He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things we usually associate with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him.

His friends ran away. He was betrayed. He was turned over to enemies. He was sold for thirty pieces of silver. He had a mock-up trial.

He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.

He had executioners who gambled for His clothes while He was dying.

He had no other possessions or property.

He was laid in a borrowed grave by a friend when He was dead.

He is the central figure of the human race today after nineteen centuries. He is today still the inspiration and leader of human progress.

All the armed forces that ever marched.

All the navies that ever sailed.

All the governments that ever sat.

All the kings that ever ruled.

All put together.

Have not affected the life of man on earth as much as that one solitary life of a man called Christ.

Father Jerome O'Mahony  
Our Mother of Mercy  
Catholic Church, Merkel

## Trent Livestock Show Jan. 15

The Trent Livestock Show is set Saturday, January 15, at 10 a.m. at the Trent Vocational Agriculture Barn. There will be an FFA-FHA barbecue lunch at the school cafeteria from 11:30 to 1 p.m. that day.

Competition in the day-long show will include rabbits, poultry, horses, sheep, swine and beef cattle projects. Floyd Collins, Snyder agriculture teacher, will judge the competition.



BROWNIE PARTY--Members of the Merkel Brownies were feted with a special visit from Santa Claus December 15 at the Scout Hut during their Christmas party.

May you share the wondrous tidings of this Holy Season. Merry Christmas and sincerest thanks.



**WILSON JEWELERS**

Dear Santa,  
How is Rudolph the rednose reindeer feeling? He has a red nose. For Christmas I want some cars, stretch Armstrong, money, paint, bow and arrow, and a bunch more. Tell Mrs. Santa and the Elves &

## Letters to Santa Claus

Rudolph & Deer a Merry Christmas.  
Sincerely Your Friend  
Regina Stuckey  
3rd Grade

I want of Xmas, this is what they are. 1. a go cart, 2. a giter, 3. some hot weele cars, 4. a bicicle 5. thundership 500, 6. can allye.  
Sincerely  
Warren Stephens

Dear Santa Claus, please bring me a new bicycle and a bebe gun and sum bbs with it.  
Sincerely  
Doug Baltezo

I wish I got a bbgun, I wish I got some mittens, I wish I got some sokse for Christmas.  
Your friend,  
John

me a tenspeed a scope, gun, games.  
Sincerely  
Dean Franklin

Dear Santa Claus,  
I want a surprise for Christmas. I have a little brother named Kevin and a cousin named Tanya. Say hi to your reindeer and elves and Mrs. Santa Claus, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.  
With love,  
Kelly Riney

Dear Santa Claus,  
I like a bike and a space 1999 space ship and a go cart and some clothes and a J. J. Arns and his car and please put the candy in my stocking. I wish you a Merry Christmas and I will have a Merry Christmas.  
Sincerely  
Kirk Heyen

Dear Santa Claus  
Please bring me a some toys. I don't care what you give me. The class made a gift for they mothers.  
Sincerely  
Lucretia Wad

Dear Santa,  
I would like a sthatamstar please and a tore arsse.  
Sincerely  
Robin Ray

Dear Santa,  
how are you doing could I ask you some things for Christmas I would like a race car and some trucks and a b b gun a watch some cloths and some shoes and a plane some books a coat a cowboy hat, some boots some soxs some crayoms some paper  
Sincerely  
Richie Holcomb

Dear Santa  
I hope this letter finds you well, if you are not well I hope you are well soon. I am trying to be a good boy but sometimes it's hard. I have made a list of thinks

Dear Santa Clause,  
I want a Baby Thumbelna or a Sleep Baby Sleep.  
With Love,  
Lorie Kimbrell

Dear Santa  
I want some pencils and paper and clothes and this barbie that you can turn her hair and it is white and you can turn her hair and it is black.  
Love  
Luan

Dear Santa,  
I think I have been a pretty good girl this year. I would like to have a bike, a house coat, a gown, a radio and a doll. See you soon.  
Your friend  
Tammy Montgomery

Dear Santa For Christmas I want a drum set. And I want a nice little penguin  
Sincerely  
Devin, Sanford

Dear, Santa, I have been good this year, will you get me a gutter and a walktalky and a pelletgun and a car and a watch and that's all, be sure and get my sister and brother something. And all the other kids in Merkel  
love  
Dennis Fortune

**Tickets available**

Dear Santa  
I hope you don't go to sleep and don't wake up like are Christmas play were going to have, and don't forget to bring

Benny Melton of the Merkel Chamber of Commerce reports he has received 25 tickets to the Fort Worth fatstock show and rodeo. The tickets are for Saturday, February 5 and are \$4 each. Anyone planning to attend and need tickets for this date may purchase them at the Chamber office.

# Christmas Greetings



May love and happiness decorate your holiday and everyone around your tree share the special joy that only Christmas brings! At this festive season we reach out to greet the friends who mean so much to us all year through. Thanks for being part of our lives.

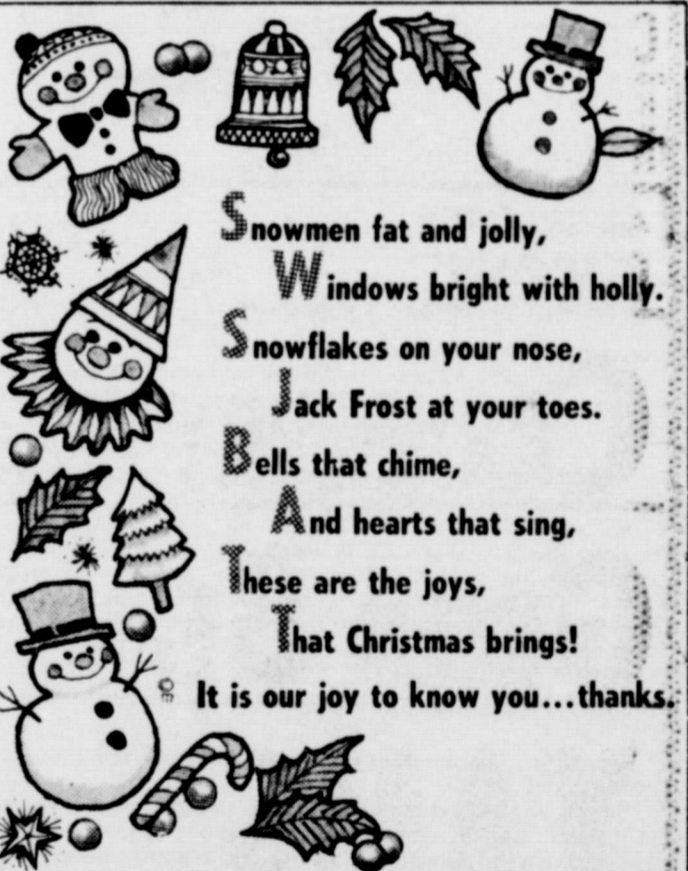
Merry, Merry Christmas!  
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And hearts that sing,  
These are the joys,  
That Christmas brings!  
It is our joy to know you... thanks.

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



We join Frosty in extending warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful holiday from beginning to end.

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE MERKEL MAIL  
Thursday, December 23, 1976

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**Shafer Plows - Continal Belton Products**  
677-4349  
**DOTY FARM EQUIPMENT CO.**  
366 Chestnut  
Nights-Sundays-Holidays 672-2451 - 698-2572

**Miscellaneous**

**MERKEL VFW POST 5683**  
MONTHLY REG. MEETING 8:30 P.M.  
SECOND THURSDAY POST & LADIES AUXILIARY Y'ALL COME NOW!

**MASONIC MEETING**  
Stated meeting of Merkel Lodge No. 710 on 2nd Saturday and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Visitors welcome Members urged to attend.

**WILEY NOAH, W.M.**  
ROY MASHBURN, Sec'y

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

**REAL ESTATE**

LAND FOR SALE? CALL Collect-Bill Largent, Farm and Ranch Mgr. at Frances McClure Inc., Realtors. 3157 South 27th Abilene. 698-3211, Night 698-2375

46-4tc

**LOW COST HOUSING**  
situated in Merkel. Over 800 square feet, 1 bedroom, living room, 1 bath with extra room. Only \$4,200. Downing and Baggett Real Estate, 698-9056.

41-4tc

**PP PRESTIGE HOMES & PROPERTIES**

317 N. Willis Suite 20 Abilene 673-6444

LARGE RANCH wanted with nice home for out of state buyer. Call us now!

136 acres on FM 707 north of I-20, city water available, live creek, 2 tanks, 1/4 minerals. Ideal for development.

Shannon Teal...692-0787  
Morris Harper...698-9689  
Pauline Butman, GRI...692-2222

REALTORS

MERKEL BRANCH OFFICE Billy and Pat Neff, 928-5623  
Equal Housing Opportunity

**WATER LINES**  
DUG AND LAID CALL 776-2181 OR 993-4232 AFTER 5 P.M. 776-2535

**TYPEWRITERS ADDING MACHINES SALES SERVICE RENTALS**  
PHONE 928-5374  
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**CAN HAUL DIRT ROCK & GRAVEL LEVEL & REPAIR DRIVEWAYS**  
Call Evenings  
**Harold Walker**  
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**TIRED of looking for just the right gift?**

**FOR YOUR WELDING NEEDS CALL JOHN LUCKEY 928-5149 MERKEL**

May we suggest a subscription to

**The Merkel Mail**  
916 N. Second Phone 928-5712

**TOOMBS REAL ESTATE**  
**FREDDY TOOMBS (BROKER)**  
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40 ACRES FOR SALE Noodle area on paved road. Will divide for veterans.

HIGHWAY FRONTAGE, on I-20. For commercial use for sale.

2 BEDROOM HOUSE Fenced yard, paneled kitchen, completely re-decorated.

VACANT LOTS FOR SALE-for trailer and buildings in all sections of town.

**WE NEED ALL KINDS OF LISTINGS HOUSES, FARMS & RANCHES**

**HOUSE FOR RENT.** Call 928-5725. 44-1tc

**FOR SALE**

ONE 11 x 14 COLOR FAMILY PORTRAIT mounted on a deco-plaque \$6.95. To be taken January 15 or 16. Contact Lambda Beta member of combe Castille's by January 7.

43-3tc

**FOR SALE-New Zealand Reds, Whites, and Blacks.** Good show rabbits. Jody Pittman, 3249 Melinda Lane, Abilene or call 672-9654.

40-4tp

**MCGUFFEY READERS,** set of seven \$16.95 postpaid. Ervin Enterprises, McDowell, Virginia 24458. Phone 703-396-6207.

44-3tc

**FOR SALE-1970 V. W.** window van with 3 seats-1,000 miles on new motor. Less than 100 miles on new rear end. C. V. joints guaranteed 6-months or 6,000 miles by V. W. house-60,000 miles and like new inside. 1965 long wide automatic and air Chevrolet pick-up, 928-5324 after 4:00.

44-1tc

**STARTING DECEMBER 19th** a representative of the Higinbotham Fur Company will be in Merkel at the Shamrock Truck Stop from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. to buy furs every Sunday.

