

THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 28—NO. 1

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1916

12 PAGES

A CHERISHED LEGACY FROM LINCOLN.



—Bradley in Chicago News.

GREAT WRESTLERS AT COZY MONDAY

Harry Swoboda and A. Petrov, two of the best known middle-weight wrestlers in the entire south meet at the Cozy Theatre on Monday night in a scientific wrestling match, the best man to win.

One desirable feature of this match will be the clean manner in which it will be conducted. Both of the grapplers are first-raters as exponents of wrestling and depend on science and strength alone, omitting all rough tactics that would tend to make the sport unpleasant to the eye. Seats on the stage or ring-side seats will be one dollar, reserve seats will be 50 cents and all ladies are admitted free with a cordial invitation to witness this exhibition. Balcony seats will sell at 35 cents. Telephone orders for reserve seats will be carefully looked after.

Don't fail to be on hand promptly at 8:30 Monday evening to see Swoboda grapple with Petrov, time limit two hours and five minutes. Swoboda has met Pet Brown, champion of the south in some very close matches. He has wrestled with Moore of Anson on two different occasions, breaking even on the first match and losing the last one. Petrov has also met Moore in two matches with a like record of Swoboda, in which he lost the first match but won the second by one fall and a forfeit. No two better matched men have ever been matched in this section of Texas and the contest on Monday should be exceedingly interesting to lovers of good, clean athletic sport.

CHILD IS BORN AFTER MOTHER DIES

Jersey City, N. J., Feb. 20.—Two minutes after her mother's death, a baby girl was brought into the world here yesterday by Dr. Irwin Markowitz, a young interne at the city hospital by a caesarian operation.

Mrs. Mary Dooley had been taken to the hospital four days ago in anticipation of a visit from the stork. As a nurse sat at her bedside today comforting her, the expectant mother gasped and fell back dead. Dr. Markowitz was called from a nearby room. An operation required but two minutes and the baby girl was pronounced sound. The infant is doing well.

HILL-HARKINS RECITAL AT TRENT

Trent and community was afforded one of the most up-to-date entertainments of the day, last Friday night in the high school auditorium at that place, by Miss Hill and her music class and the expression class of Miss. Harkins.

The class of this recital was one that the most fastidious person would have appreciated and the instructors deserve much credit for the way in which they have instructed the pupils in their work. After the recital some of the high school students put on a home talent play entitled, "A Close Shave," which was a very interesting show of about forty-five minutes of mirth and was enjoyed by all present. The proceeds of the entertainment went to the benefit of the school which was a very nice purse, the exact amount we were unable to learn.

Those going from here to the recital were: Mesdames R. A. Martin, J. C. Hairston and Twyman Collins, Misses Irene Hairston, Manor Roach and Julia Martin.

MERKEL BANKERS GO TO CONVENTION

Both Merkel banks were well represented Tuesday in Abilene at the annual District Convention of bankers from Fort Worth to El Paso.

Those going were Messrs J. T. Warren, J. T. Howard, J. S. Swann, R. O. Anderson, Thos. Johnson, Ben T. Merritt, Sam Swann, Nat Anderson and Raymond Touchstone. Messrs Warren, Swann, Anderson and Howard returned late in the afternoon, while Messrs Johnson, Merritt, Touchstone and Sam Swann remained for the evening and attended the reception given in honor of the visiting bankers. As Mr. Johnson was not in position or not inclined to represent Merkel at the reception and ball he had the matter looked after by proxy for the two Merkel banks and said the representatives did themselves proud, they were Messrs S. Swann and R. Touchstone.

Mr. Johnson in describing the meeting of the bankers complimented Abilene very highly on the way the visitors were entertained by saying in probably surpassed efforts often made by larger cities on such occasions.

10-MONTHS OLD BULL CALF OF MERKEL HERD SELLS FOR \$2500—RECORD PRICE

In all Probability the Price Paid Stands as the Highest Ever Recorded in Texas for a Calf. Or Better Still, it Probably Sets a World's Record.

Tom Parrott of Throckmorton has turned loose more cash for a ten months old Hereford bull calf than was ever paid for such an animal in Texas. The deal was consummated this week between Mr. Parrott and C. M. Largent of this city in which the latter sold "Don Fairfax" for the record breaking sum of \$2,500.

Even at the price which seems almost incredible, though it is true, Mr. Parrott cannot get possession of the calf for some time to come. He gladly allowed Mr. Largent the privilege of keeping the calf in his herd until the Blue Ribbon Herd had made all stock shows this season after which time delivery will be made and any prizes the animal may win during the National Fat Stock Show at Fort Worth will be the property of Mr. Largent.

A recent sale from the Largent herd in which a two months old calf brought \$750.00 was thought to be a record breaker, but later he sold another calf for \$1,600.00 and now he goes all previous sales one better and takes down two and a half thousand for a calf that would scarcely bring \$100 in weight at present market prices.

WHO LOSES THE MONEY?

Who loses the money that is sent away? The thoughtless person will answer, at once, that the merchant does. He suffers the first and most direct loss. A dollar is a community asset since it is a community product. Every man in the community loses his interest in every dollar that is sent away.

The merchant loses his profit on the sale and his employees lose their share of that profit.

The banker loses because the catalog houses do not carry deposits in Midland and his profit comes from deposits.

The doctor loses because in times of prosperity people pay doctor bills and he can't make much money attending broke people.

The lawyer loses for there is little profit in the dollarless client.

The cattlemen loses for he needs the town in his business and if there were no stores, or poor stores, he would feel the effect. The cattlemen would at least feel mighty lonesome shipping from a flag station. He wants the town for its schools, churches, shows and people.

The farmer loses, for the fewer people there are here the smaller the chance to dispose of the produce that he raises for sale.

The hotel loses, for with poor stores there would be few travelers.

Everybody loses and the working man most of all. There is not a person in town who does not suffer part of the loss.

And if the losses grow great enough even the children will lose by reason of inadequate school facilities.

Too many people are in the habit of looking at this subject as being strictly and exclusively the affair of the merchant. They say that he is the loser and if he wants to stop the catalog business that he ought to do something about it. Cut his prices, for instance.

If Midland is to grow; go a step further and say: If Midland is to stay as big as it is; people will have to get out of the habit of thinking that only the things that directly concern them affect their prosperity.

The same logic that applies to the loss of opportunity to the smallest interest in the town. Every man without employment represents a loss to the community. Every idle man in town is taking something away from every other person in town. It is as essential to "trade at home" in the employment of help as in the purchase of goods.

Just a little thought, just a little resolution and Midland can make a handsome profit, can extend its trade, improve in every way by the conservation of its resources. Every resource. Banking, farming, merchandising and laboring. Stick together, pull together, and prosper together. —From the Midland Reporter.

W. D. Hutcheson was a business visitor to Sweetwater the first of the week.

Lee Snow was looking after business matters in Sweetwater Tuesday of this week.

J. F. Lorange was attending to business matters in Merkel Monday.

J. S. Robertson was among the many visitors from Merkel to Sweetwater the first of the week.

SLIDING IN THE BALKANS.



—Evans in Baltimore American.

W. C. T. U. BRINGS OIL MILL TALK SPEAKER HERE CONTINUES STRONG

Mrs. Lila C. Moore, of Kentucky, National Lecturer and organizer of the W. C. T. U. Organization was here Monday and Tuesday in interest of the work this club is engaged upon.

Monday evening Mrs. Moore spoke at the M. E. church to a fair audience, her subject being "The Haunted Houses." Tuesday morning she spoke to the students at the High School building and again on Tuesday evening at the Methodist church. Her lectures were enjoyed by every person fortunate enough to hear them, as Mrs. Moore easily holds her audiences in the interesting way in which she handles her subjects.

J. S. Blasingame of route 2 was a pleasant caller to our office Tuesday morning and while here he left a deposit with us for which he desires the Mail to still come to his address.

KATY ENGINE AND 3 CARS OVERTURN

Henrietta, Texas, Feb. 20.—The west bound M. K. & T. passenger train, which passed thru Henrietta about 2 p. m. today, was derailed three miles west of Henrietta, and Engineer Jimmy Aldridge and Traveling Engineer Cassady were killed and Fireman Calhoun slightly injured.

The engine and three cars left the track. Travel will be blocked several hours. No passengers were hurt.

Traveling Engineer Cassady rode in the chair car to Henrietta, where he boarded the engine on which he met his death.

Both engineers and fireman reside at Denison where the bodies of the dead will be shipped for interment.

Notice.

To my many friends and customers—I beg to announce that I have returned from my trip to the East and wish to state that I will still have my office over the Crown Hardware store and will continue to do business as I have in the past. Examination free, work strictly guaranteed and prices reasonable. Respt.

H. C. Floyd, Optician.
Merkel, Texas.

Just who is pushing the oil mill proposition in Merkel is a difficult proposition to guess at but it is being given some strong send-offs with large subscription offers that continue to make it more possible each day.

Offers for subscription to a stock company in amounts of \$1000 have been made with the largest contributors holding back just the exact amount they would be willing to take in the company. What is known as the cold press system is being worked upon by those fostering the mill proposition on a basis that it would produce better meal for feeders purposes at a minimum cost of production, while the cold process mill is said to cost much less to build than the usual type now in operation in this section of the state.

The Mail is digging all the information possible out of this proposed industry and just as soon as it takes a definite phase, which will be at the beginning of subscriptions for stock in the Oil Mill Company we will report same in full.

Miss Carrie Bell McMaster was in Merkel Saturday and Sunday visiting her brother, Dr. O. F. McMaster, and Mrs. Templeton. Miss McMaster was on her way from the west to Abilene where she has accepted a position with the McDavid Dry Goods Co.

H. O. DRUMMOND HAS HIS HAT IN RING

Harry O. Drummond of View, formerly of Caps, has cast his hat into the ring of Taylor county politics and announces to the Mail readers as a candidate for the office of District Clerk subject to the primaries of July 22nd.

Mr. Drummond has lived in Taylor county for 25 years, the greater portion of the time being spent at Caps and View with a short residence at Merkel. He is a man highly qualified to fill this position and is deserving of your most careful consideration.

Ollie Higgins was attending to business matters and visiting friends in Loraine the first of the week.



J. S. SWANN, President
JOHN SEARS, Vice President

R. O. ANDERSON, Cashier
B. C. MOORE, Asst. Cashier

The Farmers State Bank

Merkel, Texas

CAPITAL STOCK \$35,000.00

PREPAREDNESS

Through years of conservative and efficient management we have been preparing and striving to serve the Banking Public and have one of the strongest financial institutions in West Texas.

Capital, Surplus and Profits	\$50,000.00
Stockholders Liability	35,000.00
Depositors protection aside from Gty. Fund	\$85,000.00
Total Resources nearly	\$350,000.00

We are amply prepared to serve you

THE ONLY GUARANTY FUND BANK IN MERKEL

N. N. ROSENQUEST FOR DISTRICT ATTY.

N. N. Rosenquest, who is now serving his first term as District Attorney of this district, announces his candidacy for re-election, to the readers of the Mail.

The Breckenridge Democrat, Judge Rosenquest's home paper, makes the following befitting comment on his entrance into the race:

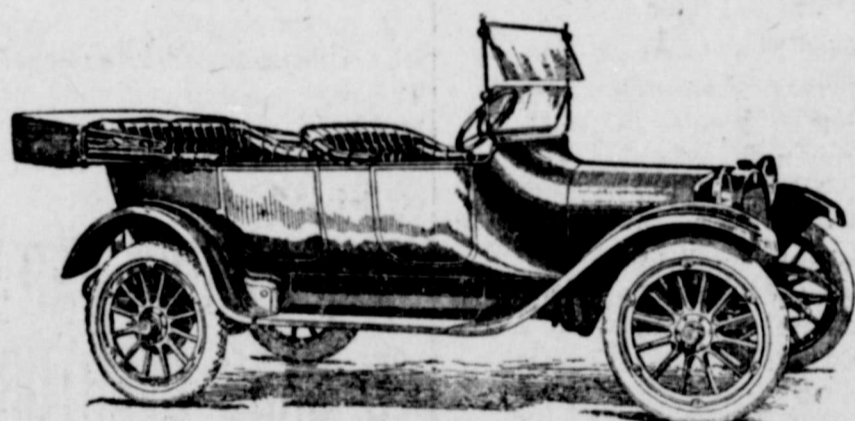
In this issue of the Breckenridge Democrat, Judge N. N. Rosenquest, of Stephens County, announces as a candidate for re-election to the office of District Attorney of this the 42nd Judicial District of Texas, subject to the action of the Democratic Primaries in July.

Judge Rosenquest is a comparatively young man, being thirty-seven years of age, is a graduate of the Law Department of the University of Texas, where he graduated with highest honors, following which he was appointed quiz-master of Law in the University. He was elected County Judge of Stephens County two terms and made one of the best judges this county ever had.

Judge Rosenquest is now serving his first term as District Attorney, which office he has filled with credit, having won about three-fourths of the cases tried and he will no doubt, if elected, make even a better District Attorney in the future than he has in the past, as experience will naturally improve anyone, especially as thorough a student as Rosenquest is.

As a man, Judge Rosenquest is one of the kind that improves on acquaintance. He is strictly clean in person and in morals and is of a straight-forward disposition that will not stoop to sharp practices nor tolerate dishonesty.

The Car You Will Eventually Buy



THE DODGE

To demonstrate the popularity of this car to prospective buyers, here are some **DODGE** owners who have within the last few days added their names to the Dodge club: A. Whisenhunt, Ransom Meeks, Dr. M. Armstrong, J. C. Hancock, J. S. Burns, W. N. Farris. These men are **DODGE** boosters.

McDonald & Warren, Agts.

When he first entered politics in Stephens County, he encountered opposition of the strongest kind, but overcame it; was elected County Judge, and as he became more thoroughly known, the opposition dwindled until today, Stephens County is unanimous for Rosenquest.

RINGS DYSPEPSIA TABLETS
Relieve indigestion and Stomach Troubles.

The Goutine That Does Not Affect The Head
Because of its tonic and laxative effect, LAXATIVE BROUO 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 W. W. GROVE, D.C.

Notice.

I have bought out the N. Roberts' place on Front street and will handle the Freeze Proof Cabbage Plants. Come to see me. 1812 W. P. Duckett.

JUDGE BURKETT FOR DIST. JUDGE

The name of Judge Joe Burkett of Eastland, candidate for District Judge, has appeared in the announcement columns of the Mail for several weeks, without any comment having been made by the Mail of his candidacy.

