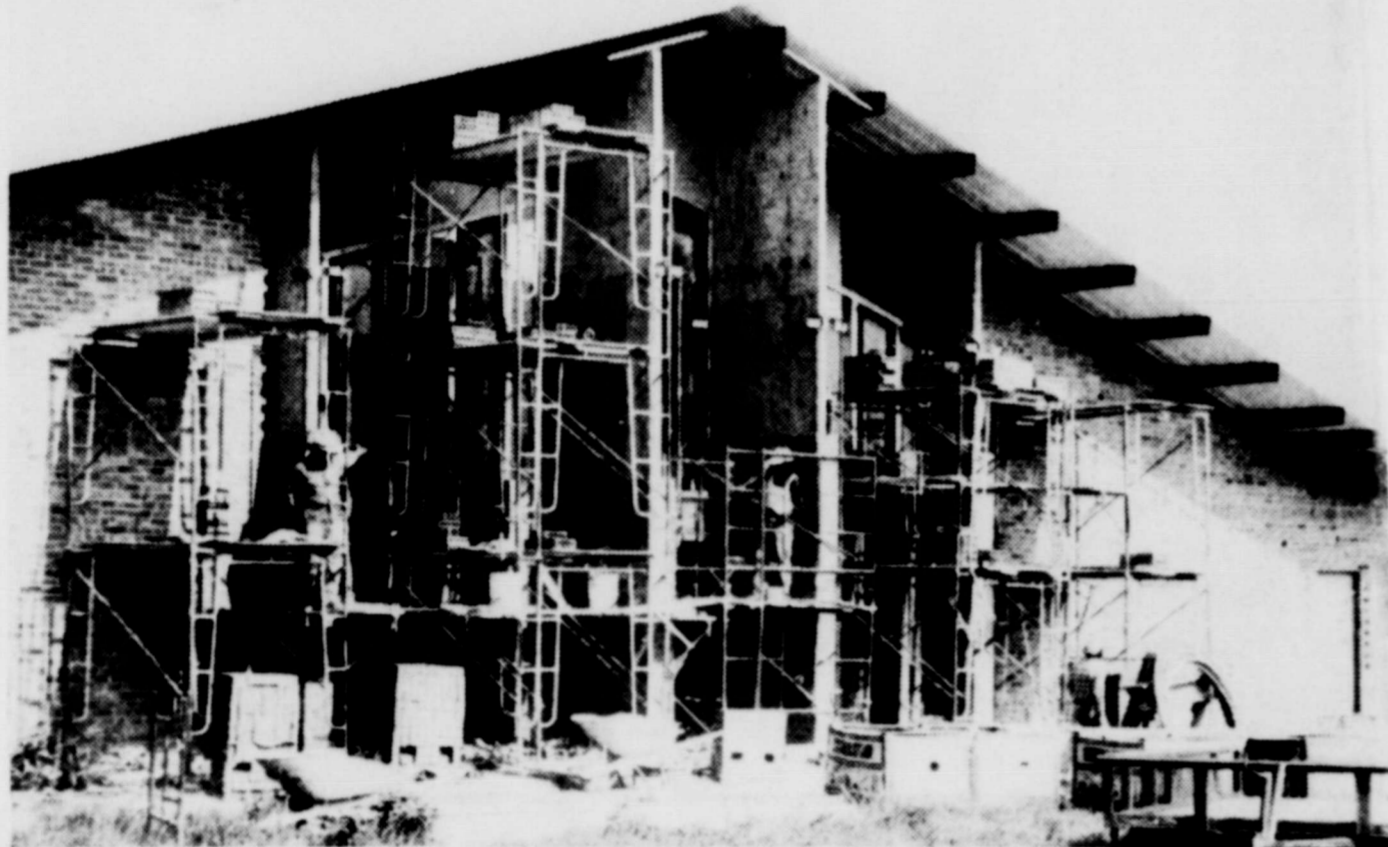


# The Merkel Mail

Thursday, July 23, 1987 . . . Merkel, Texas

28 cents



§ Bricklayers are busy on the Merkel Church of Christ's new building. auditorium will seat about 600 and new classrooms and office facilities will also be included in the new building. Staff photo



§ Merkel's Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church has a new facility on Merkel's South side. The new building contains both a sanctuary and classrooms. Staff photo

## Business, cotton, budget . . .

by Cloy A. Richards

The new construction around town has been exciting, as well as the opening of a few new businesses in the area.

Work is almost completed on Handy Food Store's new location. They are expected to move in late next week.

Our Mother of Mercy's new facility is quite impressive and work on the Merkel Church of Christ's new building is moving along quite well.

New businesses here include County Cloth and Canvas and the Prairie Flower Unique Shop, both arts and crafts shop here.

In Trent, Randy's Grocery has been open a couple of weeks and there is Video's & Moore in Tye.

Merkel also has a new consignment clothing shop—The Closet Door.

We wish all of the new businesses a long and healthy life.

The Merkel Little League All-Stars finished with a 2-2 record as they faced teams from Anson, Clyde and Jim Ned last week in Ovala.

The Merkel team lost the first game to Clyde and came back with wins over Anson and Jim Ned. They lost to Clyde in their final game Friday as Clyde advanced to the next round.

The All-Stars were coached by Gary Heurman and Rusty Holloway.

Merkel City Manager J. A. Sadler told me this week the city was getting pretty good cooperation from local lot owners in complying with the city's weed control ordinance.

Two weeks ago, the city mailed 40 registered letters to landowners on Merkel's Northwest side advising them they had 10 days to bring their property into compliance with the ordinance.

Quite a few of the lots have now been mowed and cleared of debris

but a drive in that area of town Tuesday morning indicated there were still a dozen or so lots that needed to be cleaned up.

Letters will be mailed within the next ten days to landowners with property on Merkel's Northeast side that are in violation of the weed control ordinance.

The Merkel school board will get back to business tonight (Thursday) as they will hold their regular monthly meeting.

Board members will get together at 7 p.m. and take a tour of MISD facilities and the actual business session should get started between 8 and 8:30 p.m. in the Merkel High Annex.

A couple of interesting items will be discussed. The results of a hearing Tuesday before the Texas Education Agency on the dismissal of former Merkel High coach Bob Mace and the proposed new students handbook for Merkel High students will both be of local interest.

Local cotton producers and landowners will have an interesting meeting Monday night at the L & W Snack Bar here.

The Lubbock Bases Plains Cotton Cooperative Association will be holding a meeting to inform producers on details of the new "mill option" that producers paid \$145 million to get underway.

The public is invited to attend.

It seems like we have a chance to set a summer, 1987 record.

It hasn't rained all week, and that is unusual, or at least it is this year.

The big three (the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House) may have agreed on a state budget compromise but the 150 or so Texas lawmakers in the House voted that package down in Austin Monday.

Usually, by this time of the year, local school districts are right in the middle of the budget making process, but that's kind of hard to do when you don't know how much money will be coming in from the state.

The Legislature has looked at taxing everything that moves trying to fund a \$5 billion plus state budget and necessarily so. All kinds of fee and license increases have also been discussed and probably will be enacted.

It's already been a long hot summer in Austin and until a budget is approved, it will get even hotter on the hill.

