

# The Merkel Mail

Thursday, August 21, 1986

Our 98th Year

## Board adopts \$4.3 million budget, new teacher appraisal system

MISD trustees adopted a \$4 million plus budget, adopted a new, state mandated teacher appraisal plan and held a public hearing Tuesday night during their regular monthly meeting.

The public hearing was not "officially" held because no one attended.

Board members passed, without discussion a budget that calls for the district to spend \$4,366,022.97 this year, including \$259,389.37 in surplus funds. Like many school districts in the state, MISD did not set the official tax rate and will not until the Special Session of the Texas Legislature, has been completed.

The budget includes a tax rate of \$1.07 per \$100 evaluation. Last year's rate was \$1.00.

According to the Taylor County Central Appraisal District, MISD could have charged a rate of \$1.35

to raise the same amount of revenue spent last year.

MISD estimates it will have just over \$1 million in surplus funds in August, 1987.

During Tuesday's meeting, held in the conference room of the new high school annex, board members heard results from testing of MISD first grade students in the statewide TEAMS tests. They also approved student and faculty handbooks for Merkel Middle and High Schools.

Board members also adopted a new, state mandated plan for appraising MISD teachers. Trustees decided to allow one scheduled and three unscheduled in classroom appraisals of teachers. The state left it up to local school boards for the appraisals to be conducted announced or unannounced, excluding the fall appraisal, which must be a scheduled visit. Campus princi-

pals and the school's curriculum director, David Laman, will conduct the appraisals.

In other action, board members decided to suspend Merkel High coach Bob Mace, with pay, in light of a March 25th arrest of Driving While Intoxicated. MISD superintendent Bill Everett asked the board for the suspension until Coach Mace was provided his due process to answer the charges. He told board members the arrest would hinder him providing leadership required of a coach and the board agreed. The board also accepted the resignation of Kathryn Rister as a gifted and talented teacher at Merkel Elementary.

The board hired four new teachers including Kathy Pso-icker, Bobby Duke, Bobby Easterling and Martha O'Rear, and two new aides, Susan McClintock and Betty Doan.

## Board's budget, Badgers beginning, baseball . . .

by Cloy A. Richards

MISD trustees didn't set the official tax rate for the 1986-87 school year, but they did adopt a budget that will take a tax rate of \$1.07 to fund at their regular meeting Tuesday night.

The proposed 1986-87 budget says the district will spend \$4,366,022.97. Of that amount, MISD will spend \$3,455,963.94 on salaries alone.

After all, it's the biggest business in town, payroll wise, always has been, hopefully won't always be.

The reason the board did not set the tax rate Tuesday night is that the Commissioner of Education in the state advised local school districts to not set tax rates until the special session of the state legislature has been completed. If local school districts think there's going to be more money flying out of Austin, they are wrong. The state has been sending the "you have to pay a higher share of education expense locally" message to us for years.

MISD taxpayers are lucky in a few respects. According to the Central Appraisal District, MISD would have to charge almost \$1.35 per \$100 evaluation in order for MISD to spend the same amount of money it spent last year. Locally, a small reason for the decline in evaluation was the value of oil and the rest came from the removal of Nu Corp Supply from the tax rolls and those folks were paying close to \$230,000 in taxes each year.

This year, MISD will spend \$259,389.37 in surplus money. In other words, the district is actually in a deficit finance mode this year, and that is something new here, at least in my nine years experience with MISD's budget. MISD's estimated surplus as of August, 1987, will be slightly over \$1 million.

We have got it made, right. Wrong! The middle school is out of room, we even have one class that will meet in the auditorium this year. The elementary school does not have the room for a library and a planned four year old program for this school year has been cancelled because of a lack of space. The high school will be in pretty good shape, only because of the new high school annex that will cure overcrowding there.

So, how does it look, you ask. We will get by this year. Taxpayers will have a seven per cent increase in taxes. Those are short term facts. The short term problem is pretty easy to understand. If the state does not find

better funding methods for their mandated programs, and costs of those programs, budgetary pressures will mount for the 1987-88 tax year. If the price of oil doesn't take a dramatic turn upward between now and the middle of December, that will create more of a crunch.

In other words, if you aren't feeling relieved that the rate will be at or near \$1.07 this year compared to \$1.00 last year, you'll need a couple of extra strength Tylenol's to deal with the rate next August.

From your attendance at the public budget hearing Tuesday night, the taxpayers here must be tickled pink with the new budget and proposed tax rate because, once again, not one of you showed up to make your displeasure known.

You have your first chance to see the 1986 Merkel Badger football team here tonight as they host Coleman in a controlled scrimmage starting at 6 p.m.

There will be no "official" admission, but people attending are asked to bring a bar of soap to donate to the cause.

A friend of mine from Clyde asked me how the Badgers would play last week, and I gave my annual, non-committal answer. (Remember, I have only been here through eight football seasons and the Badgers have not seen the up side of 5-5) but I also told him our coach seemed genuinely excited about the prospects this year. I know, the arm chair quarterbacks are saying, sure, it's pre-season and all coaches are saying they feel their team has a shot at the playoffs.

Sure they do, that's part of the job description for a football coach. I can promise you a couple of things about the '86 Badgers. They will show you a new look on offense with the wishbone, they will be a lot bigger, faster and stronger than any team I have seen here in the past eight seasons, and if they can stay away from injuries, losses to no pass-no play (no varsity members were ineligible here last year) and keep the attitude they are exhibiting in pre-season, they may prove a lot of the "professional predictors" wrong. All I can say is stay tuned.

If anyone knows anyone in the Dallas Cowboy organization personally, let me know because Dale's cartoon this week should wind up in the hands of Tex Schramm.

After the contract the Cowboys negotiated with Herschel Walker, I'd hate to see what will happen

next year when it comes time to deal with the White's (Randy and Danny). Of course, if Walker had a great season, and the Cowboys find their way to the January shindig, he will pay for himself this season, or come pretty close. If the addition of Walker does solve the Cowboys offensive woes, the defensive secondary will be a question mark, but I personally can't wait to see Number 34 hit the field. As long as New York Giant linebacker Lawrence Taylor doesn't kill him in the first regular game of the NFL season, I think Walker will be welcomed addition to the Pole this year.

Tuesday was a scorcher, wasn't it. It hadn't been that hot since 1930 here, and personally could go another 56 years before going through another August like that again.

I close by saying keep playing Astros and pick up Rangers. An 1-45 World Series wouldn't break my heart and would put a good finishing touch on the sports portion of the state Sesquicentennial year.

### Lally-Parrish fare

### well in National

### Tae Kwan Do meet

John Lally and Terrance Parrish, both of Merkel, participated in the National Junior Olympic Games in Tae Kwan Do recently. John was 2nd in his age and weight group while Terrance was 5th in his age and weight group.

