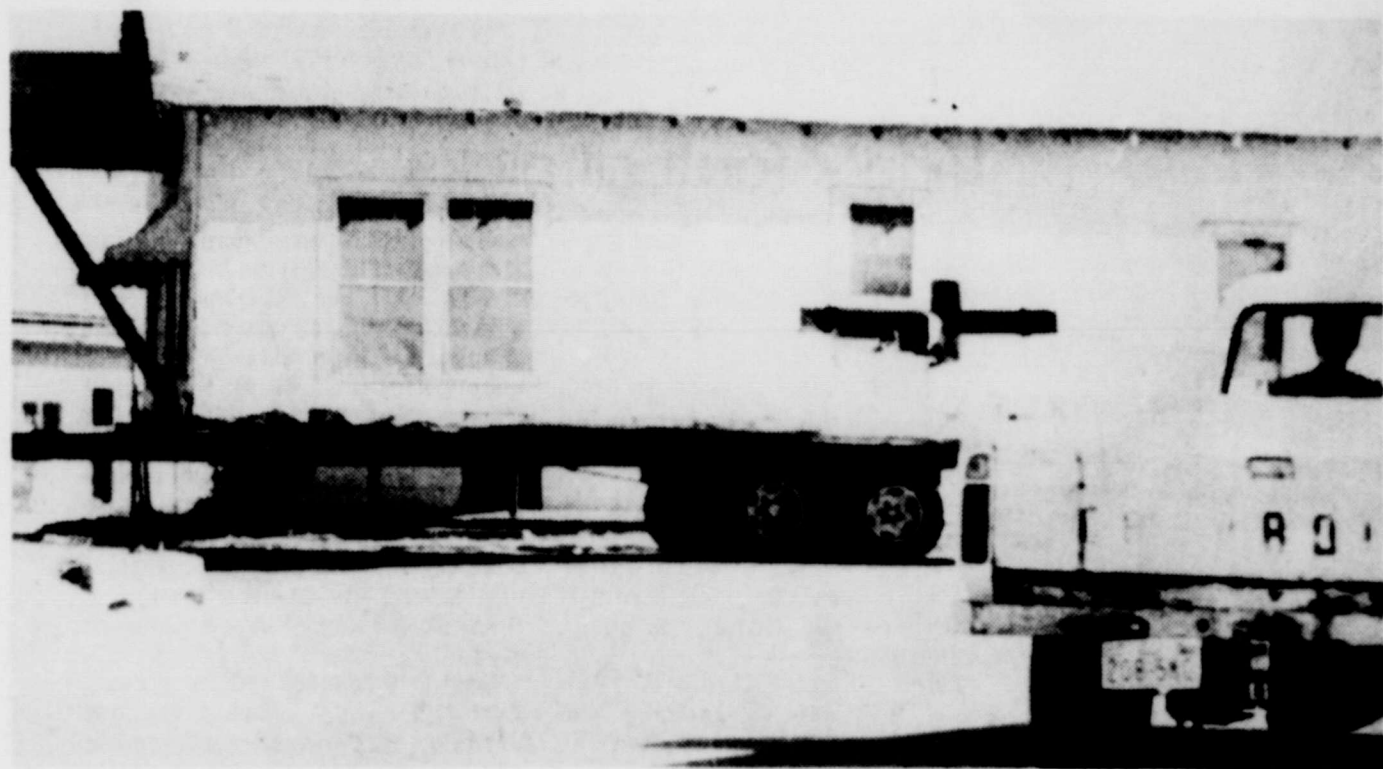


The Merkel Mail

Our 99th year

Thanksgiving Day, 1987 . . . Merkel, Texas

30 cents



Wide turn!

A house being moved made for an unusual traffic hazard for this pick-up here Friday. The house was towed down Old Highway 80 and turned North on Lamar to give the folks at City Hall a close look.

Staff photo

Badger boys down 2 4A schools to open sea basketball season

The Merkel Badgers boys basketball team is off to a 2-0 start with a couple of wins over 4A schools and the girls are 1-1 as they defeated Roscoe and fell to Sweetwater.

Last Tuesday, the girls hosted Roscoe, who made it to the final four in Class A last year. The girls, led by Carolyn Lally's 19 points and Teresa Lucas' nine, downed Roscoe 45-43. The Lady Badgers shot 42 percent from the field while Roscoe shot 58 percent.

On Friday, the girls traveled to Sweetwater and were downed 45-26. Lucas and Lally each had four points while Amber Whisenhunt led the way with 11. Merkel shot 38 percent while Sweetwater hit 66 percent of their shots.

Girls coach Jan Whisenhunt told **The Mail** Monday "The big difference in the two games was

our post play. In the Roscoe game we moved well to get open, blocked out on defense and had the rebounds. In the Sweetwater game, we didn't." She also said the outside shooting from Sweetwater, especially in the 2nd and 3rd quarters, was outstanding.

She added "If we play like we did against Roscoe, we will do fine this year."

The girls start district play next Tuesday as they host the defending district champion Wylie girls here at 8 p.m.

Coach Johnny Hampton's boys are 2-0 with two wins over 4A school last week. The boys started the season beating Stephenville 55-50 behind an impressive 35 point performance from Lynn Hays while Monty Griffin added 16.

The boys then traveled to San Angelo Friday and beat Lakeview

38-36 as Wade Toombs and Griffin led with 7 while Ted Seymore and Brit Pursley each contributed six points.

Hampton told **The Mail** Monday "I was pleased with the Stephenville game because we played hard and it's good to beat a 4A school. The Lakeview game was close all the way and that helped the guys to learn to deal with pressure. I am glad we won the Lakeview game but we didn't play well at all."

The boys played Breckenridge Tuesday night (details were not available at press time) and will host Sweetwater here Dec. 1st at 6:30 p.m.

Both the varsity and junior varsity teams will be in action next Tuesday here. The JV games will be played in the Middle School gym.

Board receives audit report

The Merkel ISD board of trustees met Thursday night and approved the annual audit report of the Condley and Company of the school's books for the 1986-87 school year. Board members also appointed textbook committee members at that meeting.

Jerry Crisp of Condley and Company made the audit report presentation to the board. The budget spent for the 1986-87 school year was \$4,656,388.

Interesting aspects from the audit report include delinquent school taxes which jumped from around \$3,500 a year prior to 1980 to last year's total of \$163,374. MISD owed a total of \$740,982 in past due taxes.

In a breakdown of income, MISD taxpayers funded 35 percent of the school budget in 1986-87. The state government funded 60.4 percent of the budget while the federal government funded 4.6 percent of the budget. MISD also has a cash reserve of about 3 and a half months of operating expenses.

In other action, the board voted for Stanley Whisenhunt for a position on the Central Tax Appraisal Board.

Named to the textbook committee were (Tye Elementary) Kathy Banks, Jerrie Cargile, Gloria

Hoover, Margaret Sims, Shirley Williams; (Merkel Elementary) Lillie Braune, Kaye Lynn Dearing, Suzanne Goza, Carolyn Kelso, Jane Wade, Jeanie West; (Merkel Middle School) Donna Bryan, Donna Dunn, Karen Riley, Chuck Roach, Sandra Townsend; and (Merkel High School) Gayle Baker, Jocille Brady, Robbie Hicks, Beth Laurence, Kellie Melson and Luke Taylor).

MISD maintenance director Hayden Reeves reported the school must still face further regulations regarding asbestos removal from MISD. Last year, asbestos lining from a furnace in Tye and a roof at the Tye School Gym were removed but now a licensed consultant must inspect those facilities, as well as all other MISD buildings, to check for asbestos in building materials.

Reeves also reported to the board his crew had completed repairs to the Scout Hut and showed a letter received from local Scouts thanking the district for the work.

MISD curriculum director David Laman reported he has performed about 65 teacher evaluations and liked what he has seen in the classrooms so far.

Merkel High School principal Robert Damron reported that drug sniffing dogs came through

recently and no contraband (outside of shotgun shells) was found in student lockers or cars. He also reported the high school had hired Janie Lanford as a counselor's aid in the high school. He also reported the in school suspension for students who have violated discipline rules is working well.

Merkel Middle School principal Gaylon Brnovak reported he was trying to get the Middle School in a UIL district to compete in Literary, Science and number sense competitions this spring.

Tye Elementary principal Harry Taylor said his school's Christmas party will be held Dec. 7th.

MISD superintendent James Logan said that all MISD teachers eligible for the career ladder would be chosen and the committee for that selection group is made up of himself and the campus principals. He also reported MISD had an average daily attendance of 1,427 students during the October attendance checking period, almost the same as last year's.

Following an executive session, board members approved additional substitute teachers including Mary Smith, Linda Williams, Debbie Locke, Rhonda Campbell and David Isaacs.

Trent has 10 players mentioned for All-District football honors

The zone champion Trent Gorillas cleaned up this year on the all-district team for District 4 East. Every starter and one part time player made at least honorable mention all-district with Brian Massey picked to play in the 6-Man All Star game next summer in Stephenville. The all-district 'Rillas are as follows:

1st Team Offense: quarterback Dock Carriker, running back Lewis Knapp, center Scott O'Kelly and kicker O'Kelly.

1st team defensive lineman Brian Massey and linebacker Lewis Knapp.

2nd team offense: end Brian Massey.

2nd team defense: lineman Chris Jones, linebacker Mike Payne and punter Brian Massey.

