

The Merkel Mail

Thursday, December 26, 1985 ...Merkel, Texas

Our 97th Year

Mail looks at Merkel's events of 1985

Editor's Note: The following is a look back at the past year from our files. It's always interesting to take a look back and see what all has changed, what has happened, and the events that shaped memories of 1985.

January

The year started with a snow and ice storm from Dec. 29, 1984 until Jan 1, 1985. The Nobles Construction Company of Colorado City was busy putting finishing touches on Southside paving under a fund set up from past due tax collections by the city. An ad, paid for by local people in opposition to the "proposed" HB 72, people were urged to go to Austin and voice their opposition.

MISD superintendent Bill Everett told **The Mail** in a Jan. 10 interview about sweeping changes in funding by HB 72 "I feel like we will be taken care of. We are getting our fair share." (In all fairness, the superintendent did not have a "law" to study, only proposals, the Legislature made a lot of changes to original proposals in HB 72, but failed to make appropriate funding changes.)

Traffic signs, paid for by funds from local Bingo games held by the Merkel Emergency Medical Service, were placed in various locations in the city. MISD reported an enrollment of 1,424 Jan. 7th.

MISD board members considered a proposal to spend \$130,000 to add six classrooms at Merkel Elementary. Leslie McGlothlin, Scott O'Kelly, Britt Sipe and Jim Simpson took top honors at the annual Trent FFA stock show. The MISD school board approved funding for a six room addition at Merkel Elementary. The building was to be constructed by the MISD maintenance crews at a cost of \$15.50 per square foot.

Twenty-two members of the Merkel High and Middle school bands earned all district honors at competitions. The city council authorized to advertise for bids on construction of a Northside city park, paid for by a joint federal-state grant.

February

The Merkel City Council heard the first draft of planning and zoning ordinances at its first meeting in February. The first five days of February saw temperatures fall from an afternoon high of 63 on Feb. 2, to an all time low in the Abilene area on Feb. 5th of -5.

The Merkel City Council voted to approve portions of the zoning plans, heard they needed extensive repairs on the sewerage treatment facilities and the city sent out the first set of water-sewer-sanitation bills generated by their own computer system.

MISD maintenance crews had started work on new concession and restroom facilities at Badger Stadium.

March

George Lee Construction Company was awarded the bid on construction of the Northside city park. The bid was \$135,465.42.

MISD superintendent Bill Everett reported Merkel High had less than nine percent of its students fail at least one class under the new no-pass, no-play rules.

The **Merkel Mail**, the oldest business in town, began its 98th year of publication.

The city council approved increases for the volunteer ambulance service.

April

Merkel mayor Kent Satterthwaite was re-elected to his third term, and councilmen Larry Beasley and

Derrill Farmer, were also re-elected in a city election that was uncontested and drew 138 voters.

MISD voters elected Lee Yadrow in Place 1 and Bill Sloan in place 2 in an election that saw both positions contested and 350 votes cast.

Taylor Electric Co-operative held their annual meeting in the Taylor County Coliseum. Bill Tate, a long-time teacher here, retired after 31 years.

A tornado tore up a trailer home, farm equipment and barns as it narrowly missed populated areas on Merkel's southeast side. The heaviest damage was at the home of local farmer Gary Smith.

May

Merkel High had six members of the track team qualify for the regional track meet.

The Merkel High Band was named "Best Class 3A Band" at the Greater Southwest Music Festival held in Amarillo. Merkel City manager J. A. Sadler was named "King for a Day" by the participants of the Tuesday-Thursday Senior Citizens Nutritional Program. Meals are provided by a county program on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Heritage Hall and Sadler was instrumental in getting the program started here.

Lynn Hays, Tommy Hays and Jay Gibson won district honors at the district FFA convention.

Matt Cain of Merkel High, qualified for the state track meet in the 110 high hurdles. Trent's Bebo Beaver turned in an amazing performance at the regional track meet by winning the 100, 200 and the long jump.

The newly formed Mulberry Canyon 4-H Club held its first big event with a community supper that found Mrs. A. D. Scott and Mrs. Tom Russom giving very interesting talks about the history of Mulberry Canyon.

