The Merkel Mail

Valentine's Day, 1985...Merkel, Texas

Our 96th Year



§ High school winners in the essay District were [from left] Billy Ray contest sponsored by the Middle Riley, 10th grade winner; Lance Clear Fork Soil Conservation Perry, 11th grade winner; Steph-

Chris Cutler, 12th grade winner and Ken Hogan, 12th grade runner-up.

Good news on tax rebates here, Mail loses a faithful reader

by Cloy A. Richards

we have just received our largest meals. check to date for the city's share sales tax.

sales being reported now were community. purchases made here in December and that means we had our best December ever, as far as sales go.

We whould be proud of ourselves for shopping at home this past Christmas and should ask ourselves an easy question before truning the key and aiming your car East. Did I look here for what I need?

With that kind of attidtude, ol' Bob Bullock will be sending us nothing but glowing reports in the future.

Somebody sure let my answering machine have it last Thursday about Dale's cartoon and my editorial on the proposed Federal Budget.

They left no name or phone number but made their opinions clear they disagreed.

That's great as far as I am concerned. His response indicated that he was concerned, involved and educated on the matter. Whether or not people agree with me is coincidental, as long as they read, that's all I want.

Gas 'N Grub, a Trent grocery store and gas station, was completely gutted early Saturday morning by fire.

It's sad to see the building in the shape it's in and we hope it is re-opened, better than before soon.

It must be getting close to spring because there are meetings set for Little League Baseball and United Girls Softball.

The softball meeting is at 4 p.m. at Billy Clark's office here and the Little Leage meeting will be held Feb. 18 & 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Electric.

We lost one of our more avid readers Tuesday, a woman that lived 300 miles from here but read The Mail like it was her hometown

paper. Mrs. R. E. Snuggs of College Station passed away after a long and fruitful life. She was, as I remember her, one of the "grand women" of First Baptist Church in

College Station. My mother has Zoning ordinances are created been cooking extra meals for the thelp cities manage resources, to We finally got what I have been Snuggs' for the past few years, obtain public health and safety looking for in the monthly report and I am sure some of the from the State Comtroller's Office Christmas and Thanksgiving meon retail sales. We have an mories my children will have is increase of almost 11 percent and going to their home with holiday

Mrs. Snuggs devoted her life to of the one per cent local option her church and her husband and her passing leaves us with one less The best news of all is the retail person that cares about this

> We should all hope to have a life as good as hers, friends as devoted as hers, and a future as bright as the one she has in her rest.

> If you asked my mom now who has helped who in the past, my mom would be the first to agree that noone ever helped Mrs. Snuggs as much as Mrs. Snuggs helped the ones she touched in her days on this earth.

The Merkel City Council passed the zoning ordinances at their Monday meeting and they are "technically" in place now.

Although Council won't be receiving the ordinance in its final form for a couple of months, the rules and regulations are technically here.

and to prevent "fence wars" between neighbors.

from a Comprehensive Plan ap- to the "holding pond" treatment proved by council last August and method where wastewater is the city zoning map was created stored in ponds until contaminants from the map in that compre- are cleansed. hensive plan.

You will be reading more about implemented by zoning ordinan-

The benefits of the ordinance go further than protecting people's property rights, health and safety. It will also give the city a tool to manage growth in manners that will benefit all. The ordinance will also make it easier for the city to identify new property tax payers, as well as eliminate some people from the tax rolls as property changes hands.

The HUD Community Development Block Grant that is ongoing here funded the costs of setting up the ordinances, and that's a deal that is hard to beat.

Tax rebates soar for December

Merkelites seem to have done more shopping here during December than in the past according to figures released by the State Comptroller's Office this week.

Merkel's sales tax rebates were up 10 percent through December as the city has so far collected \$13,853.66 in sales tax rebates. Those figures represent retail sales in December here.

Merkel received a check for \$9,825.85, the largest single check the city has received to date, according to the Comtroller's Office.

Tye's rebates are running 50 percent ahead of those last year,

Merkel Masons bring home award

The Masonic Lodge in Merkel, has quantied for the Merit of Achievement Award to be presented at the Grand Lodge of Texas in December of this year. To qualify for this award, at least nine of the eleven lodge officers had to attend a Masonic Conference conducted

by the Grand Master of Texas. This year, the officers had to travel to Brady, Texas for this conference. 298 Masons were at the conference with 41 Masonic Lodges being represented. Only 3 lodges qualified for the Achievement Award. They were Merkel

as they also received their largest check to date, a check for \$9,642.24. Tye has received \$17 more than Merkel has so far this

Statewide, payments were up an average of 6 percent. Abilene, Buffalo Gap and Impact reported decreases in rebates while Lawn, city limits. Merkel, Trent, Tuscola and Tye were reporting increases.

Trent received a check for \$550.84 and they are running about 4 percent ahead of last year's

The state sent out checks totaling \$111.8 million to 991 Texas cities that levy the one per cent local option on sales tax.

Lodge No. 710, John Sayles Lodge No. 1408 of Abilene and a Masonic Lodge from San Angelo.

Officers attending this years conference were: Dick Leach, Worshipful Master; Don Orr, Senior Warden Trent; Peck Eager Treasurer; Roy Mashburn, Secretary; Pete Morgan, Jr. Warden (Pro tem); Lesley Pool, Senior Stewart; Buddy Hunte, Chaplin; David Robinson, Tiler; Charlie

Baker, Jr. Deacon. The lodge thanks Lesley Pool for providing the transportation with the use of his motor home.

