

The Merkel Mail

Our 98th Year

Farmers found trouble on the land in 1986

Tough Times on the Farm
by Bill Braden
Texas Agricultural Extension
Service

To say that 1986 was a tough year on the farm would be a gross understatement. The farm economy remained at a low ebb during the year in Texas as well as throughout the nation. Texas farmers and ranchers will look back at 1986 as a year with mixed emotions. Most will be glad it's over; others will view it as a stepping stone to perhaps better things to come.

In an effort to deal more effectively with the concerns facing agricultural producers as well as all Texans, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service organized a statewide planning effort during the year which involved local citizen committees in all 254 counties. Twelve critical issues were identified on a state basis, lead by these: agricultural diversification, marketing of agricultural and natural resource products, and agricultural profitability and competitiveness. Educational programs are now being developed to address these issues.

FARM LEGISLATION HAD IMPACT

1986 was a year that brought a new game plan as far as the government's farm program is concerned. New farm legislation attacked problems that had been plaguing farmers in recent years—the main one being low prices brought on by surplus production.

Lowering of base loan rates and the initiation of Payment-in-kind certificates and a marketing loan to enable commodities to be traded at world market prices offered some help, especially for cotton late in the year. But overproduction continued to be a problem, and Congress will likely review farm program alternatives when it convenes in January.

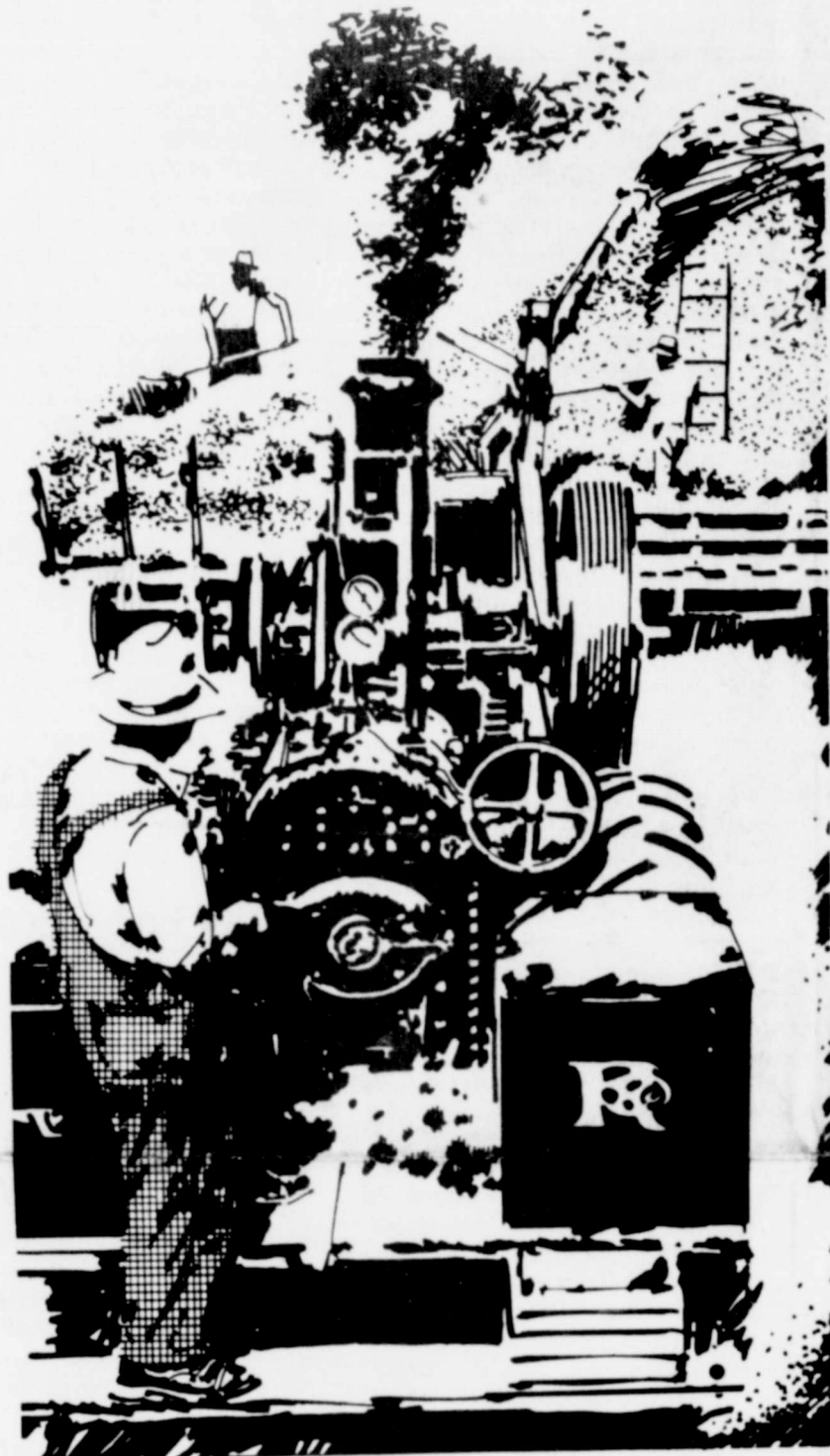
Farm credit also remained tight during 1986, real interest rates continued at a high level, and farm land prices weakened substantially.

One step aimed at curbing overproduction in the dairy industry was the whole herd buyout program. Many dairymen took advantage of the program, which will continue through September 1987, by selling their entire herds to the government for slaughter. While the program was boon for dairymen, it caused a lot of furor among beef cattle producers as cattle prices plummeted the first half of the year due to the increased slaughter.

Another newcomer to farm legislation as 1986 got untracked was the Conservation Reserve Program. The CRP was a new effort in soil conservation hailed by many as having far-reaching consequences. It's a five-year program aimed at taking some 45 million acres of highly erodible cropland out of production (11.5 million acres in Texas). Landowners must bid their land into the program, and if bids are accepted, landowners must keep the land out of production for at least 10 years and maintain a permanent cover of grass or trees.

WEATHER

Aside from all the legislative impact, Mother Nature also had her say about Texas agriculture in 1986, which is really no surprise. Weatherwise, the year was one of two different halves—the first one generally dry and the second half mostly wet, with benefits and problems associated with each.



Dry conditions early in the year caused some problems with spring planting and kept wheat yields down to 15 to 20 percent of normal in many counties. However, the winter of 1986 also was unusually mild, with record high temperatures in some locations. That brought on early spring planting where moisture was available. In irrigated areas, preplant irrigations were heavy due to the dry weather and pushed up production costs.

Poor spring grazing due to dry conditions caused stockmen to extend supplemental feeding and to increase livestock sales, despite poor market prices. Grazing of stocker cattle on wheat proved to be a losing proposition for many operators due to poor wheat growth and low cattle prices. Leaf rust again was a major problem in some areas, and spring hailstorms battered some wheat into the ground.