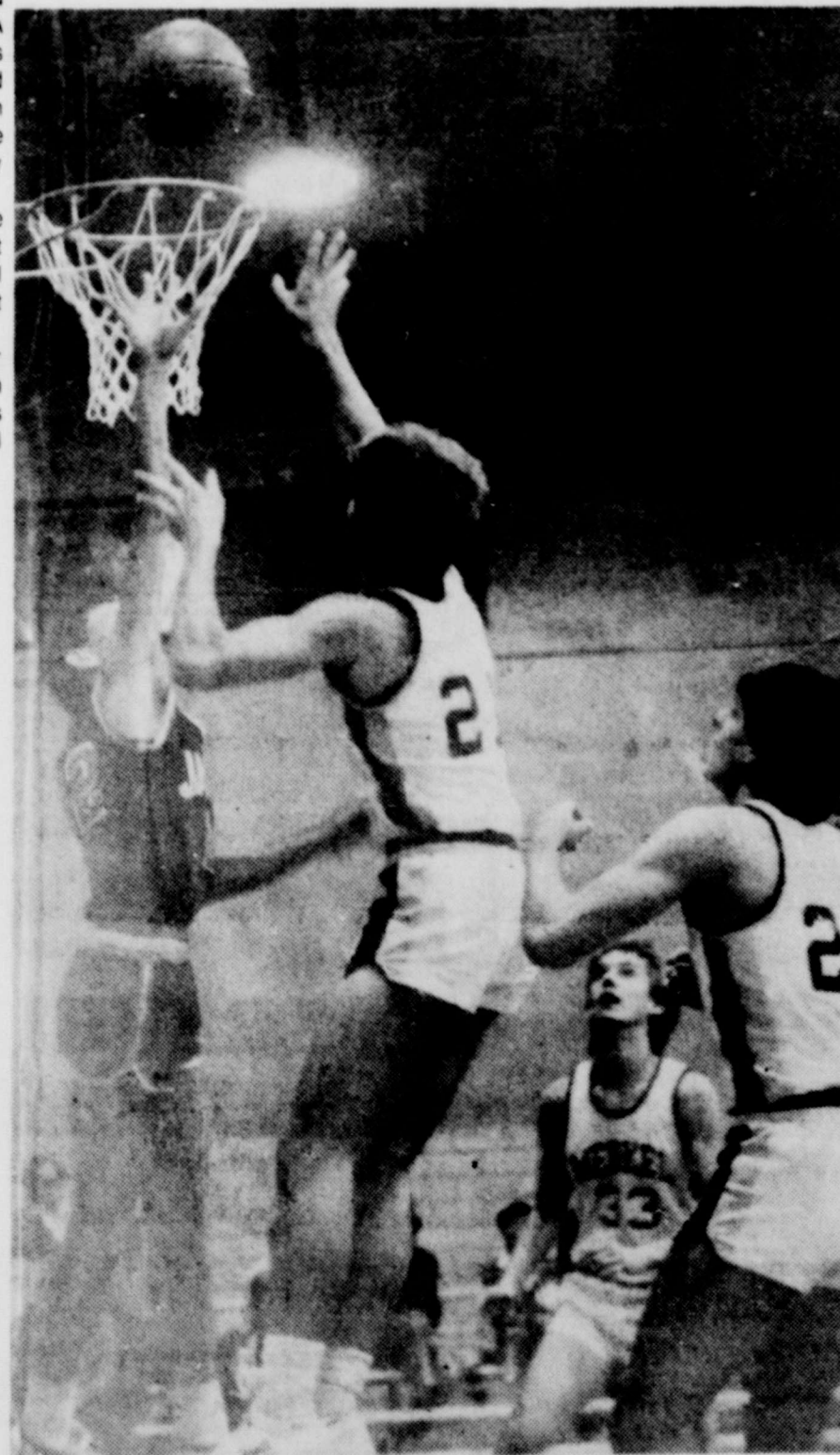
Honorable mention offense running back Mike Payne, running back Noe Falcon, end Lee Hunt and center Jason Massey.

Honorable mention defense: linebacker Jason Massey and safety Keith Oden.

Both O'Kelly and Lewis Knapp were 1st team all district at two positions. O'Kelly at center and kicker and Knapp at running back and linebacker while All-Star Brian Massey made the team at three positions, 2nd team offensive end, 1st team defensive lineman and 2nd team punter.

Even though the 'Rillas lose O'Kelly and Brian Massey, and they will miss them dearly, it's clear to everyone why the 'Rillas will be rated high on next year's football list. With 10 all-district starters returning plus all-district super sub Noe Falcon, Coach Doug Gore's outfit should do well in next year's Six-Man battles.

By W. E. Dulaney



Lynn Hays [21] puts up to of his 35 points here last week against Stephenville. Waiting for a possible rebound is Ted Seymore [33] and Shayne Newberry [25]. The Badgers are 2-0 so far on the season. Staff photo

School's out early Wednesday

MISD students will be dismissed from school early Wednesday for the Thanksgiving Holidays.

At Tye Elementary, town students will be released at 12:45 and the busses will also run at 12:45.

At Merkel Elementary, students in Kindergarten and 1st grade will

be released at 12:45. 2nd and 3rd grade students at 12:50 and 4th and 5th grade students at 12:55. Busses will run at 1:05.

Middle school and high school students will be released at 12:55 and busses will run at 1:10 for middle school students and 1:15 for high school students.

Cotton, parade, thanks, big game, corrections ... more

by Cloy A. Richards

Besides a house that was moved through portion of town and a couple of grass fires, along with annual tradition Thanksgiving activities, the biggest news around town is the local cotton harvest.

And it's a "good-un". Both local gins had already ginned over 2,000 bales Monday afternoon and both are working around the clock.

It's going to be a good season for local and area cotton farmers and you don't have to be an expert to see why.

We all see from recent fashion changes that denim and cotton products are as popular as they ever were. Government programs have reduced the surplus for harvests past and, although production is up, the CRP land reserve program will also reduce some acreage for the next ten years.

I'm not saying the cotton farmer has it made by any means. But even the most pessimistic cotton farmer will say the '87 season was the best for a few years here, quality, quantity and price.

The Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas parade will be held Dec. 12th.

There will be cash prizes awarded for floats, marchers, bicycles, horses and Santa will be on hand to toss goodies.

Details will be announced later.

The Merkel School board re-

ceived their annual audit report last week and there was a fact reported that I found amazing.

We all know what local property values have done in the past six years and we all know what happened to our tak bites. But, thank goodness for state school funding.

The state paid 65 percent of MISD's budget last year, while the local taxpayer paid around 35 percent. The remaining income came from the federal government and fees from school related activities.

I get a little confused each year on the fourth Thursday of November, but if you grew up in College Station or Austin, chances are you would to.

This year, I have a lot to be personally thankful for. My family is healthy and together, the community, although depressed by a statewide economic depression is holding its own and there is good prospects for the future.

I think Thanksgiving is a great idea and a great tradition. WE need to all take time at least once a year and reflect on the things we have to give thanks for. It's a healthy thing to do, helps keep things in a good, balanced perspective.

Consider the things that you are happy with this week, and let someone you love know about them.

Now's where I discuss my annual 'conflict' with Thanks-

giving. They always play a football game in Austin or College Station each year and it's played on 'turkey' day. I have seen, either in person or through tv, just about every A&M-t.u. game since I was old enough to watch. Some were experiences I will never forget, for different reasons.

We won't be in College Station this year, but my heart will be there. After the turkey digests, at around seven, if you hear loud noises coming from Yucca Street, it will probably be either my family or the Starbuck's from down the street. It's another tradition I am thankful for.

I made a couple of mistakes in the story about the all-district team that I need to correct.

First of all, Tony Roberts was not mention honorably as a running back, Ramon Moreno was. Roberts was mentioned honorably as a senior.

And as local sports sports expert Connie Mack Seymore pointed out to me, Badger quarterback Kenneth Jowers did not just miss two and a half district games this year, he missed three and a half.

The VFW is again sponsoring a "Toys For Tots" program. Toys and canned goods are being accepted and will be given to local needy families. If you have donations, you may drop them by the Tittle's residence at 904 Orange or you can call 928-5555 for more information.

AARP happy with Senate medicaid bill

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) hails the Senate's overwhelming passage of legislation expanding Medicare to cover many catastrophic health costs as a "real victory for older Americans."

"This means that older Texans will have less to fear about the financial burdens of hospital and doctor bills," says AARP state director Alice Korthauer. "These protections are years overdue."

Mrs. Korthauer says medical provisions added during Senate debate merit special attention. The Medicare prescription drug benefit will help five million older Americans who incur \$600 or more on drug prescription costs annually. This provision also encourages the use of low-cost generic drugs when possible, but allows physicians to decide whether brand-name or generic equivalents are best for their patients. Also, federal retirees would be treated more equitably than under the original bill.

The spouses of Medicaid-funded nursing home residents would be protected from the tragedy of impoverishment by keeping at least \$750 a month for living expenses and at least \$12,000 in assets," Mrs. Korthauer adds.

The Senate bill also covers up to 365 of hospital care, limits beneficiary liability to one hospital deductible (currently \$620) each

year and caps at \$1,850 the amount that beneficiaries must pay out-of-pocket each year for Medicare Part A and B, deductibles and coinsurance.

The AARP State Director commends Senate Financial Committee Chairman Lloyd Bentsen and leading members of his committee for achieving passage of the bill, and thanks the Administration for working with the Senate leadership on key agreements that assured final passage. Both Texas senators voted for the bill.

"Hopefully, the conferees will take the best of both bills, particularly a shorter phase-in time for the prescription drug benefit, a respite benefit, and low-income protections," Mrs. Korthauer says. She cautions that the catastrophic care bill passed this year by the House and Senate were never intended to include comprehensive long-term care protection.

"Both bills contain excellent first steps toward that goal, including expanded skilled nursing facilities and home health benefits and protection against spousal impoverishment," Korthauer says, "but the United States still does not have a comprehensive national policy on long-term care. AARP is strongly committed to helping develop a solid workable program to address this national family crisis."



Renee Stamper and Terry Phillips
Thanksgiving poems

The following are Thanksgiving poems written by Mrs. Roberts' fifth grade reading students at Merkel Elementary.

Thanksgiving is Coming Soon
Soon it will be Thanksgiving Day.

Everyone gathers while the children play.
We all stop to give thanks and pray.
We thank the Lord for that special day.

Fecia McIntyre
Thanksgiving
Thanksgiving is when we really care and share.
Thanksgiving is for giving.
Thanksgiving is the time for

praying.
It's a time for showing everyone that you love them and letting that feeling spread.

Robin Cochran
Thanksgiving
I am thankful for America's teachers.

Certainly God's most dedicated creatures.
A most precious gift in life... Education.
Beyond my reach without your dedication.
Many children have and will learn at your knee.
Possibly the most appreciative is me.
Jane Roberts

Stamper-Phillips plans told

Mr. & Mrs. Donald L. Stamper have announced the engagement of their daughter, Renee Denise, to Terry Phillips, son of Mr. & Mrs. Danny Aldredge.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Merkel High School. She is

employed at Times in Abilene. The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Whitehouse High School in Whitehouse. He serves in the United States Navy.

A December 5th, 1987 wedding is planned at the First United Methodist Church here.

Sr. Citizens share Thanksgiving meal

The Merkel Senior Citizens of 122 Edwards Street enjoyed a Thanksgiving Dinner last Thursday and also paid tribute to W. A. Lyday on his 91st birthday. A huge white and yellow birthday cake was served to 54 people in attendance.

Also honored on their birthdays

were Ruth Cox, Mary Click and Rosemary Barnhart.

