

THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 33—NO. 2

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1921

8 PAGES

COMMUNITY CLUB ORGANIZED HERE

After a couple of mass meetings held in the City Hall in this city, at which there were a small number of representative citizens met for the purpose of taking steps to guard against and far as possible keep Merkel free of the great crime wave which has become so detrimental throughout the country, a third Mass Meeting was held at the school auditorium Tuesday night, which was attended by an audience that filled the building to its capacity. At the last previous meeting at the City Hall a committee, composed of J. C. Mason, T. G. Bragg, W. O. Boney, T. L. Grimes and Walter Jackson was appointed to arrange the program, secure a building suitable and large to care for the large number of people which it was hoped would attend the next meeting above referred to, hence the school building was secured. This committee was also asked to draw up a constitution and by-laws suitable for the governing of such an organization, and which they did, enlarging considerably upon the scope of the organization, and which shall be known as the Merkel Community Club, and which shall have for its purpose the following:

First, to uphold National, State and Local laws. Second, to foster and develop matters looking to the moral, social, civic and educational uplift of the community.

The officers of the Club consist of a president, vice-president, secretary and five directors; the latter to be appointed by the president.

J. C. Mason was elected president and L. R. Thompson vice-president. Both of these gentlemen are always found on the moral side of any question, and standing ready at all times to lend their assistance in any move which has for its purpose the best interest and welfare of Merkel and her citizens. Thos. Durham was chosen secretary.

A fine program of entertainment was enjoyed by the large crowd present; music being furnished by the Merkel Orchestra which is growing in popularity each and every day; and which should have the backing and encouragement of our citizenship. Other items of interest on the program was a splendid reading by Miss Tracy, a talk on "Social Life of the Community" by Mrs. Walter Jackson, Music by Mrs. L. B. Howard, and other interesting talks by J. C. Mason, L. C. West, Supt. R. A. Burgess, Walter Jackson and others.

President Mason has appointed the board of directors, whose names appear in another column in an article over Mr. Mason's signature, and they will be ready to report at the next meeting at the school building on Friday night March 11, and then the organization will be practically completed and ready to go to work. Get to work making Merkel a prettier, cleaner and more wholesome city in which to live.

But for any organization to succeed there must be that cooperation of a majority of the citizens of the town needed to make any public organization a success. There is no question at the organization of the "Community Club" in Merkel is a great thing and if conducted properly will not only help to make of our town a cleaner and better place in which to live, but provide clean wholesome entertainment for the young people of the town and community surrounding.

And it is urged that everyone bear in mind the fact that the next meeting will be held at the school auditorium on Friday night March 11. If you were

there come again, if you were not there come out and take part. It's for all the people.

SCHOOL CENSUS

All school children living in the Merkel Independent School district any time during the month of March, and who will be seven or over, and under eighteen on next September 1st should be enumerated in the census in Merkel. If you know of any children not enumerated, please notify J. M. Dry at the Racket Store or Roger A. Burgess at the school building where blanks may be secured for the purpose. Important. Attend to this at once. 413

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Foster, a bouncing baby boy on the 28th. Mother and babe doing nicely and Clyde, well he is a happy "daddy."

INSURANCE RATE IS REDUCED HERE

Mayor J. J. Stallings recently received a notice from the State Fire Insurance Commissioner that the insurance rate for Merkel had been reduced fifteen per cent on account of the splendid fire record made here during the last year. We understand that this gives the people of Merkel one of the lowest rates of any town in the state according to size, and which means a great saving to property owners.

Of course there are several reasons for this splendid rate. One is the good water system and the other is the fact that Merkel has the best Volunteer fire department of most any town in the state.

4 SCHOOL TRUSTEE ARE TO BE ELECTED

We are informed that at a recent meeting of the Merkel Independent School Board, an election was ordered held on the first Saturday in April, which will be on the 2nd day of the month, for the election of four men to take the place of those whose terms expire this year. The gentlemen whose terms will expire at this time are Messrs. R. O. Anderson, W. O. Boney, T. J. Toombs and W. D. Hutchenson; all of whom are competent and capable men in every particular; men who have the welfare of the school and the education of all the children at heart, and have labored hard and efficient in the best interest of our school.

And it is the duty of every patron of the Merkel school who resides within the district to go to the polls on election day and cast his vote for men who are not only honest, but good moral citizens, men who are interested in our school's welfare in every particular.

BROWN DRY GOODS CO. REPRESENTATIVES GO TO EASTERN MARKET

E. N. Brown, the genial manager for the Brown Dry Goods Company, accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Meador, left first of the week for the Eastern Markets where they will buy a large and complete stock of the latest spring and summer dry goods. Mr. Brown and his daughter are buyers of great experience, and will no doubt look carefully after the needs of their patrons.

Onion sets, both red and white at Bob Martin Grocery Co. tf

CITY PUTS ON 25 EXTRA POLICEMEN

After considerable agitation and demand upon the part of many leading citizens of Merkel that some steps be taken toward safe-guarding our city against the crime wave which is sweeping the country, and which in the opinion of many has seemingly begun to become more noticeable in Merkel, the Mayor after having been advised by the members of the City Council and representative citizens, decided that as a means to make more safe life and property in this city, appointed twenty-five additional peace officers, with instructions that they be vigilant in observing even small violations of the law, and to make arrest immediately on suspicions of law breaking. Also to make special efforts to find out why loitering strangers and loafers might be found about the city after late hours at night or any other time as for that matter.

We feel that this is a good move and if people of Merkel and surrounding country desire to stop any violations of the laws which may be going on now, and to assist in preventing robbing, hold-ups etc., they will back the officials and the officers, including the new force, in their efforts to make Merkel a clean town for clean people to live in.

WILL OCCUPY PRESBYTERIAN PULPIT NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, March 6, there will be held all the regular services. Sunday school at ten o'clock and preaching services at eleven and seven-thirty o'clock.

The Rev. S. D. Crouch, of Waxahachie, will deliver the morning and the evening sermons. Mr. Crouch needs no introduction to Merkel people, for it was he who conducted the Presbyterian revival services of last summer. He is an able preacher, his sermons are timely and inspirational and those who attend the services of next Sunday will be spiritually refreshed. We cordially invite the public to be with us in these services, and we urge all loyal members of the church not to absent themselves from the house of the Lord on this day.

Keep in mind, please, the Sunday school services. We need your presence; we need your assistance; we need your inspiration. With such ideal weather prevailing, we should send our attendance well over the goal. Come be with us.

ELECTION NOTICE

By virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of the city of Merkel, I hereby order an election to be held in said city, at the city hall thereof, on the first Tuesday in April, 1921; the same being the 5th day of said month, for the purpose of electing a mayor a secretary and two aldermen for said city.

Walter Jackson is hereby appointed presiding officer at said election, and the polls shall be opened at 8 o'clock a. m. and close at 5 o'clock p. m. J. J. Stallings, Mayor of the city of Merkel, Texas.

Dr. W. M. Gambill left Sunday night for Dallas to attend the state clinics and will take a post-graduate course in dentistry. There will be specialists present from New York, Chicago and St. Louis. Dr. Gambill will return about the 9th.

Mr. and Mrs. Mason Pee returned first of the week from Hale Center, where they visited relatives.

CHAIRMAN MASON APPOINTS COMS.

To the citizens of Merkel and community: The meeting of the citizens of this community at the High School Auditorium last Tuesday night, elected me as chairman, over my protest, but rather than throw any obstacle in the way of the organization, I accepted the office, and it devolves upon me to appoint the several committees, and after consulting several members, whose heart is in this movement, as to who would be among the proper ones to fill the various places, have decided to appoint the following. The first named on each committee, is supposed to be chairman of their respective committee, but they can choose any one of their number as Chairman, as they see fit, and I trust that every one selected on these Committees, will accept. By doing so, you assist greatly in the complete organization of this club. There are no arduous duties to perform, nor will it take much of your time. The purpose of each committee, is to suggest anything they see fit appertaining to the welfare of the community, for which this committee was created. The Constitution and Bylaws provide that five committees be appointed, representing the main features of the Merkel Community Club. The first Committee on the list is the Law and Order Committee—L. R. Thompson, N. D. Cobb, and Walter Jackson.

Committee on Morality—Henry West, E. N. Brown, T. G. Bragg, J. T. Dennis and Dr. M. Armstrong.

Committee on Civic Improvements—Mrs. R. O. Anderson, Mrs. A. T. Sheppard, Mrs. Loui Arrington, Mr. R. L. Bland and Mr. H. L. Propst.

Social Committee—Mrs. L. B. Howard, Mrs. Burt Scott, Miss Lucy Tracy, Mrs. Walter Jackson, and Mrs. D. O. Huddleston.

Educational Committee—R. A. Burgess, Dr. S. W. Johnson, Miss Annie Smith, and Mrs. M. Armstrong.

I know that every one named on these Committees have the welfare of Merkel and community at heart, and would advise that each committee get together soon and decide as to what they have to suggest to the Club at its Various meetings for discussion etc. Would suggest that this does not mean that every Committee is expected to bring in a lot of recommendations as long as the Declaration of Independence at every meeting, for the world was not made in a day, and the Club does not propose to revolutionize the world at one swoop.

There are five distinct features in this Organization. First is to uphold law and order in our Community, and put the world on notice that we are a law abiding people, by upholding the law and assisting the officers in the discharge of their Official duties. Also there are other features for which this community stands, such as civic improvements, and also to assist in the moral, social and Educational movements of our community. Now it seems that one of the other features of this organization will meet the hearty approval of every citizen in this community, and all good citizens are asked to join in and be one of the club, regard less of your occupation, the laboring man, the farmer, and merchant and the ladies are the most important factor in the up lift of any community, in the Moral, Social, Civics, and Educational of the community, and with out their assistance we cannot succeed therefore we insist, that they come out and attend these meetings; every one consider that this is as much your meeting as it is any ones, so

come out and lets all work for the betterment of this community in any way we see fit, and I am sure that we all will get some good out of these meetings
J. C. Mason, Chairman

DO THEY BELIEVE IN IT?