City council approves

two zoning ordinances

The Merkel City Council adopted the city zoning, subdivision, hisforical preservation and capital improvement plans at their reg-

ular council session Monday night. The ordinances were passed almost intact, with council calling for some changes in the wording of the sub-division ordinance.

Randy Randolph, a consultant who wrote the ordinance told council members "I had some second thoughts about zoning in a small town, it can be an emotional issue. I think the intention of zoning ordinances is the regulate the use of land, not to tell people what to do with their land."

Randolph began his presentation by showing council a list of projects that require money and heading that list is a \$271,000 sewage treatment facility. Billy Jacobs, a consulting engineer, told council members they would soon behearing from the State because water discharged from the current treatment plant is not meeting site guidelines. Jacobs said the and feels the city could spend about \$20,000 less and change The ordinances were created waste water treatment procedures

The capital improvements list also included additional water the new rules and regulations lines, storage, city hall improvements, central business district improvements.

City manager J. S. Sadler told council member before they voted to pass the capital improvements resolution "Just because you approve a comprehensive plan, we don't have to go out next week and try to come up with

\$271,000." Randolph added "This is a refined plan. It gives you a priority listing of things needed so the council will know what your needs are. The resolution states that you will try to find funds through different sources to fund the programs. It needs to be

updated once a year.' Council also adopted the historic preservation resolution. That plan emphasizes the history of Merkel and the resolution is designed to facilitate preservation of unique architecture and historical loca-

Council did request some language to be changed in the Sub-Division Ordinance. That ordinance sets gut the responsibilities developers when they are improving parcels of land in the

Council asked for clarification in the ordinance of financial responsibilities in projects.

Council passed the Zoning Ordinance with no changes. Randolph told Sadler Tuesday

morning it would be a few weeks before the final rodinances are worded although the ordinance is 'technically" in place now.

In other action, Council asked Sadler to come up with a set of rules governing the use of Heritage Hall and the Merkel Emergency Medical Service building. Questions were raised when people have tried to rent Heritage Hall and the ambulance building for private, profit ventures. Council agreed that neither building was constructed for "profit" making. Council asked Sadler to have the guidelines available for a special meeting that will have to be called for the city council elections in April.

Council also approved an oil line

poration for a 370 foot line near sanitation bills. Merkel's Waste Water Treatment

Council also discussed the garbage pick-up procedures. Council is discussing purchasing a second truck to keep a truck running at payment of a bill of \$3,700 in repairs made to the trash truck

the computer that is supposed to them is correct.

easement for the Permian Cor- be printing the city water-sewer

As of Tuesday, the bills for this month were still being worked on by a programmer, who was getting rid of a few "bugs" in the billing software.

The bills were printed Tuesday all times. The city approved and should have already been delivered to your home.

Some of the bills may include numbers that aren't properly Council also heard a report on aligned, but the information on

County agent says Agriculture taking beating

by Joe Wilson Extension Agent, Taylor County

in the big country was a disaster A severe drouth, plus low prices for agricultural products spelled economic dooms for producers. Now that 1984 Vst past history, farmers and ranchers are wondering what prospects does 1985 hold. The weather factor looks much better, as the drouth has come to an end, but most economists agree that prospects for good prices are very bleak, if not non-exsistant.

An analysis of the problem of below break-even prices for producers is a complicated, multifauceted reason, difficult to understand, even for the most intelligent agriculture producer. It is beyond concept of many northern, non agricultural politicians, undoubt-

Several federal employees and Congress members lay the blame for the present situation entirely on the farmers and ranchers. They say they are too greedy and over produce. They prefer no government support and believe that supply and demand should rule (supply side economics as some prefer to call it).

Producers, on the other hand. point to the fact that the blame lays on government programs. How can supply and demand work when the government will not allow Markets to work between countries? In fact, they point out the embarges of the past is one of the major reasons that farmers are in such a financial bind now.

Another argument of producers is, the dollar is so strong overseas that it makes farm produce too high for them to buy. A fact are bleak.

producers in their country have no control over.

Other producers point out that most agricultural goods. This makes it impossible to trade in the foreign market at a profit. They claim the reason that our costs are so high is partly due to government regulations. These can include a host of things from minimum wage OSHA, EPA, FDA and USDA regulations and standards that foreign producers do not have to contend with.

Other producers point out that our production costs are higher than the world market prices of most agricultural goods.

Many other points could be made from either side. However, there are a few facts that both sides agree upon. These include:

1. The U.S. produces between 1-4 and 1-5 of all the world food and they could produce nearly one half if the price incentive was there.

2. At present, we are producing more than our domestic need and more than we are selling overseas, thus creating a surplus and low

3. The percent return from invested capitol is much lower in agriculture than business or manufacturing and it has declined even more in the past few years. This has resulted in declining land prices, which in turn has lowered equity of the farmers and ranch-

In times of deficit federal budgets, and increased defense spending clamor, agriculture is taking a beating down on the farm and unfortunately, prospects for them changing in the near future

Ft. Worth show results

A number of Merkel students were among the winners at the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show in Fort Worth last In the Junior Swine Show the

results are as follows: Light Weight Duroc, 7th place

Kevin Mitchell. Heavy Weight Duroc, 7th place Chriswell Whisenhunt.

