

The Merkel Mail

28 cents

Thursday, March 5th, 1987 . . . Merkel, Texas

Our 99th Year



Ray Stone, Voice of the Dallas Cowboy Football Report will be the speaker at the annual Chamber Banquet Tuesday Night

Chamber banquet is Tuesday

The Merkel Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual banquet Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Heritage Hall.

The guest speaker for the event will be Ray Stone, host of the regionally syndicated Dallas Cowboy Football Report. Stone is also that show's producer.

Beginning in 1976, the Cowboy Football Report, a syndicated network radio program of the Dallas Cowboys, has grown to be one of the largest radio talk programs covering "America's Team." The show's largest market is in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area and the smallest is in Artesia, N.M. The program is carried as far east as Decatur, Alabama and as far west as Prescott, Arizona.

At the banquet, the annual Citizen of the Year will be honored by the Chamber. The Chamber will also honor its outgoing president, Ann Payne, and has at least one other special presentation to make during the evening.

A meal of barbecued brisket and red beans will be prepared by local annual volunteers Sammy Doan and Joe McDuff. Desserts and other dishes will be prepared by Pug & Leo's Restaurant of Merkel.

The chamber will be installing its new officers at the event. The new president is Cloy A. Richards. Gary Hicks will be the vice-president and Kay Bloodworth is the treasurer. The Chamber's manager is Marilyn Tittle. Directors include Iris Ameringer,

Danna Dunagin, Charlotte Starbuck, Pat Byrd, Windi Fowler and Michelle Hammond.

The Chamber will also review its year of activities and recognize new businesses that have moved in since the last annual meeting, as well as present a look at activities planned for 1987.

The Chamber's annual Fun Day, held at the city's South Park is the largest money raiser held each year. Last year, the Chamber co-sponsored Western Heritage Days along with the Merkel

Riding Club. That event promises to be more successful in the future. The Chamber also has held a Christmas Fair the past two years that has also been successful.

Tickets for the event are \$5 each and will be available at the door. They are also available at the Farmers & Merchants National Bank, Independent American Savings, Hicks Auto and the Chamber office.

The Chamber is also selling

donation tickets for chances to win a football autographed by some of the Dallas Cowboys. Those tickets are \$1 each and will be available at the door or at Independent American Savings.

Following the evenings' activities, an auction will be held so people attending can take home some of the barbecued brisket beans, along with the barbecue sauce prepared by Doan & McDuff. That event has been popular during past banquets.

MISD board considering addition to high school discipline policy

The Merkel School Board met Tuesday night to discuss adding an option to discipline policies at Merkel High School.

The added policy was proposed by Merkel High principal Larry Curry.

The new policy option proposes a Saturday morning detention hall.

The policy option proposes that a student who violates school rules will be given three choices. The student could accept corporal punishment, they could opt for the Saturday detention or they could be suspended from school for three days.

The Saturday detention hall is a new option at MISD. The detention hall would last from 8 a.m. until noon and would be held at the school library. A teacher would be paid \$40 for the four hour shift. Students would be required to bring work to fill the four hour period and would not be allowed to talk or sleep. All school rules would be in effect. If a student violated any school rules during the detention, they would automatically be suspended for three days.

The policy option also states "It is important to note the above mentioned option (detention hall) does not prevent the use of corporal punishment for the first time violation of school rules, if the administration believes it is needed to preserve an effective educational environment, free from disruption. If options of appropriate discipline are made available to students, it is the student's responsibility to select. If the parents disagree with the decision their child made, they should contact the school."

Curry told the board the new option would enhance discipline

and cost the school district money. He said he didn't feel he would have any trouble finding teachers to work the detention hall.

MISD superintendent Bill Everett told board members, and the approximately 30 people attending the meeting "since there has been at outcry (on school discipline) we are using (the new policy) as a form of public relations, we want to do what the people want."

Curry also told the board "we could develop a full-fledged alternative education program like the larger school districts, but that would cost the taxpayers at least \$20,000 per year."

The superintendent also told the board "I don't see how any parent could resent something like this (the new policy option), if we don't have discipline, we don't have school."

The board then opened the forum to the group in attendance and they took full advantage of the chance to speak. Buck Russell of Merkel told the board "We want to be able to say we don't want our kids spanked- this new option is nothing- it's a whitewash."

He also suggested that a letter be on file for each student from parents stating they gave their approval of corporal punishment for their child or their disapproval of corporal punishment for their child.

