

The Merkel Mail

Thursday, January 26, 1984...Merkel, Texas

Our 95th Year

Brains,
news, views
...more

by Cloy A. Richards

§ "It's about the best thing since sliced bread" said MISD superintendent Bill Everett at a coffee break at the Brain Bowl Saturday.

Jack Ferguson, a Merkel school board member told me "If this was a basketball game, there would be at least 200 people here, and look at the number here today. This is what it's all about."

A kid from Wylie and a kid from Breckenridge both thanked me for some unknown reason, of having them there.

The Brain Bowl Saturday was a grand event.

The kids competed in one of the finer competitions known to man, mind against mind.

The kid from Breckenridge that knew most of the answers to the mind boggling questions, was the talk of the halls, as if he were on a 40 point scoring clip at a basketball contest.

The first one turned out well and I look forward to covering a few more.

I haven't heard a lot of kind or soothing words for the 'Skins here after the Sunday massacre. I told you about two weeks ago that I'd take the Raider defense but I never expected anything like that, did you?

I hear through the local good ol' boy network that the Merkel kids were treated well in the stock sale at the county livestock show by Merkel business and local Ag supporters. That is evident by a full page ad in the paper this week thanking the locals for their support.

Merkel has received its latest check of \$2,068 for its share in mixed drink taxes sold within Merkel city limits.

That is our share of the \$11 million allocated from the state Comptroller's office.

Property owners only have a few days left to settle up with MISD, Taylor County and the City as taxes will be late as of Feb. 1.

After that date, taxpayers will start incurring late charges, penalties and interest.

Just a bit of cheerful news.

State Comptroller Bob Bullock is giving Texas business people the month of February to "wipe the slate clean" with the state on taxes before "the boom is lowered" on them in March, or so reads a news release from his office this week.

The release went on to say they have developed new techniques to identify and locate taxpayers owing the State money and that they will be subject to a 10 per cent penalty and they have the power to file criminal charges.

Big Brother Bob and his Big Boys are watching you closer in 1984.

The Blair Water Supply Corporation will hold their annual meeting Feb. 6th at 7 p.m. at Taylor Electric.

On the agenda for the meeting is the election of three members for the board of directors. Members whose terms are expiring are Pauline Butman, Frank Brnovak and Richard Scott. A drawing will also be held for door prizes.

I hear the Post Fun N Fitness campaign for an Atari computer for Merkel Elementary is going pretty well. The coupons are being turned in to Merkel Elementary and a collection box is on the shopping carts at Carson's.

Just a reminder so we can keep up the good work. I hope they appreciate our coupons because a few late night pounds are being added with raisen brand.



Breck conjurs first Brain Bowl trophy Saturday

A sharp, young man from Breckenridge stole the show Saturday at Merkel High's first of its kind event, The Brain Bowl held in the school gym. Breckenridge team captain Frank Rork led his team in a close final match victory over Wylie. Trent captured the third place plaque.

The event drew a small crowd at the gym but MISD superintendent Bill Everett was obviously happy about the learning competition.

High school principal Larry Curry said he sent notices of the event to more than 20 area schools and Merkel, Clyde, Trent, Breckenridge and Wylie entered.

The contest was much like the old GE College Bowl in which contestants are asked questions

and their correct responses are worth varying points. The object was to get the answer first, or in some "quarters" of the competition, answer the most questions in a given amount of time.

The questions, written by a professional firm, Questions Unlimited in Dallas, were read by Merkel Elementary School principal David Casey. Christie Barnett was official scorer and Everett ran the time clock. Judges for the event were Jeri Pfeifer of Abilene Christian, Michael McClellan of Hardin Simmons and Bill Larmer of McMurry.

The Merkel team was "coached" by David Laman. Team members included Trung Tran, captain, Todd Hensley, Donny Brady, Ronna Casey and Kevin Mitchell.

Local county stock show winners named

Results of the Taylor County Stockshow follow.

Light Weight Duroc: Sherri Riney 5th, Melinda Riney 9th, John Paul Dudley 10th, Jimmy Collier 11th, Tim Brandon 15th, Lynn Hays 16th, Tommy Hays 17th, and Lynn Hays 18th.

Heavy Duroc: Tommy Hays 1st, Amber Whisenunt 2nd, Chriswell Whisenunt 3rd, and Tommy Hays had the Reserve Champion Duroc.

Light Weight Chester White: Russell Morgan 6th, Dusty Farmer 8th, Dusty Farmer 10th, Ricky Riley 11th, Billy Ray Riley 12th and Russell Morgan 14th.

Heavy Weight Chester White: Russell Morgan 1st, Jason McCarty 2nd, Dusty Farmer 4th, Billy Ray Riley 5th, Tommy Hays 6th, John McCarty 7th, Dusty Farmer 8th, Russell Morgan Champion Chester White and Jason McCarty had the Reserve Champion Chester.

Light Weight Hampshire: Amber Whisenunt 3rd.

Light Weight Crossbred: Robynn Dudley 5th and Judy Williams 12th.

Heavy Crosses: Jay Gibson 5th.

Other Pure Breeds: Tommy Hays 3rd, Clay Hammond 5th, Lynn Hays 8th, Chris Cutler 7th, Jay Gibson 8th, Jay Gibson 9th, and Chris Cutler 10th.

Light Weight Finewool Lambs: Becky Middleton 8th.

Heavy Finewools: Becky Middleton 20th and Jenny Boyd 26th.

Medium Wool Lambs: Chuck Peterman 1st, Lance Perry 9th, and Lance Perry 18th.

Heavy Medium Wools: Jenny Boyd 27th.

Southdown Lambs: Melissa Harris 2nd, Chuck Peterman 3rd, Jon Bright 5th, Kris Harris 7th, Jon Bright 12th, and Melissa Harris Reserve Champion Southdown.

Light Weight Steers: Josh Mashburn 11th.

Heavy Weight Steers: Christi Wade 5th, Randy Toombs 6th, Wade Toombs 7th, and Ken Hogan 13th.

Mike Myers had the Grand Champion Pen of Rabbits, Kenneth Taylor 4th, and Ralph Hernandez 5th.

Showmanship Winners include Melinda Riney, Russell Morgan, Tommy Hays, Chuck Peterman, Melissa Harris, and Mike Myers.

Council learns

Meals program will be honored

The Merkel City Council held a special session Friday morning and a regular meeting Monday night as they have amended the local Cable TV franchise to Showcase Cablevision of Tuscola. They did so at a breakfast meeting at Heritage Hall Friday morning.

At Monday's session, council learned the local Senior Citizens Meal program, which served 19,000 meals last year, will be honored next month as one of the outstanding programs.

Merkel Mayor Kent Satterwhite said "We have a good group of people that volunteer and a good person in charge of our program and we should be

very proud of them."

A seminar and a conference will be held at Heritage Hall here to help officials from other meal programs learn why Merkel's program is so successful. It is being recognized for maintaining a cost free system by people donating money when they receive meals.

Council also learned from City Manager J.A. Sadler that local property owners recently contacted about demolishing dilapidated buildings have had a favorable response. Sadler said "Most of the owners are realizing that it is to their advantage to let the Federal funds pay for the lot clean up."

Sadler added "We aren't picking on anyone, it's a city wide clean up effort and we ought to be taking advantage of it."

Council also named Betty Cypert as alternate judge with Kathy Cox and Janessa Green as clerks. Merkel mayor pro-tem Ted Smith and councilmen Jerry Byrd and James McKee will be up for reelection.

In other action, council learned they would have to come up with a plan by October 1984 and implement that plan by October 1986, to make all public buildings accessible to the handicapped.

Carriker says he will run again

Seventy-eighth District State Representative Steven A. Carriker announced this week that he has filed with the Democratic Party for election to a second term in the Texas House.