### MHS Class of '57 plans reunion

The Merkel High Class of 1957 is planning a reunion Saturday. Class members and guests will meet at the Church of Christ Family Center from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

For dinner, the group will meet at the Royal Inn in Abilene. Dinner will be at 7 p.m. and a order from the menu, dutch treat style will be observed.

The Class of 1957 extends an invitation to friends from the classes of 1956 and 1958, as well as 1957 classmates, teachers and parents to join them for the day's activities.

For more information, call Jocille Brady at 928-5706 or Joyce Knight at 928-5536.

### Masons will hold installation

Merkel Masonic Lodge # 710 will be installing Bro. Benny Williams as Junior Deacon and will also be conferring the 1st degree in Masonry upon a candidate at their regular stated meeting Thursday (tonight).

All members are urged to attend.

## MISD trustees meet tonight

The MISD board of trustees will meet Thursday night (tonight) for the regular monthly meeting. The board will take a tour of new school facilities starting at 7 p.m. and the business portion of the meeting should get started between 8 and 8:30 p.m.

During the meeting, board members will discuss and act on the approval of student handbooks for the 1987-88 school year. During the corporal punishment controversy in March and April of this year, parents were very vocal in board meetings of their dislike for

portions of the Merkel High student handbook. The board will also hear a report on the results from local first grade students on the TEAMS testing.

This will be the first meeting held under the direction of new MISD superintendent James Lorian.

## Contel's computer may be calling you

If you receive a call from Contel between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. on any weekday, please pay special attention. In less than 30 seconds, you will receive an up-to-date report on the status of your current telephone service.

A computerized automatic dialing machine, called Contel's "Information Channel," is now being used to notify customers about four work assignments.

Mickey Maritan, telephone service manager, explains, "A pre-programmed taped message will notify customers who have reported a problem with their telephone that their phone is now working properly. And, if a

customer requests new service, the automatic dialing service will let him know when the installation has been completed."

Maritan continues, "Occasionally, a technician will go out on a service call and not be able to complete repairs, moves or changes. In such cases, the technician will need to return to the customer's business or residence to continue the work assignment. The tape recording will ask the customer to leave his name and a time and telephone number where he can be reached to arrange another premises visit.

"Finally, our construction de-

partment may be working in a particular area, which may experience a temporary service interruption. The automatic dialing equipment will notify the customer a day in advance that this outage may occur."

All taped announcements except the construction notice allow customers to leave a message at the end of the recording.

Maritan concludes, "We are providing this state-of-the-art communications technology so that we can keep our customers promptly informed of the status of their telephone service."

## Tri-City league plans benefit game, dance

The Merkel Tri-City league champs will play the local Senior League team in a benefit baseball game tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 p.m. at Hook Park here.

A concession stand will be open with sandwiches, drinks, rice krispie cookies and brownies for

sale. Admission will be \$2 for adults and 50 cents for children.

Money raised at the benefit will be used for travel expenses for the All-Stars to travel to Colorado City.

A dance will be held Friday from 8 until midnight at the First

United Methodist Church gym for area students grades 6-12.

Admission is \$2 per person. Proceeds from the dance will be used to pay expenses of the Merkel Lumberjacks baseball team as they travel to the All-Star playoffs in Colorado City next week.

## Randy's Grocery open in Trent

Randy and Melinda Rifenburgh have opened a new grocery store in Trent. Randy's Groceries is located across the street from Home State Bank on Main Street.

Randy is a former plumber from Abilene who decided to go into business for himself three years ago. He opened a deer

processing location in Merkel which then grew into Randy's Custom Meats.

Randy told *The Mail* "I opened here in Trent because there weren't any grocery stores except for Skinny's. I am going to have daily fresh cut meat, keep my shelves well stocked and will have

competitive prices." He added "I have big plans for the store and hopes to work with the community and the school district and use them to build the business."

Randy and Melinda invite all of the surrounding area to come in and sample the best prices in Trent.

by W. E. Dulaney

## Trent junior rodeo's are doing well

Trent's cowboys and cowgirls made a fine showing for the weeks of July 6th through the 13th.

In the Rotan AJRA show, 8 year old D. J. Bland was 1st in the 8 and under calf riding. He was 4th in the 8 and under flags. Other cowboys and cowgirls entered from Trent were Brandon Bland, Kaci Bland, Britt Sipe and Chad Sipe.

In the San Angelo AJRA show, D. J. kept up his winning ways by

bringing home a check for placing in the 8 and under barrels and 8 and under poles. Other entries from Trent included Brandon and Kaci Bland and Britt and Chad Sipe.

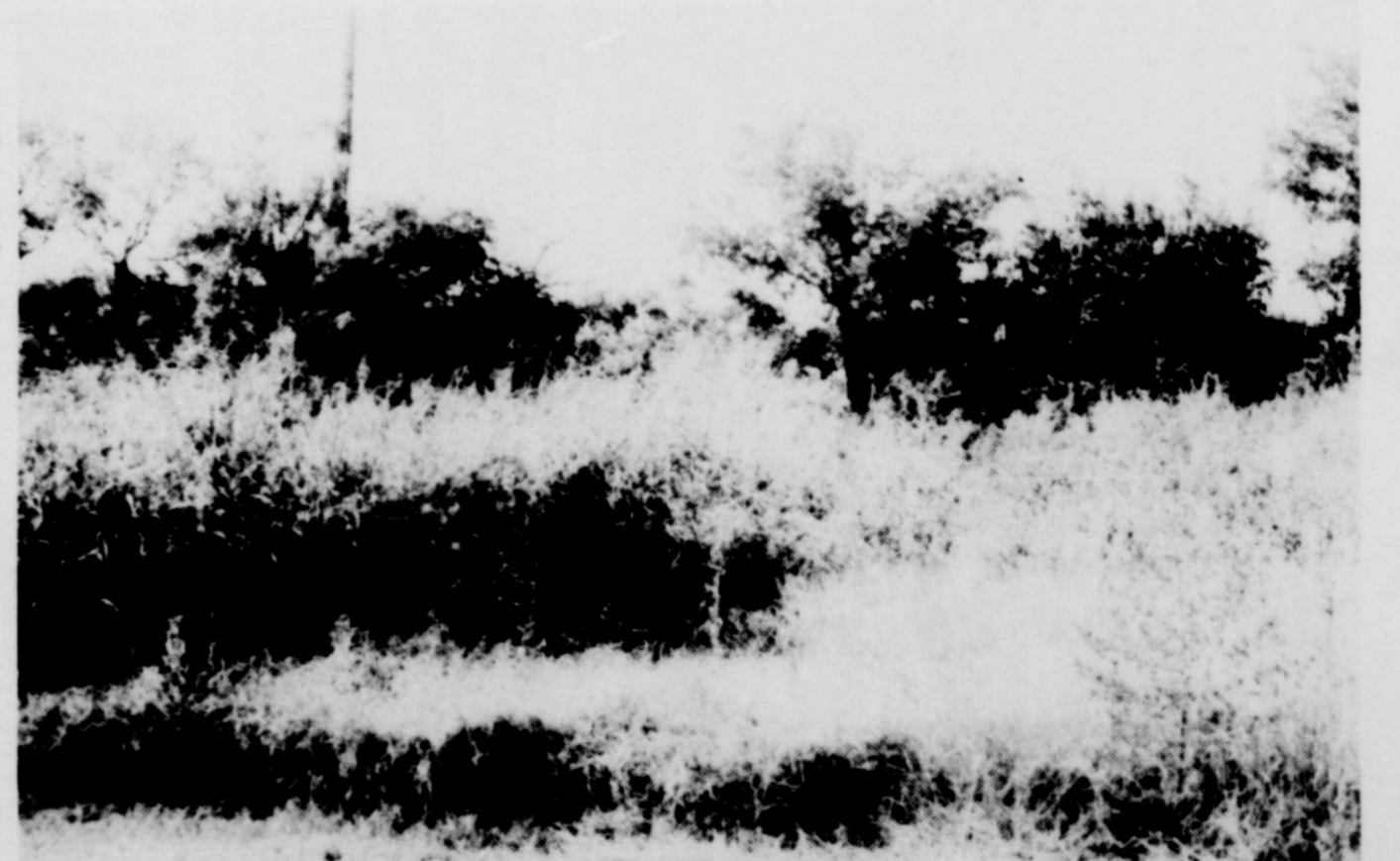
The Uvalde open Junior Rodeo had an area cowboy, 13 year old Brandon Bland, bringing home a 2nd place in ribbon roping in the 13 to 15 age group.