Light Weight Hampshires, 13th place Chriswell Whisenhunt. Light Weight Berkshires, 10th

place Cassidy Townsend, 11th place Chuck Peterman, 13th place Mandy Pack. Heavy Weight Berkshires, 13th

place Mitzi Shelton.

place Russell Morgan, 11th place Dusty Farmer, 13th place Dusty Farmer, 14th place Russell Mor-Medium Weight Chester White,

Light Weight Chester White, 6th

3rd place Billy Ray Riley, 8th place C.J. White. Heavy Weight Chester Whites,

11th place Ricky Doan, 7th place Ricky Riley, 12th place Billy Ray Riley.

Medium Weight Poland China. 2nd place Lyle Baker.

Medium Weight Spotted Polano China, 9th place Lyle Baker. In the Junior Steer Show, Randy

Toombs placed 3rd with his Crossbred Steer.



AIN'T LOVE GRAND! - Especially on Valentine's Day. Tim Wozencraft, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Wozencraft, is about to present shy little Miss Vickie Mitchel with a box of chocolates to commemorate February 14. Vickie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dwane Mitchell.

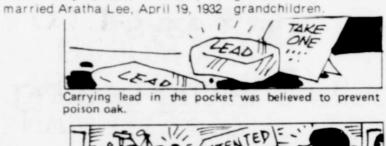
Editor's Note: This photo first we thought it appropriate for appeared in The Mail in 1962 and Valentine's Day.

Hester services held

Memorial Park, directed by John- Baird's Bakeries. son Funeral Home of San Angelo. with the Rev. Kenneth Jones, Hester of San Angelo; two brothpastor of Caps Baptist Church, ers, J.V. Hester of Merkel and officiating.

Shelby Hester, 76, of San Angelo, in Anson. She preceded him in a former longtime resident of death. Both were longtime resi-Abilene, died at 4: 40 a.m. Monday dents of Abilene. He had lived in a at Shannon Hospital in San San Angelo nursing home in recent Angelo. Graveside services were years and was a retired mainteat 2 p.m. Wednesday at Elmwood nance department worker of Mrs.

Survivors include a son, Eudelle George Hester of Ozona; two Born July 2, 1908, in Anson, he grandchildren and four great



Mary Kies of Connecticut was for first woman to be granted a U.S. patent. It was for and in 1809 for a ng straw with silk or thread.

A stupid calf ruins it for 14 others

by Russell McAnally

The story I am telling you sounds like a mother talking about one of her children. I think I will just tell the story and let you make application where it fits best. This is the story about a calf, black with a white face. It is hard to tell you about one calf without letting you know that there are really fifteen calves. I would not want to center the whole story on one calf that breaks the rules, without telling you about the other fourpasture you assign for them that day without giving any trouble.

The calf with the white face, which I call, Stupid, can go under any fence I put up. Once in a while, that Stupid calf gets one other calf to get out of the legal territory with her. Sometimes there is no better grazing on the other side of the fence, but Stupid seems to delight in getting on the other side of the fence and laughing at the others who are so foolish to stay in the inclosure. Up until this past Monday, I had done everything I knew to make that calf stay at home. I had some help from a neighbor who certainly didn't want the calf on them.

I thought I had them fixed to stay in and had punished all fifteen of the calves by keeping them in a small enclosure. How do you tell a bunch of calves they are being punished because of the law breaking stupid calf. The fourteen restricted calves should have butted the Stupid calf into a corner so they would not have to be punished. The calves do not seem to know any better. Last Sunday afternoon, I turned them all out again into the big pasture and watched them as they grazed close to the neighbor property and sure enough the Stupid calf couldn't wait until under the fence she went. I left the comfort of the house to run them all back home. Stupid saw me coming and got back in my pasture and I was trying to get them headed toward home. Stupid kicked up her heels and starting running in circles and passed close to me two times. I missed with all three rocks I threw

letting me know she had done and intended to keep doing as she pleased. Right then and there I decided what I was going to do. That was all I could take.

Monday, I called in a neighbor and we made a yoke out of barbed wire, finally got a rope around her neck and after half choking her to death, had that wire yoke in place. Stupid was turned loose and went to another part of the pasture and stood by herself. Some of the other

calves finally went to the stupid calf and before long Stupid had all the other calves feeling sorry for her. Stupid is even mad at me now and can not understand why she has been grounded. She will be turned out into the big pasture again today and we will see what happens. It will be interesting to see how she gets the attention of others now. She will find a way

because that wire yoke is an irritation and a constant reminder to her that she is being restricted. She may prove to me that she can still do as she pleases. I am determined that if she does, I will put two yokes, or one twice as big on her. If that doesn't work, I will put her in a small pen, feed her until she gets fat, then there is no end to this story. Don't Forget About The Other 14 Calves.

teen calves that graze in the Agricultural Options: A New Marketing Tool

PRICE VOLATILITY ONE OF THE KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING WHAT OPTIONS WILL COST

For the first time in almost half a century, there will soon be trading in 'put" and "call" options for agricultural commodities - including soybeans, corn, wheat, livestock and cotton. This is the fourth in a series of five articles describing the history of options, how they work, how they can be used, and their importance to anyone who produces, markets, purchases or finances farm products.

When trading commences in options on agricultural commodities, buyers and sellers and their representatives will meet on the trading floor of the nation's futures exchanges and begin a process of competitive bidding. Until then, officials of the Chicago Board of Trade acknowledge that what it will cost to buy an option is anyone's guess.

Premiums for options will be determined in the same way as futures prices - through open outcry and hand signals as buyers seek to pay the lowest possible amount and sellers seek to receive the highest possible amount.