"The advertising rate of the Ladies' Home Journal is \$12.00 per line, or \$160 an inch. A full page in colors costs \$11,000 and if on the back, \$15,000. The Saturday Evening Post charges \$10 per line and \$10,000 for the back page. Those sums are paid because big business men want publicity. We leave it with our readers to decide if the firms who pay these prices believe advertising pays."

Miss Mildred Sanders of Putnam, was up last Sunday for a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Sanders.

BUTMAN WELL REPORTED ABANDONED

Mr. Sam Butman Senior, on whose ranch the well known as the Butman well has been drilled, was here first of the week and informed us that he understood the raising in the well was being pulled preparatory to abandoning same, and which is considered a dry hole.

Mr. Butman stated that he had a contract with the company drilling the test to drill down to a depth of 3,000 feet, and that the drill had gone down below that depth, without finding practically any showing of oil. He said that considerable gas was encountered at one time but was cased off and the drill sent deeper.

METHODIST REVIVAL TO STARTS SUNDAY

Pastor Murrell of the Merkel Methodist Church announces that on next Sunday, March 6, he will begin a revival meeting which will likely continue ten days or two weeks, and will be ably assisted by Rev. H. B. Watt the Methodist pastor at Lockney Texas, who will do the preaching. Rev. Watts is said to be an able expounder of the Gospel, an eloquent talker and devout worker, and with the assistance of the membership of the church it is expected that much good will have been accomplished before the meeting shall have closed.

Rev. Murrell requests us to extend to all christians of all churches a royal welcome to attend and take part in the services. In fact a cordial welcome is extended every man, woman and child in the town and surrounding country.

PRESBYTERIAN AUXILIARY

The ladies of the Presbyterian Auxiliary Society spent quite a pleasant afternoon at the home of Mrs. H. C. West on Monday afternoon in honor of Mrs. C. C. Dooley. Delicious refreshments were served, and a beautiful gift was presented to Mrs. Dooley as a token of love and appreciation from the members of the society. These good people will be greatly missed. Our prayers and best wishes go with them. Monday afternoon, March 7, the society will meet with Mrs. S. F. Haynes. Every member be present and lets plan for the bazaar.

J. T. Barrett of Winters, is here for a visit with his daughter, Mrs. Eli Case.

TO VOTE ON BONDS SEWERAGE SYSTEM

Merkel is far behind towns of its size and many of those much smaller in the provisions made for sewage disposal at its school building. Even the smaller country schools, many of them, have septic tanks or some other sanitary toilet system. The toilet facilities at the Merkel school are entirely inadequate unsanitary, and really dangerous to the health of the seven-hundred children. The Taylor County Red Cross nurse who inspected our system condemned them as unsafe, the County Health Officer, Dr. Hollis, and the State Sanitary Engineer at Austin all join in condemning the system used in Merkel. The health of the Merkel children is in jeopardy.

Some provision must be made before another year. To build new toilets of the same kind as are now on the school ground would be a waste of money, for sooner or later they would be condemned by the health authorities and have to be torn down. In the face of these facts, and upon the recommendation of the Texas State Health Department at Austin, Texas, the board has ordered an election for April 2 to determine whether or not there shall be issued bonds to the amount of twenty-five hundred dollars to install in the school building a sanitary septic tank toilet system. The bonds will be ten-year bonds, and will mean the expenditure of only \$375 a year more than is now spent. In fact the board hopes to buy these bonds with the funds accrued in the sinking fund of bonds of former issue, and thus reduce this to \$250 per year.

The question to be decided by the tax-paying voters on this date is whether or not for the small sum of \$250 per year it is going to let the present system which must be replaced, be replaced with the same kind of unsanitary toilets, or put into the building a system that is safe, sanitary and permanent; one that is recommended by the State Department of Health for towns not having a city sewer system.

The Board of Trustees at a meeting on March 2nd ordered an election for April 2nd to let the voters decide this question. It is up to the people who have children in school to decide, whether they want the present system rebuilt on the old unsanitary plan or in their place a system that will safeguard the health of the children, that will pass the inspection of health authorities, and will tend toward better moral conditions among their children.

The State Department of Education, the Taylor County Red Cross, the Health Departments of Texas, Taylor County, and Merkel are behind this proposition, and the board has ordered the election. It is up to the voters to say "yes" or "no" on the 2nd of April.

H. D. Simpson, who represents the Stewart Land Company of Kansas City, in company with Mr. E. S. Sandusky, recently returned from a trip to the Rio Grande Valley. Mr. Simpson states that Mr. Sandusky was highly pleased and will likely soon move to that country.

Mrs. West Edwards returned from Midland, where she has been for several months. Her many friends here will be glad to know she has returned.

Service Car, any where any time. Call W. E. Lowe or G. H. McDonald, phone 72. tf

THE FARMERS STATE BANK

**This Bank Has no Fears
For The Future—**

We know that our country is sound. Our Banks are strong. Our fields and valleys are green and fertile, and the indomitable spirit of the American people—which knows not of defeat—fills us and thrills us with a new determination to work and to serve—hand to hand with you—your interest our interest—your problems ours—until we have at last regained for our community and state and nation a lasting prosperity.

With your co-operation who knows what may be accomplished—what heights we may attain?

T. J. TOOMBS President
JOHN SEARS Vice President
R. L. BLAND Vice President
R. O. ANDERSON Cashier
F. Y. GAITHER Assistant Cashier
W. L. DILTZ, Jr. Assistant Cashier

NUBIA SPEAKINGS

I'll say we did. Yes we had one of the most glorious times at Mt. Pleasant. Every one from here reported a splendid day in joyment up on returning from the day spent with that community Sunday.

A B. Y. P. U. was organized for the young christians in that community of which the surrounding vicinities will no doubt hear of sooner or later as a wonderful success.

The musical given by Mr. W. L. Blair has been, by those attending, reported as one among the best for some time.

The echos (of the coming) has reached the ears of this community, that Rev. Tyson, who will be accompanied by pastor W. H. Hughes on his regular appointment, with the fore coming of two days. Rev. Tyson is coming from Sweetwater Baptist Assoriation, the mission, it is stated, is that of missionary work. He will, if not detained, be here Friday night of this week and services are expected for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the specified time will be announced later.

A close and attentive listing audience hoped for. The surrounding communities are cordially invited to attend.

Mr. Hayne Hughels was here Tuesday from Blaid community recalling gone by days with old friends of Nubia.

Well farming is showing some "pep" now, you should visit us and watch things hum.

Some of the people of this locality recited their Sunday school lessons with Castle Peak last Sunday. Sure we have Sunday school lessons and can re-rite them at any good Sunday School.

Now don't forget services Friday and Saturday and Sunday this is the first Sunday too. Grasshopper Ben.

Service Car, any where any time. Call W. E. Lowe or G. H. McDonald, phone 72. tf

\$10,338,509 WAS THE COST TO ELECT PRESIDENT

Washington, March 1.—Campaign costs of electing a President of the United States in 1920 were \$10,338,509 as estimated by a special senate committee created to investigate them, which today filed its report with congress. Of this amount, Republican candidates and campaign organizations spent \$8,100,739, while Democratic expenditures were \$2,237,770.

The compilation took into account the expenditures made by or in behalf of all candidates for the Republican and Democratic presidential nomination and of national, state, congressional and senatorial committees of both these parties, neglecting amounts spent by candidates and organizations of minor political parties.

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

PLENTY of COAL

Dawson Fancy Egg
Domestic Lump
And Swastika Coal

H. M. ROSE & SON

Lucky Tiger
The Nation's Hair and Scalp Remedy
ENDORSED BY HOSPITALS AND THOSE WHO KNOW.
Positively eradicates dandruff—corrects eczematous scalp—stops falling hair—promotes luxuriant growth—adds lustre, beauty, health—action immediate and certain. Money-Back Guarantee.
At drugists and barbers, or send 25c for generous sample.
LUCKY TIGER CO., Kansas City, Mo.

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

THE BANK THAT BACKS THE FARMER
THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK
MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
J. T. WARREN, PRESIDENT
W. E. LOWE, VICE PRES.
HENRY JAMES, VICE PRES.
L. R. THOMPSON, CASHIER
BOOTH WARREN, ASST. CASH.
E. D. TEUTON, ASST. CASH.
Merkel, Texas

SHILOH DOTS

We have had some pretty weather, but has began to be rainy again. We are not caring for any rain now, as we do not need it.

Several attended Sunday school last Sunday morning, and several from Noodle and Merkel attended singing Sunday afternoon. Bro. W. K. Horn preached his farewell sermon here Sunday night.

The party at Mr. Church's Friday night and Wilner Grayson's Saturday night were enjoyed by all present.

Will Johnson and wife, of Lamesa, are here visiting the former's sister, Mrs. Hayse Wheatley.

Mrs. Annie Boyd of Lamesa is here visiting home folks. We were all glad to see her, as it has been quite a while since she was here.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Woods and Mr. and Mrs. Will Johnson motored to Abilene Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Howell were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Shelby Howell Saturday night.

Several of the Shiloh people attended the show at Merkel last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Williams of Sweetwater visited Mr. and Mrs. Barnes Sunday.

Mrs. Dyess of Merkel is visiting this week with her daughter Mrs. Willie Barnes.

Grandma Phillips is spending the week with her son in Abilene. Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Woods were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hayse Wheatley Sunday.

Mrs. Howell of Trent visited her daughter, Mrs. Sinclair Phillips last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Riley Walling were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jenning Winter Sunday.

Several of the Shiloh people attended the library at Hebron Friday night and reported a good one.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Cox of East Texas are visiting the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Terri Winters. Kandy-Kid.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our many friends who so kindly assisted us during the illness and death of our darling baby, and especially do we thank the faithful physicians, Dr. Armstrong assisted by Dr. Grimes. Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Cook.

Service Car, any where any time. Call W. E. Lowe or G. H. McDonald, phone 72. tf

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

TRADE REGISTERED MARK



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, curing the disease completely.

Little'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.

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

HIS GIRL

By LAURA MONTGOMERY.

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"I cannot see, Leonard, what you are waiting for. Why do you dawdle?"

Len's calm blue eyes placidly returned his mother's piercing scrutiny. "Well, there is no use in being too hasty; Rose is young yet."

