

The Merkel Mail

Thursday, May 22, 1980...Merkel, Texas

15 cents



C'mon coach!
My turn

This UGSA catcher seems to be growing a little impatient with her coach as he warms up the pitcher between innings. Girls softball started here six years ago with barely enough girls to make one team and the league has grown to six teams and approximately 120 girls. (Photo by Glenn Richards)

Donations coming in for Fun Day

Contributions from Merchants have started coming in for drawings that will be held at the 4th of July Fun Day here.

Merchants that have donated prizes for drawings so far include Lusk's, The Merkel Mail, Emma and Duane Shugart, Castille's Hardware-a wood hat rack, Kut and Kurl-a permanent and a curling iron, Lois' Beauty Shop-two hot curl brushes and a permanent, Pat's Beauty Salon-three free hair cuts and two free shampoo and sets, Circle A Western Wear-straw hat, Ann's Flowers, a \$10 to 15 green plant, Dairy Bar-10 piece pack of chicken with fries and rolls, 9th Street Grocery-miscellaneous jewelry and a man's pipe.

Those merchants are donating those prizes that will be given away during drawings throughout the day. To be eligible for the drawings, a ticket may be purchased from a number of local merchants. The donations are 25 cents each and persons making that donation may sign their name to the ticket and become eligible for the drawing.

The following Merkel folks have already purchased tickets: Ruth Coats, Cracker Bartlett, Leroy Thomas, Viola Harris, Evelyn Martin, John

Edwards, Stayce Martin, Dianna Ely, Keith Shields, Emma and Duane Shugart, Kenneth Shields, Ronny Holmes, Joy McElmurray, Ty Nelson, Martha Allison, Aletta Chancey, Mary Davidson, Jamie Heyen, Marshal and Mozelle Whorton, Wanda Tipton, Mrs. Henry Rhymes, Mrs. Johnny Cox, Sherry Heyen, Shirley Morgan, Angie Harrison, Peggy White, Rusty Roark, Elmer King, Mychelle Hammond, Nine Belle Hughes.

Reservations are now being taken for flea market spots, garage sale spots, vegetable booths and other tables. They can be made by calling the Chamber of Commerce.

Bobby DuBose is in charge of the farm auction, which will be held where the dirt mounds are near the water tower. The city has made a commitment to level them off (sorry about that bikeriders) to make room for the auction and more information on the farm equipment auction is available from the Chamber or DuBose.

Make plans now to bring lawn chairs, blankets, card tables and have fun from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. at Merkel's first 4th of July Fun Day.

to contract haulers and speed of trains going through town will also be discussed.

Council meetings are open to the public and are held at City Hall.

City Council will meet tonight at 7

The Merkel City Council will meet at 7 p.m. tonight and one of the items being discussed is a proposal for the implementation of the new county tax assessment board.

City Manager J.A. Sadler also said the water sales

What tax? Memorial Day and more...

By Cloy A. Richards

One of the problems with a weekly newspaper was graphically illustrated in last week's edition. On top of this spot in the paper last week the headline proclaimed "Ouch! Gasoline prices to increase by ten cents today."

Most of you know that a federal court issued a restraining order to prevent the tax from taking effect immediately. So why the headline?

I heard the news of the tax being postponed while driving to Sweetwater Wednesday morning to have the paper printed. My only alternative would have been to re-write the editorial which may have caused a one day delay in delivery of the paper. Four papers are printed on the Sweetwater press on Wednesday, it would be Friday before local papers are delivered.

The old saying of foot-in-the-mouth is still alive and well here.

Anyway, the constitutionality of the ten cent tax is being challenged in federal courts and will not go into effect until the legal ramifications are settled.

I have to admit that I was shocked when I heard of Coach Averitt's resignation Tuesday night at the school board meeting, but one lesson I learned a long time ago was to not second guess a good coach. Coach Averitt brought her style of basketball to Merkel High and made it work here. It will be a bitter pill for the two-year district champs to swallow, but the same feelings existed last year, in most camps when Pat Pennick resigned. By no means am I saying that she won't be missed. She has her reasons for leaving, at least I assume she does (1:30 a.m. Wednesday morning is no time to be getting quotes for this week's paper) and the Mail wishes her all the success in the world. Meanwhile, the girls will be in the process, come October, in gunning for their third straight district champion-

ship, and without Slaton in the way this year, who knows what else.

Monday is not actually Memorial Day but has been designated so, by a Congressional act.

It really does not matter when workers are given the day off, those that are lucky enough anyway, the day still represents the same thing.

It is a day that is set aside to honor the men and women who gave their lives defending our country's interests. It is a day, by ideals, that each American should take some sort of reverence for those who gave the supreme sacrifice from that first skirmish of the minutemen, to the eight who gave their lives in Iran recently.

I am thankful that my military days were not marred with death. Part of the reason was due to the existence of a military here, and the prices we have paid in wars and conflicts in the past.

At last week's Trent Sports and Academic awards banquet, Trent Coach Bob Campbell decided to honor two seniors for their accomplishments on the football field.

The fighting Gorilla award went to Herbert Beaver and Danny Freeman.

Both were all-state performers at Trent this year and have the statistics to back that claim up. Beaver ended the year with 1971 yards in 11 games and 39 touchdowns. His yards per carry averaged out at 15.1. Freeman was an all-state defensive back and had 13 interceptions for the year. Danny threw 10 touchdown passes and completed 54 per cent of his passes for the year.

We had a wonderful shower late Tuesday afternoon that dumped about a half of an inch of rain in 45 minutes but Tuesday's rain, like last week's were spotted. It seems to be one of those years where some areas, within five miles of town, have almost completely missed some of the recent rains.

Averitt resigns, board holds meeting

The Merkel ISD Board of Education held a five hour meeting Tuesday night that included a four hour executive session and the board voted to table six agenda items because of the "lateness of the hour." The board "regretfully accepted the surprise resignation of girls' basketball coach Jan Averitt.

Following the four hour closed door session, board members took no votes, or gave any indication on what was discussed in the executive session.

Averitt, who coached the Badgers to the District 6 2A district title in her first year here, has accepted a coaching position near Lubbock.