44-3tp

**"HAVE TRUCK, WILL TRAVEL"**

**S. K. TRUCKING COMPANY**

**COMPLETE SEPTIC TANK SERVICE  
SPECIALIZE IN PUMPING SEPTIC TANKS, MUD TRAPS, & SAND TRAPS**

**CHARLES SCOTT, OWNER**  
BOX 247  
TYE, TEXAS 79563

CALL COLLECT 915-692-0078

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: Al White, Respondent; GREETINGS: YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED 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 10th day of December, 1976, against Al White, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 12,633-DR on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Interest of Baby Boy A George and Baby Boy B George, children, the nature of which suit is a request to terminate parent-child relationship.

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

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this 10th day of December, 1976.

(Seal) Irene Crawford Clerk, Domestic Relations Court, Taylor County, Texas. By Faye Lyons, Deputy. 44-1tc

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: Teresa Tarin, Respondent; GREETINGS: YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED 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 Salvador Borrego and Veronica Borrego, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 15th day of December, 1976, against Teresa Tarin, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 12,650-DR on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Interest of Mary Ann Tarin, a Child," the nature of which suit is a request to Terminate the Parent-Child Relationship. Said child was born the 26th day of July, 1975, in Trent, Texas.

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

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this 15th day of December, 1976.

(Seal) Irene Crawford Clerk, Domestic Relations Court, Taylor County, Texas. By Sandra Harris, Deputy. 44-1tc

**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 "F" Hughes Subdivision of Lot 4, Block 204, original town of

Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, and 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 door, 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 law, 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



May we suggest a subscription to

**The Merkel Mail**  
916 N. Second Phone 928-5712

# Badgers open H-SU tourney



**JOY  
TO  
THE  
WORLD**

**CYRUS PEE  
INSURANCE  
CYRUS & ETHEL**

Coach Tony Mauldin's Merkel High boys squad will open the Hardin-Simmons University tournament at 9 a.m. Monday against Anson. Coach Mauldin said he will have to do something to get his team ready to play at that early hour. "I have never had much luck playing early morning games," he said. Should the Badgers win Monday they will play the winner of the Haskell-Winters game Tuesday at 2:15 p.m. If they lose they play again at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Clyde and Roscoe meet at 12:30 Monday and Cooper JV has a bye.

Should the Badgers win both Monday and Tuesday they will play their third game at 2:15 p.m. Wednesday, December 29. Consolation finals is 5:30 p.m. and third place game is 7:15 p.m.

Teams in the other half of the 15- team tournament at Rose Field House on the H-SU campus include Wylie against Ranger at 2:15 p.m. Monday; Big Spring vs. Jim Ned at 5 p.m.; Abilene Christian High School vs. Baird at 6:45 p.m.; and Albany against Abilene JV at 8:30 p.m.



**ANNIVERSARY**--Onis Graham of Trent will observe 30 years with Skelly Oil Company February 1. He has been a pumper and worked for Skelly all that time in Trent. He will be recognized in the February issue of The Scanner, official publication of Skelly Oil Company.

### Compare HD Club

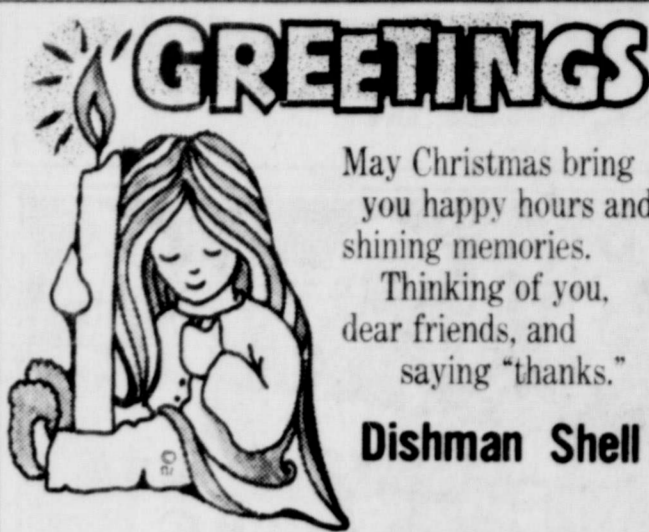
Compare Home Demonstration Club met Thursday night December 9 in the home of Mrs. Clyde Chancey. Club president Mrs. Ab Hunter called the meeting to order and presided for a brief business session.

Gathered around a beautiful Christmas tree the group joined in singing the Christmas carols. Mrs. Hugh Taylor read a poem and Mrs. Clarence Allen gave two beautiful Christmas stories. Games were played and gifts were exchanged. Pictures were made.

Refreshments were served to mesdames: Ab Hunter, Ernest Spurgin, Dewey Ramsey, Clarence Allen, Don Adair, Hugh Taylor, Clyde

Chancey and one visitor Mrs. Rupert Woodard from Hawley. Compare Club meetings are open to anyone wishing to attend.

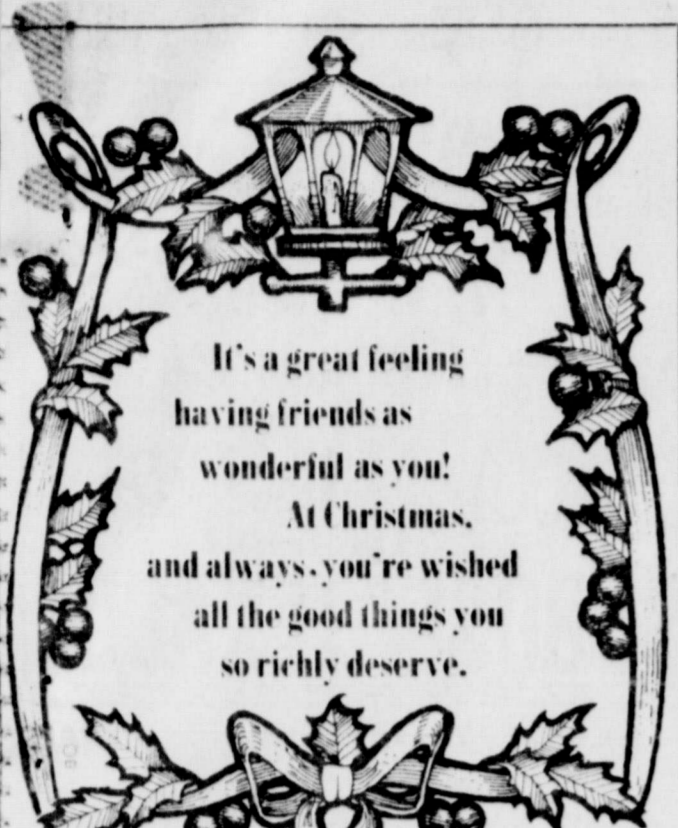
**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
MARGARET NEWBY**



May Christmas bring you happy hours and shining memories. Thinking of you, dear friends, and saying "thanks."

**Dishman Shell**

**Wright & Alan**



It's a great feeling having friends as wonderful as you! At Christmas, and always, you're wished all the good things you so richly deserve.

**CRAWFORD'S  
DELPHINE, MARY SUE,  
LATINA, & ONIS**



Hoping your holidays will be a blaze of joy and merriment! Thanks for your good will.

**EASTILLE HARDWARE  
& GIFTS  
ROSEY, PAT AND FAMILY**

# JOY TO THE WORLD



May the Holy Blessed Meaning of His birth be yours at Christmas. Reverent thanks one and all.

**BONEY AND BENNY**

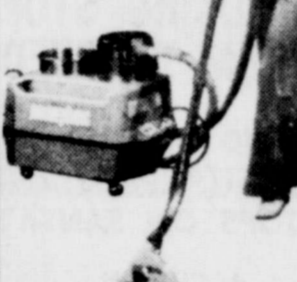


**ALL  
HAILE  
THE  
NEWBORN  
KING!**

**LOIS'  
BEAUTY SALON**

**RENT OUR  
RINSE VAC  
Get carpets  
professionally  
clean.**

New RINSE VAC operates on the same principle to get your carpets professionally clean. Portable and easy to operate. We'll show you how RINSE VAC is the powerhouse that cleans, rinses and vacuums out dirt and residue. RINSE VAC cleans carpets cleaner - keeps them cleaner longer.



**Ben Franklin  
201 KENT  
MERKEL**



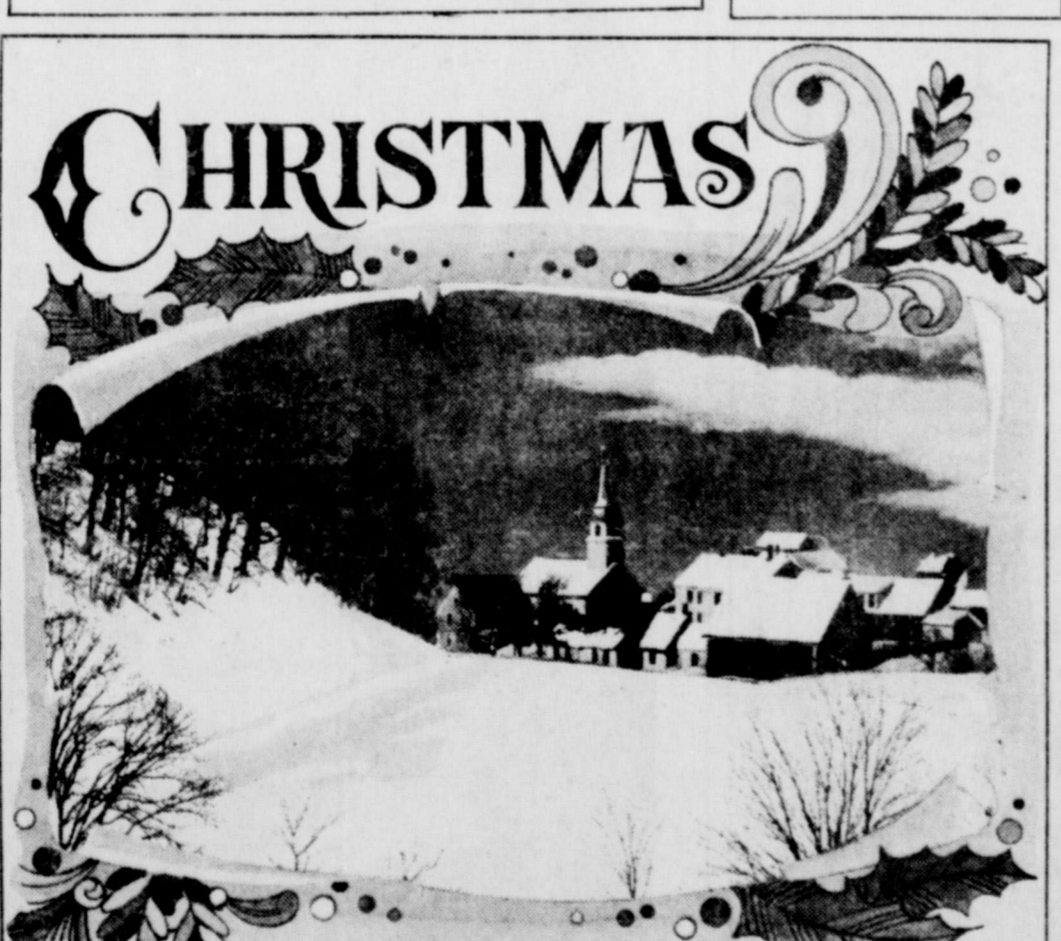
*Sincere  
Good Wishes*  
Hoping all the precious things in Life will come to you this Christmas! Warm thanks.