Carriker, a Fisher County farmer and livestock producer, is currently serving on the House County Affairs Committee, the House Agriculture and Livestock Committee, and is one of only two Freshmen members elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the House Democratic Caucus. He also serves on the Budget and Oversight committee for County Affairs and is Chairman of the sub-committee studying Dryland Crops and Water Efficient Farming.

In his first term, Carriker passed a number of pieces of enabling legislation for local governments, including the establishment of several juvenile boards and also the creation of authority for the City-County Auditorium project in Nolan County. He was successful in expanding authority for transporting agricultural equipment on public roads and won a hard-fought battle to keep highways open to use by tractors and other farm machinery. Along those same lines, he "bested the vets" as one newspaper put it, in preserving authority for hard-ship licensing of drivers, sometimes an unavoidable necessity for families in rural areas. Other successful legislation included an agricultural bond program, volunteer fire department funding, and numerous other pieces of legislation he either sponsored or co-sponsored.

At the top of the legislative list, however, is Carriker's "Proposition Zero" package. This effort to provide more equitable funding for public schools and relieve part of the tax burden on homes has been widely hailed as "the fairest system" and has received editorial endorsements from major state newspapers. It is likely to be considered in a special session later this year.

Press from around the state has recognized Carriker as an outstanding new lawmaker. One magazine singled him out saying "Carriker holds great promise for the future" and he "understands the big picture". A United Press International story said Carriker "has already made a few political moves worthy of a veteran" and went on to say that as a legislative newcomer he "appeared quite confident".

Carriker is a 1973 graduate of the University of Texas and he and his wife Kathy and their two children live on the family farm outside of Roby, near the center of the sprawling district he

represents. The district stretches from above the caprock near Lubbock down through the Rolling Plains to surround Abilene, then north nearly to the

Red River. Counties include Cottle, Fisher, Garza, Jones, Kent, King, Knox, Lynn, Nolan, Scurry, Stonewall, and part of Taylor.

Results from Merkel High alcohol survey

The Merkel High Student Council last week sponsored a poll during SMILE week concerning alcohol and their use and views of alcohol.

Participating in the survey

were 66 per cent of the Seniors, 86 per cent of the Juniors, 82 per cent of the sophomores and 77 per cent of the Freshmen.

The following are the results of that poll.

[figures indicate percentages]

	SRS	JRS	SOPH	FR
1. Do you consider alcohol an addictive drug?				
Yes	83	76	85	86
No	17	24	12	14
2. Do you drink alcoholic beverages?				
Yes	46	46	52	22
No	46	46	48	78
3. How often do you drink alcoholic beverages?				
Never	43	36	36	70
Occasionally	20	46	37	17
Once a month	0	3	3	5
Once a week or more frequently	26	6	7	3
More than once a week	9	3	12	3
4. Where do you usually drink alcoholic beverages?				
Club	34	6	10	3
Friends' houses	29	32	33	14
Car	0	25	25	7
My house	35	16	30	17
Party	43	30	35	15
5. Do you have any friends that you feel have a drinking problem?				
Yes	43	43	45	37
No	51	54	63	63
6. If you or a friend had a drinking problem, where would you go for help?				
Care Unit	37	21	15	14
Alcoholics Anonymous	43	35	35	61
Parents	14	21	20	20
Friends or Church	6	20	0	0
Nothing				
7. Are some students in your school under stress because of their parent's drinking?				
Yes	51	36	20	32
No	46	52	75	63
8. Do you know anyone under age who has been able to buy alcoholic beverages without identification?				
Yes	63	66	60	54
No	14	13	35	42
9. Do you believe your school should provide alcohol and drug education?				
Yes	71	60	58	61
No	23	41	35	17
10. Should your school provide more or less alcohol education than it is currently providing?				
More	45	43	66	75
Less	6	17	13	5
Same	51	40	23	16

1985 Farm Bill policies

Cotton policy options for the 1985 farm bill will be based to a large degree on policy lessons learned from the past 50 years, according to an Extension economist and professor for the Agricultural and Food Policy Center of the Texas A&M University System.

Dr. Ronald D. Knutson, an economist in marketing and policy with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, told delegates attending the Beltwide Cotton Conference in Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 9 that "cotton will obviously not stand alone in this debate."

"The critical issue in the 1985 farm bill debate will involve selecting the balance between the degree of income support through the target price mechanism, price support through the loan program, and production controls," Knutson said.

The policy outcome will be influenced by who is elected President and his choice for the Secretary of Agriculture post, Knutson predicted. "The outcome will also be influenced by how well we—the people—have learned farm policy lessons from programs spanning the past 50 years."

He emphasized that since the 1970s, government policy impacting agriculture has been an interesting—yet often frustrating—mixture of domestic farm policy, foreign policy and general economic policy.

"While at one time it was possible to limit our discussions of policy to domestic farm programs, this certainly is no longer an option," Knutson told the cotton conferees.

In the absence of government intervention, farm prices are determined in a world market setting, Knutson explained. "This does not mean that these prices are determined by competitive, free market forces. In regard to cotton, only a few countries compete in that world market since most are state traders. This means that government officials, not competitive market forces, determine supplies, exports, imports and prices," Knutson said.

In this kind of environment, fiber diplomacy has as much impact on the prices received by our High Plains cotton farmer as does domestic farm programs, said the economist.

Additionally, the strong U.S. dollar has had the effect of raising the cost of our cotton in terms of currencies of many of our major customers above that of our competitors. The strong

U.S. dollar can be traced directly to economic policies that foster high levels of deficit spending, Knutson added.

Result of the interaction of these political and economic forces in a world context has led some agricultural policymakers to conclude that current farm programs are counterproductive and outdated. Other economists have raised questions concerning the need to reevaluate the consistency of supporting farm prices while attempting to expand exports of farm commodities, he said.

"As an economist, my inclination is to subscribe to both points of view. Basis for this conclusion lies in an analysis of our experience with farm programs during the past 50 years applied to today's economic and political conditions," he said.

Knutson said that lessons from the past have demonstrated that commodity programs cannot operate independently of one another. Yet, feed grains and wheat have a reserve acreage program in 1984 while cotton does not. And wheat has a PIK (payment-in-kind) program this year while cotton and feed grains do not.

Acreage allotments or marketing quotas cannot be imposed

on one commodity without encouraging the development of surpluses on another, he warned.

In regard to price supports, Knutson said that experience with farm policy indicates that high price supports (loan rates) stimulate production, reduce exports, increase imports and government stocks, and ultimately lead to production controls. Acreage controls, based on farm policy experiences of the past half century, do not effectively limit production, he said. Farmers take their poorest land out of production and do a more efficient production job on the land they actually farm, Knutson said.

Target prices, from the perspective of farmers and economists, have been both good and bad news over the years, and production controls are helpful if farmers are willing to produce mainly for the domestic market, Knutson said.

Thus, 1985 farm bill options, he predicted, include moving to a free market, developing a system of mandatory production controls, fine-tuning current policy, or establishing a stabilization and cost-sharing partnership between producers and government.

Help those that can't help themselves

by Russell McAnally

There is something I want to do and it will not leave me alone.

Someone ought to do it but sometimes it is difficult to do a good thing for a community.

There are older people all over Merkel who cannot—or ought not—put a new light bulb in a ceiling fixture—put in a new light switch—mend an extension cord—or fix a dripping faucet. For some, there are many things they can't do, and really have noone to turn to.

Certainly they cannot afford the high prices charged by professional people who also have to make a living because of the high prices charged to them.

When there is a need—there is always a way, or so I have believed. I also believe there are a half a dozen men—and perhaps some women that will or would volunteer their time to do some of these little jobs to help people who, some of them

have noone to turn to. These proposals are being made in good faith and we will see if there is a response.

No. 1 There would be at least two phone numbers listed for people to call for help.

No. 2 Someone at the called number would either go or call another person who would go and help in the area needed.

No. 3 This service would not be free. There would be a charge of \$5 per hour— If one half hour \$2.50— and if one quarter hour \$1.25. You can see that noone would get rich, and that neither is charity being offered. This would be a service offered to those with a small need by people of the Merkel community who care about people of Merkel and their needs.

