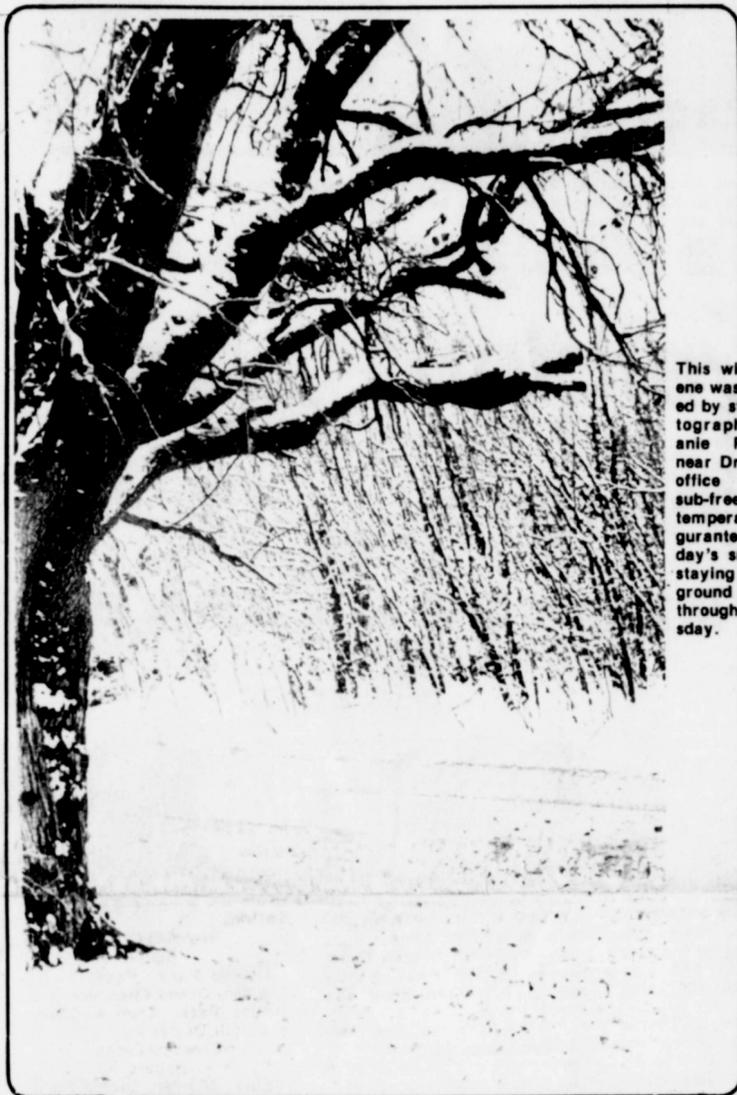


# The Merkel Mail

Thursday, December 22, 1983, Merkel, Texas



This wintry scene was captured by staff photographer Melanie Richards near Dr. Tran's office Friday. Sub-freezing temperatures guaranteed Sunday's snow fall staying on the ground at least through Wednesday.

## School board holds routine meeting, makes 6th grade change next year

The Merkel school board held a short, routine meeting Tuesday morning in the homemaking room at Merkel High.

The board did make a decision on where to teach 6th grade students at Merkel Middle School next year and made the move to help alleviate, temporarily, the shortage of space in the middle school building.

The 6th grade next year will attend classes in the portable buildings between the middle school gym and the high school building.

In other action, the board also decided to follow a state mandate that says students residing in certain zones must attend the school that includes them in their boundary. The move will

have some impact on people living in Mulberry Creek near Tye in that their children will be required to attend Tye Elementary. An official from the State Transportation Office audited bus routes last week and asked MISD superintendent Bill Everett to see that the changes are made.

During the report by campus principals Elementary school principal David Casey said he thought there would be enough money around to purchase a computer per grade for elementary students through funds raised by the PTO. Middle school principal Eddie Lang also had computers on his mind as he told the board he hoped to have computers in the middle school

by the start of the 1985 school year.

The board also approved members of the textbook committee and adopted new statewide policy guidelines.

The superintendent told the board he had no news concerning the proposed bond issue and said the architects were busy obtaining figures to make growth projections and looking at types of construction that may be more cost efficient than others.

Everett added that students would make up school today (Thursday) but school would be dismissed at 12:10 to make up for the lost day Monday when schools were closed because of weather conditions.

## Merkel Livestock Association holds Saturday stock show

The Merkel Livestock Association held their annual livestock show this weekend here under "ideal" livestock show weather conditions as Merkel FFA students reaped the benefits of a year of work and effort.

Denise Pack was named the recipient of the Taylor Electric Showmanship award and took several honors with her Brahman cattle.

The judge for this year's show was Roy Shackelford of Winters. Association officers and officials included President Jerry Gibson, Vice President Robert

Harris, Secretary-Treasurer Vicki Hays, Announcer Jerry Gibson. The Superintendents included Benny Melton-General Superintendent; Cattle: Steers: Terry Wade, Breeding: Ray Pack and Bill Munden, Rabbits: Dale Hammond, Sheep: Buzz Peterman and Woozer Boyd, Swine: Kenneth Hays, Robert Harris, Bill Whisenhunt and Jerry Gibson.

The following are the complete results of the show: (all listings are in the order of their place in each category)

**Fine Wool**  
Becky Middleton, Giny Boyd, Becky Middleton. **Breed Champion** Becky Middleton, **Reserve Champion** Jenny Boyd.

**Medium Wool**  
Chuck Peterman, Lance Perry, Perry, Jenny Boyd, Peterman. **Breed Champion** Chuck Peterman and **Reserve Champion** Lance Perry.

**Southdown**  
Kris Harris, Harris, Chuck Peterman, John Bright, Jenny Boyd, Johnny Boyd, Bright.

**Breed Champion** Kris Harris, **Reserve Champion** Harris, **Grand Champion** Lamb Chuck Peterman, **Reserve Grand Champion** Lance Perry, **Lamb Showmanship** Chuck Peterman, **Second Place Lamb Showmanship** Jenny Boyd.

**Rabbit Division**  
**Bucks**  
Susan Hammond (Champion), Joshua Mashburn (Reserve), Mashburn, Mashburn, Mike Myers, Hammond.

**Does**  
Shayla Hardy (Champion) Susan Hammond (Reserve), Cheryl Schucknecht, Mike Myers, Myers.

**Grand Champion Breeding Rabbit**, **Reserve Grand Champion Breeding Rabbit** Shayla Hardy, **Reserve Champion Breeding Rabbit** Susan Hammond, **Rabbit Showmanship** Mike Myers, **Second Place Showmanship** Susan Hammond.

**Cattle Division**  
**Steers**

Wade Toombs, Christi Toombs, Joshua Mashburn.

**Heavy weight**  
Roy Manahand, Randy Toombs, Ken Hogan.

**Bulls**

**Grand Champion Steer** Roy Manahand, **Reserve Champion Steer** Randy Toombs, **Steer Showmanship** Ken Hogan **Second Place Showmanship** Randy Toombs.

**Breeding Cattle**  
**Bulls**  
Denise Pack, Pack, Keith Munden. **Grand Champion Bull** Denise Pack, **Reserve Champion Bull** Denise Pack.

**Breeding Cattle**  
**Heifers**  
Linda Munden, Denise Pack, Keith Munden, Kevin Coker.

**Class Two**  
Denise Pack, Keith Munden, Linda Munden, Denise Pack.

**Grand Champion Heifer** Denise Pack, **Reserve Champ** Keith Munden, **Breeding Cattle Showmanship** Denise Pack, **second** Linda Munden.

**Swine Division**  
**Berkshire-Light**  
Chris Cutler (First 5 places), Marty Windham.

**Heavy**  
Clay Hammond, Chris Cutler, Cassey Townsend (Next 4 places) **Breed Champion** Chris Cutler, **Reserve Clay Hammond**, **Chesterwhite-Light**

Destry Pack, Billy Ray Riley, Dusty Farmer, Billy Ray Riley, Parker Wilson, Ricky Riley.

**Medium**  
Jason McCarty, Russell Morgan, John McCarty, Billy Ray Riley, Zack Bauer, Russell Morgan, Ricky Riley.

**Heavy**  
Tommy Hays, Dusty Farmer, Russell Morgan, Farmer, Farmer, Farmer, David Ray. **Breed Champion** Tommy Hays, **Reserve** Jason McCarty.

**Durocs-Light**  
Kevin Mitchell, Jason Castille, Jerry Miller, Mitchell, Mitchell, Mitchell, Melissa Harris, Harris, Harris, Chris Cutler, Steve Farthing.

