

The Merkel Mail

Thursday, July 12, 1979...Merkel, Texas

15 cents



Although Monday's storm didn't leave behind a lot of rain, it did provide a spectacular electrical storm. Staff photographer Glenn Richards caught one of the bolts painting pictures in the sky.

Elevators take in 42½ million lbs. of wheat

The Jack South Elevator and Henderson Grain took in more than 42 and one half million pounds of wheat during the 79 wheat harvest and that represents a two ton increase over the record from the 1977 wheat harvest.

Janice South Hicks of the South Elevators told the Mail that the South Elevator had taken in 27,342,429 pounds and that was about 67,000 bushels more than the elevator had ever taken. South also took in 40,000 bushels at their Noodle Elevator.

South still has 26,000 bushels of wheat on hand and they hope to have that trucked to market within the next two weeks.

Over at Henderson Grain, Walter Whisenhunt reported they had received 15 and one half million pounds and still had about 20 grain car loads of wheat on hand waiting for railroad hopper cars.

Whisenhunt told the Mail that he expected the average yield to run around 35 bushels to the acre. Whisenhunt also said the wheat market quotes were running at \$4.15 on Monday and that not too many of the local farmers got into the high priced wheat. "Most of the local farmers had already contracted the wheat before the price got into the \$4 range and in three out of five years, the early contract is the thing to do."

The shortage of grain cars put a hamper on Henderson operations this year. The Merkel and Abilene elevators were shut down for a few days during the harvest as the car shortage forced Henderson to dump wheat on the ground at both locations. Last week, the Merkel Elevator had ordered six grain cars a day and received five for the week. Whisenhunt speculated that the old Abilene Grain Company is getting some of the Henderson Grain cars because they received as many as 10 cars in a day last week in Abilene.

Whisenhunt also told the Mail that Henderson's next busy season will start in August with the milo harvest.

County approves ag-use exemptions

Taylor County Commissioners voted 3-1 to implement the new farm land assessments and gave farmers and ranchers until Aug. 1st to apply for the taxes with the county tax assessor-collector's office.

County tax assessor-collector Richard Petree told the Mail that he thought offering the farm use tax exemptions was in the best interest of the people in the county.

Taylor County, unlike the school districts will not be reimbursed for the loss in revenues due to lower property assessments. Petree told the county commissioners that he expects Taylor County will lose about \$120,000 in revenues because of the farm land exemptions. He went on to add that the county will also be collecting increased revenues because his office has recently completed reevaluating a major portion of county lands.

Commissioner Bert Chapman made a motion that the tax exemptions be delayed until next year but his motion died for a lack of a second. He expressed concerns that the new tax exemptions would be

challenged in the courts and that the tax exemptions would be declared void by the courts.

Petree also told the Mail that his office had just finished property reevaluations and that approximately 4,000 landowners would be affected by the new evaluations. He said that move should add about \$17 million to the tax rolls and that should make up for losses due to the ag-land exemption.

He said the Merkel area was not affected, for the most part, by the reevaluation but that the Merkel area would come under reevaluation scrutiny next year.

The evaluations are being accomplished on a rotating schedule because Petree did not agree with the method used to evaluate county property in 1976.

Petree's office will be mailing forms for agricultural landowners to fill out an application for the tax exemption. Those forms should be arriving at the end of the week and by Wednesday at the latest. If you do not receive the form, you should go by his office in the new Taylor County Courthouse or call 677-1711 for more information.



Seventeenth District Representative Charles Stenholm served as chairman for the Stamford Quarter Horse Show for the 13th year last week. He took time out to talk to a Mail reporter during the horse show. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)

Stenholm says DOE should be abolished

Seventeenth Congressional District Representative Charles Stenholm told Abilene journalists in a news conference last week that he feels the shortage of gasoline could be solved by abolishing the Department of Energy.

Stenholm said that, in his opinion, the shortage have been caused by the Department of Energy and their allocation programs. Stenholm also said the oil industry could not be blamed for gas shortages because they were not making decisions on fuel allocations because the DOE is. He also said that high prices and long lines have come during a time the industry has been under federal regulations.

Stenholm opened the press conference by sharing a letter that his office received from a union of bakers. Stenholm said the bakers are planning a major effort in congress to lower the price of wheat. The bakers' union maintains that wheat prices will cause a loaf of bread to cost 10 cents more because of higher wheat prices. Stenholm said that he was very concerned over this type of activity, especially when wheat prices are starting to rise to a profitable level.

He said the letter he received exemplified one of the major problems facing the farmer today. "People do not understand the farm problem, and the farmers are going to have a hard time understanding why the price of wheat is under attack. The prices we are getting last this year is better than last but it is still not a fair price. The best policy is to let agricultural products go up in price and to establish additional changes in the farm policies to allow farmers to capitalize when foreign countries make food purchases," he added.

He went on to say that the US has a tremendous weapon against higher oil prices if we would demand fair prices for our agricultural products. We need to start that trend with the upcoming Russian wheat deal and then take the same stand when we sell food to the OPEC countries.

In another farm-related topic, Stenholm said that he was encouraged by some steps the 96th Congressional session took last week to encourage the production of synthetic fuels.

The congressman also said that he was disappointed in President Jimmy Carter's decision to cancel his energy address one week ago. Stenholm said that the American people were looking for leadership out of the energy problem. He added "When you are talking about the price to drive, and heat and cool your house, for the people over 65 it is a crisis." Stenholm added that 20 percent of his 467,000 constituents were age 65 or older and living on a fixed income.