We American's respond readily to needs or pleas from other parts of the country and even in foreign lands, but find it difficult to respond or relate to people in need right here at home. I have

known lonely people who would give \$1.25 to just have someone to talk to for 15 minutes. Someone might need a button sewn on but can't even see the button.

I can think of a few people who could and would volunteer for a few little errands of helpfulness. There are people like Lynward Harrison and June Hogan who would be helpful and they do not know anything about the project or their names being submitted until they read this. Mildred Starbuck could also help. I put her name in there because she is on an errand of mercy way back in Virginia for two or three weeks. I will be safe in volunteering her service at least until she gets home.

Don't call Lynward, or June or Mildred. Call my number and if I can't help, I will call someone who can. This is a temporary set up. If there is interest and a response, we will get it organized. The number to call for now is 628-8080.

Pack 220 busy, awards given

Pack 220 had their monthly pack meeting. The pack meets every first Thursday of the month. There were no awards given out for January, but games were played and refreshments served.

At our November meeting awards were given out by our Cub Master, Richard Hernandez. Those who receive their bobcat badge were John Bauer and Austin Hill from Den 1; Orville Pirraglia, Jason Pack,

Jeremy Beal, Jason Deen, Nathan Stamper, Jason Tipton, David Casper and Spence Duncan from Den 2; and Jason Hernandez, and Roger Adkins from Den 3.

In December Patrick Harrison and Matthew Lamer from Den 1 received their Bobcat Badges. We also had our Christmas Party. Games were played and refreshments were served. Gifts were exchanged by


the boys, and there was a visit from Santa Clause.

Richard Hernandez is our Cub Master, Larry Pack is assistant Cub Master, Donna Bauer Den Leader for Den 1, Angie Harrison is the assistant, Virginia Pirraglia is Den Leader for Den with Diane Pack as assistant.

Angie Ladd is Den Leader for Den 3 with Virginia Hernandez as assistant. Angie Ladd will be leaving and Debbie Sandusky will take her place.

PUBLICATION 910

... is a handy IRS publication that describes year-round IRS services, assistance, contents of frequently requested IRS publications, and contains an index of many other free IRS publications. Use the handy order form in your tax package to order Publication 910.



A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Tips on accident

victims from Merkel EMS

by Vernon Wade
EMT-Paramedic
President- Merkel Emergency Medical Service

ACCIDENT VICTIMS

+People involved in any type of accident receive different types of injuries. There are several guidelines you may go by when dealing with accidents.

One of the first to remember is **don't move the patient**. Unless the patient is in danger of further injury. This means for you to remain calm and check out the area the patient is in. You want to check for a fire. **Not smoke**, look for the flames. If you don't see flames, the patient is probably OK where they are. Look for broken electrical wire. If the wire is close to a vehicle containing an injured person, have them stay where they are at. You should also stay away from the vehicle. High voltage can travel in the ground which has some moisture in it. If you can get close enough you will be a victim. It is best to contact the electric company.

If it is at all possible, leave the patient where he is at until trained, rescue personnel have arrived. If the patient is unconscious and not breathing, gently tilt his head back (chin toward to the top of the head) and if they are still not breathing, seal your mouth over their lips and blow, inflating their lungs. If they still don't breathe on their own, continue breathing into their mouth inflating their lungs. If you know CPR, start CPR.

Don't give the patient anything by mouth. Don't raise their head and don't place a pillow under his head. They might be more comfortable but if they have a neck or spinal injury it could cause death. **Don't move the patient at all unless he is in danger of further injury.** Cover the patient to

damp cloth to wet their lips. Assist in directing rescue personnel to the scene or traffic before police arrive. Rescue personnel may need your help to stay around.

If you see profuse bleeding, blood coming in squirts, place your hand over the area and apply pressure to stop the bleeding. If you see large blood clots, look for the source and apply pressure. Don't move the patient. Just try to stop the bleeding.

If you find a patient who has fallen from a height or just tripped and fallen down, don't move them. Cover them to conserve heat and get help. If a patient hurts too much to get themselves up it is a good sign that something is possibly broken. Don't put them to bed, call an ambulance. We have equipment to move people without further injury. With the training we have and the equipment, the patient's care starts upon our arrival.

If the patient can move an arm or leg or his fingers, the bone can still be broken. The injury site does not always swell. Ligament or muscle could be damaged, nerves could be cut. It is best to contact your doctor if the patient can get to him. If he cannot, call your ambulance service.

There are very few broken bones that cause a threat to life. However, permanent disability can be a result of improper handling. Never attempt to move a possible broken bone.

If there is profuse or uncontrollable bleeding, apply firm, gentle pressure at the site. Tourniquets are almost always never used in bleeding associated with fractures unless there has been an amputation or severely mangled arm or leg.

Next week, Diabetic's Emergencies

REPORT OF CONDITION		
Consolidating domestic subsidiaries of the		
The Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Merkel, Texas		
In the state of Texas at the close of business on December 31, 1983		
published in response to call made by Comptroller of the Currency, under title 12, United States Code, Section 161.		
Charter number 7481 Comptroller of the Currency 11th District		
Statement of Resources and Liabilities		
	Thousands of dollars	
ASSETS	Cash and due from depository institutions	8,290
	U.S. Treasury securities	3,765
	Obligations of other U.S. Government agencies and corporations	830
	Obligations of States and political subdivisions in the United States	310
	All other securities	22
	Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	450
	Loans, total (excluding unearned income)	8,991
	Less: Allowance for possible loan losses	90
	Loans, net	8,901
	Lease financing receivables	-0-
	Bank premises, furniture and fixtures, and other assets representing bank premises	154
	Real estate owned other than bank premises	-0-
Intangible assets	-0-	
All other assets	592	
TOTAL ASSETS	23,314	
LIABILITIES	Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	6,430
	Time and savings deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	12,019
	Deposits of United States Government	-0-
	Deposits of States and political subdivisions in the United States	2,537
	All other deposits	-0-
	Certified and officers' checks	41
	TOTAL DEPOSITS	21,027
	Total demand deposits	6,725
	Total time and savings deposits	14,302
	Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	-0-
Interest-bearing demand notes (note balances) issued to the U.S. Treasury and other liabilities for borrowed money	43	
Mortgage indebtedness and liability for capitalized leases	-0-	
All other liabilities	416	
TOTAL LIABILITIES (excluding subordinated notes and debentures)	21,486	
Subordinated notes and debentures	-0-	
MEMORANDA EQUITY CAPITAL	Preferred stock No. shares outstanding	-0-
	Common stock No. shares authorized	150,000
	Common stock No. shares outstanding	150,000
	Surplus	375
	Undivided profits and reserve for contingencies and other capital reserves	1,028
	TOTAL EQUITY CAPITAL	1,828
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY CAPITAL	23,314	
MEMORANDA	Amounts outstanding as of report date:	
	Standby letters of credit, total	-0-
	Time certificates of deposit in denominations of \$100,000 or more	3,211
	Other time deposits in amounts of \$100,000 or more	295
	Average for 30 calendar days (or calendar month) ending with report date:	
Total deposits	20,932	

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the correctness of this statement of resources and liabilities. We declare that it has been examined by us, and to the best of our knowledge and belief has been prepared in conformance with the instructions and is true and correct.

Don W. Hernandez
John G. Wenzel
Directors

I, Betty Jane Tittle
Name
Vice-Pres.-Cashier
Title

of the above-named bank do hereby declare that this Report of Condition is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Betty Jane Tittle
Signature
January 16, 1984
Date

Church news

Calvary Baptist

"Faith is Victory" will be the continental theme for Sunday morning's message by our pastor, J. F. Davis.

The title of this message speaks for itself that when we exercise our faith fully, we will have the victory over many

problems in our lives. Sunday, Feb. 25th, CBC will mark its 52nd year of service here. Plan to attend all the day's activities.