We herewith reproduce an article from the Rising Star Leader, which speaks of Judge Burkett's candidacy:

Mr. Burkett is now serving as County Judge. He is a young man of unquestioned ability and integrity and push, vim and vigor are characteristic traits possessed by him in a measure perhaps greater than the average. He is 31 years of age and is therefore from this point of view constitutionally eligible for Governor. He is also three years older than was one of the former judges of this district at the time of his election, so of course, his age cannot be urged against him, and should not; voters should look to qualifications only.

Advertised Letters.

Crumk, M. M.
Fray, Lillie.
Hornsby, Grady.
Nichels, Chas.
Silvester, J. H.
Wilby, A. E.
Willson, B. A.
Flores, Silbestra.
Lopez, Porfilo.

These letters will be sent to the dead letter office March 9, 1916.
H. C. Williams, P. M.
Merkel, Texas.

Miss Mae White was a visitor in Abilene the guest of friends Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Seth Hamilton were in Abilene Sunday the guest of friends.



Chemists Guard
the Quality of

Low Brothers
HIGH STANDARD
LIQUID PAINT

Low Brothers "High Standard" paints are tested long before they are put in the can and results are followed for years after they are put in practical use. By chemical analysis, unusual exposure tests and over 40 years of varied uses "High Standard" has been proved good.

If you want proof of "High Standard" quality, beauty and protection ask your neighbor who has used it or, better still, use it yourself. There is no better time than now. Come in and let us figure on your requirements.

Burton-Lingo Co.

Austin Boyd, Mgr.

SANITARY NOTICE TO MERKELITES

All property owners and renters are hereby notified, under present regulations you must make shutters for your outhouse so as to make it chicken proof, and at the same time have it so arranged that the city scavenger can easily remove shutter and clean place.

This must be looked after and all are notified that outhouses must be cleaned regularly. This can be looked after by phoning the city marshal and having your place listed in the Civic Service list. Parties who refuse to do this will have their places declared a nuisance by the city health officer and on any complaint being filed of negligence of this order fines can be assessed against the resident of the offending place. Please lend your assistance in keeping this civic work up.

B. A. Walters, W. M. Cranford,
City Marshal, City Health Offices



TOMORROW
WE SEE OUR
NEW WALL
...PAPER...

Ladies Free Rest Room.

Ladies don't fail to take advantage of the Rest Room when in Merkel. It is free to you to use at any time you are in Merkel. Side entrance to Behrens-McMillen Furniture Co.

Returned From Market

W. L. Harkrider returned from eastern markets the first of the week where he purchased an entire new stock of spring and summer goods for his place here.

Cotton Seed

Cotton seed are too scarce to plant bad seed. Better have them culled. Mason & Scott. 1tp

Make yourself at home in our
Rest Room
Behrens-McMillen Fur. Co.

CHINESE GOODS FOR MERKEL

For your inspection and approval I have placed a small line of Chinese and Japanese goods, viz:

- Beautiful hand-embroidered Silk and Crepe Kimonos
- Silk Chinese Mandarin Coat
- A complete line of Chinese bamboo Flower, Fruit and Work Baskets.
- Big Brass Storks
- Incense Burners
- Silk Embroidered Hand-Bag with jade handles
- Novelties, etc.,

in Mrs. E. M. Rust's Drug Store.

This is no doubt the first time the Merkel people have had the opportunity of buying Oriental goods

"Imported Direct from China"

My partner lives in Shanghai and buys these goods from the territory in which I lived for three years, so you can rest assured they are not imitation.

While our main business depends on the large cities in western states, I decided not to overlook my home town, and Mrs. Rust will be glad to show you these goods.

Individual orders for any Oriental article of any description will be given special attention.

ERNEST C. COUNTS
Feb. 17, 1916. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

WEAR A CLEAN SUIT

LET

RENFRO THE TAILOR

AT THE CITY BARBER SHOP DO

Your Cleaning and Pressing

LOCAL NEWS

Mrs. Aaron Horton is reported to be rapidly recovering from an operation, recently performed at Abilene.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Young of Roby spent a few days this week with Mrs. Young's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Duckett.

Mrs. J. E. Young and little daughter returned to their home at Lampasas Saturday over the Santa Fe from Blair. She was accompanied home by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Big-ham.

Miss Esther Creath of Abilene is the guest of her sister, Miss Susie Creath, who is one of the teachers in the Merkel school.

Mrs. A. F. Morgan of Greenville came in Monday to visit her father F. E. Hail and family for a short time. While here Mrs. Morgan will also visit many of her friends throughout the Merkel country who are always glad to welcome her return visits.

It Might Be.
"Is kissing dangerous?"
"Well, I wouldn't try it on an athletic girl without her consent."

Two 'Opossum Stories.

The Abilene Reporter recently made mention of four Abilene boys who caught 38 'opossums in one night.

The record is indeed a good one but was almost equalled by a Merkel man last week who started out just after supper, walked a short way from home, wasn't gone long, took his dogs with him, was hunting something, found what he was after, and home he trodded on his weary way. He caught 35 'opossums.

ANNOUCEMENTS

Subject to the Democratic Primaries of July, 1916

For Legislature
(Capt.) J. T. TUCKER

For District Judge
JOE BURKETT, of Eastland
J. W. MAHAFFEY

For District Clerk
J. N. ROUTH
H. O. DRUMMOND

For District Attorney
N. N. ROSENQUEST
(Re-election)

For County Clerk
J. D. HILTON. Re-election

For County Attorney
W. H. GRAHAM

For County Superintendent
J. S. SMITH, Re-election

For Treasurer:
J. A. BOYCE
AUSTIN FITTS

For Tax Assessor:
W. T. (TOM) ST. JOHN
Re-election
JOHN H. VANCE.
L. R. (ROY) PARMELLY
J. S. PATTERSON

For Tax Collector:
G. B. (BLUE) TITTLE
W. F. DILLARD. Re-election

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

For Commissioner Precinct No. 2
T. R. LASSITER (Re-election)

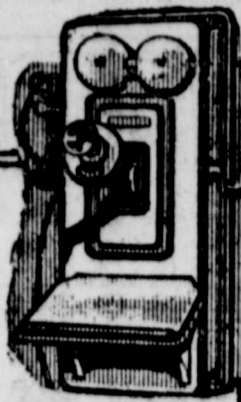
Jones County Announcements

For County Attorney
J. L. (Lee) CEARLEY
Re-election

For County Clerk
C. H. P'POOL, Re-election

For Tax Collector
R. L. BARRETT, Re-election

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days
Your druggist will refund money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure any case of Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days. The first application gives ease and relief.



Your Bell Telephone and PARCELS POST

Constitutes a partnership that should work out uncommonly good results, since City shops are brought conveniently close to the country customer, and city people may obtain from the country the various products of the farm.

BELL TELEPHONE SERVICE provides the means for placing the orders, and delivery can be made at your door by Parcels Post promptly, and at slight cost.



THE SOUTHWESTERN TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE COMPANY.
3-R-14

NOTICE

Dr. Daly of Abilene, will be in Merkel March 20th. Practice confined to diseases and surgery of the Eye, Ear, and Throat, and fitting glasses. Office at the Walker Cottage.

FIRE PARTIALLY DESTROYS HOUSE

Tuesday afternoon about three o'clock fire broke out in a servant's house in the rear yard of the house and barn next to it.

The cause of the fire was unknown, the negro man who was occupying the premises had been in the house only a short time before. Exceptionally good work of the fire department confined the flames to the building of their origin and extinguished them before the building was more than half burned.

INJURED IN AUTO MOTORCYCLE JAM

Clifford Dowdy narrowly escaped serious injury Tuesday afternoon when the motorcycle he was riding skidded and fell under a passing automobile.

Mrs. Austin Boyd who was driving her Dodge car was turning from Kent into Elm street.

The Dowdy boy was turning into Elm and was going east down the street when he saw the auto driven by Mrs. Boyd approaching. He attempted to turn into the right side of the street and his machine skidded in soft dirt. The extent of his injuries are said to be slight as the auto passed over the lower part of the motorcycle which had Clifford pinned to the ground. He was resting well Tuesday night and will be out again within a few day.

SHILOH

Sunday school and prayer meeting were well attended Sunday and much interest was manifested.

There was a singing at Wilner Grayson's Sunday afternoon.

Will Bond and family spent Sunday with Bud Brown and family.

There was a fruit supper at Hardy Rutledge's Friday night.

Roger Grayson and wife are the proud parents of a baby boy which blessed their home February 19th. Mother and babe are doing nicely and Roger is all smiles.

Missionary D. G. Wells of Jones county is in this part of the country this week.

Mrs. Walter Phillips is real sick at this writing.

Quite a crowd of little folks spent Sunday with Miss Myrtle McDonald. They all report a good time.

Grandma McDonald from South Texas is here visiting her sons Messrs Will and Bert McDonald.

Frank Hail and family spent Saturday night and Sunday with Mr. Pomroy and family near Sweetwater Creek.

Several from here went to Noodle Saturday night.

Little Miss Bertha Winters who has been suffering with tonsillitis is better at this writing.

The wedding of Reece Hail of this place and Miss Leola Coats of Merkel was a surprise to his many friends here. However, we wish for them a long and happy married life and welcome his bride to our midst.

Next Sunday

At the Presbyterian church (South Side Christian church) Sunday, February 27th, Rev. J. A. Templeton from Marshall, Mo. who is field representative for "The Board of Ministerial Relief and Sustentation" of the Presbyterian church U. S. A. will speak Every Presbyterian should be interested in this phrase of our church work. Do not fail to be present next Sunday.

Hubert E. Bullock, Pastor

Messrs. E. L. and W. D. Woodroof are in Dallas for a week's stay.

J. T. Warren, Pres.

Thos. Johnson, Cashier



CAPITAL AND SURPLUS OVER \$50,000.00

A dependable and serviceable Banking Connection for over 11 years. We invite the business of the Banking public, promising conscientious service that will be profitable and satisfactory to all parties. Money to loan at reasonable rates on approved notes.

THOS. JOHNSON, Cashier

EYE GLASSES & SPECTACLES

Correctly fitted will relieve all strain and discomfort; also give you perfect sight when fitted by

P. T. QUAST, Optometrist

Sweetwater, Texas

TO THE VOTERS OF THE 42ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

I am a candidate for District Judge of this district and will begin an active campaign in a short time.

For a period of sixteen years, I have been actively engaged in the practice of law, four years of which time I had the honor of being your District Attorney and tried a large number of important criminal cases; during the other twelve years of practice, have tried a large number of both civil and criminal cases in the District and other courts.

My record both as an official and attorney is before you, and I leave it to the impartial judgment of the grand and petit jurors, witnesses, attorneys and court officials as to how well I served you.

The courts of our country are a burden on the people, and should be conducted with all the dispatch and promptness that is consistent with justice, and with as little expense as possible.

I promise, if elected, that your courts shall be conducted in an orderly, business-like manner; that unnecessary delays and time killing shall not be tolerated; that your dockets shall be kept clean, good order maintained, that every person shall be treated alike and given a fair and impartial trial.

New trials and reversals in District Courts are expensive,

and I shall combine diligent and faithful study with my past experience, in order that errors may be few and that there may be an end to litigation.

Knowing the many hardships occasioned by court duty, my every aim shall be to administer justice promptly and uphold and maintain the dignity and respect for all of our laws.

I will appreciate your support and influence, and if elected will do my best to make you a fair, impartial and efficient officer.

Very truly yours,
W. P. Mahaffey.

COUNTRY MAN A FIREMAN'S FRIEND

C. M. Largent called Chief Ferrier into a quiet and secluded place Wednesday and handed him ten dollars for the Merkel Fire Department.

Mr. Largent had looked over the good work done by the boys on Tuesday afternoon at the Perminter home and even though he does not own property in the city he decided he would help the boys out and in handing over his check for \$10.00 incidentally said that the Merkel firemen were "Fire Fighting Sons a Guns."

Mrs. E. M. Rust returned Sunday afternoon from a few days visit in Dallas.

Anchor Mercantile Company

Big Showing in the Newest and Latest Creations

From Dame Fashion's Center in new Dress Woolens, new Taffettas, Messalines, Peau De Soui, Crepe Meteor, Crepe De Chine, Georgette Crepe, Silk Fallies, Fancy Waistings. We are receiving daily shipments direct from the Laporte Woolen Mills

We Are Endeavoring

More and more all the time to give our customers the benefit of our large cash purchases, and by buying direct from the factory we are assured of better and newer merchandise and at prices much better than could possibly be obtained from jobbers of merchandise. We do not try to see how cheap we can sell you merchandise, as we believe it is quality that the public demands and not cheap, flimsy merchandise that presents an unsightly appearance after a few hours of wear. We handle only reputable lines of merchandise, goods that we know will stand up and give our customers satisfactory wear long after the price is forgotten. We are maintaining as far as possible our old prices on everything throughout the house, although it will take from 20 to 30 per cent more on some articles to replace them, should we be compelled to go into the market today for repurchases. Our foresight in buying goods six to eight months ahead, is your gain, and to reap these benefits will be to make **YOUR WANTS** known early.