The principal told the audience "I don't believe it is the intent of the people of Merkel to do away with corporal punishment. There's no way I'd ask the board to do away with it. The people of Merkel have continued to support corporal punishment as a means of discipline here."

The board said they would study the proposal and the new policy option would be placed on the

agenda at the next regularly scheduled board meeting, planned for March 17th.

All three Abilene tv stations were on hand at the meeting as well as a reporter with the Abilene paper.

Local opponents of corporal punishment have set a meeting Sunday at 4 p.m. at Heritage Hall.

Following that portion of the meeting, MISD athletic director Dick Lepard met with the board for just over one hour discussing personnel in his department. The meeting was adjourned following the executive session when board president Leroy Teaff said the board did not have any decisions to announce.

Editor's Note: I have seen more school board meetings than any other citizen in the community for the last eight and a half years and I have never witnessed anything quite like what happened Tuesday night. With three video cameras going with their required lighting and sound equipment and 40 people in the library, it was quite an unusual sight, to say the least.

It took a lot of nerve on the parts of the board to discuss such a sensitive subject in open session and it also takes a lot of nerve for people to publically vocalize opposition. The board will be facing this tough subject at their next meeting and it is the duty of all MISD residents to let someone know your opinion. The board can't really act in your interest, if they do not know how you feel.

These comments belong in my column but deadline pressures forced this placement. Also, at the meeting Tuesday night, I received a letter to the editor from Merkel High principal Larry Curry and a full page ad that will both appear in next week's paper.

New Exchange Club receives charter

The newly formed Exchange Club of Merkel received its charter from the National Exchange Club on Feb. 28.

The charter was presented during a meeting at Heritage Hall. Bill Sloan is the charter chairperson.

Mr. S. G. Russell, III, Texas District President, presented the charter to Benny Williams, president of the new Exchange Club. He also presented Club Sponsorship Awards to the sponsoring Exchange Club of Richardson and to Committeemen S. G. Russell, III and James R. White.

Other officers of the club are Grady C. Knight, president-elect; Barbara Sue Tucker, secretary; Kay Bloodworth, treasurer and directors Jocille Brady, Robert Leo Harris, Evelyn P. Thomas, Anna May Russell, Bill Sloan and Alvin P. Wozencraft.

Merkelite's on state's money list

A few Merkelites are on a statewide list of people who have not claimed funds held by the State.

The Texas Treasury has about \$80 million in unclaimed money, safe deposit boxes, oil royalties

and stocks and bonds it wants to return to about 100,000 Texans.

Persons who find their name on the list may reclaim their property by calling the State Treasury, toll free at 1-800-321-2274.

Merkelites on the list are Letha Raker, Sheila D. Bogard, Lorenzo

D. Boyd, Edgar O. Carson, C. C. Gray, Floyd E. Miller, Carl Peskor, Rayburn Pruitt, Edwin Jr. Evelyn Reed, Kent Scott, Wes Shaver, the Holland H. Teaff Estate, Lonelle Teaff and Las Wilkerson.

Riding Club set 1st '87 meeting

The Merkel Riding Club will hold their first meeting of the year March 10th at the Taylor Electric Co-Op meeting room. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and all

members from last year are urged to attend.

The Club also invites anyone that is interested in joining to attend.

The meeting will begin with the annual membership drive. Following the business discussion, there will be a pot-luck supper. So, bring your favorite dish and join us as we make plans for the year.

Lions blood drive is Wednesday

The Merkel Lions Club will be holding a blood drive Wednesday at Heritage Hall.

The drive will be open from 9-1. The Lions are trying to replenish Merkel's credit at the Meek

Community Blood Bank. Each pint that is donated will be credited to a Merkel Lions Club account and will be available for use by anyone from the Merkel

area. Presently, credits have almost been depleted.

More information is available from Gary Hicks at Hicks Alto here.

Mail starts 99th year this week

by Cloy A. Richards

There's so much going on I don't quite know where to begin:

The Merkel Chamber of Commerce will be holding its annual banquet Tuesday night at Heritage Hall. Ray Stone, who has been the voice of the Dallas Cowboy Football Report since 1976, will be the guest speaker. The Chamber also will be holding a drawing for a football autographed by some of the Cowboys. Last time I saw it the ball was on display at Independent American Savings.

