

THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 27—NO. 46

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1916

8 PAGES

FOR POISONING OF RABBITS AND PESTS

Hon. Fred W. Davis, State Commissioner of Agriculture with the assistance of the agents of this department has initiated a movement of the wholesale destruction of rats, ravens, English Sparrows and rabbits throughout the west. At meetings recently held at Sweetwater, some thirty-three counties in the central west have signified their intention of joining in the movement, and it is desired to secure the hearty operation of every citizen of the movement. It is perhaps needless to speak of the wholesale destruction to poultry and grain caused by rats, besides it has been definitely determined that they are carriers of certain diseases. Ravens also carry hog cholera, black leg and other diseases. Rabbits and sparrows cause incalculable damage to the crops. The agents of the agricultural department have devised means whereby these animals can be successfully poisoned with little danger to live stock. For example by placing a box upside down in the barn with an opening whereby rats can get under it and baiting a few nights until the rats thoroughly congregate inside then poisoning the bait, nearly all the rats on the premises can be destroyed. Likewise by fencing in a small enclosure, ravens and sparrows can be attracted by using different kinds of bait and poisoned in the same manner. Pretty much the same plan can be carried out with rabbits by leaving a small opening so that they can get inside of the enclosure.

This destruction cannot successfully be accomplished unless the farmers throughout the district co-operate in the movement. Col. H. L. Bently of the department of agriculture will be principally in charge of the movement on Taylor County, and a couple of other agents will be furnished by the department to demonstrate the mixing of the poisons and show just how these animals can be destroyed. Formulas will be furnished for the poisons and the county thoroughly canvassed. It is likewise contemplated that arrangements can be made with local druggists for the furnishing of prepared poisons. Of course there are a number of poisons that will kill these animals, but it is the object of the department to show what poisons are best and most economical.

The department has secured the service of Mr. Earnest G. Holt, one of the demonstrators of the United States Biological Survey who will be in Abilene on Tuesday January 18th next at 9 o'clock A. M. to demonstrate and thoroughly explain the matter. On said date a meeting will be held at the county court house, at which all are urged to attend and learn from him the best way to destroy these noxious animals. Besides it is intended to have local meetings, dates of which will be announced later, all over the county, but all who can are urged to attend the Abilene meeting on the 18th.

E. M. Overshiner,
County Judge.

Horses and Mules

22 head of good mules, all broke, for sale at \$150.00 per team. Also bunch of good saddle horses. See or phone me at Trent C. V. Bigham. 17t4pd.

Remember 8-0, the Bob Martin Gro., Co., for prompt and efficient service.

BLANTON-WAGSTAFF DEBATE DREW A LARGE CROWD LAST THURSDAY NIGHT

About 350 People Listen While Opponents in Preferential Primary Talk for Two Hours and Forty Minutes—Speakers Introduced by Judge C. D. Mims

Promptly at seven-thirty Thursday evening the joint discussion between Judge Blanton and Judge Wagstaff opened at the Opera House.

The talk here differed from the discussions held at other places during the last week in points of bringing new subjects into arguments. The platforms of each of the candidates were discussed in an abbreviated way, while a large part of the time was taken up in discussions of the legislative record of Judge Wagstaff. Blanton charging the record in some fifty cases as per his written charges in the Abilene Reporter of Wednesday of last week and Judge Wagstaff devoted a large part of the time allotted him in defense of his legislative record. Specific charges of the Katy Consolidation and other railroad consolidations were made by Judge Blanton and defenses shown by Judge Wagstaff who referred to the consolidation and permit granted to E. P. & S. W. Ry. to take over a short line near El Paso.

Various charges were made and various defenses given by the candidates during evening in such numbers the Mail would be completely filled if a complete copy was given of the entire discussion of the evening. At times the argument became very heated and applause was frequently given each of the speakers, the crowd being about evenly divided in the demonstration of witty criticisms and good humored jokes and questions made and propounded by each of the speakers.

Judge Blanton opened the debate for sixty-five minutes. Judge Wagstaff then spoke for an hour and twenty minutes, a rejoinder of fifteen minutes then being given Judge Blanton.

MEXICO MATTERS BECOME DELICATE

Washington, Jan. 12. — The Mexican situation has been brought to the boiling point again by the execution of sixteen or more Americans near Chihuahua. In congress, at the White House and at the state department, it entirely displaced the submarine controversy and all other international affairs.

Secretary Lansing, after sending a demand for satisfaction to General Carranza, issued a statement declaring it was to be deplored that the Americans had not followed the state department's warning against exposing their lives in the guerilla warfare region, and adding:

"Every step will be taken to see that the perpetrators of this dastardly crime are apprehended and punished."

10 ABOVE ZERO IS MARK THURSDAY

Ten degrees above zero was the lowest mark of cold registered here this winter according to parties who were on the streets before day Thursday morning.

Wednesday morning the temperature reached 18 above and many people were heard complaining of the sudden blizzard having frozen all water pipes about their homes. Many auto owners found their cars frozen Wednesday morning and several losses were sustained in this way. The coldest weather registered in the state during the present cold snap was in the Panhandle country Thursday morning when zero and below zero prevailed over most of that section.

OVER 600 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE MERKEL SCHOOLS SINCE OPENING MON.

Average of Over 60 Students to Each Teacher Makes Additional Work for Instructors in Every Department. Superintendent Highly Pleased

At the opening of school Monday morning five hundred sixty-nine students reported for enrollment and before Tuesday had passed the numbers had increased to over six hundred, thereby increasing the average to over sixty students to each teacher.

Superintendent H. M. Morris when seen Monday evening at the high school was highly pleased with the opening and interest taken in school affairs. He took time to show the various conveniences of the entire building and the elaborate auditorium which is a credit to our town. Each room is so arranged that heat, ventilation and light, marks a great improvement over what our town has had in the past. The rooms not in use are sufficient to provide for an increase of probably three or four hundred more students than are now enrolled and should justify the needs of our town and community for several years. The auditorium will comfortably seat over four hundred, with room for extra seats that would accommodate approximately five hundred people.

Finishing touches to many parts of the building are being made with little or no inconvenience to the work of students or teachers. This will be carried on for several days before all will be finished.

Soon after the opening of school the board decided to employ additional help, action being immediately taken on the matter and Misses Susie Creath of Abilene and Winnie Warren of this city were employed as members of the faculty of the Merkel schools, thereby bringing the total number of instructors to twelve.

COTTON GINNERS' REPORT IS ISSUED

Washington, Jan. 10. — The eighth cotton ginning report of the season compiled from reports of census bureau correspondents and agents throughout the cotton belt and issued at 10 a. m., today, announced that 10,643,783 bales of cotton counting round as half bales, of the growth of 1915, has been ginned prior to Jan. 1. That compares with 14,443,146 bales, or 90.8 per cent of the entire 1914 crop ginned prior to January 1 last year, 13,347,721 bales, or 95.5 per cent of the 1913 crop. The average quantity of cotton ginned prior to Jan. 1 in the last ten years was 11,963,038 bales, or 93.4 per cent of the crop.

Included in the ginnings were 105,799 round bales compared with 44,904 in 1914, 94,265 in 1913 and 77,999 in 1912.

Of the above amount the Texas crop totaled 2,938,622 bales against 3,960,170 for the same period of 1914.

WILL BE HERE ON THURS. JANUARY 27

Sweetwater, Jan. 5, 1916. Hon. County Judge and Superintendent of Schools, Abilene.

Dear Sirs—We are now beginning our campaign in several counties including yours to exterminate the rats, rabbits, prairie dogs and other pests. In this campaign we have the co-operation of the State Department of Agriculture to organize the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture to demonstrate how to mix and use the poison, also the State Health Department. We therefore ask your co-operation, to work through the schools, your business men and your county newspapers, and through these the farmers. It is necessary to appoint local men throughout your county to aid in organizing and raising the money to buy the poison. Demonstrations will be held at Merkel on Jan. 27, 1916. All persons are requested to bring their poison and grain and get it mixed free of cost and to learn how to mix poisons. Every bushel of grain will treat 1300 holes. For every bushel of grain you wish mixed you will need the following material: 2½ ounces strychnine, 1-5 ounce saccharine, 2½ ounces common soda, 1 1-4 ounces common gloss starch, 5-8 pints of starch, and 2 quarts of water.

I enclose you itinerary of the organizer and demonstrator. Please have this date advertised and get out a big crowd.

Yours respectfully,
J. W. Neill,
Director Institute.

Road Tax Notice

By paying your road tax before February 1st, 1916, the rate is \$3.00, after that date the regular \$5.00 tax will be in force. Pay today and save \$2.00.

B. A. Walter, City Marshall.

Rust Proof Oats

Texas Red Rust proof seed oats, free of Johnson grass 45 cents per bushel. R. E. Gollightly 7t3pd

Roosters For Sale

I will be in Merkel Saturday with one dozen thoroughbred Barred Rock roosters for sale at \$1.00 each. Joe Higgins.

Pure Sudan grass seed. F. J. Smith.

PEACE, THE COMMON ENEMY.



—Cesare in New York Sun.

COMING EVENT

"Hans Hanson," the coming attraction at the Cozy on Tuesday January 18, is typically an American play bristling with all sorts of ridiculous situations and dramatic climaxes. The company has an efficient cast, band and orchestra. Hear the band concert in front of the Theatre and don't forget the date.

Well Drill For Sale

Good drilling outfit complete, for sale cheap. See me. R. L. Porter. tf.

FUNNY HANS HANSON

Dialect plays with characters drawn true from life, have found a warm place in the affections of theatre-goers. "Hans Hanson" that Swedish comedy drama, an offering at the Cozy Theatre on Tuesday Jan. 18, is in this class and is truly an entertainment of worth.

C. T. Oliver of near Dora, was in from the Diyide Monday and reported small grain looking good in his section of the country.

Our Baker Boy flour, sold only by Bob Martin Gro., Co.

J. T. WARREN PAYS BACK FIRE DUES

Monday evening the Merkel Volunteer Fire Department held their annual election of officers and among those re-elected to places in the department were J. T. Warren as president and J. F. Ferrier as Chief.

Mr. Warren has been president of the department for the past two years but was not apprised of the fact that ten cents per month was collected from all volunteer members. While viewing the work of collecting dues Monday night he decided to be one of the boys and payed the amount of \$2.50 to the treasurer that he might be credited with having paid all dues up to date.

The president of the department is in no way subject to dues as are the volunteer members and for this reason the action of Mr. Warren was highly acceptable to the members.

EVANGELIST WILL BE HERE SUNDAY

Evangelist, Jno. W. Denton of Roxton will begin a series of meetings at the Church of Christ Sunday at 11 a. m., and will continue the meeting throughout a period of ten days.

Evangelist Denton is an aged and experienced man in ministerial work and a man of great ability, a deep student of the Bible and an interesting speaker. Services will be held during the week each evening at 7 o'clock, day services to be announced later. All Bible readers are earnestly requested to hear Elder Denton and a cordial invitation is extended to everybody to attend. Come out and hear this great man.



Condensed State of Condition of

The Farmers State Bank

Merkel, Texas

As Reported December 31, 1915

RESOURCES

Loans	\$191,243.53
Banking House	9,500.00
Other Real Estate	5,800.00
Furniture and Fixtures	4,500.00
Interest in Guaranty Fund	1,492.03
CASH AND EXCHANGE	119,193.77
Total	\$331,729.32

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 35,000.00
Surplus and Profits	10,411.57
DEPOSITS	285,829.32
Reserved for Taxes	488.44
Total	\$331,729.32

The above statement is correct.