Chicago Board of Trade president Thomas R. Donovan explains that the overall level of option premiums will be greatly influenced by the volatility of the underlying futures prices. The more volatile the sovbean market, for example, the more it's likely to cost to purchase a soybean option.

There's a good reason for the linkage between market volatility and option premiums, according to Donovan. At from \$6.25 a bushel to \$7.75 a bushel. at her because I could see she was times of volatile markets; there at A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH

more people interested in the protection that options can offer. This increases the demand for options.

At the same time, volatile markets increase the risks of selling options. This results in fewer people being willing to sell them unless the premiums are high enough to justify taking the risks involved. The result, says Donovan, is that volatile markets exert upward pressure on premiums from both the demand side and the supply side.

For example, the same three-month soybean option that might cost 20 cents a bushel when soybean prices have been fairly stable might cost 40 cents a bushel in a more volatile market. Soybean markets in recent months have been on the volatile side, fluctuating over a range that has exceeded a dollar a bushel.

A second factor that will always influence the premium for a particular option is the strike price of the option relative to the current price of the underlying futures contract. In order to enable option buyers to choose the level of price protection they want, exchanges will conduct simultaneous trading in options with a number of different strike prices.

At a time when the November soybean futures price is \$7.00, for instance, buyers might be able to select from options having strike prices ranging

In the case of put options, which are options to sell, an option with a high strike price will be more costly than an option with a low strike price. It stands to reason that an option that grants the right to sell soybeans at, say, \$7.25 a bushel will be more valuable and thus more expensive than an otherwise identical option that conveys the right to sell soybeans at only \$6.75 a bushel.

Donovan points out that an option is really a type of price insurance and that choosing the option strike price is a lot like selecting the size of the deductible in buying automobile or home insurance. The more protection you want, the more it costs.

The third variable that affects the option premium is the length of time the option has remaining until expiration. Again, like insurance, it costs more to purchase protection for six months than for three months. But because the premium tends to decline most rapidly as an option gets closer to expiration, the premium for a six month option is generally less than double the premium for a three month

As in any competitive market, says Donovan, the process through which option premiums are determined can be summarized in just three words: supply and demand.



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§ Students placing in the Middle servation poster contests [shown Tran, Marty Boyd and Melinda

Clear Fork Soil & Water Con- in order of finish from left] are Reagan. Jayma Goldsmith, Phuong Thao

Douglass named to Millionaire's club

Paula Douglass, an agent for State Farm Insurance Companies in the Irving, Texas area has earned membership in the firm's Millionaire Club.

This distinguised sales honor is based primarily on the quality and quantity of line insurance sold and serviced by the agent. Only about one in four State Farm agents attains membership in the Club. Ms. Douglass will join other Millionaire Club members for a week in Acapulco in April.

Douglass joined State Farm in 1983, having come from Abilene, Texas. She has two daughters; Jill, 19, who is a freshman at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas and Paige, 15, who is a freshman at MacArthur High School in Irving. Paula is the daughter of Bobby and Ruth Dudley, 308 Yucca Street, Merkel, Texas. She is a graduate of Trent High School.



Hightower calls for populist proposal to save family farms

(HOUSTON)--"It's the eleventh hour for thousands of Texas farm families," said Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower. In an address to the annual convention of the Texas Farmers Union, Hightower called for the delegates to get behind "a populist proposal from the prairie to save America's family farm system."

Hightower pointed out that about 19,000 Texas farms have gone out of business in the last four years, and that we continue to lose them at a rate of more than 100 a week. "More than half of farm borrowers indebted to the Farmers Home Administration are behind on their payments right now, and a big percentage of those will not get financing for the 1985 crop year," Hightower said. "In normal years, FmHA turns down about 20 percent of the farmers who apply for production loans. Last year, FmHA rejected 42 percent of those who sought loans to continue farming, and this year will be

"It's not much better for farmers who get their loans from private banks -the American Bankers Association reports that a third of farm borrowers are 'loaned up to the practical limit.' Overall, the U.S. Department of Agri-

culture says that 'between 20 and 30 percent of all commercial farmers are facing financially stressful conditions, requiring decisive steps to improve cash flow and profits."

"These are good farmers--efficient, productive and competitive people whom we need if the U.S. is to maintain its agricultural abundance. They are not being squeezed out of business

COMMODITY

Soybeans (bu.)

Beef cattle (lb.)

Grain sorghum (cwt.)

Cotton, Upland (lb.)

\$13.20

59.3e

40.8€

Service. Compiled by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Wheat (bu.)

Corn (bu.)

Rice (cwt.)

Hogs (lb.)

because of bad management, bad weather, or bad luck," Hightower said. "They are victims of bad farm policy, and their loss is as criminal as a subway

'What's happened to them is that federal farm legislation has encouraged overproduction and established disastrously low commodity prices. Since the beginning of 1981, the market price of 22 of the 28 major agricultural products has suffered an average price decline of 19 percent (see attached list). In practically every instance, the prices that farmers are paid for the commodities are lower--often dramatically lower--than what it costs them to produce the commodity. For example, from January 1981 to January 1985:

- The price of wheat has fallen from \$4.21 a bushel to \$3.36 a bushel, and it costs farmers \$3.95 a bushel
- The price of cotton has fallen from 77e a pound to 57e a pound, and it costs farmers 84¢ a pound to produce it.
- The price of rice has fallen from 13e a pound to 8e a pound, and it costs farmers nearly 10¢ a pound to produce it.
- The price of beef has fallen from 59¢ a pound to 55¢ a pound, and it costs ranchers 62e a pound to produce it.

