

# THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 33—NO. 1

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1921

8 PAGES

## HEALTH OFFICERS CONDEMN RATS

Since it is a well known fact that millions of dollars worth of grain and food is destroyed by rats throughout the entire United States, and not only that but he is known to be the cause of the spread of many deadly and contagious diseases, there is being waged all over the country a nation wide war for the extermination of this pest, and the people of Merkel and surrounding country should likewise take steps for his extermination in this section of the country.

For the benefit of our readers we herewith reproduce some facts given out by the County Health Officer, W. T. Largent, of Collin county, and who is a relative of our splendid fellow citizen, Mr. C. M. Largent.

Dr. W. T. Largent, health officer for Collin county, is behind the antirat campaign in Collin county and has the following to say concerning the extermination of the rat, which is one of the greatest carriers of diseases:

To the citizens of Collin county: The campaign soon to start for the extermination of the rats is a very vital and important one and according to my opinion is one that is not second in importance to any campaign that had come before our citizenship in the past few years—not excepting those to improve our crops, to build our hospitals, our auditoriums and various other institutions. These enterprises are all worthy and should be supported by every loyal citizen, but I believe and am supported by all authorities that the extermination of the rat will do more to protect the health of the general public than anything we can do.

### Rat is Repulsive

The rat is not only repulsive to the fair sex but also to the men and is one of the greatest carriers of disease of every description we have to contend with. This spread of all epidemic such as yellow fever, hydrophobia, diphtheria, infantile paralysis, typhoid fever, Bubonic plague or the Black Death and many others are attributed to the rat. Even now our own health authorities and those of other states are devoting practically all of their forces in combating the spread of Bubonic plague and one, if not the greatest precaution, is the destruction of the rat.

### Rat is Deadly

The rat is as deadly and should be dealt with as we would the rattlesnake. Would you not rather have the rattlesnake to bite you and die within a few hours than to develop the Black Death from a rat, where in you suffer the tortures of the damned and finally die an object of pity and horror. Besides the dangers attached to the rats there are many other important reasons why we should support this campaign. It is unbelievable to think that in this day of sanitation and decency that any human being should desire to live in an atmosphere of filth that is so necessary to the life of the rat.

You hear on every side the problem of high cost of living. In what better way could we assist in the reduction of high prices than by killing off the pests that destroy millions of dollars worth of food stuff. This affects every man, woman and child directly or indirectly in Collin county. Now let us put our shoulder to this campaign make it a success and show we other parts of the state we are an enlightened people and are abreast with the

your part. No man would be guilty of not contributing to the Red Cross that saves the lives of those on the other side. So let's not be guilty of refusing to assist in the destruction of the rat hereby saving the lives of the loved ones here at home.

W. T. Largent,  
County Health Officer.

We are informed that the 14 of this month Miss May Valentine, died at Caddo, where she was engaged in teaching school. We also learn that deceased was at one time a teacher in the Merkel schools and is an aunt of Mrs. C. S. Higgins, of this city and the sister of Mrs. Higgins' mother, Mrs. Bob Allen, of Abilene. We join many friends here in extending deepest sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

## CLAUDE FARMER GETS ONLY \$3.13

Claude, Texas, Feb. 23.—Good woolen clothes ought to sell at about the price they fetched fifty years ago, according to the price J. P. Reck of this city received for his clip from 100 sheep this week. Reck sent 502 pounds of wool to the Kansas City market and received for it a check for \$3.13. But that isn't the whole story. He paid a Mexican \$16 to shear the sheep while Reck and his children tied up the wool. Added to this loss should be the high priced feed stuff and cake Reck purchased for the stock during the winter. If it had been 1,000 sheep instead of 100 Reck said he would have to sell his farm to meet the loss.

Ira Fleming a neighbor of Mr. Reck's fared but little better. Last March he paid \$20 a head for 100 sheep and paid a Mexican \$20 to shear them recently. For the clip he received from Kansas City a check for \$40.55. Both men say that it will take the sale of about 100 bushels of kaffir corn to make up for the amount paid the Mexicans.

### ATTENDS BANKERS MEETING

L. R. Thompson, Cashier of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank attended the meeting of the members of District seven of the Texas Bankers Association last Tuesday, and report a very successful meeting. Many subjects were ably discussed which are of importance to Bankers and farmers. Said Mr. Thompson, "We are gradually emerging from a period of great business depression and we have learned some inevitable lessons. We know now that we have been too prodigal both of time and money, and that we will have to save more and work harder in order to bring conditions back to normal. These are the times that sift men and bring out character. The man of sterling character will emerge a stronger better man, and those of us whose business it is to grant credits will know who is who. I have faith in the future and those who complain will have forgotten some day that there ever was a fall of 1920 or a year of 1921. The things for all of us to do are: get busy; be optimistic and hit the line hard. This part of the country is in fine shape", said he.

### GINNING NOTICE

After Friday and Saturday of this week the Gins of Merkel will not gin any more until Friday and Saturday, March 25th and 26th, which will be the last ginning days for this season. 2t  
PLANTERS GIN CO.  
F. P. HAMM GIN  
ANDERSON GIN CO.  
GUITAR GIN

## OVER 1500 RABBITS KILLED IN DRIVE

As per announcements made in these columns last week, the citizens of the Salt Branch community, assisted by their neighbors and many citizens from Merkel, put on perhaps one of the largest rabbit drives ever taking place in this section of the country. It is said that by noon more than 700 of the pests had been killed, including one coyote wolf, and that when the drive had ended in the afternoon the estimate was made that from 1,500 to 2,000 rabbits had been killed.

At noon a splendid lunch was served and of which everyone is said to have enjoyed to the fullest extent, as the morning's chase had sharpened their appetites fully equal to the occasion.

It is reported that before the drive had ended more than 200 men and boys had joined in the chase. And taking as a whole, besides a nice day's sport, many of the pests which have been doing much damage to the farmer's crops were killed.

Walter Jackson, of the Merkel Realty Company, spent a few days first of the week in Dallas visiting his parents.

## SOME PUPILS ARE ON HONOR ROLL

To be exempt from examination in the Merkel Public School a pupil must make 90% in deportment. If his deportment is 90% he is then exempted from examination on each subject in which his average for the past months has been 90% or more. A pupil is to be commended who attains this high grade, and is rewarded by being exempted from the regular examinations that come three times a year. The following in the High school Department have been exempted from examinations for the three months period just ending:

Eighth Grade:—  
Beryl Tucker, English and Algebra; Lois Swafford, English; Dorothy Sanders, English and Algebra; Johnnie Sears, English and Algebra; Ena Toombs, Algebra; Minnie Maude Lamar, Algebra; Homer Williams, Algebra  
Ninth Grade:—  
Hattie Proctor, English, History and Algebra; Vennie Heizer, English, History and Algebra; Elba Cox, English, History and Algebra; Nora Foster, History and Algebra; Marvin Mayfield, History and Algebra; Ora Porter, Algebra; Oscar McLean, Algebra; Rex McLean, Algebra.  
Tenth Grade:—  
Ruth Wells, English.  
Eleventh Grade:—  
Sewell Harwell, Geometry; Hazel Harkrider, English; Lucille Russell, Geometry.

### PRESBYTERIAN AUXILIARY

The Society meeting at Mrs. Geo. Houghton's last Monday evening was quite a success.

Some interesting Foreign mission topics were discussed.

Remember the Silver Tea and social at the home of Mrs. Geo. Houghton Friday afternoon, February 25. Come bring your friends.

On Monday afternoon, February 28th at the home of Mrs. H. C. West a Farewell social will be given Mrs. C. C. Dooley. We regret very much losing such a good member, but our loss is a gain. Press Reporter.

## STITH AND BLAND CREWS FISHING

We have not heard much oil news this week, which we feel would be of interest to our readers. Reports are that at both the Bland and Stith tests, the drillers are still busy in an effort to fish out lost tools, piping etc., which has been going on for several months and weeks, respectively. However, at the Bland, we were informed Wednesday evening that the iron in this test was thought to have been loosened up and that it was possible that the hole might be cleared this week. It has also been stated that the flow of gas which was encountered in this well some time ago, is gradually growing stronger.

As to the drilling of another well on the Sears tract, mention of the possibility of which was made in these columns last week we have nothing new to give our readers, further than the fact that an effort is still on to secure the acreage necessary to drill the new test.

Don't be bothered with your wash day troubles. Quality Service and prices guaranteed. L. P. Ligon, phone 218. 1t

## MERKEL CITIZENS CONDEMN CRIME

On last Thursday afternoon, at about four o'clock, (too late for us to report same in our last issue) a large number of business men and citizens met at the city hall in this city for the purpose of discussing the recent blowing up by dynamite of a negro quarter, which was located in the edge of the business section. Besides the leading business men, bankers and citizens of Merkel, there were a few farmers present, and after a thorough discussion of the matter, the following resolutions were passed without a dissenting voice:

Resolved that we, the citizens of Merkel and surrounding country, take this means as a measure of protest against the unlawful acts committed of late against the negroes of this section. We hereby go on record as being in favor of the law and order for both races. It was in the interest of the farmer that the negroes were brought to this section, and as agriculture is the backbone of this country, we believe law-abiding negroes are necessary to our welfare. If there are those who are not law-abiding, then we have the officers and the courts, and do not recommend a bunch of unlawfully inclined white people to take the law into their hands.

