



THE MERKEL MAIL



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MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1919

8 PAGES

OIL VISITORS MEET BUSINESS MEN IN COMMERCIAL ROOMS

At a call meeting of the business men of Merkel Wednesday evening a number of short speeches were made by the visiting oil men and citizens.

H L Houghton, financier and promoter and head of the company that will drill the north and middle blocks, spoke as follows:

Some months ago I received word from my brother that there was a big oil field here. I came here, and, with a friend of mine, I looked the territory over. I was impressed with the appearance of the field. Two geologists went over the field. One, John Kennard, whose report you have seen, said that we have the biggest oil field in the United States. We expect gushers here. Seven years ago my brothers and I l oil wells in Oklahoma near sa. I asked the big oil men if re was no way to play the oil e safely I learned that there a safe way to go into the ness. We outlined a policy would make it impossible se Having the stock of the nies Oil Corporation taken the market, we organized ecurity Banking & Invest- ompany of Fort Worth. man we have had here has e convinced of the wonder- sibilities of this field We er oil. In the drilling for ve to take into account

the possibility of cave-ins, losing of tools, etc. In our office in Sioux City we put the capital stock of our company, over a million dollars, over in the quickest time of any similar enterprise in that section. That well on the Sears tract is going down if I have to dig it with my fingers. Our geologist went over it last week and said it was the easiest to see the actual outcropping of any place he had ever visited. One dry hole will not doom this territory. If we do not get it some one will some day. If I did not think that we would not have bought thirty-two lots and eight or ten houses in Merkel the past few days. We believe the oil is here. We want to pass the discovery of oil here. I will fight as long as there is anything to fight on. My record is back of me and you may write anywhere you wish, where I have been and find out about me. These men who are with me will go the full length for me and with me. I am a preacher and am not ashamed of it. I like men, I believe in men, I am a kid, I am a scout, in my home city I am Scout Commissioner. The Security Banking and Investment Company is a closed corporation. We agreed to make provision of a certain amount

and just as soon as the money comes in we put it in the bank and drill and drill until we hope to get enough oil here to make you big rich.

For the first time in history we secured a bond on an oil well. Such a thing was never done before.

We have a gas proposition in Kansas and furnish gas to several municipalities. We have recently developed oil in this field. We have other extensive holdings in the several oil fields of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Mr Houghton closed with some complimentary remarks about the city and the cordiality of its citizens. His address was well received and every one present felt nearer the heart of development than ever before. Those who met Mr Houghton are pleased with his friendly attitude. He is certainly inspiring confidence in his ability to drill and in his integrity. He then called on Mr Howard, whom he designated as Texas Tom Howard, who responded as follows:

I had a very prominent oil man over the field and while he is not a geologist he drilled seven oil fields and had never missed but one. Fellows, put your shoulders to the wheel and co-operate. Block your land as rapidly as possible. It does not cost you anything. Put your leases together and get drilling contracts. I think we will get the same paraffine base here we have in Ranger. One man can not drill. It takes unity.

H L Johnson was then called on. He responded in part as follows:

I never could make a speech. I will tell you how I happened to be here. I got connected up with Mr Houghton. We put the Sammies corporation over. I was advised to come down and look over the oil game. I said I would be back in ten days. I started on March 1st and am still here. We got side-tracked in Fort Worth. We are here and we do not know how long we will stay. We are going to back this proposition with money. You have one of the most wonderful propositions I ever saw. We are going to back up the geologists.

Mr Booton was called upon, but replied that he believed he could add to nothing that had been said.

Our fellow-townsmen, T A Johnson, was then called on. He replied: I have very much enjoyed the meeting. We know we can not feel as enthusiastic as these oil fellows, having gone through two years of drought and privation, but when you come and put your money into it, we can not help but feel good over the outlook.

J C Mason was called upon and responded: You are talking about oil. I have wondered if I would ever get into an oil field. We are glad that we have found some people, even from Sioux City, who are willing to go into the bowles of the earth in an endeavor to bring out oil. The people say oil is here and I believe they have got me believing it.

The meeting closed with a few further remarks from Mr Houghton: We are very glad to have you with us here. I am a very friendly sort of fellow. Every one here seems so friendly, so kind that I am greatly impressed. You have nice wide streets. I believe you have the making of a very fine city. You have a great surrounding territory.

MERKEL-BLAIR BASEBALL GAME

What is probably the first baseball game of the season was pulled off between the intermediate grades of the Merkel and Blair schools Monday afternoon. The game was played at Blair. The boys were accompanied by the teachers of the Fourth and Fifth grades, Miss Ruby Campbell and Miss Emma Houston. They found the Blair boys in trim and ready for them. The game was fast and hard fought from beginning to end. Although out-classed in size, the Merkel boys played for dear life, with a result of 11 to 8 in favor of Merkel.

The Merkel boys were jubilant over their success, even if only

by a small margin. The Blair boys also felt that they had put up a good fight and are ready to come again. The home boys acted mannerly from beginning to end.

The Merkel line-up was as follows:

Roy Stevens, catcher; Jarome Hutcheson, pitcher; L T Toombs first base; Hartson Fillmore, second base; Delbert Polly, third base; Buford Smith, short stop; Claude Dye, left field; Audry Witcher, center field, and Floyd Hutcheson, right field.

We were unable to obtain the Blair line-up.

The Blair boys soon may come to Merkel and engage in an effort to regain their lost laurels.

Robt. Galbreath Visits Merkel

Robert Galbreath, the man who discovered the Glenn Pool in Oklahoma, was a visitor here this week. He claims the distinction of having drilled in seven wildcat fields and having been successful in six of them. He was formerly Democratic Committee man of Oklahoma.

Mr Galbreath expressed his opinion as to Merkel having a great field. He said the present drillers could look out for a heavy producer.

