

# The Merkel Mail

Thursday, May 1, 1980...Merkel, Texas

15 cents

## City approves 1980-81 budget, increases spending for equipment

The city approved its 1980-81 fiscal year budget that calls for spending increases for equipment and in parks and recreation. The budget says the city will spend \$156,000 during the next fiscal year.

For the past twenty years, 40 per cent of the city budget was set aside for bond payments but that is gone from the new budget. Picking up the increases was the city park and recreation department, that will have \$6,500 budgeted for improvement at the three baseball parks as well as at the city park.

City manager J.A. Sadler told council at the budget hearing that the \$6,500 figure could be twice that. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will approve matching grants for cities to construct or improve recreational facilities.

The other large increase came in the street department who will pick up \$10,000 for dump trucks and road vehicles.

The city ended the financial year with a little over \$12,000 in the bank. In a cover letter, attached to the budget, city manager J.A. Sadler said "The budget, as presented, represents a very tight, but sound fiscal overview of the city's expected income and expenditures. One of the main points is that the city is now free and clear from all bonded indebtedness against its property tax revenue. Also, all water and

sewer revenue bonds have been paid off with the exception of one issue of \$37,000. Allowing for cash reserves set aside to service this bond, the city now has only some \$20,000 bonded indebtedness, which is a very unique position for a city to be in."

The city expects to receive some \$85,000 in property taxes, up \$5,000 from last year and expects sales tax to reach \$45,000. The city expects to receive \$18,000 in utility franchise taxes and another \$12,000 from fines.

The budget for city departments says that the Police Department will spend \$53,635, the Street Department will spend \$34,110, the Fire Department will spend \$27,610 and the tax office will spend \$23,365.

The water-sewer-sanitation departments will spend \$239,000 and hope to take in that amount next year. Last year, those three departments spent \$12,000 more than they took in. Purchase cost for water from Abilene are expected to reach \$85,000 with another \$15,000 in pumping charges making the cost of getting water from Abilene to here at \$100,000.

The city's 1980-81 insurance bill is expected to be \$14,790 as well as \$9,200 in social security payments.

Council also decided to set working hours for city employees at 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. beginning May 1st.

## 2 Midland men arrested in Merkel Restaurant with 31 gallons of gas

Merkel Police and the state Fire Marshall's Office are still investigating and will seek an indictment Friday after two Midland men were arrested at the Merkel Restaurant Tuesday night with 31 gallons of gasoline inside the hotel restaurant.

Two Midland men were bonded out of Taylor County Jail by a Midland couple on \$25,000 bond set by Merkel Justice of the Peace Henry Guenther. They were released after the couple put up \$100,000 in land holdings for the bond. Both men arrested had criminal records, one man had as many as 24 felony convictions, none for arson.

Merkel Police received a call around 2 a.m.

Wednesday morning that someone was inside the Merkel Restaurant. The two were arrested by Merkel Police Chief Ray Pack, Fred Hunt and constable Vernon Wade. The officers found six, five gallon containers of gas and a one gallon glass jug of gas.

According to Merkel Police Chief Ray Pack, the state fire marshal's office has three investigators (arson) on the case as well as the Lubbock office of the Alcohol, Fire and Tobacco investigators.

Friday, Merkel Police Chief Ray Pack is to appear before the 42nd District Court Grand Jury to seek criminal indictments against the Midland pair.

## Democratic, republican primaries Saturday

The Democratic Primary and Republican primaries are this weekend and local voters will vote at the Senior Citizens Center here in the democratic primary and Mann Junior High Cafeteria in Abilene

is the site of the Republican vote.

There are contested races for Sheriff, Precinct 1 county commissioner as well as Railroad Commission, and state judges.

## Rescue attempt, new budget, more...

by Cloy A. Richards

What were your initial reactions to the aborted raid to free the American hostages in Iran?

Quite frankly, the attempt did not surprise me, and neither did the results of the operation.

Militarily, the operation pushed the men, and their equipment to the very limits of performance. I pulled out a military fact sheet concerning the UH-53 Helicopters that were used on the mission. Their facts say that the UH-53 can be expected to operate safely for a range of 425 miles. The mission that was aborted demanded that choppers fly 500 miles, in raging dust storms to a remote desert area. The C-130s used to haul troops and fuel should encounter no problems on a mission of that type, and did not.

It does seem a comedy of errors were involved in the mission failure. As soon as the planes landed, they were spotted by 50 Iranian citizens, three choppers were disabled, one refueling fire and a mid-air collision doomed the mission.

I can guarantee you one thing. The Delta team, which was probably used in the operation, was trained and ready for the mission.

The Delta team is an elite band of soldiers with special skills and fortitude. Delta is located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and was established while I was still serving as base newspaper editor at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. The secrecy that surrounds that group, no public listing of personnel involved, no visitors to their training facility (which is a converted military prison) and no public reports of any of their activities, suggest that the Delta group were probably used in the attack.

Don't let that aborted mission suggest anything more than it was. It was a bold, daring plan, one that has been on a drawing table and studied for months, and one that could have worked, or not worked, but at least it was a planned and tried.

Up until last Friday, the American people had no proof that anything other than diplomatic maneuvering was going on to free the hostages. The question remains, what will we try next, and when. Other questions remain unanswered as well. What will the Iranians do to the hostages as a result of the mission?

When those answers are in, we will see if the plan was a good idea or not.

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The city adopted their new operating budget last week and inside the report was a fairly glowing report of financial management within the city.

According to the budget, the city has a surplus of \$12,000, has no general indebtedness for the first time in 27 years, has only about \$20,000 in water-sewer

construction debts.

All of that and they only expect \$85,000 in taxes from Merkel citizens and businesses.

City fathers haven't taken a "now that we have all that money" attitude just yet but they are discussing projects that need to be done, as well as setting aside \$6,500 that could be matched from the state for improvements on local baseball parks and the city park. The city was also able to set aside \$10,000 for street department vehicles, and other capital improvements in other city departments, as well as granting a 12 per cent pay increase, for no increase in taxes.

Sound like a fairy tale? This one happens to be true. The reason the city was able to grant a few increases here and there is simple. About 40 per cent of past city budgets went to bond payments. Now they have stopped.

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Hey, what have some people got against baseball around here.

The Tri-City Baseball League just finished building, with borrowed money, a concession stand, and after one tournament, the stand was vandalized.

Tri-City Baseball League president Bill Sloan is not too happy with the recent vandalism and his group is offering a \$100 reward for information leading to conviction for last week's vandalism at the park.

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You hear a lot of complaining about the way some of Merkel looks. This week, I went out Monday afternoon to show some of the pretty areas around here. Hope the photo reproduction does some of the homes and gardens justice.

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Rain, where for art thou?

No appreciable rainfall this year has left the wheat in pretty bad shape in the area and now is threatening the start of cotton season, as well as grain crops.

Local gardeners have been watering plenty so far this season and there are some beautiful gardens around.

Do your rain dances now, for crying out loud. Some of the wheat crop may still do all right with a rain, but there is not a chance for the others without the rain.

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The city rabies clinic was a howling success. One hundred thirty six animals were given rabies shots and 100 city dog tags were issued.

The clinic lasted two hours longer than it was supposed to. Other than a couple of cats that did not take too well to Dr. Dozier's needles.



The lilly on top basks in the sun just east of the County Barn here and the bottom row of lillies,

receiving a watering are living it up at 212 Rose here. Staff photos by Cloy A. Richards)

## Badgers end sports season

Merkel's two entries into the regional track meet failed to place last weekend in Lubbock.

Randy Martin competed in the pole vault and Bart Pursley competed in the 330 intermediate hurdles.

We did not get the results of the junior varsity and junior high district track meet two weeks ago in Colorado City.

The seventh grade failed to score and no results are available of their meet.

The eighth graders were led by Michael McCoy who won the high jump, won the long jump, won the 100 meter dash and the 110 high hurdles, placed fifth in the 400 meters.

Russel Lucas tied for sixth in the high jump, placed fourth in the 400 meter dash and fourth in the 200 meters.

David Shultz placed fifth in the pole vault and 5th

in the mile.

The junior varsity placed third in the meet behind Coahoma and Stamford.

Scoring for the J.V. were Donald Hegwood, who won the long jump and placed fourth in the 100 dash, Mike Pape won the discuss, Sammy Tumlinson won the pole vault, Mike Hagar placed second and Jay Campbell placed third, DeWayne Brown grabbed fourth in the high jump, the 400 meter relay team of Hagar, Tumlinson, Hegwood and Bubba Taylor placed fifth and Tumlinson grabbed sixth in the 300 intermediate hurdles.

One other sports note, former Merkel High School pole vaulter Brad Pursley placed second at the Drake Relays last weekend. Pursley grabbed two seconds and a first in the top three college meets of the year as a freshman vaulter at Abilene Christian.

## Reward offered in vandalism case

Tri-City baseball league facilities were hit by vandals between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning last week and vandals did some \$250 in damages to a newly constructed snack bar. A \$100 reward is being offered by the association for any tips that lead to the arrest of the vandals, according to association president Bill Sloan.