Mrs. J. P. Stephens

Mrs. J.P. (Dorothy) Stevens, 73, of Hale Center died January 13th at 11 p.m. at High Plains Hospital after a brief illness.

Born Aug. 15th, 1910, in Fairview, Okla., she graduated from Lamont, Okla., High School and attended Hardin Simmons Uni-

versity in Abilene. She married J.P. Stephens Nov. 30, 1930, at Trent. They moved from Trent to Plainview in 1943 and to Hale Center in 1977.

A service was held at 3 p.m. Jan. 18th, at Trent First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Teeter officiating.

Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery.

Survivors include her husband; a son, Tommie of Lubbock; two daughters, Frances Peterson of Mesa, Ariz., and Linda Hall of Clairo, Egypt; two sisters, Polly Barlow and Ver Little, both of Mesa; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Everett B. Jones

Everett B. Jones, 89, passed away Dec. 19, 1983 in an Arlington Hospital. Mr. Jones was a former resident of Blair for many

years. He lived at 4500 Nolan in Fort Worth.

He retired from Montgomery Ward Co after 36 years of service in Fort Worth. He is survived by

nephews Marvin Estes Jones of New York, NY, Pat Ralph Jones of Arlington, Robert Stanford of Lubbock and a niece, Ada Fry of Abilene.

Newsbriefs

Dear Editor

I have been in Merkel since 1943 and have been reading the Mail all these years.

Something puzzles me about the paper now.

I have not been able to find any write up of Merks athletic teams for the last part of the basketball season.

It may be possible that I have overlooked it, but if I did I missed in every issue.

If it has been in the paper please refer me to the page number.

If the write ups have not been in the Mail would you please explain why, in a town the size of Merkel, the athletic program cannot make the local paper.

Looking to hear from you. Thank you very much Joe Dell Gregory 112 Cherry Street Merkel, Tx. 79536

We have published all of the basketball articles that have been received by our office this season. Ed.

Promotion

Seismic Reflections Inc. of Midland recently elected Ricky Conley to the position of Vice President-Marketing & Administration. He joined the company in early 1979 following graduation from McMurry College at Abilene, where he obtained a BBA degree in marketing and finance.

Conley is a former resident of Merkel and the son of Mrs. E.A. Conley. He graduated from Merkel High in 1974.

Tiger Cubs

The Merkel Tiger Cub Scouts will meet Jan. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Scout Hut. Tiger Cubs and their parents will be talking about family entertainment.

Scouts asked to bring their Tiger Tales Books are David Carter, Jason Clinton, Kevin Graham, Jason Harrison, Dustin Lewis, Randy Necessary, Jason Hoffman, Joey Richards, Andy Taylor, Greg Valentine and Shane Weaver.

Tye Sr. Citizens

The Tye Senior Citizens will hold their

monthly musical, Sat. the 28th. Food and drinks will be served starting at 6 at the Tye Senior Citizen Building.

Medal received

PV2 Gene Townsend, U. S. Army Reserves of Rt. 3 Merkel, has been awarded the Excellence in Competition Badge, Bronze following shooting competitions held at Camp Bullis, Texas. Townsend scored 201 in the matches and was one of three in his command to receive the award.

Blair Water

You are hereby notified of a meeting of the Blair Water Supply Corporation to be held in Merkel, Texas, on the 6th day of February, 1984, at 7 p.m., at the office of the Taylor Electric Cooperative.

Make plans to attend this important meeting. There will be an election of three board of directors. Those with terms expiring are Pauline Butman, Frank Brnovak, and Richard Scott. There will also be a drawing for door prizes.

Lambda Beta

Lambda Beta held their annual Christmas party Dec. 17 in the Fellowship Hall of the Merkel United Methodist Church.

Ann Leach, head of the social committee was in charge of the party. Santa dropped in and passed out gifts. Charles and Liz Eager were guests.

On Jan. 3, Lambda Beta helped at the Rehab Telethon. Kay Bishop, Peggy Chick, Mychele Hammond, Rita Moore, Debbie Roberson and Debbie Sandusky helped to man the phones from 7 p.m. until 12:30 a.m.

We found the Rehab Telethon a very worthwhile event and were glad to help.

School menu

The following is the MISD school lunch menu: Jan 26

Fried fish with tartar sauce, blackeyed peas and seasoned spinach, corn meal twists and pears.

Jan. 27
Bar-b-que on a bun, pork and beans, pickle relish, chopped onions and cheese, hamburger buns and butter-scotch oatmeal cookies.

Jan. 30
Tacos with taco sauce, pinto beans, shredded cheese and lettuce, taco shells and pineapple pudding.

Jan. 31
Salisbury steak with brown gravy, macaroni and cheese, blackeyed peas, hot rolls and fruit jello.

Feb. 1
Spaghetti with tossed salad, choice of dressing, buttered corn, butter bread and prune cake.

Feb. 2
Fried chicken with cream gravy, creamed potatoes, french green beans, hot rolls and sliced peaches.

Feb. 3
Hamburgers with all of the trimmings, rosey pears.

7th grade

boys win two

from Wylie

by Coach Huskerson
Last Thursday, the 7th grade boys beat Wylie 36-21. Martin Landeros was leading scorer with 12 points. Kenneth Jowers added 8 points, 9 assists, 12 rebounds and 6 steals. James Glaze, Freddie Gonzales, Wade Toombs and Doug Bowling each added 4. Glaze and Landeros had 8 rebounds and Davy DeLeon also played well defensively.

Last Monday, the Badgers defeated Wylie again 37-13. Jowers had 24 points, 8 rebounds, 6 assists and 4 steals. Landeros, Bowling and Glaze did an outstanding job rebounding. David Tommasch had his best defensive performance of the year. Gonzales, Toombs, and John David Layher also did well defensively.

We have won 5 of the last 6 games. The team has improved on its performance on the court. The boys will be playing in the Hawley Tournament at Hawley this weekend. The 7th grade boys will be playing against Eastland's 8th grade in the first round. I want to thank the parents for their support.

Also, next Monday, we will play at Clyde. We encourage everyone to come and watch the games.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF BANK		OMB No. for FDIC 3064-0052	OMB No. for FDIC 1557-0081
CALL NO. 146 11 17-31-53		Expiration Date: 1/31/84	Expiration Date: 1/31/84
CERT: 13667 13 4E-7E77		CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF CONDITION (COMMERCIAL BANK)	
HOME STATE BANK P.O. BOX 125 TRENT, TX 79561		(Domestic—Small)(Including Domestic Subsidiaries) (Dollar Amounts in Thousands)	
ALL BANKS: RETURN ORIGINAL ONLY TO FDIC, REPORTS ANALYSIS AND PROCESSING UNIT, 550 17th STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20429			
NATIONAL BANKS: ALSO SEND ONE COPY TO THE APPROPRIATE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY DISTRICT OFFICE AND FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT BANK (Please read carefully instructions for the preparation of Reports of Condition)			
CLOSE OF BUSINESS DATE		FDIC CERTIFICATE NO.	
December 31, 1983		1 3 6 6 7	
Every item and schedule must be filled in. Printed items must not be amended. Amounts which cannot properly be included in the printed items must be entered under Other Assets or Other Liabilities.			C10
ASSETS			Mil. Thou.
1. Cash and due from depository institutions	Sch. Item Col.		600 1
2. U.S. Treasury securities	C 6		none 2
3. Obligations of other U.S. Government agencies and corporations			650 3
4. Obligations of States and political subdivisions in the United States			370 4
5. All other securities			none 5
6. Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell			350 6
7. a. Loans, Total (excluding unearned income)	A 10.	3 761	7a
b. LESS: allowance for possible loan losses	(do not enclose in parentheses)	50	7b
c. Loans, Net			3 711 7c
8. Lease financing receivables			none 8
9. Bank premises, furniture and fixtures, and other assets representing bank premises			240 9
10. Real estate owned other than bank premises			40 10
11. Other assets			none 11a
a. Intangible assets			168 11b
b. All other assets	G 3		
12. TOTAL ASSETS	(sum of items 1 thru 11)		6 129 12
LIABILITIES			
13. Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	F 1 A		902 13
14. Time and savings deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	F 1 B&C		4 430 14
15. Deposits of United States Government	F 2 A,B&C		none 15
16. Deposits of States and political subdivisions in the United States	F 3 A,B&C		256 16
17. All other deposits	F 4 A,B&C		none 17
18. Certified and officers' checks	F 5 A		29 18
19. TOTAL DEPOSITS	(sum of items 13 thru 18)		5 617 19
a. Total demand deposits	F 6 A	1 012	19a
b. Total time and savings deposits	F 6 B&C	4 605	19b
20. Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase			none 20
21. Interest-bearing demand notes (note balances) issued to the U.S. Treasury & other liabilities for borrowed money			none 21
22. Mortgage indebtedness and liability for capitalized leases			none 22
23. All other liabilities	H 3		145 23
24. TOTAL LIABILITIES (excluding subordinated notes and debentures)	(sum of items 19 thru 23)		5 762 24
25. Subordinated notes and debentures			none 25
EQUITY CAPITAL			
26. Preferred stock	a. No. shares outstanding	none (par value)	none 26
27. Common stock	a. No. shares authorized	2000	
	b. No. shares outstanding	2000 (par value)	200 27
28. Surplus			350 28
29. Undivided profits and reserve for contingencies and other capital reserves			(183) 29
30. TOTAL EQUITY CAPITAL	(sum of items 26 thru 29)		367 30
31. TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY CAPITAL	(sum of items 24, 25 and 30)		6 129 31

