



May high wages,
high spirits, and
high ideals be
yours in the
coming year



Peace

by Cecile Joyce Keenan

At Bethlehem the Star shines bright
above the Stable door;
every road the Wise Men come
who never came before;
The kings, with all their Caravan,
keep watch upon the hill,
While Jesus sleeps on Mary's breast
—and all the guns are still!

The plunder of the world is heaped
about that manger-bed,
Behold! the gifts the Wise Men
brought are stained an awful
red.

Poor Mary's face is white and
drawn, and Joseph's grim and
set—

For older hearts, tho' slow to learn,
are slower to forget!

But lo, the Star at Bethlehem above
the Stable door

Shines with a glory in its light that
never shone before!

The haggard hosts of shattered men
out on the battle plain
ought the slogan of the skies,
fling it back again.

—Peace on Earth! with
taken hearts, across the world
they come,

No panoply of war is theirs, no flag,
no rolling drum;
all are cloaked in spotless
white—the garment of His
love—

And "Peace" their bursting throats
now sing, and "Peace" the
choirs above!

At Bethlehem the Star shines bright
above the Stable door,
every road the Wise Men come
who never came before;
The Kings, with all their Caravan,
keep watch upon the hill,
While Jesus sleeps on Mary's
breast—and all the guns are
still!

Chamberlain's Tablets

These tablets are intended
especially for indigestion and
constipation. They tone up the
mach and enable it to per-
form its functions naturally
and act gently on the liver and
bowels to a healthy condition.
When you feel dull, stupid and
irritated give them a trial
and are certain to be pleased
with their effect.

The Economy Store has leased
present building for another
and will continue business
under the same name.

Supply of oil cook stoves and
heaters on hand. See J T Dar-
sey.

If you want to see your
doctor, buy Peace Maker
at M. Sharp.

Treaty Compromise Proposed

Washington, Dec. 16.—Talk of
a compromise in the peace treaty
began to figure prominently
again in Senate cloakroom gossip
and there was indication that the
movement immediately would
take concrete form. A group in
each party, working independ-
ently of the party leaders, canvassed
the situation to see whether a
common ground might be reach-
ed. Senators in both groups show-
ed a willingness to make conces-
sions and seemed hopeful they
might get two thirds to agree to
them.

Supreme Court To Rule On Dry Amendment

Washington, Dec. 16.—Permis-
sion to institute original proceed-
ing to have the national prohibi-
tion amendment declared uncon-
stitutional and New Jersey and
Federal authorities enjoined on
enforcing it was asked of the
Supreme Court today by the Re-
tail Liquor Dealer's Association
of New Jersey.

An unfavorable report on the
bill to repeal the wartime prohibi-
tion law was ordered today by
the House Agriculture Commit-
tee by a vote of 16 to 3. Repre-
sentatives John T Rainey (Demo-
crat) of Illinois and Voight of
Wisconsin and Ward of New
York, Republicans, cast the ne-
gative votes.

Best eats at the Arcade.



May the Christmas season bring
joys of Peace to You; and in the
coming year may there be no
Embargo on your happiness; may
your opportunities not be En-
trenched; may the Battles of the
past be forgotten, and the Bugle
call lead you on to loved ones
who love you, and watch over you.

A Christmas Blessing

By Rev. Dr. Howard Duffield

MAY the Blessing of the Light that
shone at Mid-
night come to the
hearts that are shad-
owed and the homes
that are dark.

May the Blessing of
the Song of the Angels
come to the multitudes
who strive and bleed
upon fields of battle,
and to all who wage
the hard warfare of
life.

May the Blessing of
the Good Word to the
Shepherds come to ev-
eryone who is humbly
and honestly laboring
to do a share of their
world's work.

May the Blessing of
the Manger Cradle
come to that innum-
erable company against
whom the doors of
hope and peace and
rest are shut.

May the blessing of
the Holy Child come
to every one who has
forgotten that Thou,
O God, art his Father,
and that all men are
brothers.

May the Blessing of
the Guiding Star come
to those who wander
in the night and can-
not find the homeward
way.

May the Blessing of
the Stable come upon
all hearts, wakening a
kindly sense of kin-
dred with every living
thing that walks the
field and forest, or
wings the air, or pass-
es along the paths of
the seas.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

In compliance with the com-
pulsory school law of Texas, the
board of trustees of the Merkel
Independent School District has
fixed Monday, December 29th
1919, for the compulsory atten-
dance period to begin.

The law requires that from
this date all children residing in
this district or transferred there-
to, who were eight years old or
over on the first day of Septem-
ber 1919 and were under fifteen
years of age on that date are com-
pelled with certain legal exemp-
tions, to attend school for 100
days or five school months.

It is unlawful for any person
or firm to employ any child of
this age during school hours dur-
ing the compulsory attendance
period.

This notice is merely made so
that all may understand the law.
No violations of the law are an-
ticipated. This is the law. The
board didn't make the law. All it
can do is to expect full compli-
ance.

Roger A Burgess, Supt.
1919

Our Tellers are always suppli-
ed with plenty of change and cur-
rency and will supply it in
amounts to pay individual cotton
pickers. Bring in your pay roll
and let us make change for you.
The F. & M. National Bank.

Why not renew your subscrip-
tion now. Before another issue
comes the price will be \$1.50 a
year. Our clubbing rates are still
in force and the same as given in
last weeks paper. They ought to
be attractive to you. We save you
money.

The officers of The F. & M.
National Bank want you to feel
free to consult with them about
all matters. We want to make
money, but we cant make money
unless you make money too.

The Arcade gives servi-

JOHN CHADWICK IS STILL CHAMPION

In the wrestling match at the
Gem last Tuesday evening be-
tween John Chadwick, local
champion, and Jack Wood, Paci-
fic Coast champion, the former
won two falls against the latter's
one. Wood won the first fall with
a scissor hold and arm lock in
twenty three minutes Chadwick
won the second fall on a head
lock in seventeen minutes and
the third fall with a toe hold in
twenty-seven minutes.

The champions were well
matched A full house was in at-
tendance. Wood left for El Paso
immediately after the match.

The next bout to be pulled off
will be between Chadwick and
Homer Dils of Clinton, Mo.,
about January 15.

Chadwick is gradually going
up the scale, meeting the champ-
ions of different sections. We pre-
dict that it will be no great while
until he will go up against the
national game.

On account of no ice business, we
will not attempt to keep ice after
January 1, 1920.

Merkel Ice Company

Read our Adv. in this issue
and open an account with the
F. & M National Bank to-day
and have the benefit of the ser-
vice it offers.

See J T Darsey for oil cook
stoves and heaters.

A Christmas Surprise



The Arcade gives servi-

Statement of Condition
The Farmers State Bank
 Merkel, Texas
 At Close of Business Nov. 17, 1919

RESOURCES	
Loans	\$344,362.35
Banking House	7,900.00
Other Real Estate	900.00
Furniture and Fixtures	4,415.00
Stocks & U.S. Liberty Bonds	6,193.35
Interest Guaranty Fund	3,445.73
Bills of Ex. — Cotton	\$365,122.36
Cash & Ex.	537,269.24
Total	\$1,269,608.03

LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock	\$ 35,000.00
Surplus & Profits, earned	42,816.99
Deposits	1,191,791.04
Total	\$1,269,608.03

The above statement is correct.
 R. O. ANDERSON, Cashier.

OFFICERS

J. S. Swann President
 John Sears Vice President
 R. O. Anderson Cashier
 F. Y. Gaither Asst. Cashier
 Sam Swann Asst. Cashier

No depositor in a State Bank in Texas has ever lost a dollar

Our consistent growth is proof of the service we give

We solicit your account and assure you Safety and Service.

"Ask our Customers"

**Christmas Classic
 in Author's Hand**

"A Visit From St. Nicholas," Written by Clement C. Moore 100 Years Ago and Known to Every Child

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through
 the house
 Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
 The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
 In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
 The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
 While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
 And mamma in her 'kitchen, and I in my cap,
 Had just passed our lamps for a long winter's nap;
 When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
 I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter,
 Away to the window I flew like a flash,
 To see what the glimmer and light in the gash;
 The moon, on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
 Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below;
 When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
 First a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
 With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
 I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
 More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
 And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;
 "Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
 On, Comet! on, Comet! on, Donner and Blitzen!"
 To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
 Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"*

A LITTLE book bound in red morocco holds the kernel of the children's celebration the world over of Christmas. To look at it no one would dream its hidden words are even now vibrating in the hearts of countless children, yet the charm its bright covers embrace is perennial. It is the manuscript of the famous children's classic, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," written by Clement C. Moore almost a hundred years ago, and dedicated to his own children in particular, and, as it has since proved, to childhood the world over.

This season it has as its companion in the library of the New York County Historical society in Central Park West a photographic copy of the original text enlarged sufficiently to enable it to be easily read, for though the original chirography is quite remarkable for a man of Dr. Moore's years—eighty-two when he indited the poem—it is fine and old-fashioned, and therefore somewhat difficult to read.

The innovation has proved a rare treat to the library patrons, and it is interesting to note with what reverence it is handled by men and women whose childhood days are long past, yet whose holiday memories are still bright. Two pages and a half are consumed in committing the poem to paper, and the repetition of the old familiar lines brings to mind pleasant thoughts of the season, for no one has ever visualized our American Christmas from the children's viewpoint as has Clement C. Moore in his rare little poem.

The lines were written as a Christmas gift for the author's two young daughters nearly a century ago, but it has since become a progressive gift to countless other girls and boys. Accompanying the original manuscript when it was presented to the society by T. W. Moore, a relative, some fifty years ago, is a letter in which the writer tells how the verses came to be written and how it happened that they were eventually published.

Mr. Moore lived at the time in a handsome house overlooking the Hudson, at Ninth avenue and Twenty third street. Then Chelsea, like Greenwich village, further south, was quite remote from the city. Each was largely populated by the Dutch settlers from Nieuw Amsterdam. Living near his country seat was a portly, rubicund Dutchman, who suggested to him the idea of making St. Nicholas the hero of a Christmas piece for his children.