Stenholm told the Mail following the press conference he thought some direct marketing approaches being taken by the American Agriculture Movement are steps in the right direction for farmers to seek better prices for their products.

Youth center is \$675 short of goal

About \$675 is still needed for replacing the roof on the Merkel Youth Activity Center according to Merkel resident Ruby Shipman and an account has been opened at the Farmers and Merchants National Bank to make the donation process easier.

The Youth Center was in operation last summer and provides a place for youngsters to play, under supervision, as well as read, work puzzles and other activities. Mrs. Leon Harris purchased the Merkel Youth Center Building in 1973 and roof leaks have caused it to be shut down this summer.

The Community Action Program has agreed to pay for one half of the repairs to the roof. Mrs. Harris had sought another location for the Youth Center but

high rents (as high as \$250-\$350 monthly) made it financially impossible for the center to operate this summer.

Mrs. Shipman told the Mail that the money needs to be raised by the end of August because the estimate they received on the repair work was based on building and material prices through next month. She also pointed out that if each family in Merkel donated \$1 to the fund drive, the center would be in operation again.

Donations may be deposited directly into the F&M account or given to Ruby Shipman, Syble Riney, Esther Carson or Mrs. Leon Harris.

20 fed. housing units approved here

The vacancy left by Martin Guenther, who resigned his position from the Merkel Police Department, has been filled with the hiring of John Davis as a patrolman.

Davis, an Abilene resident is already certified in law enforcement and joins Ray Pack and Merkel Police Chief Leroy Austermann as the cities' three law enforcement officials.

In other city news, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has approved a loan to build 20 units of federal housing. The project will be built between Trundy and Fifth Street across from Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church. The city had originally requested 50 units of the housing. The

project will be built by H.D. Joiner.

Sixty-six people have now registered their dogs with the city and received the tag that verified rabies shots and registration. The city still has plenty of the tags available and are available for pick-up between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The Merkel City Council will hold a regular meeting at 7 a.m. Friday at City Hall. One of the items on the agenda will be the replacement of lights on the Tri-City Baseball field. Those lights were destroyed by three local youths in a May vandalism case that has yet to be worked out. League officials are seeking damages from the parents of the three youths and have not received restitution as of press time Tuesday.

\$3 million in construction for city

New building construction around Merkel, which included the new high school, federally financed government housing (30 units now under construction, 32 more units requested by the housing authority, and 20 more units to begin construction soon), the Church of Christ activity center and six new homes around town adds up to more than three million dollars worth of work.

The new high school, which has been slowed considerably by the recent rains, now has all of the concrete footing for the Middle School gym in place and they are now tearing down walls on the old ag

building so that they can build the extension on to it.

The H.U.D. housing project is on the other hand way ahead of their schedule. The work that is to be completed, according to the contracts, by the 1st of the year should be finished by the beginning of September, according to job supervisor Don Nueget.

The Church of Christ activity center is being completed at a cost of \$120,000 and will house a kitchen, classrooms and a large activity room. The work is planned to be finished by the first of September.

450 sign up for school tax exemptions

The Merkel ISD tax assessor-collector has been kept rather busy in the past three weeks as more than 450 Merkel residents have gone into the office and applied for school tax exemptions in three categories.

About 200 Merkel ISD residents have applied for the over 65 and disabled tax exemption and the same number has applied for the homestead exemption. Katie Necessary, Merkel ISD tax assessor-collector told the Mail that about 55 farmers and ranchers have applied for the ag land tax exemption.

Merkel ISD taxpayers have until Friday to apply for the exemptions and must do so at the tax assessor-collector's office on Edwards Street in Merkel between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The Merkel ISD held a board of equalization hearing Monday afternoon for oil and gas leases.

Bill Monk, of Pritchard and Abbott Evaluation Engineers of Abilene told the Mail that the Merkel ISD received almost \$156,000 in taxes last year from oil, pipeline and utilities taxpayers.

Two tax payers questioned the Pritchard-Abbott evaluations at Monday's meeting.

Mail Bag

The following stories made headlines in the July 14th, 1979 edition of the Merkel Mail:

The Merkel Volunteer Fire Department won first in the six man hook-up race at the Mid West Texas Fireman's Association meeting in Colorado City. The Merkel teams also placed third in the pumper's race.

Two Merkel cowboys are leading their respective divisions in the rodeo being sponsored by the Merkel Trade Extension Association. Gerald Derrick leads in steer riding and Leo Huff leads in the calf roping.

The statement of condition from the Home State Bank of Trent listed the total assets of the bank at just under \$340,000.



The '79 Little League All Stars are l to r top row; Shane Smith, Dale Roys, Kevin Mitchell, Kevin Coker, Sean Woodard, Benjamin Beaver, Mac King. l to r bottom row; Steven Schreiner, Bobby Biera, Randy Davis, Jerry Davis, Ricky Holcomb, Spencer Scott, Kenny Sims.

The all stars will be playing Anson here on the 17th at 8:00. (Staff photo by Glenn Richards)

Hart, Lawless selected

(Submitted) Two area citizens have been named to executive posts with the Taylor County Chapter, American Red Cross.

Don Hart, Manager of

Taylor Electric Coop. Inc. in Merkel, will serve as Chapter Treasurer in the new fiscal year.

Jim Lawless, Pastor, First Baptist Church,

Trent, Texas, has been elected to a three-year term on the Chapter Board of Directors.