A-N-N-O-U-N-C-E-M-E-N-T
For Mayor

J J STALLINGS
N. D. COBB

DON'T MISS

TENNESSEE PARTNER

A comedy drama in 4 acts to be rendered by the Merkel Dramatic Club, Friday evening, March 21, at the Cozy Theatre. Admission 25 and 35 cents. Tickets on Sale at Grimes Drug Store. Tennessee's Partner is a laugh and a tear from beginning to end. A story of love and romance with scene laid in the mining camp Golden Gulch, Navad. A number of specialties.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Tennessee, ... Gal from Smokey Mountain
Mrs. Byce, ... Woman with a history
Mrs. Hey, ... Runs Boarding House
Caleb Swann, ... Tennessee's Partner
Asa Byce, ... Coleb's Partner in Golden Gulch Mine
Gee Whiliker Hey, ... Always Imposed On
Tom Romain, ... The Villian
California Jack, ... A Miner
Spike, ... Sheriff with the pep
Don't miss it. Come and see those who in Tennessee's partner
Admission— 25 and 35 cents

ACT I

Cabin of Asa Byce and Caleb Swann

ACT II

Gambling hall in the cabin of Asa Byce and Caleb Swann

ACT III

Same as in Act II.

ACT IV

Exterior, Asa Byce on one side and Mrs Hays loading house on the other

J. S. SWANN SECURES AN OIL DRILLING CONTRACT

Drilling contracts is the order of the day. Last week J S Swann closed a drilling contract on his ranch. Operations are expected to begin within a short time. This is another feather in the cap of the oil situation here. We expect to get full details of the contract before going to press, but failed to get in touch with Mr. Swann. He is highly pleased with the contract and leases around his property are advancing. The ranch in question is located on Sweetwater creek.

OIL VISITORS IN MERKEL

A number of visitors are in Merkel this week looking into the oil possibilities of this section. They have inspired the people of this locality with greater faith in the possibilities that await them. Among the visitors are H. L. and E. L. Houghton, W. U. Booton, H. L. Johnson and T. E. Howard.

All are financiers of Sioux City, Ia., connected with the Sammies Oil Corporation and with the Sammies Banking & Investment Company. They are also stockholders in the Texas branch, Security Banking & Investment Company, with headquarters at Fort Worth.

H L Houghton not only proved his faith in this country by his activity in the oil game, but he very lavishly plunged into the purchase of property in Merkel, having to his credit thirty-two lots, three or four houses and lots and some acreage. He says Merkel is just bound to come to the front and he thinks he has made a profitable investment.

W U Booton has not been at all backward about proving his faith in this city. He has two nice cottages to his credit on one of the best streets and is proud of his investment. He has also acquired other holdings in and around Merkel. He is one of the most enthusiastic members of the party, and while he came to make a hurried visit, we actually believe he is going to make his home here. At any rate he is a congenial fellow and if he wants to make Merkel his home, he has a royal welcome.

And H L Johnson got a day off and thought he would spend a few hours here, and we are glad to have him. Like his fellows he has bought several houses and some acreage. He is another enthusiast. This is just the very kind of fellows we want. We covet more just like these.

T E Howard is a Texan of congenial temperament, but thoroughly business. He proved his sagacity and foresight by making purchases in the city, both in houses and lots and acreage. He says he is sure there is plenty of

oil here and when it comes bubbling out of the ground his investments will make him a nice profit.

E L Houghton is the son of H L Houghton, and is assisting his father in his business affairs. He is a young fellow of pleasing address who in enjoying his trip immensely. He is just as enthusiastic as any of the other boys. We don't believe it would be hard to induce him to stay here, especially if we can get a day or two without a sandstorm.

Mr Houghton is certainly to be congratulated upon securing so fine a bunch of fellows to assist him in putting over his several propositions, but that is the only kind he will work with. No wonder that he succeeds. He inspires confidence, and the several named above make a good team, and they are willing to jump into the ring and "Go over the top with him."

We hope they will visit Merkel often during the process of drilling.

OIL LEASES SUBJECT TO TAX

Oil leases are subject to taxation the same as other property according to an opinion handed down some time ago. Tax Collectors are expected to see that leases are rendered correctly. The following letter has been received by County and State Tax Collector Geo B Tittle of Taylor county, from H B Terrell, state comptroller:

The discovery of oil in a number of counties throughout the state during the past year has brought about much activity in the business of leasing oil, gas and mineral privileges in many sections of the state. In proven territory, or adjacent thereto, lease represent millions of capital, and often the largest operators are non-residents of this state and contribute nothing thereto. These leases are subject to taxation and should be assessed by state and county assessors. Therefore, you are urged to use all means in your power to secure a just and equitable rendition on all such property in order that this class of property can be made to bear its just proportion of the burdens of the state.

In assessing leases of this kind the tax assessor, in taking such assessments, should give a description of the land covered by each lease, just the same as if he were assessing the land to the owner of same, and should value each lease separately; and the assessor should endorse on such assessment "Lease Value Only."

Cow feed at G. M. Sharp's.

NEXT SUNDAY AFTERNOON---FROM 2 UNTIL 5 O'CLOCK

The Merkel Churches will Take a Census of the Town

The purpose is to find out how many people we have, what they are religiously, and to encourage them to attend the churches and Sunday Schools of our town.

CO-OPERATION

is needed in two directions (1) All the workers possible are needed for the work. (2) Every home is earnestly requested to have some one on hand when the workers call to answer the questions that will be asked.

WHO IS DOING IT?

It is expected that every church in Merkel will have a part in the work and profit in the results. It is not a sectarian movement in any sense.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 23, 1919—2 O'CLOCK TO 5

THE FARMERS STATE BANK

☛ You insure your Home and your Life; why not your Money?

☛ This Bank is a Guaranty Fund Bank and offers you the protection afforded by the State Guaranty Fund of Texas.

We Pay The Premium

Capital and Surplus Fund
\$65,000.00

SOLDIER BOY KICKS AGAINST Y.M.C.A.

