

# The Merkel Mail

Thursday, January 23, 1986 ... Merkel, Texas

Our 97th Year

Merkel Chamber  
Of Commerce  
Chili Supper is Friday  
Heritage Hall  
5:30 p.m.

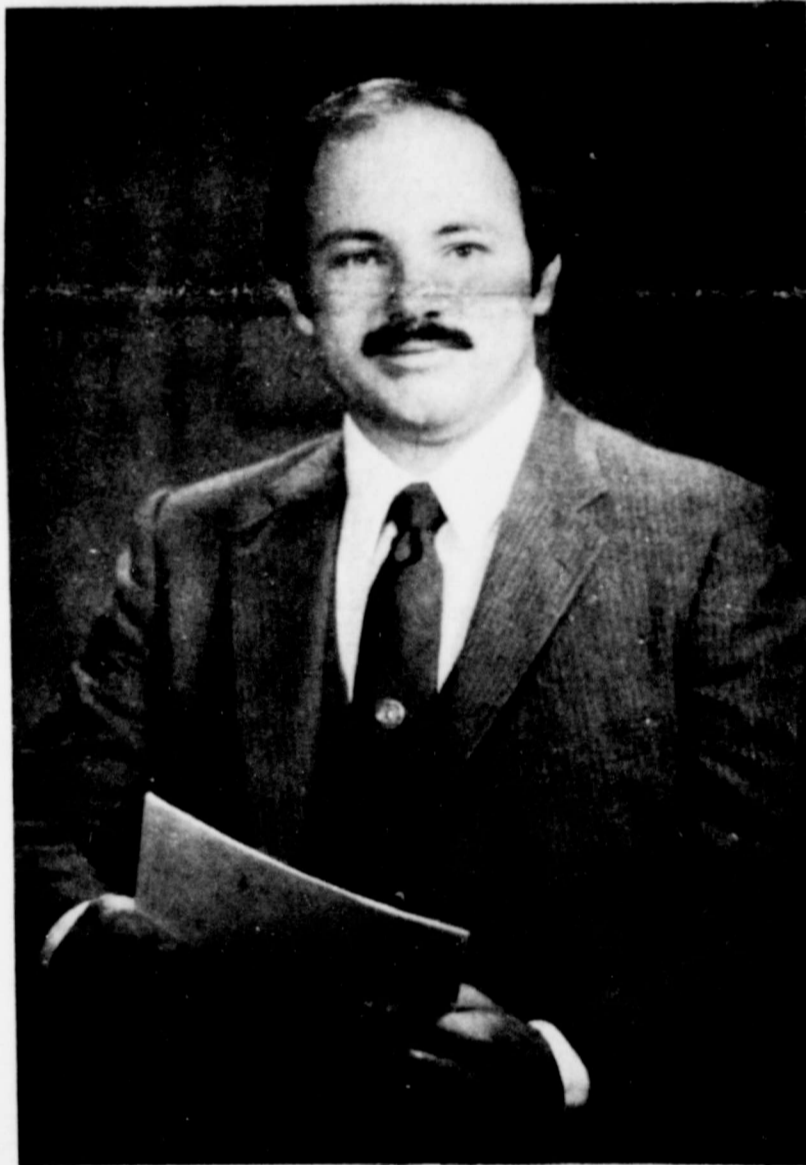
## Carriker will seek re-election

Seventy-eighth District State Representative Steven A. Carriker announced that he has filed for re-election to his seat in the Legislature, thus ending speculation in the state press that he might seek higher office. "My strongest interest lies in continuing to do the best possible job for the people of my district and the most effective place to do that is in the Texas Legislature," Carriker said.

Representative Carriker is currently serving a four-year term on the Democratic National Committee and was elected Majority Whip of the Texas House last January. Since last May when the Democratic Chairman went to the Senate in a special election, Carriker has been head of the House Democratic Caucus, the only sophomore member ever to hold that position.

Serving on the House Agriculture Committee, Carriker has been responsible for a number of measures important to West Texas. Among those are the Farm and Ranch Security Program, legislation, legislation to insure free access to highways by farm machinery, and the "Buy Texas First" law which requires state agencies to support Texas agricultural products by giving them first preference in state purchasing. He also serves as chairman of the Texas Department of Agriculture Farm Credit Task Force where he has been vocal in his opposition to proposals to drain Texas credit to prop up troubled banks elsewhere. As Agricultural Water Subcommittee Chairman, the results of his field hearings held at Texas Tech were incorporated into the state water plan.

On the House Elections committee Carriker was the tie-breaking



vote in getting a bill to establish a direct Presidential Primary for Texas voters to the floor of the house.

Carriker has earned high marks from the state's teacher organizations and gives much of the credit to his wife, Kathy, on leave from her own career in teaching while their young daughters are still at home. He sponsored

legislation on teachers' behalf to insure them of fair compensation for extra work under the tutorial law.

Kathy and Steve have two daughters, Karen 3, and Stephanie 1, and a son, Jacob who is in the fifth grade. They live on the family farm in Fisher County where Steve grows cotton and grain and raises beef cattle on a 1700 acre operation.

## MHS student council keeps busy

The Merkel High Student Council attended a Planning meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 21. It was hosted by Abilene Christian High School and was held at the Towne Crier. The meeting was held to plan for the District Leadership Workshop scheduled in March. This workshop will have different groups and classes to teach about leadership and the Student Council.