Rex Martin of Merkel removes a bee hive that was wedged into a telephone relay. Continental Telephone employee Kenneth Manning called Martin to help move the bees saying he hadn't run into that sticky of a situation. (Staff photo by Glenn Richards)

4-H holds elections

(Submitted) Merkel 4-H Club held their elections of officers last month. The officers will take over in September. They will be: John Townsend - President, Jay Gibson - Vice - Pres., Willie Townsend - Secretary,

Eddie Caulder - Reporter, Micheal Reddin - Recreation Chairman, & Shannon Boyd - Council Delegate. Adult leaders will be Mr. & Mrs. John Townsend, III and assistant leaders will be Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Gibson.

Dubose engagement

(Submitted) Mr. & Mrs. Bobby DuBose have announced their daughter, Lori, to Nicky Bullock, son of Mr. & Mrs. Milburn Brown of Dallas.

The couple is planning an August 10 wedding in the First United Methodist Church, Merkel.

Miss DuBose is a spring graduate of Merkel High School and is employed by Dillard's Dept. Store in Mall of Abilene.

Bullock is a graduate of Cooper High School and is employed in G.C.O. Drilling Co. in Abilene.

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GOOCH 12 OZ PKG GERMAN SAUSAGE	\$1.39 LB
GOOCH FRANKS 12 OZ PKG	98¢
HORMEL PRESSED HAM	\$1.69 LB
GOOCH BOLOGNA	\$1.49 LB
GOOCH FULLY COOKED ROUND HAM HALF OR WHOLE	\$1.89 LB
BIC LIGHTERS EA	49¢
BIG BOY 15 1/2 OZ CAN DOG FOOD 5 FOR	\$1.00

FRESH Produce	
HOT HOUSE TOMATOES LB	49¢
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Cemetery lists recent donations

The Merkel Cemetery Donations are as follows:

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- Mrs. Andrew Baker
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- Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Hale
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- Mrs. James H. Dunnahoo
- Bess C. McDonald
- Betty Conley in memory of Buddy Windham & C.E. Derington
- L. E. Carson
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- Mr. & Mrs. Bill Evans
- Mr. & Mrs. Fred Jackson
- Mr. & Mrs. Burton L. Jones
- Mrs. Etta Johnson
- Mattie B. Billingsley in memory of Delia Kuykendall
- Mrs. Ada Mae Johnson in memory of Delia Kuykendall
- Elouise Bagley
- Vannie Hamblet
- Mrs. Henry Foster
- Ted McAninch
- Caribel Moore
- Lynward & Lorene Harrison
- G.D. McConnell
- Mrs. May Belle Teaff



Carl Smith blows out candles during a surprise birthday party held at the L&W Snack Bar on Thursday. (Staff photo by Cley A. Richards)



John Davis has replaced Martin Guenther as a patrolman for the Merkel Police Department. Davis, his wife and child will move to Merkel as soon as they can locate a house. (Staff photo by Glenn Richards)

93 attend Riney family reunion

(Submitted) Ninety-three descendants of the late Mr. & Mrs. B.F. Riney held their annual reunion Sunday, July 8th at the Lion's Club building in Merkel.

Attending were: Mrs. & Mrs. F.B. Riney and Mrs. & Mrs. James Riney of Slaton; Mr. & Mrs. Rick Turnbow and Leslie of Colorado City; Mr. & Mrs. Don Murray of San Antonio; Mr. & Mrs. Warren Higgins of Seguin; Mr. & Mrs. Lee Darden and Mrs. Murry Toombs and Bryan of Lubbock; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Riney and Paula Town of Lamesa; Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Dearing and Matthew of Abernathy; Mr. & Mrs. Carl Bush and Janis of Dallas; Todd and Chad Denton of Mesquite; Mrs. Nelma Alexander and Kim Bauert of Borger; Mrs. Nancy Hillhouse and daughters of Stinnet; Paul Hobbs of Flagstaff, Arizona; Kendall Riney of Lake Dallas; and Mr. & Mrs. Walter Riney of Trent.

Also Mr. & Mrs. Allie Cummings, Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Campbell, DeLinda & Cori; Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Perry, Lance, Laci and Lynsi; and Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Orr; all of Abilene.

From Merkel were Mr. & Mrs. Kenny Hogan, Ken and Kody; Mr. & Mrs. Ray Orsborn; Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Riney; Mr. & Mrs. June Hogan and Wendy; Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hogan; Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hogan; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Campbell and Vicki; Mr. & Mrs. Loyd Perry; Mrs. Bet-

tye Conley; Mrs. Bink Smith; Mr. & Mrs. Don Riney, Teasa and Anna; Kay Kiser; Mr. & Mrs. Larry Riney and D'Neal Mr. & Mrs. Jerry San-

ders and Amanda; Mr. & Mrs. David Riney, Kelly and Kevin; Mr. & Mrs. O.D. Allamon; Mr. & Mrs. John Brady,

Mike, Christi, Tim and Donny; Robert Riney and Ken Riney. Visitors were Mrs. Laona Conley and Debbie Jackson.