R. O. ANDERSON, Cashier

**ONLY GUARANTY FUND BANK
IN MERKEL**

SHILOH

Rev. F. C. Dick of Abilene accompanied Rev. Horn to his appointment at Shiloh and preached for us Saturday and Sunday. Mesdames Horn and Amity attended services at Shiloh Sunday and were guests of Misses Lettys and Beulah Jones.

Uncle Terrell Winters is recovering from a severe spell of La Grippe.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Tyner is very sick with La Grippe and whooping cough. Grandma Phillips is visiting her son and family of Trent.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Grayson are at Sweetwater taking treatment. Mr. Grayson is being treated for rheumatism and Mrs. Grayson for an injured limb.

The infant babe of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel of Amity died Saturday night and was buried here Sunday afternoon.

There are several cases of whooping cough in this community at present.

Prof. and Mrs. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Seago took dinner Sunday with the Misses Jones.

A number of Noodle young people attended services here Sunday night.

Mr. Calahan sports a new car since our last write up. Looks a little suspicious doesn't it?

Mr. and Mrs. Volney Calahan have moved to this community and will make this their home for awhile.

We have never known of as many cases of La Grippe since we have been in West Texas as there is at present. Some of them proving very severe while others not so bad.

Mr. J. L. Cooper with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bennett returned Sunday afternoon from Admiral where they went to inter the remains of their wife and mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper.

NO. 7481
Report of the Condition of
THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK
AT MERKEL

In the State of Texas, at the Close of Business on December 31, 1915

RESOURCES	
Loans and Discounts (except those shown on b)	\$222,688.85
U. S. Bonds deposited to secure circulation (par value)	6,250.00
U. S. Bonds pledged to secure postal savings dep. (par val)	4,000.00
Subscription to stock of Federal Reserve bank	10,250.00
Less amount unpaid	3,000.00
Furniture and Fixtures	1,500.00
Real Estate owned other than banking house	3,600.00
Net amount due from Federal Reserve Bank	6,500.00
Net amount due from approved reserve agents in New York, Chicago and St. Louis	11,447.19
Net amount due from approved reserve agents in other reserve cities	21,049.36
Net amt. due from banks and bankers (other than inclu. in 10 or 11)	38,701.79
Other checks on banks in the same city or town as reporting bank	59,751.15
Outside checks and other cash items	27,062.18
Fractional currency, nickels and cents	1,907.80
Notes of other national banks	1,027.07
Federal Reserve Notes	87.75
Coin and certificates	1,114.82
Legal-tender notes	10,910.00
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer and due from U. S. Treasurer	7,000.00
	22,590.50
	2,000.00
	312.50
Total	\$388,634.99

LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock paid in	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus Fund	25,000.00
Undivided profits	\$10,120.86
Reserved for taxes	1,000.00
Circulating notes outstanding	11,120.86
Due to banks and bankers (other than included in 28 or 29)	6,250.00
Dividends unpaid	13,271.81
Demand Deposits:	2,500.00
Individual deposits subject to check	285,873.67
Certificates of deposits due in less than 30 days	3,500.00
Cashier's checks outstanding	3,863.11
Postal savings deposits	2,405.54
Total demand deposits,	
Items 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39	295,642.31
Time deposits (payable after 30 days or subject to 30 days on more notice)	
Certificate of deposit	9,850.00
Total of time deposits, Items 40, 41, and 42	9,850.00
Total	\$388,634.99

STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF TAYLOR, SS:
I, Thos. Johnson, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
THOS. JOHNSON, Cashier.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of Jan. 1916.
G. W. JOHNSON, Notary Public.
Correct—Attest: J. T. WARREN
BEN T. MERRITT
G. F. WEST, Directors.

Miss Beulah Overshiner was in Merkel for a short stay on her way from Abilene to Sonora. While here she resigned her position as a teacher in the public school. This place has been filled by Miss Mae White of Abilene who has taught before in Merkel. Miss White has many friends here who welcome her back.

NO. 368
Official Statement of the Financial Condition of
The Farmers State Bank

at Merkel, State of Texas, at the close of business on the 31st day of Dec. 1915, published in the Merkel Mail, a newspaper printed and published at Merkel, State of Texas, on the 14th day of Jan. 1916.

RESOURCES	
Loans and Dis., personal or collateral \$191,230.53	
Loans, real estate	7,013.00
Real Estate (banking house)	9,500.00
Other Real Estate	5,800.00
Furniture and Fixtures	4,500.00
Due from approved Reserve Agents, Int.	23,348.50
Cash Items	5,800.00
Currency	15,825.00
Specie	4,299.50
Int. in Depositors Guaranty Fund	1,492.03
Other Resources as follows	
Remittance in Transit	357.70
Bills of Exchange, Cotton	69,942.73
Total	\$331,729.32

LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock paid in	\$25,000.00
Surplus Fund	25,000.00
Undivided Profits, net	10,120.86
Individual Deposits sub. to check 276,736.24	
Due to Banks and Bankers subject to check, net	4,790.99
Time Certificates of Deposit	2,485.00
Dividends unpaid	1,310.00
Cashier's checks	567.12
Reserved for Taxes	488.44
Total	\$331,729.32

State of Texas, County of Taylor:
We, J. S. Swann as president, and R. O. Anderson as cashier of said bank, each of us, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of our knowledge and belief.
J. S. Swann, president.
R. O. Anderson, cashier.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of Jan. A. D. 1916.
C. D. Mims (SEAL) Notary Public, Taylor County, Texas
Correct—Attest: John Sears
M. Armstrong } Directors
B. C. Moore }

Mrs. O. D. Payne of Oklahoma, Okla., has been the guest for several days of her mother, Mrs. J. A. Wills, who lives in north Merkel. It was the pleasure of Mr. and Mrs. Wills to have most of their children home with them during Christmas, Mrs. Payne making her visit a little longer than the rest.
Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Leighty have returned from a several weeks stay in Aspermont, the guests of Mrs. Jack Paramore. Mr. Leighty's many friends are glad to see him able to be out again after being for so many weeks a shut-in.

AN ENVIABLE LOT.
It is heaven upon earth to have a man's mind move in charity, rest in Providence and turn upon the poles of truth.—Bacon.

Artillery of Antiquity.
"Engines to shoot great stones" were no doubt the progenitors of the "catalpa" of Greek and Roman times and the devices in use today for hurling "hand grenades." In a recent visit to the island of Rhodes I was amazed at the great number of stone balls in the edge of the sea, among the ancient towers and battlements and indeed all over the island. They ranged in size from five inches in diameter to more than two feet, and the largest must have weighed at least a ton. The smashing power of such a mass must have been very great. Such stones are found about the walls of Constantinople and other cities of the orient.—Christian Herald.

Bullock Skin Boats.
There are few more primitive methods of transportation than those in use today by natives of northern India who make their homes in the vicinity of the swift flowing Sutlej. The boats of these aborigines are nothing more or less than bullock skins inflated by the breath of the natives themselves. Two natives may be seen hard at work filling the skins with air. Having inflated them to their satisfaction, they will leap overboard and paddle themselves across the river, great skill and strength being necessary to sustain their equilibrium during the passage. But even should the boats overturn they are easily righted, and the natives are without exception expert swimmers.

About Fishes.
Fish are nearly the same weight as the water in which they live, so that they can move in it with great ease. The majority of them also have an air bladder inside of the body, which enables them to go up or down in the water at will. When a fish desires to go down deep it can press the air out of this bladder by means of certain muscles and thus increase the weight of its body, and when it wishes to rise again it takes off the pressure, the bladder fills with air again, and its body becomes light enough to rise.

Bad Enough Any Day.
Omar—I say, old man, you are not superstitious, are you? Parker—I should say not. But why do you ask? Omar—Because I want you to lend me \$13 until next Friday.—Indianapolis Star.

The New Hat.
Mrs. De Style—Women are an expensive blessing. Mr. De Style—They are expensive.—Judge.



We Half Sole and Heel Shoes

in a few hours. Use only the best oak tanned leather and do the stitching so perfectly that the stitches will last as long as the shoes. Why keep buying new shoes when your old comfortable ones can be repaired so perfectly and for so little money. See

J. A. BROWN

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Tipton who have made their home south of Merkel for the past year are moving to their own home north west of Trent. This couple will be missed from Merkel in both social and religious ways.

Grump Defined.
Somebody wants to know what a rump is. A grump is a male who loses not real the sporting news.

Cures Old Sores, Other Remedies Won't Cure.
The worst cases, no matter how long standing, are cured by the wonderful, old reliable Dr. Fowler's Antiseptic Healing Oil. It relieves Pain and Itches at the same time. 25c. 50c. \$1.00

What He Would Say.
Mamma—"Howard, when you get to be the head of the family, what will you say to your children when they are naughty?" Small Howard—"Oh, I'll do like papa does. I'll tell them how awfully good I was when I was a kid."

Invigorating to the Pale and Sickly
The Old standard general strengthening tonic, GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC, drives out Malaria, enriches the blood, and builds up the system. A true tonic. For adults and children. 50c

To Our Laundry Patrons

Beginning with the first of 1916 all laundry work will be strictly cash on delivery. We are compelled to adopt this method and will thank our customers to have money ready when your laundry is delivered.

Wishing for a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year to all, we remain
Yours to please

CHURCH BROTHERS TAILORS

Representative Abilene Steam Laundry

WHEN IN ABILENE

EAT

AT THE MOZART CAFE
JACK GILSTRAP, Mgr.

EAT

In Merkel at Latham Brothers
BUSY BEE CAFE

Open day and night, hot Waffles each morning 4 to 9 o'clock. \$5.00 MEAL TICKETS \$4.50

TO THE PUBLIC

I am just starting a Feed and Livery business in Merkel and ask the people of Merkel and the Merkel country for a share of their business.

I now have on hand a large amount of oats, maize and hay and will also handle

WOOD AND COAL

Try me and I will treat you right.
See me at the old Miller Barn, just east of the Walker Cottage.

R. D. ALLEN

SERVICE CAR

PHONE 9 Night Phone 160. Phone me for quick service, Day or Night.

MARVIN BONEY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Subject to the Democratic Primaries of July, 1916

For Treasurer:
J. A. BOYCE
AUSTIN FITTS

For Tax Assessor:
W. T. (TOM) ST. JOHN
JOHN H. VANCE
L. R. (ROY) PARMELLY

For Tax Collector:
G. B. (BLUE) TITTLE

For County Clerk:
J. D. HILTON

For Legislature:
(Capt.) J. T. TUCKER

For Public Weigher at Merkel:
J. M. (JIM) TOOMBS
Re-election



**ALBERT
CORSETS**

Add beauty, grace and ease of movement to the figure—\$1.00 up. Get the correct model for your figure.

Parten Dry Goods Co.
Merkel, Texas



"As
Light
As a
Feather"

Talk about light, fluffy, tempting and wholesome Jelly Rolls, Cakes, Biscuits and other good things! My! but

CALUMET BAKING POWDER

certainly beats the band for sure results—for purity, economy and wholesome bakings. Tell your mother to try Calumet Baking Powder on the money-back guarantee.

Received Highest Awards
New Cook Book Free—
See Slip in Pound Can.



Cheap and big can Baking Powders do not save you money. Calumet does—it's Pure and far superior to sour milk and soda.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE—One mule and one horse. Cash or good note. Crown Ddw. Co. 14t2

FOR SALE—Cold ~~drunk~~ and and grocery store ~~W. D. J.~~ Armstrong, Kent St., Merkel, Texas. 14t1pd

FOR SALE—Registered Hereford bull, 7 years old. Price \$125. S. S. Brandon, Dora. 14t2pd.

