

# THE MERKEL MAIL

ALL THE AUTHENTIC OIL NEWS OF THE NOODLE CREEK FIELD

VOL. 38—No. 41.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1926

5c PER COPY

## OIL MEN'S BANQUET IS WELL ATTENDED

Thursday night at 7 o'clock a banquet was tendered the oil men operating in the Noodle Creek field and vicinity of Merkel by the business men of Merkel under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce. The banquet was well attended despite the inclement weather both by the citizens of Merkel and the oil men, all branches of the industry being represented.

L. R. Thompson, secretary Chamber of Commerce, was toastmaster. Invocation by Rev. W. R. McCarter. An excellent dinner was served. Mayor N. D. Cobb and Rev. W. G. Cypert made welcome the guests of the evening, assuring them of the people of Merkel's heartiest greetings and desire to receive them as fellow citizens. In response, Mr. Ruse, superintendent of the Marland Company, spoke of the high appreciation of himself and associates for the hospitality shown them by Merkel. Among other things he assured them that the oil men are willing to meet them half-way in the matter of road improvement.

Constituting a program of entertainment were vocal solos by Misses Christine Collins and Margaret Jones and reading by Miss Lucy Tracy. These numbers were much enjoyed by the assemblage, who encored each performer. McMurtry College orchestra of Abilene gave several selections during the evening.

At the conclusion of the entertainment program Dr. M. Armstrong spoke upon the plans for good roads in and about Merkel, stating that an improved road had been built to the oilfield. The speaker was accorded attentive interest.

The toastmaster called upon several present for impromptu speeches, and with an enthusiastic response.

The splendid dinner was prepared and served by King David's Cafe in the most tasty and satisfactory manner.

## Hot Point Electric Range Days

Every year the West Texas Utilities Company puts on a Special Hot Point Electric Range sale and this year is no exception to the rule.

Commencing this week they started their yearly sale by offering the people of this territory a special price of \$127.50 for an All White Porcelain, three burner and oven Hot Point Electric Range. The regular price of this range is \$155.00 cash.

The West Texas Utilities Company realizes that there is not as much ready money in circulation as in former years and as a special inducement they are making the terms this year, only \$2.50 cash with order and \$5.00 per month until the stove is paid for. This sale terminates December 31, 1926. This undoubtedly is the most liberal terms they have ever made and Mr. McNabb, who is here to assist in the sale of merchandise, says, "It will be a long time, if ever, that the company will offer such a liberal discount and terms again."

Mr. Louis Hoffmaster and Mrs. Stella Lloyd, special representatives of the Hot Point company, will be in Merkel on Thursday and Friday, November 15 and 16. These two people are experts in electrical appliances and if you have a range, or are contemplating installing one in your home, it will pay you well to visit the West Texas Utilities show rooms next week and learn how to operate your stove and appliances at the least possible expense.

## DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EARLY

Every year about this time the plea is made to do Christmas shopping and mailing early. And it seems necessary to make it every year, although this should not be so. Everybody who has any holiday buying and mailing to do could, no doubt, do it and have it over with anywhere from a month to ten days, or at the least a week, before Christmas. If they would do this, they would have the heart-felt thanks and blessings of thousands of store clerks and postal employees, who are so hard worked with the usual Christmas rush that they are in no condition to enjoy Christmas themselves.

Mrs. D. O. Huddleston returned home this week from a visit to a sister in Kentucky. She reports her sister is still very ill.

## Man Arrested Here Wanted At Colorado

Deputy Sheriff W. H. Laney this week arrested a man here giving his name as Brady Davis, said to have been wanted at Colorado, for some misdemeanor.

An officer from that city came for their prisoner Tuesday.

## Opposition Is Made To Paving Highway

Work of paving the highway through Merkel will soon be started, a much needed improvement. However, some of our citizens have objected on the ground that the improved highway will cause loss of business to Merkel firms, due to Merkel people and those in its trade territory going to other towns to do their trading. If this happens, it will be due to the unwillingness of Merkel merchants to meet the competition of merchants in neighboring towns by carrying fresh, up-to-date stocks of merchandise in variety. Merkel merchants are as able to do this as merchants in other towns. It would require very little, if any, additional capital; merely more discrimination in buying and closer study of the wants of their patrons. When the local merchants do these things, the improved highway will benefit them by bringing them additional trade. Competition is said to be the life of trade. Then such businesses as cannot or will not meet competition do not deserve to survive. They are a drawback and detriment to their community. It is an advertisement and a good one to a town for the stores in it to have a fresh, clean appearance such as new paint, the scrub brush and broom and spotless show windows containing well arranged displays of new attractive up-to-date merchandise. And the same scheme should be followed in the stores, the shelves of which should carry new stocks, not shopworn stuff that the entire citizenship has seen for years and knows by heart.

An improved road is never anything but a benefit to a community; and with a prospect of much increase in traffic due to development of the Noodle Creek Oilfield, a paved highway is little short of an actual necessity for Merkel.

## Mr E. D. Coats Sells \$12,000 Worth Royalty

We are informed that Mr. E. D. Coats recently sold bankers from Gonzales, Texas, one half of one-eighth royalty in 80 acres of land located about a mile west of the Noodle Creek Oil Field.

Some time ago, shortly after the discovery well came in Mr. Coats sold the lease on this tract of land for \$8,000.

## Merkel On Saturday

On Saturday of each week Merkel is host to many visitors. Cars line block after block, and all available parking space downtown is occupied. So many people are on the streets and in the stores, friendships and acquaintances being renewed, that a holiday air prevails despite the feeble business of cotton. No matter how dull business is during the week, it is always better on Saturday. So Saturday is a day we can't do without. We need it to get our Sunday shave on for one thing, and our Saturday night bath. And, anyway, if it wasn't for Saturday, Sunday would come sooner, which would be bad for some folk's religion which isn't due to take effect until after Saturday.

The merchants vie with each other in taking care of the increased trade, nearly everybody buys more. At this time of year, too, holiday buying is starting.

The large number of people on the streets of Merkel is an indication of her wide trade territory, which is also fairly well settled. With the paving of the highway, the number of people entering Merkel to trade should increase. Newcomers to trade will be attracted to this section by the improved highway.

Despite the general depression due to the cotton situation, there is a noticeable air of prosperity apparent in the crowds on the streets, practically every member of which is well-dressed.

A card from Colonel J. A. Buford, who with his wife are sojourning in South Texas, at Rockport. The Colonel states that they are getting along fine fishing and enjoying the fine southern climate.

## HOLLOWAY CAFE DAMAGED BY FIRE

### Former Merkel Man Is A Minister In Panhandle Oilfield

Rev. M. R. Pike, son of Mrs. J. R. Pike of Merkel, and reared here, is now pastor of the First Methodist Church at Phillips, Texas, in the Panhandle oilfield.

In a letter to his mother Rev. Pike tells of conditions in the oilfield towns and of his work there. The conditions there as such that to read of them seems like reading of frontier towns and pioneer times. To quote from Rev. Pike's letter:

"We have had a severe norther blowing for the last twelve hours, and ice everywhere. Our building had no heat in it this morning, and we would not hold the little fellows for Sunday School. Thus we have had no services today. We meet in the theatre building, and it is a large open house, not any too comfortable when we have an abundance of gas.

"People come here by the hundreds daily, and the present estimate of Borger, Phillips, Electric City, Skelly, Isom, Whittsburg and Maryland Camp is fifty thousand.

"Phillips' camp is located three miles from Borger. It has in its territory about seven thousand people. We have secured space, 70x150 feet, to build a Methodist Community church house. I have not found many people here but that love God and the Christian cause. Even the old hard tool dressers and drillers are in on the church building proposition. The only reason that the oilfield man is not in church is that he has no church to be in, or at least that is true here. I have at present twenty-one members. Last Sunday we had 126 in Sunday School. They are coming from many homes where the parents are not religious.

"I visited one home Thanksgiving Day where a baby had come several days before, and the mother had taken pneumonia, a frail little woman. That day we had a very severe sandstorm and the wind blew the tent down upon her and her child. A woman had been keeping house for five men, and one of the men had gotten drunk and beaten her up, breaking her collar bone and bruising her severely.

"This town is overrated for its wickedness. Those wild stories were employed to boost the town with. We do have the dance halls and some booze joints, and they sell whiskey about like they do in Merkel and Abilene, but they are not dishing it out of every crack and crevice.

"I would like to get the Merkel Mail if you would think to mail it to me once in a great while. These papers here speak of Kansas and Oklahoma, but I want down state Texas news. Keep me posted upon your oil development there."

Rev. Pike is a former Merkel man, and has many friends in this section.

At about nine o'clock last night the citizenship of Merkel was badly alarmed when a fire in the Holloway Cafe practically destroyed furniture and fixtures of same, and for a short time threatened the entire building. However, quick and effective work upon the part of Merkel's Volunteer Fire Department saved the building with but small damage.

As this paper was already in the process of being printed, we are unable to give full and complete details as to how the fire started and just what exact damages are. However, we are informed that the fire was started from the overturning or spilling of a large kettle of hot grease upon the kitchen stove. Although there were a number of people in the building when the accident happened causing the fire to spread throughout same, so far as we can learn no one was injured.

The building, a two-story brick, is owned by J. W. Wheeler, and a portion of the upper story was being used by the Gambill Dental Specialty Company's Manufacturing Plant, and we understand their equipment and supplies suffered considerable damage from the water and heat. Also, Dr. W. M. Gambill had his household furniture stored in the upper room and they were very badly damaged.

## MERKEL SHOWS STEADY GROWTH

Evidence of Merkel's growth is seen in the fact that there are no vacant business houses nor residences in the town, and a dozen or more new residences have been built or under construction. Several new business houses and blocks have been built or are in course of construction. Not only are all business buildings and residences occupied, but there are many unfilled applications for buildings and residences. There is a great need of some modern apartment houses in Merkel.

## Box Supper At Butman School

A full force of parents and teachers of the Butman community met last Friday night, December 3, and organized a Parent-Teachers Association. The first of their active work will be a Box Supper to be given Friday night, December 10th.

Prizes will be awarded to the prittiest girl and the ugliest man. Come and see the fun.—Secretary.

## Opens New Style Shop Here

Mrs. Acie Bailey, of Tahoka, has this week opened a new "Ladies Style Shop" in the building adjacent to the Modern Dry Cleaners, and announces that she will carry a complete line of Millinery and Ready-to-Wear. Read her announcement in this paper.

## Alleged Swindler Arrested Here Friday

R. D. Daniel of Fort Worth was arrested here Friday by constable J. T. King and city marshal J. A. Woodard for alleged use of the mails to defraud, issuing bogus checks and going under an assumed name. Daniel was turned over to Federal authorities and was placed in jail to await examining trial which, we understand, was set for December 6th.

Daniel, it is alleged, made a practice of ordering goods from mail order houses under the name of Robert Darnell, and in payment for such goods, it is further alleged, he gave bogus checks. Taylor F. Davis, local postmaster, states he was advised by mail order firms of Daniel's alleged practice, and at once placed him under surveillance while awaiting authority for Daniel's arrest. Friday Daniel appeared at the postoffice and called for mail in the name of Robert Darnell, receiving several parcels post packages. Postmaster Davis, having sufficient proof that Daniel was the man wanted, at once sent word to officers Woodard and King, who joined him in pursuit of Daniel, and captured him near the city limits. The officers were assisted in the capture of Daniel by the use of an automobile driven by A. J. Brown, president Brown Development Company, Fort Worth.

## Former Merkel Man Dies At Abilene

Many citizens of this town and community, were indeed made sad on last Friday when it became known that Mr. S. G. Houston, of Abilene, had on that day passed away.

Mr. Houston and family formerly resided in Merkel, about the years 1921-22, and while here made many warm and lasting friends.

He was the father of Mrs. Walter Jackson, of Abilene, who with her husband, was editor and owner of the Merkel Mail for three years up to January 1, 1920, and this paper joins many friends in extending to her and other bereaved relatives deepest sympathy.

## Operated On At Abilene Sanitarium

Little Miss Dorothy, five year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Horton, residing on Route Four, underwent a very serious and complicated operation at an Abilene Sanitarium last week, but is doing nicely and expected to soon regain her former good health.

Merkelites by renting rooms in their homes to the great number of newcomers are suffering from an epidemic of prosperity, but are manfully trying to keep a stiff upper lip and not complain. However, some cases are serious. Family ties are strained. For instance, a man who has a large house and a small family is making about \$150 a month letting rooms at \$1 each a night. But he has met with a demand from his wife to pay her \$50 a month rent for the space he takes up, or sleep in the street. It is carrying this prosperity thing too far when a wife starts to treat her husband like a newcomer.

## Santa's Visit Should Be On Christmas, Not Xmas, Declare Clergy

Youngsters may not mind whether it is spelled "Xmas" or "Christmas" as long as Santa Claus makes his annual visit with toys and candies, but a campaign is to be started to eliminate the use of "Xmas" as "contrary and alien to revealed word."

Several clergymen will speak against the use of the abbreviated word from their pulpits in New York on December 12, and there will be radio addresses for the same purposes.

The sponsors of the move hold that "Xmas" has a "subtle tendency to destroy the beautiful thoughts in connection with Christmas as well as to bring the name of Christ to the very brink of contempt."

## LOCAL POSTAL RECEIPTS SOAR

Local postal receipts for the last 3 months as compared with the same three months a year ago show a net gain in sales of nearly 40 per cent. This in a great way tells the measure of the oil boom has reflected in business as postal receipts are considered throughout the United States as the barometer of business.

The postmaster informs us besides the increase in postal receipts since the oil boom, that the money order business and registry business have doubled. All available postoffice boxes are rented and there are more calls daily. The general delivery has increased to such an extent that a regular assignment of two clerks has been made to handle the business throughout the day. Along with this the postmaster extends his thanks to the way the public have cooperated in having their mail addressed to correct address, thus saving much time and delay in handling same.

The attention of the public is invited to the fact the local office will be open for business upon Christmas day from 8:00 a. m. until 10:00 a. m. in order to give the public as good service as is possible despite the fact that Christmas comes upon Saturday. The Postoffice Department urges that all patrons mail their Christmas parcels early in order to avoid delay and congestion of the mails.

There will be no Rural Delivery upon Christmas.

## "Southlands" Name Given New Sub-Division

Out of approximately fifty suggestions submitted in the contest to secure a name for their new sub-division, J. T. and Booth Warren selected the name "Southlands," suggested by Sie Hamm, Merkel druggist, who thereby won the prize of \$5 in gold offered by Messrs. Warren for the winning name.

Considering the inclement weather and the short time given to the contest, the response made was excellent, and Messrs. Warren state they are well pleased with the result. Much interest in the new addition is being manifested and it is evident it will be quickly sold out.

Among the names submitted which received favorable consideration were Warren Boulevard, Loyucca, Sunnyland Drive, Park View, Paramount Heights, South Park View, Mountain View, Homes Avenue, Levelland, Warren Place, Boulevard Valley, Vista Verde, Sunshine Drive, Fairland, Boowinloo, Moody Addition, Sunshine Addition, Altadena Vista, Sierra Vista, Paradise Vista. Several suggestions were not received until after the contest was closed.

## Chrysler Agency Stages Parade Here Saturday

Saturday the local Chrysler agency J. B. Buchanan, manager; held a parade of eleven latest model Chrysler cars, which included their famous 50's, 60's and 70's in roadster, sedan and coupe models, each enclosed in two colors. The ensemble made a display of as beautiful cars as have been seen on streets.

The cars are driven by the following local young women, and drivers: Misses Dorothy Phillips, Mary Gays Flora Francis Anderson, Paterson, Tommie Durham, James V. B. Sublett, Clyde Foster, W. L. Johnson Jr., Stanley King, Messrs. F. H. Latam and Claud Touchstone.

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### NEWSPAPER BARGAINS

We are Authorized Agents for The Abilene Morning News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Dallas News, Semi-Weekly Farm News, Farm and Ranch and other Newspapers and Magazines.

#### Bargain Days Open Until January 1st

We guarantee proper datings or will refund your money. We're here the year 'round.—Beware of Strangers.

#### We Can Save You Money On Clubbing Offers

The Abilene Morning News (Daily and Sunday) one year	\$4.70
The Abilene Morning News (Daily and Sunday) and The Merkel Mail, one year each	5.50
Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Daily and Sunday) one year	\$7.45
Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Daily and Sunday) and The Merkel Mail, one year each	8.00
Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Daily except Sunday) 1 year	\$5.95
Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Daily except Sunday) and The Merkel Mail, one year each	6.95
The Dallas News, (Daily and Sunday) one year	\$6.95
The Dallas News (Daily and Sunday) and The Merkel Mail, one year each	7.50
The Dallas News (Daily except Sunday) one year	\$5.50
The Dallas News (Daily except Sunday) and The Merkel Mail, one year each	6.60
Dallas Semi-Weekly Farm News, 1 year	\$1.00
Holland and Ranch, 1 year \$1.00; 3 years \$1.50; 5 years \$2.00	\$2.00
Holland's Magazine 1 year \$1.00; 3 years \$1.50; 5 years \$2.00	\$2.00

# BURIED TREASURE

By Vinson Ervin

## Up "Salt Creek" Began In Time Of Henry Clay

"Up Salt River," has long been a popular expression with a mooted origin, but Dr. G. C. Crist, grandson of General Henry Crist, Kentucky Congressman, traces the phrase to a campaign of Henry Clay for the presidency.

The Sunday before the election, the local legend goes, Clay was far down the Ohio river and hired a boatman to row him to Louisville. Clay's opponents bribed the boatman, and when the skiff bearing Clay reached the mouth of Salt River, the boatman quietly slipped into the smaller stream, his passenger being unaware of the move.

"After the votes were in, someone asked as to Clay's whereabouts. "He's gone up Salt River," was the reply.

The phrase is a popular figure of speech to denote dismay or defeat.

## NAZARINE PEOPLE BUILDING NEW PARSONAGE

Work began last week on a new and modern five-room parsonage, which when completed will be occupied by the pastor, Rev. C. C. Montandon.

Lat for health, but be sure you get your meat from Baker & Wheeler Market.

College girls are taking up boxing. They wrestle, also, but it is called dancing.

Mother kept that school-girl complexion by occasionally walking five or ten miles past a lot of drug stores.

Cheese, says a dietitian, is one of the oldest of foods, and no archaeological expedition was needed to unearth that fact.

