

A STRANGER IS IN OUR MIDST NOW

A stranger is in our midst, a subscriber to our newsy paper, and a lover of all that pertains to good literature. I am writing this early to express my appreciation not only for the paper as a news agency, but for the spirit manifested both editorially and by some of your able contributors who report the doings and misdoings of their respective communities.

For many years I have contributed articles to the press and while realizing my own insignificance, must say that in a general way the newspaper men have been very kind to me, and I will add right here that while the news should always be the main feature I have little patience with the paper that does not give some freedom to its contributors and never opens its columns to anything but that that bears the brand of stearn reality. Someone has wisely said that a little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men. Such is true and it might have been added that it is woe unto him whose troubled soul never finds time for anything but the serious problems of life.

Already an affable gentleman holding forth in the Mail office has extended to me the kind invitation to be a contributor to his paper, and while this article is no doubt premature I am asking your indulgence to say that some things contained in last weeks issue brings vividly to my mind the recollection of by gone days. The purpose of this letter warrants the asking of your forbearance when I tell you that "Once upon a time I lived in a community where the citizens organized a real sure enough Liars Club, and that it became my solemn and sworn duty to report the doings and misdoings of that august body. An old lobster by the name of Brown was elected President but was later impeached for excessive indulgence in that which is intended to have been for the good of the order. On one occasion President Brown stated in open meeting before the club that he had just returned from a fishing trip on the placid waters of the Trinity River and after relating several unheard of catches he boldly stated that the fish were so numerous and so all-fired hungry that it became necessary for him to retire to the jungle and hide behind a log while baiting his hook. The action of the aforesaid club in impeaching President Brown tends to show that there should be at least a limit to all things and that the really wise men will not venture where angels dare to tread.

Again I am reminded that some evidence has just been discovered tending to show that a liars club might be organized to a good advantage in the great Merkel Country but of course such evidence in no way relates to truck farming nor the peculiar traits of old roosters that keep late hours and bring home company for keeps.

Now in conclusion the whole purpose of this article is simply and plainly to add my endorsement to your editorial contribution that this is or can be in reality a great truck farming Country. The writer has had quite a deal of experience as a truck farmer and my most valued possession today is a beautiful little truck farm and chicken ranch between the great cities of Fort Worth and Dallas and not far from that masterpiece of railway known as

the Fort Worth and Dallas interurban.

Since landing in this part of the country I have heard it said that the great Merkel country is not specially adapted to truck farming but my firm conviction is that this rich red sandy loam is only in need of a little scientific treatment to get as good results here as anywhere in other parts of Texas. Years ago it was thought that the rich black lands of north Texas were worthless for farm purposes and yet today they go at one hundred dollars per acre and better for no other purposes.

The progressive people have long since learned that it pays to investigate and to watch developments along the various vocations of life. As a new citizen of your country and one enthusiastic over its possibilities, I am confidently expecting to see great things some day in the way of truck farming, Fruit growing, etc.

W. H. Clark.

WIRE NEWS TO THE MAIL YESTERDAY

Special to the Mail by wire.

Phoenix, Ariz. Dec. 28.—Deputy Sheriff James Murphy shot and fatally wounded Pete Salinas a Mexican and alleged robber.

Special to the Mail by wire.

Douglas, Ariz. Dec. 28.—Arizona like many other sections of the country is facing a serious coal shortage at present. Steps have been taken to relieve the situation.

Special to the Mail by wire.

Lubbock, Dec. 28.—Contracts for the building of an extension of the Santa Fe Railway from Lubbock to Brownfield and Seminole has been placed. The work is scheduled to start on the already surveyed route within a few days.

Special to the Mail by wire.

Mexico City, Dec. 28.—General Alvaro Obregon has been sent north from here to take charge of the forces against Villa.

Special to the Mail by wire.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Berlin is reported to have sent their peace proposals to Washington.

Special to the Mail by wire.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—Miss Hilda Levy of this city found a diamond ring in an egg today. It is the first case of its kind ever reported.

Special to the Mail by wire.

El Paso, Dec. 28.—Mayor Melcher Perrera in a recent proclamation has said that open gambling will be permitted in Jaurez after December 30th. The noted gambling hall, Monte Carlo, and other similar places here have been closed for many months on order of first chief Carranza.

Special to the Mail by wire.

Brawley, Cal. Dec. 28. John D. Bennett is in a local hospital here as result of a cigar explosion Christmas Day. The accident was a result of a practical joke played on him by his friends.

Card of Thanks

I desire to thank my many friends for their assistance in the sewing machine contest at J. A. Duckett's of which I am the winner. Mrs. Ruby Simmons. 1tp

Dr. Daly is coming prepared to treat diseases of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat and fit glasses. Don't forget the date—in Merkel Tuesday, January 16th at the Walker Cottage.

JACKRABBIT STORY ONE WAS KILLED

It was one hundred and two (102) steps to where the rabbit fell. Before the rabbit fell from the deadly effects of this mighty nimrods aim and eye, said rabbit was running, throttle was wide open.

The gun used in this instance was an ordinary shotgun loaded with small shot in the hands of H. Bagley, head tailor at the Star Store Tailor Shop. The wound inflicted in the long eared velocipede was fully three inches in diameter which nearly severed said rabbit in twain according to a story related by Mr. Bagley.

All you old hunters think this over. A running jackrabbit, 102 steps away, a shot gun in the hands of Mr. Bagley and think of the size of the hole, the awful deadly wound inflicted. Some story but not ours.

Greetings From Rev. Humphreys

To all my friends, that means every-one. We express our thanks for many tokens of esteem, during Christmas. We hope you will have everything pleasant for the New Year. We make these expressions as bread as the Christmas Spirit "to all people"

We wish that you may have health, that you may prosper and be happy. We trust that we may be of mutual help to each other during the year and always be glad we have met.

Yours,
L. A. Humphreys.

BIG SNAKE STORY 58 WERE KILLED

We are reliably informed that J. W. Childers made a record catch of rattlesnakes on Christmas day. The old adage of the "The better the day the better the dead" could be applied here.

Mr. Childers found a den of rattlesnakes and took therefrom fifty-eight good sized reptiles of the poison variety. Nite ended the days work and Tuesday was set to clean out the den. With rattlesnake oil selling as high as it is, J. W. Childers has made a small fortune but we gladly concede the victory to him without a squabble.

THE ANCHOR'S GREETING

We wish to thank our many friends and customers for their loyal support and influence during the year that has passed and gone. We have enjoyed a most splendid year, our sales having exceeded any previous year by far.

We hope to merit the confidence of our trade that we may do bigger and better things next year than ever.

Again we thank you one and all and wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Respectfully,
Anchor Mercantile Co.

He Slept 20 Years

Rip Van Winkle, impersonated and played at the Cozy Theatre here next Monday night is being played by a strong company of fourteen people. Popular prices and seats now on sale at the Elite. Adv

Rev. E. Bullock and children have visited in Winters this week while Mrs. Bullock was called to Jermyn to her fathers bedside.

HOG NETS \$78.24 WAS RAISED HERE

When the Comanche Chief recently published an article of a hog sale at that town which netted over \$60, the Chief no doubt thought their man had set a record, but not so.

W. T. Sherrill who acquired a knowledge of farming and raising hogs while living in or near the Noodle country in Jones county, a tributary section to this town, has hung up what we believe to be a record for the state at hog raising. Last week or week before last it now is, Mr. Sherrill killed a twenty months old hog which weighed when dressed 489 pounds. The porker was sold at 16 cents per pound, net \$78.24.

This we offer, a true account of what can be done in this country, and take opportunity to say that it is a record for the state of Texas. If any town can beat this write us a card.

Rip Van Winkle Coming

Rip Van Winkle, to be shown at the Opera House Monday night. A reported strong company of fourteen people with their own band is along. Adv.

O. M. Sharp who has been connected with his father in the dry goods business here has recently accepted a position with the Farmers State Bank, the duties to have started January 1st, but excessive work at the bank necessitated an early change so Mr. Sharp has already taken up his duties.

ANCHOR MERC. CO. UNDERGOES CHANGE

A change in the ownership of the Anchor Mercantile Company was recorded Tuesday afternoon of this week when Messrs. Arthur Rose and H. L. Propst members of the firm purchased the interest that R. L. Bland was holding.

The deal had been on foot for several days, being delayed for final consummation by the Xmas rush. The management will in no way change with the departure of Mr. Bland. Just what business connections he will affiliate with, if any at the present, we are unable to say.

NIGHT TELEPHONE RATE GOING DOWN

Dallas, Dec. 28th.—Beginning Jan. 1 the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Co. will offer new special rates to apply on long distance calls other than by appointment, between the hours of 8:30 in the evening and 6 in the morning. This reduction from the present schedule would be approximately 40 per cent upon which the regular tariff is one dollar or more, and proportionately less on calls costing over 25c, Vice President Farnsworth announced.

Card of Thanks

I thank my friends for their votes which helped me so win one of the beautiful dolls given by Behrens-McMillen Furniture Co. Maggie Compton.

Something for Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Robertson to enjoy this Christmas was the presence of twin boys born to them on the 15th, the report of which we omitted from last week's issue.

D. E. Compton and family of Route 2 were here Thursday afternoon making final preparations for a move to Tullia, where they will reside during the ensuing year. Like many other towns we find there is a tendency for people to go west, but we venture to say that many of these who are leaving will return soon, as none seem to be burning any bridges behind them.

We shot at a Bird

It is probably not in our lot to kill, especially on Xmas day. A friend extended us an invitation to come to his house and help ourselves to his birds.

Armed to the teeth we ventured forth into the place designated and behold not 150 feet away was a nice covey. A pot shot was what we wanted and just what we got but that's all for not so much as a feather fell from any of the Bob-whites and disgusted we retraced our steps. Our readers will please compare this story with a certain jack rabbit story in this issue.

NINE LITTLE GIRLS MADE VERY HAPPY

Nine little girls were certainly happy when the winners of the large dolls given by the Behrens-McMillen Furniture Company were announced.

Those who won large dolls were: For North of town Wynona Patton; South of town Nedra Paul; in the city Missie Dye.

Winners of the second size dolls were: In town Mary Elaine Bankhead; North of town, Maggie Compton, South of town, Phala Diltz.

Third prize winners who have received even large dolls at that were: Marie Church, city; Oleda Moore, south of town and Alma Patterson of north of town.

Each of the little girls were given their dolls before Christmas Eve and quickly were on parade showing their friends the beautifuls they had received.