In the Comstock (near Del Rio)

Open Junior Rodeo, D. J. Bland brought home a buckle for winning the 12 and under barrels and 6 year old sister Kaci brought home a buckle for winning the 6 and under barrels.

If your cowboy or cowgirl is entered in any rodeos, please let me know. You can reach me at 862-6371. *The Mail* wants to let the area know how these future PRCA cowboys and cowgirls are doing.

by W. E. Dulaney



§ This lot on Merkel's Northwest side is still in violation of the city's weed ordinance. Residents and landowners in that area of town have received letters to bring the lots into compliance. The city will be sending out letters to landowners in Merkel's Northeast section of town within the next ten days. Staff photo

### Patterson-Adair plan Aug. 29 wedding here

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Frank Patterson of Trent have announced the engagement of their daughter, Cheri Lynn to Donald Scott Adair, son of Mr. & Mrs. Don Adair of Merkel.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Trent High School and attended McMurry College. She is employed by the Taylor County Sheriff's Department.

The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Merkel High and attended Angelo State University. He is employed by General Dynamics in Abilene.

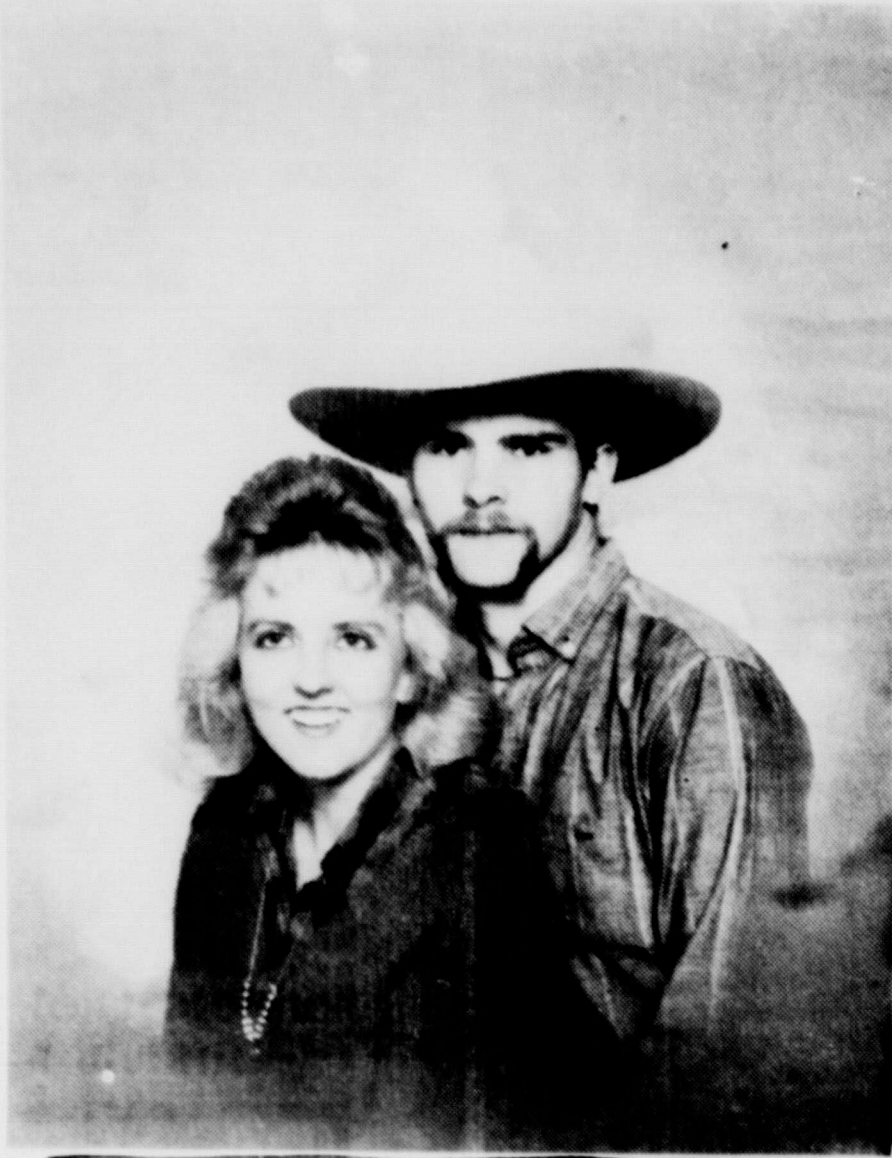
An August 29th wedding is planned at the Merkel Church of Christ.

### Local cotton producers, landowners to meet

The cotton industry in West Texas and Oklahoma has entered a new era and members of the Merkel Coop Gin and other interested cotton producers and landowners have an opportunity to learn more about the new "mill option" and marketing pool offered by the Plains Cotton Cooperative Association (PCCA).

A meeting will be held Monday at the L & W Snack Bar here at 8 p.m. The snack bar is located at 1035 N. 2nd in Merkel.

A representative from PCCA's Lubbock office will attend to review these exciting new options and answer questions. The public is invited to attend.



Cheri Lynn Patterson & Donald Scott Adair

### Support group being formed

Are you single, divorced, depressed, need a friend?

Come help us organize a support group in the Merkel area. Janet Lawler with the Mental Health and Mental Retardation group will be in Merkel to assist in organizing the group.

The meeting will take place Tuesday (July 28th) at 7:30 p.m. in the Pleasantville meeting room on 731 North 1st Street.

For more information, you may call 928-4054.

## MHS cheerleaders attend HSU camp

The cheerleaders from Merkel High School were among 300 participants in the 1987 Big Country Cheerleader camp held on the campus of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene.

The five day camp was conducted by Southwest Camps of Cisco.

Instructional staff and program were supplied by the National Cheerleaders Association.

The cheerleaders were taught new cheers, stunts, chants, and spirit ideas from a seven-member NCA staff headed up by Davonne Fricks, a professional cheerleader

instructor from the NCA's national staff in Dallas.

