



THE RED CROSS WORK

The Red Cross has held the fort in the part of the country the past week. The campaign put on has increased the membership to nearly 1500. We hoped to have the names ready to print this week, but the secretary has not yet had time to tabulate them. Only a partial list was published in our last issue.

The two companies appointed to solicit membership have done noble service. Many of the members of these committees have obtained donations worth the greatest individual contributions were put forth by Sam Swain and Dee Grimes. One day the latter obtained nearly 100, and another day the former secured nearly 150. The aggregate of both augmented the number far into the hundreds. In one week's time it is very unpopular to remain outside of the Red Cross membership.

Christmas eve Mr. Largent donated a calf, not registered, to the Red Cross. Which calf was purchased and donated for the third time, netting the Red Cross over \$50.

Ralph Green did some broncho riding on the streets that netted about \$28 and five new memberships.

The greatest donation of all was made by the Masonic Lodge, when that benevolent organization gave \$200 to the local work.

C. M. Largent donated \$10 to be used in purchasing memberships at the discretion of the ladies. He further offers to give the Red Cross all they will make off of 50 acres of land provided they will see that it is cultivated. They will likely consider availing themselves of this splendid offer at once.

So many people did yeoman service in the work, that we can not publish their names or what they did. The work done is one in which every citizen may well feel proud.

LITTLE ELMORA YANCY DEAD

Little Elmora Yancy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Yancy of the Canyon, died December 27 and was buried in Winters on the 28th. The cause of her death could not be ascertained.

Our hearts go out in sympathy to the bereaved.

MRS. WATSON DEAD

Early last Wednesday morning death came to relieve the sufferings of Mrs. Mary Watson. While she had been in very poor health for some time, yet the end was entirely unexpected. The funeral services were held at the home of Mr. Harris at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The funeral service was preached by Rev. C. S. Cameron. Interment took place in Rose Hill cemetery. To the bereaved goes our full sympathy.

WALLACE BRAGG SECRETARY

Account of the resignation of Miss Moore as secretary of the Commercial club, Wallace Bragg, son of T.G. Bragg of the Woodroof-Bragg Dry Goods Company, has been elected to that position. The Commercial Club work is very important in the business life of Merkel and Mr. Bragg needs the assistance of every member to make it worth the greatest amount of good to this country.

Mr. Bragg is a young man of sterling worth. Whenever he undertakes to do a thing he comes mighty near succeeding. We predict a great measure of success under his able assistance. Some of these days, if Merkel can hold this energetic young man within its bounds, he will be one of the leading business factors here. He just simply possesses that spirit that can not be downed, and the club is particularly fortunate in securing his services.

Judge W. W. Wheeler renewed his subscription New Year's, having been a regular subscriber 27 years. He says he has had to put up with every editor the Merkel Mail ever had, starting with Mary Jane Cox.

Plenty corn, oats, chops, bran and shorts at the Crown Hardware Co.

MERKEL-KALE BASKET BALL GAME

The Merkel-Kale High School teams played on the local grounds December 20. The first half was played very fast and at the close of the first half Merkel had 9 and Kale 4. The second half was played by teamwork of the best kind, the final score being 18 to Merkel and 12 for Kale.

The line-up for Merkel were: Doy Garrett, Russel Pike, J. J. Vilkre, Hugh McRee, Willie Levens, Mino Burns, Roy Hobbs and

ard Laney as substitutes. The line-up for Kale were Joe Douglas, Paul Bynum, Kenneth Pee, John Duan and Hubert Harris.

FIRE AT MERKEL

Fire of unknown origin destroyed two business houses and did other damage here early in the morning of December 29. The fire was discovered at 1:30 o'clock and the fire company was soon at work putting out the flames.

The building owned by C. S. Fields of Fort Worth and occupied by the Elite Confectionery was a total loss. Value of building, \$3,000; insurance unknown. The confectionery was owned by Sergeant Ferrier of Camp Bowie. J.O. Hamilton building total loss, insurance \$1,000; occupied by T. C. Jones Barker shop; value \$1,000; insurance, \$500, and the Sibley Tailoring Company, value about \$500, not insured. W. S. Telford building, damaged, fully covered by insurance. Telford building was occupied by F. H. Dennis Jewelry store which suffered slight damage.

John Sears building slightly damaged, occupied by Sanders Drug Co. Stock valued at \$5,000; insurance \$4,000; badly damaged by smoke. The total loss is about \$5,000. The fire evidently started in the Elite Confectionery.

REV. DOOLEY WRITES

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 20th.—Exams are over, the holiday season has begun and I come at last to extend Christmas greetings to all our good friends in and about Merkel.

We arrived safely, have been wonderfully-blessed in many unexpected ways, and are happy in our school work.

Chicago is so big, that we can scarcely realize its immensity. Still we are beginning to realize that it is a cold city, a dirty, smoky city, a wicked city, (robberies have netted about \$2,000,000 the past year) yet a place of great opportunity and interest.

We are about three miles north of the business center and one mile from the lake front. The city extends about thirty miles in length up and down the lake.

There are multitudes of foreigners here, and as for Germans, this is the 6th largest German city in the world.

But for all our interest in Chicago, we have not forgotten our delightful associations there, and often become homesick for Merkel, and Texas. We would like so much to spend Christmas there, but for all that impossibility we wish everybody a very, very happy time. We have anxiously received bits of news from there, and that section. We understand you have had considerable cold, but no rain yet. If that is still so I still hope your prosperity.