Both participated in the Junior Nationals, also in St. Louis, June. In that competition, John won the gold medal.

The boys study under Scot Higginbotham in Abilene.

### Local exchange

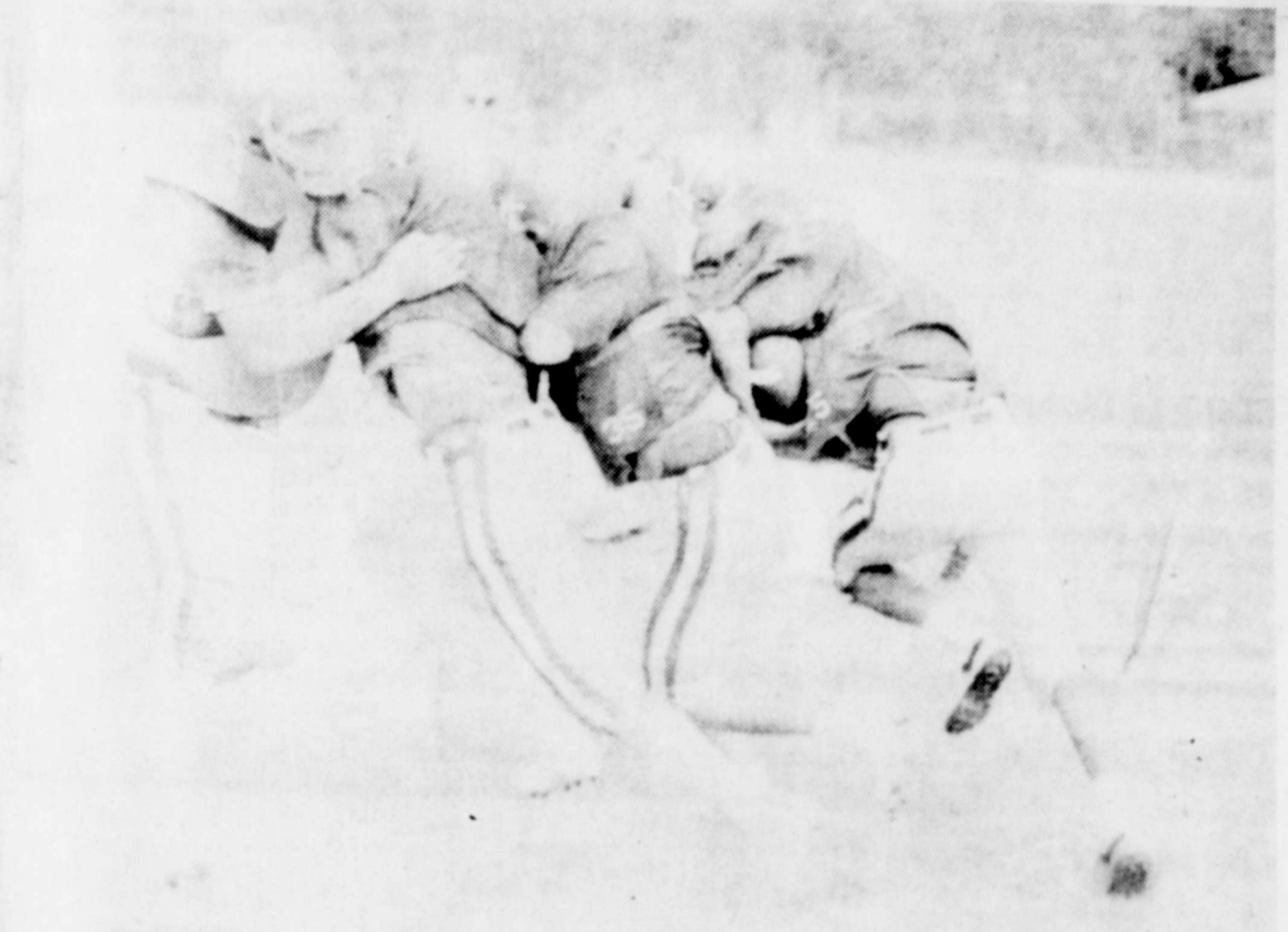
### group looking for

### new members

The local Exchange Club will be holding a new member's meeting Aug. 26th at 6:30 a.m. at Polo Restaurant.

The Exchange Clubs are a nationwide service organization that concentrates on youth programs.

Anyone interested in joining an organization is encouraged to attend.



Badgers prepare for Coleman scrimmage in 2-a-day workouts

## Merkel takes on Coleman tonight

The Merkel Badgers will have their first chance to see what the potential of the 1986 team is here tonight (Thursday) as they host Coleman in a controlled scrimmage.

The JV will kick things off at 6 p.m. and the varsity will follow.

Badger head coach Dick Lepard told *The Mail* Monday the two teams would go 20 plays on offense each and then switch to "Game conditions" for a set time. There will be no admission charged but everyone attending is asked to bring a bar of soap.

Lepard said of Coleman "They are always pretty good and they run the I formation on offense and use a split 6 defensive alignment. That will help a lot because Cisco (Merkel's 2nd opponent) runs that offense and Sweetwater (Merkel's first opponent) runs that defense."

Lepard feels his team has a few things going in their favor in that there are enough playing they are fighting for spots on the team and said his team would have a little speed and a little size this year. He also said he sees Senior players helping Freshmen up and has seen the team show a lot of unity.

The Badgers have completed their 2-a-day workouts and are spending practice time fine tuning the new wishbone offense. The Badgers held an inter-squad scrimmage Saturday and said the wishbone seemed to work well. "The Bone," he said, is a big play offense if it is executed well and he believes that sophomore quarterback Kenneth Jowers has enough ability to handle the option oriented offense.

One change has already been made and the Badgers will be fielding two teams this year as the coaching staff decided to drop the "B Team" schedule. Lepard said "We were spreading ourselves too thin and besides, you don't learn football in an hour and a half playing on Thursday nights. We really only had 11 players that were not going to be included on the JV team and that's not enough. Playing time doesn't mean a thing if you are getting beat and we just didn't feel we could field three competitive teams at the high school level. Those players will be added to the Junior Varsity."

He added "We are glad the season is finally here and we are really looking forward to this campaign. The kids have put out a lot of effort and I think we can win this year, not only in football but it looks like we will have a good year in a lot of sports."

He said the Badgers will only have five starts that will be asked to play both offense and defense this year and that is something new here.

He added he was excited about seeing how the Badgers will handle themselves against Coleman in a controlled scrimmage last year. We can't have average scrimmages and then perform well in games, especially the Booster Club.

### New MISD elementary students asked to pre-register

Students that are new to the district should register at the elementary school as soon as possible. Hours are between 9 and 3 p.m. except lunch time.

