

The Merkel Mail

Thursday, November 5, 1987 . . . Merkel, Texas

30 cents

Badgers finish season in Coahoma

The Merkel Badgers were torn apart by the Brady Bulldogs here Friday night 52-0, and if you weren't there, it was as bad as it sounds.

Brady jumped out to an 18-0 first quarter lead, stretched it to 30 at the half and never looked back as they won their third straight district game of the year. The Badgers fell to 4-4-1 on the season and 2-3-1 in district play.

Badger coach Dick Lepard told **The Mail** Tuesday "I don't know what to say, this is an experience I have never experienced before."

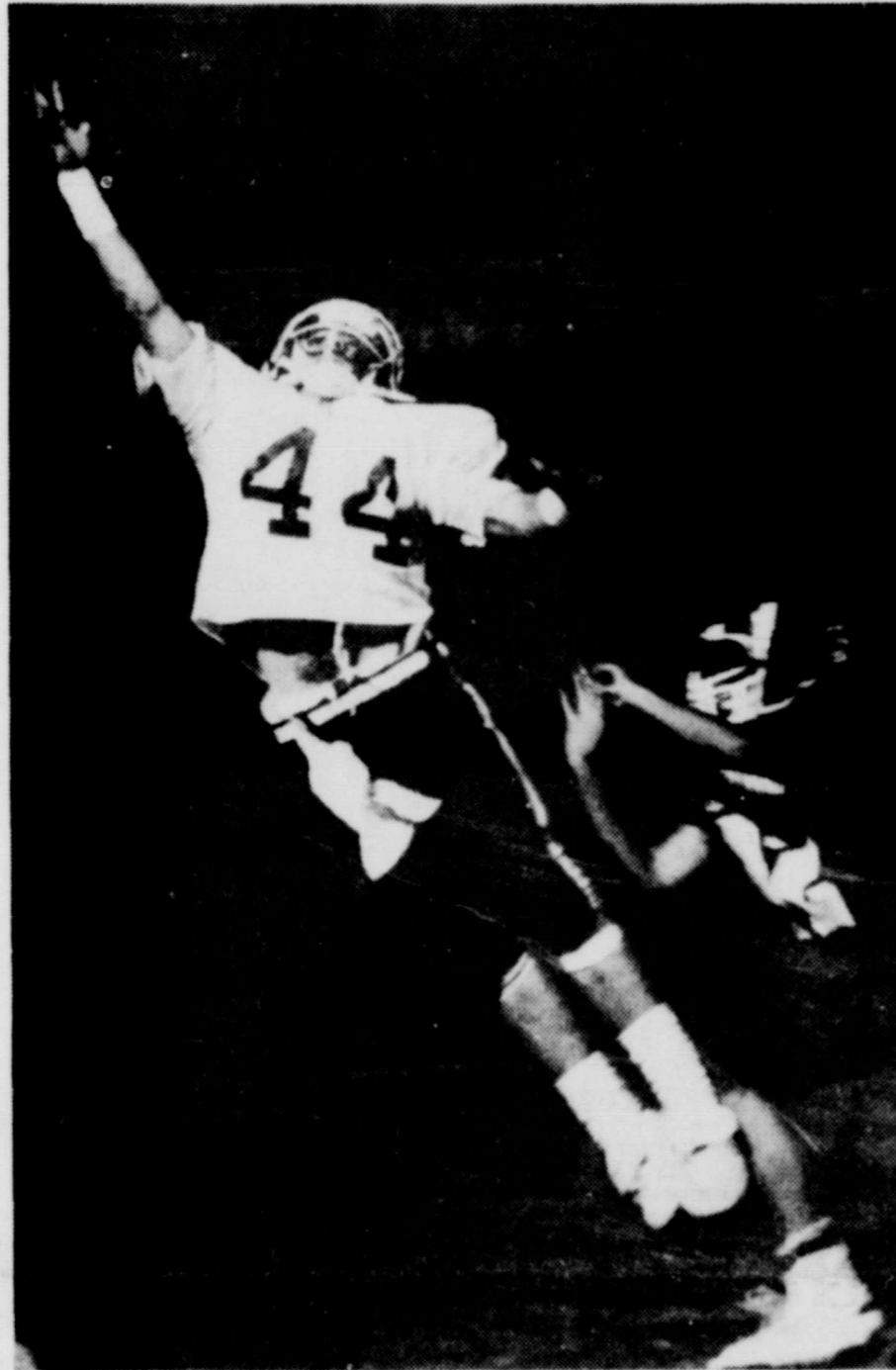
He went on "One game does not make a season be it a loss or a win and what we have to do now is correct a bad attitude that we have now so it won't carry over into other sports. I hope the loss hurt and embarrassed us enough to correct our attitude problems."

On the field and sidelines, there were some not too pleasant words exchanged between the players and Lepard addressed that situation. He said "This was an example of bickering among the coaches, kids and the town. I hope we have all of that resolved now and we can finish up the season with class and respect. We have worked too hard this season to see things end like this."

The coach added "I can't talk about the game... there is nothing to talk about... football is a team game and until that's realized you are going to have a problem."

The Badgers take on the Coahoma Bulldogs in Coahoma Friday and they are facing a team that is 0-6 in district play and are coming off a pretty good showing against Ballinger. Lepard said "They run out of the I formation and will sometimes use a split back offense and they are not that large. They are a small Class AAA school and they are having problems. But, being from Coahoma, you'd better be ready to play when you go there, they have a lot of pride and tradition."

He added "We have to get ourselves right and not worry about them. I don't expect us to play like we did against Brady



Mark Aldrete covers a Brady receiver stretching for a pass. Merkel was downed by Brady and they travel to Coahoma Friday with a 4-4-1 season record and a 2-3-1 district record.

Staff photo

again this week."

He also expressed concern in the Badgers inability to score in the last 10 quarters of play. It doesn't help to ponder about what happened last week but you can't forget it, it happened."

Badger fullback Corey Hines

will not see action this week as he suffered a badly twisted ankle in the first quarter of last week's game. David Thomas will operate from the fullback position.

With a win, the Badgers can finish the season at 3-3-1 in district play and a season tally of 5-4-1.