The millions of germs on money and in kisses never make a man refuse either.

A wise man knows he is acting foolish to fall in love this close to Christmas.

In gambling it isn't the first loss that is so expensive; it's getting it back.

Closed autos are the most popular in winter, while closed mouths are popular the year around.

Be not deceived. While Santa Claus has many agents hereabouts he has no genuine double.

New automobile licenses, income tax payment, Christmas. Isn't December the gay old month?

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

Hanging on the wall of the Sam Butman home in Merkel is a painting of Merkel as it appeared over forty years ago by J. L. Vaughn, father of Mrs. Butman, then depot agent for the Texas & Pacific railroad, and the first agent of the railroad at this place.

Mr. Vaughn's painting is indeed a creditable work of art, depicting Merkel as a town of perhaps a dozen rude dwellings and buildings, interesting to view in the light of latter day progress.

The Merkel of that time gave little or no promise of any future development. Its resources were as buried treasure, buried beneath geographical inaccuracies and ignorance of the country's rich soil. The Merkel country was then a part of what was known as the Great American Desert, considered fit for nothing but to be inhabited by jack-rabbits, coyotes, cow herds and cow-punchers. Mention of Texas in the east brought up in the minds of people there visions of horned humans as well as horned beasts, thorned trees and bushes and horned frogs.

The years rolled by, the farmer came and his plow turning up the rich soil disclosed the buried treasure near the surface. Now comes the oil operator, and his drill has discovered further buried treasure, the extent of which is yet to be determined.

Intrepid sons of the effete east, taking their courage in hand, have gradually trickled to the "Great American Desert," and found, not a desert, but a thriving agricultural country and community, with all modern conveniences, and having arrived many have stayed.

\$600,000,000 per year is the cost of highway traffic accidents, reports the National Safety Council. It takes a great number of cars, especially of the flivver variety, to make such a total. Last but not least and what is more important than the loss in dollars is that 90,000 people were killed by accident in the United States and more than 2,500,000 were injured. These totals divided by days show a daily casualty toll more than twenty times greater than that of American soldiers during the World War.

Mr. J. W. Moore of route three, has our thanks for a subscription to the Mail which he sends to relatives in Knox county.

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

The reformer should be patient with us. After all, the world's wickedness keeps him in a job.

Mr. J. T. Dennis and son Carlton, visited relatives in Sweetwater last Sunday.

Messrs. F. H. Latham and associates last week purchased the lot and building from W. T. Bird, known as the Telephone building.

Anybody ever hear a flapper sing, "Home, Sweet Home?"



## ASK ANYBODY



### The Old Reliable FARMERS & MERCHANTS NAT'L BANK Merkel, Texas

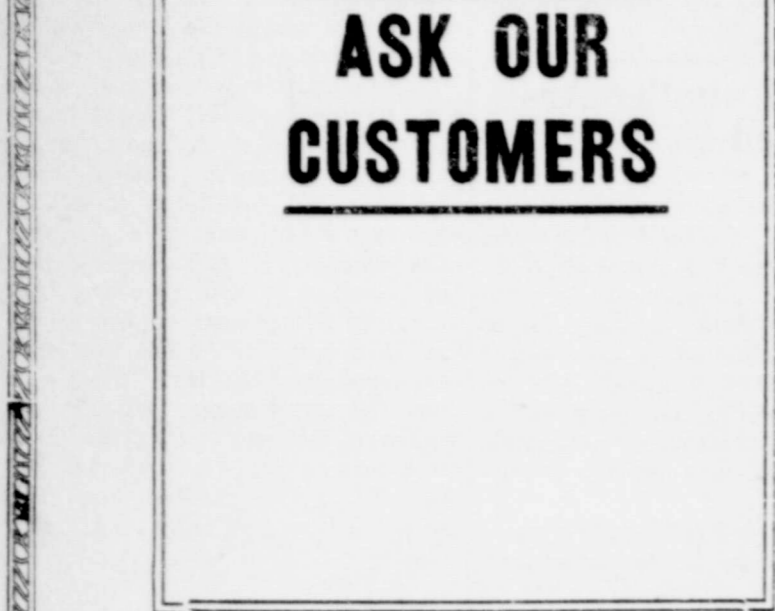
"Organized 1904."

#### OFFICERS

J. T. Warren, Pres. G. F. West, V. Pres.  
Booth Warren, Cashier. F. Y. Gaither, Ass't Cashier  
Owen Ellis, Ass't Cashier.

#### DIRECTORS

J. T. WARREN GEO. L. PAXTON  
G. F. WEST SAM BUTMAN, Sr.  
BOOTH WARREN



ASK OUR CUSTOMERS

## FARMERS STATE BANK

MERKEL TEXAS

#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

J. S. Svann, President Herbert Patterson,  
R. O. Anderson, V. Pres. Assistant Cashier  
J. C. Mason, V. Pres' Dallas Scarbrough  
W. L. Diltz, Cashier David Hendricks

### MAKING CHRISTMAS SANE

There are two bits of advice which it is folly to ignore in this season. The one is "Do Your Christmas Shopping Early," and "Send Your Christmas Mail Early" is the second. Fools heed neither, but if the observance of both is proof of rare wisdom then the world is becoming wiser.

It was but a few years ago that the major portion of the Christmas shopping was done during Christmas week and the Christmas cash in the mails did not begin until the eleventh hour. The result was that unfavorable shopping conditions and congested mails ruined Christmas Day for countless thousands.

How much saner and how much more satisfactory for all concerned are the modern practices of starting the gift-buying season in November and of starting the gifts through the mails in ample time to insure their punctual delivery.

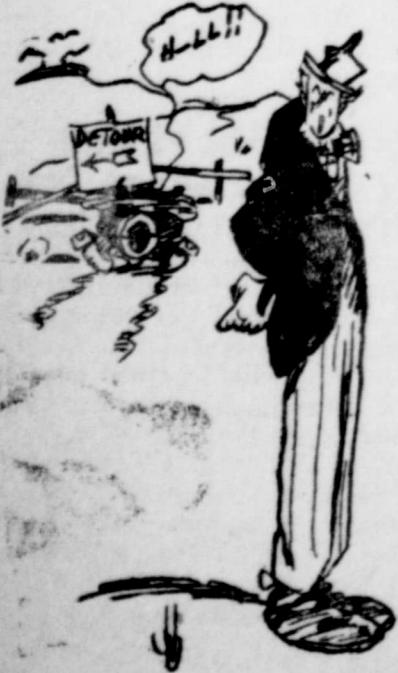
Whether one looks at the question from the selfish or impersonal points of view the arguments are all in favor of early shopping and early mailing.

Early shopping gives one the pick of the new and undepleted Christmas stocks, leisurely selection, more satisfactory service and less jostling.

Early mailing is a guarantee of timely delivery and minimizes the dangers of damage and loss in transit.

Should there be any to whom these arguments are unconvincing, let them give a thought to the merchant and his sales force and to the postal employees whose one desire is to please the public, but who are powerless to help those who won't help themselves.

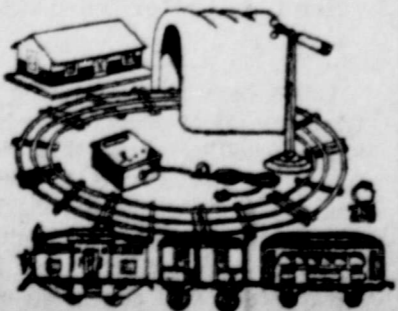
### ABE MARTIN



Another drawback t' prohibition is that th' "settin' 'em up" is too one-sided. A champion allus scoops th' sport writers when he loses his crown.



Pangburn's Chocolates



TOYS

### Gift Suggestions

Ladies' All Leather Hand Bags.  
Gents All Leather Bill Folds.  
Ladies and Gents Wrist Watches

- |               |              |            |
|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Mesh Bags     | Ivory Sets   | Watches    |
| Vanities      | Box Cigars   | Chains     |
| Pearls        | Toilet Sets  | Cuff Links |
| Manicure Sets | Pipes        | PANGBURNS  |
| DIAMONDS      | Emblem Rings | CHOCOLATES |

Fountain Pen and Pencil Sets  
Belt Buckle and Chain Sets

AGAIN WE ARE SANTA CLAUS' HEAD-QUARTERS  
Bring the Kiddies in to see our display of Toys and Dolls.

## Grimes-Smith Drug Company



Diamonds



C. B. Barnes

H. W. Barnes

# Barnes Brothers

Contractors and Builders

WE KNOW HOW

PLANS AND ESTIMATES FURNISHED

F. L. Barnes PHONE 229 G. W. Barnes

## BARGAINS!

I can save you money on Dry Goods and Shoes. Tarbuttons', watch making, Shoe and Dry Goods store, located on Front Street, in same building with Smiths' barber shop.

## Noodle News

Dec. 8.—The health in this community is very good at present.

Most every one is through picking cotton in this community.

There will be preaching at the Methodist church next Sunday. All are invited to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Jenkins spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Ted Bickwell.

Clyde Herring and wife of South Texas are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Homer Herring.

The party given at Homer Herring's Friday night was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Lloyd Jenkins returned home Monday from a business trip to the Plains.

A number of the Noodle boys and girls showered Mr. and Mrs. Ted Bickwell with a party Saturday night and a most enjoyable time was reported.

The Noodle basket ball team played their first game Friday with Trest. The scores being 17-4 in favor of our team.

Otte Steel and family of Merkel spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Claude Jenkins.

There will be a box supper at Noodle Friday night, December the 10th. The women are requested to bring boxes and the men bring plenty of money. Every one come and lets have a good time.

"Try a Classified Ad in The Mail."

# GUSHER HUNTING IS NEW SPORT HERE

By VINSON ERVIN.

Monday Merkel citizens indulged in what has become their favorite outdoor sport, that of going to see the next gusher come in. Formerly when friend husband arrived at his domicile and found supper uncooked and wife not at home he immediately and without preamble concluded that she was at what is technically known as a hen party. But now. Well, now when he fails to locate his better half where he expects her to be at supertime, he says to himself, without malice aforethought but with amiable tolerance, knowing that he would be with her if he had had the time to spare, "Oh, well, she's gone to see the well come in."

The rumor being current and persistent on the streets of Merkel Monday, but its authenticity elusive, that the Sears well, six miles northwest of here, would doubtless gush that afternoon sometime between three and four o'clock (the time being determined by the rumor pushers and not the well nor its drillers), ye editor, one T. Durham, (not B.) it being the business of newspapermen to run to earth errant rumors, at once embarked upon the trail of this one, accompanied by a select crowd, selected at random, to whom he offered free transportation and possible sight of a gusher earnestly endeavoring to give the surrounding landscape an oil finish.

Proceeding hastily on our way with cheer and gasoline, some one among us began the construction of aircastles. Turning to another member of the party, a merchant of more or less Hebraic persuasion, he asked, "Say, Max if this well comes in a good one, you'll give us each a good hat, won't you?" Replied the merchant, "Why should I? It ain't my well." Our hopes in this regard thus demolished at one blow, we sat gloomily staring at near and distant oilwell derricks, sometime harboring

ers of fortune, sometime monuments to lost hopes.

Suddenly the driver of the car cried out, "Look! Look!" and pointed. We looked. The derricks in the not far distant Noodle Creek field were easily discernible. Shooting skyward apparently from one of the derricks was a geyser-like jet of something or other, the ensemble of derrick and jet making an appearance very like a gushing oilwell, just such a sight as we had come to view. Excitedly we gazed. Excitedly we rushed toward this wondrous thing, paying no heed to fences, ditches and mesquite thickets. Narrowly, however, did we escape collision with another car and possibly extreme scatterment over this and adjoining counties. One among us on the verge of hysteria heartily implored our driver to look out. The rest of us, being brave but scared speechless, sat calmly through the excitement, saying nothing.

Arrived at the supposed gusher, we found that what had seemed oil and gas at a distance was smoke and steam. Again were our hopes dashed down. We turned our car and our attention to the Sears well.

Reaching the Sears well, we regained something of our cheer. A large crowd was present to assist in ushering in the well, but its, the crowd's ardor was somewhat dashed by a pointedly worded sign in large, red letters near the derrick, "No Help Wanted. Stay Out," meaning, of course, that no amateur assistance was needed in bringing in the well.

We looked about. Encouraging signs were the drill going slowly, and the usual collection of scouts draped carelessly and gracefully over the premises, and fully equipped with leathercoats, leatherleggings and leathernecks, wishful only to get away and return in a cloud of dust to the fleshpots of some near-city.

We fully expected that when we, representatives of press arrived the

# NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS

We sincerely appreciate your patronage, but if you have not paid your account with us, please do not ask us for further credit. We cannot run our business without funds, and we depend on our customers accounts for an income to carry on our business.

We are glad to serve you, and will bend every effort possible to please you. Come to see us.

## THE CORNER GARAGE

F. C. McFARLAND, Mgr.

well would perform. Nothing happened. We hung about hopefully. The same thing still happened. Discouraged and disappointed, we started our return trek to town.

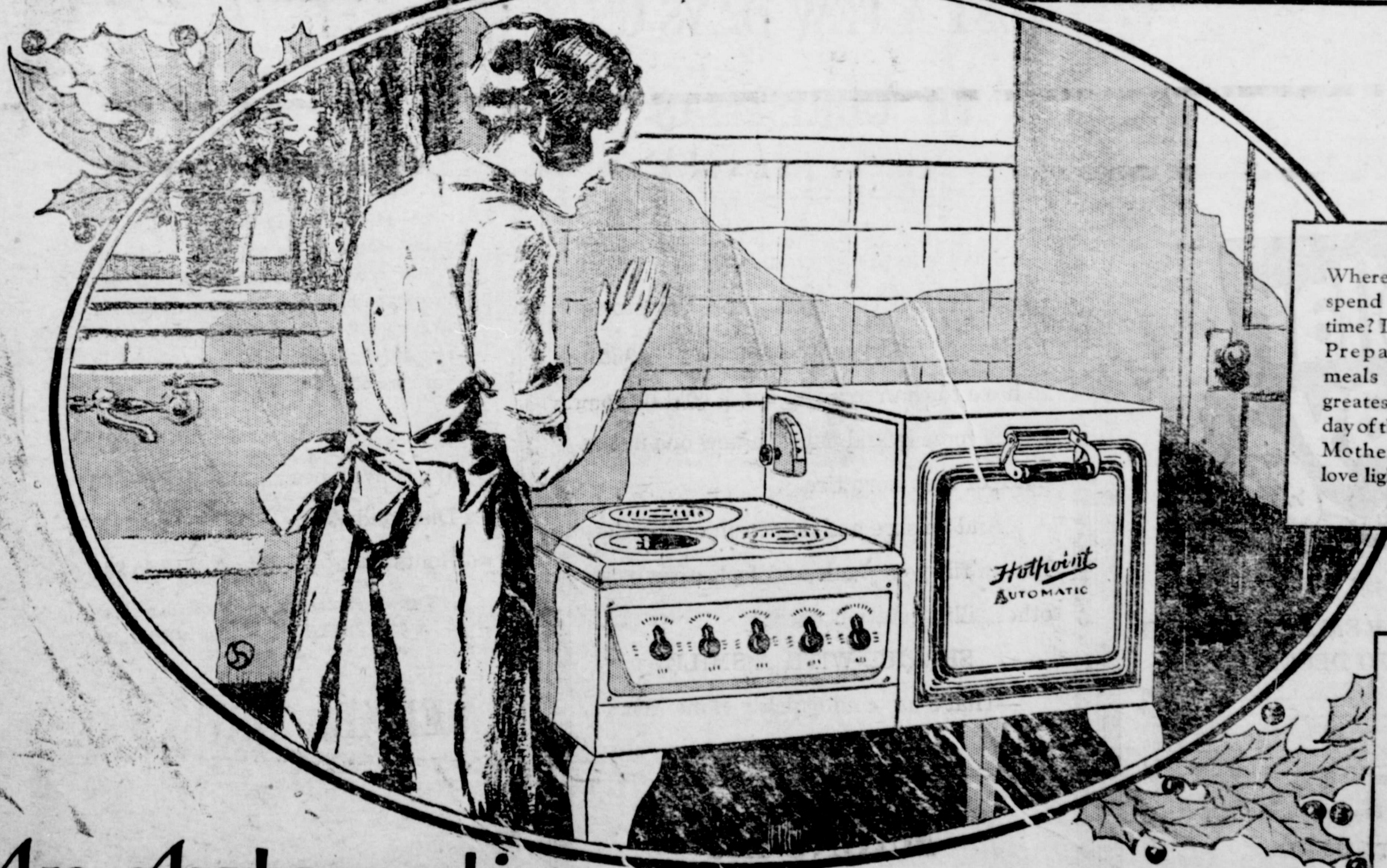
On the way we met many cars traveling frantically toward the reluctant well. One of us, thinking to hearten himself, remarked upon the great interest manifested in the well. "Yes," opined another, "it should be a great well," apparently advancing the theory that the greater the interest the bigger the well.

This should be correct if oilwell is anything like a politician, for the bigger his audience and the greater its interest, the more he spouts.

Ask us how you can get one of the "Beautiful Hand Painted Japanese Art Panels" at Brown's.

Mrs. Porterfield of Post, spent last week here with her mother, Mrs. W. R. Hampton, who has been seriously ill for some time. Mrs. Hampton is improving now we are glad to report.

# What Mother really wants



Where does Mother spend most of her time? In the kitchen. Preparing three meals a day is her greatest task every day of the year. Make Mother's labor of love lighter.

Help Mother to remember this Christmas and your thoughtfulness every day for many years to come. This greatest of gifts has been made the easiest of all for you to give.

# An Automatic Hotpoint Electric Range

## These Improvements are Important

There are two general classes of motor car improvements. Those made primarily for their effect on the public—and those made primarily for their effect upon the car.

You will perceive at once that Dodge Brothers new five-bearing crankshaft, two-unit starting and lighting system, air cleaner and other recent improvements, are the sort that represent genuine value.

They are sound and substantial betterments, producing definite and marked results, and as such they are typical of Dodge Brothers methods and product.

