

MERKEL BOY WINNS \$200.00 IN PRIZES COLLECTED \$6000 HERE SATURDAY

Andrew Carey of Merkel was pronounced winner of the first prize in Class H. Frank P. Holland Hog Club of the Texas Industrial Congress, Saturday afternoon at Dallas.

The contest regulations permitted any boy or girl of Texas over 10 years of age and under 20 to compete for the best hog not more than twelve months old on Nov. 1st., 1915, cost and method of feeding considered. The record made by Andrew Carey was as follows. Gain in live weight of 258 pounds; cost in gain .0281c per pound. Net profit \$22.70 or .088c per pound.

In all \$10,000.00 in prizes were awarded to baby beef clubs, hog clubs, garden clubs, model farms, corn clubs, peanut clubs, grain crops, home and school gardens, etc.

This meeting of the Texas Industrial Congress was by far the most successful yet held in the state. Boys and girls from many counties were there in competition, Merkel being represented by Andrew Carey a winner of a first prize and Eugene Williamson, adopted son of J. M. Williamson of Route 2, who was one of the strongest contenders there.

Andrew Carey is to be congratulated on his achievement and the many other boys of the Merkel country are in position to profit in the same manner and way in which Andrew has profited. In addition to winning \$200.00 for having made the best showing of raising a hog of any boy in Texas he made an additional profit of \$22.70 on the one hog at market prices. "Hurrah for Andrew."

DEATH FROM GUN SHOT BY BROTHER

Thursday afternoon of last week Willis Snapp of Sweetwater was accidentally shot and instantly killed by his brother George.

The Sweetwater Reporter gave the following account of the accident:

The three brothers, all grown men, were camped near the Cottonwood school house and have been for several weeks trapping and hunting. Late yesterday afternoon they took their guns and started to a pond nearby to shoot ducks. They had just left the camp and were walking side by side crossing the road when a gun carried by George Snapp went off, the bullets entering Willis Snapp in the neck and came out near the left eye. Death was instantaneous. The brother, George Snapp, says he has no idea what caused the gun to go off as he did not have his hand near the trigger.

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SEVEN YET

Meaning, Merkel cotton yards will have to weigh that number of bales of cotton before the Mail estimate of 17,500 will have been reached.

The last count taken was at one o'clock Thursday. At the rate the white staple has been brought on the market the last few days, the 17,500 mark will be in history before Saturday night.

Tax Collector W. F. Dillard collected in round numbers \$6000.00 while he was here Saturday.

Saturday was the third collection Mr. Dillard has made here since fall and each day has netted a larger return in collection of county and state taxes. If possible Merkel will be given another day before the first of February during which tax payers and voters may look after this annual necessity without making a trip to Abilene. The probable date has not been set however by Mr. Dillard, for he is not sure that he will be able to pay our town a return trip owing to rush work in his office.

W. H. GRAHAM FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY

W. H. Graham of Abilene who has held the responsible position as court stenographer in the Abilene District court for nearly eight years and a man known for his thoroughness in all work he undertakes, authorizes the Mail to announce his claims for the office of County Attorney, subject to the action of the July Primaries.

In placing his claims before the Mail readers Mr. Graham, makes the following statement in regard to the office to which he aspires.

To the Voters of Taylor County:

I am a candidate for County Attorney of Taylor County, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary in July, 1916. If elected, I promise you that I will use every resource at my command to enforce all the laws without fear or favor. I am not in sympathy with violators of the law. I stand for all that is law abiding, honest, upright and just. I will be at my post of duty as closely as it is possible to do. I will serve the people in the capacity required of me by law and will go when duty demands.

I have been official court stenographer in the Abilene District for over seven years. I have license to practice law and feel that my past experience has fully equipped me for the position which I ask you to honor me with.

Respectfully,
W. H. Graham.

T. R. LASSITER IS FOR RE-ELECTION

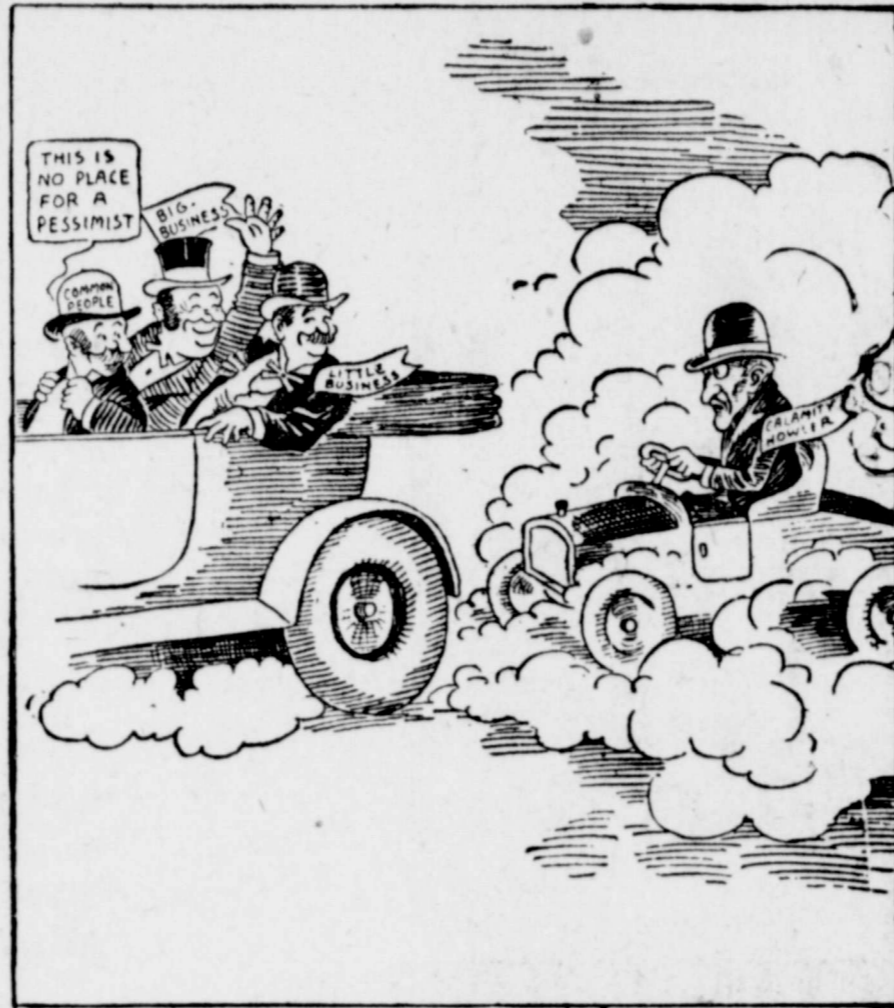
We are glad to announce the candidacy of T. R. Lassiter for Commissioner Precinct No. 2, for re-election subject to the July primaries.

