

The Merkel Mail

Thursday, April 5, 1979, Merkel, Texas. . . .

15 cents

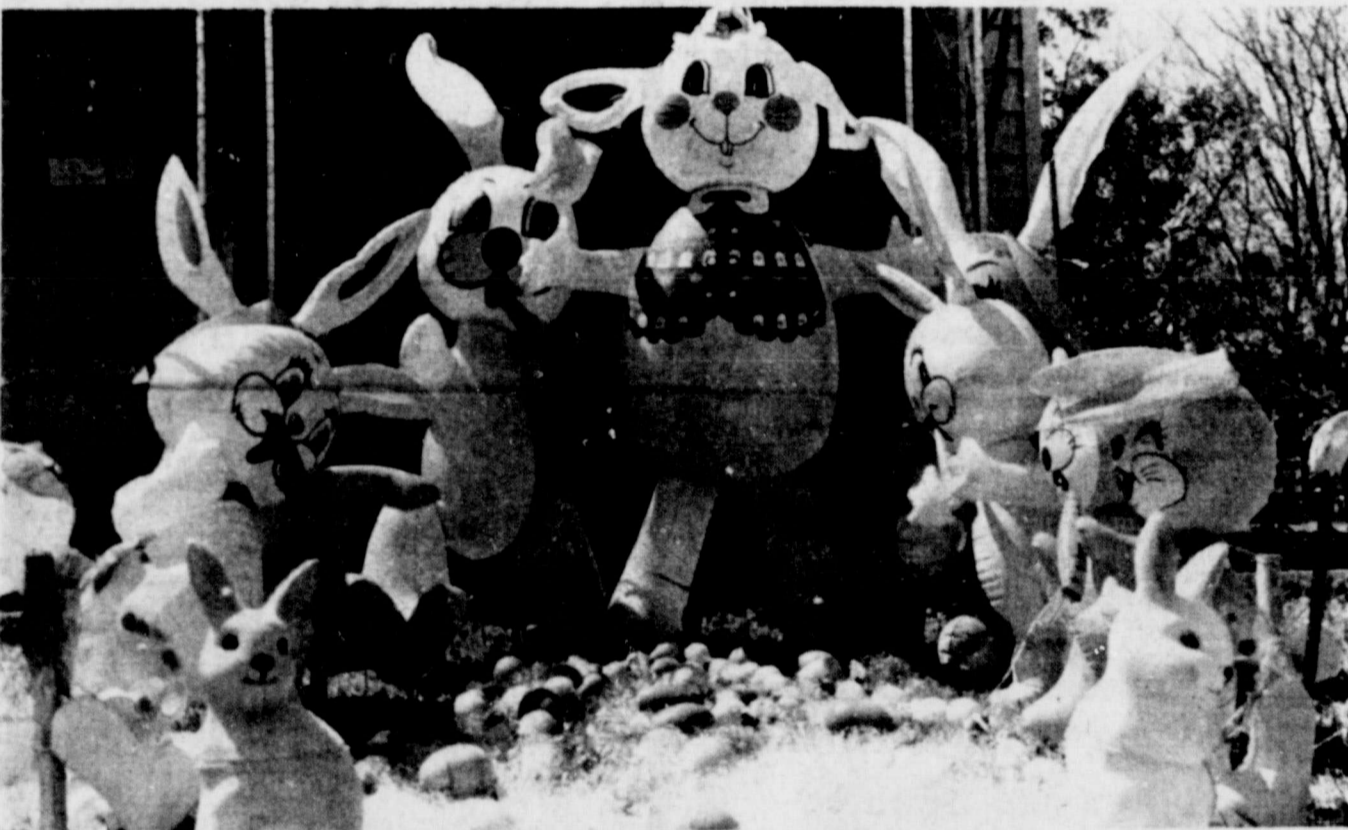
The Merkel City elections and Merkel Independent School Board elections will be held Saturday at the Badger Gymnasium from 7 in the morning to 7 in the evening. Get out and vote.

In last weeks paper, we ran a story on page 3 that read Noah Wiley wins award. It should read Wiley Noah. The Mail regrets the error.



Mrs. W.T. Sadler is the 1979 Alameda Bullock award from Merkel's Beta Sigma Phi and Xi Nu Chi service clubs. Bobbie Mansfield presented Mrs.

Sadler the award at a tea Sunday afternoon at the First United Methodist Church. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)



One of the first boo-boos the Mail made was the misidentification of a home on Kent Street that was beautifully decorated for Christmas. We could not wait for the next holiday so we could redeem

ourselves. It is the Jones home and she decorates because the people seem to enjoy it. (Staff photo by glenn Richards)

School bids are in the money

by glenn Richards

The Merkel Independent School District met Tuesday night and for the School Board, it was like opening Christmas presents and finding out that Santa got your list.

The low bid for construction of facilities was from Haney and Silvey Construction Company of Abilene at \$1,132,760.00 includes building alternates including additional skylights, an enclosed media center, fireproof columns, a closet for teachers in each room, screening around the air conditioning system, and tile in toilets and corridors. Those alternatives apply to the new High School. Other alternatives include the addition of a second floor on the Merkel Middle School Gym, as well as the construction of a multi-purpose room for the Merkel Elementary School.

The called construction is for a new High School, and Middle School Gym and a Vocational Agriculture Center.

Charles Harper, of Harper and Associates of Wichita Falls, the school's architect, said immediately after the bid openings "Our estimate was \$1.2 million on this project and I'd say you (the school board) are about three feet off the ground now with all three bidders well below that." He also asked that he and his company be allowed to take the bids, go over them and report to the board in a special meeting Monday night to sign a contract.

He also said the board is to be congratulated "for a year of hard work and seeing the fruits come through."

Harper went on to say that "you (the board) have a lot of guts taking a bid opening directly before a school board election."

Dr. Raymond Etheridge, Merkel ISD superintendent thanked all of the bidders for making a bid. He also said that he was very pleased with the bids and now that the bids are in it is a load off his mind.

Charles Harper said that if the school was to include all of the options listed in the bids, they would still approximately \$11,000 within the building budget of \$1.2 million.

A total of five bidders placed bids with the school but two pulled out of consideration because they had both received large construction projects and would not be able to build the school here.

The building costs breaks down to around \$31 per square foot and Charles Harper said that the bid was the lowest they had seen for a public school facility in Texas in quite some time. He added that the Haney and Silvey bid was about a dollar and a half lower per square foot than one Harper and Associates participated in last week.

The board then left the pleasantries of the bid opening for a report on a building project at Tye Elementary.

Dr. Etheridge reported that a portable storage building had been purchased and was in use in Tye. He also told the board that "we do need additional classrooms at Tye Elementary and we are

constructing space for two additional classrooms." The superintendent also reported that fire code work, including the installation of panic bars on doors, electrical exit signs and other fire code related work was largely completed.

Dr. Etheridge also reported that the Band Hall had been recently re-painted and he and Hayden Reeves had received a letter of appreciation from the sixth grade for that painting. "The fact is we have started, I see an exciting two or three years coming for the district," the superintendent added.

The board then went into executive session for discussion of personnel.



(Staff photo by glenn Richards)

"It's a load off my mind...."

Raymond Etheridge

Council holds first budget workshop

The Merkel City Council held a budget workshop and heard from a representative of the Texas Department of Human Resources explain the working of a day care center for the elderly.

The representative told the board that the federal government would provide 75 percent of the funding. To be eligible for those funds the day care center must meet certain state requirements for that funding.

After the council was informed on minimum space requirements which was 35 square feet per person in

a wheel chair and 55 per person without a wheel chair excluding kitchen and rest-room space, council agreed that a building did not exist in Merkel that size that was not available.

Council also held their first workshop on the proposed city budget for fiscal year 1979-1980. The new fiscal year begins May 1st.

Council has until May 1st to adopt the new budget. The city could operate on a provisional budget if this year's budget is not approved by the last day in April.

Local farmers meet with port officials

Approximately 30 area farmers attended an open meeting Tuesday night at the Taylor Electric Co-Op building to hear two officials from the Port of Brownsville tell about their facilities available for exporting farm products.

Ed Altemus and Jim Beeman of the port told the farmers about equipment and facilities the port has as well as charges and tariffs that apply.

Persons attending the session were also told more about the Cotton Pool of Texas Inc. That group is a not-profit cotton marketing association that is marketing cotton directly to mills and have also made attempts to sell on the foreign market.

According to Phil Wallace and Glenn Shook of the Cotton Pool, they had no previous success in trying

to export cotton because of different federal regulations concerning the grading of cotton.

(Continued on page 2)

Meet Lou David Allen

Lou David Allen is no stranger to local political watchers. He is the incumbent mayor and has been for six years as well as a two year stint on the Merkel City Council.

He is running again for mayor. The candidate said that Merkel is not without it's problems. He cites the condition of city streets, problems that will have to be worked out with Merkel's water tower and the dog problem here as the main problems.

The mayor said "Many of the streets in Merkel are very old and they have not always been maintained the way they should. The mayor added that most of the street paving that has been done in Merkel was financed by homeowners and not through taxes. "Our streets are pathetic, or maybe worse than that. We have recently received a \$50,000 loan from the West Central Texas Council of Governments to repair the streets, but we cannot use any of that money to pave."

He also added that a paving project would be started soon for the area North of the Merkel Middle School and that would be funded by a \$60,000 grant from the Housing and Urban Development people.

The mayor says there are plenty of things that need to be done in Merkel but some things could not be done because of costs. "39 percent of our local tax money goes to pay current debts and bond payments. We are trying to maintain a holding pattern until we can clear some of the debts."

The mayor also mentioned that something will have to be done about Merkel's water tower before too long. He said that the tower would have to be resealed and general repairs are needed. He estimated the costs at \$10 to \$15,000.

The mayor added that he felt the current elected officials of the city are doing a good job at running Merkel, the best they can do with the limited resources.



Mayor Lou David Allen

Hearing postponed in suit

Pre trial hearings in the Tye PTO vs. Merkel Independent School District suit filed January 9th were scheduled to begin today at 3 p.m. in Judge Don Lanes' 42nd District Court in Abilene. That hearing has been postponed at the request of Abilene Attorney Randy Wilson due to previous commitments.

The suit was filed against the Merkel ISD, it's superintendent and all board members. The suit asks that the board cease and desist and asks that all actions taken by the board since the time of consolidation be declared null and void.

Abilene attorney Mike Baskerville is representing the Merkel ISD. Baskerville told the Merkel Mail late Tuesday that the hearing would be postponed and that he had no idea when it would be rescheduled.

The Mail obtained copies of the pre-trial motions and the defendant's original answer to the suits asks that the suit be dropped because the plaintiffs (Tye PTO) lacked standing to bring or maintain the suit, that the suit contained "allegations that are wholly inadmissible and irrelevant heresy" and that the plaintiffs had "incorrectly quoted sub-paragraph C of Section 19.238 of Texas Education Code in a substantial and material manner."

The Tye suit centers around sub-paragraph C of Section 19.238 of the Texas Education Code. That section reads "The board of trustees of the independent school district having the greater or greatest number of scholastics at the time of consolidation shall serve as the board of trustees of the consolidated district until the next regular election of trustees, at which time the consolidated

district until the next regular election of trustees, at which time the consolidated district shall elect a board of seven trustees, at least two of whom shall be elected from the area of each former independent school district included in the consolidation, unless the scholastic population of the larger or largest independent school district is in excess of five times that of the mother district or districts consolidating with it, in which event the trustees of the larger of largest district shall continue to serve for the terms for which they have been elected and only the vacancies, as they occur shall be filled from the consolidated district."

In the boards request for dismissal of the suit, the pre-trial motion states that the next regular election of trustees, following the consolidation, did find two members elected to the board that lived within the limits of the former Tye Independent School District.

The district went on to say that since that original election, candidates have been elected to the board from the district as a whole, in accordance with the law.

