

# The Merkel Mail

Thursday, March 20, 1986 ...Merkel, Texas

Our 98th Year

## Merkel without water Thursday



Merkel residents faced last Thursday without water as a large leak in the main line from Abilene was discovered at 3:30 a.m. Thursday morning by city employees.

At least four city employees worked until 6 p.m. Thursday night when water service was restored.

Merkel residents were advised to boil water before drinking Thursday through Monday, so the state could declare the water "safe."

School students were asked to bring their own drinking water Friday.

Staff photo

## Grace Presbyterian celebrating 100th anniversary Sunday

The Grace Presbyterian Church of Merkel will be celebrating its 100th anniversary on Sunday, March 23rd at the regular worship service at 11:00 a.m.

The church was organized as a Cumberland Presbyterian Church on January 3, 1886 by the Rev. A.A. Baker, who was the first pastor. At the time of organization there were eleven members, five of whom were members of Rev. Baker's family.

The small congregation met in the school house or the Baptist church until September, 1890 when they built a frame structure located at the corner of Ash and South Second Street. The campaign to build the present building was launched on Thanksgiving Day, 1915. The Rev. Hubert E. Bullock was the first minister to serve the new church (1914-1922). Rev. R.E. Walker served from 1927 until his death in May, 1940, the longest of any minister.

Rev. Robert D. Christian, a retired Air Force Chaplain, became the present minister on the first Sunday in March of 1981.



Over a hundred special invitations have been sent to former members and a dinner for all members and former members will be held at Heritage Hall after the morning worship service. The

public is invited to join the membership in worship and celebration of the church's 100th anniversary on March 23, 1986 at 11:00 a.m.

## Thanks for getting the water back on, Easter Eggs, more

by Cloy A. Richards

We all owe a few people a big pat on the back for their efforts in getting the city water back on after a large leak drained the main line from here to Abilene.

It was a new experience to some and brought back a lot of memories to others (memories they'd just as soon forget).

The leak was discovered at 3:30 a.m. Thursday as city employees were walking the line looking for the location of the leak. The hole in the pipe (probably caused by shifting earth) was about the size of a football.

The water was turned back on Thursday around 6 p.m.

Merkel school students had their second day off last week and were advised to bring their own drinking water Friday because the state could not "vouch for the safety" of the water until Monday. The city employees should be

commended for their long hours and patience in explaining the situation over the telephone.

The annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet was held Thursday night and Don Dudley was named Citizen of The Year and Genevieve King was named Woman of The Year.

Mrs. King was honored for her raising two boys alone following the death of her husband, and for more recently devoting long hours for the Senior Citizens Nutritional Program held here on Tuesday's and Thursday's at Heritage Hall.

Mr. Dudley, Precinct 2's County Commissioner was honored for his long time service to the community at various fund raising events and for his efforts as Precinct 2 Commissioner.

Congratulations are in order for Don and Genevieve.

A small fire broke out at Handy

Food Store Monday morning that caused slight damage.

After Health Department inspectors looked over water damaged cans, some inventory was removed.

Mozetta said things were pretty much back in order Tuesday afternoon.

The annual Easter Egg hunt, sponsored by the Merkel Chamber of Commerce, will be held Saturday, March 29th at 10 a.m. at the new city park.

Three age divisions of children will be separated by streamers as they hunt eggs. Prize eggs will be hidden and children finding those eggs will be rewarded with special treats.

The chamber sponsors the annual event that is open to all children in the area.



Don Dudley was named the Merkel Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of The Year at the annual membership banquet held last Thursday at Heritage Hall. [Staff photo]

## WTU will refund fuel charges

West Texas Utilities Company's retail customers should see another decrease in their electric bills soon if the Public Utility Commission of Texas approves a request filed Monday in Austin.

WTU is asking permission to refund to customers a total of \$9.3 million in retail revenues collected in excess of actual fuel costs, and to lower its fuel charge rate. The total includes \$9,146,092 in actual fuel cost savings which have accumulated since the current fuel rate for WTU was set by the PUC last August, plus \$215,837 in interest.

This would be the second time within a year for WTU to make a refund and to lower its fuel cost factor. Over \$16 million was refunded in August 1985.

If a reduction in its fuel rates, technically known as the Interim Quarterly Fixed Fuel Factor, is approved, WTU officials estimate the fuel cost charges to its customers will drop by 8.2 percent during the three month quarter beginning in May.

The due amounts on customer bills include both fuel costs and base rates. Utility companies are not allowed to make money on fuel. WTU has had no change in its base rates since 1984.

Under WTU's proposal, all existing retail customers would receive refunds through one-time credits to their bills in the billing month of May, except for seasonal cotton gin customers, who would receive their refunds in December.

A typical residential customer would receive refunds of \$22.

Glen D. Churchill, WTU president and chief executive officer, said this refund, as well as the one made last year is necessary because of a softer fuel market and the fixed factor method of collecting for fuel costs.

The present method was ordered by the PUC after the Public Utility Regulatory Act was amended in 1983. Previously, an automatic fuel adjustment clause matched fuel billings to fuel expense each month. These immediate adjustments prevented over-recoveries and made refunds unnecessary.

Churchill said WTU's fuel costs have declined two years in a row.

"This reflects our successful efforts to purchase natural gas at lower prices to the extent possible, and to take advantage of declining prices," he said.

"Also, we had substantial benefits from lower fuel costs associated with power purchased over our system's high voltage direct current tie with Public Service Company of Oklahoma, which now has been in operation for a full year."

Natural gas is the principal fuel for all of WTU's eight major power generating stations. In recent years, fuel costs have amounted to more than half of WTU's total operating costs, but have dropped from an all-time high of \$3.18 per million BTU in 1983 to \$2.55 in 1985.



Genevieve King was named annual Chamber of Commerce Woman of The Year by three local chapters of Bet Sigma Phi at the Banquet Thursday night. [Staff photo]

## USDA surplus commodity distribution planned here April 12th

A surplus food commodity distribution will be held here April 12th.

The periodical food distributions are held as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides food items to people who meet income guidelines.

This time, people interested in receiving the surplus commodities will have to re-apply, regardless of whether they have been eligible in the past.

People wishing to apply may do so between now and April 4th. Applications are available at City

Hall each weekday and at the Senior Citizens Nutritional Program held at Heritage Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Volunteer labor is in charge of the distribution. People wanting to help with the distribution process can get in touch with J. A. Sadler at 928-4911.