We have kept reasonably well since being here and trust health has been good there.

Hoping to hear good news from time to time and wishing you all the season's best, we remain as ever,

Yours very truly,
MR. AND MRS. C. C. DOOLEY,
1225 Altgeld.

FROM THE FRONT

Foreign Port,
December 7, 1917.

Dear Ones at Home:
At last we are anchored in some foreign port; sighted land this a.m., first since leaving other side, November 22nd.

Now of course I can't tell where we are, how we got here, and how we are surrounded, when I think we will move again, where I think we will go, or do, so you will have no news to put out.

Never felt better, but I am some lighter than when we started. The sea was so rough for several days that we had the fun of eating sardines while hanging to something or sliding across the deck. Could not have any table down there for they would not stand.

All the crew in good spirits, and hope to do some good here. I'm glad I'm over here too, for may hold a hand in this deal too, as I couldn't on the other side.

Did not get sick on this trip, but surely saw lots of it. Hardly know how I got by, for chances were very favorable, sea awfully rough in places. Will try to send some pictures later.

Seems a long time since I heard from home but will have to get accustomed to such conditions now.

Uncle Sam is to handle all our cards and letters, free of stamps from this side, so we have a saving there.

Days are awfully short here at this season, sun rises at 9:30 and goes

CLASSIFIED ADS

All ads in this department will be 1 cent per word for each time

STEAM VULCANIZING—Modern equipment, experienced, work guaranteed. Location in building with Henry Rose. E. B. Robbins.

FOR TRADE—Good saddle, bridle and buggy harness for shoats. Phone 122. L. B. Owen.

FOR RENT—Choice business building, 50x65 feet; rent reasonable, on best business street Full details at Merkel Mail office.

I wish to thank my customers for their past patronage. For the present Arthur Clark and myself are with the City Barber Shop. My plans for the future are not matured. P. C. Jones.

WANTED—To trade work mule for mule colt. tip

down about 4 o'clock, so you see we get plenty of sleep, eat three meals during eight hours, and do without the rest of the time.

This may not go off the ship today but at any rate we are anchored and have a chance and do not want to pass it up.

Will write as often as I can and hope I can stay over here until the war is over, then I'm coming home?
With love to all,
HUBERT BECKHAM.

H. HOLLAND TEAFF FOR COUNTY CLERK

To the Citizens of Taylor County:

The time is fast approaching when the voters of Taylor county will be called to name their servants for another two years. My hat goes into the ring for County Clerk without apology. I desire your support. If you are not fully acquainted with my fitness for the position I seek, I beg of you to hold your decision open in regard to this office until such a time as we have opportunity to talk the matter over personally.

I am 27 years old, having lived in Taylor county for the past 15 years. For the past six years I have been a student in Baylor University at Waco. I believe I am fitted for the position I seek, and confidently place my ambitions in your hands.

I trust you will inquire diligently as to my fitness, as to my ability, habits, morals, and general integrity. My life is an open book.

I am entering the race free from political promises or entanglements. If I am elected I will be free to serve you as I should, without a single political debt to pay.

Trusting that you will give my candidacy your consideration, and with very best wishes, I am, yours to serve.

On account of not being able to pass a physical examination I am not in Uncle Sam's volunteer service today. This disability is only for military service.

H. HOLLAND TEAFF.

"NOODLE"

Christmas has come and gone. Everyone had a fine time.

Bruce Wheeler of Tulla visited friends here the past week.

Mrs. F. B. Church, and children of Sherman, Texas, have returned home after a month's stay with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Y. Beene.

Jake Eason, who is in the training camp at Charlotte, N. C., spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Eason.

Miss Helen Thompson of Chillicothe visited friends and relatives the past two weeks.

The literary society will render a program Friday night.

Mr. Henry Eason of Laredo visited relatives here the past week.

J. C. Thompson and family spent the past two weeks with relatives and friends at this place.

Stella Goode, who is attending school at Norman, Oklahoma, spent Christmas with her parents.

Selma Hendrix spent the first of the week with friends at Abilene.

Odell Herring has returned home from Laredo, where he has been in the training camp.

Howell Jones of Anson spent the last of the week with W. J. Bickwell and family.

The party at E. C. Richard's Saturday night was enjoyed by a crowd of young folks.

Wesley Ely and family are visiting his parents.

George Page of Camp Bowie spent the holidays with his sister, Mrs. J. T. Pue, and family.

FOR RENT—125 acres, with 4 room house and good water. A. W. Hunter, Merkel, Route 5, 212p

Stockholders Meeting.

The stockholders of The Farmers State Bank will meet at 4 o'clock January 8, in the directors room at the bank.

R. O. Anderson, Cashier.

FOR SALE—Second-hand five-passenger Ford, in good condition. See W. O. Boney.

NOTICE TO FORD OWNERS—You will in the future find me at Merkel Mo'or Co., where I am prepared to do all kinds of Ford work. First door south of Star Store. Len Sublett. jan4

H. F. Groene came home from Camp Bowie a few days ago a very sick man. He came very near having a severe case of pneumonia. He is better now and we hope to soon see him about the streets as usual.

When you need flour try a sack of Gladiola at Bob Martin's

Mr. and Mrs. Howt Johnson of Wharton visited Mrs. Johnson's sister, Mrs. Walter Jackson and family the past week.