MISD settles Mace case

The Merkel School Board voted last Tuesday night to settle the Bob Mace vs. MISD case that has been before the Texas Education Agency for the past 13 months.

In September, a hearing officer ruled in favor of Coach Mace on his appeal of his firing from MISD in September of 1986. Mace was fired by the district after officials

learned he had been convicted of a DWI charge.

Mace appealed the firing to the Education Agency and the hearing officer made his recommendation last month to the Commissioner to reinstate Mace and give him back pay.

The board voted Tuesday night to pay Mace and his attorney

\$24,353.33 which included all claims for damage, back pay, court costs, expenses and attorney's fees. The district also stipulated that the employment of Coach Mace would not be reinstated with MISD. The board passed the motion 7-0. The offer was accepted by Mace and his attorney.

Nutrition Center fund raiser is tonight

The Merkel Nutritional Center will hold its annual fund raiser tonight (Thursday).

Stew, red beans, sandwiches, desserts, coffee, tea and soft drinks will be available with the meal starting at 5:30. An auction will be held following the meal.

Money raised and all donations are used to purchase food for the

Rural Taylor County Aging Services and the Merkel Nutritional Center. The program serves hot lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Heritage Hall and also home delivers about 60 meals twice a week.

Items included in the auction are cakes, cookies, pies, candy, quilts, hand crafts, dolls, canned goods, preserves, and jams. Do-

nations of additional items will be accepted.

Taylor County Precinct 2 Commissioner Don Dudley will serve as the auctioneer.

Organizers are asking people to come early and enjoy the food and fellowship. Further information is available by calling Heritage Hall between 8:30 a.m. and Noon Thursday.

PTO crowns Halloween kings & queens

The Merkel Elementary Parent-Teachers Organization held their annual King and Queen Coronation Saturday night at the Merkel School Auditorium. A king and queen were selected from each grade and their selection was based on money raised in the annual PTO fund raising effort.

Crowned King and Queen were: Fifth Grade- Lisa Bier and Marcus Malone; Fourth Grade

Tessa Fudge and Michael Minor; Third Grade Tabitha Garrett and Tristen Wilburn; Second Grade Amy Pack and Brad Hicks; First Grade Shayla Dozier and Kyle Whisenhunt and Kindergarten Lindsey McFall and Luke Nault.

Students in the 1st and 2nd colored the program covers and winning that contest was Hilary Heurman, with Amanda Alexan-

der 2nd and Chastity Savage 3rd in the first grade and Elizabeth Morales 1st, Eric Beard 2nd and Amy Pack 3rd.

The coronation committee consisted of Virginia Pirraglia, Tonja Meeks, Penny Vaughn, Clesta Boone, Debbie Roberson and Nancy Heurman with Martie O'Rea serving as master of ceremonies and Sharon Stewart as the music director.

Boosters start talking basketball

The Badger Booster Club met at Pug & Leo's Monday. The last football game of the season is Friday night in Coahoma and Boosters are encouraging every-

one to make the trip and wear purple and gold.

The next Booster meeting will be Monday at 7 p.m. also at Pug & Leo's. All parents of basketball

players are invited to attend. The basketball coaches will attend to meet with parents.

The Boosters are looking forward to a great season from the Badger basketball teams.

Trent downs Jayton 36-26

by W. E. Dulaney

The Jayton Jaybirds got a taste of what seven other teams had received this season when the Trent Gorillas marched into Jaybird Stadium Friday night and handed the 'birds their first ever Six-Man district loss 36-26. To add insult to the loss, it was the first home loss for Jayton in eight years and came on Homecoming night as the 'Rillas clinched the District 4-East title with one game left to play.

The game was an excellent contest from start to finish as the two teams went face to face with the district title at stake. The Jaybirds had lost two games in four years before Friday's game and were picked by everyone in Texas to win (except for John Starbuck), but these people had never seen a team like Trent. Lewis Knapp, Chris Jones, Mike Payne, Brian Massey, Dock Carriker, Scott O'Kelly, Noe Falcon, Keith Oden and Jason Massey, plus all the other 'Rillas were led by Coach Doug Gore and Coach Ed Donahugh. The 'Rillas played what may have been their best game of the season to win the

right to call themselves the best in District 4-East.

The game started with Trent kicking off and Scott O'Kelly showed a sign of things to come when he hit the left upright of the Jayton goalpost on his kick. The 'Birds were unable to mount anything on offense as the 'Rilla defense refused to yield any yardage. After a Steve Morales fumble, the 'Rillas set up shop at the 'Bird 20. The 'Rilla offense wasted no time in getting on the board as on the second play Knapp, behind a great block from Payne, swept ten yards for the t.d. O'Kelly split the uprights and Trent led 8-0 with 7:15 left in the first quarter.

The rest of the first quarter and most of the second quarter was a defensive slugfest as the 'Bird defense led by Rodney Smith, Doug Smith and Andy Sumner and the 'Rilla defense led by Chris Jones, Lewis Knapp, Mike Payne and Brian Massey, shut each other's potent offenses down. The 'Rilla defense, which has been tough all year, really played an inspired game as the 'Rilla defenders met Jayton ball carriers with some of the hardest hits

ever seen by a Gorilla football fan.

The 'Birds broke the scoring drought at the 5:55 mark of the second quarter when Tim Shafer went in from one yard out. The 'Birds lined up to try the extra point but "Fire Ant" Travis Walker burst in to block the kick and Trent was still on top 8-6.

The 'Bird t.d. seemed to inspire the 'Rilla offense as they took the kickoff and drove the length of the field behind hard charging runs by Knapp, Payne and Falcon. Knapp burst in from two yards out to cap the drive and O'Kelly's extra point was blocked but the 3:36 drive put the 'Rillas up at 14-6 at the half.

At halftime, the 'Rilla fans were buzzing as they knew 20 minutes of football stood between them and a district title for the 'Rillas. The first half was a remarkable football game as Trent's defense had completely shut down the 'Bird offense with the exception of a t.d. drive. The Trent offense, led by running backs Knapp and Payne, had 156 yards rushing. Both teams

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Russell wins all-around saddle

Ralph Russell of Merkel won the All-Around saddle in the National Old Timers Ropers Association.