Several tables of games were set up and all enjoyed the fun, food and fellowship. A carry out dinner was delivered to Mrs. Rex Martin who was unable to attend.

The group wanted to thank Danny Woodall at Merkel Drug for providing ice for the event.

John's football picks

The following are John Starbuck's football picks of the week.

Auburn 21, Alabama 20 (The Crimson Tide meets the Tigers of Auburn)

Texas 24 Texas A & M 21 (The annual showdown between the Aggies and the 'Horns: winner takes all!!)

Florida State 28 Florida 25 (Coach Bobby Bowden's Seminoles go up against premier freshman running back Emmitt Smith and the Gators of coach Gavlon Hall)

Miami 30 Notre Dame 27 (Tim Brown will get his yardage and points but not enough to beat the 'Canes)

Minnesota 17 Dallas 14 (The Cowboy's offense is sputtering)

Last week: 0 wins, 4 losses and a tie. For the season: 32 wins, 23 losses and 3 ties.

I want to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving!!

The Run for the 1987 Heisman Trophy (Second in a Series)

Blair Thomas of Penn State

(Coach Joe Paterno) rushed for 214 yards on 35 carries and caught a pass for 8 yards in his team's win over Notre Dame 21-20. (Thomas is a good runner).

Don McPherson of Syracuse (Coach Dick McPherson) had 10 carries for -3 yards and completed 15 of 28 passes for a total of 246 yards in his team's win over West Virginia 32-31. (Don is a quarterback who has done a good job leading the Orangemen through an undefeated regular season).

Gaston Green of UCLA (Coach Terry Donahue) rushed for 138 yards on 30 carries in his team's 13-17 loss to USC. (Green is one of several great running backs who are in line to receive this year's Heisman).

Truman Thomas of Oklahoma State (Coach Pat Jones) Rushed for a total of 293 yards on 30 carries and caught a pass for 11 yards in his team's 48-27 win over Iowa State. (Thurman is explosive).

Merkelite has new grandson

Bradley Jerod Berry was born Nov. 10, 1987 to Becky & Jeff Berry at Rhein-Main Air Force Base, Germany.

He weighed 8 pounds, and 6 1/4 ounce.

Maternal grandmother is Gerrie Dunlap of Merkel and Maternal grandfather is Jeff Dunlap of Lamesa. Paternal grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Berry of Daizell, S.C.

Compere group meets

The Compere Extension Home-maker met Nov. 12th in the home of Mrs. Frank Carter. Annie Taylor read "The Little Pill" and Dolores Adair read "Comedy." Ginger Hoog read some superstitions and roll was answered with "tell me what you do even if you aren't superstitious!"

Amie Price gave the council report and money for the agent and the TEHA chairman's gifts were paid. Dolores agreed to make the club gift for the Family of the Year program.

Meeting days were returned to the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month and Secret Pal gifts were

exchanged. Ginger received the hostess gift. The Club Thanksgiving Supper is Nov. 21 at the Noodle Community Center. Dec. 10th is the club's Christmas party at the Adairs.

Drawings for a fan quilt will be at the Christmas Council party on Dec. 3rd. Drawing tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Club members have tickets. The county-wide EH Christmas meeting is at Anson.

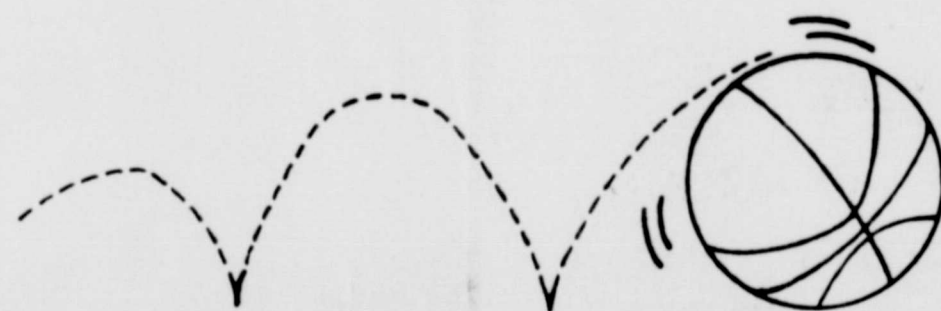
Refreshments were served to Ginger Hoog, Dolores Adair, Bertha Hunter, Ailene Terry, Annie Taylor, Amie Price by hostess Frances Carter and to a guest, Blake Steele.



MERKEL & TRENT BASKETBALL

MERKEL JR HIGH SCHOOL
Nov. 30 Breckenridge There 5:30 7/ 8 Girls
Nov. 30 Breckenridge Here 5:30 7/ 8 Boys

MERKEL HIGH SCHOOL
Nov. 24 Breckenridge There JV B & G VAR B & G
Dec. 1 Wylie Here JV & VAR Girls
Dec. 1 Sweetwater Here JV & VAR Boys



TRENT JUNIOR HIGH
Nov. 23 ACJHS Here B&G at 6:00

TRENT HIGH SCHOOL
Nov. 24 Moran There B & G 6:30
Nov. 27 Open
Dec. 1 Rotan Here B & G 6:30

THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT AREA BASKETBALL

- ANDY DON HART, CPA**
- BEN FRANKLIN STORE**
- CARSONS SUPERMARKET**
- FARMERS COOP GIN MERKEL**
- FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK**
- MERKEL DRUG CO.**
- P & L AUTO PARTS**
- SEYMORE INSURANCE**
- SHANNONSDALE APARTMENTS**
- STARBUCK FURNITURE**
- TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOP**
- WYLIE TRUCK STOP**



Firemen are busy

The Merkel Volunteer Fire Department has been fairly busy during the month of November.

On Nov. 11, firemen answered a call at 10:05 a.m. for a butane leak on a pick-up. No water was used in the incident.

Also on Nov. 11th, fireman answered a call of a combine on fire at the Red Dickerson farm. A little minor damage was reported in that blaze.

Also on Nov. 11th, firemen were called to a grass fire at the Shannonside Apartments. No water was used in that fire.

On Nov. 13th, firemen put out a fire across from the Farmers Co-Op Gin as cotton burrs were burning. Firemen used 250 gallons of water in that fire.

On Nov. 14th, firemen fought a cotton burr fire on Dink Whisenhunt's farm and used 1,755 gallons of water. They also fought a cotton burr truck fire and a burr fire in a burr hopper at the gin. Also on Nov. 14th, firemen fought a grass fire south of the Comper

Genie and used 200 gallons in that blaze.

On Nov. 15th, firemen fought a grass fire on the Edwin Read place and used 7,500 gallons of water.

On Nov. 17th, firemen fought a fire in a double wide trailer home on FM 1235 North on the Charles Bells place. The mobil home was a total loss and firemen used 5,800 gallons of water.

On Nov. 17th, firemen extinguished a grass fire near the Rest inn and used 200 gallons of water.

On Nov. 18th, firemen fought a house fire at #6 Carson Circle. The kitchen was a total loss and the rest of the house has smoke damage. Firemen used 150 gallons of water in that fire.

The Merkel Fire Department wanted to thank the Trent Volunteer Fire Department for helping them with a grass fire Nov. 15th on the Edwin Read place.

Also, firemen fought a grass fire at S. 5th and West Street and used 50 gallons of water in that fire.

Whisenhunt's services held

Alice Odessa Whisenhunt, 77 of View, died at her home Nov. 17th.

Funeral Services were held Nov. 19th at the Starbuck Chapel with the Rev. Jimmy Wall officiating. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery here under the direction of the Starbuck Funeral Home.

Born July 25, 1910 in Taylor County, she was the daughter of Charles Isom and Mary C. (Montgomery) Isom. She had married H. A. "Bill" Whisenhunt March 12, 1932 in View. He

preceded her in death June 27, 1983. She was a dressmaker and a seamstress.

She is survived by two sons; Stanley Whisenhunt of View and Bobby Whisenhunt of Austin; two sisters, Mary Wright of Fort Worth and Imogene Smith of Lake Abilene, and two grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother Marvin Isom and a sister Merle Burns.

Pallbearers were Eddie Krieger, Joe Plowman, James Brooks, Jimmy Ashby, Eldon Martin and Morris Lindsey, Jr.

Farmers may be eligible for IRS refund on PIK payments

"The new rule says if a farmer uses the PIK and Roll procedure, he does not necessarily have to treat it as a taxable event," says Hayenga, an agricultural economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the Texas A & M University System.

If a farmer pays his loan to the Commodity Credit Corporation with PIK Certificates, he may choose to include the face amount

of the loan as income for that year, Hayenga says.

When the CCC loan is repaid, there is no gain or loss unless the commodity was sold for a greater value than the amount of the certificates.

If the loan is not included as income and the farmer uses the commodity certificates to repay the loan, he will file the income in the year the loan is repaid, Hayenga says.

WE'D LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT THE UNCENSORED CONTENT OF THIS NEWSPAPER IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE CONSTITUTION
The words we live by

To learn more about the Constitution write: Constitution, Washington, DC 20540. The Commission on the Bicentennial of The U.S. Constitution

Womack enlists in U. S. Air Force

John T. Womack, son of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Womack of Abilene, has enlisted in the U. S. Air Force. He will attend basic training and then technical school where

he will study aircraft armanent systems. John is a 1984 graduate of Merkel High School.

Social Security application is a phone call away

People who wish to apply for Social Security retirement benefits but who find it difficult to visit a Social Security office can apply by telephone.

An application for retirement benefits should be made at least two or three months before the person plans to stop working. This

will help assure that benefits will start for the month of retirement.

Certain documents are essential for establishing eligibility for retirement benefits. They include a Social Security card or a record of the number and proof of date of birth, such as birth certificates or a religious record of birth or baptism that was recorded before the person was five years old.

These documents must be original records or copies certified by the agency that issued them.

In the event that original records or certified copies are not available, the best possible evidence of date of birth should be submitted. These include, among others, schools and church records, a marriage license, a passport, and employment or military service papers.

Applicants for retirement benefits should also submit their Wage and Tax Statement form (W-2) for the preceding year, and self-employed individuals should submit a copy of their Schedule SE

The reason is that the most recent reports of earnings may not yet have been credited on the applicant's Social Security record.

A spouse who applies for benefits will have to provide similar documentation. In addition, a marriage certificate may be required. The birth certificates and Social Security numbers of eligible unmarried children should also be submitted.

Additional information about applying for Social Security retirement benefits can be obtained by calling the Abilene Social Security office at 698-1360.