It was, however, with no thought of its ever being published that Mr. Moore wrote the poem, but the lines were copied by a relative of the author in her album. From it another copy was made by a friend of her from Troy. Some time later, much to the surprise of Dr. Moore, it was for the first time published in a news paper. By such small chance was this choice little poem saved for posterity. In those days there was no such celebration of Christmas as is now the case, but Dr. Moore, having absorbed the ancient traditions of his Dutch neighbors, wove them into the poem for his children. He did more than that, for he built up around the central thought an interpretation which has gradually come to be our own. As some one has so aptly said, it has become so much part and parcel of our literature that it seldom occurs to people it ever had an author. Since for nearly a hundred years American children have been fed on it, it has now become theirs in very truth.

CONDENSED
**Farmers & Merchants
 NATIONAL BANK**
 MERKEL, TEXAS

At Close of Business November 17, 1919

RESOURCES	
Total Loans—	
Time, Demand and Cotton	\$498,462.84
United States Securities	20,033.07
Interest earned, not collected	176.44
Stock in Federal Reserve Bank	1,500.00
Other Real Estate	5,000.00
Furniture and Fixtures	3,400.00
Five Per Cent Redemption Fund	312.50
Cash on hand and in Banks	602,558.19
Total	\$1,131,443.04

LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus and Profits	46,153.24
Circulation	6,250.00
DEPOSITS	1,054,039.80
Total	\$1,131,443.04

We hereby certify that the above Statement is correct

L. R. Thompson, Active V.P. Thos. Johnson, Cashier

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.

Following the policy of the past, the Merkel Mail will not issue next week, it being Christmas. We don't know when this policy was started with newspapers, but we think away back in the distant past, when newspaper folk liked to imbibe of the

nectar that was wont to flow from Kentucky's hidden hills, it was owing to the fact of their incapacity to keep from pieing the type and burdening the hell box. Now that the juicy fluid is flown, the time must be dedicated in remembrance to the day before the imagined splendor departed. At any rate we gladly follow the custom and instead of issuing the Merkel Mail next week, we will prepare our resolutions for the New Year and embark again.

Try a sack of that good old Marechal Neil or White Billows flour. Bob Martin Grocery Co.

The coal strike is over and there is some hopes of the people to keep from freezing to death. Squally times were just ahead for Merkel, much less other places that were not so favorably located. We are truly glad it is over. We veritably believe that in another day or two we would have had to have chopped wood, and that, too right in the face of the fact that we just bought our wife a new ax. ?????

We have received many compliments in regard to our Christmas issue, which we mailed last week. We have the business men

to thank for their liberal patronage. The issue was mailed out in regular time. We have received some complaints about subscribers not receiving this issue. We were unusually careful that our paper was placed in the post office. We have several copies and will be very glad to copy to any subscriber who ed to get one. If you would mail a copy "back home", or friend or business associate fact to any one, call and get them as long as they last.

New stock of floor coverings. J. T. Darsey's

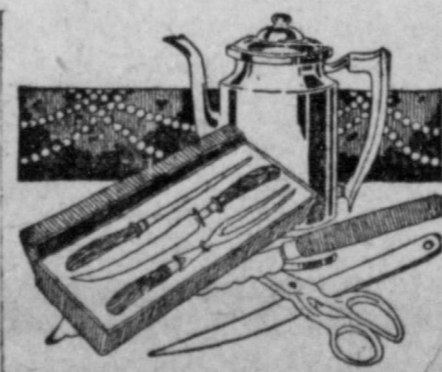


Christmas time will soon be here. You will be jumping right and left for appropriate Christmas presents. Please remember that quite a number of useful gifts may be obtained here. Look over our suggested list and come around.

We take this occasion to thank those who have contributed to the success that has been ours in the year that is passing. We wish a Merry Christmas for our friends and patrons.

OUR HARDWARE DEP'T

- Pocket Knives
- Razors
- Silverware
- Alluminumware
- Porselainware
- Alarm Clocks
- Targets
- Shotguns



OUR GROCERY DEPARTMENT

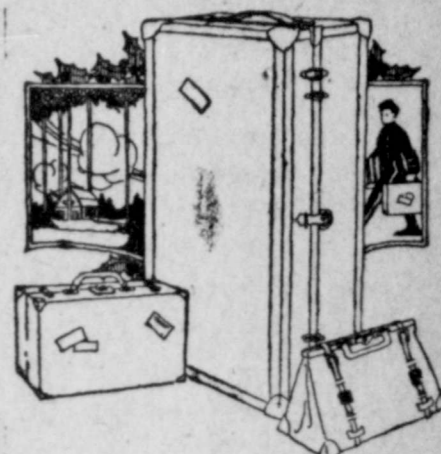
- Candies
- Nuts
- Oranges
- Apples

Crown Hardware Company

Practical Christmas Gifts

We are making special prices now so that you will not wait for the usual January sale. 10 to 20 per cent will be our cut price on ladies garments

Ladies Suits : Coats : Skirts : and : Petticoats



NEW THINGS JUST ARRIVED AND ARRIVING NEXT WEEK

Ladies imitation beaded Hand Bags, Purses, Veils, Handkerchiefs, Silk Hosiery, Gloves, Cowhide Bags and Suit Cases, Ties, Collars and Hats

Men's and Boys' Suits!

We have mens all-wool blue serges at \$32.50 to \$50.00

Fancy flannels and worsted for young men at \$28.50 to \$47.50

Boys nobby knee suits in late style, all wool, at \$11.50 to \$16.50
Come quick, they are going fast

Boys knee pants \$1.90 to \$2.85

WE HAVE A BUYER IN MARKET THIS WEEK FOR CHRISTMAS GOODS

We thank you for whatever part you have contributed to our business in 1919

The Brown D. G. Company

COTTON SEED

The great importance of planting good seed and improving the same is urgently recommended by our Agriculture Department of the State. The importance of which can not be over estimated. In order to meet the recommendation and requests of the farmers of this country, we are stalling our Franklin Culler, for the purpose of culling and proving the seed of the country. We will cull for the public, so have culled seed for the market.

MASON and RAGAN

Place your subscription with the Merkel Mail and Abilene Morning Reporter, \$4.00 a year.

Surgeons agree that in cases of Cuts, Burns, Bruises and Wounds, the Frist treatment is most important. When an efficient antiseptic is applied promptly, there is no danger of infection and the wound begins to heal at once. For use on man or beast, Borozone is the Ideal Antiseptic and Healing Agent. Buy it now and be ready for an emergency. Sold by Sanders Drug

Misses Levy Tittle and Inez Scott and Messrs Loren Hamlet and Dewey Brown motored to the country home of Mr and Mrs W A Tittle last Sunday evening and took dinner.

The Arcade gives service.

Miss Inez Scott is reported on the sick list the past week.

See J T Darsey for oil cook stoves and heaters.

The officers of The F. & M. National Bank want you to feel free to consult with them about all matters. We want to make money, but we cant make money unless you make money too.

You Do More Work,

You are more ambitious and you get more enjoyment out of everything when your blood is in good condition. Impurities in the blood have a very depressing effect on the system, causing weakness, laziness, nervousness and sickness.

GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC restores Energy and Vitality by Purifying and Enriching the Blood. When you feel its strengthening, invigorating effect, see how it brings color to the cheeks and how it improves the appetite, you will then appreciate its true tonic value.

GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC is not a patent medicine, it is simply IRON and QUININE suspended in Syrup. So pleasant even children like it. The blood needs Quinine to Purify it and IRON to Enrich it. These reliable tonic properties never fail to drive out impurities in the blood.

The Strength-Creating Power of GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC has made it the favorite tonic in thousands of homes. More than thirty-five years ago, folks would ride a long distance to get GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC when a member of their family had Malaria or needed a body-building, strength-giving tonic. The formula is just the same today, and you can get it from any drug store. 60c per bottle.

Stewart Grimes has resigned his position at Sanders Drugs and accepted a position with L.B. Howard Music Co.

New stock of floor covering at J. T. Darsey's

Bring all your cotton checks to The Farmers & Merchants National Bank for cash or deposit. The only service limit at The F. & M. National Bank is that the transaction must be safe.

Stella Pearl Watts is reported on the sick list this week

If you want to buy a farm see Scott and Black.

The following school girls are expected home for the holidays: Misses Ona Faye Bland, Louise Warren, Geneva Erown, Annie Mae Swann, Lola Armstrong, Julia Martin, Edna Swann.

Crown Hardware Company has plenty of John Deere double disc plows on hand.

Best eats at the Arcade.

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.

Farms for Sale

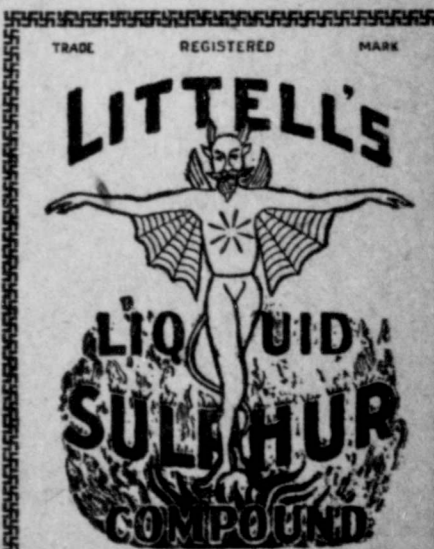
115 acres, 90 in cultivation, good 5 room house, 5 miles from town, 1-2 mile from good school. \$1,500 will handle this, and it is rented to a good tenant for next year. Price \$30.00 the acre.

160 acres well improved, 3 miles from town on pike road, 120 acres in cultivation. Price \$50.00 the acre.

WEST TEXAS BROKERAGE COMPANY

Lands, Livestock, Loans, Leases

Big Spring, Texas



It is a powerful and scientific combination of sulphur and other healing agents for the relief and cure of diseases of the skin. It is especially effective in the ITCHING VARIETIES; giving instant relief from the itching and smarting sensations and by its germ-destroying properties it exterminates the microbe which is the cause of the eruption, thus curing the disease completely.

Littell's Liquid Sulphur Compound is used in all cases of Eczema, Tetter, Barber's Itch, Psoriasis, Herpes, Rash, Oak and Ivy Poisoning, also for relieving the annoyance caused by chiggers and mosquito bites.

In the treatment of ECZEMA—the most painful and obstinate of all skin diseases—it is one of the most successful remedies known.

Small size 50 cents bottle. Large size \$1.00
JAMES F. BALLARD, Prop. ST. LOUIS, MO.