Plenty of cotton seed meal and bran on hand. Bob Martin.

Britain Jobe and sister, Mrs. O. M. Sharp, of Fort Worth are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Jobe, during the holidays.

Plenty corn meal at G. M. Sharps.

Shirley King came home from the army hospital camp at San Antonio for the holidays and took the measles.

Cold pressed cake at Bob Martin's.

Stanley King, a student in Oxford University, at Oxford, Miss., visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom King, during the holidays.

Cold pressed cake at Bob Martin's.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Smith of Stanton, formerly of Merkel, are visiting their son, T. N. Smith, and family. Mrs. Smith is also visiting her brother, Mr. Hale, of Shiloh, who is very low.

Last Friday Misses Irene and Willie Swann, Ola and Lula Sharp and Messrs. Z. T. and Hershel Lamar, spent the day at Baird with Mrs. R. C. Tyler. They made the trip in an auto.

Miss Janie Cubbins of Simmons College at Abilene spent the week end with Miss Irene Swann.

Holland Teaff, who has been attending Baylor University, has returned home. He is making his canvass for County Clerk and will not return to Baylor.

Miss Ruby Campbell returned Tuesday night, after spending the holidays with friends in Colorado.

Miss Emma Houston visited her parents in Abilene during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. W. O. McCleary of Spur visited Mr. McCleary's sister, Mrs. Beryl Scott and family the past week. Mr. McCleary is manager of the electric light plant at Spur.

School opened Wednesday with an increased attendance, with every teacher in place and a few new pupils. The compulsory law takes effect Monday, and it is thought this will increase the attendance some.

The Merkel Mail linotype machine is out of commission, greatly hampering our work this week. We hope to have it in running shape next week.

Misses Genevra Brown and Louise Warren left Tuesday for Abilene where they entered Simmons College for the remainder of the school term.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Tucker and family, of Fullbright, Texas, visited Mrs. Tucker's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Lassiter, during the holidays.

J. W. McDonald, and daughter, Miss Marie, of Slaton, visited his parents, Rev. and Mrs. W. D. McDonald, during the holidays. Mr. McDonald moved to Slaton last June. He says he likes the country fine.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Leslie McNees recently returned to Merkel and have located on Route 3, where they will remain next year. Mr. McNees has been employed in Dallas for some months.

The ladies of the Methodist church will entertain every member of the church and every citizen of the community at the close of the quarterly conference here next Tuesday night. Luncheon will be served.

The school board elected Mrs. Asa Sheppard as teacher of the Seventh Grade, taking the place of Miss Maurine Kidwell, who recently resigned to take up the duties of wedded life. Mrs. Sheppard is an experienced and capable teacher and the board is particularly fortunate in obtaining her services.

Auto-Railway Accident

Miss Stacy Adkisson came near being the principal in a serious accident Thursday. As she neared the crossing close to her home the westbound passenger was passing. Driving in behind it she ran her car into the rear part of the engine of the eastbound. Miss Adkisson was jarred up a good deal, but not serious, it is thought. The car was badly damaged.

Bouquet flour is the best. Get it at the Crown Hardware Co.

TRENT NEWS

Jan. 1.—C. J. Beckham has gone to Amarillo on business.

H. H. Prater and family have moved to Slaton, N. M.

Walter Prater and Miss Eunice Evans formerly of this place were married December 25. He will go with his father to New Mexico.

Campbell Morris and Miss Eva Swann were secretly married August 4, 1917. They announced it December 25. Mr. Morris is a soldier in Camp Bowie.

Sunday afternoon at 4:30 J. K. Winn and Mrs. Mollie Fulcher were quietly married at the home of Rev. F. Johnson. They will live at Trent.

The boys were loyally entertained every night while at home from Camp Bowie. They were, Royce Dowdy, Spurgeon Scott, Hollis Brown, Delton and Otto Blackmon, Hubert Swann, Walter McElmurry.

The boys and girls at home from school were Misses Eula Johnson, Mae Robinson, Gertrude Dowdy, and Lee Massey, Burt McRee, Fred Prible, Wilson Beckham, Charlie Smith.

Miss Maga Smith returned to her work in Hamlin Tuesday after spending Tuesday with her parents.

Misses Floy Lemon, Odessa Moon, Maude Skillern and Geta Beckham spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Twyman Collins.

J. W. Armour, who has been sick is reported much better.

C. D. Duke has moved his family out on the Prater place 4 miles west of town.

NELLIE SHARP HURT

Nellie Sharp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Sharp, happened to a serious accident on December 23, when she fell from a horse, striking her head on a rock. A blood clot formed on the brain which necessitated removal to Abilene where an operation was performed. It was successful and Nellie is getting along nicely.

DR. PUE LEAVES MERKEL

To my friends and patrons of Merkel and vicinity: I wish to express my hearty appreciation. Since coming to Merkel I have enjoyed a splendid practice for a place of this size and population and had it not been for the drouth conditions I would have continued to do a good business. However, I desire a larger field and am going in search of same.

On my recent visit to San Antonio many of my friends wanted me to go back there, as I practiced in that city two years, but I do not think I will make such a long jump at this time. I will assure my friends that I am by no means being run out of Taylor county as has been falsely reported and as everyone who knows me ought to know. My family will remain in Merkel for the present.

Wishing you all a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

DR. J. I. PUE.