Mrs. Ross moved so briskly that her darning-egg rolled out of the sock and dropped. "Young! Do you know that she was twenty-nine her last birthday. You are three years older, and yet you go about placidly as though you were both eighteen years old. Haven't you seen Tom Briggs going into their yard every single day? Do you know that he took her flowers yesterday and caudly the day before? He'll cut you out yet."

Len flushed. "Why, I thought Rose liked—" he stopped and stared at the dapper figure of Tom Briggs who passed at that moment. There was a confident smile on the dark, handsome face of the young man who had returned to his home town for a few weeks on business.

"Liked, yes—but do you suppose she's going to pass up a chance like that in case you might, sometime, get up enough spunk to propose? Tom is a wealthy man, he has had advantages that you've never had. He talks French like a native and his suits—well, you just ought to hear the girls rave about his clothes."

"No use of a man being a sissy," commented Len, rising and standing over his mother. When he was standing Len looked like a blond giant, with his thick, fair hair, and large, serene face.

"No use of a man being afraid to speak out." Mrs. Ross smiled down into her mending as she heard his half-suppressed ejaculation.

The whole village had been fluttered since the coming of Tom Briggs. Although he owned the handsome brick house on Main street, he had not bothered to open it up for his brief stay. At the hotel he had taken the best room and his queer city ways were the unfailing topic under discussion whenever he was not present.

After his early supper that night Len gave his thick hair an extra brush and changed his coat. Then he went slowly down the street toward Rose's home.

"Mother feller's calling on your girl," taunted Sam, and dodged back behind his faithful hedge.

Len began to think seriously. Tom was a good-looking man.

Rose was working on a piece of crocheting, although the dusk was approaching swiftly. Tom, a picturesque figure in a white silk suit, was sitting well forward in his chair and talking in low, earnest tones.

Len slowly pushed open the gate and went up the walk. Rose greeted him quietly, and nodded toward another chair.

"Don't you get pretty sick of this small-town stuff, Len?" Tom's dark eyes studied the other's face.

"No," said Len, replying to the unspoken, but implied taunt; "guess it's just about my speed. They're all my home folks and I wouldn't feel satisfied anywhere else."

"But," objected Tom, flicking the ashes of his cigarette with a white hand, "there are no opportunities for big deals here."

Len followed the flash of the jewel on the effeminate finger: "Maybe not. I'm making more every year, and that satisfies me."

Tom finally took his leave. He knew Len of old, and did not try to outstay him, as he would have done with almost any other fellow.

"Think over what I said," he had bent over Rose's chair and the words were a mere whisper, but Len heard.

"Rose," Len had waited until the click of the gate had sounded after Tom's departure, "are you going to marry Tom?"

Rose failed to reply. "Are you?" A new note had crept into the quiet, assured voice. Len had become frightened.

Rose evidently was undecided. The dapper Tom Briggs, with his hale of wealth, the owner of the elegant brick house with satin-covered furniture in the big parlors, had dazzled her.

A stray moonbeam rested on the girl's dark head, turning it into a misty silver, and Len, rising hastily, thought fancifully that she would look like that in 20 years' time when they were growing old. "But," he thought, clenching his hands, "she shan't be Tom's wife."

Len bent hastily over the silent girl. "You don't answer, Rose. I'll put the question differently: 'Are you going to marry me?'"

"Of course. Who else?" Rose's ingenuous eyes met his own in the light cast by the moon. The man was sure that a smile of amusement lingered in the usually candid depths, but he was too content to inquire further. She was his girl, and that was all he cared about.

Mail Carriers at Work.

In Japan the rural post-runner still swings his baskets across his shoulders precisely as his ancestors did centuries ago. In Formosa, also, the mails are carried to this day by a man on foot, who jogs along with a paper lantern and an umbrella. The postman of the Landes, in southwestern France, stride across the waste on gigantic stilts, their feet a fathom or more above the ground.

IS IT PHOTOGRAPHS

or Anything in the Photograph Line?

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PHONE 314 JNO. C. REINHARD, MGR.

GOLAN ITEMS

Everyone enjoyed the house party of the newly weds, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Lane. The Golan community enjoyed a good singing the school house Sunday afternoon. Colsoon as they can build him up so he will be strong enough to stand the operation. We are liberally. Golan has some extra hoping he will recover soon.

velop them, "watch us go." Messers Rollie Hill and Carl StClair and Misses Mennie Hill and Clonnie StClair were the guests of Homer and Vera Lawlis Sunday.

Official Statement of the Financial Condition of First State Bank, Trent, Texas

at the close of business on the 21st day of Feb. 1921, published in the Merkel Mail, a newspaper printed and published at Merkel, state of Texas, on the 4th day of March, 1921.

RESOURCES

Loans and dis. personal or collateral	\$106,835.63
Loans, real estate	1,703.27
Overdrafts	2,229.31
Bonds and Stocks	6,450.00
Real Estate (banking house)	7,000.00
Furniture and fixtures	2,125.00
Due from other banks and bankers and cash on hand	35,138.80
Interest in Dep. City Fund	1,417.74
Assessment Dep. City Fund	35.44
Acceptances and Bills of Ex.	12,531.18
Total	\$175,466.35

LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in	\$ 30,000.00
Surplus Fund	5,500.00
Undivided profits, net	1,566.30
Individual Deposits Sub. to Check	\$36,537.56
Time certificates of Deposit	1,325.00
Demand Certificates of Deposits	497.49
Cashier's Checks	497.49
Total	\$175,466.35

State of Texas, County of Taylor:
We, W. E. Hamner as v-pres., and Homer Easterwood as cashier of said bank, each of us, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of our knowledge and belief.
W. E. Hamner Vice-President,
Homer Easterwood, Cashier.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of Feb. A. D. 1921.
L. E. ADRIAN
(SEAL) Notary Public Taylor County, Texas.
Correct—Attest:
E. Regans
J. S. Swann
R. O. Anderson {Directors

EVER BILIOUS?

Charleston, Miss.—Mrs. R. V. Heins, of this place, says: "I have never had to use very much medicine, because if I felt headache, dizziness, or colds, bad taste in the mouth, which comes from torpid liver, I would take a dose or more of Black-Draught, and it would straighten me out and make me feel as good as new. We have used in our family for years

THEDFORD'S

BLACK-DRAUGHT

and it certainly is the best liver medicine I ever saw. It has not only saved me money, it has helped keep my system in shape, and has never weakened me as so many physics do. I recommend it to my friends and am glad to do so." Black-Draught is the old, reliable liver medicine which you have doubtless heard much about. When you feel badly all over, stomach not right, bad taste in your mouth, bilious, or have a headache, try Theford's Black-Draught. At all Druggists.

Always Insist on the Genuine!

L. 77

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

DO YOU KNOW THAT--

Life is what you make it?
If you are well you should be happy.
If your health is less than normal you should be interested in your local Masseur.

Consultation costs nothing, and it may result in Health to you.

GUY E. LONGBOTHAM, Dc.

MASSEUR

LUCKY STRIKE

cigarette

It's toasted

The American Tobacco Co.

CUPID ALIAS BILLY

By WILLIS GRAY.

© 1921, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

If Marjorie's thoughts as she deftly cut out and pasted crimson hearts to lacy backgrounds wandered far from the work in hand, Billy and his little sister were none the wiser. Tomorrow was Valentine's day, and she had agreed to help them make the proper offerings to lay at various shrines among their schoolmates.

As a matter of fact, Marjorie was grateful for any occupation that kept her from seeking the seclusion of her own room and having a regular good cry. One doesn't have a perfectly splendid fiancé go out of one's life every day, metaphorically slamming the door behind him—and all over nothing.

Over and over in her mind revolved the events of the previous evening. Bruce had arrived half an hour later than usual. She had demanded the reason for his tardiness—in fun. He had refused to give any—in fun. And before they knew it they had a regular-sized quarrel on their hands.

Bruce had maintained that for her to insist showed she didn't trust him. She had held just as stoutly that the fact that he didn't tell her argued that the reason was one he knew would displease her, and the only one that would displease her would be connected with some other girl, and so—oh, it had all been so silly, until the last, which had been tragic.

Bruce had risen and remarked coldly that he was going home and would come again when she sent for him. Marjorie could hear herself now saying in unutterably haughty tones that never under any circumstances could she conceive it possible that she would even think of such a thing! Bruce had departed by way of the front door. Marjorie had gone upstairs, remorse already battling with dignity.

With a sigh she brought herself back to the present. "What shall I put in for a verse?" she asked.

"Oh, anything," said Billy, offhand. "Make up something with lots of the silly stuff that is usually on valentines."

In the space left for them beside an over-plump cupid shooting a very large arrow at a very small heart, Marjorie carefully penned the lines.

"I love you dear,
For you are mine,
Oh come and be
My valentine!"

"Thanks," said Billy, gratefully, "it's rather mushy, but you might as well write the same one on them all."

So over and over Marjorie printed the little verse until the short February day was swallowed in the twilight.

"We'll stop now, kiddies," said Marjorie. "Put them in their envelopes and I'll mail them in the box at the corner."

Now, the corner where the mail box stood was also the corner Bruce passed on his way home from the train.

So accurately did Marjorie time her trip to the corner that the last of the bunch of childishly scrawled envelopes had slipped irrevocably in and the lid closed with a click, when she heard behind her the familiar step, and turning, raised her eyes to meet the unsmiling ones of Bruce. Afterward she remembered that he had looked for a moment as if he wanted to stop. But he had merely raised his hat politely—and walked on. And Marjorie, the words of contrition halted on her lips, had started after him in sorry dismay.

That evening Marjorie left the living room for the reception room where she usually entertained Bruce.

Suddenly the front door opened, and the draperies parted to admit a smiling eyed young man who advanced with outstretched arms into which Marjorie straightway went. "Bruce," she whispered, "it was lovely for you to give in!"

"Give in!" he cried, "who wouldn't give in after that adorable little invitation. Why, you darling, I was ready to come anyway, but after getting that—"

Marjorie detached herself from his embrace. "Getting what?" she asked coldly.

"Oh, I know it by heart," he began: "I love you, dear,
For you are mine,
Oh, come and be
My valentine!"