\$159⁹⁵

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- 4 Position Rug Adjustment W/Indicator
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DONATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED AT THE WELDON TITTLE HOME AT 904 ORANGE & THE VFW POST

CALL FRANK MUNDY AT 698-7724 FOR MORE INFORMATION



Trent basketball wins openers

Both the 'Rillas and the Lady 'Rillas opened their seasons last Tuesday against the Merkel sophomores and brought home wins in basketball action.

In the ladies game, the 'Rillas behind guard Luci Masonheimer's 14 points and center Renee Gibson adding 10, led from start to finish in a 51-26 rout. The Lady 'Rillas outscored the Badgers 19-8 to start the game and never looked back. Masonheimer scored 7 of her 14 in the first quarter as she used her quickness to steal the ball from the Badgers for easy lay ups while Gibson controlled the boards holding the Badgers to one shot. Gibson was tough on the boards all night as she led the Lady 'Rillas with 12 rebounds.

The 'Rillas put the game out of reach in the second quarter outscoring the Badgers 12-2 behind a balanced scoring attack led by Masonheimer and B. J. Poindexter and a relentless defense led by Gibson, Masonheimer and Ginger Massey.

The 3rd quarter saw Trent outscore Merkel 19-4 to go up 50-14. The 'Rillas continued to show a balanced attack with seven girls scoring while on the other side of the court the 'Rilla defense was led by Masonheimer and Twila Williams.

The Lady Badgers made the score more respectable on by outscoring the 'Rilla's 12-1 in the final quarter. Gay Lynn Robertson scored all six of her points in the final quarter to help the Badgers close to the final score of 51-26.

A pleased coach Robbie Shugart said "The last break looked good and I was pleased with our press. We need some work on offense but basically we looked good. We are just going to work out our problems and get ready for district."

The 'Rillas, led by Jamie Masonheimer with 9 points on three point shots and Dock Carriker with 8, stormed back from a 11-3 deficit to edge the Badgers 46-40.

The 'Rillas, who practiced only one day before the game, were ice cold in the first quarter only scoring three points but a strong defense, led by Lee Hunt, Jason Massey and Mike Payne, kept the Badgers from running away with the game.

In the second quarter, the 'Rillas started hitting their shots and Masonheimer, Carriker, Hunt and Payne rallied the 'Rillas to a 19 all tie at the half.

The Badgers refused to fold and in the 3rd quarter they outscored Trent 13-2 to take a 32-31 lead into the final quarter.

The Badgers got great efforts from Tommy White with 10 and Mike Farthing with 13 as the quicker Badgers were playing toe to toe with the taller 'Rillas.

The 'Rillas finally took control of the game in the final quarter, outscoring the Badgers 15-8 to

make the final 46-40. The 'Rillas got good efforts from Masonheimer and Lee Hunt as Trent finally shook off the rust from football season to take the season opening win.

On Friday, Moran came to town to take on the two Trent basketball teams. In the girls game, Ginger Massey with 10 and Renee Gibson with 14 led the Lady 'Rillas to a 49-5 rout of the 'Dogs in a game called at halftime. The Lady 'Rillas led 20-0 before Moran scored and jumped out to a 32-2 1st quarter lead before Robbie Shugart emptied her bench in a futile effort to keep the score down.

Coach Shugart told *The Mail* "In my 17 years of playing and coaching, I have never seen anything like this. We played good defense and our second team played real well. We got some good rebounding from Renee Gibson, Tina Holstein and Tammy Collier and on defense Luci Masonheimer, Renee and Ginger all played well."

The girls had scheduled a game with Moran Tuesday but cancelled that game and will try to work out a game with the Sweetwater freshman. Details were unavailable at press time.

In the boys game, the 'Rillas jumped out to a 15-6 1st quarter lead and went on to whip the 'Dogs 49-38. The 'Rillas were never seriously threatened in the contest which saw Mike Payne and Brian Massey share scoring honors for Trent with 10 each in only three quarters of action.

The 1st quarter saw Trent take control of the game as Massey scored 6 of his 10 while Payne and Joe Tarin harassed the 'Dogs into numerous mistakes.

The 2nd quarter Trent hit a cold spell but the defense, led by Massey, Payne, Tarin and Lee Hunt, continued to stuff the 'Dogs holding them to only four points to go into the locker room with a 21-12 halftime lead.

Trent took total control of the game in the 3rd quarter outscoring Moran 16-2 to take a 37-14 lead into the fourth quarter. The 'Rillas showed a balanced scoring attack in the quarter as six players scored.

Coach Ed Donahugh emptied his bench in the final quarter to finish up the game. In this quarter, the 'Rillas again got balanced scoring as five different players put points on the board as Keith Oden had 4 and Jackie Swinney added 3.

"This is only our second ball game and we really just got started," said Coach Ed Donahue. "Our fundamentals are a little rusty but we've got a bunch of hard workers so we'll come around. These kind of games don't help us. We are going to have to be pushed."

The 'Rillas continued their season Tuesday night as they travel to Moran for a rematch. Details were unavailable at press time.

by W. E. Dulaney

Thanksgiving Message

By Jim Hightower
Texas Commissioner
of Agriculture

Once again, it's time to talk turkey. There's plenty to be thankful for in this land of plenty. Ours is a country blessed with good land and water, pretty good weather and the most productive and efficient farmers in the world. Most of us are drooling already, just thinking about feasting on the Thanksgiving bounty of our farms, chewing on that turkey leg while surrounded by mounds of dressing, vegetable and fruit concoctions of every description and consistency and acres of pumpkin and pecan pies. On Thanksgiving, nearly everyone in this country becomes personally and deeply involved in agriculture.

But, in many cases, the people who bring you these delicacies—and I'm not talking about Aunt Esther back there in the kitchen or Uncle Ed, who made seven trips to the grocery store—are having a hard time putting their own Thanksgiving feasts on the table. Our family farmers are having a hard time because federal government policy prevents them from earning a fair price for what they produce. In some cases, it costs farmers twice as much to produce a commodity as they receive for that commodity. You don't need a degree in finance from SMU to know that means slim pickings at the Thanksgiving table for the people who produce our agricultural bounty.

Most people aren't aware that Texas farmers actually lose money on supplying much of the food for our Thanksgiving table. For instance, your eight-ounce serving of succulent Texas turkey is costing you 53 cents—or

TISD menu

The following is the TISD breakfast and lunch menu.

School will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holidays.

Nov. 30: cereal, milk, juice, fish, macaroni & cheese, cole slaw, rolls, chewy cookies.

Dec. 1: juice, donuts, milk; Salisbury steak, creamed potatoes, green beans, cake and rolls.

Dec. 2: biscuits & sausage, jelly, chili, beans, sliced pears, bread, pudding, crackers.

Bland is rodeo winner

Six year old Kaci Bland was a big winner in the Sweetwater all-girls rodeo Saturday.

Kaci, the daughter of Rex & Kathy Bland of Trent, brought home the first place belt buckle for the 8 and under girls barrels, continuing her winning ways from earlier in the rodeo season.

by W. E. Dulaney

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DELICIOUS 2 ENTREES

work was established last spring when budget constraints forced the VA to terminate beneficiary travel benefits for nearly all veterans using VA facilities for medical treatment," said DAV National Director of Voluntary Services Bruce Nitsche. These benefits were paid to veterans to help them cover the costs of getting to and from the VA hospital or clinic.

"Among those affected by the benefit cut were most veterans seeking treatment for service-oriented disabilities, as well as indigent veterans who have virtually no other source of health care," Nitsche said.

"The DAV simply could not stand aside and watch hundreds of thousands of veterans being left without health care simply because they live some distance from a VA hospital and had no means of transportation. Thanks to contribution from grateful Americans, many of them right here in Merkel, we were able to respond to this great need."

Contributions to the program can be made at the local VFW Post or by sending a check to the DAV, 807 Maine Ave. S. W. Washington, D. C. 20024.

Local, area veterans now have transportation to VA medical centers

Merkel veterans need not worry about transportation to and from the Veterans Administration (VA) medical center in Waco.

That hospital will be one of 19 VA medical facilities to receive a van from the nonprofit Disabled American Veterans (DAV) recently. The donation was made possible through a cooperative effort of the DAV's national organization and its Department of Texas.

The vans will be driven by volunteers from local DAV Chapters and DAV auxiliary units. These volunteers will be participating in a nationwide DAV National Transportation Network. Overseeing the program at the VA Medical facility in Waco will be DAV Hospital Service Coordinator Donald W. Phillips.

The number of DAV-donated vans across the country will increase to 24 by the end of the year. The one million members of the organization hope to fully meet the transportation needs of veterans at all of the VA's 172 medical centers before the end of 1988, donating vans wherever necessary.

"The DAV Transportation Net-

between one and two cents a bite—but the Texas farmer who raised that turkey lost more than a penny on supplying your eight-ounce serving. You're paying 20 cents for all the stuffing you can manage to load into your system, but the farmer who grew the wheat for the stuffing is losing half a penny per serving. (If the stuffing is the store-bought variety, the box or plastic containing the bread crumbs costs ten times the price of the crumbs themselves.) Half an ear of corn costs you 11 cents to purchase, but the farmer who grew it netted 2 cents for his efforts, and there was not a lot of processing in between.

Now, let's say, before you plow into that pie, you have a second serving of the Texas Ruby Red grapefruit salad Cousin Ida always brings. Cousin Ida paid 16 cents for the grapefruit on your plate, but the producer who grew that grapefruit made between one and two cents per serving in the production process. Finally, we get to the pecan pie. You paid 63 cents for that two-ounce slice you're about to eat. But the producers who harvested the pecans and the farmers who produced the wheat and sugar for that slice of pie together lost half a penny.

It doesn't add up to prosperity for the Texas farm economy. The Texas Department of Agriculture calculates that Texas farmers will pocket barely eight cents for every Thanksgiving dinner they supply—ingredients that will cost you, the consumer, about \$2.53 per meal to purchase. On four items, the turkey, stuffing, rice and pecan pies, Texas farmers will actually lose more than two cents per serving.

Last month Wall Street dropped \$500 billion in value in a single jolt heard round the world. Because of bad farm policy, American agriculture has dropped \$441 billion in real value since 1981. But the loss has been registered farmer by farmer, one rural community after another. We haven't had 20 television cameras in Crosby or Matagorda counties to tell us that the farm economy is running dry. But the truth is we've lost 43,600 family farms in Texas since 1981. We're still losing them at a rate of 172 a week.

