

Girls win district

The Merkel varsity girls team won the 6 2A district championship Tuesday night as they downed Winters 86-32. Gina Farmer led the scoring with 21, and had strong support from Norma Frazier with 18, Gwenn Tarpley with 16 and Amy McCoy with 14.



Thursday, February 15, 1979...Merkel, Texas

15 cents



Striking farmers and their vehicles shown parked along the Mall and in front of another obvious landmark, the Capitol. (Staff photo by Glenn Richards)

AAM protest in Washington seeking fair farm prices

by Glenn Richards

The '79 American Agriculture Movement (A.A.M.) Tractorcade that arrived in Washington Feb. 15 is busy going about its business of petitioning the government to pass a resolution to implement the 1977 Farm Bill to its fullest extent.

"The historical, traditional, and constitutional method of presenting your grievance to the country is what these farmers are doing," Congressman Kiki de la Garza told the Merkel Mail in an interview last Thursday.

Congressman de la Garza, from the Valley district, is the 2nd ranking member on the House Agriculture Committee. From that seat the Congressman sees the rough going for the farmers.

"It's against the grind and against the major numbers; we've got a selling job to do in Congress," he added, "in time something needs to be done and has to be done, I just hope it doesn't come too late for a lot of these fellows."

Estimates ranging from 900 tractors to 2,500 have been reported, a good safe estimate would be 1,600 tractors. The Mall an area about 2 miles long and 2 blocks between the Capitol and the Washington Monument became the home for these tractors, while in Washington Monday. While an A.A.M. meeting was being held on the steps of the capitol building, a large number of the tractors were parked on the Mall.

During the meeting, buses, dump trucks and snow plows were brought in and surrounded the tractors in the Mall. A.A.M. spokesman said they couldn't have gotten a better parking place if they would have asked for it.

A couple of farmers in Congressman de la Garza's office during the interview explained how they felt things were going for them in Washington. Rusty and Jim McDaniel, cousins from the Valley, who were in Washington last year said, things were going better this year.

"Last year we were idealistic, thinking we could get everything we wanted in a day. This year we're talking to our Congressman and letting him take our feelings to the appropriate places," said Rusty McDaniel.

He added, "There's more Texans than anybody else and your area (West Texas) has more representation than any other here."

In talking to people in Washington you get different sentiments. Everyone feels that the farmers should be making a profit. Congressman de la Garza said, "Profit is not a nasty word. Farmers deserve a modest reward for their efforts."

I talked to a couple of people who work in the Nation's Capitol, one, a Congressman's office worker said that she felt the farmers needed help, she just wished their methods didn't include the tractors that nearly halted all traffic on Monday, causing her normal 30 minute drive to work to take 4 hours.

A D.C. Policeman assigned to the Mall said he had had a chance to talk to many of the farmers and they "are friendly, probably some of the best demonstrators we've ever had here."

It's something to see. All the tractors in D.C.

Merkel girls down Anson 71-42, record now 25-1

Strong outside shooting from Gina Farmer and tough inside play from Norma Frazier led the Merkel girls to within one game of clinching Merkel its first girls district basketball championship as they crushed Anson 71-42 here Friday night.

The Badgers started off hot as they parlayed a 9-1 lead after using a press. The press was so successful that the Badgers, in one run, scored 8 points before Anson was able to get the ball across their own half-court.

The Badgers kept up the defensive pressure and led 21-8 after the first quarter of play.

Girls Coach Pat Penick said she felt the girls are playing 100 percent better than their last three efforts and she was pleased with the low number of turnovers in the game.

After Tuesday's contest with Winters, the girls face Ballinger next Tuesday. The girls will get their best competition, since an earlier confrontation with Rotan, when they face Comanche on Feb. 23 in Eastland for a practice game. Comanche is rated number 3 in the state, compared to Merkel's 13th rating.

The girls will face Slaton in bi-district. The Slaton girls are rated Number one in the state and are the defending state 2-A Champs.

Big Country Inn burns

For the second time in six months, Walt and Neta Harris, operators of the Big Country Inn, watched as part of their livelihoods was destroyed.

A fire broke out at 10 a.m. and firemen from the Merkel Volunteer Fire Department and the Abilene Fire Department battled the blaze for one and one-half hours.

Walt Harris said the fire probably started in a heating unit housed between the ceiling in an upstairs room and under the roof. The fire caused heavy damage to 12 rooms, and the west wing.

The hotel will be closed for a couple of weeks. Walt and Neta, along with other employees at the Inn were putting the finishing touches on a \$80,000 remodeling project when the fire hit. Walt said, "What hurts most about the fire is to see these rooms that we have worked so hard on to be ruined. We do most of the labor here and it is really a helpless feeling to see part of your life go up in smoke."

Harris also said that they would start all over again, just as they did in July of last year when a tornado came through Merkel and deposited the roof of the hotel in the hotel's swimming pool.

The Harris's could not place a dollar amount on the damage, but they did say that they should have adequate insurance for replacement of their burned facilities.

The Harris's have operated the Big Country Inn here since 1977 and are long time residents of Merkel.



Congressman Kiki de la Garza, a representative from the valley in Texas and second ranking member on the House Agricultural Committee

talked to the Merkel Mail photographer Glenn Richards last week. See story on page one. (Staff photo by Glenn Richards)

First woman on city council

The Merkel City Council met Friday morning at City Hall and swore in Merkel's first woman city council member.

Emma Lois Shugart, owner of Emma's Clothes Closet and manager at Walls Manufacturers, will fill councilman Darrell Farmer's unexpired term until city election in April.

The council decided to rent a bulldozer from Plains Machinery for clean-up work at the city dump. Council found that renting a bulldozer for 30 days was much cheaper than weekly contract rates.

Council also discussed possible locations for the city shop. When the new government houses are built, the city shop will have to be relocated and council discussed three possible location sites.

TEA hearing postponed

An Administrative hearing before the Texas Education Agency in the Tye PTO suit against the Merkel School Board was postponed late Friday at the request of Merkel School Board Attorney, Mike Baskerville of Abilene.

The case will now enter Judge Don Lanes' 42nd District Court in Abilene. Lane told the Merkel Mail that he had not been contacted to set a date in the case and that the only thing that had officially happened in the case so far was that suit was filed in his court on Jan. 9.

The suit asks for a ruling on a part of the Texas Education Code that maintains that persons living in a district that was consolidated with another school district, is automatically allowed two places on the board of education.

One lawyer, that preferred to be unnamed, said that the suit probably would not be heard until April at the earliest in 42nd Court.

Jay Brim, an attorney for the Texas Education Agency, told the Mail that the TEA granted a stay and continuance until the district court had acted.