Serves It on Toast With a Garnish of Scotch Blessings, but the Captain "Stumps" Him.

"If every kick and knock against the Y. M. C. A. service overseas could have been handled as an American captain I know treated one case in his company there would be more in the air of what the 'Y' did and less of what they failed to do," said John M. Currie of Melrose, Mass., who is just home from operating Red Triangle huts in the Calais and Ypres sectors. The censor one evening came across a letter from a boy to his folks back home, in which the "Y" was panned and served on toast with a garnish of all the Scotch blessings and reverse English the boy had on hand. Now the censor is a pretty tired man, and I should not have blamed him if he had let that letter go. But there was an extra strong touch of exaggeration in it that roused the censor's sense of justice.

So he sent the letter to the captain of the boy's company and the captain called the boy in. This is the conversation that followed:

"Did you write this letter?"
"Yes, sir."
"Read it over—is there anything there you'd like to change before it is sent?"

"No, sir."
Then there was a short pause, in which the captain studied the boy and the boy set his jaw stubbornly. Finally:

"Where did you get this letter?"
"The 'Y,' sir."
"Who gave you the paper?"
"The 'Y,' sir."
"It's warm and cozy, and something like home there, isn't it?"

"Yes, sir."
"Where do you get your cigarettes, candy, etc.?"

"The 'Y,' sir."
"You're always sure of finding what you want there?"

"Yes, sir."
"You go to the movies and a real show occasionally?"

"Yes, sir."
"Who runs them?"

"The 'Y,' sir."
"Doesn't cost you a cent, does it?"

"No, sir."
There was another pause, and the boy's face was redder and his expression softer. Then:

"If you don't mind, sir, I'd like to see that letter again."

Without a word he took it from the officer's hand, tore it once across, and dropping it into the basket made his salute, turned on his heel and walked out.

MAYBE THE SOLDIER DOESN'T GO TO CHURCH

But These Figures Will Prove Illuminating to the Skeptic—Only 4,523,343 Attend.

If every man, woman and child in the state of Texas, plus the entire population of New Orleans, La., were to unite in going to church on one Sunday the mobilization would still be less than the attendance at religious meetings in the Army Y. M. C. A. buildings in the Southern department from May, 1917, to December 31, 1918. The total attendance at 24,700 such meetings in the "Y" huts was 4,523,343, according to figures compiled by the religious work department of the Army Y. M. C. A. at San Antonio, Tex.

At these meetings 74,457 soldiers requested prayers—a number greater than the population of Oklahoma City. The number of Christian decisions made by these soldiers was 69,920—more than the number of people in El Paso, Tex. Christian purpose renewed by soldiers at such meetings reached the big total of 66,551.

The number of personal Christian interviews which the "Y" secretaries were able to have with the men as they visited the buildings was 318,246, or equal to the combined populations of Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston, Tex. These secretaries also secured from the men a number of other forward-step decisions, including the following: To read the Bible, 111,163; to pray, 34,097; temperance, 4,386; anti-profanity, 9,342; personal purity, 19,509; anti-gambling, 6,925.

Records from November 1, 1917, to December 31, 1918, show that 1,880 Bible classes were organized with a total enrollment of 43,012 men. These classes held 15,995 sessions and had an attendance of 345,598. It was not until May 1, 1918, that records were made of the number of teachers used at these classes, but from that time to December 31 there were 1,446 soldier teachers and 1,333 civilian teachers engaged in conducting the classes.

Copies of the Scriptures distributed to soldiers reached 539,683, or one each for every person in the states of New Mexico and Arizona. Religious literature given out from June 1, 1918, to December 31 numbered 569,249 pieces.

Visiting sick soldiers was a part of the duty of religious work secretaries, and for the period for which records were kept the number of such visits made was 996,192, almost equal to the population of Colorado with most of the people in Kansas City, Mo., thrown in to balance the measure.

CONDENSED STATEMENT

Farmers & Merchants NATIONAL BANK

MERKEL, TEXAS

At Close of Business March 4, 1919

RESOURCES

Loans	\$193,116.40
U. S. Bonds	9,838.50
War Saving Stamps	93.83
Stock in Federal Reserve Bank	1,500.00
Other Real Estate	3,132.00
Furniture and Fixtures	3,600.00
Five Per Cent Redemption Fund	312.50
CASH AND EXCHANGE	73,137.66
Total	\$284,730.89

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus and Profits	37,878.47
Circulation	6,250.00
Rediscounts—Fed. Res. Bank	17,965.80
Bills Payable	10,000.00
DEPOSITS	187,636.32
Total	\$284,730.89

I hereby certify that the above statement is correct

THOS. JOHNSON, Cashier

LOCAL NEWS

Fresh bulk peanut oil at G M Sharp's

Ozee Horton left this week to visit his sister at Italy Texas.

Robin Red Breast meal at Bob Martin's

Come to see. "TENNESSEES PARDNER."

Stanly King has received his discharge from the army and is back home again.

Peace Maker flour is the best. G. M. Sharp.

J W McDonald of Slaton, Tex., visited his parents, Mr and Mrs W D McDonald the past week.

Just received car of Marechal Neil flour. Bob Martin Grocery Company.

Just received car of strictly prime hulls at \$18.00 a ton. Fred Guitar.

Miss Gladys Haynes has returned from a visit of some months with her sister at Dallas.

Habitual Constipation Cured in 14 to 21 Days

"LAX-FOS WITH PEPSIN" is a specially prepared Syrup Tonic-Laxative for Habitual Constipation. It relieves promptly but should be taken regularly for 14 to 21 days to induce regular action. It Stimulates and Regulates. Very Pleasant to Take. 60c per bottle.

Mr Gaither has returned from Arizona, where he has been for several months

Buy your groceries and grain from G. M. Sharp

IN BUSINESS AGAIN

Have resumed business at the same old stand. Will pay cash for all kind of produce at highest market prices.