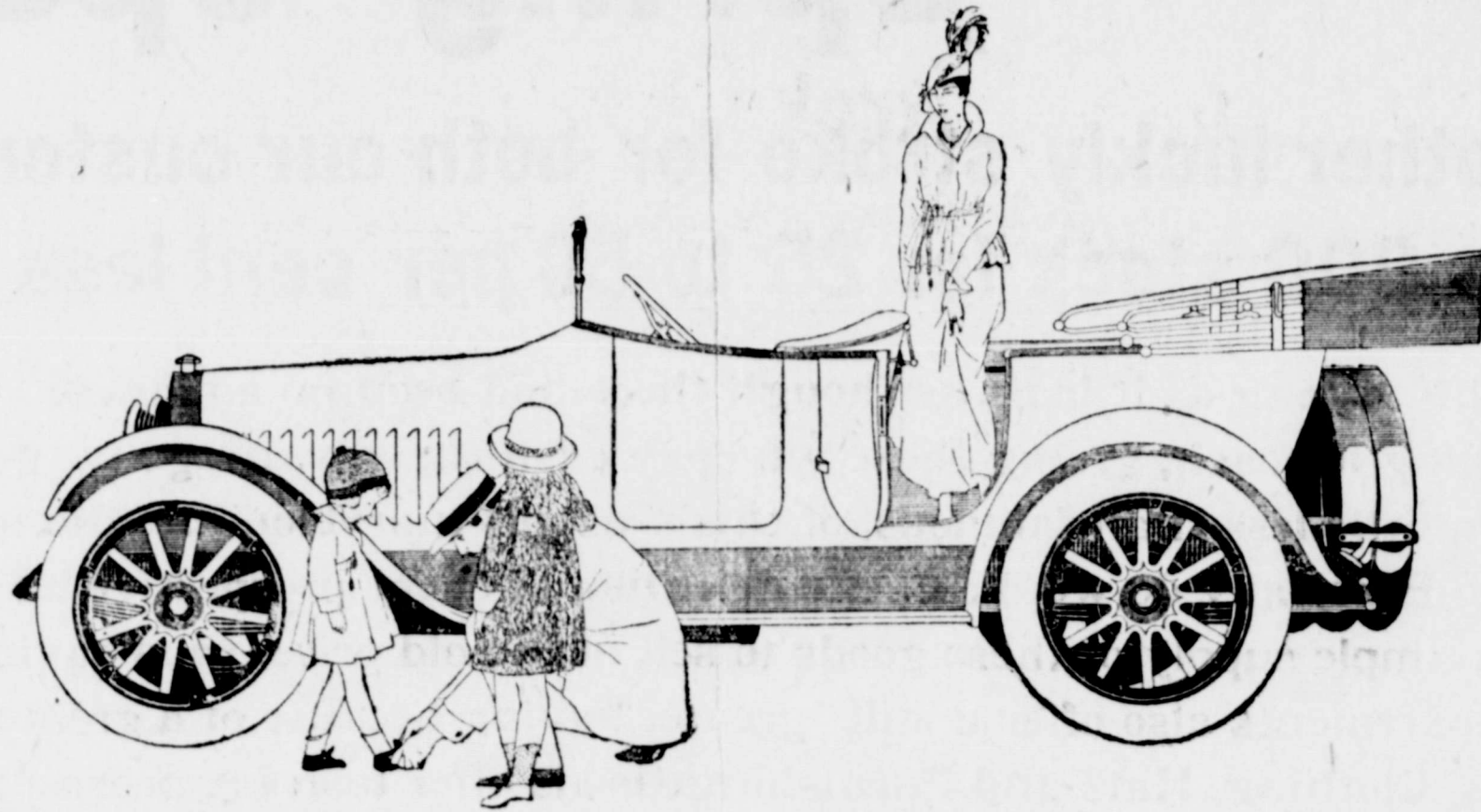
Here are a Few Prices		Good heavy Brown Domestic 20 yards \$1.00	largest line in the city to select from.
One case American Prints in all colors, figures and stripes, per yard.....	5c	Don't Fail to See Our Spring Showing of Ready to Wear	Our men's shoes, pants, shirts, overalls, hats and clothing department is being replenished daily and already presents a city-like appearance, having filled our shelves to over-running in these departments.
Four cases new Spring Pattern Percales 32 inches wide, all colors, plads checks and stripes at per yard.....	10c	New Skirts in all colors, stripes, plaids, ranging in prices from \$1.50, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$5.00 to.....	\$7.50
Two cases new spring pattern Percales 32 inches wide, all colors, figures and stripes, only, per yard.....	10c	New spring suits in all colors, made of Gaberdines, Serges, Poplins and Shepard checks, ranging in price from \$10 to	\$25.00
Two cases yard-wide sheeting in Brown and bleach, at, per yard, as follows:		New spring waists of Crepe De Chine, Tub Silks and in all colors from \$1.00 to	\$6.00
10-4 Brown sheeting, good heavy grade	26c	House Dresses, Middy Blouses, Aprons, etc. all the new ones in light, fancy plaids, checks and stripes.	
10 Bleach sheeting, good heavy grade	28c	New Shoes	
9-4 Brown sheeting good heavy grade	26c	New Spring Oxford Pumps and Mary Jane for ladies, misses and children.	
9-4 Bleach sheeting good heavy grade	24c	Special lot of shoes for the infants. The	
One case good Sea Island Domestic, regular 10c quality, slightly damaged in shipping, per yard only.....	6½c		Specials in our Grocery Department
			100 pounds good northern flour.....
			\$3.25
			100 pounds best Albatross flour.....
			3.40
			35 pound sack best northern meal.....
			.70
			5 pounds best Peaberry coffee.....
			1.00
			7 pounds bulk coffee.....
			1.00
			12 cans good 2-pound tomatoes.....
			1.00
			12 cans good corn.....
			1.00
			1 case good ribbon cane syrup.....
			3.00
			5 gallons goods coal oil.....
			.60
			25 pound box dry peaches.....
			1.75

We Offer You Many Bargains

For your spring apparel and nothing but the newest of goods, no old stock to work off on you, as we carry nothing but the newest and best up-to-date goods to be found, barring all bankrupt and broke stocks from our establishment, as we know these methods are detrimental to our business in years to come.

"The Store that Sold More Goods Last Year Than any Other 3 Stores in Merkel"

Anchor Mercantile Company



The New 3400 r. p. m. Chalmers Means Untroubled Travel

The whole South has O. K.'d the gallant performance of the new 3400 r. p. m. Chalmers.

From Atlanta to the Alamo it has arrested the attention of the motor-wise.

From Memphis to Fort Worth it is fascinating men and women who know and admire a thoroughbred.

There are color, lustre, personality in the performance of the 3400 r. p. m.

It brings to the South the boon of untroubled travel. Might weds ease of going, and the result is the very romance of motion—as strainless and throbbless as a canoe gliding down a sheltered stream.

The subtle gift of acceleration that this car possesses is a unique by-product of a high-speed engine.

For its engine is exactly the engine that in early road and laboratory tests delivered might in brutal measure.

But because superfluous might cannot be attained save at the cost of pick-up, poise and smoothness, the power of this engine was brought into restraint, fusing force with finesse.

Hence the charm of this car. Hence long mileage on gas, and a saving of \$150 to \$200 per year in fuel bills.

I get 18 miles for every gallon of gas over hills and dales—and a mile-a-minute speed every time I feel like letting her go.

I need never get another car's dust in my eyes—for 3400 engine revolutions per minute means instant acceleration whenever and wherever it is wanted.

And what the 3400 r. p. m. Chalmers will do for me she will do for you.

\$1050 Detroit



LOCAL NEWS

J. P. Sharp, Sr., and Mrs. O. M. Sharp are in the Dallas market this week purchasing goods for the J. P. Sharp store.

Rose Comb Rhode Island white eggs \$1.00 per fifteen. Mrs. T. M. Pribble, Merkel, Texas. 25t4pd

"Bass" 3363 relieves LaGrippe.

Mrs. W. E. Britain is spending a few days in Matador the guest of her parents and friends.

Ladies new spring military boots, nine and ten inch tops in bronze, white, grey and other colors. Woodroof's.

Miss Mabel Laney spent Sunday with home folks, returning to Sweetwater Sunday afternoon where she will remain for a few days at the Grogan sanitarium.

Buy your furniture from A. L. Jobe. The Eureka is best.

Mrs. Olivia Glisson of Lockney left Sunday afternoon for Colorado City after a few days visit here in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Harris'. Mrs. Glisson will remain in Colorado for a few days before returning to her home at Lockney.

See Woodroof's novelty shoe and boot window display.

D. G. Ash, Transfer. Phone my residence, will meet all trains. 28t4pd

Oscar Pate of Sweetwater was a guest in the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Pate Sunday.

"Bass" 3363 gives relief when you have Neuralgia, earache, toothache or when you suffer from colds of any kind.

Elder W. G. Cypert returned Tuesday morning on the belated Tee Pee train No. 5 from Okra where he preached Sunday morning and Sunday night.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE

Notice of the dissolution of partnership of the Brown Independent Gin Co., is hereby given and all accounnts against or for the company now becomes the obligation or property of G. B. Brown, present owner of the Brown Independent Gin.

G. B. Brown,
R. O. Anderson,
B. C. Moore.

Windmills, windmills; lots of them. See me before you buy your windmill and pipe fixtures. H. M. Rose.

Miss Floy Leamon of Trent was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Twyman Collins the latter part of the week.

"Bass" 3363 cures your cold.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Myers and children were the guests of friends in Abilene Sunday.

BOY ACCIDENTALLY SHOT

A thirteen year old son of Rev. I. N. Alvis of near Haskell met sudden death last week when a shot gun which the young man was carrying on his sulky plow in the field for the purpose of killing rabbits was discharged by the hammer coming in contact with some object on the plow.

The load entered the left groin ranged upward through the body, coming out under the right arm.

Miss Verlie Kello of Trent was the week-end guest in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Ferguson and family.

Jack Provine returned to Sweetwater Sunday afternoon where he will remain in the sanitarium at that place for a few days. Mr. Provine is reported to be much improved since he has been under treatment there.

Mr. and Mrs. Rust Hutchins of near Hamlin were the week-end guests of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Hutchins.

Yaney Orr of Putnam came in the latter part of last week to be the guest of his sister, Mrs. F. A. Sanders, and other relatives.

Lloyd McCarty and Chat Lathrop of Abilene were personal callers in the city in clover Sunday afternoon.

"Bass" 3363 is safe, sure and pleasant to take.

W. C. Hoffman of Abilene was visiting friends in Merkel Sunday afternoon.

The U. S. Model E Standard Star and Leader Mills, the very latest models ask to see them. H. M. Rose.

L. H. Penny left Monday afternoon for Bronte where he will remain for a few days looking after business matters.

LOCAL NEWS

J. H. Grayson was attending to business matters in Sweetwater the first of the week.

C. C. Foster was a business visitor to Abilene the first of the week.

Ask your druggist for "Bass" 3363.

Mr. and Mrs. Sol Johnson of Trent were attending to business matters and shopping in Merkel the first of the week.

Uncle Joe Harris left Tuesday morning on No. 5 for Hamlin where he will remain for a few days attending to business.

Your money back if "Bass" 3363 fails to do what we say.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Swafford who are now living in Anson were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Largent.

**PARTEN'S
BIG
SALE**

PARTEN'S GRAND Spring Opening Sale

We record another lucky stroke for both our customers and ourselves. 1000 stock for 25 to 50 per cent less than its present

WE are going to sell it as long as it lasts as though there had been no advance. Thus, again favoring the benefit of buying and selling for cash, giving those who pay cash the advantage we get. From center to circumference on this occasion a wealth, little less than fabulous, of this season's marvelous creations, appalling in their richness, admiration and praise. Especially do we direct the attention of every prospective buyer to our STAPLE DEPARTMENT that we might have an ample supply of these goods to sell at the old price, thus saving our customers at least 25 per cent. Dress goods and silk departments also offer a still greater saving because of a greater percentage of advance on no advance. Our Shoes, Clothing, Hats and Furnishing Goods offer to every prospective buyer the same saving and above all do we prize our ability to offer quality with every article in our store.

THESE ARE FACTS WORTH CONSIDERING. THIS GRAND SPRING OPENING SALE BEGINS AT 10 O'CLOCK. COME EARLY. LOW PRICES, COMPARE WITH ANY CATALOGUE. WE GUARANTEE TO SATISFY.

Beautiful New Spring Dress Goods and Silks at Monster Savings. Be on hand early.

New spring dress gingham now worth 12½c now selling for..... **10c**

New spring dress percales 38 inches wide guaranteed not to fade, now worth 15c now selling for..... **10c**

New spring suitings now worth 20c now selling for only..... **12½c**

New spring suiting now worth 25c now selling for only..... **18c**

New spring suiting now worth 35c now selling for only..... **25c**

New spring suiting now worth 50c now selling for only..... **35c**

New spring woolens now worth 75c now selling for only..... **50c**

New spring silks now worth 35c now selling for only..... **25c**

New spring silks now worth 50c now selling for only..... **35c**

New spring silks, now worth 75c, now selling for only..... **50c**

New spring silks, now worth \$1.00, now selling for only..... **75c**

New spring silks, now worth \$1.50, now selling for only..... **\$1.00**

New spring lawns, now worth 15c, now selling for only..... **10c**

New spring lawns, now worth 20c, now selling for only..... **12½c**

New spring lawns, now worth 25c, now selling for only..... **18c**

New spring lawns, now worth 35c, now selling for only..... **25c**

New spring lingerie, now worth 50c, now selling for only..... **35c**

Staples! Staples! Staples!

These prices are good as long as the present stock lasts, only.

Bleached domestic, now worth 7½c, now selling for only..... **5c**

Bleached domestic, now worth 10c, now selling for only..... **7½c**

Bleached domestic, now worth 11c, now selling for only..... **8½c**

Bleached domestic, now worth 12½c, now selling for only..... **10c**

Brown domestic, now worth 10c, now selling for only..... **7½c**

Bleached pepperell sheeting, now worth 35c, now selling for only..... **30c**

Brown pepperell sheeting, now worth 32½c, now selling for only..... **28c**

Extra quality mattress ticking, now worth 12½c, now selling for only..... **10c**

Extra quality feather ticking, now worth 20c, now selling for only..... **15c**

Extra quality canvassing, now worth 5c, now selling for only..... **4c**

Extra quality blue denim, now worth 20c, now selling for only..... **15c**

New Spring Laces and Embroideries at Monster Savings. Beautiful to Behold Better 2 Buy at These Prices

Beautiful new val laces, now worth 10c to 15c, now selling for only..... **5c**

Beautiful new shaddow laces, now worth 15c to 25c, now selling for only..... **10c**

Beautiful new embroideries, including baby sets, now worth 10c, now selling for only..... **5c**

Beautiful new embroideries, including baby sets, now worth 15c to 20c, now selling for only..... **10c**

Beautiful new organdie flouncing, now worth 50c, now selling for only..... **35c**

Beautiful new shaddow laces, now worth 25c, now selling for only..... **15c**

Other beautiful laces and embroideries in the newest, daintiest patterns and designs too numerous to mention at the same low prices.

Shoes and Slippers for Ladies, Men, Girls and Boys.

We are prepared with both style and quality, both to a degree of the most eminent efficiency to supply each and every of each and every family within Merkel's trade radius with the most marvelous values in spring footwear possible to wish for. If your feet are sore our shoes will ease them. If you've been getting sorry shoes we'll cure that—if the prices have been too high we have the only remedy—

25 to 50 per cent saved on ever pair.

And we guarantee better shoes. **NO RISK TO TRY US.**

FREE! FREE! FREE!

One lot of beautiful Enamelware. 50 pieces to first 50 customers buying from \$1.00 to \$10.00 worth.

YOUR RAILROAD FARE FREE

We give national free mileage, good on any railroad in the United States. Save your coupons.

