

THE MERKEL MAIL

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20 PAGES

Local Klan to Parade Thursday Night 22nd

For some time there has been evidence that there was a Ku Klux Klan organization in Merkel, and which came to light when that organization left with the Merkel Mail a donation of \$100 for Mr. C. L. Tucker when the latter lost his home by fire, but now comes the news that a big parade is to be staged by that organization thru the principle streets of this city at about 8 p. m., Thursday night, December 22. The following communications which were left on the desk of the Editor of this paper are self explanatory with reference to same. No doubt as has been the case at other towns where such parades have taken place, there will be thousands of people in Merkel on this occasion. And no doubt all eyes will be set on the parade, and it may be that "eyes from the Invisible Klan" will be upon all "evil doers and law breakers." At least much interest is expected to be shown regarding the announced parade.

December 15th, 1921. Thos Durham, Editor of "Mail" Dear Sir;

Herewith copies of letters which are self explanatory, we Request that you give due publicity to same and wish to state that the parade will be held as set forth in our request to the Honorable Mayor.

We assure you, and the pub-

lic, that this parade will be orderly and conducted in a manner that is expected of 100 per cent American Citizens, who have the best interests of their town and Country at heart.

Very Truly yours
Merkel Klan No. 137.
Knights of the Ku Klux Klan
December 13th 1921.
H. C. West, Mayor; Merkel Tex
Dear Sir;

Merkel Klan No 137 Realm of Texas Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Request Your Honor's permission to stage a parade of Merkel Klan at 8 p. m., Thursday, December 22nd, 1921

We assure you that this demonstration will be conducted in a quiet and orderly manner.

Yours to Serve for Law
And Order.
Merkel Klan No. 137 Knights of Ku Klux Klan.

Dec. 15th, 1921
Merkel Klan No. 137 K. K. K.
Merkel, Texas.
Gentlemen;

Finding there is no Law being violated when such demonstration as you request being performed, in orderly manner, and holding a favorable opinion of the actions taken by your local body in the past, I hereby grant you permission for your parade at 8 p m. Thursday, Dec 22nd 1921.

Respectfully,
H. C. West, Mayor.

PROGRAM FOR XMAS TREE HERE

Preparations are being made for a grand time at that "Old Time Christmas Tree" at the Methodist church on Saturday night, December 23. It's going to be a great time for the Sunday school kiddies of that Sunday school, and we would not be surprised if old Santa did not bring along something nice for "big sister, brother, and even mother and Dad." And it is said that Old Santa will likely be there in person, so boys and girls, you better "be good" and be there early, take your seat down in front and wait patiently for his coming.

An interesting program is being arranged by the Primary department, which insures something sure "enough nice and which in part is as follows:

Song—Christmas Time Prayer.
Address.
Song—Last Turkey Gobbler.
Santa's Helpers, by the little folks.
Reading, Ethel Hamilton.
Song—Dear little Stranger.
Christmas Bells, by the little folks.
Reading, by Ruby Faye Golliday.
Song—Jolly Santa Claus.

NEGROES FORM ORGANIZATION HERE

Rev. Enoch Wiley, (colored) handed the Merkel Mail a notice one day this week, which in substance is about as follows: We, certain Negro men in Merkel have organized a Club of men of our race, who are willing to stand for right and to point out the law breaking negro of Merkel. Signed, Merkel Negro Club.

Upon being questioned as to why the organization of such a club, Rev. Wiley stated that there were many trifling, lazy negroes in Merkel, as in most of her towns, who with certain whites were breaking the law, and the members of the above mentioned club were ready to point out such law breakers of their race.

As to the above the Merkel Mail knows nothing, but we predict that if there are negroes, and whites who are "mixing" in the breaking of the state and city laws, that the peace officers of Merkel will be glad to have Rev. Wiley and his associates "tip" them off as to all violations, whether they be black or white. The Mail will say however, that if there is a "clean-up" needed, let it come.

Work Resumed On Stith Well Monday

After spending, we are told, in the neighborhood of \$200,000 the C. H. Oil & Development Co. drilling the Stith well, six miles north east of Merkel in Jones County, having succeeded in getting the well down to a depth of 2,365 feet, ran out of funds yes spent all they could raise, worked hard, and honestly, and after all this, the officials of the company among which are Messrs Hollingsworth and Col-lum, who from the start believed, and do yet, that oil or gas in comemrical quantities will be found in this test if only the drill can be sent down to the proper depth; hence they set themselves to work to interest their friends in Merkel in an effort to raise a sum sufficient to send the drill on down, and after consulting a few, the following committee, composed of T. J. Tombs, Chairman, L. R. Thompson, R. O. Anderson, and A. C. Rose, who with the assistance of others, have raised the required sum and today the work on this well is underway. But we might add that when such men as mentioned above, are placed on a committee, the success of same is already guaranteed. And to Messrs Tombs and Rose, who worked so faithful and hard, much praise is due. And right here let us repeat a remark made by Governor Neff at Mexia, when he referred to Col. Humphrey, founder of the Mexia field which also demonstrates the accomplishments of these gentlemen here. "In this life we are rich only in proportion to the service we render to mankind." Hence these gentlemen by their determination to put this proposition over, which will for all time set at ease the public mind as to whether there is oil beneath this test or not. And if so, they will have a large share and a large share in bringing to the people of this com-

munity greater wealth and happiness than the most sanguine ever dreamed of. On the other hand, should the test prove a "duster", no one will be injured in the least. But the oil question will be settled in either case.

As is a well know fact the Sears test had considerable showing of oil and it has been the belief of many that had the well been properly cared for it would have been a producer. And we understand reports made on the Merkel field by many geologists, is to the effect that this field is on an oil structure 12 miles wide and 32 miles in length. And one very prominent geologist after going over the field, stated that he had been in the oil fields of Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas and that he considered this one of the biggest pools of oil to be found anywhere.

The above committee will have charge of expending all the money subscribed and paid in for this well, and have secured the services of Mr. Geo. Ebberhardt, a drilling contractor, of many years of experience, and a man who bears a clean record for honesty and integrity and who has entered into an iron clad contract with this committee, whereby he must deliver the work before being paid for same. He is capable and able to put the test down to \$3,500 feet should it be necessary to go that deep before striking the oil. But, it is only about 100 feet down to the Sears sand, it is possible that a good well might be brought in at this depth, and in which event Mr. Ebberhardt is to receive the full bonus of \$10,000. But as for us and we believe the entire citizenship will join us, we are perfectly willing to see the "lid blown off" at this depth. In fact the sooner the better.

Churches in Big Attendance Campaign

Says, Roger W. Babson the Statistician, in a recent article: "We can develop only as we cooperate with the spirit of God. Oh, if men would think more of religion and less of commodities bank clearings, foreign trade and immigration! When they do we shall again have prosperity. Moreover, the present depression must last until this change comes about.

That the people of Merkel are giving more thought to religion and are, hence, turning back to the church, is evident. During the coming four weeks it will be more evident. The Sunday schools of the town, which are the barometers of the churches have experienced throughout the year steady growth. But in the past three months these same Sunday schools have grown by leaps and bounds in most instances more than in the preceding nine months.

When we come to place the proper value on our Sunday schools these schools will experience a still larger growth. The Sunday school is one of the largest factors in a town's welfare. It is not only instrumental in developing the right moral atmosphere, but it is often the only training school for future honest, sober, upright citizens. In our modern laxity, it has become, in many instances, the child's only source of spiritual training. Nor is it only a training school for children. In it the adult, busy men and women, get a better insight into that book which has stood the test of time. In the Sunday school, they learn a new those principles upon which this government was established; those principles upon which the disputes of nations must be settled; those prin-

ciples which will usher in a closer relationship among nations and, eventually, the brotherhood of man; those principles that will solve the problems of our complex modern civilization.

Perhaps, then, we look upon the Sunday School only as a place for women and children. But if great men like John Wanamaker and the late H. J. Heinz can find the Sunday school deserving of their time, energy and money, then there must be a place in it for every red-blooded man who will enlist. One reason that we can see nothing to be gotten out of Sunday school attendance is because we are not willing to put anything into it. It is paradoxical to expect to get something out of a thing, it matters not what, unless we have first put something into it. If we will but devote one half of the time, energy and enthusiasm and money to the Sunday school that we spend in seeking worldly pleasure, what a tremendous thing we can make of our Sunday schools.

The combined reports from all of the churches of last Sunday show about forty percent of Merkel's population attending Sunday school. A co-operative campaign among all the schools of the town is bending every effort to enlist seventyfive percent of the population by January 8, which has been designated as "Go to Sunday school and stay for Preaching" day. If you have never before been invited to Sunday school, rest assured that in the next few weeks you will receive an invitation. Line up now with the Sunday school of your choice, and help put the campaign over in a big way.

EPWORTH LEAGUE PROGRAM

Subject; The House of God.
Leader—Josie Smith.
1 Hymn.
2. Scripture Lesson.
3. Hymn
4. Introduction of topics, by

the Leader.
5. Special music, by Lorena Frazier.
6 Church Extension story, by Cyrus Pee.
7. Hymn
8. Epworth League Benediction.

MISS TRACY'S PILS IN RECITAL

The Expression Department Of Merkel High School presents "An Old Fashioned Evening" On Thursday Evening The twenty second of December Nineteen Hundred Twenty one, Eight O'clock High School Auditorium Every one in Colonial Dress. Admission 15 and 25 cents.

Program

1. A song of Long Ago—Riley by Ruby Faye Golliday.
2. Tanteli(Swedish Folk Dance)
3. Old Aunt Mary's—Riley. By Dorothy Sanders.
4. Betty Lee—Gunnison. By Gladys Deutchman.
5. Old Fashioned Garden (Song) By Artie Lee Agnew, Clara Louise Miller.
6. Grandma By Christene Rister.
7. When The Blue birds sing in June —Buce. By Mary Cleo Booth.
8. The Green Grass of Old Ireland—Riley. By Lillian Craig.
9. The Minuet—Fannie Bloodworth, By Flora Francis Anderson.
10. The Symbol and the Saint—E. Field. By Ouida Campbell.
11. Christmas Rhymes. A. Tommy's inner, by Lois Leslie. B. A Telephone Message, Irene Rister. C. My Tummy's Got a Pain, Ethel Hamilton. D. Jest Fore Christmas, Sterling Sheppard. E. Tit for Tat, Clara Louise Miller.
12. Ivy—Lord Macaulay By Nellie Sharp.
13. Counting Daisy Petals—Lytton Cox, By Lola Dennis.
14. Our Yesterdays (Song) Part II

PRESBYTERIAN AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary met Dec. 12. Quite a lot of business was attended to, and had one new member added to our number. Devotional scripture was read by Pres., Mrs Bland Les-son from the Bible study and mission lessons were heard. Reporter.

Swafford and Leslie, Coal and feed Phone 203

CHICKEN DINNER NEXT SATURDAY

Announcement is made by the Gleaner Class of the Methodist Sunday School, that on next Saturday 17, they will give a big "Chicken Dinner", in the building on the corner east of Mrs. Cash's Tailor Shop for the purpose of raising funds with which to pay their pledge to the building committee of the church in their effort to enlarge the Methodist Church.

Not only will there be plenty of chicken, but there will be plenty of all good things that go with such dinners, and the price will be just 50 cents.

They will appreciate your help

- Ashes of Roses—Constance Mac Kay. (Act One of Play).
2. True Story of Little Boy Blue—Mary Comegy.
3. The Owl and The Pussy Cat, by Artie Lee Agnew.
4. Playing Entertainment, by Eleanor Mae Hamilton.
5. When Grandma was a girl, by Marjorie Bland
6. A lesson with a Fan, by Gwen delyn Smith.
7. Chimes of Dunkirt (Scotch Folk Dance.
8. The Sugar Plum Tree, by Iris Garrett.
9. Lang Ago, by Mary Francis Anderson
10. Potion Scene, by Hattie Proctor.
11. My. Texas—Closing Chorus.

MR. MIMS IN STATEMENT ABOUT DRIVE

When I asked for a meeting of the Pastors and Superintendents of all the churches of Merkel, last Sunday afternoon, I had in mind only the building of ALL Sunday schools of our town.

It was agreed by all present at this meeting that the churches of Merkel would enter an intensive Campaign from Now until Sunday January 8th, designating that day as "Go to Sunday School and stay for Preaching"

HAMBONE'S MEDITATIONS

WEN YOU HEARS A MAN TALKIN' BOUT DE GOOD BOOK DONE FAILED. HITS A SHO SIGN DE DEBIL AIN' FAILED. NONE WID HIM YIT!



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This is not a contest. It is a Cooperative effort to increase the attendance of all our Sunday schools to the highest point possible.

It has been agreed that we will make every effort possible to line up our own members and prospects, but that in No Case will a member of any denomination even ask one, belonging to another congregation, to come to his Sunday school, but urge him to attend the church of his choice. Regard less of all club relations, business connections, or social obligations, we sincerely hope that every person in Merkel will choose the Sunday school that he wishes to attend and do all within his power to "Put Over" the most successful campaign ever staged in Merkel before.