In other business, the board approved a request from Haney and Sivley Construction to extend the deadline on school construction until July 20th. Haney and Sivley had earlier applied for 12 rain and inclement weather days and the current request was for six additional days. The board also approved a change order that will allow Haney and Sivley contracted painters to paint the upstairs of the Middle School Gym. Earlier plans had called for school maintenance crews to do the painting.

In the financial report, MISD superintendent Dr. Raymond Etheridge reported bills for the month reached \$129,967, with \$78,410 coming from the new facility construction fund. The superintendent also reported that the school was able to make \$2,000 in interest from a 30 day \$150,000 certificate of deposit which had matured. The school now has a 30 day certificate of deposit that is drawing interest.

The superintendent also reported the district had made \$1,825 from the sale of four busses that had severe mechanical problems. He also said the construction fund "looked as though there would be about \$86,000 in the plus column when all of the construction related bills are paid. He emphasized that the number was only an estimate and that construction projects almost always had hidden costs.

Also during the financial report, Dr. Etheridge expressed optimism that increased prices on oil and natural gas would have a very positive effect on oil and gas evaluations for tax purposes. He also reminded the board that the new county-wide tax evaluation and assessment board will be taking shape soon and that law mandates that schools will tax property on a 100 per cent evaluation. (The amount of tax will still be decided by local school boards). MISD is currently taxing the maximum rate (\$1.50) and that the rate would have to be dropped when the 100 per cent evaluation takes place in January of 1981.

MISD teachers overwhelmingly put a pay schedule above the state scale as their number one priority in a survey completed by MISD.

Of 53 teachers responding 29 put the above state scale pay as their number one priority while 18 more listed the raise above state scale as their first four priorities.

Coming in a close second was the provision of full health insurance coverage of which the district would foot the bill. Sixty-one teachers surveyed on the

health insurance program and 42 of those teachers surveyed said the insurance was listed as their first two priorities.

MISD teachers placed extra pay for extra duties such as UIL events, pay for college credits, and provision of extra local sick days and personal leave days low on their list of priorities.

MISD took the survey of teachers this month to determine the staff's desires of improved pay and benefits.

The board decided to retain the delinquent tax collection service of McCreary and Hewitt. In a letter from that firm, they reported sending 2,250 letters to delinquent tax payers, filed 21 court cases and they would be filing 15 suits next month. During their past contract, the firm collected \$109,000 in back taxes and they receive 15 per cent of delinquent taxes collected.

Dr. Etheridge also informed board members that Don Hensley, president of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank had presented the valedictorian and salutatorian with scholarships. Victor Hererra, valedictorian will receive a \$500 scholarship. Victor has been accepted to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. Merkel High's salutatorian, John Townsend will receive a \$350 scholarship. John indicated this week that he will attend Angelo State University before transferring to Texas A&M University in College Station.

MISD supportive staff heads were awarded a seven per cent raise while their staffs will receive a ten per cent raise. Supportive staff include food service personnel, maintenance personnel, secretaries and bus drivers. Tax assessor-collector Vicki Thomas was awarded a \$1,000 raise.

The school's calendar is jammed with events leading to graduation and the dismissal of school for the summer. An athletic awards assembly for junior high students was held yesterday, Friday is the last day to turn in library books, Baccalaureate services are set for 2 p.m. Sunday at the High School auditorium, a merit awards assembly has been scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Tuesday morning at the auditorium, a pot luck supper will be held at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, 8th grade graduation has been scheduled for 7:30 p.m. May 29th at the auditorium and May 30th is the last day of school. Classes will be dismissed at 1 p.m. The Elementary school awards assembly is scheduled for noon that day and graduation is scheduled to be held at Badger Stadium at 8 p.m. If it is raining or wet, graduation will be held at the auditorium.

Tabled agenda items that are to be discussed at the next meeting include educational program proposals for the next school year, teacher pay and benefit proposal studies, and a superintendent's report. The board will also report on the school's scoring in the State mandated standardized tests that were administered to MISD fifth and ninth grade students in February.

Merkel's tax rebate up 7 per cent this year

Merkel's May check for the one per cent local option sales tax will be \$2,005.95, according to a news release from the State Comptroller's Office.

Payments to date this year are running seven per cent ahead of last year's rebates. Merkel has received \$13,793.13 so far in 1980 from the tax rebate.

Tye's rebates are running nine per cent ahead of last year's pace and that city received \$3,121.44 for May. Tye has received eight cents less than \$15,000 so far in 1980.

Texas cities that have the one per cent option sales tax shared in \$38.7 million in rebates with Houston leading the way with a rebate of \$8.1 million.

The tax is collected by merchants and rebated by the Comptroller's office on a monthly basis.

Trent awards given

Trent High held their annual athletic and academic awards banquet at the Trent School Cafeteria Thursday night.

About 160 people attended the banquet which recognized high school students for their accomplishments this year.

Award winners include Riley West, history award, Tammie Hicks, government award, Darla Ross and Riley West, math awards, Carlos Garza, English award, Leslie Masonheimer, business award, Billie Gregory, yearbook award, Tammie Hicks, Bauch Lomb award, Greg Beasley, science fair award, Danny Freeman, agriculture award, Kim Richardson, homemaking award, Rebecca Sipe and Theresa Brazelton, John Phillip Sousa award.

Sherry Jackson was the class of 80 salutatorian and Tammie Hicks was the valedictorian.

In athletic awards, Danny Freeman and Herbert Beaver shared the fighting Gorilla award in football, Rebecca Sipe and Danny Freeman took the basketball awards, and the 440 relay team of Gilbert, Herbert, and Richard Beaver and Greg Beasley took the track award for boys and Dee Dee Masonheimer took the girls track award.

Riley West was also honored for being the only male athlete to letter in all five sports at Trent High.



The 1980 Middle School cheerleaders include (bottom to top) Cindy Williams, Amy Irwin, Kris Rich, Lisa Cantu, Mum Prasarn, and Kelly Stovall. Mrs. Carla Gohlke (right) is the sponsor. (Photo by John Townsend)

Little League has some rainouts

By Ronny Powell

This week in Little League was a light one because of that good rain. The Killowatts-Banker game and the Vets-Braves game was cancelled. These games will be played at a later date. This was stated by president Mr. Leverich. Also, in the Braves-Supers game it ended in a 3-3 tie. If this game affects the teams out come in the standings, then they will play at a later date also.