In a pre-trial motion, the Merkel ISD is also asking for a summary judgement. In those papers, the Merkel ISD says that the suit complains of one or more trustee elections conducted by the Merkel ISD and that it is out of the jurisdiction of the 42nd District Court to hear an election contest.

That paper also asks that the suit be "Dismissed or, in the alternative, that the defendants be awarded their summary judgement denying the relief requested by Plaintiff. Defendants further pray for such other and further relief, either at law or in equity, to which they may justly show themselves entitled."

Farmers meet

(Continued from page 1)

The port officials informed the men of various routes available to farmers to stay within those federal regulations and still accumulate and export the cotton.

The Port of Brownsville is set up much like any water district. It is a facility built with federal funds meaning that anyone can use the facilities. Public use facilities are the only avenue open to export of agricultural products that are not controlled by the multi-national agricultural brokers.

Beeman told the farmers that they needed to form groups or get commitments from farmers to be able to qualify for minimum tonnage figures required to export. Beeman told the farmers that minimum grain exports require at least 10,000 metric tons of grain.

Local farmers asked many questions of the two port officials that mainly centered around port charges, by-laws as well as the availability of transportation of the products to the port.

The Port of Brownsville, by law, cannot buy or sell any type of product. What they can do is provide information concerning shipping firms, agricultural buyers, land transportation of the products to the port as well as other facts needed to put together a direct sale.

Tow farmers from Stamford, one from Abilene as well as Taylor County Agent Joe Wilson attended the meeting sponsored by the Merkel Mail.

Negotiations are now going on between the Mail and representatives from the Interstate Grain Corporation, a new Independent grain marketing firm in the state, to send a marketing agent to Merkel to quote prices for grain products.

News from

70 years ago

While concrete costs much more than lumber it is still an economical investment. The concrete man is the friend of the lumberman for the following reasons: Wherever a disastrous fire occurs so much property is destroyed and gone forever, but when concrete buildings are erected the danger of fire is minimized and the wealth thus preserved flows into legitimate channels: the lumberman receiving his share of the sum.

The tender leaves of a harmless lung-healing mountainous shrub give to Dr. Shoop's Cough Remedy its marvelous curative properties. Tight, tickling or distressing coughs quickly yield to the healing, soothing action of this splendid prescription. If other remedies are offered, tell them no! Be your own judge.

Merkel people have many reasons to be happy and hopeful. Be cheerful and boost for the progress of our town and country. If you can not boost keep your mouth shut.

The musical entertainment given by the young ladies at the opera house Thursday night was a decided success. The selections were good, well arranged and charmingly rendered. There is plenty of such talent in the town to insure an entertainment of this kind once or twice a month, and it should be worked up.

More than 100 willing, anxious, earnest and enthusiastic citizens of Merkel assembled at the opera house last Friday night for the organization of Merkel's fire department. The meeting was called to order by Mayor W.W. Wheeler, and after carefully outlining the plan of organization, mention was made of many important items to be remembered by the fire boys in the future. The department must have money and the chief should be a man of cool and calm judgment and a man who could go before the city council and contend for the legitimate demands of the department. Money can be raised in many ways, for every patriotic property owner must appreciate the men who get up at any hour, day or night, and fight for their property. The following were unanimously elected: B.C. Gaither, chief of department; R.L. Bland, assistant chief, G.M. Cauthen, foreman chemical engine company and N.C. Sinclair, foreman hook and ladder company. More than 100 men have volunteered their services.

Baseball registration

Registration will begin April 4th thru April 18th for all boys 13 thru 17 baseball age. Only those boys who will be 13 on or before August 1st, 1979 and not reach the age of 18 on or before the 1st day of August 1979 may play.

Registration forms may be obtained in the following locations: Merkel - Middle School or High School. Trent - See Mrs. Brady Tye - Art's Barber Shop. Registration fee for this year is \$10.00 and

will accompany the registration form. If you are unable to pay at this time, we will allow you until May 1st as a final day for all monies. This fee will be used to defray the cost of insurance.

Parents, we need your support on this league and we would like you to turn out for any meeting we have.

Tri-City League can not be if we don't have your support.

President
Bill Sloan

Ashborn, Griffith

married March 21st

Mary Ashborn of Abilene and James Alfred Griffith were married March 21st. Mary is the daughter of Q.D. Byrd of Rochester and James

is the son of Mr. and Mrs. M.E. Griffith of Trent.

The couple will make their home at Fort Phantom Lake.



The Merkel Girl and Brownie Scouts held their annual banquet last Saturday and each troop

presented a skit. Here one of the troops show the meaning of scouting. (Staff photo by Clay A. Richards)

Fortnightly club

holds meeting

The March 27 meeting of the Fortnightly Study Club was at the Big Country Inn. Mrs. Buster Horton and Miss Avis Deavers were co-hostesses.

During the business meeting Mrs. J.W. Hammond gave a further report of the District Convention. Mrs. S.C.I. Dixon reported the Library Committee meeting. Mrs. Aaron Sudderth gave the method of cataloging books and materials in the Library. She asked for workers to help and there was an enthusiastic response.

Mrs. Dixon, program chairman, introduced the day's topic: Environmental Concerns. Mrs. Carl Hughes gave the Federation Counselor's Report - "The Reluctant visitor".

Mrs. Mack Fisher discussed "New Directions in the Search for Energy". She gave a report from Texas A&M plant scientist, Dr. Fredrick Miller, on how the stalks and leaves of grain sorghum can be used to make methanol, an alcohol, which can be processed into fuel. Then, Mrs. Fisher gave an interesting report on Geothermal Energy. Citing the exploration in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of both Texas and Louisiana. She told also of exploration in an old volcano crater in New Mexico. Last, Mrs. Fisher discussed Solar Energy telling of various types of collecting systems being used to heat homes and even commercial buildings. Four homes in Abilene and one in Trent are using solar energy. Also experiments are being conducted in some schools on building solar energy panels. Ira's 9th Grade science class has built one.

Mrs. C.B. Knight told of "Innovations in Energy Conservation". Living underground is one method of saving energy. Most houses are built into a hillside and are quite attractive. In Kansas City on large building has been completely constructed underground. The saving of energy has been tremendous.

In Davis, Calif., the use of bicycles by most of the townspeople has been a way to cut the use of energy. They also have a strict building code controlling the design of the house, roof overhang, spacing of windows, etc. in all houses being constructed. Every house in town must face south to take advantage of the sea breezes and all must have clothes lines in the back yard. Trees must be planted to provide insulation for the home. Also streets are narrow

To close her discussion Mrs. Knight told of the abundance of coal in the United States and the potential is unlimited in the energy field to supply gas made from coal. She mentioned nuclear power and new experiments with Sea-weed Kelp as an energy source also.

Those present were Mary Collins, Mrs. C.B. Knight, Mrs. Andy Shouse, Mrs. Charles Eager, Mrs. Mack Fisher, Mrs. Buster Horton, Mrs. Johnny Cox, Mrs. Ed Sandusky, Mrs. Johnny Hammond, Mrs. Ray Wilson, Mrs. S.C. Dixon, Avis Deavers, Mrs. Comer Haynes, Mrs. Aaron Sudderth, Mrs. Earl Hughes, Mildred Hamm, and Mrs. Carl Hughes.

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Trent 5th graders win

U.I.L. ribbons

Trent 5th Grade was pleased to have won two ribbons in the U.I.L. meet. Missy Simpson in Spelling and Kim Wallis in Poetry! Congratulations!

study of Texas with the metropolitan areas. We are making maps, charts of population growth, and an outline giving reasons for growth of the cities and present attractions.

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Scout banquet

Merkel Girl Scout and Brownie troops held their annual parent appreciation banquet Saturday night at the Merkel School Cafeteria and presented awards and cookie patches to Girl Scouts that participated in the annual cookie sale.

Sherry Ferguson received a plaque for her efforts with the Merkel scout program and 31 girls earned patches for cookie sales.

Each scouting troop put on a skit for the audience that was preceded by a Mexican Dinner.

Little league camp set

Little League Baseball takes pride in announcing the opening date for its seventh consecutive Summer Baseball Camp Program on the beautiful and historic Baylor University Campus. Applicants need not be Little League members.

The first of three two-week sessions begins on June 17. Applicants are still being accepted for all three sessions. Brochures and applications can be obtained by calling Waco 817-756-1816, or by writing Little League Baseball, 1612 S. University-Parks Drive, Waco, Texas 76706.

The camp offers a variety of activities including swimming, tennis, badminton, and volleyball but with special emphasis on baseball. All of the latest equipment and techniques for training in the skills of baseball will be used, including daily use of

Reynolds' have visitor

Mrs. Bonnie Sisk of Odessa, visited her mother, Mrs. O.J. Rey-

nolds and brother Bob last weekend.

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17th BIRTHDAY
Register For Free Prizes.
Come in Early April 6th and 7th, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. For a Free Glass of Orange Juice.
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Candidates appear at Q & A session

KBGG Radio of Merkel and the Merkel Mail co-sponsored a question and answer session last Friday at the KBGG studios for local candidates of the upcoming April 7th elections.

Candidates attending the session included mayoral candidates Lou David Allen, Ike Maxwell and Joe Bigbee and City Council candidates Kent Satterwhite and Paul Crouse. School Board candidates Dink Whisenhunt, James Boyd, Barbara Kotlik and Vicki Spurr as well as City Council candidate Emma Lois Shugart did not attend the session.

The candidates responded to four questions that had been pre-submitted to them to allow for preparation.

Most of the candidates agreed that the major problems the city faces are the dog problem, city streets and recreation facilities for the youth.

In comments City Council candidate Paul Crouse said, "I sometimes feel that the City Council does not have a list of priorities on projects that need to be done. He advocated the adoption of a set of

guidelines establishing work priorities.

Council candidate Kent Satterwhite said, "You will always have problems and our seem to be the dogs and the streets. We have just received a grant to fix the streets and the council is now working on a dog ordinance."

The mayoral candidates shared the same concerns. Lou David Allen said the streets in Merkel were pathetic but also mentioned costs of repairs as being prohibitive and that patching would be the answer for now.

Ike Maxwell said that the town is working on patching the streets but he wished there would be a clean-up and mowing effort started as well as working on drainage on the dirt streets.

Joe Bigbee said that the streets were the biggest problem but that he didn't feel that Merkel had any problems that could not be dealt with. Bigbee also said that he wanted something done for the local youths.

The session was carried live on KBGG Radio.

Obituaries

Effie Carmack

Effie Jane Carmack, 88 of 775 Victoria died at 9:30 a.m. Thursday in Bur - Mont Nursing Home after a short illness.

The body was at Elliott - Hamil Funeral Home, 542 Hickory, until 4 p.m. Friday. It was then taken to the Comanche Funeral Home. Services were at 3 p.m. Saturday in Comanche Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Clayton Pennington, pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Abilene, officiating. Burial was in Stag Creek Cemetery, directed by Comanche Funeral Home.

Born Feb. 22, 1891, in Leander, she moved as a child to Comanche County where she grew up. She attended schools there. She married William Lee Carmack Dec. 22, 1912, in Comanche. He died May 1, 1950. They lived there all their married life. At that time she moved to Abilene and had lived there since.

Survivors include two sons, Herman L. of Rt. 1, Abilene and Manuel M. of Comanche; five daughters, Mrs. J. S. (Hazel) Moore of Rt. 1 Sidney, Mrs. Onnie Gilliam of Merkel, Mrs. John R. (Eulene) Coan, 1141 Grape, Mrs. Belen

C. (Lavern) Jornsby of Wichita Falls, and Mrs. U.V. (Neta) Reese, 882 Merchant; 18 grandchildren; and a number of great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, Stanley E.

Pallbearers were grandsons.