We offer our full protection to every negro who wants to cast his lot in this section and who will work and abide in the peaceful and lawful pursuits of the country.

We denounce those who would try to run the negroes out and call upon our officials to spare no expense nor effort in bringing those to justice who would do violence to negro or white without cause.

At the close of the above meeting another like meeting was called for Thursday night of this week, and an invitation to every one. Everybody in Merkel as well as the country around, were invited and expected to be present, and go on record as being in favor of helping the officers to stamp out the seemingly ever increasing crime wave sweeping the country.

In a mass meeting of the citizens of Merkel on last Thursday, strong resolutions condemning the recent lawlessness committed in this city were passed, and in which all kinds of crime and lawlessness was condemned. In other words the fact was made known at this meeting that the majority of the citizens of the town are law-abiding and against this terrible thing, becoming so well known as, "the crime wave" which has been sweeping over the entire nation for so long a time.

No young man who idles his time away is not worth a dime to himself or the community in which he lives. As a rule he is a breeder of crime, even though he may not be an actual participant in the work.

## PROGRAM A. C. C. AT HIGH SCHOOL

On next Friday evening, March 4th, at 8:15 the Choral Club and the college quartette of Abilene Christian College will give a splendid program at the High School Auditorium in Merkel. The net proceeds of this program will be given to the school benefit fund. The admission will be 25 and 50 cents, and it is hoped that a large attendance will hear this excellent program and thus help equip the school library and grounds. The number promises to be the equal of, if not superior, to our lyceum numbers. The quartette especially is receiving commendation wherever it has appeared. Miss Kelly, the vocalist and Miss Compere, violinist compare favorably with lyceum talent that has appeared here. The program will be free of any "jazz" stuff or light numbers. Come, hear a good varied program by our neighboring college. Those who have heard similar program given by Abilene Christian College know the excellent program in store for Merkel.

The following program will be rendered:

- (a) Tinker's Song from Robin Hood ..... DeKoven  
(b) Hail to Our Native Land (March from "Aida") ..... Leurs  
—Glee Club—
- I know a bank ..... Horn  
Roses Everywhere ..... Denza  
Choral Club
- Winter Song ..... Bullard  
The Jolly Blacksmith's lay...  
Quartette
- Marjory, Wake up ..... Christi  
Swing Along ..... Cook  
Women ..... Kratz  
Glee Club
- Bird Raptures ..... Schneider  
Apple Blossoms ..... Lester  
Lois Kelley, violinist
- Souvenir ..... Dedla  
Perpetual Mobile ..... Bohm  
Miss Compere  
Head Violin Department
- A Musical Skirt .....  
The Little Red School House  
Quartette
- Lady Slippers ..... Linders  
When life is brightest ..... Pinsuti  
Choral Club
- Absent ..... Metcal  
Carry me back to old Virginia  
Good Night ..... Pinsuti  
Glee Club

### DORCAS CLASS ENTER- TAINED

On February 17th the Dorcas Class met with Ms. J. R. Barnett. The meeting opened with a song, and scripture reading followed by a prayer after which a nice little program was rendered. The program was and spicy. The very unfavorable weather could not be helped.

## FAMILY TROUBLE CAUSE OF TRAGEDY

Bronte, Feb. 19.—W. A. S. farmer near here, who shot his wife to death late Thursday then committed suicide, as stated in a letter addressed to his step-son, Sandusky, that the approaching marriage to the young man of a daughter of Smith's by a former wife, together with other involving family trouble was responsible for the deed.

Smith, recently from Merkel married Mrs. Sandusky son three months ago. Both of the had children by former marriages.

Directing the step-son and future son-in-law to make certain disposals of the community property Mr. Smith told of the burden on his heart in the following words, a copy of which reached the daily Reporter late last night by wire.

The last message disclosed by the sheriff of Coke County says in part:

"I regret to do what I am going to do, but it is unavoidable. I am driven to it—it would astonish the world if what I know was made public.

"Tell the children not to grieve for me. I wouldn't live long anyway. My heart is broken and home wrecked. So be good children, and remember one who loves you all. Good-bye."

### Smith Considered Moving to Sweetwater

San Angelo, Feb. 19.—The body of W. T. Smith, a farmer living about five miles north of B. Coke county, who at about 10 o'clock Thursday afternoon shot and instantly killed his wife and her home and then turned a larger weapon upon himself committed suicide was buried in the Bronte cemetery beside of the wife he had murdered. S. G. Adkins, justice of peace at Bronte, who conducted the inquest over the body Thursday afternoon, rendered verdict of murder and suicide.

A letter was found which had been left in the room by Smith. In his message Smith explained that he was "driven to it." It is said that the couple had been having domestic differences for several months. The latest was in regard to the sale of some cotton and also the question of whether or not the family should move to Sweetwater. It is said that Mrs. Smith wanted to move from the farm and that her husband refused to grant her request.

A call was received at the Bronte telephone office from Mrs. Smith a little while before the shooting occurred asking that an officer be sent to the house, according to the operator. The sheriff was notified but thinking that the argument would be settled before he could arrive on the scene, did not respond.

Only three shells were in the little automatic with which Mr. Smith was killed and all three were fired, each shot taking effect. A few days before the shooting occurred, it is said Smith appeared at one of Bronte hardware stores tempted to buy more shells. The gun but none were sold. —Sweetwater Press.

Mrs. Smith was taken to Sweetwater for medical attention.

STATEMENT OF CONDITION  
**THE FARMERS STATE BANK**

Merkel, Texas December 29th, 1920

**RESOURCES**

Loans and Discounts .....	\$625,475.43
Banking House .....	7,850.00
Furniture and Fixtures .....	5,200.00
Bonds and War Savings Stamps ..	8,301.11
Asst. and Int. Guaranty Fund....	4,068.79
Cash and Exchange .....	192,724.78
	<hr/>
	\$843,620.11

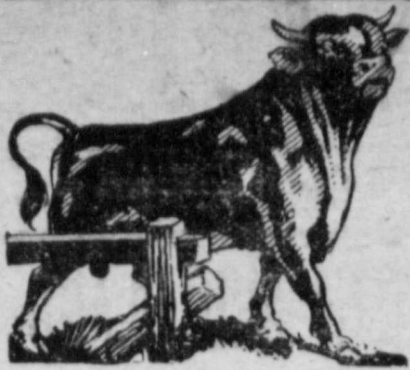
**LIABILITIES**

Capital Stock .....	\$50,000.00
Surplus Fund .....	50,000.00
Reserved for taxes .....	1,263.46
Undivided Profits .....	12,717.05
Deposits .....	689,304.16
Rediscouunts .....	40,335.44
Bills payable .....	None
Other Borrowed Money .....	None
	<hr/>
	\$843,620.11

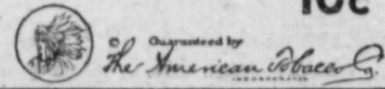
**ONLY GUARANTY FUND BANK  
IN MERKEL**

**SAFETY AND SERVICE**

T. J. TOOMBS .....	President
JOHN SEARS .....	Vice President
R. L. BLAND .....	Vice President
R. O. ANDERSON .....	Cashier
F. Y. GAITHER .....	Asst. Cashier



GENUINE  
**"BULL"  
DURHAM**  
tobacco makes 50  
good cigarettes for  
10c



school now, do you?"  
"Yes," he answered.  
"And do you love your teacher?"  
"Naw, the old hen is too ancient for me."  
Mr. Miller's Geometry class announces a complete course in figures and curves to be given this spring.  
He (in motor car) The lover here controls the brake. It is put on very quickly in case of necessity.  
She: "I see; something like a kimona."  
John—"May I hold your hand for a second?"  
Mae Bidleman—"How will you know when the second is up?"  
John—"Oh I'll need a second hand for that."  
WANTED—A mechanic to work 9th grade Algebra problems. See Ninth Grade Algebra Class.  
Carlyton—"Where did the paddle hit you?"  
Weston—"If I had been carrying a license plate it would have busted it all to pieces."  
Mr. Burgess Rules:  
Be intellectual with pretty women. Be frivolous with the intellectual. Be serious with

young girls. Be saucy with elderly ladies.  
Kenneth—"Where do you live, close in?"  
Hattie—"Fairly so; thirty minutes on foot, fifteen by motor car, twenty-five by street car and forty-five by telephone."  
Surely is hard for a fellow to acknowledge he is happy not knowing what examination grades are.

**GERMANY LOST TOY MARKET**

United States and Japan Now Supply Canada With Playthings She Does Not Produce.

The United States is now first in supplying those toys needed to supplement the output of Canadian factories. The additional quantity required by Canada to supply its own domestic trade amounted in the last year to \$1,500,000 worth. Before the war Germany was the chief source of supply, but the United States now leads and Japan has likewise made a notable advance in its toy shipments to that market. In 1918 American exports of toys to Canada amounted to \$273,138 and in the year ended March 31, 1920, the total was \$1,136,372. Japan's trade grew from \$18,738 to \$277,946 in the same period, while there was only a small increase in toys sent from the United Kingdom.