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76 PONTIAC CATALINA 4 dr., air & power, cruise, cream color, vinyl bucket top	\$2295
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76 PONTIAC CATALINA 4 dr., air & power, white color, blue interior	\$2295
76 CADILLAC DE VILLE loaded, 33,000 miles, silver with silver padded landau top, real nice	\$5995
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F150 Regular Cab. Light Sand with walnut glow paint. 460, Automatic AM FM Stereo, cruise control. A SUPER NICE TRUCK. Ask to see Stock No. 288	F150 6 cylinder with 2 Fuel Tanks. Power Brakes. Power Steering, Knitted Vinyl Seats. Stock No. 1430. \$5395
Light Medium Blue Half Ton Super Cab Short Bed. Tilt and Cruise with all the nice extras. SAVE A LOT OF MONEY. Stock No. 47	F100 Long wheel base Super Cab with 351 V8 Automatic, tilt Steering Wheel, Cruise control, 2 Fuel Tanks. Super cooling, Air conditioner, Plus Many Other Nice Extras. Stock No. 397
F150 Candy Apple Red and Silver. Tilt, cruise, 2 fuel tanks, Box Rails, 460 Automatic Power and Air Plus a Lot of Other Extras. A REAL BUY! Stock No. 332.	3/4 Ton 4 wheel drive Super Cab, 351 V8, Automatic with Lock Out Hubs white 750 x 16 Mud and Snow Tires, Aux Fuel Tanks, Air Cond, Super Cooling, tinted glass, AM Radio, Rear Bumper. Stock No. 1510
F150 Light Blue Lariat AM FM 8 Truck Super Cooley, Aut Oil Cooler, 400 V8 with Automatic Trans, Power Steering and loads more. Stock No. 114. YOU CAN SAVE MONEY ON THIS ONE.	This F250 Super Cab uses regular gas and has a 400 V 8 Engine, automatic trans, power steering and air cond with loads of other extras. Come By For A Test Drive & SAVE\$\$\$\$ Stock No. 252
We have in stock a large selection of other Demos including LTD, Fairmont, Mustang, and Thunderbirds as well as a great selection of 1979 Ford Trucks. Save Hundreds of Dollars in July During our Demo Clean Up SALE!	F250 4 Speed Trans, Power Steering, Gauges, Vinyl Seats, Silver Metallic. Stock No. 1429
F150 Custom Short Bed Super Cab, 460 V8, Auto, Power, Air, Cruise, Tilt, Light Group. AM Radio, Aux fuel tanks, Silver & Red. Stock No. 290	F150 Ranger xlt, 460 V8, Automatic, Power, Air, Cruise control, AM FM Stereo Radio, Aux Fuel Tanks, Dark blue metallic. Stock No. 211
F250 Pickup, Dark Blue Metallic, 4 Speed Trans, Power Steering, Air Cond, Tinted Glass, Super Cooling Package. GREAT BUY! Stock No. 1433	E100 Cargo Van, Bucket Seats, Automatic Trans, Power Brakes, AM Radio, Tinted Glass, Cooling Package-Extra, Power Steering. Stock No. 967
E150 Super Cargo Van, Coral, Aut. Trans, Air, AM FM Stereo 8 Truck Tape, Power Steering, Chrome Front & Rear Bumpers. SUPER BUY!!! Stock No. 1328	Ranchero GT Dark Cordovan Metallic, Cloth & Vinyl Split Bench, Tilt, Air Cond., AM Radio, Tinted Glass, 4 Magnum 500 Wheels. BANTASTICI Stock No. 1416

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For Sale

FOR SALE: Trampoline \$125. 1408 Stewart. Call 928-3250 after 5. 21-1tc

FOR SALE: 1965 Chevy Malibu Super Sport, 283 engine, factory air, power steering, two new tires on front. Call 928-4948 or see at 106 Cherry. 21-2tc

FOR SALE: 3 adjoining lots with water well, corner of N. 4th & El Paso. Call 928-4864. 19-tfc

Older John Deere "G", hand start tractor. Good rubber, excellent running condition. 2 row planter attached. \$500.00 928-5051. 16-tfc

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DEER LEASE WANTED: 50 to 200 wooded acres. Dr. Larry Irvin. 928-4704 Mon. - Fri. 19-tfc

FOR SALE: COUNTRY CLUB LIVING - On golf course, decorator-beautiful custom three bedroom home. Olympia Company Realtors. Demetra 1-692-0525 or 1-695-2525. 20-2tc

FOR SALE: Star Hardware in Trent. For information, contact Layne Welts. 862-2727, 862-2397. 21-4tc

LAND FOR SALE? Call collect - Bill Largent, Farm and Ranch Mgr. at Frances McClure Inc. Realtors, 3157 South 27th Abilene, 698-3211, Night, 698-2375. 46-tfc

HOUSE FOR SALE: Mona Faye Bartlett home. 507 Yucca, Merkel. Ph. Abilene 677-8268 or 677-0308 after 6 p.m. 10-tfc

Services

WILL DO GENERAL Carpenter work. Roofing, cabinets, add ons, etc. Call Noodle 736-6430 or Hamlin 576-2574. 20-2tc

BOOT AND SHOE REPAIR. Drop your footwear repair needs at Handy Food Store. 928-4912. One Week Service. 35-tfc

ROOF COATING SERVICE. Rapid Roof, unlayered, flexible, weather resistant, acrylic latex roof coating for all roof services. Conklin distributor and applicator, Chip Meroney. Call 915-823-3044 after 5 p.m. for free estimate or information. 14-10tp

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Miscellaneous

\$500. REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO ARREST & CONVICTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE for malicious mischief and cattle killing on Eldon Hicks farming and grazing operations. Phone 862-2364 or the Sheriff's office at 677-8518. 16-tfc

WANTED: A good home for a three year old male Boston terrier - rat terrier cross dog and a two year old male blue-gray cat. Call 928-5406. These pets are free to someone who loves pets. 21-1tp

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The Classifieds

Thursday July 12, 1979

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SEPTIC TANKS

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Notices

ATTENTION JONES COUNTY TAXPAYERS Join your neighbors in a protest over an increase in county taxes. Monday July 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Anson Courthouse.