Tammie Williams

Miss Tammie Jean Williams, 21, of Abilene, died at 2:20 p.m. Saturday at Abilene State School after a long illness.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Kilgore Cemetery with the Rev. John Nations officiating. Rader Funeral Home of Kilgore was in charge of arrangements.

Born Dec. 8, 1957, in Kilgore, Miss Williams had been a resident of Abilene for the past 13 years.

She is survived by her mother, Mrs. Peggy Clegg of Kilgore; her father, Robert Williams of Abilene; three brothers, Andy Williams, John David Williams, and Jimmy Williams, all of Kilgore; a sister, Deanna Williams, Kilgore; and her grandparents, John Reagh of Kilgore and Mrs. E.G. Williams of Merkel.

G.M. putting on show

Local students will get a peek at the future when General Motors "Previews of Progress" research - in - action science show appears at Merkel High School at 10:00 a.m. and Merkel Middle School at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 9, 1979.

The non-commercial show, according to General Motors President Elliott M. Estes, "seeks to inspire more student interest in science, engineering, and related technical and vocational careers to provide the trained talent America needs to keep pace with the promise of the future."

"Previews of Progress" demonstrations depict work being done today in America's research laboratories and point out the contributions of research to modern living. A two person team narrates the live show in non-technical language.

Over 40 million students and adults in the United States have seen Previews since 1946.

Millions more have seen the GM show in Canada and 25 foreign countries, including special presentations made overseas at the request of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Featured in the show are two energy conversion demonstrations which show how gas turbine engines and solar cells can be used as alternate power sources. Solar cells change sunlight into usable energy. Students also will be shown recent developments aimed at solving air and water pollution problems.

Another demonstration uses a laser beam to translate the sounds we hear into visual patterns of light.

In all, students will see nine examples of research-in-action. Previews has received wide acclaim from educators and civic organizations for its efforts in encouraging more student interest in technical career opportunities.



Kelly Wolfe, far left, chose to repaint Calvary Baptist Church for his service to community project towards his Eagle Scout award. Other scouts Chris Mashburn, Tim Brady, Eddie Harris, and Randy Levarich are also helping. (Staff photo by Glenn Richards).

Merkel Riding Club meets Saturday

The Merkel Riding Club cordially invites you to attend the April meeting which features the annual bar-b-que supper and business meeting. WHEN: April 7, 1979 at 7:30 p.m. WHERE: Taylor Elec-

tric Co-op Building, Merkel. Please bring a salad or desert, the meat, beans and bread will be furnished, as well as the drinks and utensils. You are urged to attend, as there will be an important business

meeting following. Please feel free to invite any interested new members, as we plan to make the 1979 season the best ever, beginning with our bar-b-que dinner. Door prizes will be given!

Jones H.D. meets

The Council of the Jones County Texas Extension Homemakers Association met March 21st at 2 p.m. at the Activity Center in Anson.

The Recreation leader, Mrs. Daisy Mashburn led a game. The Council consisted of 4 officers, 10 Council members, 4 visitors and 7 clubs were represented.

Mrs. Ruth Carlton, 4-H Chairman, reported that \$10.00, \$15.00 and \$20.00 will be the winning prizes in the 4-H dress review that will be given in April.

The one dollar TEHA contributions per member must be paid in to the State office by June first.

Mrs. Charles Rust, Reporter Chairman, gave a report of the Reporters training meeting that was held March 5th at 10:30 a.m. at the Activity Center.

The plaques were presented by Mrs. Beadie Barksdale, member of Expansion committee to Mrs. Alma Foster of the Avoca Club for outstanding Club Woman of the Year and the Stith Club for Outstanding Club of the Year, this being the second year for the Stith Club to win this honor.

Mrs. Helen Haynes, a member on the board for "Meals on Wheels" reported as to the progress that has been made in getting this program started.

The Texas Extension Homemakers Association of District Three met at Quanah, Texas, March 15th with fourteen members from Jones County attending. Council will meet April 18th at 2 p.m. at the Activity Center in Anson.

Fishers sell Merkel Auto Parts to Don King

J.L. and Polly Fisher wish to announce that negotiations have been consummated with Don King for the purchase of Merkel Auto Parts, 921 North 2nd, Merkel, Tx. J.L. and Polly want to sincerely thank their many friends and customers for loyal support

and business for the past 15 years of their ownership and operation of this business.

They urge their customers to continue with Don King. Don has had 17 years experience in auto parts sales and offers excellent service to all customers.

Ladies interested in weight-watching

If there are any ladies interested in forming an exercise club or a weight watchers club, please call 928-5427 for more information.

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LIST PRICE	DISCOUNT	SALE PRICE
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7-1tp

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52-tfc

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2tc

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Someone needed to mow large lawn, one time or on a regular basis. Call 928-4920 evenings or weekends.

The Merkel ISD is looking for bus drivers and back-up bus drivers for this and the coming school year. If interested, contact the superintendent's office at 928-5813. The Merkel ISD is an equal opportunity employer.

If you have worms to sell, contact this Toll Free number 1-800-327-9009, and our representative will be in touch with you; or, for immediate action, call this no. 1-601-939-0185.

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I want to thank all those who sent cards, flowers, or gifts to me during my recent stay in the hospital and at home. Also thanks to those who came to see me.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the Dairy Queen for honoring our anniversary by serving us a delicious dinner on our day. The food and service was fantastic.

Sincerely, Mr. & Mrs. Waymon Adcock Mr. & Mrs. D.T. Dillon

Accidents happen to other people, right? Wrong! Accidents can happen to anyone. It is because of an accident at our house that I write this note of appreciation for the Merkel Fire Department. What could have been a tragedy was turned into minor damage because we knew the Fire Department was on its way to help us and we kept fighting our fire. It is with sincere appreciation and grateful thanks that we place this note in the Merkel Mail.

Thanks, The Virgil Patterson family 7-1tp

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**Xi Nu Chi,
Lambda Beta
honor Mrs.
W.T. Sadler**

Xi Nu Chi & Lambda Beta Chapters of Beta Sigma Phi honored Mrs. W.T. Sadler with a tea in the Fellowship hall of the First United Methodist Church Sunday April 1, 1979.

Bobby Mansfield, president of Xi Nu Chi presented the award to Mary Cleo. Bobby told Mary Cleo, you have been chosen to receive the Almeda Bullock Memorial Award: You have devoted your life to the good, the true, and the beautiful. With a loyal heart and unflinching effort, you faithfully fulfilled your duties as Sponsor of Lambda Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi for several years.

This award is given to a person associated with Beta Sigma Phi, they must have been former member, director, or sponsor. The award was set up in honor of Mrs. Bullock who dedicated her time and efforts to Beta Sigma Phi. At the time of her death she was an honorary member of Xi Nu Chi.

A yellow rose was purchased by each member of Xi Nu Chi and a centerpiece was made in memory of Mrs. Bullock. The centerpiece was dedicated at the tea in Mrs. Bullock's memory.

The yellow silk rose centerpiece decorated the tea table, along with yellow rose mints and cookies. Punch was served from a silver punch bowl.

Members from Lambda Beta present were: Gloria Hensley, Candice and Dawn, Annette Clark, Nancy Hogan, Ann Doan, Mary Hill and Richia, Bell Hammond and Suzan.

Members from Xi Nu Chi were: Mamie Steck, Louise Dubose, Connie Harris, Charlotte Starbuck, Bobby Mansfield, Val Patterson, Connie Ybarra, Kathy Leverich, Ginny Yad-



Tommy Nays (left) and Eddy Sparks shake hands with a little difficulty. Tommy broke his arm pole vaulting, and just a couple of days before Eddy had his playing tug football. (Staff photo by Glenn Richards).

dow, Rose Etheridge, Opal Garner, Ruth Lassiter and Helen Benson former members. Guests: Mrs. Fred Starbuck, Mrs. Vera West, Sandra Haynes, Mrs. Jarrett Williams, Sue Wiggins, Mrs. J. E. Bowles, and Mrs. Earl Hughes last years winner and Mrs. W.T. Sadler.

Xi Nu Chi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi was hosted to an "Irish Fling" at the fellowship hall at the Catholic Church. Members and their husbands played potato hockey. Everyone upon entering the room kissed the Blarney Stone. Drinks, sand-

wiches and dips were served to the following: Mr. & Mrs. Lee Yad-dow, Mr. & Mrs. John Brady, Mr. & Mrs. George Starbuck, Mr. & Mrs. Rosie Castille, Mr.

& Mrs. Jim Allday, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Etheridge, Mr. & Mrs. Billy Bob Neff, Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Leverich, Bobby Mansfield.

**Merkel Band
news & meeting**

The 7th and 8th grade Badger band performed at the Cisco Junior College Music Festival Friday, March 30, Denise Pack, Kim Gurganus, and Kim McCasland each performed solo twirling routines

and a trio at twirling competition.

All Badger Band Boosters are urged to attend the Tuesday, April 10 meeting at the band hall. Be there at 7:30 p.m. for refreshments.

**Legal
Notices**

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CARL GLENN ALBRIGHT, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Carl Glenn Albright were issued on March 28, 1979, in Cause No. 13,988, pending in the County Court of Taylor County, Texas, to:

Naomi Mae Albright

The residence of such Executor is Taylor County, Texas. The post office address is:

c o Gaston Welborn, Jr.

ACU Station, Box 8244

Abilene, Texas 79601

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 29th day of March, 1979.

by Gaston Welborn Jr. Attorney for the Estate

7-1tc

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF HAZEL JONES BURTON, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of HAZEL JONES BURTON were issued on the 26 day of March, 1979, in Cause no. 14-035, pending in the County Court of Taylor County, Texas, Sitting in

Probate, to:

KAY SHARON PARSONS.

The residence address of such Independent Executrix is:

912 North Bend, Austin, Texas 78758.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are

required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 26 day of March, 1979.

KAY SHARON PARSONS, Independent Executrix of the Estate of Hazel Jones Burton

By: H.L. Hays, Jr., Attorney for the Estate

Kindergarten registration

Preregistration for Kindergartners will be held Wednesday, April 18, 1979 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Merkel Elementary School office for Merkel students. Tye students will register Thursday the 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Tye Elementary School Office.

Requirements to enter Kindergarten are: must

be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, series for DPT with booster after 4th birthday, series for Polio with booster after 4th birthday, Measles, Rubella, Mumps after 1st birthday and a birth certificate.

If anyone knows of a kindergarten student for next fall, please contact them so they may pre-register their child on April 18.

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HERRERA FOR COUNCILMAN

Art Herrera, incumbent councilman on Place 1 for the city of Tye, Texas is seeking reelection. He is asking for another two year term, not on future promises, but on what has happened in the last two years.

First, and of utmost importance was the introduction of the Senior Citizens Nutrition Program, which now serves an average of forty of our senior citizens three times per week.

Secondly, the Law Enforcement Department came into existence, which constitutes the Municipal Court, Chief of Police, Municipal Court Judge and Clerk.

The Planning and Zoning Commission was created.

What is Art Herrera foreseeing for the community of Tye within the next two years? The number one priority will be aggressively pursuing the Sewer System until it is completed. Thus far the city of Tye has gone through two of the preliminary phases. Phase I - Facility Plans, Phase II - Planning and Specifications. The third and final phase is the Construction Phase. He feels optimistic that the federal grant is forthcoming. Patience is what he asks from the fellow citizens of Tye.

He will support the purchase of better vehicles to properly render better services to the citizens of Tye.

He will support the improvement of the water system, and the development and proper maintenance of city streets.