Still, we can be thankful. We can be thankful that we have the most efficient hard-working and innovative producers in the world. By working with the human and natural resources with which we are blessed, state government can help ensure that everyone shares in the bounty of this season. Through a number of marketing and economic development programs, the Texas

Department of Agriculture has been able to assist a large number of full-time Texas farmers and ranchers to work their way out of the downdrafts of our economic climate to a position in which they can be self-sufficient and self-sustaining once again. Our direct marketing approach has helped Texas farmers and ranchers reach customers inside and outside the state and around the world to whom they formerly had no access. With the state acting as the catalyst, farmers and ranchers themselves have been able to keep most of the profits that would have otherwise gone to marketing and distribution firms. We have helped Texas farmers and ranchers diversify to meet growing

demands, such as for blueberries and lean beef, in order to be able to survive and prosper when demand for the commodities they have been producing is far below supply. Right now we are helping launch 62 new agricultural processing enterprises so that more of the food and fiber dollar stays in the state in locally-owned-and-operated enterprises.

Through programs such as these, combined with a new federal agricultural policy that will allow farm families to earn a fair price for their production we can ensure that the Thanksgiving harvest we reap in the years ahead will also be enjoyed by the family farmer.

A Bountiful Thanksgiving FROM
THE EMPLOYEES ALONG WITH EUGENE & MOZETTA CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY ONLY HANDY FOOD STORE

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Chart A Course FOR A BOUNTIFUL THANKSGIVING FARMERS COOP GIN MERKEL

Handle that holiday turkey with care

A food safety expert with the Texas A & M University System's Agricultural Extension Service cautions against letting convenience, lack of time or a favorite family recipe get in the way of following safe food handling practices this Thanksgiving.

Because a large frozen turkey can take several days to defrost in the refrigerator, people start to

take short-cuts like putting the bird on the kitchen counter to thaw, explains Marilyn Haggard. This practice allows salmonella bacteria to flourish.

"The only safe way to thaw a turkey in a hurry is to use a microwave oven or to thaw in cool water in the sink, changing the water every 30 minutes," she

states. "If you don't want to bother with thawing, you would be better off buying a fresh turkey, which can be kept refrigerated for one or two days before cooking."

According to the specialist, both frozen and fresh turkeys should be washed inside and out in cool water and patted dry with a paper

towel before stuffing and cooking. Then wash in hot soapy water all cutting boards, pans and utensils that have come in contact with the raw turkey.

It might seem like a convenience to stuff the turkey in advance, but it could be dangerous, Haggard says.

"When a turkey is stuffed it created ideal conditions for the growth of bacteria in the cavity. In a home refrigerator, it's very difficult to keep the stuffing inside a pre-stuffed turkey below 40 degrees F, which is cold enough to keep most bacteria from growing."

For that reason, she says, the U. S. Department of Agriculture advises against buying a pre-stuffed fresh turkey.

Haggard recommends parparing and refrigerating the stuffing in advance and placing it in the turkey right before cooking, or cooking it separately.

If you have a recipe that calls for long cooking at a low temperature, the specialist recommends not using it. At 250 degrees F the turkey and stuffing could take more than 4 hours to reach a high enough temperature to destroy bacteria.

While it's safe to microwave an unstuffed whole turkey, a stuffed bird is too dense to assure thorough cooking, she adds.

Even after the bird is cooked, food borne illness can result when perishable foods are allowed to sit at room temperature. In general, foods should never be left at room temperatures for over two hours.

That rule applies to leftovers too, emphasizes Haggard. To insure safe turkey sandwiches, play it safe by removing the stuffing from the bird and refrigerating both immediately after dinner. Later in the evening, you can strip the meat from the carcass and store it in meal-sized portions for later use.

"The symptoms of food-borne illness are seldom life-threatening, but can be serious for young children and elderly. Since nausea, stomach cramps and diarrhea are an unpleasant way for anyone to begin the holiday season, it's best to take food safety precaution," maintains the specialist.

Space heater caution urged

Bracing themselves for the inevitable "blue norther", many Texans are dusting off their electric space heaters.

Used properly, electric space heaters can provide warmth and also save on utility bills by heating just the room you are in rather than the whole house.

Last year, 10 Texans died in residential fires involving electric space heaters. Taking the time now to review a few safety tips can prevent this kind of tragedy from happening to your family," says Harold Duple, chairman of the Texas Insurance Advisory Association (TIAA).

Before you purchase:

Be an informed consumer. Make certain the unit you buy is right for your specific needs.

Make certain the heater has been approved by Underwriters Laboratories.

Consider purchasing a heater with a self-extinguishing mechanism designed to shut off the electricity if the heater is tipped over.

After you purchase:

Read the owner's manual and follow instructions carefully.

Never leave a child or pet alone with a space heater. It can be a dangerous curiosity to a child, and a pet could knock it over.

Never place a space heater close to furniture, drapes or other combustible materials, including nightgowns or robes, which could ignite.

Place the heater only on the floor and in a spot where people will not bump into or trip over it.

Turn off the heater when you leave the room for more than a few minutes.

Never move a space heater while it is hot.

Space heaters should go off with the lights. Consider purchasing an electric blanket rather than sleeping with a space heater in operation. If you must sleep with the heater on, exercise extreme caution. Install a smoke detector and be sure it always has fresh batteries.

Don't overload your electrical system and avoid using an extension cord.

Keep the space heater and its cord away from water to avoid electrocution.

Proper storage, maintenance and caution while using your electric space heater will insure that you and your family are safe as well as warm this winter.

Preceptor Eta Omega news

The Preceptor Eta Omega Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met in the home of Blanche Hewitt for the regular meeting.

President Blanche Hewitt asked for all standing committee reports.

The fall Rituals were discussed and Marilyn Baker made and served German Coffee to the

members.

Blanche gave a most interesting program on "Our Town from Cowgirls to Skydiving."

Refreshments were served to the following members: Mamie Steck, Opal Garner, Connie Ybarra, "Y" Sadler, Marilyn Baker and hostess Blanche Hewitt.

Herrera one of four national winners from media group

Clara Herrera, a senior at Merkel High School was one of four winners of a college scholarship in the nation given by the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund. She was one of four winners in the National Urban Writing Competition.

About 375 students who participated in 24 journalism work-

shops competed for the scholarships.

Clara is a part-time reporter for the Abilene Reporter News and plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin. She is the drum major for the Badger Band and is currently on the Lady Badger basketball team, one of her many school activities.

She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Art Herrera of Tye.

Options for Health

by
Dr. Scott White

DR. SCOTT WHITE is offered as a public service by Scott and White Memorial Hospital and Clinic in Temple. If you have a question please write to DR. SCOTT WHITE in care of your local newspaper.

Q. My six year old daughter always seems to get upset about going to the doctor—even for a checkup. Do you have any suggestions for making the experience less stressful for her?

A. Visiting the doctor does not have to be a frightful experience for children, or adults for that matter. It's important for parents to "set the mood" for the visits.

"Children take clues about behavior from parents. If you are calm and "matter of fact" about the visit to the doctor, the child is likely to be that way as well.

"Preparation for the visit should be tailored to the individual child. Older children may benefit from a discussion of what will happen during the visit, i.e., the doctor will shine a light down the throat, examine the ears, etc. It might be a good idea to role play before going to the doctor.

"Don't scare your child by telling him or her that if "you are not good, the doctor will give you a shot." Doing so makes it difficult for a doctor to establish a good relationship with the child. A child that is so fearful that he or she can't cooperate interferes with the examination.

"Do not expect your child to behave in the same way at each visit. Your child may be brave one visit but cry about just getting on the scales at the next visit. Behavior should be controlled firmly but gently and unemotionally on the part of the parent.

"All children should be praised for appropriate behavior after a visit. If you say, "I was so proud of you for being brave today," the child will be more likely to act that way the next time.

"Going to the doctor is part of life. If you establish that going to the doctor is punishment, that expectation may be carried throughout life. On the other hand, if you establish that going to the doctor is the right thing to do to take care of one's self, you have established a healthy habit.

Q. With the continued threat of AIDS, I am worried about using donated blood for my upcoming surgery. I've heard about donating some of my own blood to use during the surgery. Is this possible?

A. A person's own blood, called autologous blood, is the safest blood available for transfusion. Receiving autologous blood minimizes the risk of disease that may be transmitted by blood transfusion. In addition, using your own blood leaves more of the community blood supply available for patients who cannot participate in an autologous blood program.

When participating in such a program, you will donate several units of blood, depending on your physician's determination. This blood is reserved for your use only. If blood is needed for surgery, this blood will be the first blood that is used for your transfusion. In most cases, your own blood will be all that's needed, but additional blood will be available if needed.

Autologous blood donation is indeed an important option for you to consider. Please discuss this further with your own personal physician to find out if such a program is available in your area.

One 100-watt incandescent bulb produces more light than two 60-watt bulbs, with 20 percent less energy consumption.

When a plane moves at the speed of sound it is known as Mach 1. The name derives from German physicist Ernst Mach.



CONGRATULATIONS ON A FINE SEASON TO THE



TRENT GORILLAS

- BRIAN MASSEY**
- SCOTT O'KELLY**
- DOCK CARRIKER**
- BILLY CLARK**
- NOE FALCON**
- LEWIS KNAPP**
- JASON MASSEY**
- LEE HUNT**
- CHRIS JONES**
- KEITH ODEN**
- MIKE PAYNE**

- LONNIE CLARK**
- CIPI FALCON**
- MIKE HICKS**
- JAMIE MASONHEIMER**
- RICKY TARIN**
- TRAVIS WALKER**
- MANAGERS**
- JAMIE ALEXANDER**
- MARK PAYNE**
- COACHES**
- DOUG GORE**
- ED DONAHUE**

PAID FOR BY TRENT FOOTBALL PARENTS





Cotton trailers surround the Merkel Co-Op Gin here Monday. The local gin is

running around the clock trying to keep up with the excellent harvest this year.

More than 500 bales of cotton were on the Co-Op Gin yard Monday. Staff photo



This cotton hasn't made it to the gin but is typical of the area's cotton crop this year. Local ginners hope to have the

crop ginned by the Christmas holidays, but a month of dry weather is needed for that goal to be reached. Staff photo

Local gins over 4,000 bales

Both local cotton gins have already processed 2,000 bales and both are working around the clock as the ginning season is in the middle of the 1987-88 harvest.

At the Merkel Co-Op Gin, 2,200 bales have been processed and they reported over 500 bales on the

yard Monday afternoon.