**Medium**  
Randy Dudley, John Paul Dudley, Robyn Dudley, Natilie Schucknecht, Pam Ely, Kevin Mitchell, Mandy Pack, Melissa Harris, Cary Miller, Shane

Please see page 2

## Lebanon's night before Christmas, WTU, cleaners closed, frozen pipes...more

by Cloy A. Richards

This Christmas, I hope that you and your family will stop and remember those that have recently lost their lives in foreign places while defending and preserving basic rights of freedom, without which, we wouldn't be celebrating this time of the year. But also, remember those still in places like Grenada and Lebanon.

If it helps, imagine the following:

(Beirut) 'Twas the night before Christmas, I was guarding my hole,

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mole.

My family's picture was hung by the entrance with care,

My thoughts were at home and to soon join them there.

When out on the compound there rose such a clatter,

I sprang from my outpost to see what was the matter.

Through my tired eyes, I couldn't believe what I was seeing.

The commander was saying we would soon be leaving.

To Houston, to Boston, To Pittsburgh and Dover,

The Marines came home, just glad it was over.

As we headed to the airport to board the planes,

I had to pause to remember the pain.

We had left more than 240 Marines at last count,

Those that survived, we were just glad to be out.

I then pinched myself to see if it was a dream,

And, unfortunately it was, I was still part of the team.

The team that was sent to keep peace in a place,

That seemed hell-bent on



destroying half the human race.

To those that say we should not be here,

Pause for a second and lend me an ear.

Part of your freedom is opening those gayly wrapped presents,

Those freedoms are some of the reasons for our presence.

Although it was our wish to be gone from this place,

At the time of the year when we all share our good grace.

Our job is not done and so we will stay.

And all that we ask is that you remember us when you pray.

As I settled back on my knees in that dark, cold hole,

I thought of the reasons we were here and of my role.

I called to another as he shivered in the night,

Peace on Earth, and to my fellow Marines, Good Night.

WTU got quite a bit less than it asked for when the Public Utility Commission finished its hearings on rate increase requests, and that is both good and bad news.

The good news is that your immediate electricity bills won't be going up, but future bills surely will.

The rate increases will produce about \$12 million in additional revenues. The company had asked for \$25.6 million. The overall rate increase now will be 3.1 per cent, as opposed to the 11 per cent the company had previously requested.

Since the Merkel City Council denied the rate increase, Merkel customers will not be eligible for refunds that will be paid to customers that live in cities that approved the interim rate. Then again, Merkel customers were not paying that higher interim rate, so it all works out in the wash.

I just didn't want people here to start asking "Where is my refund?" when they start hearing about Abilene WTU customers receiving one.

Adcock Cleaners closed last Friday after 45 years of service to the Merkel area.

They began their business across from Merkel Drug (where Things in General is located now) and were there for one year.

Their current facility has been traded to the Merkel Development Corporation and will be demolished in the near future. Waymon and Johnnie wanted

us to thank all of those that have patronized their cleaning business all of these years.

I guess we will all have to be a little more careful with those clothes that say "Dry Clean Only" on the label in the future.

I am sure you all have a couple of stories to tell about the weather we have been 'enjoying' over the past week. It was a lot of fun trying to process photos for this weeks paper with a darkroom sink frozen shut.

The nearly 1.8 million veterans in Texas have received a Christmas present from the state when it announced last week the interest on \$20,000 loans that will go toward the purchase of a home will be under 10 per cent.

On a normal 30 year note, that interest rate will save veterans \$18,000 over the life of a 30 year note when compared to other current conventional rates, according to Richard Keahey, the investment director for the Veterans Land Board.

The program was made possible by a constitutional amendment approved by voters in November.

Merry  
Christmas

Mail office will be closed until 1 pm Monday

The Mail offices will be closed until 1 p.m. Monday for a short Christmas break.

Deadline for the Dec. 29 issue will be, as always, Noon Tuesday.

We hope that each of you have

a Merry Christmas and remind everyone to observe the holidays in the Christmas spirit.

From our gang to yours, Happy Holidays.

Cloy, Melanie, Kim and Joey Richards

# Stock show results continued

Continues from Page 1

White  
 Heavy  
 Tommy Hays, Melinda Riney, Russell Morgan, Lynn Hays, Sherri Riney, Allan Windham, Russell Morgan, Robyn Dudley, John Paul Dudley, Lynn Hays, Jimmy Collier, Tim Brandon. **Breed Champion Tommy Hays, Reserve Melinda Riney.**  
 Hampshires-Light  
 Amber Whisenhunt, Criswell Whisenhunt, John Paul Dudley, Melinda Riney, Sherri Riney.  
 Heavy  
 Amber Whisenhunt, Robyn Dudley, Amber Whisenhunt, Criswell Whisenhunt, Justin Harris. **Breed Champion and Reserve Amber Whisenhunt.**  
 Poland Chinas  
 Tommy Hays, Jay Gibson, Lynn Hays, Chris Cutler, Cutler, Gibson, Cutler, Cutler, Lyle Baker. **Breed Champion Tommy Hays, Reserve Jay Gibson.**

Spotted Poland  
 Brooks Boyd, Lyle Baker, Baker, Jay Gibson, Baker, Baker, Stacy Caulder. **Breed Champion Brooks Boyd, Reserve Lyle Baker.**  
 Yorkshire-Light  
 Jay Gibson, Criswell Whisenhunt, Melissa Harris, Harris.  
 Heavy  
 Amber Whisenhunt, Dusty Farmer, Jay Gibson, Farmer, Farmer, Tim Brandon. **Breed Champion Amber Whisenhunt, Reserve Dusty Farmer.**  
 Crossbreed-Light  
 Amber Whisenhunt, Criswell Whisenhunt, Shane White, Jay Williams, Kevin Mitchell, Pam Ely, Judy Williams.  
 Middleweight  
 Twyla Williams, Jay Williams, Ricky Doan, Jay Williams, Lorena Pack, Danny Britton, Parker Wilson.  
 Heavy  
 Hubert Braddock, Tommy

Hays, Jay Gibson, Lynn Hays, Braddock. **Breed Champion Hubert Braddock, Reserve Amber Whisenhunt.**  
**§ The Overall Grand Champion Market Hog was shown by Tommy Hays and Reserve was Hubert Braddock. The Division Showmanship award went to Melinda Riney with second to Chris Cutler.**  
 Breeding Gilts-Light  
 Criswell Whisenhunt, Amber Whisenhunt, John Paul Dudley, Chris Cutler, Amber Whisenhunt, Robyn Dudley.  
 Medium  
 Lynn Hays, John Paul Dudley, Hays, Hays, Chris Cutler, Robyn Dudley, Gary Miller.  
 Heavy  
 Tommy Hays, Dusty Farmer, Farmer, Russell Morgan, Morgan, Linny Neath. **Champion and Reserve Breeding Gilt Amber Whisenhunt. Breeding Gilt Showmanship Dusty Farmer, second Amber Whisenhunt.**



Denise Pack of the Merkel FFA accepts the Taylor Electric trophy for being the best over-all showman at

Saturday's Merkel Stock Show. [Photo by Connie Harris]



# The western version of the 3 wise men



## Hightower questioned

Dear Editor:  
 What type of grain inspection do you expect from an agricultural commissioner who knows nothing about Agriculture? A shoddy one at best.  
 Earlier this fall, Jim Hightower executed a grain inspection of 23 million bushels of corn stored at a Plainview elevator. His results and the U. S. Agriculture Department's results of the same grain show an overall difference of 85 per cent.  
 Hightower found 53 per cent of the grain to be of the poorest grade and 87 per cent to be of grades 4, 5 and sample. USDA, on the other hand, found only 10 per cent of the grain to be of the poorest grade and only 45 per cent to be of grades 4, 5 and sample.  
 This great discrepancy exists because Hightower used an unrepresentative 86 samples to test the corn. USDA used nearly 100 times that number.

Hightower put out those inaccurate numbers, based on inadequate samples, knowing full well he was deceiving the public and the farm community. For a state official to present his case in this way is the lowest form of deceit.  
 The worthless inspection came about when Hightower tried to get USDA to release the grain without congressional approval which they are prohibited from doing under three statutes. In order to back up his claim that most of the corn was rotting and should thus be released, he put together an obviously poor inspection of the Plainview facility.  
 Jim Hightower's credibility on agricultural matters has shown to have seriously slipped.