Come to see me.
W P Duckett 2875c

PRACTICAL

The merchandise that is constructed along practical lines is the kind for these times.

We are giving thought and action in securing goods of the practical sort but not disregarding the style question, as good style is a practical point in the construction of any piece of merchandise.

MODEST PROFITS--RAPID SALES
is our thought for spring 1919

The Brown D. G. Co.

LOCAL NEWS

Chase and Sanborn high grade coffee at Bob Martin's Grocery.

Pvt Joe Gunn, has received his discharge and returned from Colon, Panama, where he has been stationed for several months.

There is a laugh in every act of TENNESSEE PARDNER

Try a can of our Seal bran of Chase and Sanborn coffee. Bob Martin's Grocery

Miss N. Olive Garouttee, returned last Saturday night from South Pasadena California, where she spent the winter with her sister, Mrs. Sisses Vaughan.

Take Herbine for indigestion. It relieves the pain in a few minutes and forces the fermented matter which causes the misery into the bowels where it is expelled. Sold by Sanders Drug Store

Just received car of strictly prime hulls at \$18.00 a ton. Fred Guitar.

Through some queer phase of juvenile nature, a number of girls in the Merkel schools appeared last Wednesday morning at the school clad in overalls. To the credit of Supt Parker, they were not permitted to enter the building. It is alleged they took a hike to Martin's Lake where they spent some time.

The Strong Withstand the Winter Cold Better Than the Weak

You must have Health, Strength and Endurance to fight Colds, Grip and Influenza.

When your blood is not in a healthy condition and does not circulate properly, your system is unable to withstand the Winter cold.

GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC Fortifies the System Against Colds, Grip and Influenza by Purifying and Enriching the Blood.

It contains the well-known tonic properties of Quinine and Iron in a form acceptable to the most delicate stomach, and is pleasant to take. You can soon feel its Strengthening, Invigorating Effect. 60c

New Spring Showing of Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes

Our mammoth stock of spring purchases is arriving daily and we are now making a wonderful showing of spring Silks, Crepe, Crepe de Chines Messaimes, Voiles, Organdies, figured Lawns, etc. Also big line ladies and misses Spring Suits and Dresses in all the new spring shades and fashions. Big lot staple cotton goods at very marked reductions. Complete line of Notions, Buttons, Braids and Trimmings.

Our men's department is gradually being replenished with New Spring Clothing, Shoes, Hats, Shirts and Ties.

Call and let us take pleasure in showing you through our new store

Merkel Dry Goods Company

The Big Cash Store

Successors to Anchor Mercantile Co.

RILEY D WHITE WRITES

(Continued from last week)

Somme-Suippe was the busiest place for its size that I have ever seen. All day long there was a solid line of trucks, wagons and men and automobiles passing through the town. This was being used for the main supply base of the allies on this front. It was the nearest railroad to our sector, in fact it was close as a train would have dared to go to the front. All through the town a complete trench system was running. All around the town was a complete system of trenches, barb wire entanglement and dugouts. Toward evening we saw our first air battle. A German plane battle with French planes for several minutes but I am not sure that they ever brought him down as they finally passed out of view. The Anti-aircraft guns were firing continually also but without success. All the afternoon we talked to men from the front and learned that we were going into about as hot a sector as there was on the whole western front. That night as we lay down to sleep the firing of the big babies could be plainly heard. Sometime during the night orders were received to move and on awakening the next morning we were ordered to roll our packs and be ready to move at once.

If an aerial observer, flying very low, had been over Somme-Suippe on the morning of October 6th, he would have noted long lines of trucks, wagon trains, and doughboys, wending their way slowly over the roads and through the field to the northward of Samme-Suippe. The 36th, Pantheer, Lone Star Divisions was on the last lap of its long journey to the front line of the western front. We left Somme-Suippe about 8:30. We had heavy packs and we had a long hike to make in order to get into the front lines on time. The road on either side was bounded by barren fields as the fighting had been going on here, more or less continually for the past four years. Barb wire entanglements, trenches and camouflaged roadsides were numerous. A section of the road over which we marched was camouflaged on the side next to the Germans by putting up netted wire with strips of painted canvas interwoven into it.

The sky was lightly overcast with thin, shifting clouds. From the northward came the low rumbling sound of distant thunder. One who did not know our mission and the French climate would have predicted a rainstorm. But we had a pretty good idea of what that growling meant ahead of us and we had a better knowledge of the French climate than to suppose that the sound was thunder, warning us

Life Was a Misery

Mrs. F. M. Jones, of Palmer, Okla., writes: "From the time I entered into womanhood . . . I looked with dread from one month to the next. I suffered with my back and bearing-down pain, until life to me was a misery. I would think I could not endure the pain any longer, and I gradually got worse. . . Nothing seemed to help me until, one day, . . . I decided to

TAKE

CARDUI

The Woman's Tonic

"I took four bottles," Mrs. Jones goes on to say, "and was not only greatly relieved, but can truthfully say that I have not a pain. . ."

"It has now been two years since I took Cardui, and I am still in good health. . . I would advise any woman or girl to use Cardui who is a sufferer from any female trouble."

If you suffer pain caused from womanly trouble, or if you feel the need of a good strengthening tonic to build up your run-down system, take the advice of Mrs. Jones. Try Cardui. It helped her. We believe it will help you.

All Druggists

1.03

of the approach of a rainstorm as it is very seldom that it ever thunders in France. I have heard it only one time. As the day wore on, we became very tired and hungry. Our packs felt like they were made of lead. We hiked at a pretty good rate and barb wire became more numerous. The ground bore signs of having been fought over at not so far distant a date. We began passing the wagons and men of the supply trains camouflaged in the woods. The low rumbling ahead of us had now increased. There was no mistaking the succession of sharp, regular explosions which were now plainly audible.

We seemed to hear guns on either side and in front of us now.