Thursday, Jan. 23, the Student Council will sponsor a blood pressure check for all the students of Merkel High on Jan. 30, a BYOB party for the faculty of M.H.S. and just to put your minds at ease, BYOB stands for Bring Your Own Banana. We will provide all the trimmings for a banana split and the faculty will provide their own banana. This is one of our teacher appreciation

projects. A pizza party is scheduled for Feb. 4, for all the students that made straight A's for the semester. Another upcoming

## Boy Scouts anyone ?

Anyone interested in starting a Boy Scout Troop in Merkel, please be at the portable building No. 9, Merkel Middle School, at 7:00 Monday, January 27. Boys attend-

ing must be accompanied by parents. Area volunteers is a must. Leadership training is available. For further information call 928-4882 after 6:00. Ages 11-18 boys are eligible.

## Blair Water sets meeting

You are hereby notified of the annual meeting of Blair Water Supply Corporation to be held in Merkel, Texas on the 3rd day of February 1986 at 7:00 p.m. at Taylor Electric Cooperative. Make plans to attend this

important meeting. A portion of this meeting will be to elect three board of director members. Those with terms expiring are Weir Joiner, John Lanford, and J.D. Sandusky. There will also be a drawing for door prizes.

## Merkel FFA wins big at County Stock Show

Merkel FFA students took more than their share of top awards at the Taylor County Livestock Show held Friday & Saturday at the County Fairgrounds.

Lance Perry, Melissa Harris, Wade Toombs, Lynn Hays, Scott Easley and Wade Toombs all had animals that were named grand champions.

Lynn Hays and Lance Perry also received showmanship awards in their division.

Some FFA members are now getting ready for the Fort Worth Stock Show set for this weekend.

The following are complete results from the County Stock Show for Merkel FFA members.

Light Weight Chesters- Melissa Harris 2nd, Billy Ray Riley 5th and Russell Morgan 7th. Heavy Weight Chesters- Russell Morgan 2nd and 4th and Billy Ray Riley 6th. Light Weights Chesters- Melissa Harris 4th and Dennis Luedtke 12th. Middle Weight Durocs- Lynn Hays 8th. Heavy Weight Durocs Scott Easley 1st, Lynn Hays 2nd and 6th and Lorena Pack 10th. Scott Easley had the grand champion Duroc.

Light Weight Hampshires- Connie McMillon 6th and Billy Hair 8th. Middle Weight Hamps- Lynn

Hays 1st. Heavy Weight Hampshires Amber Whisenhunt 2nd and Russell Morgan 6th. Lynn Hays had the grand champion Hampshire.

Light Weight Other Pure Breed (OPB) Cassie Townsend 7th & 11th, Mitzi Shelton 8th and Jay Williams 9th. Heavy Weight OPB- C. J. White 6th and Mitzi Shelton 7th.

Medium weight crosses- Russell Morgan 2nd, Lynn Hays 8th. Heavy Weight Crosses- Lynn Hays 6th. Lynn Hays won the reserve champion overall pig and was also named the Swine Showmanship Winner.

The following are complete results from the County Stock Show for Merkel FFA members.

In the Steer Divisions, Michelle Barnett was 7th in light weight and Wade Toombs had the Overall Champion Steer for the show.

High school results from the Sheep division are as follows.

Light Weight Finewool- Lance Perry 2nd and Ricky Riley 5th. Heavy Weight Finewool- Lance Perry 2nd, Ricky Riley 8th and 13th. The Reserve Champion Finewool was Lance Perry.

Light Weight Crosses, Roy Herd Manahan 1st and 2nd, Mitzi Shelton 8th and Stephanie Boyd 11th.

Heavy Weight Crosses Mitzi

Shelton 5th & 11th, Bridget Vaughn 16th. Light Weight Medium Wool- Angie Welborn 16th, Lance Perry 1st and 5th. Lance Perry had the Champion Medium Wool.

Heavy Weight Medium Wool- Amy Welborn 15th and Angie Welborn 12th.

Southdowns- Melissa Harris 1st, Bridget Vaughn 4th. Grand Champion Southdown Melissa Harris. The Lamb Showmanship was won by Lance Perry.

The following are Elementary and Junior High FFA results from the Taylor County Stock Show.

Kris Harris had the 3rd place Light Weight Chester. Phillip Seymore had the 12th place Light Weight Chester. Ricky Riley had the 10th place Heavy Chester. Robyn Dudley had the 9th place Heavy Hampshire. Criswell Whisenhunt had the 9th place Heavy Hampshire.

Also, John Bauer had the 10th place OPB and Steve Bauer had the 12th place Light Cross.

In the Steer division, Josh Mashburn had the 10th place Light. Jim Wade had the 6th place Heavy. Mandy Barnett had the 12th place Heavy. Brent Toombs had the 3rd Light and 9th Heavy and Randy Toombs had the 7th place Heavy.

Proceeds from the event will be used to fund on-going activities by the Chamber.

The Merkel School board met Tuesday night and details will be available in next week's paper.

## Okay, Dale's trying a rainmaker

by Cloy A. Richards

I felt good last Thursday when a few rain drops started hitting the windshield of the car but all those drops did was make a mud pie on the windshield.

So, Dale Hammond has come to the rescue with a "sure-fire" rainmaking cartoon. If that doesn't work, we will get the Golf Association to schedule an early tournament. That would probably prompt a flood.