With the hearty cooperation of all the Churches, we will have 1500 in Sunday school January 8th.

The first victory already gained is recognized in the garages of Merkel agreeing to close on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p. m. We wish to publicly thank each of the Garages for this fine step toward cooperating with their churches. It shows a spirit that is most commendable and we hope that our neighboring towns will take notice and follow this good example. Earnest M. Mims.

FOR SALE— FORD COUPE. See Sie Hamm, at Sanders Drug Store. ltp

Swafford and Leslie, Coal and feed Phone 203

Siegel's Economy Store

"There is one thing about Siegel's Economy Store," says a woman. "If you read about something in the newspaper and then go and purchase it you will find it comes up to expectations when you get it home." Of course it does.

The Economy Store holds its special place in the community because of the hundreds of friends it has made, and kept them all the way. To make friends is not to fool them on something that they paid out their money for.

As the Christmas season draws on, it is well to remember these things and depend on the store that you know by experience is dependable. Only Eight more shopping days before Xmas, and for the last few days we will have our entire stock reduced to actual wholesale prices. We don't mind giving you our cost mark.

- The best Mens Dress Shoes regular \$10.00 closing out Sale \$5.90
- The Best Womens dress Shoes regular \$8.50 value Closing out sale \$3.90
- The Best grade Outing, regular 25c value closing out at 15c
- Mens Large Valour Hats, regular \$10.00 value closing out sale \$6.90
- One Lot of Mens Dress Hats large shapes, regular \$7.50 value closing out at \$3.90
- One Lot of nice Young Mens Novelty Hats, regular \$6.50 and \$7.50 values at \$2.90

SIEGEL'S ECONOMY STORE

Two Doors north F. & M. National Bank.

The First Christmas Card.

The exchange of greeting cards, though now such a recognized part of Christmastide ceremonial, is a custom of quite recent origin. The honor of its invention is claimed for three men, all famous in other connections, Rev. Edward Bradley (better known as Cuthbert Bede, author of "Verdant Green"); J. C. Horsley, R. A., and the late W. C. T. Dobson, R. A. Cuthbert Bede had a card printed from his own design for circulation in 1845, and two years later his printer, a Newcastle firm, put a number of cards on the market. About the same time, in 1846, J. C. Horsley designed a card for Sir Harry Cole of Sumner's Printing house, Old Bond street. The subject was a typical scene of feasting and jollity. One thousand copies were printed and one of the few survivors sold a few years since for £50. According to some authorities Mr. Dobson was really the first in the field.—Westminster Gazette.



WHAT DID SHE MEAN

Tom—I'm going away Christmas.
Alice—is that so? Won't that be nice?

Old-Fashioned Doughnuts.

One pint of sugar, one-half cupful of butter, two eggs, one pint of fresh milk, one teaspoonful of soda dissolved in hot water, half a teaspoonful each of salt, nutmeg and cinnamon, flour enough to make a stiff dough. Stand in a cool place 24 hours, then roll, cut and fry. The dough will keep a week and a few can be fried every day if one likes them fresh from the pan.

Prompt Settlement.

"Indeed, Cousin Jack, we owe you a great deal for helping to decorate the room for our Christmas party."
"Then, as you acknowledge the debt, come over here under the mistletoe and let me collect some of the over-head charges."

For Youngsters.

Youngsters enjoy working with colored beads and for them a gift of a box of assorted colored glass beads is quite appropriate. These beads are used for kindergarten work and are quite inexpensive.

New Year's in Egypt

If a group of people were shipwrecked or otherwise cast upon their own resources and were to lose track of the date they would have no easy means of finding it again. Our year is an artificial one, and so must be made by careful study in well equipped observatories. Without precise instruments it would be difficult to fix the day when the new year begins.

The ancient Egyptians experienced no such difficulty. Their year, from which ours is derived, had a perfectly natural beginning. It always commenced on the day when Sirius and the sun rose together.

The temples of Egypt were really observatories, built to face this or that star as it rose. They were more or less elaborate, but all had as their fundamental plan a long narrow passage down which the star's rays came, and a dark chamber at the far end where the priest made the observation and where the image was kept.

The beginning of the new year was an important event. We can picture the scene as the priests, followed by the scribes, lawyers, merchants, and the curious crowd, wind their way up to the temple in the first streaks of dawn, and take their appointed places. As daylight comes on the interest of everyone is centered on two groups.

The priests on the roof are straining their eyes for the first glimpse of the coming sun, while those down in the dark chamber are watching for Sirius. Soldiers are stationed around the temple to keep the crowd silent and to prevent stragglers from crossing the path of the star's rays in front of the temple door at the critical moment.

A shout bursts from those on the roof as the sun tops the horizon. The observers below watch their water clocks carefully now as the minutes are told off, and strain their eyes at the narrow opening where Sirius is to shine. In a few moments Sirius itself flashes into view, and the new year has begun.

The Egyptians discovered that the year has an extra quarter of a day in it. They did it by noting that on some years Sirius and the sun rose almost together, while on others there was an appreciable difference in time, and that these changes repeated themselves every five years. They found the length of the year to within 11 minutes of its true value, which was a remarkable thing to do with the primitive appliances they had at hand.

How a Noted Vet. Gets Rid of Rats—Farmers Heed.

Dr. H. H. Butler says, "I use RAT-SNAP around my hospitals every three months, whether I see rats or not. It does the work—Rat-Snap gets them every time. I recommend it to everybody having rats." Don't wait until there is a brood of rats, act immediately you see the first one. Three sizes, 35c, 65c, \$1.25 Sold and guaranteed by Merkel Drug Store and Liberty Hardware Co.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Dillard of Tuscola, were up this week for a short visit with the latter's father, Mr. B. C. Gaither, as well as other relatives and friends.

Swafford and Leslie, Coal and feed Phone 203 1t.

TWO FINE NEW BRICK BUILDINGS

Messrs H. M. Rose and N. Hancock, who before the fire destroyed the building and their business some time ago, conducted a nice up to date barber shop and bakery respectfully, in the buildings just north of the Post Office, purchased the walls and also the lots on which the buildings stood, and have rebuilt same, and today each of these gentlemen has his respective business open and in operation again. In fact they are better prepared than ever before to render their patrons splendid service.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs Clifford Rose. They are the happy parents of a beautiful baby girl, born on the 8th; weighing eight pounds.

Distress after eating is due to bad digestion. Herbine helps the digestive process, clears the system of impurities and restores a feeling of vigor and buoyancy of spirits Price 60c. Sold by Sanders Drug Store.

Our good friend G. F. Turner was in the city one day this week and had us send the Mail to his daughter in Arkansas.

Swafford and Leslie, Coal and feed Phone 203 1t.

You will enjoy the holidays better if your clothes have been properly cleaned and pressed. Ligon the Laundry man Phone 218. tf.

Want all the Boys and Girls in and about Merkel to come to my store for candy etc. A. L. Jobe. 1t

YOU WILL FIND

A very choice Line of GIFTS and CARDS

For your Holiday Shopping here COME TO ABILENE And let us show you.

YE LITTLE SHOPPE

"Things That Are Different" 259 Pine St. 1000 Phone.

We are glad to see our good friend and excellent citizen, Mr B. C. Gaither, able to get down town again after several weeks confinement to his room on account of rheumatism. His host of friends join us in the hopes that his recovery may be permanent, and that he may soon be well and hail and hearty again.

You will enjoy the holidays more if your clothes have been properly cleaned and pressed. Ligon the Laundryman. Phone 218. tf.

Swafford and Leslie, Coal and feed Phone 203 1t.

Peace Maker Flour, at G. M. Sharp's 1t

Buy a sack of that big, snow-white, butter kist Pop Corn at Boney's 1t.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Barbee, a son on the 9th, weighing ten pounds.

Would you invest a \$1.50 for a new suit of clothes. That is what our cleaning and pressing solves. Ligon the laundryman. Phone 218. 1t

Your clothes will stay clean longer, look better and last longer if properly cleaned and pressed. We remove every particle of dust before cleaning them. No after-gasoline smell. It doesn't cost any more to have them dry cleaned. Phone 218—Ligon the Laundryman

OUR

New Barber Shop

We are glad to announce to our friends that we are again located in our New Home, (The Old Stand) and will appreciate our friends and patrons calling on us when in need of anything in our line. And we will have associated with us, Messrs. C. A. Miller, Frank Barrett, Wayman Rose and the undersigned. We will appreciate your business and will endeavor to give you as good as the best in the barber line.

H. M. ROSE

CHRISTMAS DOES NOT STAND ALONE

IF CHRISTMAS stood alone it would be an idle mockery. But it does not stand alone. It is part of a year. Yet it is a peculiar part. It is that brief period in which the child rules the world.

It marks nowadays the culmination of a civilization which has had a leading principle. The selfish, the hard, the grasping and the unsparring are out and apart that one week from the great flowing tide of the development of the world's progress. The man or woman who does not know this or see it or feel it is alien to the Christian spirit and to all the products wrought by the Christ spirit in the twenty centuries last past.

Christmas day, then, brings a message. But it also sings a song of hope and calls aloud a prophecy. The message is that gentleness is stronger far than force and that the greatest power on earth is the compelling power of tenderness.

Every Christmas tree is lit with that light. The great flood of presents bears this as its message. The cheer and charity of the whole season are fed by this love.

If the result of this process is only a century flower, however, or one that blooms even only once a year, then of what use is this more than that, this grotesque fact than that stranger plant? It is a curious phenomenon only, a hothouse spectacle and not an abiding food product.—Rev. Dr. David M. Steele, Philadelphia.

NONE FOR HER.

Mr. Bacon—I see by using a modified wireless receiving instrument a French scientist has been able to detect thunder storms more than 300 miles distant.

Mrs. Bacon—Well, dear, if you were thinking of getting me anything like that for Christmas, forget it. I can hear thunderstorms soon enough as it is.

CELERY AND CHEESE SALAD.

Chop nicely bleached, tender celery fine and bind it together with mayonnaise. Line an ice cream dipper with cottage cheese, then fill up with the celery mixture, packing it in well. Screw out the cones on crisped lettuce leaves arranged for individual serving.

Pains Were Terrific

Read how Mrs. Albert Gregory, of R. F. D. No. 1, Blufford, Ill., got rid of her ills. "During . . . I was awfully weak . . . My pains were terrific. I thought I would die. The bearing-down pains were actually so severe I could not stand the pressure of my hands on the lower part of my stomach . . . I simply felt as if life was for but a short time. My husband was worried . . . One evening, while reading the Birthday Almanac, he came across a case similar to mine, and went straight for some Cardui for me to try.

TAKE

CARDUI

The Woman's Tonic

"I took it faithfully and the results were immediate," adds Mrs. Gregory. "I continued to get better, all my ills left me, and I went through . . . with no further trouble. My baby was fat and strong, and myself—thank God—am once more hale and hearty, can walk miles, do my work, though 44 years old, feel like a new person. All I owe to Cardui." For many years Cardui has been found helpful in building up the system when run down by disorders peculiar to women.

Take Cardui

L. 82

BUY NOW

SAVE MONEY ON XMAS GOODS DURING OUR BIG SALE ONLY 8 DAYS LEFT FOR YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GREAT MONEY-SAVING SALE, AS HUNDREDS ARE DOING

We Have Cut the Price on Everything in Our Store

No Man or woman can say to contrary

10 yards Bleached Cambric for \$1.00 (only 10 yds. to customer) 12 yards Percale, light colors 25 inches wide \$1.00

BOTTOM KNOCKED OUT ON BED COMFORTS, BLANKETS, LADIES SUITS AND COATS, MENS SUITS AND OVERCOATS BOYS SUITS AND PANTS

FOR 4c Thread, Pins, Ribbons, and Shoe Strings

Ladies! Save yourself \$7.50 to \$35 on your suit or coat

9 Suits cut from \$20, \$25 and \$31.50 now cut to \$9.00, \$12.75 and \$19.50

7 Suits were \$43.50, \$52.50 and \$90.00 now cut to \$23.85, \$26.25 and \$29.90

Most all ladies and misses Coats are cut 1/2 to over half

GET BUSY MEN!

We have cut prices on all our Suits

Now is the time for you to save one-fifth, one-fourth, one-third, one-half and two-thirds on a suit for yourself.

Boys cut in same way

BELIEVE US --- OUR BIG LOSS ON SUITS FOR MEN, BOYS AND WOMEN SHOULD SELL THEM ALL IN A WEEK

All Xmas Goods go in Sale!

Knit Goods, Silk Hosiery, Handkerchiefs, Ties, Gloves, Belts Ladies Pongee Blouses

A good cut price for you on every Hat, Shirt, Pants, Overalls, Underwear

Shoes OXFORDS Boots

Every Pair Goes at Big Cut Price

Please Get This

The small profits and kind of goods we handle forbids putting on sales, for when WE put a sale on we cut the price on everything throughout our entire stock.

