

# The Merkel Mail

Thursday, February 25, 1982...Merkel, Texas

25 cents



## Hawg heaven

Like mom like porker. This pair enjoyed the recent sunny, warm weather by holing up near

their favorite mud puddle at the Merkel FFA pens Monday. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)

## Council calls April 3 Bingo election, Mail gets details on eligible groups

Merkel's City Council met Thursday night in special session and called the April 3rd city elections, that will also include a local option Bingo election.

The Mail talked with the state's Bingo Regulation Division in Austin Monday to get some of the details on the new law that allows Bingo in Texas.

Bingo games in the state, if approved by voters, may only be conducted by non-profit, charitable organizations. They include religious societies (church, synagogue or other groups organized primarily for religious purposes which have existed for at least ten years).

-A non profit organization whose principal activity is the support of medical research or treatment programs. The organization cannot distribute any of its income to members, must have existed for three years, and must have an elected governing body to be affiliated with a similar state or national organization. It must also have Internal Revenue Service 501 (C) tax-exempt status;

-A non profit veterans organization chartered by the U.S. Congress;

-A non profit fraternal organization which has been organized for three years, does not engage in political activity such as supporting candidates or political issues, and is not a veterans organization;

-A volunteer firefighting department actively operating fire fighting equipment.

Groups that wish to conduct games will have to apply for a license from the State Comptroller's Office, who has been assigned to enforce Bingo laws in the state.

The Comptroller's Office will issue licenses for

organizations to operate the games and it will be a felony violation for anyone or organization to run a game without a license.

The Comptroller's Office will also investigate each of the applying organization's credentials.

According to Joan Kerwin of the Bingo Regulation Division, each of the local option elections in Texas so far has approved Bingo. Bingo is now legal in 6 Justice Precincts, 21 counties and 17 cities in the state.

Mrs. Kerwin told the Mail, "The application is very extensive that organizations wishing to hold games must complete. The application asks for information on the organization names of all officers, estimation of expenses. Persons that appear on the application will also be checked for criminal records by the Texas Department of Public Safety. If an organization's officer has been convicted of a felony, the application will be rejected."

The games will also generate a tax, if the local city decided to adopt an ordinance calling for collection of the tax. The way that will work is the organization can deduct \$2,500 per month and then all proceeds over \$2,500 will be taxed at a rate of 2 per cent of the gross. The State Comptroller's Office will rebate 98 per cent of that money on a quarterly basis to the city in which the tax was collected.

Mrs. Kerwin said of the 121 applications her office has processed, 18 had been rejected and most of those were rejected because of office holder criminal records.

The complete law concerning Bingo games is available from the State Comptroller's Office. You may contact them, toll free, by calling 1-800-252-5555.

## Boyd, Byrd, McKee, Dagstead, Jones, Toliver, Sims, Smith in

As of Monday, James Boyd's seat on the Merkel school board is the only un-contested race in the upcoming elections. Filing deadline for city and school positions is 5 p.m. March 3rd.

Running for three positions on Merkel's city council are incumbents Jerry Byrd and Ted Smith, as well as James McKee, Elinor

Dagstead, and Jeff Jones.

Running for Merkel school positions are Bobby Toliver and J.C. Sims for Place One. Incumbent Dink Whisenhunt had not filed as of Monday.

So far, incumbent James Boyd will be unopposed for Place 2 on the board.

The April 3 ballot will also include a local option Bingo election.

## Peso, Bingo, water tower, dogs...more

by Cloy A. Richards

Economic news surfaced this week that will definitely have an impact on Texas farmers.

Mexico announced the devaluation of the Peso and also, at the same time, put a stop on agricultural imports to keep the balance of trade on a more even keel.

Unless the federal government can straighten out their money problems soon, the wheat crop this year will not be sold in Mexico, where Texas farmers have found an ever increasing market that has been paying a fairly good price for grain.

I'd like to apologize to Coach Smith and the boys basketball team for an error in last week's season end wrap-up. The boys finished the year with a respectable mark of 15-9, not 13-11 as the Mail reported.

The Merkel City Council may show their bite is worse than their bark.

Council approved a penalty clause Monday that will make violators of the city dog ordinance guilty of a class c misdemeanor.

The city also has a part time dog catcher, so you'd best start abiding by the dog ordinance or

get your check book ready.

It was a typical newspaper situation.

Monday, I received my monthly copy of the National Press Photographers Association magazine. It's a magazine that has some of the best photography one could imagine. The winner of this month's best newphoto was of a young boy who had just been caught by police in a construction project. The photo showed the policeman holding the boy and the boy had his hands folded in prayer like fashion looking up at the sky with tears streaming down his face. The story behind the photo said the boy was counseled and then released by the patrolman.

When the newspaper ran the photo, it was besiged by complaints because readers felt the boy had been emotionally upset by the incident. Readers also felt the newspaper had invaded the boy's privacy.

The newspaper staff thought it over and apologized in an editorial the next day.

That prompted more letters saying the newspaper was wrong in apolozing, readers saying they could see nothing wrong with the photo.

It must have been Monday for an entire week for that paper's staff.

## Council puts teeth in dog code

The city dog ordinance now has a little more 'teeth' to show as the Merkel City Council added a penalty clause calling for a Class C misdemeanor offense for dog owners allowing their dog to violate the ordinance.

The clause, which is published in the legal notices of this week's paper, sets a penalty of not less than \$5 or more than \$200 for each offense of the ordinance.

Basically, the dog ordinance forbids owners of dogs to allow the animal to run loose. Dogs must be in a fence, on a leash, in a vehicle or at the heel of a competent handler. If a dog is found loose, it will be taken to the Merkel Veterinary Clinic and the owner must pay all costs at the vet's office to reclaim their dog.

Some Merkelites are finding out just how the ordinance works because the Merkel Police Department has hired a dog catcher. The dog catcher is being paid \$5 per animal and had turned in 17 dogs in a three day period.

If a dog is picked up by the dog catcher, it will be taken to the clinic. If the dog is wearing a city dog tag (available free at City Hall) the owner will be notified and then have 24 hours to 'bail out' the animal at the clinic. Dogs that are brought to the clinic and aren't tagged will be

held for three days, and if not claimed will either be sold or destroyed. Dogs may only be picked up from the clinic between the hours of 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 until noon on Saturday.

Also dogs will not be released from the clinic unless they have been vaccinated against rabies.

The penalty clause was added at Monday's meeting because the original city ordinance did not spell out specific punishment for violations of the ordinance.