A lot of dryland wheat was grazed out due to poor crop prospects brought on by the dry weather. The Texas wheat crop also was plagued by a new culprit that arrived on the scene in late March—the Russian wheat aphid. This serious insect pest was found in wheat in the Lubbock area, its first appearance in the United States.

Violent spring thunderstorms damaged some young crops, particularly in southwestern Texas as where thousands of acres of corn, sorghum and cotton were lost. A lot of bagged onions also were damaged by heavy spring rains in the Winter Garden area.

RAINS FINALLY COME

By late May most of the state had broken out of the dry spell that had lingered since the first of the year. June brought more rains to much of Texas, with wet fields delaying cotton planting and wheat harvesting in western areas. More than 50,000 acres of cotton were lost to heavy rains in the South Plains, causing many farmers to plant soybeans and sunflowers as alternate crops

due to the lateness of the planting season. Hurricane Bonnie dumped 10 to 15 inches of rain over southeastern Texas in late June.

The summer brought bumper harvests of corn and sorghum in many locations and an excellent hay harvest over the state. Vegetable crops peaked in production and farmers' markets did a booming business, with new markets opening in several areas including Midland and Odessa. Cattle markets also saw some strengthening as the impact of the spring dairy cow slaughter worked.

Dry weather returned to the state for a brief stint during the summer, causing some shedding of cotton squares and bolts in western areas and some livestock feeding in southern sections. The rains once again swept the state and continued periodically through the remainder of the year.

Wet Fall Has Pros, Cons

A wet fall brought serious problems to farmers in western areas who were needing open weather for crops, especially cotton, to mature properly. The rains also caused extensive delay in crop harvesting in central, eastern and coastal areas. But the moisture was a boon to late planted crops in western area, provided for additional hay cuttings, and got small grain crops off to a good start.

The result was that most of the state was lush green as the fall season got underway. Range conditions in western Texas were the best they have been in many years. Record amounts of rainfall were logged in some western locations, some surpassing 10 inches. Small grains made excellent growth and that gave a big boost to the stocker cattle industry and the cattle market.

However, the rains combined with cooler weather continued to play havoc with late crops

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Mail reviews local activities of 1986

by Cloy A. Richards

This week we will take a look at the events that transpired here in the past 12 months. If I had to pick the one story that had the most impact here, I would have to include three topics: the decline in oil prices, the continuing depression of farm prices and the city's new water contract with Abilene.

January

Local gins passed the 10,000 bale mark as the 1985-86 cotton harvest was in full swing. Farmer's Co-Op Gin here had processed 5,500 bales and Trent Gin had processed 5,300 bales.

A new group was started to increase awareness on academic improvements at Merkel High. A group of parents formed the Academic Booster Club. Local preacher Bob Brandon was elected president.

Franchise taxes assessed on banks. The City of Merkel received \$1,834.37, the City of Trent \$256.02, MISD \$6,030.86 and Trent ISD \$1,069.16.

A growling man robbed the local Skinny's store even after he was hit in the head by the store clerk with a hot dog warming machine. Anxious moments were experienced at the local gin when a small fire broke out.

Local county commissioner Don Dudley announced he would seek reelection at an Abilene news conference.

The City of Merkel reported only about 40 percent of current property taxes paid.

Merkel and Trent's annual livestock shows were held.

Justice of the Peace Leo Mashburn announced he would seek reelection.

Robbers hit many local businesses with the largest break-in at Merkel Drug. Pat's Beauty Shop and Wilson's Jewelers were also visited by thieves.

Steven Carrier, 78th District representative of Roby, announced he would seek re-election.

The Merkel FFA took top honors at the Taylor County show as Lance Perry, Melissa Harris, Wade Toombs, Lynn Hays, Scott Easley all had grand champion entries. Hays and Perry also received showmanship awards.

The MISD board of trustees extended superintendent Bill Everett's contract until June of 1989. The board also authorized a new position of assistant principal for Merkel High.

City council member James McKee and mayor pro-tem Ted Smith announced plans to seek re-election.

The Academic Booster Club sponsored Merkel High's first ever college-tech school information night.

February

Construction was moving along well on the Freshman Wing at Merkel High. The building was paid for from surplus funds and constructed by the local maintenance crew.

Local voters were assured of contested local elections as Jack Keenan and Stewart Bishop filed to challenge Leo Mashburn for his JP post. An Abilene man, Julian Bridges announced he would challenge incumbent county commissioner Don Dudley for his job.

The University Interscholastic League announced re-alignments and Merkel was placed in a district with Merkel, Wylie, Clyde, Colorado City, Coahoma, Ballinger, Sonora and Brady.

U. S. Congressman Charles Stenholm (D-Stamford) announced he would seek re-election.

Twenty members of the Merkel High band and five members of

the Middle School band were named all-district.

The Merkel City council annexed six acres of land south of Oak Street here. Howard Smith, the owner of the property, made the request.

Phillip Doan filed for a spot on Merkel's City Council.

The local cotton harvest was completed with Trent Gin reporting 9,259 bales and the Farmers Co-Op Gin here reported 7,988 bales.

Local schools were closed for a day as freezing rain made local roads dangerous.

The Merkel Badgers boys basketball team ended their district season at 7-3 and missed the playoffs by one point.

March

Cary Munden of Merkel exhibited the champion Brangus at the San Antonio Junior Brangus show.

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

The Merkel City council started a policy of denying water taps outside the city limits. Councilman Ted Smith summed up council's feelings by saying "I don't think we should approve any additional water taps until we have a contract with Abilene."

Merkel was coming off a 30 year contract with Abilene for water purchases.

The Merkel Little League announced it would begin sponsoring T-Ball for children ages 6 & 7. They had previously not been allowed to play until age 8.

A major leak in the city's main line from Abilene left the town without water over night. Local residents were urged to boil water before drinking. MISD students were asked to bring their own drinking water.

Local county commissioner Don Dudley was named Merkel's Citizen of the Year by the Merkel Chamber of Commerce.

WTU announced it would refund fuel charges on local electricity bills.

Genevive King was honored by the three local chapters of Beta Sigma Phi as their woman of the year. She received her award at the Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

The Grace Presbyterian Church held an observance of its 100 years of service to the community.

A small fire caused minor damages to Handy Food Store here.

Lambda Beta's annual beauty pageant was held.

Forty-six MISD teachers were qualified for Step 2 on the career ladder pay scale. MISD also offered contract to all teachers.

The Abilene Goodwill group placed a donation box here.

MISD estimated it had lost \$6 million in taxable evaluations as the price of oil continued to decline. The lack of production agreements by OPEC states started a global price war that wrecked the economies of oil producing states.

April

Merkel was visited by Mel Hume as he traveled across country on horseback to raise funds for the re-furbishing of the Statue of Liberty.

The Merkel Chamber of Commerce held its annual easter egg hunt as more than 100 local children participated.

Local and national interest peaked as Haley's Comet made a once in a lifetime pass near the earth.

In local election, school board members Greg Henderson and Leroy Teaff were re-elected. The two ran unopposed.