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46-tfc

For Sale: Matching couch and chair and 1 coffee table and 2 end tables in excellent condition. Call 862-6389 or 862-6295.

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Firewood for sale: \$65 per cord delivered and stacked. Call 862-6307.

47-2tc

For Sale: 1 double knit bed spread, 3 baby quilts, 2 quilts, 2 quilt tops, 50 foot roll of 11 gauge wire fencing 48". Call 928-5661.

Misc.

KID'S KORNER DAY CARE CENTER
2nd and Oak Open Mon thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. thru 6 p.m., Call 928-4381.

12-tfc

Would like to do your ironing. Call 928-5694 or 928-4087 after 5 p.m.

Piano Tuning Call
928-4896, ask for Pee Wee Pack.

34-tfc

Babysitting wanted nights or weekends. Call 928-5964 or 928-4087 after 5.

Granny's Playhouse Child Care open from
8:30 a.m. till 6 p.m. Call 928-4904 or come by 207 Orange.

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Need help 2 days and 1 night per week. Will be some lifting involved. Also, need someone to work on a wooden fence. Call 928-5288.

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Need part time LVN and full time aids. Please apply in person at Starr Nursing Home

22 TFC

Reliable electrical work done. Patrick Galloway 928-5356.

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We clean houses for individuals or buildings. No job too large or small. Call after 5 928-5260, 928-4087 or 928-5694.

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44-tfc

Free Puppies Poodle, terrier mix, 2 and a half months old, raised inside. See at 801 Edwards.

46-2tc

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45-tfc

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45-2tc

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Real Estate

Lawn Properties, Inc. MLS
695-1880

New Listing on Avondale at 311. Storgae shed, fenced, equity or new loan.

Pleasant Valley 3-2-2 plus office, fireplace, built-ins on 2 acres.

Merkel Just listed: 183 acres South of Merkel 5 tanks, barn, rodeo arena, pool, 2 bedroom mobile home. Call Betty.

14 X 65 Mobile, fenced, garden spot, well, carport, Sun water line, paved on 2 sides, reduced, owner will carry with small down.

25.98 Subdivision 2 acre tracts, city utilities plus cable, all or part. Call Betty.

3-1-1 brick, fenced, close to school on Avondale.

3-1-1 on Sunset, brick fenced, nice yard.

Avondale 3-1-1, fireplace, storage, 2 car carport, storage shed, fenced yard, reduced.

Yucca street, 3-2-2 fireplace, fenced, 3 living areas, large home reduced.

Yucca street, nice yard, 2 bedroom home could be 4 bedroom if upstairs was finished, well fenced.

Doublewide mobile home on 1.30 acres 3 miles North of Tye off 707.

New Listing Country Club drive 2 story, 3-2-2 plus balcony and game room on golf course, appraisal in hand.

Trent Relisted and reduced 3-2-2 on 2 lots, central heat. Could be sweat equity.

2 story 4 bedroom 2 baths, small equity and assume, possible lease option. Call Betty

Call us, we have listings in Abilene, Potosi, Tuscola, Buffalo Gap and Acreages. After 5 call: Betty Stautzenberger 862-6329 Mike Wheeler 676-1320

695-1880

45tfc

House to be moved. Living room, dining room, two bedroom, kitchen, bath and utility room, less than \$5 per square foot. Call 928-5576.

47-1tc

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3 and a half acres, small house, barn, can be purchased on terms. Close to town. Call Cyrus Pee, Agent. 928-5613.

45-tfc

House for sale 3 bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, baths. Has several pecan trees, water pump, good fence around back yard, very good location. Would make a good home for someone. Call Cyrus Pee, Agent 928-5613.

45tfc

House for sale 3 bedroom one and three quarter bath, cellar water well, good location. Call 928-5717.

46-2tc

For Rent

For Rent: 3 bedroom 2 bath, cellar, well available at the end of February. Call 846-4533.

House for rent: Call 928-5845 before 12 and after 6 p.m.

MOBILE HOME SPACES FOR RENT
-In Merkel \$50 per month, VA and FHA approved. Pat McAlister, 846-4715 or 846-4696.

TFC

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1, 2, 3 Bedroom apartments, shag carpet, all electric, dish washer, garbage disposal, central cooling and heating. For more information, call 928-5038.

TFC

Unfurnished apartments for rent. 2 bedroom \$250 per month \$150 deposit. Call 928-4512 after 5 p.m.

35TFC

Smaller, 2 bedroom 1 bath mobile home, carpeted, remodeled, you pay propane. Call 928-5677.

46-tfc

For rent: 3 bedroom 1 bath house for \$235 per month. \$150 deposit. See at 401 Manchester. Bryant Realtors. Abilene, 698-1636

30-TFC

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

27-TFC

Mobile home space for rent. Contact Margie Baker at 1004 S. 6th Merkel in trailer house. Space is \$45 per month for total electric trailer.

45-3tc

For rent: clean brick house, 2 bedroom, central heat, refrigerator, stove, big yard, available now. Call 928-5194.

42TFC

For rent: furnished 2 bedroom mobile home. 1 and a half bath, washer-dryer, remodeled, couple, one child, 7 miles NE of Merkel. Call 928-5677.

45-tfc

Thank You

The family of Clyde Wurst wishes to express its gratitude for their support at our time of grief.

I would like to thank you for all of the nice cards, flowers, and phone calls from all my friends and family during my back injury. Also for the Merkel Emergency Medical Service. You are all so great. God Bless each and every one of you.

Love Perry Hartline

Garage Sales

Big Garage Sale 804 Locust Saturday only. Dishwasher, small appliances, dishes, shoes, clothes of all sizes, furniture, pillows, lots of misc.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

County of Taylor NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That by virtue of a certain Order Of Sale issued out of the Honorable 42nd District Court of Taylor County, of the 6th day of January 1984, by Order Of Sale of said 42nd District Court for the sum of One thousand nine hundred eighty one dollars and 40 cents and costs of suit, under a judgement, in favor of

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Melanie Richards—Co-Publisher
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NOTICE
Typographical or other errors must be brought to our attention before the second insertion or claims for refund will not be recognized.