Walt Harris (foreground) shouts instruction to (left to right) Billy Lucas, Albert Chavez, and Ray Dela Cruz of the Merkel Volunteer Fire Department as they battled a fire at the Big Country Inn Monday. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)



Gina Farmer looks for someone to pass to in last Friday's win over Anson. The girls are 25-1 on the year. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)

Scenes from the Washington AAM protest



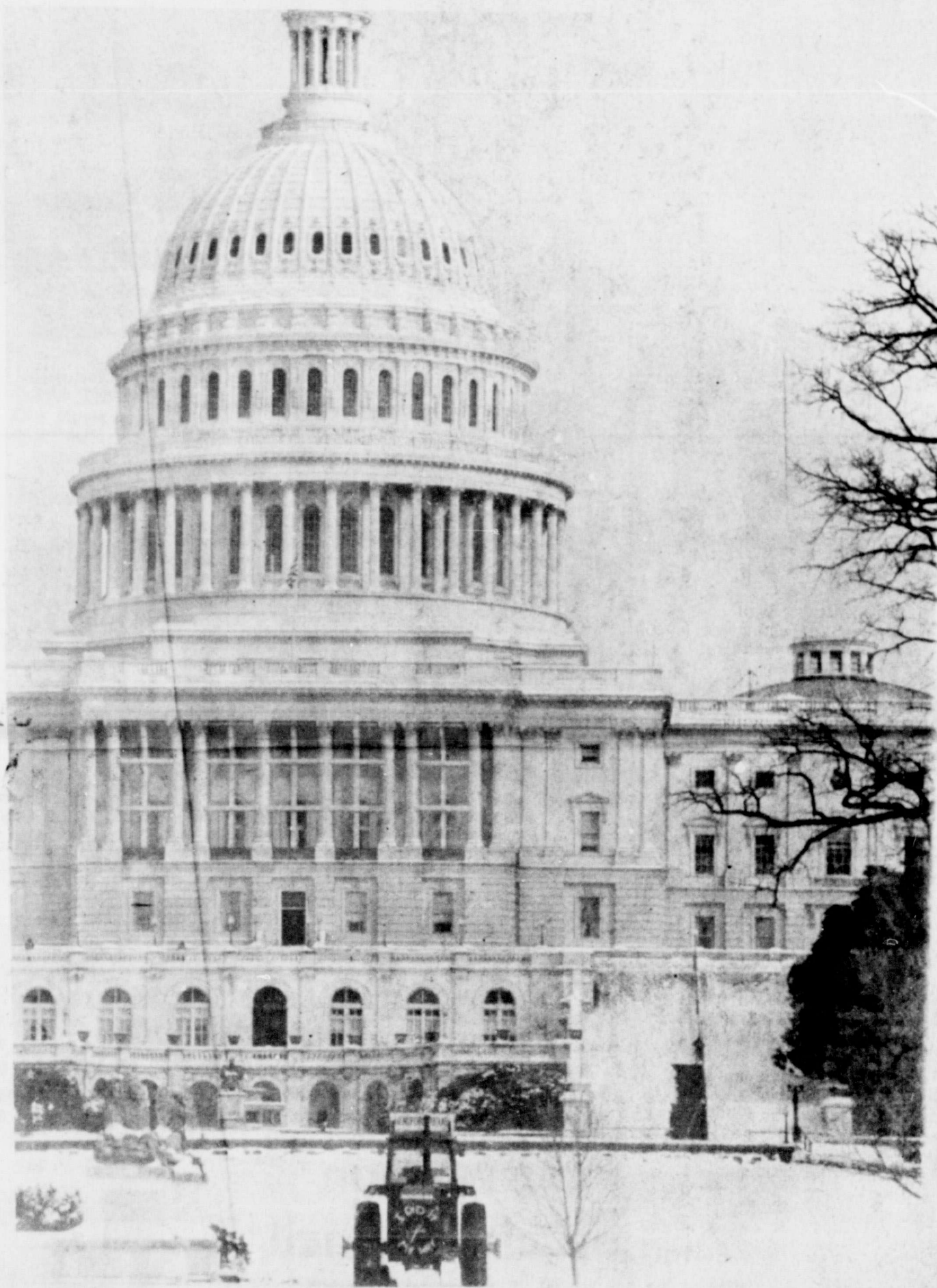
The snow came on Tuesday



One Farmers' sentiments



Farm vehicles in front of The Smithsonian Institute



A lone tractor in front of the capitol



AAM tractors barricaded in the Mall

Stenholm: 17th district representative hard at work on the farm problem

Staff photographer glenn Richards interviewed 17th Congressional Representative Charles Stenholm in his Washington office Thursday. He caught Stenholm as the Congressman was on his way to the house floor to introduce legislation calling for an end of federal highway use for farm vehicles. Richards also sat in on a meeting between Stenholm and representatives of the American Agricultural Movement from the 17th District.

Mail: Congressman Stenholm, do you think that there is support for the farmers in Congress?

Stenholm: You have to ask that question two ways. I think that we have significant support for the recognition that farmers must make a profit just like anyone else. We have significant differences in the way we should go about it.

If we were to take a vote today on the floor of the house, on the simple resolution calling for full implementation of the 1977 Farm Bill, I think we would lose by over 100 votes. That, nobody wants.

Mail: Do you think the AAM is going about their protest in the right way?

Stenholm: I share the concern of the violence that happened on Monday, that was unfortunate, and it wasn't helpful. Apparently, all of that is over now. The farmers are going about doing it the right way now.

They are lobbying, petitioning their representatives on what their needs are and I don't think that anything has happened that is not repairable.

Mail: What do you expect to come out of the protest?

Stenholm: I expect some improvements in the Farm Bill that will allow an improved income for

amendments to the proposal to make it less of a budgetary impact. We are trying to balance the federal budget (Stenholm introduced federal legislation to that effect) and it is hard enough to hold on to what we have right now, much less add

a billion or two dollars to it.

It really is a bad time for anyone to be looking for that kind of help from the federal government but from the farmers standpoint, it is absolutely critical that we do it right now.



17th District Congressional representative Charles Stenholm meets with AAM protestors in his

Washington office. (Staff photos by glenn Richards)

Stenholm: I have not been able to sell wheat at a profit for two years...

our Farmers in some commodities. Not all of the commodities are in trouble. Dairy farmers are doing quite well.

If we can get the 80 per cent parity amendment to the farm bill, for remittance it will be significant.

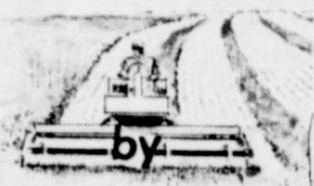
What we are going to do now is go at it in a commodity by commodity approach to determine what needs to be done for each individual commodity.

Of course, in the 17th District, we are talking about cotton, feed, grain, and wheat, which all three need improvement in the current law.

Mail: You said earlier, that if the farm bill were to come to a vote today, it would lose by 100 votes. What has to be done to change that?