Sincerely  
 George W. Strake  
 State Chairman  
 The Republican Party  
 Of Texas

## Mail thanked

The Merkel Mail  
 Dear Friends;  
 Pioneer Memorial Church wishes to thank you for helping make the 1983 Lord's Acre Program a big success.  
 It is truly a blessing to have so many friends come together to enjoy the fellowship

and at the same time contribute to the church cause.  
 It was so good to see you there taking pictures and I hope that you ate supper.  
 Thanks again for the two subscriptions. They always sell good.  
 Sincerely  
 Marry Russom

## TRENT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 31, 1983

	General Operating Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Debt Service Fund	Total
<b>REVENUES:</b>				
Local, Intermediate, Out-of-State (Excluding Non-Revenue Receipts)	\$ 459,347		\$ 42,136	\$ 501,483
State Program Revenues	232,607			232,607
Federal Program Revenues	19,605	\$ 843		20,448
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 711,559</b>	<b>\$ 843</b>	<b>\$ 42,136</b>	<b>\$ 754,538</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>				
Instruction	\$ 300,533	\$ 843		\$ 301,376
Instructional Resources & Media Services	1,522			1,522
School Administration	1,773			1,773
Guidance & Counseling Services	316			316
Pupil Transportation-Regular	41,636			41,636
Co-Curricular Activities	12,601			12,601
Food Services	34,566			34,566
General Administration	96,119			96,119
Debt Services			41,905	41,905
Plant Maintenance & Operations	99,129			99,129
Facilities Acquisition & Construction	107,226			107,226
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 695,421</b>	<b>\$ 843</b>	<b>\$ 41,905</b>	<b>\$ 738,169</b>
<b>OTHER RESOURCES &amp; (USES):</b>				
Other Resources	\$ 3,151			\$ 3,151
<b>Total Other Resources &amp; (Uses)</b>	<b>\$ 3,151</b>			<b>\$ 3,151</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES &amp; OTHER RESOURCES OVER EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER USES</b>	<b>\$ 19,289</b>		<b>\$ 231</b>	<b>\$ 19,520</b>
Balance, September 1, 1982	\$ 210,020		\$ 18,726	\$ 228,746
<b>BALANCE, AUGUST 31, 1983</b>	<b>\$ 229,309</b>		<b>\$ 18,957</b>	<b>\$ 248,266</b>

The financial statement referred to above presents fairly the financial position of the Trent Independent School District as of August 31, 1983.

Weldon Beasley, President Board of Trustees

# Church news

## Catholic Church

**Confessions**  
Here is the schedule for confessions during this last week before Christmas:  
Wednesday, following the Holy Hour  
Thursday from 7 until 8 p.m.  
Friday from 7 until 8 p.m.  
Saturday from 6:30 until 8 p.m. Please try to pick one of the earlier days during the week and not wait until Christmas eve.

**Mass Schedule**  
There will be no 5:30 p.m. mass on Christmas eve. The Midnight Mass will begin at 9 p.m. Before the mass there will be the customary singing of Christmas Carols and also a short program starting at 8:30. Deacon Paul Klein will give the homily again this year. There will be a Mass at 11 a.m. Christmas morning.

## NEWS OF RELIGION

For some people, prayer, attending church and reading the Bible are not the only ways of showing their love and devotion to God. They need to share hope and comfort with their fellow human beings, helping them to build better lives for themselves, both physically and spiritually.



One group of people who make service to others very much a part of their religion are the Salvationists—

## Calvary Baptist

Calvary Baptist Church wishes everyone a happy and blessed Christmas! We hope the love God expresses by sending Jesus, His Son, to earth will be real in each one's heart.

Christmas Sunday, CBC will hold services at regular times to especially honor the Lord on the day we remember. He was born to be our Saviour. Sunday school 10 a.m. morning worship 11 a.m. Evening 6 p.m. service.

The icy weather didn't hamper the spirit of our children's program, "Christmas Gifts and Wishes," Sunday night. The boys and girls all did a fine job in their presentations and in the play. We all ought to be able to give the Lord something this season like those at Jesus' birth time

members of The Salvation Army. The group's strong religious beliefs—its credo is "heart to God and hand to man"—make it distinctly different from any other charity, while its dedicated worldwide service to the communities of man set it apart from many religious groups.

The most visible examples of The Salvation Army's full-time service to both God and man are its Corps Community Centers, centers for alcoholics and drug addicts, hospitals and clinics, residences and camps for senior citizens, group homes for troubled children, handicapped youngsters and year-round children's camps.

More important than the buildings, however, are the thousands of Salvation Army soldiers, and the hundreds of thousands more who work as volunteers.

You may visit a Corps Community Center at any time. Or you can write for a free leaflet to: The Salvation Army, National Headquarters, 799 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, NJ 07044.

did.  
Don't forget the Christmas Fellowship Dinner and gift exchange Dec. 21 at 7:30.

## Merkel Methodist

Christmas this year falls on Sunday and what better day to be in church and welcome the spirit of the Christ child. We will only have one service on Christmas day and it will begin at 10 a.m. There will be no Church School or Evening Worship.

## Obituaries

### Everett Jones

Everett Jones, 87, of 4500 Nolan in Fort Worth, passed away Monday. He was a former Merkel resident and had lived here from 1920 to 1929. He had retired from Montgomery Wards after 36 years.

He is survived by nephews Pat Jones of Arlington, Estes Jones of New York City, Robert Stanford of Lubbock and a niece Ada Fry of Abilene.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Emerald Cemetery in Kennedale.

### Nora Taylor

Nora Lee Taylor, age 70 of Trent, died at Hendrick Medical Center at 7:10 p.m. Dec. 13 following a lengthy illness.

Services were held Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. at the Trent Baptist Church with the Rev. Carl Rea officiating. Burial followed in Trent Cemetery under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.

She had married Floyd Taylor Nov. 24, 1935 in Sweetwater. She is survived by

her husband; one daughter Mickey Johnson of Seminole; four sisters Nancy Kreidel of Roby, Frankie Reeves of Bronte, Pearlina Crow of Camden, Ark., and Margeory Petersen of Tucuma, Wash, and three grandchildren.

### Bertha Ensminger

Bertha Blair Ensminger, 95, of Merkel died Dec. 14 at Starr Nursing Home. Services were held Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. at the Starbuck Chapel under the direction of Rev. John Wagoner of the First United Methodist Church here. Burial followed at Rose Hill.

She had married John Ensminger in 1934. He had died in 1945. She was a member of the Methodist Church here and is survived by several nieces and nephews.

### Minnie Kelso

Minnie Alice Kelso, 104 of 641 Victoria in Abilene, an Abilene resident since 1944, died at 1:15 Dec. 15 at Shady Oaks Lodge.

Services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Elliott-Hamill funeral home in Abilene. Burial followed at the Stith Cemetery.

She was born April 21, 1879 in Tennessee. She married Edgar Lee Kelso Oct. 15, 1899 in Coryell County. They farmed in the Guion community for several years before moving to Stith in the early 1900s. She had been the oldest person to attend the West Texas Fair for the past four years and also regularly attended the TCRA Rodeo in Coleman and the Texas Cowboy Reunion in Stamford, as well as the Old Settler's Reunion in Buffalo Gap. She had kept her own home and handled her personal business until she was

100. She was a member of the Stith Baptist Church for 70 years. She was preceded in death by four grandsons, a granddaugh-

ter, two sisters, two brothers. She is survived by a son and daughter in law, Herbert Kelso of San Antonio and daughter in law Mrs. R. C. Kelso of 3002 S. 10th in Abilene; and six grandchildren Margaret Sandusky, Mary Lou Hicks and Babe Tarpley, all of Merkel.

Massey Sealea of Altus, Okla, Weldon Kelso of Lubbock and Tiny Dean of San Antonio, 19 great-grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

THANK YOU  
FOR HELPING MAKE  
1983 A PROSPEROUS  
YEAR & MAY GOD BLESS  
YOU IN THE COMING NEW YEAR  
**GAIL'S**  
**BEAUTY & STYLE SHOP**

*Merry Christmas*

to all our friends, old and new!

WE WILL BE CLOSED DEC 24-26  
LUNCHES MONDAY - FRIDAY  
TAKE OUT ORDERS WELCOMED  
WE CARRY Gandy's & Ice cream

**MIKE'S PLACE**  
1035 N 2ND 928-5484

## Chaplain's Award

## To USAF This Year



Major General John A. Collins, Air Force Chief of Chaplains, has set in motion the process of selecting the 1983 recipient of the Witherspoon Chaplain's Award, presented each year to a United States Armed Forces chaplain who has shown special interest or ability in helping those to whom he or she ministers to

become more interested in the Bible.

The winning Air Force chaplain will be announced at the National Bible Week Luncheon, held by the Laymen's National Bible Committee, at the Plaza Hotel in New York City, November 18, 1983.

The first awardee, in 1981, Cdr. Carl J. Pearson, was from the Navy, which Capt. Maurice M. Witherspoon, a long-time leader of LNBC, served during World War I and II. In 1982, Major John C. Williams, US Army, was given the honor.

**Peace on Earth  
Good Will  
Toward men...**



Let us renew the message of Christmas at this season.

**HICKS AUTO  
SUPPLY**

138 EDWARDS 928-5166

## Season's Greetings FROM LAMBDA BETA



Let us rejoice at Christmas!  
**ED'S FEED & SEED**  
Ed, Glenn & Grant

**JOY TO THE WORLD!**

We wish to extend  
our holiday greetings  
to you and your family  
as you gather  
in celebration.  
Thank you for  
your loyal support.