Would Not Put One on Now

If you were in a prosperous condition, but so much warm weather and short cotton crop makes it necessary for us to unload everything possible

Come Promptly

The Brown D. G. Co.

QUALITY MERCHANDISE

CHRISTMAS BAN IN 1643

Yuletide Observance Was Not Permitted by Edict of "Roundhead Parliament" in England.

IN THE northern part of Europe the ancient people kindled great fires to the gods, Odin and Thor, and sacrifices of men and animals were made. The ancient Goths Saxons termed this festival or "Yule," and we still use the word "Yuletide" in our day. Among the Teutons this holiday season was celebrated by decorating giant fir trees. The decorations consisted of lights, nuts, balls, golden apples and animals. These were to symbolize flashes of lightning, moon, stars and sun, while the animals represented sacrifices.

Christmas was not among the early festivals of the church. We find the first evidence of the feast from Egypt, according to the historians of the church, and December 25 was not the day on which it was universally celebrated. It was not until the Fourth or Fifth centuries that the celebration of the festival on this day spread to the East. The Nativity was celebrated December 25 at Rome before 354, and at Constantinople, not prior to 379.

As paganism began to be supplanted by Christianity, many of the old customs were taken and handed down through the generations. In the Anglo-Saxon days of King Alfred the holiday season began December 16 and closed January 6. When Puritanism arose in England the fate of Christmas was threatened for a time, and even extended to this country, since the Puritans brought along with them to New England a feeling against the celebration of Christmas.

In 1643 the "Roundhead parliament" in England put a ban on the observance of Christmas. The colony of Massachusetts in 1659 followed England's example and Christmas was put under a ban there. With the restoration of the English royalty the observance of Christmas was brought about, and Massachusetts again followed England's example and in 1681 the ban was lifted. From this time on Christmas has remained, and is now celebrated throughout the entire civilized world.

A Christmas "Suppose"

WE would not change the children's Christmas. But suppose all the grown-up people were to say to one another: "This year, instead of my giving you a present and your giving me a present, let us club together and give our present to some poor child who will not have any Christmas. There are hundreds of them somewhere. Or, if we do not know of such a child, let us give our present to a hospital for children, a home for crippled children, for incurables, for the aged, the blind, the feeble-minded." This to be, of course, in addition to what we usually give to charities at this season. Why could we not try this as an experiment, and see what the result would be?—Christian Register.

Russia's Christmas Comes Late.

In Russia Christmas occurs 13 days after our own. Perhaps one of the most interesting customs of the season is the Russian Christmas feast, old and young alike, for which dress themselves in various masquerading costumes and visit house after house, accepting the hospitality of their neighbors. The Christmas season is also notable for the fact that the young girls try to find out whether they will be married during the ensuing year or not. Some of them at twelve o'clock on Christmas Eve, secretly go out into the street and ask the first man they meet what his name is. Whatever name he gives will be that borne by their future husbands—such is the belief. Some of the girls are very much disappointed when the name is not a nice one, or when the man, as he will sometimes, calls himself Satan or something similar.



HOME MADE

"Making many Christmas presents this year?" "Yes, it's much cheaper than buying them."

Chain Bracelet Gifts.

Such a gay, trifling, and sure-to-be-liked gift for a young school girl would be a very fine chain bracelet of white gold. It must be so fine as to be a mere thread, and from it should swing several of the little Parisian novelty animals in gold or enamel. For the girl who dances, there's a dainty little French diamond-shaped bag of black moire or brocade which is extremely new. Inside are tucked a mirror, powder puff and

The Merkel Mail

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ADVERTISEMENTS MUST BE PAID FOR IN THIS OFFICE BY SIX O'CLOCK P. M. WEDNESDAY

Foreign Advertising Representative THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

T. & P. TIME TABLE

Time Table of the Texas and Oklahoma Pacific trains taking effect on December 5th.

Table with 2 columns: Train No. and Time. Includes West Bound (Sunshine) and East Bound (Sunshine) services.

When some men tell the truth it is strange rather than fiction.

And one half of society does not know how the other got in.

If politics is dirty, it is because of the kind of men that are in politics.

You can't always make people look up to you by looking down on them.

The best thing to do about most of the gossip that you hear is to forget it.

Of course people who generally know it all, know a great deal that is not true.

There used to be men who were afraid of nothing, but now we have traffic officers.

Don't go around with a chip on your shoulder if you want people to slap you on the back.

Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year, and some people will probably feel sore about it.

The world is kept going by men who are so hard up that they can't even think about striking.

Some people have been getting ahead by not trying to keep up with the fashionable set.

A Canadian named I. M. Wise got married the other day. And now he'll probably want to have his name changed.

Christmas is a good time, a time to let us make it so for others. And with Tiny Tim, let us pray, 'God bless us all, every one.'

Hurrah! Hurrah! Look! the College Girls and Boys are due to arrive this week-end and the first of next. My how it makes our hearts glad to welcome them in our midst.

In the Merkel Mail last week there was a two-column ten line display advertisement from the First Baptist church of Merkel. This week the same church has another such advertisement. In this paper on another page will be found a similar size advertisement from the Presbyterian Church of this city.

Let us explain further, this is a move joined in by the Methodists, Christians and infidels of the city, for the purpose of increasing the attendance of the Sunday schools and churches of the city. And January 8, has been set as a special 'Go To Church And stay Preaching' day in Merkel.

Cozy Theatre advertisement for Friday and Saturday. Features Beatriz Michelina in 'Mans Desire' and Fox comedians in 'A Sunshine Comedy'.

especially during the last three months has this increase in attendance been noticed. On last Sunday the Baptist people had in attendance 435, the Methodist 255, the Presbyterians, 114, and the North Side Christian Church 100 or more.

We understand that the garages of the city have agreed to close their doors on Sundays from nine thirty to two P. M. in order that the proprietors and employes may attend church and Sunday school.

Let every man, woman and child remember, that they are welcome and have an urgent invitation every Sunday to attend any church in Merkel, but especially that every one is expected to attend the church of their choice on Sunday January 8th.

A remedy that will penetrate is necessary in the treatment of rheumatism. Ballard's Snow Liniment goes right through the flesh to the bone and relieves promptly.

The agitation against the Ku Klux has about subsided, and they are going along with their parades and benevolent work, and work of correcting the evils of the age.

GARAGE CLOSING NOTICE

We the undersigned garages, of Merkel, agree to close our place of business on each Sunday, from 9 A. M. until 2 pm.

GEM CAFE AND CONFECTIONARY

Located on Front Street, one door west of the American Shoe shop. We will have a complete line of Nuts, Candies, Fruit etc.

See the fine Cabinet of Ladies, Gents and Children's Xmas Handkerchiefs, just from New York at A. L. Jobe's

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

The Weekly prayer meeting met with Mrs. Chas West with 18 present and a good meeting. By a special request we will meet next Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Ben Pilcher.

CLEAN UP NOTICE

Hon. H. C. West, our splendid Mayor, requests the Mail to announce to the citizenship that if they will clean up their yards, alleys, and places, the city's wagons will haul off all rubbish piled in the alleys on December 29, 30.

Large advertisement for the Baptist Sunday School. Title: 'Merkel Will Be Quarantined'. Text: 'Against the Devil on Sunday Because Everybody is Going To Sunday School'.

NOTICE

I am permanently located in Merkel, and will work at my trade here, as Painter, Paper Hanger and Sign Writer.

CHURCH OF CHRIST NOTES

Bible study Sunday morning at ten o'clock. We want to make a special effort to increase the number attending the 10 o'clock study.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—Cord wood. Delivered at \$4.00 per cord. See E. Lassiter.

FOR TRADE

FOR TRADE—Team of good work mules, for good milk cows. See John D. Sullivan. 1tp

LOST

LOST—Collie Dog, has small split in one ear. He left home the 24th of November. Finder will please notify, J. L. Barker Route 4, Box 16. 9t2p

WANTED

Irregularity in the bowel movements makes you feel uncomfortable and leads to a constipated habit which is bad. Herbine is the remedy you need.

WANTED—Salesman for Merkel and vicinity Commission contract only, for spare time or full time. We will teach you to sell income protection through our free school of instruction.

Servant Girl Wouldn't go in Cellar, Fearing Rats

Mrs. Tepper, Plainfield, N. J., says, 'Rats were so bad in our cellar the servant girl wouldn't go there. Bought some RAT-SNAP and it cleaned all rats out.'

BAPTIST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday school at ten a. m. with classes for all. Last Sunday we had our largest attendance yet, which was four hundred and thirty five present.

However we set our goal for 450 next Sunday. Bro. Mims announces that ten blue ribbons will be awarded in the Sunday school Sunday morning.

Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. The morning subject is 'Christmas Giving'. Evening subject is 'Believing God'.

The two unions have consolidated and are meeting just before the evening preaching service so that the meeting lasts until time to begin the evening service, making a continuous service as the Sunday school does with the Morning service.

Prayer meeting, Wednesday. Choir Practice, Thursday at 7. Come find a hearty welcome and a place to worship at all of these services. Ira L. Parack.

F. J. Floyd a substantial citizen of Trent, was here one day this week and had us send the Merkel Mail to his son, who resides in Ohio.

THE MEHODIST BID YOU WELCOME

On last Sunday we came very near going over the top—had 255 in Sunday School and 55 more than the previous Sunday. Let us join the other churches of the city in the move to increase the Sunday school and church attendance in Merkel.

THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

What's the matter, young man, young woman? Why are you letting opportunity slip thru your fingers? What are your plans for the coming year? Do you intend to qualify for a greater success?

You can succeed. Other people, those who are succeeding, nature didn't give them a single extra bone or one more nerve, muscle or brain cell than you possess.

Look around you. Wherever your eye turns, you see some man or woman who had no better start than you with no better general education or 'school learning' than you.

You have made excuses and halted long enough. Your duty to your self is to come to a decision NOW. Your best interests dictate a decision favoring your entering our College NOW.

When may we expect you? Our classes will continue thru the holiday season. Write or wire for reservations, ask for a catalogue. Tyler Commercial College, Tyler, Texas.

Fine lot of Xmas Candies and other good things cheap at A. L. Jobe's Store. 1t.

The Merkel Mail \$1.50 per year.

WHEN HEARTS ARE TRUMPS

Tragedy if Child Should Have Christmas Come and Go Without an Ecstasy.

IF YOU have no child of your own, you must borrow or beg one for Christmas eve; for it is the time when the world lights its happiness with a child's joy, writes Dr. James I. Vance, in the Illinois State Journal.

Only a child may have the right of way on Christmas eve. If you do not stand in with the children, you must stand aside.

It is the hour when the world makes a cradle its shrine; when not only wise men from the East, but grown-ups from all points of the compass slip down over the hills of memory toward childhood's dawn, saying under their breath: "We have seen his star in the East and are come to worship him."

What a wonderful thing is this yearning of the old world for the happiness of children that climaxes at Christmas! The better side of human nature comes to the front. We throw off our cynicism. Meanness is shamed into generosity, and for a little while on Christmas eve the tightwads of earth have a look in on paradise.

Was there ever a sweeter eagerness, a holier joy, a more heavenly anticipation, than that which all through the house is felt on Christmas eve? Every one is thinking of making somebody happy. The delicious secretiveness of it intensifies the thrill. Care is forgotten. Expectation is ringing the bells. Peace is over all the world. And the hero is a child.

Thank God for children! "Of such is the kingdom of heaven." It is a sin to disappoint a child. Then it must please God when we make the children happy.

If there is no child in your home, maybe there is one on your doorstep, waiting for you to be its saint on Christmas eve. There are certainly some there in the street. They are looking at the toys in the window with wistful faces, and wondering what the lover of children will bring them. It is your time to play, and hearts are trumps!

What a tragedy if a single child in your town should have Christmas come and go without an ecstasy!

Christmas Greetings



In appreciation of the business we have received the past twelve months we take this method in wishing our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our increased number of Customers is evidence that we are giving satisfaction. No matter what you want, we are always ready to serve you. We have many attractive and useful gifts for the Motorist, such as Motor Meters, radiator Caps, radiator ornaments, spotlights, sun shades, no glares founight driving, dash clocks, bumpers, tire covers, horns etc.

PHONE 123

That place where you get Personal Service.

MERKEL GARAGE

ROSS FERRIER

H. L. PROPST

BOAR'S HEAD AT CHRISTMAS

Ancient Custom Which is Now Believed to Be Observed Only at Oxford University.

BRINGING in the boar's head at Yuletide is not celebrated widely in Great Britain today, and probably the only place where it survives with something of its old-time glory is Queen's college, Oxford University.