Trung Tran was named Valedictorian and Shelly Sherrill was Salutatorian at Merkel High.

The Merkel FFA held its annual banquet.

The Central Appraisal District sent notices to the city and the school system of their estimated tax values.

The district appraised MISD taxable value at \$171,029,072 and the city at \$39,127,262.

The local wheat harvest was in full swing with prices running at \$2.85 per bushel.

Former Justice of the Peace Henry Guenther suffered a fatal heart attack.

June

Continental Telephone announced a rate increase.

Independent American held dedication ceremonies for what is now, Merkel's most visual attraction after dark. They dedicated a 20 X 38 foot American flag on an 80 foot pole. The dedication ceremonies featured the Six White Horse of Hardin-Simmons University of Abilene.

July

Merkel held its 6th annual Fun Day at the South Park. The Chamber raised \$1,500 and set aside \$700 for additional paving around Heritage Hall.

The first B-1 B bomber arrived for duty at Dyess Air Force Base. The Merkel Riding Club held a celebration event commemorating their 25th anniversary. More than 300 people entered various events and more than \$10,000 in cash and prizes were awarded.

The city council adopted new tough measures to deal with past due water-sewer-sanitation accounts.

Local state legislative representative Steve Carriker (Dem-

Roby) held a local meeting to meet with constituents.

WTU announced they would increase customer refunds for previous over-charges to customers.

The city received its first royalty check from an oil lease near the Merkel waste water treatment plant. It was the first oil revenue the city had received as long as the current city staff could remember.

August

Merkel middle school principal Eddie Lang resigned to accept a teaching-coaching position at Wylie High.

MISD lost \$2 million in taxable valuations compared to 1984. Most of the loss was in the oil-gas taxable values.

Merkel received seven inches of rain in a one week period in the latter part of July and first of August.

Big Country voters approved construction of the Stacy Dam Reservoir near Ballinger. The City of Abilene will be receiving water from the project.

The Merkel city council voted to pave Heritage Drive on Merkel's south side.

A tornado ripped the roof off a mobile home on Merkel's Southeast side. The home had been hit in a April tornado.

The city set its annual tax rate at .2934.

September

A new state seat belt law went into effect and the state's blue law was repealed.

MISD reported 1,477 students enrolled during the first week of school.

The city council awarded bids on lot clean-ups under a federal program. The Merkel High band was named the best AAA band at the West Texas Fair & Rodeo parade.

Merkel High principal Larry Curry told board members he would need six additional classrooms for the 1985-86 school year.

Work was completed on a six room addition at Merkel Elementary.

Three Abilene men were killed when their car flew off of Interstate 20, crashed and burned.

An auction was held at Heritage Hall to raise money for the Senior Citizens Nutritional program.

The Merkel school board voted to build an eight room addition at Merkel High, to be constructed by local MISD maintenance personnel. The cost was estimated at \$20 per square foot. The building would be used by Freshmen and would also have administrative offices, restrooms and lockers.

October

Taylor Electric received a \$3.5 million loan from the Rural Electrification Administration for facility expansions.

The Merkel Emergency Medical Service held an open house at its facility.

Benjamin "Bebo" Beaver was named football hero and Lisa Slaton was named Football Sweetheart at Trent High.

A reception was held to boost local interest in the Hendrick League House, an effort to build rooms near Hendrick Medical Center for patients' families during their stay in the hospital. Merkel raised the money for two rooms with the Merkel Lions club raising the majority of the money needed.

The Merkel High Band earned a Division 1 rating at the UIL marching contests.

Please see Page 2



§ The slab for the new Freshman Wing at Merkel High was poured Friday. The project should be completed by June 30th and MISD maintenance crews will be doing most of the construction. [Staff photo]

Ag predictions for 1985 said year would be tough

Texas farmers and ranchers will look back at 1985 with mixed emotions. It was a year marked with abundance but there was no prosperity.

Abundance came by virtue of good crop yields resulting from good weather—timely rains for the most part and no major losses from hailstorms, hurricanes or similar wraths of nature.