The meal will again be prepared by local barbecuing legends Joe McDuff and Sammy Doan so it is an event designed to meet the tastes of Merkelites. Tickets are \$5 each and are available at the door.

The spring sports season is already underway as the tennis team is in action and the track teams will be in Anson Saturday for their opener.

Merkel Elementary will be holding a jump-a-thon for the American Cancer Society. That action will be taking place in the Middle School Gym.

One of my favorite treats will go on sale tomorrow as the annual Girl Scouts cookie sales start. Price is \$2 a box.

The Merkel Lions Club will be holding a blood drive Wednesday at Heritage Hall. More on that is on Page One.

We start out 99th year in

business here this week. We are the town's oldest business and that's something we are very proud of.

The Richards clan has been operating the newspaper for the past eight plus years so we are very excited about our next anniversary, our centennial year. We are starting to make plans for a very special edition that will be published after March of 1988.

There will be some exciting times for us in the next year as we prepare for that centennial edition.

If you are looking for something to do during the week, drop by the high school gym any night except Wednesday and catch a Little Dribbler basketball game. It's pure entertainment.



Local barbecuing legends Joe McDuff (left) and Sammy Doan will again be preparing brisket and beans for the Cham-

ber's annual banquet at 7 p.m. Tuesday night at Heritage Hall. The two men donate their efforts

to the Chamber of Commerce and will use only local ingredients. Some of which, remain a secret. Staff photo

MHS discipline policy prompts

Letters to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:
I have been outraged about the incident aired on KTXS-TV newscast on February 19 about the Merkel school administrators using that "weapon" on the 16 year old girl, this is horrible and something should be done to prevent this being repeated to anyone.

If that girl had gone to school and told a teacher that her parent had hit her and left even the slightest mark, they are bound by Child Protective Services to report these cases. Are we permitting school staff to do this to our children?

I have talked to several people who saw this newscast and they too are outraged.

The parents should sue because it appears this is the only way justice will be done. As long as it doesn't cost the school money, they are going to ignore the problem.

There is no way to control corporal punishment and our kids are supposed to respect rules and law; there is a difference between fear and respect. Hitting a child impresses them as being violent and we believe as a nation that children have to be physically disciplined. Seventy-five percent of all child abusers were abused children.

Now, I understand these parents of the abused girl were "slapped

in the face" by the Merkel School Board, by giving these two men a pay raise and extending their contracts. What an insult and lack of respect of the taxpayers money.
Mildred Ledbetter

Dear Editor:
In the name of "discipline" corporal punishment was used during the Spanish Inquisition.

The Merkel School District uses corporal punishment in 1987 and calls it "discipline."

Isn't it time we stopped this abusive practice?

Should your tax dollars be used to support it?

At what point does "discipline" become abusive?

A meeting will be held to discuss ways and means of attacking this serious defect in our school system.

The public is invited! Heritage Hall 4 p.m. March 8th (Sunday). Please help save the children. Concerned Citizens against Corporal Punishment.

Buck Russell

Letter to the Editor:

Theres a new bumper sticker coming out soon, for which Merkel has a large back order: "Have you Legally Beaten a Student Today" ? Interesting fact, though,

if you discipline your own son, in your own home, and leave a very small welt mark on his leg, you will be called on the red carpet and reported to the Child Welfare Department for abusing your own child!

As general manager of a large contracting company, I am truly thankful that my boss does not live in Merkel, where I would

constantly have to brown nose and apple polish in order to protect my local job security, as so many people here in Merkel have to do. Incidentally, I can't even boil water, so I am certainly not a cook out at Dyess Air Force Base.

As a very concerned local citizen and father of school children, I considered entering the recent MHS school board election; however, I am not conveniently married to a school teacher, otherwise, I am simply over qualified for the position. Thanks, but no thanks! Have a nice day.
Lee Deitz

To the Editor:
I would like to express my concern about a letter our High

School principal sent out to the parents of students who have not been any major discipline problems this school year. He goes on to say that this attitude reflects a strong guidance from parents, and that the vast majority are quality young people seeking to do the right thing. Children who he considered to have been a major discipline problem were not sent one of the letters. I understand why but he could have said to those students that he had faith that they could do better and let them no help in any way he could.