FREE! FREE! FREE!

Three ladies' new spring \$5 Hats. First three ladies entering our store Saturday morning, February 26th. and buying to the amount of \$15 will be given choice of any of our big display of new 1916 spring \$5 hats. They are beauties. You'll want one anyway.

MILLINERY

The Prettiest Millinery Ever Shown at the Most Reasonable Prices.

OUR Millinery showing will consist of the latest creations with the beautiful color combinations and shapes that makes this spring's hats especially desirable. **We have the largest stock of ladies, misses and children's hats ever shown by us, and our prices are the most reasonable.** We invite you to make close inspection of this department and suggest that you make your selection early owing to the larger stock to select from. We will save you money on your hat and you will be sure to get the correct thing as we have no last season's goods to show.

**MERKEL'S
BARGAIN
EMPORIUM**

PARTEN DRY GOODS CO

A Sailor's Confession

By DWIGHT NORWOOD

There is a record of the ship Julia Sturdevant having been burned at sea with all on board except five of the crew, who were picked up in a lifeboat while the vessel was burning off the coast of Korea. This happened many years ago when I was a young man. I am now a ninety year old hulk, laid up at the Saviors' snug harbor, ready for the junkheap. The Julia Sturdevant was set afire, and I applied the torch that burned her. Before sailing on my eternal voyage I have to confess this fact and tell how I came to do it. There is no sin on my conscience in that burning, but there are others that are a hundred times worse than burning a ship.

When I stepped on the Julia Sturdevant I was twenty-two years old. We sailed from Boston to Japan, taking out a cargo such as the little yellow men needed then, but don't need now, for that wasn't long after Commodore Perry sailed in among them and began their civilizing. The Sturdevant was one of the early steamers, having paddle wheels and sails, and her engine was a primitive one. Any well rigged ship in a stiff breeze could out sail her.

We were plying along through the China sea against a stiff nor'easter, when before the wind came a Chinese junk. Before she reached us she hoisted the skull and bones and fired a shot at us as an order to stop. We hadn't so much as a salute cannon aboard and few small arms. There were ports for four guns on each side of the junk, and her decks swarmed with men. We saw it was all up with us, and our captain surrendered with a condition that all our lives be spared.

As soon as the pirates came aboard they began to look the vessel over and concluded to divide their force, running her as well as their own ship. Without regarding the condition they had made, they forced all the crew except five of us to walk the plank. What they kept us five for was to direct the working of the ship, since they knew nothing about the use of steam. Two of us were the engineer and his assistant. The other three they kept to post and help them in working the ship's sails that were entirely unlike those on the junk.

Fifteen of them stayed on the captured ship, taking aboard two guns and plenty of small arms, while the others sailed away on the junk. We white men were obliged to obey their orders or walk the plank like the others. And that's the crime I have to confess. For weeks, when they were overpowering unarmed vessels, looting and murdering, we were doing our part of the work. What else could we do? We could have refused and given up our lives, and it's been troubling me for more than half a century that I didn't choose the better part.

I'm not going to name all the crimes we committed because we had to. I'm simply going to tell how we finally made our escape. After awhile we agreed that we would pretend that we were contented with our lot, ask for our share of the plunder and do everything else we could to put the yellow devils off their guard. One thing we were afraid of. There was one ship that we tried to capture and failed. We boarded her and were fighting hand to hand with her crew when they saw us white men fighting with the yellow ones. We were about to join our own color when, fired with hatred against us for being part of a Chinese pirate crew, they made a desperate dash and drove us back on to our own ship. After that we knew that if we escaped the pirates and were recognized by any of the men on that ship we would dangle at a yardarm.

The next ship taken had a lot of liquor aboard, and every pirate got drunk. We watched our opportunity, pretending to drink and be drunk like the others, till they were all laid out. When eight of them were either asleep or stupid with liquor below and the rest being in the same condition on deck, we clapped down the hatches on those below. What we did to those on deck I don't mention, except that they didn't trouble us any more.

We hadn't more than fixed them all when looking ahead we saw a ship coming and made out the stars and stripes at her peak, for in those days our flag was often seen on the ocean. Some of us thought that if she overhauled us and we told our story we would be believed. Others didn't think we would. Some day some of us might meet some of the crew of the ship we had boarded. I made up my mind what to do and without saying anything got a lot of tow and oakum together and set fire to it. The wind was high, and in fifteen minutes the whole ship was ablaze. We lowered one of the boats, got into her and pulled for the Yankee ship.

When we reached her we reported that we had been afire for three days and if we hadn't met the Yankee in time we would have been lost. And that's how the ship Julia Sturdevant came to be reported burned at sea with five of the crew saved. It was never made clear what became of the rest of the crew. I managed that story by saying that when the fire finally got ahead of us the others were cut off from the boats. Some were burned below and some were drowned. True enough the pirates below were burned.

I met one of the crew of the ship we had boarded long afterward in Hong Kong. He didn't remember me, but you'd better believe I remembered him and got out of his way as quickly as possible.

A Close Call

By DONALD CHAMBERLIN

During the administration of President Huerta of Mexico I was employed by the United States government to do certain service for the state department. I went by land, crossing the Rio Grande at Laredo and entering Coahuila. I soon fell in with a prominent leader of the rebel forces, who, after I had satisfied him that my mission was not detrimental to his interests, expressed a willingness that I should go to my destination, the City of Mexico.

"How would you like to earn some money?" asked the general.

"I would gladly earn money if I can do so without compromising my employers at Washington."

"What I have in mind would not interfere with that at all. I desire to get a message through to a certain person in the City of Mexico. As a messenger of the United States you would not be suspected. Your government has not taken sides in this matter, and there is nothing to prevent your being the bearer of a letter from me to a friend."

"But supposing I am caught with such a letter on my person?" I asked.

"In that case you would be shot."

"And what would I receive for taking this risk?"

He named a sum that tempted me. It seemed to me that, being in the employ of the United States government, there would be little or no risk in my bearing the general's message. I needed the sum he offered for a certain purpose and concluded to stake being shot against it.

He wrote his message on a bit of thin paper about three inches square. I was to take it to a man high in favor with President Huerta. His name and address were given me, but were not written on the message, though it was signed by a fictitious name. I decided to carry it in the upper vest pocket on the left side, my object being to have it where I could easily get it to destroy it in case I was cornered. The general paid me the money for the service I was about to render, for I was to receive it whether I succeeded in delivering the message or not.

Going southward on the general's pass I struck the Federal lines not far from the City of Mexico. I informed the commanding officer of my mission and was received by him with the courtesy due one in the United States service. Indeed, being stationed at a point where he saw no one except his officers and men he seemed pleased to see me, and since I reached his quarters in the evening he insisted on entertaining me overnight.

He proved to be an inveterate gambler, and nothing would do but that I must play cards with him. I dared not antagonize him by refusing and after the evening meal sat down with him in his tent to play. He soon won all the cash I had provided for my journey, and I proposed to quit. He seemed inclined to play on, and I feared to refuse him. I had the money the general had given me, a roll of bills, in my pocket and was obliged to produce it.

My opponent looked at this large quantity of Mexican money with interest. He said nothing about it, but from that moment he began to talk about the difficulty of my getting on in the morning and expressed the opinion that I would be delayed. His prophecy came true, for he gave orders that no conveyance was to be furnished me.

The next morning I asked my entertainer to cash a draft on the American consul at the capital. He promised to do so, but made no move to produce the funds. His actions were so suspicious that I began to think I had better seize upon any opportunity to destroy the general's message. But I was given no opportunity. My host never left me for a moment unless there was some one else in the room. All the while he was telling me that he was endeavoring to secure conveyance for me, that he expected a team very soon, and when it came he would furnish me with money for the journey.

About 10 o'clock in the morning I saw a sergeant posting a guard about the house. My heart stood still. I was suspected, would be searched, and the message would be found on me. That meant death. The officer was looking over some military papers at a table, with an unlighted cigarette between his lips. Taking a cigar from my pocket, and with a show of coolness I did not feel, I deliberately cut off the end with my penknife and asked him if he had a match. He produced one, struck it and was about to light his cigarette when, remembering politeness, he extended the match to me.

"After you," I said.

He touched it to the end of his cigarette and handed it to me. I put the flame to the end of my cigar, but purposely failed to close my lips tight in order to prevent suction. When the match had burned near my fingers I took the message from my vest pocket, put one end to the flame and lit my cigar with it, taking sufficient time for it to be entirely consumed.

I saw the officer look up at me quickly, but he said nothing. Dropping the ash of the paper on the floor, I put my foot on it, rubbing it with the sole of my shoe so that it could not be traced.

I think he saw by my expression that I experienced a great relief and had made myself safe, for he permitted me to depart without further delay.

Mr. Barnackel

By EDITH V. ROSS

"Enoch Barnackel! What a name! Any one would know that he was a crusty old man of the farmer type, uneducated and with no manners. But what can I do?"

These words were spoken to herself by a girl who had some sixteen years before been left at a foundlings' home and who had been given the name of Helen and had later chosen the additional name of Whitman. She had been retained at the home as an employee till she approached seventeen, then was informed that a farmer named Barnackel had written that he wanted a wife and asked whether one could be sent to him. Helen was informed of the opportunity.

After a long and tearful deliberation, feeling incompetent to go out into the world and make a living, she decided to go out to Mr. Barnackel. If he was very terrible she might commit suicide. The matron approved of her resolution, for she was comely, and the good woman feared that with her inexperience she might fall a victim to some designing person.

Mr. Barnackel was informed that there was a young woman ready to accept his proposition, and he sent money for her journey. The heart broken girl nerved herself to her fate and one afternoon alighted at a railway station at the village near which his farm was located. A young farmer with a whip in his hand approached her and asked if she was the young woman who was to marry Mr. Barnackel.

"I am," was the reply. "That is, if he isn't an ogre."

The young man smiled. His smile was very winning. "I have a team here," he said. "I'll drive you to the farm."

When seated in the wagon and he had said "get up" to the horses Helen expected that he would say something to her. He did not. He seemed to be thinking.

"What kind of a looking man is Mr. Barnackel?" she asked.

Now, the young man was George Barnackel, nephew of the man who had written for a wife. The uncle was fifty years old, his face looked like a ball of strings, his hair was red, and he was just too unlovely for anything. At any rate, that is the way the daughter of one of the neighboring farmers put it. In fact, he was exactly what Helen had conceived him to be, judging from his name. He must also have been a fool or he would never have sent his good looking nephew for a young girl he expected to make his wife. Upon Helen's inquiry George turned his face toward her, displaying a set of regular white teeth by smiling, and asked:

"Suppose I should tell you that he is a disagreeable old codger and always cross as a bear. What would you do?"

"I would jump into the river—that is, if there is one near by."

There was a prolonged silence, at the end of which the young man said: "And what would you say if I told you that I am Mr. Barnackel?"

Helen's heart went up into her throat. She made no reply to the question, but she sidled nearer to her companion. Presently there came a subdued voice: "Are you Mr. Barnackel?"

"I am."

Her face was bent low. He leaned lower himself and looked up into it. He saw what he took to be a look of pleasure. Perhaps it was relief. The reins were in his right hand. She was sitting at his left. He put his left arm about her waist. She looked up at him, her eyes wet, a suspicion of a smile on her lips. He kissed them.

"How far is it to the farm?" was the next thing said.

"About three miles."

George drove over six miles, which seemed like three to Helen, then stopped at a farmhouse.

"Wait in the wagon," he said, "while I go in to tell my mother and sister you're here. They don't know you're coming."

Leaving the reins in her hands, he went into the house. He was gone a long while. Helen saw the face of an elderly woman surveying her from a window, then a younger one doing the same.

"Oh, dear," she said. "I hope they're not going to make him send me back!"

Presently a door opened and the two women came out, the elder in advance. She welcomed Helen, though she seemed constrained. Leading her into the house, the younger woman showed her to a chamber upstairs and, shutting the door behind them, took her in her arms, exclaiming:

"You poor child!"

"Why am I to be so pitied?" asked Helen, surprised.

"You're not. It's all right. We'll make you very happy. My brother is not the Mr. Barnackel you came out here to marry. That one is my uncle, a crusty old man who would not do for you at all. Being rheumatic, he asked George to drive you from the station to his farm. George wants you himself. Mother has given her consent, and you are to be married—that is, if you wish to marry George—at once."

Helen asked if haste were necessary. George replied to this that his bride belonged to his uncle, was expected by his uncle and unless the knot were tied there was no knowing what he would do in the matter. The chance of being turned over to the old curmudgeon so terrified Helen that she was only too glad to be married at once. The wedding took place that evening.

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Free

- 1.00 and 50c
sold, Saturday, Febru
is work pants, now worth
selling for only 90c
- is work pants, now worth \$2 00, now
selling for only \$1.45
- is work pants, now worth \$2.50, now
selling for only \$1.95
- s work pants, now worth \$3 00, now
selling for only \$2.25
- is dress pants, now worth \$2 to \$2.50
now selling for only \$1.45
- s dress pants, now worth \$3.00, now
selling for only \$1.95
- s dress pants, now worth \$3.50, now
selling for only \$2.45
- s dress pants, now worth \$4 00, now
selling for only \$2.95
- s dress pants, now worth \$5 00, now
selling for only \$3.45

Mens Furnishings

- Here is where our sparker is superb.
- s work shirts, full made, now worth
fully 50c, now selling for only 39c
- s dress shirts, now worth \$1.00, now
selling for only 75c
- s dress shirts, now worth \$1.25 now
selling for only \$1.00
- s sport shirts, latest degree, now worth
\$1.50 now selling for only \$1.00
- s balbriggan undershirts, now worth
35c, now selling for only 25c
- s balbriggan undershirts, now worth
50c, now selling for only 39c

John B. Stetson, worth \$4.50 and 5.00,
now selling \$3.50
Now worth 1.50, now selling for \$1.00
Now worth 2.00, now selling for 1.45
Now worth 3.00, now selling for 2.45
Now worth 3.50, now selling for 2.95

These are the biggest values ever offered at the beginning of any previous season. It'll pay you to buy now.

It would give us greater pleasure to describe in detail and price every article in our store, but the lack and cost of greater space prevents. We will pay you for your day's trouble, however, if you fail to find a day's compensation in the savings we shall make in your spring purchases. It is with better goods, better advantages and lower prices that we base our claims for your spring business.

Our big store will be aglitter with the opulence of spring's hoardings and aglow with phosphorescence of handsome savings for every cash buyer.