Marjorie was silent for the space of a whole half minute.

"That—awful Billy!" she said. "He must have sent one to you."

"Sweetheart," said Bruce, softly, "are you really sorry?"

Marjorie looked up at him. "No—o—o," she said hesitatingly, then emphatically: "No, I'm not!"

"Weren't we silly geese?" whispered Bruce over her dark hair. "The reason I was late was—"

"Don't ever tell me!" cried Marjorie, putting a soft hand over his mouth.

And he never did. But considering that it was only a matter of a missed train, it was of no importance, anyway.

Discovery of a Law.

"I understand you have discovered the law of gravitation," remarked the neighbor who happened to be passing the orchard.

"Yes," replied Sir Isaac Newton; "and a good job I consider it. There's one law that won't require a big appropriation and an army of deputies to enforce it."

NO. 7481

Report of the Condition of

THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

AT MERKEL

In the State of Texas, at the Close of Business on Feb. 21, 1921

RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts, including rediscounts	\$298,075.84
Overdrafts, secured, \$308.85; Unsecured, \$250.00	558.85
Deposited to secure circulation (U. S. Bonds par value)	\$6,250.00
Pledged to secure postal savings deposits (par value)	3,500.00
Owned and unpledged	6,370.94
Total bonds, Securities etc., other than U. S.	8,501.37
Stocks, other than Fed. Res. Bank stock, Fed. Inter. Bnk. Co.	500.00
Stock of Federal Reserve bank (50 per cent of Subscription)	1,950.00
Furniture and fixtures	4,500.00
Real estate owned other than banking house	3,000.00
Lawful reserve with Federal Reserve Bank	44,164.61
Cash in vault and net amounts due from national banks	149,826.55
Checks on other banks in the same city or town as reporting bank	216.75
Total of Items 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16	\$150,043.30
Checks on banks located outside of city or town of reporting bank and other cash items	1,388.52
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer and due from U. S. Treasurer	316.16
Interest earned but not collected—approximate—on Notes and Bills Receivable not past due	328.92
Other assets, if any; this is cash collection mailed direct	136.75
Total	\$529,585.26

LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in	\$50,000.00
Surplus Fund	15,000.00
Undivided profits	\$8,227.25
Less current expenses, interest and taxes paid	1,957.87
Interest and discount collected or credited, in advance of maturity and not earned (approximate)	5,000.00
Circulating notes outstanding	5,950.00
Cashiers checks on own bank outstanding	269.29
Total of Items 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32	\$269.29
Demand Deposits subject to Reserve:	
Individual deposits subject to check	\$83,282.39
Certificates of deposits due in less than 30 days	17,989.00
Other demand deposits	
Total demand deposits subject to Reserve.	\$401,271.39
Certificates of deposit (other than for money borrowed)	10,012.00
Postal savings deposits	
Other time Deposits	35,484.28
Total of time dep. sub. to Res. Items 39, 40, 41, and 42.	\$45,496.28
Liabilities other than those above stated	328.92
Total	\$529,585.26

STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF TAYLOR, SS:
I, L. R. Thompson, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
L. R. THOMPSON, Cashier
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of Feb. 1921.
G. F. WEST,
J. T. WARREN
BOOTH WARREN, Directors

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

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

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

Governor Neff is for the enforcement of the law, for the protection of life and property and for the bludgeoning of crime and criminals. He sent seven rangers to one of the oil districts to put down gambling and to protect Mexican workmen. Former Governor W. P. Hobby sent a regiment of National Guardsmen to Galveston to guarantee "an open port." Bootlegging is a crime; making of moonshine whisky is a crime; exhibiting games is a crime. Why should there be an exhibition of maudlin sympathy for the bootlegger, the moonshiner or gambler? They are brazen and blatant violators of the law and should be given the limit of the law.—Fort Worth Record.

The Bible tells us about beating swords into plowshares, but the American people seem more inclined to beat them into jazz instruments.—Aspermont Star.
 In this world there seems to be a continuous celebration. What the people are celebrating they do not know, but it seems that the entire life of the average person has been given over to revel. Sober thinking, meditation, religion seems to have been lost sight of, and the world seems to be in a whirl—in an unsettled condition—and the jazz music is an inspiration to the people who are thus inclined.—Abilene Times.

This is from the Sweetwater Reporter: "Governor Neff is the possessor of a veto knife. He made the race for the nomination of a platform of retrenchment and reduction in the number of office holders. He pledged his best efforts to bring about a reduction in the state tax rate. Now, why ask him to repudiate his own platform and ignore his own pledges?—Fort Worth Record. You are right, Editor Fitzgerald. Texas should be content to see Governor Neff carry out his platform pledges. So few candidates remember this when elected, and if Jones does not like what the chief executive is doing he has no one to blame but himself and his voting wife. That reminds us that some 700 good, bad and indifferent bills are on the cooling board at the capitol. Here is hoping that a majority of them will not survive the operating room ordeal. Conditions in the state now go to show that there are far more laws than can be enforced under the present system. Why pass more? They are not necessary anyway. Unnecessary laws mean added expenses to Jones, as you would say. Jones looks like a pack mule already. He is being fed up on overhead expenses. Ring down the curtain any old time and send the legislators home, Governor Neff. The field and factories need them.—Fort Worth Record.

Safety and Service are the watch words of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank 4% interest paid on our savings deposits. Start an account today. tf

The Mail \$1.50 year in advance

REAL ART PICTURES

PARAMOUNT PROGRAMS

COZY THEATRE

SPECIAL MATINEE SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Friday March 4
Douglas Fairbanks "Bride 13"
 in Episode No. 6
 "The Americano" and
 Kaufman Featrette Episode No. 7

Monday March 7
Robert Warwick Wm. Duncan
 in in
 "In Missouri" "Fighting Fate"
 Fox News

Wednesday March 9
Mary Miles Minter
 in
 "A Cumberland Romance"
 Pathe Review Tarchy Comedy

Saturday March 5
Dorothy Gish Charlie Chaplin
 in in
 "I'll Get Him Yet" "One A. M."
 Mutt & Jeff in "The Breakers"

Tuesday March 8
"The Miracle of Love"
 A Paramount Special, from the book by Cosmo Hamilton, with an all-star cast

Thursday March 10
Wanda Hawley Snub Pollard
 in in
 "Food For Scandal" "Queens And"
 Bray Comics

COMING Wm. S. Hart in "John Petty Coats"	COMING Buster Keaton in "One Week"	COMING Bert Lytell in "Lombardy Limited"
--	--	--

FOX ENTERTAINMENTS

METRO PRODUCTIONS

AS SHE IS SPOKEN

Toronto Set Square: "Let me have sleeping accommodations on the train to Ottawa," I said to the man at the window, who didn't seem at all concerned whether I took the trip or stayed at home.

"For a single passenger?" he finally said.

"no," I replied, "I'm married, but I'm not taking anybody with me. A single shelf will answer."

"Upper or lower?"

"What's the difference?" I inquired.

"A difference of 50 cents," came the answer. "Our prices to Ottawa are \$1.50 and \$2."

"You understand, of course," explained the agent, "the lower is higher than the upper. The price is for the lower berth. If you want it lower you'll have to go higher. We sell the upper lower than the lower. It didn't use to be so, but we found everybody wanted the lower. In other words, the higher the fewer."

"Why do they all prefer the lower?" I broke in.

"On account of its convenience," he replied, "Most persons don't like the upper, although its lower, on account of it being higher, and because when you occupy an upper you have to get up to go to bed, and then get down when you get up. I would advise you to take the lower, although it's higher than the upper, for the reason I have stated that the upper is lower than the lower because it is higher. You can have the lower if you pay higher, but if you are willing to go higher it will be lower."

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ed Leslie asked us to say to the public that he is now ready for business. The ice vault has been overhauled. A partnership has been formed with T. J. R. Swafford by which the two companies will be managed together. They have bought a new truck and ice wagon and will put both team and truck on when needed, so there will be no question of not getting deliveries made in any kind of weather. Mr. Ely Case will have charge of the deliveries as soon as the season opens. Swafford & Leslie.

GAMES TO BE PLAYED

The girls will play basket ball and the boys will play tennis singles and doubles at Sweetwater, Friday. Every body go, and give them your voice support.

W. P. Duckett will pay you the highest price for Eggs and chickens. tf

METHODIST CHURCH NOTICE

Sunday School promptly at 10 o'clock. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Subject for the morning hour "What Methodists believe, and why they believe it." "What they practice and why they practice it."

Our meeting commences Sunday and will continue at least two weeks. We solicit the cooperation of all christian people in our meeting and give a cordial invitation to all who are not christians to attend. Rev. H. B. Watts, our pastor at Lockney, will do the preaching. W. M. Murrell.

LEAGUE PROGRAM

Subject: "Thy Kingdom come in our church."
 Leader: Joe Reidenbach. Song. Lord's prayer in concert.
 Scripture: (Colassians 1:18-24.)
 Roll call. Song.
 Announcements.
 Ladies Address: "The church and the kingdom."
 "Thy Kingdom come in Methodism" by Mr. Burgess.
 "Thy Kingdom come in the pulpit" by Rev. Murrell.
 "Thy Kingdom come in the officary of the church" by Dr. M. Armstrong.
 "Thy Kingdom come through the church school" by Mrs. C. B. Smith.
 "The womanhood of the church" by Mrs. Geo. Brown.
 "Thy Kingdom come in the Epworth League" by John McDonald. Prayer Song League Benediction.

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

Save the pieces—Lenses matched, Frames repaired, Glasses fitted on 30 days free trial. E. L. Wilson, The Jeweler. tf

Ladies Coat Suits, Kid gloves, plush or fur goods cleaned right by people who know the business. Satisfaction positively guaranteed. Quick service, no gas odor. L. P. Ligon, phone number 218. 1t

Safety and Service are the watch words of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank 4% interest paid on our savings deposits. Start an account today. tf

A. C. C. GLEE CLUB TO BE HERE FRIDAY NIGHT

Friday night, March 4th, the people of Merkel are to have the opportunity of hearing a splendid program given by the Glee Club, Choral Club and College Quartette of Abilene Christian College. The fine arts department of this college has a reputation in the musical world. They will give you a varied program which will be certain to be appreciated by all who come.

