

# THE MERKEL MAIL

THE MERCHANTS WHO ADVERTISE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS—READ THE ADS

VOL. 37—NO. 50

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1926

8 PAGES

## TO PLAN FUTURE WORK AT LUNCHEON MEETING

The next meeting of the Luncheon Club, on next Tuesday evening, February 16, at Ed's Cafe, which will be held promptly at 7:30 o'clock, will be strictly a business meeting, and at this time the best ways and means of carrying on the work throughout the spring and summer will be discussed.

The meeting will be open to all who wish to bring up any question or matter for discussion, and it is hoped and expected that a large attendance will be had at that time.

The last few meetings have been especially interesting and well attended, and the work for the year has started off nicely. Many farmers have been attending and their presence is greatly appreciated by the club, and every member wishes to stress the fact that the farmers of the community have a standing invitation at all times. It is urged that they bring before the club any matter they wish for country development.

## IF YOU DESIRE HAULING ON ROAD SEE MR. FRAZIER

Mr. W. H. Frazier, who will be in charge of the graveling of the road north of town to the Stith road, asks this paper to announce that any one wishing to do gravel hauling for this road should see him at once. Contrary to reports there has been no contract made with any one individual for all the hauling, Mr. Frazier stated.

## Not Such a Bad Crop

Regardless of the fact that at the beginning of the season it seemed that the crop in this section was going to be quite short, and in some respects it was, our good friend and excellent citizen, Mr. G. L. Shuff, of the Canyon community, in speaking of the prevailing good conditions for starting another crop, remarked that he gathered from his last year's crop sixty-two 500-pound bales of cotton from 160 acres planted. He also reported harvesting 20,000 bundles of feed stuff.

## Gets the Wrong Hat

Mr. W. W. Outlaw of Merkel route one, states that at Comper, on February 7, some one took by mistake his John B. Stetson and left instead a hat bought from Babb-Howard Dry Goods Company, and he would be glad if the party doing so would notify him and they would make the change.

Mr. John W. Cox, commercial agent for the West Texas Utilities Company, with headquarters in Abilene, was here this week, arranging for a big Electric Range cooking demonstration to be held through the local offices of the company from Monday to Wednesday. Read their ad in this week's paper.

Mr. W. J. Sheppard, local manager for the Jones Dry Goods, returned first of the week from his trip to St. Louis, where he, with other buyers from the various stores of this firm, purchased the new spring dry goods for the firm's various stores.

We are glad to learn that Dr. S. W. Johnson who has been quite sick for some ten days, is now improving nicely and will likely soon be back at his office.

## IS NEWSPAPER ENTITLED TO MAKE FAIR PROFIT?

It sometimes happens that a merchant who is making a big profit on the goods he is selling will complain at the prices he has to pay for advertising and printing. Perhaps the printing business involves more hard work and brings smaller returns on the investment than almost any business in town—any town. If you do not believe that there is work to do in a newspaper shop, just drop into our place of business most any day or frequently at night and watch the "force" perform. If you think there is money in the business you might ask the local bankers. We do not know of any country newspaper anywhere that is profiteering, either in its advertising or its job departments. On the other hand many newspapers are struggling to live and almost every week brings news of the "merger" of two papers, the sale of one to its competitor, which means that both of them were not able to survive and one or the other had to go. Yet you will find a business man now and then who will talk about the local newspaper robbing him, and he continually tries to "jew" the management down on its prices. At the same time if you were to go into his place of business and undertake to "jew" him down on the prices for which he sells his goods, on which he is making a good profit and sometimes an enormous profit, he would regard you as a "tightwad." Now, we are not complaining; we are not grouching; we are just stating the plain unvarnished truth. We want all our business men to prosper. They are entitled to a fair profit out of their respective lines of business. But we think that they ought to be willing to pay the printer, the editor and the devil a price that will permit the local newspaper to live and to reap at least a small return on the investment and the labor involved. Most of our business men have been fair and square with the local newspaper, and we highly appreciate their friendship and their patronage, but if all the business men of Tahoka were to treat the local newspaper as a good many do, there would be no local newspaper. It couldn't survive a single issue. At the same time those who support the local newspaper are making no sacrifice in doing so. On the contrary they reap good returns from the money they spend in the newspaper shop. If this isn't true, then the newspaper is of no benefit to the town commercially, and Tahoka would grow and prosper just as well without a newspaper as with one. And yet, can anyone imagine that Tahoka would have been the town it is today if there had never been a newspaper published here? Yes, the coyotes would still be howling every night within hearing distance of the court house square.—Lynn County News.

The Above from the Tahoka paper is without doubt a very true representation of conditions prevailing in practically every small town. The Merkel Mail has some of the best and most loyal supporters of any paper, and not a one of those supporters, to our knowledge, has failed to get a good return for what they put in. It is because they are consistent. And they are the most prosperous firms in Merkel today. No man or firm should spend money in advertising unless he believes it will prove an advantage. If a firm or person will study their advertising carefully and devote some thought to its preparation, the returns are even greater. Constant and consistent advertising has been proved to pay any kind of business.

## \$122.20 RAISED BY ART EXHIBIT

This total sum of \$122.20 was cleared on the Art Exhibit last week, the entire amount of which will be used to buy pictures for the Grammar School.

The \$10.00 prize picture offered by the Art Company for selling the most tickets, goes to Miss Sterling's room. Her room sold \$28.80 worth of tickets with Miss Ellis' room running them a close second by selling \$23.60 worth of tickets.

The Parent-Teachers Association offered a \$1.50 size picture to each room that was 100 per cent in attendance. All of the rooms won excepting two.

We wish to thank the members of the Parent-Teachers and the Delphian Club for their kind assistance, the West Texas Utilities Company for helping arrange the lighting of the building, the Cozy Theatre for giving us a slide on the screen, Mr. Emmett Grimes for granting us the use of the Armory building, and each of those who took part on the programs or helped in any way to make the exhibit a success.

## WEST TEXAS FAIR REBUILDS TRACK

\$5,000.00 has been allotted by the Fair Board for rebuilding the race track of the West Texas Fair at Abilene and work was begun this week under the supervision of competent race track engineers. When completed, the curves will be wider and the maximum elevation of the banked turns will be four feet higher which will permit the fastest cars to take all turns at full speed. The track will be completed and in excellent condition for the July 4th races and will be one of the fastest speedways in this part of the country. The Fair Officials have also contracted for some of the best amusements ever seen in West Texas. Ernie Young's Revue, in five acts, "The Passing Show of 1926," will be the headliner for the Hippodrome show. This feature carries a cast of 27 people, chorus and principals, and is booked at some of the largest fairs in the country. The costumes and scenic equipment represent an investment of over \$100,000.00. Other features are: Fink's Comedy Males, a real ring animal circus; Lohse and Sterling, a novel acrobatic art with a daredevil comedian; "The Flying Sailor"; The Lomas Troupe, English Pantomime and comedy artists, a sensation from the music halls of London; also the Chicago Cadet Band and Glee Club, which will play for the Revue and other features. Every feature is the best of its kind to be had and requires a personal of fifty-seven people for the combined Hippodrome show.

Mr. J. L. Banner, one of the Merkel Mail's good friends (even though he may not own up to it) has our thanks for his renewal for the paper for another year. Like most men, he said his wife wanted it. And, we must confess, we're not for the good ladies our subscription list might show up short. Any way, this shows the women get what they want.

Miss Maurine Hearn, teacher in the public schools, went to her home at Roscoe to be present on Wednesday evening at the marriage of a young lady friend.

## UNEXPECTED HAS HAPPENED ALREADY

Yes, it has really happened, and there should be shouting from the house tops. For many years the citizens of Merkel have by different means and methods made efforts to induce the Texas & Pacific, the dear old T. & P., to move from the center of our little city to the noted and unsightly Stock Pens. And on Wednesday of this week, right when the most of the good citizens were expecting it the least, a crew of workmen were sent here and began tearing away the pens, and now they are a thing of the past in town; they have been moved east to the outer edge of town.

And with this done, a number of otherwise worthless town lots and property becomes quite valuable to the owners thereof. Thanks to the officials of this, our only railroad. We knew they were going to do this some time when they got good and ready, and when the effort prevailed upon them was the least. And now our city will make a better impression upon those passing through.

## BRO. CYPERT CONDUCTS FUNERAL AT WINTERS

Elder W. G. Cypert left Wednesday afternoon for Winters where he had been called to conduct the funeral of Mrs. John Eoff who died in that city Tuesday night with funeral to be conducted Thursday.

About a year ago Elder Cypert was called there to conduct the funeral of Mr. John Eoff, husband of the above named lady. They were once citizens of Merkel, we are told, and have relatives living in this community now.

## SENDS IN RENEWAL FOR MAIL FROM MISSOURI

The following letter was received from Mrs. S. J. Grafford: Centralia, Mo., Feb. 5, 1926

The Merkel Mail,  
Dear Sirs:  
Enclosed you will find check for the renewal of our paper. We all stop work when our "Home town Paper" comes.  
My mother and "dad" (Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Collins) are still in New York, but they get the Merkel Mail too, as I send it on to them there when we are thru with it. Expect them home next month.  
Yours truly,  
Mrs. S. J. Grafford.  
R. F. D. No. 1.

## Singing Sunday Nights

Mr. J. J. Pribble of the Cross Roads community one mile south of Nubia, was a visitor at this office one day this week, and he asks us to announce that there will be singing every Sunday night at the Cross Roads school house.

Mr. F. R. Demere of the Canyon last week had shipped in a car of hogs from East Texas, which he has been offering to sell the farmers of this community. Of the more than 150 head he reports the sale of less than half the number up to Wednesday of this week. Regardless of the fact that there but few hogs in the country it seems that but few are interested in living at home.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Hutcheson returned the last of the week from Dallas, where they had been to consult a specialist. Mr. Hutcheson having suffered for some time with his eyes. His many friends will be glad to learn that he is now getting along nicely.

## LOCAL FILLING STATION BROKEN INTO FOR \$6.00

From City Marshal W. N. Hall we learn that the Middleton Filling Station was broken into last Monday night and about six dollars taken from the cash drawer. No tires or other goods were taken, it is said.

Officers think the work must have been done by some local party, as they seemed to be familiar with the surroundings.

## LOCAL TRIO TO PRESENT PROGRAM

Tuesday evening, February 23, at the school auditorium, for the benefit of the Parent-Teachers Association, a local trio will present a program of songs and music. The personnel of the trio is as follows: Mr. Paul West, Baritone; Mr. Delma A. Compton, Tenor; Mrs. L. E. Howard, Soprano and accompanist.

Two of the numbers to be presented, both words and music, were composed by Mrs. Howard, and are now in the hands of publishers. The numbers are expected to be off the press soon and will be on sale at local drug stores. The first presentation of these numbers will be given on Feb. 23rd.

## MOVES TO SOUTH TEXAS; HAS THE MAIL FOLLOW

We received a letter from our good friend W. C. (Carl) Black who for the past several years has been the local manager for the Burton Lingo Company at Trent, but who is now holding a similar position with the South Texas Lumber Company at Harlingen, Texas, enclosing check for the Merkel Mail to his address.