**MERKEL  
DRUG  
CO.**  
121 EDWARDS  
928-5012

THE MERKEL MAIL For Sale

We make hydraulic hoses. P & L Auto Parts 135 Edwards 928-5671

We turn disc brakes and drums. P & L Auto Parts 135 Edwards 928-5671

For Sale: AKC Dublin Pups excellent markings, long legged, sharp noses, good blood line, 3 weeks old will hold for Christmas. Call 677-8858. 33-tfc

For sale: 2 quilt tops 1 hand painted and one large colonial girl, 1 queen size and one king size. Call 928-5033. 43-tfc

Firewood for sale. Will deliver \$60 per cord. Call 928-5645 or 928-5982 after 6:30 p.m. 41-2tp

Misc.

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

12tfc Germania Insurance Company, for your insurance needs. Locally represented by Donna Carter. 928-6348 TFC

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

Reliable electrical work done. Patrick Galloway 928-5388. tfc

Need part time LVN and full time aids. Please apply in person at Star Nursing Home 22 TFC

Piano Tuning Call 928-4886, ask for Pee Wee Pack. 34-tfc

Obtain a major credit card (M-C or VISA) guaranteed, even if you have bad credit, no credit, bankrupt or divorced. For free brochure send SASE to 1st Capitol Credit, P. O. Box 9820, No. 217, Fort Worth, Tex. 76107, or call 1-817-457-5581 Anytime. 42-4tc

I will not be responsible for any debts other than my own. Allen Higgins Jr. 42-2TP

Puppies, 601 Edwards, never outside, Born Halloween, need warm home for Christmas. Hi-Val will offer one day holiday gift wrapping to the public at reasonable rates. 604 Kent. Hi-Val Farm and Home Supply. 39-4tc

NEED CREDIT? +GUARANTEED! Receive Master-Card-Visa with no credit check. Bad-no credit OK. For free brochure send self-addressed stamped envelope to Capitol, Box 821428, Dallas, Texas 75382 or call 214-234-3728. 38-TFC

Holidays and party's coming! Do you need something to wear? Do your clothes not fit right, need new zippers or just need mending? Call Alyene 928-4493 or 928-4398. 38-5tp

Does someone you love have a drinking problem? Is it affecting your life? If so, AL-ANNON FAMILY groups can help! Merkel group now meeting weekly in the a.m. Call 928-4844 or 928-5087. 30-5tp

special holiday rates housecleaning. Let us help you get your house clean before the holidays and unexpected guests. Also, put your order in for homemade pies and cakes. 928-4890 or 928-9530. 40-3tp

Real Estate

Lawn Properties, Inc. 695-1880

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

Merkel 14 X 66 Mobile, fenced, garden spot, well carport, Sun water line paved on 2 sides reduced, owner carry with small down.

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

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

3-1-1 on Sunset, brick, fenced, nice yard. Avondale 3-1-1 fireplace, storage, 2 car carport, storage shed, fenced yard, reduced.

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

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

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

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

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

2 Story 4 Bedroom 2 baths, small equity and assume, possible lease option. Call Betty

Great sweat equity, work for down 2-1-1 on corner should be 3 bedroom.

Three bedroom large home, shop, storage shed on 2 lots, cash or new loan.

3-bedroom, stucco home plus 7 lots, owner anxious.

Call us. We have listings in Abilene, Potosi, Tuscola, Buffalo Gap and Creages. After 5 call Betty Stautzenberger 928-6329 Mike Wheeler 676-1320 40-TFC

For sale 21 acre tract, which can be divided into 2 parts, eligible for VA loan.

9.36 acre tract 5 miles South East of town. Water and electric available. Nice place for a building site. Cyrus Pee, Agent 928-5613

37-TFC House for sale 3 bedroom house on Taylor after 6. Call 928-5380.

41-2tp Land for sale one half acre tracts, one half mile South on FM 1235. After 6 call Ray Pack. 928-4816

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

TFC Unfurnished apartments for rent. 2 bedroom \$250 per month \$150 deposit. Call 928-4512 after 5 p.m. 35TFC

For rent: 3 bedroom 1 bath house for \$235 per month. \$150 deposit. See at 401 Manchester. Bryant Realtors. Abilene, 698-1636 30-TFC

1, 2 or 3 bedroom mobile home for rent in Merkel 928-4973. 77-TFC

MOBILE HOME SPACES FOR RENT -In Merkel \$50 per month, VA and FHA approved. Pat McAlister, 846-4715 or 846-4998.

TFC For Rent: 1 bedroom garage apartment, small 1 bedroom house and 2 bedroom house. Call after 6 928-4916. 41-2tc

The Classifieds

For Rent: 3 bedroom house, \$275 a month plus deposit. Call 928-4501 after 6.

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

42TFC Garage sales THINGS IN GENERAL will be closed till Friday, January 13. Have Credit Problems

We want to express our deep appreciation for our friends and neighbors for the expressions of love and sympathy during the recent loss of our loved one. For the beautiful flowers, cards, and food, they will always be remembered.

The Homer Beaird Family The Lonnie Beaird Family The Imogene Williams Family

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF DAVID O. JOLLY DECEASED

+Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of David O. Jolly were issued on November 17, 1983, in Cause No. 16,028, pending in the County Court of Taylor County, Texas to:

ROSE JOLLY The residence of such Executor is Taylor County, Texas. The post office address is: c-o George A. Gonzales P. O. Box 5273 Abilene, Texas 79608

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

DATED this the 1st day of December, 1983, George A. Gonzales Attorney for the Estate 40-4tc

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: J. R. EDWARDS, ANNIE L. STEVENS, MRS. EULA SANDERSON, MRS. WOOTEN STONE, J. P. SHARP, A. E. LEWIS, SUSIE MOORE AND ANNIE MOORE, Defendants

Whereabouts of such Defendants Unknown, Defendants, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before ten o'clock A. M. of the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, same being Monday the 30th day of January, 1984, at or before ten o'clock A. M. before the Honorable 42nd District Court of Taylor County, Texas, at the Court House of said County in Abilene, Texas.

Said Plaintiff's Petition is on file in said Court.

Attest: Rilla Mahoney Clerk 42nd Dist. Court Taylor County, Texas by JoAnn Lackey Deputy.

42-4tc NOTICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF TEXAS +TO Whom it may concern, GREETINGS: YOU ARE HEREBY

RAMCON Prestigious 2 story, 5 bedroom two and 3-4 bath with large country kitchen and two living areas under construction at the Merkel Country Club.

JIM LEWIS (home) 928-4789 or (Office) 928-7888

MERKEL DAIRY QUEEN NOW SERVING BREAKFAST FROM 6 AM TO 10 AM

HOMEMADE BISCUITS & GRAVY HOTCAKES

HAM EGGS SAUSAGE

1-20 928-5314

42-TFC

41-2tc

tion was filed in said court, on the 7th day of November, A. D. 1983, in this cause, numbered 38,512-A on the docket of said court, and styled, C. E. Clemmer, ET UX Plaintiff, vs. J. R. Edwards, Annie L. Stevens, Mrs. Eula Sanderson, Mrs. Wooten Stone, J. P. Sharp, A. E. Lewis, Susie Moore and Annie Moore defendants.

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

C. E. Clemmer and Louise Marie Clemmer are Plaintiffs and J. R. Edwards, Annie L. Stevens, Mrs. Eula Sanderson, Mrs. Wooten Stone, J. P. Sharp, A. E. Lewis, Susie Moore and Annie Moore are Defendants.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: Plaintiff's claim ownership of certain real property more fully described below, and ask for Judgement for the title and possession of the described premises, and for such other relief as may be entitled to Plaintiffs.

Lots 1 and 2, block A, Martin Addition to the City of Merkel, Taylor County, Tex. Lots 5 and 6, Block D, Martin Addition to the City of Merkel, Taylor County, Tex.

Lots 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12, Block G, Martin Addition to the City of Merkel, Taylor County, Texas.

Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9, Block G, Martin Addition to the City of Merkel, Taylor County, Tex.

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

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

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

Issued and given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Abilene, Texas, this the 16th day of December A. D. 1983.

Attest: Rilla Mahoney Clerk 42nd Dist. Court Taylor County, Texas by JoAnn Lackey Deputy.

42-4tc NOTICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF TEXAS +TO Whom it may concern, GREETINGS: YOU ARE HEREBY

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HAM EGGS SAUSAGE

1-20 928-5314

42-TFC

41-2tc

COMMANDED to appear and answer before the honorable 326th District Court, Taylor County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said county in Abilene, Texas, at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days from the date of service of this citation then and there to answer the petition of JAMES W. POOR and wife, DEBRA GAIL POOR, Petitioners, filed in said Court on the 28th day of November, 1983 against the unknown father, and said suit being numbered 9805-C on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In the Interest of CHRISTINE DAWN LOFTON, an infant," the nature of which suit is a request to terminate the parent-child relationship-adopt the infant. Said infant was born the 28th day of July, 1983, in Abilene, Texas.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgement or decree in the infant's interest which will be binding upon you, including, but not necessarily limited to, the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the infant's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this the 12th day of December, 1983.