Come Early, Stay Late

Come early, stay late. It will do you good to see others made happy and richer by satisfied purchases and remunerative savings. Remember the date and place.

Begins Saturday, February 26th

MPANY MERKEL'S BARGAIN EMPORIUM

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

TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAIL ROAD

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

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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.

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.

"ABSOLUTELY DISGUSTING"—WHO TOLD YOU SO?

"Absolutely Disgusting" are the words accredited to an Abilene banker by the Abilene Reporter of Sunday, when the banker tried to describe the conditions of the cattle industry in Taylor county. All the squabble came up when one Lester Gorsuch sold three full Hereford bull calves on the streets of Abilene for \$150 each.

Now somebody stumped their toe against the biggest bunch of prima-facia evidence as was ever produced in any court. It is an established and admitted fact that Taylor county has the best cattle in the state of Texas but if Abilene does not care to share in the honors, then Merkel will shoulder the blame, for really Merkel is responsible for having THE champion herd of Hereford cattle together with some eight or ten associated herds now being raised by other stock farmers in the Merkel country.

When it comes to selling a bull calf for \$150, the consummation of such a deal is scarcely noticed in Merkel even though such deals are very frequent. More frequent, however, are the sales that aggregate \$250 to \$2,500. It is absolutely true that scrub cattle are to be found in Taylor county, the same grade, if not lower grades can be found in other parts of the state including the western counties. It is true some of the western counties have fine herds roaming over their vast expanse of arid land, but it is again true that Merkel (in Taylor county) is the home and constant range of the best cattle in the South. We do not confine the problem of better cattle to one herd when we offer the above evidence. Taylor county—in its north-western extremity!—has several herds that will outshine nine-tenths of the bunches to be found in counties west of the 100th meridian.

WHY NOT AN OIL MILL?

Annually thousands of tons of cotton seed is shipped from Merkel to mills in various parts of Texas. These shipments if confined to a large extent to consumption in Merkel would provide an asset to our town far more intrinsic than any other industry our town can boast of at present.

It would be an easy matter to raise \$30,000 or \$40,000 by private subscription for an Oil Mill, from which the investors could realize a handsome dividend annually. It is true that a mill once in operation in Merkel was discontinued but there were reasons for same over which our town should not be held responsible. It seems feasible that a mill could be operated every day in the year and at a profit to those who might invest in same. It would provide better possibilities to feeders of cattle and would give farmers a more direct market for cotton products, and a direct market in which they could buy meal and hulls for feeding purposes.

An Oil Mill for Merkel should be an insured industry to our town within the next thirty days. Its operation by the opening of the next cotton season would strike inspiration of new life into the bottom of every business in our town. It is worthy of your consideration and support, both financially and otherwise. "Let Merkel continue to grow." Make up your mind to take a slice of stock about \$500 or \$1000 across the face.

SALT OF THE EARTH

Oh, how I wish I could again meet one of the old-time preachers—those dear old men who earned a living by honest labor during the week, preached Christ and Him crucified on Sunday and didn't spend all their time trying to run state, county and municipal governments and beat the officers out of their jobs. What's become of 'em anyway? They were the salt of the earth.—Lakewood Progress.

A question of personal privileges. When has our ministry gotten to such a state of narrow mindedness that they are not as capable of taking a hand in state, county and municipal governments as some of the rotten politicians we have in our midst. We believe in purity of the home, purity of the pulpit, purity of the ballot and purity for the politician. With these qualifications one man is as capable of taking hand in public affairs as another, and to voice a sentiment against such is against the freedom of any American. No doubt if someone should pass a resolution prohibiting the newspaper man from taking a hand in state, county and municipal governments, the Lakewood Progress would throw nine kinds of fits before the first reading of the enactment was complete. From general principles the ministry should be a good place to look for political timber in times of need.

RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility! That is the new cry all over the land.

Great corporations and the railroads are inviting their stockholders to consider their responsibility.

Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce and other influential business associations are stirring up their members to a new interest in public affairs.

Heretofore a few well-paid, self-seeking labor leaders have been the only ones who have actively organized to influence legislation in their favor.

Now bankers, business men, manufacturers, clerks, doctors, dentists, lawyers and clergymen are all getting interested in public matters.

And with the demand for woman suffrage, women, as never before, are reading the papers, studying current events and watching legislators with a careful eye.

The people are awakening to the fact that they have a voice in the making of our laws and that it is time they asserted their right.

Let us put patriotism above partisanship. Let us put the cheap, self-seeking demagogue out of business and restore to statesmen the seats of the mighty.

The demagogue must go!—Leslie's Weekly.

"Quite right." No better way to take hold of this movement than to begin at home. Let Merkel build an Oil Mill that will be run entirely by Merkel people, owned entirely by Merkel people and without the influence of outside incorporated interests. Let it be a truly local governed Merkel industry and it will pay.

RECIPE FOR NOT BEING A BORE

If you want to be a "good mixer," as it's called, the best way is to note your line of least resistance in conversation, and then—not follow it. In other words, if you're fond of doing most of the talking, put on the soft pedal mercilessly; if you find it difficult to open your mouth, make yourself talk. That is the first rule. The second: Learn to be a good listener.—Collier's Weekly.

A BULL AND A BANK

There was an unusual sight at Hereford, Texas, the other day. The owner of a 2,000-pound white faced bull was permitted to lead the bull into the First National bank to show the bull to some friends.—Tyler Courier Times.

Some bull, but it is not at all unusual to see a 2,000-pound bull on the Merkel streets.

The Mail had a birthday this week and is now starting out on its 28th year. We accept all congratulations in advance. "Safety First" being our motto.

Prince Albert fits your taste!

Meets the fondest wishes of any man who likes to smoke because it has the *right flavor* and aroma and coolness. It's the most cheerful tobacco you ever did pack in a jimmy pipe or roll into a cigarette. And it's so good you just feel you never can get enough. The patented process fixes that—and cuts out bite and perch!

When you fire up your first smoke you'll decide that you never did taste tobacco that hits your fancy like

PRINCE ALBERT

the national joy smoke

For it exceeds in goodness and satisfaction the kindest word we ever printed about it!

Men, we tell you this tobacco will be a revelation to you. So, take this information at 100%, get out the old jimmy pipe from its hiding place or locate the makin's papers—and fall-to!

Your wishes will be gratified at the nearest store that sells tobacco, for Prince Albert is in universal demand. It can be bought all over the states and all over the world! Topped bags, 5c; tidy red tins, 10c; handsome pound and half-pound humidors—and that fine pound crystal-glass humidior with space-moistener top that keeps the tobacco in such excellent trim.

R. J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO., Winston-Salem, N. C.

WRESTLING MATCH

**COZY THEATRE, MONDAY NIGHT,
FEBRUARY 28th AT 8:30**



HARRY SWOBODA, Of Houston

Ladies cordially invited to witness this exhibition and will be admitted free.

Swoboda

Swoboda has wrestled with champion wrestlers over the entire country, and in a recent match with Pet Brown, champion lightweight wrestler of the world, it required three hours time for Brown to win from Swoboda. He is a clean wrestler and the match with Petrov promises to be an interesting one.



A. PETROV, Of Chicago

Petrov

Petrov, Challenger of the world at 165 pounds claims to have never been thrown since he became a national mat artist and is equally matched with Swoboda in weight, strength and science.

Each of these wrestlers have lost matches to Bommar Moore, the Anson wrestler, in which they agreed to throw Moore a certain number of times in a certain length of time.

**Don't Fail to See
This Match.**

**Strangle hold the only
hold barred.**

PRICES OF ADMISSION Ringside Seats \$1, Reserved 50 Cents, Balcony 35 Cents
All Phone Orders for Seats Will be Carefully Looked After

In Hard Luck

By M. QUAD
Copyright, 1916, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

Had you asked in the village of Lorain which was the happiest family in the community nine out of ten would have answered that Deacon Thurston and his wife filled the bill.

Deacon Thurston was long, lean and smiling. His wife was fat, content and good natured.

The deacon had never been known to get mad or to do a selfish action. His wife was seldom known to borrow, but was always willing to lend.

Of a summer evening they sat on the porch—sometimes for three hours—without speaking a word to each other.

After supper of a winter's evening the deacon built a roaring fire in the sitting room, and then with a candle in one hand and a blue pitcher in the other he descended to the cellar. The barrel of cider stood in the northeast corner. He knelt before it and drew exactly a pint and a half of its contents. This was a pint for himself and half a pint for his good wife. It was never more and never less. The apple bin stood against the south wall. He went to it and selected four fine Baldwins and put them in his coat pocket and marched up the stairs. His wife was ready with a damp cloth to give the apples a wipe. Three of them were for the deacon and one for his wife.

One winter when the first snowfall came the deacon hitched up the old horse to the "pung," or homemade sled, and started for the woods. Four inches of snow had fallen, and it was a brisk morning. The old horse squealed and kicked up his heels, and the deacon heard himself saying:

"Well, if I ain't glad to be alive this morning, though they have raised my taxes \$2 more this year."

When the deacon and his outfit entered the woods there was a rabbit's trail leading in the direction he wanted to go. He therefore followed it. It led into the woods and stopped at a hollow log.

The deacon advanced to the log and with the head of his ax struck a resounding blow. He did not see whether the rabbit ran out or not. His ear caught a jingling sound, and in the excitement the presence of bunny was entirely forgotten. It was a jingle of money—not greenbacks, but solid coin.

Five minutes later he was splitting the old log wide open and his eyes were bulging out and his cheeks were pale. There was coin before him—heaps of coin. It was all silver coin.

One, two, three, four capfuls of silver treasure. He carried each capful to the sled and emptied its contents upon the horse blanket. When all the money had been gathered he tied up the blanket. When he finally mounted the sled he gave the old horse three or four sharp cuts with the whip. They were the first blows the old nag had ever received at his hands, and they started him out at a lumbering gallop.

Horse and driver appeared at home in a sweat. They did not stop at the kitchen door, though Mrs. Thurston was there to ask what had happened.

"S-s-h! You go right into the house, Judith, and I will be there in a minute."

In five minutes he followed after her and laid the bundle of coin on the kitchen table with a clink that made her exclaim:

"Oh, deacon, have you picked up a lot of horseshoes?"

"Horseshoes nothing!" he whispered as he untied the blanket and folded it back.

"Why, it's silver—it's money!"

"Of course it is, and I didn't rob anybody to get it either. I found it in a hollow log."

"Deacon, we are rich!" whispered the wife as she locked the kitchen door and pulled down the shades.

"You bet we are," replied the deacon.

"Help me count the money."

They counted it. It took them a full hour, but it was over at last, and there was \$7,500.

"Deacon," said she after a moment, "we allus wanted to go to Niagara Falls and see the water wasting itself, but you could never spare the money. We will go now, won't we?"

The deacon was silent, but there was such a look on his face as she had never seen before. It was a look of avarice and selfishness combined, and it was not good to see. She had to repeat her question before he replied.

"Judith, I want you to understand," said the deacon as he walked backward and forward, "there is to be no nonsense about this money. I may have to go to Niagara Falls on business, but you will stay at home and care for the house. I shall have to have a new suit of clothes, but you can get along with your old ones."

"But I have not had a new bonnet in fourteen years," she wailed.

"Your old one is all right."

And that treasure from the hollow log bred dissension almost within the hour it was found. Husband and wife took opposite stands, and things were getting ripe for a separation when the deacon passed one of the coins at the grocery. The grocer found it counterfeit, and the whole pile of silver was overhauled, to find that every coin was bogus. It had been hidden in the log by those who made it. When the sad truth stood revealed and the deacon had shed a few tears he stood before her and queried:

"Well, Judith, what are we going to do about it?"

"Quit being idiots," she answered. "Quit being idiots," she answered. And they then and there quit.

PASTED PARAGRAPHS

You Know 'Em

The citizen

Is he who fights

Old Europe's war.

—Cincinnati Enquirer.

The one whose gowt

We like to get

Is he who asks:

"You fell off yet?"

—Macon Telegram.

The one that really

Makes me grieve,

Is he who says:

"I got you Steve."

—Detroit Free Press.

The one to whom

We rise in wrath

Is he who prates

Of his cold bath.

—Houston Post.

The chap who'd get

Our knockout blow

Is he who says:

"I told you so."

—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

There should be

A monument erected

To the man who says:

"Just as I expected."

Rides Blue Jay.

"Montana Earl," heretofore mentioned in these columns as a crack-a-jack bronco-buster did himself proud last Saturday at Anson when he really rode "Blue Jay."

Merkel, visitors who saw the contest pronounced it well worth the trip and gave "Mister Montana" credit for doing some most excellent riding. The rider was somewhat handicapped with a broken finger, received last week from being thrown from a pitching horse and with this against him he was allowed both hands for pulling at saddle strings.

Donations to Fireboys.

Following the fire that destroyed a portion of the servant house across the alley from the Comegy home on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. G. E. Comegy handed Chief Ferrer a check for \$10.00 payable to the department for the good work they did in stopping the flames from spreading. The donations were increased \$2.50 by J. S. Thomas who lives adjoining Mr. Comegy's, making a total of \$12.50 given the boys for their fast and efficient work of the evening.

Ladies Free Rest Room

Ladies don't fail to take advantage of the Rest Room when in Merkel. It is free to you to use at any time you are in Merkel. Side entrance to Behrens-McMillen Furniture Co.

NORWOOD GRANTED BOND

Wiley Norwood, charged with the killing of L. H. Becker near Truby Thursday afternoon of last week has been granted bond in the amount of \$7,500.00. His bond was promptly signed. Family troubles are alleged to have been the cause of the unfortunate affair.

Queer Legal Oaths.

In Siberia, in the wild Ostayaks law courts, the natives swear by the newly severed head of a bear, which is impaled subsequently to rend and devour them should they perjure themselves, while in Assam the opposing witnesses lay hold of a chicken by its feet and retain each one-half as the clerk of the court chops it in two. By undergoing this ceremony they are considered to be pledged to a like fate in the event of their swearing falsely. —Chicago Journal.

For Sale at \$20 Per Acre.

160 acres situated in the famous Dead Man Valley about 15 miles northeast of Abilene. 100 acres in cultivation, balance good grass, has well and four room house. This farm is clear of debt. Can use house and lot in Merkel in the deal and give long time on balance.

1813 J. T. Warren, Owner.

ENTRIES AT THE FAT STOCK SHOW

Fort Worth, Texas, Feb. 21.—Entries are beginning to pour in for the different classes of the National Feeders and Breeders Show March 13, and the management is confident that a much larger number of exhibits than ever before will be on hand by opening day.