In Memorium

On the morning of Dec. 18th there passed from earth to Heaven the spirit of Sister Artie Dodd wife of our beloved brother Rev. D. J. Dodd of Merkel. Her going sad and yet joyous, but joyous in that she left every assurance of her readiness to go. Sister Dodd was 72 years 2 mos. and 7 days old at the time of her death. 58 years she had followed by faith in the steps of the Nazarene, her soul being anchored by that hope that enters to that within the veil. Her meat was to do the will of him whom she loved and trusted. For more than 45 years she had walked loyally beside her devoted husband, sharing with him all the joys and sorrow of this life, and to leave him now so near the border land to walk the remaining days alone.

She had been a sufferer for many years but the past three years especially, she had been practically a shut in. Her passing was so quiet that she was gone before anyone was aware of it, but gone to rest. Surviving her are her husband, two sons and a daughter, Mrs. W. E. Gentry of Abilene, who was with her mother during her last moments on earth. Loving hearts everywhere go out in tenderest sympathy to the bereaved family. May the Grace of God comfort each of them. Her Pastor, L. B. Owen.

Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Markey and daughter Dorothy of Cleburne are visiting Mrs. Markey's sister Mrs. H. Bagley.

XMAS AT NUBIA IS A PLEASANT AFFAIR

The occasion of the Saviour's birth has come and gone and with it the thousand joyful felicitations that children are heir to. Old Santa according to his time worn costume made his usual appearance dispensing to the children his divers pleasure looking toys and presents. The woderous lustre and beaming splendor of the childrens eyes was an obvious attestation of the inward complacency which the good old philanthropist visit produced in their hearts. The writer was moved with gladness to see the little folk derive such undiluted delight at Santa's consideration of their wants. Even the recorders friends were not wanting in gratefulness toward him for he was the recipient of some nice presents to which the hollow of his hand would fail to accomodate and it is entirely useless to state that he is infinity beholden to his kind benefactors may they live long and prosper in proportion to their just deserving and may the attainment of no single longing be denied them and to, as half in shade and half in sun this world along its path advances, may that side which the sun is upon be all that e'er shall meet their glances.

After a brief suspension for the holidays, school was resumed at Butman Wednesday. But it is a safe bet that the childrens' minds will be hard to wear off the thoughts of their Christmas joys.

The writer cannot desist from telling of his adventure Xmas night, which consisted of his presence at a Xmas tree and the playing of the Role of Santa Claus. You should have seen him for it would have tickled you all to death to have noted his clumsy gawkiness. He appeared more like a ludicrous monstrosity or better still like a weird spectral creation of a diseased mind arising from a heat oppressed brain. The incident would have sufficed as splendid grounds upon which to base a ghost story to tell to children with highly cultivated credulities. The tree was at the amiable home of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Perry and laying all jokes aside owing to the sacredness of the ceremony it was a very pleasant affair and every one deemed doubly satisfied despite any and all inconveniences which the circumstances might have occasioned. As the presents were handed to the little ones, the gleam of surprise in their eyes revealed the beautiful story of an ovation of joy that lurked in their hearts.

Mr. J. T. Lewis is spending Xmas with his son J. V. Lewis of McAlistier, Okla.

The writer has at last discovered what a colossal fool he is. For six long months he has harbored the positive belief that he would get the Ford car given away at Parten's Saturday. He had only one ticket on which was the number, 13754978. The reason he was so cock sure of getting the car was because the number he guessed sounded so odd. Just to show you how doubtlessly sure he was of getting it he refused to except a proffered ride in a three thousand dollar limousine to Merkel, Saturday by saying "Thank you sir I will just walk, there is no use getting somethin' for nothin'. If I walk to town I will greatly appreciate riding back in my own car." Now if anyone wants to know whether I got the car just ask O. W. Walker for the information. Ye

WHY should you deposit your money elsewhere when this bank offers you the benefits and protection of **The Depositor's Guaranty Fund**, Created by the State of Texas.

We extend to our customers every accommodation consistent with conservative Banking and the State Banking System affords absolute security to Depositors and the people recognize it.

**We Solicit Your Deposits
Large or Small**

Farmers State Bank

scribe is now living in the dump. The Xmas entertainment at Roland Toombs was a very pleasant affair.

The Chronicler wishes everybody a happy New Year.

Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Slape of Trent spent Xmas with relatives in the Canyon.

Henry Coit is a social guest in the J. T. Warren home this week.

ITCH

"Hunt's Cure" is absolutely guaranteed to cure Itch, Eczema, Ringworm, Tetter, or any skin disease; or purchase price cheerfully refunded. Sold for 50c the box and guaranteed locally by

Do You Suffer From

**HEADACHE?
NEURALGIA?**

"I have been subject to severe headaches for about seven years. My head would ache so badly at times that I could scarcely stand it. Doctors and headache medicines did no good. Hunt's Lightning Oil gave me almost instant relief. Have not suffered from those dreadful headaches since I found out about your wonderful liniment," writes Mrs. W. T. Dickson, Sherman, Texas.

MAKES PAIN VANISH

The affected part instantly warms and glows under its powerful penetrating effect. You can fairly see and feel it do the work. Simply rub it on and the pain seems to fade away. Inexpensive—25c and 50c a bottle.



**HUNT'S
LIGHTNING OIL**

FOR SALE BY
H. C. Burroughs

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE—95 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres well improved extra good farm land at Blair, Texas. Will sell for half cash, balance on time. W. H. Gilliam, Merkel, Texas. 844pd

FOUND—Musical instrument in case. Was picked up near east crossing of Tee Pee tracks in this city. Owner call at this office, describe it, and pay for this ad.

FOR SALE—Mare and colt. For cash or good note. C. L. Tucker. 84f

FOR SALE—Or trade for good horse one good rubber tired surry with set of single harness. See me quick—it's a bargain. Bob Allen.

FOR SALE—4 Bay horses 1 Bay Mare, 2 to 4 years old \$75.00 to \$100.00 per head, or \$400.00 for the 5 head. A. B. Cranston. Route 1. 2943pd.

FOR SALE—Jersey Cows, Fresh, select stock, must sell, over stocked.—T. W. Collins, Near Stith. 294pd.

FOR SALE—Jitney. See Dee Grimes at once. 14pd.

FOUND—Purse containing money. Call at the Mail office and describe and pay for this ad.

FOR SALE OR TRADE—Standard double disc Plow, R. Barnes Merkel 2942p

LOST—One bay mare and black filly colt. Notify Chas. Orr, Merkel. 2942pd

FOR SALE—A good second hand surry, a buggy and a light one horse wagon. E. D. Coats. 294f.

WANTED—School children to board with me and go to school. Good home, only two blocks from school house. Address P. O. Box 61, Merkel, Texas.

WANTED—To rent a residence at once. Phone me at Mail office. A. E. Creighton.

FOR RENT—Furnished rooms for light housekeeping and one single room. Phone 17 or see Mrs. Allen at Woodroofs.

FOR SALE—Work horses, mules and mares, second hand planters and cultivators. M. Armstrong.

**DRAUGHON'S
PRACTICAL
BUSINESS COLLEGE**

Only well-known Business College in West Texas. Thousands of firms nearer our Employment Department than any other. Money-back contract guarantees position. Catalogue FREE.

Messrs. Alex Harris and father of Stanton are here visiting relatives and friends.

Holland Teaff will return the latter part of the week to school at Baylor University.

Stanton Johnson of Fort Worth was here with his father, G. W. Johnson, Sunday and Monday.

See Rip Van Winkle at the Cozy on Monday night. Get your seats now at the Elite.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Buford have been in Ballinger this week visiting Mr. Buford's mother.

THANK YOU

At this season of good cheer we are indeed very grateful to you, for the many considerations shown us in the past. We desire to thank each and every one who has contributed in the least to making the greatest year in our history.

We shall endeavor, with the coming years, to render you a service even greater than we have in the past. With full knowledge of our faults and failures, we are in position to take care of your requirements in the best possible way, and it is an earnest desire to conduct a place of business to which you can point with pride and satisfaction. We invite the co-operation of those whom it has not been our pleasure to serve in the past. Assuring you that we shall use our very best efforts to make it to your advantage as we have the many who have remained loyal to us. Again wishing that the new year bring you many pleasures and profits, we are,

your friends
G. F. West Co.

At The Opera House

Manager Groene has booked the play "Rip Van Winkle" to be here Monday evening Jan. 1st. The company carries good recommendations and plenty of people for a successful attraction.

Wit And Humor

The trouble with undersea war is that it is not on the level.—Boston Transcript.

Germany is gradually getting rid of its real estate holdings in France.—Wall Street Journal.

"Hey, Mike, don't come down on that ladder on the north corner. I took it away."—Stanford Chaparral.

Mabel—Oh, George, they say the moon is a dead body.

George—Awright, let's sit up with the corpse.—Longhorn.

Mrs. Hoover—Could you give me a little money, dear?

Mr. Hoover—Certainly, darling. About how little?—New York Times.

"No," said the Honest Man. "I was never strong on literature. To save my life I couldn't tell you who wrote Gray's 'Elegy.'"—New York Times.

"So you've joined a golf club?" "Had to do it," replied Mr. Growcher. "The only chance of seeing some of the men I have to do business with is to meet 'em on the golf links."—Washington Star.

Wife—John, you'll have to take that ball away from baby; he hit sister on the head with it.—Puck.

A Washington business man desiring to test the relative efficiency of two makes of mucilage, handed the bottles one morning to his shiny-faced negro messenger.

"Here, John," he said; "test these and see which is the stickiest."

John did not show up at the office again until about noontime. He approached his employer's desk somewhat cautiously and gingerly deposited thereon the two bottles of mucilage.

"Well, John," asked the boss, "which did you find the stickiest?"

"It wuz lak dis," was the reply. "Dis one gummed up ma mouf de most; but de other one, de taste lasted de longest."—Saturday Evening Post.

W. W. DARBY
THE BEST KNOWN, BEST LIKED, BEST BOOKKEEPING TEACHER IN TEXAS
is Now Teaching Book-keeping in Draughon's Practical Business College at Dallas, "The City of Good Positions."
At no other time in the history of Texas has business been better or positions more plentiful.

Combined Bookkeepers and Stenographers are as staple in business at Dallas as sugar and coffee in a grocery store. THAT'S WHY TWO HUNDRED STUDENTS may enroll NOW, pay one-half of tuition down and hold the balance to be paid out of salary at 10 per cent of amount received each month after we secure for them A GOOD POSITION. Board, including everything except laundry, \$15.00 to \$18.00 per month, or it may be earned before and after school hours. Our Mr. Darby, Mr. Lacy, Mrs. Lacy, Mrs. J. J. Mr. Barthman, Mr. Reed, Miss Cloud and Mr. Weaver constitute unquestionably the strongest commercial school faculty in the entire Southwest. If interested, write, wire or phone today. **DRAUGHON'S PRACTICAL BUSINESS COLLEGE** 1005 $\frac{1}{2}$ Commerce St. Dallas, Texas

Basket Ball at Trent

We saw the first basket ball game of our life at Trent on Monday afternoon of last week.