Dr. Warren Dozier of the Merkel Veterinary Clinic told council Monday night he had some complaints over the weekend from dog owners and that some of those complaints came at an unreasonable hour of the day. Dog owners are reminded their animals may only be claimed during the clinic's normal working hours.

In other action, council began a process to purchase a 20 by 24 foot lot from the Merkel Co-Op Gin for the new water chlorination station. The land and the station will be paid for by the city HUD block grant.

Council also tabled an agenda item dealing with the opening of an alley. A small dispute between some property owners led to that item.

## Property tax code explained

Kenneth Graeber, executive director of the State Property Tax Board (SPTB), today announced a statewide effort to inform property owners in Texas of their rights and remedies as taxpayers.

"Major changes in the state's tax laws were effective January 1 with implementation of the new Texas Property Tax Code," Graeber said. Among the more significant provisions are those which:

-Establish a central appraisal district in each county which will value all property for tax purposes and provide that value to each taxing unit in the district;

-Provide a single board of equalization-which will be empowered to hear taxpayer appeals on a wide range of matters rather than just questions of value;

-Make it possible for taxpayers to file all exemption applications and property renditions with one office in a county rather than with multiple tax offices;

-Permit one-time applications for homestead exemptions and open-space land valuation, rather than annual applications as previously required;

-Provide, for the first time in Texas, a method for taxpayers to limit property tax increases to eight percent annually through an initiative and referendum process applicable to all taxing units.

Graeber said that in all except 17 of the state's 254 counties, the new appraisal district has been implemented. Local officials delayed appraisal district operations until 1983 in Bexar, Glasscock, Gray, Hartley, Jasper, Jeff Davis, King, Leon, McMullen, Moore, Oldham, Rockwall, Stonewall and Zapata counties.

Implementation of full appraisal district operations was delayed until 1984 in Bowie, Crockett and Harris counties.

The SPTB administrator noted that in counties which have delayed appraisal district implementation, taxpayers would file their property renditions and exemption applications with city, school, county and special district tax offices as in prior years. In all other counties, renditions and exemption applications should be filed with the appraisal district's chief appraiser.

"It is important that taxpayers file renditions and applications for tax relief prior to May 1," Graeber said.

To call attention to available exemptions and

tax administration procedures, he noted that SPTB will be working with appraisal districts, local tax offices and the state's news media to help make Texans aware of changes in the law.

"State law requires any person who owns or manages income-producing personal property on January 1 to file a rendition statement with the appraisal district," Graeber noted.

Additionally, the chief appraiser of a county may require rendition of other taxable property upon notice to the owner or manager.

Special rendition procedures apply to property on which an exemption applicable on January 1 terminates during the tax year. In such a case, the person who owns or acquires the property on the date eligibility for the exemption terminates must render the property for taxation within 30 days of that date.

Transportation companies subject to regulation of the Railroad Commission are required to render the value of their intangible property to the State Property Tax Board.

Banks and railroad companies are required to file special rendition statements with the appraisal district chief appraiser.

Graeber said rendition forms are available from appraisal district offices or from local tax offices in those counties where appraisal district implementation was delayed. Transportation businesses may obtain report forms from the State Property Tax Board in Austin.

Complete information on rendition requirements and on the availability of tax exemptions and special valuation for agricultural land is contained in a pamphlet produced by SPTB titled "Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies, Responsibilities!"

The pamphlet, which also includes suggestions on how to prepare and present a taxpayer appeal, is available at no charge from appraisal district offices, from most local tax offices, or from the State Property Tax Board.

"The property tax is the primary source of local government revenue in Texas, and will generate approximately \$6 billion this year to help fund the operations of public schools, cities, counties, and special districts," Graeber said.

"We urge all property owners to become familiar with the tax process and to file renditions and apply for all exemptions or other tax relief measures to which they are entitled," Graeber concluded.

## Emergency service asking for medical histories

The Merkel Emergency Medical Service is once again requesting personal medical information to keep on file for Merkel and Merkel area residents.

The form printed below allows persons to have permanent records of any allergies, special medical conditions, drug tolerance and other information.

Once the form is completed, please mail to City Hall, 107 Lamar, Merkel, Texas. The form may also be filled out and dropped off at City Hall.

The information on the form may prove vitally important to an Emergency Medical Technician, while that technician is trying to save your life.

MEDICAL BACKGROUND

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Dr's NAME \_\_\_\_\_

(CHECK IF APPLICABLE)

\_\_\_\_ ATHSMA \_\_\_\_\_ HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

\_\_\_\_ EPILEPSEY \_\_\_\_\_ ALLERGIES

\_\_\_\_ HEART CONDITION \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE BE SPECIFIC BELOW)

ALLERGIC DRUG REACTIONS \_\_\_\_\_



# Newsbriefs

## MISD menu

Thursday Feb. 25: Golden brown fish wedge, tartar sauce, macaroni and cheese, seasoned spinach, corn meal twist and strawberry jello.

Friday Feb. 26: Chili dogs, sweet relish, chopped onion, french fries with catsup and apple wedge.

Monday March 1: Beef tacos with cheese pinto beans, lettuce and tomato, and peach cobbler.

Tuesday March 2: Steak fingers, whipped potatoes, english peas, hot rolls and fruit salad.

Wednesday March 3: Turkey and dressing with giblet gravy, green beans, buttered squash, cranberry sauce, hot rolls and fruit salad.

Thursday March 4: Pizza with beef and cheese, corn, lettuce wedge, and choc. cake with icing.

Friday March 5: Hamburgers, french fries, pickle, onion, lettuce, tomato, and cowboy cookie.

## Sr. baseball meeting set

Senior Division Coaches and Representatives will have a League meeting on Monday, March 1st at the Big Country Inn at 7:30 p.m.

This is for the Senior Division only and all senior coaches need to be at this meeting.

## Jr. baseball meeting set

Junior Division Coaches and Representatives will have a League meeting Tuesday, March 2nd at the Big Country Inn at 7:30 p.m.

This meeting is for the Junior Division only and all junior division coaches need to be at this meeting.

## Patterson pledges Alpha Sigma Chi

Kerry Patterson,

son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Patterson of Trent, is a Spring 1982 pledge of Alpha Sigma Chi men's social club at McMurry College.

## Singing set

There will be a singing March 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the Merkel Senior Citizens Building. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Barnhart's announce daughter's birth

Cory Lee Barnhart is proud to announce the arrival of a baby sister, Cristi Layne, daughter of Tex and Jan Barnhart. She weighed 7 lbs. 14 ozs. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Teaff of Merkel. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. M.L. Barnhart of Merkel.