Sloan told the Mail Monday that vandals stole candy, pickles and damaged a steel door in the break in.

It was the second act of vandalism at park facilities in the past year. Last summer, vandals did some \$940 in damages to lights at the field.

Sloan told the Mail that the association still has not received any of that money, although the vandals were caught.

Although the league has control over its field, it is leased to them by the city. Sloan said he felt that lights should be installed near the baseball parks to keep vandals away from the facilities and feels that patrols in that area should be increased.

The newly constructed concession stand was built with borrowed funds and proceeds from tournaments were to offset the construction costs. The league season begins Monday and five teams will be fielded. Two from Merkel, one from Trent, Tye, and Hawley.

## Lambda Beta holds beauty contest

Lambda Beta held their annual Beauty Pageant at Merkel School Auditorium Saturday evening and 85 girls entered the contest.

Winners were in order of finish Marijke Foster, Rikki Cassidy and Shelly Seymore in the Elementary school, Shayla Hardy, Misty Doan and Betsy Jo

Hellums in Kindergarten through second grade, Misty Vaughn, Patti Welch and Son Mi Chon in third through fifth grade, Brenda Hohbertz, Pam Wheeler and Tammy Selmon in six'h through eighth grade, and Rebecca Sipe, Tammy Davis and Lanita Stevens in the high school division.

# Lambda Beta thanks participants, sponsors from contest

Lambda Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi wishes to thank John Townsend and Farrel Bagby for their help in the lighting at the Miss Merkel Beauty Pageant.

We extend a special thanks to the following merchants for their willingness to sponsor a girl: Kelly Atkinson-Merkel TV Cable, Amanda Bunch-Taylor Telephone, Shayla Carter-Hicks Auto Supply, Rikki Cassidy-Dodie's Kut and Kurl, Marijke Foster Johnny Holmes Shell Station, Mandy Gregory-Gregory and Goode Construction, Dana Hammond-Ben Franklin Store, Esther Hernandez-Merkel Apartments Ltd., Heather Liggins-S & T Tire Co., Shelly Nicole Seymour-Marie's Beauty Korner, Glorietta Ascosta-Hammond Ins., Dana Jean Baldree-Higginbotham-Bartlett Co., Dustie Lee Baldree-Merkel Brick and Lumber, Mi Haw Chon-El Tye O Trailer Sales, Son Hui Chon-Ben Franklin Store, Michelle Davis-Hohhertz Dairy, Misty Doan-E-G Inc., Robynn Dudley-Dairy Bar, Carolyn Sue Hall-Hicks Auto Supply, Melissa Hallford-Stanford's Radio & TV, Susan Hammond-Taylor Electric Co-Op, Shayla Hardy-Merkel Drug, Betsy Jo Hellums-Merkel Locker, Kristy M. Hengel-Stuart Bishop Plumbing, Dawn Henslee-Handy Food Store, Kimberly Kay

Marshall-Walter Whisenhunt Purina Feed, Sandra Kay Marshall-Wylie Truck Terminal, Melisa Massey Barnett Barber Shop, Cecelia Meins-Hi Val Farm and Home Supply, Katina Neith-Ace Pipe and Supply Inc., Lorie Diane Olvera-New Image Beauty Salon, Teresa Ross-Ninth Street Gro., Jennifer Rzcudlo-Seymore Ins., Shirley Shockley-Merkel Auto Parts, Sherri Jo Turner-Merkel Fina Station, Anne Marie Wojcik-Palmer Pontiac & GMC, Irene Alvarez-Hi Val Farm and Home Supply, Laura Denise Burks-Heritage Cadillac, Son Mi Chon-Modern Beauty Shop, April Duncan-Ed's Feed and Seed, Nancy Frazier-Merkel Fina Station, Sabrina Frazier Sonja's Beauty Salon, Kimberly D. Graham-Starbuck Furniture, De Angela Kay Hall-Raymon Milligan Texaco, Melissa Harris-Pug and Leo's Restaurant, Candice Henslee-Cilia-Geigy-Max Reynolds Sales Rep., Judy Diane Henson-Dairy Queen, Richa Hill-Merkel Apartments Ltd., Kimberly Jean Kelly-Merkel Mail, Kimberly Morris-Dr. Larry Irvin Dentist, Christina Patterson-Max Murrell Chevrolet, Janna Marie Pettit-Merkel Restaurant, Patricia Quisenbury-Big Country Inn, Melissa Kay Roys-Art's Barber Shop, Kimberly Rzcudlo-Stuckey's Pecan Shoppe, Elizabeth Fern Taylor-DuBose Texaco,

Ginger Van Gorp-Chat and Curl Beauty Salon, Misty Lea Vaughan-Syble's Beauty Nook, Patti Welch-Hohhertz Dairy, Bena White-Wilson Jewelry, Sheila White-Tessie's Snack Bar, Dana Rae Brown-South Grain Elevator, Lisa Connor-Boney Ins., Brenda Hohhertz-Hohhertz Dairy, Luan Johnson-Warren Clinic, Becky Middleton-West Texas Utilities, Kathy Mitchell-Castille Hardware, Tammy Selman-Fisher Plumbing, Cindy Sims-F&M National Bank, Renee Stamper-Braggs Department Store, Sandra Mae Taylor-Carson's Supermarket, Lucretia Wade-Ann's

Flowers, Pam Wheeler-H.W. Lemens Inc., Kay Amerine-Amerine Heating and Air Conditioning, Shannon Bagby-Dairy Queen, Christy Brady-Allen-Cypert Tax service, Syzanne Byrd-Pat's Beauty Salon, Tammie Cunningham-Elmo Moore Trucking, Tammie Davis-Adcock Circle A Western Store, Karla Gartmen-Dr. Don Roberts-Dentist, Sondra Griffith-Planters Gin, Kimberlie Mashburn-Hammond Ins., Kim Rich-Toombs Real Estate, Delisa Roysden-Dairy Queen, Rebecca Sipe-Home State Bank, Lanita Stevens-Merkel Auto Parts.

## TRI-CITY PONY LEAGUE

## BASEBALL REGISTRATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTH DATE \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DID YOU PLAY IN THIS LEAGUE LAST YEAR? \_\_\_\_\_

IF SO, ON WHAT TEAM? \_\_\_\_\_

CAP SIZE \_\_\_\_\_ SHIRT SIZE \_\_\_\_\_

I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THE TRI-CITY BASEBALL LEAGUE

SIGNATURE OF PLAYER \_\_\_\_\_

WE, THE PARENTS OF THE ABOVE BOY, GIVE OUR PERMISSION FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF TRI-CITY BOYS BASEBALL. WE RELEASE THE SPONSORS, OFFICIALS AND THE ORGANIZATION FROM RESPONSIBILITY IN CASE OF INJURY OR ACCIDENT. ALL BOYS ARE COVERED WITH INSURANCE FOR PRACTICE, GAMES AND TRAVEL BY THE ORGANIZATION.

SIGNATURE OF FATHER \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF MOTHER \_\_\_\_\_

A \$12.50 REGISTRATION FEE, TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSE OF INSURANCE AND CONCESSION STAND HELP, MUST BE RETURNED WITH THIS FORM!!! NO BOY WILL PLAY IN THE TRI-CITY LEAGUE THIS YEAR WITHOUT THE \$12.50 FEE.

# All sports banquet is Saturday

The Merkel All-Sports Banquet has been set for the Cafeteria at 7 p.m. Saturday. Awards and recognition of teams, as well as the installation of two new members of the Hall of Fame will highlight the evening.

Speaker for the occasion is Coach Gordon Wood of Brownwood High. Coach Wood has been named the Texas High School Coaches Association Coach of the

Year twice and has won the national honor once. He has eight state football championships to his credit and has compiled a 353-70-10 lifetime record, making his second in all-time best records for high school football coaches.

Tickets are \$5 each and are available at the high school office, as well as from Byron Shelley, Jeanette Pursley and Art Hererra.

# Girls softball starts Tuesday

Softball mania will get underway Tuesday, May 6th when the Merkel and Trent Girls Softball League will kick things off at the Merkel Softball parks. Minor teams starting play will be the Big Country Inn going against Ann's Flowers on Field 1 and the Shell Hot Rods playing Home State Bank of Trent on field 2. Time of both games will be 6:30.

On May 8th, the Mini-Minor division will begin play at 6:30 with Wylie Shamrock playing Allen Tax Service on field 1 and Lambda Beta and the Methodist Church playing on field 2.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to come out and boost your favorite team or just come out for an enjoyable evening of fun. We have made great progress and still have lots of work to get everything in tip top shape.

In the weeks to come we will be giving a list of games for the week and results of the past week's play and also a list of the teams members and the most important sponsors who without their support the softball program in Merkel and Trent would not be possible.