Mr. Lassiter is serving his first term as Commissioner and alike all his predecessors has not pleased all the people, neither has any other public official, but his record has been commendable as we see it, and qualifies him for even better service to the Merkel country during the next two years in event of his election. Give his claims careful consideration they are worthy of when you cast your ballot.

Pedigree Duroc Jersey pigs, best breeding large type, good individuals. \$5.00 each. Lee Baker, Merkel, Texas. 1tpd.

25 per cent off on shoes at J. A. Duckett.

EATING THEIR DUST.



—Hodge in Spokane Spokesman Review.

BUYING IT AT HOME

The following from the Midland Reporter is the third article in a series of ten now being published in that paper:

No. 3—THE POWER OF PUBLICITY

Last week I said that the catalog houses didn't sell cheaper than local stores and I also stated that two out of three people believed that they did. Naturally I must explain this.

The people are not fools, but they can be fooled.

The people believe that the catalog houses sell cheaper because the catalog houses have convinced them of that assertion by a campaign of publicity that has never been equalled in the annals of advertising. They knew the only claim they had upon the patronage of the people was an appeal to selfishness and that the surest and most effective argument would be that they could leave money in the pockets of the people.

A great advertising expert said, "Give me money enough and a little time and I can make the American people eat sawdust for breakfast food," and judging by the flavor and general effect of some breakfast foods, I sometimes think he put the job over.

Say anything attractive enough and often enough and soon somebody else will say it, keep right on saying it, and lots of people will echo what ever it was and if you stick right at it loud and long in course of time everybody will swear to it and many will claim to be the original believer in it.

The catalog houses realized that truism and are cashing in on it every day. They say it in thousands of papers every day, and in tons of catalogs and circulars every hour. As an illustration of their enthusiasm they sent twenty-eight carloads of catalogs to one point in Kansas in one shipment, there to be distributed over the surrounding country by mail. A car load of catalogs shipped to this charming little city is no novelty.

The short, plain English of it is that the catalog houses have made their talk stick. No systematic effort has ever been made to offset their campaign. They have hollered, "But direct and save the middleman's profit," until a great many people—entirely too many people—believe that when they buy of the catalog houses they are saving something and buying direct. As a matter of fact they are neither buying direct, nor saving anything and as for the middleman there is no such animal—in the sense that the catalog houses use the term.

If anyone really doubts the truth of the contentions herein and herebefore set forth let this simple experiment settle it. Take your catalog—if you have one—select some article and buy it. Keep careful account of every item of cost, stamp money order and express. When it comes take it to several of your local stores and compare it with an article of exactly equal merit.

There is a great psychological phenomena involved in this belief of cheaper goods by mail. Many people buy because they have been converted to the belief in catalog claims and after the goods come they are suspicious but won't make an investigation because they do not want to lose faith in their own wisdom. They keep themselves convinced to retain their confidence in their own judgment. And to make it still stronger they not only cling to their first judgment, but actually talk to others of the money they save. They don't do this particularly to aid the catalog house, but rather for the pleasure of throwing bouquets at their own superior wisdom.

"The Elimination of the Middleman" will be the fourth of these talks, published next week. Some near-idiocy logic will be commented on in a way that we believe will fix your attention.

TRAPPERS IN THE MERKEL COUNTRY BLOWN TO ATOMS RETURNS TO LIFE

The avocation of trapping in the Merkel country has become somewhat of a profession during the last few months and some have gone into the business on a wholesale plan.

Ross Ferrier, who is on a vacation from his duties as cashier for the Texas & Pacific, has in all about fifty trap set in various parts of the rough country bordering the mountains, south of this place. His principal catches so far have been on skunks which are said to be plentiful throughout the country. Other parties have trapped throughout the fall and winter months but on a much smaller scale.

HELP KILL ALL THE MERKEL RODENTS

Abilene, Tex., Jan., 8, 1916.
Editor Merkel Mail,
Merkel, Texas,

Dear Sir:—

Yesterday I sent you notice of campaign for the extermination of rats, prairie dogs, etc., which is to begin in this county. Since then I have received information that Mr. E. G. Holt of the United States Biological department will address the people and give demonstration of mixing the poison, at Merkel, on Jan. 27th, next at 9 a. m., at which all are urged to attend. All persons are requested to bring their poison and grain and get it mixed free of cost. For instance:

Every bushel of grain will treat 1300 prairie dog holes. For every bushel of grain parties wish mixed they will need the following materials: 2½ ounces of strychnine, 1-5 ounce saccharine, 2½ ounces common soda, 1¼ ounces gloss starch, 5-8 pint syrup and 2 quarts of water.

Please give the matter as much publicity as possible so as to have a large crowd at the Merkel demonstration Jan. 27th.

Yours truly,
E. M. Overshiner,
County Judge.

J. A. Duckett, is closing out a \$9000 stock of merchandise. The price is the thing. You will miss it if you miss it. Send your Sears-Roebuck orders and let him save you money

BLUE JAY TO BE HERE SATURDAY

"Blue Jay" that notorious bucking horse that first won fame at the National Corn Exposition in Dallas two years ago by throwing noted broncho busters from the nine corners of the woolly-west, will be in Merkel tomorrow, Saturday.

Malone Brothers who are bringing him here expect Montana Earl (don't know his correct name) to give a remarkable exhibition in riding or attempting to ride this outlaw horse.

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.

Messrs. H. M. Warren and Geo. McDonald left for Dallas Tuesday night on business of bringing two new automobiles here.

While the writer was in the vicinity of Lufkin in the early part of 1913, there came to our attention the story of an explosion at that place that had the aspect of containing a missing link.