On Tuesday 13, game 1 the score was a 3-3 tie Braves-Supers. The nightcap saw the Vets slip by the Willies 5-4.

The Thursday games were rained out as I stated earlier. Then on Friday 16, game 1, the Killowatts exploded on the Willies 12-3. The nightcap saw the Supers defeat the Bankers.

The League standings are like this. Remember these standings change each night of a game. First place, Supers

4-1-1; Second Killowatts 3-1; Third Vets 2-2; Fourth Braves 2-2-1; Fifth Bankers 1-3; Sixth Willies 1-4. These teams are all strong and capable of winning any game. Come out and watch these teams. They play Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. We can't go without saying something about the T-shirts. Here are the teams and their sponsors: The Tigers, a new team this year, sponsored by Lambda Beta. The Yankees, sponsored by Merkel Drug Store. The Angels, Allen-Cypert Tax Service. Eagles, sponsored by Toombs Real Estate. I'll have the coaches and standings next week. One more thing as I watched the T-shirts play this weekend. I could not tell whether the spectators or the coaches themselves were coaching these teams. The Little League wishes that people would leave their anger or unhappiness at

home. The T-shirt league plays Saturdays and Mondays. Times 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Concessions are available at the park.

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Judy Jinkens will graduate as the top girl of the Senior Class of 1980 as she maintained a 93+ grade average through school. (Photo by John Townsend)

Cotton council sees 1980 growth

National Cotton Council President Herman Propst sees the 1980s as a tremendous growth period for cotton.

Pointing to the expansion that has occurred in cotton's markets this season, he told the National Cottonseed Products Association at its annual meeting here today that he believes it's "only the beginning" of a brighter outlook for cotton as both a fiber and food product.

"We've already seen the impact of favorable economic development on our fiber consumption in the Far East," Propst said, "and as world food needs grow, we're confident that demands are going to increase, too, for cottonseed oil and meal."

Even with prospects for a recession in the season ahead, the Council president said cotton still has a favorable outlook.

On the domestic scene, he noted that mill inventories are lean, and it's possible that mill fiber consumption could hold up better than the general economy in a recession.

Even if the total fiber market declines somewhat, Propst said it is entirely possible that cotton's domestic consumption in 1980-81 will be near or only slightly below this year.

On the foreign market side, the Council president said the world carryover is expected to be at a relatively low level when the new season begins, and

cotton's export prospects appear excellent.

"In looking at the industry's record of success over the past season, I think there's no question but that a big factor has been the growth climate provided by the market-oriented farm programs of the 1970s," the Anson, Tex., cotton producer said. "Under the strict acreage allotment programs of the past, we never could have achieved the growth we've experienced this season."

Regarding new farm policies that must be written next year, the Council president warned that attempts may be made to apply the same legislative remedies for grain and soybeans to cotton "even though cotton isn't experiencing the same problems and may not need or want the same remedies."

Propst asked the crusher segment's leadership in formulating and building support for a sound government cotton program tailored specifically to cotton's needs.

He also assured the group that "the very highest" priority is being given by the industry to securing funds for a crash research program on cotton dust. With top officials from all segments now actively involved in a dust policy committee and with scientists, health and safety specialists, and economists from both industry and government working on a technical subcommittee, Propst said cotton has "the right people on the job and the right emphasis on the effort."

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W.C. Black buried here

W.C. "Carl" Black, father of an Abilene woman and a former longtime Merkel resident, died Tuesday morning in Veterans Administration Hospital in Big Spring. Services were at 10 a.m. Thursday at Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home in Odessa.

Burial was at 4 p.m. Thursday in Rose Hill Cemetery in Merkel.

Mr. Black was a businessman and salesman, and had operated appliance stores in Merkel and Rotan. He was a Methodist. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge.

He married Eula Elliott Dec. 7, 1919. She died in 1941. He married Imogene Hayes in 1942. He moved from Merkel to Victoria, then Fort Worth and Rotan before moving to Odessa.

Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Jannell Stalls of Abilene; two grandsons; and four great-grandchildren.

Visitors

Visitors of Mrs. O.J. Reynolds and Bob last weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cosper of Tye. Mrs. Myrtle Tumlinson and son of Corpus Christi and Mrs. Leslie Monsey and son of Lubbock, and Royce Watkins of College Station.

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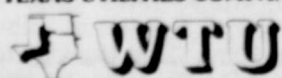
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Buck stoves open in Trent

By Cloy A. Richards

What in the world are you doing trying to sell wood stoves in the summer? was one of the first things I asked John Dunn of Trent.

His answer was simple. It is a little too late to be selling them after it freezes a couple of times, and he'd rather be installing those new Buck Stoves when there is no ice on the roof.

Heading West, Dunn's store is his old Texaco gas station and he and family have refurbished the station to make a showroom for the wood-burning stoves. It is a bright orange building at Trent's first exit off of the Interstate.

Dunn has the distributorship for the North Carolina-based company for West Texas and he says the day and time of the wood-stove is back. Buck stoves are all equipped with blowers that are designed to circulate the heat evenly throughout a room. The stove's blowers also take cold air back to the stove for heating.