FOR SALE—A three speed 1915 model motorcycle. See Walter Williams, Merkel, Texas. 14t2pd

LOST—\$200 note made payable to me, signed by O. J. and Seth Nugent. Return to C. E. Whitaker.

FOR SALE—5 work mules, one mare and one mule colt: E. D. Coats. 31t2

FOR SALE—8 room house and lot; barn etc; one block of center of town, on Oak street. Price only \$1750; \$250 cash and \$250 per year. Jno. G. Jackson. 3t3

FOR SALE—At a bargain my home in Merkel; 5 rooms, bath and two porches; two lots; two barns; separate cow, horse and wood lots; cement sidewalks, shade trees and shrubbery; well and windmill. Cost over \$3000. Price \$2000 for quick sale. Jno. G. Jackson, Abilene. 3t3

FOR SALE—Work horses, mules and mares, second hand wagon and plow tools. All cheap for cash. Dr. M. Armstrong.

WANTED—To trade a \$25.00 Columbia disc graphophone with \$27.95 worth of records for a cow. Call at the Merkel Mail Office. 7t1pd.

PUMP FOR SALE—Good force pump, 60 feet of pipe and good cylinder. T. L. Grimes.

LOCAL NEWS

Figure at the Bob Martin Gro., Co., for best in groceries.

Many good laughs when you see "Hans Hanson."

Eat a hamburger at Aaron's stand in the middle of Merkel.

The birth of a baby boy is reported to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Breeden of Compere.

Pure Sudan grass seed. F. J. Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Anderson of Calexico, Cal., are here visiting their son, R. O. Anderson and family.

Ladies, have Bob McDonald shine your shoes at the City Barber Shop.

Pure Sudan grass seed. F. J. Smith.

W. C. Ayers and family have moved back from Trent where they have been making their home for the past few months.

FOR SALE—At a bargain, a fine Duroc Jersey sow and male. If you want to raise the best hogs, get these. Bob Allen.

M. B. Foster of Hector, Minn. is here visiting his son, Dr. W. B. Foster.

Rev. and Mrs. G. I. Brittain and daughter, Miss Akard, of Plainview are here visiting their son and brother, W. E. Brittain.

See me about your coal. Phone 245. Car of fancy nut coal in next week. R. D. Allen the feed and fuel man.

J. S. French of Amity, Ark., came in last week to visit his sister, Mrs. Geo. W. Boyce. He also took advantage of the trip to attend to business matters he has in this section.

J. C. Mason has returned to Merkel after an absence of several weeks at various points in Texas, where he visited friends and relatives during the holidays and attended to business he has in that section of the state.

Mrs. Wesley Edwards was a guest for a few days this week of her mother, Mrs. J. W. Jennings, in Abilene. While away Mrs. Edwards was a member of the Wallace-Jennings wedding party, an account of which will be given later.

Miss Mary Lena Langley of Whitewright, one of the teachers in the public school, arrived in Merkel Friday. She will be in the home of Frank Sears during the school year.

Miss Carrie Bell McMaster who has made her home in Merkel for the past few months has gone to Garden City to reside.



A Farmer
without a
Telephone

Takes Long Chances

The services of the Doctor or the Veterinarian are essential to the farmer. Either may be summoned quickly over the telephone in case of accident or sudden illness.

Have you a BELL TELEPHONE connection?

Ask our nearest Manager for information, or write

THE SOUTHWESTERN
TELEGRAPH &
TELEPHONE COMPANY

Statement of the

Farmers & Merchants National Bank

Of Merkel, Texas, at the Close of Business Friday, Dec. 31, 1915

Resources

Loans	\$222,688.85
Overdrafts	None
U. S. Bonds—par	10,250.00
Stock in Federal Bank	1,500.00
Five Per Cent Redemption Fund	312.50
Furniture and Fixtures	3,600.00
Real Estate	6,500.00
Cash and Sight Exchange	144,099.19
Total	\$388,950.54

Liabilities

Capital Stock	\$25,000.00
Surplus and Profits	35,120.86
Circulation	6,250.00
Bills Payable	None
Rediscounts	None
Other Borrowed Money	None
Deposits	322,579.68
Total	\$388,950.54

We appreciate your business and are anxious to render good banking service to our friends and patrons at all times.
THOS. JOHNSON
Cashier

Special Engagement

Cozy

THEATRE

An Absolutely Guaranteed Attraction. Jas. T. McAlpine's Great Swedish Comedy Drama

"Hans Hanson"

ONE NIGHT ONLY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18TH

A superb band and orchestra. Best of specialties. Fine special scenery, once seen never forgotten.

Seats on sale at Elite. Prices 75-50-35-25. Curtain at 8 o'clock

COMING

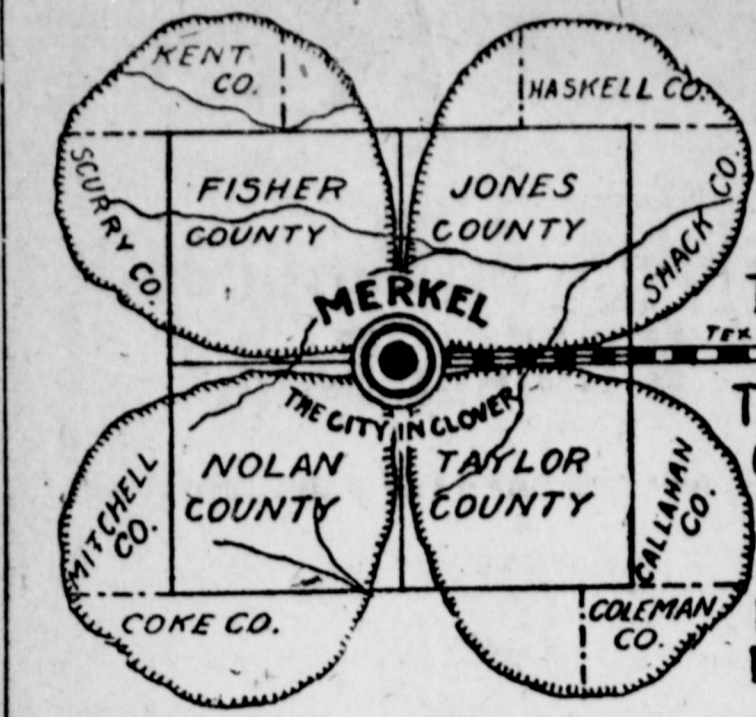
FRIDAY, JANUARY 21st

'The Girl and the Tramp'

Mrs. W. L. Harkrider and her children were guests during Christmas of her brother, Mr. Tippet in Langtry, Texas. On their return on Thursday of last week Mr. Harkrider joined them in San Angelo and from there they enjoyed a cross country drive home in the car.

Mrs. Scott who still continues so seriously ill has been taken to Sweetwater for treatment. Mr. Scott writes back encouraging reports as to her condition.

The Quinine That Does Not Affect the Head Because of its tonic and laxative effect, LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE is better than ordinary Quinine and does not cause nervousness nor ringing in head. Remember the full name and look for the signature of R. W. GROVE, 25c.



MERKEL

GOOD HOMES; GOOD SCHOOLS,
GOOD CHURCHES; GOOD PEOPLE -
THE CITY TO LIVE IN -
THE CITY TO INVEST IN

THE MERKEL COUNTRY,
OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUNG MAN,
GOOD HEALTH FOR THE OLD MAN,
EMPLOYMENT FOR THE POOR MAN,
INVESTMENTS FOR THE RICH MAN,
PROSPERITY FOR ALL.

The MERKEL MAIL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING
THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INCORPORATED
HOMER L. EASTERWOOD, Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE
Entered at the Postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as Second-Class Mail Matter

Any erroneous reflection on the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Mail will be gladly corrected upon its being brought to the attention of the management.

TELEPHONE No. 61

If you have visitors, or if you know any item which would be of interest to readers of the Mail, the editor would appreciate a note or a telephone message to that effect. Or, if an occurrence of unusual interest transpires a reporter will be promptly sent to get the full particulars of the management.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Patrons of the Mail who do not receive their paper regularly will confer a favor upon the management by reporting the fact. You should also watch the label of your paper to ascertain when your time is out and renew before your name automatically leaves our list, as all papers stop when the term of subscription expires.

SCHOOLS AND THEIR NEEDS

No town in West Texas is better supplied with a good school than Merkel has at the present. A new and modern building with many conveniences insures better work for even the short term our town and community will have this year.

Even with these improved environments, the faculty, the students and school board have other needs. The most important of these is the unqualified support of every patron. Assistance in the homes in making the work of each child a success will be of untold benefit and will serve to offset the loss we have sustained through a short school term. Every mother and father in this town and community should see that their child or children gets and does all possible toward advancement during the next few months. Assist the teachers in every way possible, assist the students in every way possible and it will not be long until Merkel can be advertised to the world as having a school worthy of affiliation with the universities of the state, which would be one of the best advertisements a town could have. Already one Abilene college stands ready to issue a scholarship to one member of the graduating class of the Merkel High School, and the only requirement necessary is that certain standards be gained and maintained. "Let's get to that Standard."

A NEED IN OUR SCHOOLS

The Mail is for the betterment of our school system in all departments and would like to see manual training made a part of the work carried on by boys of Merkel.

Within a very short time the auditorium of the new school will be complete and could be used for lyceum courses that would bring returns highly profitable if used for installing needed devices and machinery for the manual training of boys of Merkel and Merkel country. It will not be an unrequited sight to see many small boys leisurely parading the streets after school has dismissed for the day. It is perfectly natural for them to be doing something and if they have no method of employing their minds they will find more excitement in town than at any other place. One way of curing this evil is by the installation of a manual training department in connection with the schools. Boys will by their own methods make many useful things for the home and at the same time a cultivation of constructive ideas will be given each and every boy who takes a fancy to this kind of play-work.

The Mail hereby obligates itself to do everything possible to aid in such if same can be carried on in connection with other work in the school. A portion of the basement of the new school building is highly adapted to the installation of turning lathes, small band saws, motors and all other needed apparatus. It is a good cause, let's push it along.

KEEPING UP OUR STREETS

Within the past few years hundreds of dollars have been individually subscribed to the improvement of Merkel streets. The money has been well spent in nearly every instance, but after the work was done the upkeep of our streets have been neglected in various instances.

It is bad policy to make any improvement and

not provide for its improvement. To build a fine school building and not keep it in an excellent state of repair would be bad business; to build up a good financial industry and not maintain it to a certain standard, is bad business; to improve our streets and not maintain them is bad business.

OUR PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY

On February 5th voters of Taylor county will decide which of two of Taylor Co's most prominent and influential citizens will be pitted in the final race for Congress to be run out in the July Primaries.

When this preferential primary race shall have been ended, the Mail will support the winning candidate. In the beginning of this race Judge Blanton challenged Judge Wagstaff to placing their claims before the people of Taylor county. His proposition was accepted and Judge Wagstaff challenged Judge Blanton in return for a series of debates, which are now being carried on throughout the county. It is in no way compulsory that voters of Taylor county are bound by any obligation to support the nominee of this Taylor county election, but with fairness to both these gentlemen we will accept that obligation in advance of February 5th, as many individuals have agreed to do.

SOMETHING WITH A KICK

Paris, France (not Paris, Texas) eats about 1400 tons of donkey and mule meat each year. No wonder the French capital is always on the eve of a revolution or in danger of being plundered by the lower element of its population. People who have to eat jackasses and mules certainly have a kick coming.—K. Lamity's Harpoon. Friend Bonner could have omitted the parenthetical allusion. He no doubt penned the above in a jocular mood but his "jackular" way of expressing himself no doubt aroused the ire of a few Texas Parasians.