He states that they like the Rio Grande Valley fine, and closes by asking that we send him the back copies of the Mail since their departure.

## Elected Vice-president

Messrs Herbert Patterson, Booth Warren and Chas. H. Jones were called to Abilene last week to attend a meeting of the council of the Boy Scouts organization, embracing some seven counties in this vicinity. At this meeting we are informed that tentative plans were made for completing the organization and carrying on the work in the district, and that Mr. Jones was honored with the election as a vice-president of same.

Superintendent J. A. Summerhill of Merkel schools has been appointed a member of the special Advisory Committee of the Texas Education Commission. This commission was recently created by the Executive Council of the State Teachers Association to study the problems of the public schools of the state.

Mrs. R. L. Proctor said "please stop my advertisement for more milk customers; I have all that I can supply." A little want ad in our classified column did the work—just cost 50 cents for two insertions, and yet there are those who claim advertising does not pay.

Mr. George Brown and family, accompanied by their daughter, Mrs. Edith McBean and baby, drove over to San Angelo, the home of Mr. and Mrs. McBean, and spent last Sunday.

We are thankful to Mr. John Gilchrist of Merkel, route three, for the renewal of his subscription to the Mail.

## OIL COMPANY SECURES ACREAGE HERE; TO DRILL

The Phillips Petroleum Company of Bartlettville, Oklahoma, one of the biggest companies operating in Texas and Oklahoma, we are informed, has about completed securing a block of acreage in and about the Shiloh community some ten miles northwest of Merkel. According to reports their lease contracts call for the starting of drilling operations not later than June 1, 1926.

We are also informed that the price paid for these leases was about \$1.00 per acre, running for a period of five years, and that the company has paid the cash for same where the title has been completed. Those said to be on the "inside" state that plans are already well under way for starting the drill in the near future, and that the center of the block of acreage secured is around the Joe Winter farm in the Shiloh community.

Merkel during the last eight years has witnessed considerable wild cat oil speculation and development, some four wells having been drilled in this section, and there are those who believe yet that oil in paying quantities will be discovered. At least there has been considerable money spent in the effort already, and since the Phillips Company, according to reports, have not asked for a gift of anything, but on the other hand are spending their money, it may be that a real sure enough test will be made by them. Let us hope for the best, and let's give them some cooperation.

## SCHOOL PUPIL WRITES OF FUTURE MERKEL

The following is a theme written by J. R. Lassiter, a grammar school pupil, as part of his work in English, and is published by courtesy of Superintendent Summerhill:

**MERKEL**  
In five or six years Merkel will be so large that you can not tell Merkel from Fort Worth. It will have paved streets, big buildings so high you will have to look straight up to see the tops of them. There will be so many houses you can't find your own house, and will have to get a policeman to find the number for you. It will be such a change that they who live in Merkel will have brick houses, fine cars and chauffeurs, and Abilene will be to Merkel what Merkel is to Abilene now. Merkel will be so large when travellers drive into Merkel they will think it is Fort Worth. When they go to a depot they can not find their way through the depot, and they will have to get a red-cap boy to show them their way to the train. When people come from Abilene they will go into a store and want something and will not know how to act. Then some one from Merkel comes in and gets something and they will have to copy Merkel folks.

Mrs. H. M. Rainbolt was called to Temple last week to attend the bedside of her daughter, Mrs. Eugene Hargrove, of Abilene, who had gone to the Temple Sanitarium for treatment. We are informed that Mrs. Hargrove withstood the operation, which was a very serious one, and that good hopes are now held for her recovery.

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

# STATEMENT OF CONDITION OF THE FARMERS STATE BANK

At close of business Dec. 31, 1925

RESOURCES	
Loans	\$249,520.08
Banking House	12,500.00
Furniture & Fixtures	5,430.00
Other Real Estate	11,652.50
Stocks and Bonds	1,135.00
Assessment Gty. Fund	9,480.95
Int. Depositors Gty. Fund	8,422.56
Cash and Ex.	\$200,317.00
Prime Com. Paper	85,000.00
U. S. Bonds and	
Trans. Cert.	78,950.00
Bills of Exchange	
Cotton	57,620.20
<b>TOTAL QUICK ASSETS</b>	<b>\$421,887.20</b>
Total	\$720,028.39
LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus and Profits Earned	20,750.00
Dividends Unpaid	2,500.00
Borrowed Money	NONE
<b>Deposits</b>	<b>646,778.39</b>
Total	\$720,028.39

Banking Friendship that Encircles this Section

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

J. S. Swann, President  
 R. O. Anderson, V. Pres.  
 J. C. Mason, V. Pres.  
 W. L. Diltz, Cashier

Herbert Patterson, Assistant Cashier  
 Dallas Scarbrough  
 David Hendricks

### COMPERE NEWS

By Alma Stout

A large crowd attended preaching at the Baptist church Sunday afternoon. There was also a good crowd at singing Sunday night. There will be a singing school at Compere conducted by Mr. Tarpley for the next ten days.

Mr. and Mrs. Tarvin and Mr. and Mrs. Emmitt Howard and children visited at Mr. Howard Tarvin's Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Urbon Childers spent the week end with home folks and friends here.

Mr. G. W. Stout and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hobbs and family at Warren Community.

Mr. Bob Hobbs spent Saturday night with Mr. Howard Garner. Several of the young folks of this community attended the party at Mr. Bill Harvell's Saturday night.

Mrs. E. W. Bland spent several days last week in Abilene.

Mr. and Mrs. Stout returned Friday from Coahoma, Texas, where they visited Mr. Stout's sister.

Mrs. S. A. Hobbs, Ella and Bob Hobbs made a trip to Knox county last week and spent a few days with relatives and friends.

Miss Louise Kemp spent the weekly holidays with home folks at Post City.

Miss Otera Outlaw spent Saturday and Sunday with her cousins in the Kale community.

Mr. and Mrs. Cook called on Mrs. S. A. Hobbs for a while on Sunday afternoon.

Some of the young folks attended the party at Hawley Saturday night.

Miss Inema Merritt who has been teaching school away from home, surprised her many friends here by getting married Saturday. She returned home in company with her husband and is visiting her parents. We extend congratulations and wish them a long and happy married life.

Mr. and Mrs. Outlaw and children visited Mr. C. C. Rister and family Sunday.

Mr. Merritt has been sick for quite a while and had not improved any at last reports. We hope he has a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Bragg returned first of the week from St. Louis, where they had been to purchase the new spring goods for their firm. Upon their return, Mr. Dee Grimes, also a member of the firm, left for St. Louis, where he will also make additional purchases in the Mens department and incidentally take a special course in the art of advertising. This paper would remark that this firm will no doubt find that it will pay well to give special thought and study to the best and most effective means of advertising.

Is winter gone? If you need Coal phone 44. Swafford Coal & Feed Yard.

### M. E. Sunday School Notes

Last Sunday was a fine day at the Methodist church, more than 300 hundred being in attendance at Sunday School, and there was a fine cooperation and the genuine Christian spirit prevalent. Next Sunday let us make the attendance 350 or 400. We can do it if we try hard. Surely the parents realize that the Sunday school is the best place, out side of the home for the moral and religious training of the boys and girls of the community. Surely we realize that it is they who will be the men and women of tomorrow, and that the burden of carrying forward the Christian religion will be left to them. Then it is up to us to properly train them in this respect.

Mothers and fathers, think this over, and come with your children. Don't just send them, but come and bring them, and where it is possible have them remain with you for the splendid gospel message that our able pastor is to bring to us.

L. W. Cox, Supt.

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

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. N. Campbell returned first of the week from a visit with friends and relatives at Robert Lee, Texas.

Mrs. R. L. Ferguson and baby daughter of Temple are here for a visit with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Haynes.

### Diplomatic Term May Be Traced to Greece

The noun, protocol, comes to the English from the French "protocole," derived from late Latin "protocollum," which in turn was derived from the Greek (written in Latin letters), "protokollon," and its original meaning was a leaf glued on the front of a manuscript. Our word protocol has various meanings. (1) The preliminary sketch or draft of a treaty, or other official document; (2) A diplomatic document, minute or agreement, containing the official record or embodying the result of a negotiation, a memorandum of agreement less formal and solemn than a treaty, also a supplementary clause or a declaration explaining a treaty, or extending its scope or duration; (3) A record or registry, and in law based on the Roman system, a record made and kept by a notary public. The word used as a verb means to make a protocol.

### Maple Popcorn Balls

Pop three quarts of corn and discard hard kernels. Melt one table-spoonful of butter in a saucepan, add one cupful of maple sirup and one-half cupful of sugar. Bring to boiling point and let boil until mixture will become brittle when tried in cold water. Pour mixture gradually, stirring all the while, over corn which has been sprinkled with salt. Shape into balls, using very little pressure.

### Apple Roll.

Prepare a rich biscuit dough. Cut apples to make a cupful (chop them in the chopping bowl). Roll out the dough and put in the apples sugared and flavored to taste. Roll up and bake one-half hour. Pour over some cranberry sauce and bake ten minutes longer. Peaches, plums and cherries may be used for this pudding.

Organized in the days of the Covered Wagon

We are heartily in sympathy with the idea of--

"Better Cotton on Fewer Acres And More Feed on More Acres"

We have always encouraged--

## - DIVERSIFICATION -

And wish to assure you of our willingness to co-operate with YOU with this idea in mind.

THE OLD RELIABLE

## FARMERS & MERCHANTS NAT'L BANK

MERKEL

TEXAS

'SINCE 1904'

A Square Deal for Every Customer

### ELDER CYPERT WILL PREACH HERE SUNDAY

Elder W. G. Cypert announces that on next Sunday he will preach at the North Side church of Christ at both the morning and evening hours.

### CARD OF THANKS

We take this method of thanking our many friends who have been so kind to us during the sickness and death of our dear little baby, Mona Mattie. May the Lord's richest blessings be with you. Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Steele, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Jenkins and family. Itp

Maize heads—Meal—and hulls Plenty good coal. Swafford Coal and Feed Yard.

### King's Daughters Meet

The King's Daughters had an interesting meeting in the parlors of the Methodist church on Tuesday afternoon. There were thirteen present that enjoyed a nice program. During the business session with Mrs. McSpadden, active vice-president, in charge, Mrs. W. A. Whitely was elected president of the class.

### Christian Endeavor Program

Leader: Helen Compton.  
 Topic: "What is Faith, and What does it Do for us?"  
 Scripture reading: Heb. 11:1-10. Talk by leader.  
 Song; clippings; questions. Announcements, song, mispach

It Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

# NOTICE

On and after March 1st, 1926, I will operate my Filling Station and garage business on a STRICTLY CASH basis Cash to all. We appreciate your business and strive to give good service.

Come to see us for

**GAS, OIL, TIRES, TUBES AND REPAIR WORK**

**Boney's Service Station**

Phone 60

## SCHOOL DAYS



### POPULAR COUPLE WED

Surprising to their many friends was the wedding of Miss Theima Merritt to Mr. Ollie V. Bigham, when they slipped quietly away to the home of Rev. Moody, Methodist pastor at Caps and were married last Friday night in the presence of a few intimate friends. The bride is the beautiful and very accomplished daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Merritt of Compere community. She is very widely known, having been employed for several years as primary teacher in the public schools in Jones and Taylor counties.