The toy and doll industry of Canada, according to Vice Consul Horace M. Sanford at Ottawa, has made considerable advance compared with pre-war time, but imports were needed to meet the domestic demand. At the present time some thirty-five Canadian toy factories are listed, although the census returns of 1918 reported only fifteen. The kinds of toys made there include animals, autos, balls, billiard games, boats, building blocks, carriages, crokinole boards, croquet sets, dishes, dolls' furniture, games, garden sets, lawn swings, pool tables, tricycles and wheelbarrows, which are made of celluloid, enamel, iron, steel, tin, rubber and wood.

Last year Canada exported \$139,052 worth of dolls and toys, the United States taking \$5,635 worth and the United Kingdom \$120,322.

**START BABY CHICKS RIGHT**

And keep'em healthy by feeding Martin's Poultry Regulator Cure and prevent disease with Martin's White Darrhoea Remedy guaranteed by Sanders Drug store. 15 April

**The  
PRICE**

- of good health is good habits.
- of financial independence is systematic savings.
- ☑ To keep good digestion, keep the lock on luxuries.
- ☑ To keep a steadily increasing savings account, keep the brakes on extravagance.
- ☑ To safe-guard your savings, and to make your savings grow, put your savings in

**The Farmers & Merchants  
National Bank**

and  
Government Savings  
Securities



**HIGH SCHOOL NOTES**  
(By Warren McSpadden)

us! We were tortured by a set of "exams" would have made that intel old nut, Socrates, scratch head. But out of a clear sky is one cloud and that is thought of only three more months and then Oh joy!  
There is little to report on high school notes this week as every one is trying to get by studying.  
The city dads have taken pity on the street north of us and the grader is on the job. Thanks awfully.  
The Juniors and Seniors, Juniors mostly, were disappointed Friday when the rain knocked us out of a real weinnie fry on the shores of a nearby creek.  
The "Big 4", champion debaters, Mary Cleo, Jerome, Bill and Sewell are earnestly at work on the coming debate at the Inter-scholastic meet. Several minor debates have been made by these ars but the biggest of these to come off at the meet.  
**Things to Forget**  
Forget the chap whose sour ce forgets to smile in any ice. Forget the trials you have l. Forget the weather if its Forget the knocker, he's a s. Forget him seven days a k. Forget the home team the game. Forget the ref- was to blame.

"GRS"  
and med it 8 upon the of F 8. Oh! cruel 10 der maid sed8 my m 8. My that I can- e 4-2-18 and

Goods  
and  
Prices

**SPECIALS**

Goods  
and  
Prices

**Our specials are more than the usual kind of specials offered you---**

**For The Reason**

**They are better quality and better made than most of lines offered.**

Long grinning stitches and otherwise half put together goods---we do not allow them in our stock

See our good Overall and Jumper for men at each .....	\$1.40
Good work shoes .....	\$2.75, \$3.50, \$4.90
Yard-wide Brown Domestic per yard .....	12½c
Good work shirt .....	90c and \$1.45

**The Brown D. G. Company**

Quality Merchandise

**SHILOH DOTS**

The weather has been some colder since the last writing. We have had some rain. The rain was gladly seen by the farmers and is good on the sowed grain.  
Guy Cade has returned to Houston as he has been home for some time.  
Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Woods and the latter's sister went to Merkel Monday.  
Merion Winters went to Abilene Monday.  
Edith Hudspeth of Golan visited hr sister Mrs. Rapp Greene last week.  
Louel Rutledge and wife are moving home.  
Mr. Marion Grayson and family are leaving this community for Oklahoma, to make their future home.  
There wasn't any Sunday school last Sunday on account of the weather. The weather also knocked out the entertainments for the past week.  
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Cade were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Rob Conner Monday night.  
Jenning Winters and wife spent Friday night with Mr. and Mrs. Hardy Rutledge.  
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Pomroy were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Abb Vessels of Trent Saturday night.  
Mrs. Walter Phillips is making arrangements to send some chickens to the Fat Stock Show at Fort Worth. We are all wishing her good luck. Her birds won first premium at the show at Dallas.  
Bud Winters went rabbit hunting Monday afternoon and killed a big mess of rabbits.

**BANISH BLUE BUGS**

And all blood sucking insects simply by feeding "Martin's Blue Bug Remedy" to your chickens. Absolutely guaranteed by Sanders Drug Store. 17 Ju

W. P. Duckett will pay you 1

## ENTERTAINMENT OF VARIED NATURE IS FORT WORTH SHOW

DATES ARE SET FOR MARCH 5  
TO 12—LIVESTOCK EXHIBITION  
CENTRAL FEATURE—OTHER  
ATTRACTIIONS

Varied entertainment will be the watchword of the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, which will be held at Fort Worth March 5 to 12. With an exhibition of blooded livestock that promises better than



The lady bronc and trick riding has always been a feature at the Ft. Worth Rodeo.

any made in past years as a nucleus and central feature, the show will be rounded out with numerous features that will provide entertainment for everybody.

M. Sansom Jr. and Ray H. McKinley again will be secretary-manager and assistant secretary-manager and they practically have the same efficient line-up that has assisted them in holding the show in previous years. John I. Burgess, prominent Tarrant county stockman, again will be director in charge of the livestock exhibition.

Eleventh-hour revision of the premium list gives the purebred herds about the same classification and money as at the 1919 show. Smaller premium classes hardly have witnessed any money reduction.

The cattle sales feature promises to be even more prominent than in the past. Added interest in this section has been aroused through the probability that numbers of Mexican stockmen, keen to secure first-class purebreds for the rebuilding of their shattered herds, will attend the stock show for this specific purpose.

The American Legion will take a leading part in the stock show, particularly on Tuesday, March 8, which has been set aside as American Legion Day. It is anticipated that 10,000 ex-service men from Texas and Oklahoma will be on hand that day and a special Legion program is being worked up.

Plans are being formulated to make the Rodeo features of the snappiest and most varied nature. Captain W. H. Furse, manager of the Horse Show features, is in communication with some of the leading stables of Oklahoma and other states and expects to have a first-class showing of equine beauties. In fact, he already has been assured of the participation of several large stables. He also expects to have a number of army entries from Fort Bliss, Okla. Other features of the Rodeo will consist of some of the most thrilling cowboy sports that ever have been staged in the United States.

The J. George Loos Carnival will be pitched on the Coliseum grounds. This splendid attraction has been held in connection with the stock show for several years but this time will be much larger and much different from previous performances. J. George Loos, the proprietor, has been busy all fall and winter lining up new attractions for the carnival, which will open its spring and summer campaign here. There will be many new and unique features that Texas carnivals have not yet presented.

For the first time, a splendid bench show will be held on the Coliseum grounds. This will be staged under the direction of the Fort Worth Kennel Club and one of the most creditable exhibitions of fine dogs ever made in Texas is anticipated.

The show will be inaugurated on the evening of March 5 with the usual splendid society event, a pageant that bids fair to eclipse any of past years. The event is under the direction of leading society women of Fort Worth and the scenery and costuming promises to be gorgeous.

The Mail \$1.50 year in advance

# Bankrupt Sale

--- OF ---

## FORMER ECONOMY STORE

### IS NOW GOING ON AT FULL BLAST

Here is your chance to stretch your dollars like rubber at this sale. We have just received a shipment of Gingham all colors

GINGHAMS **14<sup>c</sup>** PER YARD

Our stock is still complete. Come early and get your supply.

## The Former Economy Store

### ALMOST LOST BIG DISCOVERY

Predatory Bird Carried Off Pod Containing Precious Seed That Produced Burbank Potatoes.

Luther Burbank recently told Colorado potato men a story of his discovery of the world-famous Burbank potato, which has only recently come to light. While Burbank was experimenting with potatoes about twenty years ago he noticed in his patch one plant which held one particularly promising pod of seeds. To his practiced eye these seeds and the plant which bore them would contain the germ of a new and excellent potato. If he had thought it necessary he would have put a watchman over this one small seed ball. As it developed later, the money that would have been required for a watchman would have been but a minute drop of silver in the ocean of gold which this one pod was destined to produce.

Every morning Burbank would go to the patch to see how the pod was faring, and often during each day he would look at the plant to discover the time when the pod could be picked.

One morning he went into the patch and the pod was gone. With the help of workmen he searched for it. Finally, after hunting for hours, 20 feet away from the plant, in the midst of other plants, the pod was found.

"I think a bird must have picked it off and tried to carry it away," Mr. Burbank told the Colorado potato men. "Anyhow, there it lay, and I picked it up and planted the seeds, and that's how we have Burbank potatoes today."

### HAD NO ANSWER TO THAT

Georgia Man's Assertion Concerning Watermelons Left Upholder of Indiana Product Gasping.

Harry Grimsley, a Terre Haute Rotary club man, comes from Georgia and is still in love with his native state. He boasts of its wonders, and the last time he discoursed on it, was telling of the wonderful bargains he got in watermelons. "Why, we got the very biggest ones for only five cents," he said.