What concerns me is this:
1. These children have been disciplined once and are now told, in a round-a-bout way, that they

are bad students, not one of the vast majority of quality people and their parents are bad parents.
2. I don't know any teenagers who will not be in trouble sooner or later. We all make mistakes and we learn from those mistakes. Does this mistake brand us as bad, is there no forgiveness or understanding of the pressure put

on our young people?
3. My last concern is this. Would we as parents have received this letter of praise if there was not something seriously wrong in our High School? If you don't know the answer to this question, please look into it, you might have a reason to be concerned too.
Barbara Peek

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- I want to get my cancelled checks back with my statement each month.

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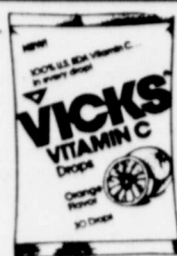
So why not learn more about the benefits of Wire Care Plus. For additional information, simply contact your Contel business office.

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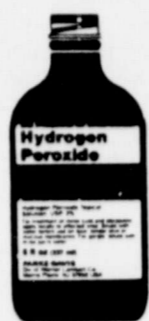
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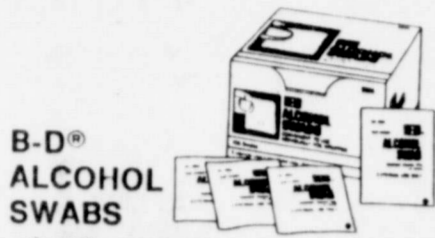
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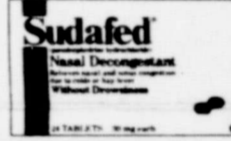
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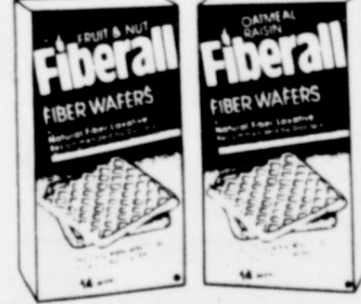
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Obituaries

Hollis Mitchell

Hollis Aaron Mitchell, 72, of Merkel, died February 25 in Abilene.

Funeral services were held Feb. 26th at Merkel's First Baptist Church with Wayne Keller, pastor and Kenneth Jones, former pastor, officiating. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery here under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born Dec. 22, 1914, he was a member of the Army Air Corps in World War II. He was a lineman for Taylor Electric Co-Op here for 28 years and was a member of the First Baptist Church. He married the former Ethel Lee King.

He is survived by his wife of Merkel, a son Wayne Mitchell of Gainsville, a grandson Pamela Jane Mitchell, a brother Ferrell Mitchell of Prentiss, Miss. He was preceded in death by a brother, Price Mitchell.

Pallbearers were Leon Walker, Henry Howard, Earl Bratcher, Doc Casady, Howard Carson and Robert Higgins.

The family requested that memorials be made to the Merkel Cemetery Association or the American Cancer Society.

Veda West

Veda Opal West, 75, of Merkel, died at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene March 2. Funeral services were held March 3rd at Merkel's First Baptist Church with Wayne Keller, pastor, officiating. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery here under the

direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born Oct. 6, 1911 in Grayson County, she had married George West. She had lived here since 1955 and was a Baptist since 1933. She owned and operated a laundromat here for 17 years.

She is survived by her husband, George West of Merkel, five sons; J. C. West of Copeland, Leon West of Rotan, Don West and Jimmy West of Abilene and Jerry West of Keller; a daughter, Audra Horton of Merkel, a brother Bernie Hale of Fort Worth, 17 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Grandsons served as pallbearers.

Nelson Bailey

Nelson Atkins Bailey, 73 of Lewisville, died Feb. 28 in Lewisville.

Funeral services were held March 2 at Merkel's First United Methodist Church with John Waggoner, pastor, officiating. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery here under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.

He had attended Abilene High and McMurry College and was a Methodist. He was also a member of the Elks Club, the Moose Club and was the son of a Methodist Minister. He was a paint contractor and had lived in Lewisville for the past three years.

He is survived by a stepdaughter Frances Shepard of Lewisville and a sister, Anna Belle Shouse of Merkel.

Pallbearers were Ben Hicks,

Kent Satterwhite, Robert Malone, Buddy Smith, Laverne Moore and Arthur Moore.

Xi Nu Eta's dance

Xi Nu Eta will sponsor a Western dance at the Methodist Church gym March 7 from 8 until midnight.

There will be a dance contest. Votes will be sold for 25 cents each for your favorite cowboy and cowgirl.