LIGHTING OUR DEPOT

"Gummed up gears move slowly; no more auspicious evidence of this can be shown than to point out the Texas & Pacific depot at this place. The streets of our town are well lighted, but cast a wistful glance at our depot and railway crossings after dark and your optics fail to discern anything but the dull glimmer of kerosene lamps at the station and a blank space as dark as Egypt in the latter places. Why can't the Texas & Pacific company provide better lighting facilities for their patrons at the depot and on street crossings in the city.

THE MEXICO SITUATION

The undisputed fact that sixteen or seventeen Americans were stripped of their clothing, robbed and then murdered by Mexican bandits near the Cusiuirachic mines in Chihuahua, Mexico, gives additional delicacy to the Mexico problems, so long acute and so long a burden of this country.

That Villa has demonstrated his inability to govern is more pronounced than ever. When this government recognized Carranza and the de-facto government became more powerful the ill-will of Villa for Americans was incurred.

Not having been looked upon as desirable, Villa and his followers are in position to devast, loot, shoot and murder unmercifully every human being who crosses their path. They will no doubt continue this method of guerilla warfare until United States will be forced to protect Americans.

VOTED SIX TIMES

"I have been a voter for 31 years and in all the time I have voted only six times, and then because my wife made me."—Henry Ford. Perhaps he will say his wife was the cause of the peace ship "Oscar" being a flivver.

When you think you know what the weather is going to do, think of Tuesday and Wednesday of this week and call it an impossibility, otherwise you might be classed a new-comer, or, a—?

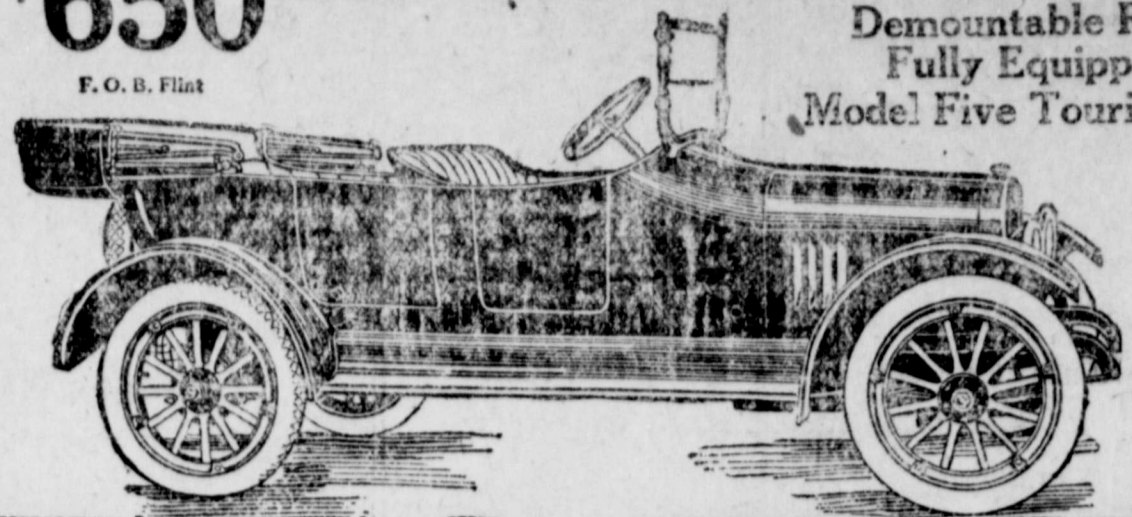
If the president "satisfies all patriotic Americans" he has a full grown contract on his hands.

Aw, quit your fudging; you know you torpedoed your own good resolution.

Sneeze, and the whole carload catches your gripe.

\$650 ELECTRIC LIGHTING AND STARTING

Demountable Rims
Fully Equipped
Model Five Touring Car



DORT

The Dort Transmission

Following the best engineering practice the Dort Transmission, the vital driving element of the Dort car, is bolted to the rear of the motor. Transmission and clutch form a unit.

The Dort Transmission is entirely enclosed in a cast aluminum case. It is dust-proof and will not leak oil. Can be easily lubricated by loosening two small screws.

Each of its gears is made of the highest grade chrome nickel steel, hardened and ground. Cars selling for over a thousand dollars each have adopted and are now using the Dort type of transmission.

Every driving part of the Dort car from the engine to axle is made of the highest-grade chrome nickel steel procurable.

Broken transmissions are unknown to Dort owners.

Investigate the Dort before you buy a car.

THE ANCHOR MERCANTILE COMPANY

Saved Girl's Life

"I want to tell you what wonderful benefit I have received from the use of Thedford's Black-Draught," writes Mrs. Sylvania Woods, of Clifton Mill's, Ky.

"It certainly has no equal for la grippe, bad colds, liver and stomach troubles. I firmly believe Black-Draught saved my little girl's life. When she had the measles, they went in on her, but one good dose of Thedford's Black-Draught made them break out, and she has had no more trouble. I shall never be without

THEDFORD'S BLACK-DRAUGHT

in my home." For constipation, indigestion, headache, dizziness, malaria, chills and fever, biliousness, and all similar ailments, Thedford's Black-Draught has proved itself a safe, reliable, gentle and valuable remedy.

If you suffer from any of these complaints, try Black-Draught. It is a medicine of known merit. Seventy-five years of splendid success proves its value. Good for young and old. For sale everywhere. Price 25 cents.

STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

Knox City, Jan. 10.—Ex-Sheriff J. J. Mitchell was killed here today. S. H. Morton, a well-known resident, is being held by the authorities.

Corpus Christi, Jan. 10.—The District Court today removed the four Duval county commissioners after a long and hot litigation on charges of malfeasance. The court refused to remove County Judge Parr.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The possibility that the British steamer Persia on which American Consul McNeely lost his life, was sunk by an interior explosion and not by a torpedo was suggested to Washington today from some of the affidavits which had been made in the State Department's investigation of the case.

There was no comment on the matter, however.

Abilene, Jan. 11.—The residence of Mrs. Francis B. Olds, between North Fifth and Sixth streets, on Orange, was entered between 5 and 6 o'clock Monday afternoon and four or five dollars and a pistol stolen. The thief

went through the dresser drawers, tumbling things up in great shape. Officers were immediately notified, but no arrests have been reported at this time. The pistol was an old-fashioned .38.

El Paso, Jan. 11.—Gen. Victoriano Huerta, ex-provisional president of Mexico, passed a restless night last night and was steadily growing weaker today. He has been sinking for the past two days and practically no hope is now entertained for his recovery.

OLDER BUT STRONGER

To be healthy at seventy, prepare at forty, is sound advice, because in the strength of middle life we too often forget that neglected colds, or careless treatment of slight aches and pains, simply undermine strength and bring chronic weakness for later years. To be stronger when older, keep your blood pure and rich and active with the strength-building and blood-nourishing properties of Scott's Emulsion which is a food, a tonic and a medicine to keep your blood rich, alleviate rheumatism and avoid sickness. No alcohol in Scott's.

Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J.

Whenever You Need a General Tonic Take Grove's

The Old Standard Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic is equally valuable as a General Tonic because it contains the well known tonic properties of QUININE and IRON. It acts on the Liver, Drives out Malaria, Enriches the Blood and Builds up the Whole System. 50 cents.

PROFESSIONAL

McMASTER & GILLILAND
DENTISTS
Office Phone 154
Over Woodroofs Store

M. ARMSTRONG, M. D.
Practicing Physician
Office at Grimes Drug Store
Merkel, Texas
Telephones: Res. 1-2; Office 1-0

DOCTOR MILLER
Physician and Surgeon
Over Woodroofs Store

W. W. WHEELER
Real Estate, Fire, Accident and Tornado
Insurance Agent
Notary Public.
Office over Farmers State Bank

C. D. MIMS
Attorney-At Law

General Practice and Collections
Land Title Work a Speciality
Office over Farmers State Bank.

G. W. JOHNSON
Real Estate, Fire, Life and Accident
Insurance Agent
Respectfully Solicits Your Business
Notary Public in Office
Office over Woodroof & Company
Merkel - Texas

SHAVING AND BATH PARLORS

The most Up-to-Date
SHOP IN MERKEL

CITY BARBER SHOP
WEST & PATE : : Proprietors

W. O. W.
Merkel Camp No. 719 meets
second and fourth Friday nights
of each month.

W. M. Elliott, C. C.
S. Hamilton, Clerk

A TEXAS WONDER.

The Texas Wonder cures kidney and bladder troubles, dissolves gravel, cures diabetes, weak and lame backs, rheumatism and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder in both men and women, regulates bladder troubles in children. If not sold by your druggist, will be sent by mail on receipt of \$1. One small bottle is two months treatment and seldom fails to perfect a cure. Send for Texas testimonials. Dr. E. W. Hall, 2926 Olive St. St. Louis, Mo. Sold by druggists showing tasteless formula for malarial system. 50 cents.

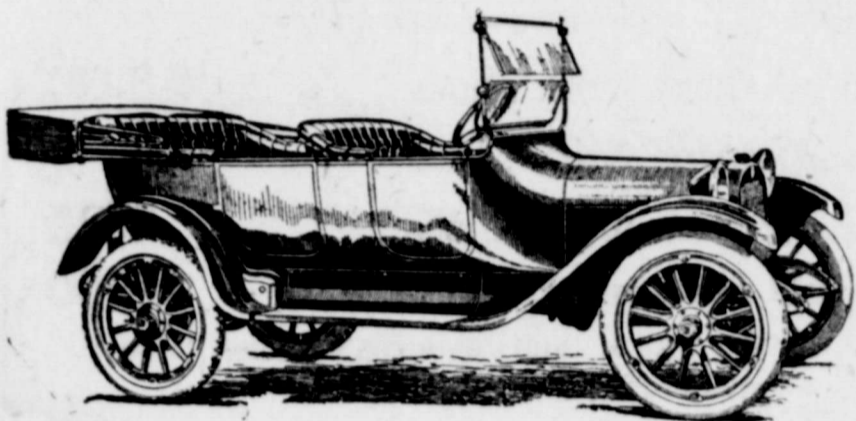
TWO POPULAR CARS



\$785 F.O.B. FACTORY

The sensation of the Automobile World at the present time. All the luxury, speed, comfort and conveniences of the cars above \$1000, at a price of only

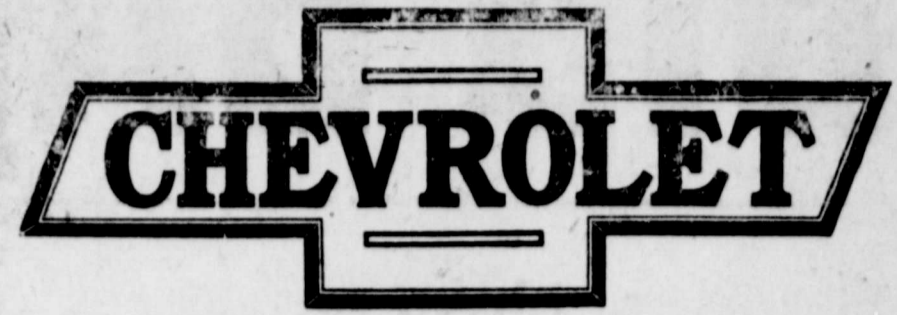
\$785 F.O.B. FACTORY



If you are contemplating the purchase of an automobile don't fail to thoroughly examine these two cars.