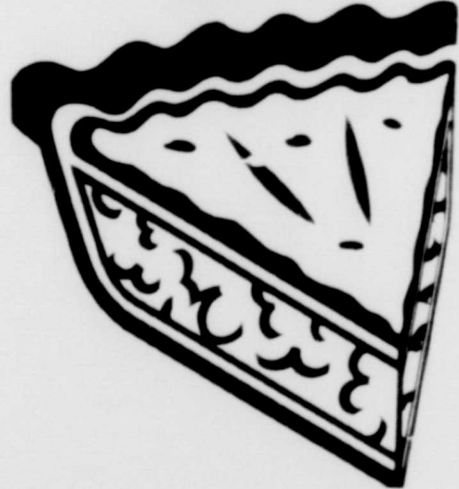
Bennett Massey said they had been ginning around the clock for two weeks and they had been working fast and furious. He said cotton grades have been good.

Over at the Trent Gin 2,119 bales had been processed as of Monday

afternoon. They said they had been working around the clock since last Thursday and they hope to have the ginning wrapped up by Christmas Eve "if the gin and weather hold out."

They also reported the cotton grades holding, as well as the lint and seed price.

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TRENT CHURCH OF CHRIST

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study... 10:00 AM

Worship... 11:00 AM

Evening Worship... 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study & Devotional... 7:00 PM

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

T J & T TIRE



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



CARSON'S SUPERMARKET

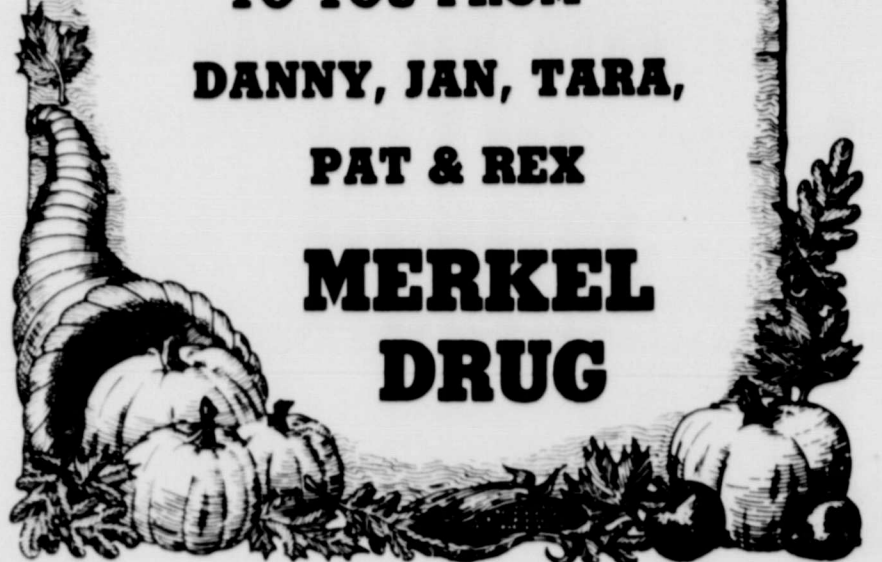


HAPPY 28TH BIRTHDAY

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

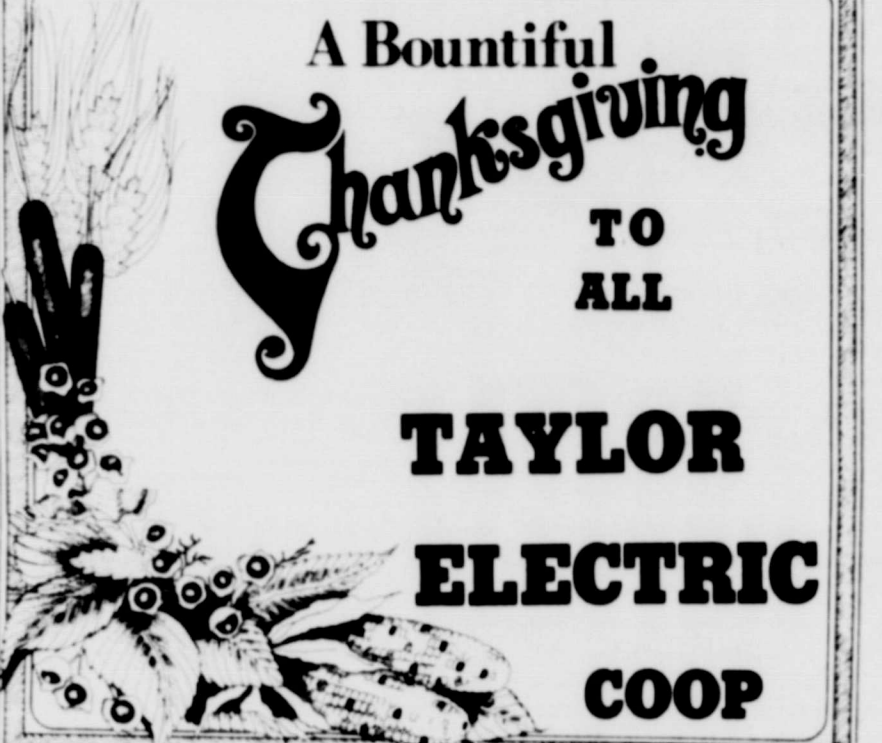
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* * * *

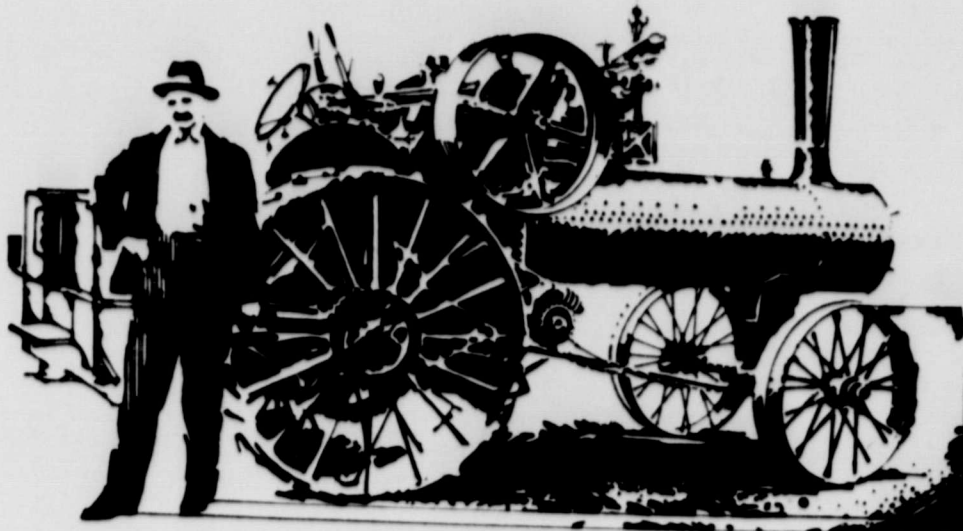
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- The newspaper is required (by federal law) to produce a certain amount of NEWS . . . BUT EVERY NEWSPAPER PRODUCES MUCH, MUCH MORE NEWS THAN IS REQUIRED. (Ever hear of a circular producing news, or performing a public service?)
- The newspaper regularly publicizes the facts and figures about its circulation, facts proven by the Post Office and a number of auditing bureaus. (Ever hear of a "freebie newspaper? or circular" certifying their distributions?)

Prepared by Texas Newspaper Advertising Bureau (TNAB)
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"The Public's Choice"

Farm News



Cost isn't only tillage system question

Flexibility is key for tillage systems

Conservation tillage should pay its own way. That's the message Deere & Company soil scientists are getting from farmers these days. Simple enough, but reaching that economic goal is a little tougher, farmers have found.

"The first step in making a judgement is to know your current tillage costs," says Dr. Lyle Stephens of the Deere Technical Center in Moline, Ill. "Then you can compare costs point-by-point. You might be surprised."

"There's a tendency to believe that conventional tillage costs more than it really does," Stephens says. "In both reduced and conventional systems, tillage usually costs less than 25 percent of the overall expense of owning and operating farm machinery. Conventional tillage on a mid-western corn/soybean farm typically runs between \$10 and \$16 per acre."

Conventional tillage today requires fewer passes than in the past. It is not uncommon in some areas to see farmers follow right behind the combine a high-clearance moldboard plow, then use only one secondary tillage pass in the spring before planting. Twenty years ago, working the soil to a similar condition took up to five passes.

To figure your real tillage costs, Stephens says, start by compiling an accurate listing of all expenses involved in getting the soil ready for planting, including weed and insect control, fertilization and seedbed preparation. "All of these expenses are interrelated; they can go up or down when you change tillage practices."

"Some costs associated with changing tillage systems aren't readily apparent," Stephens explains. "What you might save with fewer tillage trips can quickly be offset by an increase in chemicals needed for weed control, or lost profits because of inefficient fertilizer utilization."

"If you're strict about no-till, you won't shank in anhydrous ammonia before planting. But since other forms of nitrogen are more expensive, this can add \$13 to \$19 per acre to the cost of a crop, using 150 pounds of nitrogen per acre."

Dr. Richard Johnson, a Deere & Company agronomist, adds: "Most farmers know their costs of purchased inputs, but are less sure about the costs of individual tillage operations. Herbicide costs for clean and reduced tillage systems are often similar. No-till systems generally involve more expensive herbicides. Tradeoffs

exist among chemicals. For example, some herbicides that require incorporation are less costly than those that don't."

Johnson recommends figuring total costs on a per-acre basis, not just cash costs per acre. "Cash cost comparisons can be misleading," he warns. Total cost per acre would include associated operations such as pest control.

One way to start, if you don't have detailed records of your own operation, is by using machinery cost estimates made by state universities or local farm management groups.

But don't just accept their information blindly," says Johnson. "Find out the exact basis and formulas used to calculate their published cost estimates. Methods can vary tremendously and so can the applicability of the information. Costs for a given machine operation will vary depending on factors such as annual hours of machine use, tillage speed and depth, soil conditions, or field size."

"I see too many tillage machinery cost estimates that have not kept pace with changes in technology. Today's farm machinery lasts longer, covers more acres between repairs and get more done per hour. I've seen some published tillage budgets that overestimate fuel, lubrication, repair and maintenance costs by as much as 100 percent," Johnson says.

There's more potential for pest and plant disease problems when more residue is left on the soil surface, so Johnson says it is important to consider the costs of controlling those problems when exploring alternate tillage techniques.

"If a greatly reduced tillage system or no-till permits you to double crop, or profitably farm land that would otherwise be erosion-prone, it probably pays. Otherwise, be cautious. Do your own cost calculations carefully. There is more to changing tillage systems than simply eliminating a trip or two across your fields," Johnson says.