Rilla Mahoney Clerk of the District Court of Taylor County, Texas by Kelly Gandy, Deputy.

42-4tc

41-2tc

40-TFC



The banana does not grow on a tree. It grows on an herb—the largest kind of all plants without a woody stem or solid trunk.

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WED— FISH NIGHT SERVED 5-9:30 PM DELICIOUS FARM RAISED FRESH CATFISH DINNER REGULAR DINNER—\$3.99 LARGE DINNER—\$4.99 928-5314 1-20

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NOTICE Typographical or other errors must be brought to our attention before the second insertion or claims for refund will not be recognized.

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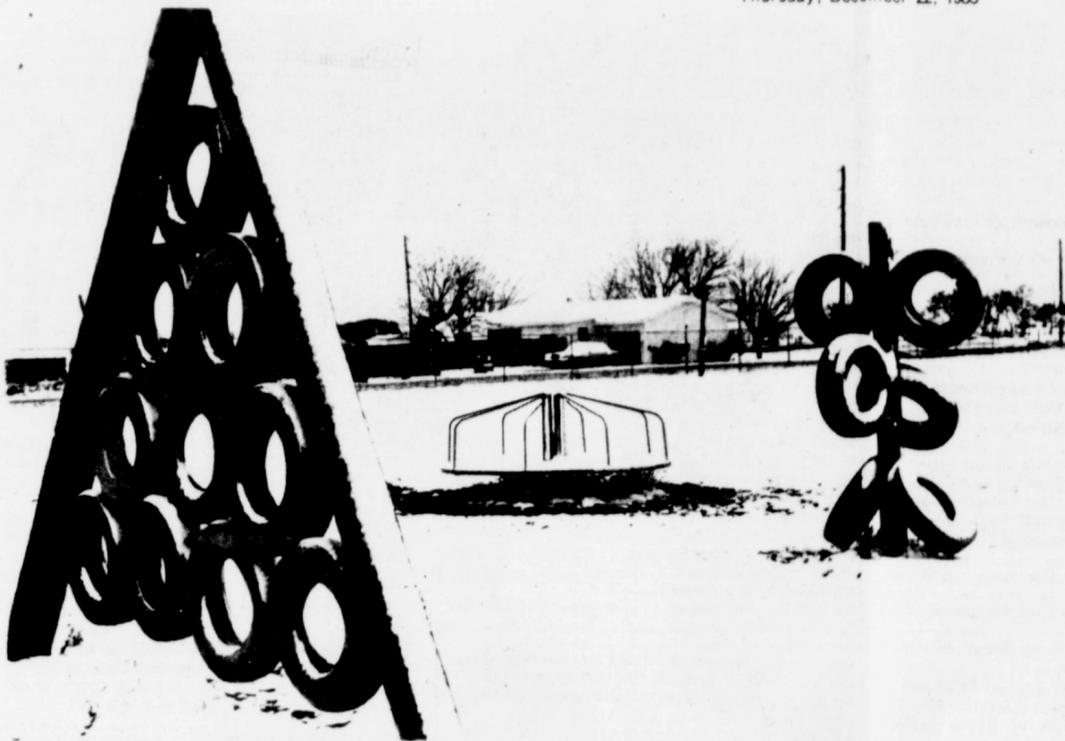
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PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS CEMETERY HEADSTONES BURIAL INSURANCE LIFE INSURANCE

STARBUCK FUNERAL HOME



§ The playground equipment at Merkel Elementary didn't look too inviting last Friday as the Merkel area received about two inches of snow. [Staff photo by Melanie Richards]

# Special Holiday Discounts



## YOUR CHOICE!

General Electric Refrigerators  
Top Mount **OR** Side-by-Side



- 22 Cu. Ft. of Storage Convenience, Flexibility**
- 7.05 cu. ft. freezer, 2 ice trays, removable bin.
  - One full-width and two adjustable split-level steel shelves.
  - Controlled climates help keep food fresh up to 15 days.
  - Two high-humidity jumbo pans for moisture-loving vegetables.
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- Adjustable shelves, convertible meat keeper**
- 19.6 cu. ft. no-frost refrigerator.
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  - Moist 'N Fresh sealed high-humidity pan.
  - Meat keeper with adjustable temperature control; convert to vegetable storage.
  - Automatic Energy saver system helps cut operating cost.
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Your Choice for Only **\$869<sup>00</sup>**

GE large capacity permanent press dryer



- Model DD85100D—Electric**
- Large capacity dryer.
  - Four cycles—regular, permanent press, damp dry and deersuckle.
  - Three drying selections—normal, low and no-heat.
  - Durable porcelain enamel finish on clothes drum.

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**\$379**

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- Model J6240D**
- Spacious 1.4 cu. ft. oven cavity.
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  - Variable Power Level Controls for added versatility in cooking and defrosting.
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  - Double Duty™ shelf.
  - Microwave Guide and Cookbook™ included.
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- In-Line Black Matrix Picture Tube • Sharpness Control • Digital Channel Numbers
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**WE FINANCE 24 MONTHS**  
**PALMER PONTIAC GMC & GE**  
928-5113

Nine employees at Walls Manufacturing here received their five year service pins Dec. 14. Those employees are Donna Bauer, Mary Sparks, Rose Cubriol, Thongbai Hayes, Rhonda Atkinson, Shirley DuPont, Elfida Dela Cruz, Carolyn Russell and Connie Aldrete. § Presenting the awards were Ron Istre, vice president of manufacturing; Pete Devaney, personnel director and Wayne Palmer, Merkel plant manager.



### Preceptor Eta Omega meets

Preceptor Eta Omega chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met Tuesday for their regular meeting in the home of Opal Garner.

Mamie Steck, president called the meeting to order and a report of all standing committees were given.

A program was given on art and sculpture by Opal Garner and Betty Satterwhite.

Each member brought a candle to exchange and also deserts were exchanged along with the recipe.

Refreshments were served to Betty Conley, Louise DuBose, Liz Eager, Kathy Leverich, Betty Satterwhite, Mamie Steck, Ruth Tipton, Jane Carson and Opal Garner.

### Writer says

#### DWI laws

#### getting tough

Dear Editor; During the 1983 regular session of the Texas Legislature, a new Driving While Intoxicated law was passed. It will have a dramatic effect on drivers who are arrested on DWI charges and those convicted of DWI.

The new law goes into effect on January 1, 1984. As author of this bill in the Texas Senate I feel a responsibility to make sure that as many Texans as possible know about the new law.

This is the Holiday Season, and we may be able to save lives during this peak travel and celebration period. Best wishes for a safe Holiday Season.

Sincerely  
Bill Sarpius  
State Senator  
District 31

**ALLSUP'S**  
CONVENIENCE STORES

**OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**SHOP ALLSUP'S FOR ALL YOUR HOLIDAY NEEDS**  
ICE, MILK, BREAD, FRESH PRODUCE, FILM & FLASH, SNACKS, SOFT DRINKS,  
BROWN & SERVE ROLLS, CHIPS & DIPS, & DESSERTS.

• WHILE SUPPLIES LAST  
• SELF SERV GAS  
• OPEN 24 HOURS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE  
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<b>COCA-COLA</b>	SIX PACK <b>\$2.49</b>
<b>BORDEN'S EGG NOG</b>	QT. CTN. <b>99¢</b>
<b>TOSTITOS</b>	LARGE BAG <b>\$1.09</b>
<b>CORN DOGS</b>	2 FOR <b>89¢</b>

<b>BORDEN'S SOUR CREAM &amp; DIPS</b>	8 OZ. TUB. <b>59¢</b>	<b>BRAWNY ASST. PAPER TOWELS</b>	JUMBO ROLL <b>59¢</b>	<b>NORTHERN BATHROOM ASST. TISSUE</b>	4 ROLL PKG. <b>89¢</b>
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**BORDEN'S ASST. FLAVORS ICE CREAM** 1/2 GAL. RD. CTN. **\$1.69**

**CHRISTMAS TREES**  
AS LOW AS **\$8.99**  
SPRUCE-BALSAM - FIR-SCOTCH PINE

*Have a Happy & Safe Holiday from your Friends at Allsup's*

# Christmas poems by Merkel Elementary authors

The following Christmas thoughts were written by the students of Jane Roberts at Merkel Elementary.

**Christmas Poem**

People think Christmas is just giving and getting presents. But it's really the time of the year that there should be peace on earth and goodwill towards man and celebrating Jesus Christ's birthday.