Stenholm: I think that we are going to have to look at making some additional changes and

story and photo's



glenn Richards



'They are petitioning their representatives'



Charles Stenholm

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Mertle Foster
52-tfc
Please except our thanks for all the visits, cards, calls, candy, flowers, as well as the many offers of help that were given to Waymon after his accident and during both stays in the hospital. The thoughtful things so many of you did will not be forgotten by us. Thanks again, Waymon and Mary Lou Hicks
52-1tp

Henry Merle Mitchell and family would like to express their gratitude and warm regards to all the wonderful people who helped in the passing of Emily (Lizzie) Mitchell. This is to insure that we don't miss thanking anyone. And we would like to give a special thanks to Mrs. Alexander and Mrs. Beebe for working so hard in our home. May God Bless each and everyone of you. H.M. Mitchell and Family
52-1tp

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation for the many kindnesses to us during our sorrow. Your thoughtfulness in sending food, cards, flowers, and expressions of sympathy has been a great blessing to us. May God Bless you, Brothers and Sisters of Irene Farmer
52-1tp

We wish to express our gratitude to all of those who expressed sympathy during our sorrow. All the food, flowers, cards and other kindnesses are truly appreciated. Mrs. Irven Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. John Brady and Family
52-1tp
We wish to thank your friends for your prayers, visits, food, and many acts of kindness during Claude's stay in the hospital. May God's Blessings be with you always. The Family of Claude Smith
52-1tp

MISCELLANEOUS

ALTERATION Bring me your alterations and mending. Jesse Reagan, 408 Runnels, 928-5940.
52-2tc

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46-8tm

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52-1tnc

Notice: The Merkel Mail will print, free of charge, persons interested in obtaining garden spots and those with spots to offer. Call 928-5712 for more information.
52-4tnc

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51-tfnc

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Mail Bag; 70 years ago

The beginning of what is hoped and believed to be an era of civic improvement was started in Merkel this week when Constructor Locke completed his arrangements for the building of cement sidewalks.

Badgers win last game 66-33

The Merkel Badgers boys varsity, led by Mike Sims 15 points and 10 from Chris Cox, downed Anson 66-33 to end their season here Friday night.

The boys ended the season with a 7-17 record and 2-5 in the second half of district competition.

Badger Coach Bartee said, "we have been doing the same thing all year long and it finally started working for us. The shots fell when we needed them to." Bartee also said that he felt the other teams, the Badgers faced all year, seemed to turn in their best efforts against us and we had a tough season.

Five seniors, Kelly Wolfe, Rick Howes, Mike Sims, Mike Brady and Craig Hutchings played their last game for the Badgers and seven players will return to next years team.

We will sell you a suit of clothes at the same low price we have been making on them and give you a \$25 Springfield rifle free. We will give one of these rifles with each suit sold for \$10 and more. You will have to hurry to get one of these guns. They will not last long. The Star Store.

The ideal city must be a city where people diligently mind their own business and the public business and do both with a decent regard to the judgement and the rights of other men.

Among the numerous affairs on the social calendar for the week was the large and attractive party given Saturday afternoon by Mrs. S.S. Harris. Mrs. Harris is a charming hostess and is a delight to all to be in her home.

Every farmer and citizen should make it a point to be in Mekrel Feb. 16 for that is the date of the meeting of the Central West Texas Association of Commercial Clubs. The Merkel people will endeavor to give them the best we can provide in the way of entertainment and incidentally show them that we are keeping pace in the forward march of progress. So mote it be.

When a sidewalk goes down, the price of the property goes up. Up or down for yours?

Tye PTO scheduling volleyball game with teachers

At the last meeting of the P.T.O. several fund raising activities were discussed and a volleyball game pitting the parents against the teachers was decided upon. The date was not definitely set but it will be sometime in March. Parents wishing to participate need to contact Patty Miller.

Last year at the Parent vs. Teacher game, the women parents beat the women teachers, but the teacher's husbands beat the men parents. This year, I for one would like to see a unanimous win in favor of the parents (nothing personal teachers) but we need better participation especially from

you men. In fact, the P.T.O. as a whole could use more male participants. A fee for players and spectators was also discussed and will be decided along with date and time at the next P.T.O. meeting.

Come and celebrate Valentine's Day with us. The Tye P.T.O. is sponsoring a Box Supper, Feb. 16, at the Tye Elementary School Cafeteria. Box suppers are an old tradition for bringing people together

in the spirit of good will and friendly companionship. What better was to get acquainted and have fun than over a good meal? Everyone should be there by 6:45 with the bidding for the boxes to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Ladies and girls, decorate a box and fill it with enough food to feed yourself and a man or boy. Gentlemen bring your appetites and enough money to buy a box and share it with the lady who prepared it.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and share an old fashioned good time.

Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Murphree of Merkel are new great grandparents to twins. The parents are Mr. and Mrs. Mike Cellmer of Wichita Falls. The babies are Ledy Ellen and Jaret Elwood, born Jan. 25. The twins' mother is a twin.

Merkel library to open 20 hours weekly

Evelyn Martin has been hired by the Abilene Public Library to operate the Merkel Li-

brary for 20 hours per week beginning Feb. 16. This will expand the current service of the

library and reading is being provided for with a grant administered by the West Texas Council of Governments.

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FINDING WHO YOU ARE
Psychologists and cultists cite The ways for us to find ourselves. We flounder, getting quite uptight, As through their theories we delve. Oh, what a waste of time and thought To find ourselves in ways like these! If only those lost souls had sought Their egos down upon their knees.

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JOCKEY BUY 6 PIECES	
EXCELLO SHIRTS	VALUE TO \$20.00 \$12.99
DRESS PANTS	VALUE TO 23.00 \$17.99
MENS TIES	VALUE TO \$8.00 1/2 PRICE
JARMAN SHOES	FOR MEN \$29.99 UP
STEEL TOE BOOTS	\$33.99
SS KNIT SHIRTS	BY JOSHUA \$15.99

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LAY A WAY MASTERCHARGE VISA 30 DAY CHARGE