\$9.76

46.9€

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting

Farm Sector, 1984 and refer to the 1983

crop year.) "You don't need a very big computer to figure out that these numbers add up to bankruptcy," Hightower said. "Incredibly, though, the Reagan Administration is proposing a new Farm Bill, to be written this year, that will actually establish lower federal price floors on these commodities. For example, wheat would fall from its current \$3.36 price to \$3.25-70e less than the cost of production! U.S. Agricultural Secretary John Block claims that these are 'market clearing prices' to help sell more U.S. commodities on the international market, but what they really amount to are 'farmer clearing' prices, clearing about a third of our commercial family producers out of the farming picture. Their program is such an ugly anti-farmer proposal that it will wrinkle your shirt just to read it,"

Hightower said. "What we've got to have is a firstclass, full-scale farmer rebellion against the Big Mo Jos in Washington who are trying to ram this bit of idiocy down our throats. Working with true family farm organizations and public officials from Texas to Minnesota, we at TDA have been developing our own pragmatic, populist proposal to save the family

- 38%

+ 19%

farm. We're not talking about a bail-out scheme, but a commonsense policy to • The price of corn has fallen from allow efficient farmers to get their \$3.19 a bushel to \$2.52 a bushel, surplus production back in balance and it costs farmers \$3.53 a bushel with demand so they can get a fair price to produce it. in the marketplace. (Cost of production figures taken from USDA's Economic Indicators of the THE CAUSE OF CONTINUED DEPRESSION IN RURAL AMERICA AVG. COST U.S. U.S. AVG. MKT. AVG. MKT. CHANGE **PRODUCTION** PRICE PRICE CHANGE JAN. 81 1983 JAN. 85 Ss & c \$ 4.21 \$3.95 \$3.36 - 20% -85e bu. \$ 3.19 \$3.53 \$2.52 - 21% -67c bu. \$ 7.80 \$7.55 \$5.80 - 26% -\$2.00 bu. - 25% \$ 5.48 \$6.61 \$4.09 \$1.39 cwt. 83.9c -19.9¢ / lb. - 26%

\$8.14

48.4€

\$5.06 cwt.

-3.9¢ 1b.

THE MERKEL FFA CHAP **WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE** FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR PURCHASING ANIMALS AT THE TAYLOR COUNTY STOCK SHOW M BANK 2 steers 1 pig 1 lamb 1 pig 1 lamb SEYMORE INSURANCE & 'S FEED & SEED 'S SUPER MARKET & PALMER MOTOR CO. 1 pig MERKEL MERCHANTS STARBUCK CO. **MERKEL DRUG** BIG COUNTRY INN P & L AUTO S FEED & SEED HI VAL FEED STORE



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For Sale: Metal storage building 8 X 12 in good condition. Insulated. 7 foot walls. Inside paneled. \$550. 676-5988. 98-4tp

John Deere Roto Tiler, new motor, call 928-5796. 100-2tp

1976 Chev. Scottsdale, 1/2 Ct. Drop-in's welcomed. ton LWB Heavy Duty pickup. New 350 engine from Reeder's Automotive, just installed. New 44/4 after 6 p.m. 13/ ball joints, brakes, seat covers, tires, ETC. Good tool box, price negotiable. Trent 862-6370.

100-1tc FOR SALE: good, sturdy, medium finish dining table with 5 chairs, \$50.00. Call 928-5050.

WINNEBAGO Camper Shell for LWB pickup, insulated, removeable rear door, sliding windows with curtain rods. nice \$350.00. Price negotiable. Trent 862-6370.

100-1tp FOR SALE: Magtag washer, 21 in. color T.V., 1 chrome show bumper, fits 76 to 78 Chevrolet pickup, call

928-4165. White 39 inch GE stove drawer storage. See at terinary Clinic at 402 Locust or call 928- 928-5235.

Have I STOKE problem? Is affecting your 1113? 11 50. AL ANNON FAMILY groups can help. A Markel group is meeting weekly in the mornings

Call 928-4844 or 928-5067.

49-TFC KID'S KORNER DAY CARE CENTER 2nd & Oak. Open Monday-Fri-\$5.75 per bale delivered day 6:30 a.m., until 5:30

p.m. Call 928-4381 66-tfc Babysitting in my

home. 2 years old and up. Call Sheri 928-4905. 96-4tc

General houseclean-For Sale: 8 acres edge ing. Reasonable rates. between 8 & 5

> Now taking applications for all shifts and all departments. Apply in person. Starr Nursing Home Highway 80 West, Merkel.

Registered child care in my home, Monday -Friday 5:30 am - 6 pm. Children from 1-5 & after school. Balanced meals and snacks. Fenced yard. Call 928-4030 or come by # 7 Pioneer

98-4tc Grooming in Merkel Saturdays. Call 928ppointment.