Refreshments will be served. Music will be country-western and rock-n-roll. Dress code will be casual.

We realize there are basketball games and a track meet for the middle school, however, we want you to know that you are welcome to come as you are after the games and track meet.

Tickets are \$3 each and are available at the door. For more information, contact Marilyn Tittle at 928-5722, Dana Dunagin 928-5253, Sherry Vinson 928-5845 or Cathy Pack 928-4959.

Collier 1st, 2nd

Trent's Tammy Collier won the gold medal in the discus at the Lubbock Christian indoor track meet this past weekend.

She also won the second place silver medal in the shot put. Collier's throw in the discus was 82'11" and put the shot 29'9".

Trent also had others scoring in the meet. Laura Callas picked up a 6th in the long jump. For the boys, Chris Simpson was 4th in the pole vault.

This weekend the Trent track team will travel to Anson to participate in the Tiger relays.

MISD lunch menu

The following is the MISD lunch menu:

March 5th, fried chicken with cream gravy, whipped potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, apricot halves.

March 6: Hamburgers, fries and all the trimmings, peanut butter cookies.

March 9: Chicken nuggets, french fries, english peas, hot rolls, apple cheese crisp.

March 10: Goulash with maca-

roni, corn & peas, lettuce and tomato salad, garlic bread, pineapples.

March 11: Chicken fried steak with cream gravy, whipped potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, sliced peaches.

March 12: Beef and cheese tacos, pinto beans, shredded lettuce, taco sauce, taco shells, apricot halves.

March 13: Sloppy Joes, fries, relish, onions, walk to school cookies.

Friends to honor

McRee's birthday

Friends are invited to a birthday party honoring Mabel McRee on Saturday, March 7th from 2 until 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church.

Miss Mabel is blessed with many friends and she requests only your presence, no gifts please.

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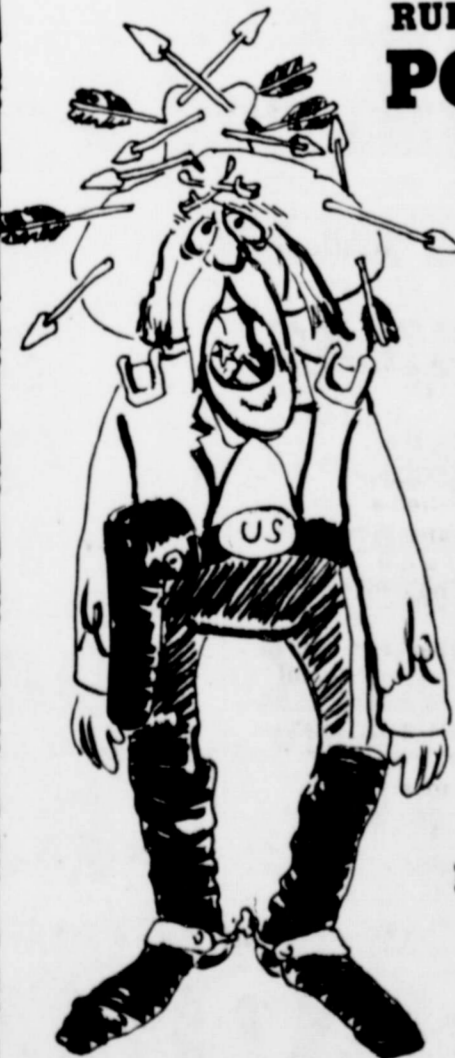
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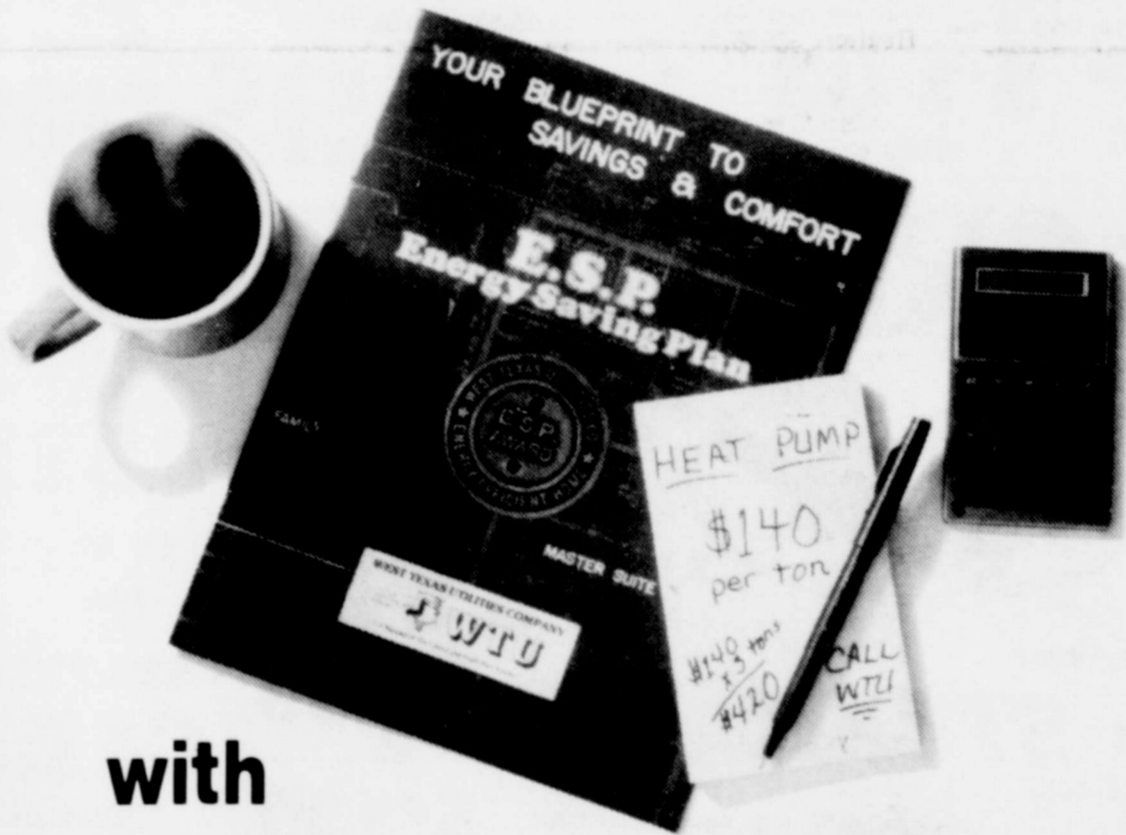