Russell competed in 12 roping events the past year and roped 12 calves at each event.

Russell told **The Mail** Monday "I have been roping since I was 11. I have won about 10 saddles in my career but this is the first all around in 35 years."

The finals were held this past weekend in Abilene.

He retired from Allied Chemical in 1983 and moved back home from Louisiana. He said at least 100 ropers competed in the events.

He also belongs to two other rodeo associations, the Living Legends of Rodeo and the Old Timers Rodeo Cowboy Association. He finished 4th on the OTRCA this season.

Russell said "I roped all of these calves on a three year old pony I raised and trained myself. No one else has ever tried to rope with him. He sure is a good pony."



Board corrects past mistake

by Cloy A. Richards

Mistakes, of any sort, always come back to haunt you and MISD paid for one made last September.

The board voted Tuesday night to approve a \$24,353.33 settlement with former MISD teacher-coach Bob Mace. Mace was fired last September after the administration learned he had been convicted of a DWI charge and after former Superintendent Bill Everett and former principal Larry Curry found about it, the recommended to the board that his employment be terminated. The board agreed and fired Mace in September, 1986.

Mace hired an attorney and fought the firing because MISD had no policy concerning DWI

convictions and in September of this year, a hearing officer ruled in favor of Mace and sent his recommendations to the Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency that MISD should reinstate Coach Mace with back pay.

I am not saying MISD made a mistake on firing coach Mace. The mistake the board made, at the recommendations of the former principal and superintendent, was they were unaware other MISD employees had been convicted of DWI charges before their employment with MISD and when at least one of the incidents came to light, the administration or the board took no punitive actions. They did, however, fire Coach Mace

and he sought judicial relief because he and his attorney felt he was discriminated against.

MISD still does not have a policy that will cover a DWI.

So, Tuesday, the board paid for its mistake by approving a settlement of \$24,353.33. It's not a situation the MISD administration can be happy with or proud of, but at least, its behind the district now.

Anyone in Badger Stadium last Friday saw what happened Friday as Brady roped to a 52-0 win over the Badgers.

Coach Lepard, as you could well see, Please see Page 2

Newsbriefs

John's football picks

The following are John Starbuck's final picks of the week.
 Trent 40- Highland 25 (The Gorillas are now the "Kings of the Mountain" in District 4-East Six Man. This writer predicts that if Trent stays healthy they will be the 1987 State Six-Man Champions.)

Merkel 14-Coahoma 13 (The 1987 edition of Badger football will end on a winning note. Merkel had their eyes set on winning District 5AAA this year until Kenneth Jowers went down with an injury.)

Arkansas 30-Baylor 10 (Look for Coach Grant Teaff's Bears to be in contention for the 1988 Southwest Conference Championship.)

Dallas 28-Detroit 15 (The Cowboys cage the Lions) Special Thanksgiving week picks # 2 Nebraska by 10 over # 1 Oklahoma and the University of Texas by 3 over Texas A & M.
 For the week: 4 wins 1 loss
 For the season: 28 wins, 15 losses and a tie.

P.S.: To my faithful readers, I really enjoyed doing this column for you. I appreciate you taking the time to read it.

MISD lunch menu

The following is the MISD lunch menu:
 Nov. 5th: spaghetti, buttered corn, lettuce wedges, rosey pears.
 Nov. 6th: corn dogs with mustard, baked beans, combination salad with choice of dressings and rice krispie bars.

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Nov. 9th: bar-b-q links, potato salad, fried okra, diced pears
 Nov. 10: beef stew, vegetable salad, cherry cobbler.
 Nov. 11th: beef and cheese tacos, trimmings, sliced chilled peaches
 Nov. 12: chicken fried steak with cream gravy, green beans, creamed potatoes, whipped jello.
 Nov. 13th: Hamburgers with all the trimmings, peanut butter cookies

TISD lunch menu

The following is the TISD breakfast and lunch menu:
 Nov. 5th: juice, donuts, grilled cheese sandwiches, beef stew, peaches, cookies.
 Nov. 6th: juice, pancakes, syrup, corn dogs, pinto beans, apple sauce, cookies.
 Nov. 9th: juice, cereal, milk, chicken patties, macaroni & cheese, fried okra, rolls, peanut butter cups

Nov. 10: juice, biscuits/sausage, milk, mexican fiesta, corn, salad, crackers, chocolate milk.
 Nov. 11: juice, donuts, milk, fried chicken, creamed potatoes, green beans, jello/fruit, rolls.
 Nov. 12: juice, cinnamon rolls, milk, chili/cheese enchiladas, pinto beans, salad, banana pudding, cornbread.
 Nov. 13: juice, oatmeal, toast, milk, cheeseburgers with all the trimming and fries, cookies.

Smith wins contest

The Trent Gorilla football team was not the only big winner this weekend as Cody Smith, age 6, of Trent took first place in the Skaggs-Dr. Pepper Halloween costume contest in Abilene.
 Cody, who was judged best of 15 entries in the 6 and up age bracket was dressed as a robot and won a Murray 10 speed bicycle. He is the

son of Mr. & Mrs. Clovis Smith of Trent and is a first grade student at Trent Elementary
 by W. E. Dulaney

Cabral in honor group

Paula Cabral of Trent is one of 47 new inductees into Alpha Chi, the national collegiate honor society.
 Alpha Chi included junior and senior students with outstanding academic averages.

4-H meeting set

The Taylor County 4-H Parent-Leaders Association will meet tonight (Thursday) in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Old County Courthouse.
 There will be special leader training in the areas of scholarships, new 4-H projects and judging teams.
 All 4-H parents and leaders are

urged to attend this very important meeting.