There will be no four year old program this year, due to a lack of facilities. This program was previously announced, but the shortage of space has made it a

casualty.

Kindergarten through second grade will hold an orientation on Friday, August 29 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Parents will be receiving a letter from their child's teacher regarding this.

Class lists will be posted Friday, August 29.

### Tuesday-Thursday school starts soon

Register now for Tuesday-Thursday School which will begin September 2nd for children three and older. Classes will be held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Bible, art and learning centers (alphabet numbers, colors, manners, community helpers and so forth), all

with emphasis on God, our Creator.

Movies, nap and a snack top off the afternoon for a full day of building relationships and learning experiences to help prepare your child for kindergarten.

For more information, contact Bernice Jacobs at 928-5176.

### New Trent students need to register

Pre-registration for new students to Trent ISD will register August 27 from 10 until 2 in the

school office. They need last years report cards and shot records. School begins September 2.

## Research group compares

### Trent to state's schools

In the two years since the legislature enacted HB 72, local school budgets have grown by \$2.7 billion. This higher spending level has been funded as much by local property taxes as by record-setting increases in state taxes. Over the past two years, an added \$1 billion in state aid was matched by a \$1 billion increase in local school property taxes. Last year, trustees in the 1,063 local school districts levied the largest school property tax increase in history—\$551 million—for a total tax bill of \$4.6 billion.

In Trent, the tax levy was increased by 16 per cent for 1985-86 as compared to a 13.3 per cent increase for the average school district in Texas.

The figures come from the latest issue of *Bench Marks for 1986-87 School District Budgets in Texas*, an annual publication of the Texas Research League, an Austin-based, education corporation engaged in governmental research.

School budgets adopted last year called for spending \$3,346 per student for current operations. Trent's budget provided for \$4,994.01 per students based on the 159 students in average daily attendance in 1984-85.

Four dollars in five were spent

for salaries. Statewide, payroll expenses averages \$2,705 per student, as compared to \$3,689.58 in Trent. Payroll expense is a combination of salary levels and staffing patterns.

The average salary for classroom teachers paid by Trent ISD in 1984-85 was \$20,470. The average among all school districts in Texas was \$23,282 per classroom teacher.

In Trent, the average pay for administrators was \$34,465 and 0 for other professional support employees.

Taxpayers provided one teacher for 9.2 students in Trent compared to a statewide pupil-teacher ratio of 1 to 16.3.

The average school district imposed a property tax at the rate of 76.3 cents per \$100 of appraised value, which value averaged 89.2 per cent of market value (selling price). The "True tax rate", was 68.1 cents (76.3 times 89.2 per cent) statewide. Locally, the rate on market value in Trent was 587. The tax on a house in Trent that would sell for \$80,000 would have been \$593. If the homeowner were eligible for homestead exemptions the tax would have been \$557.

Local property taxes plus state aid was \$4,581 per student in Trent compared to \$3,299 statewide.

# Art Lawler



Francis Langdon, who publishes the *Tonkawa (Okla.) News*, tells me the old Methodist parsonage is empty now. The fella who bought it from the church in 1965 has died and the place is up for sale.

Living in this house in the mid-fifties was like having my own amusement park. Good things seemed to happen when you lived at 709 East Grand Avenue - especially if you were a kid.

It had large empty rooms. It had an attic big enough to play a game of catch. It had a basement with spiders and ghosts and anything else my sister and I could conjure up with our imaginations.

There were air vents you could see through from the second story to the first. My grandmother and I once got down on all fours and looked through one of them to watch my Dad perform a marriage ceremony we'd been banned from minutes earlier.

There was a flat roof outside my bedroom and just above the back porch. I used to spend the night out there in the summer. When the sun came up I could shimmy down a drain pipe and run across the street to Tate's Grocery and nourish my body with Hostess cup cakes and Dr. Peppers.

The large, semi-circular front porch

was made of wood and I guess you could say the footing was a little unsteady.

I can still see my dad tripping over one of the steps and rolling to an undignified rest on the sidewalk - all 240 pounds of him.

"Dog blast it," said the reverend, just managing to avoid profanity.

It was in this house my dad taught me about Bud when it meant a football coach instead of a brew.

It was here I first listened to OU football games on the radio. As long as I lived in that house, Oklahoma never lost one. The day the Irish from Indiana drove the fatal stake through the hearts of every OU fan in the land, I was looking on tearfully from another parsonage.

In this old house, though, my grade school totally dominated what my friends and I saw as the more affluent grade school from the other side of the tracks. The Washington Redskins (my team) beat Lincoln (the rich kids) in every sport all three years I lived in that house.

There was one close call with Lincoln, though. Only the house saved us.

The last sport between the two schools my sixth-grade year was the

track meet. Going into the 880-relay we were clinging to a narrow lead.

The coach told us it all came down to this race. If we won it, we could "graduate" knowing we had never lost to the miserable Lincoln Bears. But, if we lost, it would be our shame to bear for life.

I just happened to be the anchor-man for our relay team. I just happened to be the guy who got the baton with a slight lead over the Lincoln anchorman. And I just happened to be the guy who got passed and beaten to the tape.

Go ahead, tell me about your Charlie Brown humiliations.

Our coach had lied shamelessly in an effort to motivate us for that race, though. Turns out we had just enough points to win the track meet in spite of my failure.

Had I lived in an ordinary parsonage that race would have cost us the city championship. I've never doubted that.

I stopped through Tonkawa a few years ago and met the man who had purchased the house from the Methodists. He led me on a familiar tour.

He seemed to appreciate the old house the way I did, too. I told him a few stories about it and he invited me to come back again. I promised I would and I'm sorry I didn't make it back sooner.

I'm sure he had stored up a few of his own stories of good fortune at 709 East Grand Avenue.

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Anyone wishing to address his or her comments to this columnist should write P.O. Box 432, Buffalo Gap, Tx. 79508.

# Fariello-Vogel ceremony held

Mary Marijke Fariello and Kevin Harold Vogel were married Saturday, August 16th at the Holy Family Church in Abilene. The Rev. Timothy Murphy officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Fariello of Merkel. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Vogel of Sellersburg, Ind. are the parents of the bridegroom.

Christina Acosta was Maid of Honor. Bridesmaids were Lisa Martin of Fort Worth and Julia Florence of Brownwood.

Andy Vogel of Austin served as his brothers best man. Groomsmen were John Streeter of Minneapolis, Minn. and James Ludy of Philadelphia, Pa. Ushers were Brian Fariello of Houston, brother of the bride, and David Kaufman, of Mattoon, Ill.

Erin Holmes of Tye was flower girl and Dane Clark of Chalmers, Ind. was ring bearer.

The grooms parents hosted the rehearsal dinner at Zentner's Daughter in Abilene.

