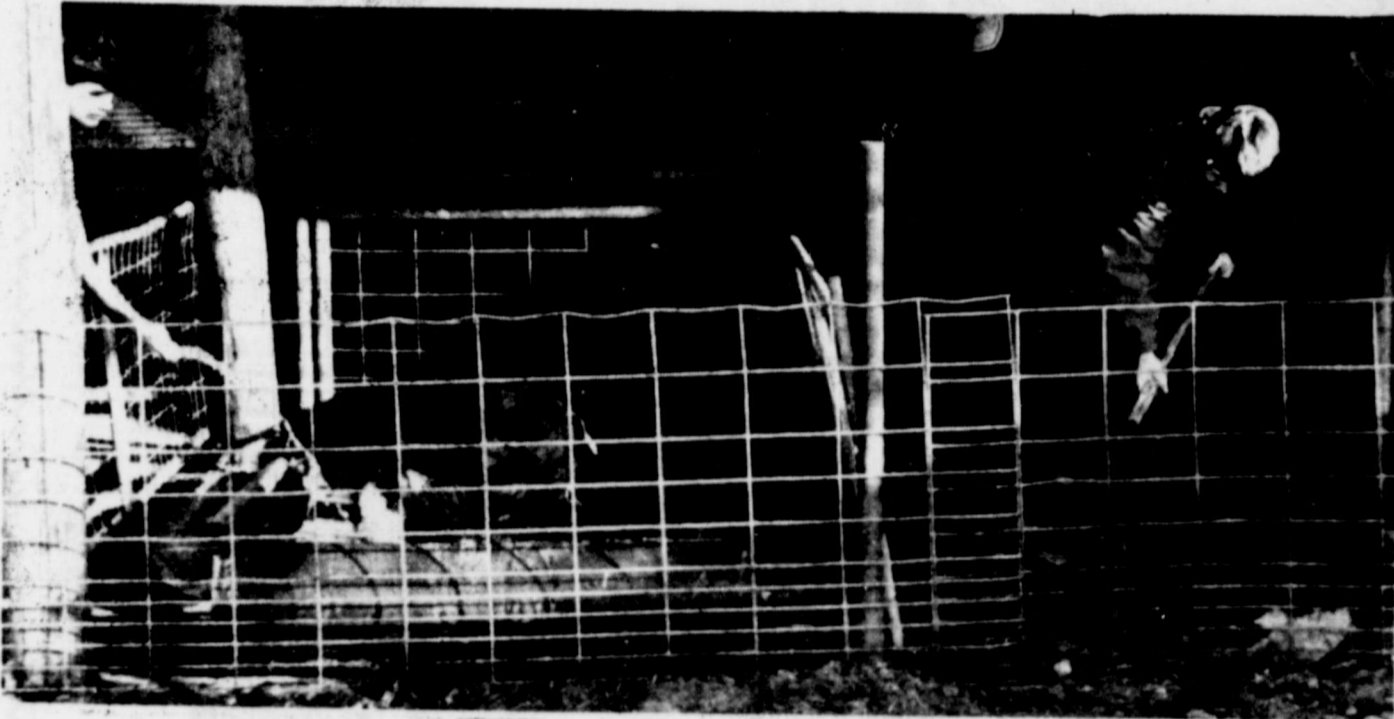


The Merkel Mail

Thursday, December 13, 1984... Merkel, Texas

Our 96th Year



Merkel FFA members have been busy this week cleaning, clipping, shoveling, watering and

getting ready in general for Saturday's annual local stock show. Judging will get started at 9 a.m. Saturday with lambs being

judged first. About 100 local students will be exhibiting their animals at the stock show.

Staff photo

Annual FFA stock show Saturday

The annual Merkel FFA stock show will be Saturday starting at 9 a.m. at the FFA barn area.

Classes in this year's event include lambs, breeds of swine, classes of steers, heifers, gilts and rabbits. Lambs will be the first

class shown and judged Saturday.

About 100 Merkel FFA and 4-H members will be competing in the show. Also, Taylor Electric Co-Op will present a showmanship trophy to the student having the best showmanship skills.

The Merkel Livestock Association is currently collecting donations to finance the show.

Those wishing to contribute are asked to contact Merkel FFA instructors Billy Riley or J. T. Naron at Merkel High.

Early deadlines for holidays

After six years in the newspaper business here we felt we had been through everything one can go through but the calendar threw us a curve this year and we will be having some odd deadlines for the remainder of the year.

Next week's paper will be the Christmas edition and, as usual, the deadline for all material is noon, Tuesday.

We will then impose a 5 p.m.

deadline, Friday for the edition that will be dated December 27th and a 5 p.m. Friday (Dec. 28) deadline for the edition dated Jan. 3, 1985.

The early deadlines are necessary because Christmas falls on Tuesday this year, as does New Year's Day. Although we love the newspaper business here, we are kind of fond of Christmas and New Year's, so the need for the early deadlines.

To make it easy to remember deadline is normal this coming Tuesday, and will be at 5 p.m. Friday for the next two weeks.

We appreciate your anticipated cooperation through the holiday period. Also, the papers will be mailed out on their normal day each week (Wednesday). When they arrive at your house is at the hands of the U. S. Mail.

by Cloy Richards

Tax rebates here off 12.72 %

Retail sales here continue to run well behind the pace of 1983 according to a news release from the State Comptroller's Office.

Tax rebates here are 12 per cent behind those of last year. So far this year, the city has received \$4,170.34 in rebates for the city's share of the state sales tax.

Through the same reporting period last year, Merkel had received \$70,066.21 representing a decrease of 12.72 per cent. Impact is the only other Taylor county community that is showing a decline at this point in time.

Tye is running 11.59 per cent ahead of payments this year and

thus far has collected \$61,092.16 in sales tax rebates.

The state sales tax is collected by local merchants at point of sale and paid the the State Comptroller. The state rebates one per cent of the tax collected back to the local community where the tax was collected.

Why are retail sales here off when we are growing; pursuing other matters

by Cloy A. Richards

I read a few news releases I had received over the last week and I really can't figure them out.

One is a report from the State Comptroller's Office that says sales tax rebates here are off almost 13 per cent. That is the only local measure of retail sales performance released by any government agency and that is not good news, by any stretch of the imagination.

What that means is that our merchants aren't collecting as much in sales tax as they were last year and that can only mean that total sales are not what they were 12 months ago.

Some pass that off by saying it wasn't much of a crop year and they are, of course, right, to a point.

Although farmers didn't have hardly any receipts from crop sales, well over \$1 million has been paid to local farmers during this year from Crop Insurance, disaster payments and other federal programs.

Unemployment in Taylor County still remains low so people are working and they are spending money- somewhere- not here.

We all know that the town East of us gets a lot of our business, although their merchants don't ask for the business through **The Mail** or other advertising mediums available to them. No, it's more like a donation to the City of Abilene out of the goodness of their hearts. You don't see Abilene crews here fighting fires, patching streets, making ambulance runs. No, Merkel people do that. We tend to take care of ourselves because that's how life is in the big leagues.

Merkelites can go a long way in helping us help ourselves by keeping our dollars at home.

Also, reports released last week by the US Census department places Merkel's population near 2,800, up 8 and a half percent since the 1980 Census. That's inside the city limits and rural Taylor County is growing at a rate of 12 per cent a year. We are

growing and growing at a pretty good clip.

The Texas Education Agency also released "weighted student enrollment" figures last week and they show we have more students in our school system than other communities of about the same size.

In other words, we have more people living in the city, close to the city and using our schools and public services. Increased populations only help a community if the people who live and work here also support their community economically.

So far, in 1984, we have done a lousy job of doing so.

There are a host of activities lined up this weekend and they both deserve your support.

Please see Page 2

Council approves sale of tv cable here; buys insurance for volunteer fire department

The Merkel City Council approved the sale of Showtime Cablevision, the carrier for Merkel tv cable here Monday night. Bill Little, owner of Showtime announced that his cable companies on Roscoe, Buffalo Gap, Tuscola and Merkel will be purchased by Big Country Cablevision, a Dallas based group that has cable operations in Mississippi and Louisiana. The group also has purchased the cable operations in Robert Lee, Bronte and Grape Creek.

Council also voted to pay \$1,800 for a three year insurance plan on voluntary firemen at their regular meeting held at the Merkel Emergency Medical Service Building.

Appearing before the council, Bill Little of Showtime said the reason for the sale was ill-health. He has been told he will need heart by-pass surgery and he said "The cable tv business tends to be a stressful business." Little said "we have enjoyed serving Merkel and we have spent the major part of \$100,000 here in improvements in addition to adding channels. Showtime also sought and had a price increase approved by council during the period of service here.

Texas law requires city council approval of all cable tv franchises in the area the franchise will serve.

Appearing for Big Country

Cablevision was Bill Green, a vice-president and operations manager for the firm. He said their company presently serves about 25,000 customers in three states. He also said "We find this system to be in very good shape and we won't have many problems coming into Merkel. We are excited to be coming into this area."

Green also said the company will keep a permanent business office in Tuscola and Merkel mayor Kent Satterwhite questioned that location since Merkel was the largest subscriber of the four cable companies involved in the sale. Green also said his firm would locate a service man either here or in Roscoe and that billing would be changed, scrapping the coupon payments in lieu of a computerized billing system in Dallas.