Keller is treasurer

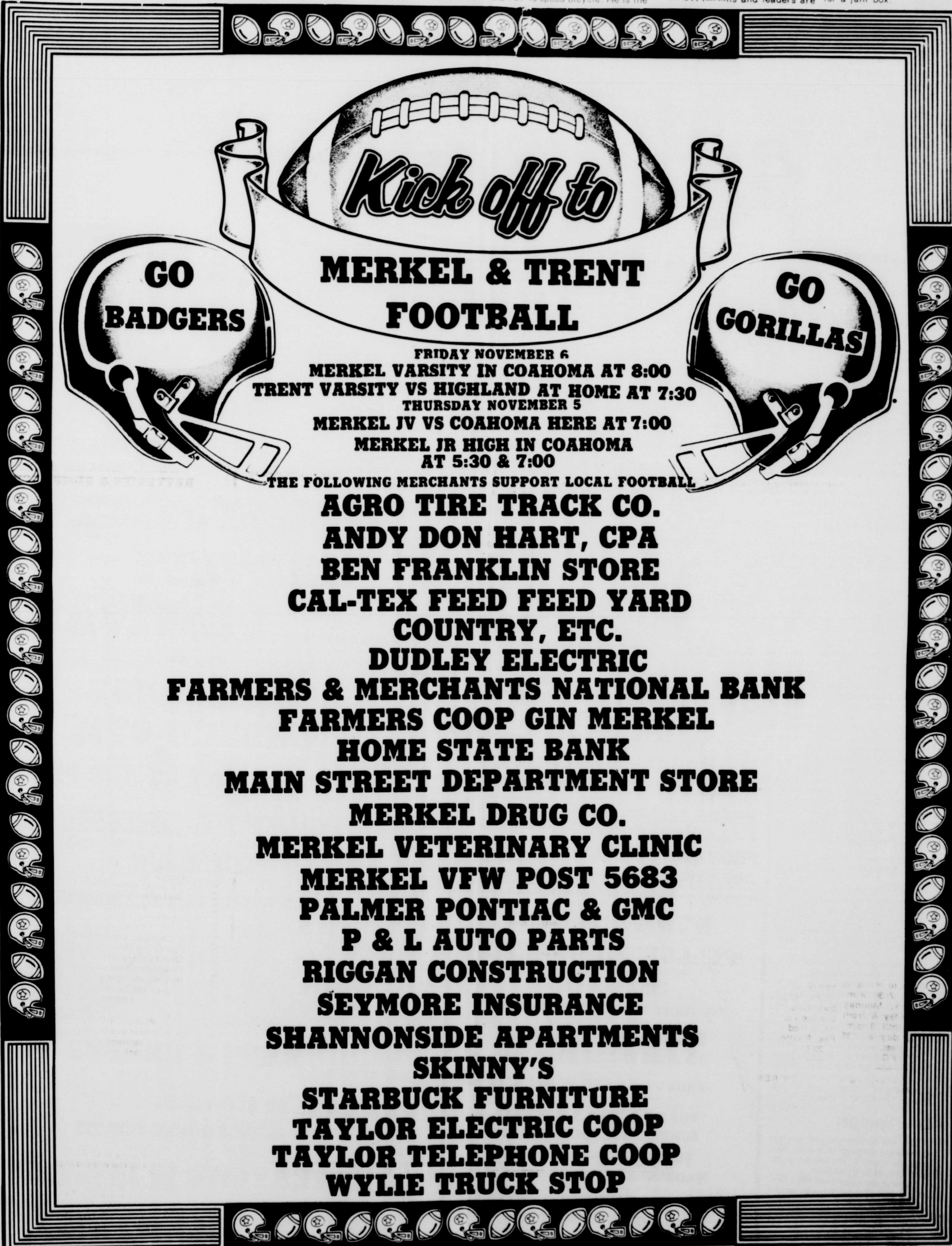
Debbie Keller, a freshman at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, has been elected class treasurer.
 She is a 1986 graduate of Merkel High School.

Fajitas Sunday

Members of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church will be selling fajitas, tamales and menudo Sunday from 8 until 2.

TISD winners named

Winners of the TISD attendance month calculators this week were Rafael Tarin in grades 6-12 and LaDonna Stephans in grades K-5. Calculators will be given away one more week and the grand prize drawing was held Nov. 2nd for a jam box.



Kick off to

MERKEL & TRENT FOOTBALL

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6
 MERKEL VARSITY IN COAHOMA AT 8:00
 TRENT VARSITY VS HIGHLAND AT HOME AT 7:30

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5
 MERKEL JV VS COAHOMA HERE AT 7:00
 MERKEL JR HIGH IN COAHOMA AT 5:30 & 7:00

THE FOLLOWING MERCHANTS SUPPORT LOCAL FOOTBALL

AGRO TIRE TRACK CO.
 ANDY DON HART, CPA
 BEN FRANKLIN STORE
 CAL-TEX FEED FEED YARD
 COUNTRY, ETC.
 DUDLEY ELECTRIC
 FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK
 FARMERS COOP GIN MERKEL
 HOME STATE BANK
 MAIN STREET DEPARTMENT STORE
 MERKEL DRUG CO.
 MERKEL VETERINARY CLINIC
 MERKEL VFW POST 5683
 PALMER PONTIAC & GMC
 P & L AUTO PARTS
 RIGGAN CONSTRUCTION
 SEYMORE INSURANCE
 SHANNONSHIDE APARTMENTS
 SKINNY'S
 STARBUCK FURNITURE
 TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOP
 TAYLOR TELEPHONE COOP
 WYLIE TRUCK STOP

Governor says state's economy better



Floyd and Allie Mae Kimmey will be honored Saturday with a reception from 3 until 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall at the Tye Baptist Church in observance of their 50th wedding anniversary. Hosts for the celebration will be their daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren: Mr. & Mrs. Melvin White of Tye, Mr. & Mrs. John Cochran of Houston, Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Fields of Jacksboro and Mr. & Mrs. Roger Beard of Merkel.

By Governor William P. Clements, Jr.

In many ways, today's economy in Texas reflects the adage that "the finest steel goes through the hottest fire."

The Texas economy has slumped in recent years, in part due to the plunge in oil prices, in part due to reckless spending in state government.

But that time has passed. While the Texas economy is still undergoing a profound transition—we're on the "up-tick."

Texas is beginning a recovery. Economic diversification and economic development are on the front-burner of business and are top priorities for our state government.