(A paid political advertisement paid for by supporters of Art Herrera, Councilman for Place 1, City of Tye, Texas)

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Ray De La Cruz puts some finishing touches on the foundation for a concession stand-rest room facility for the United Girls Softball League field. A work day had been scheduled for Saturday to

clean up the fields, and put up fencing around the new field. Volunteers are asked to bring shovels, hoes, rakes and carpentry tools Saturday morning. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)

Merkel I.S.D. lunch menu

The Merkel School menus will be as follows:

- Monday April 9
Beef tacos, taco sauce, pinto beans, lettuce and cheese, rice crispie bars.
- Tuesday, April 10
Fried fish, tartar sauce, macaroni and tomatoes, seasoned spinach, corn meal twish, chilled apricot halves.
- Wednesday, April 11
Turkey and dressing with giblet gravy, seasoned green beans, carrot sticks, hot rolls, cranberry apple jello.
- Thursday, April 12
Spanish rice with ground beef, vegetable salad with choice of dressing, peaches with whip topping.
- Friday, April 13
Hamburgers, lettuce, tomato, pickle, and onions, potato puffs, buns, fresh fruit wedges.

- Monday April 16
Pizza, buttered mixed vegetables, lettuce wedge with choice of dressing, chilled fruit.
- Tuesday April 17
Bar-b-que beef, green lima beans, vegetable salad with choice of dressing, hot rolls, wackey cake with white frosting.
- Wednesday, April 18
Oven fried turkey steak, cream gravy, buttered squash, spring salad with choice of dressing, hot rolls, orange whip.
- Thursday, April 19
Spaghetti with beef and cheese, green beans, cole slaw with sweet and sour dressing, garlic buttered bread, cranberry crunch bars.
- Friday April 20
Hamburgers, lettuce, tomato, pickle, and onions, potato puffs, buns, peanut butter no bake cookies.

Question the candidates

A group of senior voters from Tye are hosting a "Meet the Candidate" session on Friday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. to be held at the Tye Elementary School. This session will include candidates seeking places on the Merkel I.S.D. Board of Trustees as well as the Tye City

Council.

Those being invited include: school board candidates, Vicki Spurr, Dink Whisenhunt, Barbara Kotlik, and James Boyd; city council candidates, Patricia Miller, Violet Law, Art Herrera, Helena Brazell,

Dewitt Isom, Luanne Goodgion, and A. J. Pence.

The candidates will be given time to make opening statements which will be followed by questions from the audience. All voters are urged to attend.

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,
There was a sentence in last week's Merkel Mail which needs clarification: (quote) "A petition, containing 20 signatures from Merkel and 20 from Tye, was filed with the Merkel Independent School District asking for an election to deconsolidate Tye from the Merkel I.S.D. That petition was subsequently withdrawn." (end quote). I want everyone to know that the petition indicated above was not filed by any person from Tye.

Dear Editor:
I would like to clear up a rumor that I have heard from several people lately which is that Vicki Spurr did not carry Tye in last year's

school board election. This is not true. Out of the 124 votes cast in the Tye box, Vicki received 82. Again I ask, people please check the facts

on what you hear before repeating it.
Thank you,
Jo Moore
Rt. 4
Abilene, Texas

Merkel Art Association meets

The Merkel Art Association met in a called meeting on March 13th, with Ruth Tipton, club president presiding.

Future plans for the club will be discussed April 6th at 7 p.m. when the club will meet at the Merkel Senior Citizens Building.

The club gained two new members at their last meeting, Mrs. Beauford Allen and Mrs. Vernon Stanley.

Thank you,
Vicki Spurr
Tye, Texas.

Dear Editor,
In your article titled "Board Rehires Teachers . . . With Stipulations" which appeared in the Merkel Mail on March 29, you made reference to a petition asking for an election to deconsolidate Tye from the Merkel I.S.D. I would just like to say that no one from Tye filed such a petition with the Merkel Independent School District.

Thank you,
Barbara Kotlik
Rt. 3
Merkel, Texas.

Editors Note:
A further clarification on these clarifications. The Mail did not say who filed the petition. We did state that it was filed with the Merkel Independent School District. It was filed against the Merkel ISD and was filed in County Judges' James McMillon's court.

Ahhh,


Here's why you'll like greenbug resistant T-E Y-101 R

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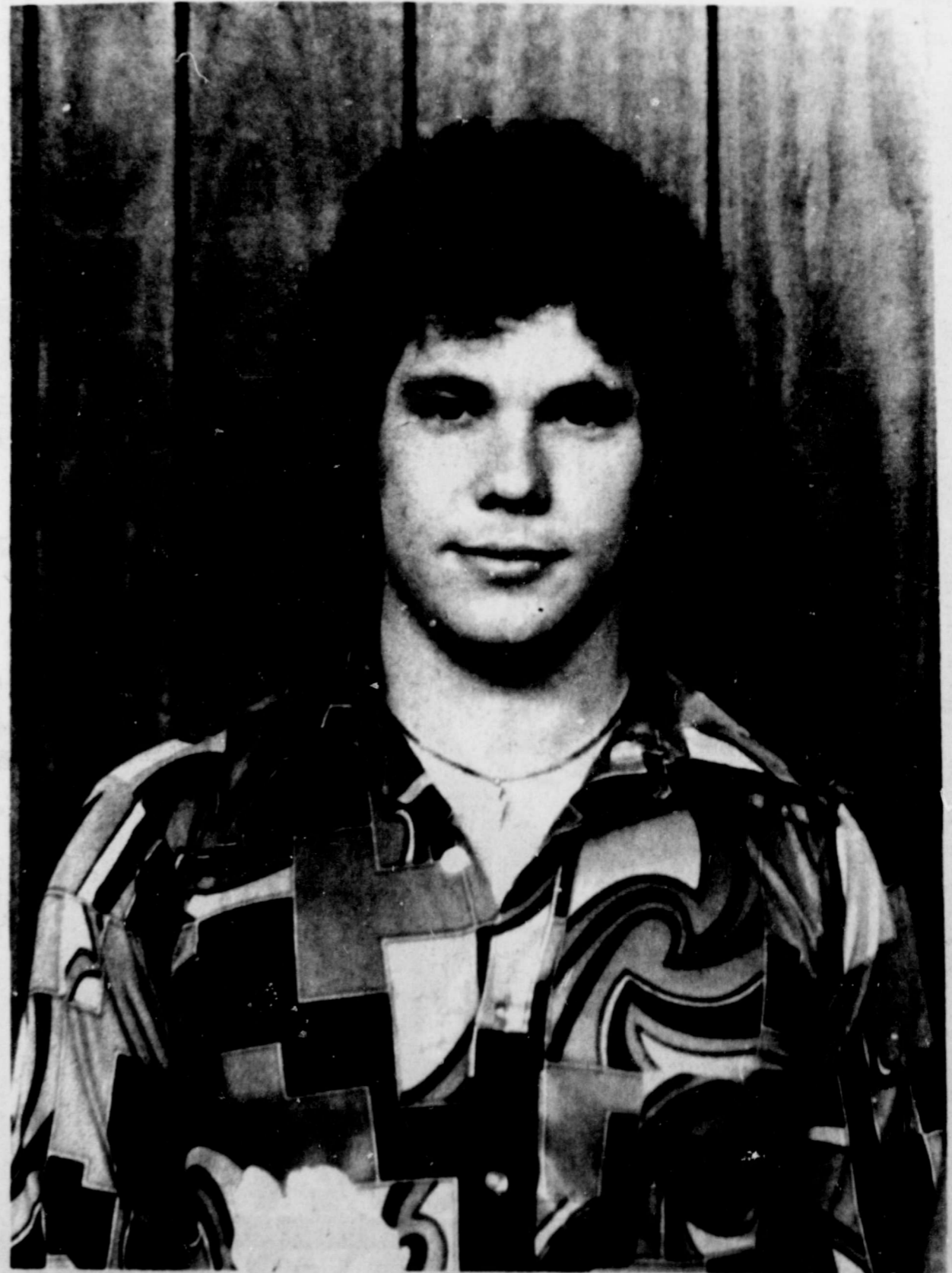
ELECT

JOE BIGBEE,

MAYOR

ON

APRIL 7th.



Political Advertisement Paid For By Joe Bigbee.

Elections create letters to the editor

Dear Tye Residents:

I have put off writing a letter to this paper, but now have given in. I will say right off the bat that I am a firm believer in standing up and fighting for my rights and beliefs. However, the real essence of conflict in the Merkel-Tye School District seems to have gotten lost in the shuffle. What started out as a request to have our 6th grade returned to Tye (we do have the room and students) because we didn't believe they should be put in with junior high students, and we want a voice on the Board, has turned into a mud slinging, back stabbing, letter writing contest. Sure, I want our 6th Grade and a voice on the Board, this is my opinion. This is still America, and everyone does not have the same opinions as I do. This is their right.

We are not going to make any headway by attacking our "friends". Friends? Well, if you can't have a different idea on a subject, and still be friends, you weren't much of a friend to start with. I'm not

going to attack someone I sit side by side with at church because they don't want to join in my fights.

So let's get back to the main issue at hand, and with the ones involved, namely the Board, and stop airing our wash in the newspaper, because it surely is the most amusing part of the week for those elected officials who don't agree with us.

One more thing, elections are coming up soon, and I urge every registered voter to cast a ballot. And if this letter loses any votes for me on the Tye City Council, well, you probably weren't going to vote anyway.

Sincerely,
Luanne Goodgion

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to Ms. Vickie Spurr's letter to the editor dated March 22, 1979. Ms. Spurr wrote, "My desire remains only to serve the best interest of students, teachers, and parents." If Ms. Spurr is sincere in what she wrote, I would like to ask her a few questions.

Why are you supporting the suit brought against the Merkel Board of Education, costing the taxpayers hundreds of dollars in fees for an attorney? Why do you support using Tye Parent Teacher Organization

funds for fees to pay attorneys? Is not the P.T.O. an organization that helps the Merkel Independent School District provide educational opportunities for students? Were students denied some kind of equipment of service with the P.T.O. money being used to pay fees for attorneys? Is this ethical? Why are you leading a movement for the Tye Community to deconsolidate from the Merkel I.S.D., and getting citizens and students in both communities disturbed? Why was a petition withdrawn from the Taylor County Judge? Was it withdrawn because of ballots not being printed, notice of election not being printed, unqualified voter's signatures on the petition, not enough time to prepare for April 7th election? Do you actually know all the consequences if deconsolidation is achieved?

I ask you, are these things in the best interest of students, teachers, and parents, as you stated in your letter to the editor?

Sincerely,
Ned Watts
Rt. 1,
Merkel, Texas

Dear Editor,

In recent days, a hand bill has been passed out to the voters and taxpayers of the Merkel School district, alluding

to certain improprieties by the Merkel School board.

First, let me say that this handbill is strictly political and the questions it asks and the "facts" it presents are highly misleading.

This handbill was jointly issued by Vicki Spurr and Barbara Kotlik, who both are candidates for places one and two on the Merkel School Board, now occupied by Dink Whisenhunt and James Boyd. Mrs. Spurr and Mrs. Kotlik are members of the group that has brought a law suit against the Merkel School Board and Administration.

In a recent letter to the editor, Mrs. Spurr asked that those involved by factual, so in light of this, I will try to be factual and also try to separate fact from fiction in answering Mrs. Spurr's and Mrs. Kotlik's hand bill.

The first fact that should be pointed out is that it was not the people of Merkel who initiated a petition to disannex. Also, it is not the people of Merkel who hired an attorney from Abilene and one in San Antonio, to sue the tax payers of the Merkel School District. One other fact to be pointed out, is that before Tye and Merkel joined school districts, it was Tye, and not Merkel, that was hopelessly in debt. It has been the

people of Merkel who are helping to pay off this debt with no benefit to Merkel Schools, I might add.

Tye school is air-conditioned, Merkel schools are not! Yet, Mrs. Spurr and Mrs. Kotlik's group opposed the bond issue because Tye school wasn't going to get its fair share. What fair share was given the people of the Merkel school district when they voted to help pay off Tye's debt in 1973?

Another fact to be

pointed out, is that it was not the Merkel School Board that got the hearing by the Texas Education Agency postponed. This action was taken unilaterally by the Tye group in conjunction with a law suit against Merkel School Board. The attorney for Merkel ISD has had a hard time keeping up with all the various legal actions and maneuvering by the Tye group's lawyers.