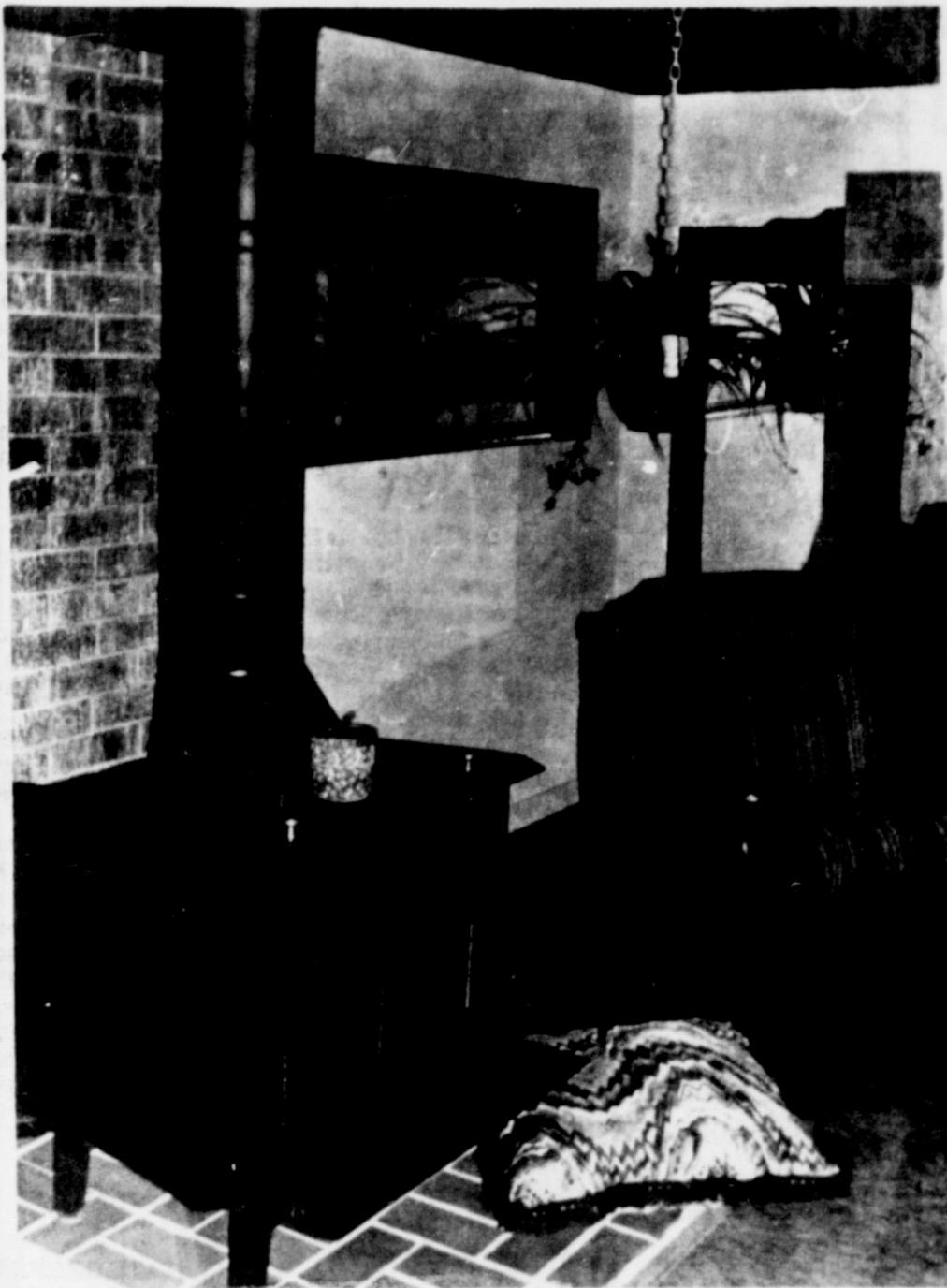
Mr. Dunn says that the main concern from having

a wood stove is that it be installed properly and that is why he attended factory installation training. He also said that Buck stoves, installed by trained personnel, have never been blamed as the cause of a home fire.

The Dunns moved to Trent five years ago after Mr. Dunn was retired from the Air Force. The man just couldn't stop talking about the Buck stove. He said they are guaranteed to the original purchaser for life and that one of the best features is that the stove's fire box is triple insulated, so that when the stove is going full force, the outside of the stove will only have a lukewarm water feeling when touched, unlike most wood-burning stoves.

Buck stoves come in three sizes and can be installed free standing just about anywhere in a home or a fireplace model, that can be fitted into your home's fireplace. Mr. Dunn is the past school carpenter at Sweetwater's TSTI campus and should be pretty good, when it comes to installation.

Buying wood burning stoves in the summer time heh. It makes about as much sense as growing vegetables in the summer, for use in winter months.



Camp of champs set July 7-11

Harold Wilder, Director of the popular basketball Camp of Champs, hosted each summer by Howard College, has announced the dates for the eighth annual basketball camp. Camp dates for girls will be July 7-11. The camp dates for boys will be July 14-18.

The Camp of Champs was conceived with the idea of providing youngsters with top flight basketball instruction most conducive to establishing an outstanding career. The camp will include instruction in all fundamentals of basketball.

All the Howard College facilities will be used by the Camp of Champs. The facilities include the Dora Roberts Student Union Building, cafeteria, gym, the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, videotape, athletic bus, and air conditioned dorms.

Campers will also participate in special activities such as bowling, miniature golf, and free movies.

There will also be tournaments in Ping Pong, Chess, Checkers, and Dominoes.

Applicants can write Camp of Champs, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, or call 915-267-8896 for further information and camp brochures.

Stenholm asks for sheep research

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Council on Science and Agricultural Technology (CAST) will conduct a special task force study on the future of the sheep and goat industry at the request of Congressman Charles W. Stenholm, it was announced recently.

"CAST members met with Congressional leaders in March and expressed their interest in responding to topics that we felt were timely and needed," Stenholm explained. "In view of the ever-increasing difficulties faced by the sheep and goat industry in Texas, as well as other Western states, I felt this was an excellent opportunity to have some of the best, most thorough minds in the scientific community to review those problems from every angle possible."

Stenholm said he had been assured that the controversial predator control issue would receive a comprehensive examination. "I also suggested that the study attempt to break new ground or compile the most current studies dealing with ways to combat the predator problem," he said.

"The recent decision by the Secretary of Interior to discontinue any testing of Compound 1080 seems to be contradictory to the results of preliminary test results which have indicated that the toxic collar could serve effectively as a temporary control measure until non-lethal methods are possibly developed," he continued.