Great grandmother is Mrs. Ola Beasley of Trent.

## Sr. Citizens musical set

The Tye Senior Citizens will hold a monthly musical meeting Saturday, February 27 at 6:00 p.m. at the Tye Senior Citizens Building. Food and drinks will be served. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Garner's announce engagement

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Garner of Abilene are pleased to announce their daughter's engagement.

Susan Lynn Garner, of Abilene, and Tommy Lynn Sloan of Merkel, are planning a May 8th wedding.

Tommy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sloan of Merkel.

The bride elect is a graduate of Western Hills High School and has attended Hardin Simmons and Abilene Christian University.

The prospective bridegroom is a 1977 graduate of Merkel

High and was graduated from Abilene Christian in May 1981. The wedding will be held in Fort Worth.

## Obituaries

Rube Henslee, 87, of Granbury and a retired Merkel farmer, died Feb. 19 in Hood General Hospital. Services were held Feb. 21 with the Rev. Don Scott officiating, arranged by Martin's Funeral Home. Burial was in Acton Cemetery.

He had married Dollie Cogburn in Merkel on Aug. 18, 1922.

Survivors include his wife; three daughters, Mrs. Lu Dean King of Granbury and Mrs. Dixie Bradshaw and Mrs. Ruby Nell Johnson both of Ft. Worth; five grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

## Legal notice

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY OF MERKEL ORDINANCE NUMBER 1-79-80

An ordinance relating to the control and keeping of dogs: Providing for owners: providing for stray dogs; providing for loose dogs; providing for impoundment; providing for reclaim of dogs; providing for receiving of city tags; providing for a bounty fee; providing a severability clause and providing penalty clauses and providing for publication.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Merkel, Texas: OWNER shall be any person who keeps, feeds or harbors a dog. STRAY DOG shall be any dog found in the City Limits of the City of Merkel without being tagged and currently vaccinated shall be considered a stray dog.

LOOSE DOG shall be any dog that is

properly tagged and not confined in a pen or yard, on a leash, or in heel of a competent person or in a vehicle.

IMPOUNDMENT shall mean any dog found not confined in a pen or yard, on a leash, in heel of a competent person, or in a vehicle shall be picked up and impounded. Furthermore any dog that bites, scratches or attacks any person shall be impounded for observation in a veterinarian's clinic with the owner paying all fees and or costs.

DISPOSITION OF IMPOUNDED DOGS shall be: a. Stray dogs will be carried to the proper authorities for destruction or sale.

b. Loose dogs will be kept for a period of 24 hours after notification of the registered owner, there carried

to the proper authorities for destruction, reclaim or sale.

c. Hours of accepting and retrieving dogs shall be between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. until noon on Saturday. Owner retrieving a dog shall be liable for any and all cost incurred in the impoundment of said dog.

RECEIVING OF CITY TAGS shall be by dog owners picking up City dog tags free of charge at City Hall upon presenting certification of vaccination from a veterinarian or other valid information along with a description of the dog and the current owners address.

BOUNTY FEE shall be that the City of Merkel will offer a fee of \$2.00 per each loose or stray dog under 6

months old and \$4.00 per each loose or stray dog over 6 months old when delivered to the Merkel Police Department by any citizen of Merkel 18 years of age or older.

That if any provision of any section of this ordinance shall be held void or unconstitutional, such holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect.

That any person that owns, keeps, or feeds, or harbors a dog within the city limits of Merkel, and said dog is found not confined in a pen or yard, on a leash, or in heel of a competent person, or in a vehicle shall be considered guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined no less than \$5.00 nor more than \$200.00 for each violation of this ordinance.

That any person that owns, keeps, or feeds, or harbors a dog within the city limits of Merkel, and said dog is found not confined in a pen or yard, on a leash, or in heel of a competent person, or in a vehicle shall be considered guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined no less than \$5.00 nor more than \$200.00 for each violation of this ordinance.

Kent Satterwhite, Mayor

J.A. Sadler, City Secy. 49-11c

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<b>GRACE PRESBYTERIAN</b> Dr. Robert Christian Supply Pastor Sunday School 10:00, Worship 11:00	<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST</b> Rev. Ray Elmore Sunday School 9:45, Worship 10:50 Sunday 6:00 p.m.
<b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> Rev. Dean Williams Sunday School 9:45, Worship 10:50 Sunday 7:00 p.m., Wednesday 7:00	<b>OUR MOTHER OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Father Frank & Lee Zimmerman Sunday 11:00 a.m. Wednesday 6:30 During Lent
<b>HOLY TRINITY PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD</b> No Information Is Available If You Have Information Please Call The Merkel Mail	<b>CALVARY BAPTIST</b> Rev. Joe Davis Sunday School 10:00, Worship 10:50 Sunday 6:00 p.m., Wednesday 7:30

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## Merkel FFA students place in Fort Worth, set for Houston next

This week we would like to congratulate those students who placed at the Fort Worth Stock Show.

Junior Barrow Show: Lt. Wt. Duroc: Melissa Harris 12th; Md. Wt. Duroc: Eddy Harris 15th; Hv. Wt. Duroc: O.C. McKeenan 11th; Lt. Wt. Crosses: Billy Ray Riley 16th; Lt. Wt. Spotted Polands: Parker Wilson 15th; Md. Wt. Spotted Polands: Lyle Baker 10th, Jay Gibson 13th; Hv. Wt. Spotted Polands: Parker Wilson 16th; Md. Wt. Chesters: Parker Wilson 10th, Chris Mashburn 14th; Hv. Wt. Chesters: LDean Hoyt 16th; Md. Wt. Black Polands: Jay Gibson 5th; Hv. Wt. Black Polands: Tommy Hays 2nd; Md. Wt. Yorkshires: Jay Gibson 11th; Hv. Wt. Yorkshires: Mike Hager 3rd, Jay Gibson 13th.

Open Barrow Show: Md. Wt. Hampshire: Tommy Hays 14th; Lt. Wt. Yorkshire: Jay Gibson 8th; Jr. Heifer Brahman: Denise Pack 5th; Open Bull Brahman: Denise Pack 11th.