The brides parents hosted the wedding reception at the Church and a champagne reception at the Dyess N.C.O. Club.

The bride graduated from Merkel High School, Cisco Jr. College with an Associates Degree and Tarleton State University with a B.S. degree in mathematics.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Douglas High School, Rapid City, S.D., attended Black Hills State College and the University of Southern Mississippi. He is a member of the U.S. Air Force.

After a honeymoon to Jamaica, the couple will live in Rapid City, S.D.



Mrs. Kevin Vogel

Addresses needed for 1966 MHS class

Addresses are needed for the following 1966 graduates. Anyone who might know their address are asked to call 928-5581 after 6:00 p.m. These are needed soon. Thanks, Mike Arnold, Salvador Ybarra, Ramon Garcia, Richard Hernandez, and Clifford Mackey.

Gary completes basic training

Army National Guard Pvt. 1st Class Brian A. Gary, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Griffin of 238 South St., Tye, Texas, has completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

During the training, students received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Everett celebrates 90th

Mrs. Lottie Butman Everett wants everyone to come and help her celebrate her 90th birthday, Sunday, August 24, starting at 2 p.m. at her home, 1212 S. 4th. No gifts please, your presence will be appreciated, come and visit.

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### Merkelites attend 97th annual camp meeting

The 97th Annual Boys Camp Meeting was held in Ft. Davis, Texas, August 12th through 17th. An attendance of approximately 3,000 people gathered for worship and fellowship.

Ministers for the meetings were: Daniel Vestal- Baptist, George Cladis- Presbyterian, Brian Feille- First Christian, Bill Hutchison- Methodist, and Dan Carson- Youth Minister. Ministers are chosen by the four cooperating churches, each preaching once each day in planned rotation. In addition to the ministers, able and consecrated lay leaders daily give of their best.

The purposes and goals of the Boys Camp Meetings are to urge upon all the claim of Christ for life; to study the Bible as the word of God and the guide for living; to strengthen the vows of loyalty for these troubled times; and to improve a rich christian fellowship in an inspiring atmosphere.

During the week of fellowship and worship among friends and families, there are four preaching services daily in the Tabernacle at nine, eleven, three and eight. The morning nine o'clock service is dedicated to Bible Study. At five in the evening, there are two Prayer Meetings.

The only offering is taken during the Sunday School assembly. This offering is equally divided to benefit the orphanages of the four denominations.

The very words "Camp Meeting" evoke memories and anticipation in those generations of families who attended this tradition-enhanced week of worship. The founders considered this grove to be consecrated ground and some have said they feel as though they are in the Upper Room.

Cowboy style meals are served at six camps established by the old ranch families. Voluntary contributions to defray the expenses of the individual camps and for the administration of the Association are gratefully received.

Lottie Butman Everett, who has two cabins on the grounds, has had many visitors in the past eighteen years her cabins have been built. Staying in her cabins this year were: Mrs. Everett, Mrs. Mary Russom, Manie Swinney, Jerrell, Glenda, and Misty Butman, and Billy Bob, Pat, and Pam Neff all of Merkel. Also staying were Michael La Salle of Trent, and Mrs. Pauline Butman of Abilene, Mr. and Mrs. David Gamble of Merkel also attended the meeting.

### Howerton's services held here

Jessie Sutphen Howerton, 92, of Dallas, died Aug. 14 in Carrollton. Graveside funeral services were held at Rose Hill here Aug. 16 with John Waggoner officiating. Burial was under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.

She was a retired school teacher and had lived here as a child. She taught school in Abilene for 10 years and had lived in the Dallas area since 1976. She was a Methodist.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence Howerton. She is survived by two nieces; Lou Ims of Dallas and Mrs. Paul Moyer of Weslaco.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

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The Merkel Elementary School Supply list is as follows:

Kindergarten: large box Kleenex, school box, crayons 1 box of jumbo (8) regular size, Kings-heads Saf-T-Cut blunt scissors-plastic handle, 2 bottles glue 4 oz. (no paste), 2 packages construction paper (12x18), 2 packages manilla paper (12x18), 2 guide line writing tablets (Nifty 2047, Epci, Alladdin Guide Line Paper 2112 Hytone # 48 2110), plastic rest mat.

First Grade: 1 pair safety scissors, 3 pencils # 2, 1 eraser, 1 box of crayons, 1 package of assorted construction paper, 1 package of large manilla paper, 1 school box—preferably plastic, 1 large box Kleenex, 1 Big Chief Tablet, 2 Guide line writing tablet (Nifty # 2047, Aladdin or Hytone guide line paper), 2 containers of Elmer's glue (4 oz.), 1 ruler with cm. & inches.

Second Grade: 1 large package notebook paper, 1 notebook—3 ring, 1 box crayons (24 to box), 1 pair scissors—pointed, 2 pencils # 2 (regular size), school box, 2 folders—with pockets, 2 spiral notebooks, 1 small bottle of

Third Grade: notebook and notebook paper, scissors, crayons, 2 pencils # 2, 1 large eraser, construction paper (mixed) 9# 12, Red lead grading pencil, 1 bottle Elmer's glue 4 oz., manilla drawing paper 12x18, 1 large box Kleenex, 1 ruler.

Fourth Grade: notebook paper (regular lined), 1 spiral—60 page, 1 vinyl 3 ring binder (no trappers), 2 pencils, crayola markers, crayons (24 count), map colors, ruler (12 inch), glue, scissors, Kleenex, manilla paper, construction paper red grading pencil (4), eraser, 1 set dividers (5 in each), 1 plastic zippered pencil case for notebook.

Fifth Grade: 1 rubber cement, 1 Elmer's glue, 4 # 2 pencils, 1 ruler with holes to fit binder, 1 large 3 ring binder, 1 box map colors (must have these), 1 box crayons (48 count), scissors, notebook paper, plastic pouch to fit notebook, 1 large box of Kleenex, colored markers (optional), plastic box. Folders and Pens in correct colors will be available from your teacher.

### Services held for Henry Ueckert

Henry Ueckert, 72, of Noodle, died Aug. 16th at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene. Funeral services were held Aug. 18th at 2 p.m. at Merkel's First Baptist Church with the Rev. Ken Thomas and Wayne Keller officiating. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery here under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born June 13, 1914 in West, he was a farmer-rancher and a pumpman. He married Vera Odella Cox. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Noodle Baptist Church. He had lived in Noodle for 43 years.

He is survived by his wife of Amarillo, two sons, Lonnie Mac of Angelo; two brothers, Leo of Monahans and Darrell Neal of San Bend, Ka, a sister Bertha Walker of Clyde and four grandchildren.

Palbearers were Tim Shields, Gerald Jennings, Jim Jay, Steve Devaney, W. P. Scott and Phil Tanner.