92-TFC

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86TFC

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98-4tp

§ Lost Dogs available for adoption if not clai-med. Male Doperman; Female German Shepard Cross; Femal, small mixed breed- very cute. with deep well and Contact the Merkel Ve-

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The Classifieds

- Valentines Day, 1985- Page 4

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100-tfc

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1, 2 or 3 bedroom mobile home for rent in Merkel. 928-4973. 27TFC

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Country Home 5 miles southeast of Merkel on and air, with four ceiling fans, new storm windows, vinyl siding and For sale or rent: 3 insulation, fenced yard, mobile homes located in

horse, \$325.00 a month, dition. Terms offered. \$150.00 deposit. Call 928- Call Cyrus Pee. Realtor

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Nice 2 bedroom apartments with 3 ceiling fans per apartment, central air and heat, refrigerator and stove, upstairs \$250.00, downstairs with dishwasher, \$275.00. Workman's lease, pay half first of month and other half 15th of month. \$150.00 deposit. Call 928-5194.

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FOR RENT: 1 bedroom house at 306 Runnels. Partially furnished, \$175 per month, \$100 deposit couple preferred, call 928-5787 or inquire at 401 Runnels

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For Sale: Twenty four patio with cement storm cellar under patio, 35 gallon per minute irrigation well with 12 sprinkler system, City water, over 30 fruit & nut trees, joining Merkel City Limit, plus up to 25 additional acres. Call 928-5613, Cyrus Pee,

98-TFC

For Sale: 3 bedroom, brick home near school \$39,000. Contact Century 21, Martha Thorn agent 673-2502.

Mobile Home- 1982 FM 1235, large 2 bed- Champion 14 X 42. New room, one bath, kitchen carpet, Central Air \$500 with stove, side by side Equity and take up refrigerator, washer payments of \$181.00 928and dryer, central heat 5220. 96-4tc

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98-4tp

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Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE: Friday only. Starts at 9 a.m. East side of county barn in double wide trailer, weather permitting.

Public notice

100-1tc

THE STATE OF TEX-

AS +To: Charlene Jackson Residence Address Unknown

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation same being N ... the 4th day of March,

1985, at or before ten

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trict Court of Taylor County, Texas, at the Court House of said County in Abilene, Tex-Said Plaintiff's Amended Petition was fil-

o'clock A.M. before the

Honorable 104th Dis-

ed in said court, on the 9th day of November A.D. 1984, in this cause, numbered 16,136-B on the docket of said court, and styled, IN-TERFIRST BANK AB-ILENE, N.A. Plaintiff, VS. CHARLENE JACK-SON, Individually and as the Sole Heir of Stanley Willis Jackson,

Deceased Defendent. The names of the parties to the cause are as follows: INTER-FIRST BANK ABI-LENE, N.A. are Plaintiffs and CHARLENE JACKSON, Individually and as the Sole iteir of Stanley Willis Jackson, Deceased are Defendants.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit:

Stanley Willis Jackson, now deceased, did execute and deliver to Interfirst Bank Abilene certain promissory notes dated on July 25, 1983; February 15, 1983 and October 21, 1983. The notes were community debts of Defendant, Stanley Willis Jackson, now deceased and Defendant Charlene Jackson is now solely liable for this community debt. Due to Defendant's failure to pay the notes, Plaintiff requests the Court to enter judgment against the Defendant,

Charlene Jackson, for Foreclosure of Plaintiff's security interest in 1977 Chevrolet, for the 3 notes mentions above, for prejudgment int. on all notes, postjudgment interest at highest legal rate, Attorney fees, cost of court, and further relief to which plaintiff may show itself entitled, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this

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

The officer executing process shall promptly execute the same according to law, and make due return as the law directs. Issued and given under my hand and the

Seal of said Court, at office in Abilene, Texas, this the 18th day of January A.D. 1985. Attest: Rilla Mahoney Clerk, 104th Dist. Court,

Taylor County, Texas By Joann Lackey Deputy. 99-4tc 115 lines

SALES

JACKSON BROS FEED & SEED with all partnership assets transferred to the corporation effective January 1, 1985 and this notice is published pursuant to Article 13.02 - 2.02 of the Texas Miscellaneous Corporation Laws. 98-29-4tc CAN HAUL DIKT. ROCK & GRAVEL LEVEL & REPAIR DRIVEWAYS FREE ESTIMATES HAROLD

NOTICE OF

JACKSON BROS.

DISSOLUTION

OF PARTNERSHIP

AND INCORPORATION

-The partnership of

FEED & SEED, a par-

tnership composed of

DAVID JACKSON and

RANDAL FITZHUGH.

is dissolved effective

January 1, 1985 and the

firm shall continue as a

Texas corporation of the

FEED & SEED, INC.

and doing business as

WAYLON JACKSON,

BOBBY JACKSON,

name of VOLUME

WALKER 928-5872 202 CHERRY SERVICE STANFORD'S FISHING - HUNTING

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§ The following were winners in the Middle Clear Fork Soil and Water Conservation Essay contest. 7th grade winners included

[shown from left in order of placement] Laurinda Powell, Jennifer Hatley, Susie Brandon, Susan Hammond, Amy Coleman.

SESSION SESSIO

|Bottom row from left] -8th grade winner was Walter Best and Diem Tran was second.

Check your cats for leukemia

by Kathryn Banner, DVM Merkel Vet Clinic

Faline leukemia is a devastating disease that kills cats. This disease is caused by a virus and is transmissable from cat to cat. There has been no conclusive tive. evidence that the virus can be transmitted to other animals or to people. Prolonged, close contact seems to be necessary for transmission to occur. The leukemia virus is spread by saliva, respiratory secretions, milk, urine, and feces. The virus can even spread from a pregnant cat to her unborn

The time between infection with the virus and signs of the disease are extremely variable. Some cats tested and found "positive" for leukemia may never get sick from the virus. Others may have many bouts of illness. Still others may get sick and die because of the virus. The virus can cause many problems such as tumors, anemia, abortion and fetal resorption. One additional action the virus can have is suppression of the cat's immune system, leaving the cat more susceptible to other viral infections as well as bacterial and fungal infections. Some of these signs are fever, pale mucous membranes (gums, lining of the eyes), little to no appetite, lack of energy, dull hair coat, difficult breathing, dehydration, weight loss, and chronic diarrhea.