Michael Moreno

My Christmas

We hunk mistletoe.  
And watched it snow.  
I hung my stocking.  
While Granny was rocking.  
We had lots of decorations.  
For our Christmas celebration.  
On the tree we put a star.  
Then we heard a car.  
The guests walked through snowdrifts.  
While carrying our gifts.  
I ate a peppermint stick.  
While I waited for St. Nick.

Travis Williams

Christmas is fun.  
Christmas is good.  
Christmas is a time to give.

And everybody should.

John Boswell

Santa's bright,  
Santa's full of delight.  
Santa's merry,  
With a nose like cherry.  
Santa's sleigh is usually full of snow.  
He comes down the chimney with a ho-ho-ho.

Christine Campbell

Christmas time is very near,  
Toys and gifts are almost here.  
So let's give a big, big "cheer"  
For 'ol Santa's eight tiny reindeer.

Oh listen, is that Santa I hear?  
Amber Backley  
Baby Jesus was a beautiful baby when he was born.  
Heaven was excited and the angel blew her horn.  
Everyone celebrated with rice and corn.

Angie Leverich

Santa Claus gets mad  
When his children are bad.  
Santa says, "Mind Mom and Dad."  
And you'll make Santa very glad.

Betsy Hellums

The wooden floor was cold on my feet.

I could smell Christmas dinner cooking.  
Boy, I love to eat.  
I can see the tree with red and green lights.  
Santa had been there, much to my delight.  
He left me a new bike.

Tony Weaver

On Christmas eve we always meet.  
To sing carols on our street.  
We sing three or four  
In front of each neighbor's door.

Jennifer Huffman

I can not wait for Christmas night;  
When all the lights are shining bright.  
Down the chimney comes Santa Claus  
To fill the stockings without a pause.  
Mary gets a small baby doll  
Tommy gets a big red doll.  
He leaves us then with a ho-ho-ho  
And disappears in the falling snow.

Melanie Baker

## Riggan's have new daughter

Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Riggan are proud to announce the birth of a daughter, Sunny Brooke, born Nov. 9 at 8:45 p.m. at Hendrick Medical Center.

She weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 and a half inches long.

Grandparents include Mr. and Mrs. Billy Bob Neff and Dodie Riggan and the late Jimmy Riggan all of Merkel and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Martin of Abilene. Great-grandparents are Mrs. Ford Butman of Merkel and Mrs. E. H. Martin of Claude.

HOPING THAT GIFTS OF  
JOY WILL COME TO EVERYONE!

**TEX MART TRENT** 862-6291



Merkel Elementary student put on their annual Christmas musical last Tuesday and this group performed "The

2 Days of Christmas", complete with visual aids. (Staff photo by Cloy A. Richards)



Merkel Middle School students had a chance last week to show their patriotism at an assembly last week. Different

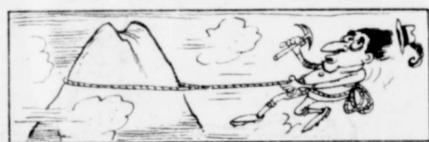
groups recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the winners were treated to a Coke Party. (Staff photo by Melanie Richards)

TO ALL A  
**Merry Christmas**



Old St. Nick will soon be coming down your chimney and we'd like to "present" you with our best wishes for a joyful holiday

**FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK**



A cold spot — Mount Washington in New Hampshire clocked winds at 231 miles per hour one April day in 1934.

**Christmas Merriments**  
BILLY E. CLARK  
CPA  
112 EDWARDS 928-5663

**OLD-FASHIONED HOLIDAY CHEER**  
Here's hoping that you and yours will know every happiness of this season.

**BRAGGS**  
213 EDWARDS 928-5811

**Our Christmas Blessings**

Peace on earth, good will toward men.

**WILSON'S JEWELERS**  
141 EDWARDS 928-5621

a wreath of best wishes to all our wonderful loyal friends.

**HAROLD & REBA WALKER**

**Christmas Blessings**  
We thank you for your patronage.  
**T J & T TIRE CO.**

**Peace on Earth**

Our wish for you, — may all the blessings of this Holy Day be yours.

**SEYMORE INSURANCE**  
MACK, IDA, STACY, & TED

# Merkelites send Christmas wishes

Dear Santa,  
We would like your help this Christmas.

Sandra would like to get a big doll and some dishes, clothes - tops size 8-10, dresses 10, hat and gloves and shoe size one and a half-two.

Nicholas would like to get a wagon, some trucks, clothes shirts size 7, pants size 7, shoes size twelve and a half to one, hat and gloves and a good winter coat.

Luckie Don would like to get a bicycle, some trucks, some clothes shirt size 10-12, pants size 10-12 slim, shoes size 5, hat and gloves, and a good winter coat.

We would like some games, and food also. I would like a good camera and some film. We would appreciate any help we can get.

Thank you  
Williams Family

Dear Santa Claus:

My name is Lillie White. This is what I want for Christmas. 1 coat size M, long, black; 1 pair boots size 7, 1 camera, 6 pairs of leg warmers.

Lillie N. White  
Dear Santa Claus:

My letter starts like this.

### Xi Nu Eta meets

The Xi Nu Eta chapter of Beta Sigma Phi held their December meeting in the home of Jana Nelson, Rt. 3 View.

All members were present and after a business meeting was adjourned, Mrs. Nelson gave her two programs on "The Art of Decorating: Principles of Art in the Home," and "Textiles: Practical and Decorative Uses in the Home." A Christmas poem was read to the chapter to get everyone in the Christmas Spirit for the cookie exchange

social and Santa Claus. Santa passed out gifts to each of the members from their Secret Sisters. After the Closing Ritual and the Mitzpah, refreshments were served and the semi-annual drawing for the mini-badge was held.

The next meeting will be held in the home of Kathy Dacy, 4834 Circle 20 in Abilene. Anyone wishing to attend or desiring membership into the chapter should contact membership chairman Jana Nelson at 692-0111 or Marilyn Tittle at 928-5003.

Every year when I think it is time for Christmas, I would put up my Christmas tree, then on the table I would leave a plate of cookies and a glass of milk for you. Here is my Christmas list.

I want this things for Christmas. I want 2 pairs of pants, Wranglers, blue jeans size 7 (that will be 28 X 24), 4 shirts size M dress shirts, 1 pair of Nike high tops men's 6 and a half, 1 am-fm 8 track and cassette player a big one with a record players on it, 1 pair of Cowboy boots size 7 and a half. 1 coat size M black and grey. That is what I want for Christmas this year.

Love You  
Sheila White  
My name is Bena White. This is what I want for Christmas this year. 1 pair of skates size 8 and a half, 1 coat size M black and white, 1 tv set in my

bedroom, 2 pairs of blue jeans Wrangler size 7 that will be 28 X 34, 3 dress shirts size M 1 pair of Nike's high tops size 6 and a half mens.

Bena White  
Dear Santa Claus  
My name is Tommy White and here is my Christmas list. I want a dirt bike, 3 pairs of blue jean pants size 28 X 36, 4 dress shirts size 14, 1 pair of Nike's the ankle ones, one coat size 14. That's all I want for Christmas.

Tommy White  
Dear Santa Claus  
Hi. My name is Nancy White and I am 7 years old and I am in the 1st grade and I like going to school. This is what I want for Christmas.

I want a black Cabbage Patch Doll, 4 pairs of pants size 7 small kids, 2 dresses size 6, 3 dress shirts size 6 for small kids, 1 pair of dress shoes size 12 small kids, 1 coat size small in little

kids, 1 huff bike.  
That is all I want for Christmas this year  
Nancy Leigh White Age 7  
Dear Santa Claus  
How are you? We hope you are doing OK.

We would like to tell you what we would like for Christmas. We have been very good this year.

For Tamara some new boots, a Crayola Caddy, some Garfield Househoes, and a set of

Lock-Blocks.  
For Jenna some new boots, a cobbler's bench and hammer set, some new earrings, and some new househoes.

And Santa Claus, please bring something good for our Grandma's and our Granddad, because they have been very good this year too.

We love you and we will see you at Christmas.  
Tamra and Jenna

Dear Santa  
I haven't been a very good boy this year but I'll try harder to behave. Please remember me this Christmas. Here's a list of toys I'd like to have. 1 Knight Rider Car, 2 He-Man and Skull Castle, 3 Golf Clubs, 4 Building blocks, 5 Star Wars set.  
That's it. Thank you Santa.  
P. S. I like your beard.  
Best Wishes  
Chris Guest



A car that shifts manually has been estimated to get an average of two miles more per gallon of gas than a car with automatic shift.



Time again to say, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**PRECEPTOR  
ETA OMEGA  
CHAPTER OF BETA  
SIGMA PHI**

\*\*\*\*\*



It's such a pleasure to say thank you to our many friends and customers at Christmas.