The Tye group, to my knowledge, has never been denied access to

records or any other information required by law to be made public, but much valuable time has been wasted by school administrators while having to wait for representatives of this group to dig through every item of record, trying to find some small discrepancy.

Finally, I would like to ask Mrs. Spurr and Mrs. Kotlik's group this question: how can you say Mrs. Spurr and Mrs. Kotlik want to serve the people of the Merkel

School District while at the same time, the group they represent has paid over \$2,000 to lawyers in Abilene and San Antonio to work against the people and their elected representatives?

How can they say they will listen to all the people, when they have shouted down the voices of reason in their own neighborhood?

George English
Rt. 1 Box 171 E
Merkel, Texas 79636

Merkel girls track team place in Anson meet

The Merkel girls varsity tracksters took a ride over to Anson this past weekend where eight members competed in six different events.

Amy McCoy placed 3rd in the triple jump with a distance of 31' 1 1/2", 5th in the long jump and 6th in the shot put.

Loyce Baker, a freshman, placed 5th in the triple jump with a distance of 30' 5 1/2" and 6th in the 440 run with a time of 68.2.

Sirrintorn Prason, another freshman, jumped 15' 6" to place 3rd in the long jump. The winning distance was just 1/2" more at 15' 6 1/2" and the second

place jump was the same 15' 6" that Sirrintorn jumped but previous jumps are used to eliminate ties.

Pam Crenshaw heaved the discus 88' 9 1/4" to place fifth.

The group of Amy McCoy, Loyce Baker, Judy Castille, and Sirrintorn Prason ran a 56.8 to place fifth.

The district track meet is Friday in Coahoma with field events starting at 9:30 and running events at 10:30. Finals will be run at 2:00.

The sprint relay got their feet wet, running the relay for the first

Keen cuisine Recipes

Have you got a recipe that you are especially fond of and would like others to know about it. Jot it down with your name and sent it to P.O. Box 428, Merkel.

Mexican Corn Bread
Mrs. Roy Mashburn

- 1 cup corn meal
- 2/3 cup buttermilk
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon soda
- pinch of salt
- 1 cup mexicorn
- 1/3 cup Crisco
- 1 cup grated cheese
- 1 small can "Old El Paso green chili peppers (drain & chop)

Pour half the mixture in a hot greased skillet or baking dish, sprinkle half the chese and green chilies over it. Add rest of the mixture then sprinkle rest of cheese and green chilies on top. Bake in a hot oven about 30 minutes.

Hi-
A week or so ago you asked for recipies - if salads count here is one that is simply delicious! I hate cooked mustard greens - but this fresh mustard green salad had me coming back for 3rds!

The recipe was given to me by Laura May Boyd of Rule, my husband's grandmother.

Laura May's Mustard Green Salad.

- Fresh cool mustard greens torn into easily managed pieces
- 4 - 8 chopped green onions
- 2 - 3 sliced hard boiled eggs
- 6 - 8 cooked & broken bacon slices
- bacon grease kept warm

Arrange mustard greens prettily on a tray or platter. Sprinkle green onion and bacon bits over the greens. Place egg slices on top. Now drizzle bacon grease over the salad and serve immediately. These baco, drippings are a must! It is absolutely delicious!

Enjoy-
Mrs. Mark Norman

FRIDAY **DANCE** SATURDAY
Texas Bush Boogie Band
FEATURING
Duke Pack & Monty Tittle
(SPECIAL GIVE-A-WAY)
(SATURDAY NIGHT)
QUEENA HEARTS

BENEFIT DANCE
CON EL CONJUNTO
"LOS NUEVOS"
DE ABILENE, TX.
Proceeds To Go To
"Mike" Moreno
Saturday,
8:30 - 1:00 **Merkel VFW**

RABBIT FRYERS
DRESSED, YOUNG, TENDER, DOMESTIC RABBIT MEAT
\$1.70 Per Lb. (At The Farm)
TUESDAY & FRIDAY ONLY
4 P.M. to 8 P.M. No Delivery
Buffalo Rabbit Farm
Pho. 915-928-5157

WE INVITE OUR FRIENDS TO OUR SPECIAL PREACHING SERVICES WITH BOB BURGESS OF SWEETWATER. THIS GOSPEL MEETING BEGINS THIS SUNDAY WITH SERVICES AT 9:45, 10:30, and 6:00. WE WILL ALSO HAVE EVENING SERVICES NEXT MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9th - 11th, AT 7:30 EACH EVENING. PLEASE COME ENJOY THE FELLOWSHIP AND HEAR THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST PROCLAIMED WITH FAITH AND ZEAL!

HEAR "THE PRIME OF LIFE" WEEKDAYS AT 7:50 a.m. ON KBBG RADIO

MERKEL CHURCH OF CHRIST
818-ASH
Larry Gill, Minister
John McKeel, Youth Minister

SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:45 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Invites you to attend their City Wide Revival April 4th thru April 8th 7:30 nightly.

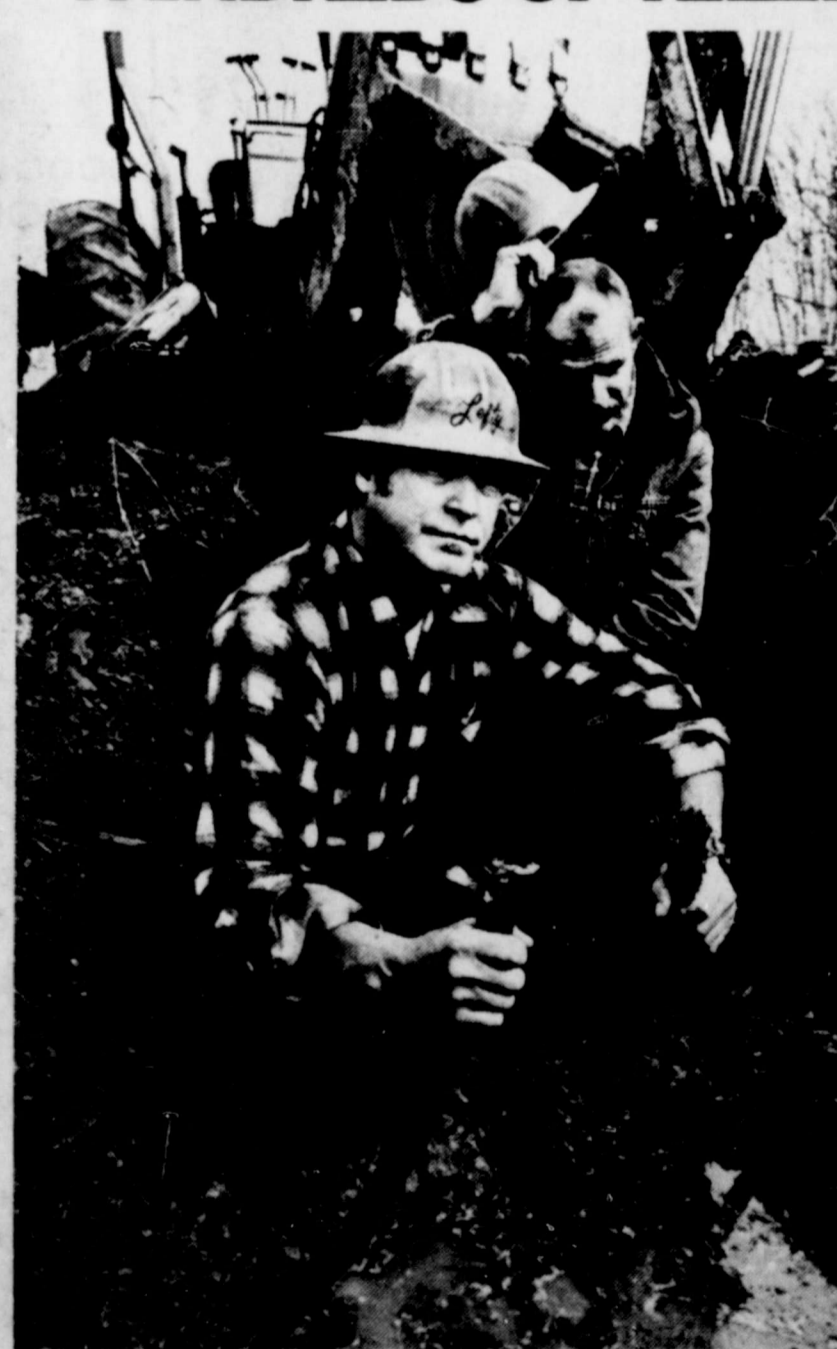
You NEED to hear Dr. Henry H. Parrish from Ecorse Baptist Temple each night.

Saturday night and Sunday morning hear Gospel Quartet singing by the Faith Singers.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND

Need a Ride? Call 928-5120

ONE CALL COULD HAVE KEPT THEM FROM CUTTING OFF HUNDREDS OF TELEPHONES.



They've just cut through an underground telephone cable. And you could too, unless you call Continental Telephone before you dig.

By calling our local Business Office you can find out where the cable is and how to avoid it.

A cable can be costly to repair. And it can be costly for those whose telephone service is interrupted.

So don't take unnecessary chances. The next time you're planning any digging, call Continental Telephone before you start.

One telephone call from you can insure uninterrupted telephone service to hundreds of others.

Continental Telephone of Texas
You can always call on us.

The Merkel library:



Evelyn Martin holds one of the many books in the Merkel Library. The Library is at present trying to get all of its overdue books back. (Staff photo by Glenn Richards)

Lots of things
to look
forward to

by Glenn Richards

Evelyn Martin inherited a task. Getting the Merkel Library in shape, and it's quite an undertaking one at that. A leaky roof, dirty books, and an endless number of missing books were just a couple of the things the lifelong resident of Merkel had to look forward to in her new job.

"I never had any real interest in libraries before I started working here. I read about the job in the Merkel Mail and decided that sounded like a good job for me," she said.

Mrs. Martin sent in her application and received a letter in the mail asking her to come to the Abilene Public Library to be interviewed. She did, and obviously she got the job. The job calls for twenty hour a week and that makes the hours of the library 1-5 Mon. through Fri. and 9-1 on Saturday.

A rough estimate of the number of books would be between two and three thousand. A wide selection is covered, books like fiction, westerns, biographies, autobiographies, reference books and an extremely large selection of children's books. As a matter of fact, if there is a book you would like and the local library doesn't have it they can get it for you from Abilene.

At present the library is attempting to regain a number of their lost books so they can start all over again.