# Merkel elementary honor roll

The Merkel Elementary School Honor Roll is as follows:

## FIRST GRADE

(A) Dustie Baldree, Jenny Boyd, Lois Campbell, Melissa Cuellar, Robert Frazier, Jayma Goldsmith, April Griffith, Collin Jacobs, Sean Leamon, Michael McFadden, Destrý Pack, Phuong Thao Tran, Maria Uribe, Daniel West, Debbie Whitaker

(A-B) Coby Archa, John Boswell, Brandon Boyd, Amber Buckley, Betsy Hellums, Cara Kelso, Claudia Nuncio, Rodney Russell, Brandon Toombs

(A) Michele Dudley, Richa Hill, Anissa Jones, Diem Tran

(A-B) Michelle Barnett, David Biera, Camilla Bright, Norma Cuellar, Jennifer Davis, John Paul Dudley, Ricky Lacey, Pam Neff, Kim Richards, Chris Shugart Wade Toombs, Max Trevino

## FOURTH GRADE

(A) Mark Aldrete, April Duncan, Kristy Elliott, Staci Ferguson, Angie Moreno, Ramon Moreno, Karrie Rich, Ted Seymore, Todd Smith, Mindy Steward, Amy Stuckey, Krista Toombs, Misty Vaughn, C.J. White

(A-B) Chris Biera, Ray Browning, Angie Cannon, Kyle Coker, Shelle Doan, Jerry Flowers, Elaina Funderburg, Lynn Hays, Jamie Heyen, Lee Leverich, Chantelle McKeenan, Cory Metts, Crissy Nalley, Janna Pettit, Chad Way

## FIFTH GRADE

(A) Tracy Bicknell, Tina Jaramillo, Debbie Pack, Sheri Riney

(A-B) Suzan Alberts, David Doan, Abby Irvin, Lance Jones, Kristen Kennedy, Russell Morgan, Bridget Pallerez, Brit Pursley, Danny Santee, DeAnn Stevens, Tod Strickland, Angela

Thomas, Fondale Watson, Michelle Woodard

# Riding club cleaned up and ready

The Merkel Riding Club work day was a big success. The arena and surrounding area has been put into good shape for our 1980 season.

All members are urged to attend regularly so we can make this season the best ever. We invite new members to join us and visitors are

always welcome.

We always have lots of fun and it is an activity the whole family can participate in.

We meet every Saturday night. For more information contact: Walter Whisenhunt, president; Nelda Masonheimer, secretary; or Shirley Morgan, reporter.

## ATTENTION DEMOCRATS

**John Connally doesn't need your vote anymore.  
Ronald Reagan doesn't need your vote anymore.  
Texas does!**

Northeastern liberals have been planning for months to take over a seat on the Texas Railroad Commission—so they can continue to buy Texas energy for bargain basement prices.

They're counting on conservative Democrats crossing over into the Republican Primary to support Ronald Reagan (who now has the nomination all but assured)—leaving only liberal voters in the Democratic Primary.

If they are successful, they will elect radical left-winger Jim Hightower (not to be confused, as they hope, with conservative Congressman Jack Hightower).

Jim Nugent is the best qualified man for the job. Jim Nugent—and Texas—needs your vote in the Democratic Primary May 31.

**DON'T CROSS-OVER—VOTE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY MAY 31**

Printed and published by Jim Nugent, Committee for Ronald Reagan, P.O. Box 1592, Austin, Texas 78761

# Did You Know That:

State Senator Grant Jones of Abilene, Voted **Against** Exempting Agricultural Livestock in the Hands of Producers from Ad Valorem Taxation?

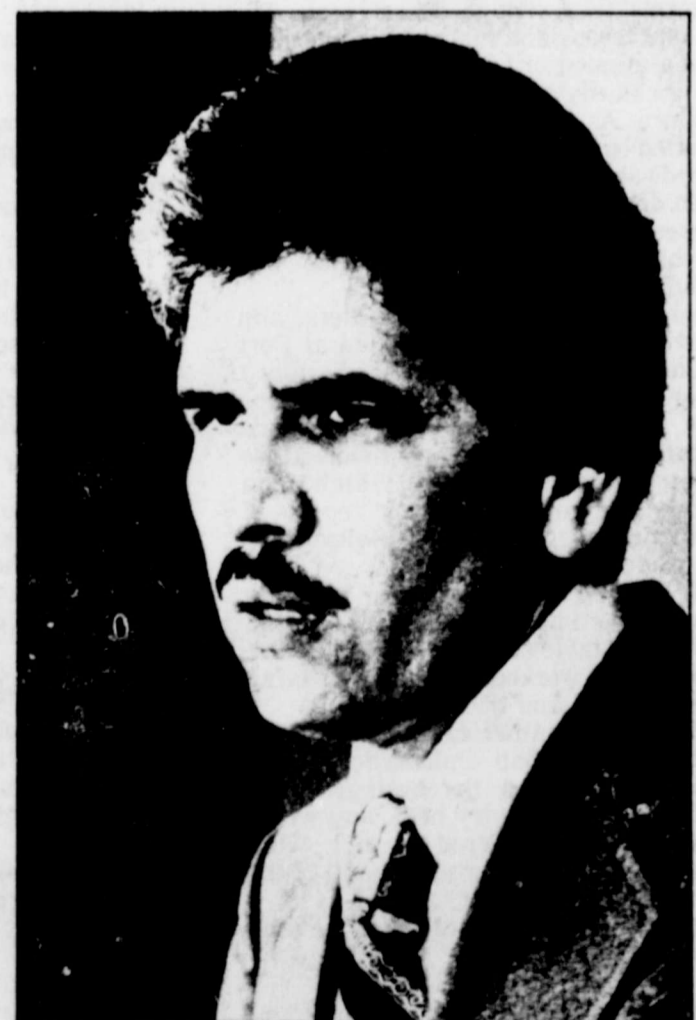
Jones Voted **Against** a 7% Teacher Pay Raise.

Jones Voted **Against** a \$10,000 Tax exemption for all Elderly Texans.

**IT'S TIME FOR  
A CHANGE**

**ELECT**

**Roland Simon  
Arriola  
State Senator**



• Waco City Councilman • Baylor Graduate • **PROVEN LEADER**

(Paid for by friends of Roland Simon Arriola)

# Trent News

Thursday, May 1, 1980

## Trent band students win awards

The Trent Bands have won awards this week. Tuesday, the high school band performed at UIL concert and sight reading contest. The band received division III ratings in both concert and sight reading.

On Saturday, April 26, the Trent 4th, 5th, and 6th grade band students played at the Munday Musci Festival at Munday High School. The band received a division I rating in concert performance.

Students from grades 4-8 participated in solo and ensemble competition. The ratings were as follows: Division I soloists-Sherry Sawon, alto sax; Willie Brazzelton, cornet; Steven Schreiner, cornet; Luci Masonheimer, cornet; Adam De la Cruz, French horn; Brian Massey, trombone; Chris Simpson, cornet; Kate Wood, flute; Missy Simpson, flute; Jennie Griffith, clarinet; Doyle

Brenem, clarinet; Tammy Collier, clarinet; Ted Wood, cornet; Scott O'Kelly, cornet; Leslie McGlothlin, clarinet

Division I ensembles: Trio-Leslie McGlothlin, Chris Simpson, Willie Brazzelton; Quintet-Missy Simpson, Kate Wood, Janna King, Benjamin Beaver, Billy Brazzelton; Duet-Leslie McGlothlin, Chris Simpson; Quartet Steven Schreiner, Adam De la Cruz, Billy Williams, Joe McGlothlin; Duet-Tina Cain, Kate Wood

Division II soloists: Tina Cain, twirling; Kim Orr, piano; Kim Orr, cornet; Missy Simpson, piano; Leslie McGlothlin, piano; Joe Hector Agui n a g a, drum; Tina Cain, drum

Division II ensembles Quartet-Leslie McGlothlin, Chris Simpson, Kim Orr, Wilson Stephens; Quartet-Scott O'Kelly, Wilson Stephens, Willie Brazzelton, Adam De la Cruz

## Masonheimer third

Leslie Masonheimer, Junior at Trent, is the first alternate to the State U.I.L. Spelling contest. Leslie won dis-

trict then placed third at the Regional Meet last weekend held at McMurry.

## Track over, banquet set

Herbert Beaver qualified in four events in last weekend's regional track meet in Abilene, but a pulled hamstring kept him from running at full speed in the meet.

Beaver had qualified in the 100, 220, long jump and as a member of the 440 relay team but only competed in the relay because of the muscle pull.

Trent managed a sixth place finish in the relay, after the baton was dropped and Her-

bert running hurt. Trent Coach Bob Campbell told the Mail Monday that the Gorillas would work out for two weeks in football off season training and that he is looking forward to this summer's Texas Six Man Coaches Association All-Star football game, that Herbert, and Gilbert Beaver, along with Danny Freeman will be participating in. The Trent Sports Banquet has been scheduled for May 15th at the Trent Cafeteria.



Congressman

**Charles W. Stenholm**

### Congressional Comment

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One of the most demoralizing battles being fought today in homes of the elderly in every corner of our nation is the tug-of-war between the Social Security check and rising costs of daily necessities caused by

inflation.