This is their first time to appear in Merkel, and you cannot afford to miss this opportunity to hear them.

The net proceeds of the concert are to go to the benefits of the Merkel High school. An admission of 25 cents will be charged all school children, and 50¢ for all others. The program will be given at the Merkel High school Auditorium, beginning promptly at 8:15 o'clock, Friday evening.

OLD FASHIONED TEA PARTY GETS BIG CROWD

As per announcement the King's Daughters' Class of the Methodist church gave a play last Friday night at the High School Auditorium, entitled, "Old Fashioned Tea Party" which about thirty characters were represented, all dressed in costumes fashionable at different periods during the last fifty years, and to say that each and every one carried her part out in the most artistic style would be putting it mildly indeed. And indeed would we like to give special comment to the artistic manner in which each lady performed her part, but space forbids, however, we must give special praise to Mesdames J. T. Dennis, Chas. Russell, and Watt who had leading parts and which they so splendidly carried out.

The school auditorium was filled to its utmost, and the proceeds of the evening we are told amounted to about ninety dollars which will be used in buying new pews for the choir.

The ladies asked that we extend thanks and appreciation to the good people of this city and community for their very liberal patronage.

We are showing the people of Merkel that we appreciate their laundry work, cleaning and pressing, dye and hat work, by giving them good service at a reasonable charge. Try us—L. P. Ligon, phone 218. 1t

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

Bring your chickens and Eggs to A. L. Jobe. 4t2

Give me your cleaning and pressing by 9 a.m. Saturday morning, and I will return it by 5 p.m. Saturday evening. No gas odor. L. P. Ligon, phone number 218. 1t

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., Propriatory

**WELLINGTON
IN MERKEL**

Friday evening, February 19, 1921, Mr. Fred Brown and Miss Louise Turner, highly respected young people of Wellington, Texas were joyfully united in marriage at the home of the groom's sister, Rev. and Mrs. R. L. Porter, Rev. Porter officiating. The bride is the charming daughter of Rev. and Mrs. G. W. Turner of near Wellington. The groom is an ambitious young man who formerly resided at Merkel, having come to Wellington about a year ago. He has made many friends in this short stay here, who regret to hear that he has decided to again make Merkel his home. The happy pair left on the morning train Saturday for Merkel.

NEWS SENT BY HELIOGRAPH

Only Method by Which the People of Montserrat Can Learn of World's Happenings.

The 10,000 inhabitants of Montserrat get all their tidings from the outside world by the flashing of mirrors from the island of Antigua, 27 miles away. The wireless and cable do not touch this mountainous and isolated pinpoint on the map. Mail boats are infrequent. The natives must depend almost entirely upon the heliograph—an instrument used extensively before the telegraph was invented, which means "writing with the sun."

The messages are flashed from a mirror headed into the rays of the sun. The mirror operates from side to side, and in that way the dots and dashes as they are flashed are "picked out" and directed into words and sentences. The United States navy still uses a similar system for some signaling work.

During the war Montserrat was forbidden the use of the heliograph. Too many submarines were lurking in West Indian waters.

IS WORLD'S OLDEST REPUBLIC

Switzerland Threw Off Shackles of Monarchy More Than Six Hundred Years Ago.

Switzerland is the oldest republic. We are obliged to go back more than 600 years to trace the foundation of this republic.

The league of three forest cantons of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden probably goes back to the very beginning of their existence as organized communities, and was framed long before the art of the penman was available for the record of such an alliance.

The whole area of the 22 Swiss cantons is less than a third of that of the state of New York, and their population is a little more than half.

But their history contains some of the most stirring episodes in the struggle for human freedom, and they have been the theater of experiments in the science of government even more varied and striking than those which have marked the development of the United States.

WORKS YEARS ON MODEL

What is claimed to be the most complete piece of model building ever attempted is that of Pershing square. New York, shown at the recent convention of hotel men in that city. The model is a large one and attempts to be a complete miniature. It was constructed from plans furnished by the public service commission and architects. Francis T. Gilling, a sculptor, worked on it for two years. The materials used for the miniature of Grand Central terminal are wood pulp and celluloid. The 15,000 windows of the skyscraper are shown, together with cars, lights, signal devices and other equipment of the subways. After the exposition the model is to be shown in other cities and may be taken abroad.

OUTDOING JULES VERNE'S HERO

"Around the world in 80 days" was a feat which made boys in all civilized countries draw their breaths with admiration for 50 years or more, but today a stranger truth is to be gleaned from the official statistics of March field, California. United States army pilots there have flown a distance equal to 46 times around the globe in the last year. Thus Phineas Fogg's record is put to scorn, for 46 times around in 365 days, means just 7 days, 24 hours and 26 seconds for one circumnavigation by airship.

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 MARCH 4

Saturday March 5th
Frank Farnum
in "The Vanishing Trail"
A thrilling story of Mystery, Romance and Adventure in the Great Sierra Nevada Mountains. One of the most exciting Serials ever screened.
Wm. S. Hart in "In The Dark"
Ben Turpin in a 2-reel Comedy

Friday March 4
Zena Keefe in "The Woman God Sent"
A Select Feature "Selznick News" and Ford Weekly

Monday March 7
Gladys Walton in "Pink Tights"
A story of the Circus
A Universal Special and "Pathe News"

Tuesday March 8
BILL PATTON, An All-Star Cast
in "Outlawed"
A Big Western Special—Thrills
"Facts and Follies" "Call Me Daddy"

Wed. March 9
Wallace Coburn in "The Darkening Trail"
Juanita Harrison in "The Lost City"
Billie West in "Buggins"

Thursday March 10
Roy Stewart in "Red Haired Cupid"
Another Red Hot Western
BILLIE HAY WEST in "Bath Tub Romance"

COMING—"When Dawn Came" A Super Special
COMING—"The Great Redeemer" Another Super Special

HEBRON NEWS

Well we are all enjoying these nice spring mornings. The farmers of this community are as fresh as bees turning the soil. We had a little rain Monday that stopped the plow for a day.

P. M. Williamson has gotten his cotton picked out.

The school entertainment at Hebron Friday night was a success, and speaks well for both the teachers and pupils.

R. A. Reagan and family, Prof Schmidt, John Browning and wife of Noodle attended the exercises Friday night.

Hardy and Gwen Lawlis of Shiloh came to the School entertainment at Hebron Friday night.

Mr. Northcut and family, ofolan was one of the visitors at Hebron Friday night, also Artie Hodges and family of Merkel.

Will Mattingly and family motored over to Hebron in their car.

Alice Hodges visited at B. C. Hodges Sunday.

M. B. Tabor and family of the Shiloh community visited Jack Johann and family Sunday.

John Davis and family visited relatives near Golan and also attended church at Golan Sunday.

Grandpa and Grandma Mathews visited Mrs. Dan Mathews of Merkel Sunday.

Mrs. Len Sublett's sister, Miss Lois Chesterfield, of Abilene who had been visiting here returned home Sunday, accompanied by Mrs. Len Sublett who returned Sunday night.

Ella Bishop visited Blanche Carey Sunday afternoon.

Clinton, Bob and Leroy Gazzaway visited Oliver, Carl and Truman Carey Sunday afternoon. Clara and Mary Estel Wortham visited Ruth Gazzaway Sunday. Mrs. Wortham visited Mrs. B. C. Hodges Wednesday.

Homer Dunn has moved his house to the West side of the farm, but we've learned he has since rented Mrs. Rose's place near Trent and will move there soon.

One of our Hebron boys, Fred Browning, brought his bride home last Sunday. We understand he married a young lady near Wellington, and we join his many friends in wishing for them a happy and prosperous life together. We learn he will live up on Sweetwater creek where he has rented a farm.

Don't forget there will be preaching at Hebron next Friday also Sunday at 11 a.m. All are invited to come.

Mr. Dunn has been sowing spring wheat this week and here is hoping he will reap a bountiful harvest from his labor. We wish there was more grain sown and less cotton planted.

THURSDAY CLUB

The Thursday Club had a most delightful meeting this week with Mrs. L. B. Howard and Mrs. Earl Lassiter, at the home of the latter. After a social chat the guests were given envelopes containing parts of advertising on which were written clever little rhymes requesting each to trade with every one you meet, until you've made your add complete. Each guest was rewarded with a nice little package of what her add represented. The black-cat Hosiery receiving a pair of "hose." The hostess then passed cards on which were written a bird poem each blank to be filled in with a bird. Mrs. S. G. Gamble proved to know more about the birds family and was given a lovely bottle of toilet water. A delicious plate of good pie-a-la-mode with stuffed dates was served to the Club members and several visitors.

White and grey shorts. Also bran. Bob Martin Grocery Co. tf

Peace Maker Flour, at G. M. Sharp's

Marchal Neil Flour at Bob Martin's. None better. tf

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

PROFESSIONAL

DR. GAMBILL

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

Office Hours 8—12 a.m.; 1—5 p.m.
Over Woodroof-Bragg Co.
Office Phone 116

DR. MILLER

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

G. W. JOHNSON

Insurance—Notary Public
Over Woodroof-Bragg's Store.
Merkel —:— Texas

W. W. WHEELER

Reali Estate, Fire, Accident and Tornado Insurance Agent.
Notary Public.
Office over Crown Hardware Co.
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.
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Physician and Surgeon
Hours 10 to 12 a.m. 2 to 5 p.m.
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DR. S W. JOHNSON.

Surgeon Dentist
Office over Farmers State Bank
Office Phone 306

DR. CHAS. F. WILLIAMS

Chronic Diseases a Specialty.
General Practice
Office Phone 280, 105 Res. 270

CITY BARBER SHOP

On Front Street
A Clean, Sanitary Shop
First Class Service
Clark and Baird Proprs.

V. B. SUBLETT

Watch and Jewelry repairing
All Work First-class
Located at Merkel Drug Co.

E. D. COATS

Real Estate, Oil Stock, And Notary Public
Represent Pocahuntas Lease and Royalty Co. of Dallas
Office Front St. over Geo West. Building

CISCO FLORAL COMPANY

Cisco, Texas
Blooming Plants, Ferns, Bedding and Vegetable plants.
Nursery Stock, Spring bulbs
Send for Price list
Funeral designs always open

E. L. WILSON

The Jeweler
Watches, Clocks and Jewelry Repaired. Glasses fitted on 30 days Free Trial.