### Riding club sets awards night

The Merkel Riding Club will have its annual awards and supper Aug. 29th at 8 p.m. at the Merkel Riding Club arena. All members and their families are asked to bring a bed roll, horses and covered dish or a dessert, as well as food for breakfast. The group will ride after the Friday night roping and will not have their regular riding Saturday night.

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HOURS: 6:30 A - 5:30 PM  
201 OAK STREET 928-4381

**FINAL SUMMER CLEARANCE**  
**25% OFF**  
**ALREADY MARKED DOWN**  
**SUMMER MERCHANDISE**  
**THURDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
**Bragg's**  
13 EDWARDS  
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**"RITE-WAY TYPING CO."**  
For all your typing needs!  
anytime day or night and weekends  
Call 925-541  
Servicing Merkel and surrounding areas!  
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# HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY AUG. 21 EFFIE JANE (MRS. C. R.) TITTLE

A FULL SERVICE AGENCY  
**HAMMOND INSURANCE AGENCY**  
★ HOMEOWNERS ★ AUTOMOBILE  
★ COMMERCIAL FIRE & CASUALTY  
★ LIFE ★ HEALTH  
YOUR HOME TOWN INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENT  
WE ARE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US  
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PERSONAL ATTENTION

## One line fits all... the John Deere mower selection



Whatever the size of your lawn, you can put a John Deere on it. The selection is big and the prices are economical.

Start with walk-behind mowers. John Deere has 10 new 2- or 4-cycle models; self-propelled and push-type. Then, for quarter-acre and larger lawns, consider a John Deere Rider. Five models, 8 and 11 hp. An acre or more? Go for a lawn tractor. Seven new John Deere 100 Series models 9 to 17 hp. We have a variety of baggers, mulchers and other attachments to fit.

See us about the John Deere equipment that's exactly right for your needs, whatever they are.

Nothing Runs Like a Deere®  
**Abilene Farm Supply**  
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# Did You Know

The U.S. Postal Service delivers enough mail yearly for every one of us to receive about 420 letters each.



## and Did You Know



It takes more than 420 moving parts to operate your car. Regular professional car care assures that they'll keep moving smoothly. Come in for a tune-up today!

**Palmer Pontiac & GMC**

# Classifieds

OUR DEADLINE  
FOR ALL  
MATERIAL IS  
NOON  
TUESDAY

**For Sale**  
We make hydraulic hoses.  
P & L Auto Parts  
135 Edwards  
928-4738

P & L Auto Parts is open from 7:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. each Saturday.  
TFC

**For Sale:** Aluminum screens, all different sizes, call 928-5796.  
177-2tp

**For Sale:** Ford 601 tractor, 2 bottom breaking plow, shredder and box blade, all in excellent condition 928-4973.  
175-4tc

Rabbit meat, fryers cut up, fresh or frozen, \$1.50 lb. Also custom rabbit processing Buffalo Rabbit Farm 928-4827 1-9 p.m.  
75-4tp

**For Sale:** Coronet 928-5253.  
175-TFC

**For Sale:** Boat & 75 HP Evinrude motor, trailer \$450. Call 928-5559  
177-TFC

**For Sale:** practically new Octagym \$75.00, call after 5:30 p.m. 862-6328.  
177-1tc

Piano For Sale: \$250.00, found red, girls 10 speed owner needs to identify to claim, 928-5796.  
177-1tc

Tenor saxophone for sale: call 928-4757.  
177-1tp

**For Sale:** Ford Dump Truck, Ford Tractor with front loader and box blade, 928-5545.

**For Sale:** Wozencraft Subd. 4-1 acre tract 130X335 ft. ea. water, phone, elec. phone 928-5545, 509 Oak.  
177-1tc

**For Sale:** all or part 2.56 acres So. 7th and Trundy St. Alvin Wozencraft 509 Oak, Ph. 928-5545.  
177-1tc

**For Sale:** Conn Alto Saxophone, Twin bed, 928-5892  
177-1tc

Choice hay grazer, good horse hay, \$2.00 a bale, call 9-5, 928-4056 or 928-5388 after 10:10 bale minimum.

**For Rent**  
**Equal Housing Opportunity**  
SHANNONSIDE APARTMENTS  
1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments, all electric, central heat & cooling. For more information call 928-5038.  
89-TFC

1, 2 or 3 bedroom mobil home for rent in Merkel. Call 928-4973.  
27-TFC

**For Rent:** 2, 2 bedroom houses, 2 miles out, city water, carpeted, fenced back yards, 928-5189, 928-5852, 928-5176.  
177-1tc

**For Rent:** Furnished house on the water front at Fort Phantom Lake. \$250 per month, bills not included. References required. Call (915) 235-8387 after 1 p.m.  
177-2tc

**House For Rent:** 2 bedroom, and den or 3 bedroom, \$225 per month, \$100 deposit, no pets, call 928-4052 or 928-5352.  
177-1tc

**For Rent:** extra nice, quiet, one bedroom, upstairs, furnished, apartment, carpet, air conditioner, refrigerator, gas range and heater, share utilities \$100 deposit \$165 per month, 910 Rose, call Glynn Johnson 817-282-2116 after 6 p.m. or see Mrs. Hately 928-4110.  
177-1tc

**Real Estate**  
Large House For Sale: on 1 acre, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, utility, storm cellar, fenced yard, call-wor 672-6282, home 928-4168.  
177-2tc

Move Out to Pleasant Valley, large 3 bedroom brick home on 6.93 acres, fenced, cross fenced with Barn, water well and more, Dalzell Realtors 691-1300 ask for Marion or Debbie.  
177-4tc

House For Sale: 2 bedroom, living room, kitchen, washer, dryer, refrigerator, 1 bath, front room is carpeted on 1 acre of land 7 1/2 m. east of Merkel, has mail and school bus route, call 928-5613.

**For Sale:** 3 bedroom brick house, central air and heat, bath & 3/4, built in dishwasher and range, on 2 lots, 1 car garage, horsepens and storage building, 806 Locust 928-5145.  
171-TFC

House For Sale: 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 1/2 lots, 3 car carport, and shed, central heating, 2 evaporate coolers, partially fenced, water well, call 928-4533.  
177-1tc

Mobil Home For Sale: set up on a lot, \$3,500, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 65 foot, 928-4171.

**Misc.**  
Small engine repairs and parts. Trimmer line for all makes of weed eaters as low as \$1.14 for 50 feet. Mowers for rent, 24 hours for \$5. Bicycle repairs, Buffalo Energy 928-4827 1-9 p.m.  
176-4tp

**SEWING:** women-children, formal-casual wear, custom fitting, reasonable 20 years of experience, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays. 928-5083.  
177-1tc

**COOL YOUR HOUSE NOW** with central air-conditioning from Am-erine Mechanical, 502 Kent phone 928-4876. PS we will help you finance your unit.