CLUBBING RATES

The Merkel Mail clubs with the following publications for one year:

Star-Telegram, including Sunday..... \$7.00
Star-Telegram, without Sunday..... \$5.50
Abilene Morning Reporter..... \$4.00
Semi-Weekly Dallas News..... \$1.75
Star-Telegram, with Sunday, and Abilene Reporter..... \$10.00
Hollands, 3 years..... \$2.50
Farm and Ranch, 3 years..... \$2.50

We also club with other papers. Remember that the above prices include the Merkel Mail.

- OUR BIG -

Dissolution Sale

STARTS PROMPTLY AT

8:00 O'CLOCK

FRIDAY MORNING

DEC. 19



BIG DISSOL

BOYS SUITS

\$20. Boys suits all wool	\$15.90
\$16.50 Boys suits all wool	\$13.90
\$15. Boys suits all wool	\$11.90
\$13. Boys suits all wool	\$9.90
\$10. Boys suits all wool	\$7.90

MENS PANTS

\$18. All wool oswego serge pants	\$12.90
\$10. All wool pants	\$8.90
\$9. All wool pants	\$7.80
\$8. All wool pants	\$5.90
\$6. All wool pants	\$4.80
\$5. Pants	\$3.90
\$4. Pants	\$2.90
\$3. Pants	\$2.40

COATS

\$12.50 Moleskin Coats	\$9.90
\$15. Sheep skin lined extra heavy	\$11.90
\$5. Duck coats, blanket lined	\$3.90

MENS CLOTHING

We have on hand the largest selection of mens suits, overcoats and pants, that are shown in Merkel. Although our prices have been very low before the sale, we are now reducing them to actual cost. These prices are lower than we could buy them out at wholesale cost today.

\$50. Mens suits	\$39.90
\$45. Mens suits	\$34.90
\$35. Mens suits	\$31.90
\$45. Mens suits extra heavy all wool	\$28.75
\$30. Mens suits extra heavy all wool	\$23.90
\$25. Mens suits extra-heavy all wool	\$19.50

ART SQUARES

9X12 Crex Art Squares Special	\$10.90
8X10 Crex Art Squares Special	\$9.90

MENS OVERCOATS

\$60. Overcoats	\$45.00
\$50. Overcoats	\$40.00
\$25. Overcoats	\$19.50
\$20. Overcoats	\$14.90
\$20. Raincoats	\$12.90

COATS, COAT SUITS AND DRESSES

Featuring the styles and fabrics in vogue this season. Prices are the lowest consistent with the quality.

\$50. Coat suits Special	\$39.50
\$35. Coat suits Special	\$29.50
\$30. Coat suits Special	\$22.90
\$25. Coat suits Special	\$14.90

COATS

\$50. Ladies coat Special	\$42.50
\$45. Ladies coats special	\$39.00
\$35. Ladies coats	\$29.50
\$25. Ladies Coats special	\$19.50

DRESSES

\$35. Tricotine Dresses	\$29.50
\$25. Tricotine Dresses	\$19.50
\$15. Wool serge Dresses	\$9.90
\$6. Gingham Dresses	\$4.90
\$5. Gingham Dresses	\$3.90

SPECIAL

\$15. Georgette Russian Blouse waists	\$11.90
\$12.50 Georgette Russian Blouse waists	\$9.90
\$9. Georgette waists heavy quality	\$7.45
\$6. Georgette waists heavy quality	\$3.95



Reason for

Our big dissolution sale starts p... ing. Our big stock must go. buying the business, must raise... must be raised, regardless of t... we are disposed to make prices... fore know something of how n... We have made staggering cuts... with what we are preparing to d...

You are going to need the goods... the \$10,000. Our time is lim... amount in so short a time if we... are far below their value. Ever... down.

POSITIVELY WE ARE MAKING



We wish You a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

We take this occasion to extend to you the greetings of the season, and to thank you heartily for the liberal patronage extended to us during our short stay here. May your Christmas be a happy one and may the New Year bring you prosperity.

THE EC

SELLS IT FOR LESS



THE MERKEL MAIL



VOL. 31—NO. 44

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1919

16 PAGES

BOLD ROBBERY PULLED IN MERKEL

Last Monday evening as he on his way home, Dr W V. nford was held up by a coup- of highwaymen who relieved of his watch and \$6 in mon- The doctor said he was quite during the performance, but the gun, instead of being a t, seemed to be a full grown se. Why he said it even looked sig-as the men. The highway- n were unmasked, but the stor says it was most too dark identify them. He remarked at some men may say they d not throw up their hands commanded to do so, but s went up without an ef- and he believes the fellow says he wouldn't, just mere- ninks he wouldn't. He says is mighty easy to talk about avery, but when a gun as big the one he faced is poked up ainst your organ of intelli- nce, you are just bound to au- matically make some move- ment, which is usually a compli- ceth with the desires of the mas- ar with the gun.

Merkel is not used to thugs t thieves of this kind. Doubt- they came with the carnival. ny one can show us any good and from the carnival, we be delighted to have them s the information to us.

No trace of the thief has yet been found The watch was valu- ed at about \$75.00 They did not take time to loosen the chain, but snatched the watch, breaking the chain, then deliberately retired with their spoils

SUBSCRIPTION AND ADVERTISING RATES INCREASED

Owing to the enormous in- crease in the cost of newsprint and other supplies in connection with the printing and publish- ing business, we are compelled, beginning with January 1, to in- crease our subscription rates to \$1.50 a year and our advertis- ing rates to 25 cents an inch. Liners will be run at 7 1-2 cents a line and black face liners at 10 cents a line. Classified advertise- ments will cost 1 1-2 cents a word with a 25 cent minimum charge.

We hope to have the same lib- eral patronage that we have had heretofore. Our subscription list is the largest we have ever had. We have remained at \$1 a year just as long as possible. At the rates we name we are still far from being in keeping with the great increase in the price of everything.

BARGAINS IN REAL ESTATE

80 acres, 4 1-2 miles southwest of Merkel, 1 mile north of Blair. Three-room house and two porches, good well and good under-ground cistern. Small barn, 60 acres in cultivation. Will sell, or might rent. Will give possession now.

120 acres, 5 miles west of Blair, 65 acres in cultivation, 15 acres more can be put in. Farm has finest tank in country. 3 room house, good well. This place can be had at a very attractive price. Terms. This place is not rented and all the royalty goes with it.

147 1-2 acres northeast of Merkel Good 7-room house, fine well and windmill, good barn and outbuildings, public road on two sides, 110 acres in cultivation, balance good tillable land. Can give possession now. Not rented.

100 acres 1-4 mile good school, six miles southeast of Merkel, 3-room house, small barn, 65 acres in cultivation. Can give possession now. 1-4 mile school and church.

336 acres 5 miles west of Trent, 200 acres in cultivation. Terms can be given. This is specially a good buy, with a very attractive price for a short time. It is fairly well improved.

We have some specially good bargains in the Dora and Nolan communities.

Have a good 6-room frame building, big barn, cellar, windmill, east front, will located in Merkel at attractive figure.

One of the best located residences in Mer- kel, with outbuildings, shrubbery, garage, windmill, etc., at a bargain.

Good four-room residence, east front, newly papered and painted. Cheap. Terms

4-room house with shed room, three porches, good well, small barn, frame building, and three lots. This is positively the best buy in Merkel.

We name only a few of the bargains we ve to offer. If you don't find what you want this list, just call and see us. We have it.

We take this opportunity to thank those who have had business dealings with us this year. We hope we have served our clients to profit, and we believe we have. We have tried to deal square with all men. Our business has been good, for which we are truly thankful.

We are at your service and trust you will call us when we can serve you in any way.

Again let us thank each and every one of you and may this New Year be your most joyous and prosperous one.

MERKEL REALTY COMPANY



Christmas Dawn

TIS Christmas morn! 'Tis Christmas morn!
O! hear the sil'ry bells!
How softly rare upon the air
Their mellow chiming swells!
Behold the skies whose million eyes
Through silent spaces peer,
Like brilliant gems, fair diadems
High set in vesper sphere.

LET us be merry and happy and gay,
And welcome the Prince with a sweet virelay;
We'll garner the holly and ever be jolly,
For blessed is He Who is coming today.
The bells we'll ring, to bliss we'll cling,
Our myrrh we'll bring to greet the King,
For blessed is He Who is coming today;
Cheerily chant Him a sweet roundelay,
Merrily, merrily, merrily!

TIS Christmas morn! 'Tis Christmas morn!
How swift the hours fly!
And winged-fleet on magic feet
They vanish like a sigh;
Now dreamy-dim o'er Orient rim
The gold-fringed eyes of morn
Shed loving light on drowsy night
Ere yet the day is born.
Now gleams the star whose beams afar
Weave Heaven's silver hem,
How dove-demure, how seraph-pure,
Bright Star of Bethlehem!

THEN let us be peaceful and joyous and gay,
And welcome the Prince with a sweet virelay;
We'll garner the holly and ever be jolly,
For blessed is He Who is coming today.
The bells we'll ring to prayer we'll cling,
Our incense bring to praise the King,
For blessed is He Who is coming today;
Soulfully sing Him a sweet roundelay,
Merrily, merrily, merrily!

—Clare Gerald Fenerty

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

WANTED—Will pay highest market price for cotton seed. Davis Beasley. 28tf.

FOR SALE—4 room house in good shape, well and windmill. See Mr Ellis or R. G. Grogan, Truby, Texas. 5t4c.

WANTED—A man to cut cord wood at \$2.00 per cord Sam Butman, Sr., 5tf

FOR SALE—Maize crusher in good condition. See C L. H. Burrus, Merkel, Route 5. 12t2p

FOR SALE—Columbian Graph-nola, good as new, with 30 records. Will take half price W. W. Campbell, Merkel. 12t3p.

FOR SALE—One piano. See Wm O'Briant

FOR RENT—80 acres of land. See Emmett Swafford on place or write S H L Swafford, 701 Bell St Big Springs, Tex. 19t1p

FOR RENT—E change wagon yard and stable possession given Jan 1st, 1920. A. C. Boney tf

FOR SALE—Oliver typewriter, in good shape for \$25 dollars. Ap ply at The Merkel Mail Office.

WANTED—A small Christmas tree. Merkel Mail. 12t2c

NOTICE
If you wish to pick cotton meet me at the school building Satur- day and each morning next week at eight o'clock. Good Cotton. See J W. Tipton. 17t1p

FORDS FOR SALE
I have plenty of them Brand New 1920 Model, with and with- out starters. I receive from 3 to 5 car loads a week and can deliv- er you one any time you come. See Pickens Burton 1415 Pat- terson Ave. Dallas Texas 12t4c Best eats at the Arcade.