This Sunday we will be leaving for Houston Livestock Show. We wish those kids going, good luck. The events for this show are as follows: March 1 Leave for Houston; March 2, 12:00 noon begin moving in; March 3, 7:00 a.m. Weigh, sift

and ear tag steers, 7:00 a.m. Check Jr. Brahman Heifer Papers, 8:00 a.m. Weigh and sift barrows; March 4, 7:00 a.m. Steer show, 8:30 a.m. Judge Hamps, Poland Chinas, Spotted Polands, Chester White and other pure breed Barrows; March 5, 8:30 a.m. judge Durocs, Crosses, Berkshire Barrows; March 6, 10:00 a.m. Steer sale, 2:30 p.m. Barrow sale, 4:30 p.m. Brahman Heifer Show; March 7 10:00 a.m. Release Lambs to commission co., 3:00 p.m. Release placing Barrows to commission co., 6:30 p.m. Release Breeding Heifer and take home steers; March 8, Start to Merkel.

The Merkel FFA purchased another tractor for the van. We will be holding drives and money raising projects and excepting contributions to go toward the purchase of this tractor. All your help will be greatly appreciated. We will also be selling our old truck. Anyone interested can contact Billy Riley or J.T. Naron. We would also like to thank P & L Auto Parts who has already made a contribution toward the purchase of the tractor for our van.

We would also like to congratulate Denise Pack who placed 12th with her Brahman Heifer at San Antonio Stock Show.

## Cotton group pushing surplus sales

Steps needed to sell the largest cotton crop in 28 years, thus improving depressed cotton prices, were described by National Cotton Council staff members at meeting here Feb. 25.

Herman Propst, Anson, former Council president and board chairman, presided.

Outlining ways to improve the depressed cotton economy, Macon T. Edwards, Council vice president, Washington operations, said the industry must lend its voice and insistence to efforts to get the nation's "economic house in order."

"Cotton and agriculture simply cannot prosper when the economy is in its current state," he said.

Edwards also stressed the need to "sell our way out of this situation bale by bale, garment by garment."

He said cotton industry leaders and the Council staff are working in Washington to provide direct credits to foreign customers to allow them to buy U.S. cotton.

"The best way to do this is through funding of the revolving credit fund created by the new farm law," Edwards stated.

Speaking of the 1981 farm act, Edwards said its target price provisions have provided short-term assistance to the depressed cotton economy.

Dr. Dean Ethridge, director of the Council's economic services, told the group the outlook is for world cotton supply and demand to shift into a better balance in the coming season, and restore some degree of prosperity to the industry.

Looking ahead to the 1982-83, the economist indicated world cotton production will be in the vicinity of 65.5 million bales or about 7 percent below this year. Lower acreage is anticipated in view of current prices, and yields are not expected to equal this season's record levels.

World cotton consumption is expected to post another gain of 1 million to 1.5 million bales or perhaps more if the global economy improves significantly.

"Most of the increase will occur in the net importing countries and, since the U.S. is again expected to have sufficient supplies, exports of 8 million bales or more are generally expected for 1982-83," Ethridge stated.

Domestic demand for cotton could be stimulated by lower interest rates which would remove some of the disincentive for inventory ownership and lead to some rebuilding of stocks,

he pointed out. While stocks have been reduced to bare-bones levels all the way from mills' raw fiber warehouses to retailers' shelves, he said the practice of hand-to-mouth purchasing will probably continue until buyers are convinced that the upside price risk exceeds the carrying cost.

The economist sees prospects for a U.S. offtake of 14 million bales which would reduce domestic stocks to 4 million by August, 1983.

Pete Brown, field services director, described activities of Cotton Council International, the Council's overseas arm, and outlined efforts to build export markets for U.S. Cotton.

He said overseas activities include: (1) industry contacts to bring international buyers and U.S. exporters together; (2) an information service to develop and distribute market data; and (3) an advertising and promotion program to expand industry awareness of U.S. cotton, increase retail sales of products made primarily from U.S. cotton, and improve cotton's image among consumers.

"It's a most valuable tool in maintaining and expanding foreign markets for U.S. cotton," he said, "because it locks your cotton into the markets that make use of the program."

Brown said the \$335 million in guarantees for cotton exports last year was a record high and that \$300 million has already been announced for this year.

"This is good, but the bottom line remains that there's still a lot of cotton that needs to be exported and we will continue to look for every possible opportunity to utilize more credit guarantees to help increase exports—above current commitments of 5.3 million bales," he added.

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# SHIRLEYS PLACE

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- ★ 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.
- ★ 10 YEARS AS OWNER-OPERATOR OF PRIVATE BUSINESS.
- ★ AWARE OF THE NEEDS THAT FACE THE RESIDENTS OF PRECINCT 2. IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME, ASK SOMEONE WHO DOES!

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT DON DUDLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2 DON DUDLEY TREASURER



**THE MERKEL MAIL  
FOR SALE**

FOR SALE: 2 Formula Desert Dog PCB 12-15LT, 5 hole tires and wheels, \$100.00. Call 928-5250 after 5. 34-TFC

HAVE AUTO PARTS NEED TO SELL. 921 N. 2nd 928-5671 39-TFC

FOR SALE: saddle, blanket, seat covers, custom made to fit your car or truck, 13 colors to choose, from all machine washable. 928-4338. 43-TFC

FOR SALE: 79 Mercury Bobcat, 4 speed, excellent condition, \$3195, call 928-4734 after 5 or come by 501 Oak St. 45-TFC

FOR SALE: 500 gallon butane tank, call 928-4926. 48-4tc

FOR SALE: 4 to 9 row rolacone marker, \$150. Call 928-5606. 48-2tp

FOR SALE: beautiful five piece Mediterranean bedroom suite, \$395. Whirlpool washer 19" b-w television, radial tires, pickup tool box. 928-5801. 49-1tp

FOR SALE: 1976 Lincoln Continental 2 door hardtop, town coupe, runs good, call 928-5572 or see at No. 1 Ron Circle. 49-2tp

**GARAGE SALE**

PORCH SALE: 410 Thornton, Saturday only 8-3. 49-1tp

GARAGE SALE: 1412 N. 2nd, ladies, mens, childrens clothes, studio girls cosmetics, Friday and Saturday 2-6. 49-1tp

GARAGE SALE: baby clothes, odds & ends, books, etc. North 3rd and Baker, Friday. Only weather permitting. 49-1tp

**AUCTION**  
Saturday, Feb. 27  
6:30 p.m. 1033 N. 2nd  
Furniture, glass,  
gifts, new tools,  
lots of misc.  
Consignments  
Welcome  
49-1tp

**Circular Blades Hand Saws**  
**Professional Saw & Tool Sharpening**  
122 South St.  
Box 332  
Tye, Texas 79563  
Phillis & Harold Boyd  
(915) 692-5184  
Carbide Work