Registered Child Care, Monday thru Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Lunch and snacks, fenced yard, come by No. 7 Pioneer Court or call 928-4030.

New and Used RV parts and Accessories at Discount prices. Guaranteed repair. Work at your place or ours. Licensed, bonded, insured, Two Seasons, 241 Air Base Road Tye 692-0670.  
176-4tc

Remodeling & Painting, 35 years experience 312 Edwards, 928-4548. No jobs too small or too large.  
172-TFC

**BARGAINS** Used central air conditioners, used window air conditioners, used coolers and parts. Used coolers and parts. Stop and see at Amerine Mechanical at 502 Kent.  
173-TFC

**NEW CREDIT CARD.** No One Refused. Visa, Mastercard info. Call (refundable) Ext. 0000 1-518-459-3546 24 HRS.  
177-3tp

**FREE:** Boston Terrier, female, spayde, good disposition, loves children, must have fenced yard, call 928-5073.  
177-2tc

Portable Buildings by General Shelters of Texas. Sizes 6X8 to 16X60. Prices start at \$325. Green House, Horse Barn, Garage, Storage, Buffalo Energy, 928-4827 1-9 p.m.  
177-1tc

Free Puppies at 212 West Street. Mixed breed 928-5415  
177-1tc

I will babysit your children all day or after school. Right across from Elementary school. Reasonable rates call 928-4483.  
176-2tp

**For Laikins Products** call Larry or Martha Sue Justice 928-5217, 166-TFCNC

Granny's Playhouse Day Care Center Open 6 A.M.-6:30 P.M. Hot lunch and snacks provided, more information call 928-4904 or come by 207 Orange.  
175-4tp

**KID'S KORNER DAY CARE CENTER** 2nd & Oak, Open Monday through Friday 6:30 am until 5:30 p.m. Call 928-4381.  
66-TFC

Germania Insurance Company. For your insurance needs. Local represented by Donna Carter, 928-5348.  
33-TFC

Memories On Video. Get Weddings, birthdays, or any special occasion on tape. Minimum charge \$25.00 including tape, call 928-5717.  
168-TFC

Garage Sale: Friday, August 22, corner of Ash and Stewart, near Church of Christ.  
177-1tc

Giant Sale: lots of baby items, good clothes of all sizes, all kinds of books, and lots of misc. Saturday Only 609 Yucca.  
177-1tc

Garage Sale: 401 Rose, Friday and Saturday 8-6, lots of little girl clothes, bedspreads, curtains auto accessories, and lots of misc items.  
177-1tc

Small Yard Sale: Saturday Only, 822 Yucca.  
177-1tc

Garage sale: 112 Locust Thurs. & Fri. 8-6, lots of back to school things, glass wire, bedspreads, carpet shoes, lots of misc.  
177-1tp

Yard sale: Children's clothes, lots of misc. good bargains, take 2nd Trent exit, turn right at power plant, 1st mobil home on the left.  
177-1tc

Hle Yard Sale: No. 8 Pomer Circle, Thursday and Friday, come see reasonable.  
177-1tp

Yd Sale: Saturday Or 705 Rose, coffee tee, captains bed, like toys, books, picture 2 child's rockers.  
177-1tp

ck Yard Sale: 608 Perry, Thursday and Friday mornings only. Saws, dryer, water mp, clothes, misc.  
177-1tp

rage Sale: Saturday d Sunday, 7:30 until ... is clothes 0-2T, maternity clothes, typewri- much, much more, 7 les NE of Merkel on A 1235 look for black ellite dish, no early ds please.  
177-1tc

HELP This is our last chance. Please adopt us. Male black kitten, sweet disposition. Loving female cat. Male, brown, mixed breed puppy. Male, white and black, mixed breed puppy. Merkel Vet Clinic, 928-5235.  
177-1tnc

Huge 6 Family Garage Sale: Thursday - Saturday 8:30 until... 906 Oak, Size 12 maternity clothes, baby clothes and items, men, women, boys and girls clothes, books, magazines, records, toys, queen size water bed mattress with liner and heater, curtains and lots more.  
177-1tc

5 Family Garage Sale: lots of baby, children, teen and adult clothes, toys and misc. Red brick home North of Trent school. Thursday and Friday.  
177-1tc

Taekwon Do will have a garage sale at Home-stead Mobil Homes Saturday, August 23 from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
177-1tnc

Garage Sale: Friday, August 22, corner of Ash and Stewart, near Church of Christ.  
177-1tc

Big Yard Sale: antiques, toys, children's books, kitchen items and much more, Saturday, block west of Trent Post Office.  
177-1tp

Garage Sale: Saturday, August 23, 1008 Locust, maple dining table, 4 chairs, love seat, recliner, children's clothing, 8:00-3:00.  
177-1tc

3 Family garage sale Old Gilene Building on Kent Street. Shoes, clothing, and etc. Some new merchandise. Saturday from 9 until 4.  
177-1tc

**Card of Thanks**  
Thanks to all our clients for their patience last week while we were closed giving our clinic an "interior facelift".  
Brad & Kathryn Banner Merkel Vet Clinic 177-1tnc

We deeply appreciate the kindness and concern shown us during the loss of our Mother and Grandmother. We appreciate so much your prayers, the delicious food, the lovely flowers, cards and contributions to the cemetery fund. We thank God for each of you and for His peace which passeth all understanding.  
The Family of Minnie Farr. 177-1tnc

The family of Henry Uecker extends its deepest thanks and appreciation to our many friends and relatives for their prayers, thoughts, words of comfort, and other expressions of love during our time of sorrow.

**ROBERTSON'S REPAIR SERVICE**  
FARM TRACTORS • OIL FIELD ENGINES  
QUINCY AIR COMPRESSORS  
DAVID ROBERTSON (915) 928-5288  
DAVID AND TODD OWNERS  
TODD ROBERTSON 928-4519  
RT. 1, MERKEL

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**BRIGGS & STRATTON**  
**SERVICE PARTS**

**AUTHORIZED SERVICE DEALER**

• LARGE SELECTION OF PARTS  
• WARRANTRY REPAIRS WELCOMED  
• MOWERS  
• CHAIN SAWS  
• WEED EATERS  
• TILLERS  
• CRANK SHAFT STRAIGHTENING  
• SAW CHAIN REPAIRS & SHARPENING  
• PICK UP AND DELIVERY  
• PORTABLE SIGNS FOR RENT  
OPEN 8-6 MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY  
CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS

**BROWNE ENTERPRISES**  
ON THE CORNER OF NORTH 1ST & KENT  
**102 KENT 915-928-4307**

**ABILENE PAINT & BODY**  
2726 S 2nd  
**FOR PROFESSIONAL PAINT & BODY WORK**  
**SEE STEVE PARKER 676-4441**  
FREE ESTIMATES 24 HOUR SERVICE