The Merkel FFA walked away with a lot of the top honors at the County Stock Show this past weekend.

Complete results for Merkel FFA members is on Page One.

Local State Legislature Representative Steve Carriker has filed for re-election. So far, he is being opposed by a Texas Tech college student.

Anyone interested in filing for a spot on the Merkel School board may do so between now and March 5th.

As of Tuesday afternoon, no candidates had filed. Incumbent school board members Greg Henderson and Leroy Teaff, s terms are up this year.

An effort to start a Boy Scout Troop here is underway.

Interested people are asked to meet Jan. 27th at 7 p.m. at Portable Building # 9 at Merkel Middle School.

Boys attending the meeting must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Adult volunteers are also needed.

Anyone interested in more information may call 928-4882. Boys ages 11 through 18 are eligible for Boy Scouts.

How many of you have fruit trees or rose bushes ?

Look real close and you will see they are confused with the recent warm weather.

And you always wondered where that "nipped in the bud" expression came from.

Don't forget about the Merkel Chamber of Commerce's chili supper at Heritage Hall Friday night.

Cost is \$2.50 per bowl, complete with tea and crackers.



The Middle Clear Fork Soil & Water Conservation District is now taking orders for their 5th annual windbreak program for

homes, farmsteads, screen plantings and various other projects. The deadline for orders will be Feb. 15th. More information is available by calling 1-677-7862.

Complimentary Photo

# Who Will Farm the Land?



BY JIM HIGHTOWER

"Who will farm the land?"  
A line from a forgotten folk song?  
The title of another television documentary on the farm crisis?

No, it's a real question that we Texans must ask ourselves today, because there is an effort under way in Austin right now to dismantle the one high school educational program that has produced generation after generation of highly-qualified farmers and ranchers--the Vocational Agriculture program and its student component, Future Farmers of America.

Since it was established in Texas in 1928, the combination of Voc Ag and FFA has helped to educate more than 1 1/2 million students in the increasingly complex business of agricultural production, processing and marketing. This year, some 59,000 Texas kids are studying under Voc Ag programs being offered in more than two-thirds of the state's 1,170 school districts.

"Who needs them?"  
All of us, assuming we will continue wanting a wide variety of top-quality food at reasonable prices.

This morning's bacon didn't originate at the super-market--it was once a well-tended pig, produced by a farmer who most likely was an FFA participant and Voc Ag student. If we are to keep raising pigs economically and to the high standard of quality that consumers expect, we must have people who know what they are doing to raise them. A great deal more knowledge and skill are required to do this than just putting slop in a feed trough. While most farmers have a natural aptitude for growing things, their aptitude must be trained and expanded, and farmers also need to be educated about the business side of modern agriculture.

That's why we in Texas historically have seen the wisdom of investing a pittance of public education funds in a high school curriculum and training program that teaches some of our kids to do skillfully what the rest of us don't want to do: raise pigs. Voc Ag and FFA literally are primary entrepreneurial training grounds in Texas for bringing home the bacon, as well as the beef, the vegetables, the grain products, the cotton and wool clothing, and all the other food and fiber items we count on daily.

Yet, there are some well-meaning reformers of Texas public educational programs who seem to think that raising a proper pig is not as worthy an educational goal as learning to program a computer. Under the guise of education reform, administrators of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) have recently made budgetary cuts that simply gut our Voc Ag and FFA programs.

Prior to TEA's cuts, a total of 16 full-time TEA staff positions were allocated to administering this agricultural curriculum across the state. Fifteen of those staff people were field supervisors and their assistants, serving as the direct link to all the local school programs. This key staff made up the statewide network essential to the successful administration of the program. The total budget for the Voc Ag effort in Texas was \$834,000--only two-tenths of one percent of TEA's \$4.6 billion annual budget.

Voc Ag's budget has now been slashed by two-thirds, and the field staff has been zeroed-out entirely. Only one person--the state Vocational Agriculture director--remains to handle the entire program. Not only does this cut out the guts of the program, but it destroys the heart as well, because the thousands of Texas families who participate and the larger agricultural industry that relies on Voc Ag and FFA feel that their education needs are being abandoned by the state's educational brass.

For their part, TEA administrators claim to be acting under the mandate of House Bill 72, which overall is a very positive and long-overdue step toward educational excellence in Texas. But there is no such mandate in this reform bill. It is clear that neither the Legislature, the Governor--nor the people of Texas--intended that H.B. 72 would ever be used as a hatchet to destroy a program that is integral to our state's second largest industry. Even an increasingly urban, urbane and high-tech society needs the best farmers we can develop, and our system of secondary education must continue to

meet its historic commitment to this goal.