In the city race, incumbents Ted

Smith and James McKee were re-elected. Phillip Doan was elected as he replaced Jerry Byrd, who stepped down after 12 years of service to the city.

Former county commissioner Joe Cypert passed away. Cypert was a long time businessman here and was named the outstanding citizen by the local chamber of commerce in 1971.

The Merkel High band completed its most successful season since the 1950's when the band earned top ratings in UIL concert contest. The band had previously earned the top rating at UIL marching contests.

Merkel Elementary 4th grade students were given a taste of Texas as an event to honor the state's Sesquicentennial. They witnessed demonstrations on branding, outdoor cooking and roping.

Merkel Housing Authority director Anette Clark retired. She was honored with a dinner.

The Merkel Emergency Medical Service responded to a call for help from Sweetwater officials as a tornado ripped through that town causing millions of dollars in damages.

May

The Merkel City Council approved rate increases for sewer and sanitation charges. The new \$1 increases raised the minimum charge for water-sewer-sanitation to \$25 per month.

The Mail published interviews with local candidates in the county election.

Local incumbent commissioner Don Dudley won re-election as he easily defeated challenger Julian Bridges.

In the local JP race, Jack Keenan, a challenger, garnered the most votes and he and incumbent Leo Mashburn started making plans for a June 7th runoff election.

Merkel High pole vaulter Brit Pursley qualified for the state track meet and Trent High's Bebo Beaver qualified in the long jump

The Merkel High band continued to rake in honors as they were named the most outstanding 3A band at the Greater Southwest Music Festival in Amarillo. Sixty-one bands competed for that title.

The Merkel city council adopted the new city budget and banned the use of 55 gallon barrels as trash cans. The city budget totaled \$788,000.

The Trent FFA-FHA held their annual banquet.

Trent and Merkel school received the anticipated bad news when local evaluations were released by Taylor County Appraisal District head Richard Petree. Petree told The Mail "99.9 percent of MISD's lost \$24 million in taxable evaluations were to blame on the removal of NuCorp Supply property from tax rolls. Trent ISD list \$13 million in oil related evaluations alone."

Bebo Beaver of Trent placed second in the long jump at the state track meet in Austin. Beaver was also 5th in the 200.

Merkel's entry, Brit Pursley injured his foot in a practice jump before the competition started and was unable to compete.

With federal funds from a Community Development Block Grant, the old Castille Hardware building was demolished.

Kevin Mitchell was named valedictorian and Ronna Casey was named salutatorian. At Trent High, Janna King was valedictorian and Kim Wallis was salutatorian.

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Mail looks back on news & events of 1986

June

Heavy local rains caused street flooding here as the area was hit with 13 inches of rain in a five day period. No water damage in homes was reported.

The Merkel Badger baseball team ended its most successful season in a long while as they lost the regional baseball title by one run.

The Vets won first place in the Merkel Little League season.

Jack Keenan defeated incumbent Leo Mashburn for the justice of the peace precinct 2 slot. Keenan had won the general election on May by 52 votes and won the June 7th runoff by 42 votes.

Candice Henslee of Merkel qualified for the state 4-H barrel racing competitions.

The Merkel City council named Andy Don Hart as its new city auditor. Hart bought a local accounting business and returned to his home town.

Julie Lanford of Merkel qualified for the state 4-H horse show as she had the grand champion mare in the district competition.

Marley Jane Roberts of Merkel was second in a fire prevention poster contest sponsored by the State Fire Marshall's and Firemans Association.

JULY

The Merkel Chamber of Commerce's annual Fun Day event, held at Merkel's South Park, was held. The event is the best attended event each year here and the Chamber realized at least \$2,700 in profit from the event.

The city learned it would be in the running for a \$200,000 state program for refurbishing of local homes, similar to a federal program which funded refurbishment of more than 50 homes here.

A new local civic group, the Exchange Club started holding organizational meetings. The club had nine charter members.

August

The Merkel Riding Club held its annual Challenge of the Clubs and a new event, Western Heritage Day. The event allowed local children to try their hand at roping, and exhibits and refreshments were set up at a vacant lot downtown. The event also included a large parade and an old time gunfight downtown. The city resembled any one of Texas' late 1800's cities as local good guys prevented a staged hold up of the bank.

Continental Telephone ushered in the era of modern telephone service here as they installed a digital call switching computer. The switching device brought touch tone, call waiting, call forwarding to Merkel for the first time.

MISD trustees announced they would consider a budget calling for a tax rate of \$1.07. That rate represented a seven cent tax increase. The board had previously looked at a budget calling for a 12 cent increase.

Collections of the local tax for legally held Bingo games here was up 80 percent, according to the State Comptroller's Office.

Merkel is using its share of the rebates for a savings account to build a new City Hall.

Merkel Police Chief Ray Pack submitted his resignation. Pack joined an Abilene law firm as an investigator.

Merkel City council was happy and relieved when they received a draft copy of a new water contract with the City of Abilene.

Abilene offered the city a 15 year contract. Councilmen were expecting an agreement of no more than five years.

Council hired Bob Jones, a deputy county sheriff, as the new police chief here.

Merkel city manager J. A. Sadler called the proposed water contract with Abilene the "best news that Merkel has had in a long time." The contract called for a 50 percent increase in the charge for water.

Calvary Baptist Church welcomed new pastor David Strange and family to town.

The local Allsup's store held car washes to benefit fund raising efforts of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

MISD trustees adopted a \$4.3 million budget that called for a tax rate of \$1.07 per \$100 evaluation. The county appraisal district had set the effective tax rate, the rate the district could have charged to generate the same revenues in 1985, at \$1.35.

Two Merkel boys fared well in the national Tae Kwan Do Junior Olympic tournament.

John Lalley was 2nd in his age group and Terrance Parrish was 5th. The event was held in St. Louis.

The Trent school board hired Charles Yarbrough as the new superintendent. He replaced Roy Neff who accepted a similar post at Dublin.

Rebecca Sharp of Trent became **The Mail's** correspondent in that town. The West Texas Council of Governments honored local volunteers at Starr Nursing Home.

Final appraisal figures were released by the county appraisal district. MISD led the county with a 19.95 percent decrease in taxable evaluations. Trent ISD lost 16.73 percent in evaluations as the decline in oil prices started to take effect on local governments.

The city of Merkel also led the county in delinquent tax rates of 20 percent.

September

MISD began classes with 30 more students than the first day of school in 1985. First day enrollment stood at 1,424 students.

When classes started, MISD officials knew they would have problems with crowded classes at Tye Elementary.

The Merkel City Council set the tax rate at 2969 per \$100 evaluation. The 1985 rate was 2934.

Sherman Lawson was named the new pastor at Trent's First Baptist Church.

Arnold Evans was named the new principal for Trent schools.

Richard Sessions was named the new pastor at the Assembly of God church here.

The Merkel school board was

discussing building new portable classrooms at Tye Elementary to relieve overcrowding there.

MHS held homecoming festivities as Angela Thomas was named homecoming queen. Alvin Wozencraft was elected Coming Home King and Louella Hughes was named Coming Home Queen.