# Winners, contestants named from Lambda Beta beauty pageant



§ These are the divisional winners of Lambda Beta's Annual Beauty Pageant held Saturday night at the Merkel School Auditorium. Divisional winners included [front row from left] Mandy Kilpatrick, Ashley Sipe, Kayla Tarpley [back row] Michelle Ingram, Amber Whisenhunt - Miss Merkel 1986, Amanda Meyers, Aimee Roberson and Michael Seaton is the young man. [Complimentary photo]

The annual Miss Merkel & Little Mr. Merkel Pageant was held on Saturday, March 15. Bonnie and Rudy of KEAN Radio in Abilene were co-hosts of the pageant. There were 89 entries, making the judges' decision very difficult. The list of winners and their sponsors are as follows:

Girls Preschool: Tied for 1st place was Ashley Sipe- Sonya's Beauty Salon and Kayla Anne Tarpley- Farmers and Merchants National Bank; Tied for 2nd place was Erin Holmes- Merkel Locker Plant and Miranda K. Riggan- Riggan & Riggan Construction; 3rd Place was Cortnee Lou Hamner- Something Special Gift Shop.

Boys Preschool: 1st place Michael Thomas Webb- P&L Auto, 2nd Place Tony Neil Young- Merkel Restaurant & Motel, 3rd Place Shawn Brian Williams- Handy Food Store.

Girls Kindergarten thru 2nd Grade: 1st Place Brandi Kilpatrick J.H. Strain & Son, 2nd Place Amy Jo Pack- McAninch Transport, 3rd Place Brandi Gray- Shannonside Apartments.

Boys Kindergarten thru 3rd Grade: 1st Place Michael Seaton- Barnett Barber Shop, 2nd Place Casey Roberson- Hammond Insurance, 3rd Place Monty Moore- Watts Dirt Construction.

Girls 3rd thru 5th Grade: 1st Place tied Amanda LeeAnn Myers Bragg's Department Store, Aimee Jo Roberson- Hi Val Farm and Home Supply, 2nd Place Shelly Seymore- Farmers and Merchants National Bank, 3rd Place Angie Nault- Duane Shugart Motors.

Girls 6th thru 8th Grade: 1st Place Michelle Leigh Ingram- Joe's Boots, 3 way tie for 3rd Place Shelly Green- Independent American Savings, Jennifer Hatley- Cody's Western Wear, Christi Minze- Ann's Flowers.

Miss Merkel 1986 1st Place Amber Renee Whisenhunt- A&A Travel Center, 2nd Place Pam Neff- Prestige Homes & Properties, 3rd Place Candice Henslee- Perry Ann's Beauty Nook.

Other contestants and their sponsors are as follows:

Girls Preschool: Kaci Bland- Cal-Tex Feedyard, Amanda Lynn Bowen- Griffin Diesel Service, Mandy Brenem, Consolidated Plumbing, Traci Lee Burfield- Rite-Way Plumbing, Rebecca Sue Cochran- Taylor Telephone, Cortnee Dubose- Dubose Texaco, Katherine Elliott- D & T Automotive, Leticia Flores- Udil's Fina, Janna Helmer- Blair Water-Supply, Crystal Danielle Hester- L & W Snack Bar, Christie Holmes- Starbuck Company, Brandi Rena Ingram- Palmer Motor Company, Ashlea Parker Riggan- Billy Clark C.P.A., Chastity Savage- Big Country Cablevision, Brandy Verner- Cunningham's Quick Stop, Allison Walton- Country Etc., Brina Whisenhunt- Whisenhunt Grain and Feed.

Boys Preschool: Kenneth Andrew Bauer- Wylie Truck Terminal, Brent Kilpatrick- TJ&T Tire Company, Justin Knight- Farmers & Merchants National Bank, Colby Tyler Watts- Buffalo Energy.

Girls K thru 2nd: Brandy Casper- Hicks Auto, Angela Renee Gregory- Seymore Insurance, Tamra Jo Helmer- Newco Services, Brandi Hicks- West Texas Utilities, Shelli Renee Leamon- Merkel Mail, Stacey Long- Pat's Beauty Shop, Katie Loper- Dunagin Transport, Beth McClintock- Farmers & Merchants National

Veterinary Clinic, Kari Verner- Merkel Drug Company, Didi Lynn Young- Fit & Firm, Stephanie Rae Young- Tran Clinic.

Boys K thru 3rd: Michael Anthony Arellano- Pleasantville Apartments, Nathan Byers- Farmer's & Merchants National Bank, Steven Deitz- Circle A Western Wear, Justin Goldsmith- Taylor Electric Co-Op, Cody Minze- Ann's Flowers, Craig Mullins- Home State Bank, John Myers- Higginbotham- Bartlett, Derrick Schafer- Amerine Mechanical.

Girls 3rd thru 5th: Trisha Louise Alexander- Raymond's-Tye Texaco, Melisa Clarissa Biera- Braune Electric, Karly Byers- Dr. Don Roberts, Shayla Carter- Germania Farm Mutual, Mandy Christian- Gerald Rutledge, Robin Renee Cochran- Merritt Trucking Co., Inc., Tiffany Hill- Dolores Adair, Lady Love, Marijke Holmes- Childress Bail Bond, Sharae Oustad- West Texas Welders Supply, Lori Ann Pirraglia- H.W. Lemons, Inc., Kathryn J. Rister- Carson's Supermarket, Cne' Seymore- Sonja's Beauty Salon, Shana Nicole Seymore- Beauty Shack, Trina Tittle- Marilyn Tittle Bookkeeping

### MISD lunch menu

The Merkel School menu is as follows:

- Monday March 24: Burritos with cheese stick, spanish rice, lettuce wedge, applesauce cake.
- Tuesday March 25: chicken fried steak, cream gravy, whipped potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, sliced peaches.
- Wednesday March 26: beef stew, potatoes, onion, carrots, veg. salad, corn bread, blushing pears.
- Thursday March 27: Pizza, buttered corn, broccoli with cheese, jello with mixed fruit.
- Friday March 28: Easter holiday, No School.

Charlotte Williams- Merkel Brick & Lumber.

Girls 6th thru 8th: Debra Garcia- Ranger Plant Construction Company, Veronica Keller- Robin's Jewelry.

Girls 9th thru 12th: Traci Lynn Russell- Independent American Savings, Jeannie Russell- Cody's Western Wear, Dee Ann Benefield- Jack South Grain, Ronna Casey- Hi-Val Farm & Home Supply.

Misti Lea Vaughn- Billy Clark C.P.A., April Lynn Dupont- Kid's Korner.