Touring Car	\$935.00
Coupe	\$985.00
Special Sedan	\$1100.00

**MERKEL GARAGE**  
Front St. Merkel, Texas

*We Also Sell Dependable Used Cars*

**DODGE BROTHERS  
MOTOR CARS**

### Native Of Denmark Is Resident Of Merkel

By Vinson Ervin

From a cigar factory in Denmark to a farm in Texas in a far cry, but this is a part of the life history of J. P. Frederickson, native of Denmark and now worthy and respected citizen of Merkel. Mr. Frederickson, now in his eighty-first year, was born in Copenhagen, Denmark. He learned the trade of cigarmaker, which trade he followed until about his twentieth year when a breakdown in health necessitated a change. He decided to come to the United States, and arrived in this country in May, 1865. He soon took up his residence in Michigan, where he lived for ten years, following the trade of cigarmaker. At the end of that time Mr. Frederickson concluded that he preferred a milder climate to that of Michigan, and accordingly moved to Texas, purchasing a farm

near Dallas. Soon after his removal to the Lone Star State, Mr. Frederickson met for the first time Miss Mary Peterson, who became his wife. It would appear that destiny, coincidence or some such guiding element entered into this match, for Mrs. Frederickson is also a native of Denmark, which country she left at the age of fourteen years, and came to the United States and eventually to Texas.

After farming a while, Mr. Frederickson disposed of his farm and worked for various railroads, holding a number of different positions, including construction work. He was in the employ of the railroads for about seventeen years. He then became engaged in construction work in Dallas, which business he followed for four years. He built the first road to the Dallas fair grounds. "One Sunday morning," said Mr. Frederickson, "I happened to look out of my house and saw a crowd

gathered over toward the land that had been bought for the new fair grounds. I said to my wife I would go over and see what it was about. When I got over there I asked Mr. Marcellus what was doing. He said that the people were looking for a way to go to the new fair grounds, but couldn't get through the brush and over the creek as there was no road. He said they wanted a way to get there by eight o'clock the next morning. I told him I would build them a road by that time. He didn't believe I could do it, but he talked to the others and they said for me to try it. I got two men and we started to work at six o'clock that evening and by six o'clock the next morning we had the road ready. We had to clear brush and build a bridge over the creek. They all came out at eight o'clock and found the road ready. They were well pleased and wanted to know what they owed me. I told them to pay the two men who had helped me what I promised them, and I would donate my part of the work to Dallas. Mr. Marcellus and Mr. Fields came and took me all around and introduced me to the Dallas people. The fair committee employed me to do more work on the fairgrounds, and then I did other construction work for the city of Dallas. I had charge of a gang of about twenty men, and I received a salary of \$500 a month. I was the boss of the gang, but I worked as hard as any of the men.

"In 1889 the money panic came, and Dallas went dead. Many people left, and you could walk for blocks past empty store buildings. People could occupy a place just to keep up the insurance. I decided the best thing I could do was to go back to farming, so we bought a farm near Grand Prairie, and lived there for six years; but had hard years most of that time. We then came to West Texas in 1896, and I bought a place near Trent."

Mr. and Mrs. Frederickson returned recently from a six months' visit to their daughters, Mrs. Kestler of Phoenix, Arizona, and Mrs. Hamilton of Los Angeles, California. Mrs. Kestler returned home with them for a visit. They expressed themselves as highly pleased with Arizona and California, particularly Arizona, and contemplate returning there.

"The climate of Arizona is very fine the year around," said Mr. Frederickson, "but it is not so good in California as there is considerable dampness and fog there at cer-

tain times of the year." "I have had American Beauty roses bloom at my home in Phoenix at Christmas," said Mrs. Kestler, in speaking of the climate of Arizona. "The scenery of Arizona is very wonderful," stated Mr. Frederickson. "By irrigation, the State has been turned from mostly desert to a fine farming country. They raise as fine flowers and fruit as California or Florida.

"We visited the Casa Grande while there. It is not far from Phoenix. It is a house so old that nobody knows who built it or when it was built. It has several stories, each about eight feet from floor to ceiling. The walls are made of adobe or cement, and are about four feet thick, and the stuff they are made of is so hard that you can't stick a knife in it. The doors are so low you have to stoop to go through them.

"We saw the new Mormon temple at Mesa, Arizona, which is now being built. It is a wonderful building."

"On the walls of one room," said Mrs. Frederickson, "are painted flowers so true to nature that you feel like you could pick them. On the walls of another room animals are painted so like-like that you almost think they are alive."

"Los Angeles is a very interesting place," Mr. Frederickson continued. "They are building a municipal building there which will be twenty-seven stories high and will cover several acres. I don't recall how many. There are paved roads from Los Angeles to all the towns around, and to the beaches, and the roads are lighted at night all the way. There is a mountain near Los Angeles from which you can get a marvelous view of the country for miles."

L. E. Martin of McKinney, formerly a resident of Merkel for many years, was here this week on business and to visit old friends. During his residence here Mr. Martin was in the employ of J. P. Sharp and C. M. Largent when they were engaged in the mercantile business at this place.

If the Mail is late this week, it will be because "Dad" lost his meal ticket. "Dad" guides the destinies of our job and ad department. He greatly yearns for the return of his meal ticket, but doesn't even hint at any reward, except extermination if said ticket is not produced.



### QUALITY MARKET & GROCERY

Here you will find the choicest cuts of meats—Brains, Sweetbreads, Pork Tenders, Dressed Poultry, and Oysters at all times.

Fish, Tuesdays and Fridays.

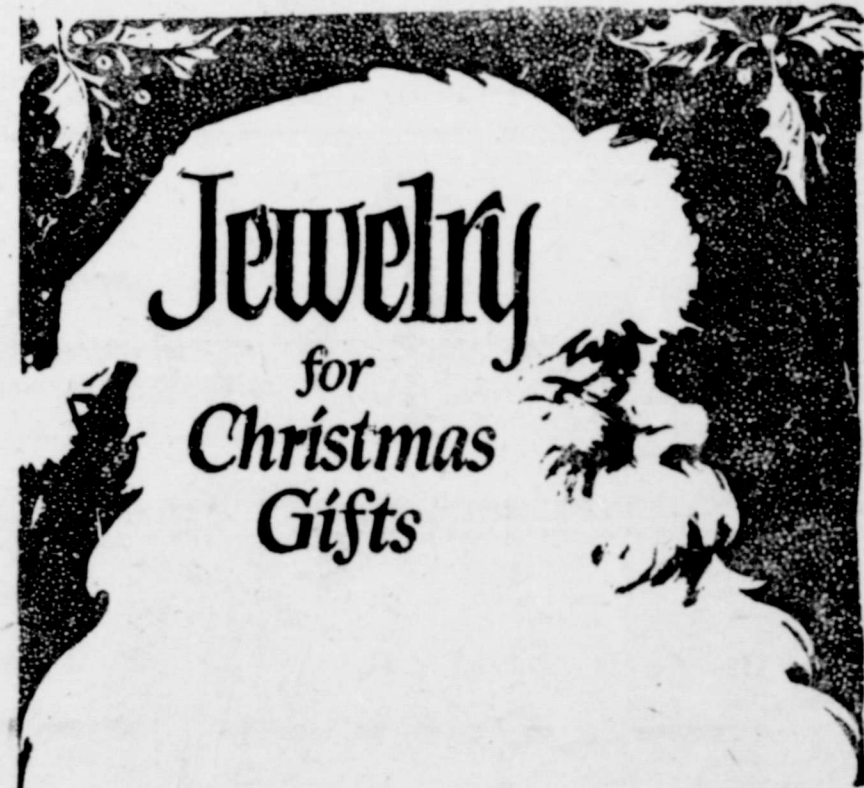
**Don't Forget Our Quality Groceries**

Because we do a strictly cash business

our prices are as low as is consistent with good business. Give us a trial. We deliver.

Phone 249, for Prompt Service.

QUALITY MARKET & GROCERY



The gift of Jewelry carries with it the most concise story of your sentiments. And in a refined way that makes a deep impression because of its inherent fineness. And when it comes from this Store it carries added prestige. Moderate prices always prevail.

Wrist Watches ..... \$18 to \$60

Diamond Rings ..... \$20 to \$300

Gents' Strap Watches... \$15 to \$40

A good selection of Rings and Bar Pins.  
A COMPLETE STOCK OF JEWELRY

**MERKEL DRUG CO.**



## JUST A FEW DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS

Most everybody wants to go somewhere in their car during the Christmas Holidays. And you know it sure is tough to have to change a tire these cold days—better come in and put on a new one in the place of that worn tire.

And be sure and don't run out of Gas. Let us fill your tank and look after your other filling station needs.

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

—That's us—and Quickly Done, too.

## MAGNOLIA FILLING STATION

C. H. JONES, Agent.

ROAD SERVICE

PHONE 159.



### "SPECIAL" DOLLAR SALE BEGINNING DECEMBER 11 TO DECEMBER 27

13 lbs. Pinto Beans	\$1.00
10 lbs. Lima Beans	\$1.00
9 lbs. Little Joy Pop Corn	\$1.00
6 cans No. 2. Peas	\$1.00
7 cans No. 2. Primrose Corn	\$1.00
8 cans No. 1. Primrose Corn	\$1.00
6 cans Select Pink Salmon	\$1.00
4 cans No. 2 1-2 Delmontie Peaches, sliced or half	\$1.00

THESE PRICES ARE CASH.

No Stamps Given.

We reserve the right to discontinue any or all these prices at any time.

YOURS FOR MORE BUSINESS

**A. R. BOOTH**

**A NEW LADIES STYLE SHOP**

Just Opened In Building Opposite  
Post Office.  
Everything In Millinery, Reary To Wear  
and Accessories.

PAY US A VISIT

**PICADILLY  
STYLE SHOP**



THEY WEAR  
LONGER

**JONES DRY GOODS**

Merkel, Texas

**FREE ADVICE—KEEP  
YOUR NOSE OUT**

A story comes from down South to the effect that an over-inquisitive man passing behind a circus tent noticed a projection against the canvas and put forth his hand to investigate. It was a mule, and the coroner's jury returned a verdict of "death by prying into what did not concern him." There are a great many people who can't keep their noses out of other people's business. No amount of expostulation or warning, seems to have any effect upon these parties from whom nothing from the merest trifle to the weightiest business matter is sacred. They can tell you more about your own business than you know yourself, and know all the neighbors think and say about you. The wise man will mind his own affairs without tendering his neighbor advice. If a man is wise he doesn't need it. If he is a fool he won't follow it. The man who minds his own business is respected in the community, but Solomn says "Every fool will be meddling."—Traveler's Magazine.

**METHODIST CHURCH**

"Good Literature Sunday." Next Sunday will be observed at the Methodist Church as "Good Literature Day," with special reference to The Texas Christian Advocate. Hope to secure many new subscriptions as well as renewals.

A fine increase in the attendance at Sunday School last Sunday. We are expecting to have a larger increase next Sunday. We solicit the active co-operation of every worker and member of the school in helping us make it what it ought to be.

Sunday School at 9:45.  
Worship at 11:00 a. m. and 7:00 p. m.

A warm welcome for strangers, visitors, and all.—W. R. McCarter.

Rev. C. C. Montandon, local pastor of the Nazarine church, pronounced the words that made man and wife Mr. J. H. Rendell, of Alpine, and Miss Nocona Bell, of this city. The ceremony took place at the home of the bride's parents, on the South side, on last Sunday.

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



**MADAM!**

for his  
**GIFT**

--tHis Store

Now is the time to give "his" car the "once over" to determine what it needs most for Christmas.

You can easily ascertain what will add to the driving, comfort, safety and completeness of the car. You can purchase gifts here with utmost confidence that

you will get the best quality of merchandise of the most improved type at the most reasonable prices.

Come here and get him a practical gift that he will enjoy.

**A Few Gift Suggestions**

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Cigar Lighters    | Ford Ignition Systems |
| Step Plates       | Stromberg Carburetors |
| Spot Lights       | Hub Cap Sets          |
| Horns             | Motormeters           |
| Windshield Wipers | Shift Lever           |
| Car Heaters       | Knobs                 |
| Auto Clocks       | Steering Wheels       |
| Mirrors           | Pedal Pants           |
| Bumpers           | Locking Radiator Caps |
| Town Plates       |                       |

**WEST COMPANY**



**CHURCH OF THE NAZARINE**

You are invited to attend church at our church every Sunday. Sunday School, 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:15 p. m. Prayer Meeting Thursday evening, 7:30.

Bible Story, Saturday evening, at 7:30.

Come and feel at home. Welcome to all!

REV. C. C. MONTANDON, Pastor

Ask us how you can get one of the "Beautiful Hand Painted Japanese Art Panels" at Brown's.



Our Store Will Play  
**Santa Claus---**

---to---

**MERKEL**

FULLY REALIZING THAT THE STRINGENT FINANCIAL SITUATION BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE UNUSUALLY LOW PRICE OF COTTON HAS PLACED SO GREAT A BURDEN UPON THE PEOPLE THAT MANY WILL FIND IT NECESSARY TO CURTAIL THEIR CHRISTMAS PURCHASES, WE ARE GOING TO SHOW YOU OUR HEART IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE BY OFFERING YOU GOODS WHICH YOU MAY GIVE AS USEFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AT SUCH EXTRAORDINARILY LOW PRICES THAT THE SUBSTANTIAL SAVING YOU WILL MAKE WILL BE, IN EFFECT, A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FROM US TO YOU. SO LET US PLAY SANTA CLAUS TO YOU BY COMING TO OUR STORE AND BUYING SUCH USEFUL GIFTS AS WE SUGGEST BELOW:

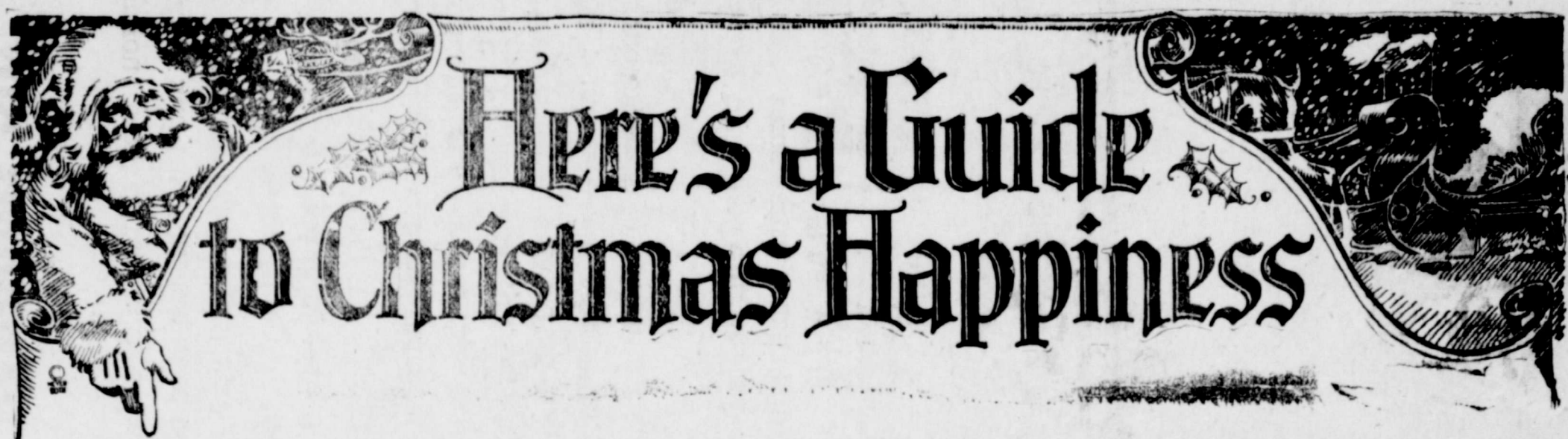
BLANKETS, COMFORTS, OVERCOATS, RAINCOATS, MUFFLERS, GLOVES, ALL GOOD, WARM ONES IN PLEASING DESIGNS.

SHIRTS, HATS, SHOES, TIES, HANDECHIEFS, TRAVELING BAGS, SUITCASES, AND MANY OTHER THINGS THAT WILL MAKE USEFUL GIFTS FOR MOTHER, FATHER, SISTER AND BROTHER.

**MAX MALLINGER**

**STARTS**  
**SATURDAY**

December 11th



**CLOSES**  
**FRIDAY**

December 24th

# BARROW'S Annual December Sale



*Tune in on these*  
**Holiday Values!**

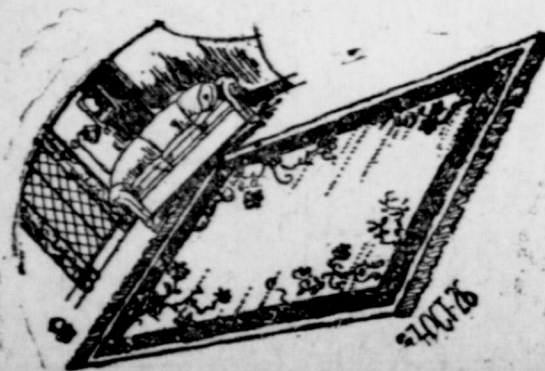
**\$20,000 STOCK OF FURNITURE  
MUST BE REDUCED BY  
JANUARY 1ST**

**OUR HARD LUCK—YOUR GOOD FORTUNE!**  
We anticipated a heavy Fall business, and bought accordingly, but the low price of cotton, played havoc with our business, hence we are compelled to sacrifice profits in order to reduce our stock.



**OPEN YOUR EYES**

**This is An Honest Confession. NOTE THE PRICES AND BE YOUR OWN JUDGE**



**RUGS! RUGS! RUGS!**

Size 9x12 Tapestry Brussels Rug	\$9.85
Size 9x12 Fringed Velvet Rug	\$22.75
Size 9x12 Heavy Seamed Exminister Rug	\$27.95
Size 9x12 Heavy Seamless Axminister Rug	\$29.95
Size 9x12 Wilton Velvet Run	\$82.50

**CHRISTMAS ROCKERS**

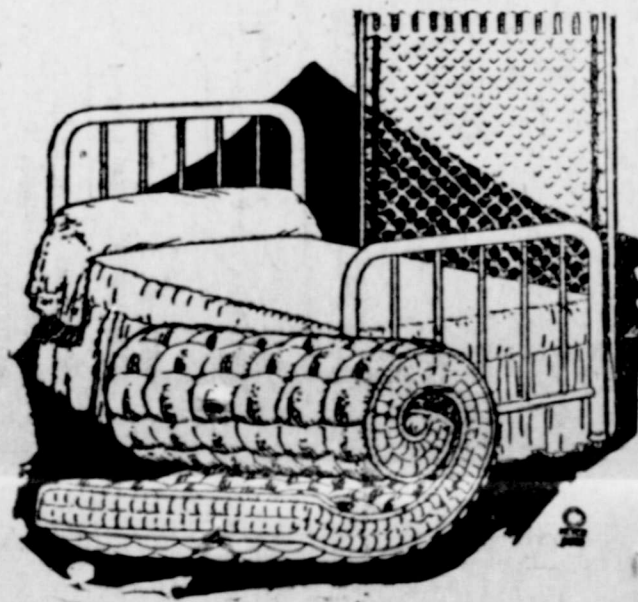
You can't enjoy Christmas Day without a comfortable Rocker. Buy now while the prices are cut to the very bottom.