Mother Nature generally was the farmer's ally in 1985. It was this ally that probably got a lot of farmers and ranchers through the year because little else went right for them. While they "put their shoulder to the wheel" and produced in abundance, the rewards they reaped were minuscule barely enough to eke out a living and to keep them in business for another year. It was all the result of an agricultural economy gone bad.

Many Texas farmers farmed for the last time in 1985. Caught up in dire financial straits, an estimated 2,700 were forced out of farming. This compares to some 1,364 farm and ranch operations that shut down in 1983 and another 1,776 that closed down in 1984.

While receipts from agricultural sales were estimated at near 1984 levels due to the large crops, profits again tumbled because of continued high production costs. Net farm profits in Texas will likely be down 25 to 30 percent from the \$2 billion level of 1984.

1985 Predicted As "Tough" Economists had predicted at the beginning of the year that things would be tough on the farm front during 1985—and they "hit the nail on the head." The culprit was large surpluses of farm commodities—something that's been nagging at this country's agricultural economy for a number of years.

In past years, however, there often had been an outlet for these large supplies of farm products—the export market. Alas, farmers have looked overseas to solve their marketing problems. Slowly but surely, however, these markets have faded due to a number of factors, including trade policies the strong U.S. dollar abroad and increased agricultural production in other countries.

Farmers faced the realities of the marketplace going into 1985, hoping something would happen to change the situation. Government programs for some commodities offered a little help, providing an opportunity for farmers to sell a crop to the government (loan program) and offering deficiency payments (target price minus loan rate).

Bountiful Harvests As the year progressed, farmers began to reap bountiful harvests, first in the Rio Grande Valley and then northward over the state.

Cotton yields in the Valley reached record levels, an average of about 600 pounds of lint per acre, and yields of three bales per acre on irrigated cotton were common in the Uvalde area. A lot of cotton over the state produced a bale or more per acre. But there was no joy in Mudville (where, in baseball lore, mighty Casey had struck out) because farmers were not reaping the fruits of their labors. Cotton prices remained depressed throughout the year.

Grain farmers faced the same dilemma. Corn yields of 110 to 120 bushels per acre tipped the scales over much of south and central Texas. Sorghum yields skyrocketed to 6,000 and 7,000 pounds per acre. Farmers' grain bins overflowed but their coffers did not.

Poor Cattle Prices

Cattlemen suffered the same plight. Cattle numbers were down in Texas going into 1985 since the drought caused extensive selling the previous year. Also, as the year began cattle numbers generally were down across the country due to poor market prices for the last few years. Economists insisted that the liquidation phase of the cattle cycle was continuing and that eventually this would mean better times for those in the cattle business.

As 1985 wore on, the cattle market offered little excitement, with many factors playing a part. Many consumers continued to shy away from beef and turned to the more plentiful and cheaper poultry. (Currently, beef is \$1.50 to \$2 per pound higher than poultry.) This decline in beef demand forced prices lower despite the reduced cattle slaughter.

In the wake of low prices and cheap grain, feedlot operators decided to hold cattle longer before moving them to market, hoping prices would improve. This pushed animals past their prime slaughter weights, resulting in overfinished carcasses and price discounts. Beef supplies increased as these heavier-than-normal animals moved to slaughter. In addition, cattlemen, facing low prices, continued to trim their herds. This brought more cows and heifers to market, further adding to the supply problem.

A Late Cattle Rally

The 1985 cattle market in Texas might have been a total bust except for a changed attitude among feedlot operators as profitability returned in early fall. Also,

the demand for stocker cattle increased as good rains in late September and early October gave a boost to pastures and ranges and to grazing prospects from small grains, wheat and oats. At the same time, fed cattle prices rose sharply as overfinished cattle disappeared from the market. This sparked a modest increase in feeder and stocker cattle prices and brought a much needed turnaround in the cattle market.

Any Change in '86? Where does that leave farmers and ranchers as they look toward 1986? The scenario might well be the same in the year ahead. Farmers, in particular, will face another tough year, one dominated by continued surpluses of agricultural commodities and increasing foreign competition in agricultural production.