About noon we began passing through the most elaborate system of trenches that I ever thought existed. There were miles and miles of deep trenches, barb wire entanglements, large, comfortable and roomy dugouts. The ground was absolutely pulverized. Not a living tree was any where to be seen. Where a tree was not blown out entirely, all its branches were blown off and the tree dead. No farming had been carried on here for four years. Large deep crooked trenches were running in every direction. These were connected by communication trenches. Sometimes we saw shell holes large enough to bury a Ford car in. About every thirty yards we crossed one of these trenches. Every few yards along the length of the entire trench was a large capacious dug out. Some of them were reinforced with concrete. This was the famous Hindenburg line. The most perfect defense system of trenches that the world had ever known or probably will ever know if the League of Nations comes into being. We passed a dead German resting peacefully on the bank of a trench. He was half lying, half sitting, just as though he had grown tired of fighting and had lain down to rest for a few minutes. The hum of conversation which the column of marching soldiers had been carrying on, died down and finally silence prevailed. Some funny guy tried to make everyone laugh by shouting "At ease" to the dead German, but no one seemed to appreciate the joke. A strange feeling of solemnity came over the boys. Not one of them had ever given a thought as to just what war was, or how serious a proposition it was. The sight of the dead German brought them to a realization of the fact that war is to kill and be killed. That not all who were in that column of youthful, fresh, eager men would return they knew full well. Soon the sight of dead men became a common sight and the conversation which had lulled a few minutes before, revived gradually. There were numerous and vari-

ADLER-I-KA HELPS SON!

"My son had inflammation of bowels and was greatly bloated (with gas) After giving Adler-i-ka he is completely CURED. Doctors did no good." (Signed) M. Gerhard, Ferdinand, Ind.

One dose Adler-i-ka relieves sour stomach, gas and constipation instantly. Removes all foul matter which poisons system. Often Cures constipation. Prevents appendicitis. We have sold Adler-i-ka many years. It is a mixture of buckthorn, cascara, glycerine and nine other simple drugs. Sanders Drug Store advl

Hayes' Healing Honey Stops The Tickle

Heals The Throat Cures The Cough Price 35c.

A FREE BOX OF

GROVE'S O-PEN-TRATE SALVE (Opens the Pores and Penetrates)

For Chest Colds, Head Colds and Croup, is enclosed with every bottle of HAYES' HEALING HONEY. You get the Cough Syrup and the Salve for one price, 35c.

Made, Recommended and Guaranteed to the Public by

Paris Medicine Company Manufacturers of Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic

ous sights which aroused the curiosity of the men. Finally just before dark the men were halted on the side of a hill just opposite the front lines and ordered to hold their places. A detail was sent after rations as the men were then almost famished from long fast hikes. We were finally allowed to explore the ground in the immediate vicinity where the dead were numerous. French and German soldiers who had been dead for three or four days were lying all about. Men with great holes made by shrapnel. Men with holes in their breasts made by bayonets. Men who had been gassed. All sorts of weapons and ammunition were strewn about on the ground. Machine guns with bands of cartridges half used. Rifles of all kinds, gas masks, with their operators and users dead beside them were every where. At one place about fifteen dead men were laid side by side in a row awaiting the burying parties. Part of them were Germans and part were French. Soon the rations returned and we had a good meal of bread, corn willie, tomatoes and salmon. We could not have hot coffee as it would have drawn the fire of the German heavies almost instantly to build a fire. No one made a complaint though. We had heard the least grumble from the grouchy doughboy for many a day. After we had eaten we lay down on our packs for further orders. The sky ahead of us over the hill was aglow with the flash of exploding shells. The flash from our own guns and the light made by star shells and rockets of all colors. At intervals a lonely shell sang its melancholy strain over our heads and

exploded some where to our right. Quite frequently the rattle of a machine gun could be heard up on the front line like the night work of some industrious wood pecker. It seemed like a dream. Everything seemed so unreal. We, who a few months before had been following peaceful pursuits in the States, 5,000 miles away from all this turmoil and confusion, were now about to become a part of it. The night air was growing very chill and many of the men who sat shivering there on the side of that hill opposite the German lines was thinking of a cozy warm home back somewhere in God's country where all was quite and peace.

PROFESSIONAL

DR. GAMBILL

D-e-n-t-i-s-t

Office Hours 8-12 a.m.; 1-5 p.m. Over Farmers State Bank Office Phone 306

DR. J. E. ADKISSON

Physician and Surgeon

Hours From 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Office over City Barber Shop Phones: Of. 163, Res. 187. Nov 9

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

DR. MILLER
Over Woodroof-Bragg Company
Physician and Surgeon
Eyes Tested and Glasses
General Practice

W. W. WHEELER
Real Estate, Fire, Accident and Tornado Insurance Agent.
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Our farm land loan facilities are the very best. On good land we can handle your loans quickly.

We have just made arrangements to take on a line of insurance covering farm buildings. We can write you a policy and deliver it immediately. Protect your property against fire.

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The Greatest Name in Goody-Land

The largest-selling gum in the world naturally has to have a package worthy of its contents.

So look for **WRIGLEY'S** in the sealed package that keeps all of its goodness in. That's why **The Flavor Lasts!**

ful. Probably some were wondering if they would ever have the opportunity to see that home again. But such is war.