Demonstrations at any and all times

OFFICE
in Crenshaw Building
at Magnolia Oil
station



Light 4—\$550 F.O.B. Factory

Electric lights, Electric starter—thoroughly equipped and a remarkable car at a remarkable price. Stream line body. The best light car made, at only

\$550 F.O.B. FACTORY



McDonald & Warren : Distributors

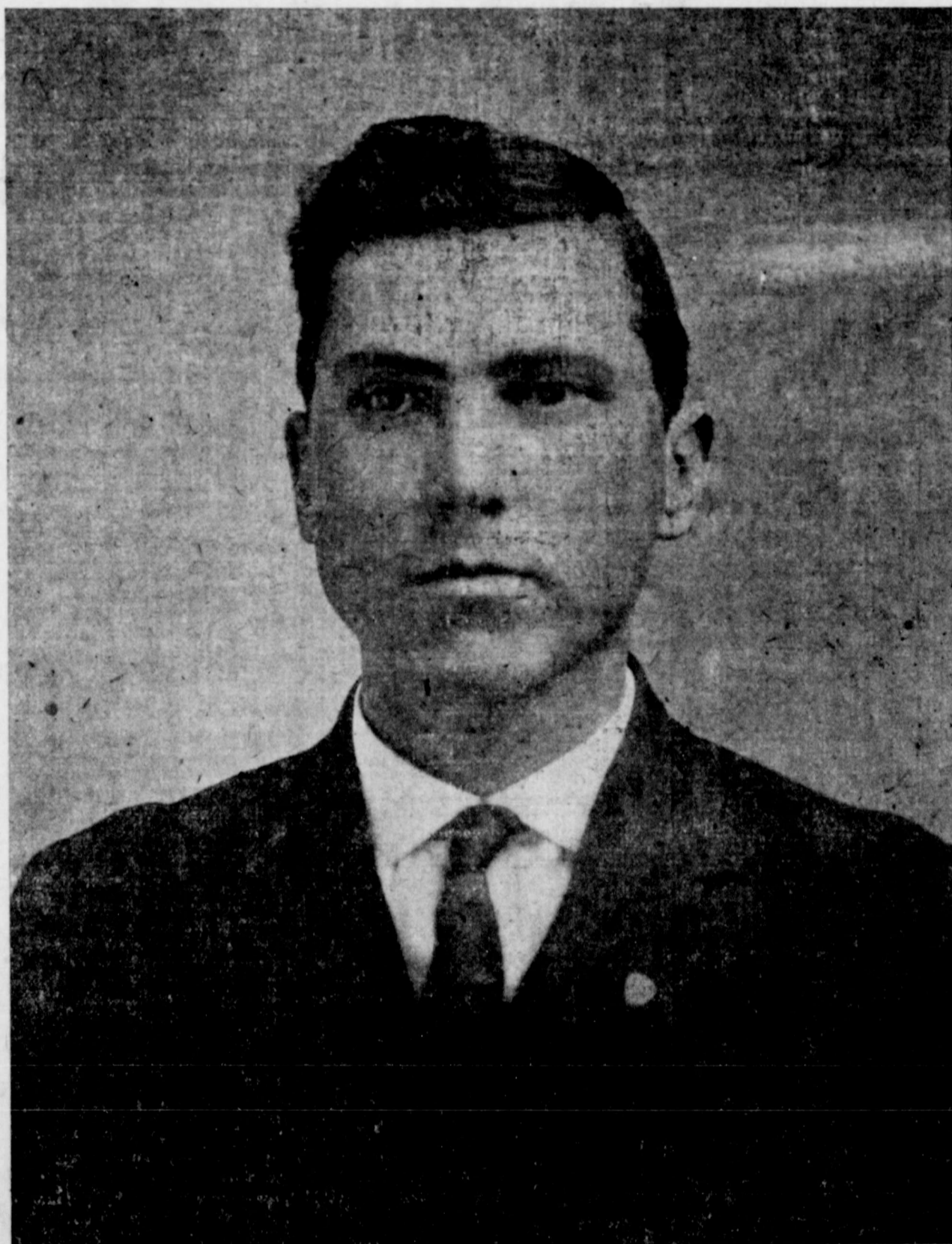
To the voters of the 42nd Judicial District:

I am a candidate for Judge of this, the 42nd Judicial District, and take this manner of presenting to you my claims. Believing that each voter has a right to know and should know the qualifications of every candidate, I give you the following sketch of my life, service and qualifications.

Am a native of Texas, having been born in Llano county in 1885, moving to Eastland county with my parents in 1892 and settling near Sabanno and Curtis. I lived in this county until 1899, when removed to Callahan county, near Putman. I attended the common schools, never having opportunity to attend a high school because of the ill health and financial condition of my father. Worked nearly two years in a printing office publishing newspapers at Putnam and Clyde. In 1910 having removed to Eastland county, was elected District Clerk of said county, which office I held four years, and was elected County Judge of that county in 1914, which office I now hold, winning the nomination over three worthy men, my plurality being 522 votes over my nearest opponent.

While serving as District Clerk there were more than four hundred civil and 100 criminal cases disposed of. I made it a special point to listen to each and every case tried, and took careful note to the various points raised by the lawyers trying same, paying particular attention to the charge of the court and the result of the trial, and in the case of an appeal also of the ruling of the higher court. By doing this I became thoroughly familiar with the proceeding and manner in which a Court should be conducted.

I took up the study of law at home at the age of eighteen, and kept it up at nights while living on the farm, and after I began teaching school. Upon becoming District Clerk I had better opportunity to learn and understand the law, and passed the bar examination in 1912. I now have good working law library and spare time in investigating the principles of the law as



JOE BURKETT OF EASTLAND COUNTY
Candidate for District Judge, Forty-Second District

handed down by higher Courts. Since becoming County Judge I have tried numerous civil and criminal cases, both with and without juries, and never have had a case appealed from my Court.

The experience I received while District Clerk and as County Judge in the past five years is far greater, more varied and extensive than that of a lawyer of

ten years' experience in ordinary practice, and in view of that fact I believe I know as well as most lawyers the procedure of the District Court, and feel that I am qualified to fill the important office to which I aspire.

I believe in the dispatch of business in any Court. It is the duty of the judge to see that every person has a speedy, fair and impartial trial. In civil cases

if a man has a just cause of action, it should be disposed of so that he may receive the benefits of same, and if a man has an unjust cause of action the case should be speedily tried so that opposite party can be rid of same and the vexations attendant thereto. And in criminal cases the State is entitled to a speedy trial, that the offender, if guilty, may be promptly punish-

ished, and if the defendant is not guilty, he should be given a prompt hearing in order that he may be exonerated. Continuances are costly and subversive of justice, and should not be allowed unless for good cause.

Knowing that full and fair bills of exception are indispensable to litigants on appeal to higher Courts, I shall, if elected, give everyone a fair bill of exceptions, as shown by the record in case they preserve the same in accordance with the established rules of pleading and practice.

I believe that every case, as far as possible, should be tried in the county of its inception. Changes of venue are very costly to the state as well as being a great deal of worry and expense to the witnesses where they are compelled to go to a distant county for trial. And as the county from which the case originates must bear the expense of the trial, it is nothing but fair and right that citizens of that county should have the money expended in the trial of the case, always provided, of course, that the state and defendant alike can secure a fair trial and a reasonably prompt hearing in the county where the case originated. If this cannot be done, then it is the duty of the District Judge to promptly transfer cases where such can be secured.

It has always been my chief ambition and sincere desire to be of some real benefit to myself and to my fellowman and have succeeded in a measure in attaining that aim, but I have a burning desire to climb higher the ladder of public service, and therefore earnestly solicit your aid, influence and support in the coming campaign for District Judge, assuring you that if elected I shall be controlled by no man nor set of men, but only by the law and the evidence in making my rulings and decisions, and shall make you a faithful officer and an efficient one so far as my ability will permit.

Yours very respectfully,
JOE BURKETT,
Eastland, Texas.

Our Baker Boy flour, sold only by Bob Martin Gro., Co.

NOODLE

B. N. Wheeler is on the sick list this week.

Mr. Jackson, the principal of our school, spent the week with homefolk at Abilene.

Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Church spent Sunday with the latter's father, B. N. Wheeler and family.

Clayton Goode spent a few days in Abilene last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Eoff entertained the young people with a party last Saturday night.

Miss Lavetta Towler of Seymour is the guest of friends.

The young folks enjoyed singing at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Barbee Sunday night.

Little Alton Bicknell is suffering very much from a burn he received on his back from a heater a few days ago.

Miss Emma Green and Harrison Hooper of Hamlin were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Green Sunday afternoon.

Miss Maude Ferguson spent the week end with her parents at Merkel.

Mrs. C. S. Herring is visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. Rossion of Trent.

Fever Sores

Fever sores and old chronic sores should not be healed entirely, but should be kept in healthy condition. This can be done by applying Chamberlain's Salve. This salve has no superior for this purpose. It is also most excellent for chapped hands, sore nipples, burns and diseases of the skin. For sale by all dealers.

Sells Home on Oak Street

Dr. Geo. L. Miller has purchased the home of W. D. Woodroof on Oak Street and will move into same at an early date. The deal was consummated Monday, Mr. Woodroof taking up the lease contract Dr. Miller has held on the Gaither home and will move to that residence.

Constipation and Indigestion

"I have used Chamberlain's Tablets and must say they are the best I have ever used for constipation and indigestion. My wife also used them for indigestion and they did her good," writes Eugene S. Knight, Wilmington, N. C. For sale by all dealers.

BIG BARGAINS

MAKE BIG BUSINESS

We must clean out our store of winter stock because new Spring goods will soon be here. Now is your chance to make a Few Dollars go a Long Way Here are Some of the Prices that are Moving the Goods

MEN AND BOYS SUITS

At Great Reductions

\$17.50 mens suits \$11.50
 15.00 mens suits 10.00
 12.50 mens suits 8.75
 One-third off on all Boys Suits
 One-fourth off on all mens Dress Pants

BLANKETS

GINGHAMS AND OUTINGS

All 25c and 35c Suitings 20c
 12½c Gingham 10c
 10c Gingham 8½c
 10c Outing 8c
 \$6.50 wool Blankets at \$4.50
 4.50 wool Blankets at \$3.50
 1.50 cotton Blankets at \$1.15

ALL SHOES MUST GO

At Great Reductions

\$3.50 mens work shoes \$3.00
 3.25 mens work shoes 2.75
 2.75 mens work shoes 2.25
 2.50 mens work shoes 2.00
 All men's, ladies' and children's Dress Shoes at great reductions—Seeing is believing

J. P. SHARP

The Quality Store

Merkel, Texas



MISS EVELYN WILLIAMS, EDITOR

A dance was given at the opera house on Monday evening of this week. Misses Alice Reed of Winters and Mary Reed of Hillsboro were out of town guests. Some twelve couples enjoyed the pleasure of the evening.

Mrs. Jud Sheppard entertained the "King's Daughters" Sunday School class of the Methodist church on Tuesday afternoon January 4th. These social gatherings add zest to the work of the class and are always enjoyed by all the members, especially with so charming a hostess as Mrs. Sheppard proves herself to be. Delicious refreshments of chocolate and cake were served to seven members.

The 20th Century Club held their first meeting after the holidays with Mrs. W. Parten as hostess. Altho the afternoon was gloomy eleven members were present and spent a most pleasant afternoon in Mrs. Parten's home. This being the afternoon for annual election of officers the program for the afternoon was not entered into but will be combined with the play at the next meeting. The following officers were elected: Miss Evelyn Williams, President, Mrs. E. L. Woodroof, Vice-President, Miss Winnie Warren, Secretary, Mrs. Jno. W. Briggs, Cor. Secretary and Treasurer Miss Ruth McLeod and Mrs. I. S. Allen were visitors for the afternoon. Miss Winnie Warren will be our next hostess. The meeting will be held at 3 P. M. Thursday January 20.