Evidently the boys were wearing alphabetical clothes for they had lost near all their letters but their B. V. D's. Anyway Trent got beat but the boys from the Abilene Christian College had the game only by the skin of their teeth. Thats what somebody said, we only giving their statement as fact.

The principal elements of the game seems to be to run and jump and toss a horse hide air filled ball into a ring big enough for a barrel to go through. Some times they did and sometimes they didn't and the score ended Abilene about 30, Trent about 20. That's what somebody said.

A number of spectators were present and seemed to enjoy the game. At times a crowd of them would yell and we would follow suit. If we applauded wrong the Trent boys have our apologies. Ever once in a while somebody would call a foul ball when the thing had never left the diamond but the umpire wore glasses or was near sighted and didn't know the difference.

Everybody seemed busy at Trent that day so we drove back to town to talk about things we knew something about.

Ohio As We See It

It is a misfit state chopped from the frigid zone, shoved as close to Texas as possible without a fight. It is covered from end to extremity with snow about six months out of the year and its native sons hibernate during this time. It would be a swell place for an iceman to go into business but a poor place for a man to make a living. The aversion its people have to birth control has caused it to become congested with a working mass of people who think every man from Texas has horns. The average Ohioan is near sighted, he thinks that outside of Ohio the world is uncivilized. Women and men will stare at a man with a pair of boots on like a small boy will at a circus parade and the comments emitted are also similar. Lots of the people up there think the negroes are as good as they are, and they may be. Anyway we are glad to get back to Texas where sunshine greets you and the best people in the world live.

Mr. and Mrs. V. D. Jones of Bagwell returned to their home this week after a visit with the latter's father, R. H. Collins and family. Wallace Jones, a nephew who accompanied Mr. Jones here on the visit, will return to his home at Greenville.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Miller of Tolar have been here during the holidays with the latter's parents Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Garrett.

Mrs. T. L. Grimes who has been ill at the residence of her son Dr. R. I. Grimes of Sylvester was reported much better on Thursday, the high fevers she had been having for several days being under control.

Overland touring car sales recently made and reported are: Models 75 B to Miss Amanda Curtis and to Mr. Pick Allen.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

WHILE extending best wishes for the season to you, we are not unmindful of the fact that the wonderful growth of this bank is largely due to the co-operation of our depositors who never fail to speak a kindly word for this institution when occasion permits.

We are deeply grateful for such favors and wish to give assurance that we will continue to merit such confidence on your part.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year—

F. & M. NATIONAL BANK
Member Federal Reserve Bank

WEAR A CLEAN SUIT

LET
FERGUSON & RENFRO, The Tailors
AT THE CITY BARBER SHOP DO
Your Cleaning and Pressing

W. O. W.
Merkel Camp No. 719 meets second and fourth Friday nights of each month.
T. F. Compton, C. C.
S. Hamilton, Clerk

Company E. 101 Reg. of U. R.
W. O. W. Merkel Camp 719 meets every Wednesday night

Advertised Letters.

Bails, Edw
Cox, C C
Farrell, Duffie
Graham, W W
Greathouse, H B
Leatherwood, J D
Mora, V H
Ploule, Mrs Cora
Quentin, H C
Stone, Mrs Oscar
Palito, Jose
Varelus, Natividad

These letters will be sent to the dead letter office Jan. 10th, 1917.
H. C. Williams, P. M.
Merkel, Texas.

Six Per Cent Money

On good improved farms. 25 years in the business. Write us what you have and find out what we can do for you before you place your loan. Compere & Compere, District Managers, Abilene, Texas.

Mules and Wagon For Sale

Good team of work mules and 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wagon for sale or trade. See W. L. Diltz. 22tf

Phone W. E. Lowe, at the Metropolitan Cafe for service day or night.

PROFESSIONAL

O. F. McMASTER
DENTIST
Office Phone 154
Over Woodroofs Store

O. J. SHAFFER
DENTIST
Telephone No. 291
Office over City Barber Shop

DOCTOR MILLER
Physician and Surgeon
Over Woodroofs Store

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

C. D. MIMS
Attorney-At Law
General Practice and Collections
Land Title Work a Speciality
Office over Farmers State Bank.

G. W. JOHNSON
Insurance, Notary Public
Office over Woodroofs Bros. Store
Merkel — Texas

SHAVING AND BATH PARLORS
The most Up-to-Date
SHOP IN MERKEL
CITY BARBER SHOP
WEST & PATE : : Proprietors

Notice
If you want to borrow money or have your notes extended, wire, write or come to see me. Can loan you money at 8 per cent. T. C. Weir, Abilene, Tex.

COMING MONDAY JANUARY 1, 1917,

ONE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST DRAMAS

Monday
Night at
8:15

RIP VAN WINKLE

Monday
Night at
8:15

As played by the late JOSEPH JEFFERSON. Presented by Mr. J. Burt Burton in a 5-Act Comedy Drama

Monday's Free Band
Concert at 2 o'clock

Fourteen People Band and Orchestra

Monday's Free Band
Concert at 12 o'clock

Admission 25, 35, 50c Seats now selling at Elite Confectionery

The Cozy

Curtains---Monday Nite 8:15

LOCAL NEWS

Well Drilling—See R. D. Tyler, or M. D. Daniel. 22tf

Miss Georgia Moore who teaches near Golan came home for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Howard were guests in the Burkett home in Abilene last week-end.

The family of Easten Campbell from Paducah are visiting with Mr. and Mrs. F. Sears.

Mrs. Rosa Smith, Misses Hattie Mae and Ruby returned Thursday from having visited relatives in Coleman.

Mr. and Mrs. Hood Day of Sweetwater were guests of the latter's sister Mrs. C. V. Bigham and family Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Rainbolt of Dallas, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Fryar of Stamford were here the first of the week guests of H. M. Rainbolt.

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Morgan of Greenville were here for Christmas in the latter's father's home, F. E. Hail. Mr. Morgan has returned but Mrs. Morgan will remain for some time.

Mesdames Rufus Grisham and J. T. Middleton of Hamlin and Haskell were here visiting their father J. T. Howard and family. Mr. Grisham was here for the Day but returned Tuesday.

Miss Rose Allen of Collin county visited her aunt Mrs. C. M. Largent. She returned to Angelo Tuesday to her position in the city schools of that place.

Miss Annie L. Smith teaching at Bellvue, Geo. A. Smith and Miss Josie from Georgetown and F. E. Smith of Abilene all joined their father here for Christmas week.

J. T. Craddock and family of Osage, J. M. Bland and family of Stanton, Roscoe Bland and family and R. L. Bland and family were in a Christmas home-coming at the J. A. Bland residence. A joyous time with a Santa Claus for the children was reported.

Well Drilling—See R. D. Tyler, or M. D. Daniel. 22tf

Mrs. W. G. Roach and daughter, Miss Manor leave this week for Groom in the Panhandle where they will make their home in the future.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Calvert of Sweetwater, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Martin and Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Russell of this city were guests of their mothers Mrs. J. C. Calvert Xmas Day.

Mrs. Geo. Northcut and sister Miss Addie Haley of Snyder were visiting their sister Mrs. Thos. Johnson on Christmas.

W. L. Diltz Jr., now of Waco was at home from college, to be with his parents. He will return this week.

Bud Smilee of Cottle county is here visiting his aunt Mrs. J. R. Toombs.



PRICES MARKED DOWN LOW

AGAIN, WE THANK YOU

The Star Store

G. E. Comegys, Proprietor

J. E. Addison of Route 5 is in Valera this week visiting his father I. E. Addison.

Chas. Williams returned home for the holidays from Kansas City where he is a student of medics.

Mesdames Joe Moore of Angelo and Sefer of Dallas were here during Xmas visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carter of Route 2.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Crawford departed Sunday for Crockett to visit a daughter.

Miss Lone Long of Myndus, N. M., was here a few days last week with her aunts, Mesdames I. S. Allen and W. Parten.

R. R. Meeks and family spent Christmas at the home of J. E. Hallbrook of Trent. The families chatted during the evening while the heads thereof went hunting.

O. R. Duff joined his wife in a visit to relatives at Ferris. Ferris is near Dallas according to a close geographical study we have made, and Mr. Duff is connected with the Woodroof firm here. This last is for explanatory purposes.

H. C. Floyd and family had no visitors Christmas day but feasted on the lone fat hen. Mr. Floyd has prized so highly during the last year. "Sort of a death lick to the goose that laid the golden egg."

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Ellis of Abilene, Hiram and Lula Turner of Rotan were in the R. A. Ellis home to spend this Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. N. Hancock were in Sweetwater Monday with their friends Mr. and Mrs. Will Robertson.

W. D. Woodroof and family of Abilene were at the home of E. L. Woodroof Christmas.

W. H. Frazier and family toured a part of the Haskell country Monday and visited friends in that vicinity. Walter saw things while returning.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Derrington were with friends at Cross Plains the first of the week.

H. O. Roland, of Hamilton county, and father, J. A. McCauley, visited O. W. Walker and family a short time Christmas.

Abbie Birchett was at home to a Christmas dinner with his mother, Mrs. T. M. Pribble. He will be here for several days.

Barney Garrett was at home Xmas from visiting Austin his parents Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Garrett.

Miss Sophia Howard is at home at present from Rotan where she is teaching.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Brown and Dr. W. E. Brown spent Christmas day with Mr. and Mrs. Clayton M. Brown.

Miss Tennie Pope came in from Eastland to spend the holiday week with her mother, Mrs. W. A. Pope.

Miss Martha Jane Swafford of Dallas is with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. L. Swafford, for a few days stay.

Railway Men Here

Messrs. G. L. Moore division freight agent of the T. & P. with offices at Ft. Worth and freight agent T. S. Tabor of Abilene were social callers on Agent W. J. Lewis at the Mail office Wednesday.

Mr. Moore was in Merkel looking after the company's interests and hobnobbing with masons whenever an opportunity afforded.

S. A. Coats Xmas Dinner
Nearly all the close relatives of S. A. Coats were with he and his family on Christmas day for a glorious repast.

R. L. Coats of Mesquite and a sister Mrs. H. D. Loving and husband of Rowlet, another sister Mrs. M. H. Tyler formerly of Mesquite now of this city, E. D. Coats known to us as all and two nieces Misses Ethel Coats and Jewel Daniels constituted the merry crowd to enjoy the day. One other brother not present sent his compliments from Oklahoma in the form of a letter which arrived by Rural Delivery just before the party sat down to their dinner. So after all they were all heard from.

Appointed Railway Physician

Dr. M. Armstrong has received information from the medical department of the T. & P. Co. of his appointment as physician, the capacity of work will extend all over the company's lines at points where the doctor might be.

Mrs. Virgil Touchstone of Paducah is here visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. F. Sears.

Miss Fannie Tippett of Abilene is visiting her sister, Mrs. W. L. Harkrider.

