## THE BALLINGER LEDGER

United Clothing Drive Rat Extermination Drive .amemememin. Gets Off to Good Start Sought to Stop Typhus

## Rains Cover County;

 City Reservoir FilledLiving Quarters Wanted by Army Personnel Here

## Youth Center Opening Attracts Large Crowd




Bearcats Take Big End In District Track Meet


Time is Now Doubly Valuable





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THE WINTERS STATE BANK
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## RURAL NEWS



Sure, I'm squealing like a pig under a gate. I want profits from my invest ments as is the case of most people. No business - no profits. There is more than just profits, however. I feel toward the Ritz Club as a philanthropist does toward a park he has given a community-a place of recreation and relaxation. Here men meet, trade, hire hands, make contracts, advertise their products for sale all as a part of the service of the club. Returning service men, not yet able to work, have no place to rest-just stand on the streets. The club opened would offer them the comfort of at least a friendly place to sit and pass a few moments enjoy a cool drink of water a social visit.

When Mrs. John Doe wants to see the picture one her husband doesn't like he simply says: "It's another one of those Mark Anthony-Cleopatra bedroom affairs." And refuses to come along. Of course, that keeps both at home and doesn't help Ballinger. If the Club were open, he'd say: "O. K., you go to the show and I'll visit some of the fellows in the Club until you have seen the show." What helps me helps Ballinger because this Theatre is home owned and operated.

A vacant building in a town is just like a rotten apple in a barrel; it isn't usually long before the entire barrel of apples have deteriorated. Let's open the Club and not let the building be a rotten apple in Ballinger's barrel.

Other amusements are permitted to remain open, including our own golf links a fine sport - many enjoy it. In England where the war has hit so hard, and even in France overrun for so long by the German hordes, many places of amusement are being re-opened no shortage of man-power being found in those countries where so many have been sacrificed. Surely, Ballinger, a town of only 5,000 can find a way for a place where men may go and get a minute's relaxation. A place where a man from our rural communities while waiting for the rest of the family may be out of the weather among friends, enjoying himself, and with the privilege of wash-room facilities the only other place in town is in the public court house let's give the rural man a club where he will be welcome.

Now, I'm for the Youth Center here, too; and I'm for a center for a bunch of ent-over, down-trodden, tax-burdened husbands and fathers. After all, they, the backbone of the town, are due a little consideration. Last Saturday there was a driving rain all day and hundreds of our very best citizens stood cold and cramped against buildings, hoping against hope they could stay in town an hour or so and visit.

The other forty-seven states do not regulate the operation of clubs as does Texas. Only a limited number of communities have gone to the limit, as in Ballinger, of closing these places of amusement; the vast majority have remained open. If the Ritz Club had been operated by a bunch of hoodlums and trash, it would be a different story to tell, but George McCorstin and Sid Caskey are friends and neighbors of many Ballinger citizens; both have as fine families as can be found in town. These good men want their places back where they may work, pay taxes and enjoy being citizens of Ballinger.

I don't want my club closed from public view where people can't see what's going on inside. "Vice thrives on secrecy." I haven't yet and never intend to get anybody by the seat of the pants and make them go in and join the club. People come there because they want to, and stay because they are treated nice.

It is time for the people of Ballinger to wake up. I know personally lots and lots of ranchmen and farmers who have practically quit coming to Ballinger because it's like they say: "If you don't want us to come, we will go elsewhere." They seem to feel the closing of the club is a direct slap at them. But don't take my word for the sentiment; investigate in any of the neighboring communities within the trade territory. Is Ballinger too big? or is it big enough? The closing of the club directly affects every business in town. Hadn't you rather see a well lighted, nice place in this building, than a drity, rat-infested eye-sore?

Now, we are down to the facts:
Naturally, I want to open the Club the Ritz Club. To do so I must have members. If you are for it simply sign the card that is inserted below and send it to me, or write me a card or letter, or come by the Ritz Theatre and sign a request to become a member. Don't wait! Get some kind of reply to me. You will not be obligated in any way should you later desire not to join, or desire to withdraw. The membership fee is $\$ 1.00$ per year, payable upon opening date.

Respectfully,


1 sm heartily in tavor of your Ritit Club and
H. FORD TAYLOR

Box 229
Ballinger, Texas


Agnew, Maedgen Elected Trustees; Board to Organize



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## THI WEx MTHEME

Friday-Saturday, April 6.7


Wednesday and Thursday ${ }_{\text {APRLIL } 11}^{\text {start }}$


## Want Ads

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