Congratulations MERKEL GIRLS VARSITY DISTRICT 6-2A CHAMPS

GIANT BOX BOLD 3 \$1.59	MRS TUCKERS SHORTENING 42 OZ \$1.39	CRACKERS 1 LB 89¢	CRACKERS 1 LB 59¢	VANILLA WAFERS 59¢	CHIP AHOY COOKIES 99¢	FOLGERS COFFEE \$2.19 LB WITH \$5.00 PURCHASE	DUNCAN HINES CAKE MIX 79¢	DEL MONTE WHOLE GREEN BEANS 39¢	FLOTILL PEACHES NO 2 1/2 59¢	SNACK PACK 89¢	32 OZ BOTTLES COCA COLA \$1.69 PLUS DEPOSIT CTN		
SOLID RENUZIT 2 FOR \$1.00	KOOL AID PKG 2/25¢	MARYLAND CLUB COFFEE 12 OZ. \$2.19 EXTRA MEASURE	KLEENEX & PAMPERS ALL SIZES	TROUTMANS COUGH SYRUP 78¢	EXOCAINE TUBE \$1.49	ROLAIDS ROLL 12 OZ 25¢	GERMAN SAUSAGE \$1.29	IG MILK VIT D \$1.89 GAL LOW FAT \$1.98 GAL	WHOLE FRIERS 65¢ LB	DRY SALT JOWLS 69¢ LB PINTO BEANS 2LB BAG 69¢	GOOCH ALL MEAT BOLOGNA \$1.19 LB	GOOCH SLICED SLAB BACON 98¢ LB	
CINCH CORN BREAD MIX STRAWBERRY VIP PRESERVES	BARBECUE SAUCE KRAFTS 18 OZ	PARKAY OLEO 1 LB	JUDSON BAG CANDIES 2 FOR	DEL MONTE TOMATO JUICE 16 OZ 75¢	HUNTS POTATOES 35¢	CORNET DELTA TISSUE 6 ROLL PACK \$1.29	CRACKER JACKS 15¢	TEXAS SPECIAL DOG FOOD 50 LB BAG \$7.69 25 LB BAG \$3.98	45¢ TOMATOES 49¢ LB	89¢ AVOCADOS 25¢ EACH	79¢ WHITE ONIONS 29¢ LB	59¢ POTATOES 98¢ 10 LB BAG	89¢ BELL PEPPERS 19¢
ONION PLANTS	ONION SETS	SEED POTATOES	GARDEN SEEDS	MEADS BUTTER TOP BREAD 1 1/2 LB LOAF 2 FOR \$1.00									

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GWEN TARPLEY

CINDY BOONE

NANCY CLICK

AMY McCOY

CINDY SMITH

GINA FARMER

KAY AMERINE

GIRLS' BASKETBALL SCORES
1978-1979

Pre-district	Merkel	Opponent
Abilene High (Scrimmage)	63	35
Clyce (Scrimmage)	66	42
Jim Ned	62	32
Jim Ned	65	39
Baird	47	45
Goree	45	41
Stamford	40	30
Clyde	48	33
Sweetwater	78	32
Goree	54	35
Hamlin	45	41
Early	83	45
Abilene High	53	39
Eula	82	24
Roby	65	27
Rotan	48	54
Clyde	38	32

District	Merkel	Opponent
Stamford	41	29
Colorado City	92	45
Wylie	64	32
Anson	67	37
Winters	61	43
Coahoma	48	40
Ballinger	45	44
Stamford	54	30
Coahoma	30	43
Colorado City	63	29
Wylie	47	41
Anson	71	42

Congratulations

MERKEL GIRLS VARSITY DISTRICT 6-2A CHAMPS

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BEN FRANKLIN'S DEPARTMENT STORE

BIG COUNTRY INN

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WILSON'S JEWELERS

MERKEL MAIL & PRINTING

WYLIE TRUCK TERMINAL & RESTUARANT



Gloria Henslee



Connie Harris

Harris selected Xi Nu Chi sweetheart

Connie Harris of Merkel has been selected as Xi Nu Chi's Valentine Sweetheart. Connie is married to Robert Harris and they have two children, Melissa 8 and Kristofer, 4. She is a graduate of Merkel High and is a member of Lambda Beta, Alpha Nu Nu and Xi Nu Chi. She is a member of the Merkel Fire Department Auxillary and serves as the chaplain

for the Texans Firemans Auxillary. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Joe McCarthy of Pasadena.

Connie also serves as a Brownie Troop Leader, softball team manager and vice president of the Miss Softball Association of Merkel.

A Valentine presentation is scheduled for March 3rd at the Abilene Civic Center at the Abilene Beta Sigma Phi City Council.

Henslee is Lambda Beta sweetheart

Gloria Henslee is the Valentine Sweetheart for Lambda Beta. She is the president of the chapter this year and served as treasurer last year. She has also served on the telephone, service, and membership committees for the chapter during her 3 years of membership.

Gloria is originally from Lucas, Kansas, where she graduated from high school. She has two daughters, Candice, age 9 and Dawn, age 5. Her husband, John, is a long time Merkel resident and farms as his occupation. Gloria spends her time a

as a mother and homemaker.

John and Gloria attend the Methodist Church. Gloria enjoys many hobbies, especially cooking and gardening.

Gloria was elected the Valentine Sweetheart by popular vote among the membership of the chapter. She was the guest of honor at a dinner party held by the chapter last week and will be among the area sweethearts honored at a Valentine dance, during March, held at the Abilene Civic Center for all the area chapters.

Softball meeting

The Girls United Softball Association of Merkel met Monday night and set registration for Monday, Feb. 19 at the Justice of the Peace office from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Trent is to register at the Trent Ag Barn from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday the 19th.

The league is open to all girls. They must be 8 by September 1, 1979 and seniors can not be older than 19 as of January 1, 1980.

Girls interested in playing must bring a birth certificate and a \$5 registration fee on Monday.

Also on the 19th, the Association will meet at 7 p.m., also at the JP office. The meeting is open to any adults interested in helping the league as well as other interested individuals. All Board members are urged to attend this meeting.

Booster club

The Badger Booster Club will meet on Monday night, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the Merkel High School Classroom No. 3. The purpose of this meeting is to plan for the athletic banquet and also to elect officers for next year. All members are urged to attend.

Volunteer meeting

The Starr Nursing Home is hosting a community wide meeting Feb. 20th from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. for those interested in doing volunteer work at the home.

The meeting is open to any groups, clubs or churches, as well as individuals.

More information is available by contacting Mary Pallares or Brenda Quinn at 928-5673.

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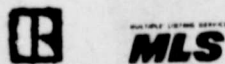
-El Unico Restaurant; furnishings, fixtures remain; great opportunity; ready to open. Margaret, 928-5815

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FEATURING

KENNY SLACK &
CEDAR GAP EXPRESS

FRIDAY 8-12

SATURDAY 9-1

QUEENA HEARTS CLUB

Compere HD

The Texas Extension Homemakers Club of Compere met Feb. 8, 1979 in the home of Mrs. W.D. Ramsey. Mrs. Ab Hunter, president, presided over the business meeting. Hazel Spurgin led the prayer. Annie Taylor led a game, the occupational game. Nona Chancey and Annie Taylor read poems. A program on landscaping of the home was given by Bertha Hunter, Louise Chancey, and Nona Chancey. Hazel Spurgin received the hostess gift.

Refreshments were served to Mrs. Taylor, Spurgin, Adair, Chan-

cey, (David) Chancey, Hunter, Mims, and the hostess, Mrs. Ramsey.

Goodman HD

The Goodman Texas Extension Homemakers Club met in the home of Mrs. Charles Adams with the president, Mrs. Garland Price, residing

Feb. 9th. Prayer was by Mrs. D.P. Adams and a Valentine game by Mrs. Dennis Butler. Roll call was answered with: Landscaping I have done, by seven members and one visitor.

The next meeting will be in the home of Mrs. Frank Carter, Feb. 23. The program will be "Kitchen up date", by the agent, Mrs. Neca Welborn.