A car of dynamite was standing on the railroad tracks near the depot in Lufkin and in the wee hours of darkness, depot, box car and everything near was shattered by the explosion of the car of dynamite. A hat was found some distance from the scene next morning and was identified as belonging to a young man who had worked at the depot at nights.

After extended and long drawn out law suits, life insurance companies paid the young man's mother over \$10,000.00. Recently the young man who was supposed to have been blown to atoms was found in California and according to a newspaper report just issued he has been arrested and lodged in jail at Lufkin to await trial. At the time this mysterious explosion happened, few people could be found who believed the man had been killed, as no traces of flesh or blood could be found in the vicinity of the station demolished by the dynamite.

"The Girl and The Tramp."

Fun for the real, uproarious kind, predominates in Fred Byers' laughing comedy success, "The Girl and the Tramp" which comes to the Cozy today, Friday, 21st., but there are other things besides. The play tells an absorbing heart story of a supposed wrong to a loving husband, which happily, comes out all right in the end. (Adv.)

AMUSEMENT THIS WEEK AT THE COZY

"TO-NIGHT PROGRAMME."

Manager, Groene of the Cozy Theatre is to be congratulated in again booking "Hans Hanson" for a date in Merkel. Their appearance here Tuesday night at the Cozy was only a reminder that "Hans Hanson" is all that their show was claimed to be. Each member of the entire cast was an artist and mirth and humor sprinkled with pathos made the evening highly entertaining. On tonight, (Friday) "The Girl and the Tramp" will be shown. A telegram from Midland where they have just played gave them a good recommendation to the show going public. Mr. Fred Byers, as Happy Jack, the tramp is scheduled to introduce seven new song hits in connection with his company during their evening here—Tonight, Friday 21st, at the Cozy Theatre.

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.

Rust Proof Oats

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

Get a phonograph free by trading with J. A. Duckett.



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	\$331,729.33

The above statement is correct.

R. O. ANDERSON, Cashier

**ONLY GUARANTY FUND BANK
IN MERKEL**

NOODLE

We still have several cases of la grippe in our community.

Otho Callaway of Whitney is visiting his sister Mrs. A. J. Barbee and brother Dock Callaway of this place.

Mrs. A. C. Sosebee returned last week from Hill county after having spent two months with relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Green, Allene Barbee and Clarence Eoff attended Hans Hanson at Merkel Tuesday night.

Rev. Gaddis filled his regular appointment at the Methodist church Sunday.

Miss Lettje Jones of Shiloh is spending the week with J. W. Bicknell and family.

Miss Lela Wasson of Merkel is spending a few days with her brother, Frank Wasson and family.

Dellis Green celebrated his fifteenth birthday Sunday by inviting several of his friends to help him eat his birthday dinner, which was enjoyed by all present.

The Noodle community met and organized a Literary Society, Friday night. They will meet the 1st and 3rd Friday nights in each month. The officers elected were: W. J. Bicknell, President; Leldon Goode, Vice-President; Miss Lucile Beene, Secretary; Miss Juanita Thompson, Asst.-Secretary; O. L. Jackson, Critic. Each and every one are invited to come and be with us.

W. T. Witt purchased a Studebaker car last week.

Jim and Pete Cook have returned from Fort Worth where they went with some cattle.

A. C. Sosebee went to Paducah last week.

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.

NUBIA

Old Col. Boreas, who maintains his shivery abode in the rugged fastnesses of Kabbibonokka-land has hoboed his way hither and is now sojourning with us the while. His frigid and icy presence has persuaded mercury to descend down to twelve above zero. It snowed yesterday Monday, and today the youths are busy executing gyroratorial stunts on ice.

Suffice to say, in connection with our proneness to decorate the fireplace, that meat is keeping well.

There will be an old time spelling match at Nubia Friday night. Everybody come and take a stare at Webster's old blue-back spell-er.

Two speakers sent out by the State Department of Health have been making lectures over the Canyon in the interest of pest and rat eradication. They lectured at Butman yesterday and will lecture at Nubia today.

An unusually entertainment was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Crow Saturday night. A large crowd was present to enjoy the diversion, which consisted of music, games and voting contests to determine the most popular boy and girl. Mr. Kyle Blair was voted the boy popular and Miss Mittie Crow the most popular girl.

A very good motion picture show was given at Butman Friday night.

Ed Note—The last paragraph was blue-penciled, but not for any personal reason. Come again.

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.

REST ROOM FOR LADIES

That Merkel is to have a rest room for ladies is practically assured now after a lengthy delay.

About the only thing necessary now for this improvement to be made is for the ladies of the Merkel country to favor such a move. The room will be strictly private and no men or boys will be allowed to frequent the place. It will contain go-carts for mothers to use, tables, couches and rocking chairs and an abundance of reading material at any and all times.

Before final arrangements are made for the above the business man who is donating the space and who will completely equip the room, would like to know if his proposition will meet with favor of the ladies from the surrounding Merkel country. For this reason the Mail asks all ladies who are interested to clip the following and mail it to the address given. This will be of material assistance to the backers of this movement in knowing if their project will be appreciated by the general public. If you favor a rest room and would appreciate the use of same when in Merkel, sign the following and mail it to the address given.

Clip This Coupon And Mail It To
**Manager of Merkel Rest Room, Box 476
Merkel, Texas**

Dear Sir:—I believe a Ladies' Rest Room is needed in Merkel, and if conducted properly it would be of much convenience to the many ladies who visit your town. Signed:

Mrs. (or Miss) _____

Address _____ Route _____

WEAR A CLEAN SUIT

LET

RENFRO THE TAILOR

AT THE CITY BARBER SHOP DO

Your Cleaning and Pressing

LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.

There is no virtue in bearing crosses of our own seeking. Many a misguided man prays for strength to bear burdens that do not belong to him and for grace to endure trials that he has gone out of his way to make for himself. Life's blessings outweigh its burdens, its joys outnumber its griefs, and a healthful outlook is quite as necessary as a prayer for grace.

Risky Revenge.