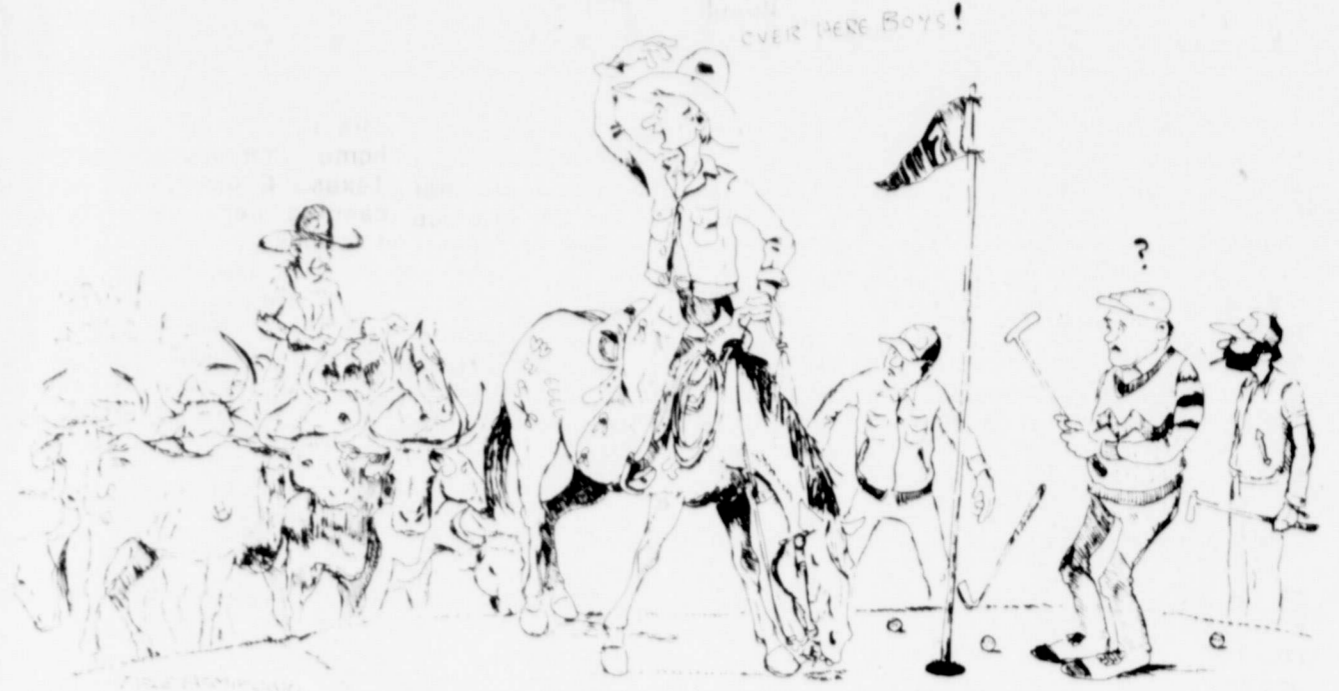
Fortunately, it is not too late to reverse this misguided budgetary action by TEA administrators. The State Board of Education, appointed by the Governor, is the official policy-making body that oversees TEA, and they have the authority to overrule the devastating cuts that have been made in Voc Ag. As Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, I have formally requested that they do just that.

Working with state legislators, local public officials, educators, FFA alumnae and other interested parties, we have devised a responsible, bare-bones, compromise proposal that would salvage the Voc Ag and FFA programs without restricting the desire of TEA administrators to tighten up on the management of these programs. Specifically, we are asking the State Board of Education to reinstate six of the ten field supervisor positions in TEA's current budget. This would require TEA to restore less than \$200,000 to the budget of Voc Ag. Also, we can add some in-kind, cooperative support to the program by stationing these six field supervisors at some of our state's top regional universities. Several universities already have indicated an eagerness to provide offices and secretarial assistance and to lend some of their staff expertise to the Voc Ag effort.

Under this compromise, the program still would suffer a substantial cut, but it would survive, and it could continue to respond to the vocational aspirations of thousands of future Texas farmers.

But even this modest step will not be taken by the State Board of Education unless there is a powerful expression of public support from people like you. It is not enough for a Commissioner of Agriculture to request action; if the bureaucracy is to move in the direction we want, then it must receive a clear nudge from all Texans who want to restore the integrity of this valuable education program.

I'm calling on you to make your voice heard in Austin. Support restoration of funding for Voc Ag and FFA by writing Chairman Jon Brumley, State Board of Education, Austin, Texas 78701.



NEVER YOU RUN OUT OF GROCERIES--  
ANYTHING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS FAIR GAME!

## Xi Nu Chi meets

Chapter of Xi Nu Chi of Beta Sigma Phi held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, January 14th, at the Pleasantville Center. A special thanks was noted to all who worked at the Rehab 86 Telethon. Karen Riley's program consisted of very interesting and informational slides about the Holy Lands. The recording that explained each picture. Diana Parker furnished chips, dips and sweets for refreshments. Members present were Minyon Seymore, Karen Riley, Diana Parker, Anita Allen, Judy Elliott, Vicki Rodriguez, Nancy Duncan, Mary Hill, Connie Harris and Barbara Graham.

<b>COOKIES</b> SUNSHINE 5 OZ 3 FOR <b>\$1 00</b>	<b>BREAD</b> TOWN TALK <b>69¢</b>	<b>CHIPS</b> WISE <b>98¢</b>
<b>MILK</b> DAIRYLAND GAL <b>\$1 89</b>	<b>GAS</b> UNLEADED \$1 17 REGULAR \$1 14	<b>LETTUCE</b> HEAD <b>59¢</b>

**9th Street Grocery & Mobil Gas**  
1207 S 9th Street

## Fortnightly group holds meeting

The Merkel G.F.W.C. Fortnightly Study Club met Jan. 14 in Mrs. Truett Patterson's home with Mrs. Joe Lassiter as co-hostess. Mrs. Orvel Hill, Club President, opened the meeting and Mrs. James Jay gave the club collect. Mrs. Ed Sandusky read the Federation Counselor's report and Mrs. Ray Wilson read the poem

"To The New Year". Club members gave their resolutions for the New Year. Mrs. S.C. Dixon gave a talk on "Using the Greatest Gift of All". Mrs. Truett Patterson showed some new styles for vests.