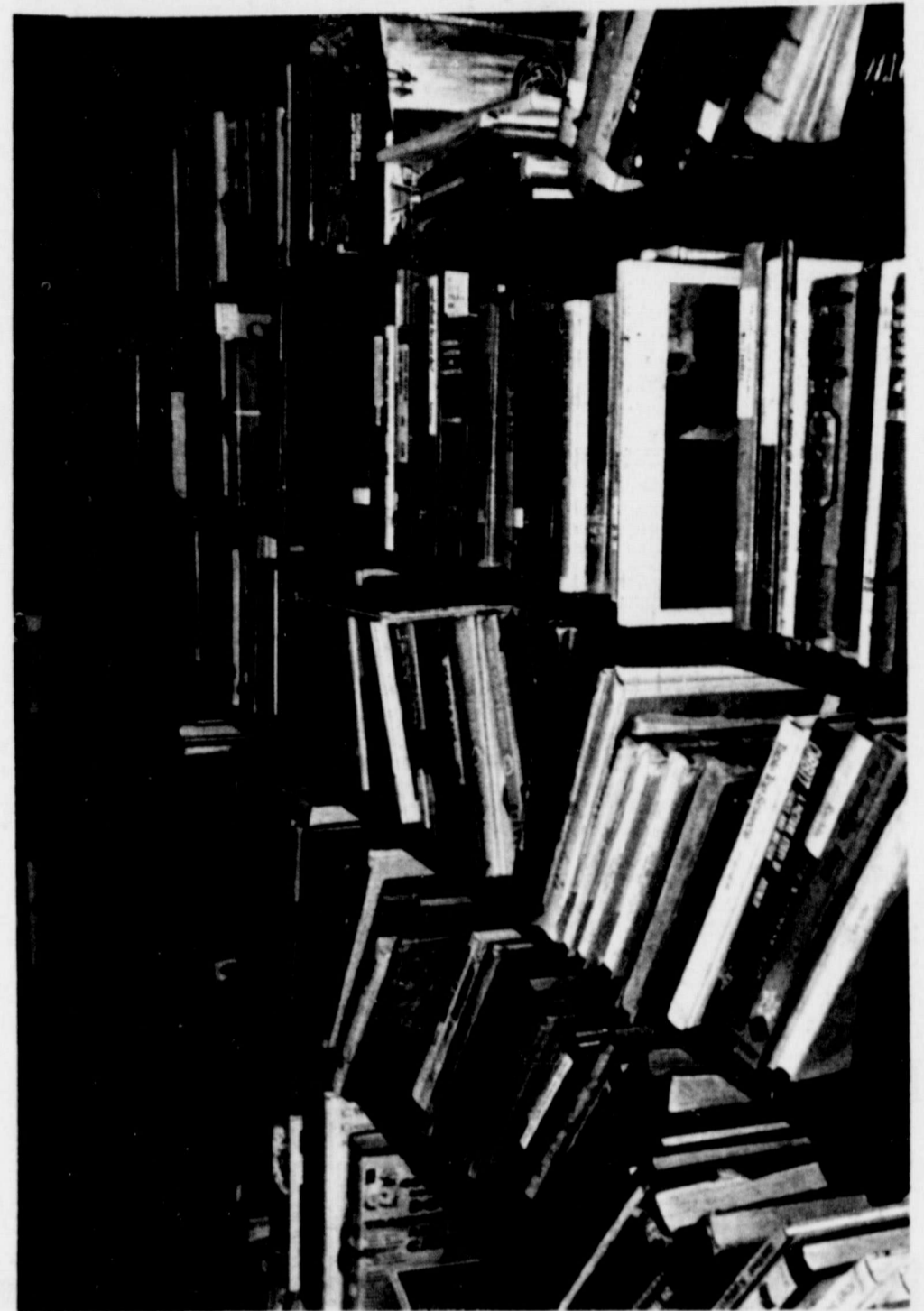
"We've got books that have been checked out since 1977. We decided to drop the overdue fine on books for the time being and would very much appreciate people getting them in," she said.

Well, the leaky roof is still there, (city manager J.A. Sadler said that the roof was being worked on and should be finished soon.), and there's still a lot of books missing (but now would be a great time to get all those books back in at no charge), but the place is very clean and there is still the chore of inventory and putting cards in the new books (five cards for each book). Mrs. Martin is receiving some greatly appreciated help from the Fortnightly Study Club with the typing for all the cards.

If you have some books you have already read and you would like to donate them, take them by the library anytime it's open.

The Merkel Library - (to borrow a phrase) "There's something in it for you".

Open for business



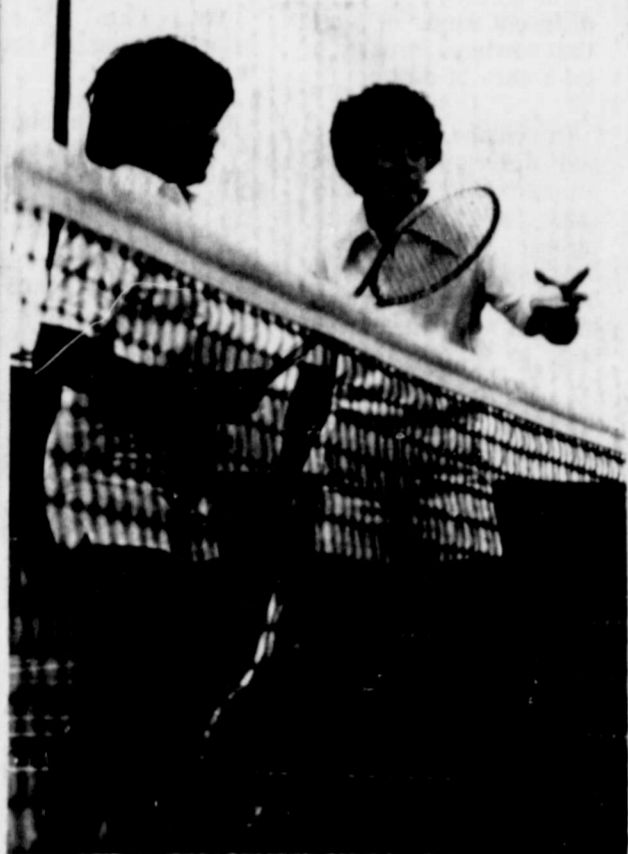
The Library is now open from 1-5 Mon. - Fri. and 9-1 on Saturday. (Staff photo by Glenn Richards)

EASTER PARADE OF FOOD VALUES

<p>REGISTER FOR EASTER</p> <p>GOOCH SMOKED BONELESS FULLY COOKED ROLL HAM DRAWING APRIL 14</p> <p>30¢ OFF</p> <p>ANY TONY'S PIZZA</p> <p>DAIRY SPECIALS</p> <p>LONGHORN CHEESE RED RINE LB \$1.98</p> <p>Buttermilk 1/2 GAL 98¢</p> <p>1 G MILK \$1.98 GAL VIT D 2% \$1.98 GAL LOW FAT 1% \$1.89 GAL</p> <p>WRAPPED EASTER EGG CANDY</p>	<p>PRESERVES</p> <p>PINEAPPLE VIP 18 OZ 69¢</p> <p>STRAWBERRY VIP 18 OZ 79¢</p> <p>MORTONS ASST. FLAVORS POTATO CHIPS REG. 73¢ 59¢</p> <p>HUNTS CATSUP 24 OZ 79¢</p> <p>GIANT SIZE DUZ \$1.49</p> <p>CHICKEN of the SEA TUNA 79¢</p> <p>FOLGERS COFFEE 1 LB \$2.29</p> <p>GREEN GIANT CORN NO 303 CAN CREAM STYLE 39¢</p> <p>TOWN TALK BREAD 1 1/2 LB LOAF 55¢</p> <p>KRAFTS ALL FLAVORS BAR B QUE SAUCE 79¢</p> <p>JEWEL 16 OZ SHORTENING \$1.39</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">REF UP BUDGETS WITH SALE PRICED</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">MEATS</p> <p>GERMAN SAUSAGE 12 OZ \$1.39</p> <p>GOOCH BACON SLICED SLAB LB 98¢</p> <p>SLICED BOLOGNA LB \$1.39</p> <p>HOT LINKS 1 LB \$1.39</p> <p>GOOCH FRANKS 98¢ 12 OZ. </p> <p>DOG FOOD Texas Special \$3.98 CHUNK 25 LB</p> <p>Purina \$1.98 MOIST & CHUNKY 5 LB</p> <p>TENDER VITTLES 6 OZ 39¢</p>	<p>CIGARETTES \$5.49 CTN</p> <p>BIC LIGHTERS EACH 49¢</p> <p>AIRWICK CARPET FRESH \$1.39</p> <p>CORNET DELTA TISSUE 4 ROLL 98¢</p> <p>FIG NEWTON 16 OZ 89¢</p> <p>CHIP AHOY 13 OZ 98¢</p> <p>NILLA WAFERS 12 OZ BOX 59¢</p> <p>OREO 15 OZ 98¢</p> <p>PREMIUM CRACKERS 1 LB BOX 59¢</p> <p>COCA COLA \$1.79 PLUS DEPOSIT 32 OZ BOTTLES</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">PRODUCE SPECIALS</p> <p>CALIFORNIA NO 1 LETTUCE HEAD 39¢</p> <p>RUSSET POTATOES 10 LB BAG 89¢</p> <p>CARROTS 1 LB BAG 19¢</p> <p>RADISHES 6 OZ BAG 19¢</p> <p>TOMATOES LB 59¢</p> <p>LEMONS 3/29¢</p>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">NINTH STREET GROCERY</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">1207 S 9th</p>				

Ascencio, Farmer win district

Thursday April 5, 1979



Sherry Ascencio (left) and Gina Farmer discuss some strategy during their district win last week in Sweetwater (Staff photo by Glenn Richards).

by Glenn Richards

The girls district Tennis tournament was held last weekend in Sweetwater where Sherry Ascencio and Gina Farmer won the doubles division and received the right to play in Lubbock at the Regional Tournament the 20th and 21st. The No. 2 doubles team of Charolet Watts and Trish Powell lost their first match 6-0, 6-0 and Maria Moreno, playing in the Jr. division, lost hers 7-5, 6-0.

Gina and Sherry received a bye in the first round because a team by the same name won the district tournament last year (the team was Gina and Sherry's older sister).

In the second round the No. 2 team from Ballinger could only take one game from the pair who won the match 6-1, 6-0.

The third match was characterized by short volleys and the girls played flawless tennis winning 6-0, 6-0.

The finals brought on a tougher team to match our winners. The No. 1 doubles team from Ballinger didn't exactly lay over and die as Merkel won the first set 6-3.

But Ballinger came back the second set and won it 6-4 with some very agile moves.

But in the end it was Merkel again winning the third 6-3 thus winning the district doubles championship.

Gina and Sherry aren't new to the tennis world. Sherry has been playing for about seven years. Her 7th grade tennis coach told her that if she could beat him she could play on the eighth grade team, and she did. When Sherry was in 9th grade and Gina was in the 10th they played together and lost in the first round of the tournament. Losing their first round wasn't so bad though, after all, they lost to the district champions.

Gina, in her tennis, has won a total of 5 district championships. Her 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, and 12th grade years have all ended in championships, a pretty good record.

The girls will get to try their hand at some pretty stiff competition in Lubbock, until then there will be a lot of practicing between the two of them. They practice mostly against Kevin Farmer and Danny Riggan, who will play in the boys jr. division district tournament in Sweetwater. Who wins the games? Well Sherry and Gina smile real big when they say they do, but I didn't get a chance to ask Kevin and Danny.

Stith extension

homemakers meet

The Stith Extension Homemakers had a "Surprise when they met for their meeting March 28th. "What A New Front Door" for the community center. One of the club's projects for the year.

Crepes and omelets were served at lunch with each member making a crepe and omelet. Extension Agent Nacey Wilburn gave the program on Eggs, Eggs, Eggs.

Recreation: A game was played, "pin the tail on a donkey".

The club's bake sale will be April 14th in front of the W.T.U. Building. The next meeting will be April 11th with members giving the program on "Cooking with Bran".

Four visitors, Nacey Wilburn, Mrs. Wanda Clyburn, Mrs. Brenda Hardin Roy Mashburn and seven members were present.

All club meetings are open to all, irrespective of race, color, creed, sex, religion, national origin or economic circumstances.

Ladies golf to meet

The Merkel Ladies Golf Association will have their first monthly meeting Tuesday April 10.

Couples will play golf, have dinner and plan our ladies tournament. Hope to see all the old members and anyone interested in joining our association.

Drama club competes

"The Taming of the Shrew", a Shakespearean comedy, was presented by Merkel High School students in the U.I.L. contest at McMurry College on the 27th.

The play took third place in the competition behind Stamford and Wylie, making it the alternate in the upcoming competition.

Auditions were open to all students, a cast of ten was chosen for the play with a crew of six. Geannessa Cypert was named to the all-star cast for her part in the play while John Townsend, Brad Wade, Sheila

Adair and Judy Castille all received an honorable mention for their parts.