Taylor Electric's Horace Childers was named to receive the O. G. Anderson national utility training and Safety education award.

October

The Merkel Chamber of Commerce sponsored a financial planning seminar for local women.

Ambulance rates for the Merkel Emergency Medical Service were lowered at the request of the service. The service had experienced problems in collecting for ambulance runs. The service also agreed to start paying for ambulance supplies and maintenance.

Trent High held their annual homecoming festivities.

Senior Citizens here were offered low-cost flu shots by the county health department.

The Trent Band earned a Division I rating at UIL marching contests. It was the first top rating in 17 years for the band. The MHS band earned a Division 2 rating.

Merkel High juniors faced the TEAMS test. The test is a pre-requisite for graduation in Texas high schools.

Dusty Farmer of Merkel was named to receive the American Farmer's Degree at the National FFA convention. He was one of 600 in the nation to receive the honor.

The MISD board of trustees approved 50 teachers for career ladder designation.

Merkel city councilmen tabled insurance bids. The annual premium doubled from last year's figures.

Texas governor Mark White announced the city would receive about \$180,000 in state funds for a local housing rehabilitation project.

November

The Merkel Badgers ended their most successful football season in at least ten years as they ended with a 6-4 record.

The Trent Gorillas earned their way into the state six man playoffs.

Lloyd Williams of Trent was honored with the Outstanding Extension Co-operators award for his work in agriculture.

The Trent Gorilla's were defeated by Fort Hancock in Monahan. The Gorilla's can brag they only lost to the state champs in 1986.

The Chamber of Commerce held their second annual Christmas fair at the Merkel First United Methodist Church gym. It was the second year in a row the Chamber sold out of exhibitor's spaces.

December

The month started off with the announcement that the new water contract with Abilene had been signed. The new 15 year contract called for a rate of \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons of water. The two cities

had been negotiating the contract for six months.

The local cotton harvest got off to a slow start as wet fields delayed harvest.

The Chamber of Commerce held its annual Christmas parade. The parade had the best participation in at least 10 years according to Martha Sue Justice, parade organizer.

Merkel postal carrier John Brady for 25 years of service carrying the same local route.

The Merkel VFW post facility was completely ruined by fire. The building was declared a total loss. Some food items and toys the post had been collecting for local needy families also went up in the blaze, along with many items of

a sentimental nature for post members.

Merkel's sales tax rebates for 1986 ended more than 4 1/2 percent ahead of the 1985 pace.

The Farmers & Merchants National Bank purchased the Lueders bank after the FDIC order that bank closed because of bad loans. The local bank took over the Lueders bank as a branch bank.

Agricultural news of '86 reviewed

western areas. The season's first freeze, with a record low of 27 degrees F. in Amarillo on Oct. 13, dealt a severe blow to late crops in the Panhandle and upper part of the South Plains. The first major cold spell of the season moved through the state Nov. 12th and brought freezing temperatures to the northern half of Texas. That conditioned the cotton crop in western areas for harvesting, with some yields better than expected.

From a livestockman's standpoint, the fall of 1986 brought the kind of weather to dream about... mild with good rains. The rains boosted grazing conditions, with spring calves and lambs being weaned at heavy weights while market prices remained fairly steady. Winter pastures of wheat, oats and ryegrass were off to a good start and barns were filled to the rafters with hay. During the summer, some Texas producers got together to ship much-needed hay to drought stricken states in Southeastern states.

As the year wore down, crop producers in western areas continued to struggle to wrap up harvesting operations while in other locations farmers were trying to get land ready for next spring although wet fields were slowing operations.

Farm Foreclosures a Reality

With the waning year and the continuing economic problems in the farm sector came the start realization that some farmers would not be back in 1987. Texas farm numbers have declined from 187,000 in June 1984 to 160,000 as of June 1986. And there will be even fewer farmers venturing forth to plant crops next spring. Many will have to come to grips with the fact that they gave it their best shot and still lost. To those who are able to get adequate credit to finance 1987 operations, perhaps a brighter day lies ahead.

Livestock producers should see higher prices in 1987 due to tight supplies, and cheap feed should keep costs down. On the other hand, crop producers will again depend heavily on government payments and the export market, which should improve some as the value of the dollar continues to drop abroad and make U. S. commodities more competitive in the world market. An improving global economy should also help the farm situation although commodity stockpiles will continue to burden the marketplace.

Farmers, like other businessmen, must contend with tax reform in the year ahead and will likely see some changes in farm

legislation once again. Management and marketing skills will be tested as never before if they are

to be among those who weather the current economic crisis on the farm.

County farmers eligible for FmHA disaster loans

Applications for emergency farm loans for losses caused by heavy rainfall are being accepted at the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) office in Abilene. FmHA County Supervisor Don M. Newhouse said last week.

Taylor County in one of 29 in Texas recently named by Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng as eligible for loans to cover part of actual production losses resulting from the heavy rainfall.

Newhouse said farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 80 percent of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue in business of \$500,000, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest rate on the emergency loans will be 4 1/2 percent.

"As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an FmHA emergency loan," Newhouse said. Farmers

participating in the PIK or Federal Crop Insurance programs will have to figure in proceeds from those programs in determining their loss.

Applications for loans under the emergency designation will be accepted until Aug. 12, 1987 but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing and possibly over into the new farming season.

FmHA is a credit agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living. Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who are U. S. citizens and to farming partnerships, corporations or cooperatives in which U. S. citizens hold a majority interest.

The FmHA office in Abilene is open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A few late Santa letters ...

Editor's Note: The following letters to Santa Claus did not arrive at our office by deadline last week. Since some youngsters have (and a few adults) quite a bit of trouble comprehending what a deadline is, they are offered for your pleasure.

Dear Santa: From Renee Smith For Christmas I want a black lamp, go cart, license plate, \$100 bill, \$100 cash, two swatches, a tape a riter and paper, computer, phone, 3 wheeler and a Merry Christmas for you too!

Dear Santa: Thank you for whatever you get me for Christmas. I would like a tape player, a pair of skates and some phillips originals in my stocking. Merry Christmas.

Love, Hope

Dear Santa Claus (Christmas Eve) I like what you said in my letter. I hope you can come see me tomorrow. I would like to have a radio with ear aches (ear phones) and I would like to have ear muffs

so mom won't make me wear that cap.

Love, Brandy Emberlin

Dear Santa: I did not get to see you! I want a tape player & a stuffed Santa and in my stocking I want a Phillips original with my candy. Thank you.

Your friend, Love, Missi

Dear Santa Claus (Christmas Eve) Thank you for the letter. I know I have done some of the things in the letter, but not all. Well anyway, I would like a horse for Christmas and I would like it to be brown and a white star on its head right up above its eyes and I'd like it to be a girl horse and if you have some horse feed because my momma does not have very much money to give very much food but I could keep it at my mome and papa house. I got to go now and its my bed time but its not exactly my bed time it is past it and its very very late after my bed time it is 3:15 a.m. right now see you later.