Our past actions speak loud and clear. Last January there was a collec-

tive realization among our citizens and our legislators that the Texas economy could be turned around, that our economy could be diversified and that our state budget could be balanced and economic recovery enhanced without horrendous tax increases that would stymie small business development.

We did all of that, and at the same time we preserved our pro-business and jobs climate that has made us the envy of the nation.

We have abandoned the path of unpredictability, uncertainty and instability for another stroll down the grand path of renewed prosperity.

That isn't just my perspective. You can find proof of that in a wide variety of respected business and economic publications and organizations from the Bureau of Business Research at the University of Texas and Salomon Brothers.

They are all predicting steady economic growth in Texas in the years ahead.

Let me give you an idea of some of the things we have done to diversify our economy and to keep things moving forward.

First, we have created a Texas Department of Commerce to develop a cohesive, unified approach to economic development, job creation and corporate recruitment.

Before the department opened for business two months ago, the task of economic development and economic planning was split among nine different state boards, agencies and commissions.

That was an inefficient use of state tax dollars. It was unproductive. And, quite frankly, it was a waste of a businessman's time.

We passed tort reform. We decided that allowing frivolous lawsuits to be filed scares businesses away from Texas instead of enticing them to our borders.

We decided that allowing extraordinary damage claims and virtually limitless judgments is counterproductive.

We realized that businesses provide jobs only when they are in business. When they are driven to the brink of bankruptcy, those jobs disappear.

But that isn't all we did. We restored fiscal discipline to state government.

We have re-established an operational audit program to review the efficiency of state agency operations to ensure that taxpayers are getting a dollar's worth of services for each tax dollar they give to state government.

We are moving toward uniform accounting practices.

All of this is already paying off.

Let's look for a moment at some recent positive economic signs here in Texas:

*The jobless rate has dropped from 9.1 percent twelve months ago, to 8.5 percent today.

*While total employment in Texas accounts for one out of every 14.5 jobs in the United States, our increase has accounted for one out of every eight jobs created in the entire country in the twelve months ending last May.

*Oil prices have increased about 30 percent from a year ago, triggering a modest revival in the West Texas oilfields where the rig count has increased 43 percent over a year ago.

Our economic development work did not end with the legislative session. It is continuing.

In the area of high technology, we are

predicting that computer, electronic, instrument and aerospace equipment manufacturers will grow at the rate of about 3.8 percent a year, producing 310,000 new jobs by the year 2005.

We are doing everything possible to foster that growth. We have, for example, established a \$60 million research fund that will be used in the next two years to provide research grants for Texas universities, or private sector-university joint venture projects in areas such as microelectronics and biotechnology.

Our efforts are increasingly being noticed. It is important to remember that the investments we make today will pay big dividends tomorrow.

A reception will be held Nov. 8th in honor of Mrs. Karl Bonneaux's 90th birthday. Friends and relatives are invited to come to the Noodle Community Center from 2 until 3:30 p.m. to honor Lucy with their presence. No gifts are asked.

Mrs. Bonneaux, a member of the Church of Christ, attends at noodle. She was, for many years, active in the Goodman Home Demonstration Club and the Ladies Auxiliary of World War I. Veterans of the Merkel-Trent barracks.

Obituaries

Esther Lewis

Esther Cynthia Rister Bland Lewis passed away Oct. 24 at the Coronado Nursing Home in Abilene. She was born Feb. 10, 1897 to David Crockett Rister (a civil war veteran) and Mary Cynthia Doss Rister. She moved to this area from Coryell County at the age of 6 in a covered wagon and they settled in the Comere community where the home her dad built still stands. She was the youngest of 11 children of which eight brothers and two sisters preceded her in death.

She married Roscoe Ireland Bland June 2, 1918 in Abilene. He was a widower with a son and a daughter. He died Aug. 21, 1936. The Blands were early settlers of the Merkel area. Nov. 7, 1953 she married Ralph Azell Lewis, a widower with one son. He passed away Feb. 23, 1971. Also preceding her in death were two sons, a daughter, a grandson, three granddaughters and a great grandson.

She is survived by two sons, Jack Ireland Bland and Bailey Lewis, both of Abilene; two daughters Mrs. Johnny (Vernell) Huff of Marionville, Miss and Mrs. A. E. (Marie) Smith of Abilene; two widowed daughters in law, Mrs. Marvin (Ara) Bland of Channelview and Mrs. W. D. (Mary) Bland of Abilene, 18 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren and 20 great-great and a host of nieces and nephews. She was a faithful member of the Elmcrest Baptist Church in Abilene where services were held Oct. 27th with Dr. T. C. Melton officiating assisted by Rex Bland, a grandson. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery here.

Pallbearers included John Ferris, Leon Constable, Kenneth Corzine, eight Ferguson, Mike Barnett and nephews were honorary pallbearers R. L. Bland, Pete Bland, Hoyt Bland, R. V. Clark and Dewey Rister.

Born Jan. 4th, 1903 in Blair, she was the daughter of the late Elijah B. Rains and Rebecca (Carr) Rains. She had married Willie J. Spurgin October 1, 1922 in Jones County. He preceeded her in death.

She was a member of the Grace Presbyterian Church here and had worked for the Noodle Schools for 14 years. She worked at the Care Inn of Abilene for several years and was active in the Comere Home Demonstration Club.

She is survived by three sons; Robert Spurgin of Pensacola, Fla.; Bill Spurgin of Roscoe and Clinton Spurgin of Parkersburg, W. Va.; a daughter Alice Santebien of Knippa, 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Lawrence Spurgin, Gene Spurgin, Carlton Sasser, Macky Spurgin, Orval Ely and Tom Sanders.

Wednesday with the Rev. Darris Egger officiating, directed by the McCoy Funeral Home. Burial followed in the Sweetwater cemetery.

A member of the First United Methodist Church in Sweetwater. A U. S. Navy veteran of World War II, he was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Elks Lodge and the American Legion.

He is survived by his wife, Martha Morris of Trent; a stepson, Earl Whitaker Jr. of Monroe, N.C.; two daughters, Shirley Whitaker Neptune of Gilmer and Erlene Whitaker Rich of Houston; three sisters, Latina Crawford of Merkel, Ione Chesler of Hamlin, and Olete Penzenik of Mineral Wells, 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Davis in who's who

James Morris

James A. "Jack" Morris Jr., 67, died Monday at a Lubbock Hospital.