What is it?
It is NEW

Nothing like it has ever been discovered before.

It is HARMLESS
It has absolutely NONE of the burning, clothes eating, hand stinging disadvantages of common quick cleaners.

It is EASY
You do NO rubbing—only HANDLING. You need no elbow grease—no wash board and VERY little time.

It is CHEAP
It costs less than 2c a washing—sold in 25c boxes. It washes colored clothes without fading—woolens without shrinking or hardening, and positively will not rot or weaken lace curtains so they tear easily, but keeps them strong besides absolutely clean.

Sold by all Druggists and Grocers everywhere. If yours doesn't handle it, show him this ad—he'll get it for you. Or send 25c in stamps to A. Schmitt, Dallas, Tex.

Who is Your Cook For 1917?

LET US DO IT

We have enjoyed an excellent patronage from the people of this town and country. We came here strangers, now we are pleased with our many friends and acquaintances, and are pleased to say that we are here to serve you to the best of our ability during the New Year, which we hope will be a prosperous and happy one to all.

THE MERKEL BAKERY

N. HANCOCK

MRS. N. HANCOCK



Prince Albert gives smokers such delight, because

- its flavor is so different and so delightfully good;
- it can't bite your tongue;
- it can't parch your throat;
- you can smoke it as long and as hard as you like without any comeback but *real* tobacco happiness!

On the reverse side of every Prince Albert package you will read:

"PROCESS PATENTED
JULY 30th, 1907"

That means to you a lot of tobacco enjoyment. Prince Albert has always been sold without coupons or premiums. We prefer to give quality!

PRINCE ALBERT

the national joy smoke

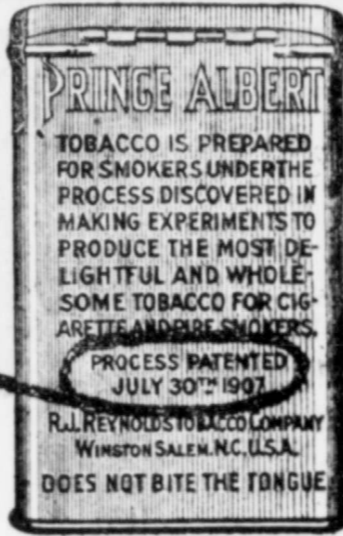
Copyright 1916
by R. J. Reynolds
Tobacco Co.

in goodness and in pipe satisfaction is all we or its enthusiastic friends ever claimed for it!

It answers every smoke desire you or any other man ever had! It is so cool and fragrant and appealing to your smokeappetite that you will get chummy with it in a mighty short time!

Will you invest 5c or 10c to prove out our say-so on the national joy smoke?

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



This is the reverse side of the Prince Albert tidy red tin. Read this "Patented Process" message-to-you and realize what it means in making Prince Albert so much to your liking.

YOU'LL find a cheery howdy-do on top no matter how much of a stranger you are in the neck of the woods you drop into. For Prince Albert is right there—at the first place you pass that sells tobacco! The tidy red bag sells for a nickel and the tidy red tin for a dime; then there's the handsome pound and half-pound tin humidor and the pound crystal-glass humidor with sponge-moistener top that keeps the tobacco in such bang-up trim all the time!

The MERKEL MAIL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING

THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INCORPORATED
HOMER L. EASTERWOOD, Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.50 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE

Entered at the Postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as Second-Class Mail Matter

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

TELEPHONE No. 61

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.

THE MAJESTY OF MOTHERHOOD

The English respect the law. We are not so particular. We respect it in some ways and overlook it in others. It is not easy to convict a woman in the United States, especially where the probable judgment will be the extreme penalty of the law.

In the technical sense the law respects no sex distinction. The penalty that applies to the man also applies to the woman. There is no difference when the defendant faces the jury, but in our country we look with a lenient eye on the woman charged with crime and frequently too generously on men.

A woman in Canada was not long ago executed for killing the father of her children on Easter morning. The execution of the woman was delayed in order that she might become the mother of another child. As soon as the child was born the government took charge of it, and after delay the execution proceeded according to the rules of law.

But even English law, severe and rigorous has to respect motherhood.

No tribunal in the world would permit an execution under such circumstances. The law has right to exact one life but not two lives.

It is a bitter thought to think that a mother

must wait until her baby is born before she can be legally executed, but law is law, and possibly the future will be better off because of the legal death of the mother, but it seems cruel. — Commercial Appeal.

MIDLAND HAS THE MONEY

The Midland Reporter has called us to task for supposing that Merkel banks had on deposit more money than any other town the size of Merkel on the Tee Pee between Fort Worth and El Paso.

True, we did neglect to ascertain the Midland deposits and we know that that town boasts of slightly over a million while we remain slightly under that amount. We take off our hats to Midland but still contend that we are right in a way, for the resources of Merkel from an acreage standpoint is about one fourth of the acreage covered by the Midland country. If Merkel drew trade from a scope of country as large as Midland has, even the banks of Abilene with Midland thrown in wouldn't be a patchin to what we would have; and yet Midland is one of the best towns we know of. Mind you we said, "One of the best."

A Bachelor's Prayer

Backward, turn backward, O Time, in your flight,
Give us a maiden with skirts not so tight;
Give us a girl whose charms, many or few,
Are not so exposed by much peek-a-boo;
Give us a maiden, no matter what age,
Who won't use the street for a vaudeville stage.

Give us a girl not so sharply in view;
Dress her in skirts that the sun can't shine through;

And give us the dances of days now gone by,
With plenty of clothes and steps not so high,
Put turkey trot capers and buttermilk glides,
The hurdy-gurdy twist and wiggletail slides,
And other such buny hugs all on a level
As products of hell, inspired by the devil;

Then let us feast our tired optics once more,
On the genuine woman as sweet as of yore.

Yes, Time, please turn backward and grant our request

For God's richest blessing—but not undressed—
—Farm and Ranch.

Sets New Road Record

Breasting heavy snow drifts and traveling in a sharp blizzard for the entire distance, Homer George, Atlanta newspaperman, recently hung up a new road record with his Chalmers six-30 by making 175 miles at the rate of 37 1/2 miles per hour.

Pulling out of Atlanta under fine weather conditions, George planned to visit the towns of Dalton, Rome and Calhoun on a business trip. About twenty miles from the city he ran into a howling blizzard which increased in intensity as he proceeded. The route led directly across the

North Georgia mountains and the steep grades added to the tests provided by slippery and snow-covered roads.

"I have never driven a car which pulled through heavy going and up the steep grades in the way Chalmers performed," said George, in describing the trip. "Through the mountains we drove as fast as 55 miles per hour and on the straightways we added ten miles per hour to our speed at times. We rarely traveled under 30 miles an hour except in towns. The snow drifts were so heavy in places that we had to make several plunges be-

fore getting through. Outside of the remarkable power displayed by the Six-30, the outstanding feature of the car's performance was its wonderful balance on the slippery roads and grades in the mountains."

The Chalmers Six-30 was the same car with which George broke the Atlanta-Chattanooga and Jacksonville-Atlanta road records.

Good for Constipation

Chamberlain's Tablets are excellent for constipation. They are pleasant to take and mild and gentle in effect. Obtainable everywhere.

We Extend New Year's Greetings To One and All for a Prosperous 1917

It will be our endeavor to make the year as pleasant as possible for those who own and run cars, that their travels may be joyful and their troubles small. We will be glad to assist you at any and all times, we will come to your assistance when you need it worst and will render aid, indispensable, even tho you have a Ford.



We have storage room and experienced mechanics whose ever duty will be to render good and efficient work during the ensuing year, and we extend to all automobile owners a most cordial welcome and invitation to use our service whenever possible.

"REASONABLE RATES"

The Merkel Garage

"Ross Ferrier"

TO OUR CUSTOMERS TO OUR COMPETITORS TO OUR COUNTRYMEN

GREETINGS

A Sentiment Expressed for the New Year, and, to the Best of Our Ability, Practiced Every Day

We wish to increase our prosperity, to expand our trade, to grow in wealth, in wisdom and in spirit, but our conception of the true way to accomplish this is not to pull down others and profit by their ruin, but to help all our friends to a common prosperity and a common growth, that we may all become stronger together.

WE SELL COAL AND ICE
WARREN BROS.

Everybody at Our Place Wishes Everybody at
Your Place

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

We trust your holidays have been joyous ones, that each and every one have brought new joys to your home and may the New Year continue to bring them. We desire to sincerely thank our patrons for their past patronage. We further desire to extend you our good will and best of service for the New Year. We cordially invite new patrons, offering values and quality unexceeded in dry goods, clothing and furnishings.

WOODROOF'S

MERKEL, TEXAS

O. S. BURNS, Merkel

Dodge Service Car

Goes Day or Night—Anywhere

Phone 6, Elite Confectionery—Nite Phone 136

Automobile Livery

Phone No. 4—Metropolitan Cafe

Calls answered Day or Night

Phone me when you want to go somewhere

W. E. LOWE :: Service Cars

R. D. BROYLES

Veterinary Surgeon and Dentist

Blair Hotel :: Merkel, Texas

Calls answered Day or Night

Auction Sale

"ADILADE SQUIRE"

German Hackney Stallion will be sold to the highest bidder at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon December 30th near T. & P. depot. Cash only

MERKEL HORSE COMPANY

New Years Greeting

At the dying of the old year and the incoming of the new, my mind turned toward my friends in Merkel. Having shared your joys and your sorrows for the past years and looking forward to the unseen and unknown in the year just about to be born, I heartily extend each of you a Happy New Year Greeting, and pray that each one that your lives may be filled during the year with joys and deeds of kindness, and usefulness.

To the membership of our church, I most heartily thank you for every courtesy, every effort co-operation, and every kind word spoken for me and our work, as we face the future let us lift our hearts to our heavenly Father for divine guidance toward every effort that he would have us put forth.

May his blessings be upon everyone of you, your homes and your interests, and may there come to our town such temporal and spiritual blessings as he may know to be best for us.

L. B. Owen.

Pastor Baptist Church.

Danger Signal

If the firebell should ring would you run to stop it or go and help to put out the fire? It is much the same way with a cough. A cough is a danger signal as much as a fire bell. You should no more try to suppress it than to stop a fire all when it is ringing, but should cure the disease that is causing the coughing. This can nearly always be done by taking Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Many have used it with the most beneficial results. It is especially valuable for the persistent cough that so often follows a bad cold or an attack of the grip. Mrs. Thomas Beeching of Andrews, Ind., writes: "During the winter my husband takes cold easily and coughs and coughs. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the best medicine for breaking up these attacks and you cannot get him to take any other." Obtainable everywhere.

Bank Gets Public Mention

In a recent issue of the Texas Bankers Journal the following paragraph appeared:

At the close of Business No-

vember 17, 1916, the Farmers State Bank of Merkel, Texas, rendered the following strong statement of condition to the Commissioner of Insurance and Banking at Austin, Texas: Capital, surplus and profits, \$57,89.54 deposits, \$427,904.70; loans and discounts, \$172,045.22; total resources, \$484,994.24.

The Journal might have incidentally mentioned that Merkel was one of the best small towns in the state of less than 2500 population and carrying near on a million in deposits.

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

Thanks For Votes

I want to thank the good people who registered at Behrens-McMillens in the doll contest and assisted me to win the big doll as a Christmas present.

We also wish to thank Mr. "Mack" for the many courtesies and kind treatment extended during the contest.

Nedra Paul and parents.

Couge Medicine for Children

Mrs. Hugh Cook, Scottsville, N. Y. says: "About five years ago when we were living in Garbutt, N. Y.; I doctored two of my children suffering from colds with Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and found it just as presented in every way. It promptly checked their coughing and cured their colds quicker than anything I ever used." Obtainable every.

Phone W. E. Lowe, at the Metropolitan Cafe for service car day or night.



Here is to the good old Year we are just passing.
Here is to the New Year we are just entering.
Here is to the best little town in U. S.—it's Merkel.
Here is to the best of all—it's to the good citizenship of Merkel.
Look at our emblem, we are it—the Slave.
If you move to Merkel, you will soon be doing as we all are doing—Do it Electrically.

MERKEL POWER COMPANY

BY OUR BLOOD WE LIVE

If you tire easily, are subject to cold hands or feet—if you catch colds readily or have rheumatic pains—your blood or circulation is probably at fault and you need

SCOTT'S EMULSION

OF NORWEGIAN COD LIVER OIL



which is nature's easily-assimilated food, to increase your red corpuscles and charge the blood with life-sustaining richness. Scott's creates warmth to throw off colds and gives resistance to prevent sickness.

No Alcohol in SCOTT'S. Every Druggist has it
SCOTT & BOWNE, Bloomfield, N. J.

Residence for Automobile
Four room house and two lots in town of Rising Star. Will

trade for second-hand auto. Preferable a Ford. Must be in good condition. S.W.H. Buzbee. 224p

Monday, January 1st, 1917

A NEW DAY
A NEW MONTH
A NEW YEAR
IS COMING

And with it we are afforded an opportunity to express again the pleasure we derive from our business relations with the Merkel Country Builders

We Wish You a Happy and
Prosperous New Year

BURTON-LINGO COMPANY Austin Boyd, Manager

Parten's New Year Greetings

We thank all customers most heartily for their liberal patronage during the year that has just ended, making possible the maintenance of our cash business on a basis satisfactory to ourselves and more satisfactory and profitable to each and every customer who has traded with us. We wish all a happy and most prosperous New Year, and as you have favored us in the past, we shall employ every known honorable medium to make your future buying in the dry goods line a source of greater pleasure and profit. Yours for a bigger, better 1917.

Parten Dry Goods Company

Merkel's Exclusive Cash Dry Goods Store

One Price—The Lowest



MISS EVELYN WILLIAMS, EDITOR

Christmas Party

Quite a Christmas party celebrated at the J. T. Toombs home Christmas eve and Christmas day. Mr. and Mrs. Toombs were at home alone meditating as to what they would do to pass away the day, when their children and grandchildren, with two exceptions, stormed the house with well-filled baskets. There was no cooking to be done, everything was ready for the noonday meal. Messrs. Hurley and J. J. Toombs and their families, Cal Walden and family, M. D. Angus and family and Mrs. Walter Boden were present to enjoy the day.

Entertain

Dr. and Mrs. Geo. L. Miller entertained a number of friends on Christmas day at dinner. All interest for the day was centered around little Clara Louise, who was a Christmas gift to this home and at this time enjoyed her second birthday anniversary.

The guests were Messrs. and Mesdames H. F. Groene and W. D. Woodroof, Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Atkisson, Mrs. M. R. Woodrum, Miss Lura Atkisson, Masters George Groene and Don Woodroof.

Six O'clock Dinner

Christmas this year was the time of rejoicing for many young people. "The fatted goose was killed." This fact was manifested by the delightful six o'clock dinner given by Mr. Charlie Bell Thomas. After this delicious feast, the guests assembled in the hall to witness several remarkable events, such as a very obstreperously superspion gollie marriage ceremony, humorously accompanied by the manifestation of "college spirit."

Those who felt a delicacy in articulating and negotiating this occasion were Misses Loriena Dry, Eunice Russell, Josie Smith and the hostess, Messrs. George Smith, Joe Hartley, Louis Tanner. Contributed.

McCarty-Gaither Nuptials

Mr. and Mrs. F. Y. Gaither arrived in Merkel Sunday evening from Sweetwater where they were married that afternoon at four o'clock. The bride having been formerly Miss Gail McCarty. The ceremony was performed in the home of Mr. Beall and witnessed by only a few friends. Rev. L. B. Owen of this place being the officiating minister.

Two popular and prominent young people have by this marriage established a home with us. The bride having at one time lived here is loved by all who know her and heartily welcomed back. Mr. and Mrs. Gaither will be at home to their friends at the B. C. Gaither residence in South Merkel.

Howell-Winter

Miss Laura, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Howell, and Thomas Winter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terrell Winter were married Sunday afternoon.

The bride and groom in this instance are members of prominent families of the Shiloh community. And there they were married on the above named date.

Their home will be made on the Winter farm. The Mail extends to Mr. and Mrs. Winter its very best wishes for ever-present happiness and success to the greatest degree possible.

Brabbin Hager

Miss Hallie Brabbin and Owen Hager of Cisco were married in the bride's home in Merkel Sunday at ten-thirty a. m. The marriage vows being given by Rev. L. B. Owen. Cupid seems to have been a most diligent fellow in the Brabbin family of late, this being the third daughter recently wed. Mr. and Mrs. Hager have gone already to their home at Cisco, to which place the best wishes of Merkel friends follow.

Noel-Reidenbach

Christmas Eve afternoon at the residence of Justice W. W. Wheeler, Mark Reidenbach and Miss Lillie Noel were married. The bride is the daughter of Mrs. S. A. Noel a resident of Merkel, while the groom is a member of the Reidenbach family of the Mt. Pleasant community. This young couple will live in this same neighborhood. Our congratulations are extended.

42 Party

Mrs. T. A. Johnson, assisted by Miss Flora Wright, entertained with 42 on Wednesday afternoon, honoring Mrs. Clower of Roxton, sister of Miss Wright, and Mrs. R. M. Parker. The afternoon was one of varied pleasures for the guests. After the fourth game Miss Jess Sutphen and Mrs. Robt. Hicks were found to have high score and were given boxes of candy which were presented by the honorees.

Punch was then served, after which Christmas parcels numbered to correspond with numbers written on the score cards were given out by Miss Wright. The wrappings off, many fun provoking articles were disclosed, such as cob pipes, cracker-jacks, stick candy, etc. The guests were Mesdames Parker and Clower, E. L. and L. W. Woodroof, Burroughs Sr., McMaster, Martin, Williams, Mims, Moore, Wright, Pue, Humphreys, Walters, Hicks, Harkrider, West, Howard, Burroughs Jr., Misses Warren, Williams and Sutphen.

Stanton Johnson of Fort Worth spent Sunday and Monday in the G. W. Johnson home.

G. M. Cauthen with Miss Ruby and John came in Tuesday from Midland to visit old Merkel friends.

Auto Sales For December

Automobiles sold by McDonald & Warren during the months of November and December.

BUICK

J L Banner
W A Tittle
W E Britian
W W Terry
H L Propst
John Shaw
Jim Campbell
A C Rose

DODGE

Ray Curtis (Abilene)
Roscoe Bland
I J Cox
H H Prater
Sam Winter
G B Brown

STUDEBAKER

J M Bird
W A Howard.

"Adv"

NOTICE TO OUR FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS

We have purchased the entire interests of Mr. R L Bland in the Anchor Mercantile Company and in Mr Bland's dissolution from the business, we feel that after Ten years of continued connection with us, that we are losing from business a most valued, true and tried fellow worker and co-partner.

Our wishes for Mr. Bland in his new field of labor is that everything will be as pleasant and profitable for him as been our past associations.

The business will continue under the same management as here to force (alwaps striving to serve our customers in the very best way possible) and we only ask a continuation of Mr Bland's friendship and influence, together with that of his host of friends and customers.

Respect,

H. L. Propst, A. C. Rose.

Mrs. Burroughs Entertains

Mrs. H. C. Burroughs entertained on yesterday evening from 8 to 11, her home being open to their many friends in and out of the city.

In all nearly seventy-five guests were present. Games of various description furnished pleasant pastime while musical selections and vocal accompaniments even made the home more gay.

Joyous Get Together

Christmas Eve day members of the Presbyterian Church and many friends congregated at the church for a "dinner on the ground" served in the basement.

The occasion was probably one of the greatest love feasts yet held in the new church. Every body brought something for dinner and all spread together, and everyone had a good time and enjoyed the day.

Messrs. Stan and Shirley King students of Georgetown University are in Merkel to remain till after New Year's.

Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Forrester absolutely refuse to leave this country. We recently said Mr. Forrester had sold out lock, stock and barrel. This was incorrect, he kept the barrel and has moved to Trent. Occasionally they will come here to visit and renew greetings with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Brittain are at Matador and other places on the Plains this week visiting relatives. They are making the trip in their new Buick roadster.

J. Hendricks has returned from Colton, Cal., where he has been during the last few months. He failed to arrive in time to be with his parents Christmas, due to stops he made on the way. The trip was made over land with Chas. Mashburn formerly of this place. Mr. Mashburn stopped at Stanton to visit friends and will be here soon.

Phone W. E. Lowe, at the Metropolitan Cafe for service car day or night.

It Always Helps

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

I wish every suffering woman would give

CARDUI

The Woman's Tonic

a trial. I still use Cardui when I feel a little bad, and it always does me good."

Headache, backache, side ache, nervousness, tired, worn-out feelings, etc., are sure signs of womanly trouble. Signs that you need Cardui, the woman's tonic. You cannot make a mistake in trying Cardui for your trouble. It has been helping weak, ailing women for more than fifty years.

Get a Bottle Today!

1917

May this coming New Year find you possessed with the earthly joys that should be yours, is our wish. May it continue to be prosperous to your endeavors and bring to you and yours happiness throughout its days. We desire to extend the New Year's greeting to our many new friends and extend a cordial invitation to old and new customers to call on us at any time.

THE MERKEL DRUG CO.

H. K. Shepperd, Manager

Everybody at Our Place Wishes Everybody at
Your Place

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

We trust your holidays have been joyous ones, that each and every one have brought new joys to your home and may the New Year continue to bring them. We desire to sincerely thank our patrons for their past patronage. We further desire to extend you our good will and best of service for the New Year. We cordially invite new patrons, offering values and quality unexceeded in dry goods, clothing and furnishings.