On Tuesday evening some fourteen young ladies entertain-

ed their boy friends with a leap year party at the home of Mrs. A. C. Rose. This was in true leap year style, the young ladies calling for the young men and extending all courtesies for the evening. The amusement for the evening was progressive bunco. Refreshments of chocolate and sandwiches were served to the following guests: Misses Winnie Warren, Pet Sears, Mamie Ellis, Eva Walters, Carroll, Fay Allen, Bess Touchstone, Ona Hamblet, Laura Winter of Hawley, Ethel Stevens of Goldthwaite and Mary Jane Reed of Hillsboro. Messrs. Earl Baze, W. L. Diltz, Owen Ellis, Robert Hicks, Floyd Dean, Guy Bradley, John West, Dee, Luther and Emmett Grimes, W. H. Bullock, Jinks Winters and Ernest Rogers. Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Largent.

Recital Friday Night

A recital by Miss Burkett's music class will be held at the Baptist church Friday night of this week, the first selection to be given at eight o'clock.

Everybody is invited, more especially the lovers of music.

Stanford-Dickson

On Tuesday morning at eleven in the home of Rev. Bullock, Mr. W. F. Stanford and Mrs. W. H. Dickson were very quietly married, only the minister's family witnessing the ceremony.

This wedding was announced several weeks ago so was expected by the large circle of friends of both Mr. and Mrs. Stanford, and the ceremony was performed just a few hours after Mrs. Stanford's return from Memphis, Tenn., where she had spent the holidays with her mother and sisters.

We would wish this couple many years together, thickly sprinkled with happiness.

Twentieth Century Club

Review Questions—Comment on three points of portrayal in

this play, character, passion and dramatic movement.

What are the poetical qualities of the play?

Consider some details that make up the diversified world of the fairies, and comment on the burden laid upon the imagination in a stage representation.

What has Shakespeare himself supplied relative to a solution of this problem?

Compare and contrast Puck with Ariel. Which is the more lovable? Which the more interesting?

Summarize the traits that are possessed by Bottom. How is he a composite of parts of Dogberry and Malvolio?

Explain the mixture of national elements in this play?

State some examples of anarchism. What national traits dominate the play?

Show the influence of this upon the romantic revival at the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth century.



The World Smiles

on the man with exquisitely clean linen. He smiles on himself too with the consciousness of absolute cleanliness. Send your things to this laundry and you'll know the feeling. Once you experience our way of laundering, nothing less good will ever satisfy you again.

SWEETWATER STEAM LAUNDRY DUDLEY & MARTIN, Agents, Merkel Phone No. 194

BEE'S LAXATIVE COUGH SYRUP RELIEVES COUGHS AND COLDS

Firestone

Non-Skid Tires



The great bulk and mighty grip of the Firestone Non-Skid tread is a vital test of the holding power behind it.

The exclusive way this extra power of body is built-in to support the extra tread explains why Firestone service gives—

Most Miles per Dollar

G. F. WEST CO.
Merkel

Size	Grey	Black
30x3 1/2	\$11.00	\$10.50
30x3 1/4	11.50	11.00
30x3	12.00	11.50
30x2 3/4	12.50	12.00
30x2 1/2	13.00	12.50
30x2 1/4	13.50	13.00
30x2	14.00	13.50
30x1 3/4	14.50	14.00
30x1 1/2	15.00	14.50
30x1 1/4	15.50	15.00
30x1 1/2	16.00	15.50
30x1 1/4	16.50	16.00
30x1 1/2	17.00	16.50
30x1 1/4	17.50	17.00
30x1 1/2	18.00	17.50
30x1 1/4	18.50	18.00
30x1 1/2	19.00	18.50
30x1 1/4	19.50	19.00
30x1 1/2	20.00	19.50
30x1 1/4	20.50	20.00
30x1 1/2	21.00	20.50
30x1 1/4	21.50	21.00
30x1 1/2	22.00	21.50
30x1 1/4	22.50	22.00
30x1 1/2	23.00	22.50
30x1 1/4	23.50	23.00
30x1 1/2	24.00	23.50
30x1 1/4	24.50	24.00
30x1 1/2	25.00	24.50
30x1 1/4	25.50	25.00
30x1 1/2	26.00	25.50
30x1 1/4	26.50	26.00
30x1 1/2	27.00	26.50
30x1 1/4	27.50	27.00
30x1 1/2	28.00	27.50
30x1 1/4	28.50	28.00
30x1 1/2	29.00	28.50
30x1 1/4	29.50	29.00
30x1 1/2	30.00	29.50
30x1 1/4	30.50	30.00
30x1 1/2	31.00	30.50
30x1 1/4	31.50	31.00
30x1 1/2	32.00	31.50
30x1 1/4	32.50	32.00
30x1 1/2	33.00	32.50
30x1 1/4	33.50	33.00
30x1 1/2	34.00	33.50
30x1 1/4	34.50	34.00
30x1 1/2	35.00	34.50
30x1 1/4	35.50	35.00
30x1 1/2	36.00	35.50
30x1 1/4	36.50	36.00
30x1 1/2	37.00	36.50
30x1 1/4	37.50	37.00
30x1 1/2	38.00	37.50
30x1 1/4	38.50	38.00
30x1 1/2	39.00	38.50
30x1 1/4	39.50	39.00
30x1 1/2	40.00	39.50
30x1 1/4	40.50	40.00
30x1 1/2	41.00	40.50
30x1 1/4	41.50	41.00
30x1 1/2	42.00	41.50
30x1 1/4	42.50	42.00
30x1 1/2	43.00	42.50
30x1 1/4	43.50	43.00
30x1 1/2	44.00	43.50
30x1 1/4	44.50	44.00
30x1 1/2	45.00	44.50
30x1 1/4	45.50	45.00
30x1 1/2	46.00	45.50
30x1 1/4	46.50	46.00
30x1 1/2	47.00	46.50
30x1 1/4	47.50	47.00
30x1 1/2	48.00	47.50
30x1 1/4	48.50	48.00
30x1 1/2	49.00	48.50
30x1 1/4	49.50	49.00
30x1 1/2	50.00	49.50
30x1 1/4	50.50	50.00
30x1 1/2	51.00	50.50
30x1 1/4	51.50	51.00
30x1 1/2	52.00	51.50
30x1 1/4	52.50	52.00
30x1 1/2	53.00	52.50
30x1 1/4	53.50	53.00
30x1 1/2	54.00	53.50
30x1 1/4	54.50	54.00
30x1 1/2	55.00	54.50
30x1 1/4	55.50	55.00
30x1 1/2	56.00	55.50
30x1 1/4	56.50	56.00
30x1 1/2	57.00	56.50
30x1 1/4	57.50	57.00
30x1 1/2	58.00	57.50
30x1 1/4	58.50	58.00
30x1 1/2	59.00	58.50
30x1 1/4	59.50	59.00
30x1 1/2	60.00	59.50
30x1 1/4	60.50	60.00
30x1 1/2	61.00	60.50
30x1 1/4	61.50	61.00
30x1 1/2	62.00	61.50
30x1 1/4	62.50	62.00
30x1 1/2	63.00	62.50
30x1 1/4	63.50	63.00
30x1 1/2	64.00	63.50
30x1 1/4	64.50	64.00
30x1 1/2	65.00	64.50
30x1 1/4	65.50	65.00
30x1 1/2	66.00	65.50
30x1 1/4	66.50	66.00
30x1 1/2	67.00	66.50
30x1 1/4	67.50	67.00
30x1 1/2	68.00	67.50
30x1 1/4	68.50	68.00
30x1 1/2	69.00	68.50
30x1 1/4	69.50	69.00
30x1 1/2	70.00	69.50
30x1 1/4	70.50	70.00
30x1 1/2	71.00	70.50
30x1 1/4	71.50	71.00
30x1 1/2	72.00	71.50
30x1 1/4	72.50	72.00
30x1 1/2	73.00	72.50
30x1 1/4	73.50	73.00
30x1 1/2	74.00	73.50
30x1 1/4	74.50	74.00
30x1 1/2	75.00	74.50
30x1 1/4	75.50	75.00
30x1 1/2	76.00	75.50
30x1 1/4	76.50	76.00
30x1 1/2	77.00	76.50
30x1 1/4	77.50	77.00
30x1 1/2	78.00	77.50
30x1 1/4	78.50	78.00
30x1 1/2	79.00	78.50
30x1 1/4	79.50	79.00
30x1 1/2	80.00	79.50
30x1 1/4	80.50	80.00
30x1 1/2	81.00	80.50
30x1 1/4	81.50	81.00
30x1 1/2	82.00	81.50
30x1 1/4	82.50	82.00
30x1 1/2	83.00	82.50
30x1 1/4	83.50	83.00
30x1 1/2	84.00	83.50
30x1 1/4	84.50	84.00
30x1 1/2	85.00	84.50
30x1 1/4	85.50	85.00
30x1 1/2	86.00	85.50
30x1 1/4	86.50	86.00
30x1 1/2	87.00	86.50
30x1 1/4	87.50	87.00
30x1 1/2	88.00	87.50
30x1 1/4	88.50	88.00
30x1 1/2	89.00	88.50
30x1 1/4	89.50	89.00
30x1 1/2	90.00	89.50
30x1 1/4	90.50	90.00
30x1 1/2	91.00	90.50
30x1 1/4	91.50	91.00
30x1 1/2	92.00	91.50
30x1 1/4	92.50	92.00
30x1 1/2	93.00	92.50
30x1 1/4	93.50	93.00
30x1 1/2	94.00	93.50
30x1 1/4	94.50	94.00
30x1 1/2	95.00	94.50
30x1 1/4	95.50	95.00
30x1 1/2	96.00	95.50
30x1 1/4	96.50	96.00
30x1 1/2	97.00	96.50
30x1 1/4	97.50	97.00
30x1 1/2	98.00	97.50
30x1 1/4	98.50	98.00
30x1 1/2	99.00	98.50
30x1 1/4	99.50	99.00
30x1 1/2	100.00	99.50

COMING SOON

By special arrangement "Hans Hanson" will be at the Cozy on January 18, in that funny Swedish comedy.

"Hans Hanson" has played in Merkel on previous occasions and has always pleased. Make up your mind now to witness this attraction, U will B glad U Cum.

D. O. Huddlestone and D. Coats were called to Austin county this week to attend court, they being summoned as character witnesses in a trial now in progress there.

Get a nice juicy hamburger from Aaron's place. Middle of Merkel.

Don't Take It For Granted

that just because you are in business, everybody is aware of the fact. Your goods may be the finest in the market but they will remain on your shelves unless the people are told about them.

ADVERTISE

if you want to move your merchandise. Reach the buyers in their homes through the columns of THIS PAPER and on every dollar expended you'll reap a handsome dividend.

ELECTRIC BITTERS THE BEST FOR BILIOUSNESS AND KIDNEYS



The Proof of The Pudding Is In The Eating

Inferior Goods may Look All Right, but to be sure of the Quality, as well as the Appearance, trade with us. Tastes differ but to show Good Taste means to buy here.

E. L. ROGERS
GROCERY

WHAT CATARRH IS

It has been said that every third person has catarrh in some form.

Science has shown that nasal catarrh often indicates a general weakness of the body; and local treatments in the form of snuffs and vapors do little, if any good.

To correct catarrh you should treat its cause by enriching your blood with the oil-food in Scott's Emulsion which is a medicinal food and a building tonic, free from alcohol or any harmful drugs. Try it.

Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J.