COMMERCIAL CLUB BANQUET

Last Friday night the Commercial Club had its second banquet. Promptly at 7:30 the members and their wives and sweethearts and the soldier boys and their best girls came and gathered around the banquet board. Prof. Parker acted as toastmaster, and to say that he did credit to the part is putting it entirely too mild; he simply carried off the honors. Thanks for the Blessing of the Old Year were said by H. C. Williams, after which Mrs. Lytton Howard favored the gathering with a solo.

J. C. Mason spoke on "Appreciation of Our Boys at the Front," in his usual eloquent and pleasing style. He "brought the house down." Capt. R. I. Grimes replied in an eloquent manner, full of enthusiasm. He explained some of the details of army life, having just won his promotion and speaking so well on a topic of which he was so familiar, made his address the more pleasing and interesting, and when he had finished, every one felt like they stood just a little closer to the boys at the front.

Dr. Pue, Jim Black, Mr. Armstrong and Mrs. Howard gave a quartette, especially fitting to the occasion.

"What the Red Cross Means to Me," was ably handled by Mrs. R. L. Blaud, one of the faithful workers at the Red Cross rooms.

Mrs. Howard and Miss Williams gave a piano duet.

"Commercial Club a Factor in Building Home Enterprises," was discussed by Walter Jackson.

Miss Lucy Tracy gave a reading that was so humorous that some of those present are laughing over it yet. Needless to say she had to give another. Likewise did the song of Master John Mann, who some day will doubtless have complete command of the stage. Miss Ina Mab Adams and Parker Sharp sang a duet, and then had to do it again. Benediction was pronounced by Dr. M. Armstrong. This is a regular feature for the Commercial Club. Every one present seemed to have had a rollicky good time.

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COUNTY CLERK

H. HOLLAND TEAFF

H. Holland Teaff has officially announced for County Clerk of Taylor County. Mr. Teaff is well qualified for the position, worthy of the support of his fellow citizens and a young man of the highest integrity. He is a home boy, having grown up in this section and has a large acquaintance all over the county. His father is a prosperous stock farmer residing near Merkel. Mr. Teaff has spent the past four years in Baylor University at Waco and the work done eminently qualifies him for the position he seeks. He has thrown his hat into the ring and from now until the last ballot is cast he will do everything within his power to win the race.

ACCEPTS POSITION WITH BANK

DeVerle Johnson has accepted a position with the City National Bank of Dallas, leaving for that city last Friday night. DeVerle is blessed beyond measure when it comes to opportunity. Schooled under the tutelage of a father who is past master in the banking game, intellectually competent and alert, he has proven himself to be worthy of a high place in his chosen profession in the years to come. He is connected with one of the very best financial institutions in all the Southwest, and we freely predict his success, wishing him rapid progress and full fruition of his ambitions.

Mr. Johnson is succeeded by Miss Moore, who for the past two months has been secretary of the Commercial Club. This work gives her a broader opportunity, she thinks, and we wish her every success that can attend her efforts.

W. A. THORNTON SERIOUSLY HURT

While driving his team in the neighborhood of his home in the Salt Branch community on December 22, the team became frightened and ran away, throwing Mr. Thornton out and seriously injuring his head. He was taken to the sanitarium in Abilene, and even yet the full extent of the hurt is not known.

BANK PAID DIVIDEND

The Farmers State Bank paid its usual semi-annual five per cent dividend on January 1. The bank is in splendid shape in spite of the protracted drouth. The officials of the bank are highly competent, and no note of pessimism is ever heard from them.

A PROGRESSIVE BANK



Keeps the money in this community active, not idle; this gives work to people and makes everybody thrive and prosper.

What would you do without a **PROGRESSIVE BANK** in our community?

This Bank does not hoard its resources, it was organized for service.

**ONLY GUARANTY FUND BANK
IN MERKEL**

Farmers State Bank
Merkel, Texas

THE NATIONAL FARM LOAN ASSOCIATION

Will loan you money to buy you a home or to take up indebtedness. Rate 5½ per cent interest and 1 per cent to apply to the principal is paid Semi-annually. This amount pays both principal and interest and liquidates the entire debt in 36 years. If your land is in Taylor County you can get a loan here. The United States Government desires that every Farmer own his home and has established the Federal Land Bank for that purpose. Do not wait until your paper is due before you apply for a loan. See or write W. C. Lasley at Buffalo Gap, Texas. —Adv. 4t3c.

GREEN'S AUGUST FLOWER has been a household remedy all over the civilized world for more than half a century for constipation, intestinal troubles, torpid liver and the generally depressed feeling that accompanies such disorders. It is a most valuable remedy for indigestion or nervous dyspepsia and liver trouble, bringing on headache, coming up of food, palpitation of heart, and many other symptoms. A few doses of August Flower will relieve you. It is a gentle laxative. Sold by Grimes Drug Store. 30 and 90 cent bottles.

COMMUNITY CO-OPERATION

Do you fully realize what the community in which you live means to you individually?

You hear of wonderful commercial, social, educational and religious advantages, or fine stores, beautiful parks and good roads in other localities, all of which mean but little or nothing to you compared to advantages and conveniences offered you at home. You are affected only by prevailing conditions in your community where you live and must suffer for lack of you are benefited by advantages.