While talks on trade policies and negotiations with this nation's trading partners will continue, major changes that might have a significant impact on U.S. commodities seem highly unlikely. On the domestic front, new farm legislation is about to become a reality. However, the finished product will likely be similar to what farmers have become accustomed to in recent years.

As far as the cattle industry is concerned, there are some positive signs. Even if the liquidation phase of the cattle cycle continues beef supplies will not remain high. Fewer cattle have moved into feedlots and overall fed cattle numbers are continuing to decline. Beef supplies, therefore, will taper off. This, coupled with a wider dissemination of new nutritional information about the positive aspects of beef, could bring beef back in favor with consumers.

A Repeat of '85? Looking at the year ahead, the vision bears a considerable resemblance to 1985. In many ways, that would make it a good year for farmers and ranchers because it would mean good crops, an abundant harvest and plentiful feed supplies. But it would also mean low prices for their commodities. In any business, profit is the name of the game, yet Texas farmers and ranchers have enjoyed little of that in recent years. How long they can survive financially given the current economic climate remains to be seen. "Skepticism" rather than "optimism" appears to be the watchword for agriculture in 1986.

1985 in review

(From Page One)

MISD reported less than three percent of high school students failed classes in the first six weeks of school.

Funeral services were held for Dr. William Sadler, a longtime Merkel physician.

November
The city had received \$10,356.63 in tax rebates from legal Bingo games held here. The city collects a 2 per cent of gross tax and the money is being set aside for construction of a new City Hall.

The Merkel Badgers ended their 1985 football season with a 3-7 record.

The local cotton harvest was getting started but wet weather delayed stripping.

Merkel High inducted 27 new members in the National Honor Society.

The Merkel school board advertised and sold lots in the Bettis Heights Addition. The lots had been acquired over the past years as tax collection suits.

Pioneer Memorial Methodist held their annual Lord's Acre sale.

The Merkel school board approved a junior-senior prom. MISD had not previously approved any school sponsored dances.

Lance Perry was named all-district center and Kenneth Jowers was named all-district punter in football.

Kelly Beights and Stacey Newberry were named first team all-district in volleyball.

December
The Merkel Chamber of Commerce held its first Christmas

Fair at Heritage Hall. The event was designed to raise money for Christmas lights and the Chamber raised \$800.

Michael McCoy, a Merkel High grad and ACU student, won a statewide talent contest sponsored by the Farm Bureau.

Mrs. Lucy Haynes of Merkel was one of 23 former Olsen Medal winners honored at Hardin-Simmons University. The medal is given to the HSU students that has the best academic and Christian standards performance at HSU.

Tommy Hays and Jay Gibson were two of 658 FFA members in the nation to earn the American Farmer degree.

A former Merkel High student, John Millett, was one of 250 soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division killed in an airplane crash.



Small stack, Happy New Year

by Cloy A. Richards

It's very interesting to me to sit down with the newspapers once a year at this time and to write a review of what has happened here in the past year.

A lot has changed here in the past 12 months. We have a new addition at Merkel Elementary, one being constructed now at Merkel Middle School, plus all of the work done under the ongoing Community Development Block Grant.

One thing did depress me a little. When I stacked all the

papers up from last year, the stack was about the same as your average Sunday edition of the Dallas Morning News.

It sure seems like we do a lot more than that each year.

Yes, your paper was a day late this week and it will be a day late next week because of the New Year Holiday.

The deadline for next week's edition, like all the rest, in Noon Tuesday.

Dale Hammond's cartoon this week may have explained why Santa Claus may have been late to

your home.

Since this is the last paper before the Cotton Bowl, here is my prediction.

The Aggies will hold Heisman Trophy winner Bo Jackson to under 100 yards and will beat Auburn 28-17.

No, I am not a bookie and no I won't give you 11 points.

I do hope that all of you had a very Merry Christmas and are looking forward to 1986.

4 local students excel at TSTI

Three Merkel students and two Trent students have been named to the fall Quarter Honor Roll at Texas State Technical Institute in Sweetwater, according to Dr. Herbert Robbins, Campus President.