Diagnosis of feline leukemia is by a laboratory test using a small amount of the cat's blood. Treatment of leukemia will vary according to the individual case and the situation at home (number of cats at home, if the cat is used for breeding). Euthanasia may be recommended because of the severity of the disease and because of the potential for spread of the disease. After the death or removal of a cat with leukemia, all food bowls, toys and litter pans should be discarded. The premisis should be cleaned with a 1.32 dilution of bleach and at least three months should pass before a new cat or cats are brought into the household. Cats already in the household should be tested for leukemia. If the decision is made to treat a cat with leukemia strict isolation will decrease the possibility of spreading the disease to

other cats. Leukemia has been a difficult disease to treat and the results of treatment have often been less than successful but new means of treatment are being tried and may prove very effec-

There is good news, though, a vaccine is now available for the

prevention of feline leukemia Cats that are "negative" can receive the vaccine. Kittens can be star'ed at nine weeks of age. A second booster should be given in two to three weeks and a third booster two to four months later. Older cats should probably receive three doses as well as annual boosters should be given.

Trent poster winners

The winners of the Trent Soil Conservation Poster Contest are

Kindergarden: Tammy Clark 1st, Laura Griffith 2nd, Keith Jones 3rd, D.J. Bland 4th.

1st Grade: Suzette Horne 1st. Jody Horton 2nd, Teri Brazelton 3rd, Jennifer Raines 4th.

2nd Grade: Justin Williams 1st. Brad Clark 2nd, Amanda Stautzenburger 3rd, Sarah Griffith 4th.

3rd Grade: Jason Rea 1st. Sherrie Clark 2nd, David Barnes 3rd, Jennifer Mashane 4th.

Jennifer Cabral 2nd, Erik Armstrong 3rd, Jesus Carrasco 4th. 5th Grade: Janet Marshall 1st, Anna Rios 2nd, Scott Bloodworth

4th Grade: Britt Sipe 1st.

3rd, Patricia Clark 4th. 6th Grade: T.J. Armstrong 1st. Ginger Massey 2nd, Lisa Penton 3rd, Jamie Masonheimer 4th.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Rural Electrification Administration APPENDIX A Statement of Nondiscrimination

Taylor Electric Cooperative. Inc. has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurthat it will comply fully with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Agriculture issued thereunder, to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be otherwise subjectof its program and the operation of its facilities. Under this Assurance this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the ground of race, color or national origin in its policies and practices relating to applications for service or any other policies and practices relating to treat-

ment of beneficiaries and participants including rates, conditions and extension of service, use of any of its facilities, attendance at and participation in any meetings of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operations of this organization.

Any person who believes himance in which it assures the Rural self, or any specific class of Electrification Administration individuals, to be subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Act and the Rules and Regulations issued thereunder may, by himself or a representative, file with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or the Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250, or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed not ed to discrimination in the conduct later than 180 days after the alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Rural Electrification Administration extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purpose of the Rules and Regulations.

WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES WHO PURCHASED LIVESTOCK AT THE TAYLOR COUNTY SHOW TRENT GIN GOOCH PACKING COMPANY ABILENE LIVESTOCK SHOW **ASSOCIATION** THE TRENT FFA WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK ALL THE MANY PEOPLE AND MERCHANTS OF TRENT, MERKEL & THE BIG COUNTRY AREA FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO THE 1985 TRENT LIVESTOCK SHOW



Kiss Farming Goodbye

Gone would be the sweet smell of the alfalfa.

Gone would be the sprawling oak next to the field, where you always stopped for lunch.

Gone would be the smell of the sticky, muddy earth after a rain.

Gone would be the barn where you played as a child. And pondered life as an adult.

Maybe not today, tomorrow, or next year. But someday, unless you invest in the future of farming by investing in the Future Farmers of America.

In your estate planning, consider a taxdeductible gift or a bequest to FFA.

For information call or write the Future Farmers of America today.

Farming is too important to leave behind.



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Newsbriefs

Art group

The Merkel Art Association met February 7th at Taylor Telephone Xi Nu Eta

Lora Mann, of Abilene gave a lesson on ceramics. She demonstrated different types of material used in ceramics and different types of medium for painting the ceramics and how to fire and glaze the material. Members found that ceramics can be beautiful and make interesting art works. Ruth Cox presided over a short business meeting.

Evelyn Stribling read the minutes of the last meeting and called roll. Members discussed old and new business with an arts and crafts show planned for May.

Attending were Ruth Allen's daughter Buster, Lorene Lee, Gay engagement told Featherston, Pat Neff, Elizabeth Hicks, Ethel Pee, Marie Beaird, Ted Allen, Imogene Coleman, Ruth Cox, Evelyn Stribling, Ruth Hogan,

lene, was a visitor.