The MHS cheerleaders were runners-up for the award of excellence and the recipient of the spirit stick award. Glyn Ann Rutledge was nominated to compete for the title of All-American.



### The 1987-88 MHS Varsity Cheerleaders

The 1987-88 Merkel High cheerleaders are [front row from left] Samantha Chon, Krista Toombs, Carolyn Lally, Pam Neff, Glyn Ann Rutledge [second row] Me- [top] Bridget Acuna. Complimentary photo

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Sitting Fee \$2.00 - Not included in price of advertised special. Advertiser special is only in blue and brown backgrounds. Advertiser special is in two (2) poses - our selection. Additional advertised packages are available at regular price. Additional charge for groups and scenic backgrounds.

Limit one special per family

Friday July 24th  
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Saturday July 25th  
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**BEN FRANKLIN**  
 201 KENT MERKEL

approximate size

### REPORT OF CONDITION

Consolidating domestic and foreign subsidiaries of the

Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Merkel

In the state of Texas, at the close of business on June 30, 1987 published in response to call made by Comptroller of the Currency, under title 12, United States Code, Section 161. Charter Number 7481 Comptroller of the Currency 11th District

#### Statement of Resources and Liabilities

|                     |  | Thousands of dollars |
|---------------------|--|----------------------|
| ASSETS              | Cash and balances due from depository institutions   | 1,426                |
|                     | Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin   | 700                  |
|                     | Interest-bearing balances  | 12,949               |
|                     | Securities   |                      |
|                     | Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell in domestic offices of the bank and of its Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and in IBFs | 2,275                |
|                     | Loans and lease financing receivables:   |                      |
|                     | Loans and leases, net of unearned income   | 11,590               |
|                     | LESS: Allowance for loan and lease losses  | 126                  |
|                     | LESS: Allocated transfer risk reserve  | -0-                  |
|                     | Loans and leases, net of unearned income, allowance, and reserve   | 11,464               |
|                     | Assets held in trading accounts  | -0-                  |
|                     | Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)   | 477                  |
|                     | Other real estate owned  | -0-                  |
|                     | Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies  | -0-                  |
|                     | Customers' liability to this bank on acceptances outstanding   | -0-                  |
| Intangible assets   | -0-  |                      |
| Other assets        | 649  |                      |
| <b>Total assets</b> | <b>29,940</b>  |                      |

|                              |  |        |               |
|------------------------------|--|--------|---------------|
| LIABILITIES                  | Deposits:  |        | 27,322        |
|                              | In domestic offices:   |        |               |
|                              | Noninterest-bearing  | 7,419  |               |
|                              | Interest-bearing   | 19,903 |               |
|                              | In foreign offices, Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and IBFs  |        | -0-           |
|                              | Noninterest-bearing  | -0-    |               |
|                              | Interest-bearing   | -0-    |               |
|                              | Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase in domestic offices of the bank and of its Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and in IBFs |        | -0-           |
|                              | Demand notes issued to the U.S. Treasury   |        | 114           |
|                              | Other borrowed money   |        | -0-           |
|                              | Mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases   |        | -0-           |
|                              | Bank's liability on acceptances executed and outstanding   |        | -0-           |
|                              | Notes and debentures subordinated to deposits  |        | -0-           |
|                              | Other liabilities  |        | 859           |
|                              | <b>Total liabilities</b>   |        | <b>27,805</b> |
| Limited-life preferred stock |  | -0-    |               |

|                |  |               |
|----------------|--|---------------|
| EQUITY CAPITAL | Perpetual preferred stock  | -0-           |
|                | Common stock   | 375           |
|                | Surplus  | 375           |
|                | Undivided profits and capital reserves                                     | 1,385         |
|                | Cumulative foreign currency translation adjustments                        | -0-           |
|                | <b>Total equity capital</b>  | <b>2,135</b>  |
|                | <b>Total liabilities, limited-life preferred stock, and equity capital</b> | <b>29,940</b> |

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

*Don Williams*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

Directors

Petty Jane Tittle  
 Name  
Vice-Pres.-Cashier  
 Title

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

*Petty Jane Tittle*  
 Signature  
 July 10, 1987  
 Date

## Services held in Dallas for Baylor Amason

Baylor Amason, 76 of Dallas, died July 15th. Funeral services were held July 17th at the Sparkman Hillcrest Chapel in Dallas with the Rev. Bill Taylor officiating. Burial followed at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Dallas.

He was born Dec. 26, 1911 in Coryell County and was a member

of the Grand Masonic Lodge and the York Rite Masonic Body. He is survived by his wife, Alma Ayers Amason of Dallas; a daughter, Linda Delders of Hurst; two sons, Bobby Amason of Arlington and Jack Amason of Dallas; a daughter-in-law Mrs. Don (Ann) Amason of Dallas; 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



## CAPITOL JOURNAL

STEVEN A. CARRIKER  
House of Representatives

The Merkel Mail July 23, 1987 - Page 3

At the time of this writing, the final fate of the state's budget is still uncertain. Although tentative agreement was reached between the governor, the Speaker of the House, and Lt. Governor Bill Hobby, the actual disposition of this fragile compromise in the Legislature was unclear going into a working weekend in Austin. The initial response to the pact has been generally favorable. However, many members were unhappy with hikes in certain fees and in higher local property taxes which will result from the governor's insistence to cut state funding for public education.

Adding to the confusion over budget matters at the Capitol has been the governor's growing "laundry list" for legislators to debate. Legislators came back to Austin in June to focus on two items: a budget and the taxes to pay for it. However, under the Texas Constitution, the governor controls special sessions by mandating what is considered by the Legislature. Despite the critical need for undivided attention to the state budget crisis, Gov. Clements has set an incredible 53 issues for legislative debate—so far. The governor included ten topics in his original message to the Legislature on June 18. He then proceeded to add 11 more items on June 29, another 19 on July 14, and an additional 13 issues on July 15th.

As examples of the distractions, Gov. Clements has asked us to divert our attention from the budget crisis to such "pressing" issues and "creating of a Select Committee on State Government Management Effectiveness" (6-18), "legislation relating to the name of the Port of Beaumont Navigation District" (6-29), "legislation relating to the regulation of solid waste facilities" (7-14), and so on. Gov. Clements has even

asked the Legislature to re-approve several bills from the regular session that he specifically vetoed just a month ago. One such bill would have provided scholarships to Texas medical schools. After he vetoed the bill, Gov. Clements met with scholarship backer Ross Perot, and H. Ross got his bill added to the special session. Seems as though the governor plans to sign the legislation this time.

Gov. Clements has, in effect, turned the special session into a regular session, lending support for those who call for standard annual sessions of the Texas Legislature. The Legislature has met eight of the last 12 months. Since January, 1965—the Legislature has met in 12 regular sessions and 21 special sessions. Of the special sessions, 18 were called to deal with pressing budget concerns. Only seven states do not meet annually: Arkansas, Nevada, North Dakota, Montana, Kentucky, Oregon and Texas. At the other extreme, large industrial states like New

York, California, Ohio and Pennsylvania meet practically year round.

By the time you read this, hopefully we will have finalized

the state budget. The governor's continued efforts to take money out of education remain the major threat to acceptance of his budget terms.