FOR SALE—5 passenger Ford in A-1 shape in every respect. If you are looking for a car that is worth the price you should see this one at J A Williams, One block west of tabernacle 19t1p

FOR SALE—Second hand Dodge car. See Merkel Garage. 19t1p

OPTIMISTIC OIL NEWS REPORTED

Drilling at the Sears well has been held up for several days, but the drillers are now busy and the bit is cutting as rapidly as possible into lime. They are down 60 feet into lime and are anxious to drill through, as they confi- dently believe they will find a good showing. They are still optimistic.

Indications are also good at the Bland well, where progress is being made

No late news has come from the Butman or Trent wells.

It was hoped that the close of the year would prove the Merkel oil field, but that anticipation must be deferred, it seems. Everything looks good, confi- dence is strong, but there is no flowing oil, except that coming from the first strike in the Sears well. However, a sufficient depth has never been reached to prove

the territory There is no use tak- ing cold feet. Very little acreage is being offered for sale.

Box Supper At Tye

A box supper will be given at the school building at Tye, on Saturday night, in the interest of the Baptist church of that place. Everybody invited to attend.

Born to Mr and Mrs P L Mc- Clary a fine girl Mother and ba- doing nicely

HAVE A HEART

One of the ideal gifts for your wife is an A. B. C. Electric Wash- ing Machine. Long and easy pay- ments. Come in and see it in op- eration.

Special This Month
MERKEL POWER COMPANY

ATTRACTIVE OIL STOCK PLAN

WE PROPOSE TO:

1. Own and operate five strings of tools, four of which shall be kept on cash contracts.
2. Develop our own holdings—using the other string of tools or additional tools as the conditions may warrant.
3. Secure and drill proven acreage or 50-100 plan. That is, we will drill wells in proven territory for one-half of the oil.
4. Last but not least, we propose to make money for our stockholders.

WE ARE NOT DEPENDENT ON THE FINDING OF OIL

A Future of Twenty Years

It is estimated that it will take from 20 to 30 years to drill the North Texas Oil Fields that have already been discovered and opened up. And new fields will be discovered all of the time that will have to be drilled extensively. If you think that the drilling will soon be finished in the North Texas Fields—you are not informed as to the true conditions of the different fields.

The entire state of Texas is undergoing a thorough test for oil and gas and already vast fields have been opened up—enough to keep drilling prosperous for 20 years to come, and new fields will doubtless be discovered that will make the drilling industry profitable for decades to come.

Did You Ever Hear of a Drilling Company That Had Lost a Dollar?

There is no chance for the drilling company to lose money. Up to this time there has not been a single failure by a drilling company, as far as we know and can find out. Have you ever heard of one? Why should a drilling company lose money, as it always gets paid for the dry holes as well as for the producers. And all of the tools can be covered by insurance. So where can a drilling company lose?

Proven Acreage Means Big Oil Wells

1. **OUR EMDE LEASE.**—In the townsite of Desdemona, where the big producers have been brought in at a depth of about 2,700 feet and now a new sand has been found at about 3,700 feet. It has just been reported that the Magnolia Petroleum Company has just brought in a 2,000-barrel well on the J. W. Carruth place at a depth of about 3,700 feet. This is only about 250 yards from our lease.

We have a total of 733 acres in Thirteen Different Fields.

We Will Drill at Once A 200 Yard Offset to The Big Goodwin Well.

Send in Your Subscription and Hasten the Time When We can Finish This Well

Mail This Coupon Today!

The Texas Drilling and Producing Company, Postoffice Box 307, Desdemona, Texas.

Gentlemen:

Please find enclosed \$..... for shares in The Texas Drill- ing and Producing Company, a voluntary as- sociation, capitalizd for \$500,000, shares hav- ing a par value of \$1.00 sold in blocks of 10 or more, fully paid and non-assessable.

Issue certificate to:

Name

Address

Make all checks payable to The Texas Drill- ing And Producing Company

See C P Schmoyer, Collins House, Merkel. Roy B. Mefferd, Secretary and Treasurer, First Guaranty State Bank Bldg., Desda- mona, Texas



GIFTS of DISTINCTION

We are indeed thankful for the liberal patronage that we enjoy
We are sparing no pains nor expenses in making our establishment complete for service.

Do your Christmas Shopping Here



Jewelry

We have on hand a complete line of choice, guaranteed jewelry, consisting of watches, lavalliers, rings, fobs, silver cigarette cases, etc.

Kodaks

Films

Candies

Cigars

Safety Razors

pipes

Phonographs

Cut Glass



Gifts for Ladies

Choice Toilet Articles

High-Grade Perfumery

Nifty Stationery

Rings, Bracelets

Lavalliers and

various other beautiful articles

Lowry & Gamble



Christmas is Not Christmas
-- without --

Candy : Nuts : Fruits

and all the good things that go with making life happy and pleasant at this welcome time of year.

And we have choice Cigars, Cigaretts
and a fountain brimming
over with delicious
DRINKS

You are welcome here. We have the Christmas spirit. Buy your Christmas goodies from us
They Satisfy

Everybody's Confectionery

**The
Ideal
Gift**

CHRISTMAS JEWELRY

JUST RECEIVED BIG SHIPMENT OF
ELGIN, WALTHAM SOUTH BEND
AND HOWARD WATCHES

This is your last opportunity to have a complete assortment to select from. Due to an unlooked for demand for high grade watches, we have found it necessary to restock, but this will be the last complete line until after Christmas.

We wish all our patrons a Merry Christmas, and remember the only way to have one is to do your Christmas shopping early.

Crescent Jewelry Co.
In Everybody's Confectionery, next door to
F. & M. N. Bank.

NOODLE NEWS

Every one is busy finishing gathering the cotton

The box supper held at the school house Friday night was a success.

Mr and Mrs. Wesley Ely are the proud parents of baby girl. N A Nicholson is on the sick list this week.

Blanch Danial left Saturday for Burkburnett where she has accepted a position.

Luther Richard has accepted a position with Bradley & Hendrix.

Mrs. W H Herring is real sick There will be a Christmas tree at Noodle Dec 24, and everyone is cordially invited to bring or send their gifts to the tree

Mr and Mrs W K Horn have moved to Noodle and we are glad to welcome them in our midst.

Rev F T Johnson will fill his regular appointment at the M E church Sunday Come and hear him

Mr C W Whitaker spent several days visiting friends in Merkel, after which he left for his home in Houston

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 50c.

RED CROSS SEALS ON SALE

Red Cross seals are now on sale in nearly all the stores. The fund will go to aid a great work, the prevention of tuberculosis Merkel's quota is \$498.68. It can easily be reached if every one will buy them for Xmas seals.

For Sale

On account of failing health I offer for sale a paying business in Merkel, consisting of Drugs a fresh stock of Patent medicines, confections. For further particulars see A C Boney at the Drug Store

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

W C Fowler and family left several days ago for Lorenzo, where they will make their home in future. They have resided in Merkel several months

Try a sack of that good old Marechal Neil or White Billows flour. Bob Martin Grocery Co.

If you are going to want a loan on that farm you had better see W. O. Boney at once.

Car of new Chevrolets for sale. Get my prices they are reasonable. E. Siegal at Economy.

Palm Olive soap at 10 cents a bar. Bob Martin's Grocery Store.

Bring all your cotton checks to The Farmers & Merchants National Bank for cash or deposit

See Scott and Black for Real Estate. Phone 84

Car of new Chevrolets for sale. Get my prices they are reasonable. E. Siegal at Economy.

Gem Theatre

Where the Pictures are Always Good

Program for week beginning Friday Dec. 19

FRIDAY—

Marie Walcamp in "Tempest Cody Gets Her Man". One of the Spur and Saddle Series of Western Adventure Stories. Art Accord and Universal Western Plays in a Thrilling Western drama. A comedy and Hearst News.

SATURDAY—

Virginia Pearson in "Impossible Catherine." A Screaming Force Comedy in Five acts, its a riot of fun, also a Fatty Arbuckle Comedy.

MONDAY—

Charming June Elvidge in "The Woman of Lies." Hell hath no fury like a Woman scorned, is the theme of this highly dramatic play. Extra a Mutual Strand Comedy.

TUESDAY—

Sessue Hayakawa, The Jap in "The Gray Horizon" A powerful drama of Oriental Vengeance. Extra a Harold Lloyd Comedy.

WEDNESDAY—

"Bound and Gagged" a very exciting story of Romance and Adventure, Extra a Western Drama and Spaulth's Vod-a-Vii, Four acts a high class Vaudeville

THURSDAY—

Harry Cary the popular Western player in a Thrilling drama of the West in the Early days, "The Riders of Vengeance a Universal Special feature in Six acts, also a good comedy

They're All Good.

Specialty in Farm Loans

Inspector on the ground—Quick Service

Real Estate and Fire Insurance

W. O. BONEY West of Farmers State Bank

New Dentist For Merkel

Dr Samuel W Johnson has decided to cast his lot in Merkel following his profession, that of dentistry. Dr Johnson was born in Mississippi and came to Texas twenty years ago. Several years he has been a Dentist having practiced in Brownwood, Tex., most of the time. He comes directly from Brownwood to Merkel. He says he likes the looks of Merkel and its people and wants to make it his home.

He will bring with him, his wife and her mother, Mrs. P A Sandifer.

Dr Johnson is getting his office ready now and will be open for business Monday, Dec. 22nd.

Dr Johnson graduated from the Dental Department of Vanderbilt University. He is not merely a Dentist, he is a Surgeon Dentist. He has performed some wonderful operations on the mouth, jaw, etc.