Everyone is more or less proud of the community in which he or she lives, and just-

ly so. However, to me the height of inconsistency is personified in people who pretend to be deeply interested in local conditions, and at the same time deliberately do those things that tend to retard the development of their home communities.

Those people who proudly boast of the advantages offered by their home towns, as desirable places in which to live, and then refuse to extend local merchants their patronage, are as ridiculous as the restaurant proprietor who eats "out".

Whenever You Need a General Tonic Take Grove's.

The Old Standard Grove's Tasteless chill Tonic is equally valuable as a General Tonic because it contains the well known tonic properties of QUININE and IRON. It acts on the Liver, Drives out Malaria, Enriches the Blood and Builds up the Whole System. 60 cents.

TIME TO ACT

Don't Wait for the Fatal Stage of Kidney Illness. Profit By Merkel Peoples Experiences

Occasional attacks of backache, bladder disorder, headaches and dizzy spells are frequent symptoms of kidney trouble. It's an error to neglect these ills. The attacks may pass off for a time but generally return with greater intensity. Don't delay a minute. Begin taking Doan's Kidney Pills, and keep up their use until the desired results are obtained. Good work in Merkel proves the effectiveness of this great kidney remedy.

Mrs. J. V. West, Merkel, says "An attack of the grip several years ago left my kidneys weak and disordered, causing severe pain. As Doan's Kidney Pills had been taken with good result in my family, I used them. They reached the seat of the trouble, completely curing me. I have had no return of the suffering since."

Price 60c. at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that cured Mrs. West. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfgs., Buffalo, N. Y. adv

CONDENSED STATEMENT

Farmers & Merchants NATIONAL BANK

MERKEL, TEXAS

At Close of Business November 20, 1917

RESOURCES

Loans	\$239,445.43
U. S. Bonds and Certificates	63,250.00
Stock in Federal Reserve Bank	1,500.00
Five Per Cent Redemption Fund	312.50
Furniture and Fixtures	3,600.00
Real Estate	5,700.00
CASH AND EXCHANGE	162,430.66
Total	\$476,238.59

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus and Profits	41,305.05
Circulation	6,250.00
Bills Payable	None
Rediscounts	None
Other Borrowed Money	None
DEPOSITS	403,683.54
Total	\$476,238.59

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. T. Warren G. F. WEST C. P. Warren
Henry James Thos. Johnson

The Merkel Mail

Published Every Friday Morning by THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC. WALTER JACKSON, Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00 PER YEAR

TELEPHONE No. 61

Entered at the postoffice at Merkel Texas as second class mail matter.

Wasn't it fine to record the passing of a Christmas practically free from fire water. Old John Barleycorn is rapidly passing to his reward. If the war does nothing else than ring the death knell of this monster, it is well worth the price.

The Christmas Number of The Cameron Herald was creditable in every way. The advertising patronage was good and the reading columns bore splendid evidence of a prosperous country.

We acknowledge receipt of a copy of The Herald and Democrat, published at Siloam Springs, Ark., doubtless sent us by a friend. One glance is enough to satisfy us that is we get real hungry we will know right where to go. It is a splendid issue.

An election has been ordered in the Roby (Tex) precinct for the property owners to vote on issuance of road bonds to the amount of \$100,00. It is thought there will be no trouble in voting the bonds.

Rides for Red Cross Cause.

Raph Green, the well known horseman, of Shiloh, road bucking horses Christmas eve and got \$30.90 for the Red Cross.

Ralph is to be commended for his patriotism. He deserves as much credit as if he had paid the money out of his own pocket. He risked personal injury on the hard streets of Merkel that he might contribute to this worthy cause. He is no slacker.

The Quinine That Does Not Affect the Head Because of its tonic and laxative effect. LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE is better than ordinary Quinine and does not cause nervousness nor ringing in head. Remember the full name and look for the signature of H. W. GROVE. 30c.

For The New Year Our Best Wishes -- To You --

We Pledge You Our Best Work on Selling

Quality Goods

at a modest profit
For Cash and One Price

The Brown Dry Goods Co.

LOCAL NEWS

Miss Mable Brackeen, of Dalhart, spent the Holidays with her parents of this city.

Penty brand and shorts at G. M. Shrap's.

Ms. John T. Morgan of San Angelo visited her mother, Mrs. J. C. Calvert and other relatives during the holidays.

Tr. Baker Boy flour, Bob Martz's.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Burns and two children, Jewell and R. L., spent Christmas with relatives in San Angelo.

Cold Pressed cake at G. M. Sharp's.

F. L. Milligan of Camp Pike, Little Rock, visited his sister, Mrs. W. G. Leach and family the past week.

No. four better than Gladiola at Bob Martin's.

Dave Barrow the Big Furniture Man of Merkel spent Christmas day with relatives and friends here. Dave says he is well pleased with his new home.—Rotan Advance.

Car coats just arrived at G. M. Sarp's.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bumpass San Angelo, and two children visited Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Burns a few days the past week. They had been in Okla. for several months and stopped by on their return trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bradley and two sisters of Mr. Bradley, Misses Kte and Opal, of Floydada, spent the holidays with Rev. and Mrs. W. D. McDonald, Mr. Brady's grand parents, and Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Peterson, Mrs. Bradley's parents.