"But they aren't so big as the ones we have up here," persisted one of his listeners. "Why, out on my farm we had some half as big around as half the top of this table. We didn't eat any of it except the core, and yet the whole family had enough of it and more."

"Down there," drawled Mr. Grimsley in his most southern drawl, "we never eat nearer than two feet of the rind of the melon and yet there's always more than enough for a family in one melon."—Indianapolis News.

L. R. Thompson, Cashier of Farmes & Merchants National Bank, will leave Saturday night for his old homes in Missouri and Kansas on a combined business and pleasure trip to be away for one week.

All kinds of Garden and Flower Seed at Bob Martin Grocery Company.

Just received \$1,500 stock of new Casings. McFarland Garage.

# Fordson

## TRACTOR DEMONSTRATION

### Friday and Saturday

Cross the road from E. D. Coats and East of J. W. Wheelers

— SEE —

"The Fordson at Work"

Merkel Motor Company

## GUY E. LONGBOTHAM

### MASSEUR

Let me Explain Massage to You

No Drugs  
No Surgery  
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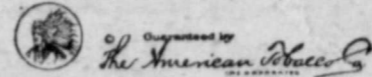
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## Flavor!

No cigarette has the same delicious flavor as Lucky Strike. Because—

It's toasted

LUCKY STRIKE CIGARETTE



### READING IN THE HOME

There is no better way for parents to encourage children to stay at home evenings than by providing them with good reading and set the example by spending an hour or two after the evening meal with books, papers and magazines. In this way, children train their mind's by thinking with the best writers.

There's a wealth of information in print today and fortunate are those who like to read. Children that like to read will improve their opportunities for service in society. Regardless of the short items of school, overworked and under-paid teachers, reading in the home will give children a start and enable them to become useful and successful as citizens of the state and the nation.

Our schools would be more efficient our young people find more pleasure and greater interest in the home and be of more service to the community if reading were encouraged and good books and clean, elevating and reliable periodicals provided. — Farm and Ranch.

## Was Very Weak

"After the birth of my baby I had a back-set," writes Mrs. Mattie Crosswhite, of Glade Spring, Va. "I was very ill; thought I was going to die. I was so weak I couldn't raise my head to get a drink of water. I took . . . medicine, yet I didn't get any better. I was constipated and very weak, getting worse and worse. I sent for Cardui."

TAKE

# CARDUI

The Woman's Tonic

"I found after one bottle of Cardui I was improving," adds Mrs. Crosswhite. "Six bottles of Cardui and . . . I was cured, yes, I can say they were a God-send to me. I believe I would have died, had it not been for Cardui." Cardui has been found beneficial in many thousands of other cases of womanly troubles. If you feel the need of a good, strengthening tonic, why not try Cardui? It may be just what you need.

All Druggists

From time immemorial, sailors, with few exceptions, naturally been associated with things of the sea, notably the belief which marks departure from port on Friday as a certain omen of bad luck. St. Elmo's fire, the ho'sun fish, whistling of the wind in a calm, the presence of a priest on board ship, all these deal with actual elements of sea life that played a great part among such legends. The Flying Dutchman legend was also born of the sea; likewise the ghostly crew coming from the wreck of a sunken ship to haunt the crew of the vessel which caused their loss.

A more annoying variety of superstition was revealed the other day by the action of the crews of two American tugs who deserted their boats at Quebec. Before these two boats left Detroit bound for New York a fortune teller predicted the doom of one of the boats before it finished its voyage. This prophecy so worked on the sensibilities of the members of the two crews that they struck on reaching Quebec. Old salts might sniff at such a prophecy as this as being of the fresh-water brand and not worthy to be enrolled in the ancient and honorable company of deep-sea superstitions, but the prophecy worked its evil upon the tug owners. The loss of their crews made a real thing of it.

### ALUMINUM TO REPLACE WOOD

Increased Production of the Metal Will Relieve Drain Upon the Country's Vanishing Forests.

One of the greatest consumers of wood is the shipping box. For this purpose no fewer than 6,000,000 cords were used last year. Viewed from any standpoint, it is a gigantic draft upon our forest resources.

Unquestionably before long metal will largely take the place of wood for the making of shipping cases. Which means, of course, aluminum, or an alloy thereof. Aluminum, relatively speaking, is a cheap metal now, but it is destined to be vastly cheaper.

When one considers that aluminum constitutes more than 7 per cent of the entire crust of the earth, it seems absurd that there should be lack of it for any and all purposes useful to mankind.

The next generation may live in apartment houses built wholly of aluminum and travel in aluminum trains and steamships. But the matter of most immediate importance is the relief which cheap aluminum may give to the drain upon our vanishing forests.

### Canada Admits Hindoo Woman.

The first Hindoo woman and the first Hindoo boy who ever entered Vancouver or British Columbia, Canada, to make the province their home arrived recently on the Empress of Japan. There are thousands of Hindoos living in the province, engaged in working in the woods or in operating sawmills. Some of them have made much money. For a long time the government refused admission Hindoo women, but recently this ban was lifted. The new arrival was the first woman to take advantage of it. Her husband went to India from Vancouver three years ago, to pay a visit to his home. He had made money and intended to remain in India, when the ban on women was lifted. He decided to return where opportunity were greater. He brought his wife and twelve-year-old son. The father intends to send the boy to the public schools of Vancouver.

### Tails of Web-Footed Men.

The most curious tribe, called the mambou, are to some extent web-footed, and the skin of their feet is "as tender as blotting paper." They live in a marsh and are so much at home in the water that they seem "to stand upright in that element without any perceptible effort." They catch duck by diving under them and catching the birds' legs.

"Their diet consists chiefly of fish, water fowls, sago and the roots of water lilies. They keep pigs, swung in cradles, underneath their houses (which are in the water built on ten foot poles), lying on their bellies with their legs stuck through the bottom and feed them on fish and sago. The dead are 'buried' by being tied to stakes, the body secured well above flood level."—From "Some Experiences of a New Guinea Resident Missionary," by Capt. C. A. W. Monkton.

### Napoleon's Dessert Service Sold.

A French dessert dish of gilt double thread and shell pattern, consisting of two sugar sifters, spoons, a pair of sugar tongs, 24 spoons, 24 forks and knives with chain handles, formerly the property of Emperor Napoleon, and bearing imperial cipher of the bee, was sold in a London auction house last week. The service was the property of a nobleman whose name was not revealed.—London Times.

### Wood

Wood products of the United States are being marketed in Europe.

# COZY THEATRE

## SPECIAL MATINEE SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Friday and Saturday February 25 & 26  
**Mitchell Lewis** "Bride 13"

in  
 "The mutiny of the Elsimore" Kaufman Featurette  
 Mutt & Jeff

Tuesday March 1  
**Lila Lee** **Bobbie Ray**

in in  
 "Rose of the River" "None too good"  
 New Chester—Outing Travelogue

Thursday March 2  
**Constance Binney** **Snub Pollard**

in in  
 "Something Different" "Rocky Rye"  
 Bray Comics

Monday February 28  
**J. Warren Kerrigan** **Wm. Duncan**

in in  
 "Coasts of Opportunity" "Fighting Fate"  
 Fox News The Gumps

Wednesday March 2  
**Wanda Hawley** **Johnny Hines**

in in  
 "The Dark Lantern" "Torchy's Millions"  
 Pathe Review

COMING COMING

**Douglas Fairbanks** **Mary Miles Minter**  
 in in  
 "The Americans" "A Cumberland Romance"

FOX ENTERTAINMENTS

METRO PRODUCTIONS

They had not spoken to each other for twenty-two years, and during that time nine children had been born to them. When the first child was two years old they had had a bitter exchange of words—taunts that could not be forgiven on either side. But a short time after the fierce quarrel the second child entered this world, so, although both had sworn never to speak—"until their dying day"—they continued to live together as man and wife. This happened years ago, when a divorce was a very rare proceeding and a home was seldom deserted, even by the greatest provocation.

When they were married he was nineteen and she sixteen. So, at the end of twenty-two years both were still young. It was strange that youth should be so stubborn. This was explained by their Puritan ancestry, from which they inherited the iron-bound obstinacy they termed principle. The spoken word must be kept at any cost.

It was a strange life, but during all these years the tragedies, accidents and comedies of existence had not broken the silence. It was an exceedingly odd but not unpleasant experience to visitors to enter into such a home life. Contrary to expectations, the family were exceptionally entertaining, all being fine musicians and persons of culture, making them agreeable companions. In fact, the household was noted for its charming hospitality.

Any information required or which was desired given by the parents was transferred through the children by word of mouth, or, if too young, the subject matter was written and delivered in that form. It was quite convenient, there were so many children. Neither parent tried to lower the other in the estimation of the children; it was simply a case of each keeping his dignity preserved and his word intact. There were weddings and death in the home, but even these did not alter the situation. If the house had burned it would still have been the same.