**The Merkel Mail**  
Established in 1889  
Cloy A. Richards Editor-Co-Publisher  
Melanie Richards Co-Publisher  
Cathy Pack Business Manager  
Carol Dillon Advertising Mgr  
Published weekly at 916 N. Second St., Merkel, Tx. Entered at the Post Office at Merkel, Texas 79534 as second class mail.  
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NOTICE: Typographical or other errors must be given before the second insertion or claims for refund or extensions will not be recognized.  
Serving Merkel in it's 100th Year

**REAL ESTATE**

FOR SALE: Doublewide to be moved as house. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 24 x 44, recently roofed \$9000.00, call to see, 928-4754 Merkel. 40-TFC

**Lawn Properties, Inc.**

115 acres near Hawley Heavily wooded, utilities available.  
TRENT: +3 bedroom, brick, den, fireplace, will pay Vets closing. + 2 bedroom, 2 bath, Mobile, on 1 acre plus storage building, fenced, beautiful a must to see, completely furnished. + 2 bedroom, with small efficiency, 1 room- furnished apt.  
MERKEL: + well built, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, garage on large lot plus well. + large older home on 3 lots near school. + completely redone 3 bedroom home good neighborhood.  
For more information call: Betty Stautzenberger 862-6329 or Tom Jones 928-4375, Lawn Properties, Inc. 695-1880. 49-TFC

**BUSINESS FOR SALE:** Bar-M Meats. Small frozen food and meat store, ideal for local resident or retired persons, Preston Milk outlet, call 928-4142 in Merkel or 673-7195 in Abilene or come by 135 Kent. 46-TFC

All brick, fireplace, 2 car garage, beautiful setting on large lot in Humphrey Village, energy efficient. All for under \$60,000, pick your own colors. Practical Realty, 673-8114 or 692-4747. 38-TFC

HOUSE FOR SALE: 702 Orange, 2 bedroom brick, central heat, no air, 2 lots and water well. 928-5434, Ethel M. Putman, Harvey Rister, 928-5401.

FOR SALE: By owner 3 bedroom, 1 bath on 1 or 2 acres, new 6 ft. chain link fence, city water and water well, wood burning fire place, large basement, call 928-4916 after 6:30. 44-TFC

PRICE REDUCED. 2 bedroom, bedroom suite, stove, frigidare, Cyrus Pee Agent, can be seen by appointment only. 44-TFC

**The Classified**

**HOUSES FOR SALE:** to be moved. Have one house, 3 bedroom, kitchen and bath, bath fixtures are in house, \$2,000. Have 2 bedroom, living room, has bath fixtures, \$5,000. Can Be Seen By Appointment Only. Cyrus Pee Agency. 45-TFC

FOR SALE: 2 bedroom house, 1500 sq. ft. on 5 acres., heat pump, garden area, well, fireplace, carport, call Pat Warren 846-5131 days. 42-TFC

**FOR RENT**

SHANNONSIDE APARTMENTS-1, 2, & 3 bedroom apartments shag carpet, all electric, dish washer, garbage disposal, central cooling and heating. For more information call 928-5038. 8-TFC

REGISTERED Child Care in may home, reasonable rates, before and after school care, delivery to and from school, 928-4868. 47-tc

\$30.00 per hundred paid for processing mail from home. Experience unnecessary. Information, send self-addressed, stamped envelope. TYLER BOX 707, Livingston, NJ 07039. 45-TFC

GRANNY'S PLAY HOUSE licensed child care, open 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. call 928-4904 or come by 207 Orange. 46-4tp

WANTED: yard work, painting inside or out and odd jobs. Please call Ben Wheeler at 928-5089 after 6:00. 49-3tc

WANTED: Garden spot, with water. Will share crop. Great opportunity for older person to have fresh vegetables with no labor. Call 928-5712. 49-TFCNC

NOW TAKING applications for nurses aides. Please apply in person. Starr Nursing Home. 49-TFC

LOST: blue organizer notebook. Has class notes. If found, please call 928-4703 or contact Dora at 928-4761. Reward offered. 49-1tp

REGISTERED babysitting in my home. Call 928-4481. 49-2tp

Taking Consignments for February auction. First come-First sold. Crafthouse, 1033 N. 2nd. 48-2tp

**CARD OF THANKS**

There's just not words enough to say thanks to our many dear friends for all they have done while Gene and I were in and out of the hospital. We would also like to thank everyone for their food, phone calls, flowers and visits. Gene and Ruth Cade, Laura Gilbert and Family. 49-1tc

**Dirt Work GRADER LOADER BACKHOE 928-5534 DRIVES PADS SEPTICS DUMP-TRUCKS Watts Dirt Construction**

We would like to thank everyone for the many acts of kindness shown during the loss of our loved one. The food, the floral offerings and the beautiful service were deeply appreciated. The Family of Ubense Delacruz. 49-1tp

**NOTICES**

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INCORPORATE GOING BUSINESS

Notice is hereby given that effective November 1, 1981, Standard Perforators, a sole proprietorship owned by Merle L. Gregg, doing business in Abilene, Texas, was dissolved and that after such date the business will be conducted at Abilene, Texas, without change of firm name, by Standard Perforators of Abilene, Inc., a Texas corporation. This Notice is given pursuant to Article 1302-2.02 of the Texas Miscellaneous Corporation Laws Act, Section 6.103(7) of the

Texas Business and Commerce Code, and Section 35 of Article 6132b of the Texas Civil Statutes. 49-4tc

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INCORPORATE

Notice is hereby given that Medical Weight Control, whose principal business office is at 174 South Willis, Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, intends on or before January 20, 1982, to become incorporated without a change of firm name. Dated: February 17, 1982. Jamie Lea Buie, Owner 49-4tc

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LOWEST FARE CHAPARRAL AIRLINES  
NON-STOP  
To Dallas-Love Dallas/Ft. Worth Houston-Mobay and Austin Connections World-Wide Now With 52 Flights Daily. Call your Travel Agent or 677-3337

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CALL 672-6853 or 673-2648 AFTER 5 O'CLOCK  
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**TERMITE AND PEST CONTROL 1202 PINE 677-2413**

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**H & W PEST CONTROL**  
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Merkel 928-5241  
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**ALL WORK GUARANTEED ALL TYPES PLUMBING SUPPLY CONSOLIDATED PLUMBING Local call 846-5131 Mobil Phone after 5 928-5627 OLD & NEW WORK BACKHOE & TRENCHER**