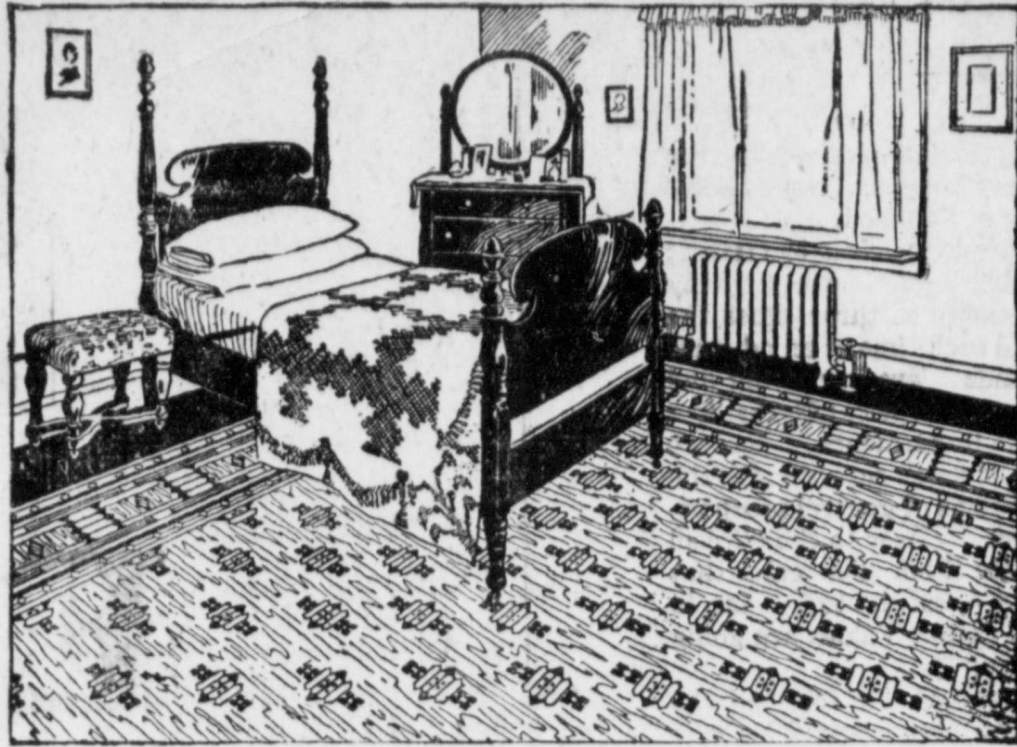
Dr Johnson acquired offices with Dr Armstrong.

Splendid Cough Medicine

"As I feel that every family would know what a splendid medicine Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is, I am only too pleased to relate my experience and only wish that I had known of its merits years ago." writes Mrs. Clay Fry, Ferguson Station, Mo. "I give it to my children when they show the slightest symptoms of being croupy, and when I have a cough or cold on the lungs a very few doses will relieve me, and by taking it for a few days I soon get rid of the cold."

Catarrh Cannot Be Cured

with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a local disease, greatly influenced by constitutional conditions, and in order to cure it you must take an internal remedy. Hall's Catarrh Medicine is taken internally and acts thru the blood on the mucous surfaces of the system. Hall's Catarrh Medicine was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years. It is composed of some of the best tonics known, combined with some of the best blood purifiers. The perfect combination of its ingredients in Hall's Catarrh Medicine is what produces such wonderful results in catarrhal conditions. Send for testimonials, free.
J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O.
Druggists, etc.
Hall's Family Pills for constipation.



Just One More Week

To select that Xmas Gift. Why not surprise your wife with a nice bedroom suit? Something that she will be proud of for years to come. You can buy Furniture now as cheap as you can for the next few years, so don't put it off longer, but come in and get something good and substantial for your Xmas.

We Have a House Full of Xmas Gifts

From now until Xmas we will make you a very attractive price on all bedroom and diningroom suits.

We wish you all a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year, and hope that much prosperity will be yours

Barrow Furniture Co.

Card Of

To all people the time of sad separation, the dividing of lives that time has our dear loving father was taken to where no wayfarer ever. The parting was sad in the midst of our grief reminded that life is still while by the large friends that gathered around administered to us and led sympathy in the time of We appreciate their kindness, their beautiful actions will never die from our memory. May heavens richest blessings ever abide with them.

Mrs. J R Toombs and family

The Quinine That Does Not Affect The Head
Because of its tonic and laxative effect, LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE (Tablets) can be taken by anyone without causing nervousness or ringing in the head. E.W. GROVE'S signature on box. 30c.

See our Eastman Kodak window. Lowry & Gamble.

J B Early, who recently moved here from Oklahoma, has rented the farm of S F Haynes at Blair and is moving out. His brother L T., rented Mr Haynes' farm west of Merkel and is moving there

Read our Adv. in this issue and open an account with the F. & M National Bank to-day and have the benefit of the service it offers.

CARBON PAPER—At Merkel Mail office.



Xmas Greetings

We would feel like we had failed in our duty, did we not take this occasion to thank the good people of this community for the liberal patronage that has been ours.

We have done our best to please every one who has had dealings with us, we have tried to render service, and we feel that we have enjoyed a wonderful amount of success in our efforts. Let your New Year's resolution be to buy your lumber from us. May the New Year be freighted with good things for you, and may your Christmas be a merry one.

BURTON = LINGO CO.

L. D. LEVY, Local Manager

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.

REAL ESTATE AND REAL ESTATE VALUES

(By R. Kenneth Evans)

Well siree, we were plumb knocked off de Christmas tree last week. We thought we was doing the farmers a kind act in suggestin that maybe they might have a hankerin to charge too much for wood and fall a lumbering into the camp of Uncle Sam's high priced victims. Now, low and behold our hand was called. Some people seem to have the idea that a person living on the farm can do no wrong. Bless your sweet lives, the old devil likes the country just as well as the town. Human nature is not different. The percentage of rascals need not be greater in one section than another. We might suggest that the opportunity to act a rascal is greater in some places, and then the devil will out.

The 17th passed as other days have passed. Somebody's reputations went a glimmering. We were surprised at the fear that settled down over the country about the dire calamity that was about to happen.

Those who let fear come into their hearts, we would give this admonition: Don't cross the bridge until you get to it. Never worry about any threatened disaster, any calamity, failure or anything that seems to go wrong when it is entirely out of your power to correct or change it. In other words don't worry about anything you can't help. You need all your faculties to get along in the world without worrying what is to become of you year after next.

Before New Year peals off its refrain, we will not have another opportunity to thank all those who rubbed elbows with us in business and in social life. You have helped us. We feel stronger and better by the contact with our fellows, and we trust that we have in turn helped you. The year that is going has not been without its ups and down, without its sorrows and joys, without its cares and pleasures.

We hope that the happiness that has been yours has exceeded the sorrows and that your life has been such that those about you have been glad that you lived to brighten and bless their lives.

We have made mistakes; we have fallen short of our ideals; but we are dropping the bad and the good alike into the cauldron of time there to dissolve in the waste of eternity, but not without realizing that somewhere, just around the corner, into that realm from whence no traveler returns, we are to stand face to face with a destiny that requires answer for the deeds done in the body.

In our sober moments, let us wrench ourselves free for a time from the onrushing carriage that brings age and decay, and look about us in an effort to see if we have done more good than bad, if our influence for the right offsets that for the wrong.

As a publication, we can conscientiously say that we have never feared to speak our mind. No monetary consideration has ever made us swerve from what we thought was our duty. We know all people have not always agreed with us. We didn't expect them to; We didn't want them to. If they had, we would have known that we were wrong. We haven't reached our ideals, but we feel that, in a measure, we have done our duty.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We have to appologize for being late with this issue. The blooming carnival caused a short circuit that knocked out the power line that operated our machinery. We are sorry to be late, but we couldn't help it.

Real estate is the foundation of wealth; the chief asset for the tax budget; always visible and the chief source of livelihood.

And real estate is moving fast in Merkel; sale after sale is being made; some property has been turned as many as three times the past ninety days, and each time at an advance. City property demands are increasing and will continue to advance in price; Merkel is a good place to make investments, because there is already lots of quick action under the present normal conditions of general prosperity and as the bits get closer to the oil pool which many geologists think lies under that part of Taylor county—real estate is going to turn fast—and then faster. Values are going to jump over night.

Dwellings that have laid idle for months are occupied now; and more are to be built right away; naturally all this is forcing values skyward.

Farm land values are right in the advance, too, and the nice thing about this activity in the far lands—the farmers themselves are paying the advances to get more land; that's confidence to the limit—now isn't it?

Farmers who have seen the land jump from \$30 to \$50 per acre right under their noses are now buying this land at the increase prices. No wonder the outsiders are trying to get in. That kind of confidence in a country is what counts in the long run for development.

Land values are an exceedingly correct barometer of the times; and the Merkel barometer is climbing up. The deposits of the banks are the dials which register most accurately the increases.

The fact that there will be by the first of January sufficient deposits in the banks of Merkel to average \$500 each for every man, woman and child in the community; and the fact that the farmers themselves are paying the advance price in the land that they know—is a tremendous boost for Merkel land—a sign of the times for others to make diligent inquiry and get "next" before it is too late.

Real estate and real estate values in Merkel and community have been thrown from low to intermediate; there is no reverse; there can not be any; there are no brakes; and there are two other speeds that will be reached high and "speed". Get in the car that is headed for greater things and greater values—land that will produce three times its value is worth more than \$50 per acre ten to twelve miles from the market center—and that's what the cotton land that distance from Merkel is priced at and that is what that land produced this year. More than three times paid for itself in one year. Sounds like the dream and ramblings of some wild eyed real estate broker—must 'tis not so—its actual facts and can be substantiated by the banker. This article is written particularly for the man who does not exactly know Merkel and community—not for the one who is there. He knows and realizes the truth of these statements and is taking advantage of the general prosperity.

When city real estate jumps one hundred per cent; and farm values soar from \$35 to \$50 per acre; and farms close to the city bought purely for farming purposes sell for \$100 per acre—that's big news.

When the oil pool is found and it will be, in all probability, it is thought by those who know—that's going to sensation. And, what a sensation it will be when that time comes and you have an investment.

But Merkel does not desire a "boom"; no, far from that; she is steering clear of anything of that nature; but they cannot get away from the fact that Old General Prosperity has landed right smack dab in their midst; and from all appearances is going to take a nice long stay, very likely camp there; they are giving him a warm welcome; and enjoying his comradeship.

Just the other day the Abilene Reporter published an article stating that Merkel "was the biggest little city in the state" not only that but she is the liveliest, most confident; most substantial little city in the state.

J D McKinley's Tragic Death

J D McKinley was run over by an engine at Clovis, N M., on Monday, December 1, receiving injuries from which he died. Both feet were cut off and he was hurt internally. Bob Popham of this vicinity was called to his bedside. The body was shipped to Moody, Texas, for burial.