To Our Friends And Customers  
**W.J. and Hope Patterson**



**PRINCE  
of  
PEACE**

May the Glory of Christmas be an inspiration to you now and for all time. Thanks.  
**J. L. FISHER FINA STATIONS  
AND  
MERKEL AUTO PARTS**



# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

A December day is all the more beautiful in remembering... Thinking of you and wishing you every happiness at Christmas.

**MERKEL DRUG CO.**



When we count our blessings at Christmas time we think of friends like you and wish you a beautiful holiday in a beautiful world!

**BEN  
FRANKLIN**



May your holidays be merry and marvelous... festive wishes from Santa and us.  
**BRAGGS  
DEPARTMENT STORE  
MARY, ETHEL, FLORENCE, & FERN**

# Letters to Santa Claus

avecherpeple and, thats all I want I guess.  
Sincerely  
Wayne Johnson

Dear Santa Claus, I want a airplane that has a motor and a rastrak that will run an, an clothes, some boy shouse, Thank you Santa I love you very much, I'm good,  
Kerry Miller



That magical Christmas feeling,  
And warm, lasting glow,  
Come from thanking the friends,  
We're so happy to know!

**STAR  
HARDWARE  
- TRENT**

Dear Santa Claus  
Please bring me a TV Tenus and some Hot Wheel Cars I will leve you some cocies and some milk, I will leave two carrots and a apple for your reindeer.  
Sincerely,  
Kevin Coker

Dear Santa Claus,  
Please bring me a Barbie Beaty Center and clothes and some Barbie Cloths.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas.  
Sincerely  
Cammie Bright

Dear Santa Claus,  
Please bring me a motor bike and a go cart, and please fill my stocking up. Do you rele have reindeer and do you go there the chimney.  
Sincerely  
Chris Ortega

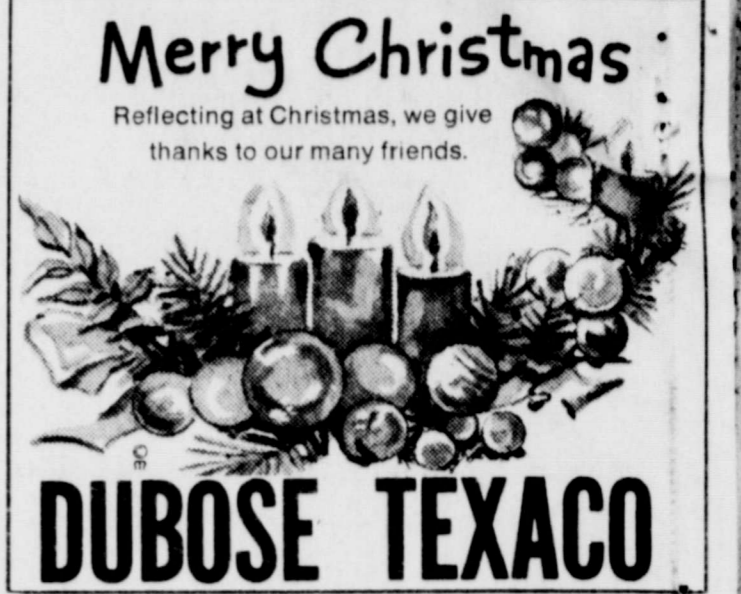
hope you come to my house,  
Love Monica Atkinson

Dear Santa,  
How are things at the North Pole. I hope you are feeling good. We are going to put up our Christmas tree on Sunday, I would like to have a box of music insterments, And notebook paper. We are doing a play and it's called Wake up Santa Clause. For our Christmas party at school, I would like a 3 story barbie's townhouse. How are your reindeer. A watch.  
Sincerely,  
Amy Irvin,

want this year a flag a shelf a train and some peacles & book sachl and some other stuff.  
Sincerely  
Christphor Horton

Dear Santa  
I hope you are doing fine. I can't wait until Christmas Eve, I have my Christmas tree up, I wish for a doll-house for Christmas and a toybox. How is Mrs. Claus? We are having a play and I am Mrs. Claus. I am being good. How are the reindeer? We miss you very much.  
Sincerely,  
Debbi McLeod

**Merry Christmas**  
Reflecting at Christmas, we give thanks to our many friends.



**DUBOSE TEXACO**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

With glad thoughts of Christmas in our hearts, we wish one and all the best of this beautiful, bountiful time. Warm thanks.

**WILSON'S  
FOOD STORE**

**Peace**



Our wish is that you be blessed with the sweet peace of the Christmas Story. Warm thanks.

**BARNETT'S  
BARBER SHOP**

Dear Santa Clause  
Pleas bring me a six molion dollar man an mascatron and big jim and g I joe set and evil convie,  
with love,  
Alfred Flores

Dear Santa Claus,  
I want a TV Money Magic and clothes I want a Holly Hobby Oven and I want a pair of Shoes.  
With Love,  
Gayle Landeros,

Dear Santa,  
I hope you well bring me a ten-speed and a electrical plane with fluid and a bull horn and a bunch of hotwheels and a My town and a ping pong and a t. v. tennes and a air hocky and a on of the things that are log.  
Love,  
Todd Yaddow

Dear Santa,  
I wote hoss little baby. Are you doing well yes or no and are the raindeer doing well yes or no  
love  
Barbara Kinder

Dear Santa,  
I hope you, bring me, a flying aces and some marbles, and arny peple and, some cars, and the

Dear Santa  
I hope reindeer can make the round this year and I hope you come to my house and the other good little boys and girls and this is what I



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Celebrating the time of Santa, of Joy, of Giving! We send you sparkling wishes and sincere appreciation.

**SYBLE'S  
BEAUTY NOOK**



Let there be **LOVE** at Christmas

**LEMENS BUTANE AND PROPANE  
CLYDE AND MERKEL**



**Merry Christmas**

We wooden miss this opportunity to hope the magic of Christmas touches you all. Thanks to our neighbors.

**Higginbotham-Bartlett Co.**  
Pat, Linda, & Family, Ikey Garrett

**WILSON JEWELRY HAS STOCKING STUFFERS FOR WARM HEARTED SANTAS**

**AND BULOVA QUARTZ DIGITAL WATCHES ARE TOPS ON SANTA'S LIST!**



ACCUTRON  
BULOVA  
CARAVELLE

**JEWELRY, GLASSWARE, AND GIFTS ARE OUR SPECIALTY.**

**WILSON JEWELRY**


141 EDWARDS      PHONE 928-5621



**Christmas Wishes**

May the seeds of love and hope flower for you and your loved ones at Christmas time. Our best wishes and thanks.

**Ann's Flowers**  
Ann, Vernon, & Family



To faithful old friends,  
To cherished new friends,  
Our thanks and best wishes for a Merry,

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**ARROW FORD - ABILENE**

**Christmas Wishes**

Let there be love at Christmas when all the world is warm and bright with dreams. In the hushed landscape of this glorious season, we send tidings of comfort and joy and continuing thanks to all!



**THE EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTRY CLUB OF MERKEL WISH OUR MEMBERS AND GOOD NEIGHBORS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**



BASKETBALL VARSITY--Members of the Merkell High School's Badger basketball team this year are front row, left to right: Keith Austermaier (41), Randy Cox (21), Mike Sims (31), Craig Hutchings (43) and Donny Riggan (23). Back

row: Coach Tony Mauldin, Ricky Howes (33), Brad Pursley (13), David Pfeister (15), Keith Wolf (35), Garth Doan (51) and Grant Murrell (25).

**Moses in Georgia**

Now serving at Moody AFB, Georgia, with a Tactical Air Command unit is Airman First Class Alvin L. Moses, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Moses of Route 2, Trent, Okla.

Airman Moses, an environmental systems specialist, was previously assigned at Ramstein AB, Germany.

The airman is a 1974 graduate of Trent High School.

**Wade earns degree**

Cynthia Wade of Merkell has earned a Master of Science degree from Oklahoma State University.

She is one of 1,018 candidates for degrees.

The mid-year graduates will be listed in the spring commencement and encouraged to participate in graduation rites May 14.

**Soil samples**

Soil testing holds the key to profitable crop production and efficient use of fertilizer. And the time to collect soil samples for testing is now, contends a soil chemist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Soils contain various levels of nutrients for plant growth, and most soils require additions of these nutrients for top crop production. Without soil testing, use of fertilizer is strictly a guessing game. Soil testing provides essential information on the amount of nutrients in the soil and the level of fertilization required to reach certain production goals.

The Jones County Junior Food Show and Project Show was held Saturday, December 11 at the Bethel Lutheran Church in the Ericksdahl community. Twenty-one 4-H members enrolled in the foods and nutrition project participated in the show.

Winners in the four divisions are:

Main Dishes--Junior Division Top Winner--Lettitia Willis, Lueders, Mexican Casserole. Alternate--Penny Waggoner, Hamlin, Chiquillas Casserole.

Side Dishes--Junior Division Top Winner--Mindy Watts, Avoca, Tossed Salad. Alternate--Debra Brown, Hamlin, Dorito Salad. Other

**Bankers school**

One of the highlights of the 25th Farm and Ranch Credit School for Commercial Bankers, February 7-9, at Texas A & M University will be a session on making agricultural loans. Loans will be discussed for six major areas--field crops, cow-calf operations, feedlots, dairies, rice and grain storage and warehousing. The school will also feature sessions on recent developments in agriculture, obtaining capital, and the outlook for crops, livestock and the money market, says an economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

"Ridicule is the test of truth."  
William Hazlitt

"He that can endure all can dare all."  
Vauvenargues

**GROUP LADIES ARTHUR BYER**  
**PANTS, SHELLS, JACKETS**  
**20% OFF REG. PRICE**

**BOYS**  
**KNIT & BRUSH DENIM SUITS**  
**25% OFF REG. PRICE**

**VINYL JACKETS**  
**25% OFF**

**FELT HATS**  
**\$35.00 VALUE**  
**NOW \$25.00**

**FOR THE ONE ON YOUR GIFT LIST THAT REALLY HAS YOU STUMPED-- A GIFT CERTIFICATE IS A GREAT IDEA!**

**GROUP MENS KNIT PANTS**  
**JUST \$12.00 & \$16.00**

**GROUP KNIT PULLOVERS**  
**SIZES 5-16**  
**20% OFF REG. PRICE**

**TONY LAMA BOOTS**  
**10% - 20% OFF**  
**REG. PRICE**

**(A) WESTERN HOUSE**  
924 N. 2nd MERKEL, TEXAS

**Irvin alternate winner in food show**

Blue Ribbon Winner: Adam Olson, Lueders, Pumpkin Pudding.

Snacks and Beverages--Junior Division Top Winner--Amanda Martin, Avoca, Apricot Balls. Alternate--Glenda McCandless, Stamford, Cheese Ball. Other Blue Ribbon Winners: Christi Terrell, Stamford, Rice Krispie Treats; Siduey Dickerson, Anson, Broccoli Conquesodis; Linda Rorie, Stamford, Peanut Butter Stuck; Emily Olson, Lueders, Chocolate Chip Cookies.