Card of Thanks

Thank you for the ones that helped me during Dianne & Johnny's wedding, especially the cooks.

Mrs. Paula Salazar 21-1tp
We would like to say a special thank - you to everyone who remembered Carl on his birthday.

For all the cards, gifts, money and to Leta and the L&W Snack Bar for having his party. L.C. and Martha Whisenhart Carl Smith 21-1tp

NEED A New Water Well Drilled? Also Install Meyers Subs & Jacuzzi Jets ROBERT HIGGINS 928-5000

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16-13tp PATIO SALE: Thurs. & Fri. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. 403 Cherry. 21-1tp

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GARAGE SALE: 801 Yucca. Fri. & Sat. 6 new trailer house wheels & tires, ironer, mechanics tools, new screens for house, little girls clothes from 1 to 6, ladies & mens clothes. 21-1tp

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19 acres, 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Just outside city limits on Highway 1235 - S.E. of Merkel. "Country Living" 2 bedroom, 1 bath, water well, on proposed water line, FM Rd 1235, 3/4 mile from city limits. Brick: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, den 2230 square feet or more than an acre. Has all the extras. 2 bedroom, large old house on good street. Water well. Two lots on FM 126 North, close to Country Club. Excellent building site. VACANT LOTS FOR SALE: For trailer and buildings in all sections of town. Reduced for quick sale. HOUSE FOR SALE: 2 bedroom, near school, carpet, fireplace, fence, central air, water well. 3-1-1 Brick Home. Garage, refrigerated air, built ins, dishwasher. On Sunset Street - Reasonable.

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'We want you to read our Mail'



The Tye Tigers ended the Tri-City Baseball League season with a perfect 12-0 record. Team members are; Victor Herrera, Edward Maddox,

Ricky Matheson, Steve Leonard, Jerry Goode, Jimbo Goode, Sai Acosta, Mark Copeland, Sammie Tomlinson, Art Herrera - Manager, Ricky Howes - Coach. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards).

Best buys at Texas supermarkets this week

(Submitted) Best buys at Texas grocery markets this week include fish, pork, eggs, several fresh fruit and vegetable items and "picnic" specials.

Also, numerous dairy specials are the result of heavy supplies, according to Gwendolyn Clyatt, a consumer marketing information specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System.

PORK -- Best buys generally are loin roasts, semi-boneless and bone-in cured hams, pork steaks, bacon and liver.

POULTRY -- Eggs are a bargain for high-quality protein, minerals and essential vitamins. Fryer-chicken specials are getting scarce even with adequate supplies.

FRESH FRUIT -- Most economical choices are peaches, plums, nectarines, bananas, cherries, grapes, honeydew melons and cantaloupes. Watermelons have moderate prices.

In choosing watermelons, look for those with a symmetrical shape, a deep solid green or gray color and a yellowish underside.

FRESH VEGETABLES -- Budget items are carrots, cabbage, cucumbers, peppers, purple hull and blackeye peas, soft-shell squash, onions and potatoes.

GROCERY MARKET AISLES -- Picnic items on special include dry beans, canned baked beans, catsup, mustard, salad dressings and relish.

Canned fruits and vegetables are also on special in many stores.

DAIRY -- Special prices appear on half and half, whipping cream, yogurt, cheese slices and cottage cheese.

BEEF -- Prices remain on the high side.

Most economical cuts come from the fore-quarter -- including boneless chuck roasts, briskets or rib roasts. Also, liver and ground beef are among the more economical choices.

CONSUMER WATCHWORDS: Short fuel supplies and the trucker's strike make it difficult to determine the overall food supply and market situation.

As of this writing, a wide variety of high-quality food is available in Texas markets, and many wholesalers report optimism for the future.

Letter to the Editor; thanks for support

Dear Editor:

I'd like to take a little (???) space to say a lot of THANK YOU'S!

First will be the to the Merkel Mail for the recent excellent coverage of the softball and baseball teams. Also, for the photographer coming out the night of the Girls' Award Presentations and again on Saturday night for the M&T Fun Night (which had excellent attendance). The kids who have worked so hard this year, and parents alike, really appreciate your extra attention.

Next, a very special Thank You to "Our Girls" ... the ones who played for Big Country Inn. We Love You All -- Amy Allen, Melissa Davis, Alyse Ferguson, Amy Irvin, Luan Johnson, Kim Kelley, Wanda Lanphear, Martina Moreno, Melody Pape, Mum Prasarn, Kelly Stovall, Tammie Swinney, Marsha Tutt, Lucretia Wade and Cindy Williams. Thank You All for making us so proud and showing your true spirit of teamwork which earned us the Outstanding Team Sportsmanship Trophy. Thank You for just being you ... a very special group of young ladies!

Then, Thank You to the Big Country Inn for sponsoring our team. Without you, we wouldn't have been! The girls really are "Dynamite!"

Another Thank You to all the parents who have so faithfully supported us by "being there!" Even when you had to work in the concession stand, or watch your other kids, you were behind us all the way!

Gayle Swinney - how can we say Thank You enough! You've been such an asset to us as Chaperone, Scorekeeper Mother, Friend, and in general, a fantastic person! We couldn't have made it without you!

A word of Thanks also to the umpires who so generously gave of their time, and never showed favoritism or partiality in their calls. Under the

leadership of Jack Riney, head umpire, we say Thank You to each of you.