**Consolidated Plumbing**  
ALL WORK GUARANTEED FULL TIME ANSWERING SERVICE  
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RADIO DISPATCHED TRUCKS FOR FAST DEPENDABLE SERVICE IF NO ANSWER  
CALL 928-5263 OLD AND NEW WORK  
TRENCH AVAILABLE

1915 928-4376  
1915 928-4395 (night)  
SERVICE TRUCK  
BANDAG RETREADS

NEW & USED TRUCK TIRES  
COMMERCIAL TIRES  
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RETREADS

**TIRE COMPANY, INC.**  
RT. 1, Box 10  
MERKEL, TEXAS 79535

4 MILES WEST OF TYE  
1/20 N. ACCESS RD  
(EXIT 272 WEST)

TONI LAMBERT

**The Merkel Mail**  
First Published  
March 3, 1889

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Melanie Richards—Co Publisher  
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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
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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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Classified ads are \$2 for the first 18 words and 10 cents for each additional word if paid in advance. A 75 cent billing fee will be added to all charged ads. Ads that are charged and not paid within 30 days will be charged \$1 for each additional billing

**PUBLIC NOTICE RATES**  
Legal notices are 55 cents per line for the first insertion and 45 cents per line for each additional insertion

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Recorder on after hours or when out of office  
Please Correspond top Box 428, Merkel

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Publishing weekly since 1889

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**AAA Flying Service, Inc.**  
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Sylvester, TX 79560

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**Funeral Pre-arrangement**  
The last and most loving bequest for your family.  
Let us help  
**STARBUCK FUNERAL HOME**  
201 Edwards 728-4711

**LESTER HUMPHREY**  
**TERMITE & PEST CONTROL**  
102 PINE 677-2413

**MERKEL VET CLINIC**  
**LARGE & SMALL ANIMALS**  
**RANCH & HOUSE CALLS BY APPOINTMENT**  
**FM 126 NORTH**  
**OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30 - 5:30 (CLOSED 12-1)**  
**THURSDAYS UNTIL NOON**  
**CALL 928-5235**  
**928-4176 EMERGENCIES**

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Auto, Property, General Liability  
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**APARTMENTS-11 UNITS**  
**PLUS LAUNDRY & MINI STORAGE**  
**100% OCCUPIED**  
**ONLY 3 YEARS OLD**  
**EXCELLENT TAX SHELTER**  
**CALL 915-728-8619**



Mr. & Mrs. Ricky Pike

### Riggan's hold annual reunion in Abilene

The annual Riggan Reunion was held August 9 and 10 at Embassy Suites in Abilene. The four surviving children of Ulysses Grant and Permelia Riggan attended, Gold Riggan, Lamesa; Nathan Riggan, Colleyville; Mary Harris, Houston; and Leona-Conley, Merkel.

Family members and guests were entertained with a "Hee-Haw" show on Saturday night. Leona Conley was honored with a slide show called, "This is your life-Leona". She was presented

with a beautifully decorated birthday cake and numerous cards in celebration of her 80th birthday. Approximately 100 family members and guests attended this years reunion. Those attending were from Houston, Midland, Colleyville, Lamesa, Big Springs, Phoenix, Arizona, Fort Stockton, Carbon, Oregon, Abilene and Merkel.

During the business meeting, it was decided that the 1987 reunion would be held at the Embassy Suites in Abilene.

### Gilchrist-Pike wed here Saturday

Patricia Lavonne Gilchrist and Sgt. Ricky Dale Pike were married Saturday at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Weldon Tittle.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Bob Gilchrist of Merkel. Jean Pike of Odessa is the bridegroom's mother.

Juanita Gilchrist was her sister's maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Patsy Taylor of Lamesa and Zina Ballard of Abilene. Katrina Tittle registered guests.

Mickey Pike of Little Rock, Ark. was his brother's best man. Donnie Wells of Abilene was

groomsman. George Gilchrist, brother of the bride and Cody Tittle, cousin of the bride, were ushers.

The Rev. John Waggoner of the First United Methodist Church here officiated.

The bride is a graduate of Merkel High and Abilene Beauty College. She is employed by the Silver Bullet in Abilene.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Odessa Permian High and is a member of the United States Air Force.

The couple will live at Yokota Air Force Base, Japan.

### Townsend is A & M graduate

John S. Townsend, IV, son of Dr. and Mrs. J.S. Townsend, III, and grandson of Reta Patterson, and a 1980 graduate of Merkel High received his degree from the College of Medicine at Texas A&M University's summer commencement last Saturday morning.

John did three years of undergraduate study at Angelo State University before being accepted to Texas A&M Medical School. He now begins a two year program of study at Scott and White Hospital in Temple.



### Joe's Boots

JUST ARRIVED  
LADIES'

### JUSTIN ROPERS

MANY COLORS  
1st LINE \$69.95

★ ALSO ★

KID'S ROPERS \$19.95 SIZE 8-12

NEW WORK BOOTS \$59.95

### EVERY DAY SPECIALS

ON TONY LAMA,  
HONDO & LARRY  
MAHAN BOOTS



★ OPENING SOON ★  
**MELBA'S PASTRY & SILK  
FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS**  
INSIDE TRAILER AT 105 RUNNELS 928-4330  
NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR  
**BAKING & BIRTHDAY CAKES**

## AN OPEN LETTER TO HOMEOWNERS



From your John Deere dealers

We are your John Deere dealer and want to help you with your equipment needs. Our dealership offers you the best value for your complete lawn and garden needs whether you are a homeowner or operate a lawn care business. Here's why:

1. By offering the highest quality line of lawn care and related equipment — John Deere.
2. On-the-spot financing is available at our store.
3. A full line of replacement parts in stock.
4. Our service technicians are factory trained.
5. You receive personal service at our convenient location.
6. We offer special discounts and incentives to help you save money.
7. We are independent businessmen and are just as concerned with service as we are with the sale.

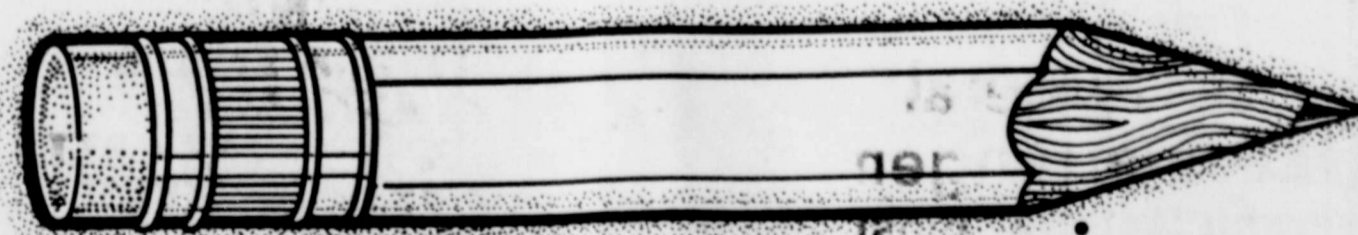
So why not step up to John Deere quality and join the thousands of satisfied John Deere owners. Come in to see us, if only for a get-acquainted visit.