The custom is believed to antedate Christianity; in fact, is said to have come down to Englishmen from the Druids, the Detroit News recalls. Freya, goddess of peace and plenty, was always represented as riding a boar, and the Druid priests are believed to have made yearly sacrifices of boars to this divinity in order to win her good will.

At Queen's the procession of the boar's head forms in the buttery. A soloist, who usually is a former student of the college, heads the line. Behind him march two or three broad-shouldered youths who bear the boar's head, mounted on a silver salver. In the old days the head weighed as much as eighty pounds.

Flags and pennants of the college flutter about the head, which is crowned with gilded sprays of rosemary, bay, laurel and other evergreens. A lemon or an orange, the old Norse symbol of plenty, is placed between the tusks.

Behind the bearers of the salver march the surpliced men and boys of the choir and the organist in a robe of an Oxford doctor of music.

On a dais at the end of the dining hall the provost and the principal guests stand. The provost says grace in Latin; the call to dinner is sounded with trumpets through the cloisters and the procession starts through the cloisters.

Origin of the Word Yule.

Many explanations are given of the origin of the word Yule. One of the most probable is that it is derived from the ancient Gothic word, jol or hyl, the origin of our word wheel. The Yule festival is said to have received its name from being the turning-point of the year—when the sun apparently turns back from the south and begins to set each evening farther and farther to the north until in June it goes down almost in the northwest. In the old elog almanacs of the Middle Ages a wheel is the device used for marking Yule-tide or Christmas.

Chocolate Sea-Foam Fudge.

Put over the fire in a clean saucepan one cupful of light brown sugar, a half-cupful of water and a third of a cupful of grated chocolate and boil without stirring until it spins a thread from the point of a spoon. Have beaten stiff the white of an egg; pour the boiling mixture upon it and stir until it begins to stiffen. Drop from a spoon on waxed paper in little bonbons, or pour into a greased pan before it begins to stiffen and mark into squares with a buttered knife.—The Delinester.

KLAN AT WORK IN SWEETWATER

There doesn't seem to be any doubt about there being a local order of the Ku Klux Klan in Sweetwater, judging from the happenings of Sunday night. And some day there will be evidences a plenty that the Klan is going to make some people get right and stay right. And the Lord knows there are some in this town that need a little advice from the Klan, for the law either fails to reach or have any effect on their "frame of mind".

We do not know if the Klan is here or not, but this morning when the editor of the Reporter came to his work, he found the following notice on his desk: "We do not even know Mr. Honeycut, and we have not investigated his case, but if he is not doing what should do as a loyal good citizen, he cannot expect to escape. The note to the editor follows:

"To the Editor of the Sweetwater Reporter:

"You may ask Mr. Red Honeycut if the Ku Klux is in town.

"Sunday night Mr. Honeycut was visited by a number of the White robed figures, asking him to be better to his wife and little children; to get a job and support them. They told Mr. Honeycut that they were his friends and wanted him to straighten up and be a man.

"We do not intend to punish you if you will get right and do the right thing by your family. "We won't tell you again."

"A Member Of the Klan." —Sweetwater Reporter.

C. F. (Bud) Sears accompanied by Mr. Clark, were here this week from Menard, where Mr. Sears is now engaged in the ranch business Bud's many friends here were glad to have him among them for a day again

The Mail \$1.50 year in advance

OUR ADVERTISERS

We are this week sending to our readers a twenty page paper, besides the local news, as best we could get it, you will find holiday greetings, cards of thanks, real bargains in merchandise from the different business firms of the city. That every business house in the city has reduced to the lowest possible point almost every item in their stores, one only needs to read their advertisements in this paper. That they appreciate your patronage and support, goes without saying, because they are men of generosity, big heartedness who were born with a feeling of the highest gratitude.

To really know a man one has to come in contact with him, and as the writer mixes and mingles with every business and professional man in this city day in and day out, we believe we know them, and it is with pleasure that we can state that we have found them to be honest, generous and big hearted in every way. We have always found them eager and anxious to cooperate in any move which has for its purpose the betterment of our city and community or citizenship of same.

Read their advertisements, take advantage of their money saving offers and in which you will also note their appreciation of your business.

NOODLE CHURCH OF CHRIST NOTES

By request of the church at this place I will be with the Church at Noodle next Lord's day. Every member is requested to be present on next Sunday at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. The subject for the service at 11 will be, "Reconciliation" at 7 p. m., the subject will be John the Baptist Mission. Truly, R. T. Harris.

Y. P. M. S. NOTES

The Y. P. M. S. girls met with Blanche Durham on last Monday night in a business session. After the report of the officers new business was taken up. A motion was made and carried that we appoint a committee of three to assist our social service Supt. to scatter Xmas cheer among the needy of the town. The committee appointed, is a sfollows, Mary E. Sears, Iva Bragg and Edit hBrown.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: Blanche Durham; Supt. Supplies, Ethel Wilson; Supt. of Social Service, Josie Smith; Supt. of Social activities, Murphy Thomas; Local Treasure, Iva Bragg. There will net be another meeting of the Society until after the Holiday's Reporter.

GREETINGS

The Holiday season is at hand let us express to you our most sincere thanks for the very liberal business extended to us during the year, and to assure you, that as we try to serve you in the future, your business will be appreciated. To all our friends and customers we extend Holliday greetings, and may the New Year bring many blessings and prosperity to each of you. Bob Martin Grocery. It

B. Y. P. U. PROGRAM

Subject, What do repentance and faith have to do with Salvation.

Leader, Mary Cleo Booth.

1. Repentance of Preparation, for Faith, Shirley King.
2. The nature of Repentance, Maud Herring.
3. Repentance is not salvation Tom Cooper.
4. Faith the Saving act on the Human side, by Dovie Tuaff.
5. The relation of Repentance and Faith, Mrs. Hancock.

WITH THE CHRISTMAS PLANTS

Trees and Flowers Are Believed to Owe Peculiarities to Connection With Jesus.

THE legend of the Glastonbury Thorn is that after the death of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea came over to England. Shortly before Christmas, he rested on the summit of Weary-all hill, Glastonbury. There he thrust into the ground his staff, and on Christmas eve it was found to be covered with white blossoms. The bush is said to have continued blooming thus each Christmas eve until during the civil wars, when it was cut down. Cuttings from the original thorn are said to bloom in this same wonderful way even yet.

The Sicilian children put pennyroyal in their coats on Christmas eve, believing that at the exact hour and minute when Jesus was born it will blossom.

There is a cherished legend in the East that the Rose of Jericho first blossomed at the birth of Jesus, closed at the crucifixion, and opened again at Easter, from which comes its name of Resurrection flower.

Many plants, trees and flowers are believed to owe their peculiarities to their connection with the birth or the childhood of Jesus. "The Star of Bethlehem" is so called because its white starlike flowers resemble the pictures of the Star of the East.

"Our Lady's Bedstraw" received its name because it was believed that the manger in which the Babe lay was filled with this plant.

An old account tells the story in this manner: "The broom and the chick-peas began to rustle and crackle, and by this noise betrayed the fugitives. The flax bristled up. Happily for her, Mary was near a Juniper; the hospitable tree opened its branches as arms and inclosed the Virgin and the Child within their folds, affording them a secure hiding place. Then the Virgin uttered a malediction against the brooms and the chick-peas, and ever since that day they have always rustled and crackled. But later the Virgin pardoned the flax its weakness and gave the Juniper her blessing," which is said to account for the use of the Juniper as Christmas decorations in some countries.

Adeste Fideles

THIS well-known and greatly loved Christmas hymn was used at Benediction at Christmastide in France and England since the close of the Eighteenth century. It was sung at the Portuguese legation in London as early as 1797. The most popular musical setting was ascribed by Vincent Novello, organist there, to John Redel, who was organist at Winchester cathedral from 1675-81, and later at Winchester college. The hymn itself has been attributed to St. Bonaventure, but is not found among his works. It is probably of French or German authorship. It invites all the faithful to come to Bethlehem to worship the new-born Savior.—Catholic Encyclopedia.

Roast Pig.

Have your butcher prepare the pig for roasting and lay him in cold water for fifteen minutes. Dry him inside and out with a soft cloth. Make a stuffing of bread crumbs, seasoned to taste with salt, pepper, parsley, sweet marjoram and thyme; moisten with butter, and work into the dressing two beaten eggs. Stuff the pig so that he will hold his original size and shape, and after sewing him up bend his fore legs backward and his hind legs forward under him. Skewer or tie him in this attitude and after dredging him well with flour put him, with a little water, in a covered roaster. Roast for an hour and a half before removing the cover, then rub him well with butter, baste him with the gravy in the pan and roast half an hour longer, basting twice during that time. Apple sauce should be served with him, a lemon should be in his mouth, cranberries in his eye sockets.—The Delinester.



IN DOUBT

Wife — This year you must tell me just what you are going to give me for Christmas.
 Hubby — But how do I know what you have decided upon?

Christmas in the Shetlands.

In the Shetland Islands they celebrate an old Christmas Eve, January 5, and on that occasion the young men and children go "a-gnizing." The children disguise themselves in strange dresses, parade the streets and invade the houses and shops begging for offerings. At one o'clock the young men, coarsely clad, drag blazing tar barrels through the town, blowing horns and cheering. At six o'clock in the morning they put off their grimy clothes and dressed in fantastic costumes go in groups to wish their neighbors good.

BELIEFS OF THE PEASANTS

Odd Christmas Superstitions Handed Down From Past Ages to the Ignorant Europeans.

THE peasantry of Europe have had certain Christmas superstitions handed down to them from past ages. Just how far these simple folk can be fooled is to be wondered.

If the light is let go out on Christmas morning, you will see spirits.

If you are born at sermon time Christmas eve, some one in the house will die within the year.

If you steal hay the night before Christmas, and give the cattle some, they will thrive and you will not be caught in any future thefts.

If you eat a raw egg, fasting on Christmas morn, you can carry heavy weights. It is unlucky to carry anything from the house on Christmas morning until something has been brought in.

It is unlucky to give a neighbor a live coal to kindle a fire with on Christmas morning.

If the fire burns brightly on Christmas morning, it betokens prosperity during the year; if it smolders, adversity.

If a dog howls the night before Christmas, it will go mad within the year.

If you steal anything at Christmas without being caught, you can steal safely for a year.

On Christmas eve thrash the garden with a flail, with only your shirt on, and the grass will grow well next year.

The wet strawbands around the orchard trees on Christmas eve and it will make them fruitful.

On Christmas eve put a stone on every tree, and they will bear the more.

Beat the trees on Christmas night, and they will bear the more.

If after a Christmas dinner you shake out the tablecloth over the bare ground under the open sky, crumb-worm will grow on the spot.

If on Christmas day or eve, you hang a washcloth out on the hedge, and then groom the horses with it, they will grow fat.

As often as the cock crows on Christmas eve, the quarter of corn will be as dear.

If you burn elder on Christmas eve, you will have revealed to you all the witches and sorcerers of the neighborhood.

SHOULD MAKE OTHERS HAPPY

Best Way to Celebrate Christmas is to Do Something in Memory of Childhood Days.

IT SEEMS that when one has grown a little old, the best and the happiest way to celebrate Christmas is to do something for remembrance—in remembrance of one's own childhood, for Christmas is really for the children, after all.

It is for children more than for others, because it is a day that commemorates the birth of a child—that wondrous Christ child that was born in a manger of a stable in the little town of Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

Now, there will be scarcely a child in all the world who will not await the dawn of Christmas morning with a wondering soul. It is the dawn of that day when the morning stars sang together, and when peace on earth and good will toward men were proclaimed from the high heavens. But, there will be many a child to whom Christmas will not bring its dearly longed-for happiness.

The children of the rich will not be disappointed, nor will the children of the very poor be disappointed. It is the child who has not rich or well-to-do folks, but who, at the same time, is not subject for charity, who will be unhappy when Christmas comes.

And it is this child that you should seek out and make happy—for remembrances.

You see, it is a fact that we can make a happy Christmas for ourselves only by making some one else happy. Do not think that you can make a happy Christmas for yourself any other way, because you cannot do so.

Try the way here pointed out. The child is easily found, and when you have found that one and have made it happy, the very angels of God will envy you the gladness that you will feel.

Devil's Food Cake.

Beat to a cream five level table-spoonfuls of butter and one level and a quarter of sugar. Add one cupful of unmelted chocolate, three beaten eggs and one teaspoonful of vanilla and beat together until smooth. Sift 3 1/2 level teaspoonfuls of baking powder with one-half cupful of flour and stir in with the butter, sugar and egg mixture. Then add alternately milk and flour until you have used three-quarters of a cupful of milk and one cupful of sifted pastry flour. Beat smooth and bake in a loaf in a moderate oven. Pastry flour is always better for cake than bread flour.

After Santa Has Filled to G'rowling.

—the stockings of each girl and boy, with trumpets and horns made for blowing, and every known kind of a toy—I wish that he'd buy me a present, a gift that no other could match, that would be so pleasant.