Members present were: Mmes. Randy Carson, S.C. Dixon, R.M. Ferguson, J.W. Hammond, Comer Haynes, Orvel Hill, Buster Horton

Carl Hughes, James Jay, C.B. Knight, Joe Lassiter, Henry Martin, Burl McCoy, Billy Bob Neff, Truett Patterson, Phillip Pursley, Curtis Rister, Perry Rogers, Ed Sandusky, C.M. Seymore, Andy Shouse, Howard Sliger, Alf Walla, Ray Wilson, Dent Gibson and Misses Mary Collins, Mildred Hamm, Maurine White.



The best tractor deals in town just got better

Buy a new 100- to 190-hp John Deere now and pay no interest\* until June



Right now we're dealing like never before on primary power John Deere tractors. For starters, we're passing along big factory discounts -- that means huge savings on the selling price. And to sweeten the deal, John Deere will finance your new tractor interest-free until June 1, 1986.

Come on in and check out the new tractors in stock. Horsepower for horsepower, feature for feature, John Deere's got the tractor deals the competition can't match. And now the deals are even better. Stop in today.

\*Availability of John Deere financing subject to approval of credit

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## January Clearance

DISCOUNTS FROM 10 to 70% IN EVERY DEPARTMENT

SELECTION OF BELTS  
GROUP OF LONG SLEEVED WESTERN SHIRTS **1/2 OFF**  
GROUP OF TONY LAMA, HONDO & NOCONA BOOTS **OFF**  
ALL FELT HATS **20% OFF**

RACK OF MENS POLYESTER DRESS JEANS REG \$24<sup>95</sup> **\$16<sup>95</sup>**

LEATHER CAPS **\$5<sup>00</sup>**

STUDENTS BOOT CUT WRANGLERS (BROKEN SIZES) **\$8<sup>98</sup>**

BOYS CORDUROY STRAIGHT LEG JEANS

BOYS SHIRTS & DRESS PANTS **20%**

BOYS JOGGING SUITS & SWEATERS **OFF**

(SIZE 7-14) LITTLE GIRLS BLOUSES **\$5<sup>00</sup> & UP**

(LADIES & CHILDREN) RACK OF ASSORTED ITEMS **\$5<sup>00</sup>**

RACK OF MISSIES & JR's WEAR **\$9<sup>98</sup>**  
(VALUES TO \$44<sup>95</sup>.)

SELECTION OF MISSIES & JUNIORS JEANS **UP TO 1/2 OFF**

No Layaways **CIRCLE A** All Sales Final  
**WESTERN HOUSE**  
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# **FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA**

The Merkel FFA wants to publically thank the following people and businesses that purchased animals at the Taylor County Stock Show Saturday

## **Taylor County Livestock Association**

5 Steers, 2 pigs, 1 lamb

## **Farmers & Merchants National Bank**

2 pigs, 3 lambs

### **Jim Rhodes**

1 lamb

### **Kenny Duncan**

1 pig

### **Luskey's Western Wear**

1 lamb

### **Carson's Supermarket**

1 lamb

### **Whisenhunt Grain & Feed**

1 pig

### **Merkel Chamber of Commerce**

1 lamb

### **Abilene Cattle Feeders**

1 lamb

### **Clovis McElmurray**

1 lamb

### **Merkel Merchants Association**

Composed of Don Dudley, Ed's Feed & Seed, P & L Auto Supply, Hicks Auto Supply,  
Max Murrell Chevrolet, Seymore Insurance Agency Starbuck Company

2 pigs

**The Merkel FFA wants you**

**to know your support is  
greatly appreciated**



Future  
Farmers of  
America



Future  
Farmers of  
America



## Carriker calls for restoration of FFA funding

State Representative Steve Carriker (D-Roby), along with four other Representatives, a State Senator, and the Commissioner of Agriculture, held a press conference last week in which he called for a restoration of funding for area supervisors for vocational agriculture programs. The lawmakers pointed out that although recent changes in the law mandated a tightening of administration in the supervisory area for vocational ag, the manner in which the Texas Education Agency is interpreting the statutes is hurting the quality of those programs.

The proposed funding restoration worked out by the Department of Agriculture and endorsed by the lawmakers would place six area supervisors at regional universities throughout the state. With the assistance of these universities, supervisors could then coordinate interschool activities and programs for vo-ag students. This system would be a

significant improvement over the single statewide vo-ag supervisor now in place and would cost less than one-fourth of what the old supervisory system did. Representative Carriker pointed out that although the Education Agency's elimination of area supervisors is the most visible cut to vocational education, that the more important issue is the interpretation of the formulas for funding vo-ed. "Schools are having a hard time maintaining quality vo-ed programs under

TEA's funding formulas," he said. "The State's efforts to improve academics were in no way meant to weaken our commitment to badly needed vocational education programs. I appreciate the value of these programs and will support them in every possible way."