Pregnant, the violinist, had a narrow escape at Ferrara from a violent death. Enraged by some hissing from the pit, he resolved to avenge the insult and at the close of his program informed the audience that he would imitate the language of the various animals. After having rendered the notes of different birds, the mewling of a cat and the barking of a dog he advanced to the footlights and, saying, "This is for those who hissed!" imitated the braying of an ass. At this the occupants of the pit rose, rushed on to the stage and would have killed their calumniator had he not hastily retreated.—Pittsburgh Press.

Secret of Perpetual Youth.

"Fall in love and keep constantly falling in love if you wish to remain young," said Dr. Josiah Oldfield in the course of one of his lectures on the "Secret of Perpetual Youth."

"There is nothing more important than this to prevent men and women from growing old."

"If you are married all you have to do is to fall in love all over again with your husband or your wife. If you do this you will never find time to adapt the nagging habit, and nothing ages like matrimonial nagging. If you do not know how to fall in love you must practice until you learn, and, when you have learned, then you are young again."

Well, Somebody Must Be Soes.

"The trouble with our son," said father, "is that he wants his own way about everything."

"Yes," replied mother, "and I suppose that's what he thinks about us."—Washington Star.

An Old Hand.

"What was the first thing your husband said when you got started on your wedding journey?"

"Excuse me while I go forward and have a smoke." You know, it was the third time for him."



Make Your Old Harness New

Let me repair them in a neat way, with work that will give **SERVICE.**

New Harness Made.

Figure with me on full leather equipment.

J. A. BROWN

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 for ever; 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.

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

COMING

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
JANUARY 24, 25 and 26

"ZEKE"

The Dancing Demon, that put Melville's Comedians on the Merkel Map

KING and KING

Real Singing and Dancing and lots of Comedy that is Really Funny. Also good Picture Program.

ADMISSION: 10-15-20 Cents

Cozy Theatre

WHEN IN ABILENE

EAT

AT THE MOZART CAFE
JACK GILSTRAP, Mgr.

SERVICE CAR

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

MARVIN BONEY



How Appetizing!

Yes. I seal all my preserves with **TEXWAX**. It is the clean, safe way.

TEXWAX is white and pure, has no taste or odor.

You need but very little to make a perfect seal which keeps out dust and moisture.

Prevents drying up or mildew.

TEXWAX is useful in the laundry for ironing and washing. Get a package—simple complete directions are printed on it.

TEXWAX is one of the Quality Products made by the Texas Company in Texas, and sold the world over.

There is a Texaco Agent in your town. Let us serve you through him.

THE TEXAS COMPANY
General Offices: Houston, Texas
Agents Everywhere

LOCAL NEWS LOCAL NEWS

Mrs. Blanche Brooks of Ardmore, Okla. who has been here visiting her sister, Mrs. J. E. Hollingsworth is now the guest of her brother, D. J. Rawlings, of Trent.

Mrs. W. P. Garvin who was operated upon at the Alexander Sanitarium in Abilene on Thursday of last week is recovering nicely of her illness and hopes to be able soon to return again to her home.

If you are not trading with J. A. Duckett you are losing money.

The many friends of Mrs. James H. West will be glad to know that she is recovering from her recent serious and almost fatal attack of appendicitis. She is still a patient in the Alexander Sanitarium in Abilene.

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

Mrs. S. F. Annis, who is spending the winter in Colorado City with her son, spent Saturday in Merkel visiting friends and looking after business. She was accompanied by her grandson, Carlock Annis.

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

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Smith are the guests of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Smith of Stanton this week. It will be of interest to many friends here to know that the visit is made at this time to be present at the fiftieth wedding anniversary of the father and mother. The plan being to have a complete family reunion on the anniversary date Tuesday, January eighteenth.

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

Mrs. Vernon D. Jones and little son, who have been guests in the home of Mrs. Jones' parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Collins have returned to Bagwell their home. Mr. Jones was also a guest in the home during the earlier part of the visit, but could not make his visit so extended as to remain the entire time of Mrs. Jones' stay.

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

Mrs. T. H. Christopher and family who have made their home in Abilene the past few years have been guests of relatives in Merkel for several days on their way to Lamesa where Mr. Christopher has been some time and where the family expect to reside in the future. The grandmother, Mrs. E. D. Simpson will remain for a still longer visit before joining the family in Lamesa.

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

Miss Alice Reid of Winters who has been a guest in S. W. Sheppard home for a few days has returned to her home.

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

Miss Ruth McLeod of Goldthwaite who has been a guest since the holidays in the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Merritt has returned to her home. Miss McLeod made many friends here during her stay who would welcome a return visit at any time.

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

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Britain have been enjoying a visit from Mr. Britain's parents and sister, Rev. and Mrs. G. I. Britain and Miss Aggr of Plainview. Miss Cecil Hal y of Matador, sister of Mrs. Britain is also a guest in the home. These are frequent visitors in Merkel and have many friends who join with Mr. and Mrs. Britain in the pleasure of their visits.

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

Miss Laveta Fowler of Estelita, who has been spending the holidays with her uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Dowdy of Trent and her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Pribble of this city, has returned to her home via Seymour to visit other relatives for a few days.

Good axes with Hickory handles only 49 cents at J. A. Ducketts.



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.

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

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

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

FOR RENT—A house, furnished or unfurnished. Mrs. P. B. Causseaux. 21t1

FOUND—Pair of mens gloves. Pay for this ad and describe. E. D. Coats.

ARE YOU SICK — Do you know what Chiropractic is if sick and have tried all other methods and gotten no results. Why not investigate Chiropractic and get well? Not drugs, surgery or osteopathy, I adjust the cause of all disease. Consultation and analyses given free. Call and see me. Mrs. M. U. Bettendorf, Chiropractor. You will find me at Mrs. Alice Rose. 21t2pd

LOST—Bunch of keys, had coco cola bottle opener with screw driver attachment fastened to key ring. Finder return to De Verle Johnson at F. & M. bank.

Advertised Letters.

Gipson, Minie
Grayson, Bailey
Hunter, Edith
Jones, Eva
Kleman, Robt.
Mangham, W. H.
Morris, Sudie
Phillips, J. J.
Sims, J. C.
Traylor, E. J.
Ramos, Tranquilina
Richa, Telix
Romero, Rapheal
Urquidi, Marcelino
These letters will be sent to the dead letter office Jan., 29, 1916.
H. C. Williams, P. M.
Merkel, Texas.