Xi Nu Eta, Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, met February 5, in the home of Dee McCollum for

their regular meeting. Programs were on, 'Our Place In Life, Who and What We Are" AND "Marriage-What Is A Successful Marriage" Members also enjoyed exchanging Secret Sister Valentine Gifts. Members attending

McCollum, Jana Nelson, Carol Portie, Marilyn Tittle and Cathy Pack. The next meeting will be March 5 in the home of Carol Norman, Mer-

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Allen of Merkel have announced the engagement of their daughter, Leigh Anne, to Tony Lane Mc-

Mabel Vaughn, of Abi- Inroe, son of Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Smith of Clyde.

The couple is planning a June 22 wedding at the First United Methodist Edwards Street here

Church here. Miss Allen is a senior at Merkel High and her fiance is employed by General Paint & Body of Preceptor Eta Omega

Birth to Barry's

Mr. and Mrs. Rick Barry, (Pamela King), of Austin, announce the birth of a daughter, Lauren Nicole, born on were: Kathy Dacy, Dee February 7. She weighed 5 pounds and 41/2 oz. long. Grandparents are Janie J. King, formerly of Trent, and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Barry of Sundown.

Softball meeting

An orginizational meeting for United Girls Softball will be held 'Saturday at 4 p.m. at the office of Billy Clark,

The meeting is open to all interested in girls softball this summer and will be held at 112

Hewitt is

sweetheart for

Preceptor Eta Omega Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1985 for their Valentine Party honoring Blanche Hewitt, Sweetheart, in the home of Betty Conley.

They went to the and was 181/2 inches Gourmet Shack for dinner and back to Betty's for desert and skip bo.

The following ladies were present: Betty Conley, Betty Satterwhite, Opal Garner, Val Patterson, Louise Du-Bose, Kathy Leverich, Ruth Tipton, Blanche Hewitt, Connie Ybarra and Bobbye Mansfield.

The next meeting will be Feb. 19, 1985.

David L. Wagner, Attorney at Law, is pleased to announce the opening of a branch office located at 116 Edwards. Office hours will be from 9 to 12 am & 1 - 5 pm each Wednesday beginning Feb. 20. To make an appointment, please call (Monday - Friday) 1-695-2242 or 928-5921 on Wednesdays.



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Sandusky is Lambda Beta Sweetheart

Lambda Beta's 1985 Valentine Sweetheart is Debbie Sandusky. Her husband is Jerry Don and her two children are Joe and Jay. Debbie and Jerry Don were hoppred with a Mexican Supper and 42 Party on the 9th. And on the 16th, they will be honored in Abilene at the yearly Beta Sigma Phi Valentine Dance.

Our meeting on the 5th was hosted by Pat Schuknecht at Pleasantville. Rita Moore gave the program on Hobbies with a lesson on cross stitching handwork.

Members present were: Annette Clark, Kay Bishop, Janet McKeehan, Virginia Pirraglin, Debbie Robertson, Debbie Sandusky and Sheri Walton.

State musicians do well in class

A survey of the most outstanding high school musicians in Texas revealed that they are also high academic achievers. According to Texas Music Educators Association President Sally Schott, the survey was designed to demonstrate the parallel between outstanding musical accomplishments and high academic stand-

The survey was conducted during the convention of the Texas Music Educators Association in San Antonio, February 7-9. It included members of the All-State Band, Orchestra and Choir. The selection process for these organizations involves a series of rigorous tryouts in which only 812 students from the 30,000 who audition win places.

Twenty-eight National Merit Scholarship Finalists and Semi-Finalists performed with these All-State organizations. Although membership in National Honor Society is open only to juniors and seniors, disqualifying a significant number of underclassmen allstaters, 229 students have attained membership in the National Honor Society. Six hundred and seventytwo students returned surveys which were verified by their

school counselors. The most significant measure of the academic achievements of Texas All-State Performers aver in "good faith". 893, 1982 Texas average-868.

Averages by performing group: Jazz Ensemble-981, Symphonic Orchestra-1135, Philharmonic Orchestra-1172, Choir -- 1036, Symphonic Band-1074, Concert



Writer says protect credit

Dear Editor:

I recently came across this article in a Fort Worth Star Telegram, dated August 31, 1925. After nearly sixty years, business people still have the same problems, and I believe this article ******** speaks for itself, without any further explanation.

Credit is "Good Faith" To Keep Faith,

Pay Promptly

Any merchant who "charges" your purchases in his store, whether on "open" or "installment" account, does so as a matter of convenience to you, and because he believes that you are these gifted musicians is their able and intend to settle up in due average score on SAT tests: 1985 course. He makes the sales to you

On your part, good faith calls for prompt payment when payment is EMMA SHUGART due, or it calls for a frank DAYTIME 928-4762 statement to the merchant you are NIGHTIME 928-5027 ure to live up to the agreement. He MONDAY FEB. 18, 7:30 pm has fulfilled his part of the

transaction. You should fulfill Protect your credit, pay prom-

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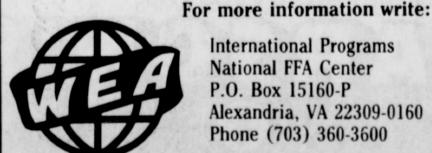
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Many things make life richer and fuller and give it purposefamily, friends, and meaningful work. Jesus Christ commended all of these as being good and blessed. But to a young man who had all of these things He said, "There is one thing you are still lacking." (Luke 18:22) The one thing lacking was a right rela-

tionship with God. One can have everything else and miss this right relationship with God. There is more to human life than a stomach to stuff, a body to clothe, and a mind to fill. He said, "What profit is it to us, if we get everything in the world and lose our soul." (Matthew

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