Council approved the sale of the company after going over an ordinance prepared by Abilene attorney Gary Hacker.

In other action council approved \$1,800 over the next three years to pay for accident insurance offered by the Volunteer Fireman's Insurance Services. The policy will pay up to \$2,500 per accident and will cover the Merkel Volunteer Fire Department volunteers from the time they leave their home to fight the fire until they return home. Currently, the firemen are not protected from on-the-job injuries.

Council also learned the computer purchased for general ledger maintenance and water-sewer-sanitation billings should be in operation by the January billing cycle.

The city also recently had a water well drilled by Higgins & Sons here to provide fresh water for chlorination of waste water at the water treatment plant. The state required fresh water to be used in the chlorination process and the well cost the city \$1,345, complete with pumps and casings set. Council also gave Merkel city manager J. A. Sadler permission to seek a loan at the F & M Bank here for payment to Nobles Construction for paving here. The city will pledge delinquent taxes to pay off the note. Council also approved an expenditure of \$3,900 for a new trench to be dug at the Merkel City Landfill, also by Nobles Construction.

In another move, council dispensed with their next meeting this month since it falls on Christmas Eve. Councilmen agreed to a special, called meeting if the need arises.

Councilmen were also invited to attend a meeting of the Big Country Firefighters Association tonight (Thursday) at Heritage Hall at 7:30 p.m. The Merkel Fire Department will be showing off their new fire-rescue vehicle at that meeting.

Merkel police have busy November

The Merkel police department worked a total of 96 cases in November, according to the police report presented by Merkel Police Chief Ray Pack at Monday's Merkel city council meeting.

Those cases included two cases of criminal mischief; four of

criminal damage; three run-aways; one kidnapping; four accidents; a hit and run; a case of car theft; seven dog calls with eight dogs picked up.

Also, police worked eight prowler and window peeping calls; issued 29 traffic citations, worked two cases of assault; three cases

of public intoxication; five family disturbance calls.

Police also investigated four thefts, three burglaries made eight misdemeanor arrests and five felony arrests.

Chief Pack termed the month "a busy one."

Merkel, area police break burglary ring

The Merkel Police Department, in cooperation with the Taylor County Sheriff's Office, the Abilene Police Department and the county sheriff's office in Duncan, Okla. cleared 29 county burglaries with four arrests recently. Three of the men are being held at

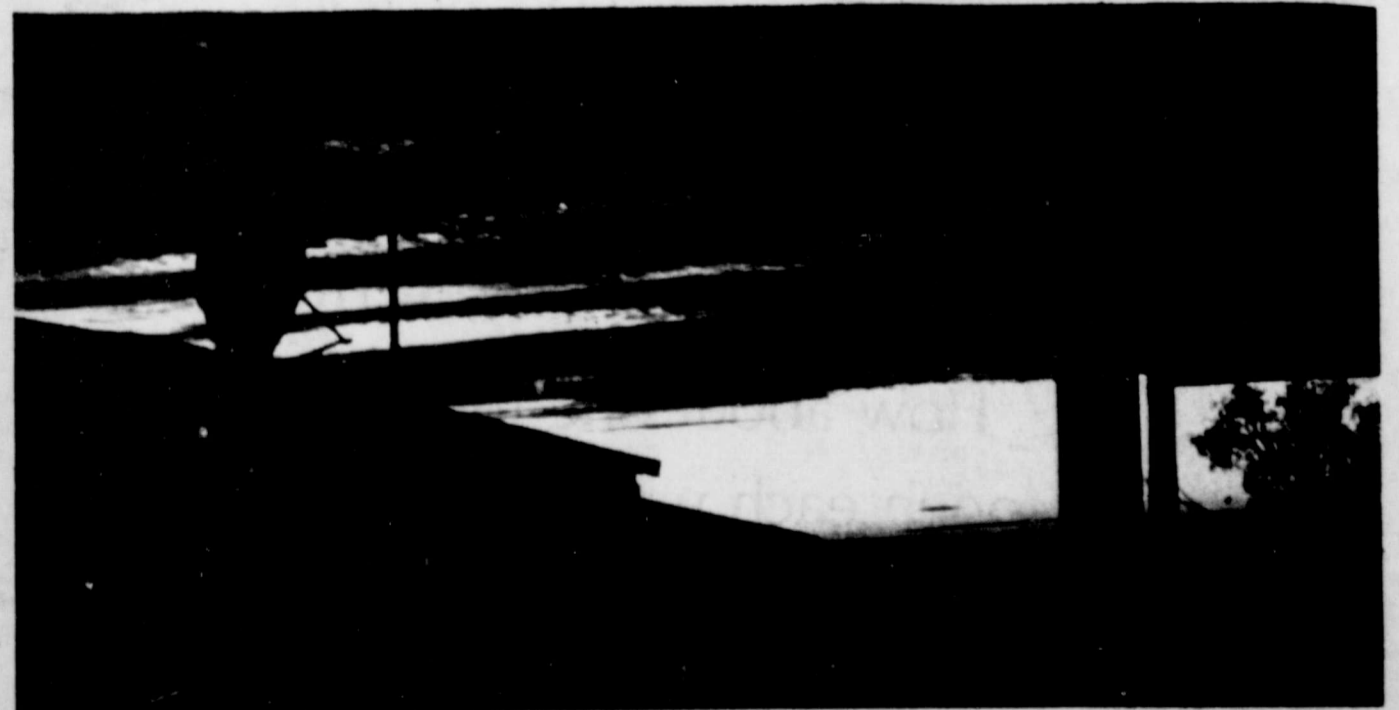
Taylor County Jail and the other is being held in Oklahoma.

The arrests and recovery of almost \$10,000 in merchandise cleared three local burglaries, including a residential burglary at the Clyde Bunch residence, and a vehicle burglary at Max Murrell Chevy, as well as the burglary of a

truck belonging to Walter Harris.

Merkel Police Chief Ray Pack told **The Mail** Tuesday the arrests also cleared some burglaries on Oklahoma.

Pack also said the recent burglary at Joe's Boot Barn was still unsolved but they have some clues in the case.



The December sunsets here have been striking as we have had clouds in the late evenings. This

shot shows a local barn at sunset and was taken Saturday evening. On the other side of the sky, an

almost full moon was about to start casting its artwork across the sky.

Staff photo

Social Security, cable changes hit here

The annual Merkel Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade is Saturday at 10 a.m. and is the traditional arrival of Santa here. Most of the local children have always supported the parade well and there will be trophies awarded for Best Bicycle, Best Horse, Best Vehicle and Best Float by the Chamber.

Also Saturday is the Merkel FFA stock show. This is also an annual, traditional event where local FFA students show off their projects they have worked on all year.

The show is always well supported by the community in both attendance and donations.

Don't blame us if you don't have anything to do next Saturday.

The Dallas Cowboys nailed their own coffin shut Sunday, didn't they?

Yessir, even if the strange world of the NFL does go topsy-turvy on the last week of the season, the Cowboys must handle Miami on Monday night to even have a shot at the playoffs, which doesn't look at all promising at this point.

You'll have to start thinking of a team to adopt during the playoffs because it looks like the Lone Star State will not be represented.

The Social Security Admini-

stration and the IRS, two names that usually strike fears into the hearts of older Americans, will soon be sending out forms that will, for the first time, require about 10 percent of social security recipients to pay an income tax on their SS checks.

The tax will be on one half the annual benefits paid if the recipient makes over \$25,000 per year for an individual, \$32,000 for a married couple filing a joint return and \$25,000 for a married person who files separately but did not live with a spouse at any time during the year. Hardest hit will be married couples who lived together during any part of 1984 and filed separate returns.

The tax will be based on one half of the Social Security checks received during the year.

The IRS estimated that 9.2 million Senior Citizens will call in to have the program explained to them and that the program would affect between 12 to 15 million Senior Citizens.

The taxes will pump an extra \$2.3 billion into the IRS this year and a total of \$27 billion in the next five years. They also estimated 17 percent of all social security recipients will be paying the tax by 1990 because the tax was not indexed for inflation.

And we heard all during the

campaign that Social Security would be left alone.

Bah humbug.

Showtime Cablevision has announced they were selling out to a Dallas firm and that move was approved by the Merkel City Council Monday night.

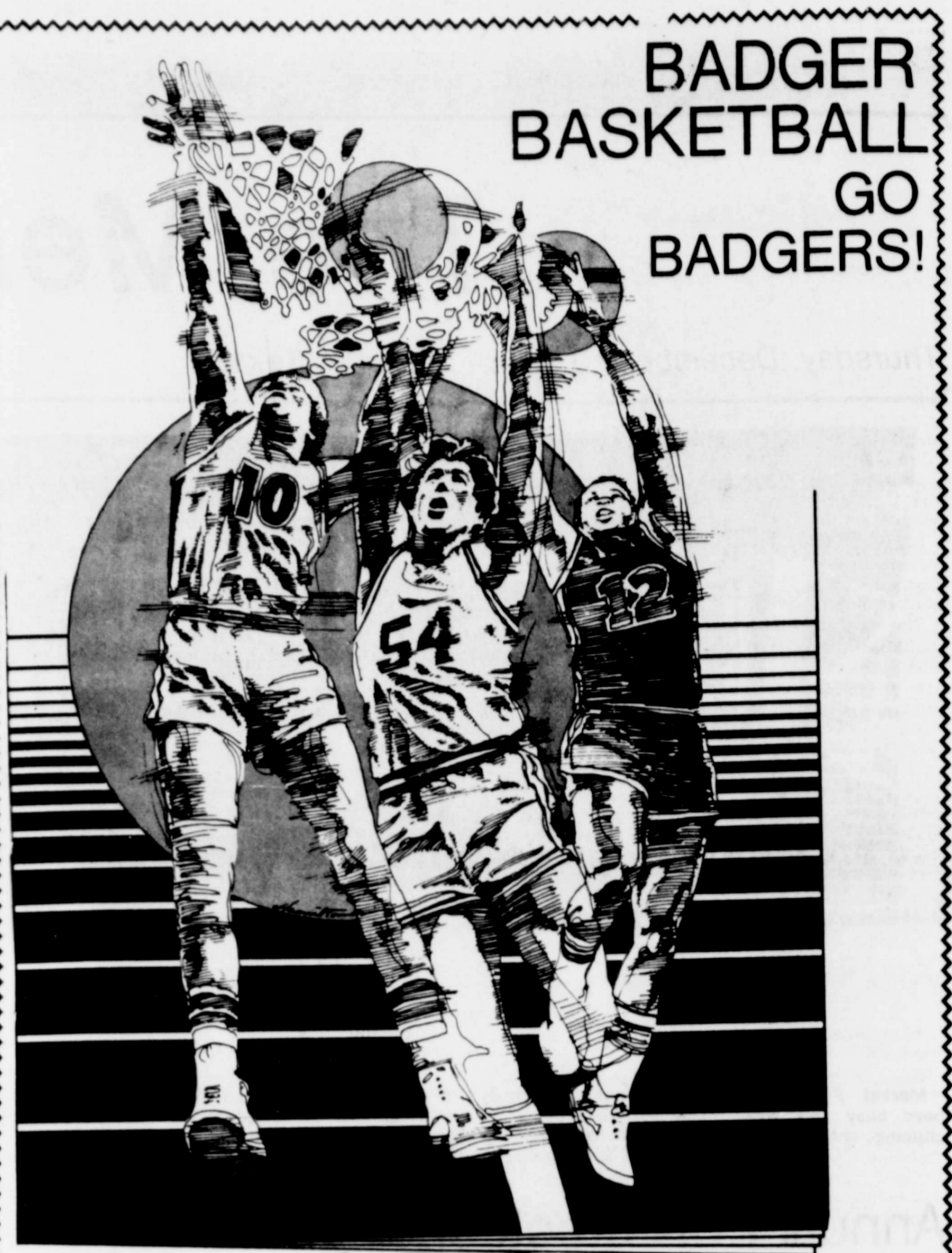
The buyers are Big Country Cablevision of Dallas. The reason for the sale is the health of Bill Little, the current owner of the carrier for Merkel cable.

Just mention cable to some folks here and they see red. The local cable system has had technical problems, although they are more isolated than in the past. Little said his company spent about \$100,000 in repairs.

Big Country's Bill Green, a vice-president of the company said his group has about 25,000 subscribers in three states, recently getting into Texas with the purchase of systems in Robert Lee-Bronte.

Green also told council they would keep the office in Tuscola and would locate a serviceman either in Roscoe or here.

He also said the billing system would be changed and move to a computerized monthly statement instead of the coupon mail in system currently used.



If you can't find where you are going maybe you got off the trail

by Russell McAnally

Happy trails to you.

Are there any trails around your place?

A few days ago I realized there was a cow trail from my barn to an oat patch. It was good to see this trail and to realize I had at least one trail. There are deer trails, ant trails, children trails as they "cut across" on their way to school. Trails are important indications of life and patterns of living.

One day I saw a path from the front door to the back door of a home and learned that their little dog, through the years, had worn a deep trail through grass and other obstacles. Civilization was made from East to West by travelers following trails, which became rural roads and then highways. It takes time, determination and patience to make trails. The town of Slaton has streets coming into town from five directions to end in the center of town which was once a water hole and the present streets were at one time cattle trails.

When I was a young man, I learned a lesson about trails. The drought of the "Thirties" sent most young men to the Plains of Texas in search of jobs to help put groceries on the family table. My search ended near Tulia on a ranch and wheat farm. The first week on the job called for me to drive a tractor pulling a combine about five miles to a wheat field. Detailed directions were given me as the journey called for a three mile stretch across a cattle pasture with a few guiding landmarks. One landmark was a windmill and stock tank in the middle of the pasture. As it would be dark by the time I reached the windmill, I was told my travel would be easy as all I had to do was to find a cow trail and follow it to the water hole and windmill.

The trail was found and all was well until I came to the water hole. The trail was faint at first but became deeper as I neared the windmill. The windmill was left behind as I tried to head directly West to my goal. It became a very lonely feeling as I tried to remember what my boss had told

me about leaving the windmill going away from the landmark. There were trails going away from the windmill but I plainly saw and remembered the boss man had said "You can't follow the trails going away from the windmill because they aren't going anywhere."

People following the same trails is what has made tradition. It simply means that we do the same things in the same way following the same pattern for a period of time until we automatically do the same thing year after year. If trails are not going anywhere and there is no goal or reward at the end of the trail, it will soon vanish.

Christmas is a tradition and it has been rewarding. We will do the same thing again this year, but it never gets monotonous. Everyone follows trails in life but we should be sure the trails we follow are going somewhere. We will follow the old trails because people travel here—we need to make new trails for those coming after us so they will have better trails to follow.

"Happy trails to you" this Christmas.

This week's schedule

- Dec. 17 7, 8, 9th Grade boys at Breckenridge 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 17 7, 8, 9th Grade girls here against Breckenridge at 5:30
- Dec. 14-15 Varsity girls & boys hosting The Merkel Classic
- Dec. 18 Varsity girls & boys and JV boys at Rotan 5 p.m.
- Dec. 20 Varsity boys & girls & JV boys and girls here against Haskell 4 p.m.

LAST-MINUTE GIFTS

Trying to find a gift for a former Merkelite?

How about one they can open each week for a year?

Give them a Mail subscription

We will send a Christmas card telling them who subscribed for them

\$10 per year in county \$11.75 in Texas \$12.50 Out of State

Call 928-5712 to start that gift subscription today

Starbuck Furniture 201 Edwards 928-4711	Taylor Electric 1610 N 1st 928-4715
Palmer Pontiac & GMC 1208 N 1st 928-5113	Rae-Rac 1107 N 2nd 928-5031
Carson's Supermarket 217 Edwards 928-5231	D & T Automotive 924 N 1st 928-4954
Merkel Drug 121 Edwards 928-5012	Merkel Brick & Lumber 102 Lamar 928-5014
Hi-Val Farm & Home Supply 604 Kent 928-5632	Braggs Department Store 213 Edwards 928-5811
Wylie Truck Terminal & Shamrock I-20 E 928-5584	Farmers & Merchants National Bank 111 Edwards 928-4728
Taylor Telephone I-20 928-4733	P & L Auto Parts 135 Edwards 928-4738

Editor couldn't be happier with ruling

by Cloy A. Richards

Although all of the facts weren't in Tuesday evening as I sat down to write the following comments, enough was known to make a few simple points.

I am referring to the case tried in federal court in Abilene last week that pitted two former Tye policemen against the City of Tye, their former and current mayor.

The point of law in the case centered around a clause of the State Open Meeting Act that allows employees of state governmental bodies the right to a closed or open hearing if they are being terminated.

Local governmental employees include all school personnel, all city employees, all county employees and all state employees.

The act stipulates employees do have the right to a fair hearing when they are being terminated and can demand to know the reasons and face their accusers.

The Texas Open Meeting Act is dear to the heart of all Texas journalists because it also is the only law in this state that requires governmental agencies in this state to hold public meetings, with proper notice, so media and other interested parties can attend and see their governments in action.

The federal court ruling against

former Tye mayor Jim Snowden means a lot to me professionally and should mean the same to every other person in this business in this state.

The ruling says that Jim Snowden acted outside the law by violating the civil rights of the two former policemen by not providing the fair opportunity to a proper hearing once his intentions were made public to oust the duo.

Snowden acted like a one man government and that just doesn't do in this country.

He is responsible to the people he governs, as well as the people in his employment at the local government level.

Snowden was quoted by KTAB tv after the verdict that if he had the same thing to do, he'd do it the same way again. He has, in his public and private comments, given me the impression that he, and he alone, ran the city of Tye and I thought those kind of things only happened in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, maybe Duvall, Texas or in some parishes in Louisiana. Those are the only ones you hear about these days until Snowden made statewide news with his actions at Tye.

This ruling in the court was made on a point of law that had not been contested in the federal courts and should serve as a

warning to politicians at all levels of governments in this state. If you start to act like you, and you alone are in charge of things, then you and you alone had best get yourself a dadgummed good lawyer.

I would expect, in the next few months, you will be reading about quite a few lawsuits that will be filed by former government employees that were fired without benefit of an open hearing. The door is now open and the decision may end up being a very lucrative one for defense attorneys.

Since the federal courts have now ruled that Texas employees are guaranteed the right to an open hearing, I would also imagine a lot of local governments will think twice about getting rid of employees on "shaky reasons."

It doesn't really matter what you think, or have heard, about the quality of the Tye police force because that is not what that case was all about.

The case was about how government can treat people when it is out of control, or is controlled by a single person.

Americans have been fighting that idea for years and will continue to do so.

And I couldn't be happier.

Harrison's celebrate 50 years Sunday

Mr. & Mrs. Clovis Harrison of 1519 James Street in Sweetwater will be honored with a reception celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 16 from 2

until 4 p.m. at the Highland Heights Methodist Church at 1801 Lamar in Sweetwater.

Mr. Harrison was born Jan. 12, 1912 in Eastland County. Mrs.

Harrison, the former Vergil Jones, was born Jan. 28, 1911 here. They both grew up in the Mulberry Canyon and were married Dec. 24,

1934 by the Rev. Ben Hardy at the Methodist parsonage at Anson.

They request your attendance at the reception in lieu of gifts.

Recent Merkel cemetery donors

The following people have made recent donations to the Merkel Cemetery Association:

Made in memory of Richard Melton were contributions from Fern Windham and Earl &

Vernice Palmer.

Donations made in memory of Buelah Herron were received from The Rogers Family, Mr. & Mrs. John Herron, Mrs. G. T. Moore, Mrs. C. O. Rollins.

Other donations were

received from Mrs. Bunk Tipton, Mrs. J. W. Cumpston in memory of Finley Martin, Tressie Lucas, Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Brown in memory of Fay Perry, Woodman

Grove, Mrs. W. G. Richardson, the Progressive Men's Sunday School Class, Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Farmer, Wiley & Edith Noah, Mrs. Carl Hughes, Ima Higgins and Claude Flemming.

Xi Nu Chi holds recent meetings

Minyon Seymore was hostess at her home to Xi Nu Chi on Oct. 23. Peggy Valentine, captain, presented a slide presentation on Spain and Germany. During the slide show, members enjoyed a buffet supper.

Nancy Johnson was hostess at her home on Nov. 13 a presented a program on the history and art of

crepe making. Following the program, everyone enjoyed a supper of crepes.

On Nov. 27, members of Xi Nu Chi met at Pleasantville to have a transfer ritual for new member Barbara Gardner. Following the rituals, Barbara was treated to dinner at House of Hunan in Abilene.

Members of Xi Nu Chi were awakened on Saturday morning at 6 a.m. for a surprise breakfast at the home of Minyon Seymore. Attending were Peggy Valentine, Nancy Johnson, Judy Elliott, Barbara Gardner, Anita Allen, Vicki Rodriguez, Dianne Parker, Connie Harris and Vonne Dena Tumlinson.

Dewie Fleming laid to rest here

Dewie Fleming, 86, of Merkel, died at 9:50 p.m. Nov. 30th at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene following a short illness.

Services were held Dec. 4th at the Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel

under the direction of the Rev. Kenneth Jones of the Capps Baptist Church. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery here under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.

She was born July 20,

1898 in Plainview, Ark and had lived here for the past 12 years. She was a member of First Baptist here and also a member of the Merkel-Trent VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

She had married Lu-

ther Fleming Nov. 2, 1919 in Plainview. He died May 6, 1965.

She is survived by a son, Claude of Greensboro, N.C. a sister Stella McKeever of Merkel, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren



It's A Holiday Wonderland

SALE

WILSON JEWELRY

141 EDWARDS 928-5621

SEE OUR NEW "DIAMOND JEWELRY"

IT'S PRICED RIGHT

WE HAVE SEIKO WATCH BANDS

GOLD CHAINS & OTHER GOLD JEWELRY

ALSO NUGGET JEWELRY

OUR GIFT DEPARTMENT FEATURES

GOOD SELECTIONS OF

"ZALLON LIFTON CERAMICS", HAMPTON

SOLID BRASS, MALEC WOOD ITEMS, SOROCO

WALL DECORATIONS, PICTURES & MIRRORS;

ALSO WALL HURRICANE LAMPS & SCONCES, KAPLAN

CERAMIC PLATES, IMPERIAL GLASS & CUT GLASS

REGENCY POTTERY & LIBBY GLASSES

IRWIN WARE CHROME PIECES & A NEW LINE

OF LARGE VASES AS SEEN IN ALL THE

HOME MAGAZINES IN ALL THE NEW COLORS

COME SEE US WE GIFT WRAP FREE



Save Thousands on new John Deere Equipment... now!



John Deere has given us tremendous allowances on new equipment and we're passing those savings on to you. In addition to that there are many finance waiver discounts to sweeten the pot. Stop in now and choose your deal.

DEAL 1. 4WD TRACTORS

Thousands of dollars in pass-along savings on every new John Deere 4WD tractor in stock. No interest until June 1, 1985, with John Deere financing.* Or, in lieu of the finance waiver take these extra discounts.

DISCOUNT IN LIEU OF WAIVER			
MODEL	During DEC	During JAN	During FEB
8450	\$2100	\$1725	\$1350
8650	2575	2100	1625
8850	3225	2925	2050
8440	1725	1400	1100
8640	2125	1725	1350

Outstanding savings on used 4WD tractors, too, with no interest to pay until June 1, 1985, with John Deere financing.*

DEAL 2. ROW CROP TRACTORS

Huge pass-along savings on units listed here plus interest-free financing until June 1, 1985.* If you prefer, take an extra discount in lieu of finance waiver.

DISCOUNT IN LIEU OF WAIVER			
MODEL	During DEC	During JAN	During FEB
100-hp 4050	\$1000	\$ 825	\$ 650
120-hp 4250	1075	875	700
140-hp 4450	1200	975	750
165-hp 4650	1450	1175	925
190-hp 4850	1675	1375	1075

Huge savings with the same Deere financing interest-free offer on used equipment, also.

DEAL 3. UTILITY TRACTORS

Get unheard of savings that we're passing along from John Deere on new Utility tractors shown in this chart. Then, get interest-free John Deere financing until June 1, 1985. Or, take an additional discount in lieu of finance waiver.

MODEL	CUSTOMER DISCOUNT
40-hp 1250	\$ 550
50-hp 1450	625
60-hp 1650	700
45-hp 2150	650
50-hp 2255**	675
55-hp 2350	750
65-hp 2550	850
75-hp 2750	1400
2750 High Clearance	1000
85-hp 2950	2700

Used equipment also qualifies for the same interest free John Deere financing offer.

DEAL 4. COMBINES

The John Deere combines listed here are offered at fabulous off-season savings. Thousands of dollars off PLUS INTEREST FREE FINANCING TO THE FIRST OF THE 1985 USE SEASON. These prices apply when the combine is purchased with new header equipment.

MODEL	CUSTOMER DISCOUNT	
	SERIAL #600000	SERIAL #600001 TO SERIAL #610000
4420	AND BELOW \$ 5,000	\$ 3,500
6620	5,000	4,000
6620 (SIDEHILL)	6,000	4,500
6622	10,000	7,000
7720	7,000	4,500
7721	4,000	2,500
8820	10,000	5,500

If a new head or platform is purchased independent from the separator, a \$1,000 discount will apply. If the separator is sold without new header equipment, the discounts will be reduced by \$1,000.

Don't delay! Come in and make the deal of your choice.

*Availability of John Deere financing subject to approval of credit. These offers may be withdrawn at any time.

**This model is not available in Nebraska.

ABILENE FARM SUPPLY

2526 S TREADAWAY

692-2255



THE MERKEL MAIL

The Classifieds

For Sale

We make hydraulic hoses.

P & L Auto Parts
135 Edwards
928-4738

§ We turn disc brakes and drums.

P & L Auto Parts
135 Edwards
928-4738

Alfalfa hay for sale. \$5.75 per bale delivered. Call 928-4337.

90-TFC

For Sale: Porcelain dolls by Martha. See at Craftware Ceramics.

137 Kent
928-4330
92-1tp

CRAFTS SALE: Sat. Dec. 15 & Sunday afternoon. Soft, sculptured dolls, ceramics, crochet, other handmade crafts.

92-1tp

For Sale: 1966 Chevy 4 door, 283 engine, automatic, power, air, great work or school car.

92-1tp

Gov't surplus Cars & Trucks under \$100. Now available in this area. Call 1-619-569-0241 24 hours.

91-3tp

Misc

Computerized oil and gas accounting, general accounting, railroad commission reports, financial statements. Update books for tax references after 5 call 928-5749.

88-TFC

Does someone you love have a drinking problem? Is it affecting your life? If so, AL-ANNON FAMILY groups can help. A Merkel group is meeting weekly in the mornings. Call 928-4844 or 928-5067.

49-TFC

KID'S KORNER DAY CARE CENTER 2nd & Oak. Open Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Call 928-4381.

66-tfc

Germania Insurance Company; for your insurance needs. Locally represented by Donna Carter, 928-5348.

33-TFC

Want to buy used boys bicycle for 7 year old. Must be in great condition. Call 928-5712.

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

91-4tp

Registered child care in my home. plenty of TLC, please call 928-4403

91-2tc

Grooming in merkel on Saturdays. Call 928-4474 after 6 p.m. for appointment.

92-TFC

For rent



Shannonside Apartments **EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY** 1,2 & 3 bedroom apartments, all electric, central heat & cooling. For more information, call 928-5038.

89-TFC

For rent: Furnished 2 bedroom mobile home; 12 X 65, one and a half bath, washer-dryer, couple one child, separate meters. Also, 2 bedroom mobile home 12 X 44; one bath, carpeted, couple, one child, both houses recently remodeled. 7 miles NE of Merkel 928-5677.

91-2tc

For rent: 1 & 2 bedroom apartments, built-ins, central heat, call 928-5331 or 928-5682 in the evenings.

89-TFC

For Rent: Large, 2 bedroom house; living room, dining, kitchen, with stove and refrigerator, utility, ceiling fans, nice yard, carport, \$150 deposit, \$335 per month at 408 Thornton 928-5194.

87-TFC

House for rent: 2 bedroom-stove-refrigerator; central air & heat. House for rent: 2 bedroom, stove, washer-dryer, central air & heat, 5 miles South of Merkel; \$150 deposit \$300 per month. 928-5194.

91-TFC

Apartments for rent; 2 bedroom, refrigerator & stove. Upstairs \$250 per month with \$150 deposit; downstairs with dishwasher \$275 per month with \$150 deposit. 6 month lease required. Call 928-5194.

58-TFC

Shannonside Apartments 1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments, shag carpet all electric, dishwasher, garbage disposal, central heat & cooling. For more information, call 928-5038.

33-TFC

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

27TFC

For Rent: 2 bedroom house with built in range & oven side-by-side, refrigerator, washer & dryer, ceiling fans, fenced yard & storage building, \$150 deposit \$250 per month, 406 Ash 928-5194.

89-TFC

For rent: 1-1 bedroom, 1-2 bedroom. Call Abilene 692-9241 or after 6 p.m. 928-5416.

92-1tp

For rent: Furnished mobile home, 2 bedroom \$350 per month \$150 deposit. Call 846-4715 or 846-4696.

92-1tc

For rent: Nice 2 bedroom home. \$200 per month, water furnished.

92-1tc

Real Estate

For sale: 2 bedroom mobile home. 1st house West of the County barn on S. 8th. John Webb 806-637-6942.

92-2tp

For Sale: 3 bedroom 2 bath doublewide on 2 acres. Low equity and assume payments. Call before 6 673-9390 and after 6 928-5848. Ask for Jerry.

92-1tp

Garage Sales

Big 4 family garage slae, 815 Oak, child's organ, small tv wash stand, pithcer & bowl, furniture, baby play pen etc. All kinds new and old things; tools, electric roaster on stand, heaters. Thursday, Friday & Saturday, Dec. 13, 14 & 15.

92-1tp

Two party garage sale 705 N. 2nd, Friday & Saturday 928-5033.

92-1tnc

Garage Sale: Weather permitting, South 2nd & Lois. Saturday 9 until 7.

92-1tp

Thank You

I thank You Lucille Armstrong wanted to express her heartfelt thanks to each and everyone for their expressions of sympathy extended in the loss of her mother in South Dakota.

Public notice

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: BILLY J. GOBER, JR., Defendant, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition

at or before ten o'clock A. M. of the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, same being Monday the 14th day of January, 1985, at or before 10 o'clock A. M. before the Honorable 42nd District Court of Taylor County, Texas, at the Court House of said County in Abilene, Texas.

Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said Court, on the 29th day of December, A. D. 1983, in this cause, numbered 38,598-A on the docket of said court, and styled, Abilene National Bank, A Texas Corporation, Plaintiff vs. BILLY J. GOBER, JR. Defendant.

The names of the parties to the cause are as follows:

Abilene National Bank, A Texas Corporation are Plaintiffs and Billy J. Gober, Jr. are Defendants

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

Plaintiff requests the Court to enter Judgement against the Defendant for the sum of \$2,551.36 because Defendant has failed and refused to pay this sum or any part thereof. Said sum is due on a Promissory Note executed on September 10, 1983. Plaintiff also request Judgement against the Defendant for Attorney's fees in the sum of \$800.00, post judgement interest at the rate of 10 per cent per annum until fee paid, and for all cost of suit.

As is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

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

The officer executing this writ shall promptly execute the same according to law, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Abilene, Texas, this the 29th day of November, A. D. 1984.

Attest: Rilla Mahoney Clerk, 42nd District Court, Taylor County, Texas by JoAnn Lackey, Deputy (Seal)

92-91-4tc

der my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Abilene, Texas, this the 29th day of November, A. D. 1984.

Attest: Rilla Mahoney Clerk, 42nd District Court, Taylor County, Texas by JoAnn Lackey, Deputy (Seal)

92-91-4tc

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: The following named persons, if living:

C. T. Foster and the unknown heirs at law, devisees, and assigns of C. T. Foster, and if the named persons be not living, to the unknown heirs and personal representatives or assigns of such persons, Defendants, Greetings: YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the 42nd District Court of Taylor County, Texas, by filing a written answer at or before Monday, at 10:00 p.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days after the date of the issuance of this citation, same being the 14th day of January, 1985, A. D., to the Plaintiff's Petition filed in said Court on the 26th day of November, 1984, A. D., in this cause, numbered 39,027A on the docket of said Court and styled: "MID-TEX RESOURCES vs. C. T. FOSTER and the Unknown Heirs at Law, Devisees and Assigns of C. T. Foster."

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

Plaintiff has filed a suit to place mineral in receivership pursuant to Article 2320-B Vernon's Civil Statutes of Texas, under the following described property: 109.6 acres out of the Southwest part of Section 1, Block 18, T & P Ry. Co. Survey, Taylor County, Texas;

As is more fully shown in Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit, said land being situated in Taylor County, Texas.

If this citation is not served within ninety (90) days after the date of issuance, it should be returned unserved.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this the 26th day of November, 1984.

Rilla Mahoney, District Clerk, Taylor County, Texas (Seal)

91-83-4tc

"We want you to read our Mail"

CAN HAUL DIRT, ROCK & GRAVEL, LEVEL & REPAIR DRIVEWAYS FREE ESTIMATES

HAROLD WALKER
928-5872
202 CHERRY

GET YOUR RODEO TICKETS AT

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862-6111

CALL WE WILL DELIVER

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TEXAS CIRCUIT FINALS

TAYLOR COUNTY COLESIUM

DEC 27-28-29-30

12 BOX SEATS

OTHER SEATS 16 CHILDREN 13

COUNTRY

UPHOLSTERY SHOP

LOWEST PRICES AROUND

FREE ESTIMATES

LOIS GALLOWAY

1/2 MILE EAST OF STUCKEYS

928-5356

CHERRY STREET

SELF STORAGE

FOR ALL YOUR

STORAGE NEEDS

CALL US AT 928-4336

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701 CHERRY STREET

APT. G

BILLY E. CLARK

CERTIFIED PUBLIC

ACCOUNTANT

INCOME TAX & TAX REPORTS

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AUDITING & ACCOUNTING

112 EDWARDS 846-3281 HOME

MERKEL 928-5663 OFFICE

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STEREO

123 KENT

MERKEL

928-5762

GUARANTEED

ROOFING

Specialize in Wood, Comp. Repairs and Roof Tile With Triple AAA References In Merkel

16 Years Experience
2 Year Warranty
928-6588
Jerry Jones

MERKEL

VETERINARY CLINIC

IS NOW OPERATED BY

BRADLEY R. BANNER, DVM

KATHRYN L. BANNER, DVM

SAME LOCATION FM 126 NORTH

HOURS: MON-FRI 8:30-5:30

CLOSED FROM 12 - 1 FOR LUNCH

SATURDAYS 8 UNTIL NOON

928-5235 FOR APPOINTMENTS

928-4176 FOR EMERGENCIES

VIC'S ROOFING

5 YEAR GUARANTEE

OVER 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE

IN MERKEL AREA ALONE

FOR FREE ESTIMATE CALL

928-4703

VICTOR LERMA

OWNER & OPERATOR

T T & B CONTRACTORS

& CONSULTANTS

LICENSED & BONDED

25 YEARS PLUMBING EXPERIENCE

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL REPAIR

ALL TYPES OF NEW CONSTRUCTION

FOR FAST SERVICE &

GOOD QUALITY WORKMANSHIP

928-5541 LARRY HARTLINE OWNER

PRE-PAID

FUNERAL PLANS

CEMETERY

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BURIAL INSURANCE

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STARBUCK FUNERAL HOME

ALL WORK GUARANTEED

ALL TYPES

PLUMBING SUPPLY

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Radio Dispatched Trucks

For Fast Dependable Service

102 KENT

928-5627 or 928-5263

OLD & NEW WORK

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FLATS

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OTHER BRAND TIRES

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F & W TIRE CO.

102 KENT

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GOODYEAR TIRES & TUBES

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SINCE 1971 - CALL ANYTIME

928-5534

LESTER HUMPHREY

TERMITE AND PEST CONTROL

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FOR ALL YOUR

INSURANCE NEEDS

SEYMORE INSURANCES

Auto, Property, General Liability

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FARMERS UNION SERVICE POINT

RIGGAN DIRT CONSTRUCTION

928-4481

Dump Trucks Backhoes Septics Offroad Residential Conservation

5th grade reading students offer Christmas poems

The following are Christmas Poems written by fifth grade reading students at Merkel Elementary.