The play was directed by the Drama teacher, Mrs. Cathy Chissom and other members of the cast were: Shannon Bagby, Mark Bunch, Roger Reed, Chris Smith and Sheila Swinney.

The crew consisted of Becky Carter, Charleen Fariello, Sharron Isom, Amy McCoy, Mike Sims and Steve De La Vega.

Merkel students were given a preview of the play the day before the competition in Abilene.

Last chance

Last and final registration for little league and T-shirt April 7th, Saturday at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. W.T.U. Building. Registration fee \$5.00 and all boys must register even if played last year.

Try-outs will be at 7:00 p.m. April 9th and 10th for all boys who are not already on a team. Two managers are needed to officially start our season. If this requirement is not met, we will be unable to start play.

Please contact Jimmy Leverich 8-5167, Larry Gill 8-5801, Audra Horton 8-5016.

NAME _____
BIRTH DATE _____
DATE _____
AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE NO. _____
WEIGHT _____
HEIGHT _____
LEAGUE AGE _____
THROWS LEFT OR RIGHT _____
WE THE PARENTS OF THE ABOVE BOY, GIVE OUR APPROVAL FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LITTLE LEAGUE FOR THE CURRENT SEASON. WE RELEASE THE SPONSORS, OFFICIALS, AND THE LITTLE LEAGUE ORGANIZATION FROM RESPONSIBILITY IN CASE OF INJURY OR ACCIDENT. ALL BOYS ARE COVERED WITH INSURANCE FOR PRACTICE, GAMES, AND TRAVEL BY THE LEAGUE.
FATHER'S SIGNATURE _____
MOTHER'S SIGNATURE _____
(LEAGUE AGE-ANY BOY WHO WILL ATTAIN THE AGE OF 7 YRS. BEFORE AUG. 1ST AND WHO WILL NOT ATTAIN THE AGE OF 13 YRS. BEFORE AUG. 1ST SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY THE YEAR IN QUESTION.)

WHO ARE YOU KIDDING

When a man says he can't keep awake through a thirty-minute sermon, and stays home with his 700 column newspaper, who is he kidding?

When a man says Sunday is his only day to rest, and gets up at 4:30 a.m. to go fishing, or spends the day on a golf course, who is he kidding?

When a man says the church seats are too hard and uncomfortable, then goes some Saturday to sit on a bleacher for hours in drizzle watching 22 men push one another back and forth across a mud lot... who is he kidding?

When a man says he can't afford to tithe but lives in a comfortable home, drives a new car, eats well, clothes his family comfortably and stylishly, who is he kidding?

When a man says he doesn't have time for Christ and His church, then spends evenings shopping, bowling, watching television, going to clubs, playing cards and having evenings out... who is he kidding?

NOT GOD

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD NEED A RIDE? PHONE 928-5154

OPEN LETTER TO ALL MERKEL I.S.D. BOARD OF TRUSTEE VOTERS.

Where and why did all this begin? It seems like a lifetime ago (March 14, 1978 to be exact) when a group of concerned citizens requested to be placed on the agenda for a regular School Board meeting seeking an answer to a very uncomplicated question: Why were the 6th grades removed from the elementary schools? We wanted to know why this was done in the summer and only a few parents contacted to see how they felt about it; we wanted to hear some valid reasons for the change. We only wanted to be treated as people with rights who deserved an answer.

What were we greeted with? No answer at all. We were told it would be "taken under consideration" and they would get back with us as soon as possible. We waited patiently, but still not answer. We called one of the board members who referred us to the Superintendent. Two of us met with him in his office and we talked at length together. But still we received no official answer from the Board of Education.

We requested to be placed on the agenda again in May '78. This time about 40 concerned persons attended the meeting. The way we were treated can only be described as morally, ethically, and legally poor. It was extremely hot that night - about 95 degrees - and the room was crowded. There was an executive session scheduled that night (which is not unusual). It had been customary in the past for the board to allow visitors to speak first so they could leave if they desired - not so this night. The board adjourned to executive session about 30 minutes after the meeting started and remained there until after 11:30 p.m. (They did adjourn to a cooler classroom.) When the meeting reconvened, we were told we had 10 minutes to say what we wanted, to select one spokesman, and to be brief - they had important things to discuss!! What started out as a calm group of people expecting to be treated as adults turned into an upset group being treated as children. What happened to those elected to office representing those who do the electing?

In an obvious attempt to soothe the feelings, one board member asked for more information on our request - the background, etc. We were happy to supply this and spent hours researching facts to present to the board. The information was compiled into a booklet and a copy made for each board member and the superintendent. An appointment was set up to deliver these to a board member who volunteered to distribute these to all other board members. On the day of the appointment, we called to verify the time and place - all was set. At least that's what we thought. We drove to the designated place but no one was there. Thinking he may have been delayed, we waited quite a while feeling he would show. No one did show, and no explanation was ever offered to us. We certainly would have understood if an emergency had arisen. So two weeks later (June 15, 1978) we presented the facts the board had requested to them at a board meeting. To this date, not one reference has been made concerning our efforts. (Did they even read them? One can only hope.)

The seemingly "willful" delay to answer us (and up to this point we would have been content with any answer as long as it had been reasonably explained

to us), made us begin to search out other questions and facts. One that we ran across was in the Texas Education Code (Section 19.238, para (b)), which states: "The Board of Trustees of the independent school district having the greater number of scholastics at the time of consolidation shall serve as the board of trustees of the consolidated district UNTIL the next regular election of trustees, at which time the consolidated district shall elect a board of seven trustees, at least two of whom shall be elected from the area of each former independent district included in the consolidation, unless the scholastic population of the larger independent school district is in excess of five times that of the other district or districts consolidating it. . . ." (This code is also referred to in the Handbook for Texas School Board Members, "Whom do Board Members Represent", of which all board members have a copy.)

What did we do with this important find? First, we attempted to check the scholastics of both districts as they were at the time of consolidation. We tried checking through old board minutes which do have these figures but were told we couldn't make xerox copies - all our copying was done by hand and thus not the official record we wanted. Then we requested the figures from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) as did the Superintendent at a later date. We found the old Tye District had 272 students and the old Merkel District had 565 students. Clearly, Merkel did not have 5 times the scholastic population - in fact, the ratio is little more than 2 to 1. With that knowledge we contacted TEA and other persons who study school law and asked for an opinion on Section 19.238. All agreed that we had interpreted the law correctly. Our first official step was to request a hearing before the school board and present them with this fact that we thought they would think as important as we did. How were we met? By being advised it would be "taken under consideration".

No way - we had been this route before and still had received no answer on our original request. The decision to hire an attorney, if it became necessary, was made at a regularly scheduled PTO meeting in May 1978, and the vote was unanimous. We retained an attorney to request of the school board an official hearing concerning our finding. On June 29, we were put on the school board agenda for this hearing. At this time, scholastic population was verified with the board and was the same as we had figured before. Again, no official action was taken or answer given (and has not to this date).

About this period of time (July 1978) the amount of the bond was under discussion, and on the 18th of July, the amount was set for \$1.4 million dollar. At this meeting there were requests made by Merkel businessmen for a larger bond or at least to put more than one amount on the ballot and give the voters a choice. The board voted unanimously for just the smaller amount.

From this meeting evolved "Citizen's for Community Awareness," a group dedicated to factually informing the public about the amount of the bond versus the lack of "certain promises". At no time were any of us against a new high school. We were concerned about the taxpayer's money and whether or not they were getting the best deal for their money.

We were also concerned that there were no plans for enlarging the present facilities to allow for future growth. On May 29, 1978, the architect reported to the board that the overall scholastic population was projected to be 2,000 students by the year 1990 - with 1100 of these being in the elementary grades, kindergarten thru 5th grade. It was (and still is) a major concern of ours that we will not have adequate physical facilities for this growth. It's no secret that the cost of construction is rising at 1 - 2 percent per month. This increase of 12 - 24 percent annually is much larger than the 6 - 8 percent interest that a bond would cost. We felt like now was the time to go ahead and plan for the future of all schools.

Throughout this entire period of time we always maintained that we would abide by the will of the voters - and we have. Until that time and up until now, we have done absolutely nothing that has delayed the bond sale or delivery in any way, nor do we intend to. We can only hope a costly mistake has not been made.

Right after the school board meeting in July, we had our first citizen's meeting in Tye, trying to inform the public of what was happening. We were attempting to keep every action open and honest. We wanted people to ask us questions and tell us what they wanted. The possibility of de-annexation was brought up at this meeting by several citizens who attended. As a committee, we were asked to do some checking into this and find out both the pros and cons. One of our first steps was to try and obtain a copy of the tax records for this district. Our first attempt met with refusal, and as a result, an attorney read the "Open Records Act" to the office over the phone. After that we were allowed to copy by hand the needed information but could not get xeroxed copies made.

Along with this, we also wanted to check other records dating back to 1973 and see what had been said about the original consolidation. When checking with the county clerk's office in Abilene, we were told that all documents that should have been filed at the time of consolidation were not there. They didn't know why. We also checked with the County Superintendent's office but nothing was on file there.

It seemed as if everytime we turned around, we were met with a closed door. This made us more determined than ever to follow through with what we had started.

On August 14, 1978, our attorney wrote a letter to the School Board requesting a formal hearing to discuss the Texas Education Code and to present facts which would show the district had been operating in violation of this code. On August 21, we received a letter from the school board's attorney denying our request for a hearing, and our attorney wrote back requesting an explanation for the decision.

By September 18, we still had not received any explanation from the board and our attorney wrote a second letter requesting a reply, and also stating that we were prepared to appeal to the Texas Education Agency (TEA). On the 25th of September, we received a reply that once again denied us a hearing.

Our attorney wrote a letter to the School board on October 4 requesting that all information they had pertaining to this matter be forwarded to TEA as we were filing the matter with that agency. In early

November, the TEA wrote a letter to the school board requesting all information by November 30.

By January of the new year, we still had received no word from either the board or TEA, and our attorney advised us to file a suit with the 42nd District Court. Up until this point, we had been stalled whenever possible, public records were not always "public" for us, and we couldn't even get answers to simple questions. All along, we had tried to convince the board that we were serious about this matter of representation and only wanted an answer.

The suit was filed on January 8, 1979, but no court date was set (or has been). Then on the 17th of January we were told that a hearing date had been set in Austin by TEA for the 13th of February. It looked as if things might finally begin to be settled for the district.

However, this was not to be. We received word from our attorney that the Board of Education had requested and been granted an indefinite delay in the TEA hearing. Why?? Why would the board request a delay when a hearing might have answered all our questions? A second question must then follow: Why didn't the board take the initiative to find out the law concerning school board members once they were made aware of the Texas Education Code? We can only guess at the answers.

We made a phone call to TEA and talked with the man in charge of the General Council Office. We asked him for an interpretation of Texas Education Code, Section 19.238. We did not identify ourselves to him so there would be no swaying his opinion in either direction. All we wanted to hear was an unbiased interpretation of the law. He read the code and said it was clear and simple - no hidden meaning. (Quote) "If it (the larger district) is not in excess of five times, at least two (board members) would be from the smaller districts". (Unquote) We asked him how long the code meant. He said that at the time of consolidation the seven members from the larger district would continue to serve until the first election time and then the trustees would be elected - 5 from the larger and 2 from the smaller. He went on to say that it would remain that way from then on; if the law carried a time limit, the law would be specific and so state. He made it very clear to us that this is the way his entire office would read the code and they would so state to anyone who called them. Did the board know this when they requested an indefinite postponement? Surely, they called TEA to inform themselves about the law.

There are too many unanswered questions and that's only one reason why we are running for school board. The list could go on and on: access to public records, honesty, willingness to be involved, caring about the entire district, wanting the best education possible for all children, planning for the future, etc. We believe these are qualities you also want in the board members who represent you. Go to the polls on the 7th and cast your vote - vote for **Vicki Spurr, Place 1** and **Barbara Kotrlík, Place 2** in the Merkel ISD Board of Trustee Election.