## Rodgers services held here

Hayward Edward Rodgers, 80, of Abilene, died July 19th. Graveside funeral services were held at Rose Hill Cemetery here with Rev. Lynward Harrison officiating. Burial followed under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born Jan. 9, 1907 in DeLeon, he had married Susie Dell Bailey July 26, 1927.

He is survived by his wife of Abilene, eight daughters; Helen Ayers of Merkel, June Maroney of

Abilene, Doris Young of Sweetwater, Betty Bettencourt of Abilene, Jearldine Dunbar of Big Spring, Gloria Rosenbaum of College Station, Sandra Moody of Deer Park and Laverne Long of Abilene; two sons, Elvin Rodgers of North Dakota and Melvin Rodgers of Kokoma, Indiana; a brother, Dewey Rodgers; two sisters, Marie Beard of Merkel and Connie Johnson of Merkel; 60 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren as well as many nieces and nephews.

## Recent Merkel Cemetery donors are named

The following people have made recent donations to the Merkel Cemetery Association:

In memory of Mannie Ryals: Edwin & Evelyn Reed, Fannelle G. Boney, Polly Fisher, Mrs. George T. Moore, John & Mary Boyd.

Donations in memory of Raymond Miller were received from L. D. & Dorothea Bishop, Nina Orsborn, Naylor & Modell Eoff and Leona Hughes.

Other donors include: the Leona Hodge Estate, Mrs. Trula V. Cox in memory of Mannie Ryals and

Dewey Sandusky, Zada Bird in memory of Mannie Ryals and Raymond Miller, Peggy Reynolds, T. G. Hull, Lee & Marian Wells in memory of Etta Mae McWilliams, G.W., Faye and Lou Ella Hughes in memory of Roy Baccus, Mrs. Glenn Teaff in memory of Etta Mae McWilliams, Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Riney, Mrs. Polly Fisher in memory of J. D. Sandusky Sr., Ted & Hazel Pargament & Minnie Coats in memory of Raymond Miller, Nina Belle Hughes, Mrs. John Mansfield, Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Farmer and the Lula Woods Trust.

## Russom-Swinney reunion planned here

The Russom-Swinney reunion will be held at Heritage Hall Saturday starting at 5 p.m.

A hamburger supper with homemade ice cream will be served.

## Dulaney's sister is on national championship team

The Abilene North Division 4 girls softball team won the national championship in Denison over the weekend.

There will be a pot luck luncheon Sunday as well as visiting. All of their friends are invited to come by and renew old acquaintances.

Trent's connection to this team is rightfielder Debbie Dulaney, sister of W. E. Dulaney of Trent. Debbie is the daughter of Allen & Sharron Dulaney of Abilene.

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- 4 position rug attachment

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S-2085

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- Brushed edge cleaning
- 16 qt. disposable bag
- Automaticaly adjusts to most carpet
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- Check your clearance carefully when you're carrying a tall pole or pipe on a tractor, or driving a truck with a raised bed, or operating machinery such as cranes, booms, hay loaders and well drilling rigs.
- Make sure you know the location of underground power lines before you install irrigation systems or unclog drain or sewer lines. Even routine projects like digging post holes or planting trees can be dangerous if you get too close to power lines.
- Fallen power lines also are extremely dangerous. If you see a line downed by a storm, high winds, car accident or other mishap, call WTU. Meanwhile, stay away from the wire and anything it touches — and keep others away, too.
- Don't trim or cut down trees near power lines. This is work best left to experts.

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# The Classifieds

Ads pay

**FOR SALE**  
Golf cart for sale, like new \$1,095. Call Bobby Pierson 928-5847.  
24-TFC

For Sale: 3 piece sectional couch, good upholstery. Cheap. Call 928-5753.  
30-1tc

For Sale: 1977 VW Rabbit, brown \$500. Call or leave message 928-3463 or see at 702 Orange.  
30-1tc

Good clean top soil, Caliche, base, gravel, septic and drives, backhoe work, cleanups Call 928-5634.  
12-TFC

For sale: good used mattress & metal springs, double bed size \$20 for a pair. Call 928-5602.  
30-1tp

For Sale: 1974 3/4 ton Chevy pickup \$1,150. Call 928-5228 after 5 p.m.  
30-2tc

For Sale: 1985 Knight Hawk 650 1,400 original miles in excellent condition call 928-3293.  
30-1tc

For Sale: Heavy duty grain trailer axles, complete \$50 per axle. Antique plow, old combine-good for parts. Call 928-4106 or come by 409 Manchester.  
30-1tc

**MISC.**  
May not be too late if you are a Navy veteran, it may not be too late to come back into the Naval Reserve at your old pay grade. Find out if you qualify call John McMahon at (915) 677-3442 (Collect!)  
29-2tc

**Part-Time Opportunities.** Excellent chance for civilians Age 26-39, to make your experience count; enhance your career in the Naval Reserve. No prior service needed.  
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29-2tc

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TFC

**KIDS KORNER DAY CARE CENTER.** 2nd & Oak, open Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Call 928-4381.  
TFC

Own your own apparel or shoe store, choose from: Jean/ sportswear ladies apparel, mens, children/ maternity large sizes, petite dancewear/ aerobic, bridal, lingerie or accessory store. Add color analysis. Brands: Liz Claiborne, Gasoline, Healthtex, Levi, Lee, Camp Beverly Hills, St. Michele, Chaus, Outback Red, Genesis, Forenza, Organically Grown. Over 1,000 others. Or \$13.99 One Price Designer, multi-tier pricing discount or family store. Retail prices unbelievable for quality shoes normally priced from \$19. Top \$80. Over 450 brands, 4,600 styles. \$14,800 to \$26,900. Inventory, training, fixtures, grand opening, airfare, etc. Can open 15 days Mr. Loughlin (612) 889-6555.  
25-TFC

We make hydraulic hoses. P & L Auto Parts 136 Edwards 928-4738.  
25-TFC

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

Granny's Playhouse Day Care Center. Open 6 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Hot lunch & snacks provided. For more information call 928-4904 or come by 207 Orange.  
25-TFC

Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon closed meetings are Tuesday & Thursday at 7 p.m. at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church.  
17-TFC

**CASH** for used air-conditioners, any type, any condition. Amerine Mechanical 928-4876.  
17-TFC

P & L Auto Parts is open from 7:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. each Saturday at 136 Edwards.  
TFC

Hiring today: Top Pay! Work at home. No experience needed. Write Cottage Industries 1407 1/2 Jenkins, Norman, Oklahoma 73069.  
29-4tc

For adoption if not claimed: Female chihuahua type dog, white with brownish markings, mixed breed female dog, white with tan markings; wire haired male dog, reddish-tan color; shepard cross male puppy about 6 weeks old, black & tan. Still have two very nice healthy kittens to give away. **Merkel Vet Clinic 928-5235.**  
Childcare in my home, 0-4 years. Have references 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call 928-3945.  
30-1tp

For adoption if not claimed: Female mixed breed pup white with tan, female. Female wire haired black pup. Male shnauzer type dog, black with cream. Male tan wire haired dog. **Merkel Vet Clinic 928-5235.**  
30-1tp