**NEW SUBDIVISION MERKEL TEXAS**  
LOVELY ECONOMICAL NEW HOMES  
THREE BEDROOM FULLY CARPETED SOME APPLIANCES NEW G E HEAT PUMP FULLY CENTRAL HEAT AND AIR COND  
210 TAYLOR V A PRICE \$33,950 LOAN \$33,950 APPROX CLOSING COST \$750 INT 16 1/2% APR 16 3/4% APPROX PAYMENT P. & I. \$470.00 MO  
  
212 TAYLOR V A PRICE \$38,450 LOAN \$38,450 APPROX CLOSING COST \$1,000 INT 16 1/2% APR 16 3/4% APPROX PAYMENT P & I \$530.00 MO  
call JIM ALLDAY - SALES MGR HOME 698-2954 BOB DENNISON 692-6750 JIM LEWIS 698-4759 HAL SCHROEDER 677-5713  
**MAIN OFFICE 698-7656**  
**Ramcon**  
BUILDING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



# Trent poster winners named

The following students were the winners in the Middle Clear Fork Soil Conservation Contest held in Trent Schools last week. First thru fourth places are selected and presented with a ribbon. The First place winners will then be sent to Abilene where they will be judged and displayed at the Abilene Public Library during the week of Feb. 22-26, 1982.

Kindergarten: 1st place Mark Payne, 2nd place Jason Rea, 3rd place Brandon Rains, 4th place Jodi Chappell.

First Grade: 1st place Wade Watson, 2nd place Britt Sipe, 3rd place Brandon Bland, 4th place Timothy Childress.

Second Grade: 1st place Jennifer Hobbs, 2nd place Scott Bloodworth, 3rd place Junior Chavez, 4th place Mollie Hambrick.

Third Grade: 1st place Travis Walker, 2nd place Kevin Jackson, 3rd place Ricky Tarin, 4th place Michael Jackson.

Fourth Grade: 1st place Tami Neff, 2nd place Sheli Boles, 3rd place Melony Orr, 4th place Misty Webb.

Fifth Grade: 1st place Steven Baker, 2nd place Billie Jean Poindexter, 3rd place Kim Walker, 4th place Jeff Hobbs.

Sixth Grade: 1st place Luci Masonheimer, 2nd place Brian Massey, 3rd place Wilson Stephens, 4th place Kim Orr.

### Public notice

NOTICE OF INTENT TO TRANSFER AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO INCORPORATE  
Notice is hereby given that on March 1, 1982, the entire assets of JOE'S PUMPING UNITS SERVICE AND REPAIR whose address is 4444 Crawford Drive, Abilene, Texas 79605, will be transferred to a new enterprise organized to take over and continue the business under JOE'S PUMPING UNITS SERVICE AND REPAIR, INC., a Texas corporation, whose address will be 4819 Kirkland Drive.

Abilene, Texas 79602.  
The corporation will assume all the debts of the transferor, and the transferor will receive nothing from the transaction except shares in the corporation which will be subordinate to the claims of creditors of the corporation.  
Dated: February 18, 1982.  
Albert Joe Roemisch, Partner  
Joe's Pumping Units Service and Repair, Inc.  
By Albert Joe Roemisch, President.  
49-41c

## Trent ISD open house

Trent ISD will hold an Open House, Tuesday, March 2, 1982 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. during Public School Week. Trent ISD has recently finished some remodeling on their building and invite everyone in the community to come and see it.

## Ladies golf news

The Merkel Ladies Golf Association met recently and decided to add a Monday Ladies Day Golf as well as assigned members to work on ladies tee boxes.

Assigned to tee boxes were Tee box 3, Melanie Richards, Monah Cannon, Ida Mae Seymore, No. 4 Glenda Watts, Ruth Tipton, Sara Ruffin, Pear Rogers and Robbie Freeman, No. 6, Brenda Jackson, Debbie Jackson, Dodie Riggan, Reinette Hensley, No. 7, Wanda Hendricks, Linda Luckey, Faye Crenshaw and Jo Ann Gardner, No. 8, Faye Robertson, Jo Ann Smith, Minyon Seymore, No. 9 Helen Jones, Janet Deen, Jeanette Pursley and Stacy Seymore.

The group elected officers and named Brenda Jackson-president, Helen Jones-vice president, Wanda Hendricks-treasurer and Melanie Richards-publicity.

Other committees named included Janet Deen-telephone committee, Ladies Day chairman-Faye Roberts, Tuesday Scramble-Helen Jones, Handicap chairman-Jo Ann Smith.

The ladies also decided to host a local junior golf tournament in addition to the Monday ladies day and Tuesday scrambles.

## HOUSEWARMING

IN HONOR OF  
KAREN PACK

MARCH 11  
6:30-8:30

COME & GO  
1411 N. 2nd

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* NEED A BABYSITTER? \*  
\* REGISTERED, REASONABLE RATES, \*  
\* DROP-INS WELCOME. \*  
\* CALL RITA (WATTS) MOORE \*  
\* 928-5453. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

If it's Borden, it's got to be good

1857  1982

BORDEN'S  
**ICE CREAM SANDWICHES  
OR NUTTY BUDDY'S**  
6 CT. PKG. **99¢**

BORDEN'S  
**BUTTERMILK** 1 GAL. CTN. **\$1 09**

BORDEN'S 12 OZ. CTN.  
**COTTAGE CHEESE** **69¢**

REAL TEXAS  REAL TEXAS STYLE  
**BARBEQUE**  
**\$2 99** PINT  
MAKES FOUR BIG SANDWICHES!

TIDE  
**\$1 89**

2 LITER PEPSI  
**99¢**

FOLGERS COFFEE **\$1 79**  
1 POUND

HEINZ CATSUP **99¢**  
32 OZ

NEW FREEDOM MAXI PADS  
**\$1 50**

64 OZ DOWNEY **\$1 50**

10 OZ  
BURRITOS  
2 FOR

BEEF OR CHICKEN  
MORTON POT PIES **3 \$1**  
9 OZ. PKGS.

  
**ALLSUP'S**  
CONVENIENCE STORES  
"THERE'S ONE NEAR YOU"  
PRICES EFFECTIVE FEB. 25-27, 1982  
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

# SALE OF A LIFETIME!!

4 FAMILY GARAGE SALE

FRIDAY 9:00-6:00

SATURDAY 8:00-5:00

I-20 & KENT STREET

NEXT TO

LEMEN'S BUTANE

- AQUARIUMS
- CURTAINS
- 77 FORD CUSTOM VAN
- HOME INTERIOR ITEMS
- WICKER FURNITURE
- NEW PORTABLE REFRIGERATOR
- REFRIGERATED WINDOW UNITS
- DESKS
- TABLES
- CHAIRS
- BEDS
- B&W T.V.