To be eligible for the Campus President's Honor Roll, a student

must maintain a 4.0 grade point average in classes for the quarter. Students maintaining a 3.5 to 3.9 grade point average, qualify for the Dean of Instruction's Honor Roll.

Campus President Honor Roll: Judy Kasper from Trent-Automated Office Technology; Ken-

neth Elliott-Merkel-Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology; Ronnie Freeman-Trent-Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology; Linda Neal-Merkel-Vocational Nursing.

Dean of Instruction's Honor Roll: Christie Martin - Merkel-Technical Drafting Program.



A concrete workers asks for more concrete at the new Freshman Building at Merkel High. The

addition will have eight classrooms, administrative offices and lockers. [Staff photo]

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Malone's story told in Oklahoma paper



More than 30 trucks of cement planned to be completed in June were used in the slab for the funding is from surplus MIS Merkel High Freshman Wing. The 11,800 square foot building is (Staff photo)

MISD sells two more lots in Bettis Heights

The Merkel school board met last Tuesday and decided to sell two sets of lots and heard various reports from school administrators.

The board decided to sell two of three sets of lots in the Bettis Heights Addition. The board rejected the bids on the third lot.

Board members also decided to give a student another chance to ride MISD busses after she was

suspended by the bus driver. Her parents appeared before the board to make the appeal.

Board members also looked over property offered to the school by Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church. The church approached the school and offered their facility, located East of Merkel Elementary, to the school district.

Board members decided to table any action on the property until it sees an appraisal.

Local contractors awarded re-hab bids by council

The Merkel City council met Monday night and accepted bids on six local homes to be remodeled under a federal program at their regular meeting held Monday night at the Merkel Emergency Medical Service Building.

Council accepted the bid of Hunt Construction Company on five homes and the bid of Gregory & Goode Construction on the other. Five contractors submitted bids on the project.

Carson's announce winners

Winners of a drawing held by Carson's Supermarket were announced Christmas Eve.

Duke Pack of Merkel came away the big winner as his name was drawn for a '25' Sampo

Under the Community Development Block Grant, local homes in certain areas of town qualify for federal grants to remodel and refurbish homes to make them more energy efficient.

Council also decided to advertise a request to close the alley on Block D of Merkel's South Park Addition on city maps. The request was made by the landowner.

Council will consider that proposal at its next meeting, Jan. 13, 1986.

console, color tv.

Lon Lee Hughes won a computer, Tom Hogan won a large Christmas stocking and Stephanie Mitchell won a blender.

The drawing was held at Carson's Christmas Eve.

Editor's Note: The following story was submitted by Thelma Davis of Idabel, Okla. He is an avid reader of **The Mail** and a big

fan of Dale Hammond's cartoons. The article was printed in **The Daily Oklahoman** and distributed by the McIntosh Syndicate. It is re-printed with their permission.

Each year during December when the NFR is playing, with peripheral rodeo activities like the Wild Bunch Reunion and the National Cowboy Hall of Fame's Rodeo Hall induction banquet, many veterans of the sport appear in Oklahoma City.

One of them who attended the festivities this month was Goldia Malone of Merkel, Texas.

Born in Rains County, near Emory, east of Dallas, on Oct. 10, 1903, Goldia Fields was the daughter of tenant farmers who "worked very hard for very little money."

She was only three years old when her father tossed her onto the back of a plow horse. While he worked the sod, baby Goldia grabbed the harness and gradually began to enjoy the feeling of a horse beneath her.

"By 1914," said Goldia, "most folks on the tenant farms who hadn't already starved to death were busy moving. My own family moved to Childress to pull cotton. Later, mother worked as a house cleaner and dad became night watchman at the cotton compress.

"There were no child labor laws in those days," she remembered, "and at 11 I pitched right in doing my part to earn a living. I worked at the eating depot on the tracks of the Fort Worth & Denver Railroad. The train would stop and we'd feed the passengers."