Graveside services with military rites were held at 2 p.m.

Suzanne Lister Davis of Merkel is among 37 McMurry College Students chosen this year for Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges.

She is an elementary education major at McMurry.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
502 HAYNES MERKEL, TEXAS
THURS - FRIDAY - SATURDAY
10 TIL 5
LET US HELP MAKE
YOUR HOLIDAYS MERRY THIS YEAR
Country, Etc.

Holiday Gift Baskets
THE ANSWER TO GIFT GIVING
READY FILLED OR FILLED TO ORDER
PHONE OR COME BY
MON THRU SAT 10 TIL 5

The Basket Girl
Country, Etc.
502 Haynes
Merkel
928-5896

NEW TESTAMENT
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
ERIC LOVELL
TO GUEST MINISTER THIS SUNDAY
BILL & PATSY TUCKER
TO LEAD PRAISE & WORSHIP
TRUNDY & S 5TH IN MERKEL

PRAISE & WORSHIP BEGINS
SUNDAY MORNING 10:00 AM
SUNDAY EVENING 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING 7:00 PM

WOMEN'S PRAYER MEETING
9:30 EVERYONE WELCOME
EVERY TUESDAY S 5TH & TRUNDY

Oid Threikeld

Oid Deverne Threikeld, 60, of Abilene, died Saturday in Arkansas.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at the Elliott-Hamill Funeral Home Chapel of Faith with the Rev. Carolton Earp officiating. Burial followed at Elmwood Memorial Park in Abilene.

Born in Merkel, he moved from Chicago to Abilene in 1962.

He was a retired U. S. Navy Chief Petty Officer and was a veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict.

He was a member of the Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife, Anna Marie Garnilla Threikeld of Abilene; a daughter, Sharon Moore of Jacksonville, Ark.; two brothers Joel Dean Threikeld of Arizona and Arville Edgar Threikeld of New York.

Lou Spurgin

Lou Viola Spurgin, 84, of the Coronado Nursing Home of Abilene, formerly of the Merkel area, died Oct. 28th in Abilene.

Funeral services were held Oct. 31 at the Grace Presbyterian Church here with Dr. Bob Christian officiating assisted by Bill Proctor. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery here under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY POPS
RENEE & STEPHANIE

"HARVEST FESTIVAL"
AT THE
METHODIST CHURCH GYM
NOVEMBER 7 AT 5:45 PM
TURKEY & DRESSING
OR HAM
SERVED WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS

ARTS & CRAFTS
WILL BE AUCTIONED
BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM
EVERYONE IS INVITED

Tillage methods can overcome problems

Controlling weeds, insect and plant diseases has been a challenge for farmers since prehistoric times, but for the past several years farmers have been using chemicals more and more in place of tillage practices, and these new methods have generated considerable debt.

Concern about soil erosion has led many farmers to fear disturbing the soil with tillage tools, such as plows, but the agricultural chemicals they've used as an alternative add considerable cost,

so the debate has been compounded by a serious economic issue.

It is now known that fields covered with crop residues from the previous year erode very little, and that presents a whole new outlook on how to accomplish necessary goals within economic means, according to Dr. Richard Johnson, senior scientist at the Deere & Company Technical Center in Moline, Ill.

"Today, farmers recognize that residue management is a key to both long-term profitability and

erosion control," says Johnson. "If 20 to 30 percent of the soil surface is covered with plant residue, soil erosion is often reduced by 50 to 75 percent."

Actually, Johnson notes, about 60 percent of the U. S. cropland has little or no erosion problem, and severe erosion occurs on less than 10 percent of the farmland.

Conservation tillage... any tillage system that leaves at least 30 percent of the old crop residue on the soil surface at planting... is now being used on more than 30 percent of all U. S. cropland. It's a good solution in many cases but it requires a good deal of understanding, Johnson says, because leaving crop residue on the soil surface also brings a whole new set of management challenges along with it.

With conservation tillage, soil temperatures tend to remain cooler for a longer period of time in the spring. The soil is shaded by the residue cover, and the lighter color of the residue reflects more solar radiation than the darker soil. The result is cooler temperatures in the seed placement zone, and seedling development can be retarded. The growing season is effectively shortened, which can mean lower crop yields.

Also, the availability of soil nutrients and soil-borne disease can also become more critical in these cooler seedbeds.

"Careful attention to selecting crop varieties with good spring vigor and high seed quality can help offset these conditions," Johnson says. "Choosing a tillage system that incorporates some crop residue, or clears a residue-free band over the seed row can also help minimize these problems."

The residue cover that retards temperature increase also slows evaporation of moisture in the top few inches of soil, so the soil is usually wetter at planting time than it would be with clean tillage. This means more potential compaction problems, Johnson says.

This brings some misperceptions," he warns. "The conservation farmer may feel he is reducing overall soil compaction problems because he is reducing the total number of tillage trips, but in fact he may be making the

problem worse because he is farming the soil when it is wetter. The answer is to stay out of the fields until they have had time to dry."

Incorporation of fertilizer into the soil can also defeat the attempt to leave higher amounts of residue on the surface: "Shanking-in anhydrous ammonia for nitrogen, for instance... the equivalent of one tillage operation... can bury up to 50 percent of the surface residue," Johnson says.

Reducing tillage means relying more on chemical weed control, which can be expensive, Johnson cautions. Several no-till systems even require a preplant application of burndown herbicide to kill existing vegetation, and such systems can require as much as \$20 per acre of additional expense, he says (no-till is an extreme form of conservation tillage.)

The mulch of residue left for erosion control is also a good habitat for insects, diseases and other pests, he cautions.

Tillage management must be site-specific he stresses. What works in somebody else's field is not necessarily the answer for your field. Heavy bottom soil is usually a poor place for no-till. For hillsides with lighter soils, no-till might be the best answer for controlling erosion."

He points out that a reduced tillage system that doubles chemical costs and risks polluting soil and water is no answer, and an intensive tillage scheme that results in pulverized soil and high rates of soil erosion is equally undesirable.