Breads and Desserts--Junior Division Top Winner--Susan Miller, Stamford, Cheesy Cherry Cake. Alternate Winner--Gayle Irvin, Noodle, Rum Cake. Other Blue Winners: Myra Olson, Lueders, Blueberry Pie, Leslie Morris, Hawley, Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies; Kara Bolding, Stamford, Sal Sacks; Beckey Smith, Hawley, Magic Fruitcake; Anita Blair, Avoca, Biscuits; Tammy Morrow, Anson, Hot Rolls; Vickie Hawthorne, Anson, Strawberry Ice Box Cake.

Breads and Desserts--Free 4-Her Top Winner--Fam Willis, Lueders, Cherry Cream Cheese Pie.

Project Show Blue Ribbons:

**Chef's Special**

By Andy Anderson  
Merkel Country Club



**Ham loaf rings**

Here's something that will help you fix that left over Christmas ham in a special way; that will delight your family.

- 1 lb. ground ham, cooked
- 1 lb. ground veal
- 1 cup soft bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup chopped onions
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 Tbsp. prepared mustard
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1-10 oz. package frozen peas cooked and drained
- 1-6 oz. can broiled mushroom crowns (undrained)
- 1/8 tsp. thyme
- 1/8 tsp. rosemary
- 2 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 6 medium yams cooked,

- peeled and quartered.
- 1. Combine ham, veal, bread crumbs, onion, parsley, eggs, milk, sour cream, mustard and pepper in large mixing bowl, mix well.
- 2. Press ham mixture into well greased 6 1/2 cup ring mold.
- 3. Bake in 350 degree oven 45 minutes.
- 4. Drain excess liquid, unmold onto serving platter.
- 5. Combine peas, mushrooms, herbs and butter in small sauce pan; cook over medium heat until heated through.
- 6. Place part of yams in center of ham ring; spoon part of vegetable mixture over yams.
- 7. Serve remaining vegetables around ham ring. Yield 6 servings.

**Fortnightly Study Club news**

The home of Mrs. Comer Haynes, beautifully decorated for the holidays, was the scene of the Fortnightly Study Club Christmas program.

Mrs. Carl Hughes gave "The Cowboy's Christmas Prayer," and Mrs. Dond Dudley reviewed Henry Van Dyke's Story of the Other Wise Man, the story of a fourth wise man who set out bearing precious gifts for the Christ Child, but used his gifts and his life helping those in need, so that he never ar-

rived to worship the King. Mrs. Mattie Moore was a guest, and members present were Mrs. Johnny Cox, Mrs. W. R. Gypert, Mrs. S. C. Dixon, Mrs. Don Dudley, Mrs. L. A. Dudley, Mrs. Bryan Dunagin, Mrs. Charles Eager, Mrs. Mack Fisher, Mrs. David Gamble, Mrs. S. D. Gamble, Miss Mildred Hamm, Mrs. J. W. Hammond, Mrs. Comer Haynes, Mrs. Buster Horton, Mrs. Carl Hughes, Mrs. C. B. Knight, Mrs. Ed Sandusky,

**Stith HD news**

The Stith Home Demonstration Club met December 14 in the home of Mrs. Vada Hudson. A covered dish luncheon was served at noon. After lunch we had a short program and games were brought by Daisy Mashburn. Then we had our

Christmas tree with secret pals being revealed. There were 9 present, Vada Hudson, Louise Hudson, Dolly Reddin, Mary Walker, Mae Jones, Daisy Mashburn, Ruby Shipman, Margaret Dickerson and Tricia Newsom.

**Clemmer earns degree**

Markus E. Clemmer of Merkell is a centennial graduate of Texas A & M University. Clemmer, son of R. E. Clemmer Jr. of Route 3, received his undergraduate

degree in animal science from Texas A & M. Texas A & M had a total of 1,418 fall graduates, a mid-term record for the state's first public institution of higher learning, now entering its second century.

**Merkel girls lose in finals**

**Basketball schedule**

Merkel High's boys lost their opening District 6-AA contest to Colorado City while the girls won their second in three games.

Coach Tony Mauldin's charges fell, 87-54, while Coach Pat Penick's girls won, 47-38.

For the boys, Keith Wolf had 19; Brad Pursley, David Pfeister, Mike Sims, and Grant Murrell each had 6; Donny Riggan scored 8; Ricky Howes 1; and Keith Shields 2.

For the girls Gayle Teaff had 16, Kandi Ascencio 9, Cindy Boone 12, Gay Pfeister 4, and Annemarie Rankin 6. In other district games, Coahoma boys beat Stamford, 51-38 and Coahoma girls won 44-31; Winters edged Ballinger boys 49-44 and Winters girls won, 48-46.

Also, Ballinger beat Colorado City boys 69-56 and Colorado City girls won, 46-

38. Winters lost to Stamford boys, 69-57 and Stamford won the girls game 65-41. Coahoma also beat Wylie boys 68-61 and Wylie girls won 57-35.

From the District game the Badgers move to Aspermont and tournament action.

The boys lost in the consolation finals, 80-59 with Riggan scoring 14. They lost to Aspermont, 60-56 in first round as Wolf got 14 and then beat Rule 74-58 in second round as Pursley scored 22.

Meanwhile, the girls reached the championship finals before falling to Paducah, 53-39. Teaff had 21 points.

The girls beat Aspermont, 47-37 in the opener as Teaff scored 22 and then edged Rule, 51-49 and again Teaff had 22 points.

Hamlin beat Aspermont boys, 58-50 for the boys championship.

Merkel was to play at Eula Tuesday night to end pre-holiday action.

Coahoma boys are leading the district with a 2-0 record, Merkel and Wylie boys are 0-1 and the rest of the district is 1-1.

December 21--Merkel boys, girls at Eula, 6:30 p.m.  
December 27-29--Merkel boys vs. Anson in Hardin-Simmons tournament, 9 a.m.  
January 3--Jim Ned at Merkel 7, 8 boys and girls, 5:30 p.m.  
Merkel 9 boys at Stamford, 7 p.m.  
January 4--Ballinger at Merkel boys, girls, 5 p.m. (District 6-AA game)  
January 6-8--Merkel 8, 9 boys at Sweetwater tournament  
January 7--Merkel boys, girls at Stamford, 4 p.m. (District 6-AA game)

**Bless You\*\***  
**\*\* At Christmas**

**KWFA RADIO**

**Middle School wins consolation**

Merkel's Seventh and Eighth grade basketball team won the consolation title at the Butterfield tournament in Buffalo Gap over the weekend.

Danny Riggan and Kevin Farmer led the two wins and a loss in scoring.

Merkel lost the opener to Butterfield, 55-39, as Riggan got 14 and Farmer 10.

They beat Roscoe, 53-24 with Riggan scoring 32 and Farmer 9. Then in the finals they beat Wylie, 54-23 with Riggan scoring 27 and Farmer 13.

Coach Russell Gee said the team played "real well" and did a good job although they were "a little tired" the final day Saturday.

**McDuff wins bass meet**

Joe McDuff won first place in the Merkell Bass Club monthly tournament Saturday. He landed a 3-lb., 4 oz. bass.

Benny Rogers was second with a 2-lb., 8 oz. catch. There were nine entered. Ricky Elliott continues the leader for the year with his 7-lb., 6-oz. catch.

The club has now been in four tournaments and has expanded 337 man hours to catch four fish totaling 14 lbs., 12 ozs.

The Club had a program from David O'Keeffe, bass pro from Abilene at its last regular meeting.

The club meets again January 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Taylor Telephone Cooperative.

**Blessings at Christmas**

*Let Peace encircle the world  
and all men walk hand in hand.  
We raise our voice in thanks.*

**Seymore Insurance**  
MACK, IDA, STACY, & TED

**GENERAL ELECTRIC**  
**Appliances**  
**MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

**REFRIGERATORS**  
REG. \$629.95  
SALE PRICE \$579.00

**WASHERS**  
REG. \$299.00  
SALE PRICE \$269.00

**DISHWASHERS**  
REG. \$379.00  
SALE PRICE \$299.00

**FREEZERS**  
REG. \$469.00  
SALE PRICE \$399.00

**PALMER PONTIAC & GMC**  
MERKEL, TEXAS 928-5113  
ABILENE 673-1182

# Letters to Santa Claus

## Stanford's Electronics

### TV REPAIR

FINISHED & UNFINISHED PLASTER

C.B. RADIOS AND SUPPLIES

123 KENT MERKEL 928-5762

Dear Santa Clause,  
Please bring me a baby doll house, and a bicycle, and a baby thataway, and a Sleep baby Sleep, and a stocking full of candy, and a Easy base oven.  
With Love  
Sue Cunningham

ther will be some cake and milk on the table win you come, have a Merry Christmas  
love Justin  
Anerine

tell Mrs. Santa Claus I said hi?  
Michael Gregory  
Love Santa,  
Dear Santa Claus,  
Please bring me a mini bike and a new bicycle most of all and, I want to have a Super Man suit and a Lone ranger suit with guns and wrifle. And I want new cloths new slippers with a shoe spoon if I can't get it on. My mother is a

football. And a littel tv, a water bed. That's all now.  
Love,  
Ricky

Dear Santa Claus,  
please bring me a bicycle and my frined one to he has bin good and me and my frined loves you and bring me and my frind a go cart. I wood like to see your reudeer, and I want a play cb, and I want a gun set.  
Sincerely by  
Lonnie Mallard

Dear Santa Claus,  
Please bring me a space 1999, and the people withit, an Lt af Enterprise 22 shotgun J J arms Stech arm stong and mony magic. Bat cave Mr Spock  
I like you very much  
Clay Hammond

Dear Santa Claus,  
I want a go cart and bicycle fore Christmas I hop you bring me the presen for Christmas  
Your fraend  
Robert



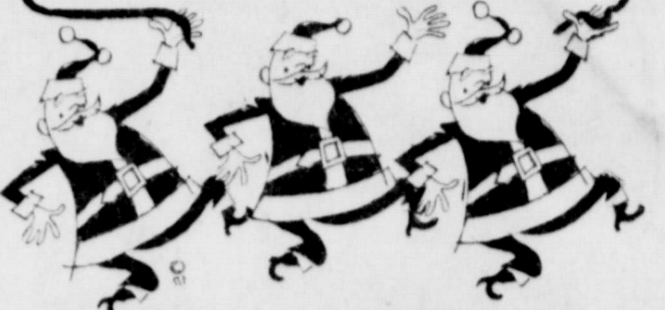
The Farm Bureau Insurance "24-hour Agent" is a SALESMAN and MORE.

Regardless of what type of Farm Bureau insurance policy, he's ready to help you when you need him most... any hour of the day or night. You know that you have that good feeling of security with a Farm Bureau insurance policy. Now your Farm Bureau insurance agent gives you one more reason for security. Service, all day and all night.

Call your Farm Bureau insurance agent... anytime. He can give you that good feeling of security... 24 hours a day!