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MERKEL, TEXAS

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Dodge Service Car

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Phone 6, Elite Confectionery—Nite Phone 136

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MERKEL HORSE COMPANY

New Years Greeting

At the dying of the old year and the incoming of the new, my mind turned toward my friends in Merkel. Having shared your joys and your sorrows for the past years and looking forward to the unseen and unknown in the year just about to be born, I heartily extend each of you a Happy New Year Greeting, and pray that each one that your lives may be filled during the year with joys and deeds of kindness, and usefulness.

To the membership of our church, I most heartily thank you for every courtesy, every effort co-operation, and every kind word spoken for me and our work, as we face the future let us lift our hearts to our heavenly Father for divine guidance toward every effort that he would have us put forth.

May his blessings be upon everyone of you, your homes and your interests, and may there come to our town such temporal and spiritual blessings as he may know to be best for us.

L. B. Owen,
Pastor Baptist Church.

Danger Signal

If the firebell should ring would you run to stop it or go and help to put out the fire? It is much the same way with a cough. A cough is a danger signal as much as a fire bell. You should no more try to suppress it than to stop a fire bell when it is ringing, but should cure the disease that is causing the coughing. This can nearly always be done by taking Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Many have used it with the most beneficial results. It is especially valuable for the persistent cough that so often follows a bad cold or an attack of the grip. Mrs. Thomas Beeching of Andrews, Ind., writes: "During the winter my husband takes cold easily and coughs and coughs. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the best medicine for breaking up these attacks and you cannot get him to take any other." Obtainable everywhere.

Bank Gets Public Mention

In a recent issue of the Texas Bankers Journal the following paragraph appeared:
At the close of Business No-

vember 17, 1916, the Farmers State Bank of Merkel, Texas, rendered the following strong statement of condition to the Commissioner of Insurance and Banking at Austin, Texas: Capital, surplus and profits, \$57,89.54 deposits, \$427,904.70; loans and discounts, \$172,045.22; total resources, \$484,994.24.

The Journal might have incidentally mentioned that Merkel was one of the best small towns in the state of less than 2500 population and carrying near on a million in deposits.

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

Thanks For Votes

I want to thank the good people who registered at Behrens-McMillens in the doll contest and assisted me to win the big doll as a Christmas present.

We also wish to thank Mr. "Mack" for the many courtesies and kind treatment extended during the contest.

Nedra Paul and parents.

Couge Medicine for Children

Mrs. Hugh Cook, Scottsville, N. Y. says: "About five years ago when we were living in Garbutt, N. Y.; I doctored two of my children suffering from colds with Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and found it just as presented in every way. It promptly checked their coughing and cured their colds quicker than anything I ever used." Obtainable every.

Phone W. E. Lowe, at the Metropolitan Cafe for service car day or night.



Here is to the good old Year we are just passing.
Here is to the New Year we are just entering.
Here is to the best little town in U. S.—it's Merkel.
Here is to best of all—it's to the good citizenship of Merkel.
Look at our emblem, we are it—the Slave.
If you move to Merkel, you will soon be doing as we all are doing—Do it Electrically.

MERKEL POWER COMPANY

BY OUR BLOOD WE LIVE

If you tire easily, are subject to cold hands or feet—if you catch colds readily or have rheumatic pains—your blood or circulation is probably at fault and you need

SCOTT'S EMULSION

OF NORWEGIAN COD LIVER OIL



which is nature's easily-assimilated food, to increase your red corpuscles and charge the blood with life-sustaining richness. Scott's creates warmth to throw off colds and gives resistance to prevent sickness.

No Alcohol in SCOTT'S. Every Druggist has it
SCOTT & BOWNE, Bloomfield, N. J.

Residence for Automobile

Four room house and two lots in town of Rising Star. Will

trade for second-hand auto. Preferable a Ford. Must be in good condition. S. W. H. Buzbee. 224p

Monday, January 1st, 1917

A NEW DAY
A NEW MONTH
A NEW YEAR

IS COMING

And with it we are afforded an opportunity to express again the pleasure we derive from our business relations with the Merkel Country Builders

We Wish You a Happy and
Prosperous New Year

BURTON-LINGO COMPANY Austin Boyd, Manager

Parten's New Year Greetings

We thank all customers most heartily for their liberal patronage during the year that has just ended, making possible the maintenance of our cash business on a basis satisfactory to ourselves and more satisfactory and profitable to each and every customer who has traded with us. We wish all a happy and most prosperous New Year, and as you have favored us in the past, we shall employ every known honorable medium to make your future buying in the dry goods line a source of greater pleasure and profit. Yours for a bigger, better 1917.

Parten Dry Goods Company

Merkel's Exclusive Cash Dry Goods Store

One Price—The Lowest



Christmas Party

Quite a Christmas party celebrated at the J. T. Toombs home Christmas eve and Christmas day. Mr. and Mrs. Toombs were at home alone meditating as to what they would do to pass away the day, when their children and grandchildren, with two exceptions, stormed the house with well-filled baskets. There was no cooking to be done, everything was ready for the noonday meal. Messrs. Hurley and J. J. Toombs and their families, Cal Walden and family, M. D. Angus and family and Mrs. Walter Boden were present to enjoy the day.

Entertain

Dr. and Mrs. Geo. L. Miller entertained a number of friends on Christmas day at dinner. All interest for the day was centered around little Clara Louise, who was a Christmas gift to this home and at this time enjoyed her second birthday anniversary.

The guests were Messrs. and Mesdames H. F. Groene and W. D. Woodroof, Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Atkisson, Mrs. M. R. Woodrum, Miss Lura Atkisson, Masters George Groene and Don Woodroof.

Six O'clock Dinner

Christmas this year was the time of rejoicing for many young people. "The fatted goose was killed." This fact was manifested by the delightful six o'clock dinner given by Mr. Charlie Bell Thomas. After this delicious feast, the guests assembled in the hall to witness several remarkable events, such as a very obstreperously supersopon gollic marriage ceremony, humorously accompanied by the manifestation of "college spirit."

Those who felt a delicacy in articulating and negotiating this occasion were Misses Lorienta Dry, Eunice Russell, Josie Smith and the hostess, Messrs. George Smith, Joe Hartley, Louis Tanner. Contributed.

McCarty-Galther Nuptials

Mr. and Mrs. F. Y. Gaither arrived in Merkel Sunday evening from Sweetwater where they were married that afternoon at four o'clock. The bride having been formerly Miss Gail McCarty. The ceremony was performed in the home of Mr. Beall and witnessed by only a few friends. Rev. L. B. Owen of this place being the officiating minister.

Two popular and prominent young people have by this marriage established a home with us. The bride having at one time lived here is loved by all who know her and heartily welcomed back. Mr. and Mrs. Gaither will be at home to their friends at the B. C. Gaither residence in South Merkel.

Bowell-Winter

Miss Laura, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Howell, and Thomas Winter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terrell Winter were married Sunday afternoon.

The bride and groom in this instance are members of prominent families of the Shiloh community. And there they were married on the above named date.

Their home will be made on the Winter farm. The Mail extends to Mr. and Mrs. Winter its very best wishes for ever-present happiness and success to the greatest degree possible.

Brabbin Hager

Miss Hallie Brabbin and Owen Hager of Cisco were married in the bride's home in Merkel Sunday at ten-thirty a. m. The marriage vows being given by Rev. L. B. Owen. Cupid seems to have been a most diligent fellow in the Brabbin family of late, this being the third daughter recently wed. Mr. and Mrs. Hager have gone already to their home at Cisco, to which place the best wishes of Merkel friends follow.

Noel-Reidenbach

Christmas Eve afternoon at the residence of Justice W. W. Wheeler, Mark Reidenbach and Miss Lillie Noel were married. The bride is the daughter of Mrs. S. A. Noel a resident of Merkel, while the groom is a member of of the Reidenbach family of the Mt. Pleasant community. This young couple will live in this same neighborhood. Our congratulations are extended.

42 Party

Mrs. T. A. Johnson, assisted by Miss Flora Wright, entertained with 42 on Wednesday afternoon, honoring Mrs. Clower of Roxton, sister of Miss Wright, and Mrs. R. M. Parker. The afternoon was one of varied pleasures for the guests. After the fourth game Miss Jess Sutphen and Mrs. Robt. Hicks were found to have high score and were given boxes of candy which were presented by the honorees.

Punch was then served, after which Christmas parcels numbered to correspond with numbers written on the score cards were given out by Miss Wright. The wrappings off, many fun provoking articles were disclosed, such as cob pipes, cracker-jacks, stick candy, etc. The guests were Mesdames Parker and Clower, E. L. and L. W. Woodroof, Burroughs Sr., McMaster, Martin, Williams, Mims, Moore, Wright, Pue, Humphreys, Walters, Hicks, Harkrider, West, Howard, Burroughs Jr., Misses Warren, Williams and Sutphen.

Stanton Johnson of Fort Worth spent Sunday and Monday in the G. W. Johnson home.

G. M. Cauthen with Miss Ruby and John came in Tuesday from Midland to visit old Merkel friends.

Auto Sales For December

Automobiles sold by McDonald & Warren during the months of November and December.

BUICK

J L Banner
W A Tittle
W E Britian
W W Terry
H L Propst
John Shaw
Jim Campbell
A C Rose

DODGE

Ray Curtis (Abilene)
Roscoe Bland
I J Cox
H H Prater
Sam Winter
G B Brown

STUDEBAKER

J M Bird
W A Howard. "Adv"

NOTICE TO OUR FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS

We have purchased the entire interests of Mr. R L Bland in the Anchor Mercantile Company and in Mr Bland's dissolution from the business, we feel that after Ten years of continued connection with us, that we are losing from business a most valued, true and tried fellow worker and co-partner.

Our wishes for Mr. Bland in his new field of labor is that everything will be as pleasant and profitable for him as been our past associations.

The business will continue under the same management as here to force (always striving to serve our customers in the very best way possible) and we only ask a continuation of Mr Bland's friendship and influence, together with that of his host of friends and customers.

Respect,

H. L. Propst, A. C. Rose.

Mrs. Burroughs Entertains

Mrs. H. C. Burroughs entertained on yesterday evening from 8 to 11, her home being open to their many friends in and out of the city.

In all nearly seventy-five guests were present. Games of various description furnished pleasant pastime while musical selections and vocal accompaniments even made the home more gay.

Joyous Get Together

Christmas Eve day members of the Presbyterian Church and many friends congregated at the church for a "dinner on the ground" served in the basement.

The occasion was probably one of the greatest love feasts yet held in the new church. Every body brought something for dinner and all spread together, and everyone had a good time and enjoyed the day.