CLASSIFIED RATES
Classifieds are \$2 for the first 18 words and 10 cents for each additional word paid in advance. A 75 cent billing fee is added to all charged ads.

LEGAL RATES
Legal notices are 55 cents per line for the first insertion and 45 cents per line for each additional insertion.

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Bilbo Well Servicing & Swabbing, Inc. in a certain cause in said Court, No. 38-488-A and styled Bilbo Well Servicing & Swabbing, Inc. vs. Cary-Chapman (C-C) Drilling Corp., dba Circle Drilling, placed in my hands for service, I, John W. Middleton as Sheriff of Taylor County, Texas, did, on the 9th day of January 1984, levy on certain Real Estate, situated in Taylor County, Texas, described as follows, to-wit: being 182.5 acres, more or less, out of Section 145, Block 64 H. & T. RR. Company Survey, Taylor County, Texas, also known as the Schneider Oil & Gas Lease.

NOTICE—This sale will be for cash—A Cashiers check from a Taylor County bank will be accepted.

The Sale will be held at 2:00 PM and levied upon as the property of Cary-Chapman (C-C) Drilling, Corp. a Texas Corp. and that on the first Tuesday in March 1984, the same being the 6th day of said month at the Court House door, of Taylor County, in the City of Abilene Texas, between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m., by virtue of said

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Recent cemetery donors named

The Merkel Cemetery donations through January 13th are as follows:

In memory of Gertrude Johnson The Mitchell and Monrow families, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Howard, Clay and Gwyn Feagan with Jim, Joe and kids, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Weldon McAninch, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hays, Lloyd and Faye Robertson, and A.P. Johnson.

In memory of Minnie Carey Mabel McRee, Linna Hatley, Mrs. O.J. Harwell, Ida Mae McLean, Mrs. Jewell Christwell, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Walter, and Mr. and Mrs. L.R. Cockerall, Sr. and Estelle Humphries.

In memory of Blanche Teaff Mrs. Jewell Criswell, Mr. and Mrs. David Gamble, Billie Hartley, Mrs. Oren Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Earl Lassiter, Mr. and Mrs. Deverl Teaff, Fannelle Boney, Benny and Annette Melton, Laneita Teaff, Ester Sunday School Class of First Baptist Church, Estelle Humphries, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Boone, Mrs. Berneal Teaff, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Higgins, Mrs. Wilmer Criswell, Mrs. George T. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby DuBose, and the TEL Sunday School Class of First Baptist Church.

In memory of Jessye Shannon Mrs. Jewell Criswell, Ila Mae McLean, Billie Hartley, Oren Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Earl Lassiter, Mr. and Mrs. David Gamble, Estelle Humphries, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Boone, and Mr. and Mrs. Bobby DuBose.

In memory of Allie Butman Ila Mae McLain, Billie Hartley, Mrs. Oren Higgins, The Sam Butman family, David Gamble, Estelle Humphries, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Boone, and Mr. and Mrs. Bobby DuBose.

Other donations made were: Dr. and Mrs. W.T. Sadler in memory of Lulu Boaz Smith, Allen Higgins in memory of Donnie Cloyd, Oliver Rister, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Palmer in memory of Chester Bryant, Fred Stanford in memory of Donnie Cloyd, W.S.J. Brown in memory of Lulu Boaz Smith, Jack R. Sublett in memory of Euna Bella Orsborn, Lucy and Comer Haynes and Nell Teaff in memory of Yates Brown, Dr. and Mrs. Philip Weisbach, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Foster, Clark Mundy, T.E. Meeks, Bessie T. Merritt, Mrs. Arlene Richardson, J.D. Witcher, Ralph Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Riney, Etta D. Martin, Ima Higgins, Vera

Monroe in memory of L.C. and Effie Patton, Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Gouge, Joyce J. Adams, B.R. Dean, Mrs. George Smith, Mrs. J.W. Cole, Mrs. C.R. Tittle, Mrs. H.B. Finch, Bland Partnership, Mr. and Mrs. Felix Stalls, Charlotte Turner Sanders family in memory of Ike D. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Click Jr. in memory of Eli and Tillie Click, Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Gamble in memory of Mary Hargrove, G.W. Teaff Heirs, Clarence Collins, Lucille R. Nunnally, Mrs. Loyd Jinkens, Ted and Hazel Pargament in memory of Fred Starbuck, Mary Destine and Opal Garner, Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Osner, E.D. Landreth, Mary Anna Mayfield, Bessie T. Merritt in memory of Bertha Ensinger, Faye Henderson in memory of Happy Smith, Nadine Lennox, Fred Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Chaney in memory of Mitchell Chaney, Lulu Woods, Mrs. E. Yates Brown, Mr. and Mrs. David Gamble in memory of Mrs. Clyde Wurst, Don and Meddie Rollins in memory of M.E. Herron, Mr. and Mrs. 2 Bobby DuBose in memory of Mary Hargrove and Mrs. Wurst, Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Fox in memory of Mrs. Clyde Wurst, and Mr. and Mrs. Doyle R. Gray in memory of Mary Hargrove.

Governor Mark White REPORTS



AUSTIN - When children fail to master reading, writing and math skills before high school graduation, many public school critics are quick to point an accusing finger at elementary education.

But the problem is more complex and touches on parents' support of education in the home, a child's willingness to learn, strengths and weaknesses in the school curriculum, and overall funding for education.

When a child fails to learn, it also raises serious questions about how Texas colleges and universities teach tomorrow's teachers. Polls have shown that the public is willing to accept some form of tax increase to support improvements in education and higher teacher salaries, but expects improved classroom instruction for its money.

Texas' education experts admit that teacher training programs, now offered at 64 Texas colleges and universities, are not as effective as they could be.

Academic standards and quality of teacher education programs must be upgraded even if this results initially in a reduction in the number of student teachers. Course requirements for education majors should be strengthened in English, math, science, and foreign languages.

Support new state competency requirements for college students entering and exiting teacher education programs. Teacher candidates should demonstrate a basic knowledge of every subject in the general education program as well as an in-depth familiarity with the subjects the plan to teach.

Teaching techniques should not be emphasized at the expense of a thorough working knowledge of subject matter. It is just as important to know what to teach as how to teach.

But before graduation from college, prospective teachers should gain more practical classroom teaching experience. Too often student teachers complain that they do not have enough classroom contacts with children, particularly in the higher grades.

Additional classroom instruction experience would give student teachers more practice in maintaining discipline in the classroom. College education courses should teach different techniques in handling student behavioral problems, enabling student teachers to adopt an approach that will fit their individual needs.

Before Texas can attract and retain the brightest, most highly motivated people in the teaching profession, salaries must increase substantially. A new single set of standards for the teaching profession should be adopted, implemented, and reviewed on a regular basis by the State Board of Education. Teachers who fail to meet those standards should have the opportunity to take refresher courses to improve their skills.

Public notice

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: Alta Lee Stark, Respondent;

GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable 326th District Court, Taylor County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Abilene, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock a. m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the petition of George Wesley Stark, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 19th day of August, 1983, against Alta Lee Stark, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 9369-C on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Matter of The Marriage of George Wesley Stark and Alta Lee Stark", the nature of which suit is a request to obtain a divorce from the defendant.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgement or decree in the child's interest.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgement or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property which will be binding upon you.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgement or decree in the child's interest which will be binding upon you.

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 serve the same according to the requirements of law and the mandates hereof, and make due returns as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this 23rd day of January, 1984.

Rilla Mahoney, Clerk 32th District Court Taylor County, Texas by Johnnie Woodard Deputy

(Signature) 47-1tc

Tye Elementary honor roll

The Tye Elementary Honor Roll is as follows:

FIRST GRADE - CURRY

FIRST GRADE A - Curry

Don Gavender, Heather Davis, Kellie Edwards, Crystal Grooms Brad Locke, and Michael Tucker.

FIRST GRADE AB - CURRY

Jennifer Bermea, Nikki Peddicord, and Eddy Schmoeker.