- CALCULATORS
- BLACKBOARDS
- DECORATIVE ITEMS
- ANTIQUES
- CLOTHES
- BEDDIN
- BUILDING SUPPLIES
- SKIING EQUIPMENT
- DOORS
- 8 FT. METAL HORSE TROUGH
- TOYS
- DISHES

## Sale

Tell City Rockers.



Farmhouse Rocker (684)

REG. \$169<sup>95</sup>

SALE \$144<sup>00</sup>



Cushioned Rocker (695)

REG. \$199<sup>95</sup>

SALE \$170<sup>00</sup>



Big Boy Rocker (800)

REG. \$209<sup>95</sup>

SALE \$178<sup>00</sup>

The comfortable chairs  
that people buy  
for their style.

STARBUCK'S  
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201 EDWARDS  
MERKEL

SIMILAR SAVINGS  
ON OTHER STYLES



# Bush tells administration views on farm-ag problems

Vice President George Bush today asked cotton industry leader's support of the President's economic recovery program, stressing the need for giving it time to work.

Speaking to the National Cotton Council's annual meeting here, he said reversing the 30-year trend of government growth will take longer than the four months the President's program has been in effect.

The Vice President drew strong applause when he said the Administration is firmly committed to safety in the working place and health of workers, but is also committed to removing the excess of burdensome federal regulations on the cotton industry. He said OSHA has just announced it has begun the rulemaking process to review the cotton dust standard and assured industry leaders the Administration will continue to work closely with them on the matter.

Bush said progress is being made on regulatory reform and that perhaps the most important accomplishment so far has been the changed attitude of regulators.

Regarding the farm situation, he cited the dairy program as an example of what happens when government tries to buy prosperity for an industry. Bush pointed to more than a billion and a half pounds of dairy products now in surplus in government warehouses.

As for the current cotton situation, he said producers can help bring supply and demand into balance by participating in the voluntary acreage reduction program this year, but added that the long-term answer lies in expanding export markets.

"Rest assured the Department of Agriculture is going to continue working with your organization to find new markets for your product."

Ultimately, he added, the best relief for the American farmer will come in the form of a healthier national economy including lower inflation and lower interest rates.

Sen. David Boren (D-Okla.) told delegates all Americans—Republicans and Democrats alike—should demand that their public officials balance the federal budget as quickly as possible. Unless this is done, he said, Americans will look back at interest rates of 18 or 20 percent as "the good old days."

Rep. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) said the most significant development in public life in 1981 was greatly increased participation in government by business and industry. The House Minority Whip cited the Council as an example of successful participation, saying the industry's move ten years ago to make cotton less dependent on government was a key factor behind swift passage of the 1981 farm law's cotton section.

Among actions called for by Council delegates in some 157 resolutions were: (1) immediate establishment of a permanent revolving fund for export credit and credit assurance that would be

initially funded by repayments and interest on outstanding government export credit; (2) continued all-out efforts to establish reasonable and feasible cotton dust regulations that are cost effective and based on scientific facts; (3) relief from unreasonable and unnecessary rules under the Clean Air Act and other environmental laws; (4) encouragement of cottonseed oil's use as a carrier for cotton pesticides; (5) extension of the North Carolina-Virginia boll weevil eradication zone into a larger area, and continued support for national eradication; (6) efforts to eliminate cotton contaminants that cause mill processing problems; (7) support of USDA efforts to improve the cotton grading system through computerized cards and proven-reliable instruments; and (8) development of more effective agricultural weather services with location of a service center at Lubbock, Texas.

Edward Breihan, Lubbock cooperative official, was named Council president succeeding Frank M. Mitchener, Jr., Sumner, Miss., cotton producer, who is now chairman of the board. Other officers include vice presidents Lloyd Cline, Lamesa, Tex., Samuel B. Hollis, Memphis, and Lewis S. Morris, Greensboro, N.C.; and treasurer C. Everette Salyer, Corcoran, Calif. Earl W. Sears, Memphis, was renamed executive vice president, and Macon Edwards vice president in charge of Washington operations.

Phoenix was designated as the site for the Council's 1983 meeting.

Lubbock native

Breihan named Cotton

Council president

Edward Breihan, Lubbock, Texas, cottonseed crusher, is the 31st president of the National Cotton Council. Named by the board of directors at the Council's 44th annual meeting in Dallas Feb. 8, he was a vice president of the organization for six years and recently headed its technical committee.

President and general manager of the Plain Cooperative Oil Mill since 1975, Breihan was general manager of the Southwestern Irrigated Cotton Growers Association in El Paso for 23 years and formerly was vice president and treasurer of the Houston Bank for Cooperatives.

He is past president of the Texas Cottonseed Crushers' Association and the National Cottonseed Products Association, and currently serves on the board of both organizations. Breihan also is president of Soy-Cot Sales, Inc., Chicago, and a board member of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and the Texas Federation of Cooperatives.

## ★ JIMMIE PETERS & TEXAS TRADITION ★

ARE ANNOUNCING COMING ATTRACTIONS AT THE TEXAS TRADITION

# FEBRUARY 25

★ ★ ★ ★ FIDDLIN ★ ★ ★ ★

## FRENCHIE BURK

ONE BIG NIGHT ONLY

★ ★ MARCH 5 MAINES BROTHERS BAND	★ ★ MARCH 6 THE ORIGINAL HALFBREED BAND
★ ★ MARCH 18 DARRELL McCALL	★ ★ MARCH 20 MAINES BROTHERS BAND

APPEARING NIGHTLY

JIMMIE PETERS & TEXAS TRADITION  
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PEE WEE PACK	RABBIT PACK	RICKY PACK
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**98¢**

COTTON GLOVES SAVE 31¢ **98¢**

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ENVELOPES SAVE 69¢ 2 FOR **69¢**

GOOCH FRANKS 12 OZ **98¢**

LARGE SELECTION OF  
SUN SHADES **\$5.00**

REDEEM

YOUR MANUFACTURERS  
COUPONS HERE

SEED POTATOES

FOREMOST MILK 1% **\$2.39** GAL

VITAMIN D GAL **\$2.49**

SUPER BUBBLE SUPER SOFT  
BUBBLE GUM SAVE 10¢  
**19¢**

NABISCO COOKIES 10¢  
OFF MARKED PRICE

TYPING PAPER 14 SHEETS **9¢**

CANVASS GLOVES **\$1.29**

CANDY SUCKERS **5¢**

SLICED BOLOGNA **\$1.39** LB.