**OAK DINING TABLES**

All Tables priced so they will have to sell regardless of cost, they must go.

A 42x6 All Oak Table, for the low price of \$11.75  
Other sizes in proportion



**BEDS, SPRINGS AND MATTRESSES**

- One Full Size 2 In. Post Bed—
- One Full Size Coil Spring—
- One Full Size 45 lb. Cotton Mattress
- All 3 pieces for only \$17.25
- Special Prices On All Bed Springs and Mattresses



**LAMPS**

All Lamps greatly reduced. A splendid Xmas gift. Large stock to select from. Priced as low as \$7.85

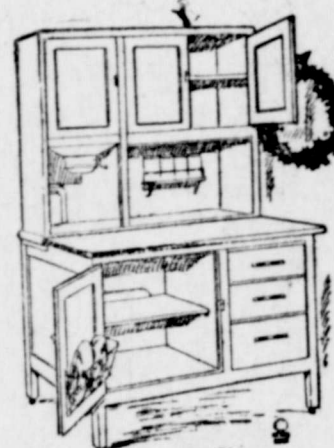
**ODD PIECE SPECIAL**

All odd pieces such as Buffets, Chiffoniers, Low Boys, Servers and etc., they must sell, get the prices, they are right.

**NOTICE!  
FREE GOODS**

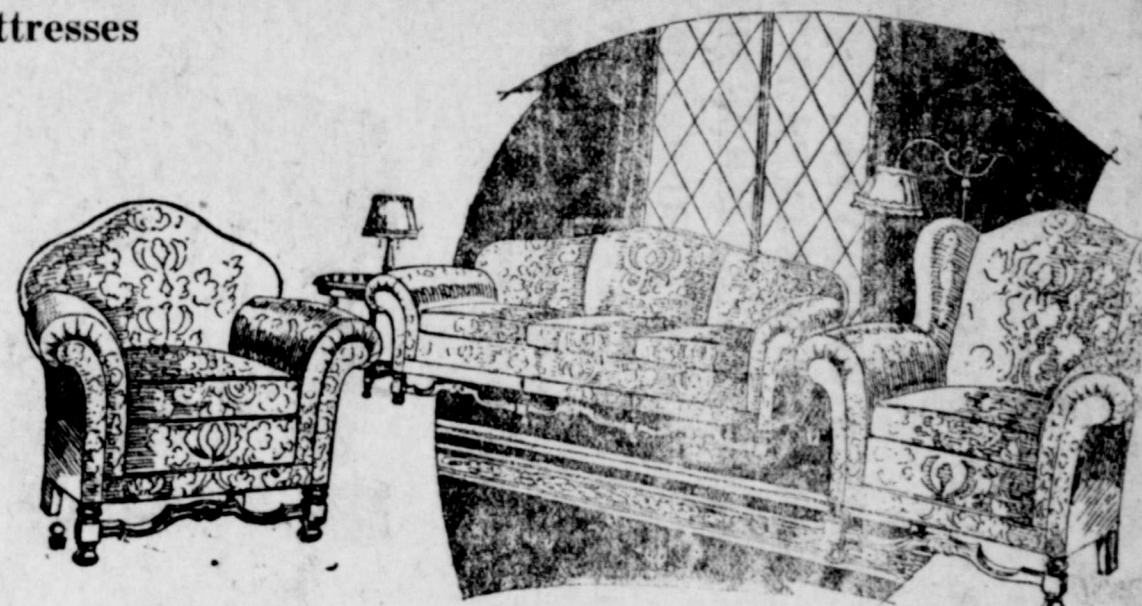
—With each Living Room or Bed Room Suit that sells for \$100.00 or more, we will give FREE, a beautiful Floor Lamp.

—With each Dining Room Suit that sells for \$100.00 or more, we will give FREE, a handsome Buffett Mirror.  
—With each Kitchen Cabinet that sells for \$60.00 or more, we will give a 32-piece Dinner Set.



**MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT—**

A Cabinet. Nothing will bring more real joy to wife or mother, than a new Sellers Kitchen Cabinet. All Cabinets, including the Sellers are specially priced for our December Sale.



**LIVING ROOM SUIT SPECIAL**

The home is not complete without a Living Room Suit. We are offering Extra Special Reduction on all Suits.

**BED ROOM SPECIAL**

All Bedroom Suits Greatly Reduced

**EXTRA SPECIAL**

One five-piece Suit finished in Walnut Cafe, au lair, or shaded green for only \$69.95

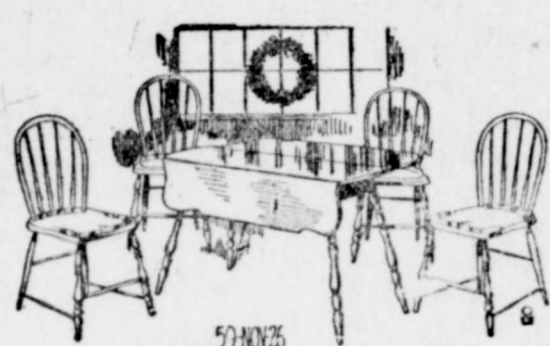


**EXTRA SPECIAL**

—Linoleums. We are overstocked on 6-10 Linoleums and must reduce this stock. stocked on 6 ft. Linoleums leum, you will be surprised.

**OUR OBJECT--**

—In reducing the prices of our goods is in order to turn the merchandise into cash, therefore, nothing will be charged at these prices. IT MUST BE CASH!



**BREAKFAST ROOM SUITS**

We have just a few five-piece Breakfast Room Suits, finished in Ivory and Blue and Shaded Blue, Dec. Sale Price \$17.75  
One five-piece unfinished Suit for only \$12.95

You will have to hurry to get one of these Suits.



**PHONE SETS, MIRRORS**

**Cedar Chests, Desks, Tilt-top Tables, Smokers, Childs' Rockers**

Any article in this group will make a lovely Xmas Gift. Make your selection early--give something useful.



**==BARROW FURNITURE COMPANY==**

**MERKEL, - - TEXAS**

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION TO NON-RESIDENT AND UNKNOWN OWNERS

THE STATE OF TEXAS, County of Taylor.

WHEREAS, THE STATE OF TEXAS, Through its County Attorney, did, on the 3rd day of December A. D. 1926, file in the District Court of Taylor County, in the State of Texas, its petition in Suit No. 815-T on the Civil Docket of said Court, being suit brought by the said THE STATE OF TEXAS, as Plaintiff against Mrs. Ada Johnson (widow), H. A. Carpenter and Mrs. H. A. Carpenter, Joe Nobles and Mrs. Joe

Nobles, Cliff Sherman and Mrs. Cliff Sherman, whose residences are unknown to affiant and after diligent inquiry cannot be ascertained and that G. D. Nobles and Mrs. G. D. Nobles and J. F. Jordan and Mrs. J. F. Jordan are non-residents of this state, as defendants and the nature of the Plaintiff's demand as stated in the said petition being an action to recover of the Defendants as the owner of the lands returned delinquent for the taxes due thereon for the years 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, and 1925; and, whereas, the said owners non-resident of the State (or the name of said owner unknown), and upon the affidavit of

Frank E. Smith County Attorney having been made, setting forth that said two owners are non-residents of the State of Texas and residents of others are unknown to affiant, as the Attorney for the State of Texas, and after inquiry, cannot be ascertained.)

THE FOLLOWING NOTICE IS, THEREFORE, To cite all interested parties and to make parties Defendant by notice in the name of THE STATE OF TEXAS, and the County of Taylor, directed to all persons owning or being in any way interested in the lands therein described delinquent to the State and County for taxes, and to be published in a newspaper in said County, one time a week for three consecutive weeks, in the manner and style following:—

THE STATE OF TEXAS AND THE COUNTY OF Taylor to Mrs. Ada Johnson (widow), H. A. Carpenter and Mrs. H. A. Carpenter, and Joe Nobles and Mrs. Joe Nobles, Cliff Sherman and Mrs. Cliff Sherman whose residence are unknown, and G. D. Nobles and Mrs. G. D. Nobles, and J. F. Jordan and Mrs. J. F. Jordan who are non-residents of the State and W. D. Hutcheson and Mrs. W. D. Hutcheson who reside in Taylor County, Texas, who are the heirs and only heirs of P. Nobles and Mrs. P. Nobles and to all persons owning or having or claiming any interest in the following described land delinquent to the State of Texas and County of Taylor for taxes, to-wit: Lots 13 to 16; Lots 13, 14, 15 and 16 and Block No. 15, College addition to the city of Merkel, Taylor County, Texas which said land is delinquent for taxes for the following amounts: \$78.76 for State taxes, and County for County taxes, and you are hereby notified that suit has been brought by the State for the collection of said taxes and you are commanded to appear and defend such suit at the January Term of the District Court of Taylor County, and State of Texas, being the next regular term thereof to be held at the Court House thereof, at Abilene, on the 3rd day of January 1927 and show cause why judgment shall not be rendered condemning said land (or lots), and ordering sale and foreclosure thereof for said taxes and costs of suit.

WITNESS MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL At my office in Abilene, Texas, this 3rd day of December A. D. 1926.

J. K. FULLER, District Clerk, Taylor County, Texas. 1013

L. R. Thompson, secretary Chamber of Commerce, states he receives many applications from persons seeking employment in various lines. Anyone needing help should see Mr. Thompson as he can perhaps assist them in securing help experienced in the right line.

According to reports, owners of good, going bog-holes, where the going was not so good, had so rushing a business (not so rushing, either) during the rain this week that they will be due Uncle Sam a handsome income tax.

Ask us how you can get one of the "Beautiful Hand Painted Japanese Art Panels" at Brown's.

## Tune Up Your Car For the Holidays

When you go out to the garage these cold mornings and find that same old tire flat again, and after you pump it up hoping it will last 'till you get to town, then you can't start the blamed thing—don't it take the joy out of driving?

If this is the case with your car, bring it to us and let us tune it up for the Christmas Holidays. Let us recharge or sell you a new Battery, and put a new Tire in the place of that old one—put some Winter Oil in your motor, set your carburetor and tune 'er up.

Then fill up with Good Gulf or No-Nox Gasoline, have some anti-freeze put in your radiator, and you'll be ready for Christmas driving.

A Complete Service

## EVERYBODYS GARAGE

FRONT STREET

PHONE 72



FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER

## BAKERY GOODIES

The housewife deserves a holiday on Christmas Day the same as other people. Plan now to buy Bakery Goods for Christmas Dinner, and have more time to enjoy the day out of the kitchen.

CALL TODAY AND ORDER YOUR FRUIT CAKE AND OTHER SPECIALS! BREAD IS YOUR BEST FOOD—EAT MORE OF IT!

FRESH BREAD BAKED DAILY

Pies Doughnuts Cakes Macrons Candies

## THE QUALITY BAKERY

## REMEMBER WHEN YOU WANT YOUR CLOTHES CLEANED THE MODERN WAY

No gas odors comes back with that clean, sweet smell. We are the only plant in town equipped with the modern drying tumbler.

Clothes washed in a continuous flow of clean gas. Your clothes come back like new.

CALL NO. 3.

## THE MODERN DRY CLEANERS AND TAILORS

### THE FARMER'S PROBLEM

Nothing much having been said nor much printer's ink wasted on the cotton situation, we have decided to have our say about it.

We have noted here and there in the news of the day items about farmers who have carried themselves through the pinch by having some acres in peanuts, potatoes or similar crop, or a flock of hogs or herd of turkeys, all of which usually find a stable market as edibles, in other words they are part of the world's food, the demand for which is created day by day. If some farmers can do this, all and any can, only they shouldn't all choose the same crop, as they do cotton.

The demand for cotton is, in round figures, virtually the same from year to year. Unless new uses are found for cotton, the demand for it

does not increase, except almost imperceptibly as the population of the entire country increases; neither does the demand decrease at any time. It only appears to increase or decrease, according to whether the supply fills it or fails to fill it. When it is supplied, it is quietest, apparently non-existent; when it is unsupplied, it is, in a manner of speaking, clamorous, it then makes its existence manifest. An animal, if unfed calls for its food; if fed, it is quiet, but no one doubts its existence on that account. Who overfeeds his horse, risks foundering him. Those who oversupply the demand, or market, for cotton glut it. Its capacity is so great and no greater; the horse's capacity is so great and no greater. A large crop fully supplies the demand for cotton. A small crop does not, therefore the demand for cotton is voiced by those

who want cotton, thus making the demand apparent, and the farmer mistakes it for a greater demand, and raises a larger crop, when as a matter of fact it is no greater, or not materially so, than when the large crop fully supplied it.

The cotton situation is the problem of each farmer's, individually, and he only can supply the solution to it. And he can find the solution only by close study of his problem. Nor can he solve it with somebody's else's solution. It will require his own study of it, and we mean intensive study, not merely thinking about it. To merely think is to go in circles.

Who remembers when a girl with an unattractive face had to let it go at that?

Send those lots with a classified ad in the Mail.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS

SELECT NOW

- Smoking Stands
- Kodaks
- Toilet Sets
- Ivory Sets
- Candle Sticks
- Silverware
- Books
- Christmas Cards and Seals
- Electric Percolators
- Electric Pads
- Electric Irons
- Fish Aquariums
- Candy
- Christmas Cigars
- Pipe Sets
- Shaving Sets
- Bibles and Glassware

OUR JEWELRY STOCK IS COMPLETE

## HAMM DRUG CO.



# COZY THEATRE

ALL NEXT WEEK

BEGINNING MONDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

## The Merry Madcaps Revue

—Featuring—

14-PIECE ALL-GIRL BAND AND ORCHESTRA

16 Beautiful Chorus Girls

## VAUDEVILLE

SINGING, DANCING AND ACROBATICS

The most dazzling array of beautiful costumes, scenery and electrical effects ever exhibited in Merkel

ENTIRE CHANGE OF PROGRAM EVERY NIGHT

No pictures will be shown except Friday and Saturday when we will show—

## "THE SILENT FLYER."

Chapter IX

ADMISSION ..... 10c and 50c

### HOLLYWOOD THINKS "BATTLING BUTLER" GREATEST COMEDY

To unreservedly classify a picture as the greatest of its kind ever made is taking in a lot of territory.

"Greatest" is a trite, over-worked word unless backed by undisputable evidence which warrants using it. The evidence that "Battling Butler," the new Buster Keaton photoplay which starts a special run at the Cozy Theatre Monday is the greatest comedy ever made is in the form of opinions voiced by leading Hollywood directors, players, writers, film executives and others who saw the picture previewed.

When the sophisticated, critical luminaries of the motion picture capital nearly fall off their seats with laughter and cheer the exciting scenes of a picture which, although built primarily for fun, has situations seldom rivaled in dramatic productions, that picture must be great.

When women and girls rave over a comedian's prowess as a love maker and marvel at the rich settings of a picture, and masculine screen fans, from eight to eighty, agree that the fight scenes are the most thrilling they have ever seen, it must be conceded that such a picture has the rare faculty of delighting every class of theatregoer.

"Battling Butler," is an epic comedy for several reasons. It is the most ambitious picture Keaton has ever made, and he has made many highly successful comedies, as the world knows. The months that the frozen-faced star-director spent picturizing the New York and London stage hit, after paying a huge price for the screen rights, are well rewarded, for the comedy is a veritable laugh riot from the first fade-in to the final fade-out.

Buster is recognized in the motion picture industry as a comedian who demands—and gets—originality and flawless acting in his comedies. Directing as well as starring in his pictures, Keaton keeps away from studio-worn hokum and strives for brilliant new mirth-provoking situations.

"Battling Butler" is different. The plot—and it's a real one—is different. Even Buster, funnier than ever, is different. Imagine the frozen-faced farceur, minus his pancake hat and ill-fitting clothes, but instead a Beau Brummel—a fashion plate who changes his attire several



## Notice To Public

All portraits made on or before the 22nd of December  
Will be finished and ready for delivery  
Christmas Eve.

HAVE THEM MADE NOW

Give Your Friends  
Something Different This Year.

## RODDEN STUDIO

MERKEL, TEXAS

times a day, with the aid of a valet!

And then, because lovesick youths rush in where even cops fear to tread, thrust such a dandy into an atmosphere of hard-boiled pugilists, and the resultant happenings are a scream.

"Battling Butler" is released by Metro-Goldwyn for Joseph M. Schenck.

Ask us how you can get one of the "Beautiful Hand Painted Japanese Art Panels" at Brown's.

Whatever became of the old-fashioned girl who, at this time of year, had a dresser drawer full of doilies and fancy work prepared for Christmas giving?

### MANY POSTOFFICES IN U S DISCONTINUED

Few people know that between 700 and 800 postoffices a year for the past three years, or from June 1st, 1923 to June 1st, 1926, were discontinued by the United States Post-office Department.

Postoffices were discontinued in each State and in each of the principal possessions and territories. The largest number discontinued in any one State was in West Virginia. Hawaii lost the smallest number, which was 2. But of the States, Del-

aware lost the fewest, three. Texas had eighty-six discontinuations, two of which were Blair, which is being supplied from Merkel, and Noodle, which is supplied from Anson.

The rain which fell here Sunday night, Monday and Wednesday amounted to over four inches. This will provide an excellent winter season and will be of great benefit to wheat and the cattle range. Doubtless, however, it damaged cotton still in the field to some extent, but sufficient damage of that kind might result in a slight upward trend in the price of cotton.

### T. E. L. CLASS

The members of the T. E. L. Class of the Baptist Church, spent a happily informal time Friday, in the home of Mrs. J. S. Swann, having their annual "Love Feast," at this time.