Babysitting in my home, week nights and some weekends. 13 years of experience in registered child care. Call 928-4087.  
29-2tp

Hollis Home repair. Painting, plumbing, paneling, floor tile, sewer service, evaporative cooler service. C. J. Hollis 928-4106 in Merkel Formerly with Conner Construction.  
26-TFC

Will do housekeeping \$25 to \$35. Experienced call 928-3293.  
30-1tc

Would like to clean your house weekly or bi-weekly in the Merkel or Tye area. Call 928-5626.  
30-1tc

Blue's Plumbing: For your complete plumbing needs. Water heater & mobile home hook up. Earl Blue 1-698-0344 Monday - Saturday.  
30-3tp

**NEEDED:** Babysitter to come to my home. Monday-Friday Call after 5 p.m. or on weekends 928-3442.  
30-3tp

**REAL ESTATE**  
For Sale or Rent: Townhouse on the golf course, remodeled throughout, membership negotiable. 2 bedrooms, 3 baths. Call Ken Hogan at Century 21 Abilene Big Country, Inc. 698-8311 or 928-4826.  
25-TFC

For Sale: 3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath, all brick, all electric, home near school. Central heat and central air in the middle of two lots, ask for Dorothy 698-4484 or 695-7634.  
25-TFC

Austin stone house for sale at 308 Rose in Merkel. Call 928-5921 or 928-4144.  
10-TFC

For sale: two bedroom, bath, washer-dryer connections, cellar, storageshed. \$6,000. 692-7576.  
29-2tp

\$200 rent or owner finance in Merkel 713-493-1128 or 928-4169. 2 bedroom, partially remodeled 1/2 acre fenced, water well and storage shed.  
30-1tc

For Sale: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas with steel siding on 3 acres Call Ken Hogan at Century 21 Abilene Big Country, Inc 692-8311 or 928-4826.  
25-TFC

House for sale at a bargain: 2 bedroom, kitchen, living room, 1 bath, has central heat, all furniture and appliances stay. Call Cyrus Pee, Agent 928-5613.  
17-TFC

For sale \$43,000 or lease \$325 per month. 3 bedroom home, den, fireplace at 512 Thornton. In lease first and last months rent required in advance. Call 928-4882 after 6 p.m.  
30-2tp

For Sale: 2 story, large living room, dining room, kitchen, master bedroom & bath, down stairs large up stairs, 3 bedrooms, bath, lots of storage room on corner lot, priced to sell Cyrus Pee, Realtor 928-5613.  
20-TFC

For Sale: 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, on 2 lots, well insulated, vinyl siding, 1 block from High School call 698-3624 or 512-895-2141 or 512-895-2259.  
17-TFC

For Sale: Mobile home lots, 1.25 acres, low down, \$100 per month, owner carry, 10 percent interest. Septic and driveway included \$4,500. Call 928-5534.  
23-TFC

For Sale: 3 bedroom, 1 bath, living room, kitchen. Frame house on 3 acres. 4 1/2 miles North of Merkel, Toombs Real Estate 925-4144.  
25-TFC

**FOR RENT**  
For Rent: completely furnished 1 bedroom apartment, carpeted at 920 1/2 Rose. Call 928-5738 or 928-5672 or come by 902 Rose after 3 p.m.  
30-1tp

For rent: \$200 per month, 2 bedroom, mobile home, carpeted, central air & heat, stove & refrigerator, fenced yard, call 928-5251 or 928-5062.  
23-TFC

1,283 bedroom mobile homes. 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.  
23-TFC

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

**GARAGE SALES**  
Garage Sale: Friday only 8:45 until 5:30 at 1414 Heath. More things added and more new material and trims added. All kinds of material from burlap and cottons to silk and satins. Also, clothes, shoes, purses & dolls to be dressed.  
30-1tp

Garage sale at 702 Avondale. Sale starts Friday at 8:30 til 7 Saturday 8 until Noon.  
130-1tc

Garage sale: adult, baby & childrens clothing, all types of household items, portable CB, some furniture, Don Hensley residence 1 mile North of Merkel on FM 126 Friday & Saturday 8-6.  
130-1tc

Garage Sale: Friday only 1209 S 2nd: cook stove, dryer, dish washer, baby bed, baby swing, walker, all sizes of clothes and misc.  
30-1tp

**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**  
THE STATE OF TEXAS County of Taylor  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** That by virtue of a certain Writ of Execution issued out of the Honorable County Court of Dallas County, of the 22nd day of May, 1987, by Writ of Execution of said Dallas County Court of Law for the sum of Twenty Six Thousand One Hundred Twenty Two and 75/100 Dollars and costs of suit, under a Judgement, in favor of W.F.G. BREMSON, INC. in a certain cause in said Court, No cc-85-9152-B and styled W.F.G. BREMSON, INC SUCCESSION IN INTEREST TO BREMSON PHOTO INDUSTRIES vs. WILLIAM D. BUNCH, placed in my

hands for service, I John W. Middleton as Sheriff of Taylor County, Texas, did on the 22nd day of June, 1987, levy on certain Real Estate, situated in Taylor County, Texas, described as follows, to-wit: Real Property located at 373 South 26th Street West 75' and the East 345' of the North 150' of Lot 2, Block 2, Ellen-Bowyer Subdivision of Parts of NE, SE & SW Quarters of Section 50, Blind Asylum Lands, City of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas; and levied upon as the property of William D. Bunch and that on the First Tuesday in August 1987, the same being the 4th day of said month at the Court House door of Taylor County, in the City of Abilene, Texas, between the hours of ten a.m. and 4 p.m., by virtue of said levy and said Writ of Execution, I will sell above described Real Estate at public vendue, for each, to the highest bidder, as the property of said William D. Bunch. THIS SALE WILL BE FOR CASH ONLY: SALE WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 A.M. And in compliance with law, I give this notice by publication, in the English Language, once a week for three consecutive weeks immediately preceding said day of sale, in The Merkel Mail, a newspaper published in Taylor County.


Witness my hand, this 22nd day of June, 1987,  
John W. Middleton  
Sheriff, Taylor County, Texas by Eddie Swanson, Deputy  
THE STATE OF TEXAS  
TO: G. L. Shields and wife, Lula Bell Shields, and or the unknown heirs of G. L. Shields or Lula Bell Shields, as the case may be, Residence Unknown.  
Defendant's, Greeting: ing:  
You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer

to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two days from the date of the issuance of this citation, same being Monday the 31 day of August, 1987, at or before ten o'clock A.M. before the Honorable 42nd District Court of Taylor County, Texas, at the Court House of said County in Abilene, Texas.  
Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court, on the 8th day of July, A. D. 1987, in this cause numbered 40,440-A on the docket of said court, and styled WALTER EUGENE HUDGINS and wife, Shirley Hudgins Plaintiff, vs. G. L. Shields and wife, Lula Bell Shields, and or The Unknown Heirs of G. L. Shields or Lula Bell Shields, as the case may be, and Jerry Huddleston, Sole Heir of Lucretia Huddleston, Deceased, a Single Woman are Defendants.  
A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: At all times mentioned, Plaintiffs were, and are, the owners of a parcel of real property and of all the improvements on that property, located in Taylor County, Texas. This real property is more particularly described as follows: Lot 9, Block 4, West University Place Addition to the City of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas (residentially known as 1965 Vogel, Abilene, Texas 79601.) Plaintiffs have been in actual, open, notorious, exclusive, hostile and adverse possession of the real

property here involved since April 1, 1977. This date precedes the commencement of this action by more than ten years. Because record title appears in the name of G. L. Shields and wife, Lula Bell Shields, a cloud exists on Plaintiff's title to the herein described property. Plaintiffs seek judgement for title in and to the real property described herein, removing the cloud which the Defendants, or any one of them, could assert to Plaintiff's title. Plaintiff seek such other and further relief to which Plaintiffs may be justly entitled, including cost of court and reasonable attorney's fees as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.  
If this citation is not served within ninety days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.  
The officer executing this writ shall promptly

execute the same according to law, and make due return as the law directs.  
Issued and given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Abilene, Texas, this 13th day of July, A.D. 1987.  
Attest: Rilla Mahoney, Clerk, 42nd District Court, Taylor County, Texas By JoAnn Lackey Deputy (Seal)  
30-4tc