All the children "turned out" exceedingly well, the eldest developing into a skillful surgeon. One day in summer he and his wife were visiting the old homestead, which was situated in the country. The weather was exceptionally hot—so hot that no one had been able to sleep well for several nights. The doctor made some lemonade and took it out to the family, who were all sitting under the twin maples in the front yard. In a short time it was noticed that the father was sleeping. Not until supper was ready did anyone try to wake him. When it was found he could not be roused, they carried him to the porch and laid him on a couch in the front yard.

The doctor-son stayed with him until the others finished the meal, when the sleeper awoke, looked at his son and inquired what had happened. "Think, father, your heart may be a little wrong—don't you think—in anything should happen—you had better tell mother your wishes?" "A surprising look of gladness—for a person—flushed over the father's face. "My son, bring mother." "Mother's face was twisted with pain as she threw herself upon the floor. "Try!"—"John!"—simultaneously. The doctor left the room and applied to the astounded children with a grin on his face. "They are having a heavenly time there," directing his thumb toward the door he had just emerged from. "The sweetest honeymoon—they are the muest, spooniest couple you could imagine. I gave father a stiff dose of bromide in his lemonade. He's not a thing all his life. I just take advantage of a good opportunity. My rough treatment to cause a man to think he might be dying, but thought the case needed and needed it."

**Replanting North Woods.** There are people who have never been above Troy, N. Y., who nevertheless speak wistfully of the north woods. They have been expecting that inspiring wilderness for years and will plan for it for years, whether they ever go or not. They knew how dangerously those woods of forest, though they seem endless, have been threatened by the pulp mill's maw they rejoice to hear that Quebec is now planting two pine or spruce trees for every one that is destroyed. The north woods will still be there at last year's hunting trip. Three million pines and spruces have been planted this year.

**Multiply Rapidly.** National forests have within the last few years lost more than 100 million acres of the Department of Agriculture's two-year-old youth.

### The Merkel Mail

Published Every Friday Mornng by MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC. THOMAS DURHAM, Editor and Manager. SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR. TELEPHONE No. 61

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

**PATRONS OF THE MAIL** who do not receive their paper regularly will confer a favor upon the management by reporting the fact. You should also watch the label of your paper to ascertain when your time is out and renew before your name automatically leaves our list, as all papers stop when the term of subscription expires.

If you have visitors, or if you know any item which would be of interest to readers of the Mail, the editor would appreciate a note or a telephone message to that effect. Or, if an occurrence of unusual interest transpires a reporter will be promptly sent to get the full particulars.

Foreign Advertising Representative THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

### THE HARDING CABINET

Secretary of State, Charles Evans Hughes, New York. Secretary of Treasury, Andrew Mellon, of Pennsylvania. Secretary of War, John W. Weeks, of Massachusetts. Attorney General, Harry M. Daugrtery, of Ohio. Postmaster General Will H. Hays, of Indiana. Secretary of the Navy, Edwin Denby, of Michigan. Secretary of the Interior, A. B. Fall, New Mexico. Secretary of Agriculture, Henry Wallace, of Iowa. Secretary of Commerce, Herbert Hoover, of California. Secretary of Labor, James J. Davis, of Pennsylvania.

### 4,663,228 BROWN RATS KEEP 9,000 MEN BUSY IN TEXAS

Austin, Texas, Feb. 24.—It keeps 9,000 men working full time to support the State's rat population. That assertion is made by Dr. Manton M. Carrick, the State Health Officer, in figures issued today showing that there are as many common brown rats as humans in the State of Texas and each of the 4,663,228 or more destroy \$2.00 worth of foodstuffs a year.

They also maintain an efficient transportation system for "black death" and other plague germs, Dr. Carrick adds, in urging a starve and slay campaign check "a real hazard against lives and property."

Bickley and little son at water, were the of her parents, T. Laney.

### NOTICE CORRESPONDENTS

We are indeed proud of the large number of correspondents recently sending in the news from their respective communities surrounding Merkel, for they are a great help to us in our effort to publish the news of the entire surrounding country.

We will also state that we have recently received several very interesting communications which we have failed to publish for several reasons, among which was because there was no name signed to same. We must have some one's name signed to each communication each week, or else we will be unable to print same. We will also ask our correspondents to give us mainly the news, and not enter too many jokes, as when this is practiced too far, trouble is liable to begin, by some taking offense.

We shall be glad to send stamps, stationery, envelopes and the Mail free of charge to all our correspondents. So, here after kindly give us your name and address, so that the items will be sure of being published.

### GOLAN NEWS

We have had some real cold weather the last few days, as it has been raining, snowing, sleeting and hailing. It seemed very severe as we have had so much warm weather.

Misses Clonnie StClair and Bettie Byrom and Messers Rolie Hill and Carl StClair were guests of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Williams and sister Miss Vida, Sunday.

Some of the people from here went to the singing at Newman Sunday evening.

Charlie Byrom of Newman is coming over again. He has been gone to east Texas since before Christmas.

The Golan outside girls played the Golan High School girls Monday evening. The score ran 14 to 8 in favor of the school girls. Come again outsiders, we can do it again.

A big girl arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chesty Cox Friday night, and also a big boy arrived at the home of Mr. S. S. Vancels Thursday night. Guess there are smiles on the faces of their fathers and mothers.

Medford McCain has been real sick Saturday and Sunday but it has been reported that he is much better, which we are glad to hear.

Mr. and Mrs. Med Herron visited the former's parents Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Herron.

Mr. J. T. Williams has been having trouble with his "Ford" as he has to get Hugh Jeffrey to pull it home Sunday evening

from Newman. The rabbit hunt was knocked out on account of the bad weather Thursday, Friday and Saturday. All those good cakes and pies and lots of other good things the ladies cooked wasn't wasted. Their families got the benefit of them.

Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Williams spent Saturday night with the latter's mother, Mrs. J. W. Hill.

Miss Edith Hudspeth has been visiting her sister of Shiloh Mrs. Rapp Greene.

The singing Sunday night at

the school house was enjoyed by all those present.

Mr. J. F. Cox and family, Mr. Ben Mitchel and family and Mr. and Mrs. E. M. McCright visited Mr. Tom Gann and family Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Stribling of Shiloh and Mr. and Mrs. V.P. Byrom visited Mr. W. T. Duncan and daughter, Miss Lettie, Sunday.

Everyone come to preaching Sunday morning. Bro. Johnson held his regular meeting day

here last Sunday. We will look for the 3rd Sunday and Sunday night before. He didn't get to come Saturday night because of the weather being so bad. Curls.

### THE CRIME WAVE

I know not why this world has struck so wild and fierce a gait, but well I know men run amuck and seem inspired by hate; and for a kopeck or a buck they'll kill you while you wait. When darkness shrouds the city street men fear to leave their flats, lest sundry lawless sand-bag beats should smash their treasured hats or pull some other strong-arm feats or shoot them up with gats. The daily papers I peruse to mark the wide world's game, and nearly half the current news relates to deeds of shame, and as I do my overshoes a shudder shakes my frame. No more I see the "Household Hints" I used to think sublime; where once they stood my paper prints a narrative of crime, of how some dame arrayed in chintz, was butchered for a dime. The "Gems of thought" are crowded out and in their place I find the story of some maddened scout with base and evil mind, who robbed a widow of her kraut and left no card behind. "The Poet's Corner" once appeared where he who ran might read, but now that space has stories weird of gents who die and bleed, of how some ruffian with a beard performed a hold-up deed. And Kaiser Bill, who caused it all, is sawing elm and oak; behind a humble Holland wall the burglars watch his smoke some say his bank account is tall and others say he's broke.—Walt Mason.

In almost every case where crime has been committed, those participating were well known idlers. Continual idlers are a detriment to any town or community, and one of the best ways to get rid of such a class is to enforce the vagrant laws. Tell'em to move on.

# UNDER New Management

We are pleased to announce to the people of Merkel that, we recently purchased the Busy Bee Cafe from Messrs Latham Bros. & Sanders, and will continue to make it second to none in the city.

Infact, if good, courteous treatment, together with the BEST SERVICE, in the resturant business is what you are looking for, this is where you will find it.

We are indeed pleased with the excellent patronage extended us to now, and must say that considering the times, it has been much better than we anticipated, and we take this occasion to extend our thanks and appreciation of same, and to invite one and all to visit us.

# BUSY BEE CAFE

Nellie Hynes & Co., Proprietary

# A FIRESIDE TALE

By JENNIE LITTLE.

Another story, child dear? Sure 'tis overdrawn like the Ponzi fella's my fund will be, with such a demand. Well, then, come with me, of an evening that I have in mind, to a grand concert hall in the city. A wonderful prima donna, the idol of her audiences in two continents, has come upon the stage for her last number. As she stands waiting for the applause to die away, something that she reads in the waves of upturned faces moves a sudden impulse, and with a faint little smile, instead of the classical selection on the program, her voice second only in sweetness to the angels' fills the vast room with:

"There's a pretty spot in Ireland, I always claim for my land." "In one of the boxes sat two of the earth's prosperous, and like a lightning artist, the man's mind flashed picture after picture on his memory's screen. In faraway County Clare he saw a young gossamer full to the brim of the sheer joy of living. The Scotch would call him a lad o' parts, the English a topping chap, but I'll declare to you that he was just a regular broth of a boy. Every old granny in the village, and clear down to every lass, thought the sun had its rising and setting in his merry charm, but only Eileen McDermogh had a mortgage on his affections. Ah, but she was the winsome colleen, and the likes of her was not to be found in a day's travel.