"In between eatings, and following clean up, my girlfriend, Pauline, the famous roper Lee Robinson's sister, and I would go to a nearby horse shop where the boys broke, trained, shod and cared for horses. They used to let us water the horses and, when they got to know us, they let us exercise the more gentle mounts."

After seeing her first rodeo at Tell, near Childress, that was all she wanted to do.

"So you started playing?" questioned. Goldia didn't like that and told me "so...but with a smile."

"I never played a day in my life," she scolded. "It was all work and it was tough. We would often go into town and have to build our own chutes to put on our

ropes."

That was after she married Robert Nathaniel Malone, who ran a wild west show called Malone Brothers Carnival (with brother Mark) and later Malone Rodeo Company. On the show, Goldia performed in several events.

"A come on," she recalled, "was to tell the crowd that I was to ride a bad horse. This was not always the lilly-white truth, but once it was."

"We had leased a white gelding named Funeral Wagon from the Texas Bud Snell Show. I was scared and nervous about getting on him the first time and told the pick-up man to stay close to me."

"When he rode in to get me, he said, 'Goldia, you just did something you didn't expect to do.'"

"What's that?" I asked. "You rode Funeral Wagon."

"Yes, I did, didn't I? I felt very good."

Goldia started her apprenticeship with Carley Griffith, who ran a trick riding school at Fort Worth. As a contribution to her tuition, she trained and exercised horses.

After two years, Griffith felt she was ready to be a professional and told her so. He then asked to see a revue of all her tricks.

While doing the Cossack drag on a big strawberry roan, Goldia recalls that the horse stumbled and fell, rolling over on her. Unhurt, but embarrassed, she started leading the horse out of the arena on foot.

A young stranger appeared and said, "That's the smartest thing you've done all afternoon."

"Yes, it's a nice trick," agreed Goldia, "but it's not supposed to end this way."

"I don't mean the trick," the young man said. "I mean if you can't stay on a horse, it's smart to get off and lead him."

Goldia recalls that she was fuhus at this impertinence, even though she simmered down quickly.

"I want you to know," she told me, "that was my future husband, Bob Malone. I worked for him a few years and then married him. He turned out to be a very nice person."

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MISC.

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Small tract Southside of Merkel (21 lots) excellent for building site. Also, in Bettis Heights Addition, 150 X 150. Call Cy Pee, Agent 928-5613. 129-TFC

2 or 3 bedroom stucco house on four acres 1 mile west of Trent on I-20. Low 30s, 862-6361. 142-4tc

Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
 THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: JOHNNY HILL, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, Respondent;
 -YOU ARE HEREBY 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 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 ELIZABETH BELLMAN GRANATON PERREZ, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 11th day of September, 1985 against JOE BASIL GRANATO, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 3086-C on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Interest of BAMRI JEANETTE GRANATO, a Child" the nature of which suit is a request to terminate the parent-child relationship between JOE BASIL GRANATO and the child, and grant adoption of the child to NESTOR ARRANDA PEREZ, Jr. Petitioner request the child's name be changed to BAMBI JEANETTE PEREZ.

Said child was born the 9th day of April, 1985 in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgement or decree in the child's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

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

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

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Abilene, Texas, this 4th day of December, 1985.

Rilla Mahoney, Clerk 326th District Court Taylor County, Texas By Patricia Henderson, Deputy (Seal) 143-88-4tc

Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
 THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: ODD FELLOWS HOME FOR THE AGED; ODD FELLOWS CHILDREN HOME; MAX EMERY, JR.; JEMIMA BARROWS; RUBY BARROWS; TWILA WEBB; THE CHURCH IN WHICH SYLVIA IONE WILLIAMS HATCHETT, DECEASED, HELD MEMBERSHIP AT THE TIME OF HER DEATH; AND ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF SYLVIA IONE WILLIAMS HATCHETT, DECEASED, Greetings:

One November 21, 1985, the First National Bank of Abilene, Texas, as Independent Executor of the Estate of Sylvia Ione Williams Hatchett, Deceased, filed a petition with the Court of the Will and Codicil of Sylvia Ione Williams Hatchett, Deceased, (hereinafter called "Deceased"), late resident of Taylor County, Texas, who died March 2, 1985. Said petition is styled First National Bank of Abilene, Texas, Independent Executor, Plaintiff, Vs. St. Paul United Methodist Church, Abilene, Texas, et al, Defendants, and bears the number 16,652 in the County Court of Taylor County, Texas.