FIRST GRADE A - GREER

Debbie Bateman, Crystal Gayle, Hope Maxwell, and Nesha Pritchard.

FIRST GRADE AB - GREER

Russell Colvin, and Jimmy Holshouser.

SECOND GRADE A

Robin Bishop, Brian Miller, Josh Perry, Stacey Powell, and Sandi Wood.

SECOND GRADE AB

Joey Coffey, Buster Davis, Jennifer Davis, Chad Fambrough, Jennifer Johnson, and Angel Massey.

THIRD GRADE A-SIMS

THIRD GRADE AB-SIMS

Mendy Law, Sam Murdock, Lori Snowden, Danny Williamson, and Donnie Windland.

THIRD GRADE A-TIDWELL

Tami Sims.

THIRD GRADE AB-TIDWELL

Cody Parker, Michael Stanley and Jay Beaird.

FOURTH GRADE A-EVERETT

Son Hui Chon, Greg Parker, and Cheryl Wood.

FOURTH GRADE AB

Becky Donaldson, Trilena Dorrich, Melissa Maxwell, Danny Sheffield, Chad Taylor, Shawn Taylor, Kim Tucker, and Hope Ward.

FIFTH GRADE A-DEAN

Cristi Moore and Jana Daniell

FIFTH GRADE AB-DEAN

Rodney Bunselmeyer, Dennis Griffin, Alicia Helms, Chris McCartney, Troy Sims, and Shawanda Warren.

WHEELER AB

Jody Lang, Jamie McClintock and Ricky Williams.

Merkel Elementary honor roll

FIRST GRADE A

Crystal, Boone, Bryce Buntin, Chris Burks, Karley Byers, Roberto Canto, Jason Clinton, Teresa Cuellar, Steven Deitz, Eric Dye, Augustine Gonzales, and Kevin Graham.

Laurie Hellums, Adolfo Hernandez, Martin Hernandez, Tiffany Hill, Trinity Hollis, Marijke Holmes, Angela Jowers, Ruthie Lerma, Distin Lewis, Marcus Malone, Trisha Marsh, Ladina McCullough, Ray Pace, Chris Powell, and Alma Prieto.

Scott Richardson, Amilee Robertson, Joe Ben Roberts, Jackie Rogers, Amanda Sanders, Jonathan Slouer, Brandi Tarpley, T.J. Valdez, Gregg Valentine, and Jeffery Wilkerson.

FIRST GRADE A & B

Rosemary Barrantez, Lisa Biera, Robert Butman, Tiffany Butman, Rickki Casady, David Fenton, Jason Dutton, Juan Gonzales, Justin Harris, Noe Landeros, Julie Lanford, Modesta Leija, Cole Manahan, Stacy Morris, and Amanda Myers.

Chuck Oustad, Lori Pirraglia, Leno Ramirez, Joey Richards, Cne Seymore, Holli Shipley, Robert, Smith, John Sudderth, Andy Taylor, Kary Toliver, Stephanie Valdez, Richard Washington, and Nancy White.

SECOND GRADE A

Jamie Alexander, V e l m a DeLeon, Anita Glasscock, Mikki

Griffith, Dana Hammond, Lisa Harding, Heather Henderson, Carmen Holden, Melanie Mitchell, Jodie Penny, Erin Sams, Manuel Sanchez, Nathan Stamper, and Mark Wright.

SECOND GRADE A & B

Richard Adkins, Doug Alldredge, Kelly Atkinson, Judd Burton, Lydia Brubaker, Jenny Campbell, Wendy Cummings, Corey Dennis, Robert Flores, Juanita Gilchrist, Erika Gonzales, Nellie Gonzales, and Mandy Gregory.

Shawn Hallford, Jason Harrison, Jason Hernandez, Mandy Householder, Laura Johns, Linda Layher, Roy Lehmann, Stefanie Moreno, Jason Nalley, Cody Pack, Lana Rogers, Corley Segovia, Micheal Valdez, Billy Vera Cruz, Timerie Washington, Shane Weaver, Maurice Williams, and Ricky Ybarra.

THIRD GRADE A

Tammy Graham, Patrick Harrison, Jason Heuerman, Susan Holden, Caleb Kelso, Delayne Pack, Renli Reynolds, Andrea Richardson, Shelly Seymore, Trinh Tran, and Krystal West.

THIRD GRADE A & B

Tanner Boyd, Shayla Carter, Matt Gravens, Spencer Duncan, Kris Harris, Alisha Hobbs, Stacy Jones, Jennifer, McKee, Angie Nault, Cliff Owen, and Tommy Tumlinson.

FOURTH GRADE A

Tanya Beasley, Scott Cannon, Dayna Doan, Rebecca Dunigan, Lisa Fenton, Julie Harding, Dawn Henslee, Jennifer Hobbs, Michelle Ingram, Lillian Leach, Treska McCullough, Shayla Miller, Kristie A. Smith, Dristi G. Smith, Lori Thompson, and Brandi Watts.

FOURTH GRADE A & B

Fidel Avalos, Peppy Avalos, Amanda Biera, Queena Bigbee, Kim Conners, Donna Denman, Josh Gilmore, Christy Hull, Elizabeth Hernandez, James Hill, James Johnson, Stephanie Jones, Sha Lang, Christy Minze, Steven Moreno, Robert Pace, Billy Page, Zacky Rodriguez, Eilyn Rutledge, Amy Sparks, Trisha Trevino, Coty Vaughn, and Criswell Whisenhunt.

FIFTH GRADE A

Phuong Thao Tran and Daniel West.

FIFTH GRADE A & B

Melannie Baker, Jamie Beasley, Robert Franzier, Cara Kelso, Sean Leamon, Keri Sams, Kevin Slouer, Michelle Smith, and Brandon Toombs.

5th Sunday sing

The 5th Sunday singing will be held at the 1st Assembly of God at Runnels and North 2nd at 2 p.m.

Public notice

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ELSIE ANDERSON, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ELSIE ANDERSON, Deceased, were issued on January 23, 1984, in Cause No. 16,103, pending in the County Court (Probate) of Taylor County, Texas to:

DELIA ELIZABETH EVANS

The residence of such Executrix is Taylor County, Texas. The post office address is:

DELIA ELIZABETH EVANS

1337 Mulberry Abilene, Texas 79601

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

DATED the 23rd day of January, 1984.

DON R. WILSON

P. O. Box 2875

Abilene, Texas 79604

(915) 677-1351

State Bar No. 21675000

ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE

47-1tc

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BORDENS CHOCOLATE MILK
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Grains should recover weather

While the late December cold wave that swept Texas dealt a heavy blow to grazing from small grains, most of the crops should recover.

That assessment comes from Dr. Travis Miller, agronomist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University System.

"Both wheat and oats were burned back severely by the long period of extremely cold weather," says Miller. "Oats were especially hard hit along with late-planted wheat that had not yet developed tillers (secondary stems)."

Miller noted that a considerable amount of wheat was damaged in central and western areas because it was planted late due to a lack of soil moisture last fall. Some of this was replanted wheat where early stands had been poor due to dry conditions followed by heavy rains in October.

To check for freeze damage, Miller suggests looking at the growing point or crown node of the plant about one-half inch

below the soil surface. Cut the middle of the stem with a sharp knife and look for green material. If the growing point appears water-soaked or brownish in color, the plant is dead. Live plants will generally revive and green color will be restored after a week to ten days of favorable weather.

"The best thing for producers to do right now is to let cattle graze off the dead topgrowth," says Miller. "This is high quality forage with up to 15 percent crude protein. If the small grains were severely frosted, take cattle off the fields to enable plants to recover once this dead growth is removed. If a considerable amount of green leaves remain, continue normal grazing operations. Mild weather is needed and some areas need additional moisture to facilitate regrowth."

The agronomist advises producers to let small grains put forth 4 to 6 inches of new growth before grazing them again. Overgrazing fields prior to the December cold led to heavier

than usual freeze damage to wheat and oats in some areas.