Congratulations are in order, too, to the Freeman Oil & Gas team from Trent who placed first in the M&T League. Another great bunch of young ladies with coaches and manager to match!

And, Congratulations

to all who made All-Stars from all three M&T teams: Freeman Oil & Gas, Palmer Pontiac and Big Country Inn.

The Thank You that is impossible to put into words is to James Freeman, President of M&T Softball League. He has shown his love for the girls participating in this sport and his patience with those of us

just breaking into the world of girls' softball!

And lastly, Thank You to everyone who has welcomed us to this wonderful town of Merkel and the World of Special People - M&T UGSA.

Sincerely,
Janet & John Vinson
Manager & Coach,
Big Country Inn Team

PAT BYRD
IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE
BETH SIMPSON
(Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ben Hicks)

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Recital

The Merkel youth piano recital is scheduled for tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 p.m. at the Merkel Methodist Church.

Students of Mary Gill, Tressie Lucas and Pearl McClain will be performing.

Students participating are Mandy Barnett, Clay Hammond, Chad Way, John Starbuck, Cassie Townsend, Teresa Lucas, Sandy Nalley, Lance Jones, Edwin Etheridge, Chrissie Nalley, Tasha Todd, Krista Toombs, Richa Hill, Marshall Gill, Brit Pursley, Michelle Barnett, Candice Henslee, Ronna Casey.

Don't lecture

Gentlemen,

Perhaps it was not your intention, however your article in last week's paper concerning Merkelites picking up their dog's tags appears to have a note of irritation or lecturing citizens of their tardiness.

For your information, several people I know of, myself included, went to City Hall within a day or two after the vet administered the rabies inoculations here at the fire station. The tags were not yet in and we were told the Merkel Mail would run something telling us when we could come in and get them.

Instead of lecturing us, perhaps your time could have been better put to use by simply telling us that the tags are here now & we can pick them up anytime.

Thank You,
Carol L. Norman
Merkel, Tx.

Editors Note: We reported on June 21st the dog tags were available for pick up and in 3 weeks, 16 people had done so.

Tired of gas prices? County contest

(Submitted) High prices and gasoline shortages are causing record numbers of motorists to consider converting their automobiles to operate on propane (liquefied petroleum gas) engine fuel, according to Lowry M. Carpenter, Executive Director of the Texas LP-Gas Association.

Propane has many distinct advantages over gasolene as engine fuel, the expert explained. It is an unleaded fuel with a naturally high octane rating of 110-120 -- which is considerably higher than most unleaded gasoline.

LP-Gas has a lower cost per gallon, a cleaner burning engine, and lower exhaust emissions than gasoline, he continued. The fact that it contains no lead, carbon or other sludge-creating properties means fewer oil filters are used, fewer oil changes are required, carburetor expense is reduced, engines require less downtime and less money is spent on overhauls. Carpenter said propane also extends spark plug life, and eliminates pilferage and spillage.

Conversion costs, he said, are quickly reclaimed; and within a short period of time motorists begin saving money on the operation of converted automobiles.

Carpenter emphasized safe and efficient operation of a propane-fueled vehicle depends in large part on proper installation of the entire fuel system. The Association Executive stressed that conversions should be done by qualified firms employing experienced personnel. In addition to the installation of the propane fuel system, the vehicle's engine may require internal modifications for efficient operation. Such modifications require considerable expertise, in addition to special parts and equipment. LP-Gas engine conversion, Carpenter said, is "not a do-it-yourself" project.

(Submitted) The Taylor County Farm Bureau is looking for young people to be in its annual Queen's Contest & Talent Find, July 27th, Wylie School Cafeteria at 7:00 p.m. A covered dish supper will be served for all farm bureau members, their families and friends. Members are invited to bring a dish of their choice.

To be eligible for the Junior - Senior Queen Contest, participants must be 12-15 years old (junior contest) and 16-22 years old (senior contest), as of September 1, 1979, single and be the daughter, granddaughter or sister of a farm bureau member. Judging will be based on poise, personality and appearance. Also, senior queen contestants will present a one-minute speech.

Talent Find participants should be 16-22, and children, grandchildren or siblings of Farm Bureau members.

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Trent News

Thursday July 12, 1979



Othel Barnhill

Barnhill honored by party

(Submitted) Othel V. Barnhill was honored last Friday evening at his home, 2 miles north of Trent, with a backyard party, celebrating his retirement on June 30th.

A covered dish supper was served to 43 guests. The delicious and beautiful cake in shape of a mandolin was made and decorated by Mrs. Layne Wells of Trent.

Gifts were presented to Mr. Barnhill ranging from personal to gag gifts, with many things to help him enjoy a lot of fishing he hopes to do in the future.

A lot of visiting was enjoyed with music by Othel, Floyd Shed, Mitch Browning & Hugh Gossett.

Mr. Barnhill moved

with his parents to Texas from Oklahoma at the age of 8. They settled in the Eskota and Trent area. He has a twin sister Mrs. Odell Freeman of Trent, another sister Maggie Mitchell of Crowley, Tx. and a brother Howard Barnhill of Manteca, California.

Othel met Nellie Kinsey who lived at Sylvester, and they were married at Sweetwater Sept. 3, 1938.

They have a son, Larry Barnhill of Trent, a daughter, Linda Hughes of Sweetwater and 3 grandsons; Larry Don and Bo James Barnhill and Randy Hughes.