4 HOUR COUGH RELIEF  
SAVE 89¢ 2 FOR **89¢**

NILLA WAFERS 12 OZ. SIZE **79¢**

ONION SETS GARDEN  
RED, YELLOW SEEDS  
, WHITE

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS

GOOCH GERMAN  
SAUSAGE 12 OZ **\$1.39**

GOOCH  
BIG COUNTRY  
BACON 1 LB PKG **\$1.19**

SAVE 19¢  
NABISCO PREMIUM  
CRACKERS 1 LB BOX **79¢**

FOUNTAIN DRINKS  
COKE, SEVEN UP,  
MR. PIBB, ORANGE

RUSSETT  
POTATOES 10 LB BAG **\$1.59**

LETTUCE HEAD **49¢**

TOMATOES LB **59¢**

AVACADOS 4 FOR **\$1.00**

YELLOW **39¢**  
ONIONS lb

BANANAS 3 LB **\$1.00**

# 9th STREET GROCERY & MOBIL GAS



## State looking for water plan inputs

Initial efforts to obtain public involvement and recommendations on water resources issued to be considered in amending the 1968 Texas Water Plan were launched this week by the Texas Department of Water Resources working in cooperation with the Governor's Task Force on Water Resource Use and Conservation.

The issues as identified and described by the Department and reviewed by the Governor's Water Task Force are being mailed this week to several thousand Texans including water resource professionals, state and local public officials representing municipalities, industry, agriculture, education, special interest groups and organizations, and others for their consideration. Several public meetings will be held throughout the state in March to afford citizens and organizations an opportunity to discuss the issues.

Copies of the issues are available from the Department. Persons desiring a copy should telephone or write to Bobby Whitefield, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711, (512) 475-0223.

Issues delineated include: water resources management for population and economic growth; water laws; water quality management; flood protection; water conservation; bays, estuaries, instream flows and fish and wildlife habitat; regional water and sewerage systems and reservoir operating procedures; water importation; project priorities; research and development of new technology; and the State's role in financing water development and wastewater treatment projects.

Louis A. Beecherl Jr. of Dallas, chairman of both the Water Development Board and the

Governor's Water Task Force, stated in a letter accompanying the issue papers: "We must revise the Texas Water Plan to meet the long-range needs of increasing population and economic growth in our state. To fail to provide adequate water resources and wastewater treatment facilities is to invite and virtually guarantee placing the state's well-being, growth and economic vitality in serious jeopardy."

## Walls employees back from skiing trip

Walls employees, hospitality committee, chartered a bus and spent the week-end in Red River, New Mexico. They enjoyed the time skiing and falling. They also enjoyed the snowmobile tours on the top of the mountains and the rest of the time was spent just having a good ole time. Those going from Merkel were: Mamie Steck, Dora Asencio, Pat Thorman, Waheedah Elahi, Carolyn Russell, Waymon and Johnnie Adcock, Wayne and Ferrell Adcock, David and Carolyn Gains, Ray and Olga Martinez.

Those going from Abilene were: Wayne Palmer, Doris Duran, Ann Reeder, Jeri and Max Treadwell, Tommy and Jo Poor, Jacky Shaw and Shane and Glen, Patty and Scotty Shaw.

Those going from Sweetwater were: Larry Elen, Jerry, Danna, Janie and Sal. Those going from Lubbock were Bobby and Kathy Norvel. Everyone had such a great time, that they are all ready to go back. We were also joined by Jim Berg and Donna of Cleburne.

## Compacted soil can choke plant roots, rob water-nutrients

Soil compaction can act as an unseen enemy to farmers and reduce crop production. Commonly called a "hardpan", compacted soil can literally "chock off" plant roots so that they're unable to get water or nutrients.

"Probably the most evident plant symptom of compacted soil is a shallow root system," says Dr. Ed Colburn, agronomist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University System. "Plant roots may be unable to penetrate a severely compacted soil and may grow horizontally, resulting in what some farmers call 'crow foot' in such crops as cotton that have a tap root."

Along with stunting plant roots, soil compaction may affect seed germination, seedling emergence and other phases of crop growth and production, says Colburn.

Poor stands, poor growth, discolored plant leaves and premature wilting may signal problems due to compacted soil, notes the agronomist. However, many of these same symptoms can also be due to dry weather, nutrient deficiencies and other factors.

"Excessive soil compaction also reduces water penetration and increases run-off and soil erosion," adds Colburn. "Water standing in a field may signal a soil compaction problem since water infiltration is slow in a hardpan area."

"The best way to identify a hardpan is to dig a hole at least three feet deep and look for crop roots in the subsoil," explains Colburn. "If roots have penetrated the subsoil, then the next crop should also be able to move to that depth."

A farmer can also use a sharp rod or soil probe to check for hardpans, says the agronomist. You should be able to push the rod into the soil at a fairly constant rate until compacted soil is reached. The average person will have trouble pushing the rod through a hardpan.

What causes soil compaction? "Some soils are naturally compact, especially subsoil material," explains Colburn. "Excessive tillage, which reduces the size of soil granules, and tillage or other field operations when soil is wet are two major causes of soil compaction."

In fact, any machinery operation results in soil compaction, notes the agronomist, whether it's

planting, cultivating, fertilizing or harvesting. "Farmers should limit the use of heavy equipment and the number of tillage operations to those required to keep soil productive," recommends Colburn. "Avoid tillage if it does not improve soil physical conditions, promote water infiltration and aeration, help weed control, incorporate crop residues into the soil, prepare a seedbed, or help control wind and water erosion."

## Block to Visit Texas

AUSTIN—Secretary of Agriculture John Block will make his first visit to Texas February 24 to speak at Stockmen's Day at the Houston Livestock Show.

Block will be the keynote speaker at the noon barbecue to be held in the Astrodome. It is the 50th anniversary of the Houston Livestock Show. Governor Bill Clements will introduce Block.

Agriculture Commissioner Reagan V. Brown will be on the program and urges livestock raisers and others in the meat industry to attend the Stockmen's Day activities.

"We are very pleased that Block is coming to Texas. We want to show the strength of the livestock industry in Texas, the Number One cattle state in the nation."

"Visitors from all over the world will attend the show, and this will be a good opportunity for those who want to export livestock to make some good contacts," Brown said.

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