Others participating in the Austin press conference were Democratic State Representatives Jim Radd (Brownfield), Bill Haley (Center), Bob Melton (Gatesville), Robert Saunders (La Grange), State Senator John Sharp Democrat from Victoria, and Texas Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Hightower.

## Local garden group holds meeting

The Merkel Garden Club met January 17th at the home of Becky Rogers. Estelle Humphrey assisted Mrs. Rogers in serving refreshments to fifteen members and three guests.

Following a brief business meeting, program chairman, Olga Peachy, turned the meeting over to County Extension Agent, Roberta Walters. Mrs. Walters presented a timely and interesting program on the facts and fallacies

of vitamin and mineral supplements to the diet and the dangers of overdoing on some vitamins. The National Clearing House for Poison Control Centers report over 4,000 cases of vitamin poisoning each year.

Members present were Jewell Criswell, Inez Detrick, Alice King, Billie Hartley, Peggy Black, Leota Sherrell, Olga Peachy, Mary Russom, Wynette Barkley, Geor-

gia Allday, Muriel Thompson, Shirley McBride, Lottie Everett, Estelle Humphrey, and Becky Rogers. Also attending were guests: Mrs. Roberta Walters, Sherri Skidmore, and Mrs. Sue Johnson.

The next meeting will be February 20th at the home of Lenora Wilburn. Members are encouraged to invite a friend or neighbors as their guest or prospective member.

## Services held here for Ora Willingham

Graveside services for Ora H. Willingham, 70, widow of Eddie Willingham, were at 2 p.m. Saturday at Rose Hill Cemetery. Bruce Martin officiated, directed by Starbuck Funeral Home. She died Thursday at an Anson

hospital. A native of Scurry County, she was a member of the Baptist Church.

Survivors include two daughters Lucille Ohlhausen of Fort Worth and Helen Scott of Abilene; three

brothers, Horace Tipps of Waco, Havens Tipps of Sacramento, Calif. and Leo Tipps of Grand Junction, Colo.; a sister, Maude Gaston of Christoval; seven grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren.

## Swafford's honored on Golden Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Max E. Swafford, of San Antonio, Texas, were honored on their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a reception Sunday, January 19, from 2 until 5 p.m. at the Embassy Suite Hotel, 7750 Briaridge, San Antonio. The couple was married January 19,

1936 in the home of Ben Harper, Greenville, Texas. They lived in Merkel, Texas for a few years before moving to San Antonio where they have resided since 1941. They have four children who, with their respective husbands and wives, hosted the event. They

include Mr. and Mrs. Mike Swafford of San Antonio, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Swafford of Columbia, Missouri, Commander Tom Swafford of Fairfax, Virginia, and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Niss of Colorado Springs, Colorado. They also have 8 grandchildren.

### NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF TAYLOR

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That by virtue of a certain Order of Sale issued out of the Honorable 104th District Court of Taylor County, of the 6th day of January 1986, by Judgement of said 104th District Court for the sum of \$340,237.76 Dollars and costs of suit, under a Judgement, in favor of MBANK of Abilene in a certain cause in said Court, No. 6,703-B and styled MBANK Abilene vs. Gary Hodges Builders, Inc., placed in my hands for service, I John W. Middleton as Sheriff of Taylor County, Texas, did, on the 8th day of January, 1986, levy on certain Real Estate situated in Taylor County, Texas, described as follows, to-wit:

Lots 11 and 12, Block A, Section 2, Springbrook Addition to the City of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, as set out in that one certain Deed of Trust on file in volume 585, page 588, Deed of Trust Records, Taylor County, Texas.

This Sale Will Be For Cash Only. A Cashiers Check From a Taylor County Bank May Be Accepted and levied upon as the property of Gary Hodges Builders, Inc. and that on the first Tuesday in March, 1986, the same being the 4th day of said month at the Court House door of Taylor County, in the City of Abilene, Texas, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., by virtue of said levy and said Order of Sale, I will sell said above described Real Estate at public venue, for each, to the highest bidder, as the property of said Gary Hodges Builders, Inc.

And in compliance with law, I give this notice by publication, in the English language, once a week for three consecutive weeks immediately preceding said day of sale in the Merkel Mail, a newspaper published in Taylor County, Texas.

Witness my hand, this the 13th day of January

1986, John W. Middleton Sheriff, Taylor County, Texas BY Eddie Swanson, Deputy (Seal). 147-85-3tc

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That by virtue of a certain Order of Sale issued out of the Honorable 104th District Court of Taylor County, Texas, of the 6th day of January 1986, by Judgement Order of Sale of said 104th District Court for the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Sixteen & 98/100 Dollars and costs of suit, under a Judgement, in favor of MBank Abilene, in a certain cause in said Court, No. 16,702-B and styled MBANK Abilene vs. Gary Hodges, placed in my hands for service, I John W. Middleton as Sheriff of Taylor County, Texas, did, on the 8th day of January 1986, levy on certain Real Estate situated in Taylor County, Texas, described as follows, to-wit:

Lot 4, Section 1, Country Club Estates Addition to the City of Merkel, Taylor County, Texas, as set out in that one certain Deed of Trust on file in volume 534, Page 807, Deed of Trust Records, Taylor County, Texas. This Sale Will Be For Cash Only, a Cashiers Check From A Taylor County Bank May Be Accepted, and levied upon as the property of Gary Hodges and that on the First Tuesday in March 1986, the same being the 4th day of said month at the Court House door of Taylor County, in the City of Abilene, Texas, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., by virtue of said levy and said Order of Sale, I will sell said above described Real Estate at public venue, for each, to the highest bidder, as the property of said Gary Hodges.