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**MISD INVITES YOU TO TOUR  
NEW FACILITIES AND  
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★ ELEMENTARY ANNEX & GYM  
SUNDAY FROM 2-4 PM**



★ TOURS START AT THE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING ★

Pick Away  
**SAVINGS**, too



**PANTRY PACKIN'**  
**SALE**

PRICES GOOD  
THUR-FRI-SAT  
AUG. 21-22 & 23  
STORE HOURS  
7:30 am - 6:30 pm  
MON THRU SAT  
CLOSED SUNDAY

SHAVING CREAM  
**COLGATE**  
ASSORTED 11 OZ **99¢**

PARADE  
ICE  
**CREAM**  
1/2 GAL CRTN **\$1.49**

REYONELS 25 FT  
FOIL ROLL  
**WRAP 63¢**

PARADE 11 OZ  
**MANDARIN ORANGES 59¢** CAN

PARADE 303 CS  
**GOLDEN CORN 69¢** 2 FOR

PARADE 303  
**SWEET PEAS 69¢** 2 FOR

PARADE 303  
**SLICED CARROTS 69¢** 2 FOR

HUNTS300  
**TOMATO SAUCE 89¢** 2 FOR

PREGO 22 OZ  
**SPAGHETTI SAUCE \$1.69** JAR

PARADE 300  
**PORK & BEANS 99¢** 4 FOR

WISHBONE LOW CALORIE  
**DRESSING 79¢** 8 OZ JAR

PARADE  
**BAR-BQ SAUCE 59¢** 16 OZ

BEST MAID  
**SWEET PICKLES \$1.39** 16 OZ

KRAFTS  
**PRESERVES \$1.39** APRICOT JAR 18 OZ

LEMONADE  
**GATORADE 98¢** 46 OZ JAR

BETTY CROCKER  
**HAMBURGER HELPER \$1.23** ASST. BOX

PARADE  
**CHEESE \$1.23** 1/2 MOON 10 OZ PKG

CREAMY  
**CRISCO \$1.89** 3 LB CAN 1 LIMIT

WITH \$15 IN TRADE OR MORE  
EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES  
WITHOUT \$2.19

GOLD MEDAL  
**FLOUR 89¢** 5 LB BAG

KRAFTS  
**VEL VEETA DINNER \$1.19** SHELL 12 OZ

CASSEROLE  
**PINTO BEANS 55¢** 2 LB BAG

BANNER  
**TISSUE 89¢** 4 ROLL CRTN

BLEACH  
**BIZ 89¢** 20 OZ BOX

CLEANER  
**TY-D-BOL 79¢** 12 OZ BOTTLE

SUGAR SUBSTITUTE  
**EQUAL \$3.39** 100 CT BOX

FROZEN FOOD  
**TOTINOS ASST 12 OZ PKG PIZZA \$1.09**

**BIRDSEYE 12 OZ COOL WHIP TUB \$1.19**

SARA LEE FOIL 10 OZ  
**POUND CAKE \$1.69**

EGGO-HOMESTYLE  
**WAFFLES 11 OZ 49¢**

FARM SELECT 2 LB BAG  
**CRINKLE CUT POTATOES 53¢**

OLEO  
**PARKAY TEA BAGS 49¢** 48 CT BOX

LUZIANNE  
**TEA BAGS \$1.19** 48 CT BOX

PARADE  
**COFFEE \$1.89** 13 OZ BAG 1 LIMIT

WITH \$15 IN TRADE OR MORE  
EXCLUSIVE OF CIGARETTES  
WITHOUT \$1.59

KRAFTS  
**MIRACLE WHIP \$1.19** QUART JAR 1 LIMIT

BORDENS HOMO  
**MILK \$1.98** GAL JUG

BORDENS BUTTER  
**MILK 98¢** 1/2 GAL CRTN

BORDENS HI-PRO  
**MILK \$1.09** 1/2 GAL CRTN

BLEACH  
**PUREX 39¢** QT BOTTLE

DETERGENT  
**TIDE \$1.79** GIANT BOX

LIQUID  
**JOY 98¢** 22 OZ BOTTLE

SUNSPRAY  
**COAST 53¢** BATH SIZE

DOUBLE  
**GIFT BOND STAMPS 39¢** EACH WED'S WITH \$5.00 IN TRADE OR MORE

DUNCAN HINES  
**BROWNIE MIX 89¢** 14 OZ BOX

FISHER  
**SANDWICH MATE CHEESE 79¢** SINGLE SLICED 12 OZ PKG

LIPTON'S RICE &  
**SAUCE 73¢** ASST 4.5 OZ

ASSORTED  
**DRPEPPER 89¢** 2 LITER BOTTLE

CHOICE BEEF  
**ROUND STEAK \$1.59** FULL CUT TENDER LEAN LB



CHOICE BEEF  
**RUMP ROAST \$1.69** LEAN POUND

CHOICE BEEF TIP  
**SIRLOIN STEAK \$2.29** BONELESS LEAN LB

ARMOUR STAR CHICKEN FRIED  
**BREADED BEEF PATTIES \$1.59** LB

PARADE  
**FRANKS 73¢** ALL MEAT 12 OZ PKG

PARADE  
**BACON \$1.99** NO 1 POUND

GOOCH BRAND SMOKED  
**GERMAN STYLE SAUSAGE \$1.39** 12 OZ PKG

OSCAR MAYER & COMPANY  
*Select Slices*  
**ASSORTED MEATS \$1.59** 8 OZ PKG



OSCAR MAYER CHEF'S PANTRY  
**ASSORTED SNACKS \$2.09** 12 OZ PKG



FRESH FIRM  
**LETTUCE 49¢** HEAD

CALIFORNIA  
**ORANGES \$1.59** 4 LB BAG

FRESH  
**ONIONS 49¢** 2 BUNCHES

FRESH  
**BELL PEPPER 39¢** 2 FOR

GOLDEN  
**BANANAS 29¢** LB

TARPLEYS FRESH  
**SQUASH 39¢** LB

FRESH  
**CUCUMBERS 39¢** 2 FOR

RUSSET  
**SPUDS \$1.69** 10 LB BAG

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS  
**CARSON'S SUPER MARKET**  
Fresh Vegetables  
Best Meats in Town  
Merkel, Texas