(Political advertisement paid for by Citizen's for Vicki Spurr for School Board, Glenda Pence, Treasurer, and Citizen's for Barbara Kotrlík for School Board, Patty Miller, Treasurer.)

Trent News

Thursday April 5, 1979

Trent school news

Senior class goes to Mexico

On March 15 at 1:30 p.m. the Senior Class left on their trip to Mexico. They traveled in cars to Ft. Stockton where the first night was spent at the Holiday Inn. Next morning, Friday, they left early for a stop by Marfa to pick up their tourist visas; then traveled on to Presidio where a visit to Fort Leaton was made before boarding the bus, which would take them through customs at Ojinagua and on to Chihuahua City for the night. The next morning found them catching an early train for Copper Canyon where they spent two days. While at Copper Canyon they rode mules, hiked, danced and purchased baskets, beads, toys, and fiddles from the Tarahumara Indians. On Monday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. they were off on the train again for a spectacular scenic trip through rugged mountains to Los Mochis where two enjoyable days were spent. Kerry Patterson, Kenneth Dunn, Leanna West, Robert Freeman, John McLeod and Mrs. H.H. McLeod went deep sea fishing while Judy Driggers, Rose Prigmore, John Stevens, Lester Moses, Jacki Reed, Velma Perkins, Mrs. Jerry Frank Patterson, and Mrs. J.L. Gardner spent the day touring the city and shopping. Everyone enjoyed seeing the bay at Topolobampo. Those fishing caught mackerel plus a 16 pounder of unknown origin that was landed by Kerry Patterson. Wednesday morning it was back to the depot to catch the train for a 13 hour trip back to Chihuahua City where they spent their last night in Mexico. Thursday it was back to the border by bus, through customs on the United States side, pick up the cars, and into Presidio for a good American Hamburger and tea with lots of ice. That night was spent at Indian Lodge near Ft. Davis where the boys went swimming despite the cold weather. The last day started leisurely with a late breakfast and a tour of the McDonald Observatory before the return home.

Trent track team

The boy's track team finished 4th out of a field of 10 Saturday at Snyder. The following make up the Trent Track Team: Herbert Beaver, Gilbert Beaver, Carlos Garza, Randy Fenter, Fidel Valdez, Todd Richardson, David Reed, Riley West, Eddie Adams, Greg Beasley, Richard Beaver, and Eddie Patterson. Trent winners were: In the 400 meter relay, Greg Beasley, Herbert Beaver, Richard Beaver, and Gilbert Beaver

took a 1st with a time of 46.2. In the 100 meter dash Gilbert Beaver took a 1st with a time of 11:0. Eddie Patterson took a 5th in the 100 meter dash with a time of 11:7. Herbert Beaver took a 2nd in the 200 meter dash with a time of 23:7. Greg Beasley took a 6th in the 400 meter dash with a time of 56:7. Gilbert Beaver, Richard Beaver, Greg Beasley, and Herbert Beaver took a 6th in the 1600 meter relay. The 400 meter relay, 100 meter dash, and the 200 meter dash are all new school records.

have fun. We are happy to have Mrs. Patterson back with us after her being gone for a week. We really missed her.

Judging team judged

The Trent Livestock Judging Team recently placed third at the San Angelo Livestock Show's judging contest. The team will be competing in the Angelo State University show and the Abilene Christian University

show in preparation for the Regional Contest that will be held in Tarleton. Persons placing in the top six in the area show will compete in the state show at Texas A&M University in College Station on April 28th.

Trent team members are John Stevens, John McLeod, Kerry Patterson, Riley West, Lloyd Williams, Carlos Garza and David Reed.

The team is coached by Pat Adams, the vocational agriculture instructor at Trent.

Chop sticks

The second grade had a unique experience last week. We got to eat with chopsticks. We have been reading about Japan in our Social Studies book and decided it would be fun to try to use the chopsticks. None of us became very adept at using them, but we did

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Learning about Texas

First Graders at Trent Elementary have concluded the study of Texas. We learned about the important symbols of Texas, including the pecan tree, mockingbird, bluebonnet, and the Alamo. Thursday, we discussed cowboys and cowgirls and wrote stories about them. We learned about

different kinds of work that cowboys must do to take care of cattle.

In science, we discussed different kinds of animals and how they care for their young babies. The students learned about various birds, and Melony Orr brought a bird nest and eggs to share with the

class. Tami Neff brought a seashell for us to see.

Our bulletin boards for April are ready, and first graders are looking forward to bright sunny spring days. Everyone helped to prepare our Easter bulletin board by writing stories and coloring pictures of Easter bunnies.

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THE MERKEL MAIL

Tye Times

Sewer line, election, clean up, top Tye news

by Harold Boyd

Seems like we have some news to relate to you readers and this week's column is going to be a simple chore, if only I can get it in the right order. Getting a column together isn't all that easy, got to follow up with the rumors to get to the base which I consider fact. So the past few days we have been following up the news with a lot of time on the phone getting facts. Then getting the facts together and complying them in to the column so as you readers will be on the know.

The sewer line that was once a dream will soon be a reality due to some long range planning and hard work with the various people that once started this dream. I have talked to the engineering firm of Yeatts, Decker, and Mr. Billy Jacobs. He has told me that there were a few minor changes in the plans and that on March 7th the Texas Water Resources have sent these plans back to be modified and that the changes have been made. These changes were in the elevations of

the lines. He also quoted that within the next 90 days that we should be starting the sewer lines in the City of Tye. What remains to be done is finishing Step 3 of the huge project is to let bids for general construction and getting on with the general work of installing the sewer lines. As the time goes on, I will be in contact with the people who have the answers for most of the questions that you readers want to hear.

I interviewed Mrs. LeRoy Goodgion, better known as Luanne to most people here in Tye. She is very well known due to the fact that she once served the city as its secretary. She is a modest 31 years of age, doing her best to raise 2 children and works full time in an insurance office. She was raised here, been familiar with the folks of Tye. She isn't promising anything, for what's the use of promising something when later you can't produce. Her main goals if elected to the City Council are the following: See that the three

railroad crossings are maintained where you don't have to run over rough ties and spikes. Creating a program for all people here in Tye. As other candidates, getting the roads in order that the city has budget for in last year and this years money. Having better public relations with all the people in Tye, giving information that everyone should know about. If elected, these are her goals for this upcoming election on April 7th.

Again, please get out and vote, this is your say in as how you want your city to function. If you don't like the ones in office now, fire them and put the ones in that you feel will best do the job. In all, encourage all voters to go to the polls on April 7th and vote their convictions.

A few weeks ago the state fire personnel inspected the Tye Elementary School and found a few items that needed to be corrected. Well, you can see that things are happening in this regard. Currently they are bringing up the electrical wiring code that they requested to

be done. Cleaning out the other end of the building so they will have more room for classes. Then they are going to construct a building to house the mowers, maintenance tools on the north side of the building. Putting in panic bars on the exit doors along with lighted signs that are required by the state. In general, a little renovations to a fine building. As stated, building up the school to give to the children.

The menu was there on page three . . . a friend called me the other day and couldn't find it . . . but later returned the call and said that she located it . . . I'll call her "Grannie" and did enjoy her conversation on the phone. Just to keep me in line Grannie and I

respect you for calling these items to my attention when I go wrong. Thanks

I've started cleaning up around my place, how about you??? Yes, we have a beautiful city, truly without any doubt. It only takes pride in ones self to have a neat clean livable space to invite others to do the same. If we could clean up the abandoned autos, piles of trash, clean off the vacant lots that are around the city, surely would be inviting to any prospective people looking for a place to call home. So the week of April 2 to the 6th is clean up week in Tye. Won't you help in getting our houses in order for spring and try to maintain them the remainder

of the year. A clean place is a safe place . . .

With all the current rains, everything turning green, trees blooming, the farmers getting the soil ready for the summer and fall harvest crops, it's a birth of a new year of life. Just makes me want to sit back and enjoy all the freshness that is on us.

There is some improvements on the roads, do bear with the personnel, at least they are trying to do right.

So for this week let me remind you, Please get out and vote . . . and let's clean up around this city, it takes everyone help and yours will certainly be appreciated. So again, bid you good health till next week . . . Harold.

Easter Seal contributions

Easter Seal contributions sent to the West Texas Rehabilitation Center will be used locally to help crippled children and adults at WTRC.

This reminder comes from Homer Scott, treasurer of the Easter Seal Society of West Texas for many years. Scott, also former president of the board of WTRC, urges West Texans to support the work of the Center. "The patients at the Rehab Center are also our friends and neighbors, helped by your contribu-

tions," Scott said. Easter Seal appeal letters have been mailed to more than 45,000 households in 11 counties. More than 6,000 patients received treatment at WTRC in 1978. The Center does not charge its patients, depending on donations as its primary means of support.

More Tye news

by Patricia Miller

The Tye Elementary School now has a greatly needed new septic tank thanks to the hard work and generosity of Mr. A.J. Pence. Mr. Pence not only donated the septic tank but arranged for the use of equipment to install it and also did the work. He went through a great deal of expense and difficulty for the benefit of our school and for this we are all grateful. It is because of people like Mr. and Mrs. Pence that Tye has the school it has today.

The volleyball game between the parents and teachers of Tye, Friday night was great fun. Not

only did we make some money but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The teachers are going to have to practice a little bit harder for next year's game. This is the second year the parents have won. To everyone who brought food, worked in the concession stand and participated in the event a big "Thank You" from the Tye P.T.O.

One last appeal to everyone to get out and vote April 7th. It is not only your privilege but your duty to vote. You owe it to your forefathers as well as to posterity. Voice your opinion on who will run our community and school, VOTE.

Third, fourth grade

Tye school news

Third Grade Mrs. Key

We have discussed alligators and crocodiles this week. Our information came from a monthly periodical we receive, Ranger Rick's nature magazine.

Alligators and crocodiles look very much alike, but you can tell the difference by the shape of their heads. An alligator's snout is wide and rounded and a crocodile's is longer, thinner and more pointed. Another distinctive way of telling these two apart is by their teeth. Crocs have a big tooth on each side that sticks up in a groove on the outside of the upper jaw but in gators these lower teeth slip into a pocket inside the upper jaw where they can't be seen.

Contrary to belief, alligators and crocodiles are not "maneaters". They seldom bother people unless cornered and not allowed to escape. There are two kinds of crocodiles that have attacked people. These are the Nile crocodile in Africa and the saltwater crocodile in southern Asia and northern Australia.

One thing we found interesting was that al-

ligators and crocodiles swallow rocks. Long ago some people believed a stone was swallowed each time a person was eaten, or one a year was swallowed to keep track of their age. Scientists know now that the rocks are swallowed to help them dive and float at the right depth in the water.

The females lay their eggs and keep watch near their nest for several weeks, until their 15 to 90 eggs hatch. They stay with their babies until they are able to care for themselves.

At one time the American alligator was on the U.S. endangered species list and protected. These are no longer endangered in many areas. The American crocodile is still in danger but people are trying to save them so they will not be a creature of the past.

Fourth Grade Mrs. Winter

Fourth grade students have been learning poems to recite for the class. After each student has recited his poem, students in the

class offer suggestions as to how the student might improve on his recitation.

As spring is officially here, it can serve as a "spring-board" for an interesting writing activity. Students will think of many words pertaining to spring. These will be written on the board, and students will write a poem or a paragraph about spring using many of the words in the list. Students will also illustrate their paragraph with a picture for the bulletin board.

In math our class is continuing working with fractions. We are now subtracting and reducing to lowest terms. Students will save papers during the week and at the end of the week find their weekly average. This lets them see the progress they are making, and also teaches them how to use an important math skill.

Our class is combining spelling and English as they study new spelling lists, students pick out words that may be used either as nouns or verbs. They then use these in oral or written sentences.

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