ANNOUNCING THE GREAT JONES SALE

Every Day Until Xmas

ANOTHER JUST LIKE THE GREAT SALE WE HELD ONE YEAR AGO WHEN WE BROKE THE DRY GOODS PRICES FOR ABILENE

No Approvals ===== No Refunds

Read 'Em and Weep

BOY'S SUITS
Value \$5.90 Price \$4.50
Boy's Suits, values \$10.00 to \$12.50
PRICE \$7.75

BLANKETS
Wool Nap Blankets, \$4.50 Values ... \$3.48
Plaid Blankets, \$5.00 Values ... \$3.98

36-INCH ALL WOOL SERGE
Values to \$1.50 yard, price 69c

GINGHAM PLENTY OF IT
What you are usually asked 25c for ... 17c

BROWN DOMESTIC
Yard Wide, Good Weight, per yard ... 7 1/2c

SHEETING
9-4 Bleached and Brown, per yard 44c
10-4 Bleached and Brown, per yard 49c

MEN'S HEAVY WEIGHT SOX
25c Value, priced at 17c
Men's Fine Lisle Sox, 39c Value, price ... 29c

25c BATH TOWELS 15c
15c Huck Towels at 10c

Men's Canvas Gloves, 7c
15c Cotton Checks, per yard 9c

Suit Cases and Trunks away Down

**ALL FURS,
ONE-HALF PRICE**

**O. N. T. THREAD,
3 FOR A DIME**

**1200 Pair Ladies Winter
Weight Hose, per pair**

7 1/2c

Remarkable Values

**1800 yards Outing, full
yard wide, price, per yd**

10c

Every article in the store at Sale Prices

WONDERFUL VALUES
Ladies' Coats, Suits, Dresses Blouses

ALL MILLINERY
One-Half Price

CHILDREN' TAPED UNION SUITS,
ALL SIZES, 69c.

Ladies Union Suits, excellent values at
\$1.25, price only 89c.

Men's Heavy Weight Union Suits 98c
Men's Dress Shirts, price 98c
Men's Wool Shirts, value up to \$5.00, price
..... \$1.95
Men's Moleskin and Corduroy Pants, worth
\$5.00 Sale price, only \$3.45

BIG REDUCTIONS
Ladies' Silk Hose
Ladies' Wool Hose
Ladies' Sport Hose

Children's Hose, 60 Dozen, all sizes, 25c
values, Sale price, per pair 17c

WONDERFUL VALUES IN
Silks, Wool Goods, Shirting, Crepes, Linens
and Draperies.

**We Have A Wonderful Line Of
CHRISTMAS**

Dolls, Novelities, Gloves, Ivory Sets,
Toilet Sets, Handkerchiefs, Ties,
ALL AT SALE PRICES

JONES DRY GOODS

Stores at---Colorado, Hamlin, Goree and Tahoka

Third and Pine Streets

Abilene, Texas



T H E
Farmers & Merchants National Bank
OF MERKEL

Capital and Surplus \$65,000.00

To our Friends and Customers :

¶ We thank you for all good business given us in the past.

¶ Will appreciate any good business you give us in the future.

¶ Let us preserve our reputation by performing our engagements; our credit by fulfilling our contracts; and our friends by gratitude and kindness, for we know not how soon we may again have occasion for all of them.

¶ We wish you a Happy Christmas, and hope the New year will bring to you whatever is best for your material, mental and spiritual welfare.

J. T. WARREN.....President
GEO. F. WEST.....Vice President
HENRY JAMES.....Vice President
L. R. THOMPSON.....Cashier
BOOTH WARREN.....Assistant Cashier
E. D. TEUTON.....Assistant Cashier
SAM BUTMAN, Sr.,.....Director
J. T. HOWARD.....Bookkeeper
YATES BROWN.....Bookkeeper



Merry Christmas



We love you Santa because you remind us of our childhood days when Xmas came so many years apart, it seemed to us, but now it rolls around so soon. Yet we are thankful and our hearts are glad because we know what it means to the child. We are also thankful for the business our friends have seen fit to give us since we have been in business in Merkel, and hope to serve you better in the future than we have in the past.



We Like You, Santa



We Have a Nice Line

Of Cut Glass, Silver Ware, China ware, Decorated Bowls, Guns, Air Rifles, Tricycles, Flash Lights, Serving Trays, Percolators, Pyrex and Aluminum ware, that are nice Xmas Presents. General line of Hardware.

With best wishes for a Merry Xmas and a very Happy New Year to all



Liberty Hardware Company

At home to our friends and customers after January 1st. where the Racket Store is now located.

Colonel Roosevelt once said "When home ties are loosened, when men and women cease to regard a worthy family life, with all its duties fully performed and lived up to as the life best worth living, then evil days for the comonwealth is at hand." This statement of a great American, who had a peculiar style of bluntness in his expressions, furnishes a splendid text for comment. God ordained marriage and family ties. He is the author of virtue, and as such men and women should regard them more sacredly. In giving the law to the Isrealites touching on virtue, He made it strict, much more so than is required of human laws. The law governing these matters is found in Numbers. When a woman violated her marriage vows and was untrue to her

husband she was visited with bodily injury, and allowed to live as a warning to others. All nations embracing civilization have copied its laws along the lines laid down in the Old Testament. And all nations that have lived up to these laws, and have respected virtue and home ties have prospered and gone forward in the march of civilization. The nation that has become slack in these matters have suffered as a consequence. France is a splendid example. Way back in the early history of France she became loose in morals as effecting family ties, and there was a time at the close of the French revolution when every married woman had her lover, and every married man had his mistress. This continued for a season, which almost wiped France

from the pages of history as a nation. Today the effect of her former course in loose virtue is reflected. Ask any soldier boy who was in France during the war, and he will give you his estimate of French virtue. The family tie is the bulwark of national greatness. Let a nation neglect family ties and men and women become slack in their virtue, and that nation will reap a harvest of destruction. The law on these matters given to the ancients is just as binding upon us as it was upon them. It is necessary for us to live virtuous today as it was for those who were guided by the direct hand of God himself. In those days God talked to Moses, and Moses talked to the people. Today God talks to men and nations through and in the inspired word.—Lockney Beacon.

CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season is upon us. The world is about to celebrate again the anniversary of the birth of Him who died that mankind might live. It is the most important anniversary in the calendar year. We reckon our time itself from that mighty event.

It is a solemn but sweet occasion, and should be forever observed in that manner. At the Christmas season our thoughts should turn, for a while at least, upon the life and character of Him whose birth we celebrate.

And if we do this our celebration of Christmas will be of the right kind.

We will forgo undue feasting and ostentatious display. We will share our stores with those

less fortunate than ourselves.

It is a beautiful old custom, to give presents at Christmas but judgement should be used in the giving. There is nothing in the Christ spirit in buying things we cannot afford to give to give to people who do not want them.

Our gifts should be to the poor, to children, to the aged, to those very near and dear to us, and every gift should be in the Christmas spirit.

And this Christmas season, of all times of the year, is a season for sobriety and the most sober thoughts. It is but a few days until the closing days of the year, and we should strive to make these closing days the best of all.

The whole world and our own country in particular is passing through a time of stress and un-

certainty. We have not fully recovered from the shock of the world war. There is a general let down, a deadening of the moral sense.

During this Christmas season let us, each one, examine our own selves, and study our individual relation to others around us. Maybe, by thinking for a while on the life of the Master, we may get the inspiration which all of us need for our daily life and conduct in the year just ahead.

This a time for solemn thought, we repeat, but not a time for despondency. For from our solemn thoughts we should get comfort, and cheer and cause for happiness.

Christ was born 1921 years ago, and He still lives. What is there to make us afraid?



Gifts For Everyone



We are ready with our Xmas Goods. The Holiday Goods you want are here in abundance and variety. You will find that our Dolls and Toys are much cheaper this year and your dollar will go farther than last year. We invite you one and all to come in and look over the pretty things, examine them and buy if you like.

You are Welcome

Phone 105

The Merkel Drug Company

Phone 105

= BARROW'S = ONE WEEK OF BARGAINS

One more week until Christmas, and one more week of bargains at Barrow's Great Furniture Sale. You have never had a better opportunity to buy Quality Furniture lower. Our big furniture sale is in full sway, and this is the last call. Buy your furniture now. Our entire stock is marked down 30 per cent to 60 per cent. Come in this week and take advantage of these wonderful bargains. We have a complete line of **XMAS GOODS** all marked down with the rest of the stock. You can easily make your Xmas selection here. Come in this last week and reap these big savings.

A Christmast Gift at Barrow's for the Family

--FREE--

From now until Xmas Eve, Dec. 24th, for every \$1.00 purchase you will have an opportunity to get a

**Cedar Chest
Sealy Mattress
and a
Rocker**

to be given away at this store Xmas eve. And you have advantage of our Special Sale. Come in this week and make that One Dollar Purchase.

Will be given away at 11 o'clock Xmas-eve morning.

For every payment of \$1.00 on account, one ticket on free articles.

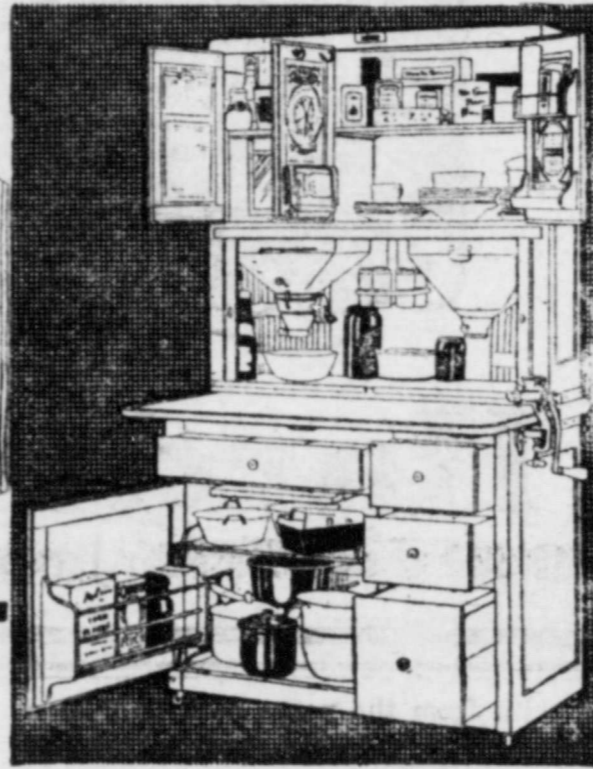
HOOSIER

— the Kitchen Cabinet that saves miles of steps

Now in a million and a half kitchens



*You can't add an hour
to your time—but*



A Hoosier Cabinetette---A Real Gift for Xmas

A Hoosier Cabinetette will bring joy and happiness to any home. You have every convenience in the new Hoosier beauty. It will lessen the housewife's work 90 per cent. We have a complete stock of new Hoosier Cabinets as low as \$37.50. Give your wife a surprise Xmas and buy her a new Hoosier Cabinetette - can be bought during this sale for 10 per cent off for Cash

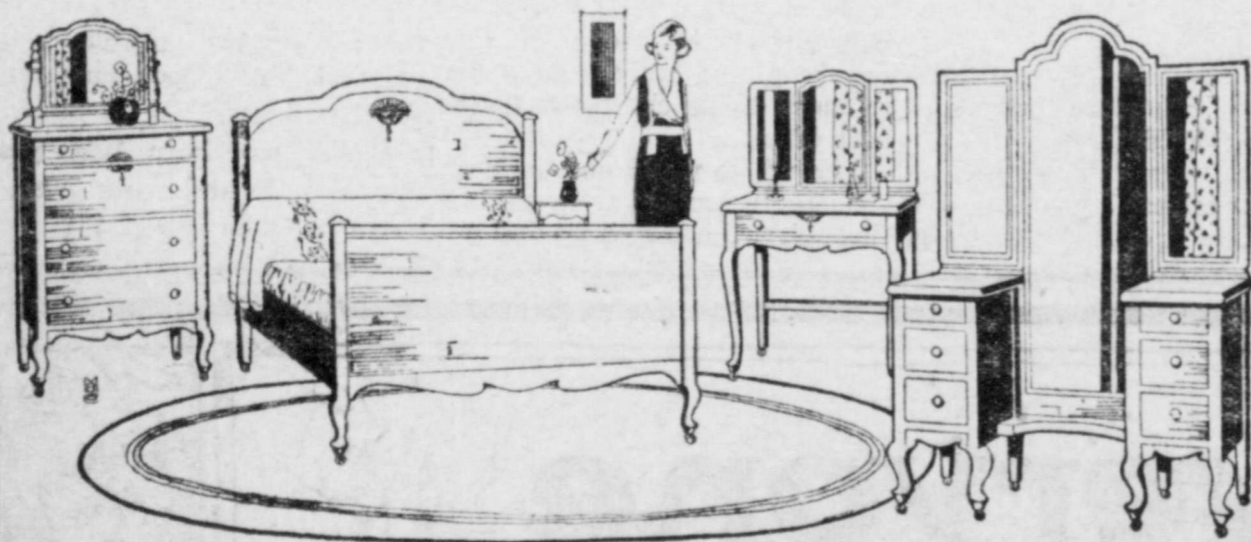
COMPLETE STOCK XMAS GOODS

We have just received a big shipment of Smokers in all patterns. You can buy him a smoker as low as \$2.50

Will Santa Claus Make Your Home Happy?