Mohon Bros., the big breeders of Prosper, sent in an entry of sixteen pens of five. This firm has exhibited at the stock show for a number of years and always has won prizes in the hog division.

Henry M. Half of Midland will make a more extensive exhibit of his fine registered Herefords than for a number of years. He has forwarded the entries of ten head already and may send more. Half is one of the veteran Hereford raisers of the Midland country.

A varied swine exhibit will be furnished by Lee Ownsby of Celina, who sent in his entries Thursday morning. He will have Essex, Berkshire and Duroc-Jersey hogs on hand for the show.

T. T. East of Hebronville, one of the regular shippers to this market will have two carloads of fine heifers here for the show, according to the entries that arrived Thursday. John Sears, the big stockman of Merkel, will make extensive entries in the Hereford classes.

C. M. Largent of Merkel, veteran exhibitor of Hereford cattle at the National Feeders and Breeders' Show and other leading stock expositions throughout the country, filed entries of 29 head of his fine cattle for the coming spring show, March 13-18, Monday morning. Largent has been the leading prize winner in his classes for several past shows and in his letter to the stock management, claims that his herd this year will be better than ever before.

For the first time, Largent will show in the native division. During the past year, Taylor county, where his ranch is situated, practically has been freed of ticks. A number of other exhibitors who have been showing in the quarantine division in the past will be placed in the native division this spring. From all indications the Hereford showing this spring will be better than ever in history.

Keener competition in the Aberdeen-Angus classes is anticipated for the coming show. Sam H. Hill & Son of Christoval, leading exhibitors of this class of cattle at past shows, will be on hand with an improved herd and splendid exhibits will be on hand from the Panhandle, Oklahoma and Kansas.

A herd of buffalo, a troupe of trained ostriches, a sextet of educated mules—these are a few of the unique attractions that will be witnessed in connection with the Big Round-Up, the night entertainment of the National Feeders and Breeders' Show, March 13-18, according to the announcement of Joe C. Miller of Bliss, Okla., who with his brother, Jack, will have charge of this feature of the spring stock show.

Chickens and Eggs Wanted

A. L. Jobe will buy all your chickens and eggs at the highest possible prices. See him in his new store, first door east of the Merkel Garage.

Things Now in Season.

Candied seeds.
Garden seed.
Florist's catalogues.
Your lady's new bonnett.
An inclination to go out and dig an earth worm.

Your spring energy is taxed to its limit by this time and you feel like taking an afternoon snooze.

Dies of Tuberculosis

Claud Bradford died of tuberculosis at the home of his father, L. J. Bradford, in the south east part of Merkel, Saturday night. Mr. Bradford had been confined to his bed for the past five and a half months. He was 26 years of age at the time of his death, was a member of the Baptist church and a devoted Christian.

Mr. Bradford came here with his father and brothers several months ago for his health. Services were held in the Baptist church at 4 p. m., Rev. I. B. Owens officiating. The remains were laid to rest in the Rose Hill cemetery immediately afterwards. The Mail extends condolence to the bereaved family.

How Mr. Davis Got Rid of a Bad Cough

"Some time ago I had a very bad cough," writes Lewis T. Davis, Esq., Water Del. "My brother McCabrey gave me a small bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. After using this I bought half dozen bottles, but only used one of them as the rest left me and I have not been troubled since." For sale by all dealers.

Unexpected Visitors

Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Welch and family of Dublin came in Saturday afternoon to visit their daughter, Mrs. Ben T. Merritt. The family motored over in their Studebaker car, which was a surprise to Mrs. Merritt, as she knew nothing of their unexpected visit to this place until she answered an alarm at the door and there she was greeted by her parents, to whom we welcome as visitors to our community at any time.

Do You Find Fault With Everybody?

An irritable, fault-finding disposition is often due to a disordered stomach. A man with good digestion is nearly always good natured. A great many have been permanently benefited by Chamberlain's Tablets after years of suffering. These tablets strengthen the stomach and enable it to perform its functions naturally. For sale by all dealers.

Purchases New Oakland Car

Dr. O. F. McMasters is the owner of a new Oakland 5-passenger touring car which he purchased last week. The car is one of the latest Oakland models.

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.

Here From Mesquite

R. L. Coats of Mesquite, deputy sheriff of Dallas county was in Merkel Saturday shaking hands with some old acquaintances and visiting his brothers Sid and E. D. Coats.

Whenever You Need a General Tonic Take Grove's

The Old Standard Grove's Tasteless 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.

A Distinctive Reason

What is the chief reason for the superiority of Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder?

There are several good reasons, but there is one which distinguishes Dr. Price's from other baking powders.

This reason, which every woman should know, is that Dr. Price's Baking Powder is made from cream of tartar, which comes from grapes. This means a healthful fruit origin. It means natural food as distinguished from mineral substitutes used in other baking powders.

There is no alum nor phosphate in

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER

MADE FROM CREAM OF TARTAR
DERIVED FROM GRAPES



MISS EVELYN WILLIAMS, EDITOR

Society Omitted

One or two society items have been omitted from this week's issue, due to complications in the Mail office.

Underwood-Freeman

At the family residence on Edwards street Sunday evening, February 20th, at seven o'clock, Rev. W. P. Garvin read the marriage ceremony which made Miss Lizzie May Freeman the bride of Mr. S. A. Underwood.

The ceremony was witnessed only by the bride's immediate family and Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Pate and family, Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Sibley. Again a stranger has come and claimed for his own one of Merkel's most lovable young ladies. Miss Lizzie May has been prominently identified with Merkel in many ways. For several years she has been a leading milliner in our town. She is also very popular with a wide circle of friends and an active member of her church.

Mr. Underwood is indeed to be congratulated on winning a wife so well fitted to become mistress of his home since she has for several years administered so faithfully to the home happiness of her father, brother and sister.

The groom is a stranger to most of the bride's Merkel friends but in his visits here those few who have met him agree in admiration of his many characteristics.

Mr. and Mrs. Underwood left Monday on the early morning train for their ranch near Eldorado, Texas.

A wealth of good wishes follow them for happiness through the coming years.

The Twentieth Century Club

The Twentieth Century Club met with Mrs. Ben T. Merritt on February 17th. It was a most perfect afternoon in many ways, ideal weather, good attendance and an enjoyable program. In business session the resignation of Mrs. A. J. Leighty was read and accepted, also a letter from District Secretary urging resignation was read, but no action was taken.

Miss Pauline Johnson was elected Library Manager and Miss Williams, president. The president was given power to appoint a committee for the drafting of new constitution and by-laws but these were not named. The program for the afternoon was "My Conscience," read by Mrs. Parten and a continuation of the reading from "Travels With a Donkey." Eleven members were present. Mrs. J. E. Young of Lampasas and Mrs. Wesley Edwards were guests. A delicious course with chocolate was served. The club will hold its next meeting with Mrs. Luther Woodroof.

Townley-Stanley

News has reached Merkel of the marriage of Mr. W. E. Townley and Miss Lou Ona Stanley. This wedding occurred in Sweetwater Friday, February 18th. Miss Stanley is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Stanley of Nubia. She has been for several seasons engaged in the millinery business in Merkel and has many friends here who will be interested in her marriage and wish her much happiness with the man of her choice. As Mr. Townley is on the road a greater part of the time these two have not decided just where they will make their home.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Warren and sister, Miss Emma Mae Mashburn, were most pleasantly at home to a few friends with a musical evening on Tuesday of this week. Musical numbers were given during the evening by Misses Blanche Kemon and Evelyn Williams and Mr. J. F. Harrison of Cleburne. Refreshments of candy and fruits were served. Those enjoying this evening's pleasure were Messrs. and Mesdames G. H. McDonald, H. N. Mashburn M. L. Estes, W. F. Golliday, Ira Shaffer. Misses Blanche Kemon, Eva and Lizzie Calvert, Pauline Johnson, Bernadine Freeman, Jewel Pate, Evelyn Williams, Josie Smith and Mrs. P. R. Owens. Messrs. Elie Pate, Guy Bradley, C. S. Henderson, J. C. Mason, Forest Y. Gaither and J. F. Harrison.

The box supper given last Friday evening by the Junior High School Class was quite a pleasant affair to those present and a financial success as well. The money realized will be added to the piano fund which is growing constantly and rapidly. It is to be hoped that before long the new auditorium will have as one of its furnishings a splendid new piano.

Linoleum Logic No. 2



No more red hands from scrubbing floors. Run a mop over linoleum.

Armstrong's Linoleum

Isn't expensive—it lasts longer—and always looks "new". It is made of tested materials and every inch is inspected before it leaves the factory. The new patterns are distinctly "different"—suitable for any room in the house. See the samples soon. Lighten the labor of housework.

You are always welcome in our Rest Room

Behrens-McMillen Company

J. A. Page, of Tye, Route 1, was in Merkel the first of the week.

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

NOODLE

Health of the community is fairly good with the exception of a few cases of the mumps.

Little Neta Merle Green was placed in the Alexander Sanitarium last Thursday afternoon for an operation of appendicitis. We are glad to report her doing nicely.

The Noodle community and a number of visitors was highly entertained Friday night by the interesting program which was rendered by the Literary Society.

Miss Juanita Thompson spent Saturday and Sunday with home folks at Anson.

Eld. Bankhead of Merkel filled his regular appointment at the Christain Church Sunday.

Mrs. O. L. Jackson of Abilene spent a few days the past week with her husband who is teaching school at this place.

Rev. Gaddis of Trent preached at the Methodist church Sunday.

Mrs. W. J. Bicknell spent Sunday in Abilene with Mrs. R. W. Green who is at the Sanitarium with her daughter, Neta Merle.

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Church were guests at the latter's parents Sunday.

Mrs. C. S. Herring spent Saturday and Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rosson of Trent.

Luther Richards who is attending school in Abilene spent the weekend with homefolks here.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas Walker of Kale attended services at the Christain Church Sunday.

Mesdames Polly and Horn were guests in Abilene Monday.

Mrs. M. Boldon of Neinda was the guest of her sister Mrs. E. E. Wheeler Sunday and Monday.

Miss Gustie Cook spent the week end with relatives at Stith.

Mr. O. L. Jackson, the principal, entertained his pupils and a number of friends with a colonial party at the Woodmen hall Saturday night. Red, white and blue crepe were used in the decorations. Each person was dressed so as to represent George and Martha Washington. Prizes were won by Miss Stella Goode, Leldon Goode and Luther Richards. After quite awhile of merriment fruit cake and hot chocolate were served to twenty-four couples.

NUBIA

The health of the community, generally speaking, meets all expectations.

Clark Perkins sustained a broken arm last Tuesday week while trying to manage a mule which kicked him. He is recovering rapidly.

Talmage Maroney was thrown from a supposedly gentle mare last Sunday and received severe injuries about the face and arms.

The entertainment at Mr. and Mrs. Crows Saturday night was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

E. H. Cordill is having a new house built. It is a bungalow with six rooms and a hall. The cost will approximate one thousand dollars. Cordill says: "Mr. Jno. Walker is building it".

There was a singing at Nubia Sunday afternoon.

Most of the farmers' here are nearly through with breaking land. A little precipitation at this juncture would not prove discomfiting, for its need grows more intensive every day.

The Sunday School at Nubia was very well attended Sunday morning.

La grippe and colds which were so much in evidence a month or so ago have almost disappeared. Favorable weather has routed them and spring-like days covered the retreat.

One of the best and largest attended singings had in the vicinity in a long time was given at Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Toombs Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Morrow of near Trent visited Mr. and Mrs.

You Need a Tonic

There are times in every woman's life when she needs a tonic to help her over the hard places. When that time comes to you, you know what tonic to take—Cardui, the woman's tonic. Cardui is composed of purely vegetable ingredients, which act gently, yet surely, on the weakened womanly organs, and helps build them back to strength and health. It has benefited thousands and thousands of weak, ailing women in its past half century of wonderful success, and it will do the same for you.

You can't make a mistake in taking
GARDUI
The Woman's Tonic

Miss Amelia Wilson, R. F. D. No. 4, Alma, Ark., says: "I think Cardui is the greatest medicine on earth, for women. Before I began to take Cardui, I was so weak and nervous, and had such awful dizzy spells and a poor appetite. Now I feel as well and as strong as I ever did, and can eat most anything." Begin taking Cardui today. Sold by all dealers.

Has Helped Thousands.

See me before selling
your cotton & grain.
W. D. WOODROOF

J. T. Lewis Sunday.

Messrs. Bailey Whisenhunt and Watt Blair made a trip to San Angelo in Mr. Whisenhunt's Dort a few days ago.

The writer wishes to state that he coincides with the editor's suggestion that street carnivals should be forbidden the right to demonstrate in Merkel. They carry away with them thousands of dollars of the people's money, which, were the fakkers forbidden to exact, would remain with us or go to fill the local merchants coffers. But the worst phase of it is this: they impart nothing of worth or merit in consideration of the tribute they exact. This is not as it should be. The writer almost has a notion of writing an article on this subject.



FOR SALE, three mules—one pair of match mules, weight 2300 pounds, and one single mule. See E. Barnes route 5.

FOR SALE—A good jack, second hand plow tools, work horses and mules. Dr. M. Armstrong, 18t2

Newspaper Spats

The Sweetwater Record has been taking some hot shots at the Abilene Reporter lately and the pen pushers Geo. W. Lynn of the Record and Frank Grimes of the Reporter have just finished a no decision bout. Grimes says he was right and Lynn refutes the testimony. Evidence has brought the case down to whether capital punishment is right or wrong. Judgment rendered in favor of the Abilene contemporary and both writers are rewarded to their usual tasks. The guardian of the West Texas press will please call the next case.

E A T

At The Mozart
Cafe in Abilene

CITY ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE entitled an ordinance prohibiting the throwing, placing or depositing of hand-bills, wrapping paper or paper of any kind upon the public streets or other public places within the corporate limits of the city of Merkel, and providing a penalty.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Merkel:

Section 1. That it shall be unlawful for any person within the corporate limits of the city of Merkel to throw, place or deposit any hand-bill, wrapping paper, waste-paper, or paper of any kind, in or upon any of the public streets of the city of Merkel or upon or in the depot, depot grounds or right-of-way of the Texas & Pacific Railway, or the public premises of any person or corporation within the corporate limits of the City of Merkel, and any person violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding one hundred dollars.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Passed this 7th day of February, 1916.
J. J. STALLINGS,
Mayor.