FOR SALE—A good 4-gallon cow, giving about a gallon a day now. She will have to be seen to be appreciated. If taken at once will let her go at \$155. A bargain if you are in the market for a good cow. See Walter Jackson.

Don't forget that Christmas dinner at the Arcade.

W R Walker is just in from Reelfoot Lake, Tenn., where he is interested in the Martin Oil Company. He reports prospects there very fine. A showing of gas was found at 600 feet. A number of wells are being drilled in that vicinity. He expects to return in a few days. While coming through Arkansas the train on which he came struck an auto killing the occupants. He reports the country in good shape, but nothing to compare with this.

R E Lee and family of Edgewood who recently purchased a farm near Trent and a home in that place, moved out this week.



EAT

AT

The Metropolitan

WATCH OUR WINDOW CHRISTMAS WEEK

and then you will know where to Eat Christmas Dinner

Good Eats - Home Cooking - Quick Service

Under New Management

THE METROPOLITAN CAFE

HANCOCK BROS., Props.

Christmas the Glad Day for All the World

EVERY country and every people have their own special holidays, both national and religious, but Christmas is a day for all countries and all people. It is the world's holiday.

It is a day of gladness, as it should be, for it commemorates the birth of him who brought to the world the greatest gladness it has ever known or will ever know, though it were to last for countless aeons to come.

So universal is the application of the celebration of Christmas that all men are included in it, whether they be of high or lowly station, rich or poor in the goods of the world.

It is a time for kindly deeds, for charity, for gifts and all that goes to make life gentler and sweeter. The hardest heart can scarcely escape its softening influence, the most sordid miser must struggle to resist its promptings to generosity.

At first the day was a day observed by professed Christians only; now it is observed by both those who profess themselves Christians and those who make no such professions. Its warmth envelopes all.

This being true—and no one will dispute it—the meaning of Christmas grows ever clearer to us. Its meaning is beyond all that we have already said of it. Christmas means that, ultimately, the whole world will become one vast brotherhood.

And it is entirely logical that this should be the real meaning of Christmas, because that was the reason Christ came upon the earth whose birth is celebrated by Christmas. It was to make all men brothers that he lived and taught and toiled; it was to accomplish this that he gave himself up voluntarily to a cruel death on the cross.

It is a wonderful thing that he was born in a stable, that he was son of a carpenter, that he never had a dollar to his name, that he had no home after he left Nazareth, that he was a wanderer on the face of the earth with no place whereon to lay his head, and that now, 2,000 years after his death, his power is over the world as the power of the Roman empire never was.

It is a marvelous thing about Christ that as the years and centuries increase since his death, the more real he becomes in the thoughts of men and the better he is understood.

There have been attempts to prove that he was a myth. But there never was an attempt at anything that failed so dismally. There have been at-

DOCTOR PUE Massage Treatment

Scientific Dieting
 Over City Barber Shop

MERKEL :: TEXAS

READ THIS

Up to January 1st I will sell all ready to wear goods in stock at greatly reduced prices. Stock consists of boys suits, coats, mens pants, shirts, underwear, hosery, mens and boys caps and many other articles. Come at once and buy while they last.

A L JOBE

tempts to dispute the miracles he performed, but these attempts have also failed.

There is no question now in the mind of any historian worthy of the name that Christ performed all the miracles that are related of him in the Gospels. He undoubtedly healed the sick—the leprosy, the palsied and the others. He turned the water into wine; he fed the multitude on a few loaves and fishes. He raised the dead.

Men may differ, as indeed they do, as to whether or not Christ was the divine son of God, but even those who in the face of every proof reject this claim still regard him as the purest, the noblest and the greatest man that ever walked this earth. Every man does not worship him as God, but no man defames him. He is the vision and the hope of all men.

When, in mockery, they crowned him king with the cruel thorns, little they thought that he would rule a world at last—a world in which all races vie with one another to render him their homage.

Now comes again in the swing of the years another Christmas day. May it be a glad and a merry one for all our readers.

Don't Pick Out a Printer Blindfolded



Get the One Who Can Help You Sell Your Goods

WE have the ability to help you sell your goods and we can do this at a reasonable cost to you.

Economy and standardization are the watchwords here. We use Hammermill Bond, the standard, economical, business paper and we turn out a grade of printing that brings results for our customers.

LET US SHOW YOU

COZY THEATRE

Fiday, Dec. 19

Brønson's Dramatic Players

ALSO

A FOX FEATURE

with Gladys Leslie in

"The Splendid Sin"

with

MUTT & JEFF

In "The Jass Instructor" and a

FOX NOVELTY NEWS

Admission 20-40-60c

Saturday, December 20

Brønson's Dramatic Players

ALSO

Wm. S. Hart

IN

"Wagon Tracks"

and a 2-Reel

Paramount-Sennett Comedy

Admission 20-40-60c

Special Matinee at 2:30—Prices 20-40c

Monday, December 22

The Best Show of The Season

Watch for Special Advertising

Admission 10-20c

Tuesday, December 23

Wm. S. Hart

in

"The Border Wireless"

Also a 2-Reel

Paramount-Sennett Comedy

Admission 10-20c

Wednesday, December 24

Gladys Leslie

in

"The Girl Woman"

ALSO A

Sunshine Comedy

10-20c

Thursday, December 25

FRANCIS X. BUSHMAN

and

Beverly Bayne

in

"The Poor Rich Man"

Also a 2-Reel FOX COMEDY

10-20c

CHURCH NEWS

At The Baptist Church
Sunday School at 10 a.m.
Preaching by the pastor at 11 a.m and 7 p. m.
Morning subject, "Christmas Giving."
Evening Subject, "Remember Now."

B. Y. P. U. 5 p. m.
Those having part on the program for the Christmas exercises will meet at the church Sunday afternoon and rehearse.

Teachers meeting Monday 7:30 p.m.
Ladies meeting at the church Tuesday 3 p.m. This is a joint meeting of all the circles.

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. the Christmas exercises. This will be a good program and in connection with the service every member and friend of the Sunday School will be given an opportunity to make a personal cash offering to Buckners Orphans Home. The church envelopes will be used and each one will place their offering in an envelope and deposit it in the container prepared at the church.

This offering will be our annual offering for Buckner Orphans Home. Let us remember that every dollar of this money goes to buy food and clothes for the orphans, as other items of expense at the home are cared for out of the 75-Million Campaign.

Then too let us remember that these children have no other source of income in the home we now have about 750 children to be fed and clothed. It is hoped that our offering will be at least \$500.00

Ira L. Parrack, pastor

Methodist Church

Sunday School at 10 o'clock with Wallace Bragg in charge. All the collection in the school will go to the Orphans Home. Preaching at 11 A M Christmas Sermon, and at the close of this service we will take a freewill offering for the Orphans Home. Because of the scarcity of fuel and other causes we will have no Christmas tree this year, but instead of receiving gifts this Christmas let every member of the Sunday School and Church bring a gift for our Orphans Home Sunday morning. Remember Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive.

W. M. Murrell, Pastor

Presbyterian Church Notice
Special services in the Sunday School. Preaching morning and evening. Public cordially welcomed. Don't fail to come if you are not sick

Presbyterian Ladies Meet
The Ladies Society of the Presbyterian church met at the home of Mrs. Derstine last Monday afternoon, with a large number present.

After business was finished a social hour was enjoyed.
Please let each member and any others that want to join our society, be present on our next meeting January 5 at Mrs. W.M. Elliott's

League Program

Subject, The House of God
Leader, Charlie Bell Thomas
Song, Prayer, Snog
Board of Church Extension
The House of God, Lillie Pratt Sears.

Piano Solo, Annie Costephens
Respect for the Church, Jerome Hutcheson

The Pillar and Ground of the Truth, Hazel Harkrider.
God's Dwelling Place Ruth Holloway.

Reading, Iris McClary
Announcements, Benediction.

B. Y. P. U. Program
Subject, Future Punishment.
Leader, Holland Teaff
Certainty of Future Punishment, Leader.

Character of the Punishment, Miss Ola Derr
Special Music
Duration of Punishment Altha Boden
Objection to the Doctrine, Pearl Tompkins
Conclusion Ruby Campbell

Mr and Mrs Westly Edwards and family have moved to Nolan, Texas where they will make their future home.

Mrs Emma McAllester left Friday night for Houston where she will make her home

Resolutions of Respect

The members of the Odd Fellows Lodge take this means to express to the family our sorry in the death of John Toombs, who so suddenly departed from us. We feel the loss keenly, because he was one of the most royal members of the Lodge.

We extend to his family our sincere sympathy.
W. P. Duckett

BETHLEHEM

Cold was the earth and all the stars,
But Mary Mother smiled
Where in the manger of an inn
Lay warm the Holy Child.

The ox was host upon that night
Unto the King of all;
He gave for incense meadow breath,
For shelter his rude stall.

Not all the cold of earth and man
Can pierce the heaven mind,
Where warm against her leaping heart
A Mother clasps Her Child.

O miracle of utmost love,
How God grew greater when
He stooped to be a helpless babe
Beside the hearts of men.

Long ages since—and still in joy,
In loneliness and tears,
We kneel unto a Little Boy
Who smiles down through the years.
—Wilbur Underwood in Reedy's Mirror.

FULL LINE

Fruits, Candies, Nuts
Cigars, Cigarettes
Etc.

Boney Drug Store

My Best Wishes

I am very thankful for the liberal patronage that has been mine for the good year that is going.

Let me wish for you all the good things that can come your way during the glad New Year.

E. L. ROGERS

Don't Forget That



DINNER
Christmas Day
THE ARCADE

A CHRISTMAS WALK

In silvery softness the anthem closed
Like a slowly silenced bell,
The sacred calm of a peace divine
Like a benediction fell;
And out on the morning light that spread
A glimmer of amber gray,
I walked with Margery home from church
On an old, old Christmas Day.

A bland, mild day—for the rugged month
Had chosen a kindly mood,
Like a wonderful mellow aftermath
From the Autumn's plenty,
With scarcely a tinge of wholesome cold
Did the Winter's breezes blow,
As Margery walked from church with me
On a Christmas long ago.

The earnest words that had touched our hearts—
The warnings, kindly and wise—
Had left a shadow of tenderness
In Margery's violet eyes;
The merry, hoydenish maid I'd known
For a twelvemonth's flying space,
Had taken on that old Christmas Day,
A new and womanly grace.