For thickening gravy, sauce or stew, sprinkle instant mashed potatoes into the mix and stir. Lumps dissolve immediately.



Freeze syrup from canned fruit to make a sauce for gingerbread, coffee cake or nut bread.

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**THANKS PAT WARREN**  
PLEASE CALL 928-5263

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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 AFTER HOURS

**The Merkel Mail**  
First Published March 3, 1889  
Cloy A. Richards—Editor—Co-Publisher  
Melanie Richards—Co Publisher  
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## Best way for profit on some farm land is CRP, deadline July 30th

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program may be the farmer's best bet to make a profit on highly erodible cropland and defray some of the cost of conservation.

"According to USDA rules, compliance with the conservation provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act requires farmers who plan to cultivate highly erodible cropland after Jan. 1, 1990, to develop a conservation plan by 1990," said Ken Cash, district conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service at Abilene. "They must also protect their land against soil erosion with applied conservation practices by 1995 if they want to participate in USDA programs. These practices may include conservation tillage systems, terraces, grassed waterways, strip-

cropping, or other practices."

CRP offers farmers cost sharing and annual rental payments to convert this highly erodible cropland to permanent vegetation, and a chance to bypass expensive conservation treatment, retain eligibility for USDA programs, and ensure a return to this land.

"Most land fitting the highly erodible criteria is not only difficult to protect against erosion, but often produced poor crop yields and has a low profit potential," said Cash. "Most times, payments provided under the Conservation Reserve Program offers farmers greater rates of return to this land."

Under the CRP, farmers receive cost sharing to establish grass, trees or wildlife plantings on highly erodible cropland. Cost

sharing is provided for 50 percent of eligible costs of establishment. Annual rental payments are bid by the farmer and extend for 10 years, the length of the CRP contract. The permanent vegetation must be maintained during this time, and harvesting will not be permitted.

The Conservation Reserve is authorized by Congress to continue until 1990, a total of five years, as long as funds are appropriated. Currently, funds have been appropriated through September of this year.

In the last four signups, farmers submitted bids on a total of 2.3 million acres in Texas.

A fifth CRP signup period has been announced by the Secretary to begin July 20th and end July 31, 1987. Signup will be at the ASCS office located in Abilene.

## Conservation tillage practice

Conservation tillage is gaining gradual acceptance by Texas farmers, with about 14 percent of the state's cultivated land under this practice, according to Dr. Billy Harris.

Harris, a soils specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A & M University System, said that the trend toward conservation tillage in Texas is up.

He addresses about 165 producers, researchers, Extension specialists and soil conservationists attending the 10th annual Southern Regional No-Till Conference in College Station July 1-2. Participants registered from 11 states.

There are about 30 million acres under cultivation in Texas this year and 86 percent of that is under conventional tillage meth-

ods, he noted.

In 1974, only a little over a million acres were farmed with conservation tillage, but that amount has risen to four million acres, Harris said.

Conservation tillage has great potential for areas in Texas with wind and water erosion problems, he pointed out.

Researchers and farmers have been experimenting with the practice and found that it does work well in grain sorghum, corn, cotton, soybeans and even peanuts. Some vegetable production in the state's Rio Grande Valley region is under conservation tillage, Harris said.

There are some drawbacks to the practice.

Specialized planting equipment is required and some crops don't grow well under this practice, since timing is important.

Weed control is another problem that researchers are having to tackle, Harris said. Weeds can multiply easily in some fields under conservation tillage and herbicide effectiveness varies with the region of the state and weather conditions, he said.

Attitudes toward this fairly new practice also have to change before it finds acceptance, Harris added. Landowners may not want to see their leased land under conservation tillage and bankers are cautious about a practice they feel is not proven.

Additionally, it is almost a religion with farmers to have rows clean and free of stubble in the fields he noted.

The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station along with the Extension Service and various soil and water conservation agencies and organizations cooperated in hosting the conference.

## WTU customers pay below average

Customers of WTU are paying less than the state average price for electricity during July, according to a monthly survey of the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

WTU's standard residential rate for 1,000 kilowatt-hour is \$67.92, compared to an average of \$73.11 for all investor-owned utilities in

the state and an average of 68.88 for all 17 companies in the survey. The list includes a number of rural electrical cooperatives, two municipally owned systems and the Lower Colorado River Authority.

The survey shows that since July, 1986, WTU's rate for 1,000 KWh has decreased by 15.1 percent as a result of lowers costs for

power plan fuel. El Paso Electric Co. still has the highest rates in the state, charging its customers \$87.42 for 1,000 KWh. TU Electric Co., Texas Power & Light and Dallas Power & Light is charging \$70.82 per 1,000 KWh.

Several of the companies, including WTU and El Paso, are in the process of seeking rate increases. WTU has filed for a 23.9 per cent increase, and a hearing is set before the PUCIN Austin August 24th.

This is the first increase in base rates sought by WTU in three years, while several decreases in fuel costs charges have occurred.

The change would place WTU's portion of the new Oklahoma Power Plant in the Company's rate base and add about \$50 million in annual revenue. The Company cannot recover expenses of building and operating the plant until the rate base is changed to reflect the \$275 million investment. The plant, which burns coal, has been in commercial operation since last December.

## Watermelon time is here

(AUSTIN)—Summer. Time to kick off your shoes, spread some newspaper on the picnic table and slice into an ice cold watermelon. There's hardly a lazier, more enjoyable, less expensive way to spend an evening with the family.

Choosing the right melon is the first and most important step. Size will depend on the number of people and the extent of their appetites. If the kids are particularly hungry, a family of five or six can devour a 15-pounder on the spot. A group of 16 less-exuberant eaters, on the other hand, can make do with a 20-pound melon if everyone just wants a slice.

Whole Texas watermelons, primarily Long Grays and green-striped Jubilees, average 20-22 pounds with larger ones weighing in at 28-32 pounds. The big ones usually are cut first at supermarkets and sold in halves, quarters or slices. Cut melons are wrapped in clear plastic, which gives customers the advantage of actually seeing a melon's meat and seeds before buying one.

Shiny pink meat with no white streaks and black or dark brown seeds indicates a good melon, according to Carol Ware, Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) home economist. Ware suggests passing on those with mealy flesh, indicative of overripeness, or white seeds, which mean immaturity.