Refreshments with a Valentine Decor and a surprise Birthday cake for Mrs. Dennis Butler, was served to Mrs. Frank Carter, Mrs. Dan Butler, Mrs. C.W. Seago, Mrs. Garland Price, Mrs. Dennis Butler, Mrs. David Carter and her two children, Mrs. D.P. Adams, and Mrs. Carl Edwards.

Moreno retires from Army

Jesse Moreno of Merkel, but gone for the past 20 years in the Army, was retired from the Army two weeks ago and is living here again. Moreno is employed by Max Murrell Chevrolet here

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Shanna Bratcher is still missing. She is wearing a red collar with her name and our address, Rt. 1 Box 171.

Will someone please help her find her way home. We miss her as she has been part of our life and home for 15 months.

— Margorie Bratcher

ANYONE SEEING THIS DOG OR KNOWS OF SOMEONE HAVING HER, PLEASE CALL 928-4879.



Recent cemetery donations

The Merkel Cemetery Donations are as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. Babe Tarpley in memory of Norman Winter
 Frank and Gladys Breaux in memory of Norman Winter
 Essie Phillips
 Past Matrons and Past Patrons Club in memory of Ernest Horton
 Louise Winter
 Mr. and Mrs. O.D. Allamon in memory of Norman Winter
 Marjorie B. Kirksey
 Raymond and Mattie Roberts
 Mr. and Mrs. Omer Bishop
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Russell in memory of Norman Winter
 Mr. and Mrs. Earl Baze in memory of Stacie Phillips
 Jewell Dunagin in memory of Stacie Phillips
 Mr. and Mrs. Buster Horton
 Mrs. Fritz Hale
 Charles C. Castles in memory of James O. and Dorothy
 Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Gamble in memory of Wrenn Durham
 Margaret and Weldon McAninch in memory of Wrenn Durham
 Mr. and Mrs. John Herron in memory of Irene Farmer
 Mrs. George T. Moore in memory of Lula Rister
 Mrs. Nim Teaff in memory of Lula Rister
 Mr. and Mrs. Earl Baze in memory of Lula Rister
 H.E. Crutsinger in memory of Harold (Butch) Crutsinger
 Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Mitchell in memory of Lula Rister
 Past Matrons and Past Patrons Club in memory of Lula Rister
 Mrs. Craig Humphreys in memory of Lula Rister
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Riney
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Orsborn
 E.J. Orsborn, Est.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Benningfield in memory of Norman Winter
 Olive E. Herron
 Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wilson in memory of Irene Farmer and W.W. Huffman
 Mrs. Earl Hughes, Sr. in memory of Irene Farmer and Wrenn Durham
 Mr. and Mrs. Billy Bob Toombs in memory of Irven Thompson
 Mr. and Mrs. Leon Toombs in memory of Irven Thompson and L.T. Toombs
 Mr. and Mrs. D.J. Richie in memory of Irven Thompson
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hogan in memory of Irven Thompson
 Flossie Martin in memory of Irven Thompson
 Vivian Winter and Rease Hail in memory of Irven Thompson
 Pet Touchstone in memory of Wrenn Durham and Irven Thompson
 Mr. and Mrs. Ray Orsborn, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Riney, Mrs. Nelma Alexander in memory of Irven Thompson
 Jewel Criswell in memory of Irven Thompson
 Mr. and Mrs. Earl Baze in memory of Irven Thompson
 Mr. and Mrs. Earl Baze in memory of Irven Thompson
 Mrs. Paul West
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pee in memory of Irven Thompson and L.T. Toombs
 Alvin and Mattie Lou Wozencraft in memory of Wrenn Durham and Irven Thompson
 Mr. and Mrs. O.R. Dye
 Sallie Gant in memory of L.T. Toombs
 Mrs. Mildred Park Roberts in memory of Stacie Phillips
 Mrs. Allen D. King
 Mr. and Mrs. W.S.J. Brown in memory of Wrenn Durham
 Clark Mundy in memory of Wrenn Durham
 Mrs. John Toombs in memory of Irven Thompson
 Sallie Gant in memory of Irven Thompson
 Maureen Duncan
 Sally Moore Estate in memory of Irven Thompson

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

In a previous edition of the Merkel Mail, you stated you were always open to complaints and suggestions. This letter is both!

It is very upsetting to think that our local newspaper finds nothing to say about the Firemen's Banquet on Feb. 3, 1979, other than a picture and a two line caption. First, the two speakers (the men in the picture) were Mr. Ellsworth Greer from Austin, Mr. Bill Barrett from Spur, Texas and Merkel Fire Chief Waymon Adcock. Mr. Greer and Mr. Barrett gave excellent speeches on "What Can Go Wrong At A Fire", "What Can Go Wrong With A Fire Department" and "The State Firemen's And Fire Marshall's Museum at Grand Prairie, Texas."

Every year at the Firemen's Banquet, the Merkel Ladies Auxillary of the Fire Department honors a fireman. This honor is Fireman of the Year, selected not only by the Ladies Auxillary, but by the firemen also. This year, my husband, Jack Martin, had the honor of being Fireman of the Year, and what a honor it was. You see, Mr. Editor, this man has been very ill, but still participates very much in the fire department. He is Merkel's paid fire truck driver, but he is still a volunteer fireman on week-ends. Every fireman whe-

ther paid or a volunteer, risks their lives every time they go to a fire, irregardless how minor or how major a fire. Firemen loose lots of sleep trying to save someone's home and all they hold dear.

So, Thank You, Mr. Editor, for the nice article you saw fit not to put in the paper. We appreciate your support that we don't receive. But have no fear, if your home or your business should happen to catch on fire, the Merkel Fire Department will do everything they can to save your property and maybe your life, because we care about such things.

Also, the family of William Washington

Huffman, appreciated the obituary caption heading, "Washington Dies." It's true his middle name was Washington, but his last name was Huffman. I know this man meant nothing to you, but he meant something to his family. He was my great uncle and a very kind man.

Wake up, Mr. Editor. Merkelites are proud of this town and the people in this town.

Sincerely,
 Jenny Martin
 Merkel, Texas

Dear Editor,
 Nita Walt and boys as well as all the employees at the Big Country Inn would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Merkel

Volunteer Fire Department and the people who graciously offered to help us clean up after the fire.

Friendship is next to love in being the most valuable feeling in the world.

Again, we would like to thank each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
 Walter Harris

Elmore places

Walter Elmore, of Merkel High, placed a shorthair heifer sixth in the San Antonio Livestock Show last week-end.

Elmore was the only Merkel participant that placed.



Cindy Smith (20) and Gina Farmer (12) come down the floor on a fast break against Anson. The

girls beat Anson and put them one game away from the District Championship. (Staff photo by Gay A. Richards)

JP windows

shot out

Merkel Justice of the Peace Henry Guenther is probably glad he wasn't in his office between 1:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning as five shotgun blasts caused damage to the JP Court.