As through the tremulous opal clouds
That shifted and awayed apart,
A sun ray lighted the rosy face,
The wish was born in my heart
That down the trail of the unspent years,
Whatever their trend might be,
The soft-eyed maiden beside me then,
Might walk to the end with me.

Absently watching the velvet flakes
By the white gale set a-wing,
I breathe the spirit of other years
While the bells of Yuletide ring;
And near me, smiling with happy eyes
At our children's romping play,
Is the girl who walked from church with me
On that old, sweet Christmas Day.
—Harriet Whitney Durbin, in People's Home Journal.

LESSON OF CHRISTMAS DAY

Example of Christ Should Inspire Unselfishness and Make Us Try to Remedy Faults.

Christmas should inspire a world of unselfishness. The example before us is almost too perfect, for it rather frightens us to attempt such divine heights of self-abnegation, but we can try. It will at least take us from the depths of selfishness, where most of us now are. Each Christmas day should teach us something of the lesson of the Holy Child's life.

If we could learn from Christmas, today and in the succeeding years the serious lessons of self-betterment and ennoblement it has to offer, how infinitely better it would be than just to look on it as a holiday for gifts and feasts, for extravagance and foolishness.

So take an hour or two off on Christmas day and give it up to retrospective and self-inspection. You will each find faults, if you judge yourself impartially, for no one is perfect. Then make a serious determination to try to overcome those faults, for only trying to improve is there any growth in character. If you are satisfied with yourself you stay just as you are with all your faults and virtues. But if you try hard to remedy the faults your character is constantly growing broader. This is the lesson which Christmas day has for each of you.

The officers of The F. & M. National Bank want you to feel free to consult with them about all matters. We want to make money, but we can't make money unless you make money too.

Crown Hardware Company has plenty of John Deere double disc plows on hand.

Best eats at the cafe.

A Christmas Coast

HERE'S gladness to every one—open your hearts to it all year round—don't keep them closed until you are shamed into prying them open with a jimmy on Christmas—make every day a Christmas Day—get rid of your grouch—throw it overboard and don't throw out a lifeline if it cries to be saved—let it drown—it will do the poor thing good.

Some Legends of Christmas Celebrations

THE original "halcyon days" were at Christmas, and were so-called because the halcyon, an ancient name for the kingfisher, was said to build its nest upon the waters at this time of year. It was generally supposed that this bird, through the influence of the holy season, had the power to still the waves and winds, so that the weather was peaceful and calm, and enabled the halcyon to lay her eggs in her floating nest and brood upon them with perfect safety.

In olden times it was believed that all nature testified in various ways to a recognition of the great event commemorated in the celebration of Christmas. The winds and seas, as well as the animals and plants and all other living things, gave evidence of knowledge of the approaching glorious anniversary and became imbued with the prevalent spirit of adoration, joy and peace.

Tradition tells us that at the moment of the Saviour's birth a universal peace reigned throughout the earth, that a deep silence rested upon the world, the birds stilled in their flight, the cattle ceased to feed, men became motionless with sudden awe in the midst of their labors, and the stars glittered with added luster. From this tradition came the superstitions of the middle ages relating to the miraculous phenomena supposed to occur annually at Christmas, many of which still survive.

Bells, too, have their legends. In a village near Raleigh, in Nottinghamshire, England, there is now a valley where once there was a picturesque and prosperous village, but an earthquake swallowed it up; yet every Christmas since, the bells of the buried church are heard chiming.

Similar tales are told of Preston, in Lancashire, and Been, in the Netherlands. This latter city was famed for its beauty and magnificence, and also for the sins and avarice of its inhabitants. On the anniversary of his birth, the Saviour came as a beggar and went from door to door; but, although Christmas festivities were being kept up, nobody would give him alms. Sin was abundant on all sides, but there were no Christmas goodwill and charity, and he called to the sea and it came and completely covered the unholy city of Been. But at Christmas time even now comes the joyous pealing of bells from under the water.

THE CHRISTMAS LIST

Keep Your Brain, Count 'Em Again, to See That No One's Missed.

There, of course, is Aunt Maria, Lizzie and Aunt Jane; they're old, but have to go down on the list again; and Uncle Joe and Uncle Sam and good old Uncle Lem; I wish I really could decide just what I should give them. And Cousin Nell and Cousin Kate and Cousins Belle and Sue, and Cousin May and Cousin Madge must be remembered, too. And Cousin Sam and Cousin Bill, and Cousins Jack and Ned—I'm sure if I had any more I would go off my head.

"There's Grandma Smith and Grandpa Salth, Grandma and Grandpa Jones—what shall I get for folks who have rheumatics in their bones? There's papa and ma and Brother Hal, and Sisters Maud and Grace; before I get through I think I'll be in the crazy place. Now what can I give all the girls who always give to me? Gladys, Hannah and Hortense and Lulu—let me see, and Clementine and Rose and Pearl and half a dozen more—my gracious, I must make a trip through every shop and store.

And there is Frieda, housemaid girl, and Mary Ann, the cook—ere I forget I'll put their names right down now in my book. And, Oh! what shall I give to Will? Tee hee, what shall it be? I feel sure that a diamond ring he will present to me. He says he only wants a kiss, and maybe that is so, but how to hang it on a tree there is no way I know. A nice silk four-hand might do, with stripes of green and white; I know he wouldn't be like papa and say it was a fright.

"And now I think I'll go to bed and put aside my list; tomorrow I am sure to think of some one I have missed. I will be bankrupt when I buy the things from ties to muff—yes, Christmas comes but once a year, and, gracious! that's enough."—Brooklyn Standard Union.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

Holly Wreaths Help to Make the Home Cheerful—How to Keep the Tree Bright and Green.

It is not Christmas without a big, gorgeous, glittering Christmas tree and plenty of greens hung wherever possible.

Of course you have your tree chosen and ready for its great purpose. When it's time or cutting, invite your boy and girl friends to help, and make the bringing in of the Christmas tree a real ceremony. In England this is one of the big events for young and old.

The kind of tree to be used depends upon where you live. Red cedar, white pine, spruce, fir or hemlock are all good. To keep the tree bright and green set it in a deep bucket or low barrel, brace and fill the space between the tree and bucket or barrel with coal. Then pour in water until the receptacle is full.

Every home should be decorated at Christmas. Gather holly for wreaths, make ropes of laurel, and have several bowls filled with partridge berries. Mistletoe is beautiful and can be found as a growth on the top of sweetgums, live oaks and other deciduous trees in the territory south of New Jersey, southern Indiana and Missouri, and in Oregon and northern California. Other fine plants for decorating are Christmas fern and polypody. Black alder and hickory or inkberry can also be used. Every district has some special green that is adaptable for decorating. In gathering greens, never destroy the plants; cut and pick carefully and the growth will not be injured.

Coffee Coffee Coffee

If you will use the Star Store Blend just one time you will use no other. It has nothing but the best coffee. We grind or sell in the full grain

Only 50c Per Pound

others charge you 75c for coffee not so good

**See us for Your Groceries
We have them for Less**

No Wood or Coal

but lots of warm underwear, outing and canton flannel. Better buy now, as the goods are hard to get delivered.

Men's unionall, overalls, caps, hats, sox and the best shirts and underwear. See us.

See us for your Xmas ties. We have 1000 to select from.

THE STAR STORE

The Place for Bargains

Lame back may come from over work cold settled in the muscles of the back, or from disease. In the two former cases the right remedy is Ballard's Snow Liniment. It should be rubbed in thoroughly over the affected part. The relief will be prompt and satisfactory. Sold by Sanders Drug.

List your property with the Merkel Realty Company, if you want it sold.

See our Eastman Kodak window. Lowry & Gamble.

Eat at the Arcade.

A Card of Thanks

The Merkel Mail:
Please allow us to thank, through your columns, the faculty of the Merkel Public Schools for the nice pair of blankets given us on the 12th; and also to thank the pupils of the Primary and Intermediate grades for the shower of canned goods, fruits and lots of other good things to eat. These kind deeds will never be forgotten. We wish for each and every one a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
J M Ashby and family.

The Arcade gives service.

Golden Anniversary Celebrated

The home of Mr and Mrs J P Hutchins was a scene of unusual pleasure on Dec 15th. The occasion being their Golden Wedding Anniversary. The children present were: Mrs. Lizzie Archer and daughter, Elaine of Coleman Mrs Stellar Williams and son, Samuel, of Stamford; Mr and Mrs Geo Hutchins, and daughter, and son, of Loraine; Mrs Effie Rider and daughters, Lillian and Florence of Merkel; Rev and Mrs Murrell, Mr and Mrs. Wm. O'Briant; Mrs Hull of Merkel.

A number of wedding presents suitable for the occasion were

presented to this honored couple. A most delicious dinner was spread and all the guests paid their tribute to it. The guests departed wishing many happy returns of the day.

Gas in the stomach comes

from food which has fermented. Get rid of this badly digested food as quickly as possible if you would avoid a bilious attack. Herbine is the remedy you need. It cleanses and strengthens the stomach, liver and bowels, and restores energy and cheerfulness. Sold by Sanders Drug Store.

PROFESSIONAL

DR. GAMBILL

—D-e-n-t-i-s-t—

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Over Woodroof-Bragg Co.
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Over Woodroof-Bragg Company
Physician and Surgeon
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General Practice

DR N. J. SMITH

Physician and Surgeon
Hours 10 to 12 a. m. 2 to 5 p. m.
Phone Office 93 Res. 237.

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Insurance—Notary Public
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W. W. WHEELER

Real Estate, Fire, Accident and
Tornado Insurance Agent.
Notary Public.
Office over City Barber Shop.
Merkel —:— Texas

W. P. MAHAFFEY

Attorney at Law
Merkel and Abilene, Texas
Merkel Office in rear Farmers
State Bank. 22Sept17

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Ladies and Gents Work.
All Work Guaranteed
Will call for and deliver work.
Phone 189 Kent St.

DRAUGHON'S

PRACTICAL
Business College
ABILENE, TEXAS

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

Mrs Mose C. Cautnren is expected in this week to spend the holidays with relatives.

You can rest assured that the best bargains may be obtained from those who advertise their wares. Patronize our advertisers

Q Rust and sister, Geneveve, left Wednesday for Dallas where they will make their home for a while.