GUY E. LONGBOTHAM

Masseur
Hours 9 to 5 Phone 87
Merkel Realty Building
Front Street

WANTS YOUR WORK

John Mc Donald Contractor & Builder. Plans Drawn and Estimates made on short notice.
Merkel, Texas

Marchal Neil Flour at Bob Martin's. None better. tf

Corn and Corn Chops, at G. M. Sharp's tf

CLASSIFIED ADS

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. Permitter. 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
PLANTERS GIN CO.
F. P. HAMM GIN
ANDERSON GIN CO.
GUITAR GIN

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

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

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

LOST—On Wednesday, a little girl's black beaver hat, between the Post Office and the Merkel Bakery. Finder leave at this office or call Mrs. N. D. Cobb, and receive reward. 1t

FOR RENT—Nice bed-rooms, from 50 cents to \$1. Mrs. W. Z. Price, just north of tabernacle. tf

JUST RECEIVED—A car of Southern Queen Flour and feed. Will also pay the market price for eggs and chickens. C. W. Post will buy chickens at my store. We will appreciate your business. W. F. Hamblet. 1t

TO TRADE—Auto for team of mules, wagon and harness. Have used Ford also new Oldsmobile and new Overland, either of which would put in on the deal. E. L. Horton, Merkel. 1tp

FOR SALE—Rhode Island Red Eggs. 15 for one dollar. Lizzie Keny, phone 9032F21. 1tp

FOR SALE—Good, Red Top Sorghum. W. C. Ervin, Route five, Merkel, Texas. 4t2p

FOR RENT—60 acres land to rent on the shares. Sam Butman Sr. 4t2p

FOR SALE—Several pieces of first-class household furniture at very reasonable price. See us within the next few days. Call at Merkel Mail office.

WANTED—Man to do general work on ranch. Sam Butman Senior. 4t2pd

BLAIR NEWS

The young folks of Blair enjoyed a singing Sunday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Scott.

Mr. Henry Brooks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Brooks, has been very sick, but we hope he will soon be up again.

Mr. Earl Hughes visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Hughes, Sunday. ff

Misses Harris and virgie May field of Merkel were the guests of Miss Annie Reeves Thursday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Brooks are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Brooks.

Mr. Dave Brooks has returned to his home in Anson a few days visit with his brother Mr. C. Burks.

Mr. Bill Sandusky and wife have moved on Mr. John Hughes farm.

Mr. Claude Meeks has been dis able to come to school on account of being sick.

Misses Elsie Sharp and Fay Simpson, our teachers, visited their parents from Friday until Sunday afternoon.

John Reynolds visited his parents at Trent Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Edd Blackburn called on Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hughes Sunday.

FARM WANTED—Wanted to hear from owner of farm or good land for sale worth the price asked. L. Jones, Box 551, Olney, Illinois. 1tp

For Lowest Price on Groceries see A. L. Jobe. 4t2

A TEXAS WONDER

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

CASH NOTICE

Beginning March 1 we put our coal business on a cash basis, and will ask all to be prepared to pay for coal when delivered. Have plenty coal on hand.
H. M. ROSE & SON

RICE

A carload just arrived from South Texas. Come in and get a year's supply while it's cheap. Either wholesale or retail.

In Lone Star Hotel Building
G. S. APPLING, Rice Farmer

EFFECT OF LAWLESSNESS

By Rev. Ira L. Parrack

Delivered by Ira L. Parrack to the Merkel Baptist church, February 20, in response to the request of Governor Pat M. Neff, through the press to all ministers and editors.

Scripture lesson, "At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and pull down, and to destroy it. If that nation against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil I will repent of the evil I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it. If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, where-with I said I would benefit them." Jeremiah 18:7-10.

Text: "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 14:43.

You will notice that the words of the text and scripture lesson are applied to nations and not to individuals. It is not always true that the individual is exalted in the present because of his righteousness nor is it always true that the sins of a sinful individual reproach him in the immediate present. There is a judgement set for the individual beyond the grave where he will answer for the deeds done in the body whether they be good or bad. But not so with nations, they must answer now for their sins and be rewarded now for their righteousness, because beyond the grave no earthly kingdom will survive. God may some times let a man live out his natural life time in sin unrebuked because he knows the man will be brought into judgement for all his evil ways, but he deals more swiftly with a nation.

FACTS SEEN IN HISTORY—Whenever in the history of the world a nation has been righteous and law abiding, it has prospered and became stronger in power and influence; but on the other hand when any nation, no matter how strong and powerful turned aside from the path for rectitude and began to wallow in the mire of self influence and lawlessness, they have suffered reverse and dwindled to a mere shadow of their former glory, or have been wiped off the face of the earth.

Greece is a striking example of this fact. As long as the Greeks had a better civilization than the surrounding countries she grew in power; but when Greece turned from their high ideals and relapsed into pleasure loving idle self-indulgence and sinful dissipation, her power began to decline, and all that is left today of that proud nation that once ruled the world, is a pitifully weak nation subject to the whims of other nations. Rome that conquered the world because she had the best laws of any nation of her day, failed as soon as she began to disregard her own laws. It was no foreign enemy that defeated Rome it was her own sins. When she gave herself over to sinful lustful living she became her own executioner. Spain is another example, though she once ruled a large part of the new world today she is hardly master of her own shores. Germany in our own day has paid the price of selfish lust. Israel was perhaps the most striking example of this fact. So plain is the fact that her sins caused her downfall, that no man will question it. Some do try to rule Israel out as an example because they say God in a special sponsored Israel.

It is true that in many ways we are told by the inspired historian God helped Israel, but if we had Moses to write the history of any nation that has ever prospered in the world we would see that God had blessed that nation in many ways that we do not notice without the help of a

revelation. How like the history of Israel is the history of every great nation. As long as they have been true to high ideals that enabled them to serve the world they have enjoyed prosperity, but soon as they have become slaves to selfish living they have met disaster.

In the face of all this can any American fail to read the signs of the time in our own fair land. America that has been blessed of God as no other nation, unless it was Israel, is now forgetting God and His ways are becoming irksome to her. Oh! the tragedy about to take place in this goodly land unless men behold and turn before it is too late.

REASONS FOR THIS UNALTERABLE LAW—First let us see the natural reason. We will consider the subject without any reference to God. Look at it as the man of the world would. In this way we will find the law working without deviation. For only as the citizens of a nation respect its laws can it continue as a thriving nation. If the laws of the land fall into disguise and are no longer regarded or enforced, chaos will be brought out of order. There can be no stability, as no one will know what to expect, with well defined and well enforced laws. But should the whole nation so degenerate as to do away with the laws that are based on the eternal principals of right and wrong, and in their stead enact laws that allow vice and sin to go unrebuked, soon when men have been wronged and the wrong doer is vindicated by the false laws of the land, the one suffering this double wrong will try to retaliate by dealing out summary punishment to the wrong doer, and at the same time cease to be a loyal citizen, since he cannot respect a government that will uphold a criminal in his crime. So if, as some men claim to believe, God is but a silent on looker while the world works out its own uncertain future, still this law holds good and lawlessness whether legalized or not brings ruin to any nation.

But we learned from the Bible that God is never an idle on looker, but stands ready to set the elements working for the nation that remembers to abide the law of right and wrong, or to array the same forces against the nation that turns away to sin and self. It was only when Israel would turn away from right living that the enemy would overcome them, and every time she would repent and turn back to the fight God would drive the enemy back. Our scripture lesson teaches us that Lord will do for every nation what He did for Israel.

HOW WE ARE TO ESCAPE THE FATE OF OTHERS—Surely every patriotic citizen will begin to ask what can be done to avert the evil that seems to be in store for America. For no one will question the fact that there is a growing disregard for law and for right. One only needs to look over any news paper, whether it is the big daily from the city or the little weekly from the rural community, the story is the same lawlessness and selfish lust is written on every page. Murder, pilage, and robbery are in full blast, the divorce courts are overworked, Sunday closing laws are disregarded wherever local sentiment will stand it at all. In addition to this there is lax law enforcement, and editorials in leading dailies against enforcing law where local sentiment does not demand their enforcement. This tendency is also manifested in the escapades of "night riders", "fire bugs", and "dynamiters." In fact this last named symptom is the worst form of lawlessness. This is the work of the cowardly fellow that is afraid to come out in the open and ask what he wants, but under cover of darkness with threats and destruc-

tion of property or life he demands the thing his whim calls for whether it is right or wrong.

Three things are needed to help save America. First strict law enforcement. Let the criminal be brought to justice without fear or favor let people know that the laws of the land are to be enforced now just as strictly as ever they were. It is true that some body's boy will go to the pen or to the gallows, but for the sake of the example it out to be done. Not that we regard the penitentiary a reformatory. It is doubtful if the pen ever reformed a man, neither is hell a reformatory, yet God has held aside the curtain to let the world see a hopelessly lost man there so as to restrain others. We cannot lay all the blame for lax law enforcement on the judges and the lawyers. The jury speaks the final words. The jury says what the penalty shall be or sets a criminal free with a suspended sentence hanging over him, but hanging high enough that it does not keep him from continuing in crime. Judge Landis said a wise thing the other day, when a young man presented his honorable discharge from the army as he pleaded for mercy, he said to the young man "This discharge is no license to permit you to commit crime." While I have respect for the man who offered his life on the altar for his country I have no patience with the fellow that thinks now he can trample under his feet the laws of that same country. We should all hail with joy two things that Governor Neff has done to stop flooding our country with outlaws and criminals. The stopping of the wholesale pardoning of men who had been tried be-

fore a jury of twelve men and found guilty of some crime and had been given a sentence by these twelve men, and the recommendation of the repeal of the suspended sentence law. These two things had encouraged men to go into crime with the hope of a suspended sentence or a pardon getting them out if they were caught. Let the criminal suffer no matter who he is and the crime wave will recede at least in part.