Love, Ravan D. Emberlin



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Classifieds

See, Ads work

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 buildings 906 Locust 928-5145. 171-TFC

House for sale at a bargain, 2 bedroom, living room, kitchen, one bath, has central heat, all furniture and appliances stay with the house. Cal Cyrus Pee, Agent 928-5613. 179-TFC

For sale: brick home, large living room, fireplace, 2 bedroom (1 is large master), 1 3/4 bath, kitchen, dining room, cabinet top range, dishwasher, rural water & well on 9.6 acres. Pasture behind also 30 X 60 metal building & 10 X 20 storage building. Could easily be 3 bedroom. Call Cyrus Pee 928-5613. 193-TFC

For Sale: Owner anxious! 14 X 76 mobil home, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, new condition, masonite siding, appliances, central heat & air, no money down, take up payments. Will also leave chain link fencing and large shed. Call 928-4483. 196-2tp

House For Sale: 2 bedroom, living room, kitchen, 2 baths, three lots, call Cyrus Pee Agent 928-5613. 186-TFC

Choice Lots For Sale: in the growing area of town, after 6:00, 928-5067 189-TFC

House for sale: living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen, central heat & evaporative cooling, good location, storage in the back, water well, 2 pecan trees, on five lots, new carpet. Cyrus Pee, Realtor 928-5613. 185-TFC

House for sale: Large living area, water well, storage building, central air & heat, available for immediate occupancy, call to see Cyrus Pee Realtor, 928-5613. 185-TFC

House For Sale: 304 Edwards, downtown, 2 1/2 lots and water well, call 806-799-0495, Mike Warren. 195-3tc

FOR RENT
Furnished trailer house for rent with washer and dryer. \$200 per month. \$50 deposit. Contact Margie Baker 928-3811. 196-1tc

Two one bedroom apartments for rent: Water paid, deposit required, 928-5234 or 928-5632. 192-TFC

For Rent: 4 bedroom, 2 bath house, central heat and air, fenced back yard, close to school, available Dec. 1, \$375 per month plus \$200 deposit. Call 846-4715 or 846-4696. 191-TFC

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

For Rent: 2 bedroom house. Ideal for one person. 904 Rose call 928-5738 after 3 p.m. 196-3tnc

FOR SALE
Firewood for sale: \$50 16 feet stacked and delivered. 736-6059 or 736-6947. 196-2tc

For sale: mattress & box springs for double bed. \$40. Call 928-5972. 196-1tp

For Sale: 1981 Buick Riviera, leather interior, electric windows, seats and locks, am-fm tape, 50,000 miles, cruise, tilt, Tom Carson, 928-5069. 190-TFC

MISC.
Remodeling and Painting 35 years experience 312 Edwards no job too big or too small. 908 N 1st. Call 928-4876. 172-TFC

KIDS KORNER DAY CARE CENTER 2nd and Oak Open Monday through Friday 6:30 am until 5:30 p.m. Call 928-4381. 66TFC

1, 2 & 3 bedroom mobile home. Mobile home rents start at \$185 and \$200 is the highest rent. Mobile home lots for rent near school \$50 per month West end of S 7th call 928-4973. 186-TFC

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. 184-4tp

Professional Dog Grooming, all breeds, hand fluff dry, hand scissoring, free polish and bows. Please call 928-4474 after 3 p.m. for an appointment. 178-TFC

For Watkins Products call Larry or Martha Sue Justice at 928-5217. 186-TFC

DID YOU KNOW Microwaves require a separate circuit to avoid internal damage to the unit? If you got one for Christmas or have a problem with an old one, Amerine Mechanical can put it on a separate circuit in no time at all. Give us a call or come 908 N 1st. Call 928-4876. 196-1tc

We make hydraulic hoses. P & L Auto Parts 135 Edwards 928-4738. 186-TFC

Al-Anon, a self-help support group for the families and loved ones of alcohol and/or drug abusers is meeting every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. at the Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, Merkel. 185-TFCNC

P & L Auto Parts is open from 7:30 am until 6:30 pm Monday-Friday and from 7 am until 3 pm each Saturday. 135 Edwards. 176-TFC

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

Country babysitting near Merkel. Specializing in TLC 0-4 years. I have 2 small children and will keep group small so all will get plenty of love. Meals furnished and will babysit weekends and nights. \$5 per day per child. Call 928-5046. 196-2tc

CEILING FANS can be difficult to install. We can put them into existing wiring or set them in at a new location. Call the professionals at Amerine Mechanical. Our number is 928-4876 or stop by 908 N 1st. 196-1tc

Housecleaning, ironing and yardwork. Call Wyona Craig 928-5005 or come by 801 S 1st. 196-4tc

Piano tuning. Call 928-4866. 196-5tp

CARD OF THANKS

Words don't seem adequate to express our gratitude during this time of sorrow. We have learned how much our church, friends, neighbors and community really mean to us. Everyone's expression of sympathy will always be treasured and remembered.

We'd like to extend a special thank you for the consideration shown by the staff of the Rolling Plains Hospital; Drs. Christianson, Dainer, Martin and McEachern; Dr. Don Goates and Mike Forester of the

First Baptist Church; the law enforcement agencies; the paramedics and the McCoy Funeral Home.
We shall never forget. God Bless You The Family of Hugh Allen King

We would like to say thank you to everyone who expressed their sympathy at the loss of our Mother and Grandmother. Your kind gestures of food, cards, flowers, and prayers are sincerely appreciated. A special thank you to the ladies of the First United Methodist Church for the delicious lunch served to all of us and to Starbuck Funeral Home The family of Dollie F. Brown

We want to express our gratitude to all who helped in our time of sorrow.

For all the food, flowers, cards and words of sympathy, thank you. A special thank you to Sandy Davis and Cathy Cyfert. And to George Starbuck and Benny Williams for services "above and beyond the call of duty."
Irma, Emily & Billy Cox The Doyle Nichols Family
The C. E. Carter family

The members of Merkel VFW Post 5683 would like to thank the surrounding community for your support in our Christmas program for the needy. Through your donations, you and the community were able to help 25 families with food, toys and new clothing.

We thank you and the 25 families thank you. Until next year

I want to thank everyone for all their kindness, generosity & help. I never knew so many people cared. Thanks to everyone, we could not have had a better Christmas. We really appreciate everything.

Sincerely
Danny Hogue
Sahne Reagan
Ginger Rohus
Pete Rohus

PUBLIC NOTICES

TO ALL PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN CERTAIN SEIZED MATERIAL: GREETINGS: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED in accordance with Article 6687-1 of the Texas Civil Statutes that the Texas Department of Public Safety seized certain property at locations in Taylor County, Texas and this property is being held at Rhoades Automotive at 4210 Sayles, Abilene, Taylor County, Texas. The following property was seized: A 1984 Chevrolet Pickup on May 29, 1986, 1985

Chevrolet Pickup on August 11, 1986, 1981 Chevrolet Pickup on August 12, 1986, 1986 GMC Pickup on August 12, 1986, 1981 Chevrolet Pickup on August 15, 1986, and a 1979 Chevrolet Pickup on November 21, 1986. The original Vehicle Identification Number is unknown on each of these vehicles.