The groom is the splendid son of Mrs. Ruth Bigham of Cross Roads community, where they have lived for several years.

Mr. and Mrs. Bigham will make their home in the Cross Roads community where the groom has previously had a nice little home constructed. Mrs. Bigham is the excellent primary teacher in the Cross Roads School.

### IS YOUR WORK HARD?

Many Merkel Folks Have Found How to Make Work Easier

What is so hard as a day's work with an aching back? Or sharp stabs of pain at every sudden twist or turn?

There is no place for that dull ache.

No rest for the soreness, lameness and weakness.

Many folks have found relief through Doan's Pills. They are a stimulant diuretic to the kidneys.

Merkel people recommend Doan's.

B. F. Pooley, prop. of blacksmith shop, Merkel, says: "My kidneys acted so irregularly I had to get up several times at night. My back was lame and sore and it was impossible for me to stoop. I used Doan's Pills and they corrected the entire trouble. 60c at all dealers. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N.Y."

Is winter gone? If you need Coal phone 44. Swafford Coal & Feed Yard. It

Renew your subscription to the Merkel Mail before it expires



To make old walls new

If your walls and ceilings need fixing, use Sheetrock, the fireproof wallboard. Sheetrock comes all ready to nail to the joists and studs—the work is done easily, quickly and at low cost.

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.  
**SHEETROCK**  
 THE Fireproof WALLBOARD  
**BURTON-LINGO CO.**

## TO OUR FRIENDS, CUSTOMERS AND THE AUTOMOBILE PUBLIC

We try at all times to keep enough help and equipment to render you **PROMPT AND EFFICIENT SERVICE.** And now that you will soon be busy with your farming, we are **ANXIOUS TO BE OF SERVICE TO YOU** and any time a Magnolia Truck can be of service to you, call him. Use our telephone

DAY 159 NIGHT 135

We are glad to run errands for you

Don't fail to attend the Luncheon Club Tues. night,

**Magnolia Filling  
Station**  
**C. H. JONES**  
MANAGER

We can save you money. Why not buy here. Patton Variety Store. ltp

J. C. Mason returned Wednesday from a business trip to Dallas.

## COZY Theatre

FRIDAY and SATURDAY  
February 12-13  
Universal Presents  
**HOOT GIBSON**

—in—  
"the CALGARY STAMPEDE"  
A Western Thriller

—Also—  
An Adventure Picture  
**WILLIAM DESMOND**  
and Mary McAlister

—in—  
"THE ACE OF SPADES"  
Chap. 7 "The Trail of Terror"  
And Educational Comedy—  
"AIR TIGHT"

MONDAY and TUESDAY  
Feb. 15-16

A Big Universal Jewel  
"THE TEASER"  
With Laura LaPlante and  
Pat O'Malley

Also Universal Comedy—  
"BY THE SEA"  
and News Reel No. 2

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY  
Feb. 15-16  
F. B. O. Presents  
**FRED THOMPSON**  
and his famous horse  
Silver King

—in—  
"THE BANDIT'S BABY"  
Big Western Comedy Drama  
And Educational Comedy—  
"TRAVEL TREASURES"

### Presbyterian Church

Sunday School at 10 a.m.  
Preaching at 11 a.m. Junior  
Christian Endeavor at the eleven  
o'clock hour.  
Senior Christian Endeavor at  
6:15 p.m.

At 7:15 p.m. the Ladies Mis-  
sionary Society will present a  
pageant on Presbyterian Mis-  
sionary work. This will be an in-  
teresting and helpful program.  
We cordially invite the public to  
worship with us at all these ser-  
vices. Chas. H. Little, pastor.

### Senior B.Y.P.U. Program

Reading by Miss Tracy.  
Leader, E. Yates Brown.  
1. Bible background, Mrs. War-  
ren Smith.  
2. Was Judas wholly bad? Helen  
Booth.  
3. Did Jesus Know? Ruby Joe  
Higgins.  
4. The consequence of a choice,  
Maurine Hearne.  
5. Why did Judas Betray Jesus,  
Lewis Giles.  
6. Some lessons we may learn,  
by Mrs. Bill Haynes.

## BARGAINS

This is a Special Invitation to  
you to come to our store and  
see the many savings you can  
make on groceries. Every item  
in our store priced in plain  
figures.

A LITTLE SAVING TO YOU  
ON EVERYTHING YOU BUY

is worth while to every indiv-  
idual. It is not our idea only  
to meet prices, but to make

PRICES, QUALITY, SERVICE AND  
CASH BUY YOU MORE TO EAT

This is no idle talk, we mean  
it.

TRY US!  
Carson's Cash and Carry  
GROCERY

### Panama City Has Much to Interest Tourists

Although Panama is one of the  
most ancient cities in the New world,  
it is to the United States that it owes  
much of its present prestige and  
wealth. After the fall of the Inca  
kingdoms and the draining of their  
great stores of gold and other wealth,  
the sacking of the old city by pirates,  
and the decline of Spanish sea power,  
Panama went into a partial eclipse.

Panama perpetrates one of the  
greatest of geographic jokes on those  
who visit it. From the sea wall prome-  
nade one can see the sun rise ma-  
jestically from the broad blue bosom  
of the Pacific, which to most Ameri-  
cans is the proper place only for a  
setting sun. And when one sails from  
Panama city to Colon, the Atlantic  
terminal of the canal, the direction is  
from southeast to northwest, instead  
of from west to east, as might reason-  
ably be expected.

Although the present city of Pan-  
ama dates from the Seventeenth cen-  
tury, it is considered historically the  
new city to distinguish it from old  
Panama, now in ruins, a few miles to  
the east. Old Panama was entirely  
destroyed by the notorious pirate,  
Henry Morgan.—National Geographic  
Society Bulletin.

### Ocean's Waters Teem With Dangerous Fish

A fish that has a very bad name in  
West Indian waters is the barracouta.  
It is shaped like a torpedo and is blue-  
black above and gray below. It is  
feared by negroes more than the  
shark. A girl swimmer not long ago  
was killed by one of these creatures.

What is probably the most danger-  
ous of all fish is, however, the piral,  
common in South American rivers,  
especially in tributaries of the Ori-  
noco. It is not large, but it travels  
in shoals and has fearful teeth and a  
passion for blood.

A fish called the long-guard and  
found in the seas off Central America,  
has the queer habit of leaping from  
water and skimming like a flying fish  
at great speed. It has a long, sharp  
snout. There are several cases of  
these fish having pierced the sails of  
fishing boats exactly as if pierced by  
a large arrow. Their long snouts are  
very firm and sharp. Some years ago  
a boy, while fishing off Cross Caye,  
was killed by a long-guard which  
struck him in the chest.

### Communists and Cake

Communist newspapers comment  
humorously on the predicament of an  
enthusiastic member of the party.  
This Communist's wife started to  
bake the usual cake for a church  
holiday. He explained that as he did  
not observe such days a cake was un-  
necessary. The wife insisted, and he  
finally agreed that the cake be baked,  
but specified that it be different in  
shape from the ordinary. The wife  
replied that a cake of any other shape  
would be foolish and began to cry.  
The Communist became angry, de-  
clared that he was the head of the  
family and forbade his wife to bake  
the cake. Then he recalled that in a  
Communist family husband and wife  
are equal, and that he could not give  
orders. So, ask some Communist writ-  
ers, what can a loyal Communist do  
if he wants peace at home, especially  
if he likes cake?

### Hold-Up and a Runaway

"It was before the time of automo-  
biles," writes C. C. S., relating a re-  
miniscence in Capper's Weekly. "I was  
driving a span of mustangs that had  
been trained to start at the lifting of  
a hand instead of the usual 'giddyap'.  
I was returning from a neighboring  
town through a stretch of woods when  
two men appeared on each side of  
the road and ordered me to 'stick 'em  
up.' I responded instantly, so did the  
ponies. As my hands shot up, the  
team sprang forward and before the  
robbers could get into action we were  
going like a shot over the corduroy  
road. The ponies ran nearly a mile  
before I could get hold of the lines  
and get them under control. . . .  
Banditry was not so uncommon even  
in the old days."

### Loons Not Lunatics

To most of us the expression "crazy  
as a loon" is quite familiar, but loons  
are not lunatics and so far as we  
know they never become insane.

There are three species of loons in  
northern North America: the  
black-throated, the red-throated and  
the great northern diver which is  
called plain loon.

Their call is of loud, clear, quavering  
tones sliding through a number of  
notes—"a sort of weird laughter." It  
may be expressed as "wah-hoo-o-o."  
Heard on a dark night in the still-  
ness of the North woods it not only  
startles but alarms. The expression  
"crazy as a loon" undoubtedly has its  
origin in the maniacal laugh of this  
bird.

### American Boundary Lines

The boundary line between North  
and Central America is a very irreg-  
ular one, separating Mexico from Gua-  
temala and British Honduras. It fol-  
lows the Hondo river from the Carib-  
bean sea, then west near the 18 de-  
gree north line of latitude, then south  
to the sixteenth line of latitude, then  
southwest to the Pacific. The bound-  
ary line between Central and South  
America is much simpler and shorter,  
dividing the republic of Panama from  
the republic of Colombia. It runs ir-  
regularly from the northeast at Cape  
Tiburon to the southwest at Cocallia  
point.

# MONEY! More Money!

There is MONEY in the chicken business. The poultry business is destined to be the greatest industry in the United States. Get in the game and add \$\$\$ to your Bank Account. Why work yourself to death when the Mens can make you an easy living. Come in and look our Poultry Department over, if you think anything of chickens. you will appreciate our display of Poultry Supplies, Incubators, Wire Etc.

Let us help you to get started in this game while it is in its infancy. Give our Show Windows a look-over we may have what you have been looking for.

Our General Line is complete from the front door to the back door of our ware houses. Give us a chance to serve you.

## Liberty Hardware Co.

"IF IT'S HARDWARE, WE HAVE IT"

### MERKEL BAPTISTS

All regular services Sunday  
and through the week.

Sunday school 10 a.m. with a  
welcome and a congenial class  
for all who will come. Strangers  
and visitors will be shown every  
attention. Come and get ac-  
quainted with our workers, you  
will like them.

Preaching by the pastor at 11  
a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Morning  
subject: "Christ's Second Com-  
ing." Evening subject, "Believ-  
ing Bringing Blessings." The  
morning theme is timely for  
there are people saying today  
"Lo Christ is here." "Lo, He is  
in the Desert." We will study to-  
gether what the Bible tells of  
His second coming. While the  
evening theme is evangelistic, it  
deals with things deeply inter-  
esting to both saved and lost. In  
this we will see how we can  
prove the truth of things that  
at first must be accepted with-  
out proof.

Training classes meet Monday  
at 7:30 p.m.

Womans Missionary Society at  
2 p.m. Tuesday.

Prayermeeting Wednesday at  
7:30 p.m. The average attend-  
ance this month bids fair to ex-  
ceed any record set yet. Come  
help the men put up a record  
that will be a challenge to all of  
us. "Let us consider one an-  
other to provoke unto love and  
to good works, not forsaking  
the assembling of ourselves to-  
gether as the manner of some is,  
but exhorting one another, and  
so much the more as ye see the  
day approaching." Heb. 10:24-25  
Ira L. Parrack, pastor.