Then an uncle in America sent money for his passage, with tales of success that set the lad wild to go. Eileen must stay with her old folks, but when he had a good start, then he would send for her, and together they would conquer this fine new country.

"My heart goes back there daily, To the girl I left behind me." "When we kissed and said good-by." Ah, yes, at first 'twas so. Luck and pluck were with him, and his foothold grew firmer and stronger, and somehow in the struggle, Eileen drifted further into the background of his thoughts. The old bodies went one by one, and the black sorrow of loneliness was almost more than she could abide, but never did her sweetheart grow bitter or complaining in its yearning for him. Faithful and true she was to her troth with Terence O'Neill.

"Where dear old Shannon's flowing, Where the three-leaved Shamrock grows. Where my heart is I am going To my little Irish Rose.

And the moment that I meet her, With a hug and kiss I'll greet her— Conscience woke up entirely, and a shillalah stroke was gentle compared to the pain she gave him. For in those latest months of his prosperity he had decided that only a high-born, cultured American woman could rule his home and help to find new fields for his never-satisfied ambitions, and undoubtedly, without a thought of her, he had set about to win her. This very minute, by his side, sat the lady of his worldly choice, and he had felt much elated that now she seemed not a great deal averse to his gallant attentions. Sure, she never knew about that common past, and almost had he forgotten its connection with the aristocratic banker who looked at him from the mirror. Till tonight, that is.

"Sure no letter I'll be mailing. For soon will I be sailing. And I'll bless the ship that takes me To my dear old Erin's shore."

The lady turned with a disdainful curl of the lip. "Really," says she, "you might expect the best music here and not vulgar street songs, and Terence's heart turned over with a thud of gratitude that wisdom had come too late.

Very quiet was he on the way home, and as he handed her from the limousine, she declined her gracious invitation with a "Not tonight, thank you, as I have pressing business to attend to immediately." And I probably will not see you again for some time, as I leave on the Canopic's next date of sailing.

"Indeed," said the lady, in displeased surprise. "Surely this is very sudden."

"I've not yet booked my passage," says Terence, with an old-time Irish grin, "but I think the fates won't fall me this time." And neither did they. And now we come to a matchless evening in dear old Killaloe—a night of enchanted moonlight, when all the fairies and little folk are casting their spells on everything. All alone at her window sits Eileen, with the melting sweetness of her harp sitting her voice as she sings so sadly: "It may be years, and it may be forever." And into the room strides Terence of her thoughts.

"Not on your life!" says he in the true American style, and then dropped on his knees beside her, and into the tender old brogue. "Mavourneen, all this time I've been madding, foolishly following a will-o'-the-wisp, but when I came to use senses and gave me heart the lead, it brought me to my own true love straight as the crow flies. Will ye go back with me, dar-ling, to be the dear light of me life till the blessed saints call us from our own paradise to theirs?" And something he saw in her face made him dare to greet her after the fashion of the Shamrock song. Then because 'tis the way of a woman to forgive and forget, acushla, I can end my story in your favorite way: "And they all lived happy ever after."

# Gem Theatre

The House of Good Pictures — Your Patronage is Appreciated  
Good Music — Our big Wurlitzer Piano has just been tuned and is in Fine Shape

## PROGRAM FOR WEEK BEGINNING FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25

Saturday—  
**WILLIAM S. HART** in "His Last Haul"  
**RUTH ROLAND** in "Ruth of the Rockies"  
The final episode. How will it end?  
"Some Jazz Baby"  
Some 2 reel comedy

Tuesday—  
Your Favorite  
**Harry Carey** in "Blue Streak McCoy"  
One of his best Western pictures  
Don't Miss It  
"Beside the Seaside" Comedy

Thursday—  
**H. B. Warner** in "One Hour before Dawn"  
A gripping Pathe Special feature  
"THE MOOCHER"  
Billie Franey Comedy.

COMING—  
"When Dawn Came"  
Another Super Special  
COMING—Saturday March 5; Franklyn Farnum in "The Vanishing Trails"

Friday—  
**Elaine Hammerstein** in "Rosalie Byrne"  
A Select Feature  
Also Selznick News  
And Ford Educational.

Monday—  
**Frank Mayo** in "The Red Sane"  
A splendid story of the Canadian Northwest  
Also "Pathe News"  
News while it is new

Wednesday—  
**Helen Gibson** in "The Overland Express"  
**JUANITA HANSON** in "The Lost City"  
"RAZZING THE JAZZ"  
2 reel comedy

COMING—  
"Outlawed"  
A Big Special

COMING—  
"When Dawn Came"  
Another Super Special  
COMING—Saturday March 5; Franklyn Farnum in "The Vanishing Trails"

## CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE AT ONCE—Several pieces of good grade bed-room, dining room and kitchen furniture in very good condition AT BARGAIN PRICES FOR CASH Also a large Columbia Grafanola with 20 records at 1-3 original price. These things to be sold in a limited time so see us at once. Inquire at Merkel Mail office.

FOR SALE—My farm on Big Elm creek. Will make low price to anyone interested. I want to sell. Write me at Waco Texas, 728 North Twelfth. E. W. Perminter. 25t3p

GINNING NOTICE  
After Friday and Saturday of this week the Gins of Merkel will not gin any more until Friday and Saturday, March 25th and 26th, which will be the last ginning days for this season. 2t  
P.LANTERS GIN CO.  
F. P. HAMM GIN  
ANDERSON GIN CO.  
GUITAR GIN

MT. PLEASANT NEWS  
Our farmers are very busy this week rejoicing over the excellent rain, and thinking of the great small grain crop which they are planning to reap.  
We were sorry to disappoint some of our people Sunday afternoon when they came to Sunday School and found none of the officials there but you must remember it was really very muddy and cold and if you will come back next Sunday evening we will try and make up for lost time.  
Little Misses Elsie Richie and Lonie Wright spent Sunday with Jewel Sargent.  
Miss Mabel Kell has been very seriously ill the past week, but we hope for her a speedy, as well as a complete recovery.  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Gray are the proud parents of a baby girl born the 15th.  
Our school is doing nicely under the efficient teachers Miss McCarty and Miss Lucelle Cody. Th larger boys having organized a basket ball team and are busy laying off and preparing their grounds for play.  
Rev. Hughes will fill his regular appointment Sunday night. Don't forget the rally Sunday afternoon. Every body invited no one slighted. Belfusa Pickle-bicket.

FOR SALE AT ONCE—Several pieces of good grade bed-room, dining room and kitchen furniture in very good condition AT BARGAIN PRICES FOR CASH Also a large Columbia Grafanola with 20 records at 1-3 original price. These things to be sold in a limited time so see us at once. Inquire at Merkel Mail office.

FOR SALE—Some fresh milk cows, also some springing. See Earl Lassiter. tf

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE FOR SALE  
Owing to the fact that I am preparing to leave Merkel temporarily I am offering my household furniture for sale at a bargain. Mrs. Inous Perminter. 2t

WANTED—Salesman for 6,000 mile guaranteed tires. Salary \$100.00 per week with extra commissions. COWAN TIRE CO P.O. Box 784, Dept. S, Chicago, Illinois. 25t2

COTTON SEED—Have some good Kasch planting seed, will have them culled and sell at one dollar per bushel. 1300 pounds turned out better than 500 pound bale last season. W. O. Deal, route 3. 25t2p

FOR SALE—About 175 bushel good Mabeen Cotton seed. Price \$1.00 per bushel. Philip Howard, Route 2, phone 9039F2. 25t2p

FOR SALE—Classy saddle pony five years old, perfectly gentle for ladies or children and a mover. Also a batchelor heater with piping. First house east of the Baptist Parsonage. L. P. Ligon, phone 218. 1t

FOR SALE AT ONCE—Several pieces of good grade bed-room, dining room and kitchen furniture in very good condition AT BARGAIN PRICES FOR CASH Also a large Columbia Grafanola with 20 records at 1-3 original price. These things to be sold in a limited time so see us at once. Inquire at Merkel Mail office. 1t

LOST—Pair dress gloves, fur lined. Return to L. B. Howard for reward. 1tp

COAL—COAL—Another car of Ludlow Colorado Coal on track now. T. J. R. Swafford. 1t

The Mail \$1.50 year in advance

LEAGUE PROGRAM  
Leader—Bill Stewart.  
Subject—An anchor meeting, "How to make our lives steadfast." Aim—To anchor our Epworth League in their faith.  
Story of the writing of "Stand up; Stand up for Jesus."—Josie Smith.  
Song; Prayer; Song.  
Scripture—(Eph. 6;10-18)  
Leader's talk.  
Male Quartett.  
Minute talks (1) Roy Tucker, (2) Gertrude Cox (3) Tom Allday (4) Bill Stevens (5) Mae Bidleman.  
Song  
Minute Talks—(6) Gladys Middleton (7) Joel Counts (8) Ruth Newberry (9) Nell Swann (10) Jack Durham.  
Song Business benediction.