The shots destroyed glass windows and did minimal damage to the inside of the building. Texas Ranger, Sid Merchant, was called in to investigate and restitution was made Sunday morning. A local man accepted the responsibility for the damage and paid restitution of \$803.50.

Judge Guenther said that the case is closed and that the Rangers did a real good job of solving the case.

EMT course

starts

March 27th

An Emergency Medical Technician course will be held in Merkel beginning March 27th.

Classes will run through June 14 and will meet two nights per week, four hours per night. The course is being instructed by Glenn Pratt and members of the Sweetwater Fire Department. The course also requires 40 hours of emergency room work in local hospitals.

For more information contact Annette Melton at City Hall.

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Trent News...

Trent school news

The Trent Kindergarten has fourteen students. These students have been exposed to the following things since school has started.

1. Recognizing students own name.
2. Recognizing numbers 1-20.
3. Recognizing the alphabet.
4. Learning to point student's first name.

Students have been learning the names of thirty fruits and vegetables.

Fresh lemonade and popcorn were made by the students. The students also made an apple pie.

Students who learned the days-of-the-week, were given their own personal calanders.

These calanders were supplied by the Home

Sate Bank of Trent.

One group of second graders has gone into their new reading books and they are all very excited about this. We are still reviewing math facts and trying to learn to become more accurate in a shorter amount of time. We also played Word Lotto, a syllable word game, for the first time this week. It was challenging, but fun. We discussed Cupid and decorated our bulletin board with hearts. We thoroughly enjoyed our Valentine party which our teacher gave us. We enjoyed playing outside in the pretty weather again for the first time in several months.

We are preparing posters for the Conserva-

tion Poster Contest. The posters will be judged during the week of Feb. 26 to March 2. The first place winner posters in each grade in each school will be displayed in the Abilene Public Library Auditorium. The purpose of this contest is to stimulate a greater interest in the conservation of our natural resources. There will be first, second, third and fourth prizes in each grade in each school.

The fifth grade is sending three of the VIL Spelling Competition: Missy Simpson, Benjamin Beaver, and alternate, Kim Wallis.

Since this is Lincoln's birthday month, we've been reading about him and did a "Lincoln Lore" booklet. This week, we'll be working on George Washington.

Mrs. Murphree was especially proud of Janina King and Mike Moore. They made 100 on a math test!

Mitchell dies at 60

Emily Elizabeth Mitchell, 60, of Trent died at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in Rolling Plains Hospital in Sweetwater after a sudden illness. Services are pending with Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born Jan. 9, 1919, in Ellis County, she had lived in the Trent area most of her life and married Henry Mitchell Aug. 4, 1935, at Leon Junction. She was a Baptist.

Survivors include her husband; two sons, Henry of Leon Junction and Lonnie of Flat; five daughters, Betty Symmonds, Laverne Rentfro and Bonnie Mitchell, all

Deans list

Three area students were named to the Dean's List at Texas Tech in Lubbock.

They are: Andy Hart of Merkel, Cindy Beasley of Trent, and Holly Carlton of Trent.

of Trent, Ann Rogers of Midland and Wanda Baker of Gatesville; two sisters, Willie Bryant of Abilene and Bernice Browning of Bakersfield, Calif.; seven grandchildren; and a great grandchild.

Legal notice

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION WITHOUT CHANGE OF NAME

Notice is hereby given that Shaddix Implement Company of 1749 North Treadaway Blvd., Abilene, Texas has incorporated under the name of Shaddix Implement, Inc.

48-4tc

Public Notice: The 1978 annual report of The Campbell Foundation is available at Room 201, 1218 N. 4th St., Abilene, Texas, for inspection during regular hours by any citizen who so requests within 180 days after publication of this notice of availability. The principal manager is T.C. Campbell.

52-1tc

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WILSON FOOD STORE FEBRUARY 17, 1979 MERKEL, TEXAS
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Mr. & Mrs. Ray Wilson are "Quitting Business" after 42 years of owning & operating the "Wilson Food Store" in Merkel, Texas. Therefore will sell at public auction the following items consisting of: Approximately \$28,000.00 inventory of groceries, paper goods, sundries, household items, small appliances and toys.

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| Plus 1-18' & 1-27' Vegetable cases | (2) Walk-in boxes (5x7' & 6x10') |
| 1-12' & 1-27' Frozen food cases | (1) bottle coke box (coin operated) |
| 1-12' milk case | (1) 3 hole freezer |
| 1-12' meat case | (2) meat blocks |
| 1-12' self-service meat case | (4) scales |
| 1-6' egg case | (2) electric roasters |
| 1-4' pie case | (1) electric biro saw |
| (10) 30' metal shelving | Meat slicer, meat tenderizer & |
| (1) 12' metal shelving | Meat grinder, knives, cleavers |
| Misc. metal shelving | (3) cash registers |
| Misc. Wood shelving & assort. racks | (2) adding machines |
| (3) check-out counters | (3) metal credit files |
| (1) large cigarette display rack | Outside compressors |
| Candy racks | Plus other related items too numerous to list. |

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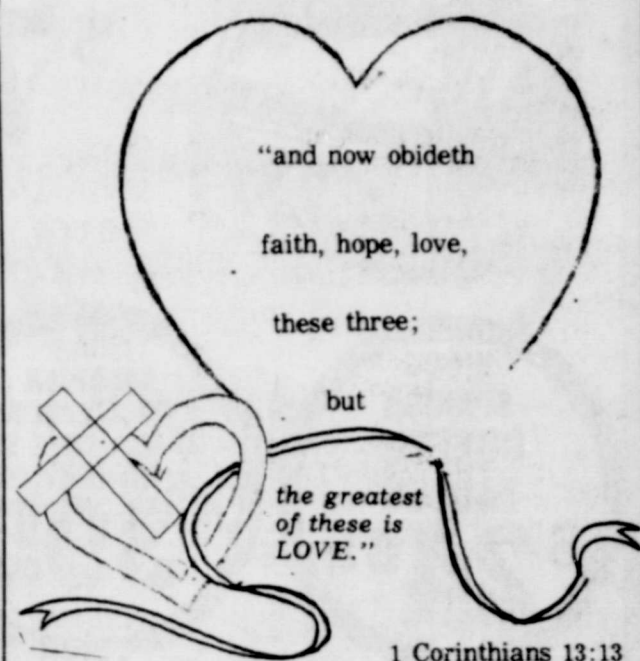
MERKEL CHURCH OF CHRIST

818-ASH
Larry Gill, Minister
John McKeel, Youth Minister

SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:45 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

GOD IS LOVE

1 John 4:8



1 Corinthians 13:13

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 A.M.
MORNING SERVICE 11:00 A.M.
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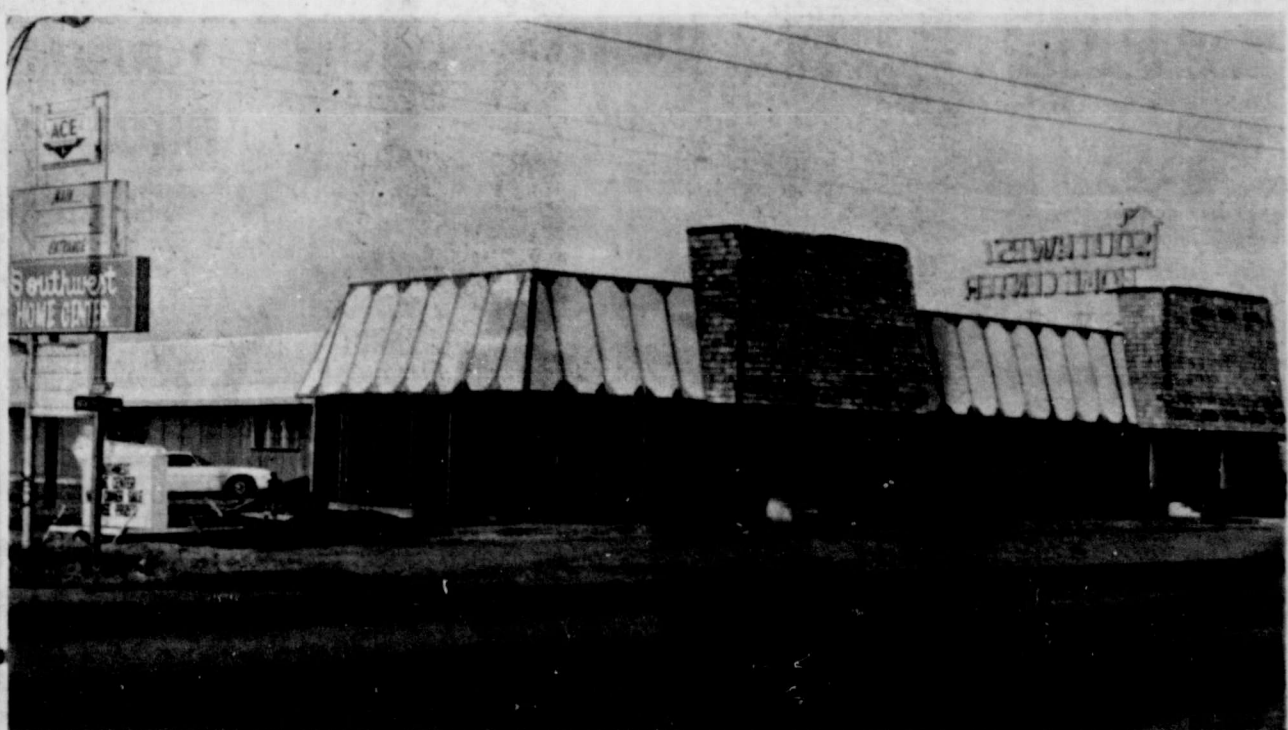
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NAME BRAND MAN-SIZE RECLINERS

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VELVET OR HERCULON

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EARLY
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• SOFA • LOVE SEAT
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\$395

HEAVY
BAR
STOOLS

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FACTORY
CLOSEOUTS
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SEAT

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HERCULON

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• LOVE SEAT
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3 PCS.

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Tye Times

Thursday February 15, 1979

What's going on in Tye

by Harold Boyd

I first take this time to apologize to Mrs. Bob Roby, of the Baptist Church, for an error on my part for reporting on their Valentine Party. This party was by invitation only and I take the blame for mis-reporting. My personal apology to Mrs. Roby for any embarrassment or inconvenience. Thank you, Mrs. Roby, for calling my attention to it.

Should you have any items of news that you want in the Mail, it would be appreciated that I get it by Friday so I can get it typed up and over to the Mail so they can proof read it and prepare it for the press. They have a schedule to meet with the printers and we are getting this column barely in by the deadline.

As I write and rewrite this column, I think of items that should be written, but I have already written the column for this week. I shall put these items away and try to get them in the next column, or the next one after that.

As I wander around the community searching for news and tid bits, I wonder if anything is happening in Tye. There is plenty and I could fill this page up real fast, but I'll take the time and sort it out and begin writing.

Regarding the Tye-Merkel School issue, I will not report anything on this due to the fact the editor in Merkel is covering this and will report the facts as they really are. I have my feeling as to what is what, but will keep my opinion and let the Mail report the facts.

The Tye Volunteer Fire Department held their monthly meeting and the big item that was discussed was the need for another truck to haul water and also serve as another pumper truck. Also discussed was the need for new members that would be more active and involved, so they are now on a membership drive. We need these people for we can't afford a paid Fire Department and must do for ourselves. If you can spare the 1st Tuesday of the month and the 3rd Tuesday, we need you.

Be it noted that the locks on the fire house have been changed for various reasons and the keys now being issued can not be duplicated.

The members are now in the process of repainting the old tank truck and getting it fixed up so when we need it, it will be ready for service. If you have any talent that you can lend, such as sanding, painting and some minor welding or mechanical skills, they will accept your offer of help.

Thank you for your

Bowerman wins

Camaro for a week

Gayla Bowerman, a 16 year old Merkel High School student and resident of Tye, opened the lucky box and was awarded a new Z-28 Chevrolet Camaro for one week in a promotion sponsored by Max Murrell Chevrolet of Merkel.

calls regarding the school menu. I will see that it is put in the Mail. Talking with Mrs. Wilson, Head Dietician for the Merkel-Tye I.S. District, these menus are made up 2 to 3 weeks in advance and vary very little as for the main menu. So look for it in the Mail somewhere. It may be in the Merkel section or Trent or Tye section. You see...the Mail has something for everyone and if you aren't a subscriber, get your subscription in to the Mail and every Thursday it will be in your mail box.

Wish to thank all of you who have purchased the cookies. We had 9 cases at my house and the young ladies have nearly sold all of them. We thank you for your generous support in Tye and surely the neighbors of Merkel, thank you also. The best sales this year. Again on behalf of my wife and girls, many thanks.

The City of Tye, City Council held its meeting Feb. 13th and the following items were discussed: 1. Plumbing Code, 1st reading. 2. Offering a reward for the arrest and conviction of person or persons destroying property that belong to the city. 3. Up coming city elections regarding election of judge, where to vote, etc. 4. Sending Pat to school for 2 days in Houston regarding office procedures, etc. for the Municipal Court that has been established here in Tye. 5. Possible vehicle for the fire department. 6. Reading on authorizing the Taylor County Tax collector to assist in valuating and collecting the tax for Tye. 7. Reference to letter regarding the seminar of public fundings that is to be held in Abilene, funds that are available to us that we are unaware of. 8. A letter or correspondence to the city of Abilene re: Dogs, to see what and if they may help us in getting this under control. 9. Then the misc. items. Anyone that may be interested in the minutes, may request to see the minutes by stopping by City Hall and ask Jo Moore.

Speaking of Dogs..Tye is currently over run with stray dogs and when a male and female get together, we have pups and it keeps going til they are running at large. It will take everyone's help to cure and cut down this problem by either controlling them or being humane in taking them to the shelter for either disposal or finding them a new home. Not driving down the highway and putting them out so someone else winds up with this problem.

If you have some news that you care to share with others, call or come by the shop and leave it with us. So for next week, thanks and be kind to your neighbor. See ya next week. Harold.

contest and the winner was chosen as each girl was presented a gift. The girls were told that the keys to the Camaro were in one of the boxes.

Max Murrell is sponsoring the Sweet 16 celebration to celebrate their 16 years selling cars in the Merkel area.

Tye school news

Kindergarten
Mrs. Paige

I told you last month to be getting your Purple Martin Houses ready. Well the time is now! It will soon be time for the "scouts" to arrive (the early birds that come ahead of the others and check out the weather and the housing facilities). The scouts usually arrive in this area around the middle of February and the flocks of Martins usually arrive on the weekend of March 15th (or closest weekend to it). I have clocked them for several years now and have found this to be true.

The Martins are most desirable birds for they eat only flying insects. Even if in captivity they are most impossible to feed. They have to be force fed. They usually eat about 2,000 flies, mosquitos and dragon flies a day, so you can see why people would love them. If you love to sit out on your yard or patio but are tired of fighting the bugs, get you a Martin house close by. We can sit in our yard all summer and live on a creek, but walk across the street and you will be covered with mosquitos.

The Martins will be here a while before they start nesting. You can tell because you will see them down on the ground picking up sticks and mud. They are never on the ground otherwise. They make an uncomfortable looking nest of mud and sticks and mud-up the hole in the martin house so the eggs and babies won't fall out. The birds lay anywhere from three to five snow white eggs, larger than a sparrow's egg.

Sparrows are a worrisome threat to the martin houses because they love the nice aluminum houses too. But with the help of humans to tear away the sparrow nests, anyone can usually have from 3 to 5 pair of martins a year. The birds always return to the same house. Banded birds have proved this.

The Purple Martin capital of the world is Griggsville, Illinois and birds fly every spring from South America (winter home) up into Canada (summer home). If they arrive early they are apt to freeze to death or starve if the bugs aren't out yet. It usually means spring is here at last when the Martins return each year but there has been an occasional cold

spell that comes late and threatens the birds. The Martins are friendly birds and seem to love people. The more people in the yard the louder the birds like to sing. They are early risers so don't put the Martin house too close to your bedroom window. I have mine right outside my window because I like to hear them sing, but it does wake us up sometime.

The Indians called the Martins "the birds that never rest" because when they are not darting and swooping after insects they are soaring up high on the wind. They love to ride on the wind and are often seen remaining stationary up in the air, buoyed up by the air currents. The houses should be up about 15 to 25 feet in the air with plenty of air space to fly around their homes.

We will be watching for the Purple Martins here at school; in about a month. We are hoping some will build a nest or two around our school. Hope you have good luck at your house.

First Grade
Mrs. Reed

Mrs. Reed's first grade class has been enjoying poetry all year. Appreciation for poetry develops slowly and is the result of careful cultivation over a period of years. The poems this year have been used in conjunction with writing exercises, and art with the children illustrating their poems.

This week I plan to arouse interest in a poem entitled "The Sad Shoes" by displaying an old pair of shoes atop a shoe box. I will proceed by reading three verses of the poem, followed by a class discussion about the sad, old shoes. As the class members talk about the kind of shoes they were and what they had done and where they had been, I'll write words and phrases up on the board. Following this, the class should be well prepared to do a little creative writing on their own. I will ask them to write a story or poem about a pair of shoes. I will ask them to tell me what kind of shoes they were and what experiences they had. Their creative writing may be as short or long as they are inspired to write. The children who desire to may share their writing with the class. This exercise should aid in developing within the children a love of poetry.

School menu

Thursday Feb. 15

Beef stew with vegetables, tossed salad with choice of dressing, corn bread, and apricot cobbler.

Friday Feb. 16

Hamburgers, lettuce, tomato, pickle, onions, potato rounds with catsup, buns and peanut butter no bake cookies.

Monday Feb. 19

Beef tacos, taco sauce, pinto beans, lettuce salad, and oatmeal cookies.

Tuesday Feb. 20

Turkey with amber gravy over rice, candied yams, tossed salad with choice of dressing, hot rolls and chilled pear halves.

Wednesday Feb. 21

Chicken fried steak with cream gravy, whipped potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, and chocolate pudding.

Thursday Feb. 22

Fried fish with tartar sauce, cabbage slaw, blackeyed peas with snaps, corn bread, and pineapple upside down cake.

Friday Feb. 23

Hamburgers, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, later to's with catsup, buns, and sugar cookies.

Sentiments from 70 years ago

WHY DON'T YOU

Reprinted from Feb. 29, 1909

Why don't you answer your friend's letter at once? It will double in value if written promptly, and will take no more time now than by and by.

Why don't you make the promised visit to that invalid? She is looking for you day after day and "hope deferred maketh the heart sick."

Why don't you send away that little gift you've been planning to send? Mere kind intentions never accomplish any good.

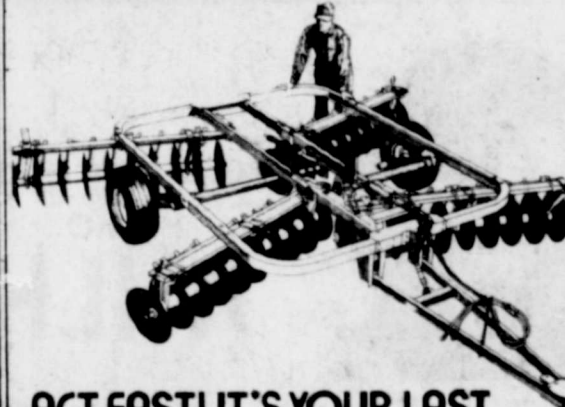
Why don't you speak the encouraging words that you have in your thoughts? Unless you express them they are of no use to others.

Why don't you try to share the burdens of that sorrowful one who works beside you? Is it because you are growing selfish?

Why don't you make more pains to be self-sacrificing and loving in the everyday home life? Time is rapidly passing. Your dear ones will not be with you always.



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220, 230, 350, 440, and 1640	\$200
330, 331, and 360	\$300
370	\$550

CHISEL PLOWS:	
1608M Integral, 1608 Drawn Rigid, 1610 Integral Rigid, 1610 Drawn Rigid (11-foot); 1611R Drawn Rigid	\$75
1620 Drawn Flexible; 1623 Drawn Flexible (23- to 27-foot)	\$125
1610 Drawn Flexible (23-foot); 1610 Drawn Rigid Folding (19-foot); 1623 Drawn Flexible (29- to 41-foot)	\$175
1610 Drawn Flexible (29- to 37-foot)	\$250
1650 Folding	\$550

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