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.

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 formula is printed on every label, showing it is Quinine and Iron in a tasteless form. The Quinine drives out malaria, the Iron builds up the system. 50 cents

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
Rediscunts	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

Cozy Theatre

MERKEL

One Performance Only

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21ST

Special Engagement

of

INGLING
JOLLY
JOYFUL
JOLLIER

THE Girl AND THE Tramp

The Laughing Comedy Success

With Music

PRICES: 15-25-50 CENTS

Seats on Sale at Elite Confectionery

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.

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.



MISS EVELYN WILLIAMS, EDITOR

Wallace Jennings Nuptials.

The home of Mrs. J. W. Jennings on Orange street, was the scene on Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock, of a beautiful marriage ceremony...

Mrs. Henry Bass sang "Thou Art So Dear," by Bohannan, which seemed unusually appreciated in word as well as thrilling melody...

The wedding was beautiful in its sweet simplicity, only relatives and next door neighbors being present. A chancel was effected with flower stands and potted plants...

The little bride never looked prettier than upon her wedding morn, gowned in an advanced style coat suit of blue Bedford cloth, with hat and wrap to match...

Especially is she a general favorite among the young people of St. Paul's church, of which she is a member. The groom is prominent in business, social and church circles of Arlington...

The out-of-town guests were: Mrs. Edwards of Merkel, Miss Wallace of Haskell, and Mrs. Baird of Seattle, Wash.—Abilene Reporter.

It has been so short a time since the bride left Merkel to make Abilene her home that she is still thought of as one of Merkel's girls. Her family being for so many years among our most honored and respected residents...

Mr. William Able Moon, announces the marriage of his daughter, Inice, to Mr. Will Camp Scott, on Friday, the fourteenth of January, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

The above announcement was received by many of Miss Moon's girlhood friends in Merkel, where she has lived since childhood until a few years ago, the family moved to make Lola their home...

Jobe-King.

Another wedding in which many of Merkel's residents will be interested in was that of Miss Dorothy Janie King of Fort Stockton and Mr. Homer Jobe of Sanderson. This wedding took place on Friday, January 14th, at Sanderson, Texas.

In this case the groom has gone from Merkel his boyhood home to enter business in another place and also there to find his life's companion, again we would wish happiness and prosperity to the wedded two...

Miss Duckett Entertains.

On Friday evening of last week Miss Dorothy Duckett was hostess to many of her friends, by inviting them to a tacky party at her home in North Merkel. The pleasures of masquerading is one which never grows old...

Refreshments in keeping with all other plans for the evening were served namely, peas and onions with cornbread, and red stick candy. The following were present, Misses Geneva and Nina Warnick, Jewel Pate, Pauline Johnson, Beatrice Nidever, Josie Smith, Irene Hairston, Almeda Harris, Mamie Ellis, Virginia Duckett, Bernice Rainbolt, Emma Mae Mashburn, Annie and Bess Blackwell, and the hostess...

Miss May Green has returned home from Anson where she has been visiting friends.

Miss Mamie Moore visited in Abilene Saturday and Sunday, the guest of Misses Viola and Electra Bailey.

ECONOMY. Fear to spend what we have, nobly and on fit objects, is a mean kind of thing, but fear to squander and to waste is wholesome and righteous. Economy is not miserliness, and there is a grandeur about moderation which is wanting in excess. Practice economy, but be sure it is of the right sort.

Saving a Black Fox Skin. Presence of mind is the soul of manly exercises. If soldiers and sailors owe it to many of their lucky escapes, hunters and sportsmen are not less beholden to it for many of their successes. In a noble forest in Russia I met a black fox whose valuable skin it would have been a pity to tear by ball or shot...

Appius Claudius. Appius Claudius, surnamed Caecus (the blind), was a Roman statesman who lived during the third century before the Christian era. He was a Roman censor, 312 to 308, and consul, 307 to 296. He commenced the Applan way and completed the Applan aqueduct. From his Roman jurisprudence, oratory, grammar and Latin prose date their beginning...

Crabs and Lobsters. There are many curious points about crabs and lobsters. Every one of either genus is provided with a big claw for crushing and a small claw adapted by its shape for cutting as scissors do. With these two claws they tear the food they capture into fragments and feed themselves literally from "hand to mouth."

Who Was the Bridesmaid?

By SARAH BAXTER

"I say, Jim," said Billy Otter to his friend, James Andrews, "I wish you'd help me out in a matter that's liable to give me serious trouble."

"What is it, Billy?" "Well, you know I have been attentive to Stella Monroe."

"Most confoundedly attentive," replied Jim. "I've often thought that you were a bit sweet on Stella. I have lately swapped girls and am engaged to Marian Truesdale. Stella has become jealous and declares that I have asked her to marry me. If I don't she says she will make a big fuss. Now, I don't believe she cares a rap for me. She's like a dog in the manger—if she can't get me she doesn't wish any one else to have me. I want you to play spoons to her and draw her off."

"Well, now, I like that. You propose to use me to pull your chestnuts out of the fire. Not much. You fellows who don't think anything of being sweet on two or three girls at the same time must take your medicine when the time comes. Sorry I can't help you out."

Billy sighed and turned away. He therefore did not see an amused look on his friend's face. Jim had also been attentive to Miss Monroe when Billy had met her and, not knowing of his friend's devotion, Billy made the same love to her that he did to every girl who gave him half a chance. The lady knew his lovetaking propensity and permitted him to practice it on her.

Not long after the above conversation Jim went to Billy and, with a very serious countenance, said to him: "Billy, as your friend I feel in duty bound to tell you that Stella Monroe is getting ready to bring suit against you for breach of promise of marriage."

"Where did you hear that?" asked Billy, paling.

"Her lawyer is a particular friend of mine."

Billy looked very much broken up.

"What are you going to do—fight it?"

"I don't know what to do," replied Billy. "If I go back on Marian there'll be a monkey and parrot time." There was a long silence, after which Jim said: "Neither of these girls wants your money. They simply want to punish you for playing them both at the same time. I think that if you settle on one the other will let you alone."