Deceased left a valid written Will and Codicil, which are admitted to probate on June 3, 1985, by the County Court of Taylor County, Texas.

Said petition will be heard and acted upon by said Court at 10:00 A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days after the publication of this notice, that being the sixth day

Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
 THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: JOHNNY HILL, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, Respondent;
 -YOU ARE HEREBY 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 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 CHRISTIAN HOMES OF ABILENE, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 16th day of DECEMBER, 1985, against JOHNNY HILL, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 329-CX on the docket of said Court and entitled "In The Interest of BABY BOY RHODES, a Child", the nature of which suit is a request to determine

Public Notices

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
 THE STATE OF TEXAS County of Taylor

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That by virtue of a certain Writ of Execution issued out of the Honorable 191st District Court of Dallas County, of the 28th day of August, 1985, by Judgement of said 191st District Court of Dallas County for the sum of Forty Four Thousand Seven hundred and Twenty Three & 20/100 Dollars and costs of suit, under a Judgement, in favor of Pool Co. d/ b/ a Pool Well Service in a certain cause in said Court No 85-2017-J and styled Pool Company d/ b/ a Pool Well Servicing Co. vs. Martex Resources, Inc., placed in my hands for service, I, John W. Middleton as Sheriff of Taylor County, Texas, did, on the 6th day of December, 1985, levy on certain Real Estate, situated in Taylor County, Texas, described as follows, to-wit: All undivided interest Graham Brothers

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of January, 1986, Monday, at the County Courthouse in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas.

The Defendants cited above and all persons interested in the Estate of Sylvia Ione Williams Hatchett are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer to such petition, should they desire to do so.

The officer serving this citation shall, in compliance with the law, serve it by publication one in a newspaper of general circulation in this, a county in which such proceeding is pending, for not less than ten days before the return date hereof, exclusive of the day of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the date of publication.

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

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at Taylor County, Texas, this 20th day of December, A.D. 1985.

Janice Lyons, Clerk of the County Court, Taylor County, Texas
 By: Dorothy Plumlee, Deputy (Seal) 145-83-1tc

Public Notice
 The City Council of the City of Merkel, Texas, will consider the closing of the alley in Block D, South Park Addition, to the City of Merkel, at its regular meeting Monday, Jan. 13, 1986 at 7 p.m. at the Merkel Emergency Medical Service Building.

Any and all interested and affected parties are invited to attend.
 Kent Satterwhite Mayor

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
 THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: JOHNNY HILL, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, Respondent;
 -YOU ARE HEREBY 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 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 CHRISTIAN HOMES OF ABILENE, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 16th day of DECEMBER, 1985, against JOHNNY HILL, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 329-CX on the docket of said Court and entitled "In The Interest of BABY BOY RHODES, a Child", the nature of which suit is a request to determine

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Ag outlook better in 86?

Texas farmers and ranchers might see their sagging financial status begin to stabilize in the year ahead.

Keys to long-run prosperity on the farm front include a flexible farm policy that can make U.S. crops more price competitive worldwide, a reduced government deficit, lower real interest rates and an aggressive trade policy.

"That's what it will take to turn around agriculture nationwide and in Texas, where the farm economy is at the lowest level since the 1930's," believes Dr. Carl Anderson, economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System.

"Texas farmers facing the hardest times financially are in the intensified agricultural areas of the South and Rolling Plains," Anderson points out. "Yields in these areas have been poor for several years and have combined with low cotton, grain and cattle prices to bring on rural depression. Land prices, especially for irrigated farmland, also have declined some."

Estimates show some 2,625 Texas farmers have been forced out of business during 1985 due to financial reasons, and a third of them have been in this 41-county region, notes the economist. An estimated 1,335 farmers and ranchers left Texas agriculture in 1983 and another 1,725 were forced out last year.