"The balance is in finding a system that allows a moderate use of chemicals while retaining the flexibility to alter tillage techniques are required by specific sites and crops. You can control both profitability and soil conservation if you understand your options."



§ Badger quarterback Brit Pursley looks downfield for a receiver in last week's loss to Brady. The Badgers travel to Coahoma Friday for their final game of the 1987 season.

Staff photo

Cattle stocking begins on winter wheat

Stocker cattle operators are now buying calves to put on winter pasture, and the type of animals they buy will go a long way in determining whether or not they will reap a profit.

"The stocker operator must buy cattle that will grow fast, be efficient in feed conversion, and sell for top dollar," points out Dr. Larry Boleman, beef cattle specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A & M University System.

Since the calves from his operations will be going to feedlots next spring, the stocker operator must also consider the value of these animals to the feeder, adds Boleman. The cattle feeder is interested in rate of gain in the feedlot, feed efficiency, carcass cutability or USDA yield grade, and carcass quality or USDA quality grade.

"Stockers that have the potential for performing efficiently in the feedlot and producing a Choice carcass in the 1 to 2 yield grade class will demand top price," says Boleman. "Buyers will often pay \$3 to \$5 more per hundredweight for calves with that kind of potential compared to those that might only produce a Good grade carcass with a yield grade of 4 or 5."

This means that stocker and feeder cattle buyers must use their knowledge and experience to determine which calves will ultimately excel in feed efficiency, average daily gain and carcass characteristic. Visual evaluation of frame size, muscling and breed characteristics help determine the economic outcome of the calf, says the beef cattle specialist.

"Frame size refers to the animal's skeletal size—its height and body length—in relation to its gae," explains Boleman. "These evaluation in feeder calves are directly related to differences in mature sizes of cattle and therefore have an important bearing on the animal's performance in the

feedlot." Frame size designations are referred to as large, medium or small and are used by the USDA feeder cattle grading system.

According to the specialist, muscling in feeder cattle refers to the development of the muscle system in relation to skeletal size. Feeders of the same age and frame size vary in thickness due to differences in bone structure, muscling and degree of fatness.

"Animals with a greater muscle thickness will normally produce a higher yield carcass than an animal of the same frame size that is narrow throughout," says Boleman. Muscle thickness is classified as to three levels—No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 and is included in the USDA grades of feeder cattle. No. 1 is the most muscular and No. 3 is the least.

As far as breed characteristics are concerned, Boleman points out that buyers usually pay the highest prices for crossbred feeder calves that contain varying percentages of traditional, exotic and Brahman breeding depending on feeding locations and market preferences.

"Again, feeder cattle buyers select animals on the basis of how they think they will perform in the feedlot," he adds. "Ideally, they want an animal that will produce a Choice carcass with a No. 2 yield grade. That's the target that all cattlemen need to shoot at."

TRENT CHURCH OF CHRIST SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY
Bible Study... 10:00 AM
Worship... 11:00 AM
Evening Worship... 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study & Devotional... 7:00 PM

ODESSA WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BREAST CANCER DETECTION UNIT AVAILABLE TO AREA WOMEN



Call Dr. Tran's Office For Appointments

MERKEL, TEXAS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

A Service of

DR. TRAN'S OFFICE

According to the American Cancer Society, one out of eleven women in the United States will develop breast cancer sometime in her lifetime. It is currently estimated that over 37,000 women die each year as the result of breast cancer.

Ninety percent of breast cancers are diagnosed by women or their physicians finding a lump in the breast. Women who are diagnosed with a lump large enough to feel have a 50 percent five year survival rate. A woman who is diagnosed as having breast cancer by mammography, before a lump can be felt, has a 97 percent five year survival rate and a 90 percent 10 year survival rate.

A mammogram can detect a cancer this small, even before it can be felt.

\$50.00 Fee includes Radiologists reading fee. Now scheduling appointments from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Mobile Breast Cancer Detection Unit will be in Merkel on Saturday, November 7, 1987.

The American Cancer Society has established guidelines for mammography in asymptomatic women. (Women who have no symptoms of disease). Those guidelines have been adopted by the American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and The American College of Radiology. Those guidelines are:

- I. 35-40 years of age - One baseline mammogram.
- II. 40-50 years of age - A mammogram every 1-2 years depending on breast type and risk factor.
- III. 50 years of age and over - An annual physical examination and annual mammogram.
- IV. Asymptomatic women under 50 years of age with

significant high risk factors should be examined at appropriate intervals. These risk factors include previous breast cancer and family history of cancer.

V. A symptomatic woman should have a mammogram at any age when she experiences a mass, nipple discharge, skin changes or unexplained breast pain.