And in compliance with law, I give this notice by publication, in the English language, once a week for three

consecutive weeks immediately preceding said day of sale, in the Merkel Mail, a newspaper published in Taylor County.

Witness my hand, this the 13th day of January 1986.

John W. Middleton, Sheriff, Taylor County, Texas by Eddie Swanson, Deputy (Seal) 147-86-3tc

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: RICHARD SLATER, Address Unknown, Respondent:

GREETINGS: -YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable Aleta Hacker, 326th District Court, Taylor County, Texas, at the Court-house 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 TERESITA SLATER, Petitioner, filed in said Court on the 14th day of January, 1986, against RICHARD SLATER, Respondent, and said suit being numbered 12,729-C on the docket of said Court, and entitled "In The Matter of the Marriage of TERESITA SLATER and RICHARD SLATER" the nature of which suit is a request to the court grant a divorce and such other relief requested in this petition. Petitioner prays that her name be changed as requested to Teresita Cruz Felicitas.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgement or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property which will be binding upon you. The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgement or decree in the child's interest which will be binding upon you. 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 the 14th day of January, 1986. Rilla Mahoney, District Clerk, 326th District Court, Taylor County, Texas by Patricia Henderson, Deputy (Seal) 147-82-1tc

### NOTICE OF TRANSFER

Notice is hereby given that on September 10, 1985, the entire assets of CONSOLIDATED PLUMBING, a partnership comprised of GREG FISHER and PAT WARREN, whose address was 102 Kent, Merkel, Texas, were transferred to a new enterprise organized to take over and continue the business under the name CONSOLIDATED PLUMBING, INC., a Texas corporation, whose address is 102 Kent, Merkel, Texas.

The corporation will assume all of the debts of the transferors, and the transferors will receive nothing from the transaction except shares in the corporation which will be subordinate to the claims of creditors of the corporation.

Dated: January 16, 1986.

CONSOLIDATED PLUMBING BY: GREG FISHER Partner BY: PAT WARREN PARTNER "Transferors" CONSOLIDATED PLUMBING, INC. BY: GREG FISHER PRESIDENT "Transferee" 147-46-2tc

CALL IN YOUR CLASSIFIED: 928-5712

**Gardner's Septic Service**  
We pump grease, sand and blood traps  
Residential or Commercial  
576-3928

Introducing Weight Watchers 1986 Quick Start PLUS Program!

**SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE: \$12** FINAL WEEK!  
REGULAR FEE: \$15.00  
Registration \$1.00  
Weekly Meeting \$1.00  
Total \$3.00  
YOU SAVE \$8.00!  
Offer ends Feb. 9, 1986

Now, you can make choices like these to fit your lifestyle... with Weight Watchers new Quick Start PLUS Program!

Now you can satisfy a yen, now and then with a chocolate candy bar, ice cream, hot hors d'oeuvres, potato chips and more! You can enjoy them all, within limits, while losing weight on the sensible Weight Watchers program. The amazing PLUS! fast Weight Watchers has added to Quick Start lets you choose foods you never dreamed possible! Dine on shrimp cantonese, burritos, or veal scallopini. Enjoy reasonable quantities of the foods you love with the new Quick Start Plus program. Now, YOU are in control.

YOU have the flexibility to make decisions. And the best decision you could make is to join Weight Watchers right now and SAVE!!

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Sheila Aron Falk Area Director

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# THE TEXAS EXPERIENCE

## Cowhands Hit the Trail

This Sesquicentennial series is courtesy of the Texas Committee for the Humanities and this newspaper.

Texas cattle wandered untended during the Civil War, when most of the able-bodied men had joined the service. Much cattle bred without thinning. As Texas historian Joe Frantz tells it, when the men returned home, they found three to four million head of cattle, largely in the Nueces River valley between San Antonio, Corpus Christi, and the Rio Grande Valley. Meanwhile the North had increased its income during the war and was hungry for beef. The resource, however, was 1,000 miles from its market. The problem became how to get the resource to market.

Joseph G. McCoy, a 26-year-old Illinois commission merchant, convinced the railroads to build a cattle town west of settlement so that Texas cattle trailed northward would not be subject to a typhoid quarantine in settled areas. McCoy then persuaded Texas drivers to turn their herds northward toward the new town of Abilene, Kansas, where the necessary facilities for cattle had been built. Abilene even had gambling halls, bars and prostitutes. Somehow the Texas cattlemen took a chance on this man they had never seen and sent their cattle to a town they didn't know.

The first drive took place in 1867, as a quarter of a million Texas cattle were herded toward a no-place called Abilene, Frantz says, and cattlemen found that McCoy had delivered on all his promises. Between 1867 and 1890, about 10 million head of cattle were trailed north across Texas and Indian territory. The grass became better the farther north the cattle traveled—the closer to market, the fatter the steers.

Once Abilene became prosperous, Frantz recounts, the new, more conventional residents frowned on cowboy high jinks and the cattlemen drove ever farther west. Of the cowtowns that followed, the most famous was Dodge City, Kansas. (Or perhaps, as Frantz reminds us, *infamous* is the better word, for in one of the sayings that came down: "West of Kansas City there is no law; west of Dodge City there is no God.")