World War II Mr. Barnhill served about 2½ years with the U.S.

Navy as a radar operator aboard Aircraft Carrier Makassar Strait.

Before retirement he was employed with U.S. Gypsum for 15 years, and then 21 years at Flintkote in Sweetwater. He is also a farmer and cattleman.

Mr. & Mrs. Barnhill are looking forward to no more shift working. He changed shifts every two weeks for 36 years.

His hobbies are fishing and playing music. He and his wife have been active with the musicals throughout this area on Saturday nights, since they began under the name of "Hootenannys."

Those attending this most successful celebration were; Larry & Marge Barnhill, Larry Don & Bo James, Opal

Bland places third in natl. finals

The National Finals Intercollegiate Rodeo held in Lake Charles, La. ended with Southeastern Oklahoma State University winning its fourth consecutive National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association championship.

A member of the 6-man team for all four years was Steve Bland of Trent. Steve finished his collegiate rodeo career with a 3.49 time in steer wrestling, good enough for a second in the go-around and 3rd in the average. Bland has scored for the Southeastern team at the college finals all four

years he has been a team member and has never competed on a team that was not a national champion.

He was second in the nation in calf roping in 1977, 3rd in bareback riding and all-around in 1978.

Other members of this year's team included Olin Smith of Del Rio, John Davis of Sioux Falls, Idaho, Jimmie Cleveland, Randy Mitchell, Jess Elrod all from Oklahoma. The team's winnings brought around \$12,000 worth of scholarships for Southeastern Oklahoma University.

Sipe in queen contest

(Submitted) Rebecca Sipe, a junior at Trent High School will be one of the participants in the Texas All-Star Games Queen Contest.

The Queen contest is part of the scheduled activities in the second annual Texas Six-Man Coaches Association Clinic and All-Star Games held at Tarleton State University July 15-21. The event is being sponsored by the Stephenville Chamber of Commerce.

Miss Sipe is a cheerleader at Trent High School as well as a member of the FFA, and Band. She plays

basketball and golf and enjoys water sports.

Judging in the Queen Contest will take place at intermission of the All-Star Basketball game, July 21 at 4:00

p.m. in Tarleton's Wisdom Gym. The Queen will be announced at halftime of the All-Star Football game at 8:00 p.m. in Tarleton's Memorial Stadium.

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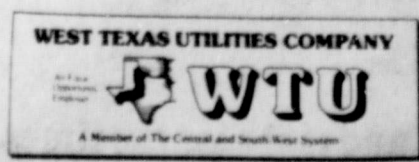
German Sausage Sandwich 89¢

"When my coach isn't coaching, he's a WTU man"



WTU people enjoy being good neighbors. That's why you'll find them involved in all kinds of community activities. From linemen to secretaries, WTU folks are busy coaching Little League teams, heading Scout troops, volunteering for hospital work, leading the PTA, ringing door bells for charities.

Their interest in helping people shines on the job too. Their good-neighbor attitudes help us serve you better. Through the concern, the courtesy and the dedication of WTU people you can be assured of receiving the same efficient, dependable electric service you've grown accustomed to.



Tye Times

Citizens working on problems, improvements

by Harold Boyd

Surely has been a quiet week in and around Tye this past week. There is plenty of happenings that will take place, has taken place this past week at the Community Center, that is the monthly council meeting. Will report the highlights next column.

The Senior Citizens building will have been started by now through the efforts of the Senior Citizens and the government grant that they received. Ken Law disclosed the plans to the gathering on the 4th of July. To help the money go as far as possible, it will take some physical work, donations of materials and labor to help keep the cost down. If you have any free time that you would care to give the Senior Citizens, contact Ken and he will steer you on the right road. I'm somewhat pleased to see this accomplishment and only hope that in the future that we can raise enough interest in the City of Tye to construct a center for all.

As some of you may have seen the new piano at the community center Saturday evening, this piano was

purchased through the donations of the Vol. Fire Dept. in lieu of \$500.00 and the senior citizens have donated approximately \$250.00 thus leaving a balance due on this beautiful and enjoyable musical piece. Should you like to give a little to the remaining balance due on this, give Clea Barley a call or contact Helena Brazzel and they will be happy to accept any size donation.

News around the town isn't what you would call plentiful, but here are some informative tips for you readers. Tye Planning and Zoning Committee met last fall on several occasions, presented to the city council it's proposal and then the city council had approved the committee recommendations. Apparently we have lacked our purpose, or it isn't being enforced. There were areas that were zoned for certain areas, such as no more mobile homes in the city limits, only areas designated by the Planning and Zoning Board; commercial areas were set up, setting up a business district as such, industrial or light manufacturing zones to take away from the residential area and place in an area that won't

affect the value of property or cause unsightly areas. If you would like more information on this, stop by our city hall and they will show you where these areas are. If you are going to build or add on your present dwelling, it is now required to take out a building permit prior to starting your construction or project, again these permits are issued at the Tye City Hall. If you are in questions as to what you can or can't do, contact our city secretary and she will try to answer your questions.

Our dog problem here in Tye is somewhat under control. Should you still have a problem with stray or uncontrolled dogs, contact the Chief of Police and let him advise you or get the animal off the street and out of the garbage cans.

Mayor J.C. Barley is still looking for a few people to serve on the steering committee. If you have a few free days or evenings to spare during the year, contact the Mayor and let him know that you have this time and would like to get involved for a progressive city. A Search of Steering Committee is a group of interested citizens that meet 4 times a year in Abilene to see what grants are available, assistance to each representative city and ways that we may improve our city with help from the government through fundings that are there. If you feel that you can help and meet with the others in Abilene, again we urge you to contact Mayor Barley so we can be ready for the next steering committee in Abilene.