Miss Merkel of 1986 will be furnished with the following prizes: \$50 Savings Bond and necklace from Lambda Beta, Heart shaped locket from Wilson's Jewelry, \$20 gift certificate from Ben Franklin Store, a new car to ride in for parades from Max Murrell Chevrolet, one free hair cut from Pat's Beauty Shop, Ladies Timex watch

from Carson's Supermarket, \$15 gift certificate from Bragg's Department, and dinner for two from the Big Country Inn.

Once again it is time to express our gratitude to all the people that make the pageant possible. We want to thank all of the sponsors, the contestants, and each of you that supported the pageant. A special thank-you goes to each of the following: The Merkel School, Bonnie & Rudy, KEAN Radio, The Merkel Mail, Snappy Photo, Ann's Flowers, Cody's Western Wear, West Texas Welder's Supply, Shelle Doan, Miss Merkel 1986, Shelly Key, Ranger Plant Construction, Our Judges: Janice Phillips, Kala Key, Teresa Crawford, Richard Rogers and Paul Rogers.

## L & W SNACK BAR

1035 N. 2nd 928-5484  
Breakfast \$1.99 & Up  
THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL  
SMALL HAMBURGER 79¢  
LARGE HAMBURGER \$1.25

NORMALLY \$1.50  
WEDNESDAY EVENING THROUGH  
AND INCLUDING SATURDAY  
EVENING PLEASE REMEMBER IT  
TAKES A LITTLE TIME TO COOK  
OUR HOMEMADE HAMBURGERS

We serve the best hamburger in town.  
If you don't believe it -- just ask me!  
COME IN AND TRY ONE OF  
OUR REAL CHICKEN FRIED STEAKS

CUT  
FROM TOP SIRLOIN TENDERIZES  
AND HAND BREADED. IF YOU WISH  
WE WILL BE HAPPY TO MAKE THEM  
FROM SCRATCH WHILE YOU WATCH  
WE SERVE THE REAL THING!

REMEMBER,  
WE WILL BE OPEN EASTER  
SUNDAY WITH A HUGE BUFFET

WITH A HUGE BUFFET THIS WILL  
BE A TRUE buffet all you can eat try a  
little of everything

WE MAY NOT BE THE BEST-  
BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO  
GO A LONG WAY TO FIND ANY BETTER

### "RITE-WAY PLUMBING CO."

For all your plumbing needs!  
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### Registration forms for Merkel

#### Little League and UGSA softball

IF FOR ANY REASON THEIR IS NOT ENOUGH BOYS IN ANY PARTICULAR AGE GROUP: THEN ANY OF THE ABOVE LEAGUES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

REGISTRATION FEES FOR ALL THREE LEAGUES WILL BE \$15.00 PER BOY UNLESS THERE IS TWO IN A FAMILY THEN THE FEE WILL BE \$25.00. THE T-SHIRTS AND THE T-BALL NEED TO STATE SIZE OF SHIRT THEY NEED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE REGISTRATION FORM.

ALL REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE SIGNED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN. SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL TERRY WADE OR GARY PARKER, CO-PRESIDENTS, CINDY SIPE, SECRETARY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
BIRTHDAY (MONTH) \_\_\_\_\_ (DAY) \_\_\_\_\_ (YEAR) \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
LEAGUE AGE \_\_\_\_\_  
TEAM YOU WERE ON LAST YEAR \_\_\_\_\_  
T-SHIRT SIZE (FOR T-SHIRT AND T-BALL TEAMS) S(8-10) \_\_\_\_\_ M(10-12) \_\_\_\_\_  
L(12-14) \_\_\_\_\_  
PARENTS'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

A public service of The Merkel Mail



UNITED GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION  
BOX 7209 • MIDLAND, TEXAS 79703 • AC 915-697-5931

#### UGSA REGISTRATION FORM

Name: last first middle  
Address: number and street city state zip  
Telephone: School Attended: Fee Paid: 21p  
Birthdate: Age: Division: Team:  
Mo. Dy. Yr.  
Uniform: Total Softball Experience: Rating:  
Proof of Age: Birthdate Verification Board member Date:  
POSITIONS IN WHICH PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE WILLING TO WORK:  
\_\_\_\_ Manager (Female) \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Fund Raising  
\_\_\_\_ Chaperone (Female) \_\_\_\_\_ Scorekeeper \_\_\_\_\_ Future Board Member  
\_\_\_\_ Coach (Male or Female) \_\_\_\_\_ Concession Stand \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor  
Occupation of Parents:  
Father: \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother: \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
I hereby consent for the above UGSA player to participate in the United Girls Softball Association program during the current season. I will assume all risks and hazards that are incidental in her participation of these activities. I further agree to release, absolve, indemnify and hold harmless, this local league and the UGSA Office, their sponsors, organizers and supervisors, of all legal responsibilities.  
I understand that proof of age will be furnished, as required by UGSA, to make the girl eligible to play. This will be no later than the opening game of the season. I understand that failure to return the uniform issued to my child will result in the purchase of the uniform at current replacement prices. Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION  
We, the undersigned, parents of the participant, a minor, do hereby authorize the coaches, asst. coaches or parents of team members acting in the capacity of activity supervisor/vehicle drivers, as Agents for the undersigned to consent to Medical, Surgical, or Dental Examination, Treatment, etc.  
In case of emergency, I/We hereby authorize emergency treatment and/or care of \_\_\_\_\_ and if I/We cannot be reached, please contact \_\_\_\_\_  
If you wish a family doctor contacted in case of emergency, list doctor's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Little League, girls softball set registration March 22&29

Registrations will be held for Merkel Little League and United Girls Softball March 22 and 29 from 9 a.m. until noon at the WTU Building on Edwards Street here. Another session will be held at the same time and location March 29.

**UGSA SOFTBALL**  
Girls softball is broken down into four divisions. In Division 1, girls must be 7 before Sept. 1; in Division 2, girls must be 10 before Sept. 1; in Division 3, girls must be 13 before Sept. 1 and in Division 4, girls must be 16 before Sept. 1. The registration fee will be \$20. That pays for the \$4 national registration fee, \$10 for the purchase of a t-shirt & cap and \$6 for insurance.

The association is also asking that all parents either volunteer for work at the concession stand or pay a \$3 fee for a replacement worker.

For more information, contact Mamie Steck at 928-5581 or Billy Clark, 928-5663 daytime and 846-

3281 at night.

**LITTLE LEAGUE**  
Following a meeting Sunday, changes were made to age groupings announced in **The Mail** last week.

This year, the league is starting a T-Ball division for ages 6 & 7. The T-Shirt league will consist of all boys 8 and 9 and boys 10-12 not "drafted" by Little League teams. The Little League will be open to boys 10, 11 & 12.