Cattle were also trailed into Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana. The northern states provided a fine "topping off" range. Eventually these newer territories and states became cattle kingdoms themselves, stocked mainly by the descendants of the longhorn cattle originally trailed

into their regions from Texas.

The advance of the railroad, the farmer's frontier, and barbed wire fencing spelled the death of the range cattle industry, Frantz says, helped along by the tendency to overstock the range and destroy the grass and by a miserable drought in 1885-1886, intermixed with one of the most blizzardy winters in western history. That year is known as the year of the Big Die-Up, and not only drove many entrepreneurs out of the cattle business but convinced survivors that the days of uncontrolled breeding had to end. Ranching then became a business and the free-ranging cowboy became a hired hand.

Still, the cowboy became the American equivalent of the medieval knight on horseback. Although his era was short, the range cowhand emerged as a symbol of a once-ample world, courage, and direct action. Literary historian Don Graham believes that the greatest epic expres-

sion of the generic American hero has been the cowboy. The cowboy saga stimulated the imagination of hundreds of novelists, poets, and dramatists, Graham says, and by the turn of the century, as movies came into being, there lay at hand a vast repository of history and romance out of which to concoct stories.

Cowboy gear contributed to the mythology: broad-brimmed sombrero with its high crown, high-heeled boots, rawhide lariat, spurs, silver-tipped western saddle with its big horn and oversized stirrups are just part of the mystique. The apparel was in large part borrowed from Arab, Spanish, and Mexican heritage. Although the gear was spectacular to the bench-bound Easterner, Frantz says, it served a practical use, as did the roundup and the methods of tending cattle borrowed from the Hispanic past. The original tenders of the longhorn, also bred in this tradition, showed the Anglos how to manage herds in a semi-arid environment. And some of the cowboy lingo had Hispanic origins: *rodeo*; *la riata*, or lariat; *sombrero*; *hoosegow* for *juzgado*; *buckaroo* for *vaqueiro*; *mustang*, or *mesteno*, meaning a pony of mixed blood; and *remuda* for a relay of spare horses.

### 4 on CJC honor roll

Four Cisco Junior College Students from Merkel are on the recently released Dean's List for the fall semester of 1985. The Dean's List includes stu-

dents earning a 3.5 or better grade point average on a 4.0 system.

Merkelites on the list are Charlie Baker, Joan Fariello, Michael Moore and Tammy Rigan.

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### REPORT OF CONDITION

Consolidating domestic and foreign subsidiaries of the

The Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Merkel

In the state of Texas, at the close of business on December 31, 1985  
published in response to call made by Comptroller of the Currency, under title 12, United States Code, Section 161.  
Charter Number 7481 Comptroller of the Currency 11 th District

### Statement of Resources and Liabilities

		Thousands of dollars
ASSETS	Cash and balances due from depository institutions	
	Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin	1,620
	Interest-bearing balances	1,500
	Securities	11,035
	Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell in domestic offices of the bank and of its Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and in IBFs	350
	Loans and lease financing receivables:	
	Loans and leases, net of unearned income	8,473
	LESS: Allowance for loan and lease losses	99
	LESS: Allocated transfer risk reserve	-0-
	Loans and leases, net of unearned income, allowance, and reserve	8,374
Assets held in trading accounts	-0-	
Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)	142	
Other real estate owned	-0-	
Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies	-0-	
Customers' liability to this bank on acceptances outstanding	-0-	
Intangible assets	-0-	
Other assets	801	
Total assets	23,822	
LIABILITIES	Deposits	
	In domestic offices:	
	Noninterest-bearing	7,166
	Interest-bearing	14,066
	In foreign offices, Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and IBFs	-0-
	Noninterest-bearing	-0-
	Interest-bearing	-0-
	Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase in domestic offices of the bank and of its Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and in IBFs	-0-
	Demand notes issued to the U.S. Treasury	113
	Other borrowed money	-0-
Mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases	-0-	
Bank's liability on acceptances executed and outstanding	-0-	
Notes and debentures subordinated to deposits	-0-	
Other liabilities	434	
Total liabilities	21,779	
Limited-life preferred stock	-0-	
EQUITY CAPITAL	Perpetual preferred stock	-0-
	Common stock	375
	Surplus	375
	Undivided profits and capital reserves	1,293
	Cumulative foreign currency translation adjustments	-0-
	Total equity capital	2,043
Total liabilities, limited-life preferred stock, and equity capital	23,822	

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the correctness of this statement of resources and liabilities. We declare that it has been examined by us, and to the best of our knowledge and belief has been prepared in conformance with the instructions and is true and correct.

*Donna J. Tittle*  
*Betty Jane Tittle*  
*Michael Moore*

Directors

Betty Jane Tittle  
Name  
Vice-Pres.-Cashier  
Title

of the above-named bank do hereby declare that this Report of Condition is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*Betty Jane Tittle*  
Signature  
January 14, 1986  
Date

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KRAFTS BAR-B-Q SAUCE 18 OZ JAR 98¢

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DAIRYLAND HOMO MILK GAL JUG \$1.93 FOREMOST COTTAGE CHEESE 16 OZ CRTN \$1.19

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LOUIS RICH TURKEY FRANKS 12 OZ PKG 95¢ 64 OZ JUG \$3.19

BOUNTY TOWELS JUMBO ROLL 79¢

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