Mr. G. F. Turner advertised in  
the Mail last week to sell an in-  
cubator. The paper went out Fri-  
day morning and the incubator  
was sold before the day was  
gone. Then there were other calls  
for it, he said. He was satisfied  
with the 25 cents invested. It  
paid him.

Why not buy at Patton's Va-  
riety Store and save the differ-  
ence. ltp

### METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday should be a great day  
with us, "Day of all the days  
the best, emblem of eternal  
rest."

The common duties of life,  
with their grind and humdrum,  
may be put aside on Sunday, and  
God may be worshiped and at-  
tention may be given to the  
higher and better interests of  
life.

The Sunday School offers you  
a splendid opportunity to meet  
your friends and neighbors and  
begin the day with worship and  
service. The songs, prayers,  
reading of the scriptures, help  
to put away the burdens and  
problems of life, and will bring  
in a brighter hope. All need  
these blessings.

Worship at 11 a.m. and 7:30  
p.m. Subject at the morning  
hour, "The Supreme Mission of  
the Church." Subject at the  
evening hour, "The Second Com-  
ing of Christ." A subject of  
controversy today. You are in-  
terested and we invite you to  
hear us. W. R. McCarter.

For Sale—I will have two ears  
of good, bright, well matured  
maize in Merkel Saturday and  
Monday. Pierce Horton. ltp

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

Mr. B. M. Williams is among  
those renewing their subscrip-  
tion to the Mail this week. We  
thank you Mr. Williams.

## DON'T Shop Around

—Come here in the first place,  
for your Auto Supplies—where you'll find under one  
roof everything you need for your car. We specialize  
in complete stocks, unexcelled service and prices that  
can't be beat.

Me and the Boss will be tickled to see you, for  
we appreciate your patronage. Come in whether to  
look, to price, to ask advice or to buy. You're always  
welcome.

—The Hired Hand

P. S. —Our FIRESTONE GUM DIPPED  
CORD TIRES are piling up "Smileage" as well as  
mileage, for the Car Owner. Drive around, where  
you can get the lowest first cost, as well as the long-  
est service.—H. H.

## West Company

THE MARK THE HOUSE FOR THE MARK  
DEPENDABLE AUTO NECESSITIES

**The Merkel Mail**

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

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
Taylor and Jones counties \$1.50  
Anywhere else ..... \$2.00  
IN ADVANCE

**TELEPHONE No. 61**  
Entered at the postoffice at Mer-  
kel, Texas as second class mail.

Read the ads. There is an in-  
teresting message in every one  
of them, besides you get a bet-  
ter idea of where to find the  
things you may be looking for  
and expect to buy. By reading  
the ads you will not let any  
chance of saving money on your  
purchases go by.

Some people are always ready  
to "blow up" at any little thing  
that appears in the local paper  
whether written by the Editor  
or some one writing in the pa-  
per. It matters not how many big  
headlines the Editor may have  
written about them in the past,  
and the stuff in the paper is al-  
ways right when mentioning  
favorably the things for which  
they stand, but let something ap-  
pear that is not just according  
to their opinion, even though the  
item may be intended only as a  
joke, a burlesque, and meant as  
no harm at all, and they consider  
it an insult and forever hate the  
paper and its management.  
These kind of folks generally  
want the editor to "pour it on,"  
but pour it on the other fellow.  
Then boast about their Christian  
spirit—their particular religion.

Miss Murphy Thomas, the ef-  
ficient stenographer at the Far-  
mers State Bank, rushed into  
this office one day this week  
with a check in her hand and  
said "keep our paper coming;  
we can't do without it." And we  
are grateful.

Try a Classified Ad in the Mail.

**HE DID NOT FOLLOW THE  
CROWD**

We once knew a farmer who  
never followed the crowd. If  
cotton was higher one year, he  
figured that everybody would  
plant a large acreage the next.  
Therefore, he planted those  
things that his neighbors would  
need. A large cotton acreage al-  
ways found him with a large  
grain and feedstuff crop. He  
made a close study of the ques-  
tion of supply and demand, and  
particularly as regards the needs  
of his near-by markets. He had  
something to sell nearly every  
week in the year. His neighbors  
grew cotton almost exclusively.  
He got most of the cotton money  
by selling them feedstuff for  
their work animals. He also sup-  
plied many with fruits vegeta-  
bles and dairy products. That  
farmer prospered. He educated  
his children, and at his death  
left an estate sufficient to care  
for his widow.—Farm & Ranch.

**CROSS ROADS ITEMS**

Mrs. Ruthie Bigham is having  
her home remodeled.  
Mr. D. P. Moore and family  
visited his father last Sunday.  
The Parent Teachers met at  
the school house last Friday  
afternoon. Their next meeting  
will be on the fifth of March,  
and at night they are going to  
have a program.  
Mr. Everett King and family  
of Merkel were visiting in Caps  
Sunday.  
The Tye W. M. S. will meet  
with Mrs. M. G. King on next  
Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.  
O. V. Bigham and Miss Thel-  
ma Merritt of Tye were united  
in marriage by Bro. Moody at  
Caps at eight o'clock Friday  
evening.  
John Payne and family visit-  
ed D. C. West and family Sun-  
day.  
Mrs. Will Toombs spent the  
day with her sister, Mrs. D. P.  
Moore one day last week.

**MRS. M. C. STEWART, 67,  
DIED FEBRUARY 4TH.**

Mrs. M. C. Stewart, age 67  
years, died at eight o'clock  
Thursday evening, February 4,  
of leakage of the heart at the  
home of her daughter, Mrs.  
Allen Patton, of the Stith com-  
munity.  
Mrs. Stewart was converted  
and joined the Presbyterian  
church at the age of fourteen,  
and lived a devoted Christian  
until her death. Mrs. Stewart  
having lived in Erath county un-  
til July, 1925 at Thalia, Texas,  
while visiting relatives there.  
Funeral services were held for  
Mrs. Stewart at Thalia, Texas,  
where she was carried to be laid  
by her husband. She is survived  
by six children, four of whom  
were present at her death, Mrs.  
Allen Patton, C. E. Stewart of  
Crowell, Mrs. Ben Roberts of  
Vernon, Mrs. Will Cantrell of  
Floydada, and a sister, Miss S. E.  
Thornorton, of Lingleville, Tex.

**CARD OF THANKS**

We wish to thank each and  
every one of our good friends  
and neighbors who came and  
showed such kindness toward us  
during the recent illness and  
death of our dear mother, Mrs.  
Stewart. May God bless each and  
every one of you. Mr. and Mrs.  
Allen Patton and family. 1tp

**NOTICE TO PUBLIC**

Will be ready to cull your cot-  
ton seed in the near future. Let  
us know when you want yours  
culled. Any time. We want to  
please you. South Side Gin.  
By L. L. Murray. 1t

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

**WARREN NEWS**  
By Rose Ellington

The farmers are all busy put-  
ting up the land for another  
crop.

The health of the community  
is not very good at this writing.  
We are very glad to learn that  
Gaston Hobbs who was accident-  
ally run over by a car in town  
Saturday evening, is getting  
along nicely at present.

The party at Mr. and Mrs. Bill  
Harvell's Saturday night was en-  
joyed by a large crowd, all re-  
porting a nice time.

Mr. Sewell and Neil Harvell  
motored to Abilene Saturday  
night to watch a ball game.

Mrs. Ellen Williams and Miss  
Mary Williams of Abilene spent  
Saturday night with Mr. and  
Mrs. Ellington and family.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Tarvin, Mr.  
and Mrs. Emmitt Howard and  
family, Cordie and Claudie El-  
lington spent the day with Mr.  
and Mrs. Howard Tarvin. Miss  
Ollie Hobbs, Alma and Lorene  
Stout, and Minnie Ethel Cannon,  
Ramond Stout, E. C. Tarvin and  
Charlie Allred spent the evening  
with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Tar-  
vin.

Miss Rose Ellington spent last  
week with her cousin, Miss Irene  
Hatfield, of the Horn commu-  
nity.

Mr. and Mrs. Hollis McCoy,  
Mr. and Mrs. Bass and family  
spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs.  
Arthur McCoy.

Those attending Mrs. N. E.  
Horn's seventy-eighth birthday  
dinner Sunday at Mr. and Mrs.  
J. N. Hatfield's were: Mr. and  
Mrs. D. C. Herring, Russell and  
Lewis Herring, Mr. and Mrs.  
Odell Herring and family, Mr.  
and Mrs. Willis Herring and  
family, Mr. and Mrs. Carson  
Hatfield, Mr. and Mrs. Sie Eu-  
banks, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin  
Montgomery and family, Mrs.  
Ellington, Willie, Rose and Lo-  
rene Ellington, Rev. R. H. Wil-  
liams and family, W. L. Johnson  
and Wesley Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. George Stout  
and family spent Sunday with  
Mr. and Mrs. John Hobbs.

Mrs. N. E. Horn spent last  
week with her niece, Mrs. El-  
lington and family.

Miss Vivian McCoy is spend-  
ing the week with her brother,  
Mr. Floyd McCoy of Merkel.

Joe Patterson spent Saturday  
night with Therman McCoy.

Maize heads—Meal—and hulls  
Plenty good coal. Swafford Coal  
and Feed Yard. 1t

**PROFESSIONAL**

**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. 166

**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

**DR. MINTON T. RAMSEY**  
DENTIST  
X-Ray and Diagnosis  
3rd Floor Alexander Bldg.  
Telephone 177 Abilene, Tex

**JONES DRY GOODS**  
**Big Sale On**  
**Spring Coats**

- All \$35.00 Coats go at **\$29.75**
- All \$29.75 " " " **\$24.75**
- All \$27.50 " " " **\$23.75**
- All \$24.75 " " " **\$19.75**
- All \$19.75 " " " **\$16.75**
- All \$17.50 " " " **\$14.75**
- All \$12.75 " " " **\$10.95**

Another big shipment coming  
in this week.

**JONES DRY GOODS**



Something  
worth-while to do—  
**A Garden**

SPADE or plow up a piece of  
your back yard or nearby  
lot. Give the youngsters a rake  
and a hoe and a few packets  
of Northrup, King & Co.'s  
vegetable and flower seeds.  
Direct their efforts—then ob-  
serve their interest in watch-  
ing nature perform her great  
miracle. Gardening is profit-  
able for them, too. Thousands  
of boys and girls make their  
spending money selling home  
grown vegetables and flowers.

All standard size  
vegetable packets



No Better  
Seeds at  
Any Price

At Your  
Local Dealers

**NORTHRUP, KING & Co's**  
**SEEDS**  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

**WALL PAPER**

New shipment of Wall Paper just received.  
Let us show you the new patterns; prices  
are much lower. We can supply you with  
any grade of paper you might want. Prices  
range from **15c** Per double  
roll and up

We carry America's leading brand of paint  
**Sherwin-Williams**  
Paints, Oils and Varnishes

None better and none cheaper. Figured by  
the job. Let us furnish you with your Paint,  
Oil, Paper, Canvas and tacks.