To Drive Out Malaria And Build Up The System Take the Old Standard GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC. You know what you are taking, as the regular is printed on every label. It shows Quinine and Iron in a tasteless form. The Quinine drives out malaria, the Iron builds up the system. 50 cent

The Elopers' Curious Pursuer

By JOHN Y. LARNED

"I heard, Jim, that when you got married you run away with the gal."

"So I did."

"Big chase?"

"You bet!"

"Gals old man after you?"

"No."

"Brother?"

"No."

"Mother?"

"No."

"Another feller?"

"No."

"It wasn't a b'ar, was it?"

"No; it wasn't any kind of a man or beast—nothin' livin'."

"What was it, then, if it wasn't alive? Couldn't nothin' dead git after you. Did it ketch you?"

"It come pretty nigh ketchin' us."

"Two legs or four?"

"No legs at all; it rolled."

"You must 'a' been runnin' downhill."

"No; we was runnin' on pretty nigh a dead level."

"Was you on foot or a-hossback?"

"Neither; in an automobile."

"I don't know nothin' that would roll after you except a seal."

"I told you it wasn't alive."

"Well, what was it?"

"Gimme a segar and I'll tell you."

The curious man produced the cigar. Jim lighted up and told his story. That was the way he got his tobacco; he excited some man's curiosity, then gratified it for a small consideration in the shape of a weed.

"Mandy and I done our courtin' out in the Rocky mountains. Mandy was fond of ridin' hossback till she heard of what they called in them days hossless carriages, and as soon as they come to be common in the east she got her father to send for one for her. It didn't take her long to learn to run it, though she got spilled several times, and the machine had to be sent down to Denver for repairs on a week.

"Well, when I come courtin' Mandy her dad had jist struck a vein turnin' out \$200 to the ton of ore, and it wasn't to be expected that he would look at a galoot that hadn't 200 cents to a ton of gall. Mandy didn't see it in that light. She argued that her dad would be rich and she could afford a poor husband. The ole man jist told her that the next time I come round I'd git the contents of his gun.

"There didn't seem to be nothin' to do but for me and Mandy to light out, and we did. The ole man was away at the time, and we didn't have nothin' to do but put our duds in the auto, git in ourselves and chug-chug away. It was a hot day, with clouds lookin' like a man's coat that had passed through a mowin' machine. We was goin' down to a settlement in the foothills to git married, and, since it looked like rain, instead of takin' the longest road we tuk the shortest, that run through Devil's canyon.

"We was joggin' along in the canyon, takin' our time and thinkin' what a tame runaway match we was havin', when we heard behind us what sounded like low thunder. Mandy 'lowed it was thunder, but somehow I didn't think it was. In a few minutes we'd made up our minds that it was a torren' comin' down the canyon. There'd been a cloudburst up in the mountains, and the flood was on the way in our direction.

"Mebbe we wasn't skeered! There was no outlet from the canyon till there was a break in its perpendicular side miles below where we was. The canyon wasn't an average of more'n twict as wide as the road, and when a good, healthy cloudburst come down the flood was from ten to forty feet high, accordin' to the width of the walls holdin' it in, and it come like an express train.

"Mebbe Mandy didn't put on all the power, and mebbe we didn't shoot along that canyon like a cannon ball! But we couldn't git on as fast as the flood, and we knew that if we didn't reach the break below before the water reached us we was goners. The trouble was we couldn't keep up fast time, the road was so crooked. It wasn't long before the head of the water was in sight. I looked back jist in time to see it strike one side of the cliff where there was a turn in the canyon. It was like the head of a tremend'us sea serpent, flingin' out logs and stones, sometimes a whole tree, agin the rock, as much as to say: 'Git out of the way! Don't you see I'm tryin' to git them lovers ahead?'

"It was the worst sight I ever see. I wouldn't let Mandy turn to look at it, for she had the wheel, and if she saw it she'd likely collapse. Every time there was a turn we had to slow up. But the flood had to slow up, too, and in that way we gained on it, we turnin' faster than it. About a mile above the break we was runnin', for the canyon was purty straight and we knowed it was nip and tuck with us.

"Down this mile we caworted, the head of the flood hollerin' at us and throwin' logs at us to stop us, but we kept right on. When we had about a quarter of a mile to go to reach the break I began to calculate if we'd have time to climb the incline leadin' out of the canyon. I looked back, and it seemed that the devilish thing was right on to us.

"When we got to the break and the rise we had to slow up a bit for the turn. The flood passed us, but threw a tree at us, missin' us by about a yard. Then we was safe."

"I see," remarked the curious man. "You was chased by pillin' water. Hare another segar."



DESIRES TO ANNOUNCE

the addition of a complete line of DRY GOODS AND GROCERIES

We expect to have our Dry Goods department complete in every detail at a very early date, and we ask the Ladies to call on us for Spring needs in all dry goods lines and ladies and children's Ready-to-Wear.

Our Grocery Department

is now complete, and the buying public is invited to call on us with the assurance that we shall offer you the best that money can buy, at the lowest possible price consistent with legitimate merchandising.

Our Dry Goods and Grocery Departments are in the building formerly occupied by Douglass' Variety Store

OUR SPRING SAMPLES NOW ON DISPLAY

Call and select your Spring Suit—only we can have it delivered on any date you say. SEE US

Get A **Scotch** Made to Order Suit or Over-Coat

\$15

No Less than \$15
No More than \$20

A Bet That Was Lost

By MARTHA V. MONROE.

Charlie Perkins and I had been engaged for a month when he came to me and said that his friend Billy Ashurst was going to be married—that is, if the girl he expected to wed didn't go back on him.

"Why do you say that?" I asked.

"Because I've known the girl he's going to marry for several years, and she's not to be relied on."

"Whom is he going to marry?"

"Molly Bristow."

I knew Molly, but had no such opinion of her. A week later Charlie said to me:

"See here, Kit, I want your permission to do something—to win a bet. I've bet Billy Ashurst a champagne dinner that I can take Molly Bristow away from him within thirty days. To accomplish this I must do some spooning with her, and, of course, unless you understood it there would be trouble between you and me."

I told Charlie that there was no wisdom in what he proposed and it would make trouble for some one else even if not for him and me. But he appeared to be miffed and said that I hadn't confidence in him; I would be jealous of him after we were married, and jealousy was bound to spoil any couple's married life. This was not pleasing to me, but so long as Charlie was not yet my husband I concluded to let him do as he liked. So I told him to go ahead and win his bet if he could.

I didn't doubt that his intentions were what he stated them to be, but I did not approve of them. They appeared frivolous and unworthy of a man with whom I was to be united for life. But it seemed wise in me to accede to his proposition. He had shown weakness in making it, and if he became unpleasantly involved I might get a glimpse of what there was in him admirable or the reverse.

While Charlie was winning his bet his visits to me were cut in half. Several of my intimate friends advised me of what was going on between him and Miss Bristow, and one of them hinted that I had better look out for my fiancé, for there had been an affair between him and Molly before he had become engaged to me. This was news that I did not relish, and I began to suspect there was more in his attentions to her than the winning of a bet. But I did not betray my suspicion to him. On the contrary, I pretended to be satisfied.

Leonard Sweetzer, a man twenty years my senior, had been attentive to me before I met Charlie and, hearing of Charlie's attention to Molly Bristow and inferring that my engagement had been broken off, renewed his suit. I was but eighteen when he proposed to me and had not appreciated him. Two years had passed since then—two years of development for me. Now Charlie's flippancy stood out plain in contrast with Leonard Sweetzer's character. Leonard proposed to me. I refused him, for I did not intend to go back on my troth to Charlie. Something in my manner, I suppose, gave my suitor reason to think that his case was not hopeless, and he exacted a promise from me that in case any change came in the situation I would send for him.

I began to think that Charlie's efforts to win his bet were not promising success. He seemed morose and fretful. His visits to me continued to be few, and when with me his mind seemed to be on some other subject. One evening when we were together I asked him if he was going to win his bet. The question seemed to irritate him, and I turned the conversation into other channels.

A certain opera was to be given, which I wished to attend. I bought two tickets and informed my fiancé of the fact. He sent me a note saying that he was not well, and I had his consent to ask any friend I chose to escort me. I made a hurried investigation and learned that he was perfectly well. At the same time I heard that he had lost his bet and was unable to conceal his disappointment. My informant let me into the secret that he had proposed to Molly Bristow, been refused, and the refusal had "cut him up" dreadfully.

I sent Leonard Sweetzer a note, enclosing Charlie's permission to choose an escort, and asked him if he would be my companion for the evening. His response was satisfactory. Considering the situation, my invitation was tantamount to an acceptance of his offer of marriage.

Charlie Perkins wrote me that he had suddenly been called out of town, to be gone a few weeks. I knew this was to enable him to get over the refusal he had received from Molly Bristow. In ten days he had pulled himself together and one afternoon surprised me with a call, sending up a beautiful bouquet with his card.

When I went down to see him he knew by my expression that all was over between us. I told him that I knew he had lost his bet and his heart as well. He acknowledged that he had acted unwisely, begged my forgiveness and promised to be a faithful and loving husband to me. He claimed that the episode had opened his eyes to the real condition of his heart. To this I responded that it had opened to me the real condition of my own heart.

This he did not understand till my engagement to Leonard Sweetzer was announced.

Saturday Special

Regular \$1.00 bucket Coffee a dandy good one **85c**

A No. 1 good Peaberry Coffee, the kind often sold for 25c, Saturday special, 5 pounds for **\$1.00**

A splendid good Peaberry coffee, worth 20c Saturday special Six pounds for **\$1.00**

Some good old Sorghum, not imitation, but Pure Sorghum, we guarantee it to be pure, per gal. bucket **75c**

QUEEN QUALITY Flour, none better per 100 pounds **\$3.25**

BRING US YOUR EGGS

We will pay you Highest Market Price

WE HAVE ONLY A FEW

pair of men's pants, ranging in value from \$1.25 to \$2.00, Saturday special **75c** per pair

WE HAVE A NUMBER

of pairs of long pants for boys, in size 26-w, 26-L, to 29-w, 29-L, ranging in value from \$1.50 to \$2.50 Saturday special **75c**

WE HAVE ONLY A FEW

men's dress shirts in large sizes, 50c, 75c and \$1.00 values, slightly soiled Saturday special ONLY **25c**

Violin Strings, Guitar Strings, Banjo Strings. Call on us, we have them

Mr. Ford may never bring the warring nations to terms of peace, but **THE STAR STORE** will save you money.

See us in all Departments



JOHNSTON'S

The name that signifies the very best CANDIES

Popular sized boxes and popular prices Fresh at all times at

The Elite Confectionery

WEAR A CLEAN SUIT

LET

RENFRO THE TAILOR

AT THE CITY BARBER SHOP DO

Your Cleaning and Pressing

DOUBLY PROVEN

Merkel Readers Can No Longer Doubt The Evidence

This Merkel citizen testified long ago. Told of quick relief—of undoubted benefit.

The facts are now confirmed. Such testimony is complete—the evidence conclusive.

It forms convincing proof of merit. H. W. Derstine, retired farmer, Kent St., Merkel, gave the following account of his experience on May 27th, 1905.

He said: "Doan's Kidney Pills relieved me of a dull backache which had troubled me for several years. I positively believe they will cure any ordinary case of kidney complaint, if taken

as directed."

on April 16th, 1915, Mr. Derstine added to the above: "Doan's Kidney Pills are good. I always keep them on hand and use them occasionally with good results."