Some yellow-meat watermelons are also being sold, but they are so few in number that shoppers pay a premium for them. "The most time-tested are the red ones," said Gary Miller, TDA Market News reporter. "We also grow a few seedless, but these are more of a novelty. They're expensive to breed and hard to raise."

Buying a whole watermelon involves more guesswork than buying a portion of one. Whole melons must be judged solely on outer appearances. Thumping one to test for ripeness is considered ineffective.

### HEAVENLY WATERMELON SALAD

- 2 C. watermelon balls
- 1 C. seedless grapes
- 3 bananas, cut in small pieces
- 1 1/2 C. fresh pineapple, cut into chunks
- 1 C. orange pieces
- 2 C. miniature marshmallows
- 1 C. pecans or unsalted peanuts
- 1 C. whipping cream, whipped
- 1/2 C. flaked coconut

Combine all ingredients and mix well. Chill overnight before serving. Makes 10-12 servings.

### THREE MELON MELANGE

- 1 C. granulated sugar
  - 1 2 C. water
  - 1 3 C. orange liqueur
  - 4 C. diced watermelon
  - 2 C. diced cantaloupe
  - 2 C. diced honeydew
- Combine the sugar and water and bring to a boil. Remove from heat and add liqueur, chill. In large bowl, combine melons; chill until ready to serve. Just before serving, pour syrup over fruit. Makes 8 servings.

**YES**

**WE ARE BUYING WHEAT**

**CONTACT R. L. BLAND AT**

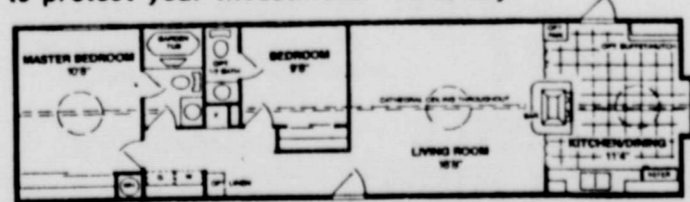
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| MERKEL LOCKER PLANT LEAN<br><b>GROUND MEAT</b><br>2 LB PKG <b>\$3.29</b> 1 LB PKG <b>\$1.69</b>     | <b>PIZZA SINGLES</b><br>RED BARON ONLY <b>99c</b><br>DEEP DISH SUPREME |
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| DEL MONTE<br><b>SAUERKRAUT</b><br>16 OZ CAN <b>59c</b>  | PIONEER BUTTERMILK<br><b>BAKING MIX</b><br>40 OZ <b>\$1.79</b>         |
| DUNCAN HINES GOLDEN<br><b>SUGAR COOKIES</b><br>15 OZ <b>\$1.79</b>                                  | AUNT JEMIMA<br><b>CORN MEAL</b><br>WHITE ONLY 32 OZ <b>69c</b>         |
| DUNCAN HINES BRAN & HONEY<br><b>MUFFIN MIX</b><br>10.75 OZS <b>\$1.39</b>                           |  |
| NABISCO RITZ<br><b>CRACKERS</b><br>16 OZ <b>\$1.79</b>  |  |

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SINGLE SLICED  
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**NICE & SOFT**  
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**PARADE FROZEN**  
**16 OZ BAG**  
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**CARNATION**  
**COCOA MIX**  
12 CT BOX **\$1.19**

**PRINGLES**  
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ASST **\$1.19**  
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**BORDENS**  
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**POINSETTA**  
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**BETTER VALUE**  
**TEA** 100 CT BAGS BOX **93¢**

**FLAKE COFFEE**  
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11.5 OZ CAN **\$1.69**

**PARADE**  
**SUGAR**  
5 LB BAG **\$1.29**

**PARADE**  
**CATSUP**  
32 OZ BOTTLE **79¢**

**BORDEN**  
**COTTAGE CHEESE**  
12 OZ CRTN **79¢**

**RALSTON**  
**HONEY OR WHEAT**  
**CHEX** BOX **\$1.63**

**2ND \$1.98**  
**\$1.69**  
LIMIT 1

**2ND \$1.53**  
**\$1.29**  
LIMIT 1

**CHOICE BEEF**  
**ROUND STEAK**



**TENDER LEAN**  
POUND **\$1.69**

**DEL MONTE 303**  
**PEACHES** IN SYRUP CAN **69¢**

**OCEAN SPRAY**  
**CRAN-COT JUICE** 48 OZ **\$1.49**

**PARADE 303**  
**CUT GREEN BEANS** MIX 'EM OR MATCH 'EM **3 CANS 99¢**

**W K GOLDEN CORN** **99¢**

**WITH SNAPS BLACK EYE PEAS**

**NEW POTATOES** **2/89¢**

**VEG ALL MIXED VEGETABLES** **3/89¢**

**PARADE 300 PINTO BEANS** **\$1.29**

**DEL MONTE ASST DILL PICKLES** 22 OZ JAR **\$1.29**

**NUTRA SWEET**  
**EQUAL**  
100 CT BOX **\$3.69**

**CHICKEN OF SEA**  
**TUNA**  
6 OZ CANS **2/\$1.00**  
LIMIT 4

**SHORTENING**  
**ALL VEGETABLE**  
**PARADE** 3 LB CAN **\$1.19**

**FRESH PRODUCE**  
**VINE RIPE TOMATOES**  
POUND **59¢**

**CALIFORNIA SEEDLESS**  
**RED GRAPES** LB **59¢**

**FRESH GREEN**  
**CABBAGE** LB **15¢**

**CALIFORNIA**  
**ORANGES** LB **63¢**

**FRESH**  
**CAULIFLOWER** LB **59¢**

**SANTA ROSA**  
**RED PLUMS** LB **49¢**

**FRESH CELLO**  
**CARROTS** LB **59¢**

**RUSSET**  
**SPUDS** 10 LB BAG **\$1.79**

**CHOICE BEEF**  
**RUMP ROAST** LEAN LB **\$1.79**

**CHOICE BEEF BONELESS**  
**SIRLOIN TIP STEAK** LEAN LB **\$2.39**

**CHOICE BEEF BONELESS**  
**PIKE PEAK ROAST** LEAN LB **\$1.89**

**OSCAR MAYER**  
**FRANKS** ALL MEAT OR BEEF 16 OZ PKG **\$1.89**

**OSCAR MAYER**  
**BOLOGNA** BEEF OR ALL MEAT 8 OZ PKG **\$1.09**

**OSCAR MAYER**  
**COOKED HAM** 6 OZ PKG **\$1.73**

**GOOCH B. R.**  
**BACON** TRAY PACK SLICED SLAB LB **\$1.93**

**FREEZER PACK 1**  
5 LBS GROUND BEEF  
5 LBS PORK CHOPS  
5 LBS CHUCK ROAST  
5 LBS FRYERS  
TOTAL WEIGHT 20 LBS **\$30.99**

**FREEZER PACK 3**  
5 LBS GROUND BEEF  
5 LBS CHUCK ROAST  
5 LBS CHUCK STEAK  
5 12 OZ GERMAN SAUSAGE  
TOTAL WEIGHT 19 LBS **\$28.89**

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