APPLICATION FOR RETURN of said vehicle may be made to the 350th District Court by the owner or any lienholder not later than twenty (20) days after this notice is issued. On the payment of towing and storage costs, the vehicle may be reclaimed pursuant to such application to the Court. A failure of the owner or any lienholder to reclaim this vehicle is a waiver of all right, title and interest in the vehicle or part.

Jorge A. Solis
Criminal District Attorney
928-58-4tc

SAFETY TIPS

HOLIDAY HINTS

Safety sense can help keep spirits bright this holiday season, says the Independent Insurance Agents of America (IIAA).



- Make sure your credit card slip has been filled out properly before signing and your card is returned. You might consider using travelers checks or money orders this time of year.
- Check Christmas light plugs and connectors for loose or missing links—they may expose bare metal conductors. If you find any, do not use the set. Also check for damaged sockets and bent prongs.
- And remember, dried out Christmas trees are a fire hazard. To protect your loved ones and your home, make sure your Christmas tree is watered frequently.

BUFFALO RABBIT FARM

- RABBITS
- RABBIT MEAT
- CUSTOM PROCESSING
- TATTOOING
- CAGES
- FEEDERS
- NEST BOXES
- NEST BOX BEDDING
- WATER BOTTLES
- RABBIT MANURE
- RABBIT FEED
- DRY DOG FOOD
- DRY CAT FOOD
- HEN SCRATCH
- HORSE & MULE HOG FINISHER
- 928-4827
- 188-4tp

FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS SEYMORE INSURANCES
Auto, Property, General Liability, Crop, Health, Life, Disability, Tax shelters, Retirement, Educational Plans
102 Edwards 928-5379

FOR SALE APARTMENTS-11 UNITS PLUS LAUNDRY & MINI STORAGE
100% OCCUPIED ONLY 3 YEARS OLD EXCELLENT TAX SHELTER
CALL 915-728-8619

The Merkel Mail
First Published March 3, 1889
Cloy A. Richards--Editor--Co-Publisher
Melanie Richards--Co Publisher
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\$10 Per Year in Taylor County
\$11.75 Anywhere in Texas
\$12.50 Out of State

Professional Affiliations
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL NEWS PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION

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

CLASSIFIED RATES
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

Business Phone [915] 928-5712
Recorder on after hours or when out of office
Please Correspond top Box 428, Merkel

Merkel's Oldest Business
Publishing weekly since 1889

"Congress Shall Make No Law Abridging The Freedom of the Press"

Publisher Reserve the Right to Cancel Any advertisement at any time

WE WANT YOU TO READ OUR MAIL

CHAIN SAW REPAIR
SAW CHAIN, SPROCKETS, BARS & OTHER PARTS FOR MOST POPULAR SAWS

FIRE WOOD FOR SALE
DELIVERY AVAILABLE

KERO-SUN HEATERS
SALES AND SERVICE
KEROSENE AVAILABLE

PORTABLE SIGNS FOR RENT
DAY-WEEK-MONTH

TAXIDERMIST
6 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

BRIGGS & STRATTON
AUTHORIZED SERVICE DEALER

SNAPPER POWER EQUIPMENT
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OPEN 9-6 MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY
ON THE CORNER OF NORTH 1st [U. S. 80] AND KENT STREET [FM126]

BROWNE ENTERPRISES
102 KENT 9

Funeral Pre-arrangement
The last and most loving bequest for your family.
Let us help
STARBUCK FUNERAL HOME
201 Edwards 928-4711

HAPPY BIRTHDAY R.D.W. FROM GUESS WHO

KOFOED'S REFRIGERATION & A/C
"YOUR WINTER TIME HEATING & REFRIGERATION SPECIALIST & STATE LICENSED & INSURED 928-5939"

BARNETT'S BARBER SHOP
WILL BE OPEN
TUESDAY - FRIDAY FROM 8 - 5
SATURDAY AT 6:30 - ?
JOHN O'DONNELL
RONNY WILL BE AT THE SHOP SAME AS ALWAYS

SHIRLEY 'J'S' BEAUTY NOOK
NEW OWNERS * NEW HOURS
OPEN 8-5 MONDAY SATURDAY
* LATE EVENING APPOINTMENTS TUESDAY & THURSDAY
COME BY 310 THORNTON OR CALL 928-4858 ASK FOR SHIRLEY 'J' OR SYBLE RINEY

LESTER HUMPHREY
TERMITE & PEST CONTROL
1202 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)
SATURDAY 8 UNTIL NOON
CALL 928-5235
928-4176 EMERGENCIES

Consolidated Plumbing BACKHOE * TRENCHING
* OLD & NEW WORK * SEPTIC TANKS
PLUMBING SUPPLIES 24 HR SERVICE 928-5027 928-5263

BEDDINGFIELD TV SERVICE
928-3411 132 KENT

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1-915-928-4395 (night)
SERVICE TRUCK
BANDAG RETREADS

NEW & USED TRUCK TIRE
COMMERCIAL TIRES
PASSENGER TIRES

REPAIRS REGROOVING
RETREADS

TIRE COMPANY, INC.
RT 1 Box 10
MERKEL TEXAS 79536
3/4 Mile East of Taylor
Telephone on North I-20 Access * Road

TQNI LAMBERT

It's hard to say when the thought first slipped through.

Maybe it was at midnight when my wife and son were standing by the access road on Stemmons Freeway in Dallas - she holding a fire iron and he a one wood as I crawled underneath the car. The idea was to get it jacked up so I could mount the little wheelie where the blown-out tire had resided moments before.

"If anybody comes near you, kill them," I instructed.

Or maybe it was earlier when we were standing next to the grease pit at the truck stop listening to the diagnosis. "Your car needs a regulator. Usually it's not made with the alternator and doesn't cost too much. On the other hand, your alternator has the regulator built in, so you'll have to have a whole new one, and it is expensive."

How much?
"About a hundred fifty."
How long, and do you take American Express?

"Don't have no alternator. Might be able to get one in the morning, but I wouldn't guarantee it. Naw, we don't take no plastic."

Or maybe it was on the way from the truck stop to Dallas, while driving on a charged up battery in the middle of the night, and wondering how I'd protect my family - not to mention how they'd protect me - if the car suddenly stopped in the middle of nowhere.

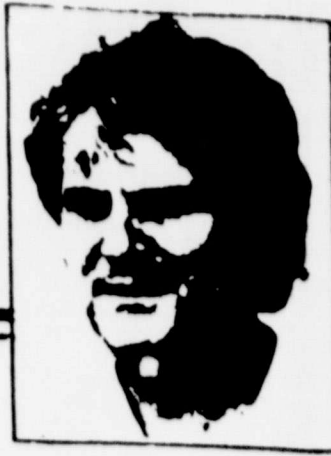
Better still, it may have been the next day, after I'd bought the new tire and the new alternator. After the kids soccer team had lost a sudden death shootout at the state tournament. After we had started back home and the new alternator had failed after 60 miles use. And after we had finally succeeded in awakening the lady in the motel so we could have a place to spend the night.