At one o'clock guests and members were served a very tempting two course luncheon, and a very unique contest was had at this time, after which the class went into a short business meeting.

The president, Mrs. John Toombs, presided for the afternoon, the class sang, "My Faith Looks Up To Thee" opened the business meeting. Mrs. A. E. Brown read for the devotional the 12th chapter of Romans, with Mrs. Sam Swann leading in prayer.

Several items of business were disposed of, and plans discussed to start the New Year.

Every one was anxious for this part of the meeting to be over, as the house was decorated as if Christmas might be near, and looked as if "Santy" might have already been down the chimney, as "little stockings were hanging in a row." Doris Jackson, gave a reading at this time, then all eyes were turned to the children's gifts, also a basket full of pretty gifts were there for the following members: Mesdames Bill Sheppard, Jim Mayfield, A. D. Fulton, A. E. Brown, W. H. Derstine, I. N. Crane, Frank Hodo, Earl Lassiter, John Toombs, Dent Gipson, Ira Moore, Clyde Deavers, Burl Scott, O. R. Dye, A. R. Booth, Claude Demals, Frank McFarland, W. J. Largent, T. E. Collins, I. L. Jackson, Sam Swann, and guests, Mesdames, Booth Warren, Kirby Beckett, Robbins, J. S. Swann and J. T. Warren.

### AUTO NUMBER PLATES

If your auto or truck has been registered for any part of 1926, and you wish to avoid the January rush, you can register for 1927 now, if you will bring or send your 1926 receipt and a headlight certificate not over 30 days old to the Tax Collector's office. I can not recognize a certificate over 30 days old.—D. T. Harkrider, Tax Collector. 1tpd

A man seldom turns over a new leaf until the old one is all smeared.

Let us be thankful all the girls chewing gum are not chewing tobacco.

Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

## COZY THEATRE

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, December 10th and 11th  
HUNT STROMBERG PRESENTS—

HARRY CAREY

In

"Beyond The Border"

—Also—

AN ADVENTURE PICTURE—

"The Silent Flyer"

CHAPTER VIII—"FLAMES OF TERROR"

With a William Fox Imperial Comedy

"Two Lips In Holland"

PRICES 10 AND 30c

## NOT ORIGINAL

We do not claim credit for originating the slogan "Dodge Brothers Dealers Sell Good Used Cars." But we do claim to be doing our part to impress the world with its truthfulness.

Merkel Garage  
Front St. Merkel, Texas

A USED CAR IS ONLY AS DEPENDABLE AS THE DEALER WHO SELLS IT



### The Easiest Car for Her to Drive

If you're choosing a low-priced car that has to meet with feminine approval—be guided by the experience of tens of thousands, and buy a Chevrolet! Like no other car of its class, Chevrolet combines those features which make a car easy for women to operate with those qualities that women instinctively demand in an automobile.

It is easy to start, steer and stop. It is simple and safe to handle under all conditions. And, best of all, it offers the inimitable smartness, elegance and luxury of bodies by Fisher on all closed models.

Just bring her in and let her see for herself how well Chevrolet meets her ideals of fine quality.

### at These Low Prices!

Running Boarder \$510

Coupe \$645

Four-Door Sedan \$735

Landau \$765

Truck \$375

Truck \$495

Small down payment and convenient terms. Ask about our 6% Purchase Certificate Plan.

## Lowe-Brackeen Motor Co.

MERKEL, TEXAS

QUALITY AT LOW COST



# Gifts that make Christmas merrier



**T**HE TIME HAS COME AGAIN when we must think of something to give Mother, Daddy, Wife, Husband, Brother, Sister, Baby, Friend or Sweetheart, for Christmas. We would suggest that you give something in the Hardware line--something that is serviceable. Below we suggest just a few of the many things that we have that make excellent presents. Come around early and let us help you do your shopping.



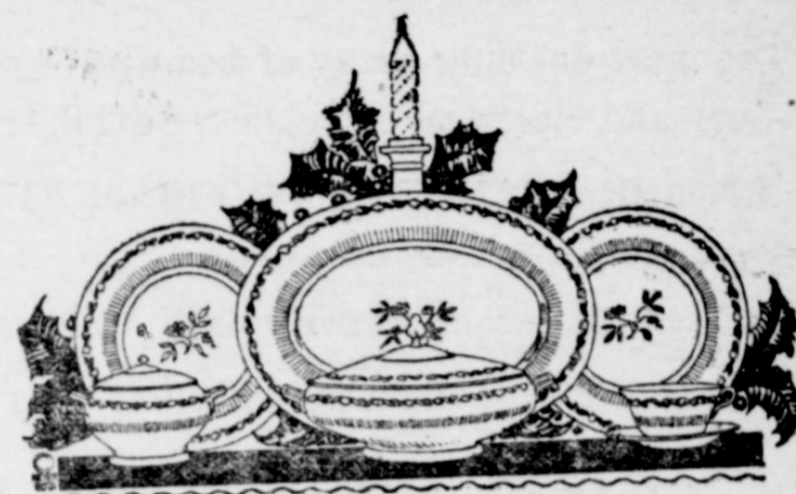
**AUTOMOBILES**

Automobiles for the youngsters in a range of Styles and Prices.



**BOYS' WAGONS**

Boys' Wagons from cheap up. Coasters too.



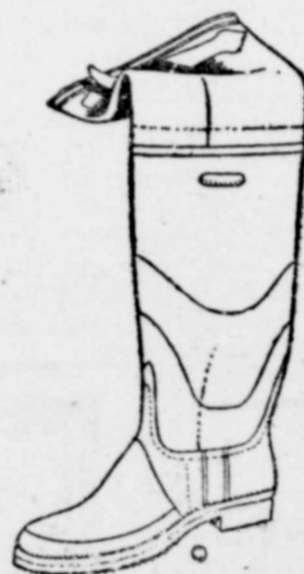
**CHINAWARE**

Chinaware in Beautiful Patterns in Sets or Open Stock. We have just added another pattern, see it.



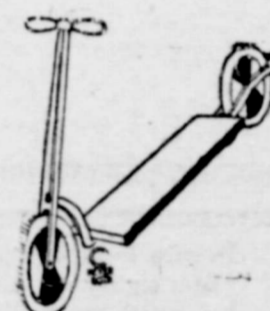
**SILVERWARE**

Silverware in well known Brands and Patterns.



**HIP RUBBER BOOTS**

A few pair of Hip Rubber Boots for the Duck Hunters, at a Special Price.



**SCOOTERS**

Scoters in different sizes. Skips in pedal and without for the little Tots.



**POCKET CUTLERY**

Pocket Cutlery of all sizes and prices.



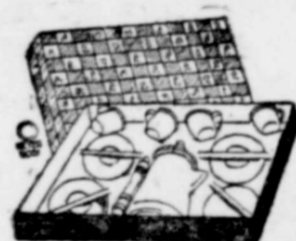
**SPORT GOODS**

Foot Balls, Punching Bags, Base Ball Goods, Basket Balls. The kind the boys want.



**TRICYCLES**

Tricycles from \$3.00 to \$17.50, a price to fit any pocket book.



**ALUMINUM SETS**

Child's Aluminum Sets as well as Household Necessities.



A new Pattern in Heaters, see it.



**HOT BLAST HEATERS**

Special on Hot Blast Heaters until December the 24th.



**OAK HEATERS**

Oak Heaters are attractive and are medium priced.

**W**E will store anything that is selected now in Santa's Store Room until he calls for it. Make your selections early and you will not be disappointed.

GENERAL LINE OF HARDWARE OF ALL KINDS

**LIBERTY HARDWARE CO.**

IF ITS HARDWARE, WE HAVE IT.

# Guaranty Abstract Co.

114½ Pine Street  
**ABILENE, TEXAS**

For PROMPT, EFFICIENT SERVICE have your abstract work done by us.

**We Guarantee Satisfaction**

**H. B. TAYLOR, Manager**

**Phone 1132**

**ABILENE, TEXAS**

Baker & Wheeler will appreciate your business. We handle fresh and cured meats at all times.

**Remember**  
 That every added subscriber helps to make this paper better for everybody

## A Word With the Old Folks

Elderly People Are Learning Importance of Good Elimination.

IN the later years of life there is apt to be a slowing up of the bodily functions. Good elimination, however, is just as essential to the old as to the young. Many old folks have learned the value of Doan's Pills when a stimulant diuretic to the kidneys is required. Scanty or burning passages of kidney secretions are often signs of improper kidney function. In most every community are scores of users and endorsers who acclaim the merit of Doan's. Ask your neighbor!

**DOAN'S PILLS** 60c  
 Stimulant Diuretic to the Kidneys  
 Foster-Milburn Co., Mfg. Chem., Buffalo, N. Y.

## Has Complete History of Spanish Mantilla

At last I have found the trail, Francis Milton exclaims, in exultant mood, in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Some years ago browsing in the archives of Palma in the Island of Majorca I came across a document which professed to give the history of the Spanish mantilla. Lately it turned up again among a mass of notes. The Spanish mantilla was originally a mark of shame for the femininity of loose morals of the day, a day away back before Goya and the Spanish painters took it out of its class and made it an appurtenance of the dress of the ladies of the court.

Originally the mantilla crossed its rather straggly ends of the time down over the breast in the form of a letter A. These bretelles were red. One wonders if Hawthorne ever knew this. There's the plot ready made. One and another of most modern and ancient writers went and took what they wanted where they found it, a procedure which is ethically legitimate up to a certain point.

It should be remembered that the mantilla of today resembles very little that of the fairylke Island of Majorca, where the sun ever shines and the thermometer never falls very low. By a process of development it came to be what it is, but it was always a headress. I put it that way, not being a fashion writer, but I vouch for the rest of the statement as supported by documentary evidence and only recount it here by the possibility of be-

ing able to drag in Hawthorne. That happens to be vivid in my mind because in my youth I once lived across the street from the House of Seven Gables. How the circles do cut in on one another, like those of the planetary system!

## Herring Is Bread

What is to become of the people who live on the islands of the Zuyder zee in Holland when that spa becomes dry land? Pierre Van Passen asks, in the Atlanta Constitution. As far back as human memory goes these people have been fishers. The sea is in their blood. "Herring is bread," as they say themselves. From their very youth their whole life is directed toward the sea. "Only idiots and fools stay on dry land," a wrinkled old skipper told us once. The little ganins in their wide trousers can hardly walk when they fashion a ship out of an old wooden shoe, fix it up with rudder and sail and float it on the ditch. When they come from school they first must see the harbor. Is there a trawler running in or a tugboat they shout: "Did you see father?" and "How much of a catch did he have?" Fish and the Calvinist sermons of the pastor are their life and breath. The Dutch government, it is said, will compensate them. Nevertheless it all means the end of a picturesque race. And it will be just as hard to make landlubbers out of these children of the sea as it is for Russia to make Jewish merchants into farm-

## No Complications to Justice in Abyssinia

Abyssinia is a country without lawyers, explains Rosita Forbes, famous woman explorer, in an article telling how the East solves its crime problem in Liberty. "For there are no courts except for foreign nationals in the capital. Any respected citizen may act as judge. Seated by the roadside, or in the open market, he will listen patiently. The witnesses will often mimic the whole scene.

"If one man accuses another of crime, they are chained together until the case can be adjudged. If the couple are of opposite sexes, the plaintiff has to produce a man or woman of his own family, according to the sex of the defendant, to be chained to him or her until judgment is given.

"Death can be imposed only by the empress or her regent. Treason or any crime against the Imperial person is punished by slow strangulation in the public market. Ordinary cases of murder are often settled on a basis of blood money. If blood money is refused, the murderer is taken to the potter's field outside the city and handed over to the family of his victim.

"He must be killed exactly as he killed—by knife or bullet or rope, as the case may be. Two policemen stand by to see that no torture is committed."

## Expression Job Used Now Ordinary Slang

The expression, "I escaped by the skin of my teeth," used, say, when a pedestrian has just dodged a motor car by a hair's breadth, is often regarded as pure slang, and many a boy has been rebuked by his very proper maiden aunt for using it. Yet it is taken direct, with the change of one small preposition, from the most literary book in the Bible, that great poem of "the ways of God with man," that we know as the Book of Job.

It occurs in chapter 19, verse 20, that reads: "My bone cleaveth to my skin and to my flesh, and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth." It is a forceful metaphor, because the teeth have no skin, and thus it carries the idea of the closest shave imaginable.

Job is referring to the fact that all his family have perished and all his riches have flown away, and that he himself is not only in dire poverty, but in very bad health as well. The only thing left to him is his life, and even that is so full of misery that it is hardly worth retaining.

## French Financial Law

An apprenticeship tax was provided for in the French financial law passed July 13, 1925. By the terms of the law a so-called "apprenticeship tax" is imposed on every person or organization engaged in industrial, commercial or mining enterprises, with certain exceptions, whose annual pay roll amounts to more than 10,000 francs. The tax is used to extend the work of trade, commercial and industrial schools, of the national vocational schools, and of occupational or other courses which have for their object the restoration of apprenticeship training or the preparation of young people for a commercial or industrial occupation, and also to extend the development of scientific laboratories.

## Li-Po

In the days when the venerable Bede was writing church history in Northumbria, and Charles Martel hammering Saracens at Tours, and Leo the Isaurian smashing images in Byzantium, the intelligent Chinese were writing poetry. And when, just a thousand years later, a selection was made from the still surviving verse of this Tang dynasty (Seventh-Ninth centuries A. D.), even the anthology included nearly fifty thousand poems in nine hundred books (which may teach our sorely tried generation that others have suffered even worse); and of the twenty-three hundred poets there enrolled, the greatest was Li-Po.—F. L. Lucas, in "Authors."

## The Gift of Water

The gift of a drinking fountain to a city is the eldest of all such gifts. It was first given when libraries were for the priestly, learned few, and when parks were owned by savages, surly nobles. Thither the pigeons came, and cooing to the people with

## NAME OF "GIRAFFE" TRACED TO ARABIA

### Animal Mentioned in Book of Deuteronomy.

Where did the very first giraffe's name come from?

That's interesting in view of the fact that we want a name for Washington's new giraffe, but it's a hard one to answer. We can only go back as far as recorded history carries us, and we must suppose that up to that time they had no particular names, although it seems reasonable to believe that the cavemen of Africa called them something.

Anyhow, about the first record we find showing that men were interested in giraffes is in the Bible. In the Book of Deuteronomy there is repeated reference to a creature which the Jews called the "zemer." Literally translated into English, that means something like "chamois."

So, probably the first known name for a giraffe was "zemer." There is not much apparent similarity between the chamols of South America and the giraffe of Africa, is there? But that name probably developed from the fact that the giraffe's skin is very tough and very soft, something like that of the chamols.

The first time a giraffe was ever known to be in anything resembling a zoo was in the days of Caesar. Ancient history tells how strange, tall animals were exhibited in the same amphitheaters, where the Romans used to throw the defenseless Christians to the savage lions. But the Romans called them "camelopard."

In some parts of the world that name is still used to some extent. If you have ever seen a giraffe you can easily guess how the Romans got the name "camelopard." A giraffe has long legs and neck like a camel, yet it is spotted like a leopard. So it is a logical name after all. But such a name was only descriptive, it meant nothing at all.

Our word "giraffe" is really much better. It is not only descriptive of the animal's color, but it gives him a definite place in the animal kingdom.

it was taken from the Arabic word, "Zarafah," which means "tallest of all animals." The Arabs still call giraffes "za-ra-fahs," and it is not at all unlikely that their name is even older than that used by the Jews, although we have no records to prove that.

We are told that giraffes were once plentiful over most of Africa. They were such inoffensive, friendly creatures, however, that they became easy prey for the natives and Arabs in the old days, and where they once roamed in great herds they have almost been exterminated, representing now one of the most valuable of all animals.

Their flesh provided the natives with ample quantities of delicious meat, and their tough hides, when cleaned and dried, served numerous purposes, from making good, tough ropes to offering an easy means of rainproofing the roof of a native home. It was not uncommon even a few years ago to see as many as 40 giraffes in a single herd. Six or seven is about the limit now.—Washington Star.

## SIMPLE RULES FOR WOULD-BE ORATORS

### Expert Gives Some Advice on Public Speaking.

"William Jennings Bryan was a great national figure not always because of what he said, but how he said it," declared R. E. Pattison Kline, public speaking expert at the Mid-West Organization school at Saugatuck, Mich., recently.

"The spoken word can be made 1,000 times more effective than the written word," said Kline, "because the speaker may convey ideas by his eyes, his body movements, his hands, and by the inflections in his voice.

"Ability to speak effectively is the result of training. The first time Gladstone, the great orator, appeared in public his speech was a complete failure. He was hissed by the audience. He determined to make people respect his thoughts and began regular training by reading out loud and practicing his speeches many times before they were delivered.



## Just around the Corner

**EVEN** big-city folks must have their "neighborhood stores"! Most of them would no more think of going down town, to fight their way through the crowds in search of a roast for dinner than they would of walking to the factory to get a pair of shoes.

City women know that their neighborhood stores can supply them just what they want — and that, in most cases, the service is more alert and friendly.

The same thing is true of this "neighborhood". Our merchants—the men whose ads you read in this paper—are in position to furnish your home with the best and most popular brands of goods. Not only can they save you money, but they gladly relieve you of a lot of worry and loss of time.

**Read the Ads in this Paper**  
 and save yourself money by trading at home

## NOTICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS—

In order to pay some past due obligations and to keep running my business I must ask all who owe past due accounts to call at once and pay same. I have tried to favor my credit customers by extending credit and now I must ask prompt settlement.

Yours Truly,

**MAGNOLIA FILLING STATION**

C. H. JONES, Agent

**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.

We have in our possession a penny  
nearly 125 years old. No, you mis-  
understood us. We haven't had it  
that long.

Every citizen should boost Mer-  
kel. It is your own home town and  
as such, nothing is too good for it,  
and the more betterments it has and  
the better its appearance, the more  
pride you will feel in it.

We had a dream the other night.  
We thought Santa Claus came to see  
us. He bowed, smiled and handed us  
a large, thick book. We took it and  
began turning its many pages, upon  
which were inscribed the names of  
all the people we know and of many  
we don't know. Wonderingly we  
asked what the book was. Santa  
smiled again, turned to leave, and  
answered, "Paid-up subscriptions."