Dale Hammond

JUST THINK OF ALL THE TROUBLE CUSTER COULD HAVE AVOIDED IF HE HAD WENT TO HANDYS INSTEAD!

HANDY FOOD STORE
928-4912

The Savings Really Add Up



with **WTU's Energy Saving Plan!**

Energy Savings

Your energy savings will really add up when you qualify your home for WTU's Energy Saving Plan. You'll save money in energy bills for years to come when your home meets the energy-efficiency standards of the Energy Saving Plan.

Cash Allowances

WTU's Energy Saving Plan will now pay you larger cash allowances for installing energy-efficient equipment in your home. Consider a central system electric heat pump:

WTU WILL PAY YOU:

\$140 per ton	SEER 9.6 & above
\$110 per ton	SEER 8.0 to 9.5

To qualify for the cash allowances, your home must meet the E.S.P. requirements and be served electricity by WTU.

Resale Value

An E.S.P. Home will have a better resale value than other homes on the market, because it offers home owners lower energy bills. Energy bills are an important consideration for most families, so your E.S.P. Home will fit into a prospective home buyer's budget easier than a non-E.S.P. Home.

E.S.P. Book

The new E.S.P. Book clearly outlines all of the programs, cash allowances and requirements of the New and Improved Energy Saving Plan. The E.S.P. Book also has specific information on insulation, air infiltration control, energy-efficient equipment and much more!

Pick up your FREE copy of the new E.S.P. Book at any WTU office, and start adding up your savings today!