At last we received orders to make ready to go into the line. We were ordered to leave everything behind except the clothing which we wore, our raincoats, overcoats, our rifles bayonet and ammunition and our haversacks and emergency rations. A guild was furnished us by the military police of the 2nd division, and we started out. We were soon so near the front lines that the artillery firing was deafening. I forgot to add that we had with us our helmets and gas masks. A 75 barked somewhere at my elbow and I jumped about ten feet. Shells were falling all around us. On man in our company was hit by a piece of flying shrapnel and carried to the dressing station. To add to our trouble the guide became lost and took us into an entirely different sector from the one in which we were supposed to go. After wandering around all night and repeatedly failing to reach our sector we returned to our starting point for a fresh start the next day. It would have been foolhardy to have attempted to enter our positions in daylight. We returned to our starting point after wandering all night and reached there about good daylight. Hot coffee was made and every one snatched about an hour's sleep. We then started out in order to get as near as possible to our positions before dark and then take them over as soon as it became dark. We passed through the town of Somme-Py in day light this time and had an opportunity to see just how badly it was torn up. Not a building in the place was left in tact. Only now and then a jagged wall arose a few feet above the heaps of debris. A railroad which ran into the town was completely demolished. The shells were still falling in the town. We passed on through the town and along an open road, camouflaged as previously described. None of us paid any attention to the shells which were screaming overhead and bursting all around us as we were not acquainted with the damage that one of them could do. We were going up the road I heard a shell screaming through the air toward us, and I saw a Frenchman, who was driving a cart along the road, spring from his seat and fall on his stomach. The shell exploded very near to us. After that when I heard one and thought it was coming any way near to me I didn't lose any time in falling to the ground. We finally went into a row of trenches not over a mile behind the front line and waited for darkness. This also was the location of our Regimental Post of Command. We hadn't been in them two hours before two of our men were killed by shell. That night we went into the front lines and as the cold grey dawn broke on the morning of October 8th we found ourselves in fox holes starting out across "No Man's Land", facing the Kaiser's crack troops, the famous Prussian

Guards. All traditional beliefs that we would be placed in a quiet sector were doomed to disappointment. Every other division before us had been given a quiet trench system to hold until they had become accustomed to shell fire, but we were now in one of the hottest sectors in the whole line so the Marines of the second division informed us. We relieved the Marines of the 2nd Division who stopped the Germans on the road to Paris at Chateau Thierry. We didn't have to argue with them at all regarding the taking over of their sector either. They did not seem at all reluctant to relinquish their claims to this particular bit of the western front. When they were sure that we were in there to stay they just arose, bowed politely, and said, welcome to our city and disappeared. The next and most difficult part of our task was establishing our claims with the Huns. They seemed to consider our claims to ownership absolutely without foundation. Never-the-less, we then found ourselves in full possession of a generous portion of the Champagne front.

It would be impossible for me to write every little detail of what happened to me during the time I was on the front. To do so would require about 100 pages of paper just like this. That part of it I am reserving for the time when I can see you and tell you personally. I went for days and days without taking off an article of clothing. There were days when we could not get food or water. The strain upon the nerves was terrific. The sight of seeing men blown to pieces at my side was not unusual. The shells were the worst thing to be feared. I may as well attempt to describe the sound of a shell and the feeling it causes. I can't do this anything like it really is but will try to give you an inkling of the idea of how it really is. A shell when it is coming through the air, after it has reached the highest point in its radius and starts going down makes a screaming, whistling noise. The sound varies with the size of the shell of course. It has a perfectly hideous, demonic sound as of some fiendish devil seeking its prey. The sound of a shell coming near a man strikes terror to his heart no matter how courageous he may be. One reason may be that they can be heard several seconds before they explode and knowing the fatality of their destruction, and the uncertainty of wondering for several seconds if you are going to be the target, unstring a man's nerves. The whizz bangs, or Austrian "88" is faster than most others. All you can hear when one of the whizz bangs comes over is, "Zip-Bang". When one of the slow shells comes over you can hear them say, "wheeze-bang." The second day on the front I went up to the captain and wanted to take out ten thousand more insurance. He said he couldn't give me the insurance, but handed me a shovel. I thought that was better than the insurance any way.



A Dash - of Chocolate



"Your Nose Knows"

All foods are flavored to make them palatable. All smoking tobaccos are treated with some flavoring for the same reason. But there is a big difference in the Quality and kind of tobacco flavorings. Tuxedo, the finest of properly aged burley tobacco, uses the purest, most wholesome and delicious of all flavorings—chocolate! That is why "Your Nose Knows" Tuxedo from all other tobaccos—by its delicious pure fragrance.



Try This Test: Rub a little Tuxedo briskly in the palm of your hand to bring out its full aroma. Then smell it deep—its delicious, pure fragrance will convince you. Try this test with any other tobacco and we will let Tuxedo stand or fall on your judgment.

"Your Nose Knows"

Tuxedo
The Perfect Tobacco for Pipe and Cigarette

Guaranteed by The American Tobacco Co. INCORPORATED



Government Says Buy Coal Now

A coal famine will follow this fall. Our ships are to be supplied at any cost. You save money and insure your coal supply by buying now.

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ONE WEAK SPOT

Many Merkel People Have Weak Parts and Too Often It's Back

Many people have a weak spot. Too often it's a bad back.

Twinges follow every sudden twist.

Dull aching keeps up, from weak kidneys.

In such case a kidney medicine is needed.

Doan's Kidney Pills are for weak kidneys.

Fof backache and urinary ills. Merkel people recommend the 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 results in my family, I used them. They reached the seat of the trouble, completely curing me. I haven't had any of that trouble since."

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

Aisne river our regimental Post of command was located at Vaux Champagne. Most of the time here was spent in holding the lines and talking about when the war would end. We expected the war to end most any day now as that was about when Kaiser Bill began sending his peace offers to President Wilson Bill, one day while at Vaux Champagne, about twenty German aeroplanes came over our lines. They did not drop any bombs but just sailed around and took pictures of our lines. They were too many for the French planes we had at our command and they couldn't do much with them. I forgot to tell you that we didn't have any American Planes in our sector as this was a French sector.

While we were up near the town of Vaux Champagne the Boche had a habit of shelling the town about twenty minutes every day. They evidently used only one gun. Every afternoon about 4 o'clock we knew what to expect.