The first round of tryouts will be held April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Merkel Little League field.

For additional registration information, contact Terry Wade, Gary Parker or Cindy Sipe in Trent.

**Editor's Note.** Registration forms for both leagues are elsewhere in this edition of **The Mail**. School students will also receive forms. Tye residents were added to Western Little League this season.



Mr. & Mrs. Nolan Palmer

### Local cable ads Disney

Big Country Cablevision of Merkel now has the Disney Channel available.

Some cable customers have "discovered" the channel on cable during the past two weeks, during testing by Big Country Cablevision.

The network is on from 5 a.m. until midnight each day. The UGSA sets softball tourney

The United Girls Softball Association is sponsoring a Coed Tournament on April 19 to help with expenses for the little girls. The entry fee is \$90 per team. Contact Becky Holmes at 548-2575 to enter your team and for more

### Russom retires from Exxon

T.H. Russom, with Exxon Company, U.S.A., recently observed his 30 year service anniversary. He is assigned as Senior Electrical Technician in the Midkiff area, Midland District, Southwest Rocky Mountain Division.

Disney network pretty much follows a set schedule during the daytime on weekdays, and runs movies and classic movies at nights and on weekends.

Information about the Disney Channel is available by calling the local cable office at 928-4750.

No further channel changes are expected in the near future.

There is also a workday scheduled to get the fields in condition for the season to start. The workday is scheduled for Saturday, April 12 at 8:00. All parents and coaches are urged to attend and help get the fields in good condition.

He was born Jan. 10, 1915, at Edgewood. Mrs. Palmer was born Oct. 15, 1916 at Medina. They met in Merkel and were married there March 19, 1936. Palmer has owned and operated Palmer Pontiac for 39 years. The Palmers are members of Island, Wash., and Ronald G. First Baptist Church and have 5 grandchildren.

## Palmer's celebrate 50 years

Nolan and Ann Palmer will be honored Sunday, March 23, with a reception from 2 until 4 p.m. at First Baptist Church in observance of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Children of the couple, Mrs. Ronny (Pat) Leveridge of Mercer Island, Wash., and Ronald G. Palmer of Abilene will host the

celebration.

He was born Jan. 10, 1915, at Edgewood. Mrs. Palmer was born Oct. 15, 1916 at Medina. They met in Merkel and were married there March 19, 1936. Palmer has owned and operated Palmer Pontiac for 39 years.

The Palmers are members of Island, Wash., and Ronald G. First Baptist Church and have 5 grandchildren.

**There will be a Supporter's Rally for Don Dudley, Taylor County Commissioner for Precinct 2., on Friday, March 21, 1986 at 7 p.m. at the Taylor Electric Building, 1610 North 1st, Merkel. If you are interested in helping re-elect Don Dudley to a second term as county commissioner- please come. Your attendance and support will be appreciated.**

Political Ad paid for by Don Dudley Campaign, Coy Tate, Treasurer

### Jr. High at C-City track

Merkel's 7th and 8th grade boys participated in the Lone Wolf Relays at Colorado City last weekend. The 8th grade finished 6th with 21 points. The 7th grade placed 3rd with 116 points. Snyder a 4A school took 1st place in both divisions.

The 8th grade boys who placed were: Jeremy Judge 6th in shot put with a throw of 37 feet; David Thomas 5th in shot put with a throw of 38 feet; Chance Ferguson 3rd in high jump with a jump of 5'4"; Steven Ross tied for 3rd in pole vault with a 8' vault and 3rd in the mile with a time of 5 minutes 36 seconds; the 400 relay team of Kyle Doan, Kevin Roberts Chance Ferguson and B.J. Wiles placed 5th; the mile relay team of Kevin Roberts, Chip Townsend, B.J. Wiles and Gary Tilley placed 5th with a time of 4:16; Phillip Seymore placed 6th in the 110

meter hurdles.

The 7th grade boys who placed were: Robert Frazier 3rd in 3200 meter run and 3rd in the 1600 meter run; Devin Ely 7th in the 800 meter run; Charles Benefield 6th in 110 meter hurdles and 4th in 400 meter dash; Mathew Davis was 6th in the 100 meter dash; Cody Sutterfield 7th in long jump and 3rd in the 300 meter hurdles; John Boswell 4th in shot put, 2nd in discus and 1st in the 200 meter dash; Sean Leaman 1st in high jump with a jump of 5'2"; 1st in long jump with a jump of 15'9 1/2" and a 1st in the 400 meter dash; the 400 meter relay of Davis, Boswell, Leaman and Destry Pack was 2nd behind Snyder; the mile relay of Davis, Boswell, Leaman and Benefield was 1st with a time of 4:16.

Merkel will be at McMurry Saturday and will compete against a field of 17 teams.

### Fortnightly club holds meeting

Mrs. Perry Rogers and Mrs. S.C. Dixon were co-hostesses for the Merkel G.F.W.C. Study Club which met March 11 in the Home of Mrs. Rogers. Mrs. Orvel Hill called the meeting to order and Mrs. Comer Haynes presented the program, "Texas Heritage". Mrs. Mack Fisher told about The Treaty Oak in Austin and Mrs. Randy Carson discussed San Jacinto Stands Tall. Faces frozen in stone and life on the prairie were discussed by Mildred Hamm and Mrs. S.C. Dixon. Mrs. Curtis Rister showed slides of scenes in Austin and San Antonio. Mrs. Perry Rogers gave a Salute to the Texas flag and Mrs. Burl McCoy

played a medley of Texas song. Volunteers told some good Texas yarns.

Present were Mmes: C.M. Brown, Randy Carson, S.C. Dixon, R.M. Ferguson, Mack Fisher, J.W. Hammond, Comer Haynes, Orvel Hill, Buster Horton, Carl Hughes, James Jay, Allen King, C.B. Knight, Joe Lassiter, Henry Martin, Burl McCoy, Billy Bob Neff, Truett Patterson, Phillip Pursley, Curtis Rister, Perry Rogers, Ed Sandusky, C.M. Seymore, Andy Shouse, Howard Slinger, Alf Walla, Ray Wilson, Misses Mildred Hamm, Mary Collins, Maurine White and two visitors Misses Pam Neff and Gina Stuckey.

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95¢ deposit required plus \$1.50 sitting fee for each additional subject. Additional photo package available at regular price (\$3.95 deposit). Advertisers special features our selection (2 poses) of the Blue and Brown Old Master, Scenic and Seasonal background \$1.00 additional. Special effects, black & white backgrounds and props available only in our designer collection.