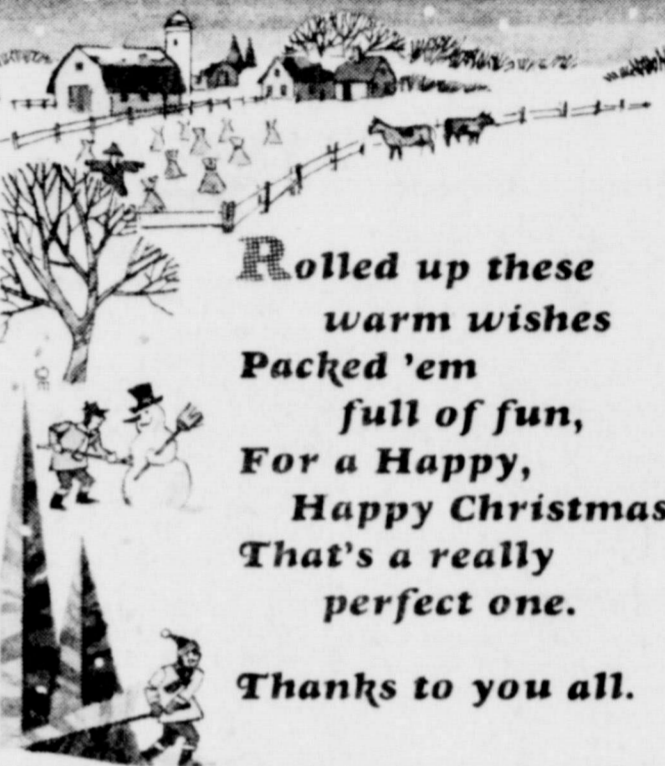


merry, merry, merry  
Multiplying our good wishes and thanks for a memorable Christmas.



**BENNETT TRACTOR CO.**  
MODERN DANUSER IMCO

## Greetings



Rolled up these warm wishes Packed 'em full of fun, For a Happy, Happy Christmas That's a really perfect one.

Thanks to you all.

**TAYLOR TELEPHONE CO.**



## Happy Holidays

Hoping the beautiful memories of a family Christmas will be shared by you and those you love.

**WYLIE TRUCK TERMINAL**



## a Christmas Carol

Love and joy come to you and a heartfelt thank you too.

**HOME STATE BANK - TRENT**

# DO IT NOW!



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

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

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

Please contact me. I would like to know how to open an Individual Retirement Account at Sweetwater Savings.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ AC \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out and mail to: Alvin Watson Moore  
Sweetwater Savings, P.O. Box 1399, Sweetwater, Texas 79556

**CURRENT ANNUAL EARNINGS**

7 3/4 % 6 YR. CERT.—\$1000 MIN.	6 1/2 % 1 YR. CERT.—\$1000 MIN.
7 1/4 % 4 YR. CERT.—\$1000 MIN.	5 3/4 % 90 DAY ACCT.—\$1000 MIN.
6 3/4 % 30 MO. CERT.—\$1000 MIN.	5 1/4 % NO PENALTY PASSBOOK

A substantial interest penalty is required for early withdrawal of certificate accounts.

**SWEETWATER SAVINGS ASSOCIATION**  
SWEETWATER ROTAN ROSCOE HAMLIN



And now again it's Christmas. May it bring you good fortune and love.

9th Street Grocery

Sincerely,  
Matt Cain

Dear Santa Claus,  
Please bring me a Bullet man and a moter plane and Loco motion.  
Sincerely  
Randy Pallez

Dear Santa,  
How are you Are There pengwins up there. I want a football uniform for Christmas.  
Sincerely,  
Jeff Semeyn

Dear Santa  
Christmas is coming up soon, and herse what I want for Christmas I want a 60 hada and a Red White blue

### Senior Citizens

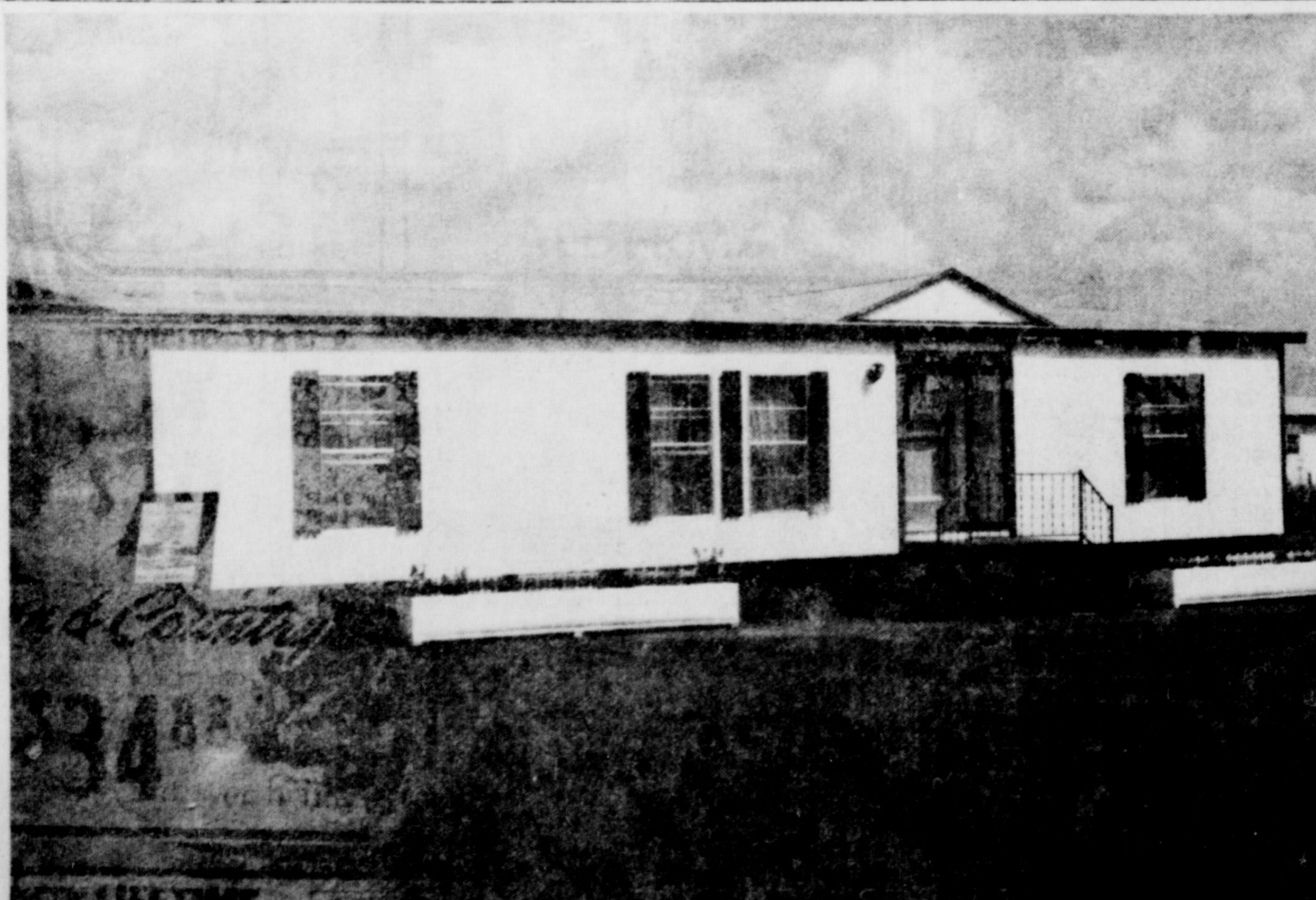
The Senior Citizens will have a special program on talent night Thursday December 23 at 7 p.m. Out of town guests have planned the program. A pot luck supper will be on 5th Thursday night, December 30. All members are urged to come.



## Peace

We hope you and yours are blessed with the warmth and happiness that are so abundant throughout this holy season. Many thanks.

**HOHERTZ DAIRY**  
HAROLD & CHERA,  
ALBERT & ALMA,  
BRENDA & TIM



SEE THIS BEAUTIFUL HOME AT EL-TYE-O TRAILER SALES CORP.

7 TO 10 DOUBLE WIDES ON DISPLAY

960 SQ. FT. - 1680 SQ. FT.

\$11,600 up

AIR BASE RD., TYE, TEXAS

PHONE 698-2180



**Public Notice**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
TO: Baldemar Lopez Gutierrez, Respondent;  
GREETINGS:  
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED 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 Angel Alvarez Gutierrez, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 6th day of December, 1976, a gainst Baldemar Lopez Gutierrez, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 12,615-DR on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Matter of The Marriage of Angel Alvarez Gutierrez and Baldemar Lopez Gutierrez," the nature of which suit is a request for a divorce.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property which will be binding on you.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the children interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the children'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 the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this 16th day of December, 1976.

(Seal) Irene Crawford  
Clerk,  
Domestic Relations Court,  
Taylor County,  
Texas,  
By Elise Mitchell,  
Deputy,  
44-1tc



Wishing you a Christmas bright with promise and glad with hope! Your loyalty is greatly appreciated.

**WESTERN PIPE CO.**

We sincerely wish you and yours a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Thanks for your support.



**ABILENE LIVESTOCK AUCTION**  
Sales Tuesday and Thursday  
CATTLE SALES 10:00 TUESDAY  
HOG & CATTLE SALES 11:00 THURSDAY  
HORSE SALES - 1st SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH  
TOM NEFF & WADDELL STRAIN, OWNERS



As people everywhere reverently celebrate the Birth of Christ, we pause and give thanks for His wondrous teachings.

**Christmas Blessings**

MAY THE BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS BE YOURS  
Grace Presbyterian Church



**ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

all bells on earth will ring sounding a message of love and joy to people everywhere.

Our sincere gratitude.  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE OF DISTRICT 61  
Elmer & Billie Martin

*Merry Christmas*

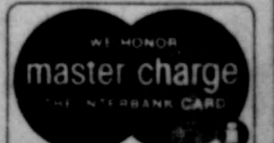


WEST TEXAS UTILITIES COMPANY  
**WTU**  
A Member of The Central and South West System