There is no doubt that our elderly citizens and others living on fixed incomes are taking the cruelest blows as they see their small incomes stretched closer and closer to the breaking point.

It is far easier to raise questions concerning the direction of our Social Security program than to hit upon perfect solutions.

Was Social Security originally designed as a complete retirement plan or as supplemental income for retirees?

How do benefit totals compare to the actual amount of money paid in by the individual during his or her years of work? Is this type of comparison, in light of today's inflation, fair?

Everyone agrees that all senior citizens ideally should spend their latter years in dignity and financial comfort. But can we ignore the young worker, struggling to raise a family and facing the same inflationary woes, who is seeing more and more of his earnings funneled away to the Social Security program?

With a built-in cost-of-living increase, tied to the Consumer Price Index, can Social Security payments realistically keep up with inflation without the entire system breaking down at some point?

I could easily add to the list of questions regarding this issue, but sifting through the facts — historical, present and predicted — of the Social Security dilemma, I find the answers are illusive.

Federal Insurance Contributions Action (FICA) Program deductions total 6.13 percent of the workers' paycheck and a like amount from his employer. At the same time, payments to those eligible are to increase by 14.3 percent in

July. It doesn't take a calculator to deduce the imbalance between the two. The message is simple: to pay out more, you must take in more.

How did we get to this point and, more importantly, where, when and how will the upward spiral end?

In the weeks ahead, Congressional Comment will be investigating the Social Security Program, delving into the history of the program in an attempt to illuminate its purpose, as well as presenting a current assessment and reviewing some of the changes that have been proposed.

I make no claims to having all of the answers, but rather am asking the questions in an attempt to clarify misunderstandings about Social Security and to formulate my own course on this sensitive issue.

## Energy Facts

### Petroleum Imports

The U.S. imported 43 percent of its total refined petroleum products for the first six months of 1979 as compared to only 35 percent at the beginning of the Arab oil embargo in 1973. The high-water mark of 47.8 percent was reached in 1977.

OPEC members supplied 67 percent of U.S. oil imports during the first six months of 1979. Saudi Arabia is the No. 1 source and accounted for 16.2 percent of the total. Other top countries were Nigeria, 13 percent; Algeria and Libya, 8 percent; Indonesia, 5 percent; and Iran, 1.7 percent. Before the Iranian Revolution, direct imports from Iran accounted for 6.6 percent of the U.S. total.

Through 1947, the United States was a net exporter of petroleum. By the fall of 1979, net imports were 7.6 million barrels a day, crude and refined products combined.



The U.S. Department of Energy has set a goal of reducing imports 50 percent by 1990. This will require both reducing demand and increasing supply, and individual effort to conserve energy will be a very important part. To learn how you can help, ask for a free copy of "Tips for Energy Savers" from Energy, P.O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830.

## Elementary UIL meet

The Elementary and Junior High U.I.L. meet at Bronte Friday was a success for the Trent Gorillas. Placing in Oral Reading Grades 5-6 was Missy Simpson, 2nd; grades 7-8, Casey John-

son, 2nd and Edna Garza, 4th. Number sense Kim Wallis, 4th and Joey McGlothlin 5th. Picture Memory Chris Simpson, Hector Aguinaga, and Kate Wood, all 5th place.

### SPECIAL PRICES FRIDAY & SATURDAY MAY 2 & 3

- Bake Rite 42 Oz Can SHORTENING..... \$1.29
- Boden Half-Gallon ORANGE DRINK 79¢
- Maryland Club COFFEE..... 1 lb. \$2.79
- Hunts CATSUP... 32 Oz. Bot... 98¢
- Giadiola FLOUR..... 5 lbs 89¢
- 7 1/4 Oz Box KRAFT DINNER.... 33¢
- 32 Oz Bot IVORY LIQUID..... \$1.39
- Whole IG 1 Gal HOMO MILK..... \$2.06
- Frozen Banquet Spaghetti & Meatballs TV DINNERS.... Ea... 43¢
- Niblers 6 Ears in Pkg CORN ON THE COB... 79¢
- Large Head LETTUCE..... Ea... 39¢
- U.S. No. 1 Russett 10 Lb Bag POTATOES..... 89¢
- CARROTS... 1 Lb Bag... 19¢
- Fresh TOMATOES..... lb 39¢
- Fresh PORK ROAST... lb... 89¢
- 12 Oz Pkg STEAK FINGERS... \$1.49
- Country Style 1 Lb PORK SAUSAGE 89¢
- Gooch BEEF STEAKS 1 Lb \$1.69
- Blue Ribbon BACON..... 1 lb... 89¢
- Gooch All Meat FRANKS... 12 Oz Pkg 89¢
- Sun Valley OLEO..... 1 lb... 43¢

WE ACCEPT FOOD COUPONS

**Carriker Food**  
Trent, Texas

## SPECIAL

**\$2,000.00**  
Special Discount on Buildings  
2500 sq. ft. or more

Take advantage of this limited time offer on these buildings available at this special low price while stocks last. This is the famous Miracle Span Steel Building with the super strong arch, and the heavy duty doors big enough for your largest piece of equipment.

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OF TEXAS, INC.

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**Larry McCommas**  
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676-4717

ABILENE, TEXAS 79604

## HOME STATE BANK

WE CONGRATULATE THE  
TRENT BAND AND TRACK TEAM  
FOR THEIR EFFORTS  
TRENT, TEXAS

Each depositor insured to \$40,000

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

CAL TEX  
BUYERS OF  
CATTLE MILK AND  
HAY  
ROUTE 2 BOX 128  
TRENT, TEXAS  
915-862-2951  
CUSTOM CATTLE FEEDING

## An Effective Senator...

Grant Jones serves as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, one of the most important and powerful appointments the Lieutenant Governor can make.

In addition to the Finance Committee Chairmanship, Grant Jones has posted an impressive record of hard work serving the voters of the 24th District.

Among his accomplishments in the last session of the Legislature are: Reforming property tax administration; implementing tax relief; revising the consumer credit code; increasing state tuition grants to students at private colleges and updating strip mining regulations.

—Texas Monthly said of Grant Jones, "the Legislature's most ardent devotee of hard work; a beast of burden for whom the yoke is reward, not punishment."

In 1979, Texas Business magazine honored Jones with the Midnight Oil Award for the Best Committee Chairman ... saying ... "he has a continuing personal record of excellence."

## vote May 3rd for Senator Grant Jones.

It's our turn to show the Senator how much we appreciate his hard work in Austin.

Paid for by Committee to Elect Grant Jones, Raymond M. Daniel and Bill Bailey, Co-Treasurers, P.O. Box 3138, Abilene, Texas 79605, P.O. Box 294, Waco, Texas 76703



## Hogan is artist of the month



Ruth Hogan at work on her next painting in her backyard. Ruth is Artist of the Month from the Merkel Art Association. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)

Mrs. Jack Hogan was named as the Merkel Art Association Artist of the Month. Some of her paintings will be on display at the United Savings in Merkel through the month of May.

United Savings is honoring Ruth with a coffee Friday morning, May 2, from 10:00 until 11:30 a.m. Public invited.

Ruth has been interested in paintings all her life, but has only painted the past seven years.

She paints with oils and acrylic, however oils is her favorite medium. Ruth started painting as a hobby, but could be a full time job.

Ruth wishes to express her love for the outdoor life on canvas as if you had walked into her landscape on bluebonnet meadow.

Her subjects are of several different kind, but she enjoys painting landscapes with old houses, windmills, barns and bluebonnets.

Ruth has studied under several well known artists, Talmage Minter art teacher at ACC and Jim Campbell, teacher at Cisco Jr. College. Lois Shaw of Sweetwater, Ruth Adams and also Bernice Landrum of Abilene. She is painting with Bernice at the present.

Mrs. Hogan has had many invitations to display her paintings, the Arcade Hall, Westwood Club and Sambo's. To my surprise I get these invitations and then I feel as someone is interested in my work.

Ruth is very humble about her paintings hanging in various homes throughout the state.

She enjoys telling people that she is a charter member of the Merkel Art Association and that she has held an office each year.

Ruth is proud to say she is a Texan and a native of Taylor County. She and her husband Jack live at Rt. 3 Box 73, Merkel. She delights in saying, Jack and I both live within seven miles of where we were born. Jack and Ruth have one son, Kenneth, and wife Nancie. They have two sons, Ken and Kody Hogan.

## More refunding addresses

Proctor & Gamble Company has won hands down over other manufacturing companies concerning their attitude in helping refunders obtain the form necessary in order to refund. Over two hundred NEW refund offers are opened up each month by the various manufacturers who want you to try their products. Unfortunately the vast majority of these offers require a form in order to receive the refunds. Proctor & Gamble Company has a special department where refunders can write in and request forms for available offers.