"Don't get locked in on a system that requires you to do things only one way. Flexibility in tillage helps reduce risks by allowing you to adjust to weather changes, soil conditions between fields, or future cropping patterns. If you can a more efficient tillage system that has the capability to produce high yields while keeping costs within range of conventional tillage, you've probably got a winner."

Farmers who reduce tillage practices frequently mention two problems. First, it's difficult to get fertilizer down into the crop root zone and not disturb residue needed on the soil surface to control erosion. Second, the cool, moist soil conditions with conservation tillage can limit fertilizer utilization, particularly during early stages of crop growth.

Getting full value from fertilizer dollars is a major challenge for conservation tillage, which is defined as any tillage system that leaves at least 30 percent of the old crop residue on the soil surface at planting. (No-till is an extreme form of conservation tillage).

"Conservation farming requires better fertilizer management," says Dr. Richard Johnson, senior scientist at the Deere & Company Technical Center in Moline, Ill. "No-till or severely limited tillage can cut crop yields if soil fertility programs are not adjusted to fit the new conditions."

The new conservation tillage farmer who hasn't done his homework can get some unpleasant surprises.

As Johnson puts it, "There are many good reasons for considering conservation tillage, but saving money isn't always one of them. Too many farmers think conservation tillage will increase their net profits. After harvest, they often discover their yields have dropped or their fertilizer costs have increased."

Johnson stresses that a farmer should examine all the economics involved before deciding to change tillage practices. In fact, on most farms, tillage isn't the biggest expense. Total tillage costs for corn in the Midwest can range from \$10 to \$16 per acre.

"To determine tillage costs on your farm, break out current machinery expenses into tillage, planting, harvesting, grain hauling, and chemical application," Johnson says. "Per acre, tillage should total roughly 25 per cent of the cost."

"Next, compare tillage costs with fertilizer and pesticide costs. These costs are closely related. Reduced tillage often means increased fertilizer and herbicide costs. More insecticides may also be needed."

"And remember that every farm, and often every field, is different. No one tillage system works best in all situations. Tillage practices are always site-specific. Fertilizer requirements and application methods can also vary considerably."

Johnson says soil testing is a necessary step with conservation tillage: "Knowing the nutrient availability in your soil is essential and regular soil testing is the only way to find out. It's also helpful to supplement this with crop tissue testing during the growing season. Conservation tillage is usually easiest where the soils are not low in major nutrients."

How do conservation tillage soil conditions differ from those of conventional tillage? Johnson explains: "Soil is mixed less thoroughly, and most crop residues are not incorporated. Residues that are mixed into the soil are layered in the top two to four inches. Heavy surface residue cover promotes cooler, more moist soils. Nitrate nitrogen is more subject to loss by denitrification, or leaching. Plant nutrient distribution can become stratified. Also, the upper two inches of soil tend to become more acid if nitrogen is surface applied."

Conservation tillage changes nitrogen availability. Increased surface residue reflects solar radiation and shades the soil, so soil temperature is lower; and more water is held in the soil during early spring-- there's less runoff. The result is that soil remains cooler and wetter later into the growing season, affecting seed germination and growth rate.

"To maintain crop yield potential under high residue conditions, more nitrogen fertilizer is often required. This increases production costs," he says.

It's also more difficult to apply nitrogen fertilizers effectively because too many fertilizer particles fall on crop residues instead of the soil surface. Without rainfall or mechanical incorporation into the soil, the fertilizer volatilizes and nitrogen is lost.

No-till eliminates any sort of separate operation to inject ammonia fertilizer down into the crop root zone before planting. This

often forces a switch to alternate nitrogen fertilizers which are more expensive.

Many things change under conservation tillage. "Good fertilizer management is essential," says Johnson.

His suggestions for making the most of a conservation tillage program also includes periodic use of tillage practices to thoroughly mix the upper 8 to 10 inches of soil; using injected nitrogen, if possible; and watching expenses carefully: "Do not spend more than you save."

For small grains, residue management remains crucial for reducing soil erosion, but problems differ in small grains areas from those of the Cornbelt.

In the Plains, protecting soil from wind erosion is often more important than preventing water erosion. Moisture conservation becomes increasingly important as inches of annual rainfall decrease. On the steep hillsides of the Pacific Northwest, stopping sheet erosion and gullying is essential.

Farming techniques and equipment to tackle these problems vary. Despite these differences, small grains farmers share the same overall tillage goals with other farmers: (1) retain soil in place, (2) keep soil and groundwater free of chemical pollution, (3) make fertilizers available to crop roots, (4) maximize use of soil moisture for grain production, (5) integrate tillage with other inputs to develop a low-cost system.

Severe soil erosion occurs on less than half the cropland in the United States. On problem fields conservation tillage (that is, tillage that leaves at least 30 percent of the old crop residue on the soil surface at planting) can help reduce soil losses.

Surface residue at planting time not only can cut water-caused soil erosion but can also effectively limit wind erosion. If residue is insufficient to control erosion, roughness created by tillage can help reduce it.

There are many ways small grains farmers can maintain crop residue on the soil surface. However, there are situations when maintaining heavy residues on the surface is not a good idea, according to Glenn M. Olson, manager of cultivation and planting equipment planning at Deere & Company, Moline, Illinois.

"In fields with no real erosion problems, switching to conservation tillage may be an economic mistake. Research in the Plains states and Canadian prairies suggests that increased surface cover and soil roughness can be counter-productive to meeting agronomic and profitability goals," he says.

"Maintaining previous crop residue on the soil surface can increase crop disease susceptibility and lead to more losses from larger populations of insect pests," Olson says. In many situations, he adds, conservation tillage also contributes to slower crop growth in early spring because of cooler, more moist soil conditions.

Also, annual grasses such as downy brome (cheatgrass) can easily get out of control in fall seeded small grains grown under conservation tillage, Olson warns. "Entire wheat fields can be wiped out by infestations of these hard-to-eliminate weeds when reduced or shallow tillage is used exclusively."

"Chemical control of annual grasses in small grains can be expensive and risky because grassy weeds such as downy brome share many genetic characteristics with small grains. Chemicals that kill the grasses can also easily damage wheat or barley, especially if application conditions are less than ideal," Olson says.

"Clean tillage is a safer way to eliminate grassy weeds in small grain fields. Downy brome, for example, germinates only when it is close to the soil surface. Moldboard plowing, along with crop rotations that allow spring tillage, will control most annual grasses that plague small grain fields. Chisel plowing, one-way disking or sweep plowing do not seem to be as effective as moldboard plowing, since all of these methods leave at least some weed seeds close to the soil surface."

One controversy surrounding conservation tillage and small

grains production is soil moisture management: storing and retaining water in the crop root zone.

Olson says, "You often hear the statement that each tillage pass will cause the loss of one-half inch of soil moisture. Without really investigating to find out if the statement is true, some people mistakenly use this argument to justify chemical fallow in place of tillage operations, particularly in summer fallow areas."

"But in recent years, researchers have been finding that the situation is much more complicated than previously supposed. In many cases, tilled fields actually retain equal or more soil moisture than non-tilled fields."

Sorting through all the conflicting data, Olson has found a few universal rules to follow in choosing tillage systems for small grains. Here they are:

1. **Any tillage decision must be site-specific.** Soil types, weather patterns, cropping rotations, erosion problems all vary from field to field. Don't assume that tillage data from other places apply to your farm. Only on-site tillage trials can supply valid answers.
2. **Concentrate on how tillage techniques affect crop yield, not on how they affect soil moisture.** Many factors other than soil moisture contribute to the success or failure of a tillage program. Broadleaf weed populations, insect infestations, annual grasses, crop emergence, seedling vigor, winter-kill of fall-seeded grains, fertilizer utilization, scheduling of farming operations are all related

to tillage system choices. All are important.

3. **The constant measuring stick for choosing a tillage system is economic. Always ask, "Will a change increase profitability?"** Generally, any tillage system that significantly reduces crop yields will probably cut profits, regardless of input cost savings.

"As we move to the future," Olson says, "I think we'll get some of this conflicting data cleaned up through use of improved tillage tools that will give both better erosion control and reduced costs per acre."

"Electronics will play a central role. There will be significant technical applications for electronic control of tillage and planting equipment. Linked monitors and controls will be able to measure factors such as tillage depth and flow rate of applied materials. Tool adjustments will be made automatically."

"In small grains, increased use of semi-dwarf varieties will make electronic control of seeding depth ever more important. Differences of soil firmness, residue levels, and soil type all have to be taken into consideration. If the planting depth is automatically adjusted for the changing conditions, significantly higher crop yields could result."

"These developments will increase farm profitability while answering public concerns about soil erosion and potential groundwater pollution from farm chemicals," Olson predicts.

Cotton supply might go up next year

With a much smaller acreage reduction in store for 1988 cotton, the supply will likely increase, according to an Extension cotton marketing economist at Texas A & M University.

The 1988 upland cotton program will include a 12.5 percent acreage reduction, a target price of 77 cents a pound and a loan level of 51.8 cents per pound for base quality, average location, says Dr. Carl G. Anderson, economist cotton marketing for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the Texas A & M University System.

"While the target price and loan rates are slightly lower, the acreage reduction program (ARP) is half the 25 percent for the 1987 crop," Anderson says.

If the adjusted world price drops below the loan level, the Plan B marketing loan program will be used, he adds. The world price has been well above the loan level, however, in 1987.

"Should the world price plunge below the loan rate, loan deficiency payments may be made in generic commodity certificates on a bale-by-bale basis. There will be no paid land diversion program nor inventory reduction program, he notes.

"The lower acreage reduction program suggests more acreage and more cotton in 1988, provided

yields are average or above. Strong consumption for the 1988 crop is becoming more questionable. A potential economic recession in the second half of 1988 may curtail demand," Anderson says.

The likely result, he adds, is more cotton supplies, less usage, larger ending stocks and a weaker market.

Key factors in 1988 price movement are possible changes in estimated ending stocks. A clear signal in the first half of 1988 that U.S. cotton growers are likely to produce enough cotton to exceed market demands may be bearish, Anderson says.

Favorable October weather increased the U.S. crop forecast to 13.9 million bales and expected 1987 ending stocks to above the 4-million-bale mark. A 1988 crop larger than usage would increase stocks by the end of that season, Anderson says.

"The likely result is lower prices. Growers should have a 1988 marketing plan prepared that takes into account forward pricing alternatives," he recommends.

When cotton stocks are dropping rapidly, as in 1987, the market tends to overreact during price rallies. Estimates of variable, fixed and total production costs per pound from past records are useful in setting pricing guidelines, Anderson says.