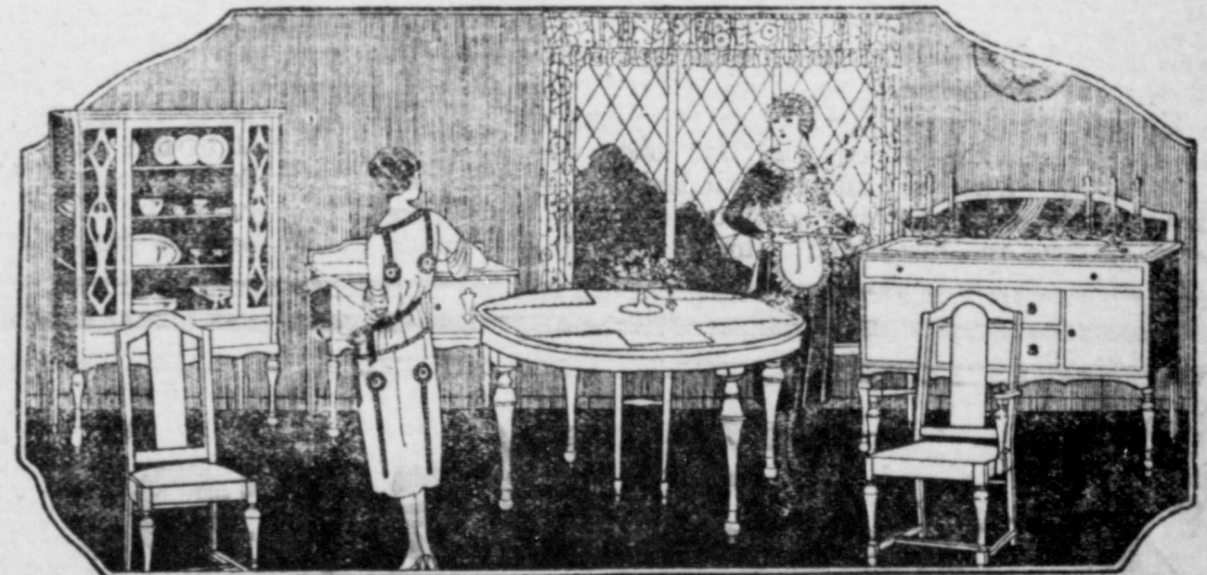
We have a complete stock of Doll goods, in the way of bed-room suites, dining-room suits and living room suites—a gift that will sure make the little one happy.

All of these go at
Bargain Prices



THREE-PIECE IVORY SUIT Only \$69.50

You get a Vanity, a real Bed and Chiffonier in this wonderful bargain. The suite is well constructed and of a good finish, is really a \$150.00 value, but for this last week you get it for only **\$69.50**



10-PIECE MAHOGANY DINING ROOM SUIT Was \$200, now \$97.50

Here is a real bargain for some one wanting a good dining room suite. This suite consists of large Buffet, China Closette, Extension Table, Carving table and six Chairs to match, and is truly a bargain at this price.

Sealy Mattress
this week only
\$26.95

BARROW FURNITURE CO.

MERKEL, TEXAS

EXTRA SPECIAL
A 45-lb all cotton Mattress
rolled edge and good tick
only \$3.95

The Holiday Season

Is again with us and everyone is desirous of making the heart of some one glad and happy. The Star Store stock is complete with many durable and valuable presents, and during these times of depression and uncertainty, we are making a price upon our goods in keeping with the times. All of which means a

Big Saving to You

Come in now and make your selections and take advantage of the extremely low prices. We are indeed grateful to one and all for the very liberal patronage heretofore extended us, and trust that you will so favor us in the future. May you also enjoy a most happy Christmas and may happiness and prosperity be yours throughout the New Year to come.

The STAR STORE

CITATION

The State of Texas.
To the Sheriff or any Constable of Taylor County Greeting;
You are here by commanded to summon J. E. Rider, by making publication of this Citation once in each week for four successive weeks previous to the return day hereof, in some newspaper published in your County, to appear at the next regular

term of the District Court of Taylor County, to be holden at the Court House thereof, in the city of Abilene, on the 1st Monday in January A. D. 1922 the same being the 2nd day of January A. D. 1922, then and there to answer a petition filed in said Court on the 7th day of December A. D. 1922 in a suit, numbered on the docket of said Court No. 4859, wherein Ernie Rider is Plaintiff and J. E. Rid-

er is Defendant, and said petition alleging that Plaintiff and defendant were married in 1917 and lived together as husband and wife until April 1918 when the defendant, without the consent of Plaintiff, voluntarily abandoned her, and has lived separate and apart from her since said time. That of said marriage there was born two girls, minors, ages 13 years and six years; that plaintiff is the proper person to rear said minors, Plaintiff sues for divorce, for custody of the minor children, costs and general relief.

Herein Fail Not, but have before said Court, at its aforesaid next regular term, this writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed the same.

Given Under My Hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Abilene, this the 7th day of December A. D. 1921.

J. K. Fuller, Clerk,
District Court, Taylor County
By B. Wellbour, Deputy.

CONFIDENCE AND GOOD BUSINESS

"The great need now," says George W. White, president of the White Shoe Company, who has just returned from a trip to the shoe manufacturing centers of the North and East, "is to have confidence restored to business. The clerk ought to be made to feel confident that he has a job when he comes down to work in the morning. The mechanic ought to have a feeling of confidence that he will be kept on the pay roll as long as he makes good. The consumer ought to feel confident that he is getting a square deal and value received when he makes a purchase."

Mr White has put his finger on one of our chief needs. He found in the North and East every evidence of returning business, and other sources of information testify to the truth of that estimate. But there is a great need of confidence all a-

long the line to accelerate that movement. Once it is fully realized that we are moving ahead without danger of relapse, once the average man knows that his own future is reasonably certain and depends alone upon what he does himself, we shall begin to move faster. Fear of the future is what is holding us back in many lines. That causes timidity among all classes, and timidity is the very stuff of which business depression is made. It is to be noted that Mr. White includes a liberal use of printer's ink as one of the man-

ifestations of confidence. "I have found newspaper space a good investment," he says. "We are planning one of the biggest advertising campaigns in our history and purpose to use 90 percent of our appropriation in newspapers. We believe that everybody should sell somebody something each day, and pass the word that good times are returning." That's the kind of confidence that will revive business and start passing prosperity around again. There is now solid ground upon which to base such con-

fidence. And to the degree that we realize this we shall move ahead—Star Telegram.

NOTICE

This is to notify the public that hauling wood and otherwise trespassing on the land known as the Freng Pasture, is strictly forbidden. Please comply with this request. Jasper McCoy. 912

Plenty of Corn, Corn chops, Brand and Cow Feed at the Crown Hardware Co. tf.

JEWELRY

for
XMAS
PRESENTS



Just Received a New Line of
Jewelry, Beads, Laveliers, Rings
Brooches, Etc.

Prices to Suit the Times

Make your Christmas Gift a Jewelry Gift

A. C. BONEY

YOU HAVE BEEN GENEROUS

To us during these years we have been in business in Merkel, and whatever success we may have attained in our line, has been brought about by the liberal patronage the people of Merkel and surrounding country have extended us. For all of this let us tender our deepest gratitude of thanks and at the same time extend to you the happy Christmas and New Year Greetings. May you enjoy much happiness throughout the holidays and health, prosperity and happiness during the New Year.

Today our garage is better equipped than ever before to render our patrons genuine "Satisfying Service," and our stock of Tires, and Automobile Accessories is complete, and you will find our prices—well in keeping with the general conditions of the country.

Come to See Us

McFarland Garage

Santa Claus' Headquarters



We now have on display one of the largest and most complete lines of Christmas Goods that has ever been shown in our city. You will find in our showing something for all the members of the family and especially we desire to call your attention to our

Toy Department for the Kiddies

For gifts for the larger ones we have silverware, casaroles and many things in Pyrexware, aluminum ware, Ivory Sets, Cut Glass, water sets etc. For the boys, guns, tricycles, wagons, etc. For the children, Dolls, doll carts, doll bed room suites and many toys of all kinds too numerous to mention. We shall be pleased to have you come and inspect our line of Christmas Goods. The children will be delighted to see the many things we have for Santa Claus

Headquarters for Xmas Fruits, Nuts and Candies

Crown Hardware Co.

Make This An Electric Christmas

For Father—

An Electric Fan,
Desk Lamp,
Flash Light

For Mother—

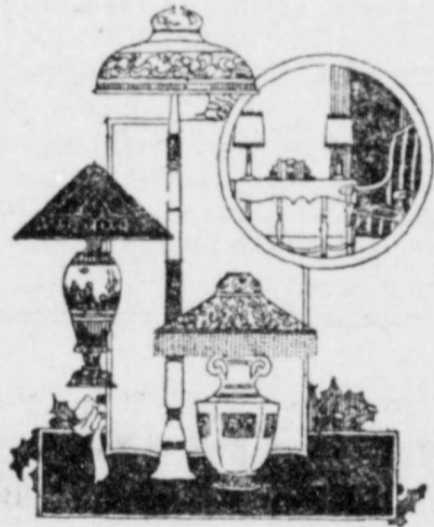
An Electric Range,
Washer,
Toaster,
Percolator,
Cleaner,
Sewing Machine

For "Him"—

An Electric Water Heater,
Bed Lamp,
Flash Light

For "Her"—

An Electric Boudoir Lamp,
Chafing Dish,
Junior Iron,
Curling Iron,
Grill.



Electric Gifts at Christmas time, as on all other gift occasions, are not baubles or trinkets for a day or so. They are lasting gifts which carry electrical cheer throughout the years.

Keen Joy, real enthusiasm and gratitude will radiate from grown-ups when they receive something electrical as surely and as strongly as from the children who are given electrical toys.

For the recipients, Electrical Gifts will give Christmas Day an added meaning and increase happiness, comfort, and convenience every time they are used.

Then give Electrical Gifts for Christmas. They answer the question, "What shall I give?", most satisfactory.

EASY MONTHLY TERMS ON
ALL APPLIANCES



Merkel Power Co.

RURAL SCHOOL NOTES

At a recent meeting of the county Board elected Miss Catherine Ramsey of this city as assistant to the County Superintendent and as attendance officer for the county. Miss Ramsey succeeds Miss Ruth Sims who has been for some time in this office and who has just returned to her home at Gorman. Miss Ramsey is entering upon her new duties with much enthusiasm and energy and we wish to ask for her cooperation of all who are interested in seeing that the children of the county avail themselves of the opportunities offered in the schools of the county. We desire again to urge upon every citizen of our county to report to us all cases of children not in school who should be having these opportunities. While the schools are crowded we are obligated under the law to make adequate provisions for the children of our county and, in some way, their wants and needs will be looked after. The assistance of the Salvation Army has been asked and kindly given in investigating some cases in which it seems children are out of school because of the lack of suitable clothing. If any one can and will give assistance to the work in this way, his help will be appreciated by the Salvation Army and by us.

All of next week will be spent by the Superintendent in visiting schools. Reports from over the county are very encouraging; while the attendance is the largest we have ever had in the county and accordingly, the schools are full very full, yet the interest in the work is splendid and the teachers, apparently, the most satisfactory. On the whole, the county has ever been. Practically no complaints have been registered and this does not mean that the work of the schools is not being watched closely by patrons and trustees. In many schools either Mothers or Parent-Teacher's Clubs have been organized and these organizations

are planning and doing some splendid work. The following schools have reported box-suppers, pie-suppers or some other sort of similar entertainment, in all of which cases good funds have been secured for the purchase of play-ground equipment and other needed supplies; Trent, Caps View, Dewey, Bradshaw, Cedar Creek, Bluff Creek, Wylie, Buffalo Gap, Cedar Gap, Colony Hill, and probably others. The play-grounds of many schools of the county have had such additions made, that they may well be sources of pleasure and pride to children, teachers, and patrons. It is hoped that from holding the art displays of some Company in this line of work at various schools in the county more interest may be aroused in good pictures in every school building of the county. A number of schools today (Saturday) report at our office much interest in the sale of the Red Cross Christmas Seals. We are hoping for the best report in this work this year we have ever had. It is hoped too that many, many children of the county are already members, or will at once enroll as members, of the Junior Red Cross. This work should make a particular appeal, since these funds—twenty-five cents membership fee can be kept by the school if invested in something needed in the way of playground equipment, etc.