Head and Shoulders Sports Spectular, P.O. Box 493, Maple Plain, MN 55348. Your choice of any one of nine Wilson Sports Balls. Send the weight statements from Head and Shoulders, Imperial Size is 4 points, Super Size is 3 points, Family Size is 2 points and Regular size is 1 point. Items to choose from are Basketball-20 points; Baseball-5 points; Playground Ball-5 points; Volleyball-25 points; Football-20 points; Soccer Ball-30 points; three Tennis Balls-5 points; Softball-5 points; three Golf Balls-5 points. Offer expires 7-5-80. Form required.

80. Form required. Spring Cleaning Refund, Box PG 529, El Paso, Tx 79977. Send proof of purchases from all four products for \$2.00 cash, from three for \$1.50 cash, from two for \$1.00 cash or one for 50c cash. The products are: Mr. Clean-fluid ounce statement from one 40 oz., 32.2 oz., 28 oz. or two 15 oz. sizes. Spic and Span-one 64.8 oz., 54 oz. or two 16 oz. sizes net weight statements. Three Comet net weight statements (or one Bathroom Bundle overwrap). Top Job fluid ounce statements from one 40 oz., 28 oz., or two 15 oz. Offer expires 9-10-80. Form required.

A postcard sent to Proctor & Gamble, Box 132, Cincinnati, Ohio 45299 with your name and address and the name of the form is all that is necessary, if you desire more than one form you can list as many as you want on the postcard. However it is against company policy for you to request forms for someone else, each refunder must request their own. Proctor & Gamble will also refund your postage which makes it the "ideal" company. This policy of theirs of make their forms available, plus the terrific offers that available to refunders makes their products highly desirable. Many refunders will buy Proctor & Gamble products knowing that somewhere in the future there will be an offer out that they can cash in on.

Here are some current offers from Proctor & Gamble that you might want to try. Remember the form is required and you can request them from the above mentioned address. For a sample refund bulletin that lists several hundred refund offers, send \$1.00 to Shopper's Bonus, P.O. Box 109, Marksville, LA 71351. For a free listing of over forty refund bulletins, send a long self addressed and stamped envelope to the same address.

## Charles STENHOLM '80

Democrat • 17th District • U.S. Congress

For the past two years, it has been my privilege to serve the people of the 17th District. To the many friends who have been so kind to Cindy and myself, we say thank you and ask for your continued support.

Vote Saturday, May 3 in the Democratic Primary, and participate that night in the precinct convention and speak up for the kind of America you want.



Political Advertising paid for by the Stenholm for Congress Committee '80, P.O. Box 1032, Stamford, Texas 79553, Charles Brownfield, Treasurer.

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Thursday, May 1, 1980

## Tips help save summer energy

COLLEGE STATION--Consumers can get more from their "beat-the-summer-heat" dollar, says Dr. Jane Berry, a housing and home furnishings specialist.

Dr. Berry is with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the Texas A&M University System.

She suggests some simple, no-cost steps consumers can take immediately to maximize cooling.

### RAISE THERMOSTAT

Raise the air conditioner thermostat to the highest comfort level possible. This will reduce energy consumption from three to 10 percent for each degree the thermostat is raised.

When it's excessively hot outdoors, turn the thermostat up even higher to keep from overworking the air conditioner.

Greatest efficiency results when a difference of no more than 15 to 20 degrees is maintained between inside and outside temperature.

### USE FANS

Fans, used either by themselves or with air conditioning, can enhance summer comfort while saving energy.

While a one-ton air conditioner costs around seven cents an hour to operate, a fan costs less than one cent an hour to run.

Fans won't make any change in the room's actual temperature, but the constant breeze they provide will make you feel much cooler.

In fact, set the air conditioner at 82 degrees F., use a fan to circulate the air, and experience the same comfort as if the air conditioner were set at 74 degrees F.

### DRAW SHADES

Windows and glass areas transmit most of the radiant heat they are exposed to.

So, block out heat on those sides of the house that get direct sun exposure.

Draw shades or draperies on the east side in the morning and on the west side in the afternoon to reduce the heat load the air conditioner must remove.

### CHANGE FILTER

Since a dust-clogged filter restricts air flow and makes the machine work harder, change it frequently.

### REMOVE OBSTRUCTIONS

Overgrown shrubs, weeds and grass growing close to the air conditioner's condensing unit can restrict the flow of air and seriously impair the unit's efficiency.

## Garden club meets, talks clean-up

Merkel Garden Club met April 24th at the home of Mrs. Charlie Sherril.

Alice King, president, presided for the meeting. Mrs. W.T. Sadler reported to the club about the 4th grade of Merkel making posters about cleaning our city.

Faye Brown introduced the program, Spring Fantasy given by Mrs. L.B. Gibson of Albany. She talked about the beauty and color of plants in homes. She gave tips on how to care for plants and named some that were easy to grow. Hanging

baskets and totem poles were mentioned.

Refreshments were served to Mrs. Tom Allday, Mrs. Bill Black, Mrs. W.L. Brown, Mrs. Oda Clark, Mrs. Lottie Everett, Mrs. Dee Grimes, Mrs. Joe Hartley, Mrs. Earl Hughes, Mrs. Allen King, Mrs. Elmer Patterson, Mrs. George Peachy, Mrs. Tom Russom, Mrs. W.T. Sadler, Mrs. John Shannon, Mrs. Charlie Sherril and visitors Mrs. L.B. Gibson, Mrs. Morris Smith, Mrs. Charlie Baker and Mrs. Dent Gibson.

However, shrubs and trees that shade the unit from direct sunlight help keep it from getting too hot.

### WEAR LIGHT CLOTHING

Comfortable, light-weight clothing can enhance summer comfort both inside and outside the home.

Anticipate higher thermostats in stores and offices, and dress accordingly.

### WELL-SPENT INVESTMENTS

Dr. Berry advises that the following investments can result in sizeable long-term energy benefits:

1) adequately insulated floors, walls and attic space, 2) weatherstripped doors and windows and caulked cracks to reduce air infiltration, 3) exterior sun-control devices to protect window and glass areas, 4) properly sized air-conditioning equipment with a high-efficiency rating, and 5) one or more fans to use along or in conjunction with heating and air conditioning to maximize benefits of conditioned air.

## High school honor roll

The following high school students were named to the A Honor Roll for the fifth six week reporting period:

Sherry Ascencio, Becky Carter, Becky Dunlap, Sharon Isom, Marissa Sandusky, Lisa Shugart and Becky Watts.

## Cotton Gin Waste May Provide Low-Energy Gas

Cotton gin waste may be Texas' most readily available source of agricultural biomass available for energy conversion. The mountainous quantities of hulls, stems, leaves, etc. accumulated at gins from cleaning lint off a more than 5-million-bale cotton crop offers a real challenge to an energy-hungry country.

Five major crops in Texas (sorghum, cotton, corn, wheat, and rice) produce more than 20 million tons of residue each year according to estimates of Dr. Wayne LePort and Dr. Ronald Lacey, scientists at Texas A&M University. These Experiment

Station researchers say this material has the energy potential equal to the amount of energy purchased each year for use on Texas farms.

And like amounts of energy are available in forest residues and unused woody species like mesquite, according to Dr. Ed Soltes, whose Station research focuses on wood chemistry.

The problem is accumulating and converting these masses of agricultural residues into a form of readily usable energy. Cost of accumulating and transporting some agricultural residues are presently uneconomic for their energy

yield. Not so in the case of gin trash: it's a by-product of essential processing of cotton.

A research and demonstration program for the use of biomass as an alternative energy source has been cooperatively developed by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, and the Center of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Texas A&M University System.

The Texas Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Council has also provided financial support from the Tex-

as Energy Development Fund.

The research team evaluated various energy conversion techniques and concluded that fluidized-bed technology was best suited for converting biomass to usable energy.

Fluidized bed technology, which combines the physical characteristics of both a solid and a fluid, can be regulated to produce combustion, gasification, or pyrolysis.

Fine solids are transformed into a fluidlike state through contact with a gas or liquid.

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## Diabetic screening set

There will be a Diabetic Screening and a Blood Pressure Clinic on May 8th at 9:00-12:00 a.m. at United Savings. It will only take about 10 minutes so please come.

**Crochet Class**  
Beginners  
Crochet Class  
starting May 17  
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6 weeks classes  
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Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 4  
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## Fortnightly meets

The April 22 meeting of the Fortnightly Study Club was at the Big Country Inn with Mrs. Ray Wilson hostess.

Mrs. Johnny Hammond, president, presided for the business meeting. Good reports were given on the cancer crusade drive by the group captains.

The program chairman, Mrs. S.C. Dixon, introduced the program.

Mrs. Carl Hughes gave the counselor's report using The Family as her subject. She said the family unit is one of the strongest units in our society, or should be. Each member is very important. The father, mother, children and even grandparents have very important roles to fill. One of the ways a small child described a Grandma was like this: "Everybody should try to have one, especially if you don't have a television, cause Grandma's are the only ones who have time."

Miss Avis Deavers reviewed A Peking Diary by Lois Fisher. The book was written during the later years of Chairman Mao's regime and thru the time of his death.