**CONSOLIDATED  
PLUMBING  
& F & W TIRE CO.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Glad Tidings**  
To You And Yours.  
May the joy and happiness felt at Christmas be with you all year long.  
**P & L  
AUTO PARTS**  
135 EDWARDS 928-5671

During this beautiful season and through the new year, may you enjoy the true gifts of Christmas.  
*Peace, Joy and Love.*  
**TAYLOR TELEPHONE COOP**

**GOOD  
TIDINGS**  
Especially for you - a holiday season filled with gifts and cheer. Best wishes now and all through the year  
**ABILENE  
FARM  
SUPPLY**  
3526 S TREADAWAY  
692-2255

*Merry Christmas*



We're taking this opportunity to extend our best Christmas wishes to all of you.

**BEN FRANKLIN**  
201 KENT 928-4933



*Merry Christmas*  
**D & T AUTOMOTIVE**  
924 N 1ST 928-4954

*As the holiday season approaches the firm of Roger Beard, Certified Public Accountant would like to thank the people of Merkel, Texas and all our many clients for having made 1983 a rewarding and enjoyable year.*

*We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year*

*Roger and Gayla Beard  
Leslie Hammond*



*Christmas Joy!*  
May Santa present you with the gayest Holiday Season!  
**DUBOSE TEXACO**  
I-20 928-5822

**A VERY MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**  
To all our friends - both old and new - we say, "Thank you." And we would like to add, "Have a happy holiday season."  
**TROY & DON  
DICKERSON**

**WARM  
WISHES**  
Have a really heart-warming holiday with family and friends. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
**BIG  
COUNTRY  
INN**

**Hay improvement is possible**

Results from the hay amination demonstration conducted on the Duane Bartee farm have been received according to Taylor County Extension Agent Jow Wilson.

A sample of the coastal hay before the anhydrous ammonia was applied tested 2.19 per cent crude protein. A sample from the sample bale two weeks following treatment showed 9.45 per cent crude protein equivalent.

The demonstration was conducted by the Tuscola Farm Supply and the Extension Cr-

op and Livestock Committee. The hay was covered by plastic and the anhydrous was injected under the plastic. The amount used was about 4 to 6 per cent the weight of the hay.

The cost of the anhydrous per ton of hay treated would be under \$10. Adding the price of plastic would increase the costs to just under \$15 per ton, which would still be an economical way of increasing the feeding value of low quality hay, according to Wilson.

**Christmas dinner held**

The ladies and their husbands of Preceptor Eta Omega chapter of Beta Sigma Phi went to Crystal's Confectionary for their Christmas dinner Dec. 11.

and Betty Satterwhite, Betty Conley, Mamie Steck, Jimmy and Kathy Leverich, Blanche Hewitt, Juan and Connie Ybarra, Edgar and Ruth Tipton, Jane and J. C. Carson, Louise and Bobby DuBose and Peck and Liz Eager.

After dinner, they came back to Bobby and Louise DuBoses' for coffee, dessert and opening of presents. Attending were Kent

Opal and Bob Garner were unable to attend the dinner but were present for coffee.



Robert Harris of Merkel received an honorary Chapter Farmer degree at the FFA District Banquet held at the Abilene Civic Center Dec. 12. Lyle Baker, a FFA student was also elected District Reporter. [Photo by Connie Harris]



Kris Harris had the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Southdown lambs at the Merkel Stock Show this past Saturday. [Photo by Connie Harris]

**HAPPY HOLIDAY... WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS!**

**QUEENA HEARTS COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
 DANNY HIGGINS, OWNER  
 MONTY & MARILYN TITTLE GEN. MGRS.  
 SHERRY - BAR MGR.  
 PATRICIA & CATHY  
 CLOSED DEC 24 + 25

**FRIDAY DEC 23 CHRISTMAS PARTY 8-12 HALFBREED DRAUGHT BEER ON SPECIAL... PUNCHY HOKY OWNERS... 4**

**FRIDAY DEC 30 HALFBREED 8-12 SATURDAY NEW YEARS EVE PARTY 9-11 STONE ISLANDS BAND PARTY FAVORS AND PRIZES \$500**



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

§ Charitable contributions provide an opportunity for doing good to others while receiving a break on your income taxes.

§ Most people think in terms of cash donations, but should consider contributions of usable items to charitable organizations.

§ In our consumer-oriented society, we tend to throw away items when you are finished with them: You may be throwing away valuable tax dollars.

§ Before year's end, look into finding those items you are finished with. Many organizations will pick these items up and provide a receipt to help support your tax deduction.

§ Maintain a list of what you donate with fair market values. Why not help someone and let your government pay you with reduced taxes.

§ Good luck!

**Holiday Treasures**

*Close friends, happy families, warm fires, good health... wishing you every happiness this season!*

**CHRIS YOUNG INSURANCE**

1022 N 1ST 928-5151

**Season's Best Wishes**

All of us wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We wish to thank all of our new and old friends for their patronage.

**HOME STATE BANK**

FDIC TRENT

**Season's Greetings**

CIRCLE A  
**WESTERN HOUSE & ADCOCKS CLEANERS**  
 WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THEIR DEAR FRIENDS FOR THEIR CONTINUED PATRONAGE

**HOLLY-DAYS**  
*Are here again!*

We would like to thank you, our loyal friends, for your patronage this year. It has been a real pleasure serving all of you.

1510 N 1ST **ALFREDO'S** 928-5137

**YULETIDE GREETINGS**  
 From Old St. Nick

From all of us to all of you, a sleigh-full of wishes — Have a very merry Christmas and may your heart be light... Enjoy this season of happiness with childhood delight. Merry Christmas to everyone!

**CARSONS SUPER MARKET**

217 EDWARDS  
 928-5231

**Christmas Greetings**

Wishing you health and happiness during this joyous season and in the coming year.

**HIGGINBOTHAM - BARTLETT CO.**

1046 N 2ND 928-5812  
 MERKEL

**KRAUSE**

**ABILENE FARM SUPPLY**

3526 S TREADAWAY 692-2255

**COMPARE CLOSELY...and you'll invest in Krause Tillage Implements!**

4300 SERIES "FLEX-WING" CHISEL PLOW  
 SIZES 22' to 36'  
 Folded width 16 1/2'

**Check out these great buys on good used farm equipment:**

MF-1150 Diesel, V-8	JD 4440 Diesel, PFW	JD-7720 24' Hydrostat
AC 5030 Diesel	JD 4430 Diesel	JD-7700 24' Hydrostat
Case 1030 Diesel	JD 4820 Diesel	JD-105 19' LP
	JD 7520 Diesel, 4WD	
	JD 4020 LP	
	JD 4010 LP	
	JD 730 LP	
	IHC 1206 Diesel & Cab	
	IHC 706 LP	
	IHC 660 Diesel	
	IHC 560 Diesel	
	IHC 480 Gas	

# Helping others have a good Christmas

by Russell McAnally

The Upper Room, a daily devotional, last week gave an account of a 12 year old boy giving away the few dollars he had saved to buy his Mom a Christmas present. He saw a poor man in a meat market looking at different pieces of meat and then counting his money to see if he could pay for it. The boy handed his few dollars to the man and rushed out before the gift could be refused. Going home, the boy reported to his mother what had happened to the money that was

to buy her a present. Her reply was "What you have done is the best present you could give me."

A few days ago, another writer urged everyone to do something good for someone at Christmas time. And then I remembered my thoughts about doing something good for someone this Christmas.

I would really like to go to a service station on the Interstate and wait for a family to come along who really needed something special for Christmas. I could bring them home with me

and give them a good dinner. There would be enough left over from my own Christmas dinner for another family. Someone might pick up a hitchhiker and take them out to Christmas dinner. Or, it would be good to take a Turkey to someone who would like to have one for Christmas.

Something like this would be fine, but the family we had for dinner might take the silverware with them. The hitchhiker might leave you by the side of the road without your money or your car, but with a bullet in

your body. The family you took the turkey to might find the head of the house in a sad condition. You might see that there would have been money for a turkey if he had not spent it for drink. It might not be this way at all— but can you take a chance?

It is such a tragedy that just a few people make it difficult to help people really in need.

There is another thing we need to keep in mind as we seek to help someone this Christmas. People in need must have help, but, we should remember that

we have been created with a need to help people. Our need to help people is as great as the need to be helped. Most people have known the joy and satisfaction of being able to help someone. People may die physically or spiritually if we do not help them. Many people do die physically or spiritually because they never desire to help anyone.

Helping people in need is a necessity, but being helpful is just as important to our well

being. There are many ways you can find to help someone, and if you will look around, before you know it, YOU will see an opportunity to do something for someone who really needs the help, and it will be such a blessing to you and will make for a meaningful Christmas.

As you make a better Christmas for someone else, so will your Christmas be for you.

A real Christmas means "For God so loved the world that he gave..."

# Fortnightly Club holds Christmas dinner

Rudy Hammond was hostess to members of the Fortnightly Study Club for a Christmas party in her home Dec. 13. Christmas decorations in the entertaining room and long dresses worn by the guests added to the atmosphere of the occasion.