A local newspaper to be rightly  
appreciated by its readers must be  
considered by them in its proper  
relationship to the community, which  
is somewhat that of both mentor and  
guardian of the common welfare.  
The editor of a newspaper is, more  
than any other member of a com-  
munity, in position to know and does  
know the inner workings of many  
things and influences which will  
bring good or evil to the people of  
the community, and so his counsel,  
if offered through the columns of  
his paper, and he should so offer it,  
should be heeded.

The idea, born of narrowness and  
ignorance, that every newcomer to a  
town is likely dishonest and needs to  
be watched often obtains particular-  
ly in a town where there is an un-  
usual influx of strangers due to an  
oil, or other boom. It is well dur-  
ing such times to keep a weather eye  
out and not be duped, but it is also  
well to exercise one's native intelli-  
gence a trifle by distinguishing to  
some extent at least the decent,  
trustworthy people from the other  
kind, and not insult them by show-  
ing by your actions that you  
class them with the dishonest. Give  
the newcomer a little the benefit of  
the doubt, until he shows himself un-  
worthy, and it may rebound to your  
benefit.

State Press of the Dallas News,  
our esteemed contemporary and  
closest competitor, arises to aver  
that:

Recently State Press saw a movie  
which showed a great supper party  
of ladies and gentlemen, with a one-  
sided view of the sub-table scenery.  
The lower portions of the lady diners  
were shown as being shoeless in many  
cases and carelessly disposed in many  
other cases. It offended S. P. It is  
one thing to portray the upper half  
of a lady, that which is proud and  
correct and lovely above the table,  
but quite another thing to photo-  
graph the other half, the half below  
the table, especially in these days of  
amateur skirts, hose with runs in  
them and knees that exhibit inti-  
mate and personal lumps and lean-  
ings.

The above is typical of State Press,  
ever on the side of right, if he thinks  
it's the right side to be on; a born  
crusader, Puritanical and mayhap  
"exponent of Blue Laws." But from  
his description of what he saw in the  
movie, we believe he was merely dis-  
appointed.

**PACKAGES**

Sunday night's and Monday's  
rain showed that Merkel's supply of  
sidewalks is totally inadequate.

If habitual blunderers could all be  
exterminated, the rest of us would  
breathe easier.

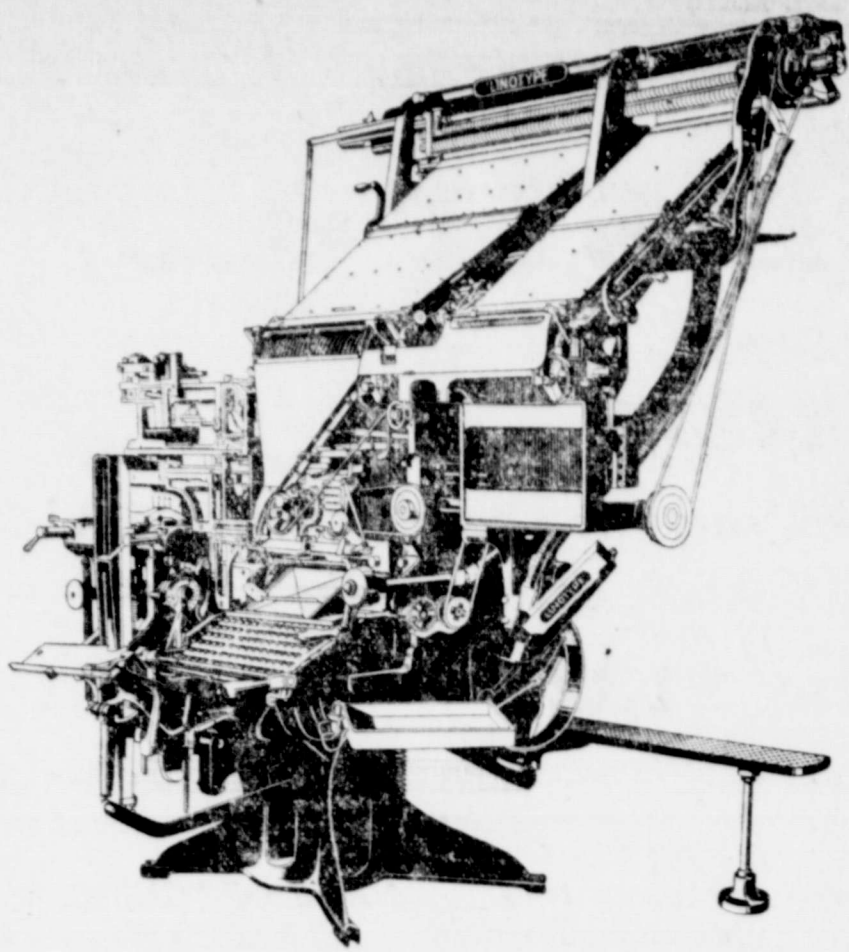
It is lucky some people never got  
married. Lucky for those they didn't  
marry.

Well, anyway, we don't hear so  
much complaint about the humidity  
this time of year.

Many towns Merkel's size and  
smaller have paved streets. They  
go fine with good schools, good  
water and sewer systems. Merkel  
has these. Why not paved streets?

Headline in exchange: Rattle-  
snake Serum to be Landed Here.  
Do they mean bootleg?

Granddad may have been a sod-  
buster, but not on the golf links.



Model 14 Linotype

This Linotype was recently installed by The  
Merkel Mail and is an indication of the prosperity  
of the community in compelling us to install the  
latest and most modern equipment as that above.

**NEW LINOTYPE  
MACHINE SPEEDS  
UP COMPOSITION**

With a good deal of satisfaction  
the editor of the Merkel Mail an-  
nounces the installation of a new  
Model 14 Linotype. This mechanical  
marvel is specially equipped with a  
complement of type faces which en-  
ables us to serve efficiently the large  
number of persons who look to our  
publication for enlightenment and  
entertainment, and who patronize  
our job-printing department.

The rapidly increasing circulation  
of the Mail, together with our desire  
to place at the command of our ad-  
vertisers and others the highest  
grade of typography, induced us to  
add to our mechanical equipment a  
multiple-magazine Linotype for the  
quick and accurate and pleasing  
presentation of the news of the day,  
and the production of superior job  
work.

Our new Linotype enables us to  
set by machine virtually all forms of  
composition that previously necessi-  
tated tedious work by hand. Our  
plant is now capable of turning out  
composition consisting of correct  
type faces in many different sizes,  
and the change from one size to  
another is made by a "twist of the  
wrist." In the flicker of an eyelash  
the versatile operator—whose hand  
is made famous by the Mergenthaler  
Linotype Company as "the hand that  
keeps the world informed"—on the

versatile machine sets type of the  
following sizes: 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 24  
and 30 points.

This installation is a testimonial  
to the prosperity of Merkel and vic-  
inity. And that the good people of  
the community are duly appreciative  
of our efforts to serve them in all  
departments of the printing business  
is manifested by the many compli-  
ments received from individual pa-  
trons since the arrival of our new  
machine.

The accompanying illustration will  
give our readers some idea of the  
marvelous mechanism of the Lino-  
type, a composing machine on which  
are assembled matrices (or little  
brass molds) and lines of type cast  
—lines such as you are now reading.  
The particular model of machine  
which we have just installed carries  
at one time four sets of matrices—  
controlled from a standard keyboard  
of ninety keys—and gives the oper-  
ator instant command of 568 different  
characters.

Besides enabling the operator to  
set various faces and sizes of type,  
our new Linotype makes it possible  
for him to produce the rules, dashes  
and borders which are used in var-  
ious advertisements in each issue of  
our publication. When employed in  
the composing of advertisements,  
newspaper headings, booklets, cata-  
logs, and various other kinds of  
printed matter, our new Model 14 en-  
ables one operator to set in the same  
time more type than ordinarily could  
be produced by five or six men or

women doing the work by hand—and  
the composition is incomparably bet-  
ter.

While for a long time we have re-  
ceived the patronage of a host of  
subscribers, advertisers and printing  
buyers in general, we look forward  
to the handling of an even greater  
volume of business now that we are  
so well qualified to render the sort  
of service most to be desired.

It has been our aim to present the  
news of the day without fear or  
favor, and to reflect faithfully the  
ideals and ambitions of our consti-  
tuents; and we shall continue to de-  
vote our talents and resources to the  
fulfilling of this aim. And of great  
help to us in the carrying out of our  
purpose will be our new Model 14  
Linotype.

A woman has been barred by the  
Government from receiving mail.  
This must be almost as hard on her  
as to be prohibited from talking.

Headline in exchange: "Winkler  
and Crane (counties) Get New Loca-  
tions." What was wrong with their  
old ones?

There is only one time to do your  
Christmas shopping and mailing;  
that time is early.

The skidding was good Monday.

Woman's clothes are so funny,  
they are almost as funny as the  
man's.

SPECIAL DEMONSTRATION OF HOT  
POINT RANGES WEDNESDAY AND  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 AND 16.

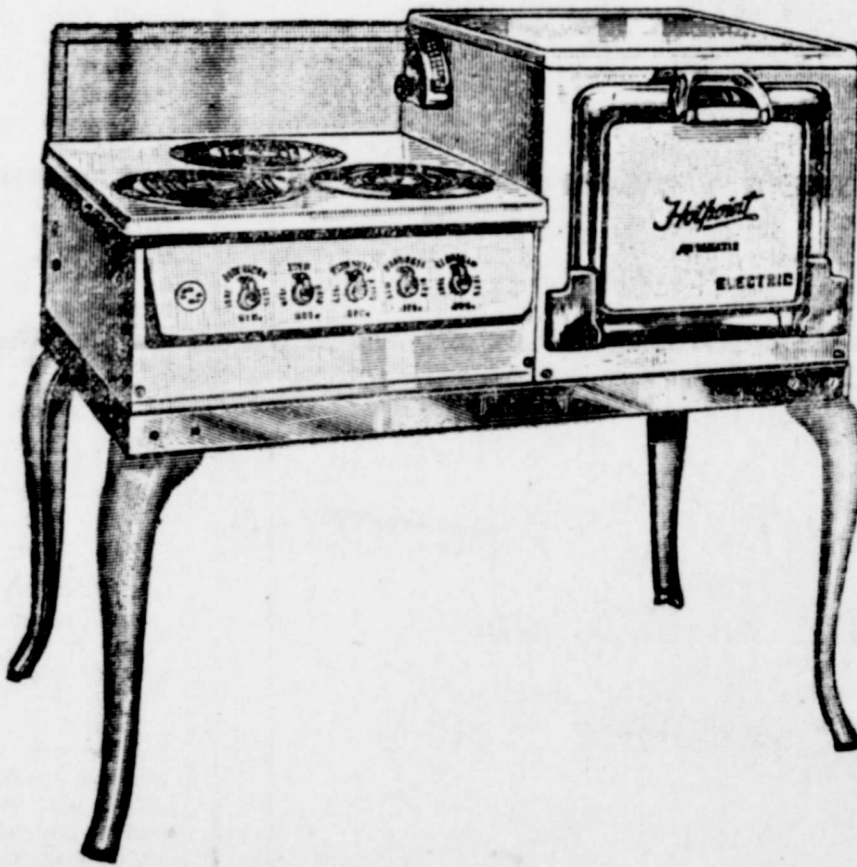


Oh yes, have you taken advantage of the  
Special Price of \$6.78 on Percolators  
that we have for this week only?

**LOOK WHAT WE HAVE DONE**

**\$2.50 DOWN**

PUTS THIS ALL WHITE HOT POINT ELECTRIC RANGE IN YOUR KITCHEN



**MOTHER**

Really Wants  
One Of These  
For Christmas

**MOTHER**

Really Deserves One  
No Smoke  
No Fumes  
No Danger

WAS \$155.00

**NOW \$127.50**

\$5.00 Per Month  
Without Interest

We Will Install Any  
Date You Specify

**WE WILL MAKE YOU A LIBERAL ALLOWANCE  
ON YOUR OLD COOK STOVE IN TRADE**

This  
Kitchen  
Heater  
Given  
FREE  
With  
Each  
Range  
Sold

Mother can put the Roast and  
Vegetables in the Oven, Set the Oven  
Heat Regulator, go to Sunday School  
and Church. When She Returns the  
Meal is Ready to Serve.

**West Texas Utilities  
Company**

This is a Special Christmas Offer.

Take Advantage of This Opportunity.

### HONOR ROLL OF PUBLIC SCHOOL

The Honor Roll for the Merkel Schools is larger this time than usual. There were forty-three pupils from the High School who made the Honor Roll. This is something like twenty-seven per cent of the total. In the Grammar grades the same high per cent made the Honor Roll. This is indeed a pleasure to the faculty that the students are responding so nicely.

The Honor Roll is given herewith. Turning to the other side of the picture we find most as many students are in the detention squad this month. We would like to do away with the detention squad if possible, but that would be too good to be true. It would mean a closer attention on the part of the parents to the children's work. So long as parents will stand for the old stall that the boys and girls bring home vig, "We don't have to study at home, we have plenty of time at school," etc., so long will we have failures in classes. I know boys and girls who have not taken a book home to study. You say, "Why don't you make them?" Well if the parents don't see to it that the child studies at home it would be useless for me to say, "You must take your books home," also I might lose the books. The teachers are all working to the end that the boys and girls learn enough to pass on their subjects. The teachers are not going to fail your boy or girl. They will do all they can to get them to pass I'm sure.

There will be some of the Seniors who will not be with the class on graduation night. They will fail. You mothers and fathers who have boys or girls in that class; how many have looked the child's card over carefully and figured out for

yourself what he or she is doing? You must know that they cannot make below 75 and pass. That does not mean 75 average that means 75 on any one subject. We hope you will pull for the youngsters as we are, and don't let them fool you. You were once in their place, remember how you "put it over on Dad?" Well they can't put it over on us so easily and you see to it that they "toe the mark" with their home study.

What has been said applies also to every boy and girl regardless of their age or grade.

Let's work together to get some work done.—J. L. Jackson.

#### HIGH SCHOOL

11th Grade—Orpha Patterson, 97; Aileen Childress, 95; Hazel Coats, 94; Inice Brown, 92; Thelma Copeland, 92; Christine Russell, 92; Obeal Stubblefield, 91; Helen Booth 91; Mabel Rogers, 91; Dorothy Higgins, 93; Hary Hughes, 92.

16th grade—Roy Prospt, 90; Stergins, 93; Harry Hughes, 92. 90; W. A. Whitney, 90; Fred Yandell, 90; John D. Coats, 95; Berdelle Adcock, 94; Norma Foster, 91; Irs Garrett, 92; Nola Neill, 90; Ima Parrack, 92; Odena Pribble, 90 Irene Perry, 92.

9th Grade—Ruskin Smith, 93; Mary Ellen Ashby, 90; Euna Lea Gilmore, 91; Bernice Lassiter, 90; Ruby Patton, 90; Alice Reed, 90; Norma Shannon, 92; Addie Fay Patterson, 95.

8th Grade—Frances Fredrickson, 97; Odell Hunter, 96; Beyrl Hunter, 96; Ruby Robins, 95; J. T. Darsey, 95; Nina Vantrees, 95; Vernie Derrick, 93; Milton Casl, 93; Clara Pitcher, 92; J. D. Ashby, 91; Sudie Leightsey, 90; Hilda Rister, 90; Pauline Toombs, 90.

Mrs. Sublett, 7th Grade—Hazel Highsmith, 93; Opal Foster, 91; Velma Lee Holden, 90.

Mrs. Jackson, 7th Grade—Elvis

Richardson, 93; Alvin Parrach, 91; Mattie Lou Largent, 91; Elsie Lasater, 91; Dorothy Little, 91; B. P. Middleton, 90.

Miss Sterling 6th Grade—Kathryn Duff, 93; Ida Mae Derstine, 92; Mary Elizabeth Grimes, 91; Nell Durham, 91.

Miss McMurry, 6th Grade—Isadore Mellinger, 90; Lela Patterson, 93.

Miss Campbell, 5th Grade—Margaret Cannon, 92; Imogene Middleton; Duncan Briggs, 91; Meyer Mellinger, 91.

Miss Proctor, 5th Grade—Florence Rider, 91; Joyce Wheeler, 92; Fae Vantrees, 92; Mildred Richards, 91.

Miss Dean, 4th Grade—Carnet Robbins, 93; Julia Proctor, 92; Vera Patton, 92; Lois Whiteley, 91; Mabel Morton, 90; Laverne Holden, 90; Vivian Lassiter, 90.

Miss West, 4th Grade—Waldeline Huskey, 93; Harold Reese, 92; Rogene Dye, 92; Wilma Gardner, 92; Kathleen Harmon, 92; Neoma Grayson, 92; David Gambill, 91.

Miss Heizen, 3rd Grade—Billie Bernice Gambill, 95; Rodgers Derrick, 94; Louise Kerr, 92; Deverle Brown, 92; Beth Duff, 91; William Hughes.

Miss Coats, 3rd Grade—Ethelda Tucker, 94; Wanda O'Evens, 93; Alice Russell, 92; Fern Toombs, 92; James Pilcher, 92; Modyne Shepherd, 91; Elmo Smith, 90; A. C. Sears, 90; Billie Robins, 90; Overton Patterson, 90.

Miss Teaff, 2nd Grade—Raymond Lassater, 91.

Miss Pogue, 2nd Grade—Pauline Lassater, 92; Jeannette Hayes, 92; Juanita Huskey, 92; Preston Chaney, 92; Hollis Huddleston, 92; Ora Derrick, 90.

Miss Harrison, 2nd Grade—Halbert Rister, 90; R. D. Tarbutton, 91; Thelma Patterson, 90; Aulra Lee Patton, 90.

Miss Russell, 1st Grade—Doris Jackson, 92; W. D. Smith, 92; Lawrence Thornton, 91; Betty Lou Grimes, 91; Wayland Adcock, 91; Robert Grimes, Jr., 90.

C. D. Ambrose of San Angelo, district agent for the Dallas News, was a visitor here Friday.

Mr. W. J. Patton of the Patton Grocery, is having erected in the southwest part of the city a new and modern home.

### Notable Changes Made in Meaning of Words

Of the great mass of words in the so-called Anglo-Saxon tongue which pass current today as English, less than one-twentieth are entitled to rank as Anglo-Saxon, writes Dr. F. H. Vizetelly. So far is the English language from being Anglo-Saxon tongue that it is the most composite language known today. In none other do foreign words play so important a part, and by none other have they been assimilated in so great a number. From the very beginning the settlers on Britain's shores forced their various dialects on the natives, and their conquerors were not slow in following their example.