"Yes, we take American Express," she said. And "No, I don't know who could fix your car this time - I might tomorrow Sunday, you know - I doubt if you can get anybody to work on it until Monday."

Then again, it may have been Sunday morning, when, after touring the Yellow Pages, I found a mechanic willing to break the sabbath and check my car's vital signs. "What! You paid \$155 for that alternator. (Expletive deleted.) Don't you know you can pick up an alternator in any junk yard for \$15? It's no good anyway. Defective regulator."

"Sorry. It won't happen again."
"Here, we'll disconnect your alternator and you can drive home on your battery. You can drive these things

Art Lawler



for seven hours before they run down. You won't have any trouble."

Maybe it was after we got back home and after my wife had called the alternator salesman to give him a piece of her mind about his no good alternator, and after I had called my attorney friend, promising to sue for the \$155 even if it cost me 2,000 to do it.

That would have been no Monday as my wife and I and we were in the auto electric place. The same place my service station attendant had advised me to go before leaving town - just as a precaution after I had told him my choke light had been on for two weeks.

"The battery's OK. The alternator's OK. I'll have it fixed in about 20 minutes," said the electric man. "Somebody wired up your starter wrong and it caused the alternator to over-charge, which messed up your battery."

Preceptor Eta Omega holds Christmas party

Preceptor Eta Omega met Sunday night at Pug & Leo's on December 14 for their Christmas party and exchanging of gifts. Those enjoying the evening

Turns out, the whole problem could have been fixed for \$17.50, plus a 20 minute time donation.

As it was, we spent \$155 for an alternator, \$61 for a tire, and extra \$44 for a motel, and an additional meal ticket totaling another fifty bucks.

Yes, that would have been the moment the thought slipped through. The moment when it became clear that never, not in 42 years of careless bumbling, had I managed to exhibit this much stupidity in a single 48-hour period.

It wasn't much comfort, but my wife wasn't at her best, either. As this is being written she is composing a letter of apology to the alternator salesman. Not that we needed an alternator - defective or otherwise.

Copyright © Art Lawler, 1986
Anyone wishing to address his, or her, comments to this columnist should write P. O. Box 432, Buffalo Gap, Texas - 79508.

were Betty and Kent Satterwhite, Jane and J. C. Carson, Opal and Bob Garner, Kathy and Jimmy Leverich, Liz and Peck Eager, Mamie Steck, Blanche Hewitt, Val Patterson and Ruth Tipton.

BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS

COKE 7UP

88¢ 2 LITER

TONYS PIZZA 20¢ OFF

ORE IDA CRINKLE CUT POTATOES 2 LB \$1.59

DUNCAN HINES AN EXCELLENT VARIETY CAKE MIXES 89¢

HAMBURGER 2 LB PKG \$3.69

BANQUET FRUIT & MINCE PIES \$1.39 EA OR 2 FOR \$2.50

PLUS ALL OF LAST WEEKS SPECIALS

WILL CONINUE THRU & INCL JAN 4TH

928-4912

1400 N 1ST



HANDY FOOD STORE

Obituaries

High vocational agriculture program. He was a member of First Baptist in Sweetwater.

He is survived by his parents; two sisters Jeanie and Patti; one brother, David, all of the home; paternal grandmother Mrs. Alice King of Merkel and maternal grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Henry Cornett of Lamesa.



Hugh Allen King

Hugh Allen King, son of Mr. & Mrs. Hugh King of Rt. 3 Lake Sweetwater, was killed in a traffic accident Dec. 15th.

King and a friend, Cody Lane Reddin died when the three-wheeler they were riding collided with a pick-up. The accident occurred Dec. 15th.

Funeral services were held Dec. 18th at the First Baptist Church here with burial in the White Church Cemetery, Mulberry Canyon.

The Rev. Don Goates, pastor, officiated.

Born July 9, 1972 in Abilene, King was a freshman at Sweetwater High. He had lived near Lake Sweetwater all of his life. In school, he played 8th grade football and was athletic program trainer as a 7th grader. He was a member of the SEEK program for gifted and talented students. An avid hunter and fisherman, he was a member of the Sweetwater

Parsley of Fort worth, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Jim Beard, Kent Satterwhite, Johnny McDaniel, Jerry Merritt, Waymon Adcock, Billy Lucas and Henry Brady.

Dent Gibson's services held here

James Dent Gibson, 89 of Merkel, died Dec. 29th at Starr Nursing Home here.

Funeral services were held Dec. 30th at Merkel's First Baptist Church with former pastor Kenneth Jones officiating. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery here under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born May 27, 1897 here, he had lived in the Merkel area most of his life. He was a farmer and a U. S. Marine World War I veteran. He had married Betty Parilee Ash. She preceded him in death. He was a Baptist.

He is survived by two sons; L. B. Gibson of Albany and Jerry P. Gibson of Merkel; a daughter Denta Lindset of Grainola, Ok and Lawanda Byus of Pasadena; a sister Naomi Powers of Abilene, seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, David.

Pallbearers were J. C. Carson, John Hensley, Buddy Smith, H. W. McKee, Waymon Adcock, Joe McDuff, Alvin Wozencraft and J. D. Sandusky.

Former Precinct 2 JP's services held

Roy Harold Buchanan, 76, a former Justice of the Peace of Precinct 2 here for 16 years, died Christmas Day at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene.

Funeral services were held Dec. 27th at First Baptist Church here with former pastor Kenneth Jones and Wayne Keller, pastor, officiating. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery here under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born July 7, 1910 in Nolan County, he had lived in the Merkel area all his life. He was retired and had married Mattie Price.

He is survived by his wife of Merkel; two daughters, Betty Swinney of Lubbock and Maxine Barrios of San Jose, CA; a brother Wayne Buchanan of Dallas; three sisters, Leona McWilliams of Merkel, Hazel Wortham of Big Spring and Midge

JANUARY IS NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

Because blood is so vital, a constant and ready supply for patients is always needed, especially during the holidays! It is easy to donate blood. The entire procedure requires about one hour of your time... less than 10 minutes for the actual donation. Donating blood is safe, and the body quickly replaces the blood you donate. (Less than a pint each donation.) Please take time out and donate blood this month... Your donation could save a life!