But secondly let us look for a better way than this to check the lawlessness in our land. Getting more to the root of things I think we will all agree that this matter cannot be entirely overcome by the courts or by the legislature or by our national congress, but is must be met in the homes of America. If we can have the ideal American home restored we will have taken a long step toward righting this evil that threatens our very existence as a nation. With fathers busy making money or arguing politics and mothers so taken up with clubs and parties that the children are turned loose to select their own associates and environments, no wonder that our jails and penitentiaries are filling up with boys and our country is flooded with delinquent girls. Men say "I let my wife see after the children as I have to make the living" but God says "Ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." No man has a right to throw all the responsibility for bringing up his children on the mother of his children, for God holds the father responsible. The great need of America today is a conscience on parental responsibility. The one thing that God men-

tioned about Abraham that would enable Him to make a great and mighty nation of him was "Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in Him. For I KNOW HIM THAT HE WILL COMMAND HIS CHILDREN AN HIS HOUSEHOLD AFTER HIM, and they shall keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgement; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him." God can make no nation great that has no home life and that does not demand of children that they be subject to their parents. It is a crime against our nation to bring up children to disregard the authority of parents. When Paul wrote of the perilous times he catalogued along with the worst sins known to men "DIOBEDIENT TO PARENTS" a child that grows up with no respect for home authority will have little or no regard for any authority when it is grown. Children that are permitted to disobey parents and go unpunished, will one day become amenable to a sterner hand and will suffer penalties more severe than would be required now to correct. "Withold not correction from the child, for if thou beat him with the rod he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod and deliver his soul from hell" Proverbs 23:13-14. How the heart of fathers and mothers will ache when they see the fruit of their neglect of duty in a wayward boy or girl. Some of the boys and girls running at large on our streets and in our lanes will go to penitentiaries, some to the gallows, and some to eternal hell because a weak sentimental feeling kept father or mother from correcting the early faults in the life. The Lord deliver us from that type of parents that has a flabby string where they ought to have a back bone, who laments that Jack or Betty are always doing the wrong thing and seem perplexed at the problem, and Jack or Betty are hardly in their teens. How the parents had only the nerve to administer the treatment set down in the Book a time or two the problem would be less perplexing and Jack or Betty would show a wonderful improvement. If the Lord had intended for children to choose their own way he would have let them hatch out of the sand like little turtles, but knowing that they would need some one to safeguard them from the pitfalls of the devil He has made them dependant on older people so that older people can give them the right kind of training while they are feeding and clothing them. Just as long as Jack or Betty need father or mother to feed and cloth them just that long they need father or mother to tell them where and when to go and where and when not to go.

Last but not least, in fact the greatest factor to help to stay the tide of lawlessness is a revival of pure undefiled religion in the hearts of Christian people of America. By a revival we do not mean a two weeks protracted meeting in which the church members will do the unusual thing only to lapse back into the old careless listless groove as soon as the meeting comes to a close. But we mean a revival in the hearts of the Christian people that will help to make the home life we have been talking about. A revival that will make fathers better fathers and mothers better mothers and children better children. A revival that will so permeate the home life that the Bible instead of the mail-order catalogue will be kept in easy reach of the inmates of the home. That will make them think more of the promises of God than of some bargain offered in the catalogs. A revival that will bring more mothers into cottage prayer meetings than are to be found at 42 parties. A revival that will bring as many men into prayermeeting as would be out to hear a ward politician bemean his opponent. A revival that would cause the name of Jesus Christ to be spoken more often with love and devotion and less often as a byword with a sneer. A revival that will make men and women

glad that the two halves of every seven were away from the toil and life and meet with God. Men and women who are saving a city whose builder maker is God. A revival will defeat the efforts of a Jewish owned syndicate to destroy the Christian Sabbath and make out of it a day of revelry and sham, with movies and other doubtful places running full force. A revival that will make saved men and women live so as to warn sinners of the evil of their way, that will make every Christian ashamed of his sins and cause him to fall deeply in love with the Lord and His way. Far more than courts and jails will this help our land today, surely then every Christian will hear the call to true patriotism and respond as never before. A few years ago when the Kaiser threatened American liberty our people responded nobly, and branded as a slacker the man who failed to show his patriotism with his service or with his money. Today our country is besieged by an enemy more powerful and more cruel than any earthly Kaiser. He has already invaded our land in fact he is now besieging our city and seeking to over run our every home. He wants our sons and daughters as his slaves and unless we are on the alert he will lead them captive at his will. The devil, for our enemy is none other, would desecrate every American home and wreck the life of every American boy and girl, he would break the heart of every American mother, and crush the spirit of true Americanism from off the earth. Will any Christian American be a slacker now? Will any soldier of the cross be a deserter now? Will any citizen of Heaven turn traitor now? Surely not. A thousand times NO. How can any Christian hesitate now? We have never forgotten the slacker in the late war. How much deeper will be the stain of the slacker now, all eternity will not wipe away the stain. How can we come into His presence to claim His own, if we fail him now? How can we look on thorn pressed brow or His nation hands if we choose the selfish way now? Let every true Christian line up now and help save America for Him and through America we will bring the world as a trophy to lay down before Him. You can help in law enforcement, in making ideal Christian American homes with family worship, and by joining in earnest prayer for a nation wide revival that will bring America back to the Lord. Let every true Christian reconsecrate his life to the Lord, renew his allegiance to Jesus, and keep under his body bringing it into subjection to the Captain of our salvation. Then we will see the tide turn and the Lord will fight our battles for us against our subtle foe.

(In response to this appeal every Christian present stood and joined in prayer that the Lord would help us do our whole duty now, and by a rising vote the church asked the pastor to submit this sermon to the Baptist Standard and to the Merkel Mail for publication.)

TO THE CITIZENS OF MERKEL
Having cast my lot with you and having spent more than thirty years of my life contracting and building, am familiar with all branches of carpentering, painting and papering. See me for any work you want done. No job too large or too small. Residence work my specialty. T. W. Collins. 25t3p.

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PLANTERS GIN CO.
F. P. HAMM GIN
ANDERSON GIN CO.
GUITAR GIN
Brand and Shorts at G. M. Sharp's. tf

REAL ESTATE--INSURANCE

Farm Loans and Notary Work

Let us insure your property against loss by Fire Cyclone and Hail. Our facilities are the best obtainable for farm and city property.

We insure Autos against loss by fire, theft and cyclone at a nominal cost.

Cotton Insurance a Specialty

Merkel Realty Co.

Merkel Realty Bldg., Front Street

W. O. BONEY

WALTER JACKSON

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 Graphophone and records and will have same on exhibit at the Gem. AGENTS FOR ABILENE STEAM LAUNDRY

Your Last Chance to Get In With a Real Oil Company

--- This is The Last Call For ---

Abilene-Stephens Petroleum Co. Stock

9,000 Gush
BARREL GUSHER—The Great Walker-Perkins gusher at Breckenridge is the wonder well in the most wonderful oil field the world has ever known. Surrounded, so to speak, on every side with oil wells, this Giant Gusher of the Golden Fluid is a fitting climax for this great and wonderful oil field.

A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER—There are over 500 producing oil wells in the Breckenridge field. There is less than Five percent dry holes. Thirty-four square miles of territory surrounding this little city of Breckenridge produced last month one-third as much oil as either Oklahoma or California.

WE DO NOT EXPECT A WELL Like the great Walker-Perkins gusher. Neither did they expect it. They would have been satisfied with a 2,000 barrel well. So will we. But we have just as good a chance as they had of getting one of these giant gushers. We consider our drilling location just as promising as the Walker-Perkins was when they began drilling.

WE ARE PRACTICALLY SURROUNDED By oil wells on every side. Some of the come in as high as 4,000 barrels per day; others not so good. But get it in your mind—

OVER 100 WELLS AND NOT A DRY HOLE In the territory where we are drilling, there are over 100 producing wells, and not a single dry hole. Every well a commercial one.

WILL OURS BE THE FIRST ONE—Is it possible that our well will be the first dry hole to be drilled in this territory? We don't believe so.

A HUNDRED TO ONE SHOT—You have often heard of the long shot to win. Well this is a real short shot to win. According to the percentage of wells now already completed and producing oil every day, our chances are A HUNDRED TO WIN AND ONE TO LOSE.

WE ARE LOCATED Between two of the best wells in the territory. The wonderful Mid-Kansas Hill No. 1, came in several months ago good for 3,500 barrels, is still producing every day over 2,000 barrels. This well is located on the south of our location. The Sun Company on our immediate north have just completed a 1200 barrel well.

READ WHAT MEN WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE GROUND SAY—A. G. Webb said: I thought enough of your proposition to buy \$1,000 worth of your stock before seeing your location. After looking it over I will say frankly that it is better—much better than I expected to find.

O. P. THOMAS SAID: It was a revelation to me. I had heretofore figured that an investment in any find of oil proposition was largely speculative, but after seeing with my own eyes, it appears that a dry hole in Stevens County is a very rare thing. With reference to your particular location, and with production on all sides, the only regret I have is not being able to buy

every dollar's worth of stock that you have left for sale, and I believe a personal inspection will impress anyone likewise.

G. B. PAXTON SAID: Save me some stock. It certainly looks good to me. In fact, it is the best looking oil proposition I have ever had the opportunity of seeing. You cannot quote too strongly, for I certainly believe you have a real winner. No one could believe otherwise after being on the ground and seeing what I saw.

JOHN F. OLIVER SAID: Believe me, it looks good; it's all you claimed for it and then some. Just quote me as saying that I don't see how you can miss getting a gusher, located as you are with production all around you. It certainly was a revelation to me.

PRESIDENT JONES SAYE: W. E. Jones, President of the Guaranty State Bank makes statement.

Mr. W. D. Mayfield, President Abilene-Stephens Petroleum Company, Abilene, Texas. Dear Sir:—I bought \$2,000 worth of stock in your company, first, because I had confidence in the men behind it. Second, because I am very familiar with the territory in which you are now drilling and know that in this particular neighborhood, they get some of the best and longest life wells in Stephens County field from a true oil sand. Third, because your company is not over-capitalized, and the amount of acreage you have should make it one of the best dividend-paying companies in the field. Fourth, and with five wells on the pipe line and over 17 acres for each well to draw from, your company should pay large dividends every month for a long period of time.