Do You Enjoy Your Meals

If you do not enjoy your meals your digestion is faulty. Eat moderately, especially of meats, masticate your food thoroughly. Let five hours elapse between meals and take one of Chamberlain's Tablets immediately after supper and you will soon find your meals to be real pleasure



Seasonable Xmas Gifts



We Offer For Your Christmas Selections

French Ivory Toilet Sets

Fancy Candies

Smoking Sets

Manicure Sets

Fountain Pens

EASTMAN KODAKS

Make a most pleasing gift for any Friend

Cut Glass Jewelry

Stationery

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Toilet Waters

Flash Lights

SANDERS DRUG STORE : Home of Pure Drugs

Do You Know About—

Our "Ye Planery" System ?

☛ The services of the best architects of the world are at your services thru connection with us. ☛ If you are thinking of building, come in and talk it over with us.

BURTON - LINGO COMPANY
L. D. LEVY, Manager

OAKLAND

The Sensible Six

\$1225.00

DELIVERED

Warren & Beasley

McDONALD MOTOR CO.

G. H. McDonald—W. E. Lowe
Just opposite old Express office

Agents for **DODGE AND STUDEBAKER CARS**, Case Tractors
International Trucks. Full line Automobile Accessories

McFARLAND GARAGE Frank C. McFarland, Mgr.

Expert Mechanics paying special attention to
DODGE AND STUDEBAKES
Portage Tubes and Casings

Honest merchandise with all the sting of H. C. L. taken out

Men and Ladies Ready-to-Wear

If it's real honest-to-goodness goods you want, come in,
you'll be surprised at our values.

ECONOMY STORE

E. SIEGEL & COMPANY

THE MERKEL BAKERY

At the New Stand

Is well prepared to give the public their wants in

Bakery Goods

Watch our show cases for
Xmas Candies, Nuts, Fruits, Etc., Etc.

Fresh Home-Made Candies

N. Hancock, Proprietor

IF IT'S FURNITURE

Our stock is an exposition of the best at reasonable prices—Furniture you will be proud of in the home.

Paints Picture Framing Wall Paper
Hoosier Kitchen Cabinets — Macey Book Cases

The Barrow Furniture Company
of Merkel, Texas

A. T. SHEPPARD, Local General Mgr.

MERKEL MOTOR COMPN'Y

L. B. SCOTT, Manager

Authorized Ford Agents

For Ford Cars and Ford Parts

Better Let us Book You for that Ford New

Fordson Truck — Fordson Tractor
Firestone Tires and Tubes

MERKEL POWER COMPANY

(By R. Kenneth Evans)

There is one public utility in Merkel that when it stops and that has been seldom, that put a halt to many other industries. We refer to the Merkel Power Company. And right now, since the big fire over in Abilene when the plant burned down, this public utility, to protect its customers, have been losing from seven hundred to eight hundred dollars per month. This is the advantage of a big corporation in ones midst. And right now while it looks like the main plant at Abilene is discriminating against Merkel by a depreciation in the service from time to time; tis not so, as Abilene is having like trouble.

Instinctively when one thinks of a corporation—any public utility—one gets "sore" that is that was the way several years ago; in Merkel to a great extent it is different and should be. Merkel has been particularly favored. For instance—the first three years the plant operated, the juice was only shut off for one hour and forty minutes. By the way this is the best showing of any power plant in the state. Recently the service has not been up to standard owing to the destruction of the main plant at Abilene.

The Merkel plant is owned and controlled by the American Public Service Company with headquarters at Chicago. This company owns and controls six hundred plants in the United States in every state, in the union. The business here was established in 1914, and W A McSpadden has been the local manager ever since it started.

The plant here is operated on a high line out of Abilene, this line comes into Merkel with 35000 volts.

The Merkel Power Company has 384 customers, which it might be mentioned here is a higher rate of users than any where in the state of Texas. There is a rural line used for lighting and power extending north some four miles. The farmers are readily grasping the advantage of the opportunities of just pressing the button for power to run their stationary machinery and for lighting and domestic purposes.

The equipment of the plant is second to none of its size and being improved from time to time with new devices and to give its customers the best possible service.

In the commercial department all the proven and up-to-date modern devices are carried and sold on the easy payment plan, consequently many homes are equipped with modern electric things that tend to make the home life more pleasant.

The motor carries a load of 440 horse; the lighting load is 193 horse, which by the way is way above the average of anything in the state.

The company also does electric wiring.

This same firm operates the ice plant in Merkel, right now the ice is being shipped from Abilene, but the owners are figuring on putting in a small ice plant at Merkel with a capacity of twenty tons Right now ice is being delivered in Merkel at 65 cents per hundred pounds.

The company is also contemplating the extension of the lines to six miles west—to Trent.

Mr. McSpadden, the local manager, has been in the electrical business for twenty years, having been in Merkel for five years. He is a gentleman who has won the confidence of the people and has done much to overcome the one time prevalent idea that "all big public utility concerns deserves to be cussed."

Next time you want to say anything mean about something take it out on somebody else remembering that you have in Merkel a power plant that rates above the average—yes far ahead, and that for service it gives greater returns and comfort than many others.

The Store with a Conscience

The Big General Store of Mer

☛ The store that has been here and been ☛
☛ the friend of all thru prosperity or ad- ☛
☛ versity for twenty-one years. ☛

Come in when you need anything in our line

THE STAR STO

G. E. COMEGYS, Proprietor

— If you are Contemplating the Purchase

**Lumber, Builders' Hardware, &
Sand, Gravel, Nails—anything
in our line—may be we**

would both make money if you would talk it over with
— U S —

Merkel Lumber Company

Owned and operated by Wm. P. Carey Co., not Inc.
N. D. COBB, Manager

FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

Established in 1904

Put it in a National Bank

(The Only Guaranty Fund Bank in Merkel)
ALWAYS ABLE & WILLING to HELP the FARMER

The Farmers State Bank

Capital Stock \$35,000.00

Surplus and Earnings over \$40,000.00

Managed by men you know and have confidence
in their conservative banking methods

J. S. Swann, President R. O. Anderson, Cashie
Jno. Sears, Vice Pres. F. Y. Gaither, Asst. Cash.
SamSwann, Asst. Cashier

It's just what your Druggist Ordered if it is from

LOWRY & GAMBLE

Prescription Druggists

"THE NYAL STORE"

CUT GLASS JEWELRY
IVORY GOODS CIGARS
EASTMAN KODAKS

We are just adding to our line Pathe Phonographs

GARDEN COURT

Face Powder as pictured
and described in the Novem-
ber Ladies Home Journal
and Cosmopolitan, can be
had at the

SANDERS DRUG STORE

It is the finest face powder
known of—Come and see it.

COZY THEATRE

and STUDIO

Do It Electrically!

If you are not, talk it over with us

Our Commercial Department is full of modern Labor-Saving Devices

Let us figure on your next job of wiring

Merkel Power Comp

W. A. McSPADDEN, Local Man

Christmas Greetings

Christmas Furniture at Very Low Prices

We welcome the careful inspection of our entire line of New Furniture and Floor Covering, which by comparison you will find that back of the price tags there are the greatest real values offered by any store anywhere. You can find in our stock many useful, durable and cheap articles that will bring pride, joy and comfort to the entire family. And another feature worthy of notice is that a good piece of Furniture will last for years and years and carry with it the pleasant memories of Christmas, 1919.

We are expecting a car load of new goods to reach us the last of this week or by the first of next week. This augment to our present stock will provide us with almost everything in furniture and floor covering, and we assure you that your time will be well spent while looking through the new things of the season.

It Will Pay You to See us Before You Buy

J. T. Darsey & Company

LOCAL NEWS

Mrs Davenport Gaither of San Antonio in visiting her parents, Mr and Mrs. Cranford.

Palm Olive soap at 10 cents a bar. Bob Martin's Grocery Store.

W T Walker left last week for Oklahoma where he expects to spend the vacation. We hope he will have a good time.

Peace Maker flour 10 lbs. 75c.

Black and White have some real bargains on their list of farms and city property. Phone 84

FOR SALE—80 acres of sod land, 40 acres grubbed. Two miles east of Compere School. See Mr. Cranston. 6t2p

The Arcade gives service.

Miss Ruby Teaff came in the past week to spend the holidays with home folks..

Car of new Chevrolets for sale. Get my prices they are reasonable. E. Siegal at Economy.

Bernice Rainbolt will spend the holidays with homefolks.

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.

Vera Jenkins is expected home to spend the holidays

Fresh car Peace Maker flour G. M. Sharps.

Miss Bess Touchstone will spend the holidays with Miss Willie Swann.

Place your subscription with the Merkel Mail and Abilene Morning Reporter, \$4.00 a year.

Best eats at the Arcade.

STRAYED—Jersey heifer about a year and half old, from pasture of Virgie Davis 4 miles northwest of Merkel, the past week. Finder please notify J R Pee.

W Z Harris of Rowlett was in Merkel this week on business

Mrs M. A. Pettis has returned home after a most delightful trip to Woodville Texas

LOST—A leather suit case west of Trent last Friday, containing one grey suit of clothes, shirts, plush razor box containing 2 razors, and other articles. Finder please leave with J H Nailor, 4 miles west of Trent. Suitable reward. 19t1p

W R Walker is shaking hands with friends in Merkel this week

PIGS FOR SALE—Eight high grade poland chinas, ten weeks old. See John or Leman Collins. 19t1p

When Buying ...
When buying demand the Edison Electric Lamp.

Thos A Edison controls all electric Lamps, of which there are over 50 different brands. See that you get the one that he puts his name on.

For sale by or through the—Merkel Power Company

Don't forget that Christmas dinner at the Arcade.



C R Scott and family of Edgewood moved to Trent this week. He recently purchased a home a short distance west of place and a residence in the

Don't forget that Christmas dinner at the Arcade.

Read our Adv. in this issue and open an account with the F. & M National Bank to-day and have the benefit of the service it offers.

We Thank You!

☞ We have done our best the year that is passing to fill your bodies with wholesome bread and to sweeten your lives with the best candy that can be made.

☞ We thank you for the part you have played in the success that is ours, and we count it a privilege to wish for you

The Compliments of The Season

MERKEL BAKERY

The Pleasure Has Been Ours

To serve you through the year that is going

☞ Our business has been good, for which we are truly thankful.

☞ We wish for you all the prosperity you can stand, and trust that your New Year's resolution will include your continued patronage at our place of business.

We Thank You

The MERKEL GARAGE