Farm vehicles may be exempt from insurance rules

The Railroad Commission has published for public comment rules amendments that would exempt certain farm and ranch vehicles from RRC registration and liability insurance requirements.

Under the proposed rule change, a motor vehicle controlled and operated by a farmer or rancher and transporting the farmer's or rancher's agricultural or horticultural commodities would not have to be registered with the Commission or be insured with \$500,000 single limit liability insurance coverage. Vehicles used to transport supplies to the farm and ranch of the farmer would receive the same exemption.

The rule change has been published in the Texas Register for a 30 day public comment period, after which the Commission will consider permanently adopting the change.










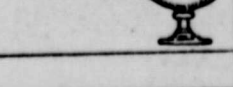
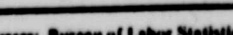
Earlier this year, the Commission adopted rules requiring any

individual or company which uses any motor vehicle weighing 10,000 pounds or more to "Transport property in furtherance of any commercial enterprise" to register the vehicle with the Commission and show proof of at least \$500,000 in single limit liability insurance. The Commission charges a \$1 registration fee per vehicle and a \$25 insurance filing fee when insurance companies register commercial vehicle coverage for their clients.

The registration and insurance requirements apply to commercial vehicles weighing 10,000 pounds or more by themselves, as well as to vehicles weighing 10,000 pounds or more when loaded or when pulling a trailer or towed vehicle.

The Commission drafted the registration and insurance requirements to implement Senate Bill 596 and House Bill 908 passed by the legislature this year.

TEXAS FARMERS' RETURN

TURKEY DINNER 1987		TEXAS AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE	TEXAS FARMERS' NET RETURNS
Turkey 8 oz. serving		\$0.533	-\$0.013
Stuffing 4 oz. serving		\$0.198	-\$0.003
Rice 4 oz. serving		\$0.056	-\$0.003
Corn on the Cob 4 oz. serving		\$0.111	\$0.023
Lettuce 2 oz. serving		\$0.088	\$0.021
Carrots 4 oz. serving		\$0.098	\$0.010
Tomatoes 4 oz. serving		\$0.184	\$0.028
Grapefruit 4 oz. serving		\$0.159	\$0.016
Milk 8 oz. serving		\$0.337	\$0.001
Pecan Pie 2 oz. serving		\$0.630	-\$0.005
Ice Cream 4 oz. serving		\$0.136	\$0.001
TOTAL		\$2.527	\$0.077

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Texas Ag Statistics, Texas A&M Texas Department of Agriculture graphic

Classifieds

FOR SALE

Good clean top soil, caliche base, gravel, septic and drives, backhoe work, cleanups. Call 928-5534. 42-TFC

For sale: Fireside \$1,600 couch & loveseat, excellent condition. \$250 mattress & box springs. \$25 928-4859. 48-11p

For sale: 3 year old Kirby upright vacuum cleaner, includes all attachments and shampooer. Call 736-6632. 48-11p

1983 Chevrolet Custom Van 43,000 miles. **8500**

1983 GMC 1/2 ton pick-up local one owner **5500**
1982 Olds 98 loaded **5500**

1984 Pontiac Parisienne Broghum, loaded **8000**

1984 Buick Le Sabre Custom 4 door loaded **7500**

1978 Buick Le Sabre 4 door, clean **1800**

1984 Chevrolet 1/2 ton pickup Silverado all options **6500**

1973 Pontiac Bonneville 4 door runs good **550**

DUANE SHUGART MOTORS

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N 6th & Kent

MISC

Kittens for adoption, need a good home. Found, 1 duck. Call and describe to claim. Merkel Vet Clinic 928-5235.

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

Germania Insurance Company. For your insurance needs. Locally represented by Donna Carter 928-5348. 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. 42-TFC

P & L Auto Parts is open from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday & from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. each Saturday at 135 Edwards Street. 37-TFC

Would like to do housekeeping. Please call 928-4566. 33-TFC

Sticks-N-Stones Day Care Center 201 Oak, Open Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Call 928-4381. 42-TFC

Will do housekeeping by the day or by the job, reasonable rates will furnish references call 928-3225. 44-tfc

Own your own apparel or shoe store, choose from jeans/sportswear, ladies apparel, mens, children's 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 store discount or family store. Retail prices unbelievable for quality shoes normally priced from 119. Top \$80. Over 450 brands, 4,600 styles, \$14,800 to \$26,900. Inventory, training, fixtures, grand opening, airfare, etc. Can open in 15 days Mr. Loughlin (612) 888-6555. 42-TFP

We make hydraulic hoses. P & L Auto Parts 135 Edwards 928-4738. 42-TFC

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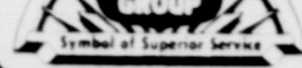
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Overseas Anonymous meetings will be held at the Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church annex each Tuesday at 5 p.m.

For sharpening of scissors, grass shears, tin snips and wood chisels, see Bob at 701 S 2nd. 43-TFC

Found: children's spurs call to identify. Doris Summers, 928-4000. 48-11p

REAL ESTATE

For sale: 3 bedroom, 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. 42-TFC

House for sale in Trent: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, steel siding, storm windows, carpet, central air & heat, built in range & oven, dish washer, water well, Cyrus Pee Realtor 928-5613. 42-TFC

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

Need assistance with government acquired properties? Some with 0 down, minimum closing costs. Call Ken Hogan at Century 21, Abilene Big Country 692-8311 or 928-4826. 38-TFC

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

1,2,3 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

For sale: 3 bedroom brick home, 2 baths, central heating and cooling on SUN water on 5 acres, near Merkel school bus route. Call Cyrus Pee, realtor 928-5613. 44-TFC

Price reduced: 2 bedroom, kitchen, living room, 1 bath, has central heat, all furniture & appliances stay. Call Cyrus Pee, Realtor 928-5613. 44-TFC

MOBILE HOMES

Credit problems? Down payment problems? We specialize in approval with easy terms. Need sincere help? 806-763-4051 call collect. 42-TFC

FOR RENT

For rent: 1 bedroom, clean, upstairs furnished apartment. \$100 deposit & \$150 a month. At 910 Rose call 928-4110. Will share utilities. 38-TFC

For rent: Clean, unfurnished 3 bedroom home. 1 bath. \$250 per month. \$150 deposit. Call 928-4025. 46-TFC

Equal Housing Opportunity

Shannonside Apartments

\$1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments, all electric, central heat & cooling. For more information, call 928-5038. 25-TFC

For rent: 5 year old apartments, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 3 ceiling fans, sprawling living area, fully loaded kitchen, rent \$195 - \$220, last month's rent free. Call Sheley at 928-3472. 39-TFC

For rent: Furnished mobil home, 2 bedroom \$50 deposit \$180 per month at 1104 S 6th call 928-3811. 47-2c

FOR RENT: Small 2 bedroom house, kitchen stove, wall heater, chain link fence, carport, storage shed. Just right for a couple or a single person. Call 928-5164. 47-3tpd

CARDS OF THANKS

We would like to sincerely thank all of our friends in Merkel for their cards, food and contributions during our recent loss.

A special thanks to the Ladies Auxillary of VFW Post 5683, our churches, Mrs. Seago and the people of Local Post 5683 for their unending support. Our friends are too numerous to mention, but for their love, concern and their many prayers. Words cannot express our feelings. God Bless all of you and yours. The Lerma Family The Pallarez Family

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my friends and neighbors for their support at the time of my fathers funeral. Although it was impossible for me to attend, the warmth and kindness was felt in spite of the distance. The honor shown to my father will always be heartwarming to me. Sincerely, Carmen Lane Fort Richardson, Alaska

We would like to say thank you, to all our relatives and friends for their telephone calls, cards, visits and prayers while I was in the hospital at Paris, Texas and since I have returned home.

God Bless You Essie & Dunning McCinnell

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 42 DISTRICT COURT OF TAYLOR COUNTY of the 9th day of OCTOBER, 1987, by WRIT OF EXECUTION of said

42nd DISTRICT COURT for the sum of ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY & 26/100 Dollars and one's of suit, under a JUDGEMENT, in favor of BROCK OPERATING in a certain cause in said Court, No 40-443-A and styled BROCK OPERATING vs. WESLEY HOWARD, placed in my hands for service, I, JOHN W. MIDDLETON as Sheriff of said

TAYLOR COUNTY, Texas, did on the 18th day of NOVEMBER 1987, levy on certain Real Estate, situated in TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS, described as follows, to-wit: ALL UNDIVIDED WORKING INTEREST BEING 0.24 PER CENT BEING 158.3 ACRES OF LAND OUT OF THE EAST SIDE OF THE A L VAIL SURVEY NO. 427, ABSTRACT 414 TAYLOR COUNTY.

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(SOURCE: Newspaper Advertising Bureau - New York) Prepared by Texas Newspaper Advertising Bureau (TNAB) An Affiliate of the Texas Press Association

With Newspaper Ads

THE BIGGEST HITTER

Survey Updates Newspaper Lead Over Direct Mail

The direct mailing fad, which once even ranked second to newspapers in ad readership, is on the slide. Newspapers, on the other hand, are increasing their lead in readership and effectiveness over all media.

- 54% read newspaper inserts, as compared with only 42% who read direct mail circulars.
- 77% say newspaper inserts are more valuable for shopping, as compared with 10% who prefer mail.
- 74% believe newspaper inserts are "easier to find when you want them," as compared with only 15% who chose direct mail in this category.
- 80% say newspaper inserts "offer a more complete assortment of ads" than does direct mail.

(SOURCE: Suncoast Opinion Surveys, of Florida) Prepared by Texas Newspaper Advertising Bureau (TNAB) An Affiliate of the Texas Press Association

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SATURDAY 8 UNTIL NOON
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LEAS INSUB AH AS IT COVERS THE PROBATION UNIT FOR THE JACOBS 1 A WELL BEING LOCATED 330 FEET FROM THE EAST LINE AND 1841 FEET FROM THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID A L VAIL SURVEY NO. 427. and levied upon as the property of WESLEY HOWARD and that on the first Tuesday in JANUARY, 1988, the same being the 5th day of said month at the Court House door of TAYLOR COUNTY, in the CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. by virtue of said levy and said WRIT OF EXECUTION I will sell said above described Real Estate and public

venue for each, to the highest bidder, as the property of said WESLEY HOWARD. 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 the 19th day of NOVEMBER, 1987 JOHN W. MIDDLETON Sheriff, TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS by Eddie Swanson, Deputy 48-3tc-100

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Cloy A. Richards--Editor--Co-Publisher
Melanie Richards--Co Publisher
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