Tri-College offering 60 summer courses in 48 areas

Tri-College Continuing Education and Vocational-Technical Training is distributing its summer schedule of classes this week. The schedule has been released through a direct mailing of approximately 38,000 brochures to all Abilene households and other selected Big Country residents. Sixty classes covering forty-eight areas of

study are listed, with most classes beginning the first week of June and meeting only one session each week for six to ten weeks, according to Dr. G. Norman Weaver, Executive Director of the community service program sponsored by the three local colleges.

Acrylic Painting taught by Kitty Benson, Calligraphy (lettering), taught by Marianna

Gibson, Career Assessment, taught by Dr. Ray Johnson, Dog Training, taught by John Western III, Electric Motor Repair, taught by Raymond Brown, Jr., Folk Art, taught by Kathy Casey, Food Service Cost Control, taught by Jane Jones; Glass Painting, taught by Betty Proctor; Gymnastics, taught by Libby Harlow; House plants,

taught by Gwen Fitzhugh; Nutrition & Menu Planning for Food Supervisors, also taught by Jane Jones; Personnel Management, taught by Doug Worthington; Retail Merchandising, taught by Joe Stalls; Sewing Jeans, taught by Joy Campbell; and Yoga, taught by Ann Bohannon are among the new classes to be offered for the first time


this summer, according to Weaver.

Also, the schedule includes three free community service offerings: a Child Abuse Seminar led by Beulah Love and Bill Grosvenor; a Funeral Planning Seminar led by Jo Ann Hamil; and a seven-session class in Western Thought and Culture taught by Linda Hardwicke.

Some of the more popular classes which are being repeated are: Accounting, Aerobic Exercise, Ceramics, Computer Programming, Creative Writing, Drawing, Flowers (Silk & Unsilk), Golf, Tennis, Guitar, Karate, Photography, Scuba, Short-hand, Typing, Watercolors, Tole Painting and many others.

Weaver said pre-enrollment and an assured place in classes may be obtained by calling the Tri-College Administrative Offices at (915) 673-4946 or by coming to the offices at 1325 Ambler Avenue, Abilene, Tx. 79601.

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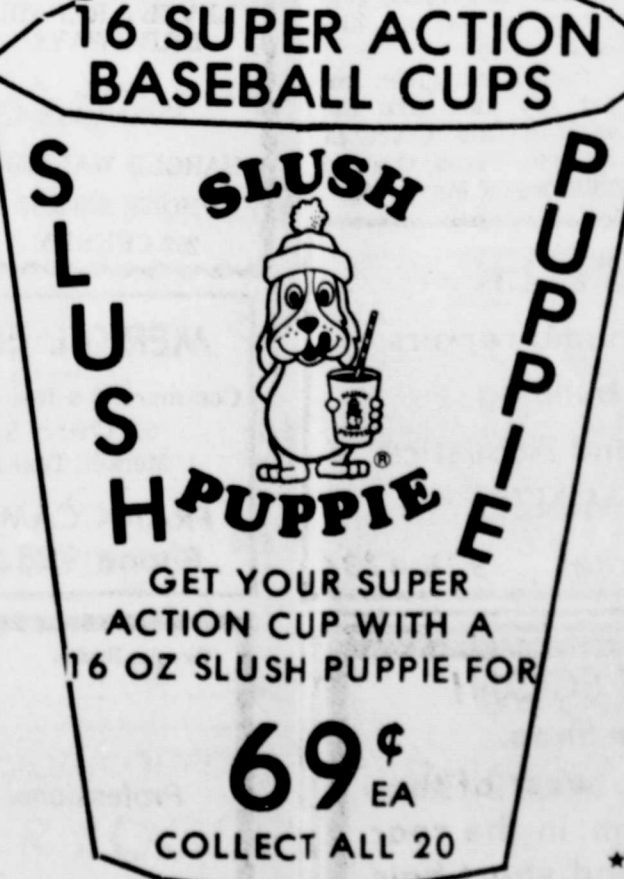
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Trent News

Thursday, May 22, 1980



Tammie Hicks
THS Valadictorian



Sherry Jackson
THS Salutatorian



Ida Lee Griffith
TJHS
Valedictorian



Casey Johnson
TJHS
Salutatorian

Compere club holds meeting

The Compere Extension Homemakers Club met May 8th in Mrs. Clyde Mims' home for the regular meeting. Mrs. Ab Hunter, president, presided for the meeting. The prayer was given by Mrs. Taylor.

Mrs. Mims directed recreation with a game "What Farmer's Raise" and a "Question and Answer" quiz. Roll call was answered with "My Favorite Flower". Minutes were read and the finance report given.

Bertha Hunter gave the council report in the absence of the council delegate.

Plans were discussed and some plans made for Rally Day at Anson on May 21.

The program was on "Cut Flowers" and their arrangements. Members carried flowers from their house gardens.

Pal gifts were given out and refreshments were served to one visitor Mrs. Maude Buzbee, Anson, Mrs. Hugh Taylor, Clyde Chancey, Hazel Spurgin, Dewey Ramsey, Ab Hunter, Bud Terry and the hostess, Mrs. Clyde Mims.

The hostess gift went to Mrs. Hugh Taylor.

All meetings are open to everyone regardless of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, or

economic circum - stances.

The Thought for the program: All the flo -

wers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today.



Herbert Beaver and Danny Freeman shared the Fighting Gorilla football award for 1980. (Staff photo)

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FROZEN 10 OZ BOX
Strawberries 37¢
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Carrots BAG 19¢
- LARGE HEAD
Lettuce EA 39¢
- FRESH
Tomatoes LB 49¢
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- FRESH WHOLE
Fryers PER LB 59¢
- FRESH
Pork Roast LB 89¢
- BLUE RIBBON SLICED
Bacon 1 LB 89¢
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German Sausage \$1.19
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Oleo 1 LB 43¢

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PUBLIC AUCTION
Lula Woods' House
will be sold May 31st
to the highest bidder

WOODS HOUSE - 5th House from the Railroad on the West Side of Main Street. The House is Open for Inspection. It has 5 rooms and a bath. It is located on a 60 ft by 140 ft Lot. It will be sold to the highest cash bidder, May 31st, 1980 at 10:30 A.M. Auction will be held on the front porch of the house.