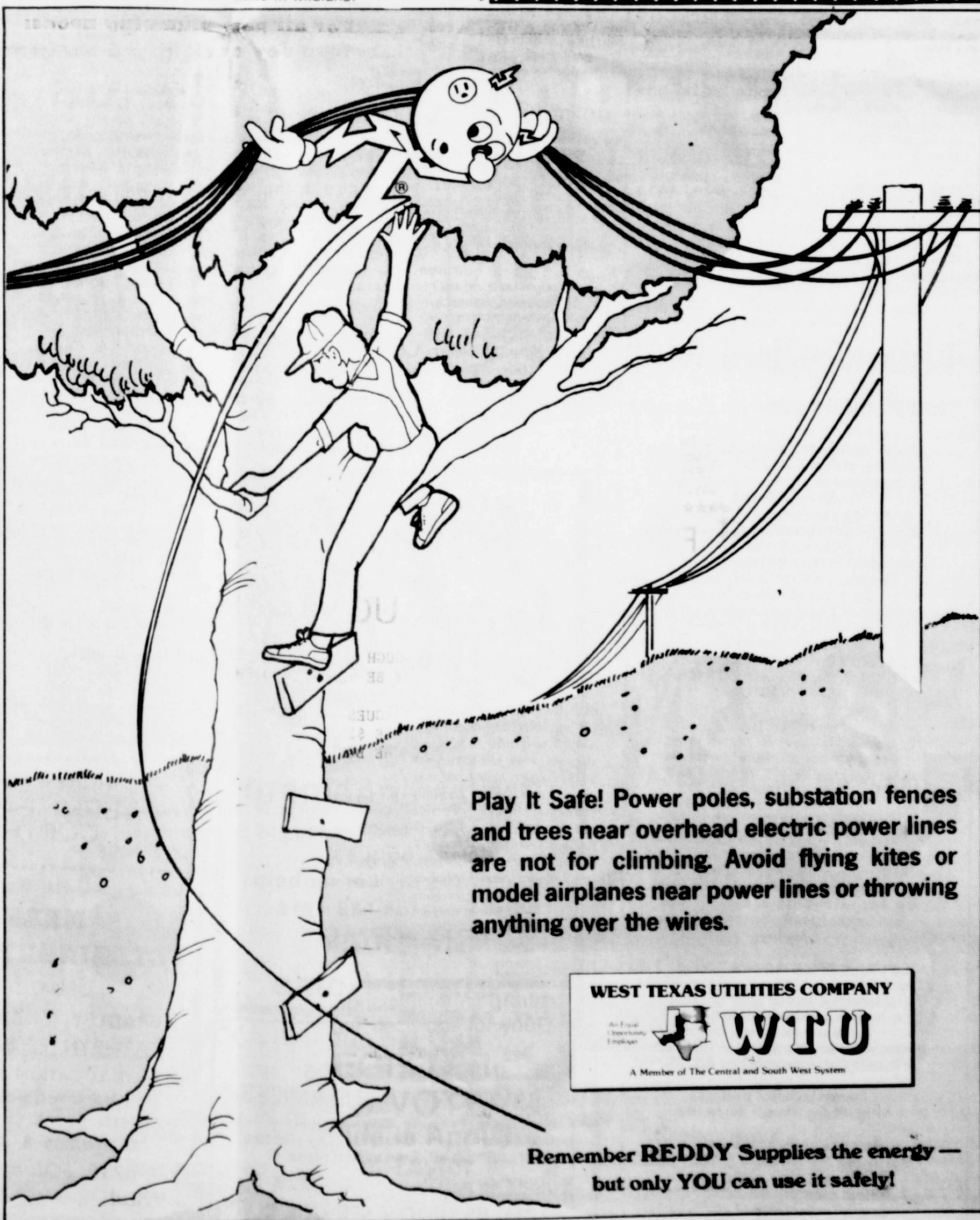
Limit one special per family

Thursday & Friday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. & 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. & 2-5 p.m.

**Ben Franklin's**

201 Kent

928-4933



**Play It Safe! Power poles, substation fences and trees near overhead electric power lines are not for climbing. Avoid flying kites or model airplanes near power lines or throwing anything over the wires.**

WEST TEXAS UTILITIES COMPANY

**WTU**

A Member of The Central and South West System

**Remember REDDY Supplies the energy — but only YOU can use it safely!**



## Home State donates champ's saddle



Patricia Boyd-Gorbett (left), President of the West Texas Barrell Racer's Association and Terrell Jennings of Home State Bank, show the saddle the Trent Bank will present to the winner of this weekend's Futurity Race in Abilene. [Staff photo]

### Ladies auxillary meets

The Ladies Auxiliary Veterans World War I met Tuesday, March 11 for a covered dish luncheon. They were 10 present: Mabel McRee, Mr. and Mrs. Dent Gibson, Bell Hartley, Jewell Criswell, Mrs. Harvell, Mrs. Renfro, Ruth Cox, Lorene Beard, Mrs. Ferguson. We miss the ones that weren't there.

The winner of the West Texas Barrell Futurity will take home a saddle being presented by Home State Bank in Trent, according to West Texas Barrell Racer's Association President Patricia Boyd-Gorbett.

The race will be held March 21-23 at the Horse Barn at the Taylor County Expo Center.

Terrell Jennings, president of Home State Bank said "We are happy to be involved with this event." It is the third year the bank has presented a saddle to the winner.

The race will be the second largest of its kind in the nation.

The top 15 professional and amateur riders are expected to compete for more than \$50,000 in prizes.

Contestants will be in Abilene from 16 states and Canada. The professional division results will count toward qualifying for the national finals.

A preview party will start things off Friday night. The audience will get a chance to meet the horses and riders. Runs will start Saturday at 9 a.m. with the Futurity starting at 4 p.m. and the open division starting at 8 p.m. Sunday's activities start with an 8:30 a.m. church service, with the 2nd go round starting at 9:30 a.m. and the finals start at 3 p.m.

No admission will be charged and the event is open to the public.

The event will provide horse fans a chance to get a look at the best riders in the country, according to Mrs. Gorbett.

The race is being sponsored by the WTBRA. Last year, the association paid out over \$100,000 in winnings. About 350 entrants are expected.

The WTBRA will also be sponsoring weekly races in June at the Merkel Riding Association's Arena. Mrs. Gorbett called that arena the best in the area.