What's LAX-FOS
LAX-FOS IS AN IMPROVED CASCARA
Digestive liquid Laxative, Cathartic
Liver Tonic. Contains Cascara Bark,
Sage Root, Rhubarb Root, Black
Berry, Ape Root, Senna Leaves and
Pain Expeller. Contains strength with palatable
and agreeable taste. Does not grip. 50c

CALLED HER FAMILY TO HER BEDSIDE

Six Years Ago, Thinking She Might Die, Says Texas Lady, But Now She Is a Well, Strong Woman and Praises Cardui For Her Recovery.

Royse City, Tex.—Mrs. Mary Kilman, of this place, says: "After the birth of my little girl...my side commenced to hurt me. I had to go back to bed. We called the doctor. He treated me...but I got no better. I got worse and worse until the misery was unbearable...I was in bed for three months and suffered such agony that I was just drawn up in a knot... I told my husband if he would get me a bottle of Cardui I would try it... I commenced taking it, however, that evening I called my family about me... for I knew I could not last many days unless I had a change for

the better. That was six years ago and I am still here and am a well, strong woman, and I owe my life to Cardui. I had only taken half the bottle when I began to feel better. The misery in my side got less... I continued right on taking the Cardui until I had taken three bottles and I did not need any more for I was well and never felt better in my life... I have never had any trouble from that day to this."

Do you suffer from headache, backache, pains in sides, or other discomforts, each month? Or do you feel weak, nervous and fagged-out? If so, give Cardui, the woman's tonic, a trial.

J. 71

2,000,000 CATTLE STARVING TO DEATH IN TEXAS

There are enough cattle starving to death in a strip of land the size of Germany in Texas to feed all the United States soldiers in France for two years.

That is the way the livestock problem in Texas was characterized by Charles McCarty, special representative of Herbert Hoover who returned recently from an investigation of the cattle conditions in Texas. There are 2,000,000 head of cattle starving to death in Texas and our cattle raisers are asking help from our Government. What if these same cattlemen had planted one hundred acres of peanuts to every section of grass land in Texas, the story would have read like this: There are 2,000,000 head of sleek fat cattle in Texas ready for market, which will net the Texas cattle raisers many millions of dollars. Some may argue that it has been too dry to raise peanuts or any thing else where these cattle are starving. Well let's see, is Mineral Wells, Dublin, Comanche, DeLeon, Cisco, Rising Star, Cleburne, Brownwood and Stephenville in the drouth belt? Yes, Well, they are making from ten to twenty-five bushels of peanuts, and from one-half to a ton of hay to the acre, and taking the minimum of this year which is ten bushels of nuts, and one thousand pounds of hay per acre, and on a hundred acres this would be thirty thousand pounds of nuts and one hundred thousand pounds of hay. That amount would have kept two hundred head of cattle from starving, and two hundred head of cattle is about all a section of grass land will carry.

The Texas Peanut Works is being organized to build one hundred warehouses scattered over the State at different concentrating places where railroad facilities are ample for the purpose of locating seed nuts to the surrounding country, in order to make Texas a peanut growing State, and a centrally located factory to manufacture all the by-products of the peanut, and one of these by-products will be peanut meal and cake; also ground peanut hay, and will be kept in these one hundred warehouses for distribution for the convenience of the stockmen of Texas.

We invite your closest investigation.

THE TEXAS PEANUT WORKS
DALLAS, TEXAS
Offices: In Slaughter Bldg.

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We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Medicine. Hall's Catarrh Medicine has been taken by catarrh sufferers for the past thirty-five years, and has become known as the most reliable remedy for Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Medicine acts thru the Blood on the Mucous surfaces, expelling the Poison from the Blood and healing the diseased portions. After you have taken Hall's Catarrh Medicine for a short time you will see a great improvement in your general health. Start taking Hall's Catarrh Medicine at once and get rid of catarrh. Send for testimonials free.
F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio.
Sold by all Druggists, 75c.

Buys Red Cross Memberships. C.M. Largent donated \$10. to purchase Red Cross memberships for parties unable to join. The ladies will choose the members. This is a good move, and others might follow the example.

Young Mothers

Reserve strength for motherhood is of two-fold importance and thoughtful women before and after maternity take

SCOTT'S EMULSION

It supplies pure cod liver oil for rich blood and contains lime and soda with medicinal glycerine, all important ingredients for strengthening the nervous system and furnishing abundant nourishment.

It is free from alcohol. Insist on the genuine. The Norwegian cod liver oil in Scott's Emulsion is now refined in our own American laboratories which makes it pure and palatable. Scott & Downe, Bloomfield, N.J. 17-20

EARL WHITE DEAD

All the Merkel country was shadowed with a pall of sadness when word was flashed from Camp Bowie on December 20, stating that Lester Earl White had died in the army hospital there. Death occurred at 9 o'clock in the morning on that day, and the body reached Merkel on the Sunshine special that night, accompanied by his father and mother, M. and Mrs. J. J. White, sister, Miss Luna; brothers, George and J. L.; cousin, Miss Minnie Houghton; uncles, J. T. and H. B. White; an aunt, Mrs. Alice Williams of Patillo, and twelve soldier boys from the camp. An uncle, C. O. White, of Colorado got in the next morning.

The funeral was held from the Baptist church at four the evening of the 21st. Rev. L. B. Owen preached the funeral sermon. A number of close friends of the deceased attended the services from Colorado. Interment took place directly after the service in Rose Hill Cemetery.