WARRANTY, GUARANTEED TITLE
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COOKED FOOD SPECIAL OF THE WEEK

Brisket Sandwich \$1.30	Taco Rolls 3/\$1.00
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TWICE OUTSTANDING—Jerrell Sharp, second from right, is congratulated after being named the outstanding student in both the departments of sociology and history at Southwestern University at Georgetown this year. Flanking Jerrell are Dr.

Gwen Nevue, chairholder in sociology, and Dr. Weldon Crowley, right, chairholder in history, who presented the awards, along with Jarrell's parents the Reverend and Mrs. Jarrell H. Sharp of Seymour and his grandmother Mrs. Virgil Patterson (left) of Merkel.

Iran not first US hostage crisis

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(Dr. Forrest McDonald is Professor of History at the University of Alabama. Among his many books are *We the People* and *The Presidency of George Washington*.)

Jimmy Carter is not the first American president to be faced with a hostage crisis in the Islamic world. Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Madison were repeatedly plagued with just that problem. It was Jefferson and his Secretary of State and successor Madison who came up with a solution.

At the time there were, on the Barbary Coast of North Africa, four Islamic kingdoms—Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Tripoli—which lived mainly by stealing on the high seas. Rather than prevent such outrages, the maritime nations of Europe avoided deprivations by paying formal bribes or "tribute," even as westerners today pay tribute for Arab oil.

The U.S., under Washington and Adams, followed the European example. Though the Washington administration built a small Navy in response to Arab threats, it opted, under popular pressure, to mothball the fleet and pay tribute instead.

Jefferson and Madison refused to follow such a course. Jefferson sent the infant U.S. Navy to the Mediterranean to engage in defensive operations, protecting American merchant ships.

The hostage crisis came in 1803. Late that year the 44-gun frigate, U.S.S. Philadelphia, ran aground on a sandbar off Tripoli, and its entire crew was taken

hostage. That was a routine instrument of statecraft in the Islamic world; when European governments proved loath to pay tribute, Barbary Coast rulers whipped them into line by seizing their nationals and holding them in dungeons until they capitulated and, incidentally, ransoms were paid.

Jefferson would have no part of it. He threw the entire U.S. Navy, such as it was, against Tripoli—not to free the hostages, but to teach the Tripolitans never to trifle with the U.S. again. After some spectacular fighting, the Pasha of Tripoli was forced to agree to cease plundering American ships and to waive American tribute in future. The captives were released, unharmed.

But the American commander, Edward Preble, was not content to let the matter rest there. Interpreting the president's orders liberally (and properly), he gave the Algerians and Moroccans a taste of the same medicine. The Jefferson administration was then able to establish a general settlement on favorable terms.

Unfortunately, during the war of 1812, the Algerians took advantage of America's troubles and resumed their raiding. Nearly 200 American merchant seamen were captured, imprisoned, and forced into slavery. As soon as it became possible, the Navy was sent out to tend to the matter.

In 1815 Madison dispatched Captain Stephen Decatur to the Mediterranean with three frigates, two sloops of war, and five light Baltimore clipper-schooners. Just past the Strait of Gibraltar the squadron sighted the Algerian flagship and reduced her to garbage in twenty minutes.

Decatur sailed on to Algeria and paid the pasha a personal call. Not only must the piracy stop, tribute be forever ended, and the enslaved crews released, Decatur said; the pasha must pay the United States an indemnity for having captured the crewmen in the first place.

The pasha demurred, whereupon Decatur calmly informed him that the Americans would start sinking Algerian ships, one by one, until either the money was paid or there was not so much as an Algerian rowboat left afloat. The pasha capitulated. Then Decatur did the same thing with the rulers of Tunis and Tripoli, with the same results.

The Barbary rulers were a slippery lot and no doubt planned to go back to their old ways as soon as Decatur was out of sight. But they were in for a rude surprise.

The Consumer Alert
by Mark White
Attorney General

AUSTIN—Last week I discussed the problems that excessive severance taxes on coal imported from other States and the high rates for transporting that coal are creating for Texas consumers of electricity. I also reviewed the history of Texas as an energy-producing State, and the response of the State and our office to increasing shortages of energy supplies. Texas and its people and industries have undertaken to do their share toward the resolution of the nation's energy problems. They have recognized from the beginning that conversion of Texas utilities and industries to coal, in order to free petroleum and natural gas reserves for higher and better uses, will entail substantial capital costs that will have to be borne by Texans. However, if those costs are to be compounded by excessive rates set by a federal agency, the inevitable economic consequence is that the use of domestic coal will make the price of coal (and the electricity produced from it) simply too expensive. If this happens not only Texas, but also the nation will be the loser.

My office is vigorously fighting for the consumers of electricity in this state by challenging in court the excessive rates for coal transport and excessive severance taxes of other states that have resulted in expensive utility bills. In a different but related matter, I have recently helped form an organization called the

National Coal Consumers Alliance whose purpose is to support U.S. congressional legislation which would establish a 12.5 percent maximum state severance tax on coal produced and destined for interstate commerce. Since the federal guidelines requiring coal conversion were passed, some states supplying Texas have levied excessive severance taxes on coal—one as high as 30 percent. Once again, this escalation in the price of coal is ultimately borne by the consumer. With the issues of both coal severance taxes and excessive transportation rates for coal, my office will continue to advocate the policy that electricity consumers of Texas should not be forced to subsidize any out of state operation simply because the energy situation of our nation is such that the citizen-consumers of Texas must now buy electricity that is generated from coal while our state continues to be a leading producer of oil and gas. Texans are willing to do their fair share, and I am presently in state and federal court with several lawsuits to keep that share from becoming unfairly burdensome. The object is for all parties involved in the production, transportation, and consumption of energy in the United States to pay their own way. I will continue my pledge to combat high electricity rates for Texans by continuing the high priority that this office is giving to the problem of excessive coal prices.

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Newsbriefs

Tejanitos win

After losing their first three games, the Tejanitos downed the Anson Angels 9-4.

Leading the Tejanitos hitting attack was Richard Hernandez, who blasted a two run homer in the 2nd inning. Hernandez led the three others, who also had two hits; B. Moreno, Rudy Biera and Ramon Moreno. The Tejanitos travel to Santa Anna Sunday.