Messrs. Stan and Shirley King students of Georgetown University are in Merkel to remain till after New Year's.

Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Forrester absolutely refuse to leave this country. We recently said Mr. Forrester had sold out lock, stock and barrel. This was incorrect, he kept the barrel and has moved to Trent. Occasionally they will come here to visit and renew greetings with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Brittain are at Matador and other places on the Plains this week visiting relatives. They are making the trip in their new Buick roadster.

J. Hendricks has returned from Colton, Cal., where he has been during the last few months. He failed to arrive in time to be with his parents Christmas, due to stops he made on the way. The trip was made over land with Chas. Mashburn formerly of this place. Mr. Mashburn stopped at Stanton to visit friends and will be here soon.

Phone W. E. Lowe, at the Metropolitan Cafe for service car day or night.

It Always Helps

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

I wish every suffering woman would give

CARDUI

The Woman's Tonic

a trial. I still use Cardui when I feel a little bad, and it always does me good."

Headache, backache, side ache, nervousness, tired, worn-out feelings, etc., are sure signs of womanly trouble. Signs that you need Cardui, the woman's tonic. You cannot make a mistake in trying Cardui for your trouble. It has been helping weak, ailing women for more than fifty years.

Get a Bottle Today!

1917

May this coming New Year find you possessed with the earthly joys that should be yours, is our wish. May it continue to be prosperous to your endeavors and bring to you and yours happiness throughout its days. We desire to extend the New Year's greeting to our many new friends and extend a cordial invitation to old and new customers to call on us at any time.

THE MERKEL DRUG CO.

H. K. Shepperd, Manager

We thank each and every friend who helped us make 1916 the most prosperous year in our history. With your help in 1917 we can give better service than ever, but without it we can do nothing. We wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year

E. L. ROGERS

Citation by Publication

State of Texas—To the Sheriff of Taylor County, Greeting

You are hereby commanded to summon R. S. Snell, and the unknown heirs of R. S. Snell deceased, the unknown heirs of Robert T. Walker, deceased, L. M. Snell and the unknown heirs of L. M. Snell, Fannie Nail, S. A. Nail and the unknown heirs of S. A. Nail, Laura M. Cadwell, and the unknown heirs of Laura M. Cadwell, H. M. Cadwell and the unknown heirs of H. M. Cadwell, Mary E. Cadwell and the unknown heirs of Mary E. Cadwell, J. A. Cadwell and the unknown heirs of J. A. Cadwell, Carrie Snell and the unknown heirs of Carrie Snell, Rosella Doggett, and the unknown heirs of Rosella Doggett, James Doggett and the unknown heirs of James Doggett, T. S. Doggett and the unknown heirs of T. S. Doggett, Clara W. Cantrell and the unknown heirs of Clara W. Cantrell, J. R. Lawrence and the unknown heirs of J. R. Lawrence, Mary O. Eads and the unknown heirs of Mary O. Eads, Eliza Ewing Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Eliza Ewing Brownrigg, Elizabeth Blount Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Elizabeth Blount Brownrigg, B. F. Eads and the unknown heirs of B. F. Eads, J. R. Stuart and the unknown heirs of J. R. Stuart, A. J. Stuart and the unknown heirs of A. J. Stuart, R. A. Ellis and the unknown heirs of R. A. Ellis, D. B. Corley and the unknown heirs of D. B. Corley, H. K. Martin and the unknown heirs of H. K. Martin, Joel A. Corley and the unknown heirs of Joel A. Corley, Bettie Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Bettie Brownrigg, Ewing Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Ewing Brownrigg, and W. H. Woodman and the heirs of W. H. Woodman, by making publication of this Citation once in each week for four consecutive weeks previous to the return day hereof, in some newspaper published in your County, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then in any newspaper published in the 42nd Judicial District; but if there be no newspaper published in said Judicial District, then in a newspaper published in the nearest District to said 42nd Judicial District, to appear at the next regular term to the District Court of Taylor County, to be holden at the Court House thereof, in Abilene, on the 4th Monday in February A. D. 1917, the same being the 26th day of February A. D. 1917, then and there to answer a petition filed in said Court on the 20th day of December A. D. 1916, in a suit, numbered on the docket of said Court No. 3743, wherein D. McMahan is Plaintiff, and R. S. Snell, and the unknown heirs of R. S. Snell, deceased, the unknown heirs of Robert T. Walker, deceased, L. M. Snell and the unknown heirs of L. M. Snell, Fannie Nail and the unknown heirs of Fannie Nail, S. A. Nail and the unknown heirs of S. A. Nail, Laura M. Cadwell and the unknown heirs of Laura M. Cadwell, H. M. Cadwell and the unknown heirs of H. M. Cadwell, Mary E. Cadwell and the unknown heirs of Mary E. Cadwell, J. A. Cadwell and the unknown heirs of J. A. Cadwell, Carrie Snell and the unknown heirs of Carrie Snell, Rosella Doggett and the unknown heirs of Rosella Doggett, James Doggett and the unknown heirs of James Doggett, T. S. Doggett and the unknown heirs of T. S. Doggett, Lana & Lane, a firm composed of C. E. Lane and T. W. Lane, Clara W. Cantrell and the unknown heirs of Clara W. Cantrell, J. R. Lawrence and the unknown heirs of J. R. Lawrence, Mary O. Eads and the unknown heirs of Mary O. Eads, Eliza Ewing Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Eliza Ewing Brownrigg, Elizabeth Blount Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Elizabeth Blount Brownrigg, B. F. Eads and the unknown heirs of B. F. Eads, J. R. Stuart and the unknown heirs of J. R. Stuart, A. J. Stuart and the unknown heirs of A. J. Stuart, R. A. Ellis and the unknown heirs of R. A. Ellis, D. B. Corley and the unknown

UNDERTAKING SUPPLIES

Day Phone
54

Experienced Funeral Director
Call us When in Need

Night Phone
151

THE HOME FURNITURE COMPANY

Home Furniture Hearse Service Caskets and Robes

Coal Buyers Read This

We have lots of coal bought but are unable to get deliveries. Mines will not even make prices until coal is shipped, and in turn we will not be able to make sales on contract at any set price until we know what our coal is going to cost us and same is shipped.

WARREN BROS. COAL DEALERS

heirs of D. B. Corley, H. K. Martin and the unknown heirs of H. K. Martin, Joel A. Corley and the unknown heirs of Joel A. Corley, Bettie Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Bettie Brownrigg, Ewing Brownrigg and the unknown heirs of Ewing Brownrigg, and W. H. Woodman and the unknown heirs of W. H. Woodman, are Defendants, and said petition alleging

FIRST
That the respective residences of each and all of the defendants hereinabove named are to this plaintiff unknown, except the residences of the defendants, C. E. Lane and T. W. Lane; That the residence of C. E. Lane is Galveston County, Texas, and the residence of T. W. Lane is Fayette County, Texas.

SECOND
That on or about December 1st, 1916, plaintiff was lawfully seized and possessed of the following described lands and premises, situated in Taylor County, Texas, holding and claiming the same in fee simple, to-wit:

154 acres of land more or less, out of the B. H. H. Butts survey No. 60, described as follows: BEGINNING at the S. E. corner of a 47-acre tract of land out of said survey sold by George Ridenour to J. F. Strickland, by deed dated July 13th, 1885, and recorded in the Deeds Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. M, page 563, to which reference is made, said beginning point being on the bank of the Clear Fork of the Brazos River; THENCE West with the South line of said Strickland tract, 1137 vrs to the West line of said Butts survey; THENCE South with the West line of said Butts survey to the S. W. corner of a tract of land sold by C. P. Gamble to George Ridenour, by deed dated May 7th, 1885, and recorded in the Deeds Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. K, page 449, to which reference is made; THENCE with the Buffalo Gap and Mount Moro public road N. 89 E. 45 vrs; S. 82 1/2 E. 32 vrs; S. 81 E. 118 vrs; N. 71 1/2 E. 409 vrs to the bank of the Clear Fork of the Brazos river; THENCE down the river with its meanders to the place of beginning.

THIRD
That on the day and year last aforesaid, defendants unlawfully entered upon said premises and ejected plaintiff

therefrom, and unlawfully withheld from plaintiff the possession thereof, to his damage \$5000.00. That the reasonable annual rental value of said land and premises is \$500.00.

FOURTH
That plaintiff purchased said premises from R. O. Proctor et al, by good and sufficient general warranty deed, dated November 16th, 1916, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. —, page —; That said R. O. Proctor et al, from whom plaintiff purchased said property, were the heirs and all of the heirs of George Ridenour, deceased, and his deceased wife, Nancy P. Ridenour. That the said George Ridenour purchased from C. P. Gamble said premises by good and sufficient general warranty deed, dated May 7th, 1885, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, in Vol. K, page 449, to which reference is made; that the said C. P. Gamble purchased said premises from B. F. Eads and wife, Mary O. Eads et al, by good and sufficient general warranty deed, dated June 15th, 1878, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. A, page 191, to which reference is made; that said C. P. Gamble also purchased said property from J. A. Corley by quit-claim deed dated December 11th 1878, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. A, page 307, to which reference is made. That said J. A. Corley purchased said property from Henry K. Martin, by quit-claim deed dated September 5th, 1878, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. A, page 276, to which reference is made, and by quit-claim deed dated August 17th, 1878, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. A, page 260, to which reference is made. That the said Henry K. Martin purchased said property from H. S. Schmick, Sheriff of Eastland County, Texas, by sheriff's deed dated August 7th, 1878, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. A, page 258, to which reference is made; that said sheriff's deed purported to sell all of the right, title and interest in said premises belonging to the defendants Mary O. Eads, B. F. Eads, Eliza E. Brownrigg, Elizabeth B. Brownrigg, Mrs. L. M. Snell, Carrie Snell and Rosella

Snell. That said sheriff's deed was executed in accordance with a certain judgment and order of sale in cause No. 2690, in the District Court of Fayette County, Texas, styled Mary O. Eads, et al vs. L. M. Snell et al, a certified copy of which judgment is of record in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, in Vol. A, page 303, to which reference is made, and said order of sale and sheriff's return thereon being recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, in Vol. A, page 253, to which reference is made.

FIFTH
That the claims of the defendants to said title, as far as to this plaintiff is known, is as follows: Patent No. 506, Vol. No. 12, from the State of Texas, to R. S. Snell, and the heirs of Robert T. Walker, assignees of B. H. H. Butts, conveying the entire B. H. H. Butts survey, of which the property hereinabove described is a part; power of attorney, coupled with an interest, from certain parties purporting to be the heirs of R. S. Snell, deceased, to C. E. Lane and T. W. Lane, composing the law firm of Lane & Lane, of LaGrange, Fayette County, Texas, said power of attorney being dated February 13th, 1896, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, in Vol. 12, page 214, to which reference is made; power of attorney, coupled with an interest, from Clara W. Cantrell, representing herself to be an heir of Robert T. Walker, to J. R. Lawrence, dated January 20th, 1891, and recorded in the Deed Records of Taylor County, Texas, Vol. Z, page 161, to which reference is made.