Approved and ordered published the 7th day of February, 1916.
J. J. STALLINGS,
Mayor City of Merkel.

Attest:
G. W. JOHNSON,
City Secretary.

BEER'S LAXATIVE GOUGH SYRUP
RELIEVES COUGHS AND COLDS

PROFESSIONAL

O. F. McMMASTER
DENTIST

Office Phone 154
Over Woodroofs Store

M. ARMSTRONG, M. D.

Practicing Physician
Office at Grimes Drug Store,
Merkel, Texas
Telephones: Res. 1-2; Office 1-0-5

DOCTOR MILLER

Physician and Surgeon
Over Woodroofs Store

W. W. WHEELER

Real Estate, Fire, Accident and Tornado
Insurance Agent
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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 Woodroofs & Company
Merkel - Texas

SHAVING AND BATH PARLORS

The most Up-to-Date
SHOP IN MERKEL

CITY BARBER SHOP

WEST & PATE : : Proprietors

W. U. W.

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

T. F. Compton, C. C.
S. Hamilton, Clerk



TURN OVER A NEW LEAF

MONEY SAVED is MONEY
MADE.

Be careful in your buying,
also in the selection of your
place to trade.

There's a difference in
YOUR FAVOR and in OUR
FAVOR if you trade with
us.

E. L. ROGERS

GROCERY



MAN WHO PRETENDED TO BE OUR FRIEND

Hold us a trade secret how to reduce the cost of manufacture. It meant an additional profit to us, but we spurned the suggestion. Why? Because we resolved always to give the public only pure candy, up to the highest possible standard. That is the kind we sell you.

BEER'S LAXATIVE GOUGH SYRUP

RELIEVES COUGHS AND COLDS

The Elite Confectionery

A Distinctive Reason

What is the chief reason for the superiority of Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder?

There are several good reasons, but there is one which distinguishes Dr. Price's from other baking powders.

This reason, which every woman should know, is that Dr. Price's Baking Powder is made from cream of tartar, which comes from grapes. This means a healthful fruit origin. It means natural food as distinguished from mineral substitutes used in other baking powders.

There is no alum nor phosphate in

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER

MADE FROM CREAM OF TARTAR
DERIVED FROM GRAPES



MISS EVELYN WILLIAMS, EDITOR

Society Omitted

One or two society items have been omitted from this week's issue, due to complications in the Mail office.

Underwood-Freeman

At the family residence on Edwards street Sunday evening, February 20th, at seven o'clock, Rev. W. P. Garvin read the marriage ceremony which made Miss Lizzie May Freeman the bride of Mr. S. A. Underwood.

The ceremony was witnessed only by the bride's immediate family and Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Pate and family, Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Sibley. Again a stranger has come and claimed for his own one of Merkel's most lovable young ladies. Miss Lizzie May has been prominently identified with Merkel in many ways. For several years she has been a leading milliner in our town. She is also very popular with a wide circle of friends and an active member of her church.

Mr. Underwood is indeed to be congratulated on winning a wife so well fitted to become mistress of his home since she has for several years administered so faithfully to the home happiness of her father, brother and sister.

The groom is a stranger to most of the bride's Merkel friends but in his visits here those few who have met him agree in admiration of his many characteristics.

Mr. and Mrs. Underwood left Monday on the early morning train for their ranch near Eldorado, Texas.

A wealth of good wishes follow them for happiness through the coming years.

The Twentieth Century Club

The Twentieth Century Club met with Mrs. Ben T. Merritt on February 17th. It was a most perfect afternoon in many ways, ideal weather, good attendance and an enjoyable program. In business session the resignation of Mrs. A. J. Leighty was read and accepted, also a letter from the District Secretary urging Federation was read, but no action taken. Miss Pauline Johnson was appointed Library Manager succeeding Miss Williams. The president was given power to appoint a committee for the drafting of new constitution and by-laws but these were not named. The program for the afternoon was "My Conscience," read by Mrs. Parten and a continuation of the reading from "Travels With a Donkey." Eleven members were present. Mrs. J. E. Young of Lampasas and Mrs. Wesley Edwards were guests. A delicious course with chocolate was served. The club will hold its next meeting with Mrs. Luther Woodroof.

Townley-Stanley

News has reached Merkel of the marriage of Mr. W. E. Townley and Miss Lou Ona Stanley. This wedding occurred in Sweetwater Friday, February 18th. Miss Stanley is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Stanley of Nubia. She has been for several seasons engaged in the millinery business in Merkel and has many friends here who will be interested in her marriage and wish her much happiness with the man of her choice. As Mr. Townley is on the road a greater part of the time these two have not decided just where they will make their home.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Warren and sister, Miss Emma Mae Mashburn, were most pleasantly at home to a few friends with a musical evening on Tuesday of this week. Musical numbers were given during the evening by Misses Blanche Kemon and Evelyn Williams and Mr. J. F. Harrison of Cleburne. Refreshments of candy and fruits were served. Those enjoying this evening's pleasure were Messrs. and Mesdames G. H. McDonald, H. N. Mashburn M. L. Estes, W. F. Golliday, Ira Shaffer. Misses Blanche Kemon, Eva and Lizzie Calvert, Pauline Johnson, Bernadine Freeman, Jewel Pate, Evelyn Williams, Josie Smith and Mrs. P. R. Owens. Messrs. Elie Pate, Guy Bradley, C. S. Henderson, J. C. Mason, Forest Y. Gaither and J. F. Harrison.

The box supper given last Friday evening by the Junior High School Class was quite a pleasant affair to those present and a financial success as well. The money realized will be added to the piano fund which is growing constantly and rapidly. It is to be hoped that before long the new auditorium will have as one of its furnishings a splendid new piano.

Linoleum Logic

No. 2



No More Red Hands

No more red hands from scrubbing floors. Run a mop over linoleum.

Armstrong's Linoleum

isn't expensive—it lasts longer—and always looks "new".

It is made of tested materials and every inch is inspected before it leaves the factory.

The new patterns are distinctly "different"—suitable for any room in the house.

See the samples soon. Lighten the labor of housework.

You are always welcome in our Rest Room

Behrens-McMillen Company

J. A. Page, of Tye, Route 1, was in Merkel the first of the week.

Cures 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. Box, \$1.00.

NOODLE

Health of the community is fairly good with the exception of a few cases of the mumps.

Little Neta Merle Green was placed in the Alexander Sanitarium last Thursday afternoon for an operation of appendicitis. We are glad to report her doing nicely.

The Noodle community and a number of visitors were highly entertained Friday night by the interesting program which was rendered by the Literary Society.

Miss Juanita Thompson spent Saturday and Sunday with home folks at Anson.

Eld. Bankhead of Merkel filled his regular appointment at the Christian Church Sunday.

Mrs. O. L. Jackson of Abilene spent a few days the past week with her husband who is teaching school at this place.

Rev. Gaddis of Trent preached at the Methodist church Sunday.

Mrs. W. J. Bicknell spent Sunday in Abilene with Mrs. R. W. Green who is at the Sanitarium with her daughter, Neta Merle.

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Church were guests at the latter's parents Sunday.

Mrs. C. S. Herring spent Saturday and Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rosson of Trent.

Luther Richards who is attending school in Abilene spent the weekend with homefolks here.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas Walker of Kale attended services at the Christian Church Sunday.

Mesdames Polly and Horn were guests in Abilene Monday.

Mrs. M. Boldon of Neinda was the guest of her sister Mrs. E. E. Wheeler Sunday and Monday.

Miss Gustie Cook spent the week end with relatives at Stith.

Mr. O. L. Jackson, the principal, entertained his pupils and a number of friends with a colonial party at the Woodmen hall Saturday night. Red, white and blue crepe were used in the decorations. Each person was dressed so as to represent George and Martha Washington. Prizes were won by Miss Stella Goode, Leldon Goode and Luther Richards. After quite awhile of merriment, fruit cake and hot chocolate were served to twenty-four couples.

NUBIA

The health of the community, generally speaking, meets all expectations.

Clark Perkins sustained a broken arm last Tuesday week while trying to manage a mule which kicked him. He is recovering rapidly.

Talmage Maroney was thrown from a supposedly gentle mare last Sunday and received severe injuries about the face and arms.

The entertainment at Mr. and Mrs. Crows Saturday night was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

E. H. Cordill is having a new house built. It is a bungalow with six rooms and a hall. The cost will approximate one thousand dollars. Cordill says: "Mr. Jno. Walker is building it".

There was a singing at Nubia Sunday afternoon.

Most of the farmers here are nearly through with breaking land. A little precipitation at this juncture would not prove discomfiting, for its need grows more intensive every day.

The Sunday School at Nubia was very well attended Sunday morning.

La grippe and colds which were so much in evidence a month or so ago have almost disappeared. Favorable weather has routed them and spring-like days covered the retreat.

One of the best and largest attended singings had in the vicinity in a long time was given at Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Toombs Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Morrow of near Trent visited Mr. and Mrs.

You Need a Tonic

There are times in every woman's life when she needs a tonic to help her over the hard places. When that time comes to you, you know what tonic to take—Cardui, the woman's tonic. Cardui is composed of purely vegetable ingredients, which act gently, yet surely, on the weakened womanly organs, and helps build them back to strength and health. It has benefited thousands and thousands of weak, ailing women in its past half century of wonderful success, and it will do the same for you.

You can't make a mistake in taking

GARDUI

The Woman's Tonic

Miss Amelia Wilson, R. F. D. No. 4, Alma, Ark., says: "I think Cardui is the greatest medicine on earth, for women. Before I began to take Cardui, I was so weak and nervous, and had such awful dizzy spells and a poor appetite. Now I feel as well and as strong as I ever did, and can eat most anything." Begin taking Cardui today. Sold by all dealers.

Has Helped Thousands.

See me before selling
your cotton & grain.

W. D. WOODROOF

E A T

At The Mozart
Cafe in Abilene

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Mayor City of Merkel.

G. W. JOHNSON,
City Secretary.

Attest:

BEE'S LAXATIVE COUGH SYRUP
RELIEVES COUGHS AND COLDS

PROFESSIONAL

O. F. McMASTE
DENTIST

Office Phone 154
Over Woodroofs Store

M. ARMSTRONG, M. D.

Practicing Physician
Office at Grimes Drug Store
Merkel, Texas

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Real Estate, Fire, Life and Accident

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Respectfully Solicits Your Business

Notary Public in Office

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Merkel - Texas

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The most Up-to-Date
SHOP IN MERKEL

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WEST & PATE : : Proprietors

W. U. W.

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T. F. Compton, C. C.
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MADE.

Be careful in your buying,
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There's a difference in
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FAVOR if you trade with
us.

E. L. ROGERS

GROCERY



MAN WHO PRETENDED TO BE OUR FRIEND

Did you a trade secret how to reduce the cost of manufacture. It meant an additional profit to us, but we spurned the suggestion. Why? Because we resolved always to give the public only pure candy, up to the highest possible standard. That is the kind we sell you.

The Elite Confectionery

The Only Fool

By M. QUAD

Copyright, 1914, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate

Sarah Martin married Jim Hewson because she was a hired girl and worked for \$2 a week; because, again, she was tired of work and wanted a home. Jim Hewson married Sarah Martin because he also wanted a home and because he knew that she earned \$8 a month. That would pay the rent on a cottage in a village in those far back days.

Jim was lazy. He was born that way and couldn't help it. He hadn't energy enough to sweat a shirt collar, and therefore when he worked he got paid according to his energy, which seldom exceeded 15 cents a day.

The bridal tour of the newly weds consisted of walking a mile arm in arm, each with a basket on the free arm, to a huckleberry swamp a mile away. There they picked twelve quarts of berries—that is, Sarah picked ten quarts and Jim two. Then they walked back to town and sold the berries to a grocer for 60 cents in cash.

"You see," said Jim as he jingled the money in his hand, "we can get along as easy as grease. This money would buy us provisions for a week."

The bride half laughed at the remark, but soon felt serious and hadn't much more to say. Two weeks later, however, she had. Jim had gone to her in the kitchen in which she had worked and was feeling glad that he was a married man when she said: "Jim, I have been thinking things."

"What?" was the query. "I have come to the conclusion that you are either a lunatic or an idiot who has married you. You are all wrong, you are lazy and shiftless. You haven't got the energy of a potato bug. You want me to work and support you instead of it being the other way. If you were the best husband in the state I wouldn't do it."

"Well, what are we going to do?" asked the husband after a lapse of a minute.

"I can't get a divorce from you, Jim, for I haven't got the money to put one through. If we agreed on a separation it would do me no good, for I'd still be bound to you. If I was free altogether I might stand a chance of getting a husband who would provide a home and comforts for me."

"You mean if I should die you'd have your chance?"

The wife didn't reply. She only looked at him.

Jim rose up and left the house without a good night and went to his bed of hay in the stable, and for an hour he did more thinking than he had done in a year before.

In about a week he tried suicide. He went over on the railroad track in mid-afternoon, and when the 3 o'clock express came along he was standing between the rails and facing it. The whistle screamed and tooted, but Jim stood there as if spiked to a tie. The engineer tried to stop the train, but the pace was thirty miles an hour when the cowcatcher did its work. Five minutes later a man who had witnessed the accident from forty rods away came running up just as the victim was climbing the fence of a cornfield into which he had been hurled. He had a slight limp in the left leg, but that was nothing for Jim to kick about.

Sarah had heard of this attempt and started out to look for Jim, but she didn't have the luck to find him. He was missing from his usual haunts for three or four days, and then he turned up on a bluff overlooking the mill pond half a mile from the bridge. He was going to try the water cure this time. The bluffs were thirty feet above the water, and Jim couldn't swim a stroke. Instead of striking the water, however, he struck a strip of mud.

"You blamed idiot! What did you jump for? I saw you when you made the leap!" said a passerby.

"I wanted to die," replied Jim.

Sarah got every loose boy in town to hunt for Jim, but they hunted in vain. He had one more attempt coming to him, and if found at all he wanted to be found dead. He went two miles away from town and hired a farmer to sprinkle Paris green over the potato vines of his patch. The farmer left him alone for an hour, and Jim mixed a big dose of the powder and drank it down. It was an overdose, however, and it was thrown off, and his life was saved again.

It was when poor Jim was tottering down the road toward the village that a man in an auto overtook him and halted to say:

"If you aren't drunk, then you are sick. Get in here. Now, what's the matter?"