Respectfully yours, W. E. Jones.

OUR SOLE AMBITION IS TO MAKE THIS One of the best paying oil companies ever organized. We promise you a fair square deal. We bind and obligate ourselves that not one dollar of this company's money shall ever be spent for any other purpose other than the development of this particular lease. It is the greatest opportunity you ever had to get in with a real company and this will probably be your last chance to buy this stock at par. Our prediction is that in less than 30 days it will be selling on the streets of Abilene at two or three for one; perhaps more. Every man who has gone on the ground and saw with his own eyes has the same thing to say: We don't see how you can miss. We do not expect to miss. We expect at least a 2,000 barrel well for our first-one. We might get one equal to the great Walker-Perkins gusher.

HE WHO HESITATES IS LOST—Get in before it is too late. We believe as much as we ever believed anything on earth it will make you more money than any investment you ever made.

OUR WELL IS NOW DOWN 950 FEET—And two crews drilling night and day. It should not be over 60 days before the dividends begin to come. **WE WANT YOU IN WITH US.**

We are under contract with the KATE BELL OIL COMPANY of Dallas, Texas, to develop the west half of their Oil lease in Stephens County. This is absolutely one of the most valuable tracts of oil land in the great Breckenridge oil field. THE KATE BELL COMPANY was offered in cash \$90,000.00 for the tract we are now drilling on. We mention this so you may have an idea just what other people think of our holdings. We spent a week in Stephens County, looking for a sure shot for oil, and the above acreage in our judgement could not be better. We are surrounded by great gusher wells. The Mid-Kansas Hill well No. 3, practically off setting us on the south, this well has a settled daily production of around 3000 barrels. The Sun Company have two good wells on the north of us. With wells all around us and on all sides, it certainly looks like a real SURE SHOT.

We have acreage enough for five wells, with 17 and 7-10 acres to each well, in other words we have acreage enough to form 90 companies if we proposed to drill like some companies did in the town of Breckenridge. We have placed every foot of this valuable tract of land in our company, we did not reserve anything, and if you buy a share of stock with us you share equally with us in the entire production of this lease. Our capital stock is only \$85,000.00. All the material is now on the ground to complete our first well, the drill is running day and night, in 60 days we should have our first well in and on the pipe line. The man who contracted to drill our first well, brought in the greatest well ever drilled in Stephens County (Carry No. 1) that was good for 10,000 barrels, he has had 30 years experience drilling oil wells in different oil fields. He took stock with us and furnishes everything necessary to complete the well for stock, except \$20,000. That is all the stock that is offered for sale. Over half that amount has already been taken. We want you to have a few shares with us. We believe in it with our whole heart and soul, we are putting our own money in it. The par value of our stock is \$100. Mail us your check for what ever amount you can take, and in our honest opinion it will make you more money than any investment you ever made. We believe it will begin paying at least 50 per cent per month after the first well is completed, and should double after the completion of each well.

Abilene-Stephens Petroleum Company

ROOM 9, RADFORD BUILDING

W. D. MAYFIELD, President

TELEPHONE NUMBER 129

TRUSTEES—G. C. Osburn, Chas. Wright, Andy Urban, T. C. Weir

W. D. MAYFIELD

NEW SPRING WEARING APPAR

are receiving by each express new spring Coat Suits, Coats, Dresses and Hats. You will find here the very garments best for your individual requirements. With a full appreciation of conditions as they actually exist we are marking these new goods accordingly.

SPECIALS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT

One lot men's shoes, values up to \$10.00
Now \$4.95

One lot ladies shoes, values up to \$12.75
Now \$4.95

Red Seal Gingham
20c per yard

MEN'S CLOTHING

We handle only well known brands of clothing---

"Society Brand"
"Curlee"
"Griffon Clothes"

MEN'S SHOES

We are exclusive representatives of the best shoe sold in this city---

"The Florsheim"
Also sell that high grade
"Marshall Shoe" for men.

LADIES' FOOTWEAR

Fashion says the one and two strap satin slipper will be the best this season. You'll find it here in Full Louis XIV Heel, and Baby Louis Heel for the misses.

Merkel Dry Goods Company

Millinery



The latest modes in Millinery for dress and street wear, in the latest shapes and colors.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES (By Mary Proctor)

God must love flunkers, he made so many of them.

This has been a dreadful week for the High School. But we are glad to say that examinations are over, even if some of our grades are too low.

The following new facts came to light when this series of examination papers were graded: James Fennimore Cooper wrote the Leatherstocking Tales. He wore leather stockings and and that is the reason they are called L. S. Tales.

The Leatherstocking tales are short novels. The Leather stocking tales are the "Twice Told Tales" of Washington Irving. The cotter saw thru the trees his cottage and children coming to meet him.

Islam was a man who made Mohammed popular.

Doldrums are calm winds.

The Frankish people prospered and done well.

The organs of smelling and taste are nearly alike.

Before you can smell anything a nerve has to go to the brain and come back to the nose.

Adverbs tell whether the subject is acting or acted upon.

I know of no special news to write so I will bid you a dew.

"Treasure Island" looked very beautiful coming in from the sea.

Cure for the Giggles

School girls needing a cure for the giggles might do well to consult Nell Swann. Nell suffered three long years from the giggles, and acquired a string of bad marks in school. Then she fell upon a plan to prevent

them. She puts her head down on her desk and swallows three times. The giggles are gone.

Mrs. Miller wishing Mr. Miller to always look his best told him when he started to the University to spend a few days, to be sure and put on a clean shirt every morning. When he returned she said: "Well I hope you remembered to put on a clean shirt every morning." Oh, yes," he replied, "At this moment counting the one I went away in I've got six on."

Bill: "And why do you think I am such a poor judge of human nature?"

Hazel: "Because you have such a good opinion of yourself"

Hattie: "How do you like my marble cake?"

John A.: "I never saw a better imitation of marble."

Few who deserve sympathy get it. Think of the many pupil who have to go to Merkel High School.

Miss Whorton hasn't called for any note books since last Friday.

Mr. Burgess's reason for not liking "ragtime" music.

Rags make paper, paper makes money, money makes banks, banks make loans, loans make poverty, poverty makes rags.

On Friday evening at eight o'clock about twenty Sophomore pupils gathered at the home of Mery Eulla Sears where they played interesting and amusing games. The party was primarily a Geo. and Martha Washington one. The home was beautifully decorated in red, white, and blue, with pictures of Geo. and

Martha Washington forming parts of the decoration scheme. Altheo Boden, by the use of two toothpicks, was successful in putting six beans in a saucer. In naming the presidents of the United States in the order that they occupied office, Mary Cleo Booth won first prize, a pair of tiny pretty nose glasses, and Sam Houston the "booby", an A. B. C. book. Sandwiches, cakes, and hot chocolate were served. Beautiful hand painted Washington place cards marked the places.

The Mail \$1.50 year in advance

TOMATO PLANTS

Leading varieties, 100 for 35c 250 for 75c, 500 for \$1.25. Sweet potatoes, Porto Rico and Nancy Hall, 250 for \$1.50, 500 for \$2, 1,000 for \$3. Sweet pepper, 100 for 75c, 250 for \$2 prepaid. Carey Deavers, route 2, box 75, Merkel, Texas. 4t3p

Phone 218 we bring a Steam Laundry right at your door. Our work, prices and service guaranteed. Cleaning and pressing that you will be proud of. No gas odor. L. P. Ligon, phone number 218. 1t

Let me renovate your feather beds and pillows, quilts, and blankets. Special prices on household lines. Let me convince you that we are cheaper than the washwoman. Satisfaction guaranteed. L. P. Ligon, the laundryman, phone 218. 1t

AUCTION SALE

A general set of farming tools wagon, harness and four good mares will be sold at public auction, regardless of price, in the city of Merkel, Saturday, March 6, at 1:00 p. m. near the depot. W. A. Hellum. 1t

BAPTIST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School 10 a.m. with place for you. We did not quit reach our goal last Sunday: we must put a little more action in our good resolutions. To many of our old members we out of town last Sunday. We had the required number of new ones if the old ones had all been on hand. We are to have a minister to preach Sunday so let us show him of the best Sunday School in Texas and show him he stay for church.

Preaching 11 a.m. by F. A. Jarrell, of Dallas. Bro. Jarrell is manager of the Purity Federation for Arkansas, and Louisiana, but this morning service will preach a straight Gospel sermon.

At a joint meeting of all the Christians and all others who will come Bro. Jarrell will present the work of the World Purity Federation at the Presbyterian church at 3 p. m. Sunday.

Then at night he will preach on "The Secret of Soul Winnin at the Methodist church.

We will have no evening preaching since the Methodist Meeting is beginning and our people are urged to attend the evening service at the Methodist church.

B.Y.P.U. at 5 p.m.

Training class Monday p.m. Notice we meet early, as to get through in time to attend meeting at Methodist church.

No prayermeeting on account of the meeting at the Methodist church.

Let us have a full attendance at the morning service Sunday as we have a visiting minister, Ira L. Parrack, pastor.

SEE THE RIO GRAND VALLEY

If you want to know anything about the Rio Grande Valley country see some one who has been there. If you want to go down and look at the country, see H. D. Simpson, who goes about every two weeks, and who will be glad to make reservation for you. 1t

Safety and Service are the watch words of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank 4% interest paid on our savings deposits. Start an account today. 1t

Service Car, any where any time. Call W. E. Lowe or G. H. McDonald, phone 72. 1t

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

Read the Mail

Bankrupt Sale

--- AT ---

FORMER ECONOMY STORE

We have been out of several articles for the past few days but have received a lot of merchandise this week and our stock is in a good shape to meet the public demand again.

SPECIAL

We have received a big shipment of Ginghams and Domestic in all colors and all Standard Brands. We are offering you a real good grade of

GINGHAMS **14^c** PER YARD

GOOD AS GOLD DOMESTIC AT per yard **15c**

Come in and let's get acquainted, and make This Store Your Store

The Former Economy Store

Washing Machines

AND

Vacuum Cleaners

on sale Below Cost

Every Home Needs Them

Free demonstration in your home on application at our offices

MERKEL POWER CO.