### WTU sets local

### cooking school

West Texas Utilities will host a Microwave Cooking School on Monday, March 31, 1986 at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Hall. The Electric Living Consultants from Abilene will demonstrate exciting new recipes of meats, vegetables, and desserts using the Amana Radarange and Frigidaire Microwave. Save yourself time and energy when cooking and cleaning by learning new techniques using the most convenient kitchen appliance, the microwave oven. Microwaves not only save electrical energy, but help you have a cooler kitchen during those air-conditioning months. Come join us for free instruction and tasting of the foods. Call the WTU Local Office at 928-5122 to make your reservations.

### Beta Sigma Phi meets

Beta Sigma Phi's branch chapter Xi Nu Chi held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, March 11, 1986 at Pleasantville Center. Special guest, Patrolman Michael Pippins of the Merkel Police Department, presented the program on Drug Awareness. He showed three slide films titled "Steering Straight", "Drug of Abuse", and "Marijuana in the Classroom". Proceeding each film viewed a question and answer session was noted.

Cookies and soft drinks were served to members and their families attending: Mary Hill, Richard Hill, Austin Hill, Judy Elliott, Connie Harris, Robert Harris, Kris Harris, Donna Lang, Sha Lang, Nancy Johnson, James Johnson, Phillip Johnson, Sue Johnson, Nancy Duncan and Spencer Duncan.

### Tittle's announce

### arrival of daughter

Mr. and Mrs. Monty Tittle would like to proudly announce the arrival of their newly adopted 5 month old daughter, Whitney Breck. Whitney arrived from the Methodist Home in Waco, February 28, 1986 and is the granddaughter of Wanda Tittle, Mr. and Mrs. Don Latimer, and Mr. and Mrs. Neely Tittle.

Whitney and her parents were honored March 7 with a champagne toast in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Dunnagin. Baby showers held in her honor were given by friends and employees of F & M National Bank March 8 in the home of Mrs. Don Whisenhunt and by friends and Beta Sigma Phi sorority sisters March 17 in Whitney's new home at 114 Country Club.

OF ALL TH' OLD  
TIME SAYINGS TH'  
ONE I LIKE TH' BEST,  
DONT EVEN DEAL  
WITH COWBOYS OR  
EVEN WITH TH' WEST.  
BUT AFTER TH'  
THURSDAY "DRY UP"  
I FINALLY FIGURED  
WHY,  
YOU NEVER MISS  
TH' WATER TIL'  
TH' STINKIN WELL  
RUNS DRY!



DALE HAMMOND

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# Big Country Cablevision

## 928-4750



Joe McDuff (left) and Sammy Banquet. Doan again prepared the barbecued brisket and red beans for the "leftover" briskets brought and the pace they were sold, they performed their task well. McDuff is a farmer-rancher and retired Precinct 2 County Commissioner. Doan is owner of A & A Travel Center here.

Staff photo

## Farm program deadline is April 11

Texas farmers have until April 11 to sign up for the various commodity programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Because the programs are complex, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service is lending a hand in helping farmers interpret the programs so that they can make knowledgeable decisions.

"The many facets of the programs make it tough for a farmer to decide what is best in his particular situation," says Lawrence Lippke, Extension economist. "We've tried to break down the various parts of the programs as they apply to different crops. With these decision-making aids, farmers can get a better handle on what to do."

According to Lippke, farmers can get copies of worksheets and other aids at county Extension offices or from Extension economists.

To assist farmers, Extension economists have analyzed four major production areas in Texas for the major program commodities, cotton, feed grains and wheat. Consideration was given to deficiency payments, the acreage reduction program, and planting a non-program crop on acres taken out of production.

"In all analyses involving these crops, participation in the farm program was found to be highly profitable compared to nonparticipation," Lippke points out.

Returns to participation for sorghum ranged from \$39 per acre in the Coastal Bend to almost \$90 per acre in the northern High Plains.

For cotton, the advantage of a farmer taking part in the government program exceeded nonparticipation by almost \$69 per acre for dryland production in the Rolling Plains to more than \$150 per acre in the Coastal Bend. These wide margins indicate that the level of deficiency payment could be reduced substantially without affecting the decision of whether or not to participate, says Lippke.

Regarding wheat, returns to participation exceeded those to nonparticipation by some \$15 per acre for dryland production in the northern High Plains to \$87 per acre for irrigated production in the same region.

Two other issues of concern relate to whether to participate in the optional diversion portion of the wheat program or whether to reduce planted acreage to a level lower than permitted acreage on any of the commodities. "The decision of farmers to participate

in either of these options is marginal, depending on whether yields per planted acre increase when moving to a lower level of planting," Lippke points out.

Another factor which may influence the decision to plant less than permitted acres is the return a producer might receive from a non-program crop planted to that reduced acreage.

"While farmers need to look at all particulars of the various government programs, we have tried to sort out some of the main aspects so as to help them with their decisions," notes Lippke. "They need to continue to keep in mind the \$50,000 limit on government payments, and they also need to look at the government's new Conservation Reserve Program, a five-year effort to take highly erodible cropland out of production for 10 years. The sign-up period for the first year has been completed, but additional acres will be accepted into the program in the coming years."

Details about implementation of the commodity programs are becoming available on almost a daily basis, so producers should check with their local ASCS offices before reaching a final decision on participation, suggests the economists.

## Services held for Ollie Fox

Services for Ollie Fletcher Fox, 84, retired automobile mechanic, were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at First Baptist Church with the Revs. Wayne Keller and Kenneth Jones officiating. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery, directed by

Starbuck Funeral Home.

He died Sunday at his home after a long illness.

He was born in Davis, Okla. He was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Edith Thompson Fox of Merkel; a daughter, Euvalda Walker of San Antonio; two sisters, Vanecia Kimble of Amarillo and Elvira Carson of Wichita Falls; five grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Athalyne Hister Hewitt of Merkel; two sons, Lawrence Hewitt of Rosebud; a daughter, Marie (Mrs. Larry) White of Stephenville; a sister, Mrs. Alfred Lyday of Merkel; seven grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

## Hewitt's services held here Tuesday

Roy Allen Hewitt, 81, died Sunday at a local nursing home. Services were held at 4 p.m. Tuesday at First Baptist Church with the Revs. Wayne Keller and Larry White officiating. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery

directed by Starbuck Funeral Home.

He was born in Commerce. He was a retired Continental Telephone lineman and a deacon at the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife,

## Lambert's services held in Tuscola

William (Will) Lambert, 94, died Tuesday, after a brief illness at Hendricks Hospital in Abilene. Services were held at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Tuscola Baptist Church. Burial was in Tuscola Cemetery with the Rev. Don Ladner officiating.