"If I settle on either it will be Stella." "At this Jim looked serious. "You have antagonized Stella to such an extent that I doubt if she would have you now. Besides, I understand that she has gone too far with her proposed suit to back out—that is, so long as she doesn't strike any one else in striking you. Better tie up with Marian."

Billy said he would consider the matter, and his friend left him. The same evening Billy went to see Marian. It was always the last girl he was with who enchained him. He told Marian how he was situated and suggested that the only way he could be saved from a breach of promise suit was for her to marry him. Since she wanted him very much she was only too glad to save him in that particular way.

A few days later Jim hurried into Billy's room before Billy was out of bed and announced that service was to be made on him that morning in the breach of promise suit. Billy started up wildly.

"What in thunder am I to do?" he asked.

"The only way out of it that I can see is for you to be married at once and jump the town."

After some talk Billy called up Miss Truesdale on the phone, told her how he was situated and asked her if she would put into practice the scheme proposed. Marian said it was very absurd, but to save him from a big scandal and no end of worry she would do it for him. It was arranged that he was to go at once to a neighboring town, where she was to join him the same evening. Jim agreed to be at the place to act as best man and said he would try to scare up a bridesmaid. The details having been settled, Billy threw a few things in a suit case and started for the train.

Jim reached the rendezvous at 6 o'clock in the evening. Marian at 8. The College inn was the house where all the party were to unite. Jim had promised to go on ahead with the bridesmaid—if he could get one—and be at the inn with a clergyman at 9. At ten minutes to 9 he sent up his card, which was handed to the couple in parlor C. Jim was shown up with a lady, and when the two entered the parlor she threw off a thick veil, displaying the features of Stella Monroe.

Billy looked as if the floor was about to open and swallow him up. Jim burst into immoderate laughter. When this had subsided, pointing to Stella he said: "We two have been engaged for more than a year. My fiancée was determined that you should not treat Miss Truesdale as you were disposed to treat her and asked me to help her see that you fulfilled your proposal."

It Always Helps. says Mrs. Sylvania Woods, of Clifton Mills, Ky., in writing of her experience with Cardui, the woman's tonic. She says further: "Before I began to use Cardui, my back and head would hurt so bad, I thought the pain would kill me. I was hardly able to do any of my housework. After taking three bottles of Cardui, I began to feel like a new woman. I soon gained 35 pounds, and now, I do all my housework, as well as run a big water mill. I wish every suffering woman would give

Figuring Tire Cost. Firestone Most Mileage Least Repair Expense Riding Quality Satisfaction Economy. Firestone Wins! Firestone Built-up-in-Center Tread. Firestone's superior quality in every ounce of materials—Firestone scientific construction by the greatest organization of tire specialists—these and a score of other reasons score victory for the Firestone user in the long tour—daily service—and pocketbook economy test. Automobile and motorcycle tires, tubes and accessories. G. F. WEST COMPANY, Merkel, Texas.

Squire Williams A Father. Squire, Lee D. Williams and wife of Noodle, Jones county, are the proud parents of a twelve pound boy born into their happy home last Saturday morning.

"The Girl and The Tramp." "The Girl and the Tramp" which is announced to appear at the Cozy, today, Friday Jan. 21, is a mixture of comedy, drama and song, created exclusively for fun purposes only. It is said to be one long laugh from start to finish. Prominent in the cast are Miss Floy Mann and Mr. Fred Byers, as Happy Jack, the tramp. Introduced during the action of the play there will be seven song hits. (Adv.)

HOUSE FOR SALE—4 room house, with 4 lots, barn and windmill, close to business portion of town. S. F. Hoynes. tf

ALBERTA CORSETS. A size and model for every figure. Form fitting, snug, comfortable, good wearing—\$1.00 up. Come in and select yours. Parton Dry Goods Co. Merkel, Texas

The Desperado. The days when the Desperado shot holes in the atmosphere and tore up the town in general, are past and gone. We, however, are still shooting Grocery Prices to pieces, and have succeeded wonderfully in puncturing the balloon to the "High Cost" Problems. E. L. ROGERS GROCERY. A WORD FOR MOTHERS. It is a grave mistake for mothers to neglect their aches and pains and suffer in silence—this only leads to chronic sickness and often shortens life.

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. For Commissioner Precinct No. 2: T. R. LASSITER (Re-election). For County Attorney: W. H. GRAHAM.

THE 'SUNSHINE SPECIAL' (Steel Equip't) THE FINE NEW TRAIN Via THE TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAILWAY. Furnishing Over-Night SERVICE. From North Texas To St. Louis and Memphis SAVES A BUSINESS DAY. To the North and East. For reservations, etc. see T. & P. Ry. agents or write A. D. Bell, Asst. Gen. Pass. Agt. Geo. D. Hunter, Gen. Pass. Agt. Dallas.

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.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO DRESS when you have your shirts, collars, etc., done up at this laundry. No need to paw over your linen to find a shirt with button all on, a collar whose edge is not saw toothed or button holes torn. We don't injure things we launder. Our methods preserve them. Test us by trial next time. SWEETWATER STEAM LAUNDRY DUDLEY & MARTIN, Agents, Merkel Phone No. 194.

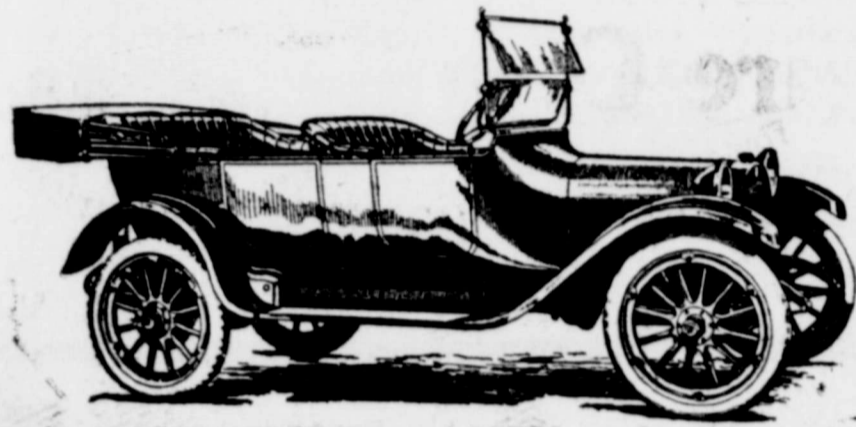
TWO POPULAR CARS



\$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

PROFESSIONAL

O. F. McMASTER
DENTIST

Office Phone 154
Over Woodroofs Store

M. ARMSTRONG, M. D.

Practicing Physician
Office at Crimes 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. U. W.