NUBIA SPEAKINGS  
Who said the weather would not do to begin a conversation with.  
The past week has presented the four seasons. Temperature, Snow, and ice, rain and sunshine The rain seems to be the most appropriate for the present demand, since the soil had begun to be very dry in some fields, and this will enable the farmers to continue the necessary preparations for this year's crop.  
Mr. Henry Spears was called from his duties, with Sante Fe Rail road Co., to the bedside of his sick wife.  
Little Andy Cox is suffering very much from a swollen neck.  
We are expecting another good attendance at Sunday school again next Sunday also want you at the B.Y.P.U.  
Washington's birthday was hardly observed this time at this place. Grasshopper Ben  
Service Car, any where any time. Call W. E. Lowe or G. H. McDonald, phone 72. tf  
Peace Maker Flour, at G. M. Sharp's. tf

# THE SUNLIT WAY

By AGNES BROGAN.

Jasmine rode every morning, down the sunlit way. The park surrounding her big shabby home was gloomy in its wealth of trees. The house was gloomy, too; so in her hour of recreation, Jasmine chose the sunlit way.  
Jasmine, seated on her white horse Bonnie, loved to dream, at the water's edge, of that other world so far away and yet near, where other young people laughed and talked, and sang together.  
Since her mother's death, when she had been too young to remember, the girl had known little companionship save that of Ursula, the housekeeper, and James Rhodes, her father, James Rhodes, aged prematurely by disappointment and sorrow, was a severe man.  
The one friend who continued to bear with his humors was John Westwood of Westwood place, next door. And as James Rhodes, in his broken-hearted isolation—for he had never ceased to mourn his wife's loss—grew poorer, John Westwood, energetic and successful in business, grew ever richer.  
Now, the one stubborn desire of the old thwarted man was to make that wealth, his daughter's, through her marriage to his friend.  
John Westwood admired Jasmine very much; he loved her, he said, and would make her happy. So Jasmine grievously disturbed, rode every morning down the sunlit way, trying to think out an escape from the impending fate. The girl in absorbing tenderness for her father, could not bear to deny his heart's one desire, and yet—  
A stranger sat at the end of the sunlit road one day, a young and idle stranger, with arms clasped behind his head against the tree on which he leaned, and brown hair blown by the breeze from his high, white forehead. As the young man's frank blue eyes came back from their survey of the river, they rested upon Jasmine—seated there on her horse, in a kind of joyous wonder.  
"You?" asked the young man, dreamily, "who are you?"  
And also smilingly wondering, the girl replied: "I am Jasmine."  
The stranger nodded.  
"Of course," he said, "I might know that you'd be Jasmine—when you came, a white flower."  
Strangely acquiescent, she allowed him to take the bridle from her hand and lead her to a seat on the grass at his side.  
"You come from the old house, Jasmine?" the young man asked.  
"You see, I know that there are but two houses, and John Westwood lives in the other."  
"Yes," she answered slowly, "from the old house."  
"And you are?" he hesitated over his question.  
Then Jasmine smiled.  
"I am," she told her questioner, "occupied there as—companion."  
She was away before the stranger could detain her, flying on Bonnie's back, up the sunlit road. In the somber silence of the park trees, the girl calmed, and her eyes grew wistful. Had it not all been a dream? Yet she went again, and still again, and every coming found him waiting. Then firmly Jasmine told herself that the meetings must end. It was the white horse who carried her there.  
"I did not mean to come," she told the young man, decidedly. "Bonnie brought me."  
"And your heart led Bonnie," he answered laughing softly, in confident assurance.  
"But now that I have come," the girl went on, "I shall stay only to confess my deceit, and then—good-by. I am Jasmine Rhodes, and I am to marry John Westwood."  
"You!" gasped the young man, "to marry my crabbed old uncle? You, my little white flower!"  
"Your uncle," she faltered confusedly.  
The lover impatiently nodded.  
"I came down to visit my uncle," he said. "He is putting me through college. Through all his crustiness, my uncle has an affection for me. But if you think that I shall let you marry him—"  
Young John Westwood broke off abruptly.  
"There is only one way to straighten it all," he said, "and we must hurry. My roadster will carry us quicker than Bonnie. It's on the river road. First, we will have to get a license. Then you shall come back here as my wife. Wealth can mean nothing to you as compared with love. Come, dear heart."  
But Jasmine lingered.  
"Some day," she said, "I will go with you. But first, I must be honest with both my father and his friend."  
From behind the shelter of a tree came suddenly old John Westwood. "I would advise you, my dear," he said quietly, "to obey now the dictate of your heart. This lad is a good lad, and true love is more than money. I, myself, shall see your father, and after all, I am sure he will be well pleased with my nephew as son-in-law, when he learns that I shall make him my heir."  
"Oh," murmured Jasmine, "how can you be so generously kind?"  
Old John Westwood smiled.  
"Until this morning," he said, "it has been many long years since I glimpsed the Sunlit Way."

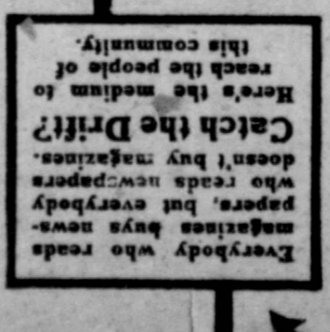
Sum...  
are planning a big day, day School with 325 as a goal. Come and help us score. We are welcoming our superintendent back home and we want to greet him with a record crowd.  
Preaching by the pastor at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. B.Y.P.U. at 5 p.m. Training classes Monday 7:30 p.m.  
Ladies meeting in week of prayer every afternoon at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday will be the special day of prayer for all churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. We will have both morning and afternoon services in addition to the regular prayer-meeting at 7:30 Morning service 10-11, afternoon service with the ladies 2:30.  
We had 15 men in our prayer-meeting Wednesday night, more than 50 in attendance. Come help make our prayer-meeting what it ought to be.  
A cordial welcome extended to strangers or visitors. Rev. Ira L. Parrack, pastor.

VALENTINE PARTY  
A very delightful valentine party was enjoyed by the members of the Thursday Club given by Mrs. Chas. J. G. and Mrs. J. L. Winter at their home of the latter, which was beautifully decorated in keeping with St. Valentine.  
After several interesting games of hearts were played, a snappy little Valentine contest being presented to all who were present with the allotted time of five minutes to work out the answer. Mrs. F. C. McFarland winning a dainty sandwich tray.  
A delicious course consisting of chicken salad, potato chips, saltine flakes, olives, cheese ball brown bread and ice tea was served to the following members: Mesdames Arrington, Brown, Ferrier, Gaither, Gamble, Grimes T. L., Grimes R. L., Hancock, Howard, Largent T., Largent W. J., Lassiter, McFarland, Scott, West, Levy, Miller and guests Mrs. H. L. Probst and Mrs. H. C. Holland of Fort Worth.

GINNING NOTICE  
After Friday and Saturday of this week the Gins of Merkel will not gin any more until Friday and Saturday, March 25th and 26th, which will be the last ginning days for this season. 2t  
P.LANTERS GIN CO.  
F. P. HAMM GIN  
ANDERSON GIN CO.  
GUITAR GIN

White and grey shorts. Also bran. Bob Martin Grocery Co. 1t  
Brand and Shorts at G. M. Sharp's. 1t  
Read the Merkel Mail every day

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 microbes 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.



# Notice Notice Notice

## A FEW SPECIALS FOR ONE WEEK AT BARROWS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 26--ENDING MARCH 5

Read This Ad. and Take Advantage of the Big Saving in Price we are Offering you this Week

One large Vanity Dresser in old ivory finish, with one plate mirror 18x36, two small mirrors 10x26; a handsome pattern  
Formerly priced at \$75.00  
Price this week \$46.25

One 5-drawer Chiffonier, old ivory finish with a 16x20 mirror. Style will match the above named dresser  
Formerly priced at \$47.50  
Price this week \$31.50

One quartered sawed Oak Dresser in the waxed finish with French plate oval Mirror 18x36  
Formerly priced at \$40.00  
Price this week \$27.25

One Princess Dresser with four drawer base, golden oak finish, 16x28 French plate mirror  
Formerly priced at \$35.00  
Price this week \$19.50

One 3-piece Bed Room Suit, old ivory finish, consisting of Dresser, Table and Bed, a high grade suit, and the very latest style  
Formerly priced at \$175.00  
Price this week \$87.50

One round Dining Table, 42-inch top, fumed oak finish  
Formerly priced at \$25.00  
Price this week \$14.75

This is only a few of the real bargains we have to offer you---our store is full. We invite you to compare our goods and prices with any other place (Mail Order houses not excepted). We appreciate your business and are always glad to have you come in, whether you want to buy or not.