Jim told him all, and, curiously enough, the autoist proved to be an uncle of his whom he had not heard of since his boyhood days. When the uncle had heard the story to its end he said:

"Jim, you had a fool for a father. You have got three fool brothers and fool sisters and about five or six fool uncles, and aunts and the Lord only knows how many fool cousins, but you are the first fool in all the family that ever owned up to being a fool. You shall be rewarded in consequence. I will buy you a house and lot in the village, give you \$5,000 to set you and Sarah on your feet and bet that you'll come out very near the top. A man who is a fool and knows it is a better man than one who thinks he is wise and doesn't know it."

And Jim and Sarah made up and have lived happily ever since.

WOODROOF'S SPRING SHOWING

Men's Wearing Apparel That's New

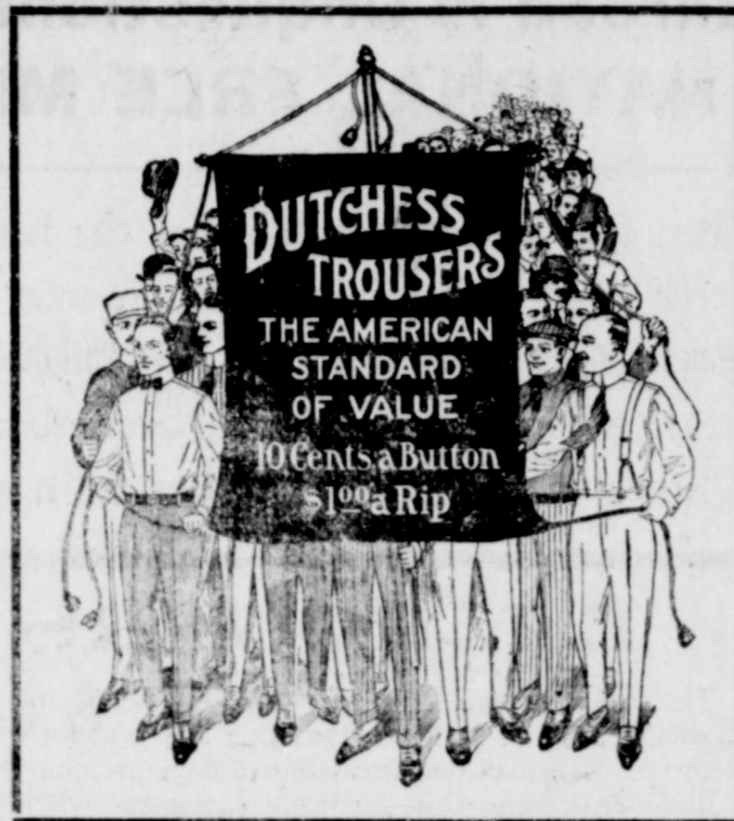
The Newest Guaranteed Trousers for men

GUARANTEED

\$1.00 a Rip
10c a Button

They sell at \$2.50 to \$5.00 and are absolutely the best trousers for men. They are guaranteed and are the most serviceable pants that men can buy.

Come and see them



Women's Necessities In Wearables

New House Dresses for Women and children in washable Materials, all new and just in stock

New Gold and Silver Laces, exquisite border trimmings to match, in spring's very latest designs and patterns.

MEN'S HART-SCHAFFNER & MARX TROUSERS \$5.00

New Spring Suits

Get a Hart-Schaffner & Marx



The best line of men's clothing on any market today. See them first.

READY-TO-WEAR

or

Made-to-Your-Measure

If we cannot give you a perfect fit from our large stock of Hart-Schaffner & Marx and Julian Ray clothes, our made-to-measure department of Hart-Schaffner & Marx is second to none in made-to-measure clothes. Let us measure you for your spring suit.

Julian Ray clothes \$13 to \$30.00

Hart-Schaffner & Marx line \$18.75 to \$45.00

Our New Millinery

Advance Showing

Ladies Street Hats in the new kid and fall leather trimmings

EXTREMELY NOBBY

and a

Practical Hat

See them in our parlors

Children's Spring Hats

A complete line for any want and at moderate prices.

Ladies' Pattern Hats

and Trimmed Hats will be on display in a complete array within the next few days. Visit our Parlors

MISS RUBY SMITH IN CHARGE



New Gossard Corsets for spring. Complete stock received this week.

SHOES AND HOSIERY FOR MEN, WOMEN AND THE CHILDREN

Spring Shoes

For Women and Misses

8½ inch top boots, colors, white, bronzed, grey and blue, with gray tops; prices \$5, \$5.50 and \$6.00

Spring Pumps, newest patterns \$2.50 to \$4.00

Window Shades

50c kind for 35c; 75c kind for 60c; 85c kind 75c



The socks which satisfy!

If you are hard on socks, you want the kind that is hard to wear out. Ask us to show you "Iron Clads" with beautiful "silk finish" and soft, seamless fit, — guaranteed to give you satisfaction.

Iron Clad Hosiery

For Men, Women and Children

The best hosiery made. Call for the Iron-Clad brand when ordering hosiery. Take none that are reputed to be Just as Good

NEW FANCY SILK HOSE FOR WOMEN

in fancy stripes and designs. Very latest in spring patterns

Men's Fancy Shirts

Exclusive patterns in very fancy designs \$1 to \$1.50 \$2.50 and \$3.50

New Hats for Men

Novelty and staple "Lids" in white and grey. Get a new headgear from the Woodroof Line

TRAVEL FREE ON LAND OR ON SEA BY BOAT OR BY TRAIN

The Dignity of the Railroad is Unquestioned---The Dignity of the Merchants
Who issue NATIONAL FREE MILEAGE is Unquestioned

Behrens - McMillen FURNITURE CO.

We issue National Free Mileage Certificates with all Cash Purchases

FURNITURE

We invite your inspection of our complete line of Furniture, Art Squares, Linoleums, etc.

Our Prices Sell Our Goods

When you buy merchandise of the firms named below you will receive with each purchase, no matter how small, a National Free Mileage Coupon, redeemable by the National Free Mileage Co., for transportation on any Railroad, Steamboat, Street Car, Interurban or Jitney in the United States, or if you prefer it, IN CASH

E. L. ROGERS, GROCER

The man who delivers the goods in the way of intelligent service to his customers, keeping before him all the time the watchword—QUALITY—will continue to thrive. The man who is capable of doing nothing except keep a Grocery Store, will discover in a short time that his customers will be perfectly willing to have him keep his groceries. Therefore—SERVICE—QUALITY—THE PRICE

PARTEN DRY GOODS CO.

Dry Goods, Shoes, Millinery and Gents Furnishings

Issue National Free Mileage with Every Cash Sale

T. L. GRIMES

In Business for Your Health

Our Efficiency
Your Protection

Trust us with your recipes and Family Prescriptions.

We carry a complete line of best Toilet Articles and Drugs

COZY THEATRE ART STUDIO

SEE THE BEST

and get a

Certificate with each

Admission



The Expert Cook has to have the right kind of heat or her best efforts go wrong. There'll be no trouble with the fire if our coal is used. Burns up quickly and retains an even heat right along. And listen. You won't have to fill up the range so often with our coal. Better order some and prove it. **WARREN BROTHERS**

IDEAL TAILOR SHOP

WE MAKE THEM NEW

Clothes make a man when

CHURCH BROS.

Make the Clothes

The same artists do your Cleaning, Pressing and Laundry work

SET THE STATE AT MILKING COWS

One man with five ordinary cows can make more money on ten acres of land than can a farmer who raises ten bales of cotton per hear and nothing else. In one case, the land grows richer all the time, while in the other the fertility of the land is being sold off and the production per acre grows smaller each year. Which are you doing Mr. Farmer? Are you going to sell your land away in small lots, or are you going to keep cows and lay up riches for yourself in the soil?

The South is now buying from the North something like seventy five million pounds of butter per year and paying cash for it. Think of it! Over twenty million dollars of your money going to the North and West and all for a product that you could just as well produce for yourself. Can it be that our enterprising farmers and Southern business men are overlooking such an opportunity? No; they are awakening to these facts and are beginning to keep cows.

During the last ten years, the farmers of North and South Carolina as well as Tennessee and Mississippi, have fallen in line and are now, through the medium of creameries and buying stations, producing a great deal of butter, but nothing like the amount they could and should produce. In the radius of these creameries the farmer is realizing from \$5 to \$8 per cow per month from their cream alone. Some of them have but two or three cows, but this amount coming in every month means a great deal to them, and is enabling them to pay cash for their groceries and other incidentals that would otherwise be bought on credit.

A farmer with ten or twelve cows will receive from five to six hundred dollars per year for cream, while at the same time he can raise a number of good heifer calves and some fine hogs on the skim milk, besides having the farmyard manure with which to fertilize his crops. You can make no mistake, friend farmer, by going into the dairy or livestock business, for though the work is an all year job, the money comes in all the year too. Best of all, your land will be growing richer every year. There is nothing that will increase the value of a farm faster than will farmyard manure, this being especially true in all sections where the single crop method is practiced.

Save the farmyard manure, it will make your land rich and you wealthy.

Has Used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy For 20 Years

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has been used in my household for the past twenty years. I began giving it to my children when they were small. As a quick relief for croup, whooping cough, and ordinary colds, it has no equal. Being free from opium and other harmful drugs, I never felt afraid to give it to my children. I have recommended it to a large number of friends and neighbors, who have used it and speak highly of it," writes Mrs. Mary Minke, Shortsville, New York. For sale by all dealers.

He Gave Him a Tip.

One of the best tipping stories concerns an ancestor of Lord Durham, who always wore a rough coat made from the fleece of his own sheep. When a new doorkeeper in parliament refused to admit him he sat quietly down on a doorstep to wait the arrival of some one who could vouch for him. When this happened the doorkeeper became profuse in apology and then had the impudence to "hope your honor or will give me something to remember you by again." Lambton looked him up and down and then caught him a mighty blow. "Aye, lad," said he as he passed in. "I don't think ye'll forget old Lambton again." — London Standard.

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.

NO TIME WASTED

Prompt Action is Pleasing Many
Merkel Citizens

Get down to the cause of everything. Bad backs are frequently caused by weak kidneys.

Help the kidneys to get rid of kidney backache. Doan's Kidney Pills are for the kidneys only. No time wasted trying to cure other troubles.

Merkel people endorse their merit. T. J. King, Kent St., Merkel, says: "I didn't know that my kidneys were causing my back to ache until a neighbor told me to use Doan's Kidney Pills, saying that my kidneys were the cause of complaint. My back ached nearly all the time and even when lying down it bothered me. I used Doan's Kidney Pills and the discomfort left. Two boxes cured me."

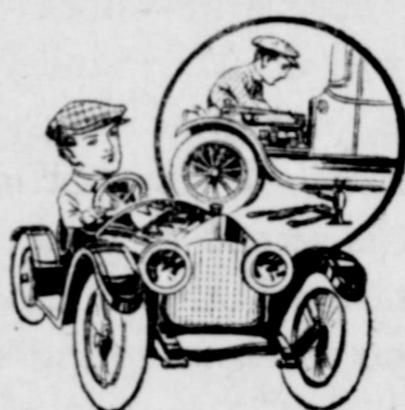
Price 50c at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. King had. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

Ballot and Suffrage.
"Ballot" and "suffrage" show the language perpetuates the memory of primitive methods. A "ballot" should be a vote taken with balls—one of the various ancient Greek instruments of secret voting. And the word "suffrage," which by some is derived from "suffrago," a knucklebone or anklebone, in that case recalls an early method of recording the vote.

Reason Enthroned
Because meats are so tasty they are consumed in great excess. This leads to stomach troubles, biliousness and constipation. Revise your diet, let reason and not a pampered appetite control, then take a few doses of Chamberlain's Tablets and you will soon be well again. Try it. For sale by all dealers.

Two Miles.
The shortest mile is the Chinese, 600 yards; Norway has the longest, 12,182 yards.

For That Terrible Itching
Eczema, tetter and salt rheum keep their victims in perpetual torment. The application of Chamberlain's Salve will instantly allay this itching, and many cases have been cured by its use. For sale by all dealers.



DOES YOUR ENGINE MISS?

Does your car balk at a hill? Do the brakes slip? Do you use too much gas? Does your oil flow away? Is your steering gear too loose? If you are experiencing trouble bring your car to us. We will repair it in a short time for a moderate cost.

MERKEL GARAGE



YOUR LAUNDRY WILL BE READY

when promised if you leave it here. And it will be perfectly laundered too. No matter how hurried the work, we permit no slipshod methods. Men who are most particular as to their linen are our best customers. We should like to add you to their number.

Sweetwater Steam Laundry
Grimes-Howard Tailors
Merkel Agents

Constipation
When constive or troubled with constipation take Chamberlain's Tablets. They are easy to take and most agreeable in effect. For sale by all dealers.

Youthful at One Hundred.
It is recorded that in Yorkshire, England, in 1501 Henry Jenkins was born. He died in 1670, cut off at the age of 169. He remembered well the battle of Flodden Field. This occurred in 1513, when he was twelve years of age. The registries of chancery and other courts show the administration of oaths to him 140 years prior to his death. He gave deposition as witness when he was 157. In his young manhood, when he was a little over 100, he was a remarkable swimmer. The remarkable thing about Henry Jenkins is the fact that he has left behind him no rules of living which would enable others to duplicate his feat.

Philippine Forests.
The virgin forests of the Philippine Islands cover an area about equal to that of the state of Kentucky.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, ss.
Lucas County,

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the city of Toledo, county and state aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure. Frank J. Cheney.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.
(Seal) A. W. Gleason
Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Sent for testimonials, free.
F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O.
Sold by all druggists, 75c.
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

The Story Humorous and Witty.
The humorous story is strictly a work of art—high and delicate art—and only an artist can tell it, averred Mark Twain. But no art is necessary in telling the comic and the witty story; anybody can do it. The art of telling a humorous story—understand, I mean by word of mouth, not printed—was created in America and has remained at home.

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

HAVE YOU WEAK LUNGS?

Do colds settle on your chest or in your bronchial tubes? Do coughs hang on, or are you subject to throat troubles? Such troubles should have immediate treatment with the strengthening powers of Scott's Emulsion to guard against consumption which so easily follows. Scott's Emulsion contains pure cod liver oil which peculiarly strengthens the respiratory tract and improves the quality of the blood; the glycerine in it soothes and heals the tender membranes of the throat. Scott's is prescribed by the best specialists. You can get it at any drug store. Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J.



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and let our shoe repairing do the talking for us. And we have found the plan works wonderfully well. Let us do your next job of shoe repairing and see what you think about our plan. The kind of repairing and the moderate charges which have pleased so many others should certainly appeal to you.

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