The sewer line ... what can I say or tell you. Everything is go except waiting for bids on the long awaited project, the contractors are looking over the specs and within the next 30 to 60 days the bids will be let and on with the digging and maybe by next spring we will have our own sewer line.

After the sewer lines, then maybe we can get started on the much needed roads in Tye that need plenty of work on them. It would be a waste of time and money to do anything on them at this time not knowing when the sewer line will be started or put in.

Shall close for this week and will say this is a bushel of wheat for a barrel of oil sounds like a fair trade to me. For this week, take care and be kind to your neighbor.



Roy Middleton of Bastrop, La. is loaded into an Abilene Emergency Medical Service Ambulance following an accidental shooting Friday in Tye. He was treated and released at Hendrick Medical Center. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards.)

Accidental shooting injures one

An I-20 traveler was injured Friday in Tye when a gun he was carrying on the front seat of his truck acci-

dentally discharged. Roy Middleton, 51, of Bastrop, La. was injured as he stepped from his car at the Bill

Love Exxon at the intersection of FM 707 and I-20. Middleton was attempting to fill up his truck and when he

opened the cab door to the truck, a .38 special fell out of the truck, hit the ground and discharged.

Tye Police Chief Joe Rzuicido told the Mail that the wound was in the fleshy part of the leg and that the injury was not serious. Middleton was transported to Hendrick Medical Center where he was treated and released on Monday.

According to station manager Frank Robinson, the man had just stepped from the cab of the truck, then he heard a loud noise he first thought to be a firecracker. He saw Mr. Middleton go to the ground and after he investigated, he called the Abilene Emergency Medical Service.

Chief Rzuicido also told the Mail that the safety was on when the gun hit the ground but the impact of the gun on the pavement caused it to discharge. Rzuicido said he ruled the incident as an accidental shooting.

Legal notices

Advertisement For Bids

Project No. B-77-DS-48-0101
City of Merkel, Texas

Separate sealed bids for street improvements for City of Merkel, Texas will be received by City of Merkel, Texas at the office of City Hall, 107 Lamar Street, Merkel, Texas until 7:00 a.m. D.S.T. July 13, 1979, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications, & Forms of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents may be examined at the following:

Yeatts & Decker, Inc.
Consulting Engineers
1333 North 2nd Street
Abilene, Texas 79601
Copies may be obtained at the office of Yeatts & Decker, Inc. located at 1333 N. 2nd, Abilene, Texas upon

payment of \$30.00 for each set. Any unsuccessful bidder, upon returning such set promptly and in good condition, will be refunded his payment, and any non-bidder upon so returning such a set will be refunded \$10.00.

The owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

Each bidder must deposit with his bid, security in the amount, form and subject to the condi-

tions provided in the Information for Bidders.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and minimum wage rates to be paid under the contract.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within 30 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.
June 22, 1979

City of Merkel, Texas
Lou David Allen, Mayor
19-31c

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ations. All Drawings and Specifications are the property of the Architect and must be returned to him.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a bid bond, cashier's check or certified check for 5 percent of the amount of the proposal, made payable unconditionally to the Merkel Independent School District.

No bid may be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days subsequent to receipt of bids without the consent of the Owner.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities.
19-31c

Dallas, AGC, Ft. Worth. Two complete sets of Drawings, Specifications, and Contract Documents may be obtained from the office of Charles Harper Associates, Architects, at 4724 Old Jacksboro Highway, Wichita Falls, Texas, upon payment of a deposit of fifty dollars (\$50.00) as a guarantee of the safe return of the Drawings, Specifications and Contract Documents. Additional sets may be obtained by payment of twenty dollars (\$20.00) for each set of Specifications and the actual cost of reproduction for the Drawings which is one dollar (\$1.00) per sheet, and fifteen cents (15 cents) per sheet for Specifications.

Legal notice

The Trent ISD hereby announces that all persons are entitled to receive an exemption of \$5,000 from the market value of their residence homestead for the purpose of school taxes.

In addition, all persons who are 65 or older or under a disability for purposes of payment of disability benefits under Federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance are also entitled

to an additional exemption of \$10,000 from the market value of their residence homesteads for the purpose of school taxes.

To qualify for these exemptions, an application must be filed with the school district tax office by July 19. Application forms are available at the school tax office located at: Box 105, Trent, Tx. 79561.
20-22c

Legal notice

NOTICE TO ALL TAYLOR TELEPHONE CO-OPERATIVE, I N C. SUBSCRIBERS

This is to notify you that Southwestern Bell has filed a general rate case with the Texas Public Utility Commission on June 28, 1979. This rate case could affect your intrastate toll service and special

services that the Co-operative has contracts with Southwestern Bell.

21-41c

Johnson graduates

(Submitted) Lt. Col. Gaylon L. Johnson, son of Mrs. Delphia G. Cook, Rt. 1, Merkel, Texas, recently was graduated from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

The 10-month curriculum of the Army's senior school prepares officers of all the services, as well as civilian officials of the Federal

Government, for top level command and staff positions with the armed forces throughout the world.

Johnson entered the Army in August 1958.

The Colonel received a bachelor's degree in 1958 from West Texas State University, Canyon, Texas.

His wife, Glenda, was with him at Carlisle Barracks during the training.

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