Mer'el Camp No. 719 meets
second and fourth Friday nights
of each month.

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

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 too 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.

Incorporating to the Fast and Sickly
The Old Standard general strengthening tonic, GARDNER'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC, drives out malaria, enriches the blood, and builds up the system. A true tonic. For adults and children. 50c

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. 1042



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

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 E. W. GROVE. 25c.

CASTLE PEAK ITEMS

It has been so long since we have heard any noise that I thought that I would drop a few lines and let the people know that it has been some cold on Route 3. There will be a box supper on January 28th at the Castle Peak school house. We hope everybody will come with a full box, full pockets and a free heart.

There is some sickness in this community. Mrs. Lily has been sick but is better at present. E. H. Cordell came home sick Saturday. Suppose it is a case of La Grippe.

RECIPE FOR GRAY HAIR.

To half pint of water add 1 oz. Bay Rum, a small box of Barbo Compound, and 1 oz. of glycerine. Apply to the hair twice a week until it becomes the desired shade. Any druggist can put this up or you can mix it at home at very little cost. Full directions for making and use come in each box of Barbo Compound. It will gradually darken, streaked, faded, gray hair, and remove dandruff. It is excellent for falling hair and will make harsh hair soft and glossy. It will not color the scalp, is not sticky or greasy, and does not rub off.

21-4t

Demonstration Agent Here.

S. A. Minear who succeeded County Demonstration Agent I. B. Duck was in Merkel Wednesday for a short time in connection with the work in which he is now engaged.

Mr. Minear will return to Merkel next Thursday, January 27th to meet with the farmers on the day set to discuss the eradication of rabbits, rats and other rodents and asks all persons who are interested in any special line of betterment to farm conditions, to be on hand at this time. He further requested that he be promptly notified of the outbreak of any disease in stock, such as cholera in hogs and promised to give the matters prompt attention.

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.

ELECTRIC BITTERS THE BEST FOR BILIOUSNESS AND KIDNEY.



JOHNSTON'S

The name that signifies the very best CANDIES

Popular sized boxes and popular prices Fresh at all times at

The Elite Confectionery

"The Girl and the Tramp."

The following letter-telegram was received by a Chicago tailoring firm the other day. "Don't start suit. Saw 'The Girl and the Tramp' the other night and am still laughing and taking on flesh. Will call in about thirty days for new measurement." If you want to laugh and grow fat see "The Girl and the Tramp" at the Cozy, tonight, Friday, January 21st.

RECENT AUTO SALES

Among those who have recently purchased automobiles in this country are: C. N. Smith of Stith, Dodge touring car; H. M. Rose, Dodge touring car; Jno. W. Lyles and J. C. Hancock, each purchased Chevrolet touring cars.

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days

Your druggist will refund money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure any case of Itching, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days. The first application gives Ease and Rest. 50c.

BEE'S LAXATIVE COUGH SYRUP RELIEVES COUGHS AND COLDS

DODGE BROTHERS ARE FOURTH IN PRODUCTION

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS DONE BY MOTOR CAR COMPANIES RANKS THEM WELL UP.

Great Industry Is Owned in Its Entirety by John F. and Horace E. Dodge Founders of the Business.

According to Automobile Topics, a trade authority, recent figures submitted to Wall Street interests with regards to the volume of business done by the various motor car companies during the first nine months of 1915, put Dodge Brothers in fourth place.

Dodge Brothers have no dealings with the financiers, as the business is entirely by the brothers, John F. and Horace E. but the figures were submitted by another company which placed itself considerably further down in the list.

The accomplishment of Dodge Brothers in one year of starting the manufacture of motor cars and then jumping into fourth place in the nation is regarded as the most amazing performance in the industry, which has always been full of surprises.

No announcement on production plans for next year has been made by Dodge Brothers but it is known that several new buildings are being rushed to completion and that the total floor space of the plant will total more than 60 acres when these new buildings are occupied. (Adv.)

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.

Mrs. G. W. Cox Buried Here

Mrs. G. W. Cox died at the family home Saturday morning at an early hour from pneumonia following an attack of la grippe. At the time of her death this esteemed lady was 57 years, 5 months and 6 days old and had lived in the Merkel country with her husband and family for many years, enjoying the respect and love of hundreds of friends throughout the county.

She was born in Alabama, Aug. 6, 1858, and was married to G. W. Cox at Bremond, Tex., as August 6, 1872 and to this union there were born fifteen children, ten of whom are now living. The deceased was a member of the Methodist church, having professed faith in Christ and united with the church at Rock Crossing in 1892.

The remains were laid to rest in Rose Hill cemetery, Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock, Rev. H. E. Bullock conducting the services.

Mrs. Duke Dead

The death of Mrs. Duke of Route 1, occurred at the family home on the Kelsoe place Tuesday morning and the remains were laid to rest the following day in the Stith cemetery.

From information we were able to get, the family had not been living in the Merkel country long, having moved here from some point in East Texas. Meager information did not give the names of those surviving the aged lady, the death of whom seemed to cast a gloom of sorrow over the community in which the family had resided and made numerous friends.

Notice

If you have accounts against me, please present them before the 10th of each month.

C. M. Largent.

Land to Grub

50 acres of land to grub for the wood. See me at once. Earl Lassiter. 1422pd

Well Drill For Sale

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

1916 New Spring Dress Goods 1916

ARRIVING DAILY

Owing to the extreme dye and import situation in the dress goods line we have been lucky in securing almost a complete delivery of Spring Dress Goods, the line of which consist of the following goods and AT THE OLD PRICES

New Crepe Poplins in blue, pink, copen and plum color, at per yard..... **\$1.00**
 New Silk Taffetas and Messalines in solid colors, checks, plaids, stripes, etc., per yd... **\$1.00**
 A complete line of French Serges in all colors ranging in price per yd. from 50c to... **\$1.00**
 New novelty suitings in plaids, checks and stripes from **25c, 35c, 50c, 65c, 75, \$1.00 and \$1.50** per yard



All the new motor suiting in Palm Beach & linen colors from, per yard, 25c to..... **65c**
 All the new marquises, voiles, tissues, seed voiles splash voiles, lace cloth, flaxons in a wide range of colors, flowers, figured stripes and checks, ranging in price per yd. from 10c to..... **50c**
 Two new shipments of Gingham, in pretty plaids, stripes, small checks and solid colors at only, per yard..... **10c**

Our line is complete in all departments and we can come as near giving you what you want when you want it as any house in West Texas. Remember we carry nothing but the best of goods, always catering to the better wishes of the people, and if it is junk you are hunting, we haven't it.