"Standard Goods at Legitimate Prices"

**BARROW FURNITURE  
COMPANY**

## Specially Made Fordson Tractor Oil

If you operate a tractor, try some of this oil. It will give good satisfaction.

**W. F. GOLLIDAY**

LOCAL AGENT

Gulf Refining Company

Merkel

Texas

which the High School is putting out the second time in its history, and to pay for a number of new books which have been added to the library. Tickets will be on sale beginning Monday by the school students.

Buy a ticket! One for yourself and one for all your friends. Help us make a success of the carnival and at the same time have a good time yourself.

### GRAMMAR SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Third grade, Miss Heizer: Mary Nell Summerhill 96, Joy Meador 94, Julia Proctor 92, Mabel Morton 92, Valeria Parks 92, Virginia Whitely 92, Dallas Sharp 90, Jack Stanford 90, Raymond Wilson 90, Sarah Shepard 90, Mary Olive Simpson 90.

Third Grade, Miss Coats: Frances Adecock 94, David Gamble 93, Laverne Holden 92, Maxie Abbott 90.

High Fourth, Miss Douthit: Margaret Canon 95, Lucile Campbell 97, Voncill Gilbert 90, Meyer Mellinger 93, Joyce Wheeler 92, Ned Hughes 95, Clara Belle Gilgently 95, Guin Tipton 91, Margaret Miller 96, Fay Vantrees 93, Roy Merron 97, Grace Walker 96, J. R. Lassiter 90, Florene Rider 94, Jude B. Miller 91.

High Fifth, Miss Ellis: Roy Abbott 93, Ida Mae Derstine 93, Thelma Leach 93, Lela Patterson 93, Ross Ferrier 92, Alvin Skurlock 92, Willie Evelyn Boaz 92, Mary Elizabeth Grimes 92, Dorothy Deutschman 91, Isadore Mellinger 90, Modena Chambers 90, Nell Durham 90, Madeline Murray 90.

Low Sixth: Dorothy Miller 90. High Sixth, Miss Sterling: Elsie Lasater 90, Velma Lee Holden 90, Elvis Richardson 93.

Low Seventh, Mrs. Sublett: Truitt Meeks 90, O. B. Boden 90, Audrey Dowell 90.

High Seventh, Mrs. Jackson: Frances Frederickson 96, J. T. Darsey 96, Nina Vantrees 95, Florence Ligon 94, Missie Dye 94, Nadine Tippet 93, Eleanor Mae Hamilton 93, Clara Pilcher 92, Beryl Hunter 92, Pauline Toombs 92, E. L. Turner 91, Maybelle Ligon 90.

Low Second, Mrs. Teaff: Hollis Huddleston 94, Abra Lee Patton 91.

Second Grade, Miss Pogue: J. C. Jones 92, Jack Lowe 91, Billie Gambill 91, B. L. Carter 91, Clara Frances Largent 90.

Second Grade, Miss Harrison:

### HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

The popularity contest for the most popular boy in high school resulted in the election of Tolbert Proctor from the Sophomore class.

The work on the Annual is progressing rapidly. The cuts will soon be ready. We earnestly solicit the help of every friend and patron of the school in securing subscriptions.

Supt. Summerhill has made application for affiliation with the southern association of Secondary Schools. The high school is affiliated with the department of Education with 19 units and two additional units have been recommended for this session. We are proud of the rating of our schools and hope that this additional recognition may be secured which would mean that the graduates of Merkel High School could enter colleges in the South which includes sixteen states without any examination.

Supt. Summerhill is advocating vocational agriculture for next session, and we certainly give our entire approval for such a move. The Federal Government pays a large part of the expense of this department. More will be said next week about this work.

We regret that Miss Gilbreath has been absent the past few days with the "flu." She is reported improving and will meet

### her classes Monday. COMING!

High School Carnival  
On Friday, February 19th, there will be a carnival at the High School building given by the members of the High School student body and faculty.

Each class will have an individual booth where souvenirs will be given away and where refreshments of all kinds will be sold. In addition to this there will be side shows sponsored by the different classes guaranteed to be interesting and full of fun. In the main study hall a general program will be given, the chief feature being a comedy entitled "Our Merchants as the High School sees them." This will be a comic representation of a number of the local business houses. Come! And see your business get some free advertising.

Connected with the carnival will be a contest for the most handsome boy in high school. Each class has a candidate and each penny earned at the different booths and in selling tickets will count one vote toward electing their member. There is a spirited rivalry existing between the different classes, so pick out the one you favor and help them by buying your ticket from them and patronizing their booth.

Besides the attractions mentioned there will be a number of others to create the carnival spirit, and to make you have more fun than you have had in years.

The entire proceeds will be used to help pay for the Annual

## John Deere Implements

We now have in transit our third car of implements for this season. If you are wanting a John Deere Planter or Cultivator for this season you had better place your order now!

### INCUBATORS--

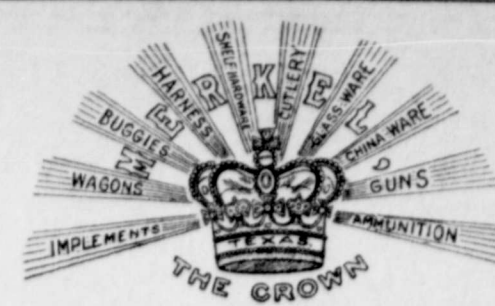
We carry the "Safety Hatch" and also the "Automatic" incubators. If in the market for a machine, we would like to show them to you and give you our prices.

### OIL STOVES--

any and all models of the "New Perfection" oil stoves.

## Crown Hardware Company

"We Give You Satisfaction ALL The Time  
And Save You Money EVERY Time"





# Built to Give Service

The Ford Tudor is built throughout to the highest Sedan standards. The graceful body is of all-steel construction. Windows and doors are carefully fitted and weather-stripped to insure protection from any weather. The upholstery is a high grade, durable fabric of attractive color and pattern.

Of course, the performance is everything you have come to expect in a Ford car.

The nearest Authorized Ford Dealer will gladly show you this good-looking car and explain the easy terms on which it may be purchased.

*Ford Motor Company*  
Detroit, Michigan

TUDOR SEDAN

## \$580

F. O. B. Detroit

Runabout . . . \$260	Coupe . . . \$520
Touring Car . . . 290	Fordor Sedan . . . 660

Closed cars in color. Demountable rims and starter extra on open cars.  
All prices f. o. b. Detroit



Billie Robins 91, Ethelda Tucker 91, Alice Russell 90, Dot Swafford 90.

Miss Russell: Mildred McClure 91, Louise Toombs 91, Horace Boney 91, Herman Carson 90, Halbert Rister 90.

Low Fourth: Leland McGinnis 94, Ruth Davis 92, Eloise Mancill 92, Bertie Mae Leslie 92, Allene Davis 91, Madie Smith 91, Josie Bell 90, Lois Simpson 90.

### THE "HERALD" LINE

We have just recently received the "Herald Line," the oldest Tailors in the world. We will give you open Coats, hand tailored, built with Arm Shields, Hug Tight Collars, perfect mould shoulders and 27 other special features, yet our prices are unusually low, ranging in price from \$26.00 to \$61.00. And for only \$3.00 extra with each three-piece suit we will give you an extra pair of pants. Come in and look this over whether you want to buy a suit or not. CASH TAILOR SHOP. It

Renew your subscription to the Merkel Mail before it expires

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- For County Judge:  
TOM K. EPLEN  
LEE R. YORK
- For Sheriff:  
H. T. O'BAR
- For County Clerk:  
W. E. BEASLEY
- For Tax Collector:  
R. A. McCLAIN  
EARL HUGHES
- For County Treasurer:  
AUSTIN FITTS  
(Precinct Offices)
- For Public Weigher:  
THOS. A. BEARDEN
- For Commissioner, this Precinct:  
PHILLIP A. DILTZ

### Idyl Wise Club

"Idyl Wise" was the name chosen for the new club during the meeting on Tuesday afternoon when Miss Christine Collins proved a gracious hostess in the artistic home of Mrs. T. E. Collins.

Several very interesting games of bridge were played by the members and a few friends. A beautiful and delicious salad course was served, the Valentine idea being attractively carried out. Those present were: Misses Lucy Tracy, Mary Cleo Booth, Mary Eula Sears, Ruby Hamm, Evelyn Hamm; Mesdames Emmett Grimes, Roy Largent, Warren Smith, Sie Hamm, Jack Durham, and guests: Mrs. R. L. Ferguson of Temple and Miss Ina Lee Ely of Sweetwater.

### FARM & RANCH LOANS

At 6, 6½ and 7 per cent interest payable once a year. Terms 5, 10, 20 or 33 years, the best contract ever offered the borrower. NO RED TAPE. See me if you want a loan. V. E. MUIR, Abilene, Texas. 1Jan27

### WATKINS PRODUCTS

I wish to announce to the patrons of Watkins Products and the public in the Merkel territory that I own the agency for the sale of these Products in the West half of Taylor county and have at my home in Merkel on Oak street a large and complete line of these goods and expect to call on you. When in need of anything would be glad to have you call on me for same. "Service is my Motto." Respectfully,  
W. A. WHITELEY. 5t2p

## GOLD BOND SAVING STAMPS

Yes, we give 'em don't fail to ask for them when you trade with us. And when you come to think about it they are worth quite a bit to every one who secures them in making their purchases.

**We want you to ask for them.** and just to remind you, we will say that we handle—

"That Good Gulf Gas and Oils"  
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We also furnish Free Road Service, Free Air, Water, Ect. and courteous and appreciated service for all our customers.

**WOODRUM FILLING STATION**  
Merkel Texas



# YOUR OPPORTUNITY SPECIAL PRICES :-: SPECIAL TERMS HOT POINT ELECTRIC RANGES

We will have a demonstration at our office beginning Monday afternoon and continuing through Wednesday afternoon.

**HOURS, 2:00 P. M. to 5:00 P. M.**

**EVERYONE IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THESE DEMONSTRATIONS**  
Cooking will be done by Mrs. Stella Floyd, Expert Home Economists

**FREE! ...With each stove sold... FREE!**  
**\$10.00 IN MERCHANDISE AS SELECTED**  
**\$15.00 ALLOWANCE ON YOUR OLD STOVE**  
Summer is near, she is deserving of this convenience.



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**STOP THAT ITCHING**

If you suffer from any form of skin diseases such as Itch, Eczema, Tetter or Cracked Hands, Poison Oak, Ring Worm, Old Sores or Sores on Children. We will sell you a Jar of BLUE STAR REMEDY on a guarantee. It will not stain your clothing and has a pleasant odor.

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Water well Driller,  
all work guaranteed  
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**BABY CHICKS**

Strong, healthy, vigorous baby chicks from selected purebred fowls Leghorns, Barred Rocks, Reds, Buff Orpingtons 15c each and up. Custom hatching.