On the 22nd of October our regiment was ordered to take over the sector on our right. This sector was then held by the French and as they had failed to keep our pace, they had fallen behind and we were moved over to straighten out lines. Billy this is where I had my experience of standing guard in "No Man's

SMOKING TOBACCO FACTS FROM THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA

The Use of Flavorings Determines Difference In Brands

The Encyclopaedia Britannica says about the manufacture of smoking tobacco: "... on the Continent and in America, certain 'sauces' are employed... the use of the 'sauces' is to improve the flavour and burning qualities of the leaves." Which indicates that a smoker's enjoyment depends as much upon the flavoring used as upon the tobacco.

Your nose is a sure guide in the matter of flavorings. Try this simple test with several tobacco brands: pour some tobacco into your palm, rub briskly, and smell. You will notice a distinct difference in the fragrance of every brand. The tobacco that smells best to you will smoke best in your pipe, you can rest assured.

Carefully aged, old Burley tobacco, plus a dash of pure chocolate, gives TUXEDO Tobacco a pure fragrance your nose can quickly distinguish from any other tobacco. Try it and see.

Why Colds Are Dangerous

You are often told to "beware of a cold," but why? We will tell you: Every cold weakens the lungs, lowers the vitality and paves the way for the more serious diseases. People who contract pneumonia first take cold. The longer a cold hangs on, the greater the danger, especially from the germ diseases, as a cold prepares the system for the reception and development of the germs of consumption, diphtheria, scarlet fever and whooping cough. The quicker you get rid of your cold, the less the danger of contracting one of these diseases. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has a great reputation as a cure for colds and can be depended upon. It is pleasant to take.

Land." There were Germans on my right, Germans on my left and Germans ahead of me. This was the worst experience that ever happened to me.

On the evening of the 27th at 4:50 P. M. was the time set for our attack. We had made arrangements for the most complete artillery bombardment that I have ever witnessed. This barrage was to be followed up by the Infantry. Exactly on the dot, or zero, the big guns turned loose. And I thought hell had broke loose sure enough. Not a yard of ground on and behind the German lines failed to get its quota of shells? No man could live in so heavy a bombardment as this one if he was on the top of the ground. The garrage lasted for twenty eight minutes. At the end of this time the ground behind the German lines was completely pulverized. The Infantry followed up the barrage, but had nothing to do except run the Germans out of the dug outs. The ones who were not in dug-outs were dead. Something like 180 prisoners were captured and our objective was gained. We gained about two kilometers in all. I forgot to add that we received more gas of all kinds while on this sector than all the rest of the time put together. The largest part of the gas used was Mustard Gas, the most treacherous and deadly know to man kind. You don't have to breath

it to be affected. The least bit on your clothes or skin will spread and cause untold suffering.

On the 28th of Oct. the 36th Division was relieved from duty on the front line and the French came in to hold what we had gained. We however, did not leave until the 29th. This did not seem to bother the Huns as they continue to shoot at us, even after we were non-combatants and were waiting back at the Regimental P. C. for orders to leave. About two o'clock on the night of the 29th we received orders to move out and we hiked out of Chardney, back through Leffincourt to Machault which place we reached about sunrise. This was one of the towns that we had captured from the Germans in our drive. All was quiet and peaceful here. It seemed like paradise after being under shell fire for twenty three days. We had breakfast here and rested until the afternoon when the French trucks came for us and we left after receiving thanks of the French General for the work we had done while under his command.

We rode back to billets near Somme Suippe The next day we started out hiking. We knew not what for, but we also, knew that at the end of that hike there was rest, blessed peaceful rest, and clothes, and hot baths. We had been on the front lines for 23 days. In all attacks combined we had pushed the Huns back over 23 kilometers. We had captured about 600 prisoners, numerous guns, and some large guns and over a million dollars worth of property.

We hiked for five days, resting one day on the road where we were paid We covered about 100 miles or more and finally wound up at Louppy-Le Petit where we were to rest for a few days, be replaced by fresh men in the places of those we lost, and then we were to go to the Argonne Forest. The signing of the armistice prevented our going to the front any more. The signing of the armistice was a great day for both the American soldiers and the French inhabitants, as well. On the day that we were assured that the war was really over we had a parade. We had a dummy Kaiser on a stretcher. The band played a funeral march and we had a tall fellow in the company to act as preacher, whom we called "Gloomy Gus". He played his part well. We paraded up and down the streets for about an hour to the delight of the French inhabitants.

On the 18th of November, we started moving again. We hiked for ten days with one days rest on the way. We passed through numerous towns on our way and we would stay overnight in a town most every night and get up the next morning and continue the hike. I thought General Pershing had at last invented perpetual motion, we kept moving so continually. We were on the road on Thanksgiving and enjoyed a dinner of beans, boiled beef and bread for our Thanks giving repast I don't think there was a man in the bunch, but what was thankful for the dinner. On the 28th of November, we reached Flogny, about 16 kilometers from Tonnere. We stopped here and have been here every since. We are doing the same old kind of drilling that we used to back in the States in a training camp. The town is quarantined for meningitis now. So here we are at this time, wait-

ing and hoping for orders to go home. We hear one day that we are going home the middle of February and the next day we hear that we are not going until June. We hear that we are going to Russia to fight the Bolsheviks and that we may have to fight Germany again. I guess the next time we hear any thing it will be that we are going to relieve Saint Peter, who is guarding the Golden Gate. So you can look for me home when you see me coming I am well and hoping for a letter from you soon.

As ever, your cousin,
RILEY D. WHITE.
Hqd. Co., 142 Inft, A E F P O 796

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss.
Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE. FRANK J. CHENEY.
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1918. A. W. GLEASON,
(Seal) Notary Public.
Hall's Catarrh Medicine is taken internally and acts through the Blood on the Mucous Surfaces of the System. Send for testimonials, free.
F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.
Sold by all druggists. See Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR MAYOR

J J Stallings has thrown his hat into the ring for Mayor. He has served in this capacity before. He is an honorable citizen, loved and respected by all. He promises to faithfully discharge his duties of office at all times regardless of the consequences. We bespeak for him hearty support.