Anderson expects crop prices to remain under intense supply pressure during 1986, so farmers will likely make heavy use of government loan programs just as they did this year.

Since U.S. crop prices are still

considerably higher than world prices, the Secretary of Agriculture may be given the authority to lower prices to the world level. If that happens, cash market prices for rice, wheat and cotton will drop even lower and far below the variable cost of production, Anderson points out. Thus, price insurance using commodity options may offer help for some producers.

"Current provisions of the proposed farm bill should offer some financial support to farmers in 1986," contends Anderson. "Target prices likely will be frozen at current levels, and that would ensure large deficiency payments to producers. However, the \$50,000 payment limit, if allowed, will be a possible limiting factor for many Texas producers."

"These large deficiency payments will help most producers through the current period of low market prices, and with an effective export enhancement program, the stage could be set for a return to farm prosperity in a few years," says the economist. "Efforts to reduce the federal deficit will also tend to lower interest rates and boost exports."

As far as livestock producers are concerned, Anderson foresees market prices strengthening some in 1986 as meat production, mainly beef and pork, continues to decline, particularly during the first half of 1986. Increased poultry production should lead to somewhat lower turkey and broiler prices. Milk production is up and support prices should determine the overall price level.

On the farm credit front, agricultural lenders are working to develop an orderly transition to

a sound lending program based on reduced levels of farm income, says Anderson. Farm lenders have returned to a more conservative posture. That means outstanding credit will decline.

"Credit will be available to credit worthy operations, but good records and financial statements are a must," Anderson emphasizes. "The basic factor is for debt to match earnings. Funds earned outside of agriculture and part-time farming will play an increasing role in furnishing capital for agricultural investments."

Garden club holds meeting

The Merkel Garden Club met Nov. 19th at the home of Shirley McBride for a Christmas luncheon and gift exchange. Co-hosts were Georgia Allday and Wynette Barkley.

Following the meal, Becky Rogers, club president, conducted a short business meeting.

Members present included Mmes. Lenora Wilbourn, Olga Peachey, Becky Rogers, Jewel Criswell, Mary Russom, Lottie Everett, Leota Sherrill, Alice King, Peggy Black, Billie Hartley, Linnie Fisher, Georgia Allday, Wynette Barkley, Inez Detrick, Estelle Humphrey and Shirley McBride. Also attending was Mrs. Muri Smith.

Their next meeting is planned Jan. 16th in the home of Becky Rogers.

Speaks in top 10% of class

David Speaks, son of Kathryn Speaks of Merkel, Tx., Machine Tool, received recognition for his academic performance during the fall quarter at the Granite Falls Campus, Southwestern Vocational Technical Institute.

He maintained a grade point average that put him at the top 10 percent of his class.

Study Club meets

The 81 Study Club met Tuesday, Dec. 18 for a Christmas get together. They met at Furr's Cafeteria in Abilene. Attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Talent, Mrs. Doris Summers, Bettye Stockenburger, Cleo Reece, Lorene Beaird. All enjoyed it.



§ Peps Rooster, owned by Mrs. Buster Welch of Merkel and ridden by Mrs. Welch, won \$16,655 while finishing 20th in the National Cutting Horse Association's World Championship Futurity in Ft. Worth.



§ Haldas San Badger, owned by Norman R. Bruce of Rutledge, Ga., and ridden by Buster Welch of Merkel, won \$29,837 while finishing in a tie for 11th place in the National Cutting Horse Association's World Championship Futurity held in Ft. Worth. It is the world's richest indoo equine event.

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85-hp 2950	2700

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40-hp 1250	\$ 450	\$ 400	\$ 350
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60-hp 1650	575	525	450
45-hp 2150	475	425	375
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55-hp 2350	575	500	450
65-hp 2550	650	575	500
75-hp 2750	725	650	550
85-hp 2950	925	800	700
Row-Crop Tractors			
100-hp 4050	\$1375	\$1225	\$1050
120-hp 4250	1500	1325	1150
140-hp 4450	1625	1450	1250
165-hp 650	2000	1750	1525
190-hp 4850	2300	2025	1750
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