Born in Sulphur Springs, Okla.,

he was a former resident of Winters, Ovalo and Merkel. He was a resident here in Starr Nursing Home. He was a Baptist, retired farmer, and widower.

Survivors include three sons, Bill Lambert of Merkel, Ray of Potosi, John of Marietta, Okla., deceased; two daughters, Elsie

Lewis, of Fayetteville, Ark., Mae Twetine of Clovis, N.M., a sister, Myrtle McKinney of McKinney, two brothers, Jessie of Durant, Okla. and Bolin of Ardmore, Okla.; 12 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren; 2 great great grandchildren; several step children and step grandchildren and step great grandchildren.

## Arbour Day group has low cost trees

The National Arbor Day Foundation is giving ten free shade trees to people who join the nonprofit Foundation during March, 1986.

A Sugar Maple, Weeping Willow Red Oak, Green Ash, Thornless

Honeylocust, Pin Oak, Silver Maple, Tuliptree, European Mountainash, and Red Maple tree will be given as part of the Foundation's campaign to encourage tree planting.

To become a member of the

Foundation and to receive the free trees, a \$10 membership contribution should be sent to TEN SHADE TREES, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by March 31, 1986.

WHEREAS, on the 24th day of January, 1986, Robertson Oil Company recovered in the 42nd District Court of Taylor County, a judgement against Leo Leibowitz Trust for the sum of \$8,819.60 (includes attorney's fees) with interest thereon from the 24th day of January, 1986, at the legal rate; and

WHEREAS, the said judgement is a foreclosure of a Mechanic's Lien on the following described property, to-wit:

BEING a 6.25 per cent working interest in an Oil, Gas and Mineral Lease known as the Griffin C-1 Lease, Lease no. 09112, located in Taylor County, Texas on the following described property, to-wit:

The West 125 acres of the East 250 acres of the South 500 acres of the West 2000 acres in the Hood County School Land Survey 94, Taylor County, Texas.

WHEREAS, on the 24th day of February, 1986, Rilla Mahoney, Clerk of the 42nd District Court of Taylor County, Texas, issued an Order of Sale commanding the Sheriff or any Constable within the State of Texas to proceed to seize and sell the above described property as under execution, and that the Sheriff apply the proceeds to the payment and satisfaction of said sum of \$8,819.60, together with the interest due thereon, and all costs of suit.

THEREFORE, I, Sheriff John Middleton will hereby sell at the courthouse door on the 6th day of May, 1986, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. the above described property.

Respectfully Submitted  
John Middleton  
Sheriff of Taylor  
County  
155-69-3tc

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: LUCY NAYDEN, MELVIN NAYDEN, O. L. ELLIS, LUCILLE ANKENY FAHRING, J. W. SCHULER, FRANCES LAUGHLIN, O. E. SALLBANSEN, MARTIN WAGNER, CHARLES BOGGETT, HELENE RUNYON, THOMAS J. RUNYON, H. DOUGLAS, DAVID JAMES, MRS. G. H. JOHNSON, SARAH HAZEL WIRE, GUY G. BENYON, EVERETT RAY RUST and CECIL LEA RUST KINCANNON and their unknown heirs at law and devisees, who are alive or deceased, Residences Unknown, Defendant's Greetings.

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10 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 Monday, the 28th day of April, 1986, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. before the Honorable 42nd District Court of Taylor County, Texas, at the Court House of said County in Abilene, Texas.

Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said Court, on the 10th day of March, A.D. 1986, in this cause, numbered 39,746-A on the docket of said court, and styled FRED SHELTON, III, SPUR OIL, INC., FRED SHELTON, FRAN SHELTON, WATTS WEBB, TERRY PRICHARD, ERNIE PRICHARD, MRS. ERNIE PRICHARD, SHERYL A. OVERMAN, BILL WELLS and URBAN ENDRE are Plaintiff's and LUCY NAYDEN, MELVIN NAYDEN, O. L. ELLIS, LUCILLE ANKENY FAHRING, J. W. SCHULER, FRANCES LAUGHLIN, Individually and as Independent Executrix of

the Estate of C. R. Laughlin, Deceased, O. E. Sallbanses, Martin Wagner, Charles H. Boggett, Helene Runyon, Thomas J. Runyon, H. Douglas, David James, Mrs. G. H. Johnson, Individually and as Independent Executrix of the Estate of G. H. Johnson, Deceased, Sarah Hazel Wire, Guy G. Benyon, Everett Ray Rust and Cecil Rust Kincannon, Defendants.

A brief statement of the nature of the suit is as follows to-wit: Plaintiffs are the owners of oil and gas leases covering an undivided 98.665456 per cent of the oil, gas and other minerals in and to the following described property situated in Taylor County, Texas, to-wit:

BEING the Southeast quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 233, Block 64, H&TC Railway Company Survey, Taylor County, Texas.

Defendants claim or own an undivided 1.334544 per cent of the oil, gas and mineral interest in the above described land and have not paid taxes on the respective mineral interests in said lands and have not rendered the same for taxes at any time within Five years successively preceeding the filing of this suit.

Plaintiffs request the Court to appoint the District Clerk of Taylor County, and her successors in office, as Receiver under the provisions of Article 2320b of the Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, as amended, for the purpose of executing and delivering an oil, gas and mineral lease covering the mineral interest owned or claimed by the Defendants in above described lands, and said lease is to contain such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Court, and for costs of suit and general relief, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on

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

The officer executing this writ shall promptly 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 10th day of March, A.D. 1986. Attest: Rilla Mahoney Clerk, 4nd District Court Taylor County, Texas B JoAnn Lackey Deputy 156-166-4tc

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF DEWEY L. MOFFETT, DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that Original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of DEWEY L. MOFFETT, Deceased, were issued on March 10, 1986, in Docket No. 17,027, pending in the County Court of Taylor County, Texas, to: CINDIE LOU KIRBIE.

The residence of the Independent Executrix is in Tarrant County, Texas. The address is 1104 Patrick, Crowley, Texas 76036.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner as prescribed by law.