Christmas is a special time. The stars twinkle and the bells chime. The whole world seems to know That Christmas is like snow. It's white and soft, but mostly pure. When the new year starts, we will endure.

by Criswell Whisenhunt

The Joy of Christmas In the cold winter We eat a big dinner. We eat turkey and cakes Not milk and corn flakes. We use blankets not a sheet To cover our toes and feet. We get out of school for whole weeks. There's four feet of snow on the mountain peaks.

by Jennifer Hobbs

We put up the tree Where everyone can see. The lights are bright And shining with might. Over the door goes the mistletoe And daddy tops the tree with a bow. The stockings are hung And the bells are rung. The holiday poems rhyme To celebrate Christmas time.

by Criswell Whisenhunt

Christmas Lights Every year at Christmas

We put up the trees. We hang up the mistletoe And Holly Leaves. Santa brings packages in his sleigh Pulled by reindeer. He never misses grandma's house Because it's so near. When we all turn on many different Colored lights. That's why I think Christmas is Prettier at night.

by Lisa Fenton

Christmas Christmas is a time to share. Christmas is a time to care. For giving and taking Expecting and Thanking. These are beautiful reasons To celebrate the season.

by Kriste Smith

Rudolph's Cousin Named Melba One day when I was walking I heard a reindeer talking. It was about her sister's ear From all that I could hear. Her name it seems, was Melba And her sister's name was Elba. Her little ears were blue And her sister's ears were too. She started to cry And said, "Oh my" What am I going to do? They were sitting by a bush When a reindeer gave them a push. It made them really quite mad And to him they said, "That's bad!"

They gave the reindeer a punch Which scared away the bunch. Now, nobody picks on Melba 'Cause they'd get what for from Elba. If it happens to you Here's what to do, Tell Rudolph's cousin Melba.

by Eilyn Rutledge

Grandma got run over by a reindeer Who had no lights on his headgear He was covered from head to toe With great big bunches of mistletoe. Around his neck were sprigs of Holly That made him look oh so jolly. In his sleigh he had packages for me

To put under my Christmas tree. But poor ol' granny will never see Just how pretty is our Christmas tree.

by Travis Einfinger

Christmas Star The shining star of Christmas Hangs atop our tinsel tree Sending out it's message To our merry family. And in this special season That holds so much good will It seems our star of Christmas Grows even brighter still. So in this happy season Let's remember that special birth Of a babe born in a stable To bring us Peace on Earth.

by Mandy Barnett

Noodle homecoming draws 250

The Noodle Homecoming Association met Nov. 24 at Heritage Hall here.

The afternoon program was presented by Joe Tarpley of San Antonio, a former student and teacher at Noodle. He also presented teachers that taught from 1937 to 1943. They were Charles Clark of Hale Center- escorted by Imogene Bird Morgan of Gustine; Bess Church McDonald of Fort Worth- escorted by Glen Barbee of Washington; Edwin Read of Merkel- escorted by Tressie Lucas; Mrs. Edwin Read of Merkel- escorted by Breezy Cox of Lake Jackson; Odelle Sloan Cox- escorted by Glen Morgan of Gustine and

Larwin Hill- escorted by Iris Eoff Shouse of Seabrook.

Their morning was spent visiting and renewing acquaintances. A covered dish luncheon was served at noon to about 150. H. K. Henniger of Denver City offered the prayer.

Mrs. Mable Goode McDermitt, 88, of Abilene, was recognized as the oldest person present. Glen Barbee of Soap Lake, Wa, traveled the greatest distance to attend.

Mrs. Juanita Zachary of Abilene, president, presided over the business meeting. The group voted to meet the first Saturday in October of 1986 for their next reunion. New officers include Mr.

& Mrs. Edwin Read- president & vice-president; and secretary-treasurer is Mrs. Vernon Stanley of Noodle. An assistance committee will include Woodrow Clemmer, H. R. Chancey, Elsie Barbee and Melvin & Juanita Jenkins, all of Abilene.

Bob Garner of Noodle received the door prize and several attended their first homecoming, including the Martin Cook's of Fort Worth, Evelyn of Houston and Donnie of Granbury; Gertrude Dowdy of Abilene; Lorene Smith Brown of Abilene; the Carr girls; Bill Cunningham of Greenville; Nellie Flint Townley of Okla. and Alene Carter of Noodle. About 250 were present during the day.

7th grade boys nipped in finals of Rotan basketball tournament

Merkel's 7th grade boys made it to the championship game but lost on a couple of free throws with one second left to Roby 33-32.

The 7th graders had beaten Hamlin 29-23 in the first game. Leading the way was Dusty McCloud with 10, Stephen Jacobs with 8 and Randy Toombs with 4. Also in that game, Tommy White, Brandon Rice and James

Shannon Jones had 1.

In the second game, Merkel got down by 14 points and came back to lead by 1 with 5 second left. Roby went to the line with a second left, hit both free throws and won.

Monday night, the 7th graders had a rematch with Sweetwater that went into overtime.

The 7th grade team found itself 11 points behind before staging a comeback to tie the game at 24. They failed to score in overtime and were downed 26-24. They had a balanced scoring attack with Jacobs, White, Rice and McCloud each adding 6 points.

The 7th grade team is 2-3 on the year and their three losses have been by a combined total of 5 points.

Pets available for adoption here

Lost dogs available for adoption: Small terrier, cross, female. Curly tailed brown, black and white male dog.

Medium black mixed breed male. Tortoise shelled female kitten. Merkel Vet Clinic 928-5235 92-11nc

LEE POST
FRAME BUILDINGS & GENERAL CONTRACTOR
 20 YRS EXPERIENCE
 FREE ESTIMATES
 NO JOB TOO SMALL CALL
 862-6468 EVENINGS

ATTENTION HUNTERS & TRAPPERS
 Fur Buyer will be in MERKEL at WYLIE Truck Stop each WEDNESDAY from 8:45 AM till 9:00 AM, beginning DEC. 12th.
 We buy green & dry furs of all types. Case skin all furs (like Opossum). We also buy deer hides.
D & W FUR COMPANY INC.
 Ned Veale
 614 Railway St.
 Loneta, Tx. 76853
 512-732-3256
 LARGEST IN SOUTHERN USA
 Please clip & save this ad

VFW CHRISTMAS DINNER & DANCE
SUN DEC. 16TH
SILVER RIDER BAND
 DINNER 4:00 DANCE 6:00
 \$8/COUPLE
 \$5/PERSON

SHOP NOW FOR CHRISTMAS
50% OFF LORD ISAAC PANTS
 REG \$19 - \$29
BRAGGS
 928-5811 213 EDWARDS

I-20 SKEET'S 928-4349
THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL CHICKEN FRIED STEAK \$3.29
 YOUR CHOICE BAKED POTATO OR FRIES
 YOUR CHOICE BEANS OR SLAW
 PLUS 2 HOT PUFFS

ANNOUNCEMENT
JAMES I DAVIS,
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT,
ANNOUNCES
THE PURCHASE OF
THE FIRM, BOB TODD, CPA,
AS OF DEC. 1, 1984.
ALL TYPES OF
ACCOUNTING, AUDITS, AND
TAX SERVICES PERFORMED.
CALL 692-1311.
2509 BARROW ST. ABILENE, TX.

MERRY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SALE COUNTRY, ETC
DEC 14-DEC 22 10 TIL 5
5TH & HAYNES MERKEL TEXAS

AT PALMER PONTIAC & GMC WE'RE Trimming Prices... Saving You Money!

84 PARISIENNE BROUGHAM 4 DR. \$12,432
 Auto, power, dr, HT, cruise, split electric seats, elect trunk, wire wheels, two tone maroon
 List \$13,913

84 FIREBIRD Auto, air, HT, cruise, AM/FM tape, beige and gold List \$12,325	84 PARISIENNE 4 DR. DEMO HT, cruise, locks, AM/FM, white and slate, two tone brown List \$12,859	84 PARISIENNE BROUGHAM DEMO Loaded with all options, two tone maroon List \$14,131	84 GRAND PRIX LE T-top, loaded, two tone blue List \$14,847
84-84 BOURVILLE DRIVER ED. 4 door, dark and light gray green, red and white w/striped top List \$12,385	84 FIREO 2 PASSENGER Softest small car, HT, cruise, AM/FM tape, red List \$10,741	84 FIREO SE DEMO FACE CAB Loaded with all available options, white and slate List \$14,776	84 BOURVILLE LE 4 DR. Loaded, blue with blue vinyl top List \$12,680
84 PARISIENNE 4 DR. Auto, air, cruise, locks, AM/FM, light and dark blue List \$12,859	84 TRANS AM Loaded with all options, red and blue List \$14,424	84 8888 STE 4 DR. DEMO Loaded with all options, two tone blue List \$14,842	84 BONE BROUGHAM DEMO Loaded with all options, 7 tone blue List \$13,701

Ken Satterwhite **Don Palmer** **Duane Shagert**
 "WE SELL 'EM OR LEASE 'EM"
LOOP 39 MERKEL
 673-1182, Abilene, 676-8831 **Merkel Ph. 628-6113**

Merry Christmas from the **QUEENA HEARTS CLUB!**

Join in the Holiday Cheer- Christmas party Dec. 22nd 9-1. Holiday hors d'oeuvres and dance \$400 person

New Year's Eve party Dec. 31st 8-12. Black eyed peas, cornbread and party favors \$1000 person

Dance to "Jony Lee and the Country Goodtimes"

We're losing our lease, so come celebrate New Year's Eve so we can say farewell to all of our customers...we appreciate you!