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Route 1, Merkel, Texas Jan. 29

**FOR SALE**

FOR SALE—75 bushels Mebane Cotton Seed at \$1.00. M. J. Shaw Merkel, route 4, two miles east of Stith. tf

FOR SALE or Trade for farm land, well improved sheep and goat ranch in Uvalde county, 1280 acres at \$12 per acre. Apply at Merkel Mail office. tf

FOR SALE—Some good first year Kasch Cotton Seed, at \$1.50 per bushel, while they last. See W.T. Bird, Merkel, Box 242. 5t4p

FOR SALE—Pole wood. Need more grubbers. J. S. Hutson. 1tp

FOR SALE—My place one and a half miles northwest of Merkel, or will trade for house and lot in Merkel. See H. L. Fewell. 1tp

Is winter gone? If you need Coal phone 44. Swafford Coal & Feed Yard. 1t

FOR SALE—I will have two cars of good, bright, well matured maize in Merkel Saturday and Monday. Pierce Horton. 1tp

TURKEYS For Sale or Trade—Two 1-year old Toms. Will trade for either one or two year old hens. Mrs. Angus Garvin, Merkel, route one. 12t2

FOR SALE—A good second-hand John Deere 14-inch buster. See G. C. Smith, Merkel. 1t

Call and see those 20-inch buster points. Also have 14-inch points. C. P. Stevens. 1t

FOR SALE—Some choice Rhode Island Red Roosters, from \$1.00 to \$2.00 each. Also some A-1 Kasch Cotton Seed, re-cleaned, at \$1.50 per bushel. G. L. Shuff, route five. 12t2p

**FOR RENT**

FOR RENT—Two furnished rooms, second door north of the Christian Church. Mrs. R. L. Bradshaw. 1tp

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LOST—One hand purse with about five dollars in it, between Abilene and five miles of Merkel. If found please leave at Oasis Filling Station at Merkel or the Crest-Over Store at Abilene and get reward. 12t2p

LOST—One black and white female setter and one lemon and white female setter, both have collars on bearing name of C. H. Boyd, Fort Worth. Lost Sunday night near Sylvester. Notify Herbert Williams at Sylvester or C. H. Boyd at Fort Worth. 1tp

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

Pure bred White Leghorn Eggs, 50c setting of 15. W. F. Hamblet. 1t

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mr. W. W. Campbell, who for the past several months has been associated with us in the conduct of our grocery business, has resigned his position to look after his interests, but we are on the job early and late and will look after your wants in a way that will be pleasing and to your advantage.

We invite you, our friends, and the general public to visit us when in need of good, fresh groceries. R. N. (Big) Campbell. 1tp

**MI LADI FASHION SHOPPE**

Is now open at the Stephens Hotel, rooms 13 and 14. Designing a specialty. Popular Prices. Miss Cora Lee Hulsey and Mrs. Stephens. 12t2

**Salt Branch B.Y.P.U. Program**

Leader, Joe Higgins.  
Introduction by leader.  
Part 1, Mr. Houston Robertson.  
Part 2, Miss Ruth Pinckley.  
Part 3, Mrs. Joe Jaynes.  
Part 4, Miss Pauline Pinckley.  
Part 5, Mrs. Willie McClain.  
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Be on time and do your best.  
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**How To Quickly  
Stop Bad Coughs**

It is often surprising how quickly the heaviest cough disappears when treated by a remarkable new method.

Here is the method, based on the famous Dr. King's New Discovery for Coughs: You simply take one teaspoonful and hold it in your throat for 15 or 20 seconds before swallowing it. The prescription has a double action. It not only soothes and heals irritation, but also loosens and removes the phlegm and congestion which are the real cause of the coughing. So the severest cough soon disappears completely.

Dr. King's New Discovery is for coughs, chest colds, bronchitis, spasmodic croup, etc. Fine for children, too—no harmful drugs. Very economical, as the dose is only one teaspoonful. At all good druggists. Ask for



**OLD MR. CARTER HELPED  
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"After taking Adlerika I feel better than for years. At my age (60) it is ideal—so different from medicines." (signed) W. W. Carter. Adlerika is a simple mixture of buckthorn bark, glycerine, etc., which removes GAS in

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A Play Dealing With Money,  
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A 4 Act Comedy Melodrama

Tears, Thrills, Pathos, Comedy

Approved by Pulpit, Public  
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**Wed. Feb. 17**  
**One Night Only**  
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Reserved Seats Now Selling at Box Office  
Children 25, Adults 50, Reserved Seats 75

LOOK AND LISTEN

AND THEN TRY US AND SEE IF WE CAN

We have taken the P. R. K. Paint system and the Valspar Line, so if you want the best we have it in auto paint work. We will have almost a dust proof paint shop when we get through by the 15th of the month. We will be in position to give you a satinamel finish or the high gloss finish, either one you want. We will have an Air brush to do the work and will give you the best in auto work. We also have the new Ford colors, so if you want your old Ford to look like the new 1926 model just bring it to us and see if we can do what we say. If not don't pay us one cent. We have had eight years experience in the auto paint work and I have served apprenticeship in the Santa Fe coach works in Cleburne, Texas, so if you want the whole job done at the same place bring it to us and the top department will also have slip on tops for Chevrolet, light Overland, Star, or can get a top for any make in a few days. We have the material to make any top out of on hand, and can make you a top for any car. So if you need a top of any kind don't go by us, and if you want work of this kind bring it to men who don't do anything else but study this job. If you were going to have a job of work done on your motor, don't bring it to us for we don't do that kind of work. If you want barber work don't bring it to the top shop; that is out of our line, but if you want top or paint work then that is our line to a tee. So let's give every man the work he studies and see if he can deliver the goods.

DOWELL

THE TOP AND PAINT MAN

On Front Street. Merkel, Texas.

Mr. J. P. Sharp, another man who appreciates his home paper, and who seldom ever lets his time expire, dropped in one day this week and had us set his figures up a notch. Thanks.

W.E. Adams, wife and daughter, formerly citizens of this community for many years, but now residing at O'Donnell, are here for a visit with their son, Mr. R. R. Adams, as well as their host of old friends.

We understand that Mr. T. R. Lassiter was called this week to Kentucky, in response to a message announcing the serious illness of his father there who is very aged. We trust he may find him improved upon arrival.

Postmaster G. E. Comegys returned first of the week from a trip to Carlsbad Sanatorium near San Angelo, where he had been for Miss Mary Comegys, his grand daughter, who has spent the past nine months there in the interest of her health. She returned with him, and we are glad to announce to her many friends that her health is now good and expected and hoped to be permanent.

You're always welcome at Patton's Variety Store, on Kent street.

Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Sharp are happy over the arrival of a grand daughter at their home on February 2nd, born to their daughter, Mrs. Nellie Lee.

40 YEARS

Farmers of Taylor and surrounding counties have used Moline Plows.

We have customers who have used their Moline Double Disc Plows over 20 years.

The Moline costs a little more than competitive makes, but they cut more, pull lighter, last longer and cost less to keep up

Plows delivered to your farm.

Terms, cash, part cash or all on fall time

Your credit is good here.

ED. S. HUGHES COMPANY

Abilene, Texas

In Valhalla and Out

by George Ethelbert Walsh

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SYNOPSIS

CHAPTER I.—Fishing in idle fashion, from a private dock, Dick Van Ness watches a ship, the Pelican, which he recognizes as the Beacon, his father's yacht, before its death and financial reverses forced him to part with it. A man whom he hears a girl who accompanies him address the yacht. Blake lands from the yacht. The girl drops her handbag in the stream, and Dick recovers it. Thinking him, she gives him her visiting card. She is Alice Cutler, niece of Stephen Cutler, successful business rival of the elder Van Ness.

CHAPTER II.—Dick overhears a conversation between Blake and Captain Brent of the Pelican which gives him the impression that the yacht is bound on a voyage of adventure to an island the name of which he does not hear.

CHAPTER III.—Acting on impulse, Dick footloose and ready for any sort of adventure, remembers a hiding place in the main cabin of the yacht and determines to conceal himself and sail—stowing away with the yacht. Stephen Cutler, invalid, comes aboard, with his niece, and the ship sails.

CHAPTER IV.—In his retreat Dick overhears conversations between Blake and Captain Brent which appear to denote something sinister. Believing the cabin empty, Dick emerges from hiding and encounters Marie, Alice Cutler's French maid. Getting back quickly, unrecognized, the girl insists she has seen a "ghost," and is ridiculed. The yacht reaches its apparent destination, an island. Dick swims ashore.

CHAPTER V.—On the island next day Van Ness witnesses an exchange of mysterious signals which he realizes are between Blake, at Cutler's house, and Captain Brent, on the yacht. He is present, unseen, while Blake and Marie speak in heated terms of things which seem to be the history of the yacht. Sleeping in a booth near the dock, Dick is discovered by Alice. He admits he was on the yacht and she reveals the fact that the servants who should have been at the house are mysteriously absent, only the yacht, Stephen Cutler, Doctor Alister, Blake and herself being on the island. Dick's presence is known only to Alice. The yacht sails, leaving the party.

CHAPTER VI.—Floating on a life-raft, a sailor is assisted to the shore by Van Ness. He asserts he is one of the crew of the Pelican, which is on reef, fast breaking up, and that he volunteered to swim ashore and seek aid. Neither to Dick nor Alice, who hears the man's story, does it ring true, and Dick is more than ever convinced that some plot is being engineered by Blake and involving Stephen Cutler, is afoot.

CHAPTER VII.—Exploring the island, Dick discovers a wireless apparatus from which messages are being sent and received. They are in code and he can make nothing of them, though he is convinced Blake is communicating with the yacht. Continuing his investigations, Van Ness is surprised and knocked senseless by McGee, the sailor whom he had helped ashore. The fellow leaves Dick, bound and helpless, in a cave, while he goes to inform Blake of Dick's presence, and his captivity.

CHAPTER VIII.—Blake visits Dick, recognizing him as the man he had seen on the dock, but attaching little importance to his presence on the island. Van Ness succeeds in freeing himself from his bonds.

CHAPTER IX.—Escaping from the cave, Dick overhears a heated conversation between Blake and Alice Cutler, in which the man threatens her with violence if she will not agree to marry him. She indignantly refuses. Dick makes his way to the house and arranges with Alice for an interview with Doctor Alister, Cutler's physician. Dick's reasoning has convinced him that if, as he suspects, Cutler is the victim of a plot which Blake has engineered, Doctor Alister is the man upon whom the conspirators must rely for the successful working out of their plans.

CHAPTER X.—Van Ness gets little information from Doctor Alister, but to induce him to the custody of the yacht for some mysterious purpose, being kept under the influence of drugs. Marie, who had believed Blake in love with her, quarrels with him concerning his attentions to Alice Cutler. The man throws her over a cliff into the sea and leaves the spot believing her dead. She is rescued by Dick.

CHAPTER XI.—From Marie Van Ness gets an idea of the plot which Stephen Cutler is the victim—the manipulation of the latter's financial holdings, which he incapsitates in Dick's overpowers and binds both McGee and Blake, and leaving them helpless turns his attention to the wireless apparatus, of which he knows something.

CHAPTER XII.—Dick broadcasts a message appealing for help from any passing ship. Leaving his prisoners, he frightens Doctor Alister sufficiently to induce him to betray his confederate, Blake, and restore Cutler to sanity. Before this can be accomplished the Pelican comes back.

CHAPTER XIII.—Brent lands from the yacht. In his absence Dick induces the crew, most of whom he has sailed with when the vessel was his father's, to help him save Cutler and Alice.

CHAPTER XIV.—With Doctor Alister Brent goes to the cave and releases Blake and McGee. Dick and the crew of the Pelican prevent their escape. A ship, apparently having received Dick's wireless message, approaches the island.

CHAPTER XV.—The vessel is the United States torpedo boat Sprite. With its arrival the matter of the custody of the conspirators against Cutler is taken from Dick's hands. Alister confesses his part in the plot, which had been, as Dick had guessed, the manipulation, to his disadvantage, of Cutler's holdings, on Wall street. The financier, realizing the predicament from which Dick has saved him, offers the young man a commensurate reward, and Dick accepts it—but it is not a monetary one. The Pelican goes back to America with two happy young people and Dick remains on the island, in hiding.

(Continued From last Week)

Blake, after the accident, would either flee panic-stricken or hurry down to the beach with help. In either case, the fellow would be of little assistance in the rescue. It was up to him to make the effort.

Dick waited until she came to the surface, which seemed a long, torturing time to him. Her long fall had carried her far beneath the surface.

When her head showed finally for an instant, bobbing on the crest of a wave, he took the plunge, making a clean dive straight for her. The inevitable sinking and quick struggle to recover his breath on the surface followed. Then clearing his eyes of the salt water, he caught a glimpse of her as she was going under the second time.

Dick was an expert swimmer, and understood the art of handling a drowning person. He made a surface dive, and caught her by the back of the hair, twisting it around in his fingers until he had a firm hold, and then throwing himself on his back he began towing her in.

Fighting his way slowly through the waves, he managed finally to grasp the nearest rock, and with this as a lever he swung the struggling body of the terrified girl into shoal water. After that it was easy to pick her up and carry her to a safe ledge a few feet above the highest roller.

Gasping a little from his own exertions, he rested a moment before paying attention to Marie. He doubted if she had swallowed much water, and her moans and cries were due more to hysteria than to any alarming symptoms. At the worst she would suffer only a little physical discomfort.

CHAPTER XI

Marie came to her senses in due time, and struggled to a sitting position. Her wild, startled eyes took in the sea rolling close to her feet. With an involuntary shudder and moan she drew as far back from it as she could. Dick smiled.

"You don't have to be afraid of it, Marie. It can't reach you." She turned her terrified eyes to him. She was stupidly quiet for a few moments.

"You—you saved me?" she gasped. "I picked you out of the sea," he replied lightly. "You weren't swimming very well."

"I can't swim," she replied. "Then you should keep out of the water. What made you take the long dive?"

She shuddered again, and glanced up at the top of the cliff. Memory suddenly flooded her mind. Her eyes flashed.

"I didn't dive!" she said. "He pushed me over. He wanted to kill me—get me out of the way—the murderer!"

"Whom are you speaking of—Mr. Blake?"

"Yes, the reptile! He tried to murder me. Oh, the wretch!" She began wringing her hands. "He made love to me—said he'd marry me, and then—then to try to put me out of the way! Oh! Oh! Oh!"

Dick permitted her to sob undisturbed, her whole body shaking violently. When she grew calmer he spoke with emphasis to impress her.

"Marie, I saved your life. You know that. If I hadn't plunged in you'd be food for fishes by this time. Now I'm going to ask a favor of you in return. Will you grant it?"

"Yes, sir, anything," she replied, weakly but honestly.

"Then I want to know why you betrayed your mistress and put yourself into the hands of Mr. Blake and Doctor Alister. Was it because you loved Blake?"

In spite of her shaking she flushed slightly, and nodded her head.

"I thought so," he resumed. "In fact, I knew it. A woman in love will do the most extraordinary things."

He paused again, glancing seaward. When he turned once more to her he was smiling frankly.

"You didn't want anything terrible to happen to Miss Cutler, did you? That wasn't a part of the bargain with Blake, was it?"

"No, sir, he promised not to harm her," she answered meekly.

"Nor her uncle?"

"No, sir, he said he was a sick man, and needed the change down here. He can't go to harm him."

"Then what was his scheme?" asked Dick bluntly, taking her off her guard.

"I—I don't exactly know," she stammered. "He said something about making his fortune if he could keep Mr. Cutler down here for a few weeks. It was something about stocks. I don't know exactly."

"H'm," mused Dick. "I think I understand."

He was quiet for a few moments, then, noticing the girl's agitation, he took pity on her. "I'll get you around to the beach, Marie. You need dry clothing."

"I'm cold," she murmured, shivering.

"Miss Cutler will help you. Go to her and tell her you fell into the water. Don't say anything to her about Mr. Blake."

"Thank you, sir, I'll do as you ask." "Then come; I'll help you to the beach. Go up to the house, and act as if nothing serious had happened. You might, by the way, redeem yourself by looking after your mistress a little more carefully. Doctor Alister and Mr. Blake are no friends of hers."

"I know it, sir, but I'll show them I am. I'll protect her from them. I'll scratch their eyes out, and—"

"I believe you would, Marie. Now come!" Dick helped her along the face of the cliff until they reached the beach. Marie was so terrified of the water

that she clung to him desperately until her feet touched the sand, and she knew she was safe. She drew a long sigh of relief then, and at Dick's bidding hurried up to the house.

Returning to his hiding place under the cliff, where he felt he was reasonably safe from discovery, Dick awaited the coming of darkness to put his plan in execution. He had gathered enough facts now to determine his course of action. It was to be drastic, and full of danger; but it was the only thing under the circumstances to do.

Convinced that Blake and McGee would keep a watchful eye on the underground wireless in the expectation that he would revisit the cave either to destroy the instrument or to operate it, he made his way cautiously to the vicinity shortly after dark. Proceeding with the utmost care, watching and listening every few feet, he gained the summit of a nearby rock that commanded a good view of the entrance to the cave. Concealed there among the bushes he began his long vigil. His ears more than his eyes had to guide him.

Fighting off sleep, he spent the entire night watching and waiting, without results. Light of a new day was beginning to break a little in the east when his ear caught the first sounds of stealthy footsteps.

Craning his head forward he waited eagerly. In the half light of early morning he saw a dark figure creeping cautiously in the direction of the cave. It halted frequently to look around and listen.

"McGee!" Dick murmured, smiling. "I thought he'd come."

The sailor was approaching the entrance in a wide detour, beating the brush, as it were, to make sure his enemy did not take him in the rear. When he finally reached the brink of the hole he leaned over cautiously and peered down.

This was Dick's opportunity. Swiftly but noiselessly he crept upon him from the rear. Not anticipating any danger from behind, the man was leaning far over to explore the interior of the cave. The sailor was a formidable antagonist, and Dick had no intention of taking chances. He intended to give him a dose of his own medicine.

With a stout club picked up for the purpose, Dick dealt the kneeling seaman a blow on the head that knocked all senses out of him. With a grunt he lurched forward and tumbled into the cave.

Dick was after him, descending rapidly, and stood over him with the club upraised before he had a chance to struggle to his feet. But further punishment was unnecessary. Either the first blow or the fall on the hard rocks had made him as helpless as a child. The man was still unconscious.

"That was quick work, McGee," Dick said excitedly. "Now for a gag and some rope."

He had brought both along with him, and within a short time he had the sailor trussed up and gagged. Rolling him into a corner just as consciousness was returning to the sailor, he climbed back out of the hole, and resumed his vigil.

He had every reason to believe Blake would put in an appearance before daylight. It was his habit to send wireless messages just before the break of day. With McGee as advance guard to clear the way for him, there was little to fear, and when he did finally appear he approached the cave with less caution than his confederate.

Dick had taken possession of an automatic that he found on the seaman, and with this in his hand he trailed in the rear of Blake. His intention was to use it to force obedience to his orders, but the sight of the man, small and rather weak of stature, made this course repugnant to him.

"Turn around, Mr. Blake," he called calmly.

The man whirled on his toes as if electrified. When he saw the gun pointing at him, his hands started up as if to surrender. Dick smiled at the craven fear on the white, pasty face.

"Now you'll go below to join your friend. I expect McGee's lonesome down there."

"McGee! Is he down there?" stammered Blake.

"Yes, he's been listening to our little alteration."

Dick picked him up and carried him to the entrance. He was a lightweight, and without great difficulty he got him down and placed him alongside his partner in crime. McGee shot him a venomous look and tried to grunt his anger.

"Don't exert yourself, McGee," Dick said. "You'll burst a blood vessel. That gag's made to stay in the mouth. You can't work it loose."

"Are you going to gag me?" whined Blake. "I'll keep quiet if you don't."

"For the present—no," replied Dick. "I may want to ask you some questions, and it would be a little inconvenient to remove the gag to get answers from you."

He left the two in the corner and walked over to the wireless, which he began examining carefully and critically. He was so absorbed in this that he nearly forgot his prisoners. Finally with a smile he looked up. "I get it now," he said triumphantly. "I guess I know wireless enough to operate it."

CHAPTER XII

It was not a complicated plant. Dick's knowledge of sending and receiving wireless messages had been picked up at an early age when, as an

added to this on his father's yacht, taking the operator's place at times to send messages ashore to friends.

His satisfaction was complete. He smiled at Blake, and said: "I don't mind if you listen in, Blake. So I won't stuff your ears with cotton. The message I'm going to send isn't secret."

He turned on the current, tapped the sender, and then opening the switch wide sent broadcast across the seas:

"Send help to Valhalla Island! Murder—murder. Help needed at once. Don't delay. Relay to shore if necessary."

Signing the name of Steve Cutler to his S. O. S. message, he waited for a response. None coming, he repeated the message. Again and again he agitated the air with his wave vibrations.

There was no response, and Dick frowned at the failure of his experiment. For half an hour he kept it up, and then closed the circuit and rose to his feet.

"That will have to do for the present," he observed. "I'll try again later. Meanwhile, I'm due up at the house to interview Doctor Alister."

Everything was quiet about the big house when he approached, boldly and without any attempt at concealment. It was still very early, and it was a question whether the rest of the household were out of bed yet.

He was a little gratified when the front door opened for him, and Alice Cutler let him in. Her face was white, with dark circles under her eyes. "Has anything happened?" she asked anxiously.

"Yes, everything—two of our worst enemies are prisoners in a cave."

"You mean Mr. Blake?"

"Yes, and his particular friend from the sea—Mr. McGee."

The smile that irradiated her face was sufficient reward for Dick. As he looked into the blue depths of her eyes he had a queer sensation of giddiness. It passed an instant later, and his smile of confidence returned.

"I want to see Doctor Alister," he added. "Will you take me to him?"

"Yes, if he's up."

"I can interview him in his bed if he's not up yet. It's quite important, Miss Cutler."

"Follow me," she replied, leading the way.

There was no necessity of rousing the man from his slumbers, for on the upper landing they almost ran into him as he was emerging from the sick chamber. He gave Dick a scowl and started to retreat to his own room.

"How's the patient this morning, doctor?" Dick greeted him casually.

"No better, sir," was the sour retort. "Have you given him his morning medicine yet?"

"That's none of your business, sir," the other said angrily. "I won't be interrogated by you. I ask you, Miss Cutler, to protect me in my professional—"

"Professional fiddlesticks!" interrupted Dick. "Get it out of your head that there's any professional etiquette down here, doctor. I'm going to see Mr. Cutler."

"Not with my permission, sir."

Planting his bulky figure against the door, Doctor Alister faced them defiantly. Dick smiled at his words and attitude.

"I won't beat about the bush any longer, doctor. I'll be brutally frank with you. The game is up, and a confession from you now may ease matters a trifle for you when you face a court. Your two friends, Mr. Blake and that sailorman, McGee, have withdrawn. They have no further interest in the plot. In fact, they're detained against their will, and can't come to your assistance. The last I saw of them they were trussed up and gagged in a cave. I think they'll stay there until help comes."

The information that his two confederates had been captured had a visible effect upon the physician, his face changing from anxiety to fear, flushing and paling alternately; but the last sentence of Dick's seemed to give him a ray of hope. He braced up and smiled.

"I'm afraid you'll wait a long time for help," he said. Perhaps the thought that Captain Brent would return suddenly to change matters stiffened his resolution. "We're far from any shore, and out of the route of passing ships."

"But how far do you suppose that wireless in the cave will carry?" Dick asked, enjoying the other's confusion.

"I broadcast an S O S message a short time ago. Some ship ought to pick it up and hurry to our assistance. I said there was murder, mutiny and riot on the island."

Alister suddenly lost all his bravado, and began wiping his brow with a trembling hand. "What wireless?" he murmured weakly. "What're you talking about?"

Dick laughed in his face. "I told you the game was up, doctor. It went on gleefully. 'But the worst is still to come. I've had a confession that implicates you. That's what I'm getting at.'"

He took a chair and straddled it, leaning the doctor, who remained motionless against the opposite wall, a picture of despair and terror.

"I don't know," Dick continued. "Whether you really intended to murder Mr. Cutler, or simply to keep him unconscious until—"

"No, no," interrupted Alister. "I didn't intend to kill him. It isn't a dangerous drug. The effect will pass away in time."

"That may save you from the electric chair then, doctor," coolly remarked his tormentor. "If he dies under the effect of it I don't think anything in the world can keep you from the current. Now, if I were you,

(Continued Next Week)



LEE R. YORK ANNOUNCES FOR COUNTY JUDGESHIP

The Merkel Mail is this week authorized to announce Hon. Lee R. York, of Abilene, as a candidate for the office of County Judge of Taylor county, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary next July, and we ask that our readers give his claims due and careful consideration before casting their vote for County Judge.

Born on a cattle ranch near Buffalo Gap, this county, in 1882, Judge York's education consists of three years college, one year business course and 3 years law course. He taught school three years and served six years as stenographer, book-keeper and chief clerk in the U. S. Government service. In 1913 he began the practice of law and practiced at Alamogordo, N. M., until he moved to Abilene three years ago. While a resident of New Mexico he was elected to the legislature of New Mexico in 1916, and also served seven years as chairman of the board of education of Alamogordo. His formal announcement follows:

"I hereby announce my candidacy, subject to the action of the Democratic primaries, for the office of County Judge. I fully realize the importance of the position. It is the most important office in the county. The

## Bragg Dry Goods Co.

### "The Place Most People Trade"

We have on display some wonderful values in

**Spring Coats, Dresses, Ready-to-Wear Hats**

also a big showing of plain and printed silks. Rayons, Peggy Jane Prints, Peter Pan Prints etc.

Big shipments of Spring Merchandise arriving daily. You will favor us by coming and letting us show you the new things whether you are ready to buy or not.

We give Gold Bond Saving Stamps for Cash or 30 days accounts.

## Bragg Dry Goods Co.

We are giving a ticket to the Cozy with every \$1.00 purchase.

### THE CALL OF THE "OPEN ROAD"

It is not a great while until the warm Spring days will be here, and motor rides, pleasure trips, fishing trips and long tours will call motorists to the "Open Road." And when you have your car all packed and ready to start, isn't it a pleasant feeling to KNOW that your car is in A-1 condition. Bring your car to us and have it overhauled and that assurance will be yours.

Nor is there any economy in buying cheap tires, tubes or other accessories. If you are not getting satisfactory mileage out of your tires

Try a set of INDIA TIRES

We will re-charge your battery, examine the wiring, test your lights, fill it with gas and oil, all under one roof. You don't have to run all over town to place your car in A-1 condition.

AND WE DO WELDING

Anything that can be welded. Farmers, bring us your broken plows and farming tools. We'll save you some money by welding it for you.

We sell Good Gulf Gasoline

### EVERYBODY'S GARAGE

'Our Customers must be Satisfied'  
Phone 72 Front Street

County Judge is not only the most important administrative and executive officer of the county but, his duties as probate judge and judge of the County Court, brings him to deal with the most sacred rights of the people. The leadership of the county along lines of progress is upon him whether he assumes it or not. There is opportunity for great public service in the position.

"All my people are southerners. I am a life long democrat, and have always fought in the front ranks of the party. Our country is built on the great principles of democracy. I was born in Taylor County, forty-three years ago, on a cow ranch near Buffalo-Gap, and my whole life has been spent in the West. I believe in the West with all my heart, and believe West Texas is the greatest section of the entire west.

"In general terms the following is my platform:

"Ours is an agricultural country. If elected I shall seek to cooperate to the fullest extent with our State College and the U. S. Department of Agriculture in rendering aid and encouragement to the farmers.

"We are now living in the automobile age, and good roads are essential to our future welfare, progress, prosperity and happiness. With this in view I shall cooperate with both the State and Federal governments to the extent allowed by law in building good roads across Taylor county, and I shall also seek to lay out and put into effect a program of County road building supplementing these State highways and connect our rural communities to these highway systems and thus bring them into use by all our people, in order that our farmers may reap the benefit of our good roads and bring them into closer relationship with each other and their schools. To contend this day and time that we cannot afford good roads is false economy, for the saving in tires and wear and tear

on our cars will keep the maintenance of our roads and will finally pay off the expense of building them.

"I shall at all times encourage the strictest economy in the use of public funds, but I shall always keep in mind the difference between true economy and false economy. In other words I think it poor economy to be so tight fisted as to stop civic improvement.

"Our county is sorely in need of capital to bring about its maximum development. I shall therefore put no obstacles in the way of local or foreign capital, but on the contrary I shall lend what encouragement possible to the investment of both local and foreign capital in our county.

"I shall seek to systematize the County Court to the end that all unnecessary delays shall be eliminated."

Country Eggs wanted at the T. & P. section house. 1tp

COMING WED. FEB. 17

G. Bert Davis play, "Traffic in Souls." This play has had a long run in New York and comes very highly recommended, a stage production supreme with an all-star cast. The play has a very interesting story dealing with romance, money and baseball. It will give the people of Merkel a chance to pass comment. We believe you will say it is one of the best plays that ever played at the Cozy. 1tp

Is winter gone? If you need Coal phone 44. Swafford Coal & Feed Yard. 1t

Mrs. W. J. Higgins, Merkel route one, has our thanks for the renewal of their subscription to the Mail. She stated that they could not well get along without their home paper. We appreciate such compliments from our readers, and extend our thanks to Mrs. Higgins.

### REAL ESTATE, FARM LOANS FIRE INSURANCE

After a Fire--

you'll 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.

### Egotism That Might Be Termed Sublime

Standing passively by the dancing floor he glanced languidly over the young females that ogled him as they passed. Carelessly he brushed the suspicion of a stray hair back into place. There was Loretta—a giddy thing in April blue—and, as usual, trying to make him. He met her glance coldly and pulled softly at his tie—it would bring the red out a little more in the knot.

Julie—a creamy bit of inanity—a stinging reply finished her meaningless babble. He wondered a little, though, if he had blended the face powder properly. Nanette—a drab splurge of colors—was simply not noticed. He pulled the handkerchief out a little from his pocket.

Oh, well, he was tired of being admired, and it was boring to be constantly avoiding their praise. He strolled into the smoking room, pulled out his silver cigarette case—gold was so gaudy—tapped a long, thin cigarette reflectively, lit it and walked over to the mirror. He studied himself a moment. His features stiffened, he bit his lip.

Finally, his eyes blazing, he hurled his cigarette case at the glass.

"Liar," he muttered and turned and walked out of the room.—Notre Dame Juggler.

### Particles in Millions Make Up Human Body

Science has made one of its greatest discoveries in the last 15 years. It is that every kind of substance on earth, including the human body, is made up of invisible particles of positive and negative electricity, which the scientists have labeled "protons" and "electrons." While these particles grouped into atoms are too tiny to be seen, scientists have been able to count them by the flashes of light they give off when projected against a screen under a magnifying glass. These tiny units of electricity have an enormous attraction for each other, which is lucky for us, for that is what knits matter together. In fact, a Yale scientist calculates that if all the positive particles of electricity in a cubic inch of solid matter could be separated and put in one pile, and all the negative particles of electricity contained in the same cubic inch of matter could be similarly separated, that the force of attraction between the two piles, provided they were placed one inch apart, would be thirty-six times a hundred times a million times a million times a million tons. And hard as that is to believe he is probably right about it.—Capper's Weekly.

### Dances Worth Seeing

Behind the pantomime of most Javanese dancing lingers the inspiration of Indian heroic legend, perpetuated in the Sanskrit epics. But distinctively Javanese are the dancers' costumes of batik, silk and brocade, with fantastic gilded head-dresses. Javanese, too, is the melodious music of the dances.

The "siva," or dance, gives perennial joy to the pleasure-loving, flower-crowned, tattooed Samoan youth, in his sun-soaked paradise. Clad in balloon-like layers of "tapa," the befeathered Fijian woman performs a ritualistic dance in the best Fijian tradition.

The Solomon islander's dancing is dramatically barbaric, recalling the savagery and cannibalism still secretly indulged in by the lively islanders. Disciplined, not spontaneous, is the dancing of the Japanese "geisha," with her gay, butterfly kimono.—Asia Magazine.

### He Didn't Pay

A man commissioned an artist to paint his portrait, with the stipulation that he need not accept the picture unless it was like him.

When the painting was finished, he was not satisfied, and refused to pay. The painter sued him, and another artist was called into court to give an expert opinion.

"Do you see that picture of my client?" asked counsel for the defendant.

"No," answered the witness; "I do not."

"There it is!" said the man of law, pointing to the canvas. "Is that a portrait?"

"Certainly not!" answered the expert; "it's a map of him."

### Prehistoric Sweden

Hidden in the biggest forest on the Swedish island of Oeland the remains of a Fifth or Sixth century town at Ismanstov castle are now being laid bare. They were totally overgrown with weeds and bushes. A circular wall on limestone over 400 yards long has been revealed, and on the inclosed area traces of 90 houses have been found, the majority of which were built up against the wall, while the others were clustered in the center. Some of the houses were divided into two or more rooms and had an arbor-like gabled porch.

### The Art of Life

We live amid surfaces, and the true art of life is to skate well on them. Under the oldest, moldiest conventions a man of native force prospers just as well as in the newest world, and that by skill of handling and treatment. He can take hold anywhere. Life itself is a mixture of power and form and will not bear the least excess of either. To finish the moment, to find the journey's end in every step of the road, to live the greatest number of good hours, is wisdom. Emerson.