**BEN FRANKLIN**

# CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS SALE

<p><b>SANTA CLAUS SUITS</b></p> <p>FOR THE SANTA IN YOUR FAMILY <b>\$2.09</b> REG. \$3.99</p>	
<p><b>CHRISTMAS REPLACEMENT BULBS</b></p> <p>C-6 PKG. OF 4 <b>25c</b> PKG. C-7 <b>10c</b> EA. C-9 PKG. OF 4 <b>45c</b> PKG.</p>	<p><b>NOVELTY ORNAMENTS</b></p> <p>Cherry tree ornaments with fun clown or hand decorated wood styles. Many choices.</p> <p><b>24c</b> EA.</p>
<p><b>11-LIGHT TREE TOP STAR</b></p> <p>Multi-color lights, brilliant reflectors, silver tin set UL approved</p> <p><b>\$1.34</b></p> <p>REG. \$2.67</p>	<p><b>2-1/2-In. SATIN TREE BALLS</b></p> <p>Unbreakable! 18 solid color satin wrapped balls. Color choice</p> <p><b>84c</b> PKG.</p> <p>REG. \$1.67</p>
<p>UP TO <b>50% OFF</b> ALL TREE DECORATIONS</p>	
<p><b>10-FT. TINSEL GARLAND TRIMS</b></p> <p>Moss green long needle garland for use indoors or out</p> <p><b>89c</b></p> <p>REG. \$1.77</p>	<p><b>50 MINIATURE LIGHTS</b></p> <p>Burns steadily or twinkles. 2 extra bulbs. Weatherproof. Clear or colors</p> <p><b>\$1.49</b></p> <p>REG. \$2.97</p>
<p><b>Box of 10 GLASS ORNAMENTS</b></p> <p>2 1/4-in. size, all with scenic white frosted decorations. Many colors</p> <p><b>49c</b></p> <p>REG. 97c</p>	<p><b>Spiral-Tex DRAPE or TREE SKIRT</b></p> <p>Multi-color flakes on glittering white cotton. Non flammable</p> <p><b>39c</b> EA.</p> <p>REG. 77c</p>
<p><b>GIVE A CHRISTMAS GIFT CERTIFICATE!</b></p>	
<p>6 FT. <b>\$9.00</b> REG. \$15.97</p>	<p>7 FT. <b>\$15.00</b> REG. \$25.97</p>
<p><b>ARTIFICIAL TREE SALE</b></p>	
<p>4 FT. <b>\$5.00</b> REG. \$8.97</p> <p>Use them year after year! So realistic you can almost smell the pine!</p>	<p>Rich, lush, moss green trees. Flame retardant. Complete with stands.</p>
<p><b>SNO-FLOK FLOCKING KIT</b> REG. \$4.99 <b>\$2.50</b></p>	<p><b>SNO-FLOK FLOCKING</b> REG. \$3.29 <b>\$1.69</b></p>
<p><b>Last Minute Gifts</b></p>	
<p><b>SOUNDESIGN</b></p> <p><b>AM-FM-FM STEREO 8 TRACK-RECORD PLAYER-RECORDER</b></p> <p>REG. \$199.95 <b>THIS WEEK ONLY \$159.95</b></p>	
<p><b>GENERAL ELECTRIC</b></p> <p><b>PORTABLE BLACK AND WHITE 12" T.V.</b></p> <p>REG. \$99.95 <b>THIS WEEK ONLY \$79.95</b></p>	
<p><b>BEN FRANKLIN</b></p> <p>201 KENT OPEN 8 AM - 7:30 PM</p>	



Garden Club news

Merkel Garden Club met December 16 for a luncheon in the home of Mrs. G. R. Peachy and Mrs. Ora Griggs. Program consisted of "Prelude to Winter" by Mrs. Raymond Ferguson and "Once

Upon a Time" by Mrs. Odis Griffin. The Christmas placement show was enjoyed by all. Gifts were exchanged from a beautiful tree. Members attending were

mesdames: W. L. Brown, Oda Clark, Johnny Cox, Albert Criswell, Lottie Everett, R. M. Ferguson, Odis Griffin, Ora Griggs, Dee Grimes, Allan King, E. J. Patterson, G. R. Peachy, Tom Russon, W. T. Sadler, John Shannon, Charlie Sherrell and Jarret Williams. Visitors attending were Mrs. Jack South, Mrs. Ralph Miller, Mrs. David Gamble and Mrs. Ralph Wilburn.

**Barber shop hours**  
Merkel's barber shops will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. They also will not be open New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

# City police to get uniforms

The Merkel City Council approved purchase of uniforms for the police department and the payment of the balance due on the City's baseball park at its meeting in City Hall Monday morning. The police uniforms will cost \$560 to outfit the three fulltime and one parttime policemen. The uniforms will be tan with a dark brown strip down the pants leg. Each patrolman will get three shirts, three pair of pants and a jacket. The uniforms will be machine washable and it was estimated by the City Council the uniforms would last for a year.

A note with Toombs Real Estate of \$1,516 is due January 1 on the remaining balance of the Tri-City League park. The Council voted to pay off the note from Revenue Sharing funds. The land was bought for \$4,000 with the Tri-City League paying \$1,000 and the city paying the remaining \$1,428, leaving the balance due.

The Council also authorized City Coordinator J. A. Sadler to look into the cost of a copying machine and the purchasing of a fogging machine. Sadler reported 3M had put in a copying machine on a trial basis. It wasn't working, he noted. Cost of this machine is \$1,965. Sadler said this is too much for the City to pay and the Council authorized him to check into

the matter further. Sadler said a fogging machine can be purchased for \$399 to \$499 depending on whether they fit on conventional pickups or the ones using unleaded gas. Sadler got permission to go to a business one in operation.

Concerning the Water System Improvement Program the Council agreed to use the remaining funds left from the \$30,400 grant on crosses and two valves at intersections along the route of the project. This would allow for future expansion.

Then the Council approved the City Hall closing at noon Thursday for Christmas Holidays. The sanitation department will return Friday morning, however, for downtown pickup.

The City Hall also will be closed Friday for New Year's. Next regular meeting of the City Council is 7 a.m. January 14.

**a little behind?**  
ONLY 8 SHOPPING DAYS TIL CHRISTMAS!



**TO MAKE OUR MOVE EASIER AND TO HELP STRETCH YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DOLLAR WE ARE GIVING 20% OFF ON EVERYTHING IN THE STORE NOW UNTIL JANUARY 1st.**

**SALE STARTS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16th**

**CASTILLE HARDWARE & GIFTS**

129 EDWARDS 928-5310

*NOTHING SAYS IT BETTER THAN A GIFT FROM CASTILLES*

WE HAVE THESE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING CONVENIENCES TO OFFER YOU!

- Free gift wrapping!
- Shopping by phone!
- Friendly helpful service!
- Mon., Tues., Wed., and Sat.-9 til 6
- Thurs. and Friday-9 til 7

**1976 TAX BREAK! ONLY 10 DAYS LEFT!**

**INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT**

You must:

- act before December 31st, and
- not be covered by a tax qualified private or government retirement plan.

**YOU CONTRIBUTE:**

- 15% of your yearly earned income, or
- \$1,500, whichever is less.

**ADVANTAGES:**

- definite retirement income
- earnings grow tax-free
- principal guaranteed against investment loss
- federal income tax deductions

Contact your National Farmers Union insurance agent about your Individual Retirement Account.

**Connie Mack Seymore**

102 Edwards 928-5379

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Thanks for help**

Dear Christmas Seal Friends:  
The proceeds from the Merkel Art Show Benefit for the Lung Association on December 4 at the Merkel Country Club was \$983.44. Please accept our sincere thanks for your contribution to this event. Your sponsorship made the show a great success. We appreciate your generosity and help toward our work of the prevention and control of lung disease. Merry Christmas! Don W. Hensley, State Fund Raising Chairman

# Group to continue battle against hospital district

The Group opposing the Hamlin Hospital District met December 10 in Anson with approximately 75 people present. It was the Group's unanimous decision to continue its opposition until every resource has been exhausted. This Group does not oppose the Hamlin Hospital, it opposes the method chosen to sustain it, it was stated at the meeting. Two thousand and fifty-five dollars (\$2055) were actually

contributed during the meeting and more was pledged. It will require \$10,000 to take the case through the Supreme Court of the United States. The Hamlin Hospital District was created by an Act of the Legislature, despite vigorous opposition from the group who now is opposing its continued existence. Territory in the west and southern portions of Jones County was blocked with Hamlin, which had the majority vote, to form

the District despite the fact that at least 60 per cent of the territory in the District has no relation to Hamlin and its interests. The citizens in this area do not use and never will use the hospital. It was clearly a political move to force a large area to pay for the hospital it did not want or would not use, a spokesman for the group said. Elmer Martin, State Representative for Jones County and several other

counties nearby at the time of the Hamlin Hospital District's creation, and who still serves the same area as Representative, yielded to political pressure with no regard for the injustice it brought about and pushed the law creating the district through the Legislature. He was assisted by the then State Senator Jack Hightower but who is now a member of the Congress of the United States from Texas. The legislation can definitely be charged to the two lawmakers named above due to the practice of "Legislative Courtesy" in the State Legislature, the spokesman charged. The statement from the group continued.

## A Visit From St. Nicholas

BY CLEMENT C. MOORE

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
A creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And mamma in her kitchin, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter nap—  
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.  
The moon, on the breast of the new-fallen snow,  
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below;  
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,  
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:  
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!  
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Dunder and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall!  
Now, dash away, dash away, dash away all!"  
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,  
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of toys—and St. Nicholas too,  
And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.  
He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot,  
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.  
His eyes how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.  
He had a broad face and a little round belly,  
That shook, when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.  
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed, when I saw him, in spite of myself.  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle;  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,  
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

"A suit was brought against the Hamlin Hospital District in 104th District Court and a jury returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff only to have Judge Neil Daniel reverse its decision. The Group that met at Anson does not believe the 12 non-prejudiced Jones County citizens on the jury could all be wrong. The rights of many have been unjustly abused. Not only does this injustice need to be removed, but action now should help prevent such acts in the future. All residents and land-owners of the area which should not be included in the Hamlin Hospital District and all others who are interested in seeing that justice is done in this ill-advised creation are urged to contribute financially to sustain this fight. Your contribution will be accepted at the First National Bank of Anson or the Farmers and Merchants National Bank in Merkel. If you do not choose to deposit your contribution, you may mail your check to Everett Beaver, 820 Ave. 1, Anson, Texas 79501, Secretary-Treasurer of the group in opposition."

### Gleaner's Class

The Gleaner's Sunday School class of the United Methodist Church met at the Big Country Inn for their Christmas dinner December 15. Their guest Reverend N. H. Daniel gave the prayer of thanks. The president, Mrs. T. K. Anderson, presided for the program after carols were sung. Mrs. Dewell McLean read Christmas poems and Mrs. Ruth Cox gave the story "Oh, Come Let Us Adore."

Mable McKee and Louise Hudson as Santa Claus distributed gifts from a beautifully decorated tree to mesdames: O. E. Harwell, Etta McWilliams, Mertie Moore, W. W. Toombs, Georgia Zimmerman, Lottie Everett, Kenneth Pee, Lola Stockbridge, Anna Dunn, T. K. Anderson, Denzil Cox, Joe Seymore, Wade Ensminger, Mary A. Click, Jessie Shannon, Dee Grimes, Ethel Cox, Willie Douglass, Hattie Richards, Dewell McLean, Pet Touchstone, Johnny, Mrs. N. S. Daniel, Rev. Daniel and Misses Mabel McKee and Louise Hudson.

### ALPHA NU NU

The Alpha Nu Nu Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi held their annual Christmas party Thursday at the Country Club of Merkel. Those attending the party were Mr. and Mrs. Dick Leach, Pam Sandusky, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Justice, Anita Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Dingler, Sarah Echols, and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hammond. Everyone enjoyed a dinner cooked by the Country Club chef and exchanged gifts.



May the merry music and sweet harmony of Christmas fill your hearts with joy and love. We chime in with a medley of thanks and appreciation for all our friends and neighbors.

**Merry Christmas to All**

**MERKEL TV CABLE**

MITCHELL ATKINSON

**GREETINGS**



Our mellow cello plays a melody of harmonious holiday music and thanks. Hope your Christmas is completely in tune.

**Waterhole # 3**  
HAMLIN


### Pamela King weds Rick Barry

Before an altar banked with greenery and carnations of the bride's chosen colors of pink, mint green, apricot, and orchid, Pamela Jan King became the bride of Ricky Eugene Barry on December 18, 1976, at 7:30 p.m. in the First Baptist Church of Sundown.

Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Dean King and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Barry, all of Sundown.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a formal-length gown of white chantilly lace with a sweet-heart neckline. The fitted bodice was accented with seed pearls, iridescent sequins, and long slender sleeves with petal points over the wrist. The full skirt had tiers of chantilly lace, sweeping to the back into a cathedral train. Her headpiece was a Juliet with a three-tiered matching lace edged illusion, highlighted with seed pearls and iridescent sequins.

The bridal bouquet was a cascade of apricot, pink, orchid, and green fuji mums and baby's breath, tied with satin ribbon streamers in colors to match the flowers. The center of her bouquet held a 4-leaf



It is the season to kindle the fires of love and brotherhood in our hearts and to greet one another in peace!

Our deep gratitude to all.

## MAX MURRELL CHEVROLET CO.



MRS. RICK BARRY

clover from the groom, given to her on July 4, the day after they became engaged.

Serving her sister as maid of honor was Vondi King, attired in a floor-length orchid satin A-line dress and matching short-sleeved jacket with a hood.

Bridesmaids were Teri Hamner of Trent, wearing an apricot ensemble identical to the maid of honor's; and Brenda Griffith, of Trent, in mint green. Dollie Brazelton, friend of the bride, served as flower girl.

Ringbearer was Donnie Barry, of Muleshoe, cousin of the groom.

Jim Gravley, of Lubbock, served as best man. Groomsmen were Rick Gorski, of Lubbock, and Donald Weaver, of Sundown.

Following the honeymoon trip, the couple will reside in Lubbock, where they will continue their education at Texas Tech University. The bridegroom is majoring in Electronic Engineering Technology and the bride is an Art major. The groom is employed in Lubbock.

A rehearsal dinner was hosted for the couple by the groom's parents, in Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church of Sundown.

*Merry Christmas to All*



May you share the twinkle in Santa's eyes, the joy of his smile, with those you love. Our thanks.

**DOTY FARM EQUIPMENT**

MEATS	XMAS DAY Hours	PRODUCE
Turkeys 59¢ LB. Pork Chops 89¢ LB 10# Box \$8.49 Bacon Sliced 79¢ LB. Slab 10# \$7.50	8:00-12:00 noon 4:00pm-8:00pm	10 LB. RUSSETS 79¢ LETTUCE - HEAD 39¢
<b>BAILES DOG FOOD</b> 25# MEAL \$3.69 25# CHUNK \$4.49 50# CHUNK \$7.98	<b>WE WILL CLOSE</b> AT 8:00p.m. DEC. 24	REG. 20¢ <b>BEEF JERKY</b> 10¢
Reg. \$1.49 <b>BIC BUTANE LIGHTER</b> 98¢	REG. 35¢ <b>WRIGLEY'S GUM</b> 25¢	<b>FOREMOST CREAM TOPPING</b> 6 1/2 OZ 69¢
<b>FACT CIGARETTES REG. OR MENTHOL</b> \$4.99 CRTN	<b>FOREMOST EGGNOG</b> 69¢ qt.	<b>SAVE 10% OFF</b> Pocket Knives Sun Shades Cameras Billfolds
<b>FOREMOST Sour Cream Whipping Cream</b> 33¢	<b>Coca Cola Seven Up Dr. Pepper Diet Dr. Pepper Pepsi</b> 32 OZ 25¢ PLUS DEP.	<b>KRAFT Peanut Brittle</b> 12 OZ Box 69¢
<b>PLASTIC TUMBLERS</b> 9oz & 14oz 59¢ PKG.	<b>LIPTON Instant Tea</b> 4 OZ \$1.98	<b>SWIFT Vienna Sausage</b> 39¢
<b>BODEN ORANGE DRINK</b> 1/2 GAL. 65¢	<b>Coke &amp; Seven Up</b> 64 OZ 79¢ NO DEP.	Free Linen Calendar with crtn. L & M LARK EVE Chesterfield \$4.99 CRTN.
<b>COUNTY FAIR BREAD</b> 1 1/2 LB. 39¢		<b>Gladiola FLOUR 5#</b> 79¢
Hours Mon.-Sat. 7:00-9:00 Sun. 8:00-9:00		<b>NINTH STREET GROCERY</b> We Accept Food Stamps

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
139 KENT
1108 NORTH 2nd
SEASON'S GREETINGS!

# WESTERN AUTO

WE WANT TO THANK THE PEOPLE OF MERKEL FOR A SUCCESSFUL 1976. WE WISH EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY 1977.

**32 PIECE OVENWARE SET**  
\$29.95

**LATE SHOPPERS Specials**

**6 PIECE CUTLERY SET**  
\$19.95

**ALL BRANDS 30 WEIGHT OIL**  
59¢ QT.

**ALL SMALL APPLIANCES**  
10% OFF

**WHIRLPOOL APPLIANCES**  
10% OFF

**RCA TV**  
20% OFF  
REG. PRICE

**ONLY 3 DURS LEFT**

**ALL CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**  
1/2 PRICE

**SAVE!**

**3 Position RECLINER**  
\$79.95  
ONLY 5 LEFT

**ALL FURNITURE**  
20% OFF  
REG. PRICE

**ALL 30% OFF**

**CB GLASSES**  
32 OZ  
\$1.00 EA.

**7 PIECE GOURMET COOKWARE SET**  
\$39.95

OPEN 9:00 till 6:00 MON. - SAT.  
EASY CREDIT

MASTERCHARGE
BANKAMERICARD

# Walkers observe 50 years wed

Mr. and Mrs. Irl Walker will celebrate their 50th anniversary with a reception from 2 to 5 Sunday at the Senior Citizen building. Hostess for the occasion will be their daughter Mrs. Cadmus Brown of Mirando

city. Dr. Jimmy Walker of El Paso and Dr. Gaston Walker of Hurst, and all of their families including five great grandchildren. Walker was born August 30, 1905 at Copperas Cove, He moved to Merkel in 1920.

was an employee of Merkel School for 27 years and has been owner and manager of a Gulf Service Station for 30 years. Mrs. Walker was born October 11, 1905 at Blair near Merkel.

The Walkers have been active members of the Merkel First Baptist Church 45 years. Both have taught classes in the church. Mr. Walker is a deacon and teaches a Sunday school class on the local radio station each Sunday at 10:15. Both are active in the Senior Citizen Club. All friends are invited to come by.



Mr., Mrs. Irl Walker married 50 years

**FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS . . .**  
**SEYMORE INSURANCES**  
 102 EDWARDS  
 928-5379  
 . . . Auto, Property, General Liability,  
 Crop, Health, Life, Disability, Tax-sheltered  
 retirement, Educational plans  
**FARMERS UNION SERVICE POINT**

*A Joyful Christmas*

It's great to keep in touch with those who mean so much! Wishing you a wonderful holiday!

## CONLEY'S BARBER SHOP

*Merry Christmas!*

God bless us, every one . . . and especially you. Our thanks to one and all.

**Emma's Clothes Closet**  
 Duane, Emma, & Family

*Merry Christmas*

Wishing you and those you hold most dear all the old fashioned joys of Christmas! Hearty thanks.