* DANNY, MARILYN, SHERRY and BILLIE *

Starr's Christmas party is Dec. 20th

by Mary Wimberly

Nell Turner, who had a fractured hip, has returned to the Nursing Home.
The craft and bake sale will be Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. in front of Ben Franklins. The proceeds will go to the flu shots and other Starr Volunteer projects. The 1984 shots have been paid for and money raised will be used for the 1985 shots.

The resident Christmas party will be Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. The VFW ladies auxiliary says that Santa will be there. Anyone that would like to make cookies for the party is encouraged to do so.
We also would like to thank Mrs. Inez Bradley who made the bibs for the residents. They are appreciated.

Clarence Stroh of Turner, Ore, the owner of Starr has been visiting recently.
We also appreciate the birthday cake made by Ester Carson for this month's birthday party. Roy Reynolds and Muri Smith were honored.
Cathy Barnes donated some Christmas decorations for the home. Thanks go to Cathy.

Public notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: Kenny Hill and Debra Hill, Respondents, Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable County Court of Law of Taylor County, Texas at the Courthouse in said County, in Abilene, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the petition of the Plaintiff, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 30th day of April, 1984, against Kenny Hill and Debra Hill, Respondents, and said suit being numbered 14,385 on the docket of said Court, and entitled, Abilene National Bank, A Texas Corporation vs. Kenny Hill and Debra Hill.

A brief statement of the nature of this cause is as follows, to-wit: Promissory Note as is more fully shown in Petition on file in this cause.

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 requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this the 21st day of November, A.D. 1984.

Attest: Janice Lyons Clerk, County Court at Law, Taylor County, Texas By Vicki Rister, Deputy

91-65-4tc

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: Gene Gartman, Defendant, Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable County Court Abilene, Texas, by filing a written answer at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, same being the 14th day of Jan. A.D. 1985, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said Court, on the 5th day of September A.D. 1984, in this cause, numbered 14,586 on the docket of said court and styled Interfirst Bank Abilene, N.A., Plaintiff, vs. Gene Gartman, De-

pendant. A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: A Suit on Installment Contract as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

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

The officer executing this writ shall promptly

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

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this the 28th day of November, A.D. 1984.

Attest: Janice Lyons Clerk, County Court at Law, Taylor County, Texas, by Marie Gill, Deputy. (Seal)

91-61-4tc

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: Ricky Walker, Defendant, Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable County Court at Law of Taylor County at the Courthouse thereof, in Abilene, Texas, by

filling a written answer at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, same being the 14th day of Jan. A.D. 1985, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said Court, on the 5th day of Sept. A.D. 1984, in this cause, numbered 14,591 on the docket of said Court and styled Interfirst Bank Abilene, N.A., Plaintiff, vs. Ricky Walker, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: A Suit on Installment Contract as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

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

The officer executing this writ shall promptly

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

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this the 29th day of November, A.D. 1984.

Attest: Janice Lyons Clerk, County Court at Law, Taylor County, Texas, by Marie Gill, Deputy. (Seal)

91-61-4tc

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: Ricky Walker, Defendant, Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable County Court at Law of Taylor County at the Courthouse thereof, in Abilene, Texas, by

filling a written answer at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, same being the 14th day of Jan. A.D. 1985, to Plaintiff's Petition filed in said Court, on the 5th day of Sept. A.D. 1984, in this cause, numbered 14,591 on the docket of said Court and styled Interfirst Bank Abilene, N.A., Plaintiff, vs. Ricky Walker, Defendant.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: A Suit on Installment Contract as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

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

The officer executing this writ shall promptly



These bars don't serve drinks.

Yes, drunk driving is a crime. If you are charged with DWI, as a first-time offender you could receive a maximum of two years in prison. And it's just not worth it.

When you're out with friends, decide who will drive, and that person won't drink. Also, if you are with a drunk friend, don't let him get behind the wheel.

Drunk driving isn't someone else's problem. It's yours as well.

This message brought to you by friends of the Houston Chapter of MADD - The Travelers Insurance Companies, James Bate Farm Company, Heath Regency West Houston, Sheraton Town & Country Hotel and Hermann Hotels.

ALL SIZES & GREAT SELECTIONS OF FRESH CHRISTMAS TREES

AS LOW AS \$8.99 SPRUCE-BALSAM-SCOTCH PINE & FIR

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

HITS FROM YOUR FAVORITE ARTIST
ROCK, COUNTRY AND SOUL GREAT GIFT IDEAS

CASSETTE TAPES **\$3.97**

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST VALUES TO \$7.99 YOUR CHOICE

CHOCOLATES

BRACHS 7 OZ BAGS \$1.49

BORDEN'S BUTTERMILK **\$1.19**

1/2 GAL. CTN.

BORDEN'S SQUEEZE-UPS **99¢**

8 PACK

SAUSAGE & BISCUITS 2/80¢ **CHILI RELLENOS 99¢**

COOKED FOOD SPECIALS

LARGE SELECTION OF CLASSIC TITLES TO CHOOSE FROM

VIDEO MOVIES **\$15.98**

V.H.S. FORMAT WHILE SUPPLIES LAST YOUR CHOICE

Christmas Spirit '84

DURACELL **\$1.69**

2 CT. PKG.

MM & M'S **99¢**

3.5 OZ. SIZE

FILLED ECLAIRS **2/99¢**

STEAK FINGERS **4/89¢**

THRIFT T DOG FOOD **3/\$1.00**

POMEGRANATES **6/99¢**


ALLSUP'S
CONVENIENCE STORES

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING GOOD COOKING AT ALLSUP'S

PRICES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 13-15, 1984

OPEN 24 HOURS EVERYDAY-ICE-MILK-BREAD-FRESH PRODUCE-SOFT DRINKS-SNACKS-GROCERIES-MONEY ORDERS-COOKED FOODS-AND SELF SERVE BAS

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST



Holiday Helpers

WE WELCOME COUPONS

Make Christmas Cooking Fun!

WHOLE SUN FROZEN ORANGE JUICE \$1.10 12 OZ SALE FRIDAY & SATURDAY

PARADE EVAPORATED MILK 2/89¢ 12 OZ

HERSHEYS CHOCOLATE CHIPS 89¢ 6 OZ

HUNTS TOMATO SAUCE 4/\$1.00 8 OZ

D. M. SLICED CARROTS 2/93¢ 303

KRAFT SHREDDED MOZZARELLA CHEESE \$1.49 8 OZ

KRAFT MARSHMALLOW CREME \$1.00 13 OZ

WESSON OIL \$1.00 16 OZ **SUGAR \$1.69 5 LB**

CHARMIN BATH TISSUE \$1.29 4 ROLL **PARKAY QTS OLEO 69¢ LB**

BOUNTY TOWELS 79¢ ROLL **ARMOUR STAR ALL MEAT FRANKS \$1.39 LB**

NEW LIQUID TIDE \$1.81 52 OZ **MELLO CRISP BACON \$1.39 LB**

CRANBERRIES 89¢ 1 LB BAG **POTATOES \$1.39 10 LB BAG**

BANANAS 4/LBS \$1.00 **MUSHROOMS \$1.79 LB**

TOMATOES 49¢ LB **ORANGES 49¢ LB**

ORANGES 49¢ LB **TOMATOES 49¢ LB**

RED GRAHES 69¢ LB **APPLES 49¢ LB**

SENIOR CITIZEN DAY EVERY WEDNESDAY

MYRA'S GROCERY **TRENT**

8th grade wins Rotan tournament

The 8th grade Badgers won the Rotan tournament Saturday by beating a good Roby team 35-31 in the championship game. Kenneth Jowers had 20 to lead the way with Chad Strange adding 9, Fraddy Gonzales 4 and Tony Trevino 2.

In the preliminary game, Merkel downed Hamlin 32-22. In that game, Jowers had 18, Gonzales 8, Strange 4 and Trevino 2. Defeating Roby in the finals was nice for the 8th graders in that Roby was one of the few teams to defeat the

team last year. On Monday, their record fell to 3-2 with the second loss of the season to Sweetwater. Merkel's 7th, 8th and 9th grade teams will travel to Breckenridge Monday for their last game before the Christmas break.

81 study club will meet Dec. 17 at Malone's home

The 81 Study Club held a recent meeting in the home of Vernie Bryan, who also served as hostess and called the

meeting to order. Attending were Lorene Beard, Vernie Bryan, Paula Forehand and Grace Holt.

The group discussed coming activities for the year, had refreshments and will have their next meeting in the home of

Goldia Malone Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. when they will have a covered dish luncheon and exchange Christmas gifts.

Christmas pageant set

Countryside Baptist Mission will be holding their Christmas pro-

IT'S A FACT!



Tree farmers in Washington State consider foam cups great containers for tree seedlings. The insulating properties of the cups protect the plant roots from sudden changes in temperature. The cups also maintain the necessary moisture while allowing the plant to breathe. A nurseryman says foam cups are easy to fill with soil-fertilizer mix, and easy to stack and store. Keep America Beautiful liked the idea so well, it sends booklets about it to concerned citizens and environmental groups throughout the United States.



Seventy and eight-tenths percent of the Earth is covered by water.

gram Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. The Mission is located 6 miles North of Merkel in the Stith area.