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days

Druggists refund money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles. Instantly relieves Itching Piles, and you can get restful sleep after the first application. Price 60c.

Among those in attendance at the Cattle Men's Convention the past week were J T Warren, R. L. Bland, John Sears, C M Largent, JSCwann, J M Collins, Jon H Wheeler and J M Williamson. They report a good time and a fine show.

Grove's Tasteless Chilli Tonic

restores vitality and energy by purifying and enriching the blood. You can soon feel its Strengthening, Invigorating Effect. Price 60c.

Every sack of Marechal Neil flour guaranteed, or your money back. Bob Martin Grocery Company.

HOME FOR SALE OR TRADE

A comfortable five room house with large bath-room, three porches, servants house 14x14 feet corner lot size 75x159 feet, good garden plot, windmill, hot and cold water connections. Majestic range cook stove connected ready for use. Barn. Property well fenced. For particulars see Walter Jackson at the office of the Merkel Mair or write James W Powell, 507 Lipscomb Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

You will never know actually how good

LaFrance Flour

Biscuits are until you have tasted them for yourself. They are

- So Crisp
- So Appetizing
- So Good

It's so easy to please him when you use LaFrance Flour

Why not order a sack to-day
G. F. WEST CO.

Catch the Spirit of Prosperity

—AND—

Dress Up



New arrivals in spring Suits, Coats, Capes, Dolmans, Dresses, Skirts, Blouses, Silk Petticoats, etc.

Each garment built by men "who know" and prices astonishingly low

Exclusive Millinery

With Easter just a few short weeks away, nothing could be more interesting than the "different" styles you will find here. Veils, too, are different, and your Easter hat is not complete without one.

Woodroof - Bragg

LOCAL NEWS

Plenty of Marechal Neil flour. Bob Martin Grocery Company.

Miss Bernadine Freeman of Fort Worth is visiting Miss Jewel Pate this week.

See Fred Guitar for cotton seed hulls. Only \$18.00 a ton.

Plenty of fresh groceries at G. M. Sharps.

Miss Myrtle Nalley formerly of Trent has returned from Groveton where she made her home for some months.

I will test cream on Fridays only at the Star Store. Come to the back door. Bring your butter any day. C E Connor.

Robin Red Breast meal at Bob Martin's.

CLASSIFIED ADS

1 cent a word for each insertion. No ad. taken for less than 15c.

FOR SALE—Pure bred White Leghorn eggs, \$1.00 for 15. Phone 904F13. 21t4p

Mrs A C Bland of Ranger is visiting her parents Mr and Mrs Pick Allen

FOR SALE—30 bales of bright oat straw at 75 cents per bale.—J T Warren 21t1

FOR SALE—A practically new Piano, in fine shape. See Mrs. L. O. Cooper, Merkel Texas. 1tp

LOST—Gulf Refinery Co. delivery book, leather back, checks and some stamps. E P Beene.

WANTED—Plain and fancy sewing. Phone 36. Mrs J H Hunter. 28t4p

Jack For Service
Will stand my jack, John S. Fee of \$15.00 when colt is dropped I will use every precaution to avoid accident, but will not be responsible for accidents.—J N. Teaff 21t4c

Mrs A C McGee of Fort Worth came in Monday evening to spend the week with her parents Mr and Mrs J J Stallings.

Plenty of Marechal Neil flour. Bob Martin's Grocery Company.

Bring your cleaning, pressing and mending to me. Mrs Cash.

Mr and Mrs J J Stalling and daughter, Mrs A C McGee spent Tuesday with relatives in Anson

Alfalfa Hay at G M Sharps. Plenty of shorts and bran at G M Sharp's

Car of corn and oats at G M Sharp's

Owen Ellis has received his discharge from service and has returned home. He came in last Tuesday night

Cotton cake at G M Sharp's.

Buyes Valuable Oil Property

Thos Johnson of the F & M National Bank has just closed a deal with Henry James of Abilene whereby he becomes owner of 180 acres of valuable farm land about 2 miles south of the Sears well number one now drilling. This was one of the few choice unleased pieces of property close to the well and in the deal the purchaser takes over all oil, gas and mineral rights. The purchaser it to be congratulated upon his foresight as prices on lands, leases and royalties in that vicinity are beginning to soar.

East Texas ribbon cane syrup at G M. Sharp's

Maize, Feterita, Sorghum and all kind of seed at Bob Martin's

Herbert Aiken of Oklahoma City, Ok., was here this week investigating the possibilities of the Merkel oil field

Maize, Feterita, Sorghum and all kind of seed at Bob Martin's

Mrs Dr Adkisson, who has been visiting her daughters, Misses Lura and Stacy, in Dallas for the past few days, returned Monday, accompanied by Miss Lura.

See Fred Guitar for cotton seed hulls. Only \$18.00 a ton.

Wanted Your Laundry

Laundry sent off on Monday, will be returned Wednesday and laundry sent off Thursday will be delivered Saturday.

I appreciate your patronage, and will guarantee satisfaction.
W F Hamblet. 21t2c

SERVICE CAR

Have just purchased service car. Ready to go anywhere, day or night. Phone-135. J G Hale. 28t4p

See Bland and Jones for Merbane cotton seed. \$2.25 per bushel 21t2c

We want to list your vacant lots, your houses, in fact whatever you have to sell. The Merkel Realty Company.

See Bland and Jones for Merbane cotton seed. \$2.25 per bushel 21t2c

Laundry agent at Pate's Barber Shop.

The TENNESSEE PARDNER wants to entertain you at the Cozy Friday night March 21st.

Colds Cause Grip and Influenza
LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE Tablets remove the cause. There is only one "Bromo Quinine." E. W. GROVE'S signature on box. 30c.

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We can let you have the

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To December 1, 1919 for

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