Lois Fisher was in Washington D.C. assigned to President Johnson's staff where she met her husband, Gerd Ruge, a German news correspondent. The opportunity came for him to go to Peking several years later while they were living in Germany. Earlier Mr. Ruge had written a documentary on China which was liked by the Regime making it easier for them to be admitted to Red China at that time.

The book deals more with the everyday life of the Chinese people than it does with the political scene. Lois Fisher found them to be very polite, friendly, kind and serene. They lived a quiet peaceful life accepting their plight with as much candor as possible, especially in Peking where the Ruges lived.

When Miss Fisher went on occasional shopping trips to Hong Kong and Shanghai the mood was somewhat different. There was more hustle and bustle on the streets and in the shops, and the influence of a highly commercialized atmosphere was felt.

When the Ruges returned home after their stay in China, her friends noted a more peaceful attitude in her personality which she attributed to her association with the Chinese people.

Those enjoying this delightful program were Miss Mary Collins, Mrs. Johnny Cox, Mrs. W.R. Cypert, Miss Deavers, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Charles Eager, Mrs. Mack Fisher, Miss Mildred Hamm, Mrs. Hammond, Mrs. Comer Haynes, Mrs. Buster Horton, Mrs. C. Hughes, Mrs. Earl Hughes, Mrs. Allen King, Mrs. C.B. Knight, Mrs. Ed Sandusky, Mrs. Andy Shouse, Mrs. Aaron Sudderth, Miss Maurine White, Mrs. Alf Walla and Mrs. Wilson.

## Graduation set

The graduation program for the Merkel Church of Christ Tuesday School has been scheduled for 8 p.m. Thursday. The graduation will be held at the Church of Christ here and everyone is invited to attend.

## Tye elementary honor roll

Tye Elementary School Honor Roll is as follows:  
**FIRST GRADE (A)** Cody Sutterfield, Kevin Watson, Amme Blair, Vanessa Cornell, Melanie DAmme, Billie Jo Hempel, Kristy Hengel, Cristi Moors, Judah Reese, Jennifer Fzucidlo, Jonnie Sever (A-B) Danny Beachard, Gena Bills, Crystel McGan  
**SECOND GRADE (A)** Shawn Miller, Lisa Donaldson, Shanna Key, Mi Hwa Chon, Jamie

Beachard, Michelle Davis, Rickey Haggard, Hope Howell, Sheri Miles, Teresa Reed, Matthew Thornton (A-B) Jennifer Harrison, Greg Goodgion, Travis Johnson, Sandra Marshall

**THIRD GRADE (A)** Cissy Sever, Dewayne Clark, Joey Howell, Tracy Moore, Irene Alvarez (A-B) Kayce Ward, Mendy Bunselmeyer, Stacy Boyd, Lori Owen, Eugene Turner

**FOURTH GRADE (A)** Staci Johnson, Michelle Goodgion, Clara Herrera, Son Mi Chon, Tami Israel, Maury Oler, Joe Alvarez (A-B) Connie DeLeon, Allan Isom, Paula Allen, Kenny Dosser, Kim Rzucidlo

**FIFTH GRADE (A)** Joe Miles (A-B) Dusty Moore

## Elections Saturday

by Harold Boyd

This weekend coming up is that meeting time at the election polls. May 3rd at the community center from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. We here in Tye have had a host of candidates visiting us to get our votes. Beings that there are several running for the prime spots of Sheriff and county commissioner, it will be up to us to put one of them in office. I feel with as many running for office we more than likely have a run off beings the vote will be split.

Here locally we have Kennon Law running for the office of county commissioner, place 1. Ken as you may well know is interested in the rural areas beings that we live outside of the city limits of Abilene. Another interest that he is interested in the people of the county, not any select group but for all the county. Ken has been active in Tye and Merkel school board, tax evaluation board and is very concerned of the new tax equalization board that will be effective this coming year. Vote your convictions and stand behind them Saturday, May 3rd.

As everyone knows our farmers are in need of water. Seeing several already plowing under their wheat crop that they had planted early this winter. Just a few inches would be great but we won't have the crop we had last year due to the lack of rain.

After elections this Saturday evening the volunteer fire department will host their monthly musical with a host of live entertainment and good homemade cakes, pies and sandwiches. You all come out and listen and visit some of your neighbors and enjoy the fellowship. Tuesday evening will be the monthly business meeting. Meetings start at 7:30. If you care to be active and want to join, do come by and get an application. We still need young and active people.

City hall has really come along in the past two weeks, won't be long before the exterior is done as well moving along on schedule on the inside.

The sewer project?? The contractors have been out here looking it over and sizing up what is needed and to see exactly where it goes etc. Just looking at plans etc. doesn't tell you much but within the next weeks or so it will start to happen. As once said, "Rome wasn't built in a day," nor was the sewer collection system.

The new time is something lost, that hour of sleep but it will be great to have the extra hour to get out and work the yard or gardens will just to set around and watch the sun go down. Only in West Texas can you see some of the most beautiful sunsets you'd ever see.

Again for another week, you all take care and tell 'em you saw it in the Merkel Mail.

## SINGLE ADULT BIBLE STUDY

9:45 A.M. Sunday

First Baptist Church

301 LOCUST

MERKEL

**PRESTIGE Homes and Properties**  
 Over 5 acres NE Merkel, extra-nice rock home; full basement, garage apartment, pecan and fruit trees, commercial-size swimming pool needs repair.  
 Granbury Lake, 2 lots total 120'x90' - high on hill overlooking lake and city, beautiful building site, 500 sq. ft. trailer house permitted; equity, under 9 percent interest.

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 Morris Harper  
 698-9689

Pauline Butman

692-2222



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Political ad paid for Bill Amott Treasurer, Committee to Re-elect Leon Douglas, P.O. Box 5945, Austin, Texas 78703

## ELECT LEE THOMAS

SHERIFF  
 Taylor County

Your Vote and Influence appreciated



### Qualifications

Age: 36. Married 18 years, four children  
 Life long resident of Taylor County  
 Experience in serving all types of civil and criminal papers  
 Served as department head after being elected Constable of Taylor County  
 Experience in working well within my set Taylor County Budget

### Clubs and Organizations

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 Past Member Abilene Jaycees  
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### Religion

Member Elmwood Baptist Church  
 Paid Political Adv. by Lee Thomas

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 GOLDEN DELICIOUS LB 49¢  
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 POTATOES 10 LB BAG 98¢  
 GOOCH BOSTON BUTTS 89¢ LB  
 GOOCH FRANKS 12 OZ PKG 89¢  
 GOOCH BOLOGNA 98¢ LB  
 GOOCH BLUE RIBBON BACON 98¢ LB PKG  
 KRAFT 6 OZ AMERICAN SLICED CHEESE 79¢

# 9th St. Grocery & Mobil Gas

1207 S. 9th

## Funds available for co-op starts

Just as consumers have organized themselves to form cooperatively owned food stores, health clinics, and housing developments, so they have begun to establish energy "co-ops" to combat high prices and shortages of fuel.

Early this spring, the co-op movement will get a big push by establishment of a new federal bank in Washington, D.C. to make loans to local groups that want to establish co-ops in any of a number of fields. In addition, special guidance and assistance in forming co-ops to deal with energy problems is being offered by the Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies, a Washington-based association.

An energy co-op could save money for its members by offering such services as bulk purchasing of fuel, non-profit maintenance and repair of furnaces and boilers, and installation of insulation and storm windows.

The bank will offer low interest loans to new or existing co-ops, with emphasis given to those that serve low-income families.

Co-ops might also help ease the energy problem by manufacturing, selling, and installing solar energy equipment, greenhouses that help heat homes, stills for the production of alcohol fuels, windmills, and other renewable energy sources.

In the sense that such groups would be managed by consumers, they would be following in the footsteps of the Rural Electric Cooperatives that have brought

electric service to about 30 million persons who were beyond the reach of private utilities. With Federal loans and non-profit operation, the new energy co-ops could do a lot to speed up the introduction of renewable energy sources.

Co-ops already getting organized range from bulk fuel purchasing co-ops in New York and Philadelphia to wood-production and purchasing co-ops in Maine and a weatherization co-op in Ann Arbor, Mich.

One example that is already providing energy assistance is a housing cooperative at 519 E. 11th Street on New York's lower East Side. Here, groups of low-income tenants have installed solar energy units for domestic hot water heating and a wind generator for electricity.

Assistance from the new bank should speed up the creation of additional co-ops. "We expect to be open for business sometime in early spring," says John Cornford, acting president of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank. "In line with our goal of becoming a creative and understanding lender, we hope to respond enthusiastically to any energy co-op proposal that comes to our attention, as well as to proposals for other types of co-ops."

The National Consumer Co-op Bank's initial role is to provide federally backed loans to help the new co-ops get started. Eventually, the federal involvement will be phased out and the Bank will be wholly owned and operated by the co-ops that it has helped establish.