## Barrow Furniture Company

ounted outside the val-  
ne Kedron, boasts of only one  
small spring, the Virgin's fount, so  
named because it is believed the Muth-  
er of Christ drew water from it. Ever  
since Solomon's day the want of wa-  
ter has been felt in Jerusalem, and the  
British, since their occupation, decid-  
ed to repair and use the old reser-  
voir, now known as Birkett Assoub  
and lying a few miles to the south of  
Solomon's pool. It was built by Pon-  
tius Pilate and it was from here that  
he brought water to the city in the  
days of Christ. Pilate's old reservoir  
was repaired and enlarged, its capac-  
ity today being 5,000,000 gallons. Gal-  
leries were built in various directions  
to tap the numerous surrounding  
springs, including those of Ain ed Dir-  
weh, in which, it is said, Phillip bap-  
tized the eunuch. A powerful pump-  
ing plant was installed by which the  
water is pumped up to large reservoirs  
built on higher ground on the Hebron  
road, the water flowing from here  
by its own gravity in one-foot iron  
pipe to twin pools on the hill west of  
the city, from whence it is conducted  
to various standpipes in and around  
Jerusalem. Pilate's aqueduct, ruins  
of which dot the landscape today,  
stretched for a distance of 40 miles,  
though as the crow flies the Holy city  
is but 13 miles away. The British  
pipe line, however, is but 15 miles in  
total length. As a result of this Brit-  
ish enterprise the death rate in the  
city has dropped by one-half.

### FINALLY SCARED CROWS OFF

Device Employed by Los Angeles Man  
Was Somewhat More Effective  
Than Neighbor's Umbrella.

"Not long ago a friend of mine from  
Birmingham was sitting out on my  
front porch when a flock of crows  
flew across one of my fields," said R.  
B. Posey, "and he remarked that it  
was the biggest lot he had seen for  
years, and asked if they did not in-  
jure my crops. I replied, that until I  
got onto a way to keep them out of  
my watermelon patch they ruined a  
lot of them by pecking holes in one  
and then hopping for another.

"I tried various ways but without  
success, until I put poles around the  
patch and ran just an ordinary piece  
of cotton around them about eight  
feet from the ground, and between the  
poles tied pieces of cotton to flap in  
the wind. It worked like a charm.

"A neighbor of mine used to say  
that he was advised to put an old um-  
brella in the middle of the patch, and  
he did it, but one day creeping up  
behind it, he peeped over it and there  
sat a bunch of crows having a water-  
melon feast."—Los Angeles Times.

### No New-Fangled Notions.

John came from down state to the  
city schools. He was placed in the  
seventh grade, and then his teacher's  
troubles began. His mother thought  
the course of study should be identical  
with the one which had held sway in  
the faraway red schoolhouse. She ob-  
jected strenuously to physical culture  
and music, saying they were a waste  
of time.

And then came John's first day at  
manual training. The next day came  
an indignant note to the teacher from  
John's mother. It read: "Dear Miss  
I want you to quit having John  
steal his time at school. That music  
and physical torture exercise was bad  
ough, but now you begin to learn  
to whittle. Please stop it imme-  
diately or I'll change him to another  
school. He inherits whittling from  
father and his brains from me. I'm  
going to educate him, so educate his  
brains."—Indianapolis News.

### A TEXAS WONDER

For kidney and bladder trou-  
bles, gravel, weak and lame back,  
rheumatism and all irregularities  
of the kidneys and bladder. If  
not sold by your druggist, send for  
mail \$1.25 Small bottle. Send for  
testimonials to D. E. W. Hall,  
2926 Olive Street, St. Louis Mo.  
Sold by druggists.

Seed Potatoes, both red and  
white at Bob Martin Grocery  
Company.

### PLENTY of COAL

Dawson Fancy Egg  
Domestic Lump  
And Swastika Coal

14 M. ROSE & SON

### COMBINE ART WITH "MOVIES"

How City of Toledo, O., Attracts  
Children to Its Museum, for  
Educational Purposes.

In order to attract the children of  
Toledo to that city's museum of art  
the museum management offers its lit-  
tle visitors "story hours," gallery  
talks, music hours, classes in pure and  
applied design and the educational  
motion picture. Interest in visits to  
the museum was first stimulated  
through the medium of an organized  
bird club. Thousands of children  
have also been brought to the  
museum during the last four years  
by means of the annual vegetable and  
flower shows in which the children  
have participated.

"The Toledo museum was the first  
to include motion pictures in its edu-  
cational plan when, in the autumn of  
1915, the necessary equipment was  
presented through the efforts of H. Y.  
Barnes, then assistant to the di-  
rector," writes Eula Lee Anderson of  
Toledo. "This proved not only a fur-  
ther magnet to attract boys and girls  
to the museum but a further means  
of teaching art. During the first few  
years films dealing with travel, crafts  
and art were difficult to secure, yet by  
diligent search many fine things were  
made available, including the life of  
Pallissy, the famous potter, and a  
beautiful hand-colored film showing  
the making of silk.

"The policy of the museum is not  
to amuse by means of the film, but  
to educate the child along artistic  
lines, using only such productions as  
are of a distinctly cultural quality."

### PLAGUE OF OLD EGYPT BACK

Crops of Argentine Province De-  
stroyed by Locusts That Swarm  
in Uncounted Millions.

Shades of the plagues of ancient  
Egypt!

Santa Fe province of the Argentine  
now has complete faith in the biblical  
account of the scourge of locusts, for  
at times millions of these insects  
"cover the face of the earth." They  
come suddenly and without warning,  
in great clouds, and settle down on  
the country. Then the ground resem-  
bles a great moving carpet. Little  
damage is done at first, though the  
Argentinians find it inconvenient to  
have locusts throughout their houses,  
but as the insects move through the  
country, they dig small holes and lay  
their eggs. Soon the larvae are  
hatched, and at that time, before they  
can fly, they are destructive. By the  
time they are ready to leave, every-  
thing in their path is destroyed.  
Eventually they fly away to parts un-  
known, and the farmers have to start  
their crops over again. Squads of lo-  
cust destroyers, like fire-fighting units,  
are maintained by the government to  
combat the pest, and ranchers are also  
responsible for fighting them. Their  
efforts are almost unavailing, how-  
ever, because of the myriads of the  
insects.

### Dodged Seven Years

"Traffic gets held up in feet"  
said a patrolman at Forty-  
street and Fifth avenue. "It was only  
just the other day that we had a block-  
ade that tied things up for half an  
hour. I noticed a young woman pound-  
ing something against the curb. Look-  
ed funny to me and I couldn't fig-  
ure out what it was. People passing  
by started to run, looked again, and  
crowded around her. I headed for  
the middle of the bunch and saw she  
had busted open her package and was  
breaking a lot of mirrors on the side-  
walk, one by one.  
"What's all this about?" I asks.  
"Oh, mister officer," she says, "I  
broke a mirror a while ago, and if I  
don't break seven more right quick I'll  
have seven years' bad luck. By right  
they should be broken all at once. I  
I could only do one at a time. A  
now, please, won't you help me get  
out of the crowd?"—From a New York  
Letter to the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

### Improving Indian Pottery.

The Hopi Indians of the Southwest  
have always been famous for their pot-  
tery, in the manufacture of which  
(though unacquainted with the pot-  
ter's wheel) they were skilled even in  
prehistoric times.

There is a considerable market for  
their pots, which are quaintly and at-  
tractively decorated in black and  
colors. The United States bureau of  
standards is trying to help them by  
suggesting improved processes, and  
recently it has shown them how to make  
from cheap material a black stain  
much superior to the one at present  
used by the Indians. They have shown  
themselves glad enough to accept the  
help offered and it may be that we  
shall yet learn of useful suggestions  
to the Navajos in the line of blanket  
making and the production of silver  
ornaments.

### Fire-Proofing Cotton.

A process has been devised for  
treating baled cotton with a chemical  
compound which renders it flame and  
spark proof and at the same time ap-  
parently provides an inch or two of  
cotton in condition to aid in rapid  
drying without deterioration in case  
a bale is exposed to weather. On an  
average, 20,000 bales of cotton are de-  
stroyed by fire before the crop is mar-  
keted and most of this loss can be  
traced to flash or spark fire. Cotton  
stored in suitable warehouses would  
be evidence of a progressive step, for  
there is probably no crop of so great  
value that is treated with so little  
thoughtful consideration.—Scientific  
American.

## Coming to Our Store

### THE EDESCO Style Authority

Direct from Chicago  
with Trunks Full of

### DEPENDABLE ALL - WOOL FABRICS

The Season's Newest  
Creations

He is going to display them all in the  
Big Piece  
and will show the latest

## Spring and Summer Fashions

You will undoubtedly save money if you pay us a visit. Don't forget the

Date---Friday and Saturday, Feb. 25-26

Your inspection is invited. The EDESCO Man will be glad to see you  
and talk to you. If you want to save money, don't forget the time and  
place. The EDESCO Man will be here Friday and Saturday Feb. 25-26

MRS. C. L. CASH, Merkel, Texas

## Chickens & Eggs

We will pay the highest market  
price for your, Chickens and Eggs

Bring them to US

West Company

## GEM CONFECTIONERY

We are headquarters for, cold drinks, ice cream,  
fresh fruits, cigars, cigarets and candies.

We also have secured the agency for the Acme Graph-  
ophone and records and will have same on exhibit at the  
Gems. AGENTS FOR ABILENE STEAM LAUNDRY