Club president Alwyne Sandusky welcomed members and guests and reminded members to answer roll call by telling where they plan to spend Christmas. Program Chairman Alice

King announced the program, which included group singing of Christmas songs and a talk by the guest speaker, Rev. John Wagoner, pastor of the First United Methodist Church.

She said that Christmas is best described as seen through the eyes of a child. She also read a poem relating to this belief.

Kathryn Rister accompanied by Jan McCoy at the piano, led the group in singing several Christmas songs. She then played the Harp and sang "What

Child is This."

Rev. Wagoner began his talk on Christmas by giving a brief Bible quiz about the Christmas story. Members answered questions about the different people, places and things concerning the Christmas story and named the books in the Bible where the answers are found.

In discussing genealogy found in the Bible, he said that Jesus came to earth as a human being just like us and lived on earth in order to show us how to live. His

work is carried on through us as Christians, and we are part of His family. He read a letter written by a little girl in Syria at Christmas time, giving her message to Jesus. A prayer concluded his talk.

After members exchanged gifts from the Christmas tree, refreshments were served to Miss Mary Collins, Miss Avis Deavers, Mrs. S. C. Dixon, Mrs. Mack Fisher, Miss Mildred Hamm, Mrs. J. W. Hammond, Mrs. Comer Haynes, Mrs. Orvel

Hill, Mrs. Buster Horton, Mrs. Allen King, Mrs. C. B. Knight, Mrs. Burl McCoy, Mrs. Curtis Rister, Mrs. Perry Rogers, Mrs. Phillip Pursley, Mrs. Ed Sandusky, Mrs. C. M. Seymore, Mrs. Andy Shouse, Mrs. Alf

## Trent well represented at district FFA confab

The Big Country District FFA Banquet was held Dec. 12 at the Abilene Civic Center and the Trent Chapter was awarded the Superior Chapter award. Attending from Trent were

Walla, Miss Maurine White, Mrs. Ray Wilson, Mrs. Billy Bob Neff, and Mrs. Dent Gibson... members and three guests, Mrs. Morris Snyder and Lorene Midkiff of Moran and Rev. John Wagoner.

Casey Johnson, Joey McGlothlin, Patrick Penton, Doyle Brenem; members Billy Williams as a voting delegate, Mike Ray, advisor and wife Donna, Lisa Slaton, sweetheart and her parents Wayne and Lora Slaton.

*We won't change our minds about wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas!*



Cloy, Melanie, Kim, & Joey Richards & Dale Hammond

**SAVE** EXTRA HOLIDAY SPENDING MONEY



PRICES GOOD WED-THURS-FRI-SAT DEC 21 thru 29 WE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY DEC. 26TH STORE HOURS 7:30 AM - 6:30 PM MON thru SAT CLOSED SUNDAY

SHAVING CREAM **RISE** SUPER FOAM 11 OZ CAN \$1.39

CREAMY **CRISCO** 3 LB CAN \$2.29

CINCH 15 OZ CORNBREAD MIX 59¢ EA

CANDY **CANES** 6 PACK CRTN 79¢

FARM FRESH 12 CT **BROWN & SERVE** OR **DINNER ROLLS** 89¢ 2 FOR

WITH \$10 IN TRADE OR MORE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES **CARPET FRESH** 14 OZ CAN **AIRWICK** \$1.69

DEL MONTE 15 OZ ASST IN JUICE OR SUGAR **PINEAPPLE** EA 55¢  
TREE TOP **APPLE JUICE** 32 OZ JAR 89¢  
OCEAN SPRAY 300 **CRANBERRY SAUCE** CAN 53¢  
DEL MONTE 303 CS WHOLE **GREEN BEANS** 2 FOR 99¢  
DEL MONTE 303 **GOLDEN CORN** 2 FOR 99¢  
DEL MONTE 303 **SWEET PEAS** 2 FOR 99¢  
LIBBYS 303 **PUMPKIN** CAN 53¢  
PARADE 303 W K **GOLDEN CORN** 2 FOR 79¢  
PARADE **BISCUITS** 3 FOR 59¢

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

FOREMOST **WHIPPING OR SOUR CREAM** DIPS 8 OZ CRTN 43¢

FROZEN FOODS **BIRDSEYE COOL WHIP** TOPPING 8 OZ TUB 69¢  
GREEN GIANT 10 OZ BROCCOLI OR CAULIFLOWER IN **CHEESE SAUCE** 89¢ EA

DUNCAN HINES **CAKE MIXES** 18 OZ BOX 79¢

FOREMOST **LOWFAT MILK** GAL JUG \$2.19

HERSHEYS **CHOCOLATE CHIPS** PURE 12 OZ BAG \$1.59

SARA LEE **POUND CAKE** EA \$1.59  
MAGIC GARDEN 10 OZ **STRAWBERRIES** EA 69¢

DUNCAN HINES **FROSTING** R.T.S. CREAM 16 OZ CAN \$1.19

BAKERS **ANGEL FLAKE** 7 OZ PKG 69¢

KRAFTS **MARSHMALLOW CREAM** 7 OZ JAR 53¢

IMPERIAL **SUGAR** 5 LB BAG \$1.79  
WITH \$10 IN TRADE OR MORE EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES

KRAFTS **1/2 MOON CHEESE** 10 OZ PKG \$1.49

KRAFTS **PARTY MINTS** 8 OZ BOX 69¢

FOREMOST **EGG NOG** QT CRTN 89¢

SWANSON **CHICKEN BROTH** 300 CAN 2 FOR 69¢

MARYLAND CLUB **COFFEE** 1 LB CAN \$1.98 LIMIT 1

INSTANT TEA **LIPTON** 3 OZ JAR \$1.69

REG DIET SUGAR FREE **COCA COLA** 2 LITER BOTTLE 89¢

**THE TURKEY** You'll Remember With Pleasure  
GOV'T. INSPECTED **HENS 10-16 LBS.** 63¢ LB. **BROADBREASTED**

DIAMOND DELUXE **PLATES** 40 CT PKG \$1.98  
AUNT JEMIMA **MEAL** YELLOW 5 LBS \$1.19  
KRAFT JET OR MINIAUTURE 10 OZ BAG **MARSHMALLOWS** 43¢

**RED DELICIOUS APPLES**  
The JUICY, CRISPY Kind  
You LIKE BEST  
WASH POUND 49¢

HORMEL **SMOKED HAMS** DRY CURED BUTT IN OR SHANK LB \$1.49  
ARMOUR STAR **HAMS** BONELESS COOKED 3 LB CAN \$7.39  
CHOICE BEEF **ROAST** ROUND OR PIKES PEAK LEAN LB \$1.89  
FRESH **PORK CHOPS** END CUT LEAN LB \$1.49  
CHOICE BEEF PACKER TRIMMED **BRISKET** LEAN POUND \$1.69  
CHOICE BEEF **PORK CHOPS** CENTER CUT LEAN LB \$1.89  
GOOCH B R **FRANKS** ALL MEAT 12 OZ PKG 99¢  
COUNTRY STYLE **BACON** SLAB SLICED BULK LB \$1.59

PHILADELPHIA **CREAM CHEESE** 8 OZ PKG 89¢  
EARLY **RIPE OLIVES** 300 CAN 89¢  
DEL MONTE 22 OZ **SWEET PICKLES** JAR \$1.49  
ARMOURS **BEEF STEW** 24 OZ CAN \$1.29

GOLDEN **BANANAS** LB 29¢  
FRESH **CELERY** LG STALK 59¢  
SUNKIST **ORANGES** LB 39¢  
FRESH **BROCCOLI** LB 59¢  
OCEAN SPRAY **CRANBERRY** 12 OZ 79¢  
TEXAS RUBY RED **GRAPEFRUIT** LB 25¢  
GOLDEN **SWEET YAMS** LB 39¢  
RUSSET **SPUDS** 10 LB BAG \$1.29

DETERGENT **OXYDOL** KING SIZE \$1.89

LIQUID **SUNLIGHT** LEMON 22 OZ BOTTLE \$1.09  
BOUNTY **TOWELS** 3 ROLL PACK \$2.29

PARADE **PEANUT BUTTER** 18 OZ JAR 93¢

SMUCKERS **STRAWBERRY PRESERVES** 2 LB JAR \$1.89

WISE **COTTAGE FRIES CHIPS** 8 OZ PKG 93¢

**DOUBLE COUPONS** ON WEDNESDAY EACH WEEK Will double your savings This offer excludes retail, Get one free, Cigarette or tobacco coupons and Refund Certificates Coupon value cannot exceed value of the item Limit rights reserved Offer good for limited time only

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS  
**CARSON'S SUPER MARKET**  
MERKEL TEXAS  
FRESH VEGETABLES  
BEST MEATS IN TOWN