Mr. and Mrs. Cross

Groups interested in establishing an energy co-op should write for assistance to Michael Freedberg, Energy Project, Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies, 2000 Florida Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, telephone 202-387-6030. Those interested in forming other types of co-ops should write directly to the National Consumer Cooperative Bank, Washington, D.C. 20220.

## Davis is CPA

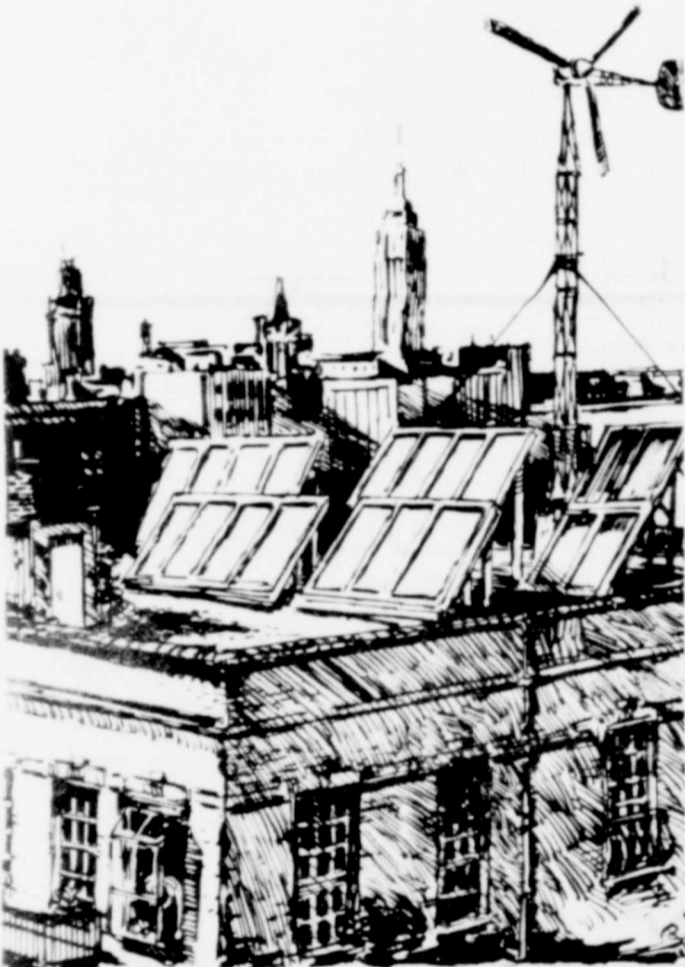
James L. Davis was presented his C.P.A. certificate at the monthly meeting of the Abilene Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants

on April 16, 1980. He is currently employed as a CPA by Bob L. Todd, CPA in Abilene, Texas. Jimmy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. (Dub) Davis of Route 3, Merkel, Texas.

## Merkelite is new grandmother

Mr. and Mrs. Rick Green of Lake Dallas announce the birth of a son, Joshua Paul, born March 20 at St. Paul Hospital in Dallas. He weighed 6 pounds 8 ounces. He has a brother, Scott.

Maternal grandparent is Mrs. Orien Higgins of Merkel and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. L.O. Green of Paint Creek. Paternal great grandfather is James McMillion of Haskell.



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**Is your house too hot?  
Is your house too cold?  
I've got the cure. Call me, your General Electric Climate Doctor.**

I've got the right prescription for high heating and cooling costs. I'll come out to your house and calculate the type of energy-saving GE system that is right for you, FREE!

Whether you need an Executive Weathertron heat pump, an energy-efficient Executive II air conditioner, or any of the other many high efficiency products GE makes, I can cure your high heating or cooling costs.

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**Re elect Judge Sears McGee**

Supreme Court of Texas • Position 2 Democratic Primary, May 3, 1980

Pol. adv. pd. for by Sears McGee campaign  
Sears McGee, Texas, P.O. Box 12248, Austin, TX 78711

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PAYMASTER	Sweet Sioux, 3 Little Indians
BIG YELLOW	Milo
WEATHERMASTER	Milo
BROWNING	Haygrazer, Hegari, Kleingrass, Milo
R.O. YOUNG	Kow Kandy
KANTEX	Haygrazer

"We Offer a Wide Selection of Top Quality Seed at Competitive Prices"

## Cross celebrating 50th

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Cross of Route 1, Sylvester, Texas, will be honored Sunday, May 4th, with a 50th wedding anniversary reception at the Sylvester Community Center.

Hosting the celebration will be the couple's three children: Mrs. Leon Gardner of Sylvester; Riley Cross of Abilene; and Mrs. Jack

Bland of Abilene and nine grandchildren: Mrs. Jim Ponte of Abilene; Kayla and Kami Cross of Abilene; Terry and Todd Bland of Abilene; Rev. Rex Bland of Pima, Ariz.; Mrs. Danny Thomas of Sylvester; Jimmy Gardner of Sweetwater and Mrs. Phil Elmore of Odessa and eight great grandchildren.

Mr. Cross was born

Nov. 29, 1909 at Sylvester. Mrs. Cross was born Feb. 23, 1911 in Blanket. They were married May 10, 1930 in Sylvester.

Cross is retired from Celestex Gypsum Corporation and is a rancher. They are members of the Sylvester Baptist Church and have lived in Longworth and Sylvester community all their married life.

## Hattie Rogers buried here

Hattie Belle Rogers, 76, of Merkel, died at 8:45 a.m. Wednesday in a Breckenridge nursing home. Services were at 2 p.m. Friday at the First Baptist Church in Merkel, directed by Starbuck Funeral Home.

The Rev. Kenneth Jones, pastor of the Caps Baptist Church,

officiated. The Rev. L.L. Trott, a retired Baptist minister of Abilene, assisted. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery in Merkel.

Born Oct. 5, 1903, in Paris, Texas, she grew up in Aspermont and had lived in Merkel since 1961. She was a member of the Baptist

church. She married Hoyt Rogers in 1937 in Junction.

Her husband preceded her in death in 1962.

Survivors include one son, Bobby J. Merkel; two daughters, Charlene Witt of Lemoore, Calif.; Mae Stephens of Breckenridge; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

# Be informed.

The Texas Railroad Commission is far too important to the proper conservation and management of Texas energy resources to elect a Commissioner on the basis of vague information, mistaken identity or a general "feeling" about a candidate.

*Make sure you know the facts before you vote!*

### Did you know Jim Nugent:

- Is uniquely qualified to handle the complex technical and legal matters that come before the Commission, thanks to his background in law and engineering
- Has almost 20 years of service to Texans, first as a State Representative, now as our Railroad Commissioner.
- Successfully introduced and passed the first "ethics laws" for elected Texas officials . . . and completely revised the state's penal statutes improving criminal prosecution procedures without violating individual rights.
- Is supported by a broad cross-section of conservative, moderate and liberal Democrats who know he's the best man for the job!
- As a member of the State Legislature and as our Railroad Commissioner, is respected and known as a tough, independent and dedicated public servant who has consistently fought for the rights of Texas consumers.

### Did you know that Jim Nugent's opponent, Jim Hightower:

- Has no qualifications to serve. His only background is having worked as editor of a radical left-wing newspaper (he calls himself an "investigative reporter") and working for a former liberal senator.
- Is the candidate of Ralph Nader, George McGovern, labor organizer Caesar Chavez and a group of Northeastern liberals intent on buying a seat on the Railroad Commission so the Northeast can continue to buy cheap energy from Texas.
- Is basing his campaign on hopes that the electorate will confuse his name—Jim Hightower—with well-known conservative Congressman Jack Hightower.

**Don't make a mistake.  
Vote Informed. Vote Knowledgeably.  
Vote Nugent!**

*Jim Nugent has been endorsed by major newspapers\* throughout the state. They have carefully considered qualifications of the two candidates, and have chosen Jim Nugent as the best man for the job.*

\*Jim Nugent has been endorsed by the Austin American-Statesman, San Antonio Light, Houston Chronicle, Dallas Morning News and the Dallas Times Herald. As of April 22, no major newspaper in Texas has endorsed his opponent, Jim Hightower!

# James E. (Jim) ★★★ Nugent

**A Railroad Commissioner for Texans!  
Vote Saturday, May 3  
in the Democratic Primary!**

Pol. advertising, paid for by the Jim Nugent Committee, Shannon Ratliff, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1512, Austin, Texas 78767



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Cloy,

Some amusing things happened to me the other day, and if there is a place for them in the Mail, feel free to use them.

While I was over in the High School auditorium last Thursday morning, I found a group of second graders practicing their spring program on stage, and the MOC and HECE teachers, Phillip Pursley and Lesa McCann with their prospective student members for next year, sitting in the auditorium.

As I knew that the two work-program teachers and the high school students were waiting to use the auditorium for their meeting, I jokingly walked over to Mrs. McCann, who was watching the elementary students rehearse, and I said, "You didn't know that you were going to get to watch a program." A stage frightened elementary student overheard this and commented, "Yeah, and I didn't know we were going to have an audience!"

Later on that day, I was teaching my drama students techniques used in advertising a play with posters. I explained to them that a black and white poster could suggest a mystery, tragedy, or drama; whereas a colorful poster would suggest a comedy.