Baccalaureate set Sunday

Merkel High School Baccalaureate services are set for 2 p.m. Sunday at the Merkel High School Auditorium. Jerry O'Mahoney, the Catholic priest here will be the speaker.

Merkel High's class of 80 will total about 57 seniors.

Hatfield graduated

SNYDER—Penny Loyce Hatfield of Route 1, Merkel, was among the 142 students graduated from Western Texas College in commencement exercises on May 15.

Miss Hatfield, a law enforcement major, was graduated cum laude with the Associate in Applied Science degree.

Opening next week
Ruby's Beauty Salon
May 28th
Call 928-5213

She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a national honor society for students in junior colleges.

Dr. Lauro Cavazos, president of Texas Tech University, was guest speaker for the graduation program. A reception honoring the graduates was held in the Student Center following the program.

Homecoming association

meets

The Merkel Homecoming Association met May 15th and discussed plans for the 1980 festivities scheduled for October 10 and 11.

Plans were made to mail invitations in June. Current addresses are needed and you may call Jo Barnett at 928-5406 if you know of any address changes.

The association is asking for the community's help to make the 1980 Homecoming successful.



Elizabeth Godwin and Craig Land

Bodwin-Land engaged

Mr. and Mrs. George Mack Bodwin of Abilene announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Lee to Craig L. Land, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Land of Merkel.

The bride elect will graduate from Cooper

High this month. Land is a graduate of Merkel High and is employed at Carson's Supermarket here.

The couple plan a June 21 wedding in the home of the bride's parents at 889 Santos Street in Abilene.

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UP TO **\$500** IN CASH ASSISTANCE AND UP TO **\$1000** IN DISCOUNT

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Merkel Upholstery; covering up damage is their business

by Cloy A. Richards

"If it moves, we will cover it," was the way Gaston Thomas summed up the work of Merkel Upholstery. Gaston opened the business in February and had ten years of experience in recovering furniture, cars, boats and golf carts before starting his own shop. He said that he had always wanted his own shop. Gaston said the reason he opened the shop was because the opportunity came up and he took a chance, but the chance was paying off so far. He also said the people have responded real well and that he had no idea that there was that much recovering work needed here.

The shop has been open for three months and he says car work usually takes from a day to a day and a half and that furniture recovering usually takes about a week. It takes a week because a piece of furniture has to be stripped down to the frame before it can be properly recovered.

Gaston also said new car prices will certainly help those in the recovering business because people will want to make their cars last longer. He said the same would hold true for furniture. He is a native of Merkel.



Gaston Thomas talks to a Mail reporter about his business. Merkel Upholstery has been open since February. (Photo by Glenn Richards)

Memorial Day, council meets...more

By Harold Boyd

You talk about rain. . . Well you have had some again and has everything taken off a growing. Will take some more this week and hope that it will fill the tanks up and get the hay grazer up.

Good golly, ten more days of school and then where are the children going? Some will walk the streets, others will be going places. In all the time surely has gone by real fast. With gas and the cost of everything rising as it is, there will be more of us staying home than last year.

What about Carter's gas tax? We still have some who speak up for us in Washington, especially a federal judge. Now it is my hope that Congress listens to us. . . That's all we need is another tax so as it can be spent on the "give away" programs and not really help the country. If you are against this "Windfall" tax, let your Congressman know, if he doesn't hear from the folks back home, he doesn't know. Do write yours and mine Congressman. He'll listen.

Now for sure the sewer collection system will start on June 15 and the contractors will start this long awaited prospect for the city of Tye. Still have a few alleys, right-a-ways to get straight but for sure, the sewer lines will begin at this time. If you have any questions regarding the system, contact the city hall.

Your city council met in a regular session this past Tuesday and covered May events of city business. The city tabled a few items, but the main item was the passing of the ordinance of animal control. The hiring of one city employee, Freddie O'Con was retained by the city of Tye and our employee. Council decided to wait till September to have the books audited. Reduced the judge's hours to 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Council to study the tax rolls to be sure everyone in Tye is on these rolls. Other than the normal flow of business reports your city is still operating in the blue. This week the office staff will be in their new home, we hope and do business like they usually do. We'll have to bear with them gals till they get their heads clear. I feel they will be lost with all the room they will have.

Beings that this weekend is Memorial Day weekend, let's fly the flag and pay respect to those who have fallen and those who have served our country as well as those who are serving now. Again we are nearing the critical 90 day period of highway hazard. Starting Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend. Remember, safety isn't a work, it is a way of life, so please plan your driving trips ahead of time and enjoy the vacations and long weekends.

For this week, take care and on the 26 of May, pause a minute for those 53 who are still captive and for the ones who gave of themselves for this great country.

Best grocery buys this week

COLLEGE STATION--"Best bets" for the next two weeks' best buys at Texas grocery markets include poultry, eggs, lemons, apples, pineapples, mushrooms, rutabagas and sweet potatoes.

That word from Dr. Carol Akkerman, a consumer information specialist on the home economics staff of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the Texas A&M University System.

"Upcoming best buys" for the first weeks of June will be oranges, peas, beans, carrots, corn, eggplant, lettuce, dry and green onions, potatoes, tomatoes and turnips, as they will become more plentiful then.

Short-supply items--with higher prices--are avocados, limes and broccoli, and latest reports show melons and strawberries in short supplies, so expect higher prices.

MEATS--Like inflation, beef and pork prices will continue to rise--and the greatest increase will happen this summer.

Wise shoppers can use that news--along with careful comparison shopping, and buy extra cuts before price advances take effect, Dr. Akkerman advises.

POULTRY--Egg prices are stable. Moderate your use of eggs to avoid too much cholesterol--however, remember that the U.S. Department of Agriculture points out the "near-perfection protein" of eggs. Scientists even use egg protein as a standard to measure the value of protein in other foods, in fact, the specialist says.

Eggs also provide significant amounts of vitamin A, iron and riboflavin. Eat two eggs, and you have one of your meat-group servings for the day.