That the language is in a constant state of mutation can be shown conclusively by many words the meanings of which have varied as the years rolled on. The word agony, for instance, was used originally to designate the contortions or twistings of the body, resorted to by athletes and wrestlers in public contests or exhibitions of feats of strength. The word came to us from the Greek agōn, an assembly, or a place of contest, from ago, to assemble.

In early English, an agony was a violent contest or struggle, and a few years ago it was used to mean "the fad or fashion of the day," thus agony became synonymous with "style," and those who followed the style had ever ready on their lips the burning question, "What's the agony?" But in the course of the transition from one meaning to the other, the word itself assumed a third and a much more spiritual and expressive sense, and same to connote "anguish," that is, intense suffering and excruciating pain.

What will the bachelor girls think when they are informed that the term bachelor owes its origin to the Latin bacca, a cow? And as for the "girl" part, that is an evolution from gerle as used in the "Vision of Piers Plowman," by William Langland, written about 1332, in which the term designates "boys." In middle English, girl was sometimes used indiscriminately to mean a young person of either sex. Years ago a folk-etymologist traced this word to the Anglo-Saxon ceorl (ke-erl), a man, later corrupted to churl, a vulgarian.

Originally bachelor embraced both sexes, and Ben Jonson, when writing of a certain fascinating beauty whom he dubbed the "Magnetic Lady," said: We do not trust your uncle; he would keep you A bachelor still, by keeping your portion; And keep you not alone without a husband, But in a sickness.

### Day Is Treasured Heirloom for All True Americans

#### Proclamations Not Needed to Turn Hearts to Giving Thanks for Mercies.

Thanksgiving day is at hand. The President of the most favored nation on the earth has issued his proclamation, and the governors of the various states, following his example, have told of the bountiful harvests and heaven's high favor. From our magistrates as well as from our hearts comes the command to be thankful for our great blessings.

But the hundred and odd millions of people in the United States do not need a reminder of the day or any official command to celebrate it. The spirit of the Pilgrim Fathers on the desolate coast of Cape Cod exists as an heirloom in the hearts of the American people. It is one of the first things that lay hold upon and graft themselves upon the character of the races that come from abroad to make the new world their home.

They may have little to be thankful for, yet the day becomes a festival, even if the purse be scanty and the larder be light. Three centuries have passed since the first Thanksgiving day was celebrated in America, and ever since it has been a day of blessing for rich and poor alike. It has been a day when those to whom the blessings of plenty have come have given thanks for their own piteous store, while the unfortunate among God's people have rendered tearful thanks for the charity that remembers the poor.

#### Day of Rejoicing.

On Thanksgiving day the homes of those with fortune blessed in this great nation ring with the merry shout of children and the graver gayety of the old folks, while tables groaning under mammoth turkeys, set in celery and cranberry sauce, and glistening with gravy, and spiced pickles and plum pudding, will subdue the appetites of the very hungriest.

In other homes not so elegant, but with contentment blessed, there will be turkey, also—with not so many "fixings," to be sure, but turkey, for all that, with white meat for happy mother and a wing for father, and the remaining wing and the drumstick amicably distributed among the children. The wishbone will be laid away above the parlor door to dry.

In this home, too, there will be guests—the friend from the country; the store friend, whose relatives are eating turkey far away; the homeless bachelor, who works with father in the shop, and has no one else with whom to eat turkey; the married son or daughter, with the wee grand-children, which makes mother feel that she is old, although no one else would think so to look at her.

#### Charitable Duties.

Then in homes still more humble, where turkey is still too great a luxury, a better bit of beef than usual will be set by, and a mince pie will afford delight to stomachs unaccustomed to other delicacies. But there will be some to whom no

#### Epstein's Sermonette

Jacob Epstein, the noted American sculptor, is the idol of Bohemian London, and at a girls' tea party in a Chelsea studio he preached a characteristic little sermon.

"My text," he said, "is beauty. Beauty is the rarest gift a girl can possess.

The wisdom of Socrates is nothing beside a slim figure in a one-piece bathing suit.

"An arched foot and a round ankle are worth more to a girl in a short skirt than the culinary skill of Brillat-Savarin.

"And to a girl in a sea wind all the virtues of the Pentateuch are nothing beside the natural curl in the hair."

#### Lighting Up Fireflies

William Creighton of Princeton university has succeeded in "short-circuiting" fireflies so they will remain "lit." The scientist injected adrenalin with a tiny syringe between the segments of the body of the insects. This caused muscular contraction which produced a continuous supply of oxygen to the light-producing cells. Creighton says that heavy doses of the adrenalin have kept individual fireflies "lit up" for an entire day. Later, however, these insects died. It was found that lighter doses of the chemical produce from three to four hours of steady light.

#### Elderly Twins

The birthday of the oldest living twins in the United States has become something of a fete day in Mercer county, Ohio, peopled by the festive loving German and Alsatian immigrants and their descendants. The twins are Mrs. Margaret Konrath, who lives near Coldwater, a few miles from Celina, and Mrs. Catherine Petot, of Loudenville, Ohio. They were ninety-two on July 20. The twins came to America from their home in Netherheim, Alsace, in 1854. They do not boast they expect to reach 100 together, but admit "they wouldn't be surprised."—Indianapolis News.

#### Dumb Luck

"I—I thought y-you told me you were experienced!" a much-shaken old gentleman spluttered as he crawled from the wreck of his handsome new car, which his chauffeur had just wrapped around a tree.

"I am," asserted the chauffeur. "Why, I drove three years for an officer during the war and was wounded every year."

"Wounded! Only wounded!" snorted his employer disgustedly. "By George, he must have been a rotten shot or he'd have got you the first year!"

#### Much Tea Drank

The consumption of tea in the United States can be estimated from the net importation. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926, the imports amounted to 98,551,814 pounds, 467,537 pounds being rejected as below our standard in quality, not for impurities. This quantity of tea would supply 98,000,000 of our inhabitants with a pound of tea a year. Since this number would have to include many children, it is reasonable to suppose that the number of tea drinkers less than 98,000,000 and the annual per capita consumption more than round apiece.

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 Make the appointment now, and avoid disappointment.  
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**The Dallas Morning News.**  
**DALLAS BANK AND SAVINGS COMPANY**  
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Our fire insurance policies are dependable.

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MERKEL, TEXAS

Consult Your Insurance Agent As You Would Your Lawyer

**"SPECIAL DAYS" GIVEN  
FOR 1926 STATE FAIR**

"Special days" announced for the 1926 State Fair of Texas, at Dallas, Oct. 9-24, include the following, and it is announced that several additions may be expected:

Saturday, Oct. 9.—Opening Day.—A. & M. Day, Sewanee Day, Initial and Premier performance "Princess Flavia," in the auditorium.

Sunday, Oct. 10.—International Day.

Monday, Oct. 11.—Press Day, Georgia Day.

Tuesday, Oct. 12.—Dallas and Dallas County Day, Baylor and T. C. U. Day, Druggists' Day, Elks' Day, Red Men's Day, Service Grocers' Day, Harrison County Day.

Wednesday, Oct. 13.—Farm Bureau Day, Swine Breeders' Day, Hunt County Day, Texas Baby Chick Association Day.

Thursday, Oct. 14.—Ft. Worth Day, Kaufman Day, "Turkey Day" (Denton County) Poultrymen's Day, Texas Jersey Cattle Club Day, Collin County Pure Bred Live Stock Day.

**TWO SHIPS ELOQUENT  
REMINERS OF PAST**

**Revived Memories of Other Days in Sailors.**

Two days from the Azores we were chugging through a sea which scarcely rippled, a sea bereft of any vestige of shipping beyond ourselves. For days in fact, we had seen no other vessel, for although we were on one of the regular shipping lanes it is a significant fact that the highways of the ocean are much less frequented than they were in pre-war days, J. D. Gill, writes in the Boston Transcript. Now that we have returned to the piping times of peace, if not of plenty, we are apt to forget the war and all its ugly phases, which is perhaps all for the best.

But on this particular day we had a little reminder of the past.

Early in the forenoon word traveled around the ship that a sail was sighted. A sail, mark you, in these days is a very rare sight, for there are few indeed of the type of craft which brought England her glory, her

**Science Advances as  
Slowly Rising Spiral**

There is nothing new under the sun. Science has developed, if not in a circle, at least in an ascending spiral, according to Dr. J. Newton Friend. It has continually followed earlier trends, but on increasingly higher planes, like a railway circling a mountain top, he told members of the Royal Institution in a recent lecture in London.

Side by side with their pseudo-magic, the ancient priests of Chaldea and Egypt gradually accumulated a varied stock of scientific facts which were of invaluable assistance in enabling them to carry out simple experiments to impress the mob. They learned, for instance, that gases expand when heated, and utilized the fact in performing many a miracle, such as forcing out a libation through a tube concealed in the arm of the idol. Hero of Alexandria, an adroit Greek physician who flourished around 100 B. C., has left an account of many of these "miracles." Among other things he has described what is usually known as the first steam engine.

This consisted of a spherical boiler of water which, when heated gave off steam through several nozzles, causing it to revolve very much on the same principle as the pinwheels that delight little boys on the Fourth of July.

The Greeks were not interested in experiment. That was menial work fit only for slaves. Accordingly they produced theorists. Besides the well-known cogitations of Aristotle and others there was Democritus, who developed an atomic theory of matter, the essential features of which were generally accepted until the time of Dayton, said Doctor Friend.

Alchemy did not come till the Christian era, but it lasted well on into the Seventeenth century till the time of Boyle, one of the early physicists. The almanac and end-all of alchemy, transmutation of metals, after enjoying a couple of centuries of disrepute, declared Doctor Friend, now engages the attention of the best scientific minds, since the investigation of radioactive elements shows that they have probably been undergoing spontaneous change into other simpler atoms.

**Mysterious Message**

Mr. W. K. Ludlum, a New York broker, has other problems than the fluctuations of the stock market to solve. Upon returning to his home one evening, Mr. Ludlum found the following note from the maid printed in capital letters:

"MIS MOKS COULDUP SEZ ZENZ YAKOMOM GOLERUP SEZ NOMATER HOW LET IS GONABEE COLERUP."

Mr. Ludlum studied the note for some time, but finally gave it up. In the morning he asked an explanation from the maid. In plain English the note was meant to say:

"Miss Marks called up. Says as soon as you come home, call her up. Says no matter how late it is going to be, call her up."

There is reason for complaint, for Miss Marks is a customer of Mr. Ludlum, and when he called her in the morning he was informed that she had just left for the West.—The Outlook.

**Comparing Advantages**

The country cousin was visiting her city cousin. She was pleased with the city and was pointing out the many advantages of city life. The city cousin said: "Yes, we have our advantages and you also have your advantages in the country. In the country you do not have any of the smoke and dirt that city people have to contend with. I have always lived in the city and my lungs are black from the smoke in the air. You have always lived in the country and your lungs are nice and pink."

"Just think of it," said the country cousin, "your lungs are black and mine are pink, and yet we are first cousins."

**Florida Saws**

Felix Isman, one of Florida's most active promoters, said at a Miami luncheon:

"The Florida colored people are an interesting lot. Their proverbs are especially interesting.

"They have a cynical proverb about marriage—'Marriage got teeth.'"

"Another marriage proverb of theirs, though, is hopeful and helpful—'A kiss a day keeps divorce away.'"

"And they have a sociological proverb with some truth in it—'Fat dog may to thin dog, 'Buck up!'"

**Rustproof Swords**

The war office of Japan is considering the adoption of rustproof swords for all Japanese army officers. In Japan an officer is not regarded as fully dressed unless he wears his sword. Damp weather is so prevalent that swords must be polished at all times, and even then it is difficult to avoid rust. A sword-maker recently invented a rustproof weapon which he submitted to the war department.

**Odd Articles Lost**

Only 42 per cent of the lost property turned in annually to Scotland Yard ever finds its way back home, according to the annual report of the metropolitan police of London. The total number of articles found and turned in to the police during 1925 was 163,578. Among the deposits last year were a ferret, two human leg bones, a glass eye, two white mice and a parrot.

**Food Staple Depends  
on Irrigation Work**

Among the staple foods raised in Central American regions is one that is almost daily on the tables of rich and poor; this is the garbanzo, or chick-pea. They are successfully grown also in the state of Sonora, Mexico, on the alluvial plains near the mouths of the Mayo and Yaqual rivers, where the altitude is but little above sea level, although they are also grown farther inland at altitudes of 300 feet, more or less, and with more or less success.

The plant is very tender and subject to injury by frost. During the growing season the temperature ranges from 70 degrees Fahrenheit to the freezing point. At planting time, in October, it ranges from 50 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The average rainfall in the garbanzo region in the Yaqual valley is nine inches and in the Mayo valley thirteen inches. No rain falls during the growing season of this crop, and the growers depend entirely upon irrigation, for the rains begin in July and end in October, just before the first planting begins.

The garbanzos are harvested in May, when the plants are pulled up by hand in the field and turned over so they will dry thoroughly. They are then carried in bunches to central points in the fields where a threshing floor has been made on smooth beaten ground.—Charles Bell Emerson in Adventure Magazine.

**Brown Proved Quite  
Unable to See Joke**

Two bachelors, Smith and Brown, were seated in the flat of the latter.

Smith—Would you like to know the name of your future wife?

Brown—I certainly would.

"Well, I'll guarantee to tell you her name by arithmetic."

"That's impossible."

"Well, you take a piece of paper and work out this sum: Write down the year in which you were born, subtract the last two figures from the first two. Now multiply what remains by the date of the month in which you were born. Divide your answer by two, and tell me the result."

Brown, after a lengthy struggle and much thought, at last works out the problem and hands his friend the result.

Smith—Now these figures obviously indicate that the name of your future wife will be Mrs. Brown.

Brown and Smith are no longer friends.

**Roads Laid Out by Animals**

There is an idea become current of late that none but a man of science, bred in a school, can lay off a road. This is a mistake. There is a class of topographical engineers older than the schools and more unerring than the mathematicians. They are the wild animals. They travel thousands of miles, have their annual migrations backward and forward, and never miss the best and shortest route. These are the first engineers to lay out a road in a new country; the Indians follow them, and hence a buffalo road becomes a warpath. The first white hunters follow the same trails in pursuing their game, and after that the buffalo road becomes the wagon road of the white man, and finally the railroad of the scientific man.—Senator Benton of Missouri.

**Pay Your Debts**

Always pay; for, first or last, you must pay your entire debt. Persons and events may stand for a time between you and justice, but it is only a postponement. You must pay at last your own debt. . . . He is great who confers the most benefits. He is base—and that is the one base thing in the universe—to receive favors and render none. In the order of nature we cannot render benefits to those from whom we receive them, or only seldom. But the benefit we receive must be rendered again, line for line, deed for deed, cent for cent, to somebody. Beware of too much good staying in your hand. . . . Pay it away quickly in some sort.—Emerson.

**Slip Into It**

She sank on the settee in her room with a sigh of intense weariness.

"I'm very tired," she said to her new maid. "Bring me something I can slip into."

"Oh will that, ma'am," said the colleen from Connemara.

After a rather long interval the maid returned bearing a tray on which was a thick steak, some fried onions and a bottle of stout.

"Now just be after slipping into that, mum; it'll do ye good," she said.

—London Tit-Bits.

**Well-Meant, but Ill-Timed**

A physician had been called in to treat the spoiled child of a certain family. After his departure the mother returned to the room and told the youngster that the doctor had complained that the child had been very rude to him.

"Why, mother," replied the kiddie, "he's just an old fog, that's all! He got mad because I put my tongue out before he told me to."

**Reasons for Failure**

The "small" man remains small by reason of his own shortcomings, not because of the persecution of others. We too frequently go far afield to learn the reason for our failure, when all we have to do is to look around a bit at home.—Grit.

**THIS CHRISTMAS**

**Give Something Different**

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The gift that only you can give,**

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**LOVE AND ROMANCE  
IN INVENTOR'S LIFE**

**How Alexander Graham  
Bell Helped the Deaf.**

While to the average citizen the name of Alexander Graham Bell is associated only with the invention of the telephone, to humanitarians the world over he is equally well known as the man who first brought to the deaf in America the privilege of intercourse through speech and speech-reading, and it was of this latter achievement that the inventor was proudest. In fact, when Bell knew that his telephone invention was to bring him wealth, his first remark was, "Now we shall have money enough to teach speech to little deaf children."

In Washington there stands the Volta bureau which he established with prize money bestowed upon him by the French for his invention of the telephone. Although the bureau was founded primarily to aid deaf children, it has since branched out into the larger field of work for those who have had normal hearing but have lost all or part of it. True to the

**Picnic! Ye Gods!!**

Another farm institution is passing a new invention which threshes grain as it cuts has made hundreds of threshing machines useless in the West. At the same time it has removed from farm life one of its happiest institutions.

In spite of the hard labor which it involved both for men and for women the threshing season was the happiest of the year for the rural communities. For every farmer it marked the fruition of a season's labor, the pay day of the year. When it came the biggest and best meals the American housewife could provide were served. For the youth on the farm the threshing season was a continuous picnic.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Saw a funny thing yesterday, as I was coming here on the train," related Sandstrom Smith of Rampage. "A young couple across the aisle from me talked about going to Kay See, and acted like they might have been just married. When the train came to Hooraw, back down the road a piece, the young man went out on the car platform, apparently to look at something, and a bunch of young fellows rushed around the corner of the depot and yanked him off from the train."

"Did they know him?" inquired a hearer.

"I don't know. The last thing I saw four of 'em had him by the corners and were bumping him against the depot, like they either knew him or had heard of him, and the young lady, that I judged to be the bride, had fainted."—Kansas City Star.