BIGGER and BETTER

FOOD SALE



POP RITE 1 PACK
MICROWAVE
POPCORN 59¢

DUNCAN HINES
BROWNIE MIX-CHEWY
12 OZ BOX **\$1 19**

OLD EL PASO
NACHIPS
9 OZ BOX **\$1 09**

CHICKEN OF SEA
TUNA
6 OZ CAN **55¢**

VASELINE
INTENSIVE CARE
LOTION
10 OZ BOTTLE **\$1 49**

DEL MONTE
FRUIT SNACKS
SIERRA TRAILS
YOGURT OR MIXED
6 PACK BOX **\$1 63**

7UP OR
COCA COLA ASSORTED
2 LITER BOTTLE **99¢**

PARADE
CATSUP
32 OZ JUG **79¢**

GOLD MEDAL
FLOUR
5 LB BAG **89¢**

CORN OIL
MAZOLA
64 OZ JUG **\$2 49**

DEL MONTE 303
PEARS HALVES
PARADE 303 CUT
CAN **69¢**

PARADE
MILK
3 FOR **98¢**

PARADE
MILK
2 12 OZ CANS **89¢**

PARADE
ORANGE JUICE
12 OZ CAN **59¢**

JENOS 10 OZ
PIZZA ASST BOX **99¢**

CORN OIL
MAZOLA
64 OZ JUG **\$2 49**

DEL MONTE 303
WK
GOLDEN CORN
CONTADINA 300
3 FOR **98¢**

PARADE 303
SWEET PEAS
3 FOR **98¢**

CAMPBELL'S
VEGETABLES
SOUP
2 NO 1 CANS **83¢**

PARADE
MACARONI CHEESE
7.4 OZ
2 FOR **49¢**

EGGO
WAFFLES
11 OZ BOX **93¢**

PARADE 300
WITH SNAPS
BLACK EYE PEAS
3 FOR **89¢**

PARADE 300
PINTO BEANS
3 FOR **89¢**

CREAMY
CRISCO
3 LB CAN **\$1 69**

CHARMIN
TISSUE
4 ROLL CRTN **89¢**

KRAFT
CHEESE
1/2 MOON
16 OZ PKG **\$2 49**

KRAFT
CHEESE
1/2 MOON
16 OZ PKG **\$2 49**

FRENCH IDAHO INSTANT
POTATOES
16 OZ BOX **\$1 09**

PARADE
CAKE MIX
ASSORTED
18 OZ BOX **59¢**

VLASIC 22 OZ
BREAD & BUTTER
PICKLES JAR **\$1 29**

POST TOASTIES
CORN
FLAKES
12 OZ BOX **89¢**

NAVEL
ORANGES
LB **39¢**

FRESH VINE RIPE
TOMATOES
LB **49¢**

Why Our **GROUND BEEF**
Makes the Juiciest, Tastiest Hamburgers
FRESH LEAN
2 LBS OR MORE LB **98¢**

BETTY CROCKER
HAMBURGER
HELPER
SLOPPY JOE EA **\$1 19**

AUNT JEMIMA
LITE WAFFLE
SYRUP
24 OZ JUG **\$2 09**

NAVEL
ORANGES
LB **39¢**

FRESH
CELERY EACH STALK **49¢**

CHOICE BEEF
RIB STEAK SMALL END LEAN LB **\$1 99**

STATIC GUARD
CARPET DEODORANT CAN **\$1 89**

DETERGENT
TIDE
2 OZ BOX **\$1 79**

GEBHARDT'S
TAMALES JUMBO 28 OZ CAN **\$1 19**

FRESH
GRAPEFRUIT LB **39¢**

FRESH
CUCUMBERS WASHINGTON DELICIOUS **39¢**

CHOICE BEEF EX-TRIM
T-BONE STEAK LEAN LB **\$2 89**

COUNTRY CROCK
SPREAD LB TUB **69¢**

POINSETTA
HOMO
MILK GAL JUG **\$1 99**

PARADE
BISCUITS 4 OZ CAN 5 FOR **49¢**

FRESH
BANANAS GOLDEN LB **39¢**

FRESH
SPUDS RUSSET 10 LB BAG **\$1 19**

OSCAR MAYER
FRANKS BEEF OR ALL MEAT 16 OZ **\$1 79**

DEODORANT
LYSOL SPRAY 12 OZ CAN **\$2 19**

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

BORDENS
LOW FAT
MILK GAL JUG **\$1 93**

BORDENS
BUTTER
MILK 1/2 GAL CRTN **\$1 09**

JERGENS
SOAP ALOE-LANOLIN BATH SIZE 2 FOR **83¢**

LIPTONS
RICE & SAUCE
BROCCOLI MIXES 4.5 OZ PKG **83¢**

AUNT JEMIMA
CORNBREAD
MIXES 6 OZ PKG 2 FOR **43¢**

FIELD TRAIL
DOG FOOD 20 LB BAG **\$2 79**

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS

CARSON'S SUPER MARKET
Fresh Vegetables Best Meats in Town
Merkel, Texas
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITY