

THE MERKEL MAIL

THE MERCHANTS WHO ADVERTISE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS—READ THE ADS

VOL. 37—NO. 41

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1925

12 PAGES

SELLS INTEREST IN F. & M. NATIONAL

In accordance with another announcement in this paper, Mr. L. R. Thompson, for the past six years cashier of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Merkel, has sold all his interest in that institution and will be succeeded by Mr. Booth Warren, assistant for the past several years. We are informed also that the bank or officials have purchased Mr. Thompson's home, however he has not so informed this paper, but rumor has it that he and his good wife may decide to leave Merkel in the near future. If such be the case, they have many friends here who will regret the same, as they have by their honesty and stand for the better things of life, made many lasting friends both in and about the city. And this paper will wait for more information as to their future intentions before saying more.

The F. & M. Bank has always been one of the strong and popular banks of the city, has prospered and done well under the able management of Mr. Thompson, and this paper hastens to predict for the institution continued growth and prosperity under the very able and courteous management of Mr. Booth Warren, a Merkel reared young man, who has spent all of his young life in the banking business and who will also prove a progressive and able leader in all walks of like in our community.

AN APPRECIATION

Perhaps in recent years no one had passed away who was more generally beloved than Mrs. Geo. Henck, better known as "Margaret," daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Fitts of this city. Though having spent her married life in Pasadena, Cal., where her husband has for a number of years been supervisor of Manual Arts of the Public Schools, she was born in Arlington, Texas; later moving to Merkel where she grew to womanhood. We who knew her best remember her as the sweet young girl whose coming always brought cheer into homes, and when we speak of her among ourselves, of her many endearing traits and recount sweet little memories of her, find it difficult to put into words her many virtues. There was about her an indescribable charm, a sweetness all her own. Her's was the giving and loving the world scarcely hears about. Her life was filled with a most beautiful consideration for others. Her fondness for children and their response was something to behold. If as a friend she was a rare example another place she filled of which I cannot say too much was that of a daughter, a constant companion of devoted parents, she was like a ray of sunshine in the home. While teaching in El Paso she was married May 30, 1911 to Mr. Geo. Henck. Subsequently they made their home in Pasadena, Cal. There surrounded by congenial friends and happy in devotion of her husband she spent fourteen blissful years of her life and it was thus she died, loved and appreciated, receiving the tenderest care that loved ones could bestow upon her. Her life so beautiful lived is an inspiration to all whose privilege it has been to know her, and as memory floods my heart with thoughts of bygone days, I know that I am richer for having had such a friend. A Friend. It

Your name printed on your greeting cards adds individuality

15,400 BALES ARE RECEIVED HERE

Up to Thursday afternoon of this week there had been received at the Cotton Yard 10,600 bales of cotton and at the Farm Bureau Platform there had been received 3,500 bales and the Sam Swann gin had ginned 2,600 round bales, counted as halves make 1,300, making a total of 15,400 bales for the season up to this time.

This is nearly 2,000 bales more than was received here last year with several hundred yet to come likely. Public Weigher C. L. Tucker stated that they were receiving an average of about 100 bales a day now.

DR. PENDER AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH SUN

Dr. R. C. Pender field representative of Buckner Orphan's Home will be with us Sunday morning and bring us greetings from our 700 orphan children. He will speak to us Sunday morning out of his heart whatever message the Lord may send by him and then he will give opportunity for all who wish to help feed and clothe the orphans.

We will have all other services on regular schedule. At the evening hour the pastor will speak on the theme, "The Faith of Nehemiah or coming Back to God." Sunday afternoon in the First Baptist Church in Abilene there will be a rally in the interest of Foreign Missions. The speakers will be Rev. Eugene Salee of China, Mrs. Geo. W. Truett of Dallas and Dr. L. R. Scarborough of Fort Worth. This meeting begins promptly at 2 o'clock and everybody is invited to attend.

Ira L. Parrack, pastor.

McMURRY STUDENTS ORGANIZE MERKEL CLUB

A few days ago the students that are attending McMurry College from Merkel, Texas, met and organized a club that is to be known as the Mer-Klub, and one that is to function throughout the years that are to come. Merkel has been a town that has sent quite a number of students away to colleges in the past few years, and today she is supplying a number to the student body of this new Methodist school in the West. The following were present and the following officers were elected for the club, Mr. M. R. Pike, president; Miss Gracie Lee Cranston, vice president; Miss Iva Bragg, secretary-Treasurer; Miss Boog Sears, corresponding secretary; Mr. W. L. Harkrider, Miss Hazel Lee Rainbolt, Mr. J. B. McLean, Miss Mabel McNeese, Miss Mary Butman and Miss Mona Margaret Jones.

Each student thinks that McMurry is their greatest friend in the way of an institution of learning, for it is thorough in all of its departments. Bro. Joe Haynes of Herford, Texas, is at present holding a meeting in the auditorium at the college and a fine spiritual time we are having. This is strictly an orthodox school, and Christ governs the lives of all of those who are in authority.

Messrs Jones and Lackey, proprietors of the City Barber Shop have lately made some nice new improvements in the interior of their shop by adding new papering and painting.

CELEBRATE FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Tuesday evening, December the eighth furnished an occasion of much pleasure to both relatives, close friends and the honorees, when they all met happily at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Sheppard and cordially surprised this couple whose golden wedding anniversary it was.

Fifty years ago, Miss Mary Judson Chambless became the wife of Mr. S. W. Sheppard at Bremon, Texas, Robertson county, December 8th, 1875. Mrs. Sheppard is now seventy years of age and Mr. Sheppard is 75 years old.

A pleasant evening was spent in renewing remembrances of long ago and the mingling of those present in conversation. Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard also received many gifts of remembrance on this occasion.

Sandwiches and punch were served during the evening. All the children of Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard were present except one, Mr. Doss Sheppard of Dallas; and all the grandchildren were present except Miss Melba West, Miss Marian Sheppard and Mr. Weston West.

Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Sheppard and son; Mr. and Mrs. H. C. West and children, Mrs. Frank Hamm and children, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Sheppard and daughter; Mr. and Mrs. F. C. McFarland and baby; Mr. and Mrs. Sie Hamm, Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Anderson, Miss Flora Frances Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Lige Gamble and children and Mr. Willie Sheppard.

CHRISTMAS CLEAN-UP

We are informed that the city officials, under the supervision of City Marshal W. N. Hall, will start on a big general City-Wide Clean-up of Merkel next week.

The city wagons will begin making the rounds early in the week, and every citizen is urged to clean up their premises and place all rubbish in boxes or other receptacles in the alleys, where the wagons can reach them easily.

This is a fine move and certainly should have the endorsement and cooperation of every person in the city. Merkel is gaining by the keeping of her streets and alleys cleaned up, and the work should be kept up.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Richardson visited Mr. Richardson's mother at Stephenville last Saturday and Sunday. She is in very ill health.

LUNCHEON CLUB TO MEET ON JAN. 5TH

Owing to the fact that from now until after Christmas every one will be very busy, it has been decided that the next meeting of the Merkel Luncheon Club will be held on January 5th, and at which time the ladies of the city are invited to be present and take part in the organization of a Ladies Auxiliary to the Luncheon Club.

LARGENT CATTLE WIN AT CHICAGO

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Largent returned Wednesday from Chicago where they have been for some time attending the big Chicago Live Stock Show, and where the Largent Herd as usual made some great winnings. In fact it is doubtful if ever a bunch of show cattle ever made so many fancy winnings as did this fine herd of cattle upon this show.

That the Largent Herefords are as good as the best may be well attested by the fine records they have made throughout the country and by the fact that they are daily selling fine heifers and bulls to stock raisers who wish to improve the standard of their herds.

Following are the winnings: First in Junior Yearling Steer; second in Sr. Steer Calf, Reserved Chamion; Yearling steer. On bulls they won six on Bonny Brea, Fifth on Superior 39th, third on Gay Ladd the 16th, fourth on Prince Domino 3rd and Superior 51st. In cow classes: second on Miss Royal Ladd, 5th on Clo Ann, 2nd on Lovies Sunshine, 2nd on Miss Callan, first on Mary Lass, 3rd on best three bulls, second on best two cows, fifth on age herd, second on yearling herd, fourth on calf herd and third on get-of-sire.

PEACEMAKER SLASHED TO DEATH IN BRAWL

Sweetwater, Dec. 8.—Irving Jones, 23, who is said to have acted as peacemaker in an altercation at a skating rink at Roscoe Monday night is dead as the result of knife wounds. Another youth is sought in connection with the killing.

Several others were also slashed in the affray.

REAL NEWSPAPER BARGAINS

THE ABILENE REPORTER (Daily and Sunday) for one year	\$4.20
THE MERKEL MAIL One Year	\$1.50
Total	\$5.70
OUR CLUBBING OFFER—The Merkel Mail and Abilene Reporter daily & Sunday 1 yr.	\$5.00
You Save	\$.70
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM (Daily and Sunday) One Year	\$7.45
THE MERKEL MAIL One Year	\$1.50
Total	\$8.95
OUR CLUBBING OFFER—The Star-Telegram Daily and Sunday and The Merkel Mail, 1 yr.	\$8.00
You Save	\$.95
DALLAS NEWS (Daily & Sunday) 1 year and THE MERKEL MAIL 1 year for	\$7.25
MAGAZINES	
Holland's Magazine 1 yr. and Merkel Mail 1 yr.	\$2.00
Holland's Magazine 3 yrs & Merkel Mail 1 yr.	\$2.35
Holland's Magazine 5 yrs & Merkel Mail 1 yr.	\$2.75
Farm & Ranch 1 yr and Merkel Mail 1 yr.	\$2.35
Farm & Ranch 3 yrs. and Merkel Mail 1 yr.	\$2.75
Farm & Ranch 5 yrs. and Merkel Mail 1 yr.	\$3.25

These offers are good at the Merkel Mail office only, as we have no agents authorized to make such offers, and no agent for any paper can give you as good prices. We can also give you a good clubbing offer on magazines.

FAMOUS LECTURER AT PRESBYTERIANS

Dr. R. W. Douthat of Huntington, West Virginia, will give a lecture Sunday evening at 7:00 o'clock at the Grace Presbyterian church on "Descent of the Holy City," and on Monday evening at 7:30 he will deliver his famous lecture on "The Charge of the 10,000 at Gettysburg." An oil painting 6x9 feet will be used to illustrate his lecture on "The Descent of the Holy City." This beautiful and significant painting will be on display all day Sunday at the church.

Dr. Douthat has been a teacher for many years in the University of West Virginia.

For the past week Dr. Douthat has been giving lectures at Central Presbyterian church, First Baptist Church and other churches in Abilene. We quote the following from the Abilene Reporter in regard to Dr. Douthat and his lectures:

"Mrs. Ed Robertson formerly Superintendent of schools of Haskell and now matron at Mary Frances Hall, Simmons, spoke in the following manner of the picture and lecture: "Too much cannot be said in commendation of the picture and of the optimism and depth of soul and marvelous flow of language of the speaker.

"The Pyramid of Faith" was the subject for the three o'clock hour lecture at the First Baptist Church. The audience was inspired with the great message and grasp of the principles of the universe which the speaker possessed."

NO MAIL DELIVERED ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Our very efficient Postmaster, Mr. G. E. Comegys, announces that for the first time in the history of the United States there will be no regular mail service on Christmas Day by the postal department at any place in the nation, with the exception of that sent by Special Delivery.

He states that this is a special ruling for trial this year, and may be made permanent. Herebefore all rural free delivery carriers have made their trips on Christmas Day and the mail has been distributed in the offices, but this will not be done this year, hence the patrons are placed on notice far in advance that to insure the delivery of a parcel by Christmas the same must be mailed in ample time. Mr. Comegys and his accommodating assistants are doing all they can to give the patrons the best of service and you will help yourself by cooperating with them.

BANKS CLOSE AT 5 P.M.

Beginning next Monday, December 14, the undersigned banks of Merkel, Texas, will open at 8:00 o'clock A.M. and close at 5:00 o'clock P.M. It

The Farmers State Bank.
The F. & M. National Bank.

Mr. J. M. Bryson, one of the pioneer citizens of the Dora community was here yesterday and while in town dropped into the Mail office. He is one of our readers in the Dora community, and has our thanks for some nice complimentary remarks in behalf of the paper. Mr. Bryson expects to spend Christmas with old friends and relatives in Dallas, Texas.

HIGHWAY WORK ON NO. ONE TO START

The following was taken from the Abilene Daily Reporter.

Plans and specifications for improvement of two sections of state highways in Taylor county, totaling 17.06 miles, will be completed in the office of resident engineer McCanlies by Christmas, he stated Tuesday morning. The plans are for 6.65 miles from the north end of Pine street to the county line at Hamby and from a point just west of Tye to Trent, a distance of 11 miles.

Mr. McCanlies also stated that he expects final approval of the plans on the section of Highway No. 1 from Abilene to the Callahan county line by both the state and federal authorities soon. A federal representative recently came here to inspect a bridge on the route and said that his department was considering recommendation of a different type of bridge than that placed in the plans. He said that the present plan might be allowed to stand and Mr. McCanlies has not heard anything to the contrary. If the change is not made the contract for hard surfacing of that portion of the highway should be let within three months, he said.

No information as to the financial condition of the highway commission as it might affect improvement of Taylor county highways has been received by Mr. McCanlies, who is in the employ of that commission.

MISS BOOG SEARS ELECTED PRETTIEST IN McMURRY

In a contest of the past week in which all of the students of McMurry College participated, Miss Boog Sears of Merkel was elected the most beautiful young lady of the entire student body. Miss Sears is taking her second year's work of college matriculation in this institution, having studied one year in Sullens College of Bristol, Virginia. She is a thorough going student, and does not base her college career totally upon popularity by explanation of the fact that she is taking an active part in many of the various student activities that require a great amount of hard labor, and is serving the Sophomore class as secretary-treasurer, a position that requires more or less work outside of her regular line of studies. Miss Sears thinks of McMurry College as a school with a great past, a better present and a most wonderful future. She is giving her time and talent to the development of this school as well as self from the standpoint of an active, loyal student.

A CORRECTION

The following names were accidentally omitted from the honor roll of the Grammar School which appeared in last week's issue: Fifth grade, Mary Elizabeth Grimes, Thelma Leach, Lela Patterson, Alvin Skurlock. Fourth grade, Fay Vantrees, Joyce Wheeler.

The Gleaners Class of the Methodist Church have a few of their well-known Cook Books for sale. They would make a nice Christmas present. If you want one see Mrs. F. H. Latham or Mrs. Fred Guitar. It

Saturday afternoon, December 5, Rev. W. R. McCarter, in his usual happy and appropriate manner, pronounced the words that made man and wife Mr. Silas Scott and Miss Cora Dolin, both of the Blain community.



EVERY

BRANCH OF BANKING

The activities of this Bank, extending as it does into every branch of business, is in a position to render its customers a service at once so varied and complete that they have to carry but one account. Come in and talk over your financial business with one of our officers. You will find them willing to take all the time needed to help you with your business.

FARMERS STATE BANK

Banking Friendship that Encircles this Section

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

J. S. Swann, President J. C. Mason, Vice-President R. O. Anderson, Active Vice-Pres. W. L. Diltz Jr., Cashier Herbert Patterson, Assistant-Cashier David Hendricks

THE PENCIL MAKES A FARM PAY BETTER

Farm Accounting Reveals Losing Methods and Points Way to Bigger Profits.

(From Banker-Farmer)

A farm cannot properly be called successful unless it pays a fair rate of interest on the investment and returns fair wages for the farmer's labor. Agriculture is considered by all odds the most important industry in the world, and yet in no other industry is the business end so neglected.

It is common to find a farmer with an investment of fifteen to twenty thousand dollars, yet does he keep books? Perhaps he may jot down a note now and then of an important deal, but this is of no value in an analysis of his business as a whole. No other industry, however small, is carried on without books of some sort.

Farming is a business and to be successful must be conducted in a businesslike way. The business man's mind should have indelibly printed upon it two questions: What profit is my business making? How can that profit be increased? To know the latter, one must find out the former; and to find out about profits requires the keeping of books.

It is not necessary for a farmer to have a course in bookkeeping. Almost every agricultural college in the country has issued a simplified farm accounting book which it sells at cost, and only a few minutes are required each day to jot down the day's happenings.

Accounts Increase Profits

Instances number a thousandfold where farmers have profited by knowing their business. Accounts kept by nineteen farmers in Illinois led them to improve the organization and operation of their farms in ways that added approximately \$650 to their average net income in 1922, the seventh year they had kept accounts.

An Iowa farmer found at the end of the first year he kept books that crops fed to livestock brought more money than when sold outright. His figures showed that his cows were poor; compared with other farms in the state, he found the number of acres cultivated per man on his farm, as well as the number of acres per horse, were below average. He rented more land and replanned his fields, so that the crop areas per man and horse were increased. He sold some of his scrubs and bought good cows. The second year his income from the farm, after paying all expenses and interest on the money invested, had been increased over \$350.

Costs Can Be Regulated

"I have discovered," says one farm bookkeeper, "that the kind of man you have on a job, as well as the particular team, often makes quite a variation in the cost of performing certain tasks. I have learned from the pages of my book that if I could have increased the yield of my wheat field by two bushels and my corn by five bushels I would have realized a substantial profit from them."

While the farmers may not be able to fix prices on their products, they do have a voice in determining the costs of production. To reduce this cost they must first know what the costs are.

The number of farmers who are keeping books on their business has increased remarkably in recent years, but the number of businesslike farmers is woefully small when listed alongside the sum total of the farmers in the country.

Inventory is Indispensable

The basis of any system of farm accounting is the annual property list or inventory. It is the starting point of the farm records. One must take into consideration decreases or increases in the value of all property owned to gauge the progress of the business. Lacking facts as to the value of his property, no business man can form an accurate estimate of how he stands financially. Increased cash may be due to property which was sold, or increased debts may be due to improvements made. If a farmer is falling behind, the inventory will emphasize this fact. Often when a man is discouraged and thinks he is making no progress, his inventories will tell him that he is better off than he thought.

At the end of each year a financial statement is drawn off. This is the farmer's rating and no farmer with a good financial statement need fear walking into a bank and asking for a loan.

BANKERS HELP

A bank in Monrovia, Ind., tests seed corn for farmers. A basement room was fitted out last season for the purpose and 25,000 ears were tested for fifty-six farmers. One-fourth of the seed tested last year was unfit for seed. This year the percentage will run even higher. The work is done under the supervision of the high school agricultural teacher. He reports that the community will have a surplus of seed corn this year.

The banks of Conway, Ark., have offered prizes for the most marketable sweet potatoes produced on one acre of land. A first prize of \$150 is offered, along with three district prizes of \$50 each. The county agent and the banks are working out the details.

The County Bankers Association will help to employ a full time county leader this year for boys' and girls' club work in Calhoun, Cherokee and Buena Vista counties, Iowa.

KEEP UP SEARCH FOR PIRATE GOLD

Another Expedition After Buccaneers' Hoard.

The dispatch of a British expedition "equipped with the latest scientific appliances" to lift pirate treasure from the island of Cocos seems to indicate that the romantic life will never lose its peculiar appeal. Whether the buccaneers ever buried any treasure or not, and whether they were stupid enough to leave it buried if they did, are questions which history has never satisfactorily answered. It has nothing to do with the persistence of those golden, those glowing legends; the spirit of the unfortunate Kidd will doubtless never be laid along the New England coasts, and people will never be convinced that anything so fascinating as pirate gold could also turn out to be wholly unobtainable.

The scientific appliances, of course, may fail to turn up the expected \$14,000,000, but the Britishers will at least secure the less filthy lure of romantic adventure. The very name of Cocos Island, like so many of those lovely and alluring names which still turn a chart of the West Indies into a literary experience, brings up the whole picture. Cocos, lying in a convenient isolation west of Panama, was one of the centers for the magnificent operations which followed upon Henry Muggan's demonstration that in the Pacific there were still richer ships to scuttle and cities to sack. John Masefield's account of the Seventeenth-century buccaneers devotes several chapters to the famous expedition which crossed the Isthmus of Darien, descended upon Panama, and then went on to harry the Pacific coasts of South America. It was the richest period in the buccaneering trade, the cargoes were fabulous, the daring was unbelievable, and the final proceeds sometimes almost seemed to be worth it.

One can almost see the island, sleeping in a blue sea behind a palm-fringed beach, heavy with memories of the great period. Perhaps it does not really look that way. Perhaps there is not really any gold there; and perhaps, at any rate, if one actually touched its shores the glory would fade and leave only the mosquitoes. Mr. Beebe may be an authority. But one feels that the scientific appliances are the least important part of the expedition's equipment.

Restored French Empire

The phrase, "coup-d'etat," is generally applied to the successful effort made by Louis Napoleon, December 2, 1851, to subvert the republic of France, and to establish a dictatorship in its stead. The conspiracy was planned by Napoleon, Persigny and De Morny, and carried out by C. de Maupas, minister of police, St. Arnaud and others. The legislative assembly was dissolved, universal suffrage established, and Paris was declared in a state of siege. The election of a president for a term of ten years was proposed, 83 members of the assembly were banished, and 575 persons were arrested for resistance to the coup d'etat and conveyed to Havre for transportation to Cayenne. The coup d'etat resulted in the restoration of the empire December 2, 1852.—Kansas City Star.

Make Home in Street Car

Two discarded cable cars are the home of the A. S. Brewers, in Seattle. The cable car dwelling is entered from its original side-front door, which opens into the living room, made of the combined front platforms, which are larger than those of a regular street car. Cable cars used on Seattle hills have three compartments each, front, middle and rear, with a door on either side, and windows lining both sides. In the Brewer home, the bedroom occupies the middle compartment and the bath the rear in one car, each with the original sliding doors. In the other car the dining room has the middle compartment and the kitchen the rear.

Something to Drown It In

The young fellow from Kentucky walked into a studio the other day for vocal lessons. The folks down home thought he had a voice and all that he needed was training. The teacher asked him to sing.

Without accompaniment he started in on "Yes, We Have No Bananas." And the bananas were higher than nature or a musician intended them to be. The teacher giggled in spite of herself. "I need a piano to lead my voice," the youth suggested. "Yes, or a bass drum to drown it," the teacher added, but to herself.—Indianapolis News.

Luxurious Modern Travel

The Flying Scotsman, one of the de luxe trains running out of London, England, now has an electric galley in its dining car. In this traveling kitchen there are an electric range and several other electric cooking appliances. The electricity utilized in this unique gallery is provided by a generator that is connected to the wheels beneath the dining car. Also there are storage batteries which provide electricity when the dining car is standing still.

Street for Heroes

After learning that three Winnipeg men, who earned the Victoria cross during the World war, lived on the same street, within a block of each other, the city has decided to change the name of the street to Valor road.



The Gift for Her

Give your wife a Bank Account for Christmas—either a Saving Account or a Checking Account. It is one of the most practical and useful gifts you can give. A Checking Account supplies her with a plan for keeping accurate account of her household expenses. A Saving Account affords her the opportunity to save regularly whatever balance remains from her allowance

To Everyone we Wish a



THE OLD RELIABLE FARMERS & MERCHANTS National Bank

J. T. Warren, Pres. Booth Warren, Cashier
Owen Ellis, Ass't Cashier
DIRECTORS— J. T. Warren, Geo. F. West,
Sam Butman Sr., Booth Warren

Never Missed a Dividend
Never Assessed a Shareholder

I have 195 acres of land to rent if you want to buy teams to cultivate it. Will back you for teams tools and harness if you have money to buy your feed and groceries and force sufficient to handle this much land. G. M. Gyrom, Trent, Texas. tf

The Old Reliable Farmers & Merchants National Bank never missed a dividend; never assessed a shareholder. Bring your cotton checks for cash or credit to the Farmers & Merchants National Bank. tf

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail.

I.O.O.F. NOTICE

Odd Fellows and Rebeccas, there will be a Home Coming on December 15th at the I.O.O.F. Hall. All ex-Odd Fellows and Rebeccas are invited to be present at 7:30 p.m. Committee. It

Renew your subscription to the Merkel Mail before it expires

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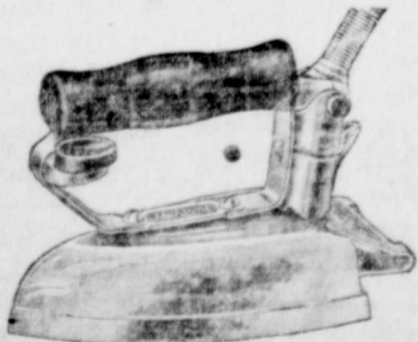
Expert Repairing

The way we repair shoes, it is really more of a re-made rather than a repaired shoe. Naturally the service a re-made shoe gives is almost equal to a new shoe.

GOODYEAR SHOE SHOP

176 Cypress, Opposite Gambill's. Abilene, Texas

Hotpoint



The most beautiful iron and acceptable gift. Certain to be used and appreciated for many years.

Hotpoint's exclusive patented thumb-rest makes ironing easy.

A complete line of Hotpoint appliances from which to choose.

WEST TEXAS UTILITIES CO.

AUTO NECESSITIES THAT SERVE AND SATISFY....

That is the foundation upon which accessory department is founded. That auto owners appreciate our endeavors to supply quality merchandise at fair prices, with unexcelled service, is attested by the constant, steady growth of this department.

Today we offer you a stock of AUTO NECESSITIES that is second to none in West Texas. Our stock of Genuine Ford replacement parts is complete, and we are gradually adding a stock for other popular cars.

When you need equipment to dress up your new car or to renew your old car, it will be to your advantage to make your purchases here.

Come in, whether to look, to price, to buy or to ask advice.

WEST COMPANY

THE MARK THE HOUSE FOR THE MARK
DEPENDABLE AUTO NECESSITIES



In Our Toy Department

We are making some attractive prices from now until the Xmas season is over—So when in town look our toys over before the Xmas rush.

In selecting that Gift for Father, Mother, Brother, and Sister, think of Silverware, Dishes, Cutglass, Shotguns, Airguns, Bicycles, Tricycles, and many other things too numerous to mention.

Farm Implements

If you are in the market for a Disc Plow, Sulky, Cultivator, or a Planter come in and look the John Deere line over before you buy.

We Deliver Anywhere

Crown Hdwe. Co.

The following ladies attended the all-day district meeting of the Womans Missionary Society held at First Methodist Church, Abilene, on last Wednesday. Mrs. Geo. Brown, Mrs. V. N. Ellis, Mrs. M. Armstrong, Mrs. H. M. Rainbolt, Mrs. Will Smith, Mrs. McCarter, Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Thos. Durham. They report the program for the day as having been full of helpful suggestions both spiritually and materially. The attendance was good, almost every auxiliary in the district being represented. The next dis-

trict meeting will be held in Baird some time in March.

For choice steak, pork sausage and in fact anything to be found in a first class Meat Market, call on Baker & Wheeler. tf

Mrs. J. J. Stallings and daughter, Mrs. A. C. McGee, of Fort Worth, were here several days this week looking after property interests and incidentally shaking hands with old friends. They have formerly resided here for many years.

DR. E. E. COCKRELL
I CURE PILES without the knife—no detention from work. Office practice only
Rectal and Skin Specialist
Suite 312 Alexander Building. Office Hours 8 to 12 a.m. and 1 to 5 p.m. Phone 359, Abilene, Texas



Your Smallest Expense

Look over that sheaf of bills for last month—or any month.

What did you buy that was worth as much to you or had as many uses—as telephone service?

That necessary service cost you relatively little, but the bills will show that you paid out dollars for things that were not essential to your welfare.

If telephone service should cost you many more dollars each month that service could be of no more value to you than it is. For it is indispensable.

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company

COMPERE ITEMS

By Alma Stout

Health of the community is now very good at present.

School is progressing very nicely with an enrollment of about 100 pupils. The school will have a box supper Friday night, December 11. Everyone is invited to come and bring a box and help out with the box supper.

Those who visited at Mrs. Stout's Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Emmitt Howard and children, Hall and Jasper Hobbs, Thermon McCoy, Cora Camp, Charlie and Alice Allred.

Mrs. Ashby who has been sick for the last two weeks was no better at last reports.

Miss Bernice Hanson spent Sunday with Ina Mae Childers.

A large crowd from here attended the funeral of r.M. Westbrook, who died Saturday afternoon. The bereaved relatives have our sympathy.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Tarpley are the proud parents of a fine baby.

Mrs. Evelyn Hurse spent the week end with Miss Mary Proctor in Merkel.

Mr. Charlie Allred was in Merkel Saturday night.

Some of the young folks attended the box supper at Stith Friday night. All reported a nice time.

Miss Mary Proctor visited at Mrs. Ashby's a while Sunday night.

A Literary Society was organized at Comper Friday afternoon with Mr. E. W. Bland as president, Mr. Jeff Chancey as vice-president, Lorene Stout, secretary, Howard Smith, Sargent-at-arms; Alma Stout, Critic; and the program committee is Etyl Spurgin, Ruby Lee Rister, Bernice Hanson, and Pearl Tarpley. They will meet and have a short program every other Friday afternoon.

W. O. Roney represents the San Antonio Joint Stock and Land Bank. See him for 6% money. tf

The Merkel Mail

Published on Friday Morning by The Merkel Mail Printing Co. Thos. Durham, Editor-Mgr.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Taylor, Jones, Nolan and Fisher Counties, per yr. . . \$1.50
Outside these counties, yr. \$2.00
IN ADVANCE

TELEPHONE No. 61

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

BAPTIST MISSIONARY WOMEN TO MEET DEC. 14TH.

The Taylor county Baptist W. M. U. Workers will meet with the Buffalo Gap church Monday, December 14. The county president, Mrs. J. E. Burnam, will call the meeting to order at 10 o'clock. After an opening song and prayer Mrs. I. B. Duck will give a devotional. Mrs. Burnam will address the assembly. Mrs. E. B. Atwood will give a report of the state convention recently held at Mineral Wells. Mrs. Geo. W. Truett will bring a message.

From 12 to 1:30 lunch and social hour. Mrs. H. J. Bradshaw will open the afternoon session with a devotional after which the following program will be taken up. Reading of minutes. Roll call of churches. Business session. Recognition of officers. Report of young people's night on program at the state convention by Mrs. R. M. White. Mrs. J. P. Stinson will introduce a round table discussion on "Plans for our county work for the coming year." The meeting will be closed with an address by Miss Blanche Rose Walker. Leaders are urging a good attendance at this meeting and each lady is requested to bring her lunch.

Ford Owners! See the 1926 model Ford power plant with special equipment on display at our store. And let us explain the advantages. West's Accessory Department. It

COZY THEATRE

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, December 11-12

William Fox Presents

TOM MIX

"DICK TURPIN"

With Kathleen Meyers, Alan Hale, Philo McCullough, Lucille Hutton, James Marcus, Bull Montana and "Black Bess"

A Thrilling Film of Romance and Adventure
By Charles Kenyon

—Also—

"THE FIGHTING RANGER"

With Jack Daugherty, Eileen Sedgwick and Al Wilson, World Famous Stunt Flyer

Chapter No. 13—"STOLEN SECRETS"
And Educational Comedy—"HELLO HOLLYWOOD"

MONDAY and TUESDAY, December 14-15

Adolph Zukor and Jesse L. Lasky Present

A William De Mille Production

"NEW BROOMS"

With Bessie Love, Nell Hamilton and Phyllis Haver
From the play by Frank Craven

—A Paramount Picture—

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, Dec. 16-17

Edwin Carewe Presents

"A SON OF SAHARA"

With BERT LYTEL and CLAIRE WINDSOR
The Great American Picture Produced in Algiers
Thousands of Arabs, Horses and Camels are seen
A First National Picture

Also EDUCATIONAL COMEDY.

Be sure to start the Serial Story that's Coming.

DO YOU KNOW THAT THE ABILENE ARMY STORE HAS FIVE TIMES THE STOCK IT HAD ONE YEAR AGO?

We have the largest selection of Army Goods and other Merchandise of any Army Store in the State of Texas.

Useful Christmas Suggestions from Our Store

For Father

Army Wool Socks
9½ oz. Army O. D. Wool Serge
Shirts
Cashmere Wool Socks (natural Color)
Dress Shoes, House Slippers,
Bootees, Army Overcoats
Leather Coats, Sweaters
Unionsuits, Coleman Lanterns
Hats and Caps
Army Wool Pants and Blouses
Army Wool Gloves
Leather Gloves, Pocket Knives

For the Boy

The "Billie Boot" with Pocket Knife
"Original" Chippewa Bootees, sizes 1 to 5½
Dress Shoes, Pocket Knives
Sweaters, Army Locker
Pup Tents, Waterproofed Duck Boy Scout Axe, Pick and Shovel
Knapsack, Canteens and Mess Kits, Belts, etc. Dress Socks.

FOR MOTHER

Fancy Beacon Blankets, both double and single. Comforts
"Original" Chippewa servicable Shoes and Bootees for Ladies
Gasoline Cook and Heating Stove

We have always received a nice business from our Merkel friends which we appreciate, and trust you will continue to keep us in mind while shopping in Abilene.

The Abilene Army Store

W. A. Turnidge, prop

General Merchandise

Harness Shop 1050 South Second

Army goods a specialty

Main Store 1064 South second

ABILENE, TEXAS

CHRISTMAS SALE

On Brand New Merchandise

Beginning Saturday, Dec., 12, and continuing until Dec. 25. [Every article sacrificed in price. No old stock to unload. Everything new. We must reduced our stock before Jan.1st. Prices we are making will move this clean new merchandise in a few days, so you will have to hurry.

ONE PRICE.

CASH TO ALL.

NO APPROVALS.

NO RETURNS

<p>MENS SUITS ON SALE</p> <p>\$35.00 Suits\$27.50</p> <p>\$32.50 Suits\$23.95</p> <p>\$29.75 Suits\$21.95</p> <p>\$25.00 Suits\$18.75</p> <hr/> <p>OVERCOATS SACRIFICED</p> <p>\$35.00 Overcoats\$27.50</p> <p>\$29.75 Overcoats\$20.75</p> <p>\$27.50 Overcoats\$19.75</p> <p>\$25.00 Overcoats\$17.75</p> <p>\$22.50 Overcoats\$16.75</p>	<p>LUMBER JACKS AND SWEATERS GREATLY REDUCED</p> <p>\$9.75 Sweaters\$7.95</p> <p>\$8.50 Sweaters\$6.95</p> <p>\$10.00 Lumber Jacks on sale at\$7.45</p> <p>\$6.50 All Wool Lumber Jacks on sale at\$5.49</p> <p>\$5.95 Lumber Jacks\$4.85</p> <p>\$3.75 Lumber Jacks now ..\$3.39</p>	<p>STETSON AND DAVIS HATS AT ROCK BOTTOM PRICES</p> <p>Carlsbad No. 1 on sale...\$9.45</p> <p>Bib Four No. 1 on sale...\$7.95</p> <p>Sanan Clear Nutria on sale\$7.45</p> <p>Select Quality on sale ...\$5.95</p> <hr/> <p>MENS AND BOYS ODD PANTS ON SALE</p> <p>\$7.50 Pants on sale\$5.95</p> <p>\$6.95 Pants on sale\$5.45</p> <p>\$5.95 Pants on sale\$4.49</p> <p>\$4.95 Pants on sale\$3.95</p> <p>\$3.95 Boys Longies\$2.95</p>	<p>SHEEP LINED "BRODEO" SPORT COATS</p> <p>\$15.00 Sellers on sale\$11.95</p> <p>\$13.50 Genuine Horse Hide Coats on sale\$10.95</p> <p>\$12.50 Leather Coats\$9.95</p> <p>\$10.95 Coats\$8.95</p> <p>\$10.00 Coats\$8.45</p> <p>\$9.75 Coats\$7.95</p> <hr/> <p>BUY WORK CLOTHING NOW AND SAVE MONEY</p> <p>\$4.50 work Coats\$3.49</p> <p>\$2.95 Duck Pants\$2.49</p> <p>\$2.75 Duck Pants\$2.39</p> <p>\$2.50 Khaki Pants\$1.95</p> <p>\$2.00 Khaki Pants\$1.69</p> <p>\$1.50 Khaki Pants\$1.29</p> <p>Extra Heavy full cut Blue Overalls on sale\$1.69</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS FOR MEN AND BOYS:</p> <p>Ties in Christmas Boxes</p> <p>Wool Scarfs</p> <p>Silk Hose</p> <p>Silk lined kid Gloves</p> <p>Handkerchiefs</p> <p>Cuff Links</p> <p>Night Shirts and Pajamas, etc.</p> <hr/> <p>MENS SHIRTS ON SALE</p> <p>\$2.95 value\$2.39</p> <p>\$2.50 value\$1.95</p> <p>\$1.75 value\$1.39</p> <p>\$1.50 value\$1.29</p> <p>\$3.75 Standard Army Shirt on sale at\$3.29</p> <p>\$2.50 Wool mixed Shirts on sale\$1.95</p>
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L. B. HOWARD & COMPANY

Motometers, pedal pads and head lamp tie rods for the new Fords at West's Accessory Department.

County Attorney Frank E. Smith of Abilene and Judge Lee P. Pierson, of Dallas, were here one day this week, the former was here on official business, while Mr. Pierson was here to meet the people, he expecting to make the race for a high state office next year.

MEMBER TEXAS QUALIFIED DRUGGISTS' LEAGUE

Legally Registered Pharmacist

Merkel Drug COMPANY
S. D. Gamble, Mgr.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

FOR SALE—Stationery for individuals. 200 sheets of paper and 100 envelopes to match with your name and address printed in blue ink, or monogram, on both paper and envelopes for \$2.00. Colors: white, pearl gray, royal blue, pink and yellow. It has individuality when it's printed. See samples at THE MERKEL MAIL OFFICE.

PROFESSIONAL

E. S. CUMMINGS
Attorney At Law
Offices 307, 308, 309
Citizens National Bank Building
Abilene, Texas

THOS. C. WILSON
The Jeweler
Watches, Clocks and Jewelry Repaired
All Work Guaranteed
Located at Merkel Drug Co.

DR. R. I. GRIMES
Physician and Surgeon
Hours 10 to 12 a.m. 2 to 5 p.m.
Phones 105-163 Res. 164

DR. S. W. JOHNSON.
Surgeon Dentist
Office over Farmers State Bank
Office Phone 306

G. W. JOHNSON
Insurance—Notary Public
Over West Company—Front St.
Merkel — Texas

W. W. WHEELER
Real Estate, Fire, Accident and Tornado Insurance Agent.
Notary Public.
Office over Crown Hardware Co

STATIONERY SPECIAL

200 sheets of paper and 100 envelopes to match with your name and address or monogram printed to order in blue ink for \$2.00. You may have your choice of folder or straight sheet in white, pearl gray, royal blue, pink or light yellow. You can't beat this for a stationery bargain. Makes appropriate gifts. Also have \$1.15 box. THE MERKEL MAIL.

Call 61 to place a want ad in the Mail or give us a news item.

Renew your subscription to the Merkel Mail before it expires Try a Classified Ad in the Mail.

Service! Quality!

we take this method of calling your attention to the fact that we handle and keep in stock a good supply of that

Good Gulf Gasoline and Supreme Auto Oils

and of urging upon you to give same a fair trial. If you are not already using this gas and oil we will say that **GOOD GULF GASOLINE** and **SUPREME AUTO OIL** is absolutely backed up by our guarantee. All of which means that Good Gulf Gasoline and Supreme Auto Oil is clean and powerful, and free from foreign matter. It insures a sweet-running engine and more power than any other product on the market. Supreme Auto Oil is a Summer and Winter lubricant. It leaves less carbon and flows freely at zero.

These features help avoid many troubles.

We also handle the Goodrich Tires and Tubes and, Anti-Freeze for the Radiator.

WOODRUM FILLING STATION

—The Place Where You Get Service and Don't Have to Wait.—

Notice to the Public

Beginning with the first of the year 1926 we will only do a "FIRST TO FIRST" business. All bills will be due on the first of each month. As gasoline and tires have gone so high and it takes so much money to run a credit business, we will hereafter just do a "FIRST TO FIRST" business.

Now we want to treat you right but we can not carry you but one month at a time.

Hoping you will do business with us on our new plan, and we thank you for the past business you have given us, and hope you will have

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

WOODRUM FILLING STATION
MERKEL TEXAS

Visit Rose's Big Sale

AT ABILENE

A complete stock in every line to select from. You can find just what you have been looking for and at greatly reduced prices, a saving that will pay you to drive for miles.

Reduced prices on all Men's Clothing, Shoes, Ladies Ready-to-Wear, Millinery, Dress Goods, and Staples. Let us figure with you on that Christmas bill.

All \$62.50 Two pant Hart-Scaffner-Marx suits now
\$45.00

All \$50.00 Hart-Scaffner-Marx suits now \$36.45

One lot Hart, Schaffner & Marx Blue Serge suits, values up to \$40.00 and \$45.00 now \$28.95

One lot mens' Cassimere and worsted suits, values up to \$30.00 and \$35.00 now \$17.95

All Boys Clothing at Big Reductions

All \$65.00 and \$75.00 Ladies coats now \$49.50

All \$50.00 and \$55.00 Ladies coats now \$39.50

All \$40.00 and \$45.00 dresses and coats now \$31.85

All \$35.00 dresses and coats now \$27.95

All \$25.00 dresses and coats now \$19.85

All \$19.75 coats and dresses now \$13.95

A. C. Rose Department Store

ABILENE,

TEXAS

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—Good first year Mebane Cotton Seed. See Bryan Dunagin at Stith. 20t4p

FOR SALE—Fordson tractor, overhauled and all wearing parts put in new. Fenders, belt wheel and Bosch ignition system. Impulse starter and governor. D42 and D43 Oliver Disc plows. This outfit like I have it rigged would cost over \$1,000. Price \$650 for whole outfit, including 5 barrels, oil cans, wrenches, funnels etc. G. M. Byrom, Trent, Texas. 4t2

FOR SALE—Work stock of all kinds, cash or approved note. Also one saddle pony. G. M. Byrom, Trent, Texas. tf

FOR SALE—First year Kasch, Cliett and Mebane Cotton Seed, well matured, grown in Sweet-water creek bottom, making one half bale per acre. Price \$1.50 per bushel at barn. G. M. Byrom, Trent, Texas, route 2. tf

FOR SALE—One dining table and six chairs, 1 four-burner oil range, 1 Topsy Heater, 1 piano, 1 victrola, and 1 forward roller bearing coaster wagon. Phone 154. At Gaither residence. Mrs. Mac Best. 4t2p

FOR SALE—I still have a few farms I can sell worth the money and give possession January 1st, and I have some good buys to offer that are already rented for another year. Have some farms to trade. I have a 640 acre ranch with a 6-room house, 100 acres in farm 100 acres more good land, no Johnson grass, the rest fine grass land, to sell or trade at \$15 per acre. Will take a small farm or a home in Merkel worth the money. See E. D. COATS.

FOR SALE or Rent—160 acre 3 miles south of Trent. Shod all farm on highway 1 mile east of Merkel, 140 acres in cultivation, extra good improvements, fine water, ideal location. If not sold this week will rent to responsible party that will buy 6 mules and harness and farming tools. I. L. Baker, Box 455, Abilene, Tex 1tp

FOR SALE—Two good milk cows. See S. N. Farmer, 3 miles east of Noodle. 1tp

FOR SALE—Bundled cane and Maize. On R.B. Wells farm, route four. T. H. Beene. 1tp

CORN, Corn—Have ear of reasonably heavy dry ear corn on track. J. C. Mason. 1tp

FOR SALE—One of the best 300 acre farms in this county at \$55 per acre. See J. C. Mason. 1tp

MAIZE, Maize, for sale. See Hollis Haynes or Dent Gibson, Merkel, Texas. 11t2p

FOR SALE—Three small farms, close to Merkel. Can give possession. See J. A. Jaynes. 11t2p

LOST AND FOUND

LOST—A bundle of clothing between Homer Patterson's and Mr. Largent's home. Finder return to Homer Patterson. 1tp

LOST—Elgin wrist watch with gold mesh wrist band, at skating rink Tuesday night. \$10.00 reward for return to Merkel Mail office. 1t

LOST—\$18.00 in bills, folded together. One \$5.00 bill, one \$10.00 bill and three \$1.00 bills. Was lost on streets of Merkel or at skating rink. Liberal reward for return to K. C. Hughes at skating rink. 1tpd

REWARD—For two big black hogs strayed from my place last week. Notify John S. Hughes 1tp

STRAYED—2 bay horses, last Thursday night, from my place, 1tc

LOST—Red and white spotted female bird dog, nearly ready to whelp. \$5.00 reward for return of dog or information leading to recovery. A. O. Richardson, at skating rink, Merkel. 1tp

LOST—A large, brown hand bag on the way from Aulie Sanders home to town. Finder please return to T. D. Compton. 1tp

FOR RENT—Good farm by selling teams and tools. See J. C. Mason. 1tp

WANTED—A span of young work horses. See Hollis Haynes, Merkel. 1t

MAN SLEEPS LIKE LOG, EATS ANYTHING

"After taking Adlerika I can eat anything and sleep like a log. I had gas on the stomach and couldn't keep food down nor sleep" (signed) R.C. Miller. ONE spoonful Adlerika removes GAS and often brings surprising relief to the stomach. Stops that full, bloated feeling. Often brings out old waste-matter you never thought was in your system. Excellent for chronic constipation. Merkel Drug Co., in Trent by R. B. Johnson.

Mr. Henry Wilson and family and Mr. Duke Matlock and family all of Deport, Texas, arrived recently to make this community their home. One of them will reside on the R. L. Bland farm, while the other has moved to the A. H. Thornton farm.

Mrs. Frank Golliday had as visitors the first of the week two nieces, Mrs. H. W. Spratling and baby daughter, Constance Louise, of Galveston, Texas, and Mrs. John Spratling of Anson. Mrs. H. W. Spratling and baby will remain visiting with Mrs. Golliday through the holidays.

I'm Listening



What Will It Be?

It is always hard to select some one Gift For Christmas

We are submitting a list of appropriate gifts for gentlemen, ladies, boys and girls

FOR LADIES

- Vanities
- Toilet Sets
- Perfumizers
- Perfumes and Toilet Water
- Parisian Ivory
- Stationery
- Fine Chocolates
- Manicure Rolls
- Traveling Sets
- Fountain Pens
- Eversharp Pencils



We are carrying a good line of Jewelry, Pearls, Diamond Broaches, Diamond Rings, Cuff Links, etc. Call and look our stock over before buying.



FOR GENTLEMEN

- Bill Folds and Pocket Books
- Flash Lights
- Pipes
- Cigars and Cigarettes
- Safety Razors
- Shaving Sets
- Combs and Brushes
- Stationery
- Traveling Sets
- Fountain Pens
- Eversharp Pencils

FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS

- Footballs
- Basket Balls
- Candy
- Fountain Pens
- Eversharp Pencils
- Stationery
- Vanities
- Safety Razors
- Manicure Sets
- Parisian Ivory
- Perfumes and Toilet Water
- Perfumizers

The above is only a partial list of the many beautiful and useful Christmas gifts now on display at our store. Come in and make your selections early,

Merkel Drug Company

BEWARE OF THE CRASH

BIG SPECIAL For Saturday and Monday

For Saturday and Monday we will offer at a great reduction a large and complete stock of Ladies'

SILK AND WOOL DRESSES

All Ladies Hats
are now on sale at
Big Reduced Prices



It is often a problem to choose a Hat you wish for your own wear or to give as a gift. Here are some helpful suggestions. And they all go at reduced prices.



This is easily one of the most important sales we have ever held, for it comes right at the time of the year when every dollar must do its utmost to supply your needs. At the prices we are quoting, you can well afford a new dress for Christmas, and perhaps buy an extra one as a gift for some other member of the family.

Make Our Store Your Christmas Store
MAX MELLINGER

Bro. R. H. Williams and wife of Abilene visited her sister Mrs. Ellington a while Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McCoy visited Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Newman Sunday.

Is your subscription about to expire to the Mail. Look at the label on this paper and see.



Listen In This Christmas With a
Freed-Eiseman Neutrodine Radio

"The choice receiver of America"

Come in for a demonstration.

Prices are Reasonable

R. W. NEWSOM Located at Every-
body's Garage

Coming To

ABILENE
Dr. Mellenthin
Specialist

in Internal Medicine for the
past twelve years

DOES NOT OPERATE

Will be at
GRACE HOTEL
Sunday & Monday, Dec. 13 & 14
Office Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

TWO DAYS ONLY

No Charge for Consultation

Dr. Mellenthin is a regular graduate in medicine and surgery and is licensed by the state of Texas. He does not operate for chronic appendicitis, gall stones, ulcers of the stomach, tonsils or adenoids.

He has to his credit wonderful results in diseases of the stomach, liver, bowels, blood, skin, nerves, heart kidneys, bladder, bed wetting, catarrh, weak lungs rheumatism, sciatica, leg ulcers and rectal ailments.

Below are the names of a few of his many satisfied patients in Texas.

Mrs. B. A. Rust, Avery, gall stones.

Emil Hausmann, San Antonio, nerve trouble.

T. V. Watts, Lamesa, appendicitis and nerve trouble.

Mrs. H. G. Hill, Big Spring, eczema.

Mrs. D. D. David, Hebronville, female trouble and backaches.

M. T. Banta, Dundee, ulcer of the stomach.

M. G. Blankenship, Westover,

stomach and bowel trouble.

Walter Stolte, Marion, heart trouble.

Remember above date, that consultation on this trip will be free and that his treatment is different.

Married women must be accompanied by their husbands. Address 211 Bradbury Bldg., Los Angeles, California.

Chevrolet Owners! Bring your car up-to-date by adding one of our inexpensive head lamp tie rods. West's Accessory Department. It

For sale by MERKEL DRUG CO

Len Sublett

Water well Driller,
all work guaranteed
first-class.

Merkel, Texas

Burton-Lingo Co.

Plenty of-
Window Glass,
Putty and
Building Paper

Make that old room warm-
Use Sheetrock

MOLINE DISC PLOWS

Cost a trifle more to start
with but cost far less to operate.

We can furnish you names
of hundreds of farmers in
Taylor, Jones and, surrounding
counties who have used
their Moline Plows for 20
years and are still doing
good work with them.

Terms, either cash, half
cash, or all on next Fall
time.

Your credit is good here

Ed. S. Hughes Co.

ABILENE, TEXAS

WARREN NEWS By Rose Ellington

The farmers are all through picking cotton and some are beginning to put up their land for another year.

Health of this community is very good at present.

Several around this community attended the tent show at Merkel Monday night.

Mrs. Hollis McCoy visited her mother, Mrs. Decker, Saturday.

Mr. Jessie Bass is spending the week with his sister, Mrs. Arthur McCoy.

Miss Lottie McCoy spent a Sunday night with Rose and Cordie Ellington.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmitt Patterson spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Homer Patterson.

Misses Stella Kelsoe, Annie Hudson and Messrs Clarence Hudson, Hubert Kelso and Homer McCormick visited Rose Ellington Sunday afternoon.

Miss Willie Newman spent Saturday night with Vivian McCoy.

Miss Vera Jones spent Saturday night with Miss Helen McCormick.

Rose Ellington visited Stella Kelso a while Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmitt Patterson spent Saturday night with her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Finch of Hodges.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd McCoy spent Sunday with his mother, Mrs. Barbara McCoy.

Mr. and Mrs. Leece Reeder of Comanche, grandma Hobbs, Ella Hobbs and Hall Hobbs visited Mr. and Mrs. John Hobbs Sunday afternoon.

Cordie Ellington spent Sunday with Lottie McCoy.

Several from Warren attended the box supper at Stith Friday night.

Don't
Take a
Chance



We have the denatured alcohol and glycerene to protect your Radiator.

We can save you money on tires and tubes. Call and see before you buy.

Ford parts and accessories. The best that can be had in Oils and Greases. Texhoma gasoline, there is none better
Oasis Filling Station

Appreciates Your Trade

Day Phone 25 Bill Haynes, Mgr. Night Phone 22

TO MY FRIENDS IN MERKEL AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITY:

On this date I sever my relationship with the Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Merkel after having served that institution for six years as Cashier and Executive officer.

During the time that I have lived here I have learned to appreciate some very dear friends and, of course, one can not sit in the official position of that character without accumulating some enemies if he runs a safe bank.

Wherever I go I shall never cease to regard in the highest way the friends I have made here and I have no bitterness or unkindness in my heart for any one in this community.

The Directors and myself have never had a single unpleasant word of any sort whatever during all the time that I have been with them and I appreciate them as men of the highest honor and personal integrity.

I can conscientiously recommend the Farmers & Merchants National Bank as one of the safest institutions of its kind in the state of Texas and it shall please me very much if every friend of mine shall give it the same support that they have given it in

past six years.

I shall be succeeded as Cashier by Mr. Booth Warren, a young man of fine ability and personal integrity. He is pleasant and affable and will be able to give you as good or even better service than I have given. I have been associated with him for more than six years and I feel some little pride in having at least a small part in his training as a banker. He will be able to profit by any mistakes that I have made and I recommend him to the affectionate regard of the customers of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank.

I would not wish to close this article without expressing to the people of Merkel and surrounding community my deep and abiding appreciation of their support and regard, I trust that my stay in Merkel for the past six years has not resulted to the detriment of any individual and that I may be remembered for some things which I have done which may be regarded as worthy of a good citizen.

L. R. THOMPSON.

Owners of balloon equipped improved Fords can get full enjoyment from their car by the use of Lincoln Snubbers. West's Accessory Department. It

TO OUR FRIENDS AND PATRONS:

At a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank of Merkel, Mr. L. R. Thompson tendered his resignation as Cashier and as a member of our board.

This action upon his part ended officially his association with this institution but it does not reveal, except that you stop and consider, the nearly six years of faithful service he has rendered it.

Mr. Thompson's resignation means that we are losing the services of an officer whom we believe has had the best interests of the institution which he has served so well, always foremost in his mind and heart—at the same time constantly alert for every opportunity to be of service to his friends, his home town and community.

At this writing we do not know Mr. Thompson's plans for the future but should he wish to take up his duties in some other similar organization we sincerely commend him to them as being an able executive, fearless in his convictions, pleasant to work with as well as capable and industrious.

Our sincere best wishes will follow him. Board of Directors, The F. & M. National Bank, Merkel, Texas. It

*** CROSS ROADS ITEMS ***

Mr. Alex Massey of Abilene visited in the home of his sister Mrs. W. W. Harp Sunday.

Rev. C. A. Joiner and wife of Hale Center, Texas, attended the Baptist State convention at Mineral Wells last week, returning last Saturday evening and visited his brother, W. F. Joiner, and family until Monday morning, when they left for Hale Center.

The intermediate B. Y. P. U. rendered a good program Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Garland Teaff was taken to the sanitarium at Abilene on Sunday night and operated upon for appendicitis. He was reported to be resting very well Monday evening. Our sympathy goes out to his family and we hope for a speedy recovery.

W. C. Knapp and family left for Louisiana Tuesday morning on the ten o'clock train.

J. C. Barrett, wife and baby who have been visiting R. F. England left Tuesday morning for Red River county.

Early Joiner, a senior in Simmons University, visited relatives here Sunday.

Robert Williams and Dennis England attended the box supper at Tye last Friday night.

Mr. R. W. Holder is having his house papered this week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hammond and daughter, Hollis, attended church at Caps Sunday night.

Hollis Hammond had a severe attack of tonsolitis last week but is all right now.

Mrs. J. B. Boyett visited Mrs. R. W. Holder Sunday afternoon.

SATURDAY SPECIAL
Choice of 46 Ladies Wool Dresses

ONLY \$10⁰⁰ EACH

(A CLOSE OUT PRICE BEFORE INVOICING)

The original prices were from \$16.50 to \$72.50 but we will close them out at the ridiculously low price of \$10.00

Come early Saturday morning, Dec. 12th.

MIMS

"The Store of Individuality"

On Mims Corner

Abilene, Texas

"BEWARE OF THE CRASH"

That is the title of Nairn-Albietz presentation for Saturday night. The play is one of the most thrilling murder mysteries that ever had its premier on Broadway. A play guaranteed to keep you guessing until the final drop of the curtain. The Nairn-Albietz Players were very fortunate in being able to secure this play for tent production and at the present time is the only show playing it.

Mr. J. A. Ellison of Trent was in the city one day recently and while here proudly mentioned to the editor that he was grandfather again, a son being born on the 3rd to his daughter, Mrs. Bessie Hellum and on the fourth a son was born to another daughter, Mrs. Bonnie Tomlin. Mr. Ellison states that he has ten grandchildren and nine sons and daughters of his own living and six children dead.

STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

The annual meeting of the shareholders of The Farmers State Bank, Merkel, Texas, will be held at the office of the Bank at 4 o'clock P. M. on Thursday January 14th, 1926, for the purpose of electing Directors and such other business which may come before the meeting.

R. O. Anderson, Vice-Pres. 1174

Your name printed on your greeting cards adds individuality

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

"GALORE" GIFTS - THAT - LAST

- Smoking Stands
- Smoking Sets
- Razor Sets
- Shaving Stands
- Watches
- Rings
- Toilet Sets
- Razor Straps
- Books
- Bibles
- Book Ends
- Kodak Albums
- Pipe Sets

- Bar Pins
- Nut Sets
- Casseroles
- Console Sets
- Sandle Sticks
- Bud Vases
- Silverware
- Clocks
- Cut Glass
- Vanities
- Xmas Boxes
- Xmas Cards
- Cigar Humidors

- Candy
- Kodaks
- Marcelle Irons
- Dolls
- Manicure Sets
- Perfume Atomizers
- Ivory Sets
- Memory Books
- Bill Folds
- Typewriters
- Stationery
- Cigars
- Cigarettes
- Phonographs
- Diamonds

**OUR STOCK IS COMPLETE
A VISIT WILL CONVINC**

HAMM DRUG CO.

PHONE 93
The *Rexall* Store

A REAL TIRE VALUE

To our Customers, Friends and the Tire and Tube Buyers We have bought an awfully large stock of **TIRES AND TUBES AT THE OLD PRICE** and until December 31st. will make you a very close price

Thanking you for your liberal patronage and assuring you we are ready and glad to serve you in any way possible. We solicit your business

DON'T FORGET TO CALL FOR YOUR GREEN STAMPS

MAGNOLIA FILLING STATION

You go Home Happy--
If you do your Christmas shopping
HERE

Prices are Right
Quality is Right
Service is Right

Come here and load your arms with Christmas delicacies. You will have food for the holidays that the entire family will enjoy.

Bob Martin Grocery Co.

WARREN NOTES
By Vera Jones

The health of the community is good at present.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Harris spent the day Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jones, of Salt Branch.

Miss Azaline Sumpter visited Miss Artie McCormick Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Jones and family visited Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Jones Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Shouse of Merkel spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. C. T. McCormick.

Mr. and Mrs. Chancey visited Mr. and Mrs. Jim Burns of Stith community Sunday.

Miss Lottie McCoy visited Miss Cartie Ellington Saturday night.

Mr. H. Gressett and Mr. A. F.

Criswell visited in Comanche Sunday and Monday.

The Gleaners Class of the Methodist Church have a few of their well-known Cook Books for sale. They would make a nice Christmas present. If you want one see Mrs. F. H. Latham or Mrs. Fred Guitar. It

Mr. A. W. Cook of the Dora community was in Merkel Wednesday and dropped in to the Mail office to renew his subscription to the paper, for which we are very grateful.

The Needed Word

"Nothing my father and mother could say would induce me to marry Chester Tallboys; but—h'm!—"

Our fair young heroine was confiding in her dearest friend. "—it would require only a few words from Chester himself to persuade me."

Mystery of the Severed Hand

By M. E. BATCHELDER

(Copyright.)

IT WAS at the beginning of a new administration at Washington. Rumors were afloat that attempts had been made upon the lives of some of the highest government officials, and the police were on the alert. Then it was that the whole secret service of that city was thrown into a violent commotion by a mystery so baffling that scores of skilled men and women, who worked as detectives in citizens' dress, were unable to get at the bottom of it.

Because the entire secret service was unable to ferret out the mystery, the facts have never until this time been made known, and not even now would they appear in print were it not for a combination of circumstances almost as unnatural and as unreal as the crime itself.

One morning in the early winter, there was a startling rumor that a gardener employed in the Botanical grounds had found a woman's hand in a barrel of water which had been placed in the sunshine for the benefit of his orchids. Terrified at the gruesome sight, he ran to the nearest police station and told his strange story, without taking time to remove his working apron. An officer accompanied him back to his greenhouse and secured the mutilated member.

It was evidently the hand of a young lady of great delicacy and refinement, not too small, but beautifully formed, with delicate vein-tracings, perfect lines, and long, tapering fingers, with exquisite shell-like nails, once pink and rosy, but now cold and almost as white as Parian marble.

The members of the secret service had followed up clue after clue, but each had proven futile when sifted to the bottom.

There was, however, one link which might form a part of the mysterious chain; but this link was now missing. A few days preceding the finding of the hand, several testified to having seen a young lady walking early one evening in one of the small out-of-the-way parks of the city. She was described as tall and graceful, modestly, but fashionably dressed, and when at one time she drew off her glove it was noticed that she had an unusually beautiful hand. She had been joined in the park by a tall, dark, foreign-looking man who, after a short conversation, left her. From that evening no trace of the man or the woman could be found.

After weeks of labor, the police

LIVING ROOM SUITS

20 Per Cent Discount

DINING ROOM SUITS

20 Per cent Discount

We Give Green Stamps

WALL PAPER At Special Price
Come quickly if you want best choice

Give Furniture this Christmas

LINOLEUM AT SPECIAL DISCOUNT

BED ROOM SUITS
15 Per cent Discount

Barrow Furniture Company

Pre-Inventory CASH SALE
DECEMBER 12TH. TO 24TH. INCLUSIVE

In order to reduce our stock before invoicing, we are offering the following **EXTREMELY** low prices on groceries, for cash only. Prices are subject to stock we now have on hand. No goods delivered at these prices. These are the best prices you have had or will have for many moons, so make your purchases early and in large quantities

100 lbs. Bewleys Best Flour, None better,.....	\$4.70
24 lb. Sack of Cream Meal.....	.75
100 lbs. Pure Cane Sugar (in 25 lb. sacks).....	6.60
25 lbs Pure Cane Sugar.....	1.65
12 cans of No. 2 Tomatoes.....	1.15
12 cans of Campbell's Pork and Beans.....	1.15
12 cans of Primrose Corn.....	1.90
12 cans of Standard Corn.....	1.40
12 cans of Pie Peaches.....	1.35
12 cans of Del Monte No. 2 1-2 Sliced Peaches.....	3.00
12 cans of Del Monte No. 21-2 Melba Halves.....	3.10
15 lbs. of Pinto Beans.....	1.00

Flour and Sugar are on a steady upward move. We could not replace these at the prices we are offering them to you. Everything in our Grocery Department is cut to the limit.

Remember we are Headquarters for Christmas Fruits, Candies, Nuts, Vegetables and Fruit Cake Ingredients.

These Prices are Strictly Cash

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

West Company

were compelled to give up the case, and reluctantly admit themselves defeated. Finally "The Mystery of the Severed Hand," as it had grown to be known in police circles, was almost forgotten save by the old gardener, who always afterward examined the contents of his orchid barrel.

A German woman lay dying in one of the wards of the charity hospital. As the end approached, her mind seemed troubled and she sent for a clergyman, who, on reaching her bedside, heard from her lips this strange confession:

"I was born in Germany. As a child I attended school, and when old enough went out to service. One day I went to a fortune teller who was in the village where I lived, and a secret which she told me led me, years afterward, to commit a dreadful crime. When my parents died I came to this country, where I worked in several families. Some years ago I entered the household of a wealthy Washington family where there was only one daughter, a beautiful girl, scarcely eighteen years of age. My duties were those of maid and companion to this young girl. We grew to be fond of each other, so that she confided in me more, perhaps, than in her own mother.

"One night after she had returned from a reception at one of the foreign legations, she told me she had discovered that the man to whom she was engaged to be married had a wife in Spain. She had met him several times secretly, and had grown to love and trust him. She 'took on' awfully, and wished many times that she was dead. A few days afterward her wish was realized, for one morning we found her dead in her bed. She had taken an overdose of sleeping powder, which I carelessly left in her room. I alone was permitted to prepare the beautiful deed for the grave.

"About this time a little niece of mine came to this country with her mother, my only sister. She was a bright, interesting child, and would have been beautiful but for a terrible birthmark on the side of her face.

"When I looked at this child there came to me the secret which the fortune teller had confided to me long before—a charm which, it was said, would remove just such a mark as was on my niece's face. I must have brooded over it until my brain became feverish and my thoughts inhuman.

"It was I who cut off the hand found in the Botanical grounds, believing that the blood of an innocent young girl, applied nine times at midnight, would remove the ugly birthmark."

Renew your subscription to the Merkel Mail before it expires

Air Transport

More than 28,000,000 miles have been flown in Europe and the United States to January 1, 1925, in regular scheduled air service, and in six years more than 51,000,000 pounds have been carried by aircraft over established routes, writes J. Parker Van Zandt of the Department of Commerce in the Journal of the Society of Automotive Engineers. A careful analysis of this experience will give us the facts that we so much need regarding the air traffic program, continues Mr. Van Zandt, who made a special trip to Europe during the summer of 1924 to investigate the commercial air services there.

Aristocratic Ranchers

The life of a Canadian farmer makes appeal to Lord Edward Montague, nineteen-year-old son of the duke of Manchester, and he has gone to Lord Rodney's ranch in Saskatchewan. He found there the Duc de Namours, nephew of the king of the Belgians, who went out some time ago as a pupil, accompanied by a nephew of the earl of Derby.

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail.

Misses Annie Bickley and Genevra Meddleton, splendid school teachers at Moro, were here last week end for a visit with home folks and friends.

Mr. J. A. Grimes of Bronte, was here first of the week for a visit with his brother, Mr. T. L. Grimes and other relatives.

- * * * * *
- * **LOOK!** *
- * **A Good Place to Eat** *
- * **And Drink** *
- * **GEORGE'S CANDY KITCHEN** *
- * **The Home of Fine Hand-** *
- * **Made Candies** *
- * **Hamburgers—Sandwiches** *
- * **Cold Drinks and Cigars** *
- * **The Store That Sells The Big** *
- * **Bottles of Soda Water** *
- * **For 5 Cents** *
- * **Look For the Bungalow Sign** *
- * **On North Front Street** *
- * * * * *

THE MOVING NOTICE

I am now located in my new building first door east of Boney's Garage, where I have more room and better prepared to take care of your

TOP AND CURTAIN WORK

Cold weather season is now here. Better bring your curtains in and have new celluloid put in and a new top before the cold rain sets in. I have plenty of material—the BEST I can buy—the BEST is none too good for my customers.

We make new curtains for all cars, or if you just need one we make it. You get just any amount you need here. We solicit your business on past work. We have been with you six years, Don't forget our nice boxes of chocolate Candies in 35c and 50c boxes for Christmas.

N.A. DOWELL
"The Auto Top Man"
ON FRONT STREET MERKEL

Hotpoint



A gift that will be appreciated this Christmas and for many years to come.
The "Toast-Over" model turns the toast automatically—Price \$8.00. Others \$5.75.
We have a complete line of Hotpoint appliances from which to choose.

WEST TEXAS UTILITIES CO.

Born on the 5th to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Welsh, of route four, a daughter, Mother and babe reported as doing nicely.

Your name printed on your greeting cards adds individuality

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Rose are the happy parents of a baby daughter, born on December 10.

Rev. Leon Brown, of Richland, Texas, was here first of the week guest of Mr. and Mrs. Harry McCandless. They also had as a week-end guest, Miss Artie West of Rule, Texas.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

American Telephone & Telegraph Co. Bell System
145th Dividend

The regular quarterly dividend of Two Dollars and Twenty-Five Cents (\$2.25) per share will be paid on Friday, January 15, 1926, to stockholders of record at the close of business on Saturday, December 19, 1925.
H. BLAIR-SMITH, Treasurer

NO MAIL RELIVERED ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Mail all packages and letters early so they will reach destination before CHRISTMAS DAY. This is for all Post Offices. Mail will be dispatched on Christmas Day and all mail received from the trains, but none worked except SPECIAL DELIVERY letters and parcels. Harry S. New, Postmaster General.

We are glad to learn that Mrs. Earl Diltz, who last week underwent an operation in Abilene for appendicitis, is reported to be getting along nicely.

Mr. Joe Holmes has just completed the building on his place in the north part of the city of a beautiful new bungalow home.

Early Architecture.

Imhotep was the earliest architect to put up a building of stone masonry. He flourished just after 3000 B. C., and his name deserves far greater fame than those of the early kings or conquerors themselves.

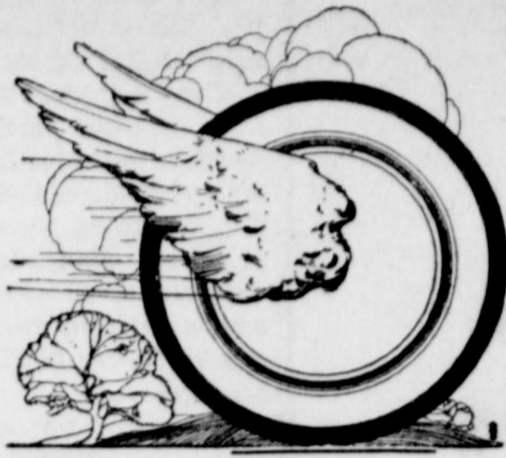
The erection of Imhotep's terraced buildings was but a step toward the construction of a pyramid. A generation later, so rapid was the progress, the king's architects were building the great pyramid of Gizeh (2900 B. C.). From the earliest piece of stone masonry to the construction of the great pyramid less than a century and a half elapsed. Most of this advance was made during the Thirteenth century, B. C. Such rapid progress in control of mechanical power can be found in no other period of the world's history until the Nineteenth century.

Put Reference Books to Work.

In many a household children seem entirely ignorant of the usefulness of reference books of all sorts. One housewife made a discovery not long ago, one which she passes on as a help to parents whose children are in school. Here is her story:

"After the son of the house had asked his father the meaning of four different words the father asked why he had bought an unabridged dictionary in ten volumes if he must still go on defining words.

"But, daddy," the boy protested, "those big books are packed on the shelf so tight that I can scarcely drag one out." It may be that in other homes reference books are packed on the shelves too tightly or too high up to be of much service."



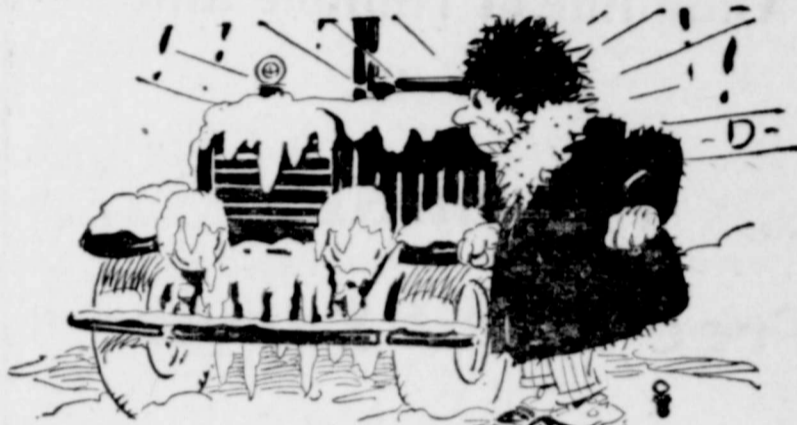
REAL TIRE VALUES

In order to reduce our stock of tires before the first of the year, and to make room for a new kind of tire—THE INDIA TIRE—which we will have the exclusive agency for in Merkel, we are offering special pre-inventory prices on the following:

- 33x4 Racine Country Road Cord \$25.00
- 32x4 Racine Country Road Cord \$24.00
- 30x3 1-2 Tires from \$9.40 to \$19.50
- 30x3 1-2 Tube, reg. and over size \$2.50
- Pennsylvania Special Gray tube \$2.50

That Cold Spell is coming

That old adage "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is as true concerning automobiles as human beings. Better get ready for that cold spell by having a can of Anti-Freeze in your car or garage.



Guaranteed Repairing. Filling Station
Battery Charging

EVERYBODY'S GARAGE

"Our Customers Must be Satisfied"

We're Back Again



With a New Line of

Christmas Goods

Will Open Saturday at Noon Dec. 21

IN THE DANIEL BUILDING ON FRONT ST.

A COMPLETE LINE OF

- TOYS
- DOLLS
- WAGONS
- TRICYCLES
- DOLL BUGGIES
- FOUNTAIN PENS
- STATIONERY
- PICTURES
- COMBS
- BRUSHES
- MIRRORS
- SHAVING SETS

- TIES
- HOSE
- HOUSE SHOES
- HANDKERCHIEFS
- ALUMINUM WARE
- GRANITE WARE
- DISHES
- DINNER SETS
- GLASS WARE
- SALAD BOWLS
- NOTIONS, ETC.

We extend a cordial invitation to our old patrons and friends to call and see us, also invite the patronage of new ones.

Schindler's Variety Store
FRONT STREET

Soft money would be only another way for the money-politicians to hand the farmer the same dirty deal as the basket manipulator. In the first case the farmer unknowingly gave a bushel and a quarter of his product, and in the second case he would have to give a dollar and a quarter of his money, for a dollar's value in return.

In Germany they have carried the manipulation of the mark so far—well, it seems hardly believable, but if they did the same thing to the dollar, it would take over ten million in paper money to buy that land. The primary producer can raise his prices, but not fast enough to equalize this drop in the gold value of unsound money. That is where the catch comes in.

Heavy Earthquake Loss

The most destructive Japanese earthquake occurred a few minutes after twelve o'clock, noon, September 1, 1923, the area comprising Tokyo, Yokohama, Yokosuka and other cities and villages. The first shock was followed by many others and by fire and tidal waves. The number of lives lost and the value of property destroyed will never be accurately known. Estimates made several weeks after the catastrophe placed the total number of known dead at 103,000, with 230,000 missing. Yokohama was almost completely destroyed. The number of foreigners who lost their lives was approximately 100, among whom were several Americans.

Teachers' Right to Wed

"Woman teachers must not be dismissed merely because they are married." This is the gist of a decision recently rendered in a test case brought in an English court. The decision is of far-reaching importance. The plaintiff, Mrs. Ethel Short, has been an assistant mistress in a council school in Dorsetshire since 1914. She married in 1921, and in July, 1924, she and other married women employed as teachers by the same local education authority received notice terminating their engagements. The chancery court decided that the notice was invalid, and ordered the corporation to pay the costs.

Obstructionists Rebuked

Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Wheeler of Pine Grove, Pa., were served with an injunction to prevent them from lying on a pavement used as a detour. Believing it to be their private property, they took for their motto, "They shall not pass," and stretching out on the street, placed themselves in danger of being run over, and got on the nerves of motorists who feared killing the couple.

TANSIL'S

Abilene, Texas



TO OUR MERKEL FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS

Good News of the Old Reliable Christmas SALE

Beginning Thursday, December the 10th. at 9 a. m. The store will be closed all day Wednesday, Dec. 9th. preparing for our annual Christmas Sale For Our Customers giving useful Gifts and Good Reliable Merchandise at special reduced prices--just at the time you need so many things.

The Best

OF TIRES AT THE Lowest Prices

Phone us when you are out of gas or have a flat tire.

Boney's Service Station

A full line of Humblé and Mobil oils.

TELEPHONE 60

Free Road Service

ARE YOU RHEUMATIC? Many Pangs That Pass for Rheumatism are Really Due to Weak Kidneys.

Do you suffer the agonizing pangs of rheumatism? Are you tortured with rheumatic joints and stabbing twinges? Then you should know that many so-called rheumatic troubles are due to an excess of uric acid and must be treated through the kidneys. When the kidneys weaken, the whole system is upset by these body poisons. Help your kidneys with a stimulant diuretic. Use Doan's Pills, the remedy your neighbors recommend. Here is a Merkel man's case:

W. H. Dunning, prop. of drug store, says: "I had rheumatic pains and there was a lameness in my back. My back became sore and achy and sharp pains took me across my kidneys when I stooped or reached up for anything. My joints ached, too. At times my kidneys acted irregularly. I used Doan's Pills and they fixed up my kidneys and relieved me of rheumatic pains."

60c. at all dealers. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y.

Bring your discs to us for sharpening. We have a new Disc Roller and can give you quick service. C. P. Stevens Blacksmith Shop.

Family Reunion

On last Sunday the annual family reunion of Mrs. George Reeves and children, was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Cross of Rotan, Texas. The guests arrived early Sunday morning and a very pleasant time was enjoyed throughout the day. A very dainty and most delicious dinner was prepared and served by Mrs. Cross.

Those present and enjoying this happy occasion were: Mrs. George L. Reeves and children, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Reeves and two daughters, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Reeves and daughter, all of Merkel, and Mr. and Mrs. Lea Dickerson and two sons of Rotan, Mr. G. P. Davis of Abilene, and Mr. and Mrs. Cross and daughter, Ardelle.

Preaching at Compere

Pastor Ira L. Parrack will preach in the Compere Baptist church Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. It is hoped that a good attendance will be had at this service as matters of interest to all members and friends of the church will be discussed.

One lot of Surety and Turner Ford foot feeds priced at 95c. West's Accessory Department. It

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Grayson of Friona Celebrate 64th Birthday

On December 5, 1925, a party of relatives and friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Grayson, at Friona, Texas, for a surprise party for the old couple's 64th birthday and the little grandson's 4th birthday. The old folks were taken on a great but glad surprise. They were showered with gifts, cakes, apples, writing cases, handkerchiefs, flower bowls and other presents.

The grown ups amused themselves by playing and singing while the little folks played various games. The party was served with hot chocolate and cake. When the guests were called to the dining room, the large cake with the 64 candles and the small cake with the 4 candles were sitting in the middle of the table. The old folks tried to see who could light the most candles. It was very beautiful with the 64 candles lighted and the little cake with four. After watching the beautiful lighted up cake the old folks blew the candles out. All present had a delightful time and wish for all the old folks and young many more happy birthdays.

Those present were: Their son W. R. Grayson and wife and children, their daughter Mrs. U. B. Wheeler and husband and boys, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Greene, Mr. Bill Stanley and Miss Maggie Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Schlinder and children, Mrs. Hickman, and Mr. Carl Hughes. By A Guest.

Noodle B. Y. P. U. Program

Song: "Onward Christian Soldiers."

1. "Faith," Mrs. Chas. Clark.
2. "Virtue," Vernie Derrick.
3. Reading: "Soul Satisfaction in Christ," Mrs. Deavers.
4. "Knowledge," Nettie Watson.
5. "Self Control," Mabel Jenkins.
6. "Patience," Mr. Bell.
- Duet, Mrs. Spurgin and Mrs. Deavers.
7. "Coldness," Rubye Reagan.
9. "Love," Mrs. Derrick.

FARM BUREAU MEETING

The Merkel Farm Bureau Cotton Association will meet on next Saturday afternoon, Dec. 19, at 3:00 o'clock, at the Odd Fellows Hall. All members are urged to attend as important business will be transacted.

D. I. Shelton, President. Austin Robertson, Secty. It

LOW RATES to SUCCESVILLE

139 Texas business firms asked for Draughon-trained bookkeepers and stenographers in November—many more calls this month. Low Holiday Rates on scholarships insuring positions or your money back. Courses indorsed by more bankers than all others. Write TODAY. Draughon's College, Box H, Abilene, Tex. 1122p

W. O. Boney can make you a loan from 5 years to 33 years at 6% interest.

Hard to Account for

Hobbies of Collectors

You can understand a person collecting china or coins or stamps or snuff boxes. These are objects of beauty, or at any rate of interest. Birds' eggs, butterflies, or beetles form interesting collections and teach natural history, while such objects as playing cards, fans, mezzotints, or enamels have at least historic interest.

But of late years many people have abandoned the more ordinary forms of collecting in favor of gathering together all sorts of freakish objects which do not appear to have either beauty or intrinsic value, and the gathering of which at much expense both of time and money looks like sheer waste of both these commodities.

For instance, in a daily paper certain individuals have been boasting of their collections of match boxes, one correspondent declaring that he has over 300 different specimens.

No doubt the collection gives him a certain amount of pleasure, but what will his heirs think of it? Would any museum say "thank you" for it?

But the collector of match boxes shows more discrimination than the man who has spent half a lifetime and goodness knows how much money in traveling all over the world and collecting water from each river he comes across.

Out of each stream he takes a sample in a small bottle, which is then sealed and labeled. He has already hundreds of these bottles, and the number constantly grows.

A hobby that is worse than useless is the collection of title pages. This is a form of curio hunting of considerable antiquity, and is the reason why so many early printed books lack their title pages. Thousands of the rarest books have been mutilated in this way, the classical authors suffering more than others for the reason that their title pages were so often fine steel plates.

Helium for Longevity

Helium, the sun element, is now a commercial product in relation to longevity. It is offered in bottles as an aerated table water. Claimed to be the intrinsic factor of most of the health springs, helium in this impregnated water, is said to prevent the clogging of the vascular glands normally responsible for the nutrition of the body. If they become debilitated or functionless there is sentility and the phenomena characteristic of certain chronic complaints. Vital statistics gathered in the vicinity of some of these springs are very interesting—accounting in one instance for no fewer than 20 octogenarians in a population of 523. The difficulty of obtaining a supply of helium at an economic price has held back its therapeutic applications. It is now available at a figure which permits its sale in England in aerated water at about 10s 6d per dozen bottles.—London Times.

Kings Made Sea Popular

Do you know why you go to the sea shore to spend your summer vacation? It is because the sea shore was made fashionable by royalty.

There was a time when no one ever thought of spending a holiday by the sea. Such a thing was unheard of. The country and inland watering places were then in favor. Then came a change.

George III of England became ill and, according to Tit-Bits, was advised by his physicians to go to Weymouth-by-the-sea. Instantly the town came into favor. Later George IV patronized Brighton, and the resort became famous. And from then on seaside vacations became increasingly popular.

Protestants Vist Pope

Among the hundreds of thousands who, during the year of pilgrimage, sought audience with the pope, have been many Protestants, whose requests have been received quite as hospitably and granted quite as quickly as those of Catholics. Especially notable in this respect, were two Scandinavian pilgrimages. The first contained 400 Catholics and 40 Protestants; the second, 30 Catholics and 180 Protestants. The Protestants, among them several pastors, were regularly inscribed as Pilgrims and were given a special welcome by the pope in his informal address.

Wise Child

The attitude of so many foreigners across the seas toward Americans demonstrates the truth of the proverb about fair-weather friends, and reminds one of little Billy.

Billy's uncle paid him a visit. When he was leaving, Billy was playing out in front of his home with a group of boys, so his uncle gave him a dime, saying: "You have lots of playmates, Billy; are they all your friends?"

"I was just playing with them," he replied, putting the dime in his pocket, "but they'll all want to be my friends now."

Escaped Russian Prison

After 11 years' imprisonment in Russia, during which he made several unsuccessful attempts to escape, Paul Cons, sculptor, recently reached Bonn. During the Russian campaign of the German army in August, 1914, Cons was wounded and taken prisoner. When he recovered, he says, he was assigned to a Russian working squad and put at hard labor. His repeated attempts to escape were frustrated until he saw three cons and three com-mrades succeed in crossing the border.

J.C.Penney Co. Inc.

A Nation-wide Institution-
Department Stores

USEFUL Christmas Gifts

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| For Her | For Him |
| Toilet Sets | Neck Wear |
| Manicure | Scarfs |
| Perfumes | Bill Folds |
| Handkerchiefs | Belts and belt buckle sets |
| Beads | Silk Socks |
| Towels | Shirts |
| Bath Mats | Supporters |
| Stationery | Military Brushes |
| Kimonas | Writing Sets |
| Silk Underwear | Traveling Sets |
| Blankets | Traveling bags |
| Comforts | Trunks |
| Linens | Gloves |
| Powder Puffs | Thaving accessories |
| Vanities | Caps |
| Gloves | Initial handkerchiefs |

Words of Appreciation

To all who have contributed bedding, articles of clothing, money, or anything else that was given to help us since our house burned on November 29, we take great pleasure in thanking you. Contributions have been very generous and it was gratefully received. Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Ellerbee.

Elder Cypert Will Preach At North Side Church Sun.

Elder W. G. Cypert announces that he will preach at the North Side Church of Christ on Next Sunday morning at 11 and in the evening at 7.

Every one is cordially invited to hear him at either of these services.

Our Painless Extractions are Absolutely Painless and "We Don't Mean Maybe" If your plates do not fit, we can make them fit makes no difference who made them.



We Especially Invite Hard Jobs. DR. K. M. WATKINS & ASSOCIATES, DENTISTS Dr. Johnson, Associate Texas' Leading Plate Specialists in Texas's Best City. Rooms 15-16 Compton Buld., 152 1/2 Cypress, Abilene.

REAL ESTATE, FARM LOANS FIRE INSURANCE

After a Fire--

you' find no satisfaction in figuring up the amount of insurance you should have had. But there is a lot of satisfaction in knowing that your property as it stands today is fully covered by dependable fire insurance.

Our fire insurance policies are dependable.

W. O. BONEY
MERKEL, TEXAS

Consult your Insurance Agent as you would your Lawyer.

THERE IS A PILE OF DIFFERENCE IN COAL



Coalis Coal, and Wood is Wood

but there is a pile of difference in the burning. You would select the pile of wood that made the most heat. Let us deliver the kind of coal that has the HEAT

DAWSON FANCY EGG

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SWAFFORD

PHONE 44

SOUTH SIDE

Xmas is Sure to Come As Long As Time Lasts Only Two More Weeks UNTIL SANTA MAKES HIS TOUR



We have presents for the whole family. Gifts that are serviceable. Gifts that will not only bring cheer this Christmas but throughout the year and probably, years to come.

Wheel Goods for the kiddies in all sizes from the little "Tot" to "Brudder" and "Sis". Select suitable, substantial gifts. Come in and look our stock over and let us help you to make your selections. Santa Claus has a store room with us, he has already been having us store away presents for some good boys and girls. Remember we have a complete line of Hardware in all lines. Also remember we are the only Hardware Store in town that gives *ZAC* Green Stamps, ask for them. We appreciate your business and good will

Liberty Hardware Co.

If It's Hardware We Have It.

* HIGH SCHOOL NOTES *

This week has been marked by many social events relating to highschool life. Monday night a choral concert was given at the Grammar school auditorium by the students of Simmons University. The crowd was small owing to other events, but the program was well rendered despite this defect.

Thursday night the Expression Department gave a program at the Cozy Theatre, the proceeds going to the Annual Fund. This program has been given before but it is hoped that there will be a large audience. We are

Friday night a box supper will be given at the Grammar School auditorium for the benefit of the Athletic Association. Many of the high school girls are planning to bring boxes of good eats and it is whispered about that Mr. Jackson's box will receive first prize. Let's all go and see, and save our appetites until Friday night.

The Seniors and Juniors have planned a four course dinner for

Saturday night. Lock up your chicken houses people! Tickets are now on sale at fifty cents. This money will also go to the Annual Fund. A big time is planned with speeches 'n everything.

Funny Bone Ticklers

A young woman goes up stairs to dress. She goes at 7:45 in the evening. She is nineteen years old and weighs 102 pounds. State the wait of the young man down stairs.

—M.H.S.—

Miss Durham "Can inanimate objects feel?"

Delbert: "Well, my hat's felt"

—M.H.S.—

Mr. Summerhill's lack of breath on his arrival up stairs was explained to the Executive Committee of the Dramatic Club. He weighs one hundred and ninety and his lungs lack the necessary amount of oxygen when he climbs the stairs. He also stated that Coach Jackson would have a new player when basket ball practice starts.

—M.H.S.—

Parent-Teachers meeting Wednesday afternoon at the Ward

School Auditorium was well attended and a splendid program was rendered. Mr. L. R. Thompson gave a very interesting address on "The Humo Artist." All parents should have heard this address. The second grade rendered a four-act play that was splendidly coached and interesting throughout. Misses Pogue and Harrison are to be congratulated on this unique program.

Superintendent J. A. Summerhill gave a very pointed and frank talk about the necessity of home study on the part of every student from fourth grade thru high school. He said if parents wanted their children to make this term's credits they must see to it that the boys and girls do not attend the picture show and skating rink unless lessons are prepared first. Let every parent cooperate now and make school work first.

Monthly tests will be given next week. These tests will be given on three weeks of work because the school will dismiss December 18 for the county institute.

Presbyterian Church
Sunday school at 10:00 a.m. The pastor will preach at the 11 o'clock hour.

Special meeting of the Session at three o'clock for the purpose of nominating officers and teachers of the Sunday school for the new year.

Senior Christian Endeavor at six o'clock p.m.

Chas. H. Little, Pastor.

Methodist Church

A big day is anticipated Sunday. Sunday school at 9:45, and we hope to have a large number of new students.

We invite you to worship with us at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The theme at the morning hour will be "Christian Education," and a collection will be taken for McMurry College.

Rev. W. E. Lyon will preach for us Tuesday night, December 15th, and conduct the business session of our first Quarterly Conference. W. R. McCarter.

Subscribe for the Merkel Mail We appreciate both of them.

Painting & Paper Hanging

We appreciate your work; we strive to please, and leave proof we do your work just like you want it done. If in doubt ask others. We carry a full line of 1926 wall paper samples of the latest styles and prices reasonable. Estimates on jobs free and appreciated. P. O. Box 536. Residence 2 blocks northeast of the

post office. A. L. BRYANT & Sons. It

NOTICE

Campbell Cash Grocery wants to sell you. My prices are right. Your trade will be appreciated. A trial is all I ask. It

We can sharpen your discs as quickly and accurately as it can be done with our new Disc Roller C.P. Stevens Blacksmith Shop It

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING MADE EASY



with our stock of Shoes and Hose for the "Whole Family" at the price you want to pay. Visit our store before making your selections.

Yeager Shoe Co. FOOT FITTERS

Abilene :: Lubbock
Repairs While You Wait

PLAN TO DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT GIFT HEADQUARTERS

You may come here with the assurance that whatever Gift you may choose it will be of a quality and a style that will appeal instantly to the recipient. Furthermore, it will register a mark of your respect toward those receiving the gift, especially if they know the reputation of this store for reliability.



DOLLS AND TOYS

We have on display now a very complete line of DOLLS, all kinds and sizes, and a large variety of TOYS. Get our prices. Our store has been designated as Santa's Headquarters.

GRIMES-SMITH DRUG COMPANY





Christmas Gift Suggestions From The Bragg Dry Goods Company "THE CHRISTMAS STORE"

Here are gift suggestions from various departments, chosen to help you plan your Christmas shopping tomorrow and all next week. Gifts selected from this store will reflect good taste from the giver and the spirit of an old fashioned Christmas, and if price is an important consideration our special Christmas sale will save you many dollars. Men's and boys' Overcoats, Shirts, Shoes Socks, Ties, Sweaters, Handkerchiefs, Hats Caps, Bath Robes, Mufflers, Gloves Etc. Ladies' and childrens' Coats and Dresses, Hose, Gloves, Handkerchiefs, Knit Caps, Sweaters, Comforts, Towels, table linen, luncheon sets, purses, dolls, novelties Etc. If you haven't made your Fall bill, make it here during this Sale.

BRAGG DRY GOODS Co.

The Place Most People Trade

Womans Missionary Society

The Womans Missionary Society of the Methodist Church met last Monday afternoon in business session. The first item of business was the report of the officers and paying of dues and pledges. Next was the election of a delegate to take the report to the district meeting in Abilene Wednesday. Mrs. eGorge Brown was elected. The society then voted to sponsor the banquet for the choir on the evening of the 18th and place the proceeds on the Belle Bennett Memorial Fund. The following officers were then elected for the coming year. Mrs. Tom Largent, president; Mrs. George Brown, vice-president; Mrs. T. A. Beidleman, Corresponding secretary; Mrs. R. I. Grimes, Recording Secretary; Mrs. V. N. Ellis, Auxiliary Treasurer; Mrs. Ida Armstrong local treasurer. Mrs. McCarter, superintendent of children; Mrs. Butman, superintendent of Social Service. Mrs. Thos. Durham, Supt. of Study; Mrs. Rainbolt, Supt. of Supplies; Mrs. Graham, Agent for Voice; Mrs. Sie Hamm, Supt. of Publicity.

On next Monday afternoon we will begin the study of the new mission study book, "From Over the Border." We now have sev-

enteen enrolled in this class and we hope every member will be present for the first lesson. There were 18 present last Monday. Some new faces and some old ones who had not been for a long time. We were glad to see them and bid them welcome to all the future meetings. Quite a good representation from this auxiliary went to the district meeting at Abilene Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Douglas were called to Clyde to attend the funeral of Mrs. B. F. Estes, who died and was buried Wednesday, December 2, at her home in Clyde. Mrs. Estes is the mother of Mrs. C. D. Taylor, sister-in-law of Mrs. Douglas, and was an aunt of Dr. Jack Estes of Abilene. There are six children to mourn her death, two girls and four boys. The deceased had been a member of the Baptist church for over half a century, and was always loyal to her pastor. She was the mother of the great evangelist preacher, Lonnie Estes.

Baker & Wheeler will appreciate your patronage in fresh and cured meats of all kinds in season. Call on them for fresh pork, sausage, steak, cured meats, roasts, etc. tf

Mr. T. D. Compton returned last week from his visit to his son, Paul, in California, who recently suffered the loss of a hand. Mr. Compton reported his son was doing nicely when he left and although he lost his hand which is usually a handicap to any one, he says he feels sure that his son will make it fine, since, as his many friends here know, he has the ability and determination to go forward in life at any cost.

One may by power and efforts, in one way and another, make himself very popular in a community, but if he is a constant maker of trouble and strife in that community he is sure to meet his Waterloo. And such an abrupt end usually comes very sudden and at a most unexpected time. And it should?

Christian Endeavor Program

Leader, Dorris Russell.
Topic: "Bible principles of Giving." Scripture reading: Lev. 27:30; I Cor. 16:1-4, 14.
Talk by Leader.
Song; Clippings; Questions.
Song. Reading of a letter from the near east relief, Mildred Smith. Mispah.

The Kings Daughters Class of the Methodist church will have a market at the Barrow Furniture store on Saturday, December 19, 1925. 11t2

A dash carburetor adjustment added to any old model Ford will give you all the advantages of the newer model. 75c and \$1 at West's Accessory Department. It

Mr. W. C. Carpenter and family of Shepp, have moved to the Earl Lassiter home in the north part of the city, which they recently purchased from Mr. Lassiter. Mr. Lassiter with his family moved to their farm, where they have just completed a nice new bungalow home.

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company

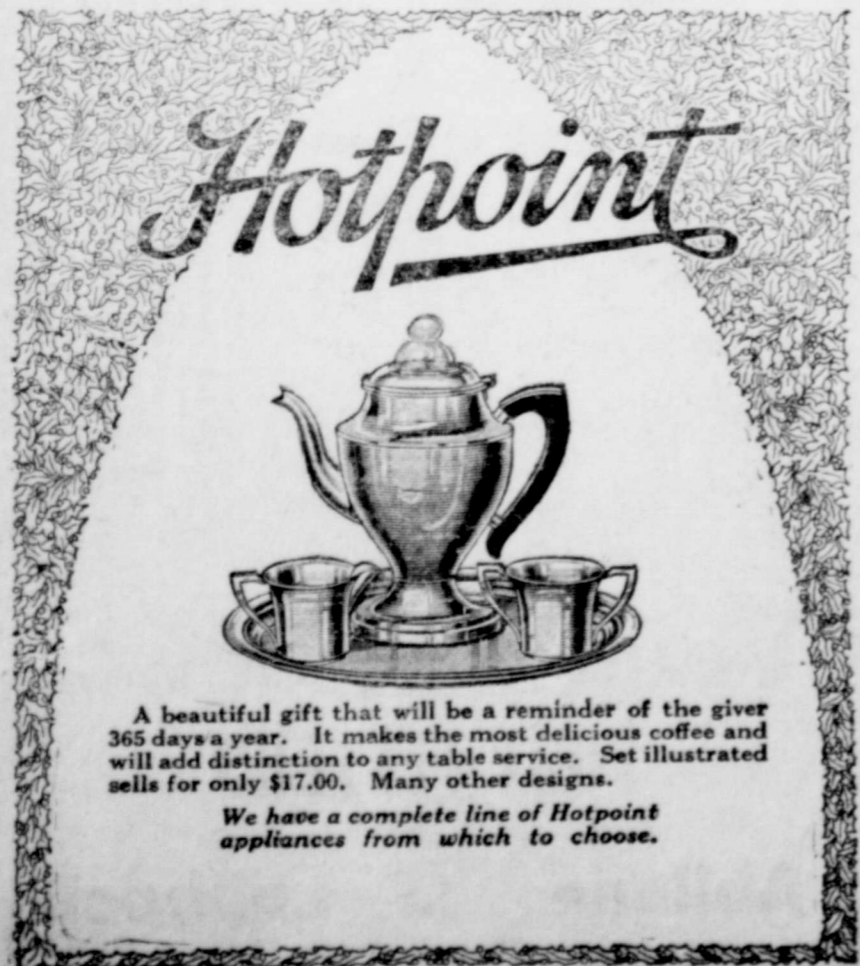
Twenty-Second Dividend

The regular quarterly dividend of one dollar and seventy-five cents per share on Preferred Stock will be paid on Friday, January 1, 1926, to stockholders of record at the close of business on Saturday, December 19, 1925.
R. A. NICKERSON, Treasurer

WAIT!! FOR THE XMAS SPECIALS

AT
Barnes' Variety Store

Look for our advertisement next week.



A beautiful gift that will be a reminder of the giver 365 days a year. It makes the most delicious coffee and will add distinction to any table service. Set illustrated sells for only \$17.00. Many other designs.

We have a complete line of Hotpoint appliances from which to choose.

WEST TEXAS UTILITIES CO.

BROWN'S



Your CHRISTMAS Store--
Here's a STORE Folks....

just crowded to the doors with good things for Christmas giving---and the best part of it is, each and every item may be purchased at a price well under ordinary. Plan to come here soon to do your shopping.

Brown Dry Goods Co.

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