BAN SOLID 2 oz. 1.99	MAXIMUM STRENGTH ANACIN-3 30 Tablets 2.09	JOHNSON'S SWABS 200's 1.37
SINEX NASAL SPRAY 5 oz. 2.19	CHLORASEPTIC 6 oz. 2.67	VICKS VAPORUB 1.5 oz. 1.49
SUNKIST VITAMIN C 60 Tablets 2.59	VICKS NYQUIL 6 oz. 2.99	ASPERGUM 16 Ct. 1.29
COMTREX 24 Tablets or 16 Caplets 3.00 Mail-In Rebate 0.00 FINAL COST	LISTERINE 18 oz. 1.99	VICKS CREMACOAT 3 oz. Assorted Formulas 2.22
EX-LAX PILLS 30 Ct. 2.09	ANUSOL OINTMENT 1 oz. 1.89	ANUSOL 12 Suppositories 2.39
SUMMER'S EVE Post-Menstrual Twin Pack 1.67	PERCOGESIC 50 Ct. Tablets 2.69	TUCKS PADS 40 Ct. 2.29
BAG BUSTER POTPOURRI CUP 1.99	SPICE MULL EXOTIC BLEND TEA BAG 1.99	SCENTED PINE CONES 30 CNT 7.50
		CHRISTMAS MUSIC ALBUMS & CASSETTES 2.00 EACH

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MERKEL DRUG

SALE CONTINUES THRU JANUARY



DALE HAMMOND

**MERKEL VFW POST 5683
WILL HAVE
ITS REGULAR
MONTHLY MEETING
ON JAN 8TH
AT THE
TAYLOR
ELECTRIC CO-OP
AT 7 PM**

A FULL SERVICE AGENCY
HIA HAMMOND INSURANCE AGENCY
 ★ HOMEOWNERS ★ AUTOMOBILE
 ★ COMMERCIAL FIRE & CASUALTY
 ★ LIFE ★ HEALTH
 YOUR HOME **YOUR HOME TOWN**
INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENT
WE ARE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US
 BOX 547 MERKEL 928-4122
 PERSONAL ATTENTION

**THE BEST OF
DALE HAMMOND**



DALE HAMMOND

**IF YOU HAVE
WHEAT-WATER-FENCES
WE NEED
GRAZE OUT WHEAT
FOR LIGHT CALVES
CONTACT R L BLAND
862-6179 or 862-6111
CAL TEX
FEED YARD**



DALE HAMMOND

**HAPPY NEW YEAR MERKEL
BRICK & LUMBER**
 As we say good-bye to the old one, let's look forward to a wonderful and fulfilling New Year.



New Year Greetings

It's the dawn of a New Year. Let's all work hard at making it our best one yet. A joyous holiday to all!

INDEPENDENT AMERICAN SAVINGS



DALE HAMMOND

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Another year is beginning... we hope it's a good one for you!

BEN FRANKLIN STORE



START OFF '87 with SAVINGS A-PLenty

PRICES GOOD
WED-FRI-SAT
DECEMBER 31
Jan. 2-3rd
WE WILL BE
CLOSED
NEW YEARS DAY
JAN 1st
STORE HOURS
7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
MON THRU SAT

VASELINE INTENSIVE CARE LOTION 10 OZ BOT \$1.49
WISE COTTAGE FRIES CHIPS 7 OZ 98¢

PARADE OLEO QUARTERS 3 LBS 89¢

PARADE COFFEE CREAMER 16 OZ JUG 89¢

CAMPBELLS CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP 2 TALL CANS 79¢

RALSTON CHEX CEREAL RICE WHEAT CORN ASST BOX \$1.63

FROZEN FOODS PATIO MEXICAN ASST 12 OZ DINNER \$1.29

DEL MONTE CATSUP SQUEEZE 28 OZ JUG \$1.19

PARADE 16 OZ PARTY CUPS 20 CT 16 OZ BOX 59¢

LOG CABIN MAPLE SYRUP 24 OZ JUG \$1.89

SHORTENING JEWEL 42 OZ CAN \$1.09

PARADE WHIP 8 OZ TUB TOPPING 69¢

PARADE 7.4 OZ MACARONI CHEESE DINNER 2 BOXES 49¢

GLADIOLA CORNBREAD MIXES 2 6 OZ PKG 49¢

DINTY MOORE BEEF STEW 15 OZ CAN 98¢

GOLD MEDAL FLOUR 5 LB BAG 89¢

MORTONS 8 OZ ASST POT PIES FOR 2 79¢

PARADE BROWNIE 23 OZ BOX 98¢

CHEFS 6 OZ PKG QUICK MIX PIZZA CRUST 2 FOR 83¢

BEST MAID HAMBURGER DILLS PICKLES 32 OZ JUG \$1.19

PONSETTIA HOMO MILK 14 OZ CRTN \$1.89

AUNT JEMIMA 15 OZ WAFFLES BOX \$1.19

SUNSHINE TRUE BLUE COOKIES 24 OZ PKG \$1.39

COMET LONG GRAIN RICE 28 OZ BOX 73¢

BRAWNY TOWELS JUMBO ROLL 79¢

BORDEN LOW FAT 1 1/2% MILK 1 GAL JUG \$1.99

BORDEN WHIPPING MILK CREAM 1/2 PT CRTN 49¢

FOREMOST OR BORDEN EGG NOG 1 QT CRTN 99¢

MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE 1 LB CAN \$2.59 LIMIT 1

WOLF CHILI 19 OZ CAN 99¢

LUCKY LEAF NO 2 CAN APPLE PIE FILLING \$1.23

7UP SUNKIST ORANGE 2 LITER BOTTLE CHERRY COLA OR COCA COLA 89¢

ORVILLE REDENBACKER MICROWAVE 10.5 OZ BOX POPCORN \$1.59

CHOICE BEEF SIRLOIN STEAK BONELESS LEAN 7 TO 9 LBS \$2.29

PACKER TRIM GOOCH B R 7 TO 9 LBS \$1.19

SNAP E TOM TOMATO COCKTAIL 32 OZ \$1.39

DEL MONTE 303 CUT GREEN BEANS 2 FOR 79¢

CALIFORNIA CELLO CARROTS 2 FOR 69¢

GARYS CORN DOGS 10 CT PKG \$2.89

SMOKED TURKEY 10-14 LBS 95¢

DEL MONTE 303 LEAF SPINACH 2 FOR 79¢

WASHINGTON FANCY DELICIOUS RED APPLES LB 39¢

FRESH SQUASH LB 49¢

ARMOUR'S BASTED TURKEYS 10-14 LBS 95¢

SMOKED BACON 12 OZ PKG \$1.29

PREGO SPAGHETTI SAUCE 15 OZ JAR 98¢

PARADE WITH SNAPS BLACK EYE PEAS 300 CAN 35¢

CALMERIA FANCY WHITE GRAPES LB 69¢

GOOCH B R GERMAN SAUSAGE \$1.29

CEDAR CREEK HAM BONELESS FULLY COOKED HALVES LB \$2.39

PANTRY BLACK EYE PEAS 1 LB BAG 39¢

SWEETENED KOOL AID 2 QT PKG 59¢

GOLDEN BANANAS LB 29¢

GOOCH B R JOWELS NEW YEARS TREAT LB 79¢

DETERGENT GAIN 42 OZ BOX \$1.69

LIQUID IVORY 22 OZ BOTTLE \$1.09

BATH SIZE ZEST 2 BAR DEAL 89¢

SOFTNER SNUGGLE 64 OZ JUG \$1.98

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BATH SIZE ZEST 2 BAR DEAL 89¢

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

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

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