The church was crowded to its capacity and dozens of people failed to gain admittance. The services were of a very touching nature and many times there were few dry eyes in the great congregation. Earl left Merkel for army service early in August, the very picture of health, and no one ever thought of him coming back so soon an amaciated corpse. He was of a specially jovial disposition and numbered his friends by his acquaintances. Possibly there was not a more popular young soldier in his company. No more touching scene has hardly been witnessed than to behold his comrades in uniform accompanying his body to its final resting place.

Earl was a good boy, the delight of his parents and friends, volunteering in the defense of his country. It is indeed painful to record his passing right at the time when his services were so needed at the front. He has gone, but noble in death as if he had been standing on the firing line. When asked if he was ready to go, he unhesitatingly replied, "I am." His life has been given as truly as any patriot under the sun for his country, for you and for me. It is hard indeed to part, especially with one of such noble purpose, but the inevitable has so decreed, and we must bend our will to the Most High, who in his wisdom knew it was best. It is not for us to reason why, but to humbly bow in submission to His will.

We are glad that he died brave, the same true spirit we had known and learned to love, just passing sweetly into a realm of treasured bliss.

Earle is survived by his parents, one sister and three brothers, two of the brothers being in the service, George with the army at Camp Bowie and James with the Navy at Great Lakes, Ill.



Have Purchased Filling Station

From W. E. Britain and will still handle Texas Company Products. Will appreciate your continued patronage Prompt and courteous treatment

GEORGE WOODRUM

Why Wear Dirty, Dingy CLOTHES

Or throw away garments that are almost good. Try having them Cleaned and Mended.

Mrs. C. L. Cash

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The Old Standard general strengthening tonic, GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC, drives out Malaria, enriches the blood, and builds up the system. A true tonic. For adults and children. 6c

Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Whitlow and children of Temple visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Boney, and will Boney during the holidays.

Mrs. Geo. D. Richie left Monday night for Imperial, California, to attend the funeral of her little grandchild. En route home she will visit relatives in Arizona and New Mexico.

Fred Holloway of Camp Bowie spent the holidays with home folks. His mother entertained with a dinner Sunday in honor of his 23rd birthday and is sister's fifteenth wedding anniversary.

Misses Mary and Dovie Teaff of the Baptist Seminary at Fort Worth, came home for the holidays.

Miss Agnes Lassiter, after spending the holidays at home, returned to the business college in Abilene Monday morning.

Miss Vera Jenkins of Merkel left Monday to re-enter the business college, after spending Christmas at home.

Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Anderson and son returned the past week from a very delightful trip to California, where they visited Mr. Anderson's parents.



This is the Champion Get of Baby Doll Fairfax, bred and owned by C. M. Largent, Merkel. Left to right—Dolly Fairfax, Texas Fairfax, Annie Laurie Fairfax and Dafe Fairfax, Exhibited at National Feeders and Breeders Show at Fort Worth last spring.



Mrs. Walter Jackson, Editor

SOCIAL AT METHODIST CHURCH

The Woman's Missionary Society gave a social at the Methodist church last Thursday evening, quite a crowd being in attendance. A nice program was rendered, local talent participating. T. A. Johnson acted as toastmaster. After the program the crowd repaired to the Sunday School room where refreshments were served.

SOLDIER BOYS ENTERTAINED

The soldier boys who were "lucky" enough to be home for Christmas were royally entertained from the time they reached here until they had to return. Outside of the entertainment afforded by the respective families of the boys, the features were as follows:

Last Thursday Dee Grimes and T. G. Bragg gave a dinner at the Collins House. Those in attendance were Sergeant F. J. Ferrier, Captain R. I. Grimes, Corporal Arthur Derington, Corporal W. B. Brown, Corporal Geo. White, Riley White, Luther Grimes, Geo. W. Reynolds, Z. T. Lamar, Jas. R. Brown, Robt. F. Banner, Lloyd Sheppard, Jas. F. Holloway, Roy C. Sheppard, Ennis L. Grimes, James White, Brittain Jobe. Others in attendance were Mr. and Mrs. J. J. White, Mrs. D. I. Grimes and baby, Mrs. T. G. Bragg, T. L. Grimes, Davis Beasley, M. M. Boney, Dent Gibson, Misses Nora Kelsoe, Lorena Dry and Sadie Collins, Jim Tipton, ex-navy boy dressed in his uniform, and Walter Jackson. Several speeches were made at the close of the feast, after which the boys repaired to the yard where several kodak pictures were struck.

The following day the boys were entertained by Dr. J. E. Adkisson at the Metropolitan Cafe. The boys had a delightful time. Those in attendance in addition to the soldier boys were Misses Mattie Lee Mann, Mamie Moore, Elma Sheppard, Lura Adkisson and A. O. Hickman.

Thursday night Miss Elma Sheppard gave a supper to the boys, entertaining in her usual delightful manner. Those in attendance in addition to the soldier boys were Misses Nell Lomax and McCargel of Abilene, Mr. and Mrs. Davis Beasley, Frank Hart and Dee and T. L. Grimes.

After the supper the crowd repaired to the opera house where the young people of the city had arranged a dance, and flying feet and joy unconfined played merriment with youth and beauty until the hours shortened in the depth of night.

Friday night the boys were entertained by the Commercial Club at its banquet.

One by one the boys departed for their camps, leaving behind them a Christmas that they will never forget. They go back with renewed zeal, realizing that their cause is a just one and that their loved ones back home are worth fighting for.