At the meeting of the State Teachers Association recently held in Dallas, a new feature displayed was rural schools exhibits. Many of the schools of the county made excellent contributions to the Taylor County display, and all of the efforts shown in this work were much appreciated. This same display, with additions from other schools and from the same schools if desired, will be exhibited again during the period of the teacher's institute soon to be held at Simmons. It would be splendid if EVERY school could and would have a part. At this time the prizes offered to the school and individuals

showing best work will be announced. All of the schools represented in the institute here, whether city or rural, have been asked to make whatever display of school work is desired.

Following the announcements in the paper of the ruling of the Attorney General to the effect that teachers are not to be paid for their attendance upon institutes, this question was taken up by wire with the State Department. Miss Blanton replied that, until the meeting of the Legislature, teachers are to be paid for such attendance. Accordingly, we wish to call attention to this fact and to say that the plans will be carried out as made for the joint institute of the five counties—Caldahan, Jones, Haskell, Shackelford, and Taylor, to be held at Simmons College, December, 19 to 23rd. While the mailing out of programs is a little late, the preparation of the programs has not been delayed. We are proud of the supervisors and speakers whose services we have secured. Three night sessions will be held instead of a session Friday, December 23rd. The public is especially invited to these sessions and will be welcome at all meetings of course. The program in full will be furnished to and, we trust, printed in the papers of the county. Programs will be mailed all the teachers within the next several days. All teachers who wish to be at the dormitories at Simmons College during this time, are urged to advise Registrar T. N. Carswell at Simmons College to this effect AT ONCE and to indicate when they will arrive. The rate for all teachers at these dormitories will be \$7.50 for the period of the institute, the halls being opened for their accommodation Sunday afternoon, December, 18th. Yours for Better Schools, Ada D. Pearce, County Supt.

Your household linen washed and ironed at 8c per pound is cheaper than you can do it yourself. Ligon the Laundry market Phone 218.

Xmas Furniture

The Bible says " 'Tis more blessed to give than to receive," and Christmas is a time of giving. While you are at it why not give gifts of Furniture, something needful, useful and lasting. We have in stock now at money saving prices a complete stock of

BED ROOM SUITES
KITCHEN CABINETS
LIBRARY TABLES
PHOENIX ROCKERS
DRESSING TABLES
MATTRESSES
CHIFFONNIERS
BABY BEDS
RUGS

DINING ROOM FURNITURE
LINOLEUM
STEEL BEDS
KITCHEN TABLES
DRESSERS
DINING CHAIRS
DUIFOLDS
BLANKETS
BABY BUGGIES
NEW PERFECTION OIL STOVES

BED ROOM FURNITURE
LINOLEUM RUGS
WOOD BEDS
CARD TABLES
CHIFFOROBES
CEDAR CHESTS
WINDOW SHADES
PILLOWS
BABY CHAIRS

Let us help you pick your presents from this up-to-date stock of Furniture. Special Xmas Prices on almost everything we have in stock.



J. T. Darsey & Co.

Phone 196

Merkel, Texas



THURSDAY CLUB NOTES

The home of Mrs. R. I. Grimes was open Thursday December first to the members of the Thursday Club.

Mrs. Grimes was graciously assisted in meeting and serving the guests by her co-hostess, Mrs. T. L. Grimes, who ushered them into the room to remove the few wraps, the beautiful sun shiny day had deemed it necessary to wear.

In the rooms of this hospitable home, from the first one entered, through out the house was herald the Yuletide message "Christmas is Coming". The wreaths and garlands of the bright cheerful christmas

colors and the various red bells seemed to sway a glad welcome to all. The large bowls of dainty narcissi seemed to bow their snow white heads in welcome to all.

Many of the guests, realizing the nearness of Xmas and the delinquency of their preparation, were all too busy with their dainty hand work, which lent its share to the beauty of the decorations, to indulge in the games of "42" enjoyed by others.

It seemed as though only a short while was enjoyed in this manner, when the hostess asked that the tables be cleared and the busy fingers cease their christmas toil, and each guest was given

a blank sheet of paper. After a few moments of wandering, they were shown a small jar of beans, and told to write on the papers their guess of the number of beans the jar contained.

In this, Miss Sutphen proved herself most familiar with Beans-en-Jar, and was a table protector which she, in her easy manner presented to Mrs. Booth Warren. The forth coming of something to eat was fore told by the pretty christmas Nappkins being passed, and the aroma of goodies spreading thru' the rooms where the plates consisting of hot coffee, delicious salad on lettuce leaves, potato chips, saltine flakes and pickles were passed. After a brief business transactions, the guests reluctantly departed, bidding one another Good day, declaring they had spent a most pleasant afternoon.

The members fortunate enough to enjoy this afternoon with Mesdames Grimes were; Mesdames, Arrington, Weaver, Collins, Scott, Winter, Mims Howard, N. Handcock; Gaither Jones, Gambill, Ferrier, Warren and W B Brown; with Mesdames G J Jones, Johnson and Mrs Harper of Bristol Va., and Miss Sutphen as honorary guests. Reporter.

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.

We have the largest stock of tires in West Texas. New shipment just received. Merkel Garage. tf.

You will enjoy the holidays better if your clothes have been properly cleaned and pressed. Ligon the Laundry man Phone 218. tf.

GLEANERS ENTERTAINED

Mr. and Mrs. Case delightfully entertained the Gleaners at their home last Tuesday evening. It being the regular meeting of the class, several matters of business was brought before the class. A committee was appointed to prepare a number of Christmas Boxes. Plans were made to serve a chicken dinner on Saturday December 17th in order that we might make a payment on our church pledge. Every one present showed a keen interest and hearty enthusiasm for the different plans pre-

sented and we hope to accomplish much during the coming year. After the business session we sharpened our wits over a contest. Mrs. Mason Pee proved most successful. Mrs. Case, assisted by Mrs. Ross Ferrier served very tempting refreshments. Every one present declared the evening well spent and will be glad to meet with Mr. and Mrs. Case again. Reporter.

Try American Beauty Flour and Meal. They stand for perfection in Bread making. Crown Hardware Co. tf.

CLOTHES CLEANED AND PRESSED

Now is the time to think of winter clothes, look through your wardrobe and get all those old clothes out and let us clean and press them. They will look like new. Cash TailorShop. Phone 180. tf.

Mrs. N. J. Phenix, of Colorado is here this week visiting her aunt, Mrs. I. C. Holden.

Oats, Bran and Shorts at G. M. Sharps. tf.

Ligon The Laundryman

Wishes to thank the good people of Merkel for their liberal patronage. My business has been far better than expected. I have tried in every way I could to please my patrons. If I have failed in one instance I do not know it. My rates on family washing has proven that I save you worry, trouble and money. My Cleaning, Pressing and Dye work speaks for itself—

"There's A Reason"

Every particle of dust is removed before Cleaning your Clothes and no Gasoline odor to them. I wish for you the happiest Christmas of your life and may the New Year bring you joy, happiness and prosperity.

My Phone Number is 218—Use It
My Car is at Your Service

L. P. LIGON

LET US TELL YOU

That we too, are thankful and appreciative of the most generous patronage extended us by the good people of Merkel and surrounding country, for indeed has our business grown and multiplied from the beginning of same. And, since that is the case we have surely rendered you satisfactory service or else your patronage would not be continued as it is. This we are prouder of than all else, because we boast of a service of which there is

NONE BETTER

And as the days go by we are getting better fixed to make our work even better. If you are not a patron come around and give us a trial and then you will be a "Regular" all the time.

"Gulf Gasoline"

"Supreme Auto Oil"

Let us again thank you each and all, and at the same time extend everyone everywhere, the seasons happiest Holiday Greetings, and may the New Year soon to arrive have in store much happiness and prosperity for all men.

Nix Bros. Garage

Kent Street

Once More We are Nearing the Joyous Christmas and NEW YEAR HOLIDAY SEASON

The management of this store hastens to extend to our friends, patrons and the people of Merkel and surrounding country, our sincere greetings, wishing for all, both young and old, a most joyous and happy time throughout the Holiday Season, and trusting that during the new new year soon to arrive, you will enjoy health, happiness and prosperity.

We sincerely appreciate your very liberal patronage during the past. And in this we have done our best to make your buying from us not only pleasant and agreeable, but profitable as well. In the future, we hope to merit your continued good will and patronage; assuring you of every courtesy it is possible to extend; giving you high class merchandise at the closest figure to be found anywhere.

Again, please accept our most sincere Greetings

THE FAIR STORE

CITATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

To the Sheriff or any Constable of Taylor County, Greeting;

You are hereby commanded to summon W. H. Blackwelder by making publication of this Citation once in each week for four successive weeks previous to the return day hereof, in some newspaper published in your County, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, in the nearest county where a

newspaper is published to appear at the next regular term of the District Court of Taylor County, to be holden at the Court House thereof, in Abilene Texas on the first Monday in January, A. D. 1922, the same being the second day of January A. D. 1922, then and there to answer a petition filed in said Court on the 26th day of August, A. D. 1921, in a suit, numbered on the docket of said Court No. 4786, wherein Erma C. Blackwelder is plaintiff, and W. H. Blackwelder is defendant,

and said petition alleging that plaintiff and defendant are husband and wife, and were lawfully married in Taylor County Texas, on or about the 23rd day of December 1913, and continued to live together as husband and wife on or about the 20th day of August, 1920, when by reason of harsh, cruel and inhuman treatment of defendant towards plaintiff, she was forced and compelled to permanently abandon defendant, without cause or provocation on her part, which cruel and inhuman

treatments are of such nature generally as to render their further living together as husband and wife insupportable, and they have not since lived together as husband and wife; that plaintiff was always kind and affectionate to defendant, and was true to her marital vows and obligations for the last two or three years prior and up to the time of their said separation, defendant was unmindful of the duties and obligations of his marital vows, and began a course of unkind, harsh, cruel, abusive and inhuman treatment towards plaintiff, which continued up to the time of their said separation, until plaintiff by reason thereof became almost a total nervous wreck and was compelled to receive medical treatment; that frequently when plaintiff was sick in bed unable to wait on herself, defendant would leave home and remain away for several days and weeks at a time, showing an utter indifference for her life or health; that during said marriage one child was born unto them, a boy about five years of age, by the name of Odell Blackwelder, who now resides with plaintiff, cared for and supported by plaintiff; that defendant has failed to care for or support either plaintiff or their said child, but has refused to do so. Wherefore Plaintiff prays for a dissolution of said marriage relations, and for the care and custody of their said child, and for such other further relief, special and general, in law and in equity that she may be justly entitled to, etc.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said Court, as its aforesaid next regular term, this writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed the same.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND, and the Seal of said Court, at office in Abilene, Texas this the 4 day of November A. D. 1921.

J. K. Fuller, Clerk.
District Court, Taylor County, Texas. 2t4

OLD SOCK BANKS

Last week the startling statement was made that money being withheld from circulation amounted to \$275,000,000, or \$2.75 per capita. Had this statement been made by any other person than the comptroller of the currency, it would have been questioned, but coming from him it is undoubtedly correct.

What becomes with all the money? Where is it? This is an interesting subject for speculation. It is certainly not in the pockets of the unemployed. It is probably not in the pockets of those who possess it, though some of it is likely to be in that old "sock" bank

and much of it is locked up in strong boxes in bank vaults and elsewhere.

But, wherever it is, if this amount of money were put into circulation it would loosen up things. Prices would be lowered and employment would be furnished those who are now idle. Withheld from circulation, these two hundred and seventy-five million dollars are not earning any interest—they are absolutely of no benefit to anybody, and therefore as if they had never been coined and placed in circulation—void of any benefit in the affairs of the country.

white, butter kist Pop Corn at Boney's

GREETINGS AND APPRECIATION:

For your past patronage we are indeed grateful. We trust that by courteous treatment and good service we will merit your future business.

Bring us your Watches & Clocks

**V. B. Sublett
Jeweler**

Gem Theatre

Saturday, Dec. 17th.
Enterprise Distributing Corporation Presents
William Desmond in
"Deuce Duncan"
with
a Century Comedy
"Hold Your Breath"

Monday, Dec. 19th.
A Maurice Tourneur Production
"THE BAIT"
with
Hope Hampton
A Paramount Picture
With a Star Comedy
"Meet My Husband"

Friday, Dec. 23rd.
FRANKLIN FARNUM
in
"Hunger of the Blood"
with
Chapter No. 9 of
"Miracles of the Jungle"

Wednesday, Dec. 21st.
WALLACE REID
in
"The Charm School"
A Paramount Picture
with
Ambrose Comedy "Visit"

Thursday, Dec. 22nd.
ANITA STEWART
in
"Harriet and the Piper"
First National Attraction
with
International News No. 89

Tuesday, Dec. 20th.
S. S. Hutchinson
Presents
"The Blue Moon"
Distributed by "Pathe"
with
The Bill and Bob Series
"The Civet Cat"

Accept Our GREETINGS

At the Joyous Holiday, Yuletide time we extend to you the season's greetings, with thanks and appreciation of the very generous patronage extended us during the year now about to close and take great pleasure in stating further that, we shall be glad to have your future orders for anything in our line, assuring you that same shall have our closest and most careful attention

May the New Year soon to arrive bring many blessings and much prosperity to you and each of you.