SIXTH
That plaintiff and his grantors claiming under the deeds and chain of title hereinabove set forth, all of which is duly registered as above set forth, have been peaceable, continuous and adverse possession of the lands and tenements hereinabove described, cultivating, using and enjoying the same and paying all taxes due thereon for an uninterrupted period of thirty-five years immediately preceding the filing of this suit.

SEVENTH
Wherefore, premises considered, plaintiff prays for citation in accordance with law upon each and all of said defendants, that a guardian ad

litem be appointed as provided by law, and upon final hearing, that he have judgment against each and all of said defendants for the title and possession of said premises, for his damages, and for such other and further relief in law or in equity, general or special, to which he may show himself justly entitled.

Herein fail not, but have before said Court, at its aforesaid next regular term, this writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed the same.

Given under my hand and seal of said Court, at office in Abilene this 20th day of December A. D. 1916.
[SEAL] J. N. ROUTH, Clerk
8t District Court Taylor County.

No Hunting Here
This is to notify all parties that no hunting will be permitted on my premises. John Sears. 27tf

No Hunting Allowed
on my farm one mile south of town, nor shooting into from the road. (154p) Mrs. T. F. Compton

Posted
No hunting permitted on the Lee Moore place between Trent and Merkel on north side railroad. D. E. Teadford 22tpd

How's This?
We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm.

National Bank of Commerce, Toledo, Ohio.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Necrological

On December 11, A. D. 1916, at about 4 o'clock, omnipotent goodness drew home to heaven all that was spiritual of Adam Whisenhunt.

Mr. Whisenhunt was born in Georgia either in 1843 or 1844, the exact year being forgotten, and was, therefore, either 72 or 73 years of age. God was surely good to this man, for he not only granted him his proverbial allotment of "three score and ten" but gave him two or three years more to abide with the living. Mr. Whisenhunt moved to Arkansas with his father when a small boy, and, in the fullness of time married Miss Louise Cogburn, in 1871. W. I. Cogburn being five months old, he then moved to Hunt county in the year 1880, there he lived eight or nine years, sold out and moved to Taylor county in 1889, and has made this county his home every since. His wife was summoned home nineteen years before him. He then married Mrs. Mattie Whetsell a widow and sister to Mr. John Ensminger of Nubia and Bob Ensminger of Dora. He was the father of eleven children, eight of whom are still living. They were with the exception of one all present at his burial, which took place at White Church Cemetery. In the departure of this venerable man, Taylor county has lost one of its most tranquil and esteemed citizens. The tenor of his life was even and consistent. He was a man of whom no one could truthfully accuse of being incongruous for he was too placid a man to command such an attribute. His wife has lost a kind and loving husband, and his children are bereft of the tender compassion he was wont to irradiate. It was Mr. Whisenhunt's fortune to be the father of a large, respectable family, the grandfather of a great number of grandchildren, and the great grandfather of one great grandchild. All whose hearts have been saddened with sorrow have the writer's sympathy and pity.

G. D. Lewis.

Card of Thanks

Although confined to my room for the Christmas holidays, by the thoughtfulness of my friends it was made a very happy occasion for me. I wish to thank the W. O. W. Camp of this place for their substantial remembrance of twenty-five dollars given me last meeting night. And also to express my appreciation of the delicious turkey dinner sent on Christmas day by the Metropolitan Cafe. Gratefully yours,
F. E. Smith.

Buys Sell Xmas Present

C. T. "Claud" Derrick of Noodle gave himself a \$500 Christmas present in the form of a registered hereford bull, bought from the Largest herd. The sale was made by Thos. Largest.

Phone W. E. Lowe, at the Metropolitan Cafe for service car day or night.

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SEE THE

"Romance of Merkel"

A moving picture made right here in our city with an all-home cast, featuring G. E. Comegys, Jno. West, Miss Stacy Adkisson and Miss Elma Sheppard, (also "Damon and Pythias" and street scenes on a busy day. Don't miss this opportunity to see a picture made in your home town by home folks with all home talent

Children 10c

One Night Only—Friday, December 29th
COZY THEATRE

Adults 25c

LOCAL NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Cordellen enjoyed Christmas in Big Springs with their son.

Principal R. A. Burgess is spending this week with home folks in Lubbock.

Dennis Hartley and wife are in Collin county with the latter's parents this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hogg are at Celina visiting the latter's parents Mr. and Mrs. Nichols.

J. T. and F. H. Dennis went hunting on the Concho during their short holidays and caught some fish.

Grady Miller of Frederick, Oklahoma, is here visiting his brother H. G. Miller. He arrived for Christmas.

T. S. Dennis of Coleman was here with relatives for Christmas. His wife is visiting in Ft. Sumner but will arrive here soon.

Joe Hartley is at home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hartley. He will return Sunday to Wayland College at Plainview.

Miss Lura Adkisson and Mrs. Geo. L. Miller for a month visitors in Beaumont returned home in time for Christmas.

Mrs. T. L. Grimes who has been ill several days is now at Sylvester, the home of Dr. and Mrs. R. I. Grimes. Her condition is reported better.

Mr. and Mrs. Courtney Hunt of Haskell were here in the G. E. Comegy home for a Christmas feast. The family of R. O. Anderson also participated.

Messrs. S. D. McLeod, J. A. Miller, Sol Johnson and W. H. Riley were here bright and early Tuesday. They said things had gotten to hot for them in Trent.

Mrs. James Patterson, Messrs. G. B., W. A., Rufus and Looney Tittle and their mother, Mrs. Campbell, accompanied by Mr. Mayfield of Blair are at Sulphur Springs where they celebrated Christmas with relatives.

Mrs. W. J. Lewis and Meriwether of Fort Worth are making the Christmas holidays more pleasant for Agent W. J. Lewis by having joined him for a two weeks' stay.

A WORD WITH WOMEN

Valuable Advice for Merkel Readers

Many a woman endures with noble patience the daily misery of backache, pains about the hips, blue, nervous spells, dizziness and urinary disorders hopeless of relief because she doesn't know what is the matter.

It is not true that every pain in the back or hips is trouble "peculiar to the sex." Often when the kidneys get congested and inflamed, such aches and pains follow.

You can tell it is kidney trouble if secretions are dark colored, contain sediment; the passages are too frequent or scanty. Then help the weakened kidneys. Don't expect them to get well alone.

Doan's Kidney Pills have won the praise of thousands of women. They are endorsed at home—read this Merkel woman's convincing statement:

Mrs. M. A. Warren, El Paso St. Merkel, says: "I had a great deal of trouble with my back and could hardly turn without a sharp catch across my kidneys. I felt worn out and languid nearly all the time and became very nervous. Doan's Kidney Pills soon helped me and I kept up the treatment until I was cured."

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

Greetings From R. L. Bland

I have sold my interest in the Anchor Mercantile Co., to Mr. Rose and Mr. Propst. They will have full charge of same from this date on and will at all times be glad to serve our friends and customers in the same old way. My connection with this firm has been indeed very pleasant, having these good men as partners and a most loyal set of clerks, who will at any time make any sacrifice for the business of their customers. Words cannot express my appreciation to my friends and customers who have given us their trade and influence and made it possible for us to establish this great business and I hope you will continue to give your trade and influence.

Wishing for you one and all a Happy New Year with peace and prosperity. I am,

Sincerely,
R. L. Bland.

Stockholders Notice

The stockholders of the Farmers State Bank of Merkel are hereby notified of a meeting of the share-holders of said bank to be held at the above mentioned bank at 3 p. m., January 9, 1917, for the purpose of electing directors for the ensuing year and attending to any other such business as may come before the meeting.

R. O. Anderson, Cashier.

THE YEAR

fast approaching a close has been a very strenuous one. Merchandising has been a problem, both for us and our customers. If we have kept pace with the enormous demands made upon us, it is very gratifying, and we desire to express our sincere appreciation for your generous patronage.

Hoping that this joyous season of Peace and Goodwill finds you with your hopes fully realized and that the New Year will bring you increased happiness and success, and that we may merit a continuance of your favors, we are

Yours very truly,
W. J. Behrens
E. P. McMillen

Behrens-McMillen Furniture and Undertaking Co.

TRACTORS

And Other Farm Machines Need

TEXACO CRATER COMPOUND
To SAVE The GEARS

TEXACO CRATER COMPOUND is intended for use on heavy gears of all types, and on chains and sprockets. Stays where it is put, defies heat, pressure, or flying dirt.

Clings to gear teeth, protects them from wear, rust, or cutting.

Gears run quieter, last longer, mesh properly. Easier pulling and more power.

A can of "CRATER" will convince you. Use it along with TEXACO URSA OIL for cylinders, TEXACO CUP GREASE for bearings, TEXACO GASOLINE for fuel.

A complete line of oils and greases for all purposes can be had from the TEXACO Agent in your town.

THE TEXAS COMPANY
GENERAL OFFICES: HOUSTON, TEXAS
AGENTS EVERYWHERE

For That Dull Feeling after Eating

I have used Chamberlain's Tablets for some time and can testify that they have done me more good than any tablets I have ever used. My trouble was a heavy dull feeling after eating.—David Freeman, Kempt, Nova Scotia. These tablets strengthen the stomach and improve the digestion. They also regulate the liver and bowels. They are far superior to pills but cost no more. For sale by all dealers.

Guesses At Parten's Beans

O. W. Walker guessed 18,691 beans to be in the jar at Parten's and came in one of guessing the exact number in the jar, but be-

ing the nearest he was awarded the Ford automobile.

Several parties guessed within a few beans of the exact number, a Mr. Browning missing the number by only two beans, but a miss is as good as a mile.

Nervous Women

When nervousness is caused by constipation, as is often the case, you will get quick relief by taking Chamberlain's Tablets. These tablets also improve the digestion. Obtainable everywhere.

Phone W. E. Lowe, at the Metropolitan Cafe for service car day or night.

Tee Pee Fast Time

On Tuesday afternoon about 2.45 the Texas & Pacific west-bound passenger No. 5 pulled into this station, having departed from Fort Worth the previous evening at 11:45 only fifteen hours for 178 miles distance. Not a bad record for fast train after all.

For Eczema, Tetter and Salt Rheum

The intense itching characteristic of these ailments is almost instantly allayed by Chamberlain's Salve. Many severe cases have been cured by it. For sale by all dealers.

We Extend Sincere Thanks

To all who have contributed to our good trade, whether it was by buying or speaking a good word

WE WISH YOU A PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Come Make Our Place Yours

:::

No Trouble to Show Goods

The Brown Dry Goods Co.