Cabbage is 91 percent water.

HERE'S THE BEEF!!

Newspapers Deliver Audiences Of All Ages

Texans of all ages are frequent readers of the local newspaper. Did you know that the majority of Texans read newspapers?

Age	Percent Reading
25-34	69%
35-49	74.3%
50-64	72.6%
65-plus	68.5%

To reach Texans of all ages, choose newspapers every time!

SOURCE: 1984 Consumer Data Service (CDS) Survey of Texas Consumers

Carter's announce daughter

Nickey & Paula Carter have announced the recent birth of a daughter, Brittany Nicole in Big Spring. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 14 ozs.

Paternal grandparents are Calvin & Robbie Carter of Merkel and maternal grandparents are Carolyn Davis and Robert Davis, both of Clyde.

NOTICE

THIS IS TO ANNOUNCE THAT MIKE RAY HAS BEEN APPOINTED THE AUTHORIZED DEALER FOR THE TEXSAT LINE OF SATELLITE ANTENNAS AND PRODUCTS. MIKE WILL BE YOUR DEALER FOR SALES SERVICE AND INSTALLATION OF THIS LINE OF PRODUCTS IN THIS AREA

TEXSAT A DIVISION OF VIA CABLE CO. LOCATED IN INGRAM TEXAS IS AN ESTABLISHED AND WELL RECOGNIZED COMPANY COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN PRODUCT AND SERVICE FOR TEXANS

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AUTHORIZED DEALERS
MIKE & DONNA RAY

FOR THAT SPECIAL HOLIDAY GIFT OR FOR SOMETHING TO DECORATE YOUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON COME VISIT US AT

ANN'S FLOWERS
1025 N 2ND 928-4742

REGISTER FOR FREE DRAWING EACH SATURDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

PRICED TO GO
TOY SALE MONDAY
NO 9 PALMER CIRCLE NEW & DEMONSTRATOR TOYS.

MERKEL RESTAURANT AND MOTEL
1405 N 7TH
K C STEAK \$5.95
ALL WEEK
MON - SAT 7 AM - 3 PM
SUNDAY 7 AM - 9 PM
MERKEL'S FINEST

ONLY 10 SHOPPING DAYS TILL YOU KNOW WHEN
CIRCLE WESTERN HOUSE
120 928-4821

Santa's Coming To Town!



The annual Merkel Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade will be held at 10 a.m. December 15 Downtown

The Chamber will award trophies for:
★ Best Float ★ Best Bicycle ★ Best vehicle
★ Best horse

TROPHIES TO BE GIVEN ACROSS FROM STARBUCK FURNITURE

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THE PARADE

This ad presented as a public service of The Merkel Mail

"We want you to read our Mail"

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS WE GIVE S & H GREEN STAMPS

season's best

BISCUITS	PARADE	4/\$1.00
PORK & BEANS	VAN CAMP 16 OZ	2/86¢
SLICED PEARS	DEL MONTE 16 OZ	84¢
EVAPORATED MILK	PET 13 OZ	66¢
KARO SYRUP	RED LABEL 16 OZ	98¢
VEGETABLE SOUP	HOMESTYLE 10 3/4 OZ	49¢
MINUTE RICE	14 OZ	\$1.33
MINCE MEAT	NUNSUCH 9 OZ	96¢
MACARONI & CHEESE	KRAFT DELUXE DINNER	\$1.49
RICE CEREAL	GENERIC CRISP 13 OZ	\$1.29
JELLO GELATIN	3 OZ	3/99¢
FRENCH'S MUSTARD	24 OZ	\$1.14
FOLGERS COFFEE	1 LB	\$2.39
FIDDLE FADDLE	WITH PEANUTS 63/4 OZ	79¢
HI DRI PAPER TOWELS	ROLL	57¢
DELSY TISSUE	DELSY 4 ROLL	\$1.21
DELI BAR B Q SANDWICH	WITH REG COKE	\$1.69

GAS N GRUB NO 3
FRIDAY & SATURDAY TRENT

Everybody **SAVES**

CHRISTMAS
WRAP
TAGS
TREE
DECORATIONS
BOWS



Pre-Holiday
**STOCK-UP
SALE**

PRICES GOOD
THUR-FRI-SAT
Dec. 13, 14 & 15
STORE HOURS
7:30 AM-6:30 PM
MON THRU SAT
CLOSED ON SUNDAY

HEFTY 30 CT BOX
TALL KITCHEN
BAGS \$1.89

MOUTHWASH
MINT FLAVOR
SIGNAL 24 OZ JUG \$1.89

**CREAMY
CRISCO**
3 LB CAN **\$2.09**
WITH '10 IN TRADE OR MORE
EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

HUNTS 300
PEACHES SLICED OR HALVES CAN **63¢**
DEL MONTE
PINEAPPLE 15 OZ CAN **59¢**
DEL MONTE 303 CUT
GREEN BEANS 2 FOR **89¢**
PARADE 303 WK
GOLDEN CORN 2 FOR **79¢**
DEL MONTE 303
SLICED CARROTS 2 FOR **83¢**
HUNTS WHOLE 300
TOMATOES 2 FOR **93¢**
HUNTS 8 OZ
TOMATO SAUCE 3 FOR **59¢**
RANCH STYLE 23 OZ
BLACKEYE PEAS CAN **53¢**

KRAFT
SINGLE
CHEESE 8 OZ PKG **\$1.29**

CINCH
**CORNBREAD
MIX**
15 OZ BOX **59¢**

BETTY CROCKER
**CAKE
MIXES** 18 OZ BOX **79¢**

AUNT JEMIMA
WAFFLE
SYRUP 24 OZ JUG **\$1.79**

CHICKEN OF SEA
TUNA 6.5 OZ CAN
EACH **69¢**

FROZEN FOODS
STRAWBERRIES

PARADE SLICED 10 OZ PKG **69¢**
TOTINOS ASST
PIZZA 12 OZ CRTN **\$1.09**

STIRWELL
BREADED **OKRA** 24 OZ PKG **\$1.29**

STIRWELL 20 OZ BAG
STEW
VEGETABLE EA **89¢**

BORDENS
ICE CREAM 1/2 GAL CRTN ROUND **\$1.79**

**PARKAY
TOUCH OF BUTTER
SPREAD**
3 LB TUB **\$1.79**

KRAFT
VELVEETA
CHEESE
2 LB BOX **\$3.49**

KRAFT
**MARSHMALLOW
CREAM**
7 OZ JAR **59¢**

LIPTONS
**CUP OF ONION
SOUP**
4 PACK BOX **73¢**

COCA COLA OR 7 UP ASST 2 LITER **89¢**

MAZOLA CORN OIL 48 OZ JUG **\$2.53**

COFFEE MAXWELL HOUSE 1 LB CAN **\$2.29** LIMIT 1

FLOUR PARADE 5 LB BAG **69¢**

ROUND STEAK
CHOICE BEEF BONELESS
LEAN POUND **\$1.99**

CHOICE BEEF **ROAST** BONELESS LEAN LB **\$1.75**

CHOICE BEEF EX TRA TRIM **STEAK** LEAN LB **\$2.93**

CHOICE BEEF **CHUCK STEAK** BONELESS LEAN LB **\$1.83**

ARMOUR STAR **BACON** NO 1 POUND **\$1.83**

ARMOUR STAR **HAM** BONELESS COOKED 3 LB CAN **\$6.95**

ARMOUR STAR **FRANKS** REG OR BEEF 12 OZ PKG **\$1.15**

NORME LITTLE **SAUSAGE** SIZZLER 12 OZ PKG **\$1.29**

LOUIS RICH **TURKEY** VARIETY PACK 12 OZ PKG **\$1.89**

KRAFTS MINIATURE OR JET
MARSHMELLOWS 10 OZ BAG **49¢**

VLASIC DILL KOSHER **PICKLES** WELCH 20 OZ QT **\$1.19**

GRAPE JAM OR JELLY JAR **\$1.09**

KRAFTS DELUXE
MACARONI CHEESE
DINNER 14 OZ BOX **\$1.09**

MAYONNAISE
HELLMANN QUART JAR **\$1.69**

CHARMIN
TISSUE 6 ROLL CRTN **\$1.69**

FOREMOST
COTTAGE
CHEESE 16 OZ CRTN **\$1.23**

TOMATOES VINE RIPE POUND **49¢**

CALIFORNIA **ORANGES** FRESH LB **49¢**

LETTUCE WASH GOLDEN OR RED DELICIOUS 3 LB BAG **99¢**

FRESH **BELL PEPPER** 2 FOR **39¢**

FRESH **CUCUMBER** 2 FOR **39¢**

RUSSET **SPUDS** 10 LB BAG **\$1.49**

FOREMOST
HOMO
MILK GAL JUG **\$2.39**

FOREMOST
SOUR
CREAM 16 OZ CRTN **\$1.19**

FOREMOST
LOWFAT
MILK GAL JUG **\$2.29**

FOREMOST
ASSORTED
DIPS 8 OZ CRTN **53¢**

DETERGENT
GAIN GAIN BOX **\$1.89**

LIQUID
PALMOLIVE 22 OZ BOT **\$1.15**

SOAP
TONE BATH SIZE 2 FOR **\$1.09**

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ON WEDNESDAY
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