Anchor Mercantile Company

ANNUAL REPORT OF FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. J. T. Warren; President Merkel Volunteer Fire Dept.
 Mr. President: In accordance with the constitution of our Department it becomes my duty as chief of the Dept. to submit to you my annual report for the year ending Jan. 10th. 1916. This being the 8th. year since the organization of the Dept.
 In this you will find a complete list of fires and losses, the amount of apparatus in service, the amount of work done and the cost of maintenance and one recommendation that would be for the more successful operation of our Dept.
 Officers—At present our officers consist of the following: President, Vice-Pres., Secy., Treas., Chief, 2 Asst. Chiefs, 2 Foremen and 31 men.
 Apparatus—The apparatus in service at the present time consists of the following; 1 two horse Preston combination, hose, chemical and ladder wagon, 1 American-La-France hand-draft Chemical Engine also and hand-draft hose reel.
 We have 1500 feet of hose in first class condition and 800 feet that is still in servicable condition.
 Value of property—Total value of property owned by the City and used by the Fire Dept. \$44 50.00.
 Fires—During the year just closed the Dept. answered fourteen alarms. All fires were confined to their place of origin, and no second alarm was needed to extinguish any fire.
 Causes of Fires—Matches 1, Sparks 2, Oil Stove 2, Defective flue 1, Trash 1, Gasoline torch 1, Unknown 5, False 1.
 Losses—These alarms called the Dept. to protect property of Merkel citizens, valued at \$31,420

The Merkel Bakery

THE PLACE FOR MERKEL PEOPLE TO GET MERKEL BAKED BREAD

Try
 a
 Pullman
 Loaf
 at
10
 CENTS

After several weeks of hard work in preparing our bakery for clean and practical work we have accomplished our endeavor in this line and are now able to offer the people of Merkel good, savory bread, baked in a clean oven and under the best of kitchen conditions.

We make Morning and Evening Deliveries to all phone orders. Our phone number is

118

Patronize "Home Industry" as long as it merits your support. Under present conditions we believe we merit your support and when ordering bread from any place in town we will thank you to call for Merkel Bakery bread and see if it is not "BEST." Respectfully,

THE MERKEL BAKERY

N. HANCOCK, PROPRIETOR

on which there was a loss of \$7, 316.00, showing a saving of \$24, 104.00 through the efforts of the firemen. On these losses the Insurance Companies have paid a sum of \$3,624.00.
 Amount of Work Done—7700 feet of hose have been laid to extinguish these fires, the Chemical engine has been discharged twice. 280 men have answered these various alarms.
Cost of Maintenance
 Salaries..... Positively Nothing
 Oil.....\$ 3.30
 Coal..... 4.85
 Shoeing and blacksmithing 35.50
 Drugs......65
 Miscellaneous expense..... 2.90
 Repair on wagon..... 1.00

Cleaning wagon & harness 5.00
 Lights..... 34.55
 Repairs on Engine & soda 13.25
 Rewiring Fire Station..... 10.80
 Laundry..... 12.70
 Feed..... 144.00
 Man to feed team..... 104.00
 Telephone Rent..... 30.00
 \$372.50
 \$402.50
 Recommendations—One of the most and about the only needed supplies is an Electric Wild Cat Fire Alarm Whistle. This alarm should be placed on the water tower and then the alarm would travel to the farthest outskirts of the city. Our department is more handicapped through not having a proper alarm more than

any other one thing. I believe that this whistle should be added as same can be had at a very normal expense.
 In conclusion I wish to thank the Mayor and the respective members of the City Council for the kindness shown our department during the past year. Also the many citizens of the city who have donated liberally to the upkeep of our department. We have received more donations during the past year than any other preceding year, which we thank every donator.
 To my two Asst. Chiefs I want to extend my personal thanks, also to every officer and member for their performance of duties that fell upon them. We have

a department that is made up of a bunch of well disciplined and gentlemenly men that any city should be proud of. In this conclusion I don't want to forget our able and loyal President J. T. Warren and Vice-President J. O. Hamilton. I want to thank them for the interest they have shown for the welfare of our department. I also want to thank the ladies of the city for the splendid banquet that was given the department on New Years' night.
 In conclusion I assure you that this has been a very pleasant year for me, one that in after years I shall be glad to recall, when we were members of the Merkel Fire Department.
 F. J. Ferrier, Chief Fire Dept.

PAYING THE PENALTY

One crop, no matter what it may be, grown successively season after season on the same land, will "run out" as the farmers express it. Besides, if it is profitable for awhile the acreage is usually increased until the supply exceeds the demand when it ceases to be profitable.
 The cotton grower has suffered from both these troubles and I was recently told in a black land section where the wild grass has been cut for hay for many years, that the yield is failing, and there has even been a change in the variety of grass produced, namely: from flat to round blade, this change by no means for the better.
 For some years alfalfa growing has been highly profitable on the irrigated lands of Western Texas, with the result that the grower is suffering the penalty which sooner or later invariably overtakes the one crop system, and there is a lot of talk about "cutting out" alfalfa. There is no more reason for this than for the talk in 1914 about cutting out cotton. I said to them recently:
 "If you have been shipping 2,000 cars of alfalfa, feed 1,000 cars to cattle, hogs and poultry in the form of hay and pasture. This besides improving the physical condition of your drowned out soil, will bring in more money than you have been receiving for the same quantity sold off the land. It will also relieve the strain on the outside market to the quantity kept at home."
 R. R. Claridge,
 Agricultural Agent, T. & P. Ry. Fort Worth, Texas.
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.