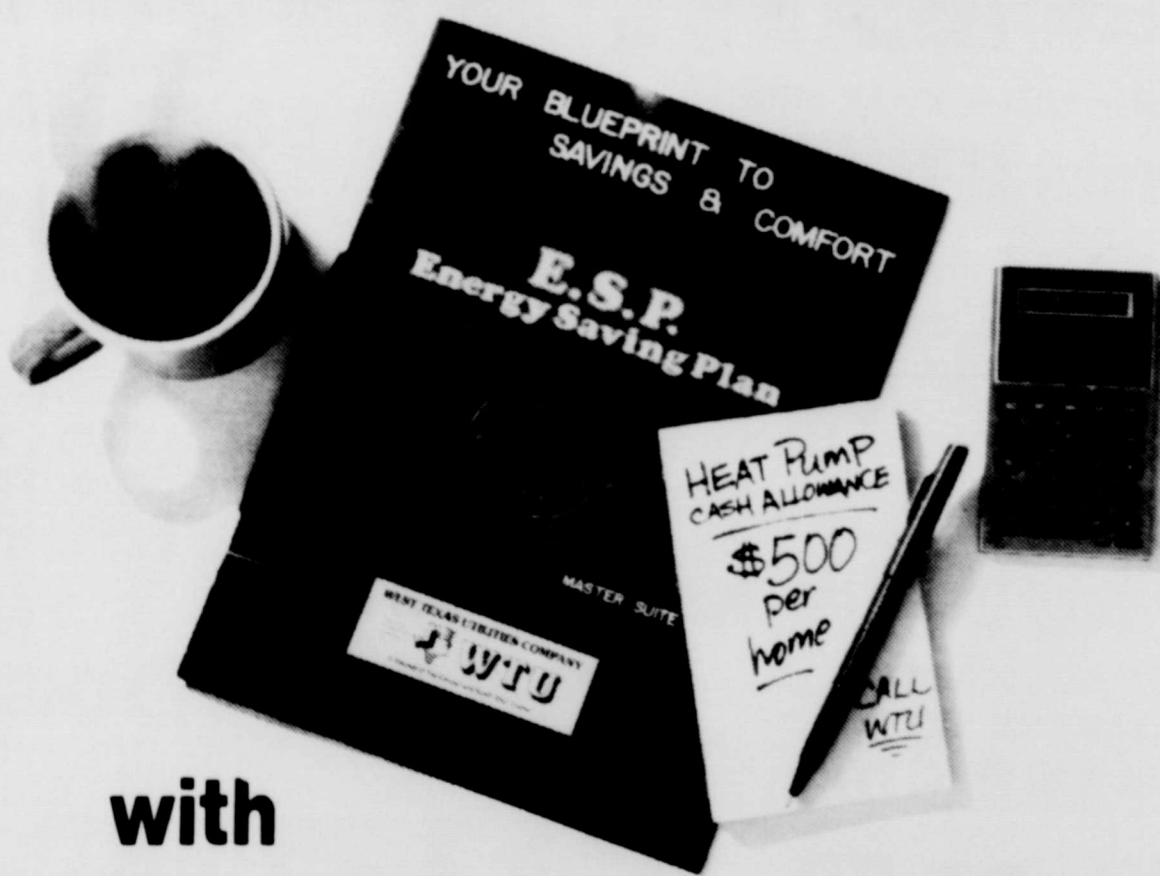
A screening mammogram is an x-ray of the breast using extremely low dosages of radiation (usually comparable to dental x-rays) and is designed to find very early cancers.

A female technologist who is highly trained in mammography will perform the examination.

The charge for the screening mammogram is \$50.00. The Unit accepts cash, check, Visa, Mastercard and American Express.

Approved by the American Cancer Society.

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Your energy savings will really add up when you qualify your home for WTU's Energy Saving Plan. You'll save money in energy bills for years to come when your home meets the energy-efficiency standards of the Energy Saving Plan.

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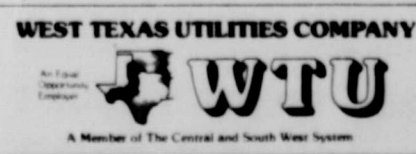
Resale Value

An E.S.P. Home will have a better resale value than other homes on the market, because it offers home owners lower energy bills. Energy bills are an important consideration for most families, so your E.S.P. Home will fit into a prospective home buyer's budget easier than a non-E.S.P. Home.

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The new E.S.P. Book clearly outlines all of the programs, cash allowances and requirements of the New and Improved Energy Saving Plan. The E.S.P. Book also has specific information on insulation, air infiltration control, energy-efficient equipment and much more!

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8 OZ CAN 99¢

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KRAFTS
SINGLE-SLICED CHEESE
8 OZ PKG \$1.29

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5 LB BAG 59¢

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24 OZ BOX \$1.93

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NO 1 CANS

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5.5 OZ BOX

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GANDYS

ICE

CREAM

1/2 GAL CRTN

\$1.69

GANDYS
LOW FAT MILK

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PILLSBURY
FUDGE BROWNIE MIX

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DEODORANT SPRAY

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DOG CHOW

10 LB BAG \$4.59

SPILLMATE

TOWELS

JUMBO ROLL 59¢

LIQUID

IVORY

32 OZ BOTTLE \$1.63

FREEZER PACK 1

5 LBS GROUND CHUCK

5 LBS CUBE STEAK

5 LBS CHUCK STEAK

5 LBS CHUCK STEAK

5 LBS SIRLOIN STEAK

TOTAL WEIGHT 20 LBS \$42.99

PARADE

TRASH BAGS

30 GAL 20 COUNT BOX \$1.59

BATH

ZEST

2/89¢

WINDOW CLEANER

WINDEX

WITH SPRAY 22 OZ \$1.49

CLEANSER

COMET

11 OZ SIZE 43¢

DOUBLE GIFT BOND STAMPS EACH WED'S WITH \$5.00 IN TRADE OR MORE

PARADE
CATSUP
32 OZ JUG 59¢
LIMIT 1
WITH \$10 IN TRADE OR MORE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

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BANANAS
GOLDEN
LB 29¢

FRESH BROCCOLI 1 R 59¢
WASHINGTON DELICIOUS
RED APPLES LB 39¢
FRESH CELLO LB
CARROTS 2/39¢
SUNKIST
LEMONS 3/49¢
FRESH
CELERY STALK 39¢
WASH.
D'ANJOU PEARS LB 39¢
RUSSET
SPUDS 10 LB BAG \$1.19

Extra Lean
PORK CHOPS
Tender...Tasty
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FRESH PORK CHOPS CENTER CUT LEAN LB \$1.99

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BACON SUGAR CURED LB \$1.73

ARMOUR STAR
BREADED STEAK FINGERS HEAT & EAT LB \$1.79

FRESH-FROZEN
FRYER THIGHS 5 LB BAG LB 59¢

FREEZER PACK 1
5 LBS GROUND BEEF
5 LBS PORK CHOPS
5 LBS CHUCK ROAST
5 LBS FRYERS
TOTAL WEIGHT 20 LBS \$30.99

FREEZER PACK 3
5 LBS GROUND BEEF
5 LBS CHUCK ROAST
5 LBS CHUCK STEAK
5 LBS FRESH FRYERS
TOTAL WEIGHT 20 LBS \$28.98

FREEZER PACK 8
5 LBS GROUND CHUCK
5 LBS CUBE STEAK
5 LBS CHUCK STEAK
5 LBS CHUCK STEAK
5 LBS SIRLOIN STEAK
TOTAL WEIGHT 20 LBS \$42.99

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