**Hey, Boys!**

We've just received a shipment of all sizes of

those famous Pennsylvania

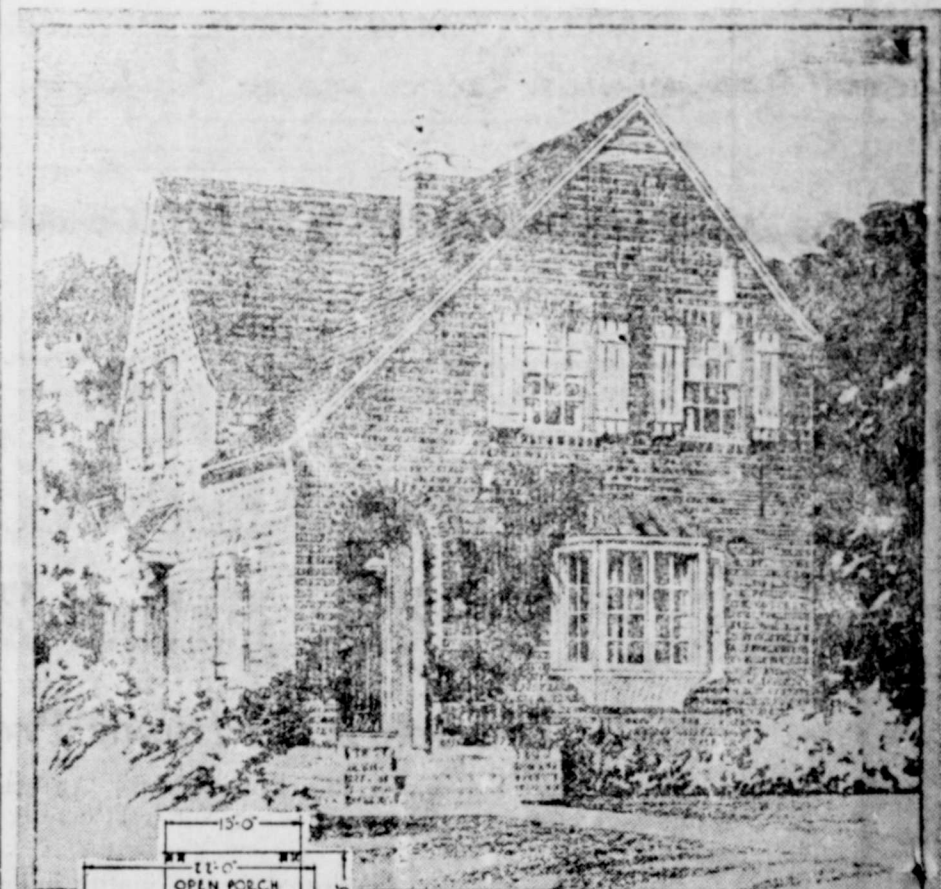
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You'll find our stock of

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**Home-BUILDER Gets Good  
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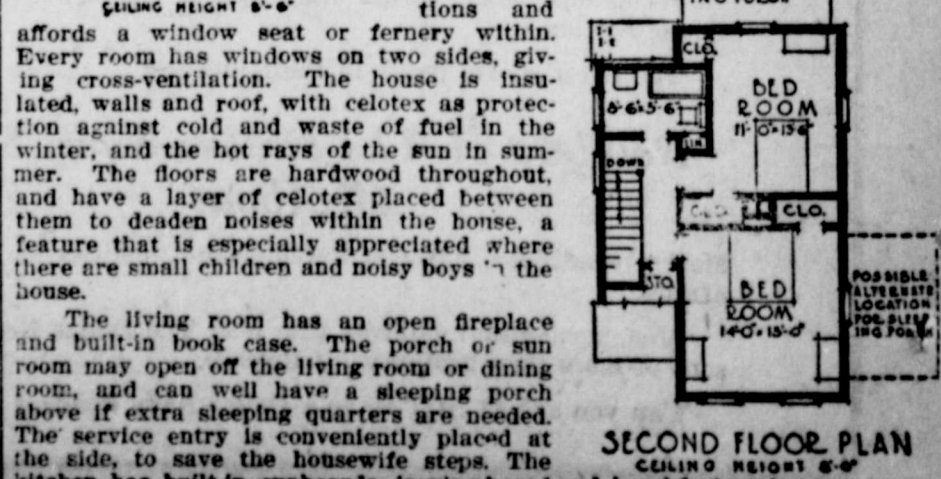


ECONOMY of space in this five-room English town house has not meant a sacrifice of an artistic exterior. Built of variegated or common brick, whitewashed, with a roof of stained shingles or slate, it presents an unusually attractive and compact appearance. The portico is arched and roofed, and has a red brick floor. The shutters of solid, weathered boards give an interesting departure from the usual New England type.

A number of features provide for exceptional comfort and convenience. The living room has an oriel bay window that gives light from three directions and affords a window seat or fernery within. Every room has windows on two sides, giving cross-ventilation. The house is insulated, walls and roof, with celotex as protection against cold and waste of fuel in the winter, and the hot rays of the sun in summer. The floors are hardwood throughout, and have a layer of celotex placed between them to deaden noises within the house, a feature that is especially appreciated where there are small children and noisy boys in the house.

The living room has an open fireplace and built-in book case. The porch or sun room may open off the living room or dining room, and can well have a sleeping porch above if extra sleeping quarters are needed. The service entry is conveniently placed at the side, to save the housewife steps. The kitchen has built-in cupboards, ironing-board and breakfast-nook.

© Celotex Institute, Chicago, 1926.



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all work guaranteed  
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**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**FOR SALE**

**FOR SALE**—I have some real good Lankhart cotton seed, 2nd year from originator. C. B. Williams, Merkel, Route Two. 3tpd

**FOR SALE**—One span of mules, one two-row cultivator, one 2-row planter, some maize and cane. Sam H. Martin, Merkel route 2. 26t3

**USED CARS**—Have some real bargains in some good used cars. See me at once. F. E. Church. tf

**FOR SALE**—Complete household furnishings and bath fixtures at bargain prices. Call at office of Dr. Gambill in Boney Building or phone 224. tf

**FOR SALE**—Good ten room house, with two lots, a bargain. See J. C. Mason. 1tpd

**FOR SALE**—The one story brick building adjoining and east of the Post Office Building in Merkel, Texas, belonging to the W. S. Smelser Estate and occupied by the Merkel Mail.—R. E. McCamant, Executor, 1826 Idlewild, Abilene, Texas.

**FOR SALE**—One span of mules, one two-row cultivator, one 2-row planter, some maize and cane. Sam H. Martin, Merkel, Route 2. 26t3

**FOR SALE**—Four-burner oil stove, in good condition. Call at Merkel Mail. tfp

**FOR SALE**—100 White Leghorn hens, at \$1.00 each. Higgins Hatchery. tf

**FOR SALE**—See my Copper-back Bronze Turkeys before you buy. My flock is headed by a Tom from the Martin Waide farm, Denton, Texas, one of the best breeders in the state. J. Ben Campbell, Phone 246. tf

**FOR SALE**—9-room house, 6 lots, garage and servants house, on Oak street, for \$5,000. See J. F. Abernathy, owner. 10t2p

**FOR SALE**—Some good mules and horses to sell for cash or good notes on fall time. Earl Lassiter. 1t

**FOR SALE**—Have few hundred bushels Oats to sell. Joe Higgins, Route 1. tf

**FOR SALE**—A good four-burner oil stove. A bargain if taken at once. Mrs. Thos. Durham, Phone 64. tf

**FOR SALE**—80 acres of land in fee, adjoining the Bankhead Highway. The mineral rights on this land is not leased. 75 acres in cultivation, well and wind mill, no other improvements. Price \$125.00 per acre. Can give some terms. See S. L. Grayson, at the Grayson Tourist Camp, mile and a half west of Merkel. 2tp

**FOR SALE**—190 Acres, 2 3-4 miles southeast Seagraves, 130 acres in cultivation, \$22.00 per acre, 1-4 cash. Write John B. Pruitt, in care Winniford Barber Shop, Abilene, Texas

**FOR SALE**—Some good headed maize and Feterita, at \$15.00 per ton. J. L. Harrison, Merkel. 1tpd

**FOR RENT**

**FOR RENT**—I have 160 acres of land for rent and 350 acres for lease. C. A. Duncan, Trent route two. tf

**FOR RENT**—Two furnished rooms, with bath, for light housekeeping. Mrs. R. J. Miller, Phone 57. 1t

**FOR RENT**—I have 160 acres of land for rent and 350 acres for lease.—C. A. Duncan, Trent, Route 2. tf

**FOR RENT**—Two good sized rooms for light housekeeping, with light and East Front. B. M. Black. 1tpd

**WANTED**

WANT to buy royalty direct from owner. Great Plains Royalty Co., Phone 2148-W, Abilene, Texas. 26t4p

For quick truck service, see McClure & Pledger at Merkel Lumber Co. Phone 62. 26t4

**LOST AND FOUND**

**LOST**—Crank for Essex car. Return to G. W. Moore or Merkel Mail. 1tpd

**FOUND**—A key ring with several rings on same. Owner can get same at this office, by paying for this notice. 1t

**FOUND**—A good sized piece of salt bacon on road near Merkel. Owner can get same by calling at Merkel Garage, describing the bacon and paying for this advertisement. 1t

**OIL! OIL! OIL!**

Yes we have oil but our prices are the same as before we got oil.—Baker & Wheeler Market. tf

**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

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

**PUREBRED Giant Bronze Turkeys**, Goldbank strain. Big bone, heavy weight. Took blue ribbon at Merkel fair. Toms \$10, hens \$6. Mrs. J. R. Dean, R. 2, Sylvester, Texas. 3t2p

**Card of Thanks**

We take this method of extending our sincere thanks and appreciation extended us on account of the death of our daughter, Dorris, who died in an Abilene Sanitarium last week, and whose remains rested in transit over night in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Leach.

May the Lord's richest blessings rest upon each and every one for every kindness extended. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Moxley, Snyder, Texas. 1tpd

**FROG REARS ROBINS**

A story comes from Wales that a female frog was found bringing up a family of robins, whose mother apparently had been killed. She busily collects worms and flies for her foster family, and croaks angrily if curious visitors get too near the nest.

Hint to poultry raisers: If Bidde leaves her chicks, put a frog on the job.

L. P. Jones, of Sierra Blanco, in company with his brother, R. R. Jones, of Munday, were here on business first of the week. We are grateful to the latter for a subscription to the Mail.

**Coming to ABILENE**

**DR. MELLINTHIN**

**SPECIALIST**

in Internal Medicine for the past fifteen years

DOES NOT OPERATE

Will be at **GRACE HOTEL** **TUESDAY** and **WEDNESDAY** December 14 and 15  
Office Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**TWO DAYS ONLY**

No Charge for Consultation

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

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

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

Oscar Seawald, Doeme, stomach trouble.

Dorothy Heitfels, Fredericksburg, tonsils and adenoids.

Alva Peaper, New Braunfels, heart trouble.

Mrs. Wm. Lehman, Brownwood, heart trouble and colitis.

Mrs. A. F. Tate, Cross Plains, high blood pressure and gall bladder trouble.

A. D. Tinker, Whitt, hemorrhoids.

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

Married women must be accompanied by their husbands.

Address: 211 Broadway Bldg., Los Angeles, California. 26t3p

**MERKEL'S NEW SUBDIVISION**  
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**LOTS IN THIS CHOICE RESTRICTED RESIDENTIAL SECTION ARE AVAILABLE AT PRICES FROM**

**\$250.00 TO \$500.00**

SEE **KIRBY BECKETT, Jr.**

At **F. & M. Bank**

**"Straying" Husbands**

Strayed husbands in London at the present time number nearly 12,000. "Why husbands leave home and where they go are mysteries," said a district relieving officer. "If they are found, the almost invariable excuse they give is that the wife was 'carrying on.' Some apparently just grow bored with married life, or want a change. One man sent his wife and three children to the seaside for a holiday. When they returned he was gone, bag and baggage, and has not been heard from since."

**She Should Have Known**

A certain English bishop prides himself on saying the right and tactful word to every person he meets, and by reason of his office he is not accustomed to find his remarks questioned.

"So strange I should run up against you," he said to a woman acquaintance, "because I was chatting only a few minutes ago with your two children."

"But," said the woman, "I have no children."

**Antiquity of Bare Knees**

The flappers of Greece have every reason to be satisfied with the most recent revolution which has displaced Madam Pangalos from power as a dictator of fashions. That woman decreed a conservative covering up of knees, and it was troublesome for the flappers to be compelled to wear elastic waistbands in order that their skirts might be lowered every time a policeman approached. In this sort of bootlegging, if it may be called so, these girls of Greece were appealing to a tradition and a custom much older than the conservatism of Madam Pangalos. They may not know it, but Lycurgus, giver of laws, who is believed to have held power almost three thousand years ago, decreed that all Spartan girls should go bare kneed. We are not told that these young women covered them up, except when a policeman approached, but they probably did.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.



**You May Talk to One Man**

But an advertisement in this paper talks to the whole community.

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Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

**Full Set Teeth \$17.50**

No Better Plate Made at Any Price  
22-k Gold used in all Crown and Bridge work at \$4.50 and Up  
Gold Fillings \$1.50 and Up.  
I Cure Those Old Bad Gums.



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25 Years Experience  
**SOUTH SIDE DENTIST**  
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Only five more weeks until Christmas.

See our line of Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry, Cut Glass, China Sterling and Plated Silver and etc. We will meet any mail order prices.

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Will be at the **Stephens Hotel** in Merkel on Monday

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## Shop Early

... BRAGG DRY GOODS COMPANY ...

### Announcement Dinner Given For Miss Wall

On last Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, a five course dinner was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. V. T. Tippett of San Angelo in honor of and formally announcing the engagement of Miss Ann Wall of Midland to Mr. E. Yates Brown of Merkel. Mrs. Tippett is a sister to Mr. Brown.

Miss Wall is well known in Midland for her accomplishments as a piano teacher, and Mr. Brown is a progressive dry goods merchant of Merkel, Texas.—Midland Reporter.

Mr. Brown is one of Merkel's best-known merchants. His acquaintance with Miss Wall dates from the excursion made in February, 1925, by a large number of Merkel people to the district meeting of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce at Midland where they made a strong effort to secure the meeting in 1923 for Merkel, and failed to do so only by a slight margin of votes. No

doubt many people in the Merkel party will remember Miss Wall as the young lady who played the piano during the banquet hour.

The Mail joins their many friends in extending congratulations to this worthy young couple upon their coming nuptials.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday School at 10:00 a. m.  
 Preaching at 11:00 a. m. and 7:00 p. m.  
 Junior Christian Endeavor at 11 a. m.  
 Senior Christian Endeavor at 6:00 p. m.  
 Choir practice Wednesday at 7:30 p. m.

We cordially invite the public to worship with us.—Chas. H. Little.

#### Bargains In Groceries

As we are going out of business first of the year, you can get some bargains in Groceries. J. D. Porter, Cash Grocery. 1tpd

### Merkel Baptists

All regular services Sunday and through the week.

Sunday School 10 a. m. with places for every one that will come.

No longer is the Sunday School just a place to send little children while the older people look over the Sunday paper. In the Sunday School of today there is a place for old as well as young. Our Adult Department after furnishing officers and teachers for all other departments is the largest department in our Sunday School. Every mature man or woman ought to be in Sunday School. The Sunday School helps those who know their Bible to know it better and helps those who do not know the Bible to know something of it. Then those who know and do the things taught in the Bible can find a place to serve as officer or teacher in some department of the Sunday School.

The pastor will preach at 11:00 a. m. and 7:00 p. m.  
 Morning Subject: "The Survival

of the Fittest."  
 Evening Subject: "Doing Exploits or Achieving the Unusual."  
 All B. Y. P. U.'s will meet at 6:15 with an opening program by the Adults.

Work is progressing nicely on the improvements on the church and it is hoped that the various departments can get back into their rooms soon.

We were glad to have a number of visitors and new comers in the services Sunday. Our membership is always glad to welcome strangers and visitors. In the words of Moses we speak to those about us. "We are turning into the place of which the Lord said, 'I will give it to you; come thou with us and we will do thee good, for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel.'" Any one habitually gathering with the Lord's people and endeavoring to enter into the spirit of worship will surely be blessed.

IRA L. PARRACK, Pastor.  
 Try a Classified Ad in The Mail.

### Elder Cypert To Preach Here

I will preach at the North Side Church next Sunday at eleven o'clock and at 7 o'clock in the evening.

Please come early and be with us in Bible Study at 10:00 a. m.  
 W. G. CYPERT.

JUNIOR B. Y. P. U. PROGRAM

First Number: Vira Richie.  
 Second Number: W. A. Whatley.  
 Third Number: Maurine Davis.  
 Fourth Number: Olita Moore.

SORE BLEEDING GUMS: Only one bottle Leto's Pyorrhea Remedy is needed to convince any one. No matter how bad your case, get a bottle, use as directed and if you are not satisfied druggist will return your money.  
 HAMM DRUG CO.  
 Do your Christmas thinking early and avoid the rush.

### New Shoe and Harness Shops Locates Here

Just opened for business in the Brown Blacksmith Shop building on Kent Street. Would be glad to have your business in this line. First class workmanship. Give us a trial.  
 —J. J. PUGH, Proprietor. 2t

NOTICE!

Due to the very inclement weather it has been necessary to postpone the recital of my pupils from Friday night, December 10, to Monday night, December 20. The recital will be at the Methodist Church.—Mrs. J. Samuel Rider. 1t

BOYS! Will pay 25 cents per dozen for pints and quart bottles, washed nice and clean. Hamm Drug Company. 1t

That big hole in the family budget is where the turkey went through.



## SANTA CLAUS SAYS HE HAS FOUND ALL OF THESE AT BROWN'S

Silk Ties ..... \$ .89	Cowhide Belts ..... \$ .59	Silk Bloomers ..... \$1.57	Bath Robe ..... \$3.98
Fancy Sox ..... \$ .58	Warm Lea Gloves.....\$1.57	Fancy Garters ..... \$ .49	Silk Slips ..... \$2.98
Broadcloth Shirts ..... \$1.57	Novelty Sweaters.....\$3.98	Nifty Purses ..... \$1.35	House Shoes ..... \$1.30
Suitcases, Bags ..... \$2.39 up	Initial Hdkfs., box ..... \$ .69	Vanities ..... \$ .35	Bar Pin ..... \$2.25
Wool Scarfs ..... \$1.89	Gold Knife ..... \$1.75	Silk Hose ..... \$ .98	Towel Sets ..... \$1.19
Bath Robes ..... \$4.98	Flan. Pajamas ..... \$2.25	Box Hdkfs. .... \$ .45	Sweaters ..... \$2.48 up

BRING THE ABOVE LIST WITH YOU TO THIS STORE AND SAVE ON XMAS GIFTS.

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