Burton-Lingo Company

CITATION

The state of Texas To the Sheriff or any Constable of Taylor County Greeting;

You are hereby commanded to summon Nannie Renau by making publication of this Citation once in each week for four successive weeks previous to the return day hereof, in some newspaper published in your

County, to appear at the next regular term of the District court of Taylor County, to be holden at the Court House thereof, in Abilene, on the 1st Monday in January, A. D. 1922, the same being the 2nd day of January A. D. 1922, then and there to answer a petition filed in said Court on the 5th day of December A. D. 1921, in a suit numbered on the docket of said Court No. 4853, wherein S. L.

Renau, is Plaintiff, and Nannie Renau, is Defendant, and said petition alleging that plaintiff is bona fide resident of Taylor County; that the residence of the defendant is unknown; that plaintiff and defendant were married July 4th 1917 and lived together until February 1918 when defendant voluntarily abandoned the bed and board of plaintiff without his consent and has continuously lived separate and apart from him. That defendant's residence is unknown. Plaintiff sues for divorce, costs, and general relief. Herein Fail Not, but have before said Court, at its aforesaid next regular term, this writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed the same.

Given under My Hand, and the Seal of said Court, at office in Abilene, this the 5th day of December A. D. 1921.

J. K. Fuller, Clerk. District Court, Taylor County 4tp.

EGGS-EGGS-EGGS
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Will be on sale at all the leading stores during the holidays buy them in preference to all others, they cost no more and you will be aiding some poor and fortunate.

CITATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

To the Sheriff or any Constable of Taylor County, Greeting You are hereby commanded to summon Ellen Archie, Stella Belle Flesher, her husband F. R. Flesher, W. B. Alexander, H. F. Alexander, S. M. Oldham, Ella Sandell, her husband, Orren Sandell, Aurelia Marshall, her husband B. G. Marshall, F. M. Oldham, Clinnon Oldham L. C. Oldham and Linord Oldmah by making publication of this Citation once in each week for four successive weeks previous to the return day hereof, in some newspaper published in your County, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then in the nearest county where a newspaper is published, to appear at the next regular term of the District Court of Taylor County, to be holden at the Court House thereof in Abilene Texas, on the first Monday in January, A. D. 1922, the same being the second day of January, A. D. 1922, then and there to answer a petition filed in said Court on the 28th day of October, A. D. 1921, in a suit numbered on the docket of said Court No. 4824, wherein A. A. Alexander, also known as Mrs. H. B. Alexander, is Plaintiff, and Alfred Alexander, Emma Jacobs, her husband W. E. Jacobs, Susie Moody, her husband J. M. Moody, Minnie Emmons, her husband Jason Emmons, L. C. Oldham, M. H. Oldham, C. L. Alexander for himself, as administrator of the Estate of H. B. Alexander, deceased and as guardian of the Estate of Luther Alexander, Brice Alexander, Etter Alexander, Fredy Alexander, Lewis Alexander, Clinnon Oldham, Linord Oldham, Minors Alpha Airhart, W. B. Alexander, H. F. Alexander, Jennie Evans a feme sole, S. B. Alexander, Ellen Archie a feme sole, T. H. Alexander, Della Kavanaugh, her husband, A. R. Kavanaugh, Stella Belle Flesher and her husband, F. R. Flesher, F. M. Oldham, W. S. Oldham, Letha Storms and her husband, Virgil Storms, Lillie Gunnels and her husband, Charlie Gunnels, Matilda Alexander, a feme sole, Osborne Alexander, S. M. Oldham, Luther Downs, Aurelia Marshall and her husband, B. G. Marshall, Ella Sandell and her husband Orren Sandell, and Luther Alexander, Brice Alexander, Etter Alexander, Fredy Alexander, Lewis Alexander, Clinnon Oldham, and Linnord Oldham, Minors, are Defendants, and said petition alleging, and being a suit for trespass to try title for the possession and title to 205 acres of land out of the Herscheil Corzine Survey No 508, patented to W. R. D. Ward, assignee of Herscheil Corzine, on the 30th day of January, 1855, as per patent No 78, Vol. 12, situated in Taylor County, Texas, more particularly described in said petition on file in said cause, and for the removal of the cloud upon plaintiff's title to said land, and for her possession, damages and costs; that on or about the first day of October, 1921, plaintiff was lawfully seized and possessed of said land and premises holding and claiming the same in fee simple, and that on said date defendants unlawfully entered upon said land and premises and ejected plaintiff there from, and unlawfully withheld from her the possession thereof to her damage in the sum of \$4000; plaintiff especially pleads the five and ten years peaceable and adverse possession of said land and premises, holding, using, and cultivating and paying all taxes thereon under deed duly recorded in the deed records of Taylor County, Texas for a period of more than five years and of more than ten years after her cause of action accrued and before the commencement of said suit, wherefore she prays judgement of the court, etc.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said Court, at its aforesaid next regular term, this writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed the same.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND

and the Seal of said Court, at office in Abilene, Texas, this the 22 day of November, A. D. 1921

J. K. Fuller, Clerk. District Court, Taylor County Texas.

24t.

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Through error my phone number was left out of Directory. Call me at No. 210 for any work Carpentering, Papering or Painting.

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

A modern discovery for the rapid healing of flesh wounds, cuts, burns, bruises, sores, and scalds is Liquid Borozone. It is a clear, colorless liquid possessing marvelous healing power. Price, 30c 60c, and \$1.20. Sold by Sanders Drug Store. Dec.

Some folks have an idea that a Steam Laundry is more expensive to patronize than the wash woman. Let Ligon the laundryman convince you that it is a wrong idea. Phone 218 brings my car. tf.

We have the largest stock of tires in West Texas. New shipment just received. Merkel Garage. tf.

Old Homestead Coffee at G. M. Sharps. tf.



Your CHRISTMAS DINNER

Of course you are preparing for it now, because the thoughtful housewife never waits until the last minute to make preparation for the big Christmas Dinner when friends and loved come in to enjoy the holly day feasts.

For This Dinner

We have all the necessary trimmings needed to make every detail complete; having especially ordered those things in the Grocery Line so essential for such occasions.

We have an abundance of different kinds of nuts apples, oranges, candy bannas, cranberries etc

Make out your order To-DAY, and phone or bring same to us, and we will give it careful attention.

In the City our Delivery Service is the Best.

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W. O. BONEY

MERKEL, TEXAS

The Rag Doll's Christmas

HERE was once a very, very old rag doll who lived in a nursery. She was so old that she had seen all the children grow up—the boy who wore trousers now, the girl who had her hair done in braids, the middle-sized child who had so often left the rag doll out in the garden at night. There was only the baby left—bless his pink toes!

But the rag doll was very, very old, and one beautiful Christmas time she began to show her age.

Her hair had been combed so much that it had come out dreadfully, and her nose, from a great deal of kissing, was entirely gone. Her pretty pink cheeks had been washed away when the boy tried to teach her to swim in the bath tub, and all her clothes were very untidy indeed.

The baby never noticed all these things, but the toys did; they all made the most unkind remarks to the rag doll the day before Christmas.

"Look at your dirty face," said the large French doll. "You'll be put in the attic tonight. That's where the old dolls go." "Look at your dress," said the jumping jack. "It is all torn. I wouldn't walk across the nursery floor with you."

"Did you ever see such thin hair?" asked the hobby horse. "I thought my tail was thin, but it isn't to be compared with that!"

But just then the nursery door opened, and the Christmas Angel came in. You could be perfectly sure that it was the Christmas Angel even if she did have on a gingham apron, because her face shone so through the dark.

"The French doll must go up to the attic," said the Christmas Angel. "There is a more beautiful new best doll coming."

"Why, the jack-in-the-box has forgotten how to jump."

You see the jack-in-the-box had been so excited about the rag doll's dress that he had broken his spring.

"The jack-in-the-box must go up to the attic, too," said the Christmas Angel.

Then she went over to the hobby-horse.

"Poor, old hobby-horse!" she said. "Your leg is very badly broken. I will take you up to the attic until you can be mended."

"There," the Christmas Angel said at last, "the nursery is all tidy, and ready for new toys—but, dear me, what's this? Why, it is the little rag doll!"

"Oh, please, do I have to go to the attic, too?" said the rag doll. "It's very cold there, and I know the best doll will have the chimney corner for herself—and I don't want the nice to gnaw my toes!"

"Why, you dear old thing!" said the Christmas Angel. "You're the same rag doll that I used to play with when I was little. You go to the attic? Why, I just guess not! We couldn't get along without you in the nursery. You do need a little mending, but I am going to sew you, and then you shall sit on the very tippitop of the Christmas tree."

The Christmas Angel lighted one of the Christmas candles so that she could see to sew. Then she took the rag doll in her lap and opened her workbag and set to work.

First she stuffed the rag doll's insides with plenty of cotton so she could sit up. Then she sewed her toes and put new little white stockings and black shoes on her feet. She took a piece of clean, white cloth and covered the rag doll's dirty face, and painted in blue eyes and a smiling red mouth and vermilion cheeks. She sewed on a new yellow wig; and then she made a pink and white checked gingham dress with puffed sleeves and a white apron with strings to keep the dress clean, and a pink and white checked sunbonnet to tie under the rag doll's chin and keep her hair tidy.

"I think you will do now, you dear old thing," said the Christmas Angel. So it came Christmas morning, and there on the tippitop of the tree sat the rag doll quite made over. The children thought her really the most beautiful of all the Christmas things. As for the rag doll herself—why, all the secure of her old days was as nothing to the happiness that was hers.

Carolyn S. Bailey, in Kindergarten Review.



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THE HOLY MANGER A YULE MESSAGE

"Prespio." Instead of Christmas Tree, in Italy and Spain. Christmas Spirit, Peace and Good Will Should Prevail.

It is Representation of the Place Where Baby Christ Lay in Bethlehem. Time to Be Happy and to Aid Others in the Enjoyment of the Season's Cheer.

GIRLS and boys of Italy and Spain, which are called the Latin countries, never hang up their stockings at Christmas time, nor do they have Christmas trees. Kris Kringle and Santa Claus are German saints and the Christmas tree came out of the German forests long ago, when the nations of northern Europe were forest tribes. It is the northern peoples—the Germans, Scandinavians and English, all of whom are descended from old Teutonic tribes—who keep Christmas as Americans do.

Instead of the Christmas tree, Italian and Spanish boys and girls have the prespio. "Prespio" means manger, and it is a representation of the manger where the baby Christ lay in Bethlehem. It is presented in different ways. Sometimes it shows only the inside of the barn where the Baby and His mother lay, with Joseph, the Three Wise Men and the animals about. Sometimes it shows a hillside, with the Wise Men coming on foot or horseback, or on donkeys, bringing their gifts to the stable. Sometimes the manger is small—not more than a foot square. Sometimes it is large enough to occupy the whole end of a room. It is built on a board foundation and is made of wood, with earth, pebbles, dried grass and leaves for the outdoor scenes. The figures are carved of wood, or perhaps little dolls are used, all very carefully and elaborately dressed by the girls. Sometimes brooks and lakes are ingeniously represented with paper, glass or isinglass. Sometimes the whole is rough and rude, but again it is very neatly and beautifully done, and is quaint and interesting when all complete.

The French, who are half Latin and half Teutonic in their makeup, mix the customs of both races in their Christmas keeping. They build the manger and they also give the children presents; only, instead of hanging her stocking, little French Babette puts out her shoes. The French call the manger "creche," and in country villages in France companies of children still go from house to house on Christmas eve, carrying the creche and singing Christmas carols. Sometimes they help to build a beautiful large creche in the village church, over which they are very proud and delighted.

But, again, it is an evangel to man of peace with himself. Every man finds discord in his own being. His innermost personality is the seat of antagonisms. He is an instrument out of tune. The primal harmony of his spirit is broken. He is at war with himself. His baser strives with his higher nature. Soul and body war against each other. But "on earth peace" chants the seraphic choir. Regard the image of God stamped upon you. Put down the low and base. Let the spirit rule and the body serve.

Finally, the Christmas spirit should breathe the spirit of peace in our business and in all the relations of life. Especially in our homes we can cultivate the Christmas spirit, displacing their frequent discontents, fault findings and contentions with peace and good will.

For this glad time, at least, let us all be better men and women; less selfish, more kindly, easier to live with. And how much happier will we be if this Christmas spirit—its cheery glow and kindly warmth—stay with us all through the year!—Janus B. Remensnyder

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