In addition to keeping cattle off small grains to speed up recovery, Miller also advises against applying fertilizer at this time. "Fertilizing now would just cause a flush of tender growth which would be highly susceptible to more cold weather," he says.

Small grains should be top-dressed with nitrogen just before the jointing stage of growth, or about the time cattle are pulled off to enable grain production, notes the agronomist. This ranges from mid-February in southern areas to early March in the plains.

Texas boasts about 7.4 million acres of wheat this year and about 1.5 million acres of oats. About 70 percent of the oats planted are grazed out by livestock, but a good portion of the wheat is left to make a grain crop, Miller says. Depending on weather conditions the rest of the winter and into the spring, the Texas wheat crop should not be reduced significantly due to frigid conditions in December.

FFA: more than weighing pigs

This being mid-term we would like to concentrate on the many learning activities the FFA has to offer. Everyone knows the great work of our members at stock shows and other out of class activities, but few really understand the fact that FFA is more than stock shows.

So far this year, the General Ag Mechanics Class has studied the importance of mechanics in agriculture, the purpose and procedures of keeping accurate records, employment opportunities, choosing an occupation, employer-employee relation-

ships, leadership, shop safety, principles of the 2 and 4 stroke cycle engine, disassembly and assembly of the small engine, operating oxy-acetylene equipment for cutting, welding, tempering and hardsurfacing, operating electric welding equipment and analysis of ag products.

The VA4 class has studied career opportunities in Agriculture, procedure of keeping accurate records, agricultural management, which includes planning for production, soil and

water conservation, planning a livestock program, planning a cropping system, planning the use of labor, legal relationships which include water rights, boundary lines, fencing rights, rights of way, livestock and seed laws, farm appraisal, legal instruments, marketing of agricultural products, leadership, palpation of cattle, artificial insemination, and analysis of ag products.

As you can clearly see, the Vocation Ag class consists of a lot more than stock shows and weighing pigs.



By: Billy E. Clark, CPA
112 Edwards
Merkel
928-5663

7th grade girls keep rolling

by Susan McAdams
The 7th grade girls basketball team beat Wylie Monday. The game was very exciting, despite the low score. Michelle Barnett scored 5 to lead the team.

We only have a few games left. We play at 3:30 Thursday at an 8th grade tournament and Jan. 30 we play at Clyde. The season will end with a home game Feb. 6th with Breckenridge.

Ag check-off legal here

The recent amendment to the Texas Constitution that passed in the general election has legalized the Texas agricultural check-off program.

Although the Texas Agricultural Check-off Act was passed in 1967 and revised in 1969, it was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1975.

"Now that the act has been legalized through the election process, agricultural commodity groups will be able to proceed in setting up check-off or 'self-help' programs," points out Dr. Bill Black, economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University System. "In these programs growers pay a certain fee when they sell their product so as to finance educational, research and market development projects for the benefit of their particular product."

Many commodity groups already have such programs in

place, including growers of wheat, grain sorghum, pecans and peanuts.

"Growers generally feel the check-off program will give industry groups an opportunity to build better markets for their commodities and thereby provide more employment on as well as off the farm," says Black.

The check-off program works this way. Any commodity group that wants to set up such a program must first file a petition with the state commissioner of agriculture. The commissioner must then set in motion a referendum in which producers vote "yes" or "no" regarding the establishment of a check-off program. A two-thirds favorable vote or a favorable vote to those producing at least 50 percent of the commodity is required to put the program into effect.

Once the program is approved, all growers are required to

participate. However, growers that do not support the program's efforts may file for a refund of their contributions, which, in turn, must be honored.

Each program is governed by a board (of producers) which decides on how contributions will be spent. An accounting of expenditures has to be made to the commissioner of agriculture.

"We need better and bigger markets for the products we produce, both in the United States and abroad, and the check-off program can be an important tool in this effort," contends Black. "Expanded markets are vital to the American farmer if he is to survive financially. We know we can produce; we just need more and better markets for our products. But market development is costly process, and this is where the check-off funds can be a big help."

1984 should be so-so Ag year

While it may not be a banner year for agriculture, 1984 should bring some improvement in Texas farm income over the depressed conditions of recent years.

"We could have a 10 to 15 percent increase in farm income over 1983," points out Dr. Carl Anderson, economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University System.

Anderson sees an increase in farm earnings due to slightly higher prices, fairly steady production costs and continued improvement in demand for farm commodities.

"However, there is a dark cloud hanging over crop producers," contends the economist. "The potential for over-production is there. It could take hold again and put farmers right back where they were a year ago—facing surplus commodities and depressed markets."

Government programs are offering farmers higher target prices and larger deficiency payments in 1984 which should boost cash flows for participants, notes Anderson.

However, the voluntary nature of the programs and the \$50,000 payment limitations will not entice enough farmers to participate so as to have a major effect on curbing production.

"Without doubt, farmers will be facing either tighter production controls or lower prices for the next several years," says Anderson. "At current demand, some crop acreage must be retired. However, the mood in Washington reflects a more flexible farm policy, less government control and market-oriented programs for the 1985 farm bill."

For 1984 farmers with strong management skills in producing, financing and marketing

and with little or no debt should do well, says the economist. But agricultural lenders will tighten up on credit conditions, with the Farm Credit System and the Farmers Home Administration handling an increasing number of loans.

Ranchers, like farmers, should see some improvement in prices during 1984, notes Anderson. Reduced beef and pork supplies should help market prices along with an improved demand resulting from continued economic recovery. However, heavy marketing of cull dairy cows as a result of the new dairy program could dampen meat prices somewhat.

As far as land values are concerned, Anderson sees cropland prices stagnating or declining slightly, especially in prime agricultural areas such as the Texas High Plains. But he expects Texas ranchland values to continue to advance faster than the rate of inflation.

Home Computers

You need to know what you want and buy what fits your needs

A home computer may be just another household appliance, but purchasing one is certainly not like buying a refrigerator or stereo set.

Home computers are being mass produced, but they are not a mass product with a high degree of standardization, says Bonnie Piernot, a specialist with Texas A&M University's Agricultural Extension Service home economics program.

Computers are powerful tools designed to be used in highly individual ways, so consumers will probably never find it as simple to select a home computer as other appliances, she says.

The more a consumer knows about how computers work and what they can do, the easier it will be to match a system to his or her needs, says the specialist. This requires becoming familiar with the jargon and the wealth of information about micro-computers that is now readily available.

Trade magazines and books, computer user groups, adult education and community college courses and friends who own computers are all excellent resources, she notes.

Before buying a computer, Piernot suggests that you identify your needs and those of all potential users in your family. Typical home computer applications include word processing, games, educational programs, data base management, financial recordkeeping and telecommunications.

To help determine what models to consider, try to project what you will do with your computer in a year's time, says Piernot.

Microcomputer prices range from under \$100 to over \$500, but machines under \$300 have limited capabilities. Since system prices vary from computer to computer and there is no one best machine for everyone, consumers should try to balance

their needs against their budget. According to Piernot, a specialist in family financial management, the addition of a home computer requires careful budgeting, since there are many hidden costs.

In addition to the cost of the basic computer, you will need to budget for software, which can be expensive. Word processors, for example, can cost as much as \$500.

Other necessary expenses could include blank storage disks or cassette tapes and a small television set or video monitor, says the specialist. A desk, chair and lamp are also part of the typical home computer workspace as well.

Piernot also recommends budgeting time can be equally important," she says, "since it may take several weeks or even months for you to become familiar with your computer and to learn how to use it effectively."

MEDICAL DEDUCTIONS

Fees for doctors, hospital services, transportation for medical treatment, and medicines and drugs are deductible if you itemize your deductions. For 1983 you may only deduct medical expenses that are more than 5% of your adjusted gross income so be sure to check details in free IRS Publication 502 "Medical and Dental Expenses," available by using the handy order blank in your tax package.

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