CANNED GOODS--Prices will keep climbing: on fruit cocktail, peaches, tuna, canned hams, peas and dehydrated peppers. Nut prices are up, too, with Brazil nuts and imported Turkish filberts leading the list. Even domestic walnuts are in short supply.

Letter to the editor

Dear Sir:

Please allow me to use your letters to the editor column to offer my thanks to the voters who went to the polls recently in my behalf. Those who supported me during my three races in 1978 made possible my present term which ends at the close of the year.

To the many who voted for me, worked for me, and contributed in 1980, I also say thank you, and pledge that I will do my best to complete this term in a way that will best serve the interests of all Texans.


I will never forget my friends, and I remain grateful for the splendid opportunity of serving this great state.

Sincerely yours,
John Poerner



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An Original Texas Hamburger

Come on in and enjoy a "Hungr-buster" an original Texas Hamburger, cooked to your order with your choice of lettuce, tomato, onion, pickle and mustard or mayonnaise, at regular price and get a **DO MALT or SHAKE FREE!** Regular size. Your choice of available flavor.

Monday, May 19 thru Sunday, May 25

Offer good only at Texas Dairy Queen Trade Association Participating Stores

Look for the name "Hungr-buster" on the wrapper.

Litter poster winners displayed

The winners of the Litter Poster Contest for Merkel Elementary fourth graders were announced Thursday.

The top three posters from each room received ribbons. From Mrs. Neff's room first place was April Duncan, second place was Chantelle McKeenan, third place was Shelle Doan.

From Mrs. Seymore's room first place went to Ramon Moreno, second place Randy Graham and third place Melissa Harris.

Winners from Mrs. Dozier's room were first place Ted Seymore, second place Kim Graham and third place Amy Stuckey.

The best three posters from the nine above received rosette ribbons and cash prizes. These were Ted Seymore first, April Duncan second, Randy Graham third.

The Merkel Garden Club judges were Mrs. W.T. Sadler, Mrs. Tom Russom, and Mrs. Aaron Sudderth. These posters are on display at the Ben Franklin Store.

Selections for

graduates



on hand.

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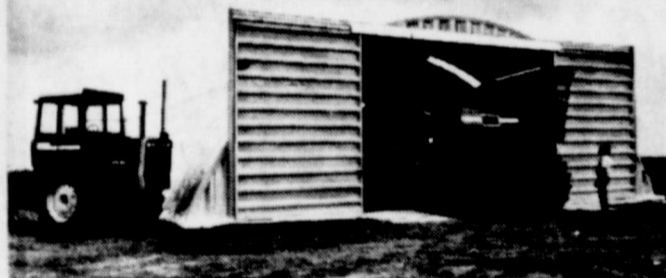
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MERKEL, TX

SALE



2 LB. VELVEETA \$2.89

8 OZ. AMERICAN SINGLES 89¢

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This ad makes it ap-PARE-nt WHY we dare to say, "COMPARE!" If you've been reading other food ads — you'll LIKE OURS. The name brands, the quality foods, the Low, LOW PRICES... they're all here! So, go ahead, READ AND COMPARE! Then come, PARE YOUR FOOD COSTS AT YOUR NAME'S.

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GILLETTE
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11 OZ
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FOLGERS
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1 LB
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WITH 10.00 IN TRADE OR MORE
EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

HAIR SPRAY 9 OZ
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APPLES
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LB 59¢



FRESH
CELERY LB 29¢
SUN KIST LARGE SIZE

LEMONS 2 FOR 29¢
CALIFORNIA

AVOCADOS EA 49¢
FRESH

CORN 2 EARS 43¢
FRESH

LETTUCE LB 33¢
RUSSET

SPUDS 10 LB BAG 98¢

SODA POP 12 OZ CAN
SHASTA 6 FOR 93¢

DEL MONTE 1 1/2 CAN
PINEAPPLE 2 FOR 99¢

DEL MONTE 303 2 FOR
FRUIT COCKTAIL 99¢

DEL MONTE ITALIAN 303
GREEN BEANS 2 FOR 79¢

DEL MONTE 303 C.S. 2 FOR
GOLDED CORN 69¢

LIBBYS 303
CUT BEETS 2 FOR 53¢

LIBBYS 303 SLICED
CARROTS 2 FOR 69¢

GREEN GIANT SLICED or WHOLE
MUSHROOMS 4.5 OZ CAN 98¢

V.I.P. 46 OZ CAN
TOMATO JUICE EA 63¢

LINDSAY
RIPE
OLIVES
300
CAN 59¢

LITE FLUFF
BISCUITS
8 OZ CAN
3 FOR 39¢

KRAFT 7.5 OZ
MACARONI-CHEESE
DINNER
2 FOR 59¢

CARNATION
COFFEE
MATE
16 OZ
JAR \$1 59

FROZEN FOODS

WHOLE SUN
ORANGE
JUICE 12 OZ CAN 63¢
PEPPERIDGE FARM 12 OZ
APPLE TURNOVER PKG 89¢

JENO'S ASSORTED
PIZZAS EA. \$1 09
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LEMONADE 12 OZ 49¢

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FLOUR GLADIOLA 5 LB BAG 83¢

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MORRISON 6 OZ 2 FOR 39¢ CORN KITS

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GOOCH BR FRESH END CUTS PORK CHOPS LB \$1 29

GOOCH BR BLADE CUT CHUCK ROAST LB \$1 69

GOOCH B.R. FRESH CENTER CUT PORK CHOPS LB \$1 79

GOOCH BR RIB STEAK SMALL END \$2 69

NABISCO VANILLA WAFERS 12 OZ BOX 73¢

HORMEL TENDER CHUNK HAM-TURKEY-CHICKEN CAN 89¢

CAMPBELL'S SCOTT BROTH OR NOODLES WITH BEEF BROTH SOUP 2 FOR 39¢

DETERGENT BOLD-3 GIANT BOX \$1 53

FISH-AHOY CAT FOOD 18 OZ BOX 59¢

RE-FILL SPRAY & WASH 32 OZ BOT \$1 49

ARROW CHARCOAL LIGHTER PINT 43¢

BROASTED CHICKEN WE TAKE CALL IN ORDERS 8 PIECES FEEDS 4

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