We love the boys; there is nothing we can do that we would withhold for their comfort. They are fighting our battles, the battles of right. It is just and right that we do what we can to aid them. They are splendid young fellows, offering their strength and their lives that the world might be free.

MCMURRAY-HAYS WEDDING

In the afternoon of Christmas day, Mr. J. O. McMurray, son of Mr. and Mrs. — McMurray, and Miss Alma Hays, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Will Hays, of Salt Branch, called at the home and were married by Rev. L. B. Owen. Only a few friends of the young couple were in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. McMurray were practically raised in and near Merkel.

Both of the contracting parties are highly esteemed, numbering their friends by the score, possessing true ideals and maintaining an integrity in keeping with a worthy ambition. They will make their home in the Salt Branch neighborhood.

Our best wishes go with them in their joint journey of life.

Newton Cobb had his hand severely hurt on December 22, when he fell and an automobile ran over it, skinning it up considerably. The hurt is getting along nicely.

B. Y. P. U. SOCIAL

The B. Y. P. U. had a social at the home of Dr. and Mrs. J. T. Pue the past week. A large crowd was in attendance and every one had a delightful time. Various games were played, and the Christmas spirit held full sway.

In token of appreciation of the valuable services rendered the primary department of the Methodist S. S. by Mrs. O. F. McMaster as superintendent, and to show their love and esteem for her the teachers of the department presented her with a lovely picture as a New Year's gift, also wishing her much happiness and prosperity in this New Year and expressing their regret at losing her as superintendent of the department.

MRS. E. W. PERMINTER,
MRS. E. P. BEENE.

Elder W. G. Cypert will preach at the Christian church Sunday at 11 a. m. and Sunday night.

A Smoked Sale COMING

Our stock was partly damaged by smoke. The goods are not damaged. The coverings only are soiled.

- Fine Stationery, \$1.75 boxes \$1.00
 - Fine Stationery, 1.00 boxes 70c
 - Fine Stationery, 75c boxes 50c
 - Fine Stationery, 35c boxes 20c
 - Fine Toilet Soaps, such as Woodbury's, Nadinpe Pears Glycerine, Packers Tar, Sanitol and Herpicide at a cake 20c
 - Others from one-third to one-half off
 - Ivory toilet articles for 50c on dollar
- Many other articles too numerous to mention at a reduced price

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FIGARO--Reliable Liquid Smoke
For Curing Meat

Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded

We pay highest prices for Country Produce

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Wants to figure with you on Corn, Crushed Corn and Crushing Corn. Meal and whole grain flour for sale. Having special feed analyzed and will be on the market next week. Scrap iron 40 cents a hundred, received at Merkel and Trent

ADVERTISED LETTERS

Breelan, C.
Brown, G. W.
Freeman, G. F.
Harris, O. F.
McCollum, Mrs. P. E.
Patton, Mrs. I. G.
Rogers, D. L.
Warren, W. T.
Letters to be sent away January 16th.
H. C. Williams, Postmaster,
Merkel, Texas.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our many friends, the soldier boys and Captain Wagstaff for their unremitting kindness extended us in the great bereavement through which we have just passed in the death of our beloved son and brother, Lester Earl. No darker hour ever confronted our lives, but the loving touch of friends and comrades makes the bereavement more bearable. We appreciate from the depths of our hearts this true sympathy at such a trying time. We are grateful to Captain Wagstaff in permitting so many of the boys to accompany the remains to Merkel. We are thankful for the beautiful flowers that were offered and the sweet tenderness of every sympathizing friend will never be forgotten. May God's richest blessings ever be upon you.—Mr. and Mrs. J. J. White and Children.

J. A. LIGHTSEY DEAD

J. A. Lightsey, who lived near here, died last Saturday and was buried in Rose Hill Monday. Mr. Lightsey has only been living in this part of the country for a short time. He was 65 years of age and leaves a widow and large family.

Our sympathy goes out to the family in their bereavement.

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.

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Liver, Stomach and Bowel Troubles, Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Constipation, Sick Headache, Dizziness, Enlargement of the Abdomen, Bad Breath.

According to their system, they do not operate for appendicitis, gall stones, bowel and ulcerations, going away with the knife and much expense in the treatment of these dangerous diseases.

Tuberculosis, Asthma, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Cartarrhal Deafness, Eye Diseases and Lung Diseases treated with a combination of medicine, serums, vaccines, diet, and hygiene.

Kidney and Bladder Troubles, pains in the back, weak back, swelling of the limbs, stiffness of the joints, rheumatism, undeveloped children, bed wetting, club feet, curvature of the spine and other deformities.

Blood and Heart Disease, swelling of the limbs, skin diseases, pellagra, old sores, varicose veins, heart palpitation, bad circulation, cold limbs, numbness, enlarged glands, goitre and deep-seated chronic diseases.

Nervous diseases, epilepsy, neuritis, neuralgia, sciatica, paralysis, mental weakness, nervous prostration, sleeplessness, high blood pressure, mental worry, discouragement, and diseases of women.

Piles, fistula, small tumors, and growths of a suspicious nature treated with the hypodermic injection method, an effective plan of treatment without surgical operation.

Doctors Rea Bros. are well known throughout the United States. Their plan is to secure in each community evidence of their good work so as to benefit them in securing more patients. The sick and those interested are invited to call. Married women must come with their husbands, and children with their parents.

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