**BASSETT MANUFACTURING CO.**

### The Merkel Restaurant Will Be Open Christmas Day

**Serving Christmas Dinner:**

Turkey & Dressing, Giblet Gravy, & Cranberry Sauce . . . . . \$2.25

Roast Beef . . . . . 2.65

Chicken Fried Steak . . . . . 2.45

Served with-

Fruit Salad  
 Green Beans Supreme with Almonds  
 Creamed Potatoes with Sour Cream, Bacon & Onion  
 Fruit Cake with Ice Cream Snow Balls  
 Homemade Rolls & Cornbread Coffee or Iced Tea



~~~~~

We would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and thank you for your past patronage.

We're looking forward to serving you in 1977.

### Sales tax paid cities

Merkel will receive \$4,577.71 as its share of the city sales and use tax for November, the Comptroller of Public Accounts reports. Trent will receive \$369 and Tye will get \$3,104.19.

Hope your Christmas is filled with nice surprises! Thanks to our many friends.



Cypert Tax Service

### Trent falls to Hawley

Trent High's girls stumbled against Hawley December 14 in their final game before the Christmas holidays.

Hawley outscored Trent, 21-17 the final quarter for a 53-51 victory over Trent. Robbie Freeman scored 27 to lead Trent scoring while

Linda Jordan had 28 for Hawley.

In the boys game, Trent lost, 53-37, falling behind from the start. Rocky Bryan had 15 for Trent and Nicholson scored 20 for Hawley. Trent returns to action December 30 in the Hawley tournament.

*Merry Christmas*

May every happiness be yours at this loveliest of seasons. With our fond gratitude . . .

### ED'S FEED AND SEED

Joyous wishes for a happy Holiday.

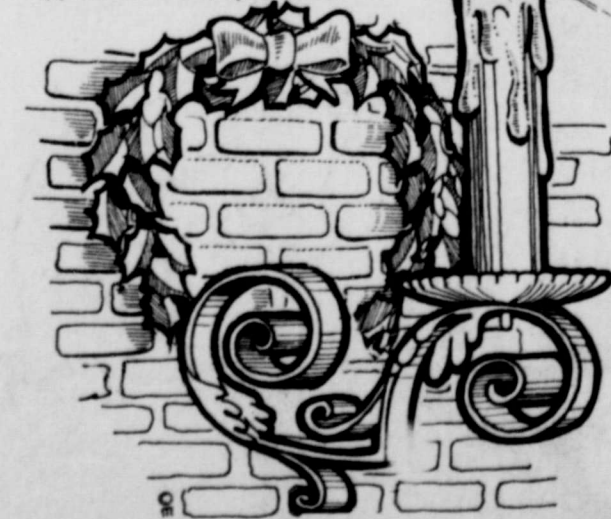
The silver sounds of sleigh bells echo through the Christmas air with a message of hope and joy for all. They ring out too, our thanks for your loyal friendship.

### Merkel VFW

Post 5683

### CHRISTMAS JOY

May the glorious light of Christmas bring you, and those you love, enduring Hope and Happiness. To all, special thanks.



**L & W SNACK BAR**  
 FRED, LETA, & KI

**HO HO!**  
*it's Christmas*

May the night before Christmas And all the year through Be happy and bright And enchanted for you!

Warm wishes and thanks to you and your dear ones.

**MEMBERS, DIRECTORS, & EMPLOYEES OF TAYLOR ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE**

## Cemetery donations



**JOY**

*Wishing you everything that's bright and beautiful at Christmas. May our sincere thanks ornament your holidays.*

**ABILENE FARM SUPPLY**

The following have made contributions to the Merkel Cemetery Association special Christmas memorials.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin E. Read in memory of Mrs. Cordelia Scherer  
Mrs. Will Butman in memory of Wim. B. Butman  
Mrs. Autry Pence  
Mrs. Terrell F. Mashburn in memory of Mrs. Effie Rider and Lillian; Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Mashburn and Kathleen

Mrs. Christine Collier, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Richardson Jr. in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Casey  
Mrs. Tom Largent  
Mr. and Maurice S. Cox Leola Jinks in memory of "Our Daddy," Ennis Reidenbach  
M. C. Jenkins in memory of Claude Jenkins and Charlie Morgan  
Williams Estate % N. L. Williams

Mrs. H. F. Heninger in memory of H. F. Heninger  
Jo Mason in memory of Mr. and Mrs. N. L. McLeod, Donald and Angela Leverich  
Mrs. Johnny Cox in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Armstrong and Johnny Cox  
Mrs. Bertis Lanh in memory of loved ones  
Mr. and Mrs. C. L. McLeod  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack R. Sublett

B. G. Bryan  
Mrs. Merle Groves  
Mrs. Clarence R. Collins in memory of "My Parents," Mr. and Mrs. Seth Morgan  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jackson in memory of Robt. Clayton Goode and Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Jackson

Floy Eva Smith  
Dr. and Mrs. Philip T. Weisbach in memory of Mrs. Etta Pruitt and Mr. O. D. Pruitt

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Vick  
Lewis V. Winter  
Mrs. V. P. Tippet  
Ronnie and Lynda Reeger  
Mr. and Mrs. Van M. Roberts in memory of Mrs. W. A. (Hines) McSpadden  
Moreen Banner O'Rear and Rout. Neil O'Rear in memory of the Banner and O'Rear families

Mr. and Mrs. Mack Fisher in memory of Johnny Cox and Mrs. Chester Collinsworth  
Ona Faye Watkins  
Mr. and Mrs. Price Melton  
Mrs. Grace Maxwell  
Mrs. Trulla Cox  
Mrs. Ona White and Mauren White in memory of Lecl and Billy Joe White and other loved ones and friends  
V. M. and Eugenia Valgamore

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Weston  
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Irvin  
Hollis McCoy  
Cloy Lyles in memory of Ida Elizabeth Lyles  
The family of Ike D. Turner  
Mrs. Cynthia Puckley  
Wim. W. and Mary S. Barry in memory of Maude V. Simpson and Minnie O'Dell

Mrs. S. D. Gamble  
Mary Anna Mayfield  
Van H. McSpadden in memory of Mrs. W. A. McSpadden  
Clark Mundy  
Mrs. Vernon Mansfield and Children in memory of Vernon Mansfield  
Evelyn Lineberry  
Winfred B. and Gladys Garner in memory of Mrs. J. A. Milliken  
Vannie Hamblett  
Paul M. and Mae Collins in memory of our parents,

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Collins and Mr. and Mrs. Seth Hamilton  
J. D. Witcher  
Ollie L. Fowler in memory of my brother, T. B. Hobbs  
Mrs. Anna F. Harris  
Howard and Evelyn Sliger in memory of Austin Robertson  
Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Merritt  
Mrs. Luther W. Fleming in memory of Luther W. Fleming

Elouise Bagley  
Mrs. Ina Hunter in memory of loved ones  
Estate of H. H. Toombs  
Mrs. C. R. Tittle and Family in memory of C. R. Tittle  
Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Patterson  
A. F. Criswell in memory of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Criswell, Wilber and Wilmer  
Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Davis in memory of C. D. Davis

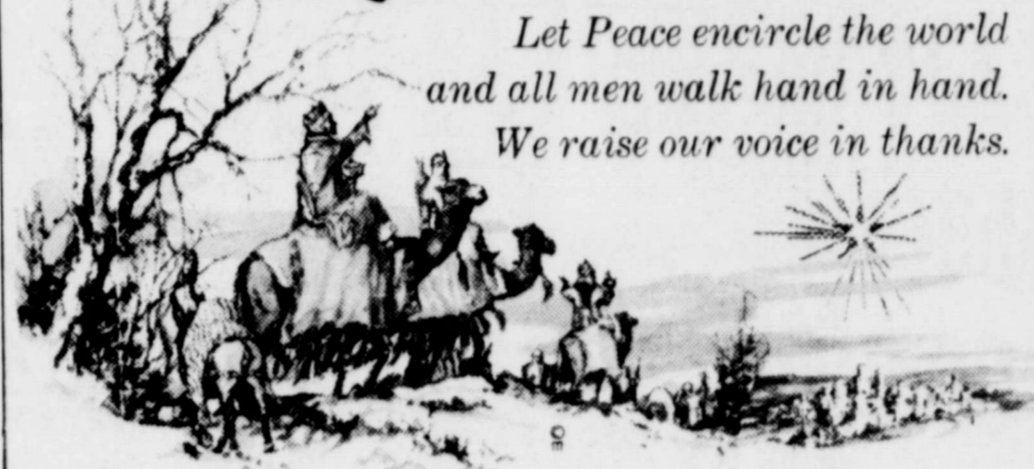
THE MERKEL MAIL  
Thursday, December 23, 1976

PAGE 13

Larry, Steven and Randy in memory of our Father, C. D. Davis  
The remaining special contributions will be continued next week.

## Blessings at Christmas

*Let Peace encircle the world  
and all men walk hand in hand.  
We raise our voice in thanks.*



**LUSKEY'S**

INC.  
"Texas' Leading Western Stores"

3112 N 1st

Abilene



May yours be merry and gay.  
Our hearty holiday thanks  
for your kind patronage.

**MERKEL  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

CAL-TEX  
BUYERS OF  
CATTLE MILO  
AND HAY

ROUTE 2 BOX 128  
TRENT, TX.

915-862-2951

CUSTOM CATTLE FEEDING



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Ring up our sincere wishes for your holiday

- ★ Good Health
- ★ Happiness
- ★ Prosperity

Our continuing thanks for your patronage.

**CARSON'S  
SUPER MARKET**

Pre-Paid  
Funeral  
Plans

Funeral  
Service  
Insurance

Life  
Insurance

**STARBUCK**

**FUNERAL**

**HOME**

928-4711



There's no time quite like Christmas...  
when the world is bright with fantasy  
and we are all children again at heart.  
In the midst of its magic, Santa and  
we take a moment to wish you all you're  
wishing for, this sparkling holiday.

**THE MERKEL MAIL**

STEVE, KAYE, CARL, KAREN, DAVID, LILLIAN, ANN, MARTHA SUE, & MYCHELE

RAY PACK HAS ANNOUNCED THE PURCHASE OF THE

**BIG COUNTRY CLUB**  
IN ABILENE

With Season's Greetings

COMING JAN. 9 --

RECORDING STAR **Joe Stampley**

Coming January 27

**Johny Paycheck**

OPEN 7 NIGHTS A WEEK WITH LIVE BAND

\$1 COVER CHARGE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ONLY

OPEN DAILY AT 3 P.M.

WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE EVERYONE OVER!

4106 N. 1st

672-0203

# MERRY CHRISTMAS To You -



THE MERKEL MAIL Thursday, December 23, 1970

PRICES GOOD WED(DOUBLE STAMP) THURSDAY & FRIDAY DEC 22-23-24 BE CLOSED SAT. DEC. 25-OPEN MONDAY

CREAMY **CRISCO**  
3 LB CAN \$1.29  
1 LIMIT  
WITH \$10 IN TRADE OR MORE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

3 MINUTE **POPCORN** 2 LB BAG 59¢

DEL MONTE 303 **Fruit Cocktail** 2 FOR 73¢  
DEL MONTE CRUSHED NO 2 CAN

DEL MONTE 303 WHOLE **PINEAPPLE** CAN 53¢

DEL MONTE 303 C.S. **Green BEANS** 2 FOR 69¢

GREEN GIANT 303 **Golden Corn** 2 FOR 59¢

OCEAN SPRAY 300 **Sweet PEAS** 2 FOR 63¢

BRUCE NO 3 FLAT WHOLE **Cranberry Sauce** CAN 39¢

SWANSON 303 **Sweet YAMS** CAN 49¢

DREAM WHIP **Chicken BROTH** 2 FOR 35¢

LIBBYS EX FCY PLACED 14 OZ. **TOPPING** 3 OZ. BOX 55¢

UNCLE BENS **Stuffed OLIVES** \$1.59

UNCLE BENS **STUFF'N SUCH** 8 OZ. BOX 49¢  
CHICKEN-PLAIN-HERB

I.G. DAIRY FRESH **HOMO MILK** GAL. JUG \$1.59  
NO DEPOSIT

### FROZEN FOODS

WHOLE SUN **ORANGE JUICE** 12 OZ CAN 39¢

BIRDSEYE **COOL WHIP** 9 OZ. TUB 59¢

MORTON ASSORTED **T.V. Dinners** EA. 53¢

32 OZ. BOTTLE **COCA COLA** 6 PACK CRTN \$1.29 PLUS DEPOSIT

I.G. DAIRY FRESH **MIRACLE WHIP** QT. 1 LIMIT 89¢

I.G. DAIRY FRESH **COFFEE**

I.G. DAIRY FRESH **FLOUR**

I.G. DAIRY FRESH **CAKE MIX**

I.G. DAIRY FRESH **HOMO 2 MILK** GALLON JUG \$1.49  
NO DEPOSIT

I.G. DAIRY FRESH **Butter MILK** 1/2 GAL. CRTN. 73¢  
MAXWELL HOUSE 10 OZ.

SMUCKERS 12 CT. **Instant COFFEE** EA. \$3.29  
PRES. EA. \$9.39

TEA BAGS **GIFT PACK** JELLY 12 CT. \$7.98

DISHWASHER FAMILY **LIPTON CASCADE** LIQUID

**JOY** GIANT 69¢

BAKERS ANGEL FLAKE **COCONUT** 7 OZ. PKG. 55¢

NABISCO SNACK **CRACKERS** ASSORTED BOX 63¢

**JELLO** 3 OZ. BOX ASSORTED 2 BOXES 39¢

REYNOLDS **FOIL WRAP** 18 IN. 25 FT. ROLL 69¢

MARYLAND CLUB **WHIP** 1 LB CAN \$1.89 (1 LIMIT)

GLADIOLA **CREAM** 5 LB. BAG 63¢

DUNCAN HINES **ASSORTED BOX** 59¢

FOREMOST BORDEN GANDY **WHIPPING OR SOUR CREAM** 1/2 PINT 33¢

FOREMOST BORDEN GANDYS **EGGNOG** QUART CRTN. 69¢

WASHINGTON **APPLES** RED DELICIOUS LB. 29¢

SUNKIST NAVAL **ORANGES** 48 CT BOX 89¢

FRESH **CELERY** BOX \$1.89

GOLDEN **BANANAS** OCEAN SPRAY LB. 19¢

TEXAS **CRANBERRIES** LB. 39¢

Golden **YAMS** LB. 25¢

RUSSET **SPUDS** 10 LB. BAG 69¢

**THE TURKEY** You'll Remember With Pleasure  
GOV'T. INSPECTED HENS 10-14 LBS. PLUMP, TENDER FLAVORFUL LB. 59¢  
BROADBREASTED

**ROAST STEAK** CHOICE BEEF POT-RUMP OR ENGLISH LB. \$1.09

**STEAK** CHOICE BEEF T-BONE LB. \$1.85

**HAM** HORMEL TENDERIZED WHOLE ONLY LB. 99¢

**BACON** HORMEL B.L. POUND \$1.19

**ROAST SAUSAGE** FRESH PORK LB. 73¢

**CHICKEN HENS** HORMEL LITTLE SIZZLER PKG. 75¢

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS SHOP AND SAVE  
WE GIVE GIFT BOND STAMPS  
Double on Wednesday with \$5.00 or more

**CARSON'S SUPER MARKET**  
MERKEL, TEXAS  
FRESH VEGETABLES  
FREE DELIVERY MON WED FRI  
BEST MEATS IN TOWN