Price 50c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Derstine had. Foster-Milburn Company, Props., Buffalo, N. Y. 102

Constructive Legislation. First Lawyer—What makes you think we shall not be able to get this law passed by the legislature? Second Lawyer—It's too simple. Almost any one can understand it. It ought to be so complex and vague that nobody can understand it. Then it is bound to pass, because nobody would admit that he didn't understand it.—New York Sun.



Good Baking Results

are bound to accrue from the use of our good coal if your range is in a half way good condition. Some coal, you know, is so poor in quality that it doesn't throw off hardly enough heat to warm one's hands, but when you burn real good coal, like ours, there is a vast difference. Now is the time to send in your order to

Warren Brothers

NUBIA

The health of the community is in the ascendancy, we are glad to announce.

The joint discussion between T. L. Blanton and W. M. Wagstaff was pulled off on schedule time at Nubia Saturday night. About fifty voters were present to hear them copiously dilate upon their tenants and measures. Mr. Blanton was uproariously applauded when he made use of one of Bob Taylor's anecdotes. Sentiment was very well divided between them.

An enjoyable apron party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Finley Saturday night. Mr. Jno. Blackburn was awarded the cake for having shown the best skill in needle craft. A large crowd was present and all seemed to enjoy the occasion.

Rev. Moore preached at Nubia Sunday morning and afternoon. At the conclusion of his afternoon sermon a Sunday school was organized. Mr. A. Y. Jones was selected as superintendent, Miss Ruth Martin as secretary and Mr. Bickley first teacher. They will meet every Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. All are cordially invited to attend.

Several of our former citizens who became exasperated at the drouths here several years ago and moved off to condole their discontent have returned back to the faithful old Canyon. They found conditions where they went as bad as here, and so they regretted their rash folly and returned to the land of nativity.

The rumor is abroad that a literary society is to be started at Nubia next Friday night.

Mr. Wade Ensminger went to Merkel last week to enter school there. Learn fast, Wade, and be a good little boy.

Girls, this is Leap Year. Please do not fail to comply with the duties it implies.

W. O. Johnson and son, Rus-sie, have returned from a Christmas visit to Arkansas. They report an interesting and enjoyable time.

Mr. and Mrs. Burchell have returned from Tennessee where they spent Christmas with relatives and old time friends.

The Gist Of It

"Last December I had a very severe cold and was nearly down sick in bed. I bought two bottles of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and it was only a very few days until I was completely restored to health," writes O. J. Metcalf, Weatherby, Mo. If you would know the value of this remedy, ask any one who has used it. For sale by all dealers.

Return From Honey Grove

Mr. and Mrs. J. Ben Campbell and two daughters returned Thursday of last week from a two weeks visit at Honey Grove where they visited Mrs. Campbell's father.

Mr. Campbell formerly lived at Honey Grove, having made Fannin county his home for thirty years, all of the time being spent on one farm. He stated on his return here that this his fourth return from visits in that section make the Merkel country look better to him than it has ever looked before. Mr. Campbell reports excessive rains in that section and says it required four good mules to get into Honey Grove where he could take the train home.

There is a moral to this statement Mr. Campbell has made about the Merkel country looking better. All comers will find it superior in many qualities and the people possessed with that vim, vigor and vitality that makes people forge ahead to accomplishing more and getting satisfaction out of life. "Move to Merkel"

Stomach Trouble Cured

If you have any trouble with your stomach you should take Chamberlain's Tablets. Mr. J. P. Klote of Edina, Mo., says: "I have used a great many different medicines for stomach trouble but find Chamberlain's Tablets more beneficial than any other remedy I ever used." For sale by all dealers.

STOP - LOOK

-- LISTEN --

\$9,000 DOLLAR STOCK

Of Merchandise at Unheard-of Prices

I have bought the W. E. Douglass stock; also a large stock of goods at Snyder, Texas, that I am going to sell at **LESS THAN WHOLESALE COST**. Now if you don't get in on these bargains don't blame us. This is a real **BARGAIN** event. You may have attended sales, but this is something out of the ordinary. I must have room, and I am going to make prices that will make room. If you miss it, you will miss it. Just note prices of a few items.

Buy your goods where your Money Goes Farthest. It will pay you to buy NOW

- Mens fleeced ribbed underwear, regular 65c, our price only **35c**
- Mens 10c, 15c and 25c neckwear only **5c**
- Mens 10c and 15c hose, now per pair **5c**
- Childrens hose worth 25c now **14c**
- One lot childrens hose per pair **5c**
- Mens blue chambray work shirts now only **29c**
- Young mens overcoats, worth \$7.50, now **\$3.50**
- Ladies \$7.50 coats now only **2.95**
- Boys suits, size 9 to 16, regular \$7.50 to \$15, only **4.98**

FREE PHONOGRAPH, regular \$5.00 value, given to each customer trading \$30.00 with us. Ask for cash register receipts, given with each purchase. Have your friends save receipts for you **FREE**

Don't miss this big event, as these bargains are going to go, and they are going to go fast. Don't think for a moment this is an ordinary sale, as put on by most merchants. Remember we sell cheaper at all times than the mail order houses. If we haven't got what you want let us order it and save you money. We have Sears, Roebuck & Co. catalogue, and several others, pick out what you want and let us save you money on it. We appreciate your trade and guarantee to please you. We are not satisfied until you are. Our customers are responsible for our great success and we want them, most of all, to take advantage of this big **BARGAIN EVENT**. Wish I could tell you all about the bargains I am going to give you, but space will not permit, but come in at once and let us convince you.

J. A. DUCKETT

THE PRICE IS THE THING **MERKEL, TEXAS**

A. P. Scarborough Dead

Aaron Polk Scarborough died Saturday afternoon at 2:30 from organic heart trouble. Mr. Scarborough moved here from San Angelo only a week before his death and while he was confined to his bed during his residence here he was tho't to be in no danger and at noon Saturday ate a hearty meal and seemed improved.

The remains were shipped to Baird Sunday at noon where the deceased's brother, W. D. Scarborough of Abilene, arranged the funeral to be held. The death of Mr. Scarborough was a shock to his family as they were not apprised of his sickness and had not known of his residence here until a short time before his death. Surviving the deceased is a wife, and baby daughter of three or four years, who have the most profound sympathy of the Mail in this sad hour.

Return Dairy Bottles

After January 15th will leave deliveries of milk at places where empties are returned only. When you forget to return empty bottles we will be compelled to pass up your order. H. N. Washburn, proprietor Merkel Dairy.

Women of Sedentary Habits.

Women who get but little exercise are likely to be troubled with constipation and indigestion and will find Chamberlain's Tablets highly beneficial. Not so good as a three or four mile walk every day, but very much better than to allow the bowels to remain in constipated condition. They are easy and pleasant to take and most agreeable in effect. For sale by all dealers.

Grocery Move

I have moved my grocery stock to the Boyce building and will appreciate calls from my friends. L. E. Martnn.

Land to Grub

50 acres of land to grub for the wood. See me at once. Earl Lassiter. 14t2pd

Advertised Letters

Bradley, J. W.
Causey, Walter W.
Coker, Texie.
Jones, Mrs. T. C.
Leggett, Miss Shannon.
Music, T. L.
Nicholas, J. J.
Scott, J. F.
Shields, Mrs. M. A.
Smith, Farris.
Story, Noah.
Thompson, Rubie.
Wyley, B. F.
Urgnidi, Martini, M.
Will be sent away January 22.

Bad Cold Quickly Broken Up.

Mrs. Martha Wilcox, Gowanda, N. Y. writes "I first used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy about eight years ago. At that time I had a hard cold and coughed most of the time. It proved to be just what I needed. It broke up the cold in a few days, and the cough entirely disappeared. I have told many of my friends of the good I received through using this medicine and all who have used it speak of it in the highest terms." For sale by all dealers.

Pure Seed For Planting

Pure dwarf cane seed, pure black cap, white kaffir seed and pure dwarf red maize for sale at \$1.00 per bushel, f. o. b. Floydada, Texas. Samples are on display at the Merkel Mail office now. Address all orders to Earl Rainer, Floydada, Texas, Route 3, Box 51. 31 t4pd.

SECOND HAND AUTOS

We buy and sell second hand Ford automobiles. See us before you buy and see us before you sell. We rebuild cars. The Merkel Garage.

Cotton Seed For Sale

Mebane Triumph cotton seed at \$1.00 per bushel. Phone or write me. C. L. Deutschman, Noodle, Route 1. 31t3pd.

"Hans Hanson" is a beautiful story. Seats on sale for the play now, get your reserve seat checks at the Elite Confectionery.

C. E. SIMS FOR COUNTY SUPT.

We are authorized to make announcement of C. E. Sims of Trent as candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction of Taylor county. Mr. Sims is one of the most prominent educators in the county and the following endorsement from people of Trent gives him a boost he is highly worthy of.

We, the undersigned citizens and voters of the Trent Voting Precinct, do hereby, heartily endorse Prof. C. Sims for the office of County Superintendent of Public Instruction of Taylor County.

We wish to say further to those whom it may concern that Mr. Sims has taught as Superintendent of our school here for three years, and we have found him a perfect gentleman in every respect; a strong and aggressive school man and a man, worthy and well qualified to fill the position to which he aspires.

Signed:

- T. J. Williamson, W. A. Abbot, W. A. Kerr, A. B. Rosson, H. W. Beckham, J. W. Nichols, R. W. McLeod, S. D. McLeod, R. B. McRee, E. C. Estep, I. C. Chambers, J. E. Lee, D. E. Tedford, Cal Hamner, J. D. Southworth, A. D. Skillern, A. C. Ayres, G. H. Gattis, W. E. Hamner, C. S. Robinson, J. M. Smith, J. W. Denton, T. L. Stephens, P. T. Vessels, W. H. Riley, G. N. Keys, H. N. Smith, Carlos Robinson, E. H. Burkes, J. E. Bowers, A. Williamson, R. W. Cotton, C. B. Bishop, E. D. Teuton, W. A. Buford, H. M. Scott, R. B. Johnson, D. A. Robinson, G. H. Watkins, N. L. McLeod, W. A. Holt, K. C. Leonard, T. T. Sellers, M. G. Scott, A. Nemir, W. T. Gist, A. C. Terry, O. G. Sellers, W. J. Smith, J. A. Brown, J. W. Bright, S. R. Jackson, Cap. McLeod, W. H. Craddock, Lee Cooper, J. C. Childers, Sol Johnson, Joe Nalley, W. C. Nalley, R. H. Reeves, R. P. Arnold, R. M. Beasley, J. W. Hassey, W. E. Miller, S. M. Sanders, E. J. Sellers, L. E. Adrian, E. D. Massey, E. L. Mangum, W. A. Phillips, W. E. Smith, J. C. Johnson, J. S. Reid, R. B. McRee, Jr., C. C. Smith, W. I. Miller, R. E. Dowdy, Ernest Moore, J. C. Howell, D. S. Howell, M. D. Slaps, Chas. Thixton, W. W. Massey, J. E. Robinson, A. P. Flannigan, D. J. Rawlings, T. B. Phillips, C. C. Steadman, I. D. Simpson, Sam Leal, John Thixton, James Bright, Elery Smith, W. L. Boyd, B. F. Forrester, W. A. Scott, J. F. Smith, C. T. Leonard, W. E. Hamner, O. L. Robinson, L. D. Tankertley, B. P. Cobb, F. G. Boyd, D. L. Owens, H. R. Randolph, J. H. Sudbury, Monta May.

Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing and when it is entirely closed, Deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Card of Thanks

I wish to thank the people of Merkel for the many kindnesses shown during the illness and death of my dear companion. May God richly bless each and everyone is my prayer.

Mrs. B. P. Scarborough.

Our Best Boy flour, sold only by Bob Macken Gro. Co.