DATED this the 10th day of March, 1986. Respectfully submitted WHITTEN HAAG HACKER, HAGIN & GUTBIRTH P. O. Box 208 Abilene, Texas 79604 (915) 672-7824 By Laura Lee Price State Bar No. 16300600 ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT CINDY LOU KIRBIE 156-45-1tc

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CONVENIENCE STORES

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BORDEN'S  
Hot Chocolate  
CUP 30¢

BORDEN'S  
Ice Cream Sandwich  
PACK \$1.19

BORDEN'S  
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PACK \$1.19

TOM'S REGULAR,  
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MONDAY WEDNESDAY  
RENT 1 GET 1 FREE  
2 MOVIES FOR \$3  
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**Coke** \$1.99  
6 PACK  
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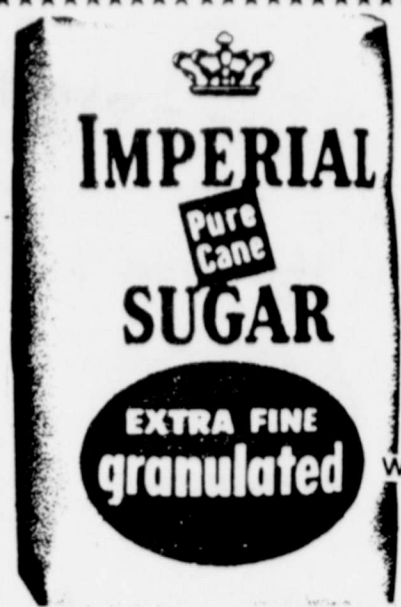
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**EGGS**  
6 OZ BAG **98¢**

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CARE LOTION 10 OZ BOT **\$1.49**



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or more exclusive  
of cigarettes

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230-250 LBS  
CUT-UP & WRAPPED  
AND FROZEN  
Order Now - Delivery in 2 weeks  
**\$1.19** LB



BAKERS 7 OZ  
ANGEL FLAKE  
**COCONUT** BAG **89¢**

BORDENS  
**ICE CREAM**  
1/2 GAL CRTN **\$1.69**

NABISCO CHOCOLATE  
OREO **COOKIES** 20 OZ BAG **\$2.09**

POST TOASTIES  
CORN **FLAKES**  
18 OZ BOX **\$1.29**

CITRUS HILL  
**ORANGE JUICE**  
64 OZ CRTN **\$1.49**

FROZEN FOODS  
MINUTE MAID  
**ORANGE JUICE** 12 OZ CAN **\$1.19**

DEL MONTE 303 W K  
GOLDEN **CORN** 2 FOR **89¢**

DEL MONTE 303  
**SPINACH** 2 FOR **89¢**

DEL MONTE 303  
MIXED **VEGETABLES** 2 FOR **89¢**

REEDS  
RELIGIOUS  
**CANDIES**  
7 DAY SIZE **98¢**

SHORTENING  
**JEWEL**  
42 OZ CAN **\$1.19**

MORTONS ASST  
T.V. **DINNER** EACH **\$1.19**

HUNTS 46 OZ  
TOMATO **JUICE** 46 OZ CAN **89¢**

GEBHARDTS 300  
REFRIED **BEANS** CAN **49¢**

WOLF 300  
WESTERN **BEANS** 3 FOR **89¢**

PARADE 300 SPAGHETTI AND  
**MEAT BALLS** CAN **63¢**

JIF  
PEANUT  
**BUTTER**  
22 OZ JAR **\$1.69**

BAKERS IMITATION  
**CHOCOLATE CHIPS** 12 OZ PKG **\$1.39**

SUNVALE 10 OZ  
**STRAWBERRIES** **33¢**

KRAFTS  
**STRAWBERRY PRES** 2 LB JAR **\$1.98**

HUNTS  
**PEACHES**  
2 1/2 CAN **89¢**

BREAKFAST  
**TANG**  
DRINK 27 OZ **\$2.59**

ASSORTED  
**COCA COLA**  
3 LITER BOTTLE **\$1.49**

KRAFT  
**MIRACLE WHIP**  
1 LIMIT  
QT JAR **\$1.59**

DUNCAN HINES  
**CAKE MIX**  
ASSORTED  
18 OZ BOX **79¢**

**ROUND STEAK**  
CHOICE BEEF  
CENTER CUT  
**\$1.59** LEAN LB

CHOICE BEEF  
RUMP **ROAST** BONE-IN LEAN LB **\$1.79**

CHOICE BEEF BONELESS  
SIRLOIN TIP **STEAK** LEAN LB **\$2.39**

CHOICE BEEF  
RUMP **STEAK** BONELESS LEAN LB **\$1.89**

CHOICE BEEF BONELESS  
PIKES PEAK **ROAST** LEAN LB **\$1.79**

ARMOUR STAR  
GROUND BEEF **PATTIES** LB **\$1.49**

PARADE  
**BACON** NO 1 LB **\$1.49**

PARADE  
**FRANKS** ALL MEAT POUND **83¢**

PARADE  
**LUNCH MEATS** BOLOGNA OR SALAMI 12 OZ **99¢**

DETERGENT  
**GAIN**  
42 OZ BOX **\$1.49**

SOFTNER FREE  
**TIDE**  
20 OZ BOX FREE BOUNCE **79¢**

KRAFT AMERICAN  
SINGLE SLICED  
**CHEESE** 12 OZ PKG **\$1.59**



LIQUID  
**JOY** WITH LEMON 32 OZ EA **\$1.49**

CLEANSER  
**COMET** 14 OZ CAN 2 FOR **89¢**

**ZEST** 1 BAR FREE WITH 3 BATH ALL FOR **\$1.69**

PIONEER 16 OZ BOX  
**CORNBREAD MIX** EA **69¢**

MEADS  
**ENVELOPES** 10 CT BOX **59¢**

FOREMOST  
**SOLO MILK** 1/2 GAL JUG **\$1.19**

FOREMOST  
**COTTAGE CHEESE** EA **\$1.59**

CALIFORNIA NAVEL  
**ORANGES**  
SWEET JUICY  
**\$1.49** 4 LB BAG EACH

FRESH  
**BROCCOLI** LB **49¢**

WASH DELICIOUS  
**RED APPLES** 3 LB BAG **\$1.29**

FRESH-WHITE  
**CAULIFLOWER** LB **69¢**

GOLDEN  
**BANANAS** LB **33¢**

FRESH-BUNCH  
**GREEN ONIONS** 2 FOR **39¢**

FOREMOST  
LOW FAT **MILK**  
GAL JUG **\$1.89**

DAIRYLAND  
HOMO **MILK**  
GAL JUG **\$1.98**

FRESH CELLO  
**CARROTS** LB **49¢**

RUSSET  
**SPUDS** 10 LB BAG **\$1.09**

BOUNTY  
**TOWELS**  
JUMBO ROLL **79¢**

FACIAL TISSUE  
**KLEENEX**  
250 CT BOX **98¢**

REYNOLDS  
FOIL  
**WRAP**  
25 FT ROLL **63¢**

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EACH **WEDNESDAY**  
ON \$5 OR MORE IN TRADE

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SUPER MARKET