As I held up a colorful poster, I told them that this was a comedy-type poster. I said, "What else about this poster makes it funny?" Jerry Goode remarked, "The one who's holding it!"

I title this: A Day at Merkel High.  
Kathy Chisholm

Dear fellow Merkelites:

I wish to take this time and opportunity as a business man, citizens of Tye to express my concern and thanks for being your neighbor and mine.

We at times fail to say thanks for all the help and cooperation I've seen demonstrated since I've lived here through our school system, public works, water supply and help during our problems as well as yours. Only in West Texas do we still find our true neighbors and certainly Merkel you have always demonstrated this, and it is my prayer we can and will continue to be good neighbors.

On behalf of Tye and myself, thanks to your citizens, leaders of your community our sincere thanks, so neighbor, if you need us we'll be here to support you.

Thank you Merkel.

## Goodman meets

The Goodman Extension Homemakers club met in the home of Mrs. Minnie Carey with eight members present hosting the Stith and Compere clubs. There were also four visitors: Teresa Bowen and Teiko Bowen, and the speaker Mr. Ronnie Freeman from Trent. He gave the program Save Home Energy. He passed out leaflets and then showed slides of his new solar home on Farm to Market Road 1085, of which he did a lot of the work. He is supervisor for the air conditioner department at TSTI at Sweetwater. Some of the points solving problems with vapor barriers and ventilation, controlling household humidity, landscaping to cut fuel cost, windbreaks benefits, keeping home heating and cooling equipment in top shape, don't heat or cool space not being used, adjust thermostat to conserve energy.

Refreshments were furnished by Stith and Compere and served to Mr. Ronnie Freeman, Amie Price, Mary Dillard, Ailene Terry, Vivian, Winters, Minnie Carey, Louise Hudson, Genoa Shaw, Daisy Mashburn, Vada Hudson, Belvie Butler, Odessa Butler, Margaret Dickerson, Annie Taylor, Fannie Ramsey, Louise Chancey, Terea Bowen, Teiko Bowen, Jessie Williams, Florence McAninch, Mae Seago, Deloris Adair, Donna Carter, Shala and Bubba.

Club next meeting will be May 9th in the home of Mrs. Carl McAninch. Program: Food Preservation, by the agent, Mrs. Nocy Wilborn. Everyone welcome, regardless of race, creed, sex or color or economic circumstance.

## City receives rebate

The city will receive a check for \$226.92 for their share of mixed drink sales within the city limits.

The State Comptroller's Office collects the

state sales tax on mixed drinks and the city in which the drink was sold is rebated 15 per cent of the tax.

The payment is for the first quarter of 1980.

# A Texas Cloudburst...



... can turn a lazy stream into a powerful wrecking force.

When that happens, another force stands ready to respond—the Texas Guard.

Texas Guardsmen have aided flood-stricken communities more than 45 times since 1950. San Marcos. Laredo. Hondo. McAllen. New Braunfels. Snyder. Austin. Cleburne. Lampasas. Dallas. Fort Worth. San Antonio. Ballinger. Robstown. Orange. Beaumont. San Angelo. The list goes on.

Each time, Texas Guardsmen closest to the scene left their homes, civilian jobs, and schools to help the flooded communities. It's part of their mission—respond to the Governor's call whenever Texans need assistance.

Drop the coupon in the mail if you would like to know more about the Texas Guard. There's no obligation, and you might be surprised at the pay—\$48 a weekend for newcomers.

Or check out a couple of weekend meetings on your own. No one minds. Because the Guard belongs to Texans.

Maybe you belong in the Texas Guard.

Complete and mail to

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HUNTS 2 1/2 CAN PEACHES CAN 63¢

HUNTS 300 Fruit Cocktail 2 FOR 98¢

DEL MONTE 303 CUT Green BEANS 2 FOR 73¢

DEL MONTE 303 Sweet PEAS 2 FOR 73¢

DEL MONTE W.K. 303 Golden Corn 2 FOR 69¢

DEL MONTE 303 SPINACH 2 FOR 73¢

DEL MONTE 8 OZ Tomato SAUCE 2 FOR 35¢

VIP Tomato JUICE 46 OZ CAN 59¢

VAN CAMP NO 2 1/2 Pork & Beans CAN 59¢

PILLSBURY SKINNERS PanShake MIX 7 OZ BOX 59¢

MACARONI LARGE OR CUT 12 OZ BAG 49¢

FROZEN FOODS BANQUET EXCLUSIVE OF BEEF & MEATLOAF DINNERS EA 69¢

JENOS ASST. PIZZA EA 98¢

BANQUET APPLE OR PEACH PIES 20 OZ 79¢

VIP Whip Topping 9 OZ 53¢

HACKETT EGGS MED DOZEN 59¢

SNOWDRIFT 3 LB CAN \$1.59

FLOUR

CHEESE

CRISCO

1 G DAIRY FRESH HOMO MILK GAL JUG \$2.13

1 G DAIRY FRESH LOWFAT MILK GAL JUG \$2.05

FOREMOST Butter MILK 1/2 GAL CRTN 98¢

BAMA 16 OZ JAR PEACH OR APRICOT PRESERVES 79¢

CARNATION - ASSORTED SLENDER 10 OZ CAN 49¢

KEN-L-RATION BURGER CHEESE OR EGG 36 OZ \$1.29

LIQUID COMET 14 OZ BOTTLE 43¢

FAMILY DAWN LIQUID 48 OZ JUG \$1.83

BROASTED CHICKEN WE TAKE CALL IN ORDERS 8 PIECES FEEDS 4

WE GIVE GIFT BOND STAMPS Double on Wednesday with \$5.00 or more

PETER PAN PEANUT BUTTER 12 OZ JAR 83¢

WHITE TOWELS BATH EACH \$1.98

KRAFTS MACARONI DINNERS WITH CHEESE 7 1/2 OZ 2 FOR 59¢

GOLD MEDAL 5 LB BAG 89¢

KRAFT VELVEETA 2 LBS \$2.59

COOKING OIL 48 OZ JUG \$2.19

SUGAR SWEET STRAWBERRIES BEST of the BERRY PATCH! CALIFORNIA PINT 59¢

SUNKIST NAVEL ORANGES FRESH CELLO LB 33¢

RED ROME CARROTS 2 FOR 39¢

TEXAS GOLDEN APPLES LB 49¢

FRESH GREEN YAMS LB 29¢

RUSSET ONIONS BN 2 FOR 39¢

SPUDS 10 LB BAG 98¢

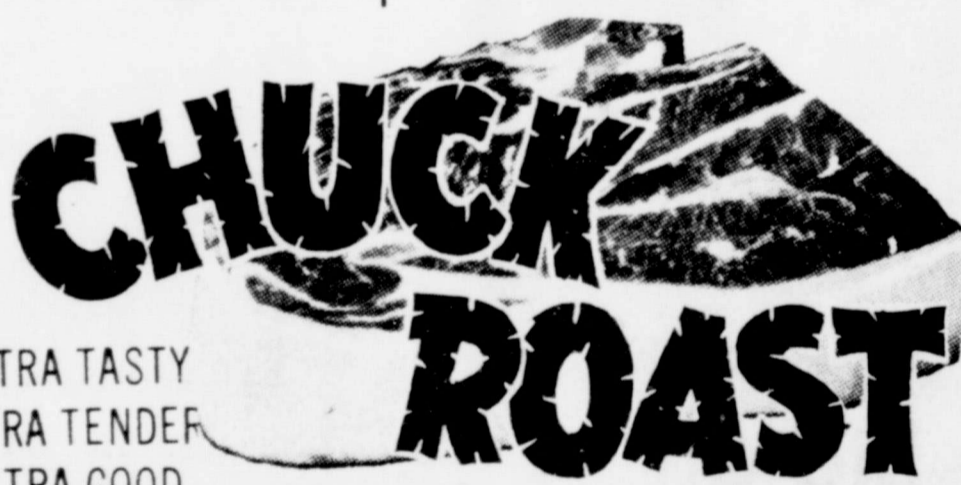
HUNTS CATSUP TOMATO 32 OZ 89¢

SWIFT CHILI PLAIN 15 OZ CAN 69¢

MORTON HOUSE SLOPPY JOE BEEF 15 OZ CAN 89¢

PAMPERS OVERNITE DIAPERS 12 CT BOX \$1.59

SCOTT TOWELS JUMBO ROLL 63¢



EXTRA TASTY EXTRA TENDER EXTRA GOOD

CHUCK ROAST

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GOOCH BR POUND PKG BACON \$1.09

GOOCH BR REG OR BEEF 12 OZ PKG FRANKS \$1.19

GOOCH BR RIB LB STEAK \$2.39

GOOCH BR ARM LB ROAST \$1.89

FRESH PORK LB LIVER 49¢

HORMEL 12 OZ PKG LITTLE SIZZLERS 99